

# FINISH COMMITMENT

A VISION OF GLOBAL IMPACT FOR THE CHURCH OF GOD

*The Church On Mission*

**A PRIORITY REVIEW OF MISSION AND VISION**

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# FINISH COMMITMENT: THE CHURCH ON MISSION

A PRIORITY REVIEW OF MISSION AND VISION

2020-2022

2020! A year that will not be forgotten! The world has experienced a global shift in every part of life, including how we contextualize our walk of faith, all because of a global coronavirus pandemic called COVID-19. In the midst of crisis, the Church of God has found ways of effective ministry to transition when normal became abnormal. As we look to the future, Dr. Timothy Hill, general overseer, has set the pace with the vision of the Church of God as a relevant movement, which is alive, energetic, and sensitive to the signs of the times. If we are to witness the fulfillment of the Great Commission, there is only one way to get there and that is full speed ahead and united together as The Church on Mission!



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# The Church On Mission

Dr. Timothy Hill, General Overseer

**The following message was delivered by General Overseer Tim Hill during the virtual “Global Celebration” event held on September 18, 2020:**

## Introduction

No one has to be convinced that the church is in the throes of intense spiritual warfare! Given the crises challenging our nation—reeling from the effects of a global pandemic, acts of racism, economic apprehension, and increased social unrest—it is safe to say that these are unprecedented times. Certainly, there have always been seasons of difficulty and stress in America and the world. However, when has there ever been such a continual sequence of catastrophic occurrences as we have seen since the beginning of 2020?

The striking political, racial, and social divisions in America hold the nation in a breathless anxiety over “what comes next.” Then it must not be hidden among current headlines, that there yet remains the old and entrenched atrocities that mar the countenance of our nation, including society’s multiple moral perversions—the robbing of life from the unborn and the poverty that imprisons the dreams and hopes of the sons and daughters of every race and every generation.

Further complicating our current realities, the church now finds itself in an age where the right of religious liberty is threatened at almost every turn and juncture. For the well-being and health of a population, we were suddenly caught in the tension between sincere cooperation and

navigating what some believed was authoritarian overreach at the same time.

Brothers and Sisters, the word “crises” doesn’t even begin to describe where we find ourselves today. Yet

our age of crises brings us to a most compelling merging of emergency and opportunity.



Dr. Timothy Hill,  
General Overseer

## A Church of Critical Presence

When I was called upon to be your general overseer in 2016, I came to you from directing the ministries of Church of God World Missions. It was during that time the Lord first spoke to me about finishing the Great Commission and how our church could help lead the way in that responsibility.

Indeed, the Church of God, as part of the body of Christ,



**Watch Now**

*A Church  
of Critical Presence*

# "I Have Set Before You An Open Door, And No One Can Shut it."

is called to make a significant impact as a channel through which the Holy Spirit may flow in order to bring healing and restoration to a world desperate for redemption. While the world seeks to render the church inconsequential, we maintain our effectiveness in this age as we recommit to the mission of the Lord Jesus Christ—and this mission is about truth and love. The desperation that grips our world today places a renewed gospel demand on the Church of God.

The church is on trial today. We stand at the judgment bar of a generation that will not be sympathetic to old excuses. Our ministries must pass the test of gospel legitimacy, and our values must reflect the "Christ-life" to the world. Anything less will fail the test of validity.

To those who pass the test of critical presence, the resounding promise of Jesus in Revelation 3:8 is given, "I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it." We cannot forget that the calling of the church is to proclaim the uncompromised gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. That's the central focus. Reaching people is at the heart of our Church of God Core Values and remains the mission of our existence.

Even in these incredible times, the Church of God must stay focused on the FINISH Commitment with a 2020 perception, and by every means possible and with everything within us—"Stay on Mission."

We must...

**F**IND the Unreached  
**I**NTERCEDE in Prayer  
**N**ETWORK Together  
**I**NVEST in Church Planting  
**S**END Missionaries Into the World, and  
**H**ARVEST Lost Souls Into the Kingdom of God.

Nothing has changed about our commitment during these challenging times, but people like you, and Church of God ministers and laity around this world have continued to bring hope to the harvest.

## A Church in Crucial Times

Admittedly, the wild winds of change have attempted to impede our progress as a church, and no doubt, Satan must surely have smiled when his strong winds of interference tried to move us off course.



**Watch Now**

*A Church  
in Crucial Times*



The year 2020 will long be remembered. The world experienced a global shift in daily life, lifestyle, and even how we contextualized our walk of faith. For some ministries, instead of thriving, survival became the order of the day. Because of the pandemic, some characterized life as a “shutdown,” and some even said that the church was shut down.

I submit, however, that the church is NOT in shutdown mode. However, we are reimagining ministry and finding new ways of “doing church.” Yes, we have missed corporate fellowship. But remember, the first-century church didn’t have buildings and worship edifices, but they had power to share the gospel of Christ on the streets, in homes, the marketplace, literally every place they traveled they turned the world upside down.

Now, 2,000 years later, the Church again has found ways to transition in the midst of crises when normal becomes abnormal and some labeled the Church as nonessential. I want to emphasize that the church having limited assembly is not the new normal. God is creating a “fresh” new normal that only He can and will define.

I have never been prouder of Church of God pastors and laity. You found ways to “make it happen.” Without question, we have preached more gospel to more people in more ways than ever before in the history of the church.

### Stepping Up and Breaking Through

Because of your faithfulness, COVID-19 did not tell the story of the church’s demise, rather it tells the story of the church’s determination. The Coronavirus did not paint a picture of the church shutting down, but history will document it as the time the church was “stepping up and moving out.”

It’s been said, *“The Church Has Left the Building”* and indeed that’s true. You did not cease to be the church of the Lord Jesus at all. Your testimonies and reports reveal that in the COVID-19 months, we have seen a substantial increase of souls saved and restored through the witness of the church over the time preceding it. Keep in mind that much of this did not happen in an altar call, but rather by you sharing Jesus one-on-one with people over your computers, zoom calls, telephones, visits, and emails. As a matter of fact, your participation in the special **GoFINISH Weekend** in May 2020 saw **multiplied thousands** come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. Indeed, it has been the year of the church “stepping up” and “breaking through.”

We all wish that COVID-19 had never happened and entered into our vocabulary. Far too many tears and an unending river of grief has swept over us all. It has upended our routine, capsized our schedules and attempted to make havoc of our best-laid plans. It has challenged the framework of the individuals we thought we were. It has **stretched the fabric** of the persons we really are. **However, it has not changed the foundation of what we are called to do.**

Now mind you, God did not create or dispatch the coronavirus. God is not the author of confusion, and I doubt there has been a more confusing situation in at least the last one hundred years. Nevertheless, could it be that in the midst of all the related and consuming



**Watch Now**

*Stepping Up  
and Breaking Through*

issues attached to this global crisis, God will also give His church an opportunity for deep reflection, and who knows . . . repentance and reformation.

At the next International General Assembly, we will no doubt discuss our responses and possibly judge ourselves by our actions during this most unimaginable time. We will also continue to work and be prepared to make crucial determinations regarding every matter previously purposed to occupy a place on our business agendas. The 77th International General Council and Assembly had already set a course of action for our next gathering. Before the pandemic, I traveled across this nation and touched down in six continents, conducting forums, so we could engage in discussion and try to fine-tune the focus of the debate.

Yes, it's all important because the International General Assembly of the Church of God recognized the importance of each and every issue. Nevertheless, please hear me when I tell you, at the end of the day, many of the issues we will spend hours discussing will not help anybody find Jesus as Lord. Certainly, things must be spoken to, decisions need to be made so that necessary things are settled, and we can move on. Again, few, if any, of those decisions will matter in eternity.

To be clear, God did not manufacture a sickness or create a pandemic. But can we be trusting enough in His sovereignty that we allow Him to use these days to ensure our purpose, function, and focus as a church denomination?

During this time, I have heard the Lord speak to my heart and say, **"Focus** on what matters, and do not drift into the riptides of the irrelevant. **Stay on course!"** Very specifically, I've received the Lord's direction to convey to you that we must return to a renewed commitment to our Core Values as a church, including **prayer, Pentecostal worship, and world evangelization.**

As energetic as we often attempt to be and find new methodologies of doing church, we need to remember that there is still water to be found in some old wells and there is still life in the old bones of some things long ago discarded. Just as



# “Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Spirit & Power of Pentecost”

a dead soldier was resurrected when tossed upon the old bones of Elisha the prophet, we need to fall back on some old bones that at one time were the firm and functional structure of a dynamic church.

For instance:

- It's time to get back to **Evangelism** in the Church of God. I still like the word, but what is more important, I love the concept. Yes, we moved into a greater focus on Church Planting and Revitalization, and both are proving effective. However, we must articulate and model as a denomination again—we are about evangelism.
- We need to emphasize **Pentecostal and Holiness Doctrine**. We must resist allowing ourselves to be influenced doctrinally by trends that come and go with the breeze. We cannot permit the embracing of a spirit of compromise that infiltrates and captures the minds of our children and students, turning them to some kind of refurbished theology that reeks with apostasy.
- Without doubt, we need to, once again, focus on **building young men and women of God** as never before. We must nurture and speak into a new generation of sons and daughters to become faithful disciples.
- I want to see us embrace focused **discipleship** again. The method and how you deliver it is your business, but I'm telling you, we need a return to our responsibility to establish a proven and consistent pathway to discipleship in the Church of God.
- It's time for pastors to return to **expository preaching**. I'm calling on every Church of God pastor to preach doctrine, our Declaration of Faith, and the foundational principles of the Christian walk.
- And, most important . . . it's time to reinstitute the **prayer meeting**. I'm calling on every pastor and every church to ensure there is a set and established time for prayer beyond your regularly advertised worship services. Only by and through prayer and our communication with the Father can we ever hope to achieve the breakthroughs that our church must experience.
- I'm calling on every Church of God member to join together in a commitment to a **“Call to Prayer and Fasting.”** As a Prayer Force, stop and seek the Lord for healing and revival in America and around the world, knowing that an army of believers is standing with me on the Wall of Intercession.

Please hear my heart when I tell you, it's time for our denomination to lead the way in **modeling reconciliation** of the races. We must take on the radiance and appearance of the heavenly Kingdom where all men are indeed walking in equality and given level and common ground at the foot of the cross. Where opportunities to advance and prosper are as available to a black man as they are a white. Where places at the table of influence are indeed substantial and not inconsequential. Where voices are heard, input is acknowledged, and results are reflective of total and comprehensive involvement.



I have mentioned several important things that we must give ourselves to, but above all, I sense the Spirit of God calling us as a denomination to immerse ourselves again into our Mission Statement, which says, we will **“Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Spirit and Power of Pentecost.”** That’s who we are. This is what we do. It’s all encapsulated in the tenants of the FINISH Commitment.

## A Church Mobilized for a New Day

Our vision is not about shutdown, and it is not about our mission and vision being put on hold or frozen for two years while we figure out what a pandemic did to the administrative nuances of our structure. Rather, it is about moving Full Speed Ahead, witnessing the impact of the **“Church on Mission,”** and experiencing the awesome power of the Holy Spirit. Fulfilling the mandate of the Great Commission is the supreme commitment that drives the mission of the Church of God. It confirms our priorities and determines our course of action.

Since the inauguration of the FINISH Commitment, Church of God people have united, building a ministry dream and embracing a purposeful vision that has now seen:

- Well over **1 million** men, women, boys, and girls who have experienced the dynamic grace of Jesus as they knelt in Church of God altars around the world or were affected by the witness of our wonderful Church of God members engaged in the Great Commission.
- Nearly **1,000 new churches** have been planted in the United States and **thousands more around the world.**
- Nearly **half a million believers** have been **baptized in the Holy Spirit.**
- Church of God Media Ministries is now reaching into multiple millions of homes with the gospel through television, radio, and social media.
- In the Middle East, the Church of God is reaching into six mainly Arab-speaking nations every day through our programs on **Voice of Hope Radio.**
- Operation Compassion and other multiple Church of God Care Ministries have responded to national and

global disasters delivering multiple millions of dollars in relief, food, water, and supplies for rebuilding the lives and hopes of the men, women, and children affected most by human suffering.

- Church of God presence in **185 nations** of the world and other nations ready to be included in the list.
- An infusion of new and younger **Jeremiah Generation** men and women who have come into our ministry ranks in very recent years. This infusion brings a significant step toward ongoing and lasting ministry longevity.

## The Church on Mission

The compelling question is this, “What now?” We **stay on mission.** We **adjust** to the missional mindset. What do we mean when we say missional? Simply this: We **do mission, live mission, manifest mission,** and **we make mission.** You can define it, talk about it, and even preach about it, but people are not missional and “On Mission” until they actively engage in building the kingdom of heaven instead of sitting and watching the world go by.

Since its beginning, the Church of God has been described as a movement. Our forefathers were eager for spiritual renewal and possessed an entrenched conviction to seek God for His power, guidance, and presence. They embraced the process of moving. They were on a mission. However, here is the question: Are we still a vibrant, dynamic, spiritual movement that maintains focus upon its mission? Or, have we traded our spirit of movement for ecclesiastical monuments?

A spiritual movement can be stifled by the institutionalization of our traditions and can soon morph into a monument. We cannot afford to applaud being Pentecostal and cease to accept Christ’s command to go. We must take care that with our celebration of more than a century, we do not lose the intensity of our passionate commitment to a Pentecostal Movement. It is not just about who we are; it is about what we do as Pentecostal believers. It is about empowerment of twenty-first century believers “on mission” and fully committed to **FINISH the Great Commission!**

We are at a critical juncture in this vision of FINISHING the Great Commission. We must push back on every exhausting tendency to retreat, yield, or give in to the



intimidating tactics of Satan or anyone or any agency he attempts to use in the process. We must set our face like a flint toward the FINISH line and run with patience the race set before us. We must be on and stay “On Mission.”

We must be **The Church on Mission** embracing these essentials:

- ◇ Articulate with clarity our purpose and **organize our resources**
- ◇ Concentrate our focus on the **foundational priorities of Scripture**
- ◇ Commit to be **one global church** with every local church, region, and nation networking together for one common Great Commission purpose.
- ◇ **Synchronize our global strengths** with a missional mindset.

### ◇ **Dedication to a common cause, The FINISH Commitment!**

Here’s the bottom line, time is too short to wait too long. What we do, we must do quickly before Jesus returns, and we can do it because we are commissioned, and we are anointed. We are empowered to accept our mission to “Communicate the full gospel of Jesus Christ in the Spirit and power of Pentecost.” We must, and we can, reach the entire world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are **The Church on Mission!**



### **Watch Now**

*A Church Mobilized for a New Day*

## Turning Kingdom Dollars Into Kingdom Dynamics

In the midst of a COVID world, the Church of God has maintained its commitment to fulfill its mission and vision. The question is, “What will the Church of God International Offices do to stand with and assist the local church and pastors as we move through the pandemic crisis?” Leadership has endeavored to maximize resources and energies to strengthen ministry at every level utilizing every financial avenue to sustain the local church.

As the Church on Mission, we are expanding every opportunity to meet the financial demands of ministry. Throughout the past four years, the Church of God has demonstrated transparency regarding every facet of operations. Dr. Hill, general overseer, says, “I believe we in the Church of God are turning Kingdom dollars into Kingdom dynamics!” Dynamics exemplify vision—moving forward, direction, advancement, mobility. These characterize The Church on Mission and exhibit ministry engagement that is dedicated to sustain, devoted to strengthen, and determined to secure.

- Dedicated to Sustain current budget-allocated efforts that place funds directly into the field.
- Devoted to Strengthen the local church and pastor with further committed auxiliary resources.
- Determined to Secure the future of the church by facing the crises with wisdom, trust in God, and partnership with one another.

Click the button below, which will take you to a resources page containing an article that details how the Church of God is manifesting financial ministry support throughout the pandemic crisis.



### **Visit Now**

*Church of God  
Church on Mission Resources*

FINISH Commitment:

# Harvest & Impact Review

2016 - 2020

With renewed dedication to completing the Great Commission, Church of God ministries in 185 nations, have realized the following ministry outcomes since 2016:



**TOTAL  
MEMBERSHIP  
WORLDWIDE**  
**7,672,375**  
INCREASE OF 305,500

250

**Unreached People  
Groups Reached**

(\*average engagement per year between 2016-2020)



888



**New Church Plants  
North America**

## Spiritual Statistics

Saved

1,262,669

Sanctified

1,065,665

Holy Spirit  
Baptisms

431,048

Water  
Baptisms

268,383

**\$3.8M**  
Distribution of  
Disaster Relief  
Donations

**\$411M**

**Total  
Benevolent  
Ministries  
Donations\***

\*includes in-kind donations

## Credentialed Ministers

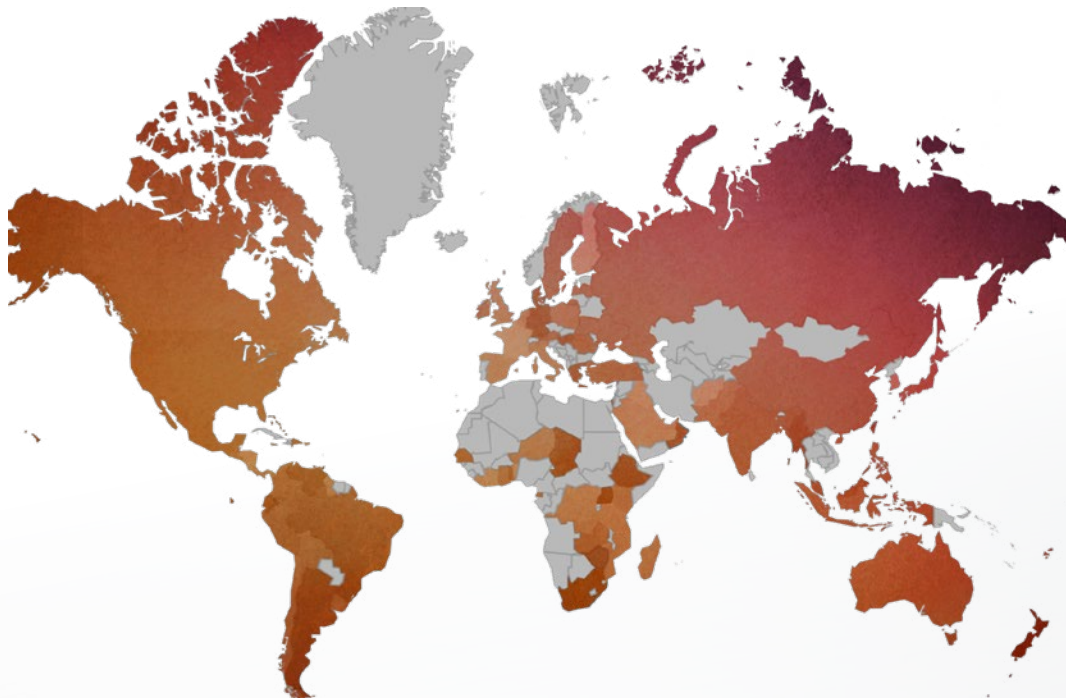
2016  
42,7172020  
46,967

## CHURCHES WORLDWIDE

2016  
38,3022020  
40,551



## #WEPRAYCOG REACHES OVER 100 COUNTRIES!



Over the past four years, prayer has been a primary focus of the FINISH Commitment. #WEPRAYCOG has been the catalyst for the following programs, events, and initiatives of the last 18 months during an unprecedented period:

- **40 Weeks of Prayer**  
(October 2019 - July 2020)
- **5,000 Participating Local Churches**
- **1,500,000 Participating Prayer Partners**
- **Multi-Week Prayer Meetings**  
(numerous local churches)
- **Agree '20**  
(January 13-15, 2020)
- **40 Days of Fasting & Prayer**  
(between Easter & Pentecost Sunday)
- **National Day of Prayer Zoom**  
(May 7, 2020)
- **Prayer Beyond the Walls**  
(prayer for the nations)
- **GO FINISH 2020**  
(May 2020 global outreach)
- **Global Prayer Events**  
(from COGHQ Prayer Garden)





# THE CHURCH

## Has Left The Building

Unprecedented! Uncharted waters! A new normal! These are just a few of the many characterizations given to the year 2020, especially regarding the Covid-19 pandemic. The church has left the building, in many cases for weeks and months, and some have even cancelled in-house services for the rest of the year because the pastor cannot guarantee the safety of the attendees. Many wondered if the church could survive, much less thrive, without the full use of the church facilities. However, during the last several months our pastors and churches have exhibited very creative responses during Stay-at-Home or Shelter-in-Place orders, and God has blessed these efforts.

### The Church Is Stepping Up

#### *To Worship*

Pastors quickly reimagined ways to continue to minister and engage their congregations in worship. No longer do the four walls of the church sanctuary encompass the ministry of the Church of God. Pastors have utilized online tools such as Zoom, Facebook Live, Vimeo, and YouTube, and/or using the parking lot for services, with congregants honking their horns to express their agreement with the pastor's message instead of shouts of "Amen!" Many have developed podcasts, offered daily devotions, or made regular telephone calls to stay connected with their

members. Engagement with the members became more important than attendance.

Those pastors who have opened their buildings for worship have had to adapt to preaching to smaller congregations socially distanced in the building and enact sanitizing protocols to keep the attendees safe. Pastors are now preaching to an in-house congregation, an online congregation, and ministering to those who choose to stay home because of their vulnerability to the virus, but don't have online access. Others are having to shift inside and then back outside as the persons find themselves infected with the virus. This is perhaps one of the most, if not the most, challenging times to be a pastor, and I couldn't be prouder.

#### *To Reach Out*

Many pastors report that neighbors and other people from the community have joined their outside services and been reached with the gospel message. Together with



**Watch Now**

*The Church  
Has Left The Building*



**Drive-In**  
**THIS SUNDAY**  
**APRIL 26TH @ 10AM**  
**BACK PARKING LOT**

ON RADIO 1260AM, 94.9FM  
AND FACEBOOK LIVE

TO LISTEN  
ON THE RADIO  
TUNE INTO  
1260AM

A man in sunglasses is holding a sign that says "TO LISTEN ON THE RADIO TUNE INTO 1260AM". He is standing in front of a building.





those who started watching services online, there has been a dramatic increase of salvations. Statistics reported over the past several months show an uptick in the number of souls saved when compared to the months preceding the pandemic. During the weekend of May 23, 2020, alone, the church participated in the GO FINISH 2020 Challenge and more than 1.5 million people were won to Christ! We are preaching the gospel to more people in more ways than ever before in the history of the church.

### **To Respond to Needs**

There are numerous reports around the country of God opening doors for the church to minister to needs in the community. During the heavy demand but low supplies of face masks, churches handmade face masks and distributed them to local hospitals so nurses and other care givers could protect themselves. Churches shifted food pantry ministries from the fellowship hall to drive-through operations so they could continue to meet the needs of the hungry. Since visitations in hospitals and nursing homes have been forbidden in many cases, pastors have resorted to sending out newsletters and recordings of worship services in addition to making more calls than ever.

Some churches even sponsored car caravans to local hospitals and parked in the parking lot and prayed for the doctors and nurses giving care, as well as the patients suffering from the virus.

### **To Give**

The response of the laity in adapting to at-home services and being faithful in their tithes and offerings is also very encouraging. Many pastors have, in fact, reported an increase in giving and some even report an increase in attendance, although it meant scheduling multiple services. Many churches discontinued passing the offering plates and collected the tithes and offerings at the exit doors as people departed the worship service or initiated online giving. These facts and others testify to the fact that the Church of God is alive and well.

### **To Respond**

The following creative responses to the pandemic have been exhibited by the International Offices and State/Regional offices. These include:

- Making greater use of Zoom, FaceBook Live and other social media means, as well as phone and email connections, to remain in personal contact.
- Providing resources online to assist pastors in dealing locally with the virus and offering weekly training and encouragement sessions.
- Responding promptly to issues such as counting attendance, online giving, reopening questions, dealing with confirmed Covid-19 diagnoses after reopening, CDC guidelines for sanitization, etc., presented through communiques, online posts, and



## ..”during the last several months our pastors and churches have exhibited very creative responses during Stay-at-Home or Shelter-in-Place orders, and God has blessed these efforts.”

Zoom conferences.

- Appropriating funds to assist congregations and underpaid pastors with obligations, as well as developing an application process to access these funds.
- Creating and presenting online youth events aimed at discipleship and keeping the youth connected with both the local church and state programs.
- Initiating prayer conferencing opportunities and live online worship gatherings.
- Maintaining statewide prayer coverings for pastors, congregants, and those infected with the virus.

### The Church Is Breaking Through

Questions are being asked about what the new role of the church should be. Will we ever get back to the way things were before the pandemic? Is God using the pandemic as a tool to move the church's focus to a more missional mindset? Prior to the pandemic, many characterized the church as having fallen into a rut, concentrating primarily on heads and dollars, and the primary energies and focus of the church were on the Sunday morning worship service.

However, the DNA of our church has never been the building of new buildings, or the design of new programs, or even the size of our congregations or coffers. Our DNA is the reaching of the lost, as noted at the first General Assembly, “Strong men wept as they considered the harvest.”

While the world seeks to render the church inconsequential, we have maintained our focus and recommitted to the mission of the Lord Jesus Christ. The mission is why we exist as a church. While the pandemic has hit hard all over the country and the world, the church is breaking through the darkness with vision and passion. Right in the middle of the pandemic, we are still planting

new churches! Additionally, church revitalization projects are being launched all over the country. The church is breaking through!

We are the ecclesia—the called-out ones! The church was never intended to be confined by four walls! At the beginning of 2020, we could see a church in decline, especially in America, but in other parts of the world also. Budgets were being cut, programs were disappearing, and many were asking themselves what the future of the church looked like? Not only were churches in decline, but many ministers were also disillusioned and discouraged, and members were disengaged and wanted little or no accountability or responsibility. Today, in spite of the church closures, and the social distancing and the wearing of masks, the Church is alive and moving forward!

As we face the next two years leading up to the International General Assembly in 2022, God is still challenging us to Finish the Great Commission. It must be more than a slogan or a four-year drive by the church. This is our task, this is why we exist, this is our calling! No one can predict what the church will face in the coming months and years, but we do know Whom we serve, and we also know that He is in charge!



# Staying

# On Mission



**Watch Now**

The Church  
On Mission

When the world seems to be falling apart around us, it is very difficult, and often seems impossible, to stay focused on the mission that God has called us to complete. In recent years, and particularly in the last few months, there has been much to distract us from our mission. We have seen our nation and our world face a pandemic unlike any we have seen in more than 100 years.

We have seen racial strife arise across the country to a level not known in America for more than a half century.

We have experienced catastrophic natural disasters from hurricanes and fires to flooding and massive storms.

In the story of Jesus and Peter walking on the water in Matthew 14, we see Peter confidently walking on the water toward Jesus—as long as he kept his eyes upon Him. However, verse 30 points out that when Peter began to look at the winds and the waves, he became afraid and began to sink, having to call out to the Lord to save him. As long as his focus was on Jesus, he was able to stay on top of the water. It was only after he took his focus off Jesus that he began to sink.

Without question, there have been many distractions that have come our way recently, all trying to take our focus off Jesus. However, it has been in the midst of those storms that Church of God congregations and ministries across America and around the globe have continued to focus and remain on mission to FINISH the Great Commission.

## East Flatbush Church, Brooklyn, NY

Over a decade ago, the East Flatbush congregation saw a need to provide affordable and accessible housing to people in America's largest city. The actualization of that vision began when the local congregation purchased two city blocks, located adjacent to a subway line in Brooklyn. The vision started “coming out of the ground” over a year ago with the beginning of construction on a massive high-rise housing unit. Over the next couple of years, four separate high-rise complexes will be built on those two city blocks, providing more than 500 housing units. Between those four buildings, a new worship center for the East Flatbush church is being constructed.

Workforce development and training, addiction rehabilitation, as well as a variety of other social services, will be offered by the local congregation to those living in the apartment buildings, as well as those in the surrounding community. But most important, the love of Jesus will be preached from the sanctuary to all who will listen.

While the East Flatbush church could have listened to all the stories about the declining economy, they moved forward with the vision that God had given them and remained a church on mission.



Youth and members of the Monte Sinai Church in Minneapolis pray over burned buildings in their city.

## Monte Sinai Church, Minneapolis, MN

Following severe rioting in their city, the Monte Sinai congregation led a coordinated response among Church of God congregations in the area to promote calm, racial reconciliation, and justice in the inner city of Minneapolis. Located literally blocks from the epicenter of the main riots and destruction, the church provided a response with prayer, relief aid, and ministry to those who were hurting.

While many would have used the rioting as a reason to barricade themselves in their homes and stay away from the crisis that was erupting around them, the Monte Sinai Church emphasized the love of Jesus as their city literally burned around them.

In the chaos of the rioting and the racial strife, this Church of God congregation knew that God had given them a vision and a focus for their community and they were not going to allow the powers of hell to destroy the mission that God had given them.

## Bethel Easton Church, Fresno, CA

Although a new church plant, the Bethel Easton church knew that God had placed them in their community to advance the gospel and to plant a life-giving church in the fertile central valley region of California. However, the wildfires that raced across the western part of our country, destroying tens of thousands of acres and homes, threatened to delay the ministry of this new church plant.

The church planters leading the group of believers determined quickly that their church must remain on mission. Immediately, they began to coordinate with other congregations to provide water, diapers, blankets, towels, and other needed supplies to those displaced by the fires, as well as to those who were serving as first responders.

The new congregation at Bethel Easton proved that you do not have to be a long, established church to make a difference. God had called that congregation to be a lighthouse in the central valley of California and they were not going to allow natural disasters to divert them from the mission that God had placed before their church.

## Hurricane Relief Efforts

When a hurricane hits, Church of God disaster relief efforts are often in place and operational well before governmental services arrive. Providing food and water, a hot meal, or a team of construction workers to clear roads or



*God's Pit Crew working to clean up hurricane destruction*

repair churches and homes, the Church of God understands that reaching out to people in need is part of the church's mission.

Led by Operation Compassion, Men and Women of Action, God's Pit Crew, the Beckley Dream Center, Refuel Ministries, and a host of other local relief efforts, Church of God volunteers generally arrive within hours of the devastation, providing assistance and hope to those in need.

Partnering with local churches in the impacted areas, the disaster response efforts are a hands-on outreach, keeping the church on its mission to provide help to those who are hurting.

## Prayer Covering

While there are literally thousands of examples of Church of God congregations and church-related entities staying on mission, none of these efforts would be successful without the prayer covering that comes from those who specifically lift up the name of God to bring salvation, deliverance, and hope to our world.

Each day, there are Church of God congregations around the globe that have committed and dedicated prayer efforts to reach those in need. Some people pray privately, while others pray in large groups. In the Caribbean, there is a zoom call early each morning where literally hundreds pray collectively, using modern technology.

Scripture assures us that if God's people will call upon His name and turn from their wicked ways that He will bring healing to our land (see 2 Chronicles 7:14).

Regardless of how you serve and honor the Lord, we must be about our Father's business. We are on a mission. Our orders are to advance forward—and not to retreat. The church must know and understand our mission, and we must move forward in fulfilling that mission as a part of our goal to FINISH the Great Commission.



## Future Vision

# THE JEREMIAH GENERATION



Since the emergence of COVID-19 in early 2020, we have seen churches scramble to keep services operational, finances stable, and members and attenders connected. Despite being “shut down,” some churches have seen an increase in tithes and offerings, and have even seen some fruitful outreach efforts. However, in the midst of the chaos and uncertainty of a pandemic, has the church effectively continued its ministry to the Jeremiah Generation?

In order to see the church move forward post-COVID, some tough questions must be asked, especially regarding our younger generation. How has the pandemic affected our students? As a church body, are we concerned about all generations or are we focusing more on those who can financially sustain the church during these trying times? How are our students and young people—the Jeremiah Generation—coping with the weight and stress of this difficult season in their lives?

Without a doubt, COVID-19 has forced the church to stop, pivot, and refocus. Church leaders have had to take inventory of where the church has been investing its attention, time, and resources. If we are going to be a Church on Mission, we must be focused on our future and must have measurable goals. Fulfilling and finishing the Great Commission must never leave our focus. More than anything, the pandemic has hopefully caused us to eliminate the unimportant, peripheral matters, and concentrate on reaching the lost with the message of Jesus Christ. Regardless of the makeup of the congregation or the size of the gathering, it has become clearer than ever before that a pastor’s responsibility is to preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified and



“While modern technology is critically important to the younger generation, it cannot take the place of face-to-face human connection and interaction.”

resurrected.

The pulpit cannot be a place for politics, personal opinions, or cultural trends. Instead, it must be the launching pad for the sound waves of the gospel message to reach the darkest corners of the world—and the heart of unbelievers. The salvation message of the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ is for ALL generations, including those younger people we call the Jeremiah Generation.

As we began returning to “in-house” worship following the shutdowns caused by the outbreak of COVID, regrettably many churches stopped all in-person ministry to children and students for fear that they could not safely operate those ministries. Believing that the younger generation is completely technologically driven, churches have placed very little emphasis on the younger age groups connecting in-person. This lack of personal connectivity could turn out to be a grave mistake in the long run. It is dangerous to assume that technology can successfully take the place of in-person worship and connectivity for students. The Jeremiah Generation should be a direct reflection of the Acts 2 church. While the current pandemic is dangerous and caution must be exercised, the church must think beyond digital connectivity for the Jeremiah Generation.

While modern technology is critically important to the younger generation, it cannot take the place of face-to-face human connection and interaction. The church is the *Ekklesia*. Individually and corporately, we were made for community. Alarming, if we forgo that community and seek to minister to the Jeremiah Generation simply through technology and the Internet, the church will be crippled and most likely extremely malnourished within a few years.

No doubt many pastors are doing the best they can under these unprecedented circumstances to keep as many people as possible connected and involved. Their efforts are to be applauded. However, we must specifically address how we can keep our churches connected and in tune with the Jeremiah Generation during these trying times. In many instances, students have been away from their fellow students and peers for months now. Schools were cancelled. Summer camps and sports did not happen. And many students have not been inside their local church for months.

Summer youth camps are one of the greatest tools we have in the Church of God for seeing students saved, sanctified, baptized in the Holy Spirit, called into the ministry, and discipled, yet our students were not able to attend camps this summer. District youth rallies and monthly youth and children's services came to a halt. Statistics and reports show that, among young people, boredom, anxiety, abuse, depression, and suicide are on the rise. Fear and uncertainty have gripped the hearts of many students and children. The emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual toll the pandemic has had, and is having, on our students is great indeed. Many ministry tools, once used successfully to reach students, are now considered unsafe or inaccessible until the pandemic is over.

Even with all this knowledge and with resources limited or unavailable, it is faulty to believe that "virtual church" can sustain the Jeremiah Generation over the long-term. While the church is distracted by social and political maneuvers, it is concerning that the Jeremiah Generation is being left behind and out of the focus and vision of the church. This cannot be. The Jeremiah Generation is important, not only to the church of tomorrow, but also this generation is vital to the church of today.

In light of these concerns, to truly be a *Church on Mission*, we must look at several vital issues regarding the Jeremiah Generation:

1. **Focus**—What should be the focus of the global church going forward as the Church on Mission? Is the focus church planting, leadership training, generational ministry, or a combination of several

of these? Is there a purpose in planting new churches if we are not focusing efforts on our students and children in our current congregations? The resounding response must be that we plant new churches, but also build connectivity with all congregants in our current churches, especially our young people and students. We cannot allow a generation to pass through our church doors without their knowing that the church cares about them and that Jesus Christ gave His life for their redemption.

2. **Spiritual Assimilation**—What can the church do to encourage and strengthen the spiritual well-being of the Jeremiah Generation? Although these young people are not the large givers and tithe payers of the church, the church cannot forget them and let them slip through the proverbial cracks. Until we can once again have dedicated services for our children, teens, and college-age young people, our churches must change their approach to the main service—or "big church"—to incorporate all ages into the worship experience. Every age group must feel welcome and important in the worship service. Funds and vision of the local church must incorporate the Jeremiah Generation.
3. **Discipleship must be paramount.** While the extra family time during the pandemic has been positive in some cases, the truth remains that the majority of parents are overwhelmed by having kids at home every day, all day. With this extra time at home, can we expect parents to disciple their children while

they are alone with them at home? While we would like for that to be the case, over the years we have trained parents to rely on the church to fill this role of providing discipleship training for their students. The church assumed this role because it was obvious that parents were overwhelmed with trying to balance their jobs, school activities, community involvement, and even church attendance. Parents need the support of their church family to help with discipleship training of their students—and they need that assistance even more now during this pandemic.





4. **Zoom or some other type of video conferencing is not the answer.** It is clear from Scriptures that revival started when people came together in one place, not online. Watching on a screen is not the answer. There are too many opportunities and distractions. Remember that young people have been trained to solve all the world's problems in about 22 minutes—the average length of the contents of a normal 30-minute show on Netflix. Sustainable discipleship generally cannot be taught in 22 minutes. Therefore, we must figure out how we can safely offer in-person gatherings for our children and students so that discipleship training can truly occur.
5. **The possibility of cancellation cannot be a reason not to plan events for your students.** Youth leaders and churches must plan events for young people as if the plan will be carried out, but always realizing that they have the option to cancel if the circumstances or health concerns dictate cancellation. While health concerns must always be in our planning discussions, we must not allow our ministry to the Jeremiah Generation to be frozen in place by what “might happen.” We must recognize that our students will never be this age again. The church will never get these days back or get this opportunity again. Therefore, it is important that the Church on Mission start laying out a game plan today to reach and disciple the Jeremiah Generation for the coming weeks and months. We must act with haste and with wisdom.

Working with the Jeremiah Generation during and after the current pandemic is no different than dealing with other age groups. However, we must be intentional in reaching out to, and in discipling, these young people. If not, the church could lose a whole generation of students who became disconnected and disassociated with the church as we know it.

To prohibit this lack of concern and disconnection by the Jeremiah Generation, first, we must determine the fundamental truths that we want to share with this generation so they become firmly rooted in their faith. To



Winterst 2019

resonate with these young people, those fundamental truths must be communicated simply, with authenticity, and with compassion. If not, they will see through our phoniness quickly and discount our words and our deeds as being irrelevant to them.

Secondly, digital/virtual services and events can be used only to supplement in-person gatherings. There is no question that we are to be an Acts 2 church, and we do not need to take our minds away from assembling ourselves together. Do not misread this suggestion. No one should break the law or disregard medical guidelines and advice just to have a church gathering. However, we do need to come up with creative ways to minister in-person to all generations, but especially to the Jeremiah Generation. Hunkering down behind a computer screen until Jesus comes is not the answer. Having discipleship groups of five or six, outside around a firepit, or other places that social distancing can be practiced, are some options.

Finally, we must never forget that the church has the source of hope that the world needs. That hope is also clearly for all generations, not just the older tithe-payers, or the senior adults. The hope is for the Jeremiah Generation also. Because the “source” is the same for all generations, pastors must preach Jesus, preach hope, and then allow the Holy Spirit to guide those who hear the Word to come to a clear understanding of Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

If we are going to truly be a Church on Mission, the Jeremiah Generation must lead the charge, not only in the years to come, but now!

– “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:7)

# THE WORLD IS OUR MISSION







Jesus said on one occasion, “I am the Light of the world.” And, on another occasion, He told His disciples, “YOU are the Light of the World.” In fact, He told them they were a city that was set upon a hill and could not be hid. When we talk about sending the Light, we’re talking about the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the message that Jesus saves and redeems, and changes lives. It’s the message this entire world needs to receive. Jesus has commissioned us to send the message. He has told us to Send the Light, and Church of God World Missions is poised to do exactly that!

### Overview of Ministry

The most recent statistics (September 1, 2018 through August 2020) show ongoing works in 185 countries of the world, including the United States and Canada. There are **33,968 churches**, **4,286 missions**, and **6,451,637 members** (not including the United States and Canada).

According to the Assistant Director of World Missions, Dr. M. Thomas Propes, we have **225 missionaries** from the United States serving abroad, and **337 missionaries** serving from other countries. These missionaries deliver the message of hope in Jesus Christ and disciple new converts. This message is delivered through preaching, teaching, feeding a hungry child, tending a medical need, occupational training, just to name a few. Your partnership with our missionaries allows them to “go into all the world.”

There are **112 Bible schools, colleges, and universities** serving all field areas. We are teaching and training **35,399 students**, who plant churches, disciple believers and bring hope.

In an unprecedented period in the midst of a pandemic shutdown, we have seen **102,209 conversions**. That means people have found Jesus as Lord and Savior when churches were being shut down and ministry was occurring in streets, parking lots, and homes. There have



**Watch Now**

Food  
Crisis Support



# SEND THE Light



been **190,111 sanctified, 69,005 baptized in the Holy Spirit**, and **34,946 baptized in water**.

To God be the honor and praise for what He's doing through churches, missionaries, pastors, evangelists, and laymen who have the burden to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ! THIS is what Church of God World Missions is all about. We're about winning the world for Jesus and Finishing the Great Commission that He has left us with!

## Send Light to the Cities Project

Approximately four and a half years ago, the Lord gave us a burden and a mission to Send the Light to the major cities of this world. Because of your commitment to finish the Great Commission, we've seen a miracle take place. This leading World Missions project has raised over **2.8 million dollars** as people have chosen to Send the Light to the cities.

A sobering truth is **55 percent of the world's population live within cities**. Sending God's light into cities means we can share the Gospel with more people! The concept is to plant a church that will birth more churches, train, equip, and resource more church planters to establish churches in those great metropolises.

Working in conjunction with our five field directors of COGWM, we identified some of the darkest cities on this planet. They're darkened by sin, darkened by hopelessness, darkened by despair, darkened by the work of the evil one.

But the Bible says, "Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth!" Just a tiny spark can light up a great, dark region.

Send Light to the Cities Project Cities:

**Amsterdam, Netherlands**  
**Bangkok, Thailand**  
**Georgetown, Guyana**  
**Lusaka Zambia**  
**Lome, Togo**  
**Manila, Philippines**  
**Mexico City, Mexico**  
**Moscow, Russia**  
**Paris, France**  
**Prague, Czech Republic**  
**Sao Paulo, Brazil**

Watch the Send Light to the Cities project update below:



**Watch Now**

*Send Light  
To the Cities*

# To God be the honor and praise for what He's doing through churches, missionaries, pastors, evangelists, and laymen who have the burden to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

At the 2018 General Assembly, three new cities of the world were added to this project.

**Buenos Aires, Argentina**  
**Edinburgh, Scotland**  
**Tokyo, Japan**

## Christ's Birthday Offering Food Crisis Relief

During the COVID pandemic, the worldwide shutdown and quarantine took jobs in every field area of the world. Pastors' families have existed on what they could grow. Many calls for assistance have come because the ability to provide was taken, leaving faith in God and the mercy of His people to lean on.

In 2020, individuals and congregations, states and regions of the Church of God family responded to this need. You have given \$500,000. to provide food and water for pastors and their families. In turn, many pastors have shared out of their allotment with their communities, bringing others, not only hope, but salvation.

## World Missions' FINISH Strategy

We are committed to:

**F**OCUS on the Light;  
**I**NVADE the Darkness;  
**N**AVIGATE the Needs;  
**I**NTERCEDE for Souls;  
**S**END the Light;  
**H**EAL the Nations

**This Little Light of Mine** focuses on aiding already existing projects geared toward children. We offer a free curriculum to help you teach your kids about missions. We're all about kids helping kids! More information is found at [tllom.org](http://tllom.org).



Three of the seven *This Little Light of Mine* projects

Dr. David M. Griffis, WM General Director casts this vision: "Prayer is needed as never before, because the world is getting more evil and wicked. Is there more money to be raised? Absolutely! Money is needed to complete the projects. I believe God sees our efforts and when we put forth the effort, God honors that. For years, I had a theme in my ministry, my life ... I still have it. That theme is: *When we reach out, God reaches in.* When you reach out with your giving, your compassion, your care, your concern, God reaches in and honors that giving and God honors that concern.

"Go into all the world." The world is our mission!





# RACIAL DIVERSITY

## A VISIONAL COMMITMENT

During 2020, people around the world have been immersed in developing current events. COVID-19 pandemic and its global impact and questions about the future, political polarity, economic stress, and the dramatic shifts of racial unrest have sparked attention to integral issues facing the world, and the church. A primary focus has been the reality of racism, injustice, and racial diversity in every facet of life.

Populations in the United States are growing more racially and ethnically diverse both in the general population and in religious groups. Generally, a number of people groups including White, Hispanic/Latino, African Descent, Asians, other races, and mixed-races qualifies religious racial diversity. Racial diversity understands that every individual is unique. It should provide for the representative inclusion of different races and cultures in an organization. In 2000, the Church of God General Assembly adopted a resolution, Racism and Ethnic Disparity that states, "...the Church of God from its inception has contended to be inclusive of peoples regardless of gender, cultural background or race." The resolution states further, the "International General Assembly recognizes all members of the body of Christ as equal in function and consequence, and every race and ethnic distinction a valuable and necessary field for the winning of souls and the furtherance of the kingdom of God."

However, reality demonstrates racism. Racism practices

prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against a person or group of people based upon their membership in a particular racial or ethnic group. The Racism and Ethnic Disparity resolution clearly states the position of the Church of God, "We commit towards the elimination of racism and bigotry, corporately identifying racism and bigotry as sinful hindrances which prevent us from truly realizing brotherhood and Christian love within and outside the body of the international church."

Dr. Timothy Hill, general overseer, states emphatically, "Racism is sin! God despises it! It is not a matter of 'we must do better.' Instead, it is a matter that all people are created equal. People of all races must be protected, respected and able to live without fear. Racism is an affront to the value of individuals created in God's image and to the divinely designed diversity of redeemed humanity. I unequivocally condemn racist acts against any and all people. Such actions are something that should not be tolerated by a God-fearing society. Every man, woman, boy and girl are created in the image of God. Regardless of race, color, creed, or national origin, every living person has a soul; therefore, we are all His children."

As the Church of God envisions the future, it reinforces the action of the General Assembly intentionally engaging racial diversity as a visional commitment. We understand the past and its implications; however, we must actualize the present evaluating where we are and what we are doing,

and, as a result, we anticipate and implement actions that provide greater racial diversity throughout the structure of the Church of God.

Comprehending the scope of racial diversity and exhibiting proactive actions, the Church of God Executive Committee appointed three study groups to address racial and ethnic issues. These included the following: Intercultural Advancement Task Force, Administrative Commission for African Descent Ministries, and Advisory Council on African Descent Ministries.

In October 2020, the Executive Committee affirmed the Intercultural Advancement Office (IAO). The mission and vision of the IAO is to advance the Great Commission among different people groups by networking and collaborating with representatives of all ethnicities. Special emphasis will be given to people of African, Asian, European, and Latino descent. This office functions within the coalition of Mission North America ministries in the Division of World Evangelization expressing the diversity and inclusivity of our missional mandate. The director of the Office of Intercultural Ministries will be a person of color. Some of the objectives of the IAO include the following:

- Collaborate with Church of God leaders and ministries to create and implement pathways that will improve relationships, recognition, involvement and inclusion of ethnic people groups, ministers, and congregations.
- Gather information of ethnic ministers and churches to make connections with Administrative Bishops for the purpose that all may be recognized and included in state and regional processes, training, and special events.
- Highlight and celebrate success stories of ministers and ministries within ethnic communities. Make recommendations of faithful and qualified ethnic leaders to the International Executive Committee for possible ministry opportunities.

Also in October 2020, the Executive Committee appointed the Administrative Commission for African Descent Ministries. The commission partners in ministry with the Director of the Intercultural Advancement Office within the coalition of Mission North America ministries in the Division of World Evangelization. The main responsibilities include the following:

- Offer ideas and suggestions for implementing a holistic strategy that edifies and affirms churches and ministers of African descent.

- Celebrate, endorse and promote the gifts, leadership and contributions of ministers of African descent in the Church of God.
- Partner with the Director of Intercultural Ministries in creating and delivering innovative concepts, ideas to improve in the areas of communications, education, recruitment and training of new leaders, and make recommendations of qualified, proven leaders of African descent to the International Executive Committee for ministry opportunities.

Further, the International Executive Committee appointed the Advisory Council on African Descent Ministries. The Advisory Council functions under the direction of the Intercultural Advancement Office within the coalition of Mission North America ministries in the Division of World Evangelization. The main responsibilities include the following:

- Offer assessment in determining the essential needs and matters that affect the diversified communities of African descent.
- Collaborate with the Division of Education concerning the missional understandings and opportunities to ministry and further the educational enterprises of the global Church of God.
- Recruit, resource, reproduce and retain healthy, high-potential leaders within the community of African descent for ministry and leadership opportunities to the church at large.

In addition, the International Executive Committee expanded the appointment of African descent representatives to all boards and committees. They also convened connection with Administrative Bishops of African descent for their insights and feedback as the Church of God engages its visional commitment to racial diversity.

The year 2020 will not be forgotten! However, may this year also be remembered as a milestone in the proactive decisions of the Church of God addressing key issues such as racial diversity by embracing the greatest resource of the church—its people! We are a ***Church on Mission!*** Concentrated on the future, let us meet the challenge of racial diversity with a visional commitment uniting all the people of the Church of God as one global church networking for one common Great Commission purpose. Just as on the Day of Pentecost, may we experience a first century outpouring of the Holy Spirit empowered to be ***The Church on Mission!***



## WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

# Visionaries of Healing & Transformation

Elizabeth, Mary, Martha and a host of other women throughout Scripture were instrumental in advancing the mission of the early church.

Church of God International Women's Ministries join these women of faith by continuing to embrace the Great Commission. Led by director Paula Hill, and assisted by Peggy Culpepper, Joyce Stephens, Fernanda Ramírez, and Debbie Childers, the vision of Church of God International Women's Ministries is: "To love like Jesus loved while touching the lives of women and children around the globe."

Ministry and fundraising efforts over the past four years, sponsored by Women's Ministries and called "Women With a Mission" (WWAM), have focused on the health, safety, and well-being of young mothers and children. In recent years and in numerous nations such as India, Columbia, Haiti, and closer to home in the inner city of Atlanta, Church of God women have ministered healing and care to untold thousands of hurting women and children. From the earliest days of Church of God history, Women's Ministries has helped fund global ministry with millions of dollars in financial and benevolent resources.

Between 2016 and 2018, Church of God women raised more than \$567,000 to build a protective home for young women and mothers in Cota, Columbia. Not only were the

funds used for construction of the project called "Hope Release," but financial resources were also used to purchase classroom supplies and necessary equipment needed to teach those housed within the home.

The 2018–2020 Women's Ministries project focused on the "House of Cherith," part of the City of Refuge ministry within the inner city of Atlanta. This vital project provides housing and recuperative care for mothers and children who have been exploited or exposed to sex trafficking. To date, more than \$500,000 has been raised for this project, and Women's Ministries will continue the project through 2022, looking to raise additional funds to build a second home as part of the House of Cherith ministry efforts.

In addition to raising funds for a second home within Atlanta's City of Refuge, Church of God women have committed to raise another \$50,000 in 2021 to assist the Ngoswani Community Health Center in completing a care facility for women and children in Kenya. In this clinic, prenatal and postnatal care, wellness checks, and other services are made available to women and children at no cost. This ministry, offering services that have been largely unavailable in this impoverished area, will literally save the lives of countless women and children.

"Faith, Fire, Freedom" celebrations were conducted



Members of the Women's Ministries Advisory Council (l-r) Paula Hill, Joyce Stephens and Debbie Childers, join House of Cherith leaders Kelsi Deal (left) and Bruce Deel as they cut the ribbon on the "Mommy and Me" project.



throughout the United States, the Bahamas, and other global locations, including a special gathering at the 2018 International General Assembly.

Thousands participated in these unique services designed especially for women. An undeniable anointing is present when women from around the globe gather with the singular purpose of worship and praising our Lord and Savior.

Most important, Church of God women have continued to pursue the Great Commission, never forgetting God's commandment to make disciples of all people. These dedicated women of God have put action to their faith and are fulfilling the mission and vision to reach "the least of these," all as part of the "Church on Mission."



# Mobilizing the Mission



Since 2016, the Church of God has embraced the FINISH Commitment to complete the Great Commission. To carry out this God-ordained task, we cannot lose focus. As we are now fully into the new decade, the Church of God has an opportunity to launch into a new level of global ministry and become The Church on Mission.

In order to enter the next step in a foundation for Great Commission success—and completion—for the next ten years, we must continue building on the FINISH Commitment. In summary, we must plot visional goals as we pursue challenges and dreams of what our movement can accomplish.

## To get there, we must . . .

- **ACCELERATE** spiritual renewal through reading the Word, and Christian discipleship, launching and cultivating curriculum and prayer initiatives; and
- **ADVANCE** local church membership through revitalization, seeking to achieve an ambitious goal of 10 million members in the ensuing decade . . . but more important, realizing 10 million souls born into the kingdom of heaven; and
- **ACTIVATE** budget “missionality” by seeking new income streams to create long-term financial success; and
- **ACHIEVE** debt elimination with focused financial stewardship, freeing resources for Kingdom advancement; and
- **ACQUIRE** an endowment dedicated solely to church planting, looking to grow the Church Planting Bank to at least \$3.5 million; and
- **ATTAIN** optimum ministerial effectiveness with resourced training, providing for both ministry and laity; and finally
- **ASSIST** in identifying and empowering new generations through purposed engagement, committing to utilize every means of technology, communication, and connection.

**As we bathe each challenge in prayer, the Holy Spirit will empower us for this season. If we stay focused, we will FINISH the Great Commission. The Church on Mission is our framework for the future!**



Even though the 78th International General Assembly was postponed, appointments to boards, committees and other offices were made for the 2020-2022 period. Click the button to the right to access the link to download the documents and find other helpful resources.



# SAVE THE DATE GA22

## San Antonio, Texas

78TH INTERNATIONAL  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCH OF GOD

Following the unprecedented decision to postpone the 2020 General Assembly from Indianapolis, Indiana, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Church of God is happy to announce the new location as San Antonio, Texas, one of the favorite Assembly destinations of the past.

Make your plans now to attend this history-making Assembly as we seek to be The Church on Mission to FINISH the Great Commission!

**JULY 25-29  
2022**







# FINISH COMMITMENT

A VISION OF GLOBAL IMPACT FOR THE CHURCH OF GOD

*The Church On Mission*

A PRIORITY REVIEW OF MISSION AND VISION  
2020 - 2022



DR. JOHN D. CHILDERS  
SECRETARY GENERAL

DR. RAYMOND F. CULPEPPER  
FIRST ASSISTANT  
GENERAL OVERSEER

DR. TIMOTHY M. HILL  
GENERAL OVERSEER

DR. J. DAVID STEPHENS  
SECOND ASSISTANT  
GENERAL OVERSEER

DR. DAVID E. RAMIREZ  
THIRD ASSISTANT  
GENERAL OVERSEER

CHURCH OF GOD INTERNATIONAL OFFICES  
CLEVELAND, TENNESSEE

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