



California District Council
Diocesan, Bishop Henry L. Johnson, D.L., D.D.
16th Episcopal District of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc.
73rd Annual Council Session Holy Convocation
Torrance Marriott Hotel – Torrance, CA
July 15, 2010

THEME: “Fresh Wind”
(Numbers 29:12; Joel 1:14)

Chairman’s Address

First giving glory, praise and appreciation for salvation to our Creator, Savior, and Sustainer, the Lord Jesus Christ; to our Diocesan the Honorable Bishop Henry L. Johnson, Resident Bishop’s Carl Stewart, Noel Jones, Michael Garrett, and Frank Cuomo; to our Suffragan Bishops, District Elders, Pastors, Council Officials, Delegates, Saints and Friends.

As we continue to address our challenges to regain our prominence of effective stewardship in “*Kingdom Building*”, we are most grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord for providing us with a “*Fresh Wind* of His favor upon our efforts”! And I personally believe that the God of all comfort has witnessed the sincere desire of our California District Conference to be the “*model conference*” in the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc. For this cause we are striving as a unit of one to achieve this objective by presenting new methods and preserving old truths.

What this simply means is that while we are modifying and implementing infrastructural and programmatic procedures, we are doing so by referencing the tenets of our “*Monotheistic Oneness*” principles of worship and believe it or not, this is wind beneath the wings of our consecration and mobilization activities at this convocation. To God be the glory for the things he has done for the California District Conference. However, keep in mind the fact that modification or change, whether moderate or radical, requires patience and acceptance of a paradigm shift among both those who serve and those who are served.

Therefore, we are seeking the Lord’s favor to provide us with the “*fresh wind*” of knowledge, wisdom, and understanding on how to receive and apply the fresh wind of

His power to save, serve, heal, recover, and restore our lives to the full capacity of accountable worship and fellowship in His sight. This will require for us to combine the tenets of our faith with the new ideations and strategies of our current and future event planning. Why? Because God is a God of decency and order and we as servants in His kingdom must reflect this reality by adhering to our biblical truths and the by-laws of our corporation to achieve this objective.

This brings us to this issue of making tough, and sometimes, hard business decisions, as we focus on the future as it relates to the “*God Ordained*” mandates of our conference. And in order to benefit from the process of applying tough business decisions, three primary principles are essential, i.e., sacrifice, obedience, and a commitment to buy into the change process, coupled with loyalty to leadership. However, this activity must first be practiced within the confines of our local churches, because whenever we neglect to practice what we are trying to get others to do at home, it is virtually impossible to prove that it will work for someone else in an extended environment. Simply put, “*be not deceived for God is not mocked*” (made a fool of), *for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap*” (Galatians 6:7).

Now in the case of the California District Conference, the authority has been given to the visionary of the great state of California, the Honorable Henry L. Johnson, to see that the goals and objectives of this conference are achieved through visionary leadership principles under his authority.

So as our Diocesan and CEO, Bishop Johnson, imparted to yours truly, that embracing the posture of a “*servants mentality*”, governed by biblical principles would best serve our efforts in achieving our number one goal, which is to bring souls into the Kingdom of Christ. This is what is known in some religious circles as using “*ancient wisdom for visionary leadership*.” However, the flip side to this is found in the cliché of an old West African proverb, “*it is easier to transport an anthill than to exercise authority in the village*.” And we know why!

At this time, permit me to amplify this statement as I see it applying to our present situation as it relates to visionary leadership via a “*servants mentality*.” Horace Orlando Russell, senior professor to junior members of the faculty at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, stated to a class of his student leaders, “*You have always had the handle; now you have the blade. Use it wisely*.” I say to our visionary leaders, the handle of God’s Spirit has always been with us, now it’s time to use His Word, which is our blade to make and adjust to changes that are essential to becoming a true servant of Christ.

We must also consider another statement made by Professor Horace Russell, “*For those who desire to succeed in visionary leadership, beware, what appears to be golden and glorified is not always the substance of things hoped for.*” Many individuals have desired to be where successful people are, yet they are unwilling to sacrifice or to be humble enough to handle the great responsibilities.

True leadership comes with the ability to address people’s needs with intelligence, patience, and humility. That is why Jesus’ desire was for his disciples to be servants first. The reward of leadership can be likened unto the desert that comes after the meal, not the hard work required to purchase the groceries, prepare the meal, and set the table. Saints let us not be eager for the desert above the meal of servanthood (Matthew 20:28).

Let us now move to the financial situation of our conference as I conclude this lengthy address.

As many of you are aware of the fact, recently we modified certain in-service functions such as retiring the Eusebius Church Reporting model and creating our own in-house model of online church reporting. Therefore, we are anticipating a favorable impact on the health of our budget. This action will also include some additional cost conservative methods being applied to the planning segment of our budgeting processes, which will enable us to avoid “*fiscal insanity*”. I also would like to personally thank each of you for your patience and support in assisting this administration in achieving some transitory progress toward achieving this objective. However, in order for our conference to receive her overall goal of financial solvency, we request an extension of your valued support in this area.

Now in order for us to be successful with this activity, we are going to propose to our Board of Directors and the General Body additional operational changes that will consist of certain program expansions, mergers, system conversions, personnel re-alignments, and re-assignments in order that our corporation as a “*Religious Body*” can become more efficient and productive.

In that this is an election year for our Council as well as for our parent body, we will insert caution into our proposed change orders in the project of overhauling our corporation, and not attempt to operate in a “*herculean mode*” to achieve our unified objectives.

Never-the-less, we must continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to the process of “*Kingdom Building*” and foster a partnership oriented mentality in doing so.

I will conclude this address by simply stating that we will not distribute nor publicize any non-conclusive reports or data that does not reflect the true information of where we are as a Council financially. However, we will wait until we receive any additional financial oriented obligations or modifications from our Parent Body the P.A. of W., Inc., as well as our CDC Body, before we present cost justifiable reductions or increases in our fiduciary responsibilities as a “*non-profit Corporation*”. We will also eliminate any zigzag strategies that only produce products of nothingness; however, we will conduct future cost efficient measures that will improve our service performance in all of our program operations.

Until we meet in Fresno, California in November, 2010 (the Lord willing), God bless and favor you according to the abundance of His grace and mercy.

In pursuit of His favor,

Dr. Robert T. Douglas, Sr.

Suffragan Bishop Robert T. Douglas, Sr., PhD

Servant Chairman

California District Council