

California District Council

Diocesan, Bishop Henry L. Johnson, D.L., D.D.

16th Episcopal District of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc.

74th Annual Council Session Holy Convocation

Bethesda Apostolic Church – Fresno, CA

November 11, 2010

THEME: “The Ministry of Reconciliation”

Chairman's Address



**Suffragan Bishop Robert T. Douglas, Sr.,
Chairman**

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**Diocesan, Bishop Henry L. Johnson, D. L., D. D.
16th Episcopal District of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc.
181st Tri-Annual Council Session
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**THEME: "The Promise"
Joshua 14:10-12**

Chairman's Address

It is with "Great Honor and Adoration" to our Jesus Christ that I render praise to Him and Him alone for the divine favor he has imparted upon our tri-annual fellowship once again!

I also give humble honor, recognition and respect to our Diocesan Bishop Henry L. Johnson, Resident Bishops Carl W. Stewart, Noel Jones, Michael J. Garrett and Frank Cuomo; to our Suffragan Bishops, District Elders, Pastors, Council Officers, Delegates, Saints, Friends and Visitors! Welcome to some of the richest fellowship that Pentecost has to offer here at the California District Council.

I trust that you all enjoyed a wonderful Summer and are in preparation for the harvest of souls, that the word of the Lord has promised to all who labor in the proclamation of "Eternal Life" by way of the new birth experience. "So let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap if we faint not" - Galatians 6:9!

Our theme of "The Promise" which has been ascribed to the heartbeat of this Council Session draws it strength and significance from the text as found in Joshua 14:10 -12, where we find a "Seasoned", loyal and devoted servant now under General Joshua's administration, assuming a "Proactive Approach" to claim his lot and his inheritance which Moses (his spiritual father) had given him by way of a promise.

So it is with we Calebs and Joshuas of Pentecost, we should be declaring the same message of faith to ourselves and others, who are following the message we give and live i.e. "if so be the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the Lord said" (vs. 12).

Therefore, in the typological sense, I as well as others believe that this Great State of California with its huge population, and vast resources is the Hebron of the United States of America as it relates to kingdom business, and we must claim our lots from the fifty-eight counties of this state now! However, we must all realize and understand that in order to achieve this goal, we must be courageous and determined to overcome the opposition.

For this cause (as well as others), I would like to address some obstacles and highlight some successes in all hope that we will be motivated to mutually claim and lay hold to "The Promise".

First of all, I desire to applaud our Loyal, Devoted and Courageous Pastors and your Spouses, families and congregations, for being the engine that drives the vehicle of this Conference to its destination. And because you care, we're going to get there, i.e. our promised destination in the plan of God. Notwithstanding, the road to securing our promise has had its challenges. Yet, "we know that all things work together for the good, to them that love the Lord and are called according to his purpose - Romans 8:28. Also, our beloved Apostle Paul reminds us of another promise as recorded in the book of Philippians 1:6, "Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ".

So to our precious and valiant under shepherds, it is imperative that you remain steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord - 1 Corinthians 15:58. Remember, never lose sight of who it was that gave us "The Promise" and He desires that we build upon the foundation of what He said despite who it is that dares to come against what we are believing God for.

Now many of our Pastors are involved in serious remodeling, renovations, and new construction projects all for the purpose of glorifying our Lord, while simultaneously creating and upgrading our worship facilities to twenty first century recognition. These expansion projects are intended to meet the needs of our current congregants as well as the community at large, even though our economy has not favored their efforts!

Nevertheless, on behalf of our Diocesan, The Executive Board and The General Body of the CDC, we salute our committed hard working Shepherds and their spouses for improving the premises while standing on "The Promise". So let us pray for our Pastors and their churches, but let us also support them financially as well as physically whenever feasible.

I would like to also recommend to any Pastor who deems it necessary to do so (if you haven't already applied this) to reserve a designated amount of 15% of your gross revenues generated at your local church. Label these funds as "The Contingency Reserve" revenue. Create an interest bearing account for these funds, restrict the utilization for the sole purpose of "Mortgage or Debt Retirement", or "Affordable Remolding Monies". This will provide some of we smaller churches with a financial cushion as the overall economy rebounds between now and the next twenty one months.

I now wish to congratulate the Auxiliaries and other Supportive Ministries of this great conference. As you may already know, our Auxiliaries and Supportive Ministries or the pistons to our Council's Engine and we definitely, want to encourage (once again), each and every servant of Christ who works in our Council on whatever level. I also ask that you claim your Promise as well, for God is no respecter of persons. In addition to this reality, I would like to pause here for a brief moment and remind each of you who serve in the capacity of auxiliary leader or worker, to bear in mind that the capacity by which you are serving, is also building character to the persons of your stewardship imagery. Selah! Another way of looking at this reality is to consider that participating and contributing to auxiliary activities provides the servant with a since of ownership in the kingdom of Christ, and usually people invest their best when they become aware that they too own a piece of "His Rock".

Another Supportive Ministry that I would like to give special recognition to at this time is the "Pastor and Spouse Retreat Committee" which conducted a fantastic Marriage Retreat this past October, 2010. I would also like to commend our speakers as well as our participants for a job well done. I personally learned so much and enjoyed the "Five Star" fellowship. Oh by the way, October 1-3, 2011 is rolling ever so fast toward us. Therefore, if you are a Pastor or a Spouse of one of our current CDC Pastors, and either or both of you desire to serve on the Pastor and Spouse Retreat Committee, let me know in writing at this Council and your name will be placed in our pool of proposed potential committee members.

In conclusion, stay tuned for additional information on future events and activities in respect to our forthcoming PYPY State Youth Convention, Annual Men's Ministry Conference and future Council dates and locations.

According To His Will

Suffragan Bishop Robert T. Douglas, Sr.

Chairman

