

APOSTOLIC

SPRING EDITION 2014

# THE HERALD



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**THEY KEEP  
WATCH  
OVER OUR  
SOULS**

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## COVER ART CREDIT

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# LETTER FROM EDITOR

## APOSTOLIC PASTORS...THE KEY!

The leadership of a congregation is so important to the Kingdom of God that our Lord Jesus spent his three years of ministry, mainly forming twelve leaders, through what he did and said. These leaders took training from their Lord to form thousands of pastors and leaders who cared for the early church in the midst of the brutal persecution of Judaism and then the Roman Empire.

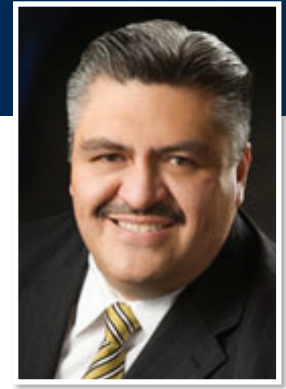
The Letter to Galatians was the first book of the New Testament to be written, probably in the year 48. Revelation was the last, probably written between 95 and 97. The New Testament was provided by God to train pastors and leaders in the care of the churches. The Word was given to us, as Paul said to Timothy, “so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” 1 Timothy 3:15.

Due to the importance of the leadership of each local church, we have dedicated this issue of The Apostolic Herald to the pastors of the Apostolic Assembly.

Most of our articles focus on them:

- Our Bishop President calls pastors to work with the vision of together building something great for the Kingdom of God.
- Our Vice President makes it clear that the Department of Real Estate exists to serve pastors.
- The General Secretary explains how the resolution process exists to protect the work of the pastors.
- The General Treasurer presents how the Workers’ Compensation Insurance is a resource that protects the pastors against contingencies.
- The story of pioneer Ramon Ocampo serves as an example of a good apostolic pastor: the pastorship as the greatest distinction.
- We also include a brief biography of Pastor Frank Ramirez, who was recently called by the Lord, as another example of a good pastor.
- Our main article presents simple ideas to show love and respect for the pastor and his family, by celebrating the “Pastor’s Day”.
- Agrypneō is a brief essay that celebrates the tireless care that apostolic pastors have of their congregations.
- The news from Christian Education shows how hundreds of apostolic pastors continue to educate themselves to better serve their members.

*Apostolic pastors know that there is a very clear way to show Jesus that we love him. He told Peter three times: “feed my lambs”, “tend my sheep”, and “feed my sheep”...  
John 21:15-17*



BISHOP ISMAEL MARTÍN  
DEL CAMPO



# BUILDING A CATHEDRAL



BISHOP PRESIDENT  
John Fortino



A man was once hitting a rock with a tired and sweaty countenance. Someone asked him, “What type of work are you doing?” He answered with grief, “Can’t you see? I’m breaking stones. A second man was also hitting a rock with a tired and sweaty countenance. Someone asked him, “What type of work are you doing?” He also answered with grief, “Can’t you see? I’m carving steps.” A third man was hitting a rock with great strength but his face was shining with joy and enthusiasm. Someone asked him, “What type of work are you doing?” He replied with great passion, “I am building a cathedral.”

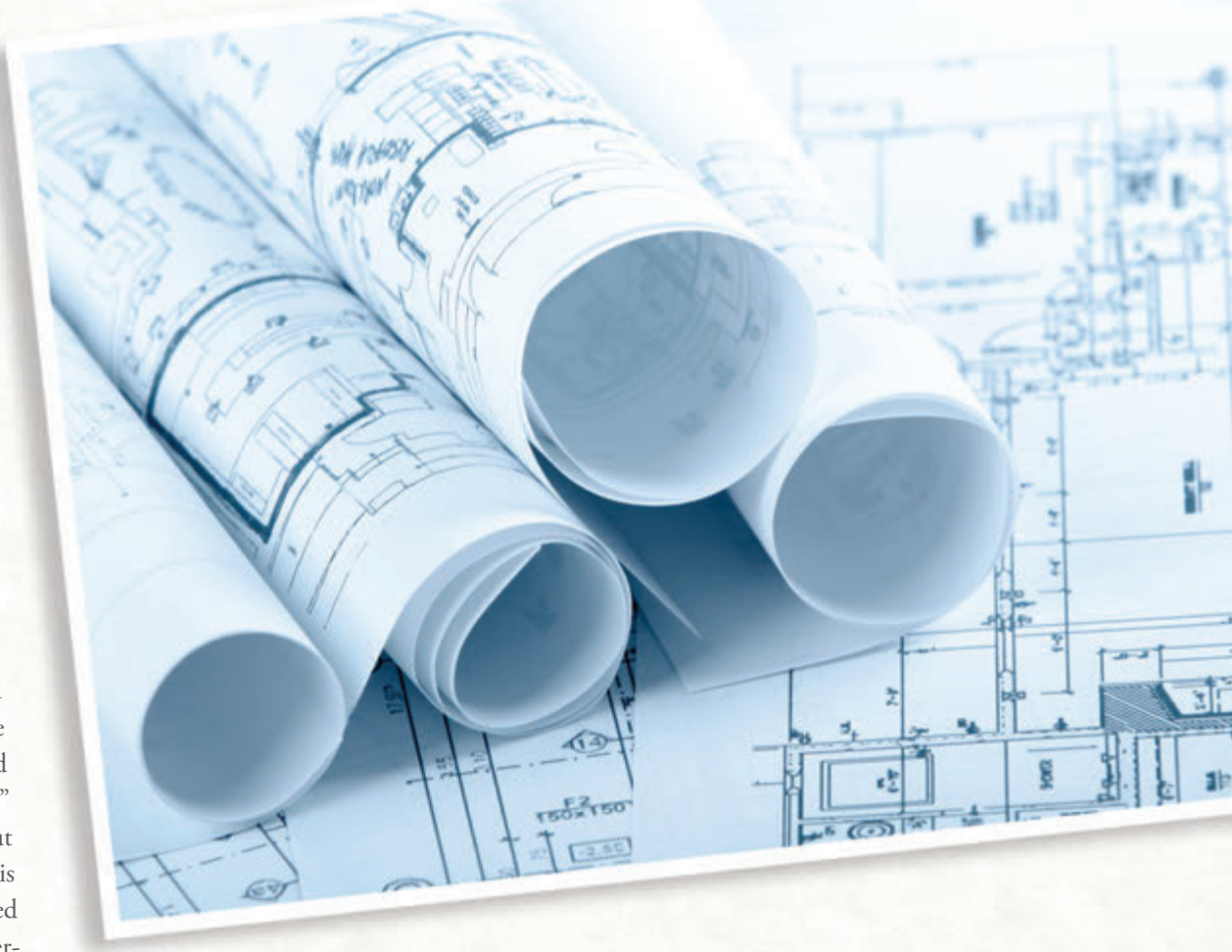
*1 Corinthians 3:10 - According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.*

“But let each one “take heed” how he builds on it.” The Holy Spirit inspires the verb that Paul uses and it is very interesting. Originally it is βλεπέτω (blepetō) and it is used 2 times in the New Testament. Here, and in 1 Corinthians 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. In both cases it has to do with watching with reflection. In other words, to look, think, analyze and reason. If we apply this concept to our text, I think Paul was speaking to all the Kingdom builders, of all ages—so they could understand that the work they are carrying out is bigger than what they imagine. The divine counsel has two very defined sides. The first, tells us that our work needs to be done with much passion and care; the second, tells us that we must be aware of the fact that more builders will soon follow after us to continue the labor.

On April 2nd of this year, I was surprised to receive a text message sent to me by Bishop Arcadio Peña from South Texas. In the message, there were two photos that he took on April 2nd of last year, in which I was constitutionally assuming the title of President of the Apostolic Assembly. When I saw it, I became emotional, and I stopped to think for a moment. A year had already passed. I had been so busy this whole time that I really had not stopped to think that 12 months of work had already passed.

“United in  
the Mission”

In these months, I have begun to analyze the functioning of the present-day Apostolic Assembly. I have compared the Church of the past with our current Church. I have studied the behavior of the leaders of our past with our leaders today. I have tried to understand the culture that influences us in our country and outside of our country. I have had the opportunity to ask and consult with those who are still with us and I have had the privilege of “living” our history. Throughout this time and during this analysis, I have discovered things that are very interesting for any leader who wishes to learn them.



Among the things that got my attention of the history of our church, I observed something that had been repeated frequently and in many places. This is the phenomenon of “starting over” against the biblical concept of building upon. Something similar to a virus that secretly spread and affected many leaders and said, “What was done in the past is worthless.” That way of thinking perturbs me and does not help us in our growth. I believe that the concept of continuity is unclear, and if we don’t speak about it or do something with regards to it, we will be affecting the future development of the Kingdom.

“United in the Mission” has been our theme throughout this year. We have developed it in various conferences, sermons and even in the reflections that we have received during our days of fasting and prayer from our Bishops. The unity that I propose is not to interfere with the governments of others, but rather to fulfill the Great Commission given to us by Christ. If our concept of Unity and labor in the Kingdom is like that of the two first laborers of our story, then our vision will be too narrow and we will never be united. However, if we understand that we have been called to build a Cathedral, then our attitude will change and consequently our actions.

In April of 1987, God gave us the privilege of starting the church in Miami, Florida, alongside my wife Sara and my two daughters Veronica and Valeria. My daughters were very little, Veronica was 4 years old and Valeria was 2 years old. I remember I told Sara, “May God help us build a church for them.” Thank God, he helped us to do so. Now, with Sara we pray that God will help us continue a church for our grandkids.

Continuity of work is what really produces growth and satisfaction. Nobody wants the hard work they started to end in failure. When a church does not invest in the future and in equipping successors then that church is destined to fail. When the continuity of work is not practiced, but a constant “starting over” is in effect, the results and achievements are always diminished. The famous Winston Churchill said, “Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.” Like I said before, in my analysis I have observed a global phenomenon that can be heard in phrases such as, “Let my successor figure it out however they can.” Or, “It cost me a lot, so let it cost the one who follows after me.” We cannot and should not think this way in the work of the Kingdom. This is totally counterproductive, and does not conduce to anything. It only leaves a bitter taste in the leadership and growth of the church.

It is like going from point A to point B in one generation or administration and then from point B return to point A when we enter another generation or administration. By repeating this various times, what we are doing is maintaining but not growing. The Apostolic Assembly is turning into an organization of maintaining and as long as it stays there, or returns back to point A, it will never achieve what God has for it.

Imagine for a moment what it would be like if one generation or administration ends in point B and the one that follows continues to point C with the help of the one that leaves and so on and so forth. If this were to happen in all administrative and spiritual areas, the achievements would be impressive. Maybe this might be an ideal, but at some moment of our history, it should turn into our method.

I would like for all of us to work to build a Cathedral with passion and care. We are in fact, building the church of Christ, until he decides to come for her. I am exhorting each pastor to put aside the small “ranchito” mentality and think of a mansion; the mansion of the Kingdom. Similarly to the elders, I say, to work with your successors in mind. To the Bishops, I

“Therefore, in the development of the Church, we should not be afraid to speak of adaptation, improvements or change—as long as everything stays within the established parameters.”

say, think of how you can leave the work of the Lord in effect to those who follow after you. To all our National and International Missionaries, may the laborer that God appoints after you receive the support needed to continue what has cost you so much to achieve. Last but not least, to every member of the General Board, let us leave our posts with honor and with the ardent desire to pass on what God has given to us—that it may be taken to a higher level.

If we think in this manner, we are paving the way for the generation that follows—a generation that is tired of hearing one thing and seeing another. The unity that we have been speaking of these months has not been easy. But while we build in the time and place appointed by God, we must do it with much passion and care. The passion determines the intensity of our work, while the care determines the projection and the desire

of our successor to take our work to a higher and more glorious level. This is precisely the spirit that moves the apostle Paul to write to the Corinthians.

The foundation that the apostle is referring to is Jesus Christ. Our passion takes the form of the bricks; used to build in a section of the spiritual Cathedral God has given us. The care that we give is the plumb line used by the masons to ensure that walls are built upright and able to unite with adjoining walls that neighbors will build.

Cathedrals do not get built in one year. Cathedrals take many years to build and even centuries—they get passed on from hand to hand and even when the founders die, new architects come to the scene, and so on and so forth. This is what happened with the Cathedral of the La Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, Spain. A couple of years ago I visited the Cathedral with my family and I was impressed. But when I learned about its history I was even more impressed. Everything happened in 1861 when someone dreamed of a Cathedral and it wasn't until 2010 when it finally became open to the public. Even until this day there are still areas that are in construction. It

took 149 years, more than 6 architects and thousands of workers to build what today looms in Barcelona.

What can I say concerning the Church (the most glorious Cathedral in the world), this takes time. Christ knew this, which is why he asks that we build with passion and care. Ever since the book of Acts and throughout the ages,

spiritual architects have built and built upon, with passion and care continuing the work of the pioneers. Today in the 21st century, it is our turn and we must do it in the same way. If God hasn't come yet, our successors must do the same. Imagine if every architect were to put their hand on the Cathedral to demolish it and start over again. What a terrible experience. The Cathedral would never come to existence.

As we realize that our work is for the Kingdom, that we have been assigned a turn to work in a section of this spiritual Cathedral and that our successors will soon follow to finish the job, our private agendas will start to disappear.

Of course the notion of building upon does not have anything to do with adapting, change, or improvement. These things are fine so long as the foundation, which is Christ, is not removed.

# 2014 NATIONAL THEME: "UNITED IN THE MISSION"

TEMA NACIONAL 2014: "UNIDOS EN LA MISIÓN"

Adapting, improving and changing are part of the development of the Church. When they started building the Cathedral of the La Sagrada Familia in 1861, they never thought of putting an audio/visual system, or air conditioning because those things didn't exist back then. However, today they do and they are highly sophisticated. Therefore, in the development of the Church, we should not be afraid to speak of adaptation, improvements or change—as long as everything stays within the established parameters.

The most important thing is the desire to “continue” what someone already started. Let us never disparage the work of our predecessors. Let us always honor the work of those that were there before us. Let us not commit the error of saying that their work was unsatisfactory, and that ours is better. Let us always speak with respect and restraint of those who were there before us. In their time, each person did what was within their reach to do and we believe that they did it with the best disposition. Even so, we have the warning from Paul that says:

*11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*  
1 Corinthians 3:11-15.

If we unite all these verses, we see how the apostle Paul covers all the areas of this theme. He speaks to us about the passion that we are supposed to have for the work of the Kingdom of God;

this means the quality of the things that we do, say and the way we do them. He also speaks to us about the care that we must have when working in the Kingdom; this means the desire for continuity. Last, he speaks to us about the positive and negative consequences of our work in the Kingdom; this means that the more sincere we are in the building of the spiritual Cathedral, the greater the possibility that our work will remain.

It is my prayer to God that this Church, which we all love, will not go from point A to point A all the time. It is time to build upon and climb, understanding that God is the owner and the only one worthy of the Glory. May God help us to be a blessing to those who take our place and never a burden or a stumbling block. In every level of leadership in the Apostolic Assembly let us believe that when we finish our “functions” our “divine calling” to keep building the spiritual Cathedral does not end.

With a brick in one hand and a plumb line in the other.

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# Who's our Customer?

## The restructuring of the Real Estate Department



VICE-PRESIDENT  
Bishop Víctor Prado

“Who’s our customer?” was one of the first questions Bishop Vice-President Victor Prado asked when he was appointed the head of the commission to study if there was a need to restructure the Real Estate department of the Apostolic Assembly. The commission was comprised of a group of professionals that had many years of experience in Real Estate and related fields. Headed by Bishop Vice-President Victor O. Prado, this commission was made up of Bishop General Secretary Abel Aguilar, Bishop Secretary of National Missions Joe Aguilar, Pastor David Martinez (administrator), Pastor Timothy Arroyo (loan processor), Brother Israel Salas (loan processor), Brother Allen Queen (banker), Pastor Isai Baeza (real estate) and Brother Paul Ares (real estate).

The first order of business was to answer Bishop Prado’s very important question “Who’s our customer?” the consensus was, the local PASTORS! Yes, we understood the need to protect the assets of the Apostolic Assembly, as good stewards; we had to make a policy that will safeguard the real estate holdings of the Apostolic Assembly. But our priority was to be proactive in our assistance to service the local pastors. We wanted to make policies and processes to clarify, educate, and assist the local pastors in understanding the whole real estate process. Whether it is a purchase, refinance, sale, lease, construction, whatever the project, we want to assist the local pastor in making good decisions.

The commission discovered that in addition to the Constitution there was a need to have a detailed written policy that will provide both more transparency and safeguards to the real estate process. Included in the written policy were the new objectives, the new details of the process, and the applicable stipulations. This written policy was submitted to the attorney for review and then to the General Board for their approval. Now both the Constitution and this new written policy, which is subject to the Constitution, were used to direct the next phase of the commission’s study.

**BOTH SHORT TERM AND LONG TERM GOALS FOR THE COMMISSION WERE ESTABLISHED IN ORDER TO MEASURE THE SUCCESS OF THE STUDY.**





## THE SHORT-TERM GOALS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

- Understand the current real estate process and make any changes and or additions required.
- Create a policy based on what was learned for the current process.
- Start weekly meetings to review the progress of the open real estate issues.
- Review the current real estate database to make sure that all essential information was included and updated.
- Confirmed that we had all necessary information.



Once the commission acknowledged we accomplished all our short-term goals we then set our long-term goals:

## THE LONG-TERM GOALS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

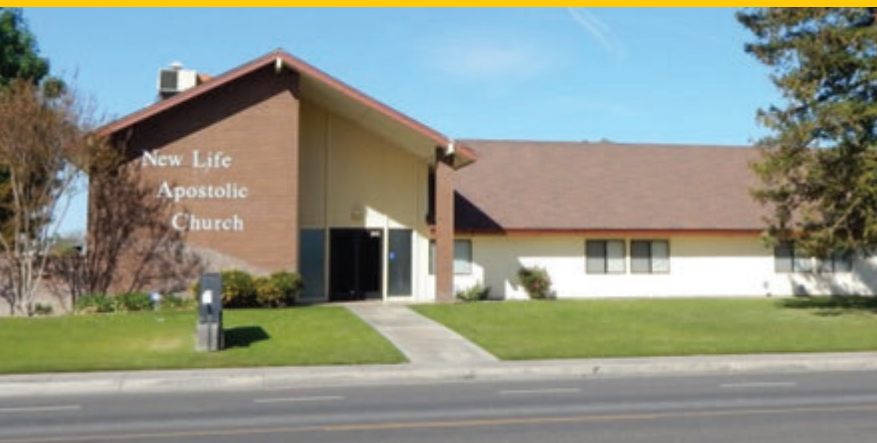
- Review the real estate database in order to confirm with the district that all local information is updated.
- Review the real estate database in order to generate information to create a portfolio of all Apostolic Assembly real estate holdings, as a whole, and by district.
- Enhance the pastoral website in order for the pastor to see, based on the local church's Profit and Loss statements, what type of loan they could qualify.
- Enhance the pastoral website in order for the pastor to see the progress of any outstanding real estate issues.

Jesus teaches in the Gospel according to Luke,

*“For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.”*

*Luke 14:28-30.*

Will there be times that the Real Estate department will have to deny a request from a local pastor? Yes, but especially at these times we are committed to try to find a way to assist the local pastor, so that in time we can assist our customer the PASTOR.





# The Constitutional Resolution Process and its Benefits

By Pastor R. R. Alanis



**GENERAL SECRETARY**  
Bishop Abel F. Aguilar

The process for a written resolution is outlined in our Apostolic Assembly Constitution to serve as a guide offering beneficial factors to our organization. The Resolution process helps provide an openness and transparency in its disclosure of desires, goals and needs of our local churches. This transparency coincides with what the Word of God dictates:

*“Let all things be done decently and in order.”* (1 Corinthians 14:40).

The Resolution process offers benefits to each member of the Apostolic Assembly as it begins in presentation to the local church body. This presentation to the local church body offers the opportunity for every faithful member of the Apostolic Assembly to speak. This process surely helps to support and fulfill what God’s Word dictates of our need to care for each other as we are all members of the body of Christ: *“That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.”* (1 Corinthians 12:25).

The Resolution Process helps bring forth a setting of clarity to all involved and as a result ridding us of any confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33). We can all benefit from a process that helps promote a healthy environment of checks and balances within our Apostolic Assembly that surely was the intended desire of the men of God who helped establish it. God’s Word upholds the principle that brings about mutual accountability within the members of the body of Christ (Luke 17:3; James 5:16; Hebrews 10:24). This Resolution Process also offers the ability to understand the needs, desires and goals of each church to the leaders of our organization, who are determined in helping to promote the appropriate assistance in the future.

The Constitutional Process for a Resolution: Article 31, Clause XI

In order for a congregation to buy, sell, rent, mortgage or lend properties, which would be under the name of the Apostolic Assembly, the following steps must be taken:

**Line Item 1** – Submit the proposal to the local church government, which must state on record its approval of the proposal by consent of its members in a signed record of minutes.

**Line Item 2** – The proceeding must be made by written request followed by the undersigned minutes by the pastor and the majority of the respective congregation members.

**Line Item 3** – It shall be approved by the District Board of Directors, and be recorded in a resolution.

**Line Item 4** – The request must be approved by the General Board, which will give the final resolution.

**Note:** The Apostolic Assembly Website ([apostolicassembly.org](http://apostolicassembly.org)) offers a thorough list of documentation required for a completed written Resolution, which can be downloaded by the pastor.

# WORKERS' COMPENSATION



**GENERAL TREASURER**  
Bishop Leobardo Maffey



## ■ WHAT IS WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE?

Workers' compensation is a form of insurance that provides wage replacement and medical benefits to employees (pastors, other paid personnel) injured in the course of employment. In exchange, the employee must waive his/her right to sue the employer (the church) for negligence.

## ■ DO I NEED TO HAVE WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE?

Yes, each state requires employers (the local church) to have workers' compensation insurance if they only have one employee.

## ■ WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF HAVING A WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE POLICY?

The benefit of having a workers' compensation insurance policy is it will provide lost wages and medical benefits to your employees (pastors, paid personnel) if they are injured on the job. Except in cases of gross negligence resulting in a fatality, workers' compensation insurance coverage limits your liability if an employee brings suit against your business for damages.

## ■ CAN I BE FINED FOR NOT CARRYING WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE?

Yes, you can be fined and more. If the state labor commissioner determines an employer (the local church) is operating without workers' compensation coverage, a stop order will be issued, and severe penalties will be issued to you per employee. This order prohibits the use of employee labor until coverage is obtained, and failure to observe it is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment and fines.

## ■ WHAT DETERMINES HOW MUCH I'LL PAY FOR MY PREMIUMS?

A number of factors go into determining the annual premium your insurance carrier will charge:

- Industry classification
- The company's past history of work-related injuries (known as your experience modification)
- Payroll
- Any special underwriting adjustments such as use of a certified health care organization
- Any special group or dividend programs you may be eligible for.



# A MODEL OF AN APOSTOLIC PASTOR



Rev. Ramon Ocampo

Jesus Christ said that the highest position in the Kingdom of God is of a servant. Fidelity to the vocation of service is what God expects from our lives.

A quintessential example of a pastor is found in one of our pioneers, Ramón D. Ocampo. He was born on August 30, 1897, in the town of Mesillas, Zacatecas, Mexico. His parents were Pomposo and Hermenegilda Ocampo.

He was baptized in the name of Jesus Christ by Bishop Marcial de la Cruz, when he turned twenty-two years old, in Riverside, California, in 1919.

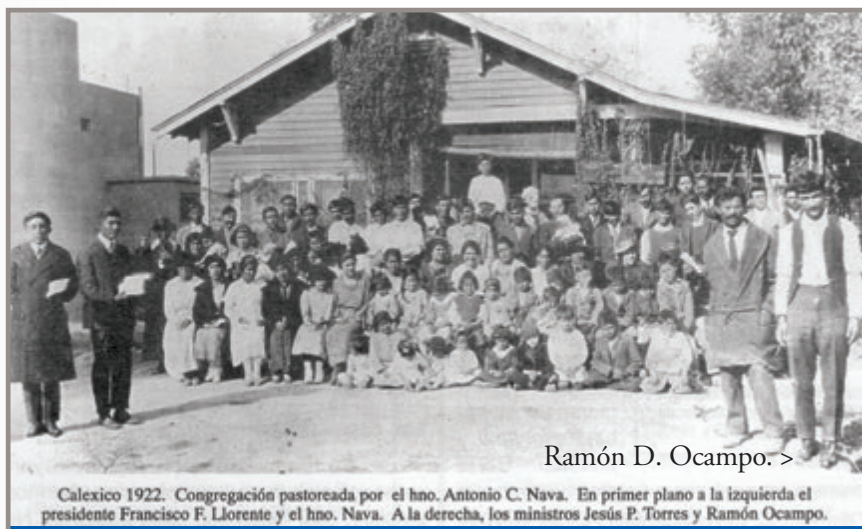
From this day on, his birthday was twofold, natural and spiritual! Soon after he received the call of God and in 1920 was set aside for the ministry by patriarch Francisco F. Llorente and was then ordained by Patriarch Antonio C. Nava, at the first convention of the Apostolic Assembly on December 30, 1925. Even before he was ordained, he began to serve as pas-

Yuma, Arizona: 1921  
Santa Rosalia, Baja California: 1922 – 1924  
Mesa, Arizona: 1924 – 1925  
Calexico, California: 1933 – 1942  
Anaheim, California: 1946 – 1951  
Santa María, California: 1965 – 1968  
Cutler, California: 1968 – 1970  
Modesto, California: 1970 – 1972

As soon as he was ordained to the ministry in 1925, he began to serve as an itinerant evangelist. Pastor Ocampo was sensitive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and was able to recognize the time of God and fully trust that the Lord would provide for his material needs. He retired from the work of pastor at the age of 75 and was called to the presence of God on March 18, 1990, at the age of 92.

Pastor Ocampo was always a very respectful and jovial gentleman; this combination of formality and joy characterized the early pioneers. Our Constitution says in Article 58 with great reason, that the minister must be “serious, formal, honorable”.

For his servant spirit, his passion as an evangelist, his loving care of believers, loyalty and respect for his supervisors and his zeal for the apostolic doctrine and values, our brother Ramon Ocampo is a paradigm of an apostolic pastor. His testimony is a worthy example of the hundreds and hundreds of apostolic pastors who have served with love and joy and have finished their race as caretakers of God’s people.



Ramón D. Ocampo. >

Calexico 1922. Congregación pastoreada por el hno. Antonio C. Nava. En primer plano a la izquierda el presidente Francisco F. Llorente y el hno. Nava. A la derecha, los ministros Jesús P. Torres y Ramón Ocampo.

tor and was the Silas of patriarch Nava, traveling with him to Southern California and Arizona. Pioneer Ramon Ocampo served as pastor in the following eight churches:

# THE GOOD FIGHT

## PASTOR FRANK D. RAMIREZ

On May 17, 1938 Frank D. Ramirez was born in El Paso, Texas to Daniel and Nieves Ramirez. He was the oldest of 7 children. They congregated in El Paso with Pastor Bernardo Cordova. In 1952, the family moved to Long Beach, CA where they attended Wilmington Apostolic Church under the pastor Pedro Martinez. He dedicated his life to the Lord and was baptized in 1953 at the age of fifteen. He received the Holy Ghost at a National Youth Convention held at the Tulare County Fairgrounds. Heeding God's call, he was set aside in 1960 and in February 1962 in Otay, California; he was ordained to the ministry.

In 1958 he met and married the love of his life, Tabitha Carrillo. He ministered in the local church of Wilmington, holding various leadership positions including Youth Counselor, Youth Sunday School Teacher and Superintendent of Sunday School. In 1967 at the National Convention in Long Beach, he was called to pastor the church of Weslaco, so he, his wife, and their 3 children, Rebecca, Frank Jr. and Stephanie moved to Texas. In addition to being pastor, he functioned as secretary of the District Board in Texas. During his 3 years there, the Lord added 2 more children to their family, David and Belinda. They were able to purchase 3 lots of property next to the church and built the parsonage home.

Following a new direction from God, in 1970 they moved back to Long Beach, California and once again congregated in Wilmington. In 1972 they bought their home in Long Beach and began having Bible Studies in their home for their neighbors in the evenings and Summer Bible School classes in their backyard for the neighborhood children, all while holding services in their living room with a congregation of seven, their 5 children and his parents. In 1976 while attending the General Convention, it was determined that he would be sent to Houston, Texas to pastor. When his young children returned from school that day, he informed them that they would be renting out their home and returning to Texas. His children agreed and said they were willing to move. On the Sunday after convention, after the decision to return to Texas had been made, there was a knock on the front door of his home. There stood the couple, Miguel and Catalina Hernandez. Mr. Hernandez stated that he had been delivered from bad spirits while visiting the church in San Pedro, CA under the pastorship of Bishop Leonardo Sepulveda. He wanted to be baptized and said he had the means to pay rent for the first few months if a church could be started in the city of Long Beach, where he also resided. That same day, they all went out looking for a place to rent.

By the grace of God, they found a church to rent on the corner of 9th and Lime. The church with all facilities included was rented for \$100. a month. All plans to move to Texas were cancelled and the first Apostolic Church in Long Beach was born. On July 25, 1976, Brother Frank D. Ramirez was installed as pastor by Bishop Leonardo Sepulveda. As God began to give the increase, he gave classes to



Pastor Frank D. Ramirez

the new converts in the backyard of his home. Thirty-seven years later, they have grown to a central church of 340 members with satellite churches in Chiapas, Mexico; Palm Springs and Palmdale, California; Las Vegas, Nevada and a second church in Long Beach.

Pastor Ramirez was a kind and gentle man loved by all who met and knew him. He lived his entire life by the Bible verse "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Along with preaching and teaching, he also served as a Sector Elder for a total of 20 years in the Los Angeles District. Additionally, he served as District Treasurer for 4 years. He was known for his passion for missions. He and his wife led by example and together they taught the local congregation to give generously toward "Flor Azul", a branch of support for the mission field of the Apostolic Assembly.

For many years he served the community by offering food to the hungry, clothes to the needy, prayed for the sick and they recovered, preached salvation and hope to the hopeless and brought them to Jesus.

**"I HAVE  
FOUGHT A  
GOOD FIGHT, I  
HAVE  
FINISHED  
MY COURSE,  
I HAVE KEPT  
THE FAITH"  
2 TIMOTHY 4:7**





# Agrypneō

by Bishop  
Ismael  
Martín  
del  
Campo

**“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account.” Hebrews 13:17**

This is a verb that is rarely used in the New Testament. This highlights the care with which the sacred writer was inspired to choose a word to justly describe the work of pastors in congregations.

In Mark 13:33 and Luke 21:36, the verb is placed on the lips of Jesus Christ, to describe the attitude with which we should be in the last days and especially before the imminent return of our Lord: “stay awake and vigilant”.

Paul instructs in Ephesians 6:18 with what care and passion we must pray every day and uses the verb in question to tell us: “Stay alert, do not be discouraged”.

This verb was used figuratively in the literature of its time, to talk about not sleeping, but watch, be vigilant, look after with no rest or practice constant vigilance over something, as required by the work of shepherds.

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## JESUS, PASTOR AND ROLE MODEL FOR PASTORS

In the Old Testament God is the pastor (ra'ah), and Israel, his flock (Genesis 49:24 and Psalm 23:1). In the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, Jesus is identified as the pastor whose suffering has been prophesied. In John 10:11 the Lord declares “I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.” Here is the model: the work of the pastor is to give his life for his sheep, as the Lord.

Ephesians 4:11 says that the ministry of a pastor, has been constituted by Jesus. 1 Peter calls Jesus “Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.” and 1st. Peter 5:4 calls him “Chief Shepherd”. The pastors of the early church learned what their tasks were from what Jesus said and did.

## THE PASTORS OF THE EARLY CHURCH WERE LOVED AND KNOWN FOR THEIR CHURCHES:

a) For preaching the gospel with passion and loyalty. Most of them lived martyrdom and died for Christ, thus providing a powerful example to their parishioners.

b) For serving as teachers of their congregations “daily... in every house” (Acts 5:42) and for mobilizing armies of believers in the work of discipling new believers.

c) For being concerned for the widows and orphans, and unlike unbelievers, caring for and teaching their churches to care for the sick, the poor and the dying. Christian historians of the first three centuries of the Church, often counted how pagans abandoned the sick on the roads and how thousands of Christians cared for them and gave a proper burial to many.

d) For giving a place of respect to women, children and slaves. Under the laws of the Roman Empire, abortion was allowed and the murder of children was a legal right, especially for daughters and children born with disabilities. The Church from the beginning was the perfect shelter for women, the weak and the slaves. These three groups, along with the children, constituted the majority of the first churches.

e) For organizing and leading multiethnic congregations with great multicultural sensitivity. The church of Antioch, where the primitive missionary movement was born in Acts 11:20, and which would be the typical congregation among the gentiles, began as a multiethnic church.

### THEY WATCH OVER YOU, TIRELESSLY

Hebrews 13:7 calls us to remember our pastors, examine and imitate their faith. Hebrews 13:17, asks that pastors be obeyed and respected, and bases this on the testimony of their work as servants of their congregations. Therefore it affirms, “they watch over you, tirelessly” (agrypneō). Apostolic pastors have always served their congregations in multiple tasks:

a) Pastors are responsible for preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ to their congregations and lead believers in the work of winning and discipling new believers. Many times the pastor has taken the Word to a home where not all received him with kindness and respect, but often, his patience allows him to win for the Lord Jesus even the people who are most reluctant or lost in vices.

b) Pastors are the teachers of the Word of God and those responsible for training teachers in their churches. Several of them serve as teachers in Bible colleges in their districts.

c) Pastors perform most baptisms, presentations of children and the Holy Supper in their services.

d) Pastors visit the sick in their homes or in hospitals.

e) Pastors are the spiritual counselors of the church members in virtually all situations. But as Hebrews 13:17 says, pastors constantly watch over their sheep. Often the apostolic pastor seeks the sheep that has strayed from the church, visits the one that is in danger and calls upon who is in danger or sin.

*“Also, most important, apostolic pastors are known for their constant prayer and fasting for the wellness of their flock.”*

f) Many pastors have specialized ministries as marriage counselors, chaplains in hospitals and prisons, directors of Christian schools, outstanding musicians and rehabilitation program directors.

g) Unlike protestant pastors, apostolic pastors must monitor the finances of their churches and supervise all construction or remodeling projects in their temples.

h) In many churches, apostolic pastors accompany their members in civil and immigration courts to advocate for them.

i) If a member has family in prison, the pastor goes to visit them.

j) Most apostolic pastors are remembered for their compassionate solidarity with the death of a loved one, in a marriage, family, work or business crisis or in situations of deportation.

k) Many pastors have shared their money, food and supplies with families with fewer resources. Many times they have taken into their homes people who were homeless, have served as translators and used their vehicles to take people to the church, to their homes, hospitals, visiting prisoners, drug stores, grocery stores, jobs, bus terminals, airports and government offices.

l) As a special note, the apostolic pastor is distinguished for being available 24 hours a day. I had three pastors in my childhood and youth and remember them for visiting families with different needs in the early morning hours. As a pastor, I have followed their example and have also had to get up at dawn to help a family in crisis. As a Bishop Supervisor, I witnessed how all the pastors in Los Angeles met this unwritten law of the responsibilities of a pastor.

Also, most important, apostolic pastors are known for their constant prayer and fasting for the wellness of their flock.

The apostolic pastor, as leader of his congregation, is the key element of the Apostolic Assembly. God bless the pastors, their wives, sons and daughters, by whose love and sacrifice our churches are kept and blessed!

# HONOR AND LOVE YOUR PASTOR

## Celebrating the Pastor and his family

*“Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine (1 Timothy 5:17 KJV).”*

“Pastors have a right to a ‘Pastor’s Day Celebration’ every first Sunday of June or on a date that is most convenient to the church (Constitution 2013, Article 66, Section VIII).” It’s hard to be a pastor in the United States. It is reported that ninety percent of pastors work 55 to 75 hours per week; this pales in comparison to the 40 hours a week of an average American worker.

The pastor never clocks out. He is on call for after midnight demonic possessions, or long and heart wrenching hospital visits, or as counselor in familial debacles. For all that pastors do, and beyond that what God Himself demands, it is right to honor our pastors. Follow these guidelines to successfully plan your Pastor’s Day:

**COORDINATOR:** The planning of a Pastor’s Day Celebration begins at least six months before the event. The local ministry of the church should designate a member to coordinate the celebration. If there are no ministers, usually smaller churches, the members should get together and plan.

**DATE:** A day should be set for the celebration depending on the pastor’s availability and that of his family. Do your best to gather his family.

**DELEGATE:** Since Pastor’s Day is usually celebrated on a Sunday, have different people coordinate food, children’s care, presentations, ushers and love offerings. Create a to do list with clear goals every month and for the days leading up to your Pastor’s Day.





**BUDGET:** The treasury of a small church (75 members or less) should prepare an offering of \$100 for their pastor. Medium churches (75 to 200 members) should aim for \$300. Larger churches (200+ members) can do \$500- or as it is suitable to their treasury.

Remember to cover food expenses and the love offering of a guest speaker. Prepare gifts for the Pastor, the Pastor's Wife and their unmarried children. Church families should be invited to give special offerings to their pastors. Have thank you cards and envelopes available or ask the members to provide their own.

**SERVICE:** Have programs ready detailing the order of the service. Have one master of ceremonies who can introduce the presentations and speaker. The master of ceremonies must be brief, formal and follow the schedule.

**PRESENTATIONS:** Presentations from the Men, Dorcas, Youth and Children should take place during the service. A short video can also be prepared: a) narrating the life of the pastor, b) members and children congratulating the pastor, c) acknowledgements from General Board Members, the District Bishop, Sector Elders or ministerial colleagues can also be an excellent idea. Invite local Government officials to the event. Speaker: Invite a special speaker. You may invite a General Board Member, your District Bishop, Sector



Elder, a Pastor or Minister friend of your Pastor. Ask your pastor for candidates.

**SPEAKER:** Invite a special speaker. You may invite a General Board Member, your District Bishop, Sector Elder, a Pastor or Minister friend of your Pastor. Ask your pastor for candidates.

**PROMOTE:** Make sure all the members receive a flyer for the service and that they are all aware when the celebration is to take place. Use letters, e-mail, phone calls or text.

**MUSIC:** Try to ascertain the favorite hymns of your pastor and his family. They will appreciate this detail.

**BANQUET:** Nothing says 'party' to apostolic hearts like eating together. Prepare a favorite dish of your pastors and have another master of ceremonies lead the banquet in lighthearted ambiance. Allow members to share stories about the pastor. Have a committee ready to clean up; you don't want your pastor staying behind cleaning up after everyone!

# OUR MINISTERIAL MEETINGS... Heartbeat of our 2013 Ministerial Legislative Convention



Our 2013 Ministerial Legislative Convention came and went in a moment of time. The brethren came from many churches: members, leaders, deacons, ministers, evangelists, pastors, elders and bishops. All of us that attended had been feeling for some time the excitement of planning to attend our International Convention. By and large, the general conventions are the most important and popular in attendance. And for this one we all waited in anticipation.

As the convention days finally arrived, there was a spirit of anticipation and excitement as we greeted each other in the lobbies of the convention hotels. Everyone recognized and felt the solidarity that the Apostolic Assembly is built upon. We are witnesses that regardless of difficulties the Church has had to endure, the momentum and function of the organization continues. Our General Board continued directed by the Holy Spirit to conduct business sessions as planned.



It is a well-known fact that the backbone of the entire church is the ministerial body. The convention, were it not for the ministry, would not be a convention at all. We witnessed that the entire ministerial body showed great interest in the business at hand during the Ministerial Legislative Sessions.

Having a new Presiding Bishop President was undoubtedly the highlight of the ministerial meetings as well as the general sessions and services that were held. Needless to say, he is an inspiration at every level of the church's functions. His timely words of advice, his questions and proposals and as his responses to inquiries seemed to bring everyone together. The problems of the past were not forgotten, but they seemed to be overshadowed and mitigated by the vision and the desire to "press on."

First on the agenda of our ministerial meetings was the Presidential Address. Our president, Bishop John Fortino based his timely reflection on Deuteronomy 6:20-25. One of his first statements was: "The Church, here on earth, has two clearly defined sides that are extremely important for its proper functioning, the legal side and the spiritual side. Both walk hand in hand to keep the rhythm and life of the Church. You cannot attend to one and neglect the other. Religious organizations that do not understand this are destined to fail. Both sides are essential to ensure continuity and projection. During this Legislative Convention we will be working on the legal side of the Church. This is the side that speaks of our "reality" that, at times, we wouldn't even mention. But there can be no spiritual blessing and development if we do not attend to it and clearly establish the legal aspect. For this, "we must look at what is happening in our surroundings; we must look at what is happening in front of our eyes."



We were reminded that our Legislative Meetings would probably not have all the answers to the concerns and needs of the Church, but what we were present at this convention to face our challenges with faith and courage. This convention with its sessions he stated, "will be part of the history of the Apostolic Assembly and we will be able to say to our children and grandchildren that we debated and agreed, approved and disapproved, but we did it with respect among us while loving God and His work."

And with this in mind we began to elaborate on the Initiative Proposals and resolutions that had been submitted to and examined by various committees before the convention. In the three days of meetings (approximately 16 ½ hours of dialogue), thirty-seven proposals were considered. While some were unanimously passed, others were debated upon and some were not approved. However, as our Legislative Meetings were coming to a close, a great spirit of contentment and accomplishment was felt in the meeting room.



## OUR MINISTERIAL MEETINGS...

Our Bishop President proposed that at our Electoral Convention Ministerial Meetings in November of 2014, we do the following:

- Utilize an electronic voting system for the General Board Elections and for the process of voting for the new proposals during the meetings.
- Dedicate three days of study and work on the new proposals (Tuesday – Thursday).
- Dedicate one day for reports given by General Board (Friday).
- Dedicate the last day of our General Electoral Convention for elections (Saturday).

This proposal was taken to a vote and it unanimously passed.

In his presidential address at the onset of our meetings, our Bishop President had urged us submit our arguments with passion and respect and to do it with the understanding that what is presented is simply the proponent's opinion. "No one owns the truth," he said. "Let us keep our composure at all times and hear the words of those who think differently. And when a discussion is closed and we vote, do it freely, without intimidation, and thinking, above all, on the work of God."

Today we look back and we can thank God that our "ministerial meetings" during the Ministerial Legislative Convention 2013 were well executed, allowing us to move in the right direction and trusting God for the wellbeing and health of our organization, the Apostolic Assembly of The Faith in Christ Jesus, International.



# Am I Called?

As our Church has begun experiencing remarkable growth, the leadership of the Apostolic Assembly has identified a need to provide training for potential candidates to fill pastoral positions.

The program we have initiated in order to implement this training is called the **SCHOOL OF PASTORS**. A combination of hands-on workshops, lectures, case studies, and mentoring sessions will primarily train the applicants to be prepared to begin their pastoral ministry in existing church vacancies or in church plants within an established district or in a National or International Missions field.



Class Dates: July 28-August 1, 2014

[www.apostolicassembly.org](http://www.apostolicassembly.org)



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# 54 Years on *Fire!*

## THE ASSEMBLY IN PANAMA

**On April 17, 1960, the apostolic message is preached for the first time in Panama. It was in a house made of wood on 18th Street Central Avenue, in the capital city of Panama, where Brother Daniel Jauhalla and his family gather for the first service. This was the beginning of more than 53 consecutive years of apostolic preaching in the Republic of Panama.**

From the capital of Panama, the message of salvation extends to Changuinola, Bocas del Toro Province. Missionary Daniel Jauhalla and his family remained in the Panamanian territory for 12 years, enough time to establish the Apostolic Assembly. In 1972 Missionary Jauhalla and his family returned their native country. Among the early leaders that formed in the early church was the young minister Felix Montero, with the departure of Bishop Jauhalla, brother Montero took the leadership of the church for the next four years. During this time new preaching fields were opened.

After brother Montero, brother William Brown takes the leadership of the church, position he held for six years. In this period the evangelistic system predominates, which was a characteristic of Brother Brown's ministry. Meanwhile the work of God continues to spread across the nation. Provinces such as Colon, Chiriqui, Cocolé, Los Santos and Veraguas are blessed with the powerful message of God's word.

When Brother Brown finished his work, the International



SECRETARY OF  
FOREIGN MISSIONS  
Bishop Arthur Espinosa

General Board sends the new Supervisor, Brother Miguel Arias Aguilar. Brother Arias starts a new administrative era. Under his leadership, the church was organized into four sectors, Panama, Colón, Bayano and Changuinola. Administratively, the church was benefited with the new system; Missionary Supervisor Arias and his family worked with dedication for over ten years. At the convention of 1990 Pastor Serrano Longobardo was appointed as interim president and again national leaders lead the Lord's work in Panama.

At the same time the International Apostolic Assembly appointed our esteemed brother and current Secretary of International Missions, Bishop Arturo Espinosa as Regional Supervisor, who with his family moved from Costa Rica to Panama. Bishop Espinosa continued the administrative system. There were marked improvements in favor of the Church. Bishop Arturo Espinosa was in charge of the Regional Supervision; this region included the countries of Panama, Costa Rica and Honduras.



At this time the work in Panama had 2500 baptized members. When Bishop Espinosa returned to the United States, Pastor Patricio Carranco was sent to Panama as Regional Supervisor. Brother Carranco leads the Church with tact and wisdom. When Bishop Carranco returns to his native country, the Church of Panama had grown and matured. The church now had new leaders, men with ability to take charge of the work of God; they now had a National Board with Brother Longobardo Serrano as president-elect. Brother Serrano leads the Church for six years. Genaro Garcia is then elected as President, position he held for eight consecutive years.

On January 24, 2004, Brother Laureano De Los Santos was elected as the new Bishop President, who for eight years led the church to a remarkable growth. The International Apostolic Assembly restores the regional supervision, and at the 2007 National Convention of Honduras, Bishop Juan López Toro was appointed as the Bishop Supervisor of the Central Region, which now includes the countries of Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama, and Venezuela.

During the 2010 National Convention, the 50th anniversary of the missionary work of the Apostolic Assembly in Panama was celebrated. In this convention a total membership of 5,578 was reported. In 2012 Bishop Laureano De los Santos finished his eight-year tenure as Bishop President and Bishop Severiano Niño was elected as the new Bishop President during the convention.

The Apostolic Assembly in Panama has had a remarkable growth, having established the Strategy of Jesus in most congregations. In recent years, the national leadership has set a path of vision without neglecting our principles and apostolic doctrine. In the recently held XXII National Convention they reported 65 established churches and 4 national missions, plus 836 people were baptized in the last two years. The church has 5,875 baptized members and a total membership of 9,433.

For all that has been accomplished in Panama we give honor and glory to God and thank all the missionaries and families for the legacy they have left us. We also appreciate the work of all national leaders who continue diligently working for the Church. The Apostolic Assembly in Panama met from January 30 to February 1, 2014 at the Vasco Nunez de Balboa Convention Center at the Hotel El Panama to celebrate the XXII National Convention. From all the Panamanian territory, the United States and other countries in Latin America, brothers and sisters came to participate in this great activity.

We were very blessed to have our International Bishop President, John Fortino with us, Secretary of International Missions, Bishop Arthur Espinosa and his lovely wife, Re-



gional Supervisor, Bishop Juan Lopez and his lovely wife, also representatives from churches in Costa Rica, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and El Salvador. From the first service there was a great move of God's power, during the first service the auditorium was almost full. We had an attendance of nearly 4,000 people and a great group of visitors.

The preachers were Bishop President John Fortino, Bishop Arthur Espinosa, Bishop Juan López and Missionary Gabriel Pereira das Neves, whom God used tremendously. The theme of this activity was "Foundation, Strategy, and Generational Legacy". On Friday evening the Ordination and Initiation service was held, congratulations to these men of God who began their ministerial career.

We thank God for the achievements that our Panamanian church has experienced; in the statistical report we were informed that the total membership is 9,433. We continue to pray for the leadership of our church and for all the people in Panama to be reached with the glorious gospel of salvation.

## APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY IN THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

### PANAMA STATISTICS 2012 - 2014

**BAPTISMS - 836**

**HOLY SPIRIT - 435**

**CONGREGATIONS - 65**

**NATIONAL MISSIONS - 4**

**BAPTIZED MEMBERS - 5,875**

**TOTAL MEMBERSHIP - 9,433**

### APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY NATIONAL BOARD 2012 - 2016

Bishop President

Bishop Vice-President

General Secretary

General Treasurer

Secretary of Missions

Secretary of Christian Education

Secretary of Social Assistance

Severiano Niño

Arturo Cención

Simón Ortega

Laureano De los Santos

Abel Rodríguez

Tarsis Chacón

Edgar Sánchez

### District Bishops

East District

West District

Jeremías Cedeño

Ovidio Jaén



# NATIONAL MISSIONS

Jesus said to His disciples, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...” (Matthew 28:18,19 NKJV). Our National Missionaries and pastors that labor in the National Missions field have taken Jesus’ words seriously and are fulfilling this Great Commission in their respective fields of labor.



SECRETARY OF NATIONAL MISSIONS:  
Bishop Joe Aguilar

## KNOW YOUR NATIONAL MISSIONARIES

Currently, National Missions has 7 missionaries in the field:

Elder Edgard and Migdalia Serrano:  
Kenner, LA and Baton Rouge, LA

Elder Domingo and Lourdes Zúñiga:  
Albertville, AL and Nashville, TN

Pastor Antonio and Rachel Cruz:  
Louisville, KY

Pastor Celso and Raquel Ponce:  
Dayton, OH

Pastor Baldomero and María del Consuelo Vásquez:  
De Queen, AR

Pastor Esteban and Ana Cecilia Ceseña:  
Jackson, MS

Pastor Francisco and Luz Jeannette Magaña:  
Knoxville, TN and Morristown, TN



Minister Daniel and Norma González

name of Jesus. Praise God! The missionary field of Hawaii just reopened and people are already giving their lives to the Lord! God has also granted our missionaries grace and opened doors to celebrate worship services. González family, you can count on our prayers and support.

During the months of September, November, and December of 2013, the Lord granted the National Missions committee the privilege of visiting the 3 Regions and teaching the Strategy of Jesus Seminars. Truly, there is a hunger in National Missions to learn how to implement our National Evangelism and Discipleship program.

We are happy to announce that Minister Daniel and Norma González, from the Indio Apostolic Church, are ready to leave to the island of Oahu, Hawaii on June 17, 2014. In March they went to scout the land and to search for a place of residence. They met with Sister Molly Pulido who introduced our outgoing missionaries to a couple. The Bible Studies began and Minister González will be returning to the island to baptize them on May 3rd in the precious

*...Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...”*



## SOUTHEAST REGION

Under the leadership of Elder Edgard Serrano, the Southeast Region reported 23 baptisms in 2013. We believe God for a greater harvest in 2014. Our prayers are with Elder Serrano who is seeking to install a pastor in Kenner, LA so that he can dedicate more time to Baton Rouge, LA. We are also thanking Evangelist Baldomero Vásquez for agreeing to help us temporarily in De Queen, AR until we can find a permanent pastor.

## MID AMERICA CENTRAL REGION

The Mid America Central Region reported 86 baptisms in 2013. We are praying for Elder Domingo Zúñiga who is currently caring for the church in Nashville, TN, besides continuing to work in Albertville, AL. The New Work that he established is now recognized as a Mission.

Pastor Joel Gallegos of Cullman, AL has also been working in Alabaster, AL. We are happy to report that the work there has grown and now needs a full-time pastor. May God continue to bless our pastors that are continuing to plant churches!

## MID AMERICA NORTH REGION

the Mid America North Region, under the supervision of Elder Elías Elizondo, reported 35 baptisms in 2013. We thank pastor Felix Jáuregui who worked many years in this Region. When he retired, pastor Mario Ruiz left Sioux City, IA to pastor in South St. Paul, MN. Recently, pastor Elías Sámano has accepted the pastoral responsibility in Sioux City. May God continue to send laborers into the Mid America North Region field.

## REACH AMERICA & APOSTOLIC MEN

I want to appreciate president Elder Jimmy Morales, the Apostolic Men's Confederation board of directors, the Federation leaders, and all the Apostolic Men for consistently contributing to Reach America. May God grant you a record year in Reach America offerings so that we can continue to send missionaries throughout the United States of America.

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# NEWS ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 2014



**SECRETARY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**  
Bishop Ismael Martín del Campo

**January 13 to 24:** First group of eleven apostolic students complete their first two classes for the Doctor of Ministry with McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois: Bishops Ismael Martín del Campo and Moisés Carrillo; pastors Daniel Muro, Celedonio Saldaña, Roberto Tinoco, José Antonio Pérez, Andrew López, Jorge Real, Steve Morán, Eduardo Iglesias and Sam Rojas.

**March 17 to 28:** Group of eight pastors study the first two courses of the Master's leveling program to begin the Doctor of Ministry program in January 2015, also with the McCormick Theological Seminary: José Orlando Contreras, Gamaliel Goldstein, Juan López, Rigoberto Payes, Frank Valdez, Ramón Villalpando, Genaro García and Bayark Mayorga.

**March 24 to 28:** Twenty-one students enrolled in the first class of the Master of Divinity with the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico, held at our Headquarters in Rancho Cucamonga, California: Bishops Joe Aguilar, Jaime González and Daniel Lofton; pastors Arturo Serrano, José Castillo, Francisco Magaña, Félix Bermejo, Jesús J. Martínez, Herminio Leal, Rogelio Razo, José Castro, Alex Santos, Marvin Rodríguez, Samuel Valdez, Jesús Jiménez, Jaime Haro, Evert Blanco, Alfredo Fernández and Mike Ortega; ministers Martin Calderón and Pedro Espitia.

**April 7 to 11:** A group of sixteen students complete their sixth course for the Mas-

ter of Divinity with Fuller Theological Seminary, at our Headquarters in Rancho Cucamonga, California: Bishops Martín Cárdenas, Francisco Quezada, Felipe Salazar and David Martínez; pastors José Luis Barrera; John Mark Almaraz, Israel Carlos, Eliseo Martín del Campo, Matthew García; Arturo Ocegüera, Omar Arzate and Armando Acosta; sisters Gloria Ocegüera and Judith de León; ministers Felipe Díaz and David de León.

**April 20:** The new Apostolic Youth Expositor "JOY, Life Proof" goes on sale.

**April 21 to 25:** With the International Theological Baptist Seminary, four groups of apostolic students (pastors and leaders), take a special class in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Asuncion, Paraguay and Santiago, Chile, to help them prepare their monograph (Bachelor in Ministry), or thesis (Post Graduate Diploma in Ministry), which is the final requirement for graduation in December 2014.

**April 26 to May 2:** We launched the International Apostolic Bible College in Spain, the last country we were missing. We established two branches in the cities of Seville (Missionary Supervisor Daniele Fontanarosa) and Barcelona (Missionary Arturo Pinto).

**May 7:** Twenty-one apostolic pastors and leaders in Costa Rica finish the courses Greek I, Specific Didactics and Professional Practice II, with the Evangelical University of the Americas, in order to graduate with their bachelor degree in December 2014.

**May 9:** The two new manuals for the International Apostolic Bible College, Psalms I and Psalms II, written exclusively for our Bible College by Dr. Samuel Pagan, go on sale.



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# MASTER OF DIVINITY

**CLASSES BEGIN  
AUGUST 25TH!**

## VISION

A bilingual theological seminary, serving the Apostolic Assembly churches in the United States of America and all around the world.

## MISSION

To develop excellent lay leaders and pastors for the Church at-large, providing students first-rate contextual theological education in the Apostolic Assembly Heritage.

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Six master level classes from the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico.
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Six master level classes from McCormick Theological Seminary.
- III. Fourteen classes with distinguished apostolic professors from around the world, with a Ph.D or D.Min degree.

### REQUIREMENTS:

1. Be a member of the Apostolic Assembly.
2. A letter of recommendation from your local pastor or District Supervisor (for pastors).
3. Must be able to read and write in English
4. A Bachelor Degree from an accredited university (United States or other countries).



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# SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

## THE WIDOWS PROJECT

By Sister Lupe Marioni

The Department of Social Assistance identified the need to create a financial assistance program for our pastor's widows. These are those godly women who faithfully labored together with their husband's in the office of the pastorate for many years. For this reason the Widows Project was created. The purpose of the Widows Project is to be a financial assistance supplement and not a retirement plan. It is funded by the monthly contributions that all churches make to the AC Nava Foundation. It is also subsidized by the annual Widows Project offerings that all churches give between the months of March through July. We are honored to be assisting at this time 62 widows with a monthly financial supplement.

The AC Nava Foundation follows the biblical principles for considering qualifications as indicated in 1 Timothy 5:9-10: 9No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, 10 and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the Lord's people, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.

According to Scripture, it is also the duty of the children and grandchildren to divide the responsibility among themselves in assisting with the needs of their mother and grandmother. The Apostle Paul explains this in 1 Timothy 5:3-4: 3Honor widows who are really widows. 4But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God.

As we rejoice in God's abundant blessings, let us not forget the brave women who labored together with their husbands in the office of the Apostolic Pastorate. Become a faithful supporter of the Widows Project.



SECRETARY OF  
SOCIAL ASSISTANCE  
Bishop Joe Prado

The *Widows Project*  
Bringing the light of consolation

FUNDRAISING DATES:  
March 1st through July 1st  
*"Honour widows that are widows indeed."*  
- 1 Timothy 5:3

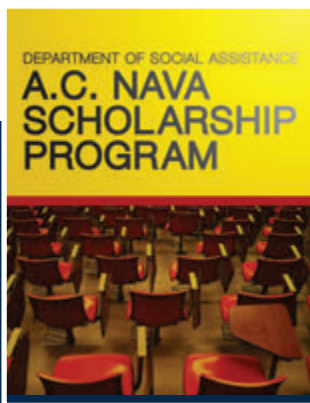
Raising funds to help support the widows of  
Pastors who devoted their lives to serving in the  
Kingdom of God.

*Proyecto Viudas*  
Encendiendo la luz del consuelo

FECHAS PARA RECAUDAR FONDOS:  
Marzo 1ro a Julio 1ro  
*"Honra a las viudas que en verdad lo son."*  
- 1 Timoteo 5:3

Recaudando fondos para ayudar a  
viudas de pastores que dedicaron sus  
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# FULFILLING THE COMMISSION

## OF SOCIAL SERVICE THROUGH AIDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

By Sister Janae E. Quezada

*...‘for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’*

*Matt 25:31-46*

Jesus’ ministry and many parables found throughout the New Testament emanate the Christian commission to serve others and care for the poor. Jesus incarnate chose to be born among the poor and live among the oppressed. He identified himself with the marginalized sect of society not the elite. Jesus made it clear to his followers through his example to assist and preach the gospel to all flesh regardless of whether or not they be a part of the elite or marginalized community. He was a friend of the poor, sinners, tax collectors, and others who were rejected and oppressed by society (Acts 10:38).

Paul ensured that his churches in Corinth collected alms for their fellow church members and saints in Jerusalem (2 Cor 8:4, Romans 15:26). We, being members of the body of Christ are commissioned to do the same and are given the Holy Spirit to aid us in doing so. A fundamental portion of the commission of service, is aiding those within our church communities.

For years, we as a church have actively participated in crucial social services by addressing the vital needs of our members and communities. Pastorally and congregationally, members assist one another and souls by visiting their homes to offer up comfort, attend to the sick by providing meals, pray for healing, and assist financially in times of emergencies.

Overall, the Apostolic Assembly has successfully generated a culture that impacts members lives outside of church walls, and empowers them to thrive; for the members that are immigrants, undocumented or impoverished, and marginalized, this has been social service. However, now, is the time to begin thinking of engaging others into the current forms of care without sacrificing the current work being done or our theology. As Christians, we are all called to emulate Christ: throughout his ministry, he healed the sick, delivered those who were demon possessed, assisted the poor, orphans, widows and fed the hungry. Now is the time not just as members of the AAFCJ, but also more importantly as Christians, to pause and reflect on whether or not the church can do more in response to the social evils of oppression, poverty, injustices, and discrimination.

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” Luke 4:18*





# "ONE"

## NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE 2013

### MESSENERS OF PEACE

A lone youth persecuted by unworldly hosts appears on the screens. He is backed up without escape. There is no way out it seems. Yet the youth is not alone, a band of Apostolic young people arrive with a "1" on their shirts. The darkness covers and leaves. Finally the lights flicker on, the bands begin to play, and we have arrived to #1nyc2013 or "ONE" National Youth Conference 2013. The theme for last year's Conference was from John 17:21 "..."*that they all may be one.*"

Our National Youth Conference strived to bring together the Messengers of Peace, at a time when our youth in America is heavily fragmented and divided. The world rages working to strip us away from our apostolic identity. Yet the world was met with the united front of the Messengers of Peace in worship, giving, hearing and sending. Youth from all across the states came together from the 28th of November to

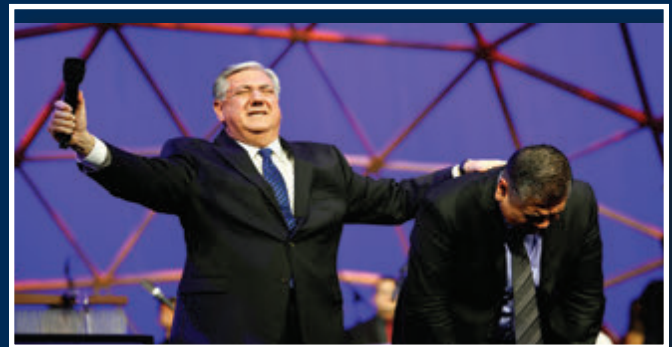
the 30th to celebrate the Name above all names. Long Beach, California was the site where the Messengers of Peace held their Conference.

The excitement at our National Youth Conference only grew with the presence of pastors

and bishops. Alongside the Conference, the pastors of the Apostolic Assembly were having their own Ministerial Legislative Convention. Our pastors came out to support the youth and accompany them in a pow-



erful time in the Holy Spirit after their sessions. The National Messengers of Peace Board were joined with our General Board of Directors flanking them on the other side of the pulpit. With the presence of the pastoral body, two generations came together inflamed with the one passion of the Gospel.



Youth leadership met with the National Board on Thursday morning to hear reports and announcements for 2014. National Treasurer Steve Montenegro gave the financial report and National Secretary Jacob Rodríguez announced the new revamped program for fundraising 'Seeds'. The National President Omar Cortez announced the vision for 2014, 'MissionLink'. "UNITE" was the motif for the Thursday service that featured Steve Montenegro and Anthony Romo. Bro. Romo spoke on the power of agreement and called us to agree with God and agree with each other while Steve Montenegro invited us to see with eyes of faith against the opposition of the enemy.

Friday morning there were different breakout sessions that went on. These sessions covered a wide spectrum of interests for our youth. Steve Rodríguez facilitated and organized the sessions for the Pastor's



Kids that had Pastor Tim Arroyo, his wife sister Janelle, Frank Quezada and Bishop Frank Romo. Working with small groups Jason Ocegüera presented the Strategy of Jesus alongside Jimmy Morales and Ismael Martín del Campo III. For College Life we had Jesús and Jessica Núñez. With the young adults (23+) there was Steve Montenegro, Jacob Rodríguez and Mark Amin. And finally the youth were invited to a discussion with our Bishop President and different panelists about the future of the Apostolic Assembly in the 'Future Generations' session. The "IGNITE" service on Friday night had Jesse Mendoza and Jacob Rodríguez preach. Jacob Rodríguez spoke on passion: his calling was for the Messengers of Peace to be ignited with the Holy Spirit as Samson ignited the foxes against the Philistines.

Boisterous celebration and expectation arose on the last day of our Youth Conference at the "IMPACT" service on Saturday the 30th of November. Before this the Messengers of Peace celebrated a Youth Worship Experience, previewing different bands, choirs, singers from all over the Assembly and Mark Amin preached. Later that afternoon we received a word from Omar Cortez, the Holy Spirit supported his altar call, and our Bishop President John Fortino laid hands on National Youth leader Omar, uniting two generations. Our Bishop President took the place after brother Cortez. Speaking on the difficulties faced with division, he made a summons to all the pastors and the youth to "UNITY". "Unity in the Biblical sense is harmony," Bishop Fortino continued, "it's *symphony*. We



can be together but not united. Yes, power descends when we are together ... *but only in harmony.*"

He announced his vision for 2014: "United in the Mission." At the end he concluded with the story of a woman's funeral, wherein her casket she had a fork. The story goes that



when the woman was a child, keeping a fork was a sign that dessert was coming; the best was coming. With that the Bishop President lifted up high a fork and an uproar was heard. With this he declared and closed the Conference saying:

*The best is yet to come!*

# THY KINGDOM COME

PASSION | POWER | PURPOSE

GENERAL ELECTORAL  
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