

California **D**istrict **C**ouncil

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

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

74th Annual Council Session

Torrance Marriott South Bay – Torrance, CA

July 14, 2011

***THEME: “Preparing to Answer the Righteous Judge”
Psalm 50:5”***

Chairman's Address



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

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It is with the utmost godly dignity that I extend honor and humility unto the Spirit of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ!

To our Chief Executive Officer The Honorable Diocesan Bishop Henry L. Johnson; Resident Bishops Carl W. Stewart, Noel Jones, Michael J. Garrett and Frank Cuomo; to our esteemed Suffragan Bishops, District Elders, Pastors and their spouses; Council officials, delegates, saints and friends:

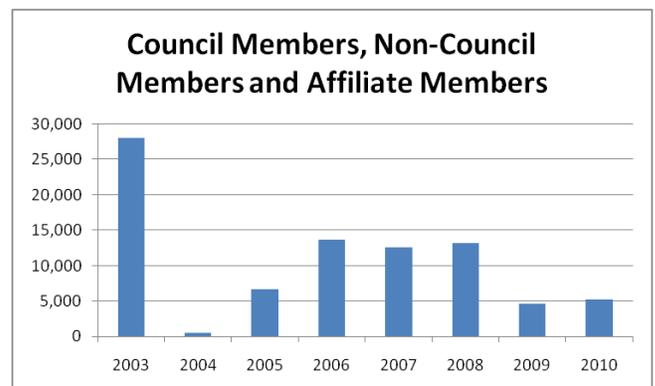
I salute you in the name of Jesus and hope and pray that you are prospering while preparing to exit from life as we know it into life eternal at the appearance of our great God and sustainer, the Lord Jesus Christ.

I say this because our theme for this conference is, "Preparing to Answer the Righteous Judge," which was drafted from Psalm 50:5 - "Gather my saints together unto me, those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice". In addition to this imperative directive emanating from God's choice, from the voice of His spirit, is the request to the Christian Covenant Believers at Rome by our beloved Apostle St. Paul. This petition or the appeal is found in Romans 12:1-2: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God". I am enthused and encouraged that whenever we apply the principles contained in God's Word, these biblical truths produce successful results in our collective efforts to see His face in peace. For we are keepers of one another according to covenant principles. Therefore, as we progress forward, purposed to reach the goals and objectives outlined within the framework of our California District Council By-Laws, by way of our mission statement, let us be mindful of what we are doing, who we are doing it for, and what we will have achieved when our mission is complete.

As we reflect on our service performance, in review of what we attempted to accomplish and achieve, our focus must be directed to our membership recruitment, re-indoctrination (of the oneness persuasion) and retention activities, which are key elements to our future productivity as laborers in the field of "Soul Harvesting". It is a sad fact that our numbers are declining and history proves that they will continue to do so if we refuse to win new people, modify our local church retention plans, and eliminate the Spirit of Apathy toward soul winning projects. This observation, from my analytical perspective, involves all of us who are members of this "Great Work", which is also The Kingdom of our God and Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, let us review some of the previous CDC Church Reporting Statistics recorded in the database of our old Eusebius Church reporting system during the period of 2003 through FY2003-2010.

This data reflects a combination of Council Members, Non-Council Members, and Affiliate Members. Membership was as follows: in 2003 (27,984); 2004 (559); 2005 (6,669); 2006 (13,608); 2007 (12,552); 2008 (13,235); and 2009 (4,658).

So there we have it in black and white! Consequently, the challenge before us is to collaborate, galvanize, consecrate, and mobilize our evangelism practices and come away from the planning table with a new soul winning team and dream (Theme for July 8 – 11, 2009, Annual Conference); "Work this Dream as a Team Up to its Fulfillment" (November 11-14, 2009 Conference); "Work



this Dream as a Team Up to its Fulfillment" (November 11-14, 2009 Theme); Executing The Ministry of Reconciliation (Theme for March, 2010); Petition God for a Fresh Wind of Soul-Winning (Theme for July 12 – 17, 2010); Invest and Live in the Promise (Theme for November 11 – 13, 2010); and Finally Pursue and Recover All The Souls that We Can Which Were Taken by Satan (Theme for March 10 – 12, 2011). My final statement on this issue is simply, let us arise and build a Council of inclusion by way of "Flexibility and Togetherness, Void of Doctrinal or Moral Compromise" in pursuit of our obligations to the mandate recorded in St. John 15:16. Remember: "Togetherness and Flexibility is Key to our Survival as well as our Success" (see Galatians 5:14-15). Therefore, from this conference forward, let us arm ourselves with the knowledge that whatsoever we sow is what we will reap. Being equipped with this knowledge and armed accordingly, we will not be "Sowing to the Wind". However, we are "Sowing to Win" prospects into our Masters Kingdom.

Now, I don't want us to walk away from the conference with a negative outlook as for our future in regard to our building and recruitment projects. As a Corporation, there is "Good News on the Horizon", i.e. there yet remains evidence of Great Success in Renovation and Expansion Projects within the CDC Family. We therefore, with "respectful recognition", salute and commend the following churches for their fortitude and hard work to achieve "Five Star" quality worship in God's Kingdom and in their communities.

Region 1 – District Elder Dwayne and Dr. Selina Shepherd and the Greater Apostolic Faith Temple: For their greater works expansion project, this serves as a major contributor to the City of San Diego in saving souls, reducing crime, and improving the quality of life for many. District Elder William and Lady Shelly Benson of the Total Deliverance Ministries: For the success of their Church expansion and multi-diversified land acquisitions and community redevelopment projects.

Congratulations Region 2 – Praise Tabernacle Community Church of Banning, California has successfully remodeled the infrastructure of the Church edifice with astounding results. Pastor Keith and First Lady Maddox have successfully conducted an extreme makeover to their worship facility and the appearance of their hard work is magnificent. Kudos to both you and yours, along with our CDC Family at Grace Apostolic church of Palm Springs.

Region 3 – Artesian Well of Long Beach, California under the "awesome leadership" of Dr. James P. Norman, Jr. and Lady Kathy and the members of their assembly, have successfully remodeled an industrial complex into a multi-million dollar Church Worship Center to the Glory of Christ Jesus our Lord. By the way, their Grand Opening and Dedication Service is scheduled for July 24, 2011 at 4 pm.

The Apostolic Faith Home Assembly Church Family under the divine leadership of the dynamic duo of Dr. Vanessa and Charles Ussery have also remodeled and expanded their new edifice in the City of Los Angeles at an undisclosed cost amount. The Carson Christian Outreach Church has reached a 2/3 completion status of their relocation and expansion project in the City of Carson by transferring a church edifice to an empty parcel of land and establishing an Apostolic Assembly in the hub of Compton, Dominguez Hills, Gardena, Carson, and Los Angeles. The cost of this project also exceeded one million dollars! To God be the glory for the "undefeatable hard work and determination" of District Elder Thomas and Lady Marian Alexander and the Carson Christian Outreach Family.

We are blessed to witness the completion of the great undertaking of Master Church Builders, District Elder John and Gladys Grier and the House of God Church family. This great work was also erected from the ground up, exceeding a million dollars plus in construction cost. May the provisional favor of God bless the labor of their hands.

Once again in Region 3, we are witnessing an expansion project at Bethlehem Temple Church in Los Angeles. This conversion is under the anointed leadership of Dr. Gentry and Lady Mary Richardson in order to increase their seating capacity. Region 4 – Bethesda Apostolic Church of Fresno, California under the leadership of Pastor Tobiase Brookins expanded their worship facility by creating a library, theological learning center, and renovation of the Bethesda Fellowship Hall and renaming it the Magnolia Johnson Fellowship Hall. In God there is no failure. Congratulations to our Bethesda Family.

Also, I was personally invited to speak and conduct a review of the magnificent remodeling and expansion projects at the City of Refuge – A new beginning in Fresno, California under the leadership of District Elder Rodney and First Lady Spencer. All I can say to the status of their work and determination is that the half of what they have accomplished is yet to be told.

Continued (See Back Cover)

Chairman's Address (Continued)

We also congratulate District Elder Jimmie and First Lady Davis, Atwater Christian Life Center, for the spectacular work of expanding and renovating the state-of-the-art Worship Center in Atwater, California. Once again, congratulations and to God be the Glory.

Additionally, I would be remiss if I neglected to reveal that Region 5 also has accomplished some very noteworthy improvements to their Church facilities expansion projects in their community. Therefore, the following leaders are to be commended for their stewardship activities in enhancing the image of Godly quality to their Church facilities in Five Star Fashion. They are as follows: Covenant Worship Center Under the leadership of District Elder and First Lady Kelly Woods who are currently in post-planning stages of expanding their facility. Pastor Wayne and Lady Rawlins have actually renovated the entire Worship facility at the Center of Grace Ministries.

Also, don't forget the spectacular improvements and remodeling project of Pastor Brian and First Lady Harris of Emmanuel Temple Apostolic Church of Vallejo, California, along with the success of the extreme makeover and remodeling projects at Bethel Temple Pentecostal Church in Richmond, California under the anointed leadership of Pastor Billy and First Lady Wydemyer. I am certain there are more to be added to this list; however, time and space will not permit me to include more in this address.

I begin my conclusion to this Chairman's address by simply saying that we as a "Body of Believers" will continue to function simultaneously as a "Religious Corporation" as we fellowship together as messengers of Mercy and agents of change. Essentially, our program planning must be focused on extending what we stand for and what we have to offer beyond the basic Tri-Annual CDC Conferences.

Therefore, I will propose and present to the Diocesan Bishop and our executive board that the following recommendations be approved and adopted:

1. An Annual Combined Leadership Training and Marriage Retreat Session for two and a half days beginning in October 2011 in Bakersfield, California.
2. Add to our existing roster of District Elders Caucasians, Asians and Hispanic/Latino leadership representation from the 58 counties that comprise the Great State of California.
3. Supplemental revenue generating worship projects and activities to eliminate fiscal deficits - "Flexibility Is Key to our Success"!

So let us not forget that our mission is to be as productive as we possibly can in our efforts to increase the Body of Christ with lost souls to the Glory of God, our Father. Remember we can win with what we have!

According To His Will

Suffragan Bishop Robert T. Douglas, Sr.
Chairman

