

APOSTOLIC

FEBRUARY 2019

THE HERALD



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UNITED

EXPANDING
THE

Kingdom with Power!

PREPARING
FOR THE FUTURE
VISION 2019



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

UNITY – EXPANSION – POWER

Dear Readers, Praise the Lord!

With great pleasure, we present the new Apostolic Herald. The Herald is the official publication of the Apostolic Assembly of the Faith in Christ Jesus. It presents, highlighted news and reports as well as the historical development of our beloved church. On this occasion, we will be presenting the results of the LXII Electoral General Convention, held in November 2018 in Long Beach, California. In this convention, our president, Dr. John Fortino, was reelected for another four-year term. He also presented the theme for the following year, "United expanding the Kingdom with power." In his presidential letter in this Herald, he explains why he chose this theme, and his vision for the following 4 years of this administration. It also contains the biography and goals of the rest of the members of the General Board of Directors, as well as a pictorial recap of the electoral general convention we celebrated last November.

The general convention was highlighted by much anticipation because of the elections. Among other highlights, a record offering for the "Flor Azul" program, in the amount of \$1,801,021.76 was reported. The new missionaries and the new regional supervisors were presented by International Missions. The Christian Education department introduced the first 14 Doctors in Ministry of our Assembly, as well as those that have graduated from diverse seminaries in their postgraduate programs.

Among other outstanding events were the programs held for the children, the juniors, as well as top-notch events for the youth (Messengers of Peace), the Dorcas (Ladies Auxiliary), and the Apostolic Men. The hospitality program for all the pastors was carried out with great success. The Word of God says, "*Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in harmony.*" (Psalms 133:1). We anticipate that the following years will be characterized by unity, the

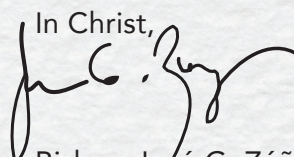


BISHOP JOSÉ G. ZÚÑIGA

extension of the work of God in this country and around the world. We also long to see the confirmation of God's presence through His power manifested in our lives, our homes, churches, and in all the missionary fields.

In conclusion, we hope that you will enjoy this first Herald of this administrative term. We would like to thank our president, for his great interest in publishing this Herald, as well as the members of the General Board for their contributions. Finally, this project would not be possible without the outstanding effort of brother Dominic Moschetti, who is in charge of the graphic design, as well as the final layout of the Herald. Thanks to all the rest who have contributed to the success of this project.

Our prayer is that you have a very blessed 2019. Remember that we have a significant challenge in front of us, "**United Expanding the Kingdom with POWER.**"

In Christ,

Bishop José G. Zúñiga
Editor – Apostolic Herald

PRESIDENT'S VISION 2019



BISHOP JOHN FORTINO

Dear Pastors and People of God,

Praise the Lord.

I want to thank the Lord for giving me the privilege of continuing to serve Him in this capacity for the next four years. I also thank God for the International Board that He has given me to carry out His Will at this time. We are all ready to serve Him and all of you.

I've said it several times and will repeat it once again. When one rises in the positions of the Lord's Church, the only thing that changes is the number of people we serve. In the pastorate we serve a community of the faithful in the city where God places us as His servants. As Bishops we serve more faithful of more cities. Now as President, we serve even more faithful in the country and abroad, but we never stop serving. The only thing that changes is the number of people we serve. And the promise of the Lord is that, if we are faithful in little, He will set us over much.



UNITED
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*Kingdom with
Power!*

United - Expanding the Kingdom with Power.

I would like to share the way I arrived at this theme. If you have noticed, each year of our administration we use the phrase "United" before the rest of the theme. I always placed it before the rest of the phrase that followed and did so with the intention that everyone would understand the importance of unity and the **"strength"** that we have in unity.

- 2014 - *United in the Vision*
- 2015 - *United in the Mission*
- 2016 - *United in the Power of the Holy Spirit*
- 2017 - *United Expecting the King*
- 2018 - *United Expanding the Kingdom*
- 2019 - *United Expanding the Kingdom with Power*

In assuming the position of President of the Apostolic Assembly in April 2013, the first thing I noticed was the distrust that existed towards this position and towards the General Board. That thought had to change, but how were we going to achieve it? We could not continue like this. I knew that no plan was going to flourish unless we relied on the trust of pastors and Church leaders. It was then that we took on the task of talking about the importance of unity and presenting it as an annual theme. So, first of all, before establishing a plan, and before promoting any project, we decided to win the trust of pastors and leaders. I said to the Bishops in the Joint Bishops Meetings, this will only be achieved if we all unite with the same vision and win over "one pastor at a time". No matter how long it takes us, if we do not manage to gain their trust, we will not advance the Kingdom. And that's how we have talked about unity since then and we're still talking about it now. It took us a while to achieve it but thank God I see a healthy Church (though imperfect), but that has returned to believe in its leaders. I am convinced that, if we unite as a Church, we will achieve all that the Lord has for us. Nothing and no one can stop us.

"...understand the importance of unity and the "strength" that we have in unity."

I am excited by the challenge that the Pastors accepted on the last night of the Convention. Saturday night, God challenged all of us to leave our comfort zone and enter into the spiritual dimension so we can see wonderful things happen in our lives and in the churches.

Someone said that passion is the fuel of the vision to be able to carry out the mission. What a tremendous statement! I would add, that the **"anointing"** is what ignites the passion. And the anointing is the power of God in our lives, which only comes through prayer and fasting. In other words, everything begins with the anointing from above, the anointing is the spark that ignites everything.

We have a beautiful job to carry out before us and with the help of God we will achieve it. 2019 is a year where we will see the power of God as never before. The power of God is very sacred and, although it is free, it has an incalculable value. There is no amount money that can buy



it. Although a certain Simon wanted to buy it, but the apostle Peter told him in Acts 8:18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, 19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. 20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.



It is true that it is very valuable, but God gives "His Power" for free to those who wish to possess it. This is what I want to emphasize in 2019. That everyone can experience the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives, their families, and churches. May all those leaders who want to get out of routine and monotony reach this power and achieve extraordinary things. Something different will never be achieved if the person always does the same thing. This is common sense. There are people who think that doing the same thing they did in 2018 will have different results in 2019. That will never happen. But if instead of settling for mediocrity, spiritual adventure of fasting and prayer are re-

Something different will never be achieved if the person always does the same thing.

leased, something new and extraordinary will happen in your lives as leaders.

The vision for the Apostolic Assembly in 2019 Next, I would like to present to you the vision that God has given us for the Apostolic Assembly. This vision has been in our hearts for some time and has been brewing over the years. We hope that in these four years God grants us to see the results together with this General Board, and the support of the Pastors of the Church. Although we are a team, each of the positions on the Board has a specific job that is closely related. Here is an overview.



1. For the first time in the history of the Apostolic Assembly, we will have a Legislative Convention in June separate from the Convention in November. For many years we have been dragging many Proposals Initiatives from the past that due to lack of time, cannot be processed during the assigned days; and that are very important for the advancement of the Church. In addition, after a long day of meetings, the pastors arrive at the evening service tired and do not have the same disposition as in the morning meetings.

The Apostolic Assembly has two definite sides that must be attended with the same intensity. The spiritual side and the organizational side. We cannot attend to one more than the other,

if we do this, we run the risk of making serious mistakes, and leave a weak Church for the generation that follows us. This Legislative convention will be in the Hands of the Bishops Felipe Salazar and Joe Rodríguez, with their respective committees.

2. Thank God, we finally managed to get the Certified Audit of the Apostolic Assembly. This is a historic achievement. This achievement is part of the vision of the creation of the "Mutual Apostolic" finance program. This is a plan that arose from the need to reduce the high mortgage interest rates that many of our Churches had. We have refinanced loans for churches that had up to 13% interest reducing it to 4.5%, making these payments more accessible and lightening the burden that our brothers had. This financial program not only has the ability to make loans, but also to receive investments. Many of our churches and brothers have savings in banks receiving an insignificant annual interest. The Apostolic Mutual will have the ability to give investors up to 2% of interest on their deposits, and then arrange mortgage loans at 4.5%, achieving a gain of 2.5% interest. The purpose of this income is to help the National and International Missionary Camp financially. This financial plan is already in the hands of Bishop Felipe Lugo, along with legal advisors and professionals who will assist him.

3. God has granted us ten new countries where we were able to plant the Apostolic flag, bringing the total of our missionary fields to 37. With the help of God, we want to open 8 more fields, bringing the total of our missionary fields to 45. India and Pakistan are already on the horizon. With all your help and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will carry the message with power to the places that He indicates. This precious task is in the hands of Bishop Andy Provencio and his committee.

4. At the end of this administration, the vision is to have an Apostolic presence in all the States of the country, including Alaska; and break the mark of 1,000 churches in the country. It is fine to think of the International Missionary Field, but we cannot neglect our home.

This noble task is in the hands of Bishop Joe Aguilar and his committee.

5. As we are going to have the Legislative Convention in June, then in November we will be having the Ministerial Symposium on Holiness Practices. We have been struggling with holiness standards in some areas of the country. We will take the pulse of the Apostolic Assembly and make the necessary corrections. Meanwhile the Manual of Apostolic Systematic Theology, a manual, which will give theological guidance, for many years, to future generations is already in formation. The official accreditation of the Apostolic University is already in development. All this is in the hands of Bishop José Zuniga and his committee.

6. There is a great weight in my heart when I think about the age of some of our pastors, and that they are still pastoring. Not because they really want to, but because they are not financially prepared for retirement. I am also concerned that a large percentage of our pastors and families do not have medical insurance to assist them in any eventuality. I would like to end my administration with the joy that all our pastors achieve an honorable retirement, and that their families acquire a decent medical insurance. I have put this vision in the hands of Bishop Francisco Quezada and his team.

CONCLUSION

I have briefly shared the vision that God has given me for the Apostolic Assembly and this administration. A somewhat daring vision, but I

have always believed in a great God, who is capable of doing great and extraordinary things. Beloved brothers, I have said it and I will continue to say it, the problem of the Church is not the lack of money, but the lack of vision. The prophet said in Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. But the knowledge of the truth frees all the potential that exists in the Church.

One last word to the pastors. You are the true leaders of the Church. The voice of the pastorate should always be the last word in what we do. Participate and attend the Legislative Conventions, make time, invest money, we must leave this Church healthy and strong spiritually and financially to our children. The leaders of tomorrow, if Christ delays His coming, they deserve it and they will thank us.

If the members of the Apostolic Assembly and the Pastors unite. If we work together, without private agendas, without hidden personal programs, without any interest other than the advancement of the Kingdom of God, we will achieve it. Together, we will celebrate this success. After all, we are only unworthy servants, we did what He asked us to do. All the glory and applause are for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

United - Expanding the Kingdom - with Power.
Bishop, John Fortino,
President



GET TO KNOW OUR PRESIDENT

Born on January 4th, 1960 in Buenos Aires, Argentina to Italian immigrants, he heard and unreservedly obeyed the apostolic message in his youth, overcoming his family's religious opposition. He was filled with the Holy Spirit at the age of thirteen on January 15th, 1973 and was baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ seven days later by one of the Apostolic Assembly's Argentine pioneers, Wuckola Jactzuc. His characteristic passion for missions stems from him being the first President that was born and grew up in the missionary field.

Immigrating to the United States in the early eighties to study at Fuller Theological Seminary, he was called to be a National Evangelist in 1981 by then Secretary of National Missions, Bishop Roberto Ramírez. The Lord used him powerfully in revivals throughout the nation. From 1982 until 1987 he lived in Alexandria, VA and helped Pastor Jose Luis Lozano in the church in Washington D.C as the local Co-Pastor. In 1987 the Lord called him to plant the first Apostolic church in Miami, FL, 'Fountain of Life'. After thirty-one years he continues to shepherd this large, flourishing, and multicultural church of more than 700 members. Due to his passion for souls and church planting, eighteen local ministers have received the blessing to fulfill their pastoral calling in different parts of Florida and other states.

His trailblazing leadership was demonstrated when he was elected Bishop Supervisor in April of 1997 and reestablished the Florida District. He served in this position until November

1998. In the 1998 General Convention he was elected Bishop Secretary of National Missions and for eight years spearheaded the planting of churches throughout the East Coast and Heartland of our nation. In the 2010 General Convention he was elected Bishop Vice President. During this time, he founded the School of Pastors and School of Bishops. In March of 2013, he assumed the position of Bishop President. In the 2014 General Convention he was elected - by an overwhelming majority - our eleventh Bishop President, and in the General Convention of 2018, again by an overwhelming majority, was re-elected as our Bishop President. He received his Bachelor's degree in Theological studies from the UPC Bible College in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1978. Then, in 1984 he graduated with a Masters in Divinity from the International Seminary in New Market, VA. He obtained his Doctorate in Ministry from Knox Theological Seminary (Fort Lauderdale, Florida) in May 2013. He is a prolific author - having written fifteen books - which include "The Life of the Redeemer" and "The Spiritual Life".

The Bishop President and his wife Sara live in Miami, Florida, along with his mother-in-law, sister Elsa Prociuk. They have three daughters: Veronica, Valerie, and Deborah. Their daughter Valerie is married to John Cortiella and they have a beautiful baby girl, Valentina.



VICE PRESIDENT'S MISSION



BISHOP FELIPE A. SALAZAR

Esteemed Bishops and Pastors of the Apostolic Assembly,

Praise the Lord!

First of all, I want to express my gratitude for the honor that the Pastors of our Church have granted me to serve as Vice President of our Assembly. My confidence is in that it is God's grace that capacitates us for the tasks He assigns. I am also grateful for the good and capable men that were elected or reelected to serve on the Board of our Assembly. Together we hope to continue building on the accomplishments of those who have served in the past: line upon line and precept upon precept, one thing upon the other, that is how the Kingdom of God is built.

As Vice President of our Assembly, I look forward to serving President John Fortino and completing the Constitutional mandates that have been conferred upon me.



THE STRATEGY OF JESUS

One of the most important assignments that President Fortino has given to me is heading the Strategy of Jesus committee. In this assignment, I am looking to form a team of capable men and women, experts in their fields, that will look at the Strategy of Jesus with new eyes. The idea is to restructure the program so that it is doable for the average church in the Apostolic Assembly. We want to make implementing the Strategy of Jesus something that is within the reach of every Pastor of our church. In essence, we want to simplify the Strategy. The vision of our President is Expanding the Kingdom with Power, and we want to assist him in accomplishing that goal.

OUR CONSTITUTION

The constitution bestows upon me the responsibility of heading the Revisory Commission. In this capacity, I hope, with the Lord's assistance, as well as the assistance of the commission, to follow the established protocols and processes to assure that the Constitution continues to be a relevant document that meets the practical and legal needs of our church. The Commission has as its immediate goal to publish the 2018 version of the Constitution in a timely basis. This version will soon be available.

COMMISSIONS

The Constitution also makes the Vice President responsible for fulfilling all the commissions the President gives him. When assigned a commission, I will do my utmost to represent our President and Church with honor and integrity.

I ask for your prayers and I pray that God will give me the necessary wisdom and grace to accomplish these weighty tasks. I will need God's favor and strength. Finally, I pray that the Lord will bless you all as we endeavor to do God's will and work to expand the Kingdom of God.

Bishop Felipe A. Salazar,
Vice President

GET TO KNOW OUR VICE-PRESIDENT

Bishop Salazar was born May 27, 1959 in National City, California. His father, Felipe Valles Salazar, was the first national missionary for the church to the Mexican state of Oaxaca, and also served as Pastor of churches in Northern Mexico, Arizona and in the Los Angeles area.

Bishop Salazar was baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ on April 13, 1975. In 1981 he attended the Apostolic Bible Institute in Saint Paul Minnesota where he received theological training. As a young man he was inspired by his father to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He was ordained to the ministry of the Apostolic Assembly in 1984 at the General Convention in Tucson, Arizona.

Bishop Salazar has served at every level of our Church's leadership. He served as the local youth President at the church of Wilmington, California. He served as Sector and District Youth President in the district of Los Angeles. After serving as a minister at the church of Compton California for five years, in 1989 he was selected to serve as Pastor of the Second Church of San Pedro, California. Then, in 1995, he was called back to lead the historic congregation of Compton, California. During his leadership the church of Compton has experienced consistent and sustained growth.

In 2007 Pastor Salazar was elected by the pastoral body of the Angeles District to serve as their Supervising Bishop. Then, after serving eight years in that post, in November 2014, the Pastors of the Apostolic Assembly elected him to serve as the General Secretary of the Church. Today, Bishop Salazar serves as the Vice President of our Assembly.

Bishop Salazar and his wife Rose currently live in Long Beach, California. God has given them four children: Jazmin (married to Micah Johnson), Kimberly (married to Jonathan Garza), Phillip (married to Melanie Renee Salazar) and Kathryn. They have four grandchildren: Kenidee, Wesley, Jackson, and Olivia.

SERVING WITH EXCELLENCE



BISHOP JOSEPH V. RODRIGUEZ

Greetings to all the Apostolic Assembly Bishops, Pastors, and Members.

On behalf of the General Secretariat's department, we thank God for the opportunity to serve God's church at this capacity.

We unite with our President, Dr. John Fortino, in the vision of United Expanding the Kingdom with Power! We are motivated and with great expectancy we look forward to a powerful outpouring of God's Spirit upon every church and member of the Apostolic Assembly.

Our goal and vision for the General Secretariat's department is to continue serving our pastors and local churches with excellence.

We will be working diligently on providing timely service in the areas of Workers Comp, Liability Insurance, Credentials, and Real Estate transactions in purchases, sales, and leases with professionalism. Our endeavor is to simplify processes to efficiently assist pastors with immediate needs and provide relevant resources.

On behalf of our department team, we covet your prayers and support as we continue in unity serving God's people.



"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 15:58

In His service,
Bishop Joseph V. Rodriguez,
General Secretary

GET TO KNOW OUR GENERAL SECRETARY

He was born October 10, 1950 in Bakersfield, California. His paternal grandfather was an early Arizona evangelist. He continued in his grandfather's calling, this charismatic fourth generation Apostolic leader was ordained to the ministry in 1975 in Oakland, California, and later became a National Evangelist speaking in revivals throughout the United States. Present for the technological advances in the Silicon Valley, he began working at a very early age at IBM Corporation in 1968. Rising to become Failure Analysis Senior Methods Specialist, he accomplished a brilliant career, until his retirement in 1992.

The Lord Jesus called his father, Pastor Joseph G. Rodríguez in 1982 to open San José's Third Apostolic Assembly. When his father retired in 1992 the Lord placed him as the new Pastor. Combining his professional experience and Apostolic ministry, he is the Pastor at the "Community Christian Church," a growing bilingual congregation.



In his district he was quickly elected for different responsibilities. He first served as Sector Elder for six years and later as District Secretary for eight years. He was elected in 2007 as Bishop Supervisor of California's North Pacific Coast. Overcoming his struggle with cancer in which God gave him the victory, this did not stop him from planting three churches, and inspiring many men to be church planters, pastors and evangelists. The 2014 General Convention elected him Secretary of Social Assistance.

He is married to sister Delia, and they live in San José. They have three children Joey (married to Yolanda), Steven (married to Julie) and Jacob (married to Cherie), and four grandchildren: Nicolette, Makai, Chloe and Arya.



EFFECTIVE STEWARDS



BISHOP FELIPE LUGO

Our VISION is to provide financial statements that are prepared at the highest standards, provide tools and trainings to church administrators and treasurers to be effective stewards, and to create investing and financing options for the local churches of the Apostolic Assembly.

Esteemed Bishops, Pastors, Ministers and Church of the Lord, Paz de Cristo.

I praise God with Thanksgiving, for his mercy and goodness. Also for the privilege of serving in HIS Church. My appreciation and thankfulness to all the pastoral body for their vote of confidence to serve them in the capacity of General Treasurer for the next four years, if it's that which God has so designated. For me, it is an undeserved privilege that you have placed your vote of confidence upon His servant, whose desire is to serve his Church and each pastoral family. I am writing to you on this occasion to provide information about the general Treasury of our beloved Assembly. As you know the Treasury of our Church is the constitutionally mandated vehicle where local congregations and districts send their offerings and tithes of the pastoral body and the Lord's people. The fidelity of the Pastorate and episcopal body and the effort of the confederations, apostolic men, Dorcas and MOP, has being a fruitful advancement of the work of the Lord throughout the world. For the past 4 years the income of tithes of tithes and offerings has increased, and this has become a blessing in the expansion of the Kingdom of God.



The program formerly known as **"The Trust Fund"** program has experienced a very marked progress. At the end of the last administration, the volume of loans to local congregations reached \$ 2 million. Many congregations were blessed with emergency loans to make renovations or remodeling of the temples. Today we can announce with great satisfaction that we were able to help 5 congregations that once had their mortgages with banks but are now mortgaged under this program belonging to our Church, thus saving them money by the low interests.

During our last Convention a new program was presented and approved. Congregations can now invest their money and receive a more beneficial interest than those offered by financial institutions. This program was approved by the general Convention and is known as "Apostolic Mutual". It is legally registered under the State of California and classified as a non-profit program, Church Extension Loan Program, under the IRS code section 501 c (3). It will be put in place in January and local congregations can benefit from it. This program has already been audited and the boards that will manage it already are legally registered. Very soon, affordable loans will be available to our congregations. They can now refinance their mortgage loans and save thousands of dollars in interest and at the same time invest money into the program, earning up to 2 percent interest. And all this for the benefit of the Church.

The vision of our Bishop President is that the Apostolic Assembly becomes financially independent and that all revenues and contributions be invested in the Church, and that United we can expand the Kingdom of God with power.

I beseech your prayers for us and all those who serve, in the office of the General Treasury and for the members of the General Board, under the leadership of our Presiding Bishop President John Fortino who has ensured that all funds are well administered for the wellbeing of the Church.

**The November 2018 General Convention financial report will be posted soon in the Pastor's Resources section of the Apostolic Assembly website.*

Your servant in Christ,
Bishop Felipe Lugo,
General Treasurer

GET TO KNOW OUR GENERAL TREASURER

Born in a Catholic home on September 13, 1950 in Mexico City his parents, seeking the betterment of his life, sent him with family members in Rancho Cucamonga, California when he was thirteen. At the age of twenty-six he read the Bible for the first time, it opened to Galatians 5:19-21 and this passage had an impact on his life. Without hesitation he gave his life to the Lord a few days later and was baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ on September 19, 1976.

Soon after God called him to ministry. He was set apart and ordained in the early eighties and in 1987 he was appointed Pastor of the Second Church of San Bernardino, California. Though receiving only five members, he deftly led his church to pay off its building in the first two years of his pastorate and he has led it toward further growth. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Administration Accounting Concentration from California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) in 1993.

After many years of working first as Auxiliary Elder and then eight years as District Treasurer, he was elected in 2003 as Bishop Supervisor of the Interior District of California. He served for eight years in this capacity, establishing five new churches, and wisely integrating into his district the Nevada and Southeast California districts. The 2014 General Convention elected him General Treasurer.

He obtained in 2012 a Master of Arts (M.A.) in Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California.

He and his wife Alma live in San Bernardino, California, they have two children Eliezer and Veronica (married to Albert), and seven grandchildren: Yasmin, Albert, Jordan, Kristine, Jacob, Isabella, Lilah.

REACHING ALL NATIONS



BISHOP ANDY PROVENCIO

Department of International Missions Plans and Goals for 2018-2022

United in Gods Mission

Without a doubt, this is the best hour for the Apostolic Assembly! God, in his great mercy, is giving the world one last chance to find grace and forgiveness. The Apostolic Assembly has united with God to fulfill this mission. I see three very important elements needed in order to succeed in fulfilling Gods mission.

1. Awareness - We must become aware of the need for salvation for the world. Missionary work is not simply one of the various tasks that the Church should carry out. It is our main and most important task! What was most important to the Lord Jesus Christ should be the most important thing for us. I thank God that there is a generation behind us that is feeling a passion for missionary work. Our desire is that the teams of young people going out each year to the mission fields will grow in number, vision and passion.



2. Vision - To reach the world with the gospel, finances are needed. The problem is not that we lack finances, but that what is missing is vision! Brethren, with a single dollar per day from our pockets, we could accumulate not thousands, but millions of dollars for missionary work each year. Let us ask God to give us a more complete and clear "vision" of what the responsibility of His Church is concerning global missions. We are very thankful to our Apostolic Ladies who have been very giving to the work of International Missions – Flor Azul.

- In these next four years we want to plant the apostolic banner in 10 additional countries: Among them are the countries of: **Nepal, Australia, South Africa, France, Sweden, Bulgaria, Nigeria, Malawi, Uganda, Hungary, Malaysia, Turkey, Jamaica, Morocco, Suriname, Norway, India, Pakistan, Equatorial Guinea, Japan, South Korea and others.** In many of these countries, we already have contacts.

3. Passion - What produces passion is prayer! It is not possible to reach the world if we are not praying for missions. I ask all pastors and their congregations to ask the Lord for a "passion" for the lost. Let's establish time in our churches to intercede for our missionaries and the fields where they and their families are working. **"United Reaching the World with POWER!"**

GET TO KNOW OUR SECRETARY OF INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

Born on June 16, 1952 in Santa Rita, New Mexico he is the eleventh son of twelve children born to Pastor Albino Provencio. Persevering in his family's faith legacy, he was baptized February 23, 1969 by Bishop Richard Almaraz, who would be the first Apostolic Assembly missionary to Spain.

He graduated from Western Apostolic Bible College (now CLC), and was ordained at the 1972 General Convention. He served a term as National Messengers of Peace Secretary, from 1974 to 1976. In 1976 he was appointed pastor of the church in Clovis, in California's San Joaquin Valley.

The Lord Jesus Christ first called him to be a Missionary in 1981 at the age of twenty-nine in Spain, where he served for six years. Returning to the States, he received the pastorate of Gilroy, California for two years until he was called anew to the missionary field because of his exemplary service. He was the Apostolic Assembly's President in Argentina for two years beginning in 1990 and was the first South America Regional Supervisor from 1992 to 1994. His leadership sent the first missionaries of the Apostolic Assembly to Paraguay, Bolivia and Peru.

Upon his second return God called him to Donna, Texas from 1994 to 2003. He would be called back to be a Pastor in California at the First Church of San José. He has served as District Treasurer in South Texas and District Secretary in California's North Pacific Coast District. The 2014 General Convention elected him Secretary of International Missions.

He is married to sister Nancy and they have two children, Aaron and Keren.



FLOR AZUL, TOP 20 GIVING CHURCHES 2018

	CHURCH	AMOUNT	PASTOR
1.	1st San Jose, CA	\$60,525.00	Arthur Espinosa
2.	Compton, CA	\$40,000.00	Felipe Salazar
3.	Merced, CA	\$22,990.00	Joe Aguilar
4.	West Phoenix, AZ	\$22,140.00	Eduardo Iglesias
5.	Chandler, AZ	\$22,000.00	Noel Villegas
6.	Bakersfield, CA	\$21,303.55	Elias Duarte
7.	Union City, CA	\$20,500.00	Adam Lopez III
8.	ACLCL Salinas, CA	\$19,141.00	Andrew Lopez
9.	1st Long Beach	\$18,000.00	David Ramirez
10.	National City, CA	\$16,430.00	Misael Zaragoza
11.	Vista, CA	\$16,150.00	John Sanchez
12.	San Fernando, CA	\$15,090.00	Victor Prado
13.	Rancho Cucamonga, CA	\$14,250.00	Benjamin Guerra
14.	San Marcos, CA	\$13,230.00	Gilberto Meza
15.	Central San Jose, CA	\$13,000.00	Ishmael Arellano
16.	Grand Prairie #1, TX	\$12,980.00	José G. Zúñiga
17.	Santa Barbara, CA	\$12,412.00	Oscar Barbosa
18.	Riverbank, CA	\$12,250.00	Efrain Amaya
19.	Santa Maria, CA	\$12,147.00	Guadalupe Sanchez
20.	Whittier, CA	\$12,000.00	Art Diaz

REACH AMERICA, TOP 20 GIVING CHURCHES 2018

1.	Merced, CA	\$22,500.00
2.	Chandler #,1 AZ	\$6,233.29
3.	(West) Phoenix #2, AZ	\$5,796.37
4.	Corona #2, CA	\$5,000.00
5.	Albuquerque #1, NM	\$3,555.00
6.	San Marcos, South CA	\$3,396.00
7.	Escondido #1, CA	\$3,151.00
8.	Avondale, AZ	\$2,623.00
9.	Houston #,1 TX	\$2,360.00
10.	Coachella, CA	\$2,293.00
11.	Othello, WA	\$2,261.00
12.	Mecca, CA	\$2,014.00
13.	Sunnyside, WA	\$1,915.00
14.	Somerton, AZ	\$1,875.00
15.	Grandview, WA	\$1,800.00
16.	El Cajon #1, CA	\$1,800.00
17.	San Juan, S. TX	\$1,710.09
18.	Oasis, CA	\$1,500.00
19.	Tyler, TX	\$1,500.00
20.	Odgen, UT	\$1,400.00



NYA 2019

Normally, the MOP reduces the number of NYAs on odd number years when there is a scheduled National Youth Conference. This change would typically affect smaller regions. However, in order to maintain momentum and expectations in 2019, we have chosen not to reduce or eliminate any NYAs. I hope and pray that the young people will take full advantage of NYA next year. As previously mentioned, the morning conferences at NYA will be on leadership development.

JAN 11-12	SOUTHWEST - PHOENIX, AZ
JAN 18-19	WEST COAST NORTH - UNION CITY, CA
FEB 7-9	WEST COAST SOUTH 2.0 - FONTANA, CA
FEB 22-23	EAST COAST SOUTH - TAMPA, FL
MAR 7-9	TEXAS 2.0 - DALLAS, TX
MAR 15-16	NORTHWEST - SEATTLE, WA
MAR 29-30	MIDWEST - CHICAGO, IL
APR 12-13	ROCKIES - SALT LAKE CITY, UT
APR 26-27	NORTHEAST - NEW YORK, NY

A WORTHY CAUSE



BISHOP JOE AGUILAR

Esteemed Bishops, Pastors, Ministers and members of our beloved Apostolic Assembly of the Faith in Christ Jesus, we greet you in the name of Jesus.

First of all, I thank you for the vote of confidence that you gave me at our General Electoral Convention 2018, to work another four years in the worthy cause of National Missions. It is a great honor and privilege for me to serve the Lord in this capacity.

Next, we will present the Vision for this Department for the years 2019-2022, "United Expanding the Kingdom with Power".

First goal: We gladly receive our Bishop President John Fortino's challenge to plant an Apostolic Assembly church in the eight states of the USA where we currently have no presence. These states are Alaska, Delaware, Maine, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Vermont and West Virginia.

Second goal: Plant at least four new works in each of the four Regions in National Missions: Mid America North, Mid America Central, Ohio and Southeast. In this way, we will promote the necessary growth for Regions to one day become Districts.

Third goal: For the state of Hawaii to become a Region of National Missions. May God grant them great growth. At the beginning of this year, we launched a new Cell Work in Mililani, Hawaii, led by a Minister and his family.



Fourth goal: Help train ministers who have already been recommended and are ready to go out to plant a new work. The objective of the School of Pastors / GROWTH is to receive ministers who sense a call and that already have the Pastor's and Bishop's blessings. We will also help train those ministers who have already have sent.

Fifth goal: Prepare ten more National Evangelists. For this we will work with the District Bishop Supervisors so that they would recommend District Evangelists who feel the call to minister throughout our nation. God willing, we will take the training for National Evangelists, "The Call", to different regions of our nation.

We covet your prayers and support for God to bless the work of National Missions and so that we can achieve this Vision.

Pastor Joe A. Aguilar
Bishop Secretary of National Missions

GET TO KNOW OUR SECRETARY OF NATIONAL MISSIONS

Bishop Joe A. Aguilar is the Secretary of National Missions of the Apostolic Assembly. Born in Garza Ayala, Nuevo Leon on September 21, 1954 his family emigrated from Mexico to the United States of America in October of that same year. His parents, already Holy Spirit filled, heard the Apostolic doctrine in Wasco, California and were baptized in 1959.

His father, Florencio Aguilar, would serve as Pastor in Earlimart, California for twenty-four years. There in California's San Joaquin Valley, Bishop Aguilar would be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ and later called to ministry. Ordained at the 1974 General Convention, he graduated in 1976 from Western Apostolic Bible College, today CLC. In 1981 he moved to pastor in Grand Rapids, Michigan until 1982. Upon his return to California he was a pioneering Pastor in beginning an English-speaking Church in Visalia, California until the need for a Pastor arose in Merced, California.



Bishop Gilbert Diaz appointed him in 1986 to this small, traditional, Spanish-speaking church. "New Life Apostolic Church" has grown to be a dynamic and multicultural congregation of 750 members. Through empowering believers to ministry and with a visionary focus on small groups, the church he shepherds built its own facility in 2001, which sits 640 people. He has served as International Apostolic Bible College Dean, Sector Elder and North Central California District Secretary. For his passion in the growth of the church and the preparation of new pastors, the 2014 General Convention elected him Secretary of National Missions.

He lives in Merced with his wife Margaret. They have two children Melissa Rebecca (married to Victor), Joe Jr. ("Che," married to Michelle) and two grandchildren: Seth Jared and Lia Nicole.



A VISION FOR EDUCATION



BISHOP JOSÉ G. ZÚÑIGA

First of all, I would like to thank the pastoral body for their vote of confidence on being reelected to the position of Secretary of Christian Education. I will continue to strive for the advancement of this department. We ask for your prayers on our behalf.

Our ongoing vision is to provide the best resources for the Apostolic Assembly constituency, prepare our future ministers and leaders in our Bible colleges and offer postgraduate programs for those that desire to move beyond a basic theological training. We are taking steps to provide educational material for children and pre-teens to meet a growing need in our churches and families. We also plan to work in conjunction with the Strategy of Jesus committee to provide the best material for cell groups and evangelistic outreach.

Our long-term vision is to fulfill the goals that President John Fortino has given the Christian Education department. We will work on the accreditation of the Apostolic University. By taking this important step, one day, we will have our very own Apostolic University.

Our second goal is to complete the Theological Apostolic Manual. We are on the path to finishing the monumental task of defining our own Apostolic theology. The writers have been selected, and our desire is to have it finished by the end of this term.





Another important goal is to complete the last phase of the Holiness Exegesis Analysis. We will continue working to establish our holiness practices. It is extremely vital to define what we believe and why we believe in those critical areas where there is no uniformity. The church needs to affirm its Apostolic identity.

These are big steps but with God's help and with your prayers we will achieve them, in Jesus mighty name!

For Christ and His Kingdom,
Bishop José G. Zúñiga

GET TO KNOW OUR SECRETARY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

He was born in Delicias, Chihuahua, Mexico on December 12, 1953. His father, Minister Román Zúñiga, was a New Mexico Apostolic Pioneer that pastored in Deming, Derry, Las Cruces and Santa Fe. Pastor Román culminated his ministerial calling here by serving as Bishop Supervisor in the New Mexico district.

Restless one night, he was baptized at the age of fourteen in 1968. With a precocious love for education, he graduated from the National Apostolic Bible College in 1975 by completing the mandatory year of fieldwork shepherding a small church in Agua Prieta, Jalisco. Under his

father's leadership, his ministerial career flourished, and he was appointed pastor of Silver City, New Mexico from 1977 to 1979. Later he moved to Chicago, Illinois where he was a very active minister of Chicago's First Apostolic Church.

He planted the "Apostolic Christian Life Center" in 1991 with a small group of believers. Education continued to be one of his great passions; he attended Loyola University from where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Business Administration in 1995. In 2011 the pastors of the dynamic Midwest District elected him Bishop Supervisor. Through his leadership as Bishop, the Midwest District bought an 80+ acre District Camp and started three churches. The 2014 General Convention elected him Secretary of Christian Education.

In 2016, he was installed as pastor of the first church of Grand Prairie, TX where he is serving at the present time, alongside his wife Febe. He graduated in 2001 with a Master of Divinity (M. Div.) from McCormick Theological Seminary and is completing his Doctor of Ministry (D. Min.) in the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico.

He lives in Arlington, Texas with his wife Febe, together they have two sons: Eric (married to María Fernanda) and Ariel.

CHILDREN, A GIFT FROM THE LORD



BISHOP FRANCISCO QUEZADA

Praise the Lord brothers and sisters.

It is an honor to greet you in the name of Jesus as the newly elected Bishop Secretary of the Department of Social Assistance. We are excited for what the Lord is going to do in this department and we pray that He will bless this department in abundance. Our goal is to assist the Apostolic Assembly and members therein and to serve those who find themselves in times of need. We will continue to bless those who diligently served the Lord their whole life, our retired pastors and pastoral widows, as well as those who find themselves in times of difficulty. We will continue to bless hard working students with the A.C. Nava Scholarship, and we will continue to support our ministries that serve to bless the kingdom of heaven.

My heart's greatest desire as a pastor has always been to serve others. One of our goals for the next four years is to cater to the needs of children in difficult situations. The word of God states in Psalms 127:3 that **"Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a real blessing."** I feel it is our duty as servants to care for our children and show them love. Orphans, abused children, and neglected children learn of a God who loves them from the depths of His heart and we want to do all we can to show them God's love and support them in any way possible.



Thank you for your prayers and support, our hope is that the Lord would help expand the impact we make on this world. With your help we will reach our goal with grandeur.

God bless you.

Bishop Francisco Quezada,
Secretary of Social Assistance

GET TO KNOW OUR SECRETARY OF SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

He was born on February 10, 1960, in the city of Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico. He is a third generation apostolic and was baptized on February of 1974. In the year 1975, he was filled with the Holy Spirit at 15 years of age. On February 10, 1980 in the city of Mexicali, Baja California, he was ordained into the ministry.

He began his pastoral work at the age of 19 and served as an elder in the valley of Mexicali, until in 1988, he emigrated to the United States. He continued in the pastorate in Bartow, CA for 4 years followed by a pastorate in Mecca, CA for 20 years. Currently, he is serving as pastor in the city of Corona CA and has done so for the last 5 years. Bishop Quezada served as an elder of I.D.C.N. for 12 years, district treasurer for 4 years, and Bishop Supervisor of I.D.C.N. for 7 years. He has been able to establish 11 new works by the grace of God.

He graduated from the International Apostolic Theological Institute in Tepic, Nayarit México and completed his accounting studies in the city of Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico. He has studied in the Theological facility of Mexico D.F. and the Latin Theological Seminary in La Puente CA. Bishop Quezada has also completed studies at the Logos Seminary in Florida USA, Fuller Seminary in Pasadena CA., and is currently studying at McCormick Seminary in Chicago USA.

He currently lives in Perris, CA with his wife, Elizabeth Quezada. Together they have four children: Francisco, Jonathan, Elizabeth and Jacqueline. His son-in-law is Ismael Martin Del Campo III, and his daughters in law are Candie and Janae Quezada Bishop Quezada and his wife have seven grandchildren.







DISTRICT CONVENTIONS 2019

EAST TEXAS DISTRICT:	APRIL 18-20
MID AMERICA CENTRAL REGION:	APRIL 25-27
SOUTHEAST REGION:	MAY 3-4
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT:	MAY 17-18
MID-WEST DISTRICT:	MAY 23-25
ARIZONA DISTRICT:	MAY 24-25
OHIO REGION:	JUNE 21-22
CENTRAL TEXAS DISTRICT:	JULY 4-6
CENTRAL EAST COAST DISTRICT:	JULY 4-6
WASHINGTON DISTRICT:	JULY 5-6
NORTH CENTRAL CALIFORNIA DISTRICT:	JULY 11-13
OREGON DISTRICT:	JULY 26-27
MID-AMERICA NORTH REGION:	AUGUST 2-3
EAST LOS ANGELES DISTRICT:	AUGUST 3
COLORADO DISTRICT:	AUGUST 8-10
NORTH PACIFIC COAST DISTRICT:	AUGUST 8-10
WEST TEXAS DISTRICT:	AUGUST 8-10
NORTH TEXAS DISTRICT:	AUGUST 9-10
NORTHWEST TEXAS DISTRICT:	AUGUST 9-10
SOUTH TEXAS DISTRICT:	AUGUST 9-10
MID AMERICA DISTRICT:	AUGUST 14-17
NORTHERN GOLDEN VALLEY DISTRICT:	AUGUST 15-17
SOUTH CENTRAL CALIFORNIA DISTRICT:	AUGUST 15-17
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT:	AUGUST 15-17
NORTHEAST COAST DISTRICT:	AUGUST 22-24
FLORIDA DISTRICT:	AUGUST 23-24
UTAH & IDAHO DISTRICT:	AUGUST 23-24
NEW MEXICO DISTRICT:	SEPTEMBER 5-7
IDCN DISTRICT:	SEPTEMBER 27-28
MINISTERIAL CONVENTION / NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE	NOVEMBER 25-30