

# Called to Serve

• Summer 2017 •



FROM THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

## The Dot-to-Dot Connector

**M**y brother-in-law, Larry Bray, is an artist. He can look at anything and transfer it into a painting or sculpture. I envy his talent and feel so frustrated that my artistic leanings will never find expression. My “art” is still limited to drawing stick figures.

As a child, I so wanted to paint faces, and mountains, lakes, trees, valleys, and rivers. But, my drawing was limited to coloring books which had the dot-to-dot connectors.

Remember those? Each dot is numbered, and it was your job to draw a line from dot #1 to dot #2 and to each succeeding dot until the whole outline was filled in. The more complicated “pictures” might have several hundred dots to connect.

But, even before you traced in the lines connecting the dots, you could rather accurately discern the outline of what you would be drawing. The dots, even when unconnected, all formed some discernible pattern.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if life were that way? If we could glance at an overview of all the “dots” in the portrait of our life story and see where today's connecting line (from dot #27 to dot #28, for example) fits in the whole scenario of God's pattern for our lives?

At times in our own lives, we find ourselves in a barren desert in which the sand blows in and eliminates all the dots. We once thought we knew exactly where we were going, and had all of life mapped out. And then, suddenly we found ourselves in a spiritual wilderness—trackless, monotonous, and dangerous. It's so unsettling because we can no longer see the whole—we are faced with the necessity of living just one day at a time.

Then we have to trust that God himself knows where all the dots are, and that He is not leading us in circles—but in some meaningful pattern.

A frustration is that God doesn't reveal the whole picture to us. Like the nation Israel of old, He does not lead us through the wilderness on the shorter, more traveled road—but, around . . . and around and around (Exodus 13:17-18)!

He forces us into daily existence. Guidance is one day at a time, with “the cloud by day and with light from the fire all night” (Psalm 78:14). Even the food lasts only one day—and one cannot stockpile manna for tomorrow (Exodus 16:11-36).

What is God teaching us in the wilderness? To live one day at a time dependent on Him!

Are you in a season of life where you are frustrated because you cannot see the “whole”? Are you even panicky because life appears to be taking twists and turns which are taking you away from the picture you thought God wanted drawn for your life?

Take heart! You are in God's wonderful and terrifying wilderness! He is stripping you of everything except today. He is forcing you to connect only this morning's dot to this evening's. In such a place we learn:

- *Prayer*: “Give us today our daily bread” (Matthew 6:11).
- *Trust*: “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own” (Matthew 6:34).
- *Obedience*: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me” (Luke 9:23).
- *Security*: “For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock” (Psalm 27:5).
- *Humility*: “Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day will bring” (Proverbs 27:1).

As we learn to rely on God daily, we come to understand that just as He is with us today, He will be with us in all our tomorrows. He does know where the dots are going—even if we can't see them. O Lord, “Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be” (Psalm 139:16).

As we transition into living one day at a time—and that day only—somehow we become far more focused. The day itself yields a much more intense relationship with God because we

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are no longer waiting for some future moment to deepen our walk with Him. It's today or never! And, the same principle spills out in our interpersonal relationships. We commit ourselves to the love, forgiveness, and duty needed for this day.

While I learn to relax in my responsibility to only connect this morning's to this evening's dot, I find scriptural prayer language on my lips. I awaken in the morning and say, "This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24, ESV).

Although the language of Psalm 90:12 is figurative, "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom," I have taken to applying it literally. On any given day, I know exactly what number of day it is in my life. (You can figure out how many days old you are here: <https://www.timeanddate.com/date/duration.html>). Each day, like a grain of sand, is special in the hourglass of my life. More days in this mortal tent are behind me than before me. "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day" (2 Corinthians 4:16).

Through the window of my twenty-four-hour day, I am looking and longing for the eternal day: the day of redemption (Ephesians 4:30), the day of the Lord (1 Thessalonians 5:2), and the day of judgment (Romans 2:16). If I permit Him to live in me this day, then I will be blameless on that Day (1 Corinthians 1:8), what I do today will survive the fire of that Day (1 Corinthians 3:13), and what I have entrusted to Him will be guarded by Him unto that Day (2 Timothy 1:12).

During the hours of any given day, I realize that the circumstances of my life may be inhospitable to me as a child of God;

yet, I must make "the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:16). My mission for this day is drawn from the word of the Lord Jesus himself, "As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work" (John 9:4).

When the outer circumstances of any given day seem filled with distress and trouble, I quietly lift my voice in humble acknowledgement of the Lord: "Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked" (Psalm 84:10). Even on the more difficult days of my life, when I am weak and hurting, I will still declare, "Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever" (Psalm 145:2).

Is it possible that you are no longer living a day at a time? Have you lost sight of God's design for your life because you are trying to live all your tomorrows, rather than just today? Why not trust Him . . . just for today?

Remember the dot-to-dot connector! If you choose to draw the line today which connects the morning to the evening—God will show you the next day where the new dot is. Keep the pencil of your life moving according to His daily will, and someday God will let you look back and see a portrait which makes sense . . . and is beautiful.



George O. Wood is general superintendent of the Assemblies of God (USA) and chairman of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship.



## God's Plan for Your Church

By L. Alton Garrison

On the Day of Pentecost, the Lord Jesus Christ poured out the Holy Spirit on His disciples, empowering them to be witnesses for Him to the ends of the earth. Acts 2, which reports that initial outpouring, is not merely a historical *precedent* for Christians today but also a spiritual *paradigm*—a pattern of renewal and revival in every generation of the Church. This paradigm can be identified as the Acts 2 Model.

In the Acts 2 Model, the church is a Spirit-empowered community of disciples following Jesus and fulfilling His mission. It is a healthy church that embodies five key traits:

- *Worship*: pursuing and obeying God passionately
- *Connect*: engaging and maintaining loving relationships
- *Go*: evangelizing people locally and globally who need the Savior
- *Serve*: using our gifts and talents to help fulfill the Church's mission
- *Grow*: making disciples who make disciples

In attempting to implement the Acts 2 Model, it will help to reflect on the following questions:

- *Are you satisfied with the spiritual climate of your church?*

The New Testament church was birthed on the Day of Pentecost by a supernatural outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The power experienced then can become a reality now. Relevancy alone is not transformational; the power of the Holy Spirit is a necessity. Pray that God's anointing will permeate every aspect of your church's messaging—sermons from the pulpit, teaching sessions, personal counseling, and mentoring.

- *Are you satisfied with the evangelism efforts of your church?*

Surveys frequently reveal that most people believe evangelism should be the church's highest priority. In reality, it is one of the least practiced activities.

- *Are you satisfied with the state of discipleship of your church?*
- *Can the majority of the people clearly articulate your church's vision, values, and strategic plan?*

If you are unsatisfied with your answers to these questions, you are not alone. Your situation may be unique, but the

problems we all face are quite common. We all struggle. We all have difficulties, setbacks, and storms; but remember, this is God's church, and Jesus is the master builder. He will perform what only He can do, and He will help you do what He has called you to do.

You may think that you have tried new plans, new programs, and new ways of doing things before—all of which have failed or may have had less than earth-shattering success. I want to assure you that change is possible. Victory can occur.

It has often been said, "Good leaders define reality." To have the courage to be objective about current situations and to take bold steps to a more productive and fruitful future are not always comfortable or easy steps. While it may take deep humility and the courage of a lion, we should never be willing to settle for anything less than God's best.

One of the foundational keys to all church growth (numerical, spiritual, and financial) is for the church to take Paul's words seriously when he wrote that a pastor's responsibility is "the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12, NKJV). The expectation by many is that the pastor is the one doing the work of the ministry and that everyone else in the church is just a "helper" who has no ownership or buy-in. Paul says that is not correct.

Church does not have to be a "mom and pop" style situation where all the pressure for effectiveness and success is placed

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## “ The Acts 2 Journey was a God-sent gift to our district.

—David Zayas, Superintendent,  
Southern Latin District Council

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upon the pastor. Regardless of size, every church can experience a paradigm shift. Peter wrote, "You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood" (1 Peter 2:9, NIV). When ordinary churchgoers catch the revelation that they do not come to church just to receive ministry but to minister, this incredible paradigm shift causes churches to explode with life and health!

God shares a process in Acts 2 that offers any church hope—regardless of size, location, or current situation. In our shifting, changing world, God's Word remains; and His plan for the original church has not changed to fit the times. It is as timeless as our mission.

Trying times have come before; and the Lord has graciously breathed life over the coals, bringing revitalization just when it seemed all was lost. Just as He breathed life into human-kind and upon those gathered in the Upper Room, His breath of life is all that is necessary for us to spring up into flame again. He yearns to empower His church and see us make a great impact on our world!

Yes, for renewal to occur, there must be an outpouring of the Holy Spirit!

But there must also be an implementation of a process.

Both are found in Acts 2. It is not either/or but both/and.

Resources: [www.acts2journey.com](http://www.acts2journey.com)

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*Alton Garrison is assistant general superintendent of the Assemblies of God (USA).*



## Unstringing the Bow

By James Bradford

*"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." (Mark 6:31, NIV)*

This was Jesus to His disciples. "Get some rest." Explaining the familiar but powerful "unstringing" metaphor, writer George Grant recounts:

*At the end of the thirteenth century when the Norman English bowmen began to pioneer the powerful new military technology of the long bow . . . they discovered that the very best precaution that a bowman could take for his weapon was simply to unstring the bow when it was not in use. To release the tension, relax the pressure, and relieve the strain allowed the bow to last longer, snap back faster, and set arrows to flight further. A bow that was never unstrung would quickly lose its effectiveness. A bow that was never relaxed became useless as an offensive weapon.*

As ministers of the gospel, given the soul-intensive,

schedule-demanding work that such a calling entails, we must never underestimate our need to periodically relax, laugh, have fun, engage activities that renew us emotionally, and, in general, "unstring the bow" of our ministry lives.

In a more confronting way, professor and best-selling author, Barbara Brown Taylor, has some rather frank things to say to us about the refusal to rest.

*I do not mean to make an idol of health, but it does seem to me that at least some of us have made an idol of exhaustion. The only time we know we have done enough is when we are running on empty and when the ones we love most are the ones we see the least. When we lie down to sleep at night, we offer our full appointment calendars to God in lieu of prayer, believing that God—who is as busy as we are—will surely understand.*

Over the years I have found that the symptoms of exhaustion bear striking similarity to those of spiritual warfare—

discouragement, an inability to enjoy simple pleasures, a lack of motivation, tormenting thoughts that tear away at our sense of identity and accomplishment, relationships that are not working, high levels of internalized anger, vulnerability to temptation, and a general sense of living under a cloud. The enemy then intentionally exploits unregulated exhaustion to gain a foothold in our lives. He wants to take us out physically, emotionally, and spiritually while God is working to keep us in for the long run. That makes rest more than a selfish indulgence; it is part of our battle strategy.

I trust that this summer you will be able to get away for a while and rest. We hope to see many of you at General Council in Anaheim, California. Exhaustion is partly spiritual and emotional in nature. Although the schedule of General Council is demanding, we are anticipating a powerful move of the Holy Spirit that will renew us in ways that we desperately need. The fellowship we will experience with other people who share our same calling and passion for ministry will also nourish us emotionally.

And, if you can take a few extra days before or after Council, let me encourage you to do some vacationing there. For many years, I lived and pastored just a few miles from the Anaheim Convention Center. The Southern California area is amazing in what it offers for touring, hiking, sightseeing, hitting the beach, visiting amusement parks and, in general, getting away from daily routines.

Even if you can't make it to General Council, it's still

important to break away for a while. Time for rest is a complicated issue, especially for bivocational pastors. But, although it's easy to blame the demands of church and people for why we neglect our families and live with exhaustion, sometimes the real problem is us. The feeling that everyone needs us, all the time, may be more rooted in our ego needs and drivenness than in our God-given calling. Taking a true vacation is, for some of us, an actual act of humility by which we surrender our sense of indispensability and trust God to take care of things for a while. It also confronts the human tendency to confuse our "self" with our "work," an identity confusion that seriously depletes us over time.

We may also fight false guilt when we rest. I love the title of the book, *Why Do I Feel Guilty When I Say No?* That is me too much of the time. But guilt is like cholesterol—there is the good kind and the bad kind, or what Paul calls in 2 Corinthians 7 godly sorrow and worldly sorrow. Separating Holy Spirit conviction from false guilt has been a longtime journey in my life. Yet pacing myself, replenishing physically and emotionally, and doing what it takes to be healthy and durable is worth the battle against false guilt. I also remind myself that self-denial and self-neglect are two very different things.

Jesus said, "Get some rest." Unstringing the bow. For the sake of our families and our ministries, may we not neglect that call.

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*James Bradford is general secretary of the Assemblies of God (USA).*



## Perpetuating the Pentecostal Experience

By Doug Clay

In the United States, there are six living generations. All are unique. Each has distinctive values, attributes, preferences and priorities.

The six living generations are:

1. GI Generation (Born 1901-1926)
2. Mature / Silents (Born 1927-1945)
3. Baby Boomers (Born 1946-1964)
4. Generation X (Born 1965 -1980)
5. Generation Y / Millennials (Born 1981-2000)
6. Generation Z / Boomlets (Born 2001-present)

Each of these generations tends to take the good from the previous generation for granted, but reacts against the bad. But, like members of a family or parts of a body, each generation contributes something valuable and even essential.

All of these generations are represented in Assemblies of God churches; each generation will be present at the 2017 General Council; and each generation needs its own fresh, ongoing Pentecostal experience.

I recently reread the book *People of the Spirit: The Assemblies of God* by Gary B. McGee. It tells about the lives of

people, who out of their own Pentecostal experience, shaped who we are today.

It's fascinating to see that the Assemblies of God is a story of ordinary people, of all ages, who did extraordinary things through the power of the Holy Spirit. Throughout history, when skeptics dismissed the Pentecostal message and experience, Pentecostals pointed to Scripture and testified about what God had done in their lives. When many Protestants declared that miracles had ceased with the first-century church, Pentecostals fasted and prayed for the sick and demon possessed, and then watched as God proved His willingness to step into human lives to bring healing and deliverance.

This belief in God's power and intervention fueled evangelism both here in the States and around the world. In each generation, God has used people of the Spirit to expand His kingdom. At Pentecost, the apostle Peter declared, "*The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.*" (Acts 2:39) Simply put, Pentecost is for everyone in every generation!

I pray that each generation in our Fellowship will discover a true Pentecostal experience to help them counter the ideologies



(both cultural and ecclesiastical) which are constantly bombarding the church. Some ideologies attack our core beliefs and would cause a missional drift from our core values:

- that recognize the Holy Spirit as a person, not an it. He is to be honored, respected and worshipped as the third person of the Trinity.
- that affirm the Bible as absolute truth and the foundation for the entire Christian experience.
- that protect us from becoming merely institutional in our function, and empowers us to move forward to keep fulfilling the vision statement resolved in the second General Council of the Assemblies of God in Chicago, Illinois: *“We commit ourselves and the Movement to Him for the greatest evangelism the world has ever seen.”*

Just as we reject the cessationist view that miracles ceased with the New Testament church, we intentionally seek and embrace lives and ministries that depend on and expect the Spirit’s empowerment in each generation.

What should motivate each generation to be both doctrinally and functionally Pentecostal is that we accomplish the divinely determined *purposes* of Spirit baptism and the enduring enablement of the Spirit in all of our service for the Lord. For example, while speaking in tongues is the initial physical evidence of Spirit baptism, Pentecostal believers should continue to enjoy the blessings of praying in the Spirit in worship, edification, and intercession.

Importantly, we need to understand *why* we need the Spirit’s help. The purpose and blessings of the Spirit-filled life should be so clear to each generation that they will, like our founders, *“ardently expect and earnestly seek”* Spirit baptism and the empowerment it brings to every aspect of

life in Christ and ministry to Him.

Pentecost is an experience for all ages, languages, and generations. Pentecostal spirituality and theology are the answer for generations who are hungry for experience and meaning that is rooted in truth. There is no generational divide in desiring God encounters. Pastors can be a catalyst for unity by facilitating our common hunger for God.

Evangelist Tim Enloe suggests two ways to create a generation divide-free God-encounter environment.

#### *1. Engaging in participatory prayer.*

Enloe suggests that some churches have shifted away from interactive, participatory prayer, to a more platform-focused model. Whether it is an altar response or praying in the seats, people will have God encounters when interactive prayer is practiced.

“When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God.” (Acts 4:24)

#### *2. Participating in spiritual events.*

Church calendars get full, but how many of the planned events have an intentional focus of going deeper? Whether it’s a spiritual life conference or an Azusa Street weekend, or a well-planned revival meeting . . . it is healthy for churches to plan spiritual life events that take people deeper spiritually.

One of the common reasons people attend our churches is that they want to experience God, in a personal way. The Pentecostal Movement worldwide was founded on this premise, and has grown exponentially. So, it’s my prayer that every generation of leadership represented in our Fellowship will experience Pentecost daily and catch a vision for perpetuating it in their sphere of influence.

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*Doug Clay is general treasurer for the Assemblies of God (USA).*



## AGWM: Our Identity and Destination

By Greg Mundis

### **Anchored in the Past**

Assemblies of God World Missions (AGWM) is the world missions arm of the U.S. Assemblies of God. Its formation parallels that of the General Council, and in fact, many of our church leaders and historians believe missions was the primary reason the General Council was formed. General Superintendent George O. Wood cites missions as one of five core values for our Fellowship. John W. Welch, general superintendent in 1915–1919 and 1923–1925, said, “The General Council of the Assemblies of God was never meant to be an institution; it is just a missionary agency.” We are fulfilling our mandate to the General Council by obeying the command of Jesus to “go into all the world and preach the gospel.”

With God’s help we have stayed on mission over these past 103 years, and the results are astounding. The World

Assemblies of God Fellowship (WAGF) today has nearly 370,000 churches and over sixty-eight million adherents. The latest WAGF statistics state that every thirty-seven seconds somewhere in the world a person comes to Christ and every sixty-three minutes a church is planted. But this is no reason to reduce our commitment. As former AGWM Executive Director Loren Triplett famously quoted, “We dare not measure our success against anything but the unfinished task.”

### **Pointed toward the Future**

Our history provides a platform to proactively and positively move forward into the future and aggressively establish the church where it is not found. To accomplish this, we passionately pursue implementing all the elements of our mission: reach the lost, plant churches, train lay and vocational ministers, and serve the poor and suffering. Every missional task

aims to establish the church among lost and unreached people—regardless of geographical boundaries, political entities, or religious beliefs.

Our mission and efforts are focused on the following structural points:

1. *Leveraging our worldwide network of partners to establish and plant the church.* To date, ninety-four General Councils around the world are sending nearly five thousand missionaries—in addition to 2,756 world missionaries sent from our U.S. church. We are only beginning to see the strength of multinational teams focused on church planting.

2. *Ministering with compassion to those in need.* In addition to responding to natural crises, a vast and fertile harvest field now exists among refugees and internally displaced people in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. We continue to see amazing conversions—some from among the most difficult and adversarial religions in the world. In Europe alone, our personnel and partner churches have seen over twelve thousand converts to Christ and many communities of faith established.

3. *Increasing attention on unreached people groups (UPGs).* Over the last fifteen years we have been motivated to fine-tune our strategic initiatives to plant the church where it is not found. Presently we have church-planting teams working among or focusing on 345 UPGs, and we feel led by the Spirit to increase our efforts to reach an additional 25 UPGs over the next few years.

### Updated Resources

We continue to pray that God would send workers into the world's abundant fields of harvest (Matthew 9:37–38). To accomplish an aggressive move into the future, we are also updating resources and infrastructure:

- Our auxiliary programs (Speed the Light, Boys and Girls Missionary Challenge, Light for the Lost, and Women's Ministries) have ramped up missions efforts. They not only raise money—for which we are deeply grateful—but also challenge their constituencies to listen to the Spirit's direction regarding personal involvement in world missions.
- In partnership with Chi Alpha, we host a World Missions Summit for thousands of college and university students. The fourth summit, held this past January in Houston,



## Three Key Values of AG U.S. Missions

By Zollie Smith

I am continually amazed by the incredible range of ministry and missions opportunities here in the United States through U.S. Missions. I often call it our “smorgasbord of ministry.” This wide range of ministry continues to play a significant role in making Jesus Christ known throughout our nation.

Our U.S. missionaries, chaplains, and project volunteers

resulted in approximately two thousand students giving a year and praying about a lifetime of missions service.

- We created an information pipeline for prospective World Missions candidates. The pipeline helps them understand and navigate the steps to short-term or long-term ministry on the missions field.
- We revamped missionary training. Specifically, we want to help this generation gain a biblical, missiological understanding of our mission.
- We are sending more church planting teams than ever. Examples include Live Dead initiatives in Africa, the Arab world, and India; Priority 31 in Northern Asia; and other efforts in Latin America, Asia Pacific, and Europe.
- We expanded our leadership base. In addition to area directors, we rely on ministry directors and strategic leaders in all our regions and International Ministries.
- We meet annually with district leadership. This helps us connect with our grassroots constituency and ensure we responsibly steward missionary personnel from across our Fellowship.
- We created a Business as Mission (BAM) initiative. This limited liability corporation will help us facilitate missionary callings and establish the church in difficult places.

### A Timeless Mission

Despite changing values in our country, unstable political regimes in other countries, difficulty obtaining resident visas, spiritual attacks, economic uncertainties, and a changing cultural environment in some local churches—our commitment to obey the command of our Lord Jesus Christ to go into all the world and make disciples is not diminished.

We move forward in confidence because our mission is solidly founded on obedience to our biblical commission, supported by our Fellowship's mandate, and echoed repeatedly among our personnel, who individually sense the Holy Spirit's calling and empowerment. We recognize that to move into an unknown future means to be guided by the Spirit. As Winston Churchill said, “To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often.” We continue to change, develop, and grow in order to plant and establish the church where it is not.

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*Greg Mundis is executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions.*

act as the local church's hand extended into the corners of our nation that are not typically reached through our local churches' efforts. Through these ministries, we can reach most of the unique people, cultural, subcultural, and special needs groups in the United States. Our nation is incredibly diverse—diverse in culture, in community, and in thought.

Each year we hear of the thousands of people who come to faith in Christ and are baptized in water and in the Holy Spirit. Every day, lives are transformed because of the efforts of the U.S. Missions team. These frontline warriors are the boots on the ground that make ministry impact for the Assemblies of God. From missionaries, to chaplains, to associates, and beyond, this team of almost eighteen thousand strong is a vital source in expanding the kingdom of God.

I believe there are three key objectives that have played a major role in the development of effective ministry within the U.S. Missions family.

First, we **add value**. It is a high priority for U.S. Missions to ensure our missionaries, chaplains, and volunteers are taken care of. We focus on the health and well-being of our team so they are confident that their family and their future is well-established. One of the ways we accomplish this is through ensuring they have the funding necessary to take care of all their needs, both ministry and personal.

Second, we **leverage resources** to the team. Based upon their requests and input, we have been able to provide them with the resources they need to help them meet the challenges of effective and efficient ministry. In addition to access to resources like Speed the Light, Light for the Lost, and Boys and Girls Missionary Challenge (BGMC), this can include access to additional training they may need to reach their audience. U.S. Missions is committed to making sure we support our dedicated men and women with the specialized tools they need to fulfill their mission.

Third, we **promote replication**. Replication plays a major role in expanding the kingdom of God. We continue to emphasize to our missionaries the importance of raising up people who can carry on the ministry after the missionary has left this assignment. We stress that every ministry should be equipped with the leadership necessary to continue the work. There is nothing more tragic than when a ministry dies with its leader. It is important our missionaries are prepared to pass on the baton to other men and women who are faithful and share a similar call.

It has been an honor and a joy for me to work with the men and women of U.S. Missions. Our missionaries, chaplains, and project volunteers show their deep commitment through their actions to fulfill the Great Commission in the United States. Their hard work as well as their love of God and their nation has reinforced my love for America. I retire as executive director of U.S. Missions knowing that America is being touched through competent men and women.

*Zollie Smith is executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions.*

## Executive Leadership Team

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General Superintendent

**L. Alton Garrison**  
Assistant General Superintendent

**James T. Bradford**  
General Secretary

**Douglas E. Clay**  
General Treasurer

**Zollie L. Smith, Jr.**  
Executive Director,  
Assemblies of God U.S. Missions

**Gregory M. Mundis**  
Executive Director,  
Assemblies of God World Missions

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Northeast Area

**Dan C. Betzer**  
Southeast Area

**Wilfredo De Jesus**  
Language Area – East Spanish

**Jesse Miranda, Jr.**  
Language Area – West Spanish

**Nam Soo Kim**  
Language Area – Other

**John E. Maracle**  
Ethnic Fellowships

**Brian C. Schmidgall**  
Ordained Minister under 40

**A. Elizabeth Grant**  
Ordained Female



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## NOTE TO READERS



### Ministerial List Changes (MLC)

is no longer printed and mailed with *Called to Serve*. To view MLC online, log in to your account at [agpassport.ag.org](http://agpassport.ag.org).

An email will notify you when a new MLC has been posted.



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The dynamic learning environment, practical leadership application, and focus on strategic thinking made my time at AGTS a transformational leadership experience.

—Chris Railey, D.Min.  
Sr. Director of Leadership & Church Development  
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