

CALIFORNIA DISTRICT COUNCIL

16th Episcopal District
PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES
of THE World, Inc.



CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

2014 Spring CONFERENCE

Thursday
MARCH 13, 2014



CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS: CALIFORNIA DISTRICT COUNCIL 2014 SPRING CONFERENCE

188TH TRI-ANNUAL SESSION

CROWNE PLAZA MISSION VALLEY • SAN DIEGO, CA

Rendering reverence and Glory to the only wise, true, and living God Jesus Christ and the Honorable Diocesan and Presiding Prelate Bishop Charles H. Ellis III, Resident Bishops, Suffragan Bishops, District Elders, Pastors, Leadership Spouses and all present at this our 188th Tri-Annual Session of the California District Council, 16th Episcopal District of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc., I greet you in the name of Jesus. Glory to Him in the Highest and peace and favor to each of you.

As we seek to flow and phase prosperously into the next transitional activity of finalizing our customized Sustainable Strategy of restructuring and realigning the infrastructure of our current California Diocese, let us allow our theme for this conference session "Ever Forward, Never Backward" be our motivating force and major incentive to expand our Ecclesiastical Corporation. Having been blessed to draw our theme for this session from Philippians 1:6, *"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun that good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."* likewise, I am persuaded that the Good Work for which Christ has initiated within the union of Apostolic Fellowship amongst us, the members of the California District Council, will increase our confidence in that which he has called us and situated us to perform in His Kingdom. All we must do is to embrace and not erase His desire and design for our stewardship performance in all of our God-ordained endeavors, for it is He and Him alone who holds the key to the success of our purpose, function and destiny.

For this cause allow me to once again declare and articulate that these are some very exciting times for the committed stewards of Christ who are yet willing to partner with the vision of expansion, not lose sight of the promise that Jesus is coming soon, and maintain that our California District Council has committed herself to being ready when He arrives; remaining busy with the increased opportunities that are available to us to bring souls into His Glorious Kingdom. This dynamic, my Brothers and Sisters, to me best represents The Good Work that our beloved Apostle Paul was referring to, as well as the Great Commission that Christ himself called for us to perform. And this we will continue to do by way of sacrifice, obedience and a commitment void of challenging the Mandate of Ecclesiastical Expansion with unnecessary speculations and fear-based assumptions of what will or will not work. Instead, let us remain mindful of the desire and design of our stewardship obligations as revealed by the Greatest Architect of expansion and growth models recorded in John 15:16-17, *"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained (appointed) you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain (abide): that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father*

in my name, he may give it you. These things I command you, that ye love one another." So herein lies our mandate to move "Ever Forward, Never Backward!"

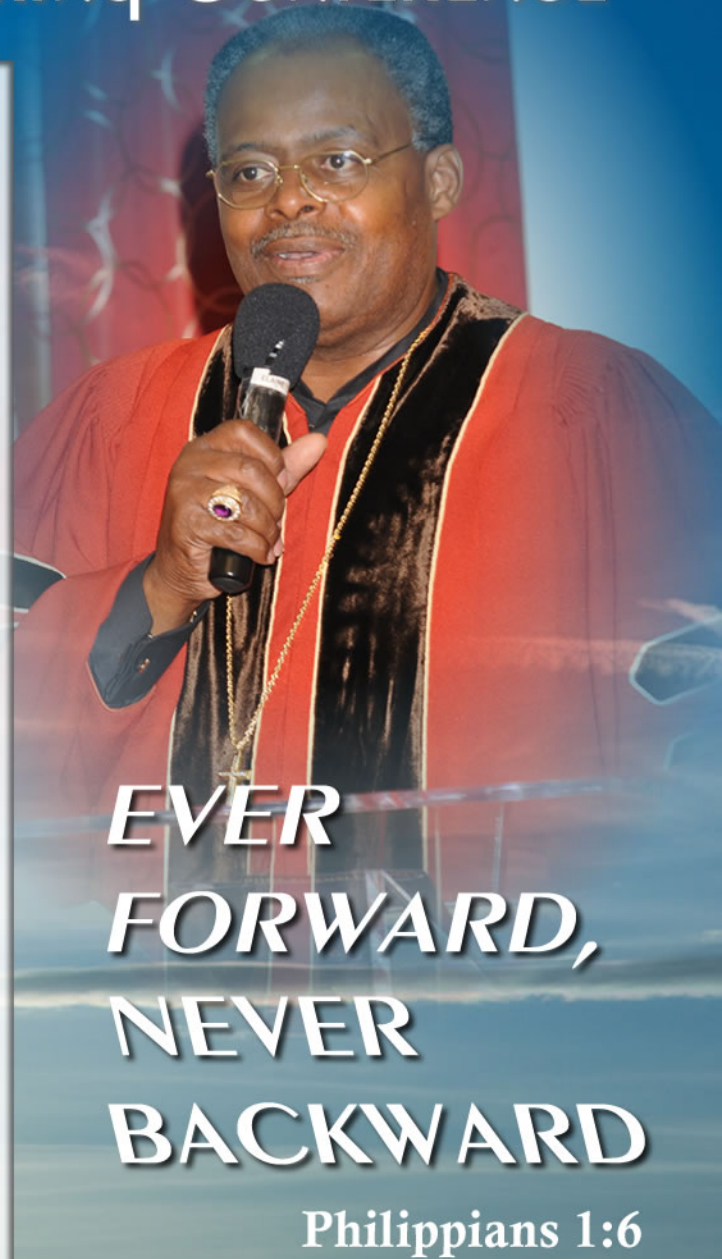
Now for the record, many are inquiring about the specifics of our Strategic Transitional Planning in regard to the selection/appointments of future Diocesans, the geographies of the proposed Dioceses, fiscal/monetary issues, administrative officers, and the methods by which they will be either appointed or elected in regard to the future Dioceses. Let me encourage you to be confident that whatever method or procedure that is to be employed in regard to these and other operational concerns, the processes will be biblical, ethical, equitable and mutually beneficial to all who involved in our Expansion Project.

Our Diocesan, who happens to be our Presiding Prelate, has combined the expertise of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc., our own CDC Executive Board of Directors, and our CDC Reconstruction & Realignment Committee, to work diligently and cohesively toward finalizing the remaining part of what I personally and professionally have been trained to identify as our Sustainable Strategy for a successful transition into expanding (not dividing) our current operation. For this cause, we collectively solicit your prayers, cooperation and patience. This action on the part of the supporters of our endeavors will greatly contribute to us achieving our goal and accomplishing our objectives in regard to this project. However, this requires from us the most essential element of team success for any serious group of achievers and that element is UNITY by way of selflessness! The US Bank has a slogan for galvanizing support from other financial institutions and commercial service providers to provide gainful employment to our service personnel of the Armed Forces which amplifies what it is I'm attempting to convey and that is *"We are Proud To Serve Those Who Serve"*.

Therefore, it is absolutely necessary for we who are dedicated to working and building as a team to fulfill our Expansion Dream, to recognize and respect the Spiritual Chemistry by which our team is operating. Our formula consist of the basic principle of Sacrifice, Obedience and Commitment towards a cause that is greater than ourselves. Only those of us who think and operate in this mode will yet remain with the team. Since the Word of God mandates us to operate in this capacity, we must focus our efforts upon the mutual benefits of all who desire to win according to rules of the game. This can only be achieved via a Sustainable Strategy for success. Former Los Angeles Laker Head Coach, Phil Jackson put it this way *"Good teams become great ones when the members trust each other enough to surrender the 'me' for the 'we'."* It will be also wise to also consider the flipside of this by Jim Turley, CEO of Ernst & Young, *"Some team members have shared interest, but lack shared trust..."* Nevertheless, we as a Council will continue to advance forward in unity to achieve our Over-arching Goal and that is to make room for the souls that Christ has designated to receive residency in His Kingdom.

So then the purpose, function and structure of our Sustainable Strategy for successful expansion must include within its contents a prioritized focus of recruiting and retaining new converts in the Spirit of Unity and the Bond of Peace. No matter how we achieve this goal, let us not forget the fact that since God is everything, He must be included in all things. Bearing this in mind, the model that has been crafted for our successful expansion holds within its contents considerations for local, regional and state diversified capacity building, capital improvement incentives, resources to resolve situations and circumstances that present themselves whenever long-term planning occurs in any undertaking the size of this project. Additionally, consideration will be given to Proto-Type Territorial Enlargement, possible ministerial mergers, and formulas for assessment adjustments that will not cause any significant increases in our operational costs to our newly proposed Dioceses. This type of positive, proactive strategic planning will also provide us with opportunities to increase the amount of revenue that should be flowing into our coffers; providing a financial cushion to help sustain our capital improvement projects and ensure that our trajectory (the curved path) of our mission goes as planned.

In conclusion, I declare that this we will do, The Lord willing and being our help as we advance "Ever Forward, Never Backward" on our mission that Christ has placed us on to minister His Grace to Our Generation.



So be confident of this very thing, that He who hath begun that good work in you, will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

Shalom and Godspeed!

In Pursuit of His Favor,

Suff Bishop Robert T. Douglas, Sr., Ph.D.
Chairman
California District Council