

APOSTOLIC

SPECIAL EDITION 2016

THE HERALD



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SYMPOSIUM

WHEN PICTURES
ARE WORTH A
THOUSAND WORDS

**THEME
FOR 2016**
UNITED IN
THE POWER
OF THE HOLY
SPIRIT



- AS THE PALM OF A HAND
- "THE WORD" 2015
MINISTERIAL SYMPOSIUM
- EXTRAORDINARY! NEXT
- GROWTH CHURCH
PLANTER'S CONFERENCE
- NEVER "TOO GREAT"

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WHY A COMMEMORATIVE EDITION?



BISHOP JOSÉ G. ZÚÑIGA

This special edition of the Apostolic Herald has two purposes:

1) to refresh our memories with the beautiful events that unfolded in Long Beach, CA in the month of November, 2015. To remember is to live again. We cannot allow these special activities to fade into the dustbin of history, or worse yet, to be completely forgotten;

2) to create a desire in each of the readers to continue the conversations about hospitality, children with special needs, the family, the Word of God, and God's calling on our lives. We want these activities to become part of the fabric of the church as it seeks to be the church that Jesus built and empowered. We must not only be the church that says or proclaims, but also the church that does.

From the very beginning, we had wanted this special edition to be composed more by images than by words. It is impossible to capture everything that happened in the Symposium and the Youth Conference. The images communicate passion, dedication, and above all, enthusiasm for the work of the Lord. There was something for everyone, from the smallest child to the elderly. No one was left out. People were fed, both literally and spiritually. People were healed. People were motivated to give God their all. People left challenged, enthused, and most of all, motivated to continue being God's hands and feet.

In this edition, our Bishop President John Fortino brings us a fresh word, **"As the Palm of a Hand"**. Great things have small beginnings. He is envisioning that the year 2016 will bring great blessings for the church. He also speaks about the Apostolic Assembly's vision for 2016: **"United in the Power of the Holy Spirit"** and how that vision can be implemented through concrete actions.

Enjoy this special edition's images and summary of activities. I am sure they will stir up memories of those momentous events, and if you didn't make it to the Symposium/Youth Conference in 2015, our hope is that you will make a special effort to come back to Long Beach for this year's convention.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jose G. Zuniga'.

Bishop José G. Zúñiga
Editor





BISHOP PRESIDENT
John Fortino



AS THE PALM OF A HAND

And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down that the rain stop thee not. 1 Kings 18:44

Dear people of the Lord,

Praise the Lord!

In this special edition of our Herald I would like to start by thanking God for all His blessings during the year that just ended. I cannot list all His blessings, but suffice to say that they were many. All of our District and International Conventions, Confederations Activities, and our Joint Bishops Meetings were visited by the power of the Holy Spirit. In the camps, the conferences sponsored by local churches, trips abroad, and every national and international event, we can say that God has been with us.

God has never left us and never will. This church has a special place in God's heart, and as we fight to not lose it, there will always be hope for us and for our children.

And...what can I say of the Youth Convention and the "The Word" Symposium that just ended? Simply, everything was a success. Although there are still things we need to improve, everything went better than expected. I take this opportunity to bless and thank the army of men and women who came together to make this possible. Thank you very much on behalf of the Church.

God definitely surprised everyone visiting us supernaturally Saturday night at the end of the Youth Convention when literally thousands of young people came forward to receive a special anointing. We have received hundreds of emails, texts and commentaries of bishops, pastors and brothers marveled by the moving of the Holy Spirit. At that moment as I watched the crowd of young men and young ladies who passed through the aisles made by the Bishops and Missionaries, God spoke to me and told me that this was the "future of the Church."

Brothers, if the Holy Spirit and its anointing is priority to our generation and the generation that follows, things will go well and we will have our future and the Apostolic Assembly

secured. It is true that we have many things that still need to be corrected, but the most important is that we are in the road of our "reality" and with the help of God and all of you, we will reach conclusions and decisions that will assist us to go through the natural storms of the decades.

And what about the biblical story? Well, the connection I find in the biblical event of the first book of Kings and our reality is that the big things appear in the biblical scenery are always preceded by very small almost insignificant things. Many times we do not realize that the greatest blessing is coming, because we believe that the greatest blessing and is "wrapped" in a large package, while the sacred text tells us, almost always the opposite. God in His sovereign Will works in a different way, and in this particular case, the prophet sends his servant to go and look toward the sea and to the report of what he sees. The issue was that there was no rain for three and a half years, and drought was intolerable. The prophet tells him to go and see, but the servant always brought back a negative report, so he sends him seven times to do the same thing. It is interesting to note here that the prophet, before sending his servant, had already anticipated the king would leave for home "because a big rain is heard." The prophet had already seen, but his servant had not, so he sent him again and again.

Apparently on his last trip, he realizes something that "might" have to do with what we are waiting (big rain), he sees a "very small" cloud the size of the palm of a man. Some theologians (I include myself in this group) believe that the cloud was there from the first round, but the servant did not care because it was too small (in the mind of the servant) to become a storm that would end the drought.

Something supernatural had to have happened in the spirit of servant to for him to give importance to something that was not of importance before. Now, in the seventh round, he mentions it, he is not sure that it is relevant,

"Brothers, if the Holy Spirit and its anointing is priority to our generation and the generation that follows, things will go well and we will have our future..."

but he mentions it. Surely the last time, he understood that the creator of heaven and earth, could create storm clouds from that little cloud. This is where the servant understood the importance of talking with faith and still value the things that seem insignificant, but that the Creator can transform into extraordinary things. The Bible ends the story saying “the sky grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain.”

The Church, more especially the leadership, are represented by the Servant. God is showing us “little clouds” here and there. Now we are the ones who need to believe that God can do extraordinary things if we just confess by faith, that those blessings will come though usually from less to more.

Dear Bishops, leaders and people of the Lord, God chose us for this time, for us to be part of that “great” blessing that is coming, but without ignoring our present reality. This is why I tell you that if God shows us a small cloud on the road toward the blessing, do not discard this on the contrary, let us receive it joyfully understanding that it is God’s message for the Church today.

The present leadership has the following challenges:

1. Strengthen our economy to face the challenges ahead. While increasing the economic reserves to let the leaders of the future, a solvent Church.
2. Open 200 more churches in the country, breaking the mark of 1,000 churches.
3. Open 10 more missionaries fields, although we already have opened London, England.
4. Prepare, train, empower and send candidates from the School of Pastors to new fields, and not necessarily to the churches that have pastors who are already elderly.
5. Review and strengthen our practices of holiness.



6. Create our own Apostolic University accredited for the training of our future leaders.

Someone may think, to read these 6 points, which are pointing to something big, perhaps impossible, but I think the “small clouds” that we are seeing in our midst, are the divine message that we must continue believing, trusting and waiting on him. No need to go to sea seven times as the servant of the prophet, that is, do not take as insignificant what is happening or what we’re seeing. It is better to see in each one of these small clouds the love of God towards His Church and as definitive evidence that His Word will not return to Him void, but will fulfill the job for which it was sent.

Dear brother, cell leader, pastor, missionary, bishop, do not look at the small achievements of 2015 as a failure in your ministry or calling. Do not allow any of that to diminish the desire to continue, NO brother, understand the message of God, that’s the way God is showing you that if you are faithful, he will surprise you with a great harvest of souls.

Do not look at the small as something insignificant, or as a failure, let’s look forward, as in the message of God, as a divine sign that the greatest blessing are to come.

I see little clouds in the Apostolic Assembly, and especially when God allowed us to see those thousands of young people hungry for God, for me, that was “my” little cloud. God is telling us, “Prepare my people, because a big rain is heard.”

So this year we will join in 2016 all the power of the Holy Spirit so that together as Assembly, we can see and experience the blessing we have been waiting.

God bless and keep you, and God bless the Apostolic Assembly,

Bishop J. Fortino



THEME
FOR 2016
UNITED IN
THE POWER
OF THE HOLY
SPIRIT

"THE WORD"

2015 MINISTERIAL SYMPOSIUM

"If one evangelical group exists today that holds fast to and believes in the absolute inspiration of the Sacred Text, this group is the proponents of the doctrine of God's oneness." - Dr. John Fortino, Bishop President.

Apostolics have always believed in the Word of God. Yet, never before in our history, have we held an entire symposium (a meeting to study a particular subject) to examine and edify upon our belief in the Bible, a doctrine we believe in but that is currently an unwritten doctrinal principle. Next year, and for the first time in fifty years, a new doctrinal principle on the Holy Scriptures can be presented to be added to the rest of the eighteen doctrinal principles.

The meeting hall where the symposium was held was packed to capacity with six hundred pastors, ministers, ladies and youth in attendance on Wednesday afternoon, November 25 through Thursday morning, November 26. The conferences were delivered by seasoned pastors with advanced theological training: President John Fortino, Vice President Ismael Martín del Campo, Bishop Felipe Salazar, Bishop Felipe Lugo, Bishop José Zúñiga, Pastor Luis Montero, Pastor Eduardo Iglesias, and Pastor Abel Villanueva. The conferences began from faith in God's Word from the Old Testament to the New Testament and through the centuries up to our time. Conference upon conference only confirmed the feeling and audience's faith: The Bible is God's Word, it is perfect, it is infallible, it is inerrant and powerful for the tearing down of strongholds. God's mighty presence confirmed the truth shared by every conference speaker.

Between the conferences the 2015 Songwriting Challenge finalist worship songs were debuted under the direction of Minister Aaron Barbosa and his team. Homegrown worship songs like "In This Place" by Rudy Villareal (Bakersfield, CA) connected those present with the Holy Spirit. "One God" by Calah López (Lompoc, CA) communicated doctrinal truth in the form of an upbeat worship anthem. Among the finalists were Gersón Morales (Costa Rica) who contributed "Obedeciendo tu voz," his song was the only one from the missionary field. All the songs were a great blessing and were well received by the crowd.

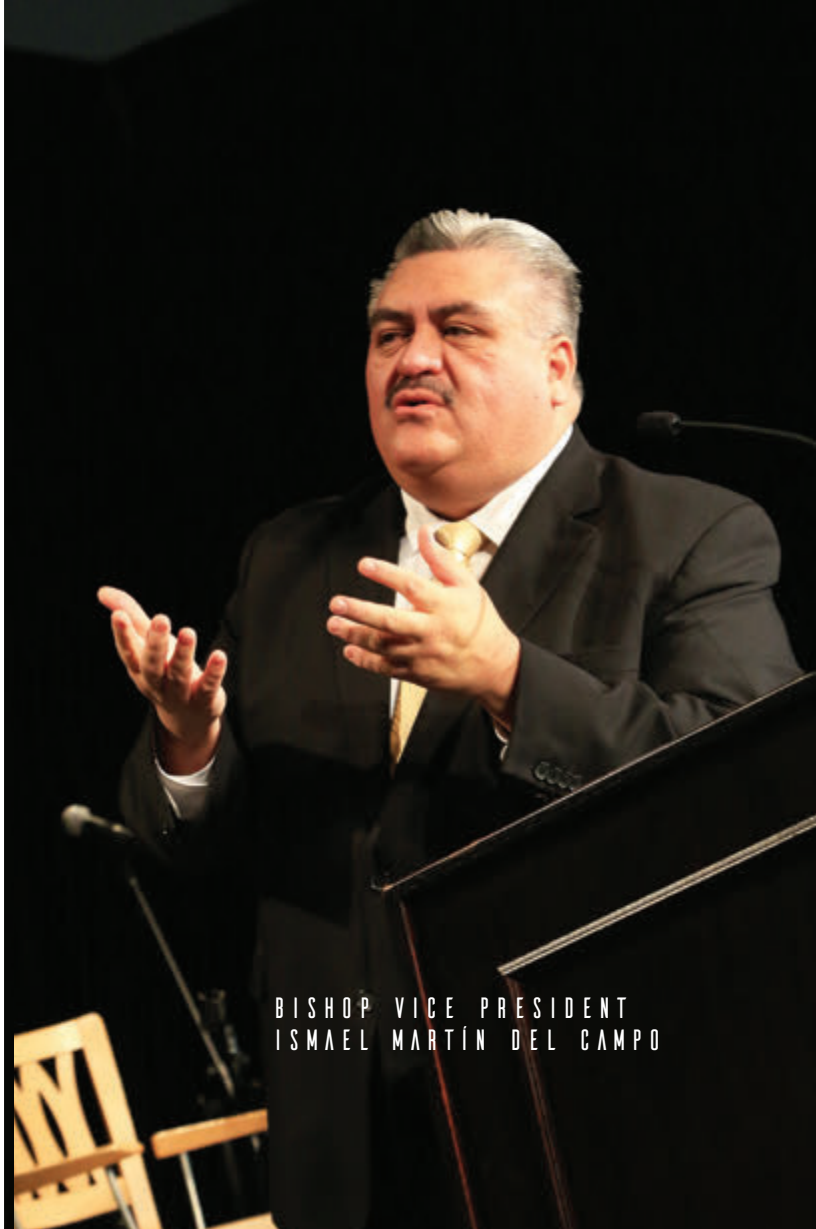


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JOHN FORTINO





SECRETARY OF
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
BISHOP JOSÉ G. ZÚÑIGA



BISHOP VICE PRESIDENT
ISMAEL MARTÍN DEL CAMPO



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EQUIPPING OUR TREASURERS FOR FUTURE GROWTH

By Bishop Felipe Lugo & Pastor Eddie Campa

In order to help sustain the vision and the growth of the church it is essential that there be a strong financial plan and healthy business practices to provide support. The 2014 Compilation has revealed that there is a great need to provide more training and resources to the pastor and the local church treasurer. As part of a great effort to accomplish this task, the Office of the General Treasurer held a National Treasurers Training Seminar during the 2015 Symposium.

Keynote speakers and business experts were brought in from CPA firms to address critical areas such as budgeting, payroll, and internal controls. These topics were chosen in order to help the local congregations be compliant with payroll law and improve the overall bookkeeping and financial planning practices.

Overall, the conference proved to be a good foundation for future seminars. With the vision of growing the church at the forefront, future seminars with a hands-on approach will be necessary to help further develop the local church administration.

FAITHFUL
STEWARDSHIP

“it is necessary in order to have accurate financial information...and efficient use of resources.”





EQUIPPING OUR DISTRICT TREASURERS

District treasurers have an enormous task of recording, reporting and providing fiscal oversight of financial information. Furthermore, many district treasurers also assist the local church pastor and treasurer by obtaining necessary documents for the end-of-the-year financial reports. All these responsibilities obviously require time, patience, skills and knowledge. This is why the Office of the General Treasurer held an intensive seminar to help equip the district treasurer.

At the 2015 Symposium in November, several CPA and business professionals were brought in from Smith Marion & Co, Pine Pedroncelli & Aguilar and Ahern Insurance to provide expert advice. According to Bishop Felipe Lugo, bringing in external professionals added credibility to our conferences and also demonstrated that we have a strong team of people that are assisting the organization with financial decision making. Timothy May, one of the main speakers, stressed the importance of accountability and the implementation of financial policies. He quotes "it is necessary in order to have accurate financial information...and efficient use of resources." Other topics covered at the District Treasurers Seminar included human resources, payroll, and workers compensation audits.

We look forward to more opportunities to be able to help our district treasurers carry out their fiscal responsibilities. The more training we can provide, the better equipped everyone will be.



GENERAL TREASURER
BISHOP FELIPE LUGO



EXTRAORDINARY!

NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE 2015

NEXT

By Bishop José G. Zúñiga

What can we say about the National Youth Convention this year? It was extraordinary! So many highlights: Anointed and powerful preaching; talented, Spirit-filled worship and music; the non-stop altar call of over 3,000 young people on Saturday night, truly a God moment!

As you look at these photos, our hope is that it will bring to mind all the hard work and dedication of our national youth leaders, the staff, and more importantly, the young people who attended.

Here is a perspective from someone who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, Bro. Caesar Perez, who attends Faith Tabernacle Church in San Diego and is the Creative Arts Director & Platform Coordinator:

For the majority who attended the 2015 NEXT Youth Convention in Long Beach this past November, they came, and enjoyed the services and the fellowship and then went home filled. For a select few musicians, singers, speakers and an amazing team of technicians and social media/graphics geniuses, they were the first to arrive, and the last to leave. This in and of itself is an honor, but what takes it over the top is to be able to have an understanding of what it took for each service to come to fruition and then to see God pour out His Spirit! There's nothing like being able to serve in a capacity that allows you to see the before and after of a blessing, for me this past year in my role as the production and platform manager, I was able to do just that.



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OMAR CORTEZ



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V. RODRÍGUEZ





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GENERAL SECRETARY
BISHOP FELIPE A. SALAZAR



BISHOP VICE PRESIDENT
ISMAEL MARTÍN DEL CAMPO



PASTOR
ANTHONY ROMO

THE SPIRITUAL HUNGER, FIRE, AND PASSION WERE FELT IN EVERY SESSION.

Everybody from the stage crew, lighting, camera operators, social media and graphics team came together to give their best to exalt Christ through their particular gift.

Our teams began working early in 2015 to design the lighting plots, service details, transitions, ordering gear and ensuring that we had everything we would need. One of the most inspirational yet challenging moments for my platform team was the Saturday evening prayer line on stage. Funneling 3,000+ people on stage then off and back to their seats was one of the toughest tasks we had but just to know that for many of them this moment was a turning point in their life, ministry, family and, for some, turning their life back to Christ, made it all worth it.

I count myself blessed to be among those allowed to serve and minister in my role and to lead my teams backstage so that others can take their place and be a blessing to the people of God.

I want to thank all of those involved on the platform team, social media, graphics, live stream, camera operators, photographers and our green room teams who worked tirelessly to make this the best convention we've had.

I asked Pastor Steven Rodriguez, The Family Church (San Jose #3) for his perspective on the Youth Convention:

This past year I was able to attend the National Youth Convention in Long Beach, CA as a first time pastor. It is a common cliché amongst our circles to say that "this was the best year ever" when it comes to conferences and conventions. And while it's true that God has moved greatly in times past, I will say that there is an awakening and a hunger brewing as well as a spirit of excellence within our organization's youth. This was well observed at this past National Youth Convention on many levels.

By far the spirit of excellence was observed within the media and worship teams. From the outstanding videography, instant social media updates, and well-rehearsed music/worship, even the offering collections were Spirit-filled. The spiritual hunger, fire, and passion were felt in every session. This was easily seen as the scores of seats were filled with young believers' outcry of jubilation. The worship atmosphere was contagious; as many first time attenders simply knew what to do, worship the King.



SECRETARY OF
NATIONAL MISSIONS
BISHOP JOE A. AGUILAR

SECRETARY OF
INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS
BISHOP ANDY PROVENCIO



BISHOP PRESIDENT
JOHN FORTINO



GROWTH CHURCH PLANTER'S CONFERENCE

"We don't want GROWTH to just be another committee. We want to create a participative team of pastors that work as an empowering network for the Apostolic Assembly's growth."

- Ismael Martín del Campo, Bishop Vice President.

Not one empty seat could be found at the Church Planter's Conference. Beyond the 300 pastors that were elbow to elbow in their seats, another 50 pastors were standing in the back listening to the speakers of the GROWTH Church Planter's Conference. GROWTH is the church's initiative to plant 200 churches in the United States and to expand small groups ministry throughout the Apostolic Assembly. Palpable was the excitement of our pastors with this challenge to plant new churches.

Bishop Ismael Martín del Campo who organized this conference and leads this initiative opened the conference by presenting the GROWTH team, sharing the vision, and reporting all the advances so far. Pastor Mario Alas (Poway, CA) explained from the book of Acts how the Early Church grew by local churches sponsoring new works. Bishop Gabriel Calderón (Washington District) shared his experience as a church planter and gave prac-

tical steps for men entering this ministry. Bishop Elías Páez (México General Treasurer) explained how grounding new works in small groups frees the church for growth without the need of purchasing a building. Pastor Luis Montero (Trenton, NJ) spoke on the importance of coaching, mentorship and listening in church planting. Bishop Joe Aguilar showed the importance of bilingual congregations and how to organize a congregation for bilingual ministry. Lastly, President Fortino closed the conference by sharing how his local church in Miami, FL has opened 18 new churches since 1987.

The GROWTH Two Hundred Team is now working to plant 70 churches this year. Please pray that new churches would be opened, church planters and their families commissioned, anointed and sent, and for cities yet unreached with the Apostolic message to be changed by the preaching of the Gospel.

SPECIAL NEEDS



For the first time in the history of the Apostolic Assembly, the Assembly provided a ministry for our children with special needs.

The ministry's mission was to create and establish a convention program where families with special needs could feel welcomed and to provide a place where their children were safe, loved, inspired by God's love, and empowered by Him in their unique ways to be like Jesus. The ministry staff prepared for a variety of needs, including autism, speech and language delay, learning difficulty, ADHD, ADD, developmental delay, etc. The need for this ministry was brought to the forefront during the planning stages of the symposium.

The children were provided a quiet place so as to not overwhelm them with noise and large crowds all the while providing appropriate Bible lessons and activities that involved the use of fine motor, tactile, and sensory skills. The volunteers that staffed the Special Needs ministry were sisters who currently work in Special Needs departments in the different school districts that they represented and have received degrees specializing in children with special needs. Needless to say, the children were in good hands!

We had an opportunity to talk to some of the parents of these great children and all of them expressed joy and gratitude for the service that was provided for their children. One couple informed us that they had attended the 2014 convention but were unable to go inside the arena during the services because it was too overwhelming for their child. They had to stand in the lobby during the services! They thanked the ministry directors profusely for the opportunity they had given them to be able to be inside the arena during the general services to join the praise and worship and receive the powerful messages that were delivered.

Planning is already underway for the Special Needs Ministry for the 2016 Convention. Help us in spreading the word to those families in your churches that have children with special needs. Yes, there is a place for them and their children at our conventions and they can feel welcome and safe. Everyone is welcome and everyone is needed. We are working hard to improve the services we are providing for our children, after all, Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14).

NEVER “TOO GREAT”

GOING TO CONVENTION AS A YOUNG CHILD WAS ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR,...

...and the best part of it all was when my mom made quesadillas in our hotel room for lunch. I would invite my friends to our room because nothing could beat my mom's quesadillas while fellowshiping with friends. I learned that sharing a meal had tremendous spiritual implications. Our pioneers made many important decisions, not during the business sessions, but when they sat around the table with a homemade plate of food, some tortillas and drinking horchata. While sharing experiences and ideas on “where do we go from here?”, Pioneer Antonio Castañeda Nava and many other pioneers are pictured repeatedly sharing meals at convention. There is something special that comes from food that has been prayed for and prepared by hands that worship our God. Not only is this food blessed, but when it is shared with anointed brothers and sisters, the outcomes during these meals are endless. Can it be that within such a simple, and often ignored practice, lies a key to growing and expanding many areas of our lives? Could a mother's love and blessings really be transmitted by the food she prepares with her hands? I believe they are.

At our 2015 Symposium, for the first time in thirty years, the Department of Social Assistance was able to provide over 1,600 free meals to over 250 pastors and their families that came to convention from outside of California. This paradigm shift brought us back to basics. The Apostolic Assembly is never “too great” to forget one of the most important commandments: to “love your neighbor”. In Mark 14, we find that the disciples who walked and talked daily with Jesus were the first to complain about the lack of food. They also had the idea of sending His followers away to seek food in the nearby towns, rather than providing food for them. Jesus teaches us that even

when we are many, we have the responsibility to feed His sheep in any situation that arises. This demonstrates our faith in the power He has given us. Not only did Jesus feed over 5,000 hungry people until they were satisfied, BUT he divided them up into groups of 50's and 100's (not by ranks or position) to show us the importance of breaking bread together and having meaningful conversations as equals.



Department of Social Assistance was able to provide over 1,600 free meals to over 250 pastors and their families

As the meals began to be served at the church of 1st Long Beach, pastors from all over the country started filling the dining hall. Comments such as, “we feel loved,” “thank you for remembering us,” “this is what the church needs” began to fill the room and ideas started being birthed. One bishop expressed, “I am going to do this back in my district”; another mentioned, “I'm enjoying

the atmosphere of love. This beats Islands!”

That week, a pastor and his family had arrived from out of state and were low on funds. They decided to spend their Thanksgiving dinner at a nearby 7Eleven store. As they were walking to find a place to sit down and eat, our transport van stopped and notified them of the free meals. The pastor's eyes were overwhelmed with tears as he turned and informed his family that they would be able to have a formal Thanksgiving dinner this year. Testimonies like these remind us why we are here. We must continually remember our roots. Have you been searching for the next big idea? Share a meal that has been prayed for: It will inspire joy, innovation and healing to you and your guests. As we continue to grow as a global church, we must never be “too GREAT” to sit down and break bread with our brethren and neighbors.



“As we continue to grow as a global church, we must never be “too GREAT” to sit down and break bread with our brethren and neighbors.”

A young boy in a grey suit jacket is shown in profile, looking upwards with his mouth open and his right hand raised. He is surrounded by other children in a church setting. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and warm lighting.

BACKSTAGE WITH THE BIBLE

“Backstage with the Bible” is a dynamic convention program that was prepared by the Children’s Ministry for the 2015 Word Symposium. This program focused on the basics of the gospel of Jesus Christ for the purpose of helping the children understand that Jesus is God and why it is important to have a relationship with Him. The children were blessed once again by the energetic ministry and teaching of Bro. Brent Regnart and a group of talented praise and worship leaders who would help lead the children into the presence of God every night. The children were ministered too every day and on Saturday night 50 children were reported to have been baptized by the Holy Spirit and to have spoken in tongues for the very first time. Throughout the week a safe and protected environment was provided by the staff and the staff along with the children were blessed to be a part of this great move of God. “Backstage with the Bible” was led by people from both the state of Texas and the state of California.

SHINE

The convention program for the Junior’s Ministry was called “Shine.” This program was created to teach the juniors how we as believers should allow ourselves to shine for Jesus as a testimony to this world about what God has done in our lives. One of the highlights for the juniors was on Friday when over 80 juniors made the walk to the Long Beach Aquarium and spent the day learning about marine life. The juniors enjoyed dynamic praise and worship alongside engaging messages in a high energy environment throughout the week and God blessed each and every one of them.





UNITED IN CONSECRATION

BISHOPS' WIVES BANQUET

The activity for the bishop's wives was held on Tuesday, November 24, 2015 at the Westin Hotel in Long Beach, California. It was a great privilege to attend and participate in this great banquet for our bishop's wives. The theme was "United in Consecration." From the very first devotional, we felt a supernatural power that shook the entire place. We were introduced to each and every one of the 19 new bishops' wives of our beloved Assembly. We also had the presence of 4 of our missionaries' wives, who adorned our activity with their presence. There was a total of 35 sisters present. We were given a list of ideas that we could implement in our respective districts.

Each of the board member's wives gave a brief reflection on the importance of consecration and unity. We all felt a special closeness and unity in all of our talks.

Our special speaker was Pastor Jacob Rodriguez of City-Light Church, who is also our National Youth Secretary. He spoke on the theme "Arise" taken from the story about Hagar in Genesis 21:14-19. Hagar was forced to survive. She was without hope. When we live without hope, we are living in direct opposition of our dreams, waiting for them to die. We disconnect ourselves emotionally from everything around us. When Hagar sits down to weep, an angel finds her. Miracles begin to happen when we run out of options. God encounters Hagar and asks her: What do you have, Hagar? This question reveals a God who is compassionate and understands our needs. He sees our injustices and is aware of our anxieties. In the midst of everything that happens to us, God want us to include Him and not try to fix everything ourselves.

God tells Hagar to get up and not to fear loneliness. If Hagar wouldn't have gotten up, she wouldn't have seen the well of water. When we get up, we can see the answers, the provision and the great power of our God. We ended this great activity in tears and interceding for each other. We came out of our activity joyful, healed, restored and motivated to continue the journey with faith. Glory to God!



VIRTUOUS WOMEN & NATIONAL LADIES AUXILIARY

By Febe Zúñiga

Here are some of the highlights of our Friday's Virtuous Women & National Ladies Auxiliary event held at the Westin Hotel in Long Beach California. There were about 1,000 ladies in attendance. Our theme was "United in Harmony." Our main speaker was our very own Bishop President Dr. John Fortino. He spoke about 2 Chronicles 20:1 on the power of prayer. We can do all things when there is prayer in our lives! When we pray, we believe that God is able to move mountains!

Our conference speakers were Dr. Ruth Crutchfield from the Apostolic Church in San Juan, Texas. She spoke on the topic, "Mujer de Dios, utiliza tu influencia" "Woman of God, use your influence."

"Woman of God, use your influence." She spoke about how it is important to use your influence to save your children and your family. She ended her conference with an Apostolic Corito: Oh, oh, oh Cuan Bueno Es El Señor.



The other conference speaker was Dr. Maricela Lujan, from Spirit and Truth in Orange, California UPC Church. She spoke about the importance of taking care of our bodies. Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. She entitled it: PERLAS PRECIOSAS : Cuidando de Nosotras Mismas. Precious Pearls: Taking care of ourselves.

We were able to recognize our Honoree National Ladies Auxiliary who were in attendance: Sis. Georgina Marron, Sis. Frances Fernandez, Sis. Hortencia Quiroz, Sis. Anita Calderón, Sis. Juanita Arellano, Sis. Tabitha Ramirez and Sis. Elizabeth Gonzalez.



We were so happy to have among us our Missionaries wives: Erika de Contreras - Ecuador & Cono Sur; Graciela de Lopez - Central Region Supervisors; Teresa Moran - Caribbean Supervisors; Isabel de Pereira das Neves- Columbia; Ximena de Pinto-Spain and Faustina de Cardenas - Mexico and with the offering that was collected that morning, we were able to bless and pray for Cuba in order for them to pay a fine for them to continue worshipping God in their temple! Let's us continue to unite in prayer for our Supervisor in that Region Bishop Steve and Teresa Moran.



Overall, we had a very successful and anointed event. Bishop Andy Provencio, Director of International Missions was able to greet us and was ecstatic to hear that with the hard work of all our sisters we were able to collect and announce the grand total for 2015 Flor Azul was \$1,378,174.52.

NATIONAL HEALING & MIRACLES SERVICE

By Evangelist Mingo Garcia



The Word of God declares in Mark 16:17, "these signs shall follow them that believe." The truth of this proclamation in the life of believers is seen when we as His people stand on the Word, trust in His power and see the demonstration of His mighty acts. This past November at the National Youth Conference we beheld once again why we truly serve an awesome God. The task was simple but important; hold a service, preach the power of Jesus and pray for healing & miracles. We firmly serve as witness that God's power fell in the assembly of His people..

We had the distinct privilege of ministering one of the days and surely the Lord was with those gathered. In the service we were able to see over 25 miracles take place over the course of 45 minutes. God healed people from back injuries, bad hips, breathing problems, knee injuries, shoulder pain, problems with feet and many other issues of the body. There is one such miracle we would like to highlight with the prayer that your faith will be lifted.

A Sister was brought forward in a wheel chair. She had suffered a bad injury and was unable to walk. But it is known that when we are in the presence of our Mighty

God and amongst believers we will see the Glory of God shown forth. We invited the saints to stretch their hands forward and pray that she might receive her miracle and be risen from the wheelchair. We looked upon the women sitting in the wheelchair and as was done in Acts 3:6 we spoke to her saying, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." All honor and glory due to our God as she stood up out of her wheelchair healed in the mighty Name of Jesus! Not only that but only a couple of short seconds later she was running around the sanctuary.

Pastors, brothers and sisters of the Apostolic Assembly; God is surely moving in this hour. His demonstrative power is a mark of who we are as Apostolics. We give all honor and glory to Jesus and encourage you this day. We are coming into the hour of harvest and God's power is surely being awakened in the church.

God Bless you richly.



2015 APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY FAMILY CONFERENCE

WE ARE A FAMILY-CENTERED CHURCH.

Nowhere was this more evident than at last year's Family Conference. The Family Conference was held at the Long Beach Convention Arena on the morning of Saturday, November 28. More than 1,800 parents, bishops, and pastors were in attendance on this last Convention day. The main theme throughout the conference was what can the church do today for the future of America's families.

Our Bishop President delivered his Presidential Message to not just ministers as the last two years, but he addressed himself to all the parents interested to know what the Apostolic Assembly was doing for youth. Bishop Fortino revealed statistics that demonstrated how a new generation of pastors were more open to youth involvement in the church. He went on to explain how society was going through a transformation due to technology, and new consumer services. Lastly, the President turned again to the pastors presenting a series of proposals for church's advancement.

Following after the President came the second speaker Gabriel Pereira Das Neves, Apostolic Assembly Missionary in Colombia. Speaking eloquently, he grounded his message in the lives of Ezra and Nehemiah. Their reconstruction effort of Jerusalem is paradigm of the work the church must do for the families it ministers to, for a generation that does not know God like the children of the exiles. Missionary Pereira Das Neves called the attendees to return to the old paths of holiness and prayer.

Bishop Robert Martín, former General Superintendent of the Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ, gave the concluding message to the family conference. By the end of his message many husbands and wives were broken and in tears about his experience in ministry and family. Bishop Fortino abandoned the platform and went to pray with his wife sister Sara. Bishop Martin recounted how his ministry in church leadership had alienated him from his children and wife. When he turned over the leadership of his church his son came up to him excited and told him: "You're finally going to be a dad." Our most important ministry is our family. In this way the Family Conference concluded with recommitted pastors, husbands and wives.



*Our most
important
ministry
is our family.*

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