

WHITE WING MESSENGER

MARCH 2024

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY



THE **EXTRAVAGANT**
WORK OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT

MARCH MISSION DRIVE

Christmas T H A N K S

HAITI

Many thanks!

A heartfelt thank you to all churches, groups, and individuals who contributed so generously to the organization of this special dinner for our beneficiaries in Haiti.

Because of you, we (children and staff) were able to spend a wonderful time together to close the year 2023. You have brightened the lives of our 58 children in Haiti. The leadership team is eternally grateful.

Thank you! Merci!

The COGOP Orphanage in Haiti wishes you all the best for 2024!



INDONESIA

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for providing us with a Christmas offering. We must say, it was a happy surprise for us. You went above and beyond and showed us your love for the orphanage's children. Your kindness and generosity were very special to us, and we are forever grateful to you.



We always tell our kids about our COGOP family, and we know that they feel motivated by your dedication and efforts towards the work and ministry with children. We realize that we can't thank you enough for your help and support for Indonesia, but please know that we are grateful for your generosity.

Once again, a huge thank you from us. We sincerely appreciate your kind act and consideration of us. May God bless you.

RWANDA

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters.

Merry Christmas once again. This year we had a special Christmas for our children where we gave them new clothes, new shoes, and gifts. In addition to this, they ate cake and shared food. The children at the home were so happy to connect with neighboring kids, playing games together, sharing Bible stories, and singing Christmas songs. It was really a great time.



May the good Lord bless everyone who took part in this celebration.

INDIA

The children at the Grace Home and Mission Home want to say a huge thank you to you! Your kindness means the world to us. Your support gives us a brighter future and fills our days with happiness. As this new year begins, we wish to send you warm wishes for joy, love, and success. Thank you for being our heroes and for making our lives better. Have a wonderful new year!



MALI

A big thanks to all of you! We wish you a happy New Year!



NEPAL

Greetings to you all from Nepal. Merry Christmas and happy New Year for 2024!

Thank you for your prayers, support, and love. God bless you all abundantly.



UKRAINE

We hope you had a wonderful Christmas! Thanks to you, we were able to bring joy to our children with gifts. It was such a special time for the kids, especially since they live with the constant sounds of sirens, and many with the sounds of explosions.

Thank you for your prayers and support. Blessings to you in this new year!



WHITE WING MESSENGER

WE BELIEVE in the Holy Trinity—one God, eternally existing in Three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We believe in one God, the Father, creator of heaven and earth, of all things seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father. All things were made through Him and for Him. He is true God and true man. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and was born of the virgin, Mary. He suffered, died, was buried, and on the third day He rose from the dead. He ascended to the right hand of the Father, and He will return to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who eternally proceeds from the Father. He is Teacher, Comforter, Helper, and Giver of spiritual gifts. Through Him the saving and sanctifying works of Jesus Christ are applied to the life of believers. He is the empowering presence of God in the life of the Christian and the church. The Father has sent His Son to baptize with the Holy Spirit. Speaking in tongues and bearing the fruit of the Spirit are New Testament signs of being filled with the Holy Spirit.

We believe that salvation is by grace through faith in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ on the cross and that He died in our place. The believer's sins are forgiven by the shedding of His blood. We believe that healing of mind, body, soul, and spirit is available to the believer through the blood of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. We believe in one baptism in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that the grace of God brings forgiveness and reconciliation to those who repent, as well as transformation in holiness, enabling them to live a Christ-like life. Sanctification is both a definite work of grace and a lifelong process of change in the believer brought by the blood of Jesus, the Word of God, and the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.

We believe in one holy, universal church, composed of all true believers in Jesus Christ, offering fellowship and calling for service to men and women of all races, nations, cultures, and languages. We believe in the spiritual and ultimate visible unity of the church.

We believe that the Bible—both Old and New Testaments—is the inspired Word of God. The Bible is God's revelation of Himself and His will to humankind, sufficient for instruction in salvation and daily Christian living. The Bible is the Christian's rule of faith and practice.

We believe that God will ultimately reconcile all things in heaven and earth in Christ. Therefore, we look forward to new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

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About the Church of God of Prophecy
The Church of God of Prophecy is a vibrant, worldwide body of believers, united in worship, working hand-in-hand to share God's love and a message of hope to the brokenhearted. The organization has more than a million members and more than 10,000 ministers, worshiping in more than 10,000 churches or missions in 135 nations of the world.

Church of God of Prophecy Core Values

- Prayer
- The Harvest
- Leadership Development
- Biblical Stewardship
- Service

Vision Statement

Reconciling the world to Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit

Mission Statement

The Church of God of Prophecy is a Christ-exalting, holiness, Spirit-filled, all-nations, disciple-making, church-planting movement with passion for Christian union.

General Presbytery:

Tim Coalter: Presiding Bishop
Brian Sutton: North America
Clayton Endecott: Wider Europe and the Middle East
Benjamin Feliz: Mexico/Central America/
Spanish-Speaking Caribbean
Clayton Martin: Caribbean/Atlantic
Ocean Islands
James Kolawole: Africa
Tim McCaleb: Asia/Australia/Oceania
Gabriel E. Vidal: South America

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FACING FORWARD

Global Missions: Mission Giving

Thank you for giving to missions. In the last 10 years, giving to missions through the International Offices has exceeded 22 million dollars. Through the collective generosity of our churches, we are doing more and reaching further than any of us could do by ourselves. Together, our giving is making a difference around the world as we labor to reconcile the world to Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Etched in my childhood memory is an unusual act of generosity. Our family was attending a convention hundreds of miles from our home when my father felt directed by the Spirit to donate our family car to missions. After wrestling with this idea throughout the night, I watched the next morning as he surrendered the keys to the car during the mission service. Not everyone will be asked to give their car, but all of us have been asked to give.

The mission of the early church was dependent, in part, on the collective generosity of the believers. In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul encouraged the church to excel in their giving while expressing his heartfelt thanks for their generosity:

Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do. (2 Corinthians 8:1–5 NLT)

As noted in this passage, our giving is more than just an expression of our own kindness; it is a reflection of what God, in his kindness, is doing through the churches. What a sobering thought that God is working through his church to reveal himself to the world. We are the mirror of God, reflecting his love and kindness to those in need. We do not give to demonstrate our kindness, but his.



Tim Coalter
Presiding Bishop

The Corinthian believers were being tested by many troubles and were very poor, yet they were also filled with abundant joy, which overflowed in rich generosity. They begged again and again to share in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. To experience trouble and poverty while at the same time being filled with abundant joy is not a conflicting idea. In my engagement with our church family, I have been blessed to see overflowing joy in some of the most troubled and poverty-stricken areas of the world. Such joy cannot be contained. It overflows in rich generosity. We are a testament that joyful churches are giving churches. As with the believers at Corinth,

many of our people give of their own free will far more than they can afford. When I see such generosity among our people, my heart is enriched.

In the early church the emphasis was never about money. These Corinthian saints had given themselves first to the Lord and to the greater good of the church. Then, as an overflow of their love and commitment, they were eager to give of their resources. Purse strings are so often attached to heartstrings. We have wonderful people all over the world who give liberally because they love the Lord and believe in the ministries and efforts of this church.

Paul said, "Here is my advice: It would be good for you to finish what you started a year ago. Last year you were the first who wanted to give, and you were the first to begin doing it. Now you should finish what you started. Let the eagerness you showed in the beginning be matched now by your giving. Give in proportion to what you have" (2 Corinthians 8:10–11).

The mission is still great, and the needs are greater than our resources, so I share Paul's counsel; let us finish what we started with the same eagerness that moved us in the beginning.

Someone once said that giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference. This is what you are doing—you are making a difference. Thank you for loving the Lord, loving this church, and giving generously to reach a world that so desperately needs the Savior.

CONNECTIONS

Ukraine Youth Conference

Praise the Lord!!!

From January 9 to January 13, 2024, the young people of our churches spent an unforgettable time at a youth camp in the Carpathian Mountains in the picturesque city of Slavske. These were five unforgettable days of active recreation and entertainment, but most importantly, God's care and love were manifested every moment. Young people had the opportunity to learn more about Jesus and his will for their future and for all of Ukraine.

We express our great gratitude to our entire COGOP family for inspiration, prayer, and financial support.

May the Lord abundantly bless everyone who made this project possible with God's help!

Glory to Jesus Christ!

National Bishop Gena Kernazhytski



THE **EXTRAVAGANT** **WORK** OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



Cathy Payne, DMin
Global Missions
Ministries Coordinator

Recently I had the incredible privilege to be on the front line of a national ministry to witness the excellence of prepared ministry and the responding, extravagant work of the Holy Spirit among God's people. I was richly blessed and uniquely anointed for the necessary work that had brought me there and the ministry opportunity afforded me.

Research indicates that this particular country is normally listed among third-world nations. It registers one of the lowest human development indexes among the nations and is recognized as non-industrialized and economically poor.

What I noticed in the hours and days spent travelling across the nation was underdeveloped roadways or roadways that were works in progress. I saw many small villages with meager living conditions and few progressive cities with developed buildings or city planning. I witnessed the abuse of beautiful and natural resources crudely traded for elements of basic survival.

Traveling home, I contemplated the limitations of my global church family who live in considerably more difficult surroundings than I enjoy in my nation. I was also reminded of the lavish outpouring of the Holy Spirit that I personally witnessed and experienced—a fire and passion that compels us to come, seek, follow, and obey with complete surrender. As I reflected



upon all I had seen while there and the many previous and comparable experiences I have enjoyed through the years, I was overwhelmed by the extravagant work of the Holy Spirit among his people who are actively seeking to experience more of the Lord in ultimate abandon.

Researching Bible narratives that I have read and upon which I have expounded, I am reminded that God always has a **plan** for active call into ministry—a plan of action that impacts a change in life or one that leads to a more intimate relationship in him. As I remember the narrative found in Genesis 22 and witness Abraham's determined obedience to the command of God, I also remember a youth convention early in our marriage that would redefine our lives and service to God. The plan included an invitation and a calling—one that would take us from our "ordinary" and lead us to his "extraordinary."

God always has a point of **preparation** for the plan. In Samaria, it was at a well with a woman who would be used to change the destiny for a city. In the desert, it was a pool that provided baptism for a man who would be used to change a nation. For an anointed father and leader, it was a mountain named Moriah where he would surrender everything for the plan of God—a place where only the providence of God would allow him to trust beyond the impossible. For us, it was leaving the fenced home and the security of employment to chase faith. And in this recent national ministry, it led a fellowship of people to believe an empty field was the preparation for the miraculous to rise from the dust to house a national explosion of the Holy Spirit! And we indeed experienced the miraculous response to faith. Three years previous,

there was a plan and a shell, but now there is an in-progress multipurpose facility that houses and ministers to thousands, nothing short of the miraculous.

The work of the Spirit does not leave you with just the plan and the preparation. The extravagance of God generates **provision**. There was not just a well nor just a pond, but there was purposed water. There was not just a mountain; there was wood, fire, rope, a knife, and a ram—all provided for a purpose. Where the Holy Spirit leads, there is the miraculous provision to accomplish what has been destined. John and I never experienced complete lack; the provision and extravagant anointing serendipitously ran ahead of us for more than 50 years of joyful and miraculous ministry. And within the perceived limitations of a third-world nation, we celebrated the limitless anointing through the mighty Word of God, the wealth of fellowship in the holy place of prayer, and the explosive worship that refreshes and electrifies dry bones and broken spirits.

However, there is more than plan, preparation, and provision; the essential element of the extravagance of the Holy Spirit is **presence**. The Father begins the Testament with presence: "I am with you" (Genesis 28:15). Jesus continues in the second Testament: "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). The presence dwells from the cool of the Garden, through the prophets and the Incarnation, and remains with us through the extravagant gift of the Holy Spirit present within us (John 16:7)—the guide, the voice, the teacher, the revealer, the worker of the miraculous, the Comforter, the one who calls from the last book, "Come!"

My discovery in this detached world was not improved through the beautiful and comforting trappings of the Western necessities that have been a part of my experience. Rather, it was enhanced by the emerging, extravagant expression and outpouring of the work of the Holy Spirit in this present day through the surrendered and empowered vessels of service who are seeking the plan, preparation, provision, and presence of God.

The invitation continues. He invites, "Come be with me, follow me, experience me!" His outpouring is happening right now globally! We cannot miss the compelling invitation to come, seek, follow, and participate in the extravagant work of the Holy Spirit.



WIDER EUROPE AND MIDDLE EAST



Bishop Clayton Endecott
Wider Europe and
Middle East
General Presbyter

Cyprus

Finland

Hungary

Romania

Slovakia

MDP in Wider Europe and Middle East

God is doing something new in Wider Europe and Middle East! With ongoing translation of the *Foundations: Minister's Development Program* into various languages of the region, people are being trained to become more effective in the ministry.

- France's MDP is well on its way, and we are expecting the first graduates soon.
- The United Kingdom is moving forward in training their people with more than 200 students in four groups.
- Spain has just started their training in various locations, employing different methods of delivering the lessons to their students.
- Both Belarus and Ukraine are finding ways to implement our MDP training in sometimes trying circumstances.
- Germany has started their MDP training and looks forward to having their first graduates soon.
- Egypt has successfully conducted its first week-long MDP conference, gathering pastors from all over the country to experience fellowship, teaching, and formation.
- Finland is eager to participate in our MDP program and is finding ways to connect with other countries.
- We are hoping to start our training in the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, and Hungary this year as well, in an effort to equip our people to better serve God's kingdom.

As we move forward in being equipped to reconcile the world to Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, please partner with us and remember our region in prayer.

Please enjoy the following updates of ministries throughout the Wider Europe and Middle East Region.



Update on Ministries



Cyprus

The local church of Nicosia has a congregation of around 100 people. It is located in the central area of Nicosia, and its history goes back to the middle of the 20th century. Its present building complex is quite large and is a testament to the great blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ. Currently, our active ministries are in the areas of worship and praise, youth, corporate prayer, house groups, women's ministries, and children's ministries.

Our goal for the coming season is to strengthen the current ministries and expand to new ministries, and further develop the relationship between the various ministries and the local leadership, as well as provide discipleship and relevant teaching. Following our Lord's command to evangelize the world, we will work on new openings to reach our society, keeping in mind our current social, cultural, and technological context. To this end, we aim to develop and utilize our building facilities in ways that will reflect our vision for the church and the world around us.

We ask that you join us as we pray that the Lord will give us strength and fresh revelation to fulfill our calling and mission.

In Christ Jesus,

Xenios Xeni, Senior Pastor

Zenonas Tziarras, Assistant Pastor

Note from Bishop Endecott:

This church and building hosted our family from Israel for two weeks, giving them a break from the war, and have been in constant contact to help them return if needed.



Finland

The Link Church (COGOP)

Our members and friends of the church are scattered in different parts of Finland, but we all try to get together for church services as often as possible.

We continue having house group services in many homes on a weekly basis. We have also been blessed to have guest speakers in our services from many different countries via the internet. If you would like to be our guest speaker, please contact our pastor, Simo Tuominen (information provided from Global Missions Ministries).



Hungary

Glory to God! Our churches in Hungary are very active spreading the good news of Jesus Christ through street and tent evangelism with deliverance and healing ministries. Several new mission and home churches have been established in the areas south and east of Budapest, the capital city of Hungary.

The Lord led the church to several outreaches into the city of Karcag, where the Holy Spirit has been powerfully at work. Many people received new life through Jesus, and Pastor Oliver Forizs and his team baptized many new believers. Praise be to God! They found a meeting place for them in Karcag and just opened a new church. They also rented a large hall in the center of Budapest and invited others to a well-attended gospel campaign with the vision to plant a church in the capital city in the future. In the last weeks, the ladies came together for a ladies' conference to be strengthened in their walk with the Lord. A church and leadership conference was organized in the city of Jaszbereny, where a Church of God of Prophecy team from the USA and Germany served and built relationships with everyone.

With the support of our international church family, Pastor Oliver Forizs and the church in the city of Jaszapati

Slovakia

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is great news that we were able to open a new Church of God of Prophecy church in Slovakia.

It is the first congregation for our church there, and it was planted because of the courage, faith, and boldness of brothers and sisters from Bulgaria and Central Europe. We appointed a pastor there, and now we believe that the church will grow, other new churches will be formed, and God's kingdom will expand. Thank you for your support, prayers, and for the harvest to come.

With His Love,

Petr Szlaur

Czech Republic and Poland
National Bishop



Update on Ministries Continued

offered a summer Kids Camp for the first time. Many new kids from the neighborhood experienced an unforgettable time with lots of fun, fellowship, and most importantly, God's love and care for them. The children's ministry leaders are planning now to offer such summer camps for the kids in Hungary every year.

We are thankful for Kirk Rising, our International Youth Ministry, and our churches in the United Kingdom, who supported the youth from Hungary so that they could participate in the youth conference, Get Plugged In, in Prague, Czech Republic. There they built great friendships and experienced life-changing transformation to further grow in their relationship with Jesus.

Some of the young people also joined the summer Youth Camp in Germany. Inspired by our youth ministries in Europe, Pastor Laszlo Rupa, leading pastor of Hungary, together with his team of young leaders from Kunszentmiklos, started a new weekly youth group in his area. The church in Hungary also reaches out to many other cities and Hungarians beyond the border and is planning for MDP trainings in Hungary in 2024. Please pray for the pastors and their families, the leaders, the outreaches and new missions, and the new youth and children ministries in Hungary.



Romania

In a world where we are bombarded with a plethora of information, opinions, advice, and even sermons on social networks, God's children must seek depth and light from God through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and through his Word. This seeking helps in discerning God's will and in working towards being victorious in everything.

In an effort to encourage this, we have named this year as the "Year of the Bible." This year we want every child of God in the local church to be able to feed himself/herself, to grow by faith in the pure Word of God, and to walk with the Lord. We thank the Lord because his Word is alive and active.

This year, by God's mercy, two people, to whom God spoke and who wanted to dedicate themselves and follow our Lord and Redeemer, will be baptized.

We pray that God blesses the Church of God of Prophecy churches all over the world, and that they grow and honor God.

Grace and peace from God,
Pastor Daniel Vasii



ASIA, AUSTRALIA, AND OCEANIA



Bishop Tim McCaleb, DMin
Asia, Australia,
and Oceania
General Presbyter

In Luke 21:1–6, the evangelist puts two events back-to-back which demonstrate a great difference in what people admire as opposed to what God values. Both stories take place within the temple complex and involve riches and poverty. In the first four verses, Jesus' attention is drawn to a widow who lived in extreme poverty, yet she cast all that she had into the treasury. This is in contrast to what the rich were giving. Jesus notes that while they gave from their abundance, she gave out of her poverty. Her giving reflected a great love for God and a trust that he would take care of her.

The second incident occurs in verses five and six as Jesus and his disciples are exiting the temple complex. The disciples called attention to the grandeur of the temple—its stones and how it was ornately adorned. Jesus showed no remorse when he simply declared that it would all be torn down and destroyed.

Jesus was captivated by the poorest of the poor while the disciples were enamored with the enormous size, beauty, and the architecture of the temple complex. Throughout the Christian era, the church has often continued to misplace enormous value on things that will perish while failing to treasure the riches of God in the orphan, widow, and stranger among us. However, I am thankful that throughout Asia, Australia, and Oceania, the COGOP has leaders that carry a great burden for reaching out to the disadvantaged. They minister to children, orphans, widows, and the poor. They have used the money sent to them through the mission department to share food, oil, and other necessities with those around them. Many of our godly leaders have fearlessly ministered to those in need, sharing with them the blessing they had received from our International Offices. Because of the faithful giving of our members, pastors, and churches, they have “run into the plague” with genuine acts of kindness. In doing so, they have preached the gospel in new and effective ways.

May God richly bless all who have continued to give sacrificially to missions during this difficult time. Following are a few pictures and videos (electronic issue) that will highlight some of these areas.



Indonesia LDD training



Because of the pandemic and the governmental troubles in Myanmar, Bishop Chin Kang Mon had not been able to connect in person for quite some time. This past September, he and his wife were able to attend LDD training in Indonesia. This is the first time Bishop McCaleb had seen them in person in three or four years.



Appointments in the Samoa Convention



We visited the village where Bishop Gopal Lama was born. It was here that his dad was arrested for attending a Christian prayer meeting. He served six years in prison for that offence.



Sheena McCaleb teaching a class in India

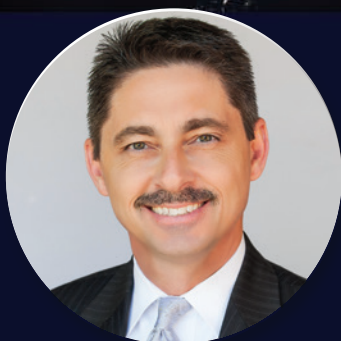


Our churches and orphanages minister to many precious children.



Welcomed with a carpet of flower petals

NORTH AMERICA



Bishop Brian Sutton, DMin
North America
General Presbyter

We rejoice in all God is doing in North America! As we press toward further efforts to revitalize and plant new congregations, we celebrate the 25th congregation plant in the Multiply 2030 initiative. Please rejoice with us and join in prayer for 475 more churches to be planted in North America by 2030.

October Meeting Leads to Additional Church Planting Training Partner

North America State and Regional Bishops gathered together in Branson, Missouri, in October to pray and discern God's will together. Wonderful presentations were delivered by the Multiply 2030 Church Planting and Church Revitalization Commission and the Ministry Ordination Commission. The work of these two commissions has been a tremendous blessing. After extended, prayerful discernment, North America State and Regional Bishops voted to partner with an additional training ministry for equipping church planters. Dynamic Church Planting International (DCPI) has been chosen as an additional training partner and will serve as a training arm for church planting and mentoring church planters in North America. The commission discerned that DCPI would bring an excellent opportunity for North America to take further steps needed to reach our goal of 500 new churches planted and 2,000 healthy congregations in North America by 2030. In addition to DCPI, North America continues to partner with Multiplication Network Ministries, especially in Spanish-speaking church planting efforts.

For more information about training for church planting or mothering new churches, please visit multiply2030.org.



CGP NJ #12 – Brunswick, NJ



House of Worship – Columbus, OH



Celebration of Praise – Hamilton, OH



IDP Forest-Pane – Jonesboro, GA



Iglesia Cristiana Jehova Gibbor - New Westminster, B.C. 1



Studio 7 Church – Dallas, TX



Camino a la Verdad – Fresno, TX



Life of Christ – GA Spanish

How You Can Participate in the Multiply 2030 Church Planting and Church Revitalization Initiative

Pray! Please join us in prayer daily for God to raise up laborers into the harvest in North America. We are praying for God-called church planters to step forward in North America to receive training, mentoring, and to plant churches. Additionally, please join us in prayer for God to inspire those who will mentor church planters and local churches to mother new church plants. Visit multiply2030.org for more info.



SOUTH AMERICA



Bishop Gabriel Vidal, DMin
South America
General Presbyter

Peru: A History-Making Moment for the Church of God of Prophecy!



In late January at the Peru National Convention, National Bishop Rafael Alvino and South America General Presbyter Bishop Gabriel Vidal announced that Peru has become the first nation outside the United States to exceed 1,000 operative local church fellowships.

The audience of more than 12,000 gathered at the Mansiche Stadium in Trujillo erupted in applause at the news. Presiding Bishop Tim Coalter joined in the celebration, praising God for the Church's growth, and in honoring the pastors, church planters, and National Bishop Alvino for the significant accomplishment.

Bishop Vidal noted that while celebrating 1,017 organized churches in Peru, they are not slowing down. Currently, Peru has an additional 1,300 preaching points in the nation. This process of church planting was determined some years ago with a four-step progressive plan to plant local church fellowships. The first step in planting a new church is that of fellowship and small group connections made through reading and learning the Word of God together and through

Peru: Update



prayer. The second step in this process is establishing a new field work. This field work continues until there is strength enough to form a new mission church (step three). As the new field work continues growing, the final step is the decision to establish the mission fellowship into an active church.

We invite you to join with the people of Peru in this historic celebration of exceeding 1,000 churches by giving thanks to God for his faithfulness and blessings on these ministries.



News Update on Paraguay

Baptisms

We greet you with the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In November we held a baptismal service with several local churches in the central area. In the photos of this event, you can see the 20 people—children, young people, and older adults—who made the decision to take this step of faith. It was a great blessing to all present.



Children's Camp 2023



Training Certificates

On December 3, certificates were awarded for completion of virtual courses offered through the National Communications and Children's Ministries departments. We thank God for the 41 people who were trained to serve the Lord with excellence.

We request your prayers for God to help us so that we might continue to fulfill our mission.



From December 7 to December 10, we held the Children's Camp 2023 with the theme "Awesome and Wonderful." This theme comes from the biblical passage in Psalm 139:14. We thank God and give him glory for a beautiful and blessed weekend where we were able to see his work in everything. The 59 children present were able to enjoy this great event. We appreciate the excellent work of the national leader, Jonathan Verdún, along with all the team of volunteers and local leaders. God bless our great family of faith.

National Bishop Spotlight

Bishop Petr Szlaur | Czech Republic,
Poland, and Slovakia National Bishop



Bishop Petr Szlaur and his wife met at church during high school and were later married in 1992. Growing up as a Christian, Petr was persecuted by the communist regime as a young boy. He was prevented from religious studies and was even fired from his job in education because of his faith. However, he never gave up the desire for a deeper understanding of the Word and was eventually able to study theology, social work, and communication, as well as complete a doctoral degree. Dana, his wife, was also able to attend Bible school. Even though they both owned shops and ran other businesses, their desire to serve the Lord and to be of service to people in the church was always an important part of their lives. In 2002, they became the pastors of a church in Frýdek-Místek, where they still serve today. Petr, Dana, and their grown children have served tirelessly for several years to establish a strong church work in Eastern Czech Republic, even before the COGOP knew of them.

Nearly 15 years ago, Bishop Petr met with overseers of the Church of God of Prophecy and eventually with General Presbyter Clayton Endecott, and a bond of friendship was formed between his local church and COGOP. They shared in personal relationships, mutual ministries, and eventually, after teaching the leaders in the church Petr had established in Frýdek-Místek, the covenant of membership was given to the whole church there and to two other small established works in the country. Bishop Petr Szlaur was appointed as the National Bishop for the Czech Republic at the International Assembly in 2018, after being ordained a bishop just two Assemblies prior.

In 2017, the church in Frýdek-Místek bought their own property, a commercial building in the heart of the city, and has now renovated it into a lovely sanctuary including classrooms, a kitchen, and a public nursery for the community. This local church has hosted Wider Europe and Middle East National Bishops' conferences and were the hosts of the first area-wide Emerging Youth Leaders Conference eight years ago. Jan Szlaur, son and co-worker with Bishop Petr, leads a growing youth group and has been central in hosting the youth conference, Get Plugged In, at a Prague hotel conference center over the past six years. Jan and Theresa serve with Tessa and



Johannes Dietze on the area Youth Mission Team for this international meeting, in cooperation with Bishop Kirk Rising.

Petr and Dana have working relationships with several other churches in the Czech Republic, Poland, and other surrounding nations. In December of 2018, Bishop Szlaur prepared a training session with a pastor friend in Poland along with local Polish church leaders, where he invited Bishop Clayton Endecott to teach them more about the Church, our teachings, practices, and finances. As a result of this, the first church in Poland was established later the next year.

We are thankful for Bishop Szlaur and the Czech ministry team as they have been instrumental in assisting and hosting many of our ministers and families from Ukraine during the most recent Russian invasion of their nation. The local church has been host to over 300 Ukrainian church members, predominately women and children, over these past two years and still care for more than 180 weekly.

Towards the end of 2023, Bishop Petr worked with the National Bishop Darin Ivanov of Bulgaria to establish a church in Slovakia from a predominately Bulgarian Roma church with strong relationships to COGOP churches in Bulgaria.

Bishop Petr currently serves in the nations of Czech Republic, Poland, and Slovakia as the National Bishop, seeking to establish new churches there and in the surrounding nations. We pray our blessings and covering for Bishop Petr and his family.

MEXICO, CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE SPANISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN



Bishop Ben Feliz, DMin
Mexico, Central America, and
Spanish-Speaking Caribbean
General Presbyter

Costa Rica

Nicaragua

Puerto Rico

Cuba

National Convention in Costa Rica

The new year began with new ministry opportunities throughout the nations in Central America and Spanish-speaking Caribbean.

The first weekend in January hosted the National Convention in Costa Rica. With a record in attendance, the church celebrated their convention in their new national complex. The event was moderated by their recently installed new National Bishop, Bishop Jose Romero. Inspiring sermons were given by Bishop Romero and guest pastor, Maria Ruano, from California.

Currently, Costa Rica has 76 organized churches, 13 missions, and 8,116 members.

The church is working toward the goal of planting 81 churches by the time of the International Assembly of 2024, scheduled this summer.



Ministers Convention in Nicaragua

The nation of Nicaragua held their National Ministers' Conference the weekend of January 12–14. With more than 1,200 pastors in attendance, this was a celebrated time of great inspiration. During the weekend, the *Minister's Development Program Initiative* was launched with Dr. Alexis Taveras instructing all 1,200 pastors who registered. The conference included recognition of their church planting directors and an ordination service for licensed ministers and bishops.

Currently, Nicaragua supports 942 organized churches and 81 missions with a total membership of 47,300. Their goal projections for the upcoming International Assembly include 36 new churches, 31 new missions, 35 new fields, and 1,300 new members. Continue to pray for the work and ministry of the Church of God of Prophecy in Nicaragua.



Puerto Rico National Convention

A truly inspiring National Convention was hosted in Puerto Rico on January 19–21, under the theme, "Raising Awareness of the *Missio Dei*." Those who were present were challenged throughout the weekend by sermons preached by National Bishop Martin Romero and guests, Pastor Henry Garcia and Pastor Isaias Rivera, both from the state of Massachusetts.

Currently Puerto Rico has 31 organized churches, 7 mission churches, and 863 members. The projection goals are for three new churches before the upcoming International Assembly in July of 2024.



National Bishop from Cuba Visits Cleveland

Those who work at the International Offices of the Church of God of Prophecy in Cleveland, Tennessee, were blessed by the recent visit from Bishop Genni Pupo, National Bishop of Cuba. Bishop Pupo gave an updated report and testimony of the work in Cuba during an Upper Room service.

There was excitement as he shared the progress of the Church in his nation, recognizing a new era of pouring forth in the undeniable, miraculous works of God. He shared the renewed desire of seeking the Lord being experienced among our people and a restoration of building new church buildings.

We praise God for all he is doing in Mexico, Central America, and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean!



AFRICA



Bishop Enis James Kolawole
Africa
General Presbyter

MISSION GRATITUDE

As we cultivate a grateful heart, we harvest the fruit of joy. When we acknowledge the generous blessings of God and express our gratitude to him and to mankind, we will be filled with joy beyond measure. A good example of a heart of gratitude is when, in Psalm 126, the Hebrews in exile sang their song of thanks for being brought back to Israel:

When the LORD brought back the captivity of Zion,
We were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
And our tongue with singing.
Then they said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
The LORD has done great things for us, and
we are glad. (Psalm 126:1–3 NKJV)

My trip to East Africa involved attending the 27th National Convention in Uganda. It was very encouraging to see what the Lord has done and what he is still doing among our people. There is a great future for the work in Uganda. While I was enjoying the blessings of God and the joy of the convention, I could not but stop and give thanks with a heart of gratitude to God, the Church, the faithful individual donors, harvest partners, and the sacrifices of all the missionaries who have invested over the years from the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States of America. They left their comfort zone and took the risk to travel to Africa to fulfill God’s purpose of reconciling the world to Christ. We deeply appreciate their unwavering and undeterred commitment to the work of God in Africa.

I would like to congratulate the leadership of the Church in Uganda for a job well done. This meeting was a power-packed convention.

We also respectfully acknowledge the presence of Reverend Dr. Cathy Payne from the International Offices; Evangelist Patrick W. Villanueva from North Carolina; and Brother William Lawrence and his wife, Cathy, and Minister Zach Teasdale from Florida. And, of course, at this juncture, I would like to thank God for making it possible for my wife to join me on the trip to Uganda for this glorious convention during which she was able to inaugurate the Africa “Women in Ministry” initiative. May his name be praised!

The National Convention was a five-day retreat with great impact on all who were involved. In fact, we learned so much from the rich and Spirit-filled worship in service each session. It is said that creativity is the mother of innovation. This was indeed characterized by the

Africa Update



soul-lifting service of worship. However, the preaching and teaching penetrated every nerve of our souls and sparked a radical transformation. Over 2,000 souls gathered to worship God and, of course, hundreds of souls came out for the altar call at different occasions. Praise the Lord! Hallelujah!

Consequently, the financial report was very encouraging. There is a great hope for economic self-sufficiency in the near future.

We also took time while there to visit the three organized orphanages that are currently operating in Uganda, including the two centers that are in Busia with the primary and secondary schools, while specifically meeting with the board of the Pamora Romona's Reach Center.

All glory belongs to God. Amen.

New Ministry in Africa: COGOP Africa Women in Ministry

The Church of God of Prophecy Africa Women in Ministry is a vision inspired by the Holy Spirit to bring together all women who make things happen in the church. Such women include the wives of national bishops, administrative assistants' wives, pastors' wives, female preachers, ministers (licensed and lay), Sunday school teachers, devotional leaders, prayer warriors, ushers, deaconesses, and choristers.

The forum was started by Reverend Ellen Kolawole, who is the spouse of Bishop James Kolawole, the General Presbyter for Africa. Regarding the forum, Ellen stated, "The forum's goal is linked to the spirit of sacrifice and commitment. This involves all members contributing one dollar (\$1) monthly to create a pool of money. We will use this fund to support widows, widowers, orphans, single mothers, and the elderly people (65 years of age and above)."



WIM inauguration of Region 2, Kabba Kogi State, Nigeria

She also highlighted some ways the ministry intends to serve the church and the communities where they are located. "From the pool of money collected, a one-off [one-time] token of \$100 will be given to the beneficiary to cushion the effects of the occurrence when it happens."

Ellen emphatically noted that "this forum is specific to the continent of Africa. It will not affect other active Women Ministries that operate in the global church and consist of the women in the church. Instead, this forum consists of MOVERS and SHAKERS of every local church (those that do ministry) in Africa."



Some Nigeria WIM visited the orphanage home with gifts last Christmas.



The General Presbyter of Africa inaugurates Region 2 WIM, Kogi State, Nigeria.



WIM inauguration of Region 2, Kabba Kogi State, Nigeria



Eswatini WIM inauguration.

Our Driving Scripture

James 1:27 states, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted [unspoiled] from the world."

Ellen Kolawole reported the following:

"Our driving scripture motivated two nations to visit and give gifts to widows, children, and the orphanage home during December 2023."

"The implication is to see how we can begin to help ourselves, no matter how small we are as a continent, instead of always looking abroad. We are also the prayer champions for the work on the continent of Africa through our WhatsApp platform, where we have 272 participants. We also have members that have no active WhatsApp, but information gets to them through their coordinators."

"We have inaugurated COGOP Africa Women in Ministry already in 14 nations in Africa—Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Botswana, Eswatini, DRC, Malawi, Mozambique, Kenya, Gambia, Ghana, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zambia—and others will be inaugurated soon."



WIM inauguration in Botswana



The General Presbyter inaugurates The Gambia WIM.



WIM inauguration in Burundi



The Gambia WIM shared rice during Christmas for widows around their community.



The General Presbyter inaugurates WIM in Ghana.



WIM inauguration in Kenya



The inauguration of WIM in Sierra Leone



WIM inauguration in Uganda

CARIBBEAN AND ATLANTIC OCEAN ISLANDS



Bishop Clayton Martin, DMin
Caribbean and Atlantic Ocean
Islands
General Presbyter

Haiti

Guyana

Cayman Islands

Bicentenaire, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Greetings to each of you in the name of Jesus, our divine Lord and Savior!

I trust that you are well by the grace of God. I share with you some pictures of the thanksgiving celebration held on Sunday, January 7, 2024, at the Central Church of God of Prophecy in Bicentenaire, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and the members of the church praying for the Global 21 Days of Prayer.

We still request your prayers for the country, and especially for the COGOP in Haiti, because the situation is going from bad to worse. However, we trust that our God who "clave the rocks in the wilderness" for His people (Israel), "and gave them drink as out of the great depths," and "brought streams also out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers" for His people (Psalm 78:15-16), will also change the situation in Haiti for us. We continue to count on your prayers.

Be always blessed!

Jean Claude Dorlean

Haiti National Bishop



Caribbean and Atlantic Ocean Islands Update

Guyana Update

Evangelist Clement Moore and I recently traveled to two areas of Mora and Five Miles in the hinterland of Guyana to work with our Indigenous communities.

Pastors Ignatius Roy Abraham and Ryan Domingo, 13 Amerindian brothers, and Evangelist Moore have completed the concrete floor at the Mora Church.

Over the past three years, there has been an integration of ministry among our youth as a number of young people from these indigenous areas traveled to Georgetown to attend our Youth Camp. Our goal, starting this year, is to conduct Youth Camps and Leadership Development sessions for our Indigenous brethren at the Mora Church. Our ultimate goal is to equip and mobilize them to plant missions and local churches.

The sanctuary in Five Miles has been completed except for doors and windows. The brethren have moved in for services.

Thank you for your prayers,
Bishop Earl Higgins
Guyana and Suriname
National Bishop



Cayman Islands

Construction continues on the new Church of God of Prophecy Multipurpose Facility in the Cayman Islands. The complex will include a school, a family-life center, and a sanctuary.



ONE CHILD FUND

Shelly Wilbanks | Global Missions Ministries



I have been with Global Missions for 10 years now, and I have learned more about geography working in this department than I ever did in school. I have also learned more about our church family, not only internationally, but domestically as well.

I grew up in a very mission-minded church, had people in and out of our house that were from all over the world, and I have even gone on mission trips. I understood the basics of how prayers and financial support helped others. I understood that you give

whatever you can, and God will multiply it. But I have actually been able to see that at work by being in this office.

We are a couple months into 2024. As we look forward to the International Assembly in just a few months (and then the rest of the year), I want you to take a moment to look back at 2023 with me.

In 2023 alone, the One Child Fund was able to do the following because of our amazing individual donors and churches:



- Buy two buses, two motorbikes, and several bicycles
- Build one orphanage building, one boys' dormitory, and one kitchen
- Replace one roof
- Purchase water purifiers and reserves, one camera, library shelves, two dishwashers, three washing machines, one refrigerator, one freezer
- Provide septic tank cleaning; make electrical and septic tank repairs

And we cannot forget providing food, clothing, education, and general upkeep of the children's homes that you help provide for each and every month.

I wanted to share with you what has been done so you can rejoice with us. But I also need to tell you, this is just a drop in the bucket for what needs to be completed.

Here are just a few of the projects we would like to complete this year:

- Supply computers to a few children's homes (a cost of \$22,100)
- Make sure everyone has a bed, mattress, and bedding (cost under \$8,000)
- Build at least one dormitory (cost ranges from \$10,000 to \$37,000)

At your next church meeting, ask your congregation if they would like to help with a One Child Fund project. You can get your children involved with a project during Vacation Bible School, or your children's church could help raise funds. If you as an individual or together with your family want to take on a project or help sponsor an orphanage or children's home, I am more than happy to help guide you.

If you would like to donate to any of these projects (or any other project), or if you would like to sponsor an orphanage or children's home, please contact me. Starting March 1, you can visit <https://globalcogop.org/store> to check out all of our current OCF projects and make donations to those needs through the website.

One Child Fund | P.O. Box 2910 | Cleveland | TN 37320-2910 | 423.559.5209
onechildfund@cogop.org | <https://globalcogop.org/ocf> or <https://globalcogop.org/donate>

HARVEST PARTNERS MINISTRIES



Stephanie Roberts | Global Missions Ministries

One of the extensions of Global Missions Ministries is our Harvest Partners program which provides an opportunity for churches to connect globally. This ministry facilitates the spiritual, relational, and financial connection between churches in North America to other nations and regions across the globe and even here in the United States. It provides a vehicle for our church family to experience, pray, and give to other nations while receiving that same prayer support and dynamic fellowship from their partner nation. This connected giving ministry is the primary means for local congregations to support the ministries of indigenous mission leaders around the world.

Once your church has chosen a partner, your Mission Giving offerings will be used to support your partner nation or region. Mission Giving offerings are the "first level" of support. These funds provide our national leaders with the supplies needed to operate the ministry on a daily basis. They are a lifeline providing support for your chosen partner nation and are vital for the ministry of the Church of God of Prophecy to continue functioning effectively within our nations and regions.

Mission Giving is provided through your regular Second Sunday Offerings and through the March and October Mission Drives. Therefore, it does not require an extra offering to be taken. Mission Giving helps to keep the Church of God of Prophecy operating within our global church by assisting with various needs, such as the National Bishops' budgeted work and personal allotments and supplemental funds used to support disadvantaged pastors, evangelism, church planting, leadership training, and national or regional convention expenses.

Romans 12:9-13 (ESV) says, "Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality." That is the heart of Harvest Partners Ministries, and I pray your church will embrace the call God has given us to love, honor, and pray for our global church family.

This past year many of us have faced great challenges and difficulties. Our brothers and sisters around the world—our church family—are even now facing challenges of persecution, violence, poverty, and hunger. Yet despite these difficulties, our church is growing, and the gospel is spreading. They are depending on you and me to pray for them, love them, and support them. I pray that God will bless you and your church greatly as you sacrificially give to our global family because you are also vital for the ministry of our church to continue operating throughout the nations as we reconcile the world to Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.



If you would like more information on how your church can become connected to our global family through the ministry of Harvest Partners, please email harvestpartners@cogop.org or call us at **423-559-5207**.



The Joy in Giving

Giving begins with God. After humanity lost fellowship with God because of sin, God, who is abundant in goodness and mercy, designed a plan of redemption for the propitiation of our sins. It was the greatest expression of sacrificial love by God extended to mankind through the joy of salvation. God's saving grace through faith enables us to be reconciled to him in perfect peace and harmony. The apostle John writes, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved" (John 3:16–17 KJV).

God has given far and above what any man, woman, or child could ever earn or give; he gave the gift of eternal life through the Person and finished work of Jesus Christ. Through the freewill gift of his Son, Jesus Christ, God freely, generously, and joyfully bestows his grace and love upon his children. His love is unmerited, boundless, and eternal. God is the greatest giver of all!

Christians who have been blessed of God, out of a grateful and sincere heart, are expected to give back to God freely, joyfully, and with a thankful heart. What type of giver does God love? He loves joyful givers; and those who feel pleasure in giving, do so enthusiastically: "For God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). When we give to God, we are acknowledging that he is the owner of everything. We acknowledge that we are stewards and are required to be good and faithful stewards with all that he has entrusted to our care (1 Corinthians 4:2).

During the 2016 International Assembly, it was recommended and approved for each local church to receive an Assembly Expense Offering. It is a joy and a blessing to see a significant number of local churches globally supporting this initiative. With your joyful and generous giving, we are praying for a debt-free 2024 International Assembly, by the grace of God, as was our experience during the last two International Assemblies.

During the 2022 International Assembly, we introduced a new level of giving—THE 1500 Club. This is a program where we boost and encourage 1,500 people to give \$50 per night or a \$200 freewill offering for the week. We were pleased that over 600 individuals and businesses participated in the program the year it was launched. During the upcoming 2024 International Assembly, this level of giving will continue, but we are adding a special souvenir commemorative pin. This pin could be worn during Assembly week as a member of THE 1500 Club. We will be sharing a sample of this special memento in due course.

Thank you for your consistent, faithful giving to God to help build his kingdom and his church. Your generous giving to him not only helps to meet the International Assembly expenses, but it also helps to propagate the gospel of Jesus Christ to many people in countries around the world.

Nathaniel G. Beneby, Jr.

International Assembly Expense Committee
Chairman

Become a member
of the 1500!



A \$200 one-time gift or four offerings of \$50. Help finance the 102nd Assembly! Propagate the gospel around the world! Join the Roll Call of THE 1500! Receive your commemorative pin at the Assembly.

Faithful giving pleases God.



102nd International Assembly
Rosen Shingle Creek
JULY 31 - AUGUST 4

Make your plans today:
cogopassembly.org