

PROGRESS 2016 F

Church of God of Prophecy

2015 focus was partnerships, planting and leadership development



THE LEADERSHIP, staff, general presbyters and committee members of the Church of God of Prophecy International Offices are shown.

The Church of God of Prophecy, headquartered on Keith Street in Cleveland, had a strong year of building strategic ministry partnerships and connections among its leadership and members, planting churches around the globe, and prioritizing leadership development in 2015.

Bishop Sam N. Clements, the Church’s general overseer who was selected during the 2014 International Assembly, along with the general presbyters, Bishops David Browder, Tim Coalter, Clayton Endecott, Ben Feliz, Clayton Martin, Stephen Masilela, and Gabriel Vidal, helped spearhead many new efforts which opened doors and built bridges with other Christian organizations and educational institutions, as well as developing deeper relationships with the Church body.

New connections via technology

The Church’s biennial International Assembly took place in 2014 and again in 2016, so a large scale membership meeting did not occur last year. However, the leadership took advantage of new communications tools to connect leaders and members in the early part of the year.

Thousands of viewers from around the world participated in an interactive online webcast from the Church of God of Prophecy International Offices in January, 2015. “Prayer Encounter,” the two-hour event featured the Church’s international leaders leading prayer for specific areas and needs as well as requests that were received through email, social media, and telephone.

“For many years, we have conducted an annual Night of Prayer here in the Offices but we wanted to offer our churches a chance to participate,” said Bishop Clements. “The result was greater than what we imagined. It was a powerful night.”

Although a definitive count of viewers couldn’t be reached because of groups gathering in local churches, there were a total of 1,121 connection points made to the high-definition webcast, which will continue to be available on demand. Some of the countries represented include Australia, Brazil, Czech Republic, Mexico, South Africa, Dominican Republic, Germany, El Salvador, and India.

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TROY MANEY, Bradley County Fire-Rescue chief, explains some of the department’s duties during a meeting at one of the fire stations.

Fire-Rescue runs more than 2,300 calls in 2015

By ALLEN MINCEY
Banner Staff Writer

Bradley County Fire-Rescue maintains 13 total stations, with 64 full-time employees and two part-time personnel.

According to BCFR Chief Troy Maney, the department was able to work over 2,300 calls in 2015, some 274 of which were structure fires.

“We ran 943 first response calls,” Maney recently told the Bradley County Commission. “And I have had people ask why we send a fire truck to a medical call ... well, out of those 943 calls, 515 times the fire truck got there before EMS did.

“So it is making a difference to the people of Bradley County and we are able to save lives and at least get some treatment started for (the victims),” he said.

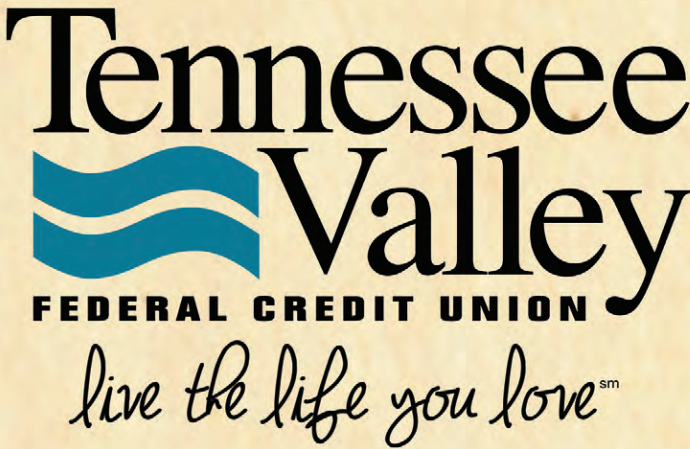
Bradley County Fire-Rescue was chartered in 1958 and was the primary fire and rescue service for Bradley County. In the early 1970s, the Cleveland Fire Department became an all-career agency at which time they were contracted to provide fire protection to Bradley County in 1977.

The rescue service of the

See FIRE-RESCUE, Page F6

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COGOP

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Prior to the live simulcast, hundreds of prayer requests came in through online channels such as Facebook, Twitter, and the church's prayer email account. During the live broadcast, the staff of the offices took dozens of requests via telephone in English, Spanish and French.

In addition to praying for the requests that were sent in, directives were given for specific areas and corporate needs by leaders such as Bishop Clements, Bishop Coalter, David Bryan, executive director of Leadership Development and Discipleship; Kirk Rising, international youth ministries director; Paul Holt, director of Finance and Heritage Ministries; Brian Sutton, pastor of Peerless Road Church of God of Prophecy; and Peggy Clements, executive assistant to the general overseer. Darren Schalk, curriculum editor and chapel pastor, read the personal requests that were collected.

Encouraged by the response, discussions began about additional broadcasts: a pre-Assembly simulcast in May 2016 and the next Prayer Encounter in early 2017.

Working together for the Kingdom

The Church formed two significant partnerships in 2015, giving its leaders further options to continue their education and stand united in fulfilling the Great Commission.

In April, the Church signed a "historic" partnership agreement with para-church organization Multiplication Network Ministries. The agreement will promote church planting in more than 130 nations that the COGOP is ministering in.

Dr. John Wagenveld, founder and president of MNM, was on hand to sign the agreement, along with Bishop Clements and Bishop David Bryan, executive director of Leadership Development and Discipleship Ministries for the COGOP. Also in attendance were the Church's general presbyters, including Bishops David Browder, Tim Coalter, Clayton Endecott, Ben Feliz, Clayton Martin, Stephen Masilela, and Gabriel Vidal.

The COGOP has already formed partnerships in several areas of its international ministry, including Central America, South America, and Europe, the CIS and the Middle East. Today marks the beginning of the partnership reaching globally into

additional areas.

"This agreement that we just signed today is a historic agreement since it's the first one that's global in nature," Wagenveld said. "We've had over 70 agreements around the world, but this is the first global agreement. I think this symbolizes the beginning of a new harvest in over 130 countries and for that we are grateful to God."

Bishop Clements, who said he counted the partnership a "privilege," said the new agreement triggers a new era of church planting and growth for the COGOP.

"We're looking forward to our new churches being planted all over the world," he said. "Multiplication Network Ministries has proven to be a wonderful network to work with and it's also been very productive in our Latin American countries. I feel like it's going to spread rapidly all over the world."

During the meeting, Dr. Wagenveld reported the growth of church planting in Latin American countries had far exceeded his expectations, with more than 1,000 workers in those countries being trained to plant churches and the country of Peru alone reporting 700 church plants.

Bishop Bryan, who is responsible for leadership development for the international church, called the new agreement a "significant" one.

"It gives us an opportunity to partner at the highest level of the church to provide training in strengthening churches and planting new churches. It extends the impact of the Multiplication Network which had signed individual agreements with a number of areas," he said. "It's a significant move both for the church and for MNM."

In October, the Church signed a "Memorandum of Understanding" agreement with the Pentecostal Theological Seminary, also headquartered in Tennessee.

Bishop Clements and Dr. R. Lamar Vest, president of PTS, signed the agreement at the COGOP International Offices in Cleveland.

"This is a very exciting and wonderful day for the Church of God of Prophecy," Clements remarked. "We join hands with our brothers and come together in an agreement, this Memorandum of Understanding,

so that we can work together to help educate our ministers and spread the Gospel message across this whole world."

The new agreement will see increased promotion of the seminary at Church of God of Prophecy events, scholarships, and the option of cohort groups around the world offering certificate programs, graduate studies and even a doctorate of ministry. The programs will include: Diploma in Wesleyan Pentecostal Ministry (90 units), Master of Arts in Christian Ministry (48 credit hours), Master of Arts in Counseling (48 credit hours) and Doctor of Ministry (36 credit hours).

"This is an incredible opportunity," said Dr. Vest. "We're in the business of training people, our young men and women, to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is going to give us a grand opportunity to train a new generation to preach the Gospel."

Vest also remarked on the new partnership being a homecoming of sorts for the seminary, which is a Church of God institution, and the Church of God of Prophecy, a sister organization, both headquartered in the same city. Vest said the seminary offers the chance for COGOP members to learn from instructors in the Wesleyan Pentecostal tradition.

"These two organizations have grown up together," he said. "Our photo albums look alike."

The Church of God of Prophecy has educational arms already active, such as the Center for Biblical Leadership and agreements with Lee University Online and Massachusetts-based Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, which will continue.

Brian Sutton, an alumnus of PTS and lead pastor of Peerless Road Church in Cleveland, Tennessee, is serving as partnership coordinator and program coordinator for the COGOP along with Dr. David Han, vice president of academics for the seminary.

"With this, we can go into any part of the world and offer certificate, graduate, and postgraduate programs. With our focus on reaching the young harvest and developing them into leaders for the Church, this is a tremendous inroad to that," Sutton said.

Dr. Han also said he was "personally and professionally" excited about the agreement.

"This helps the seminary to fulfill its mission, which is to build the resources for the kingdom of God, but it also helps the Church of God of Prophecy working with us to provide the kind of education that its ministers would need," he said. "It's a win-win situation for us and I'm really excited about this collaboration that really carves a new path both for the seminary and the Church of God of Prophecy."

Along with Bishop Sutton and Dr. Han, additional members of the steering committee include Bishop Clements, Dr. Vest, Dr. J. David Stephens, Bishop Tim Coalter, and Bishop Clayton Endecott.

The first classes under the new agreement will launch in fall 2016, following recruiting and promotions that will culminate at the Church of God of Prophecy's International Assembly in July 2016 in Orlando, Florida.

COMMUNICATIONS

Serving in a support role to assist the departments with creative, translation, and social media services, the Communications Department, under the leadership of DeWayne Hamby, director, was a key point of connection for church members and leaders across the world. The Communications Department consists of editorial services, including the White Wing Messenger, art and design services, translation services,



CHURCH LEADERSHIP signed an "agreement of understanding" with the Pentecostal Theological Seminary. Dr. Lamar Vest, PTS president, and Bishop Sam N. Clements, COGOP general overseer, are surrounded by leaders of the Church and Pentecostal Theological Seminary.

coordinated by Michael Hernandez, and media services, coordinated by Shaun McKinley.

White Wing Messenger in three languages

The White Wing Messenger, the official publication of the COGOP, continued to be printed monthly, while its Spanish and French versions were distributed bimonthly, all together delivering fresh content to thousands of readers across the globe.

In a first for the magazine, all versions were printed simultaneously through the year, with readers in each language reading the same articles at the same time. This was a strategic move by the editorial department working with the World Language department to keep articles translated and published on a regular schedule.

"This was something we were excited to accomplish, because it helps keep the readers all on the same page, so to speak," said Hamby. "We have continued this effort into 2016 and I have to credit World Language Coordinator Michael Hernandez for the idea's conception and execution."

CREATE conference promotes talents, inspiration

The second CREATE conference, sponsored by the Communications Department of the Church of God of Prophecy International Offices, was held the first weekend of May, 2015, bringing together more than 60 creatives and aspiring creatives eager to learn more about talents, inspiration, and leadership.

The weekend was full of activities, including a film screening of the independent, faith-based romance, "Old Fashioned," with the film's star and director Rik Swartzwelder, a mentoring session and concert with singer-songwriter Nicole C. Mullen, and a video production drama with actress-director Lynda Stein.

After the film closed on Friday evening, Swartzwelder answered questions from the group about his film's inspiration and the 10-year journey from script to screen. He called the film's timing to release against "Fifty Shades of Grey" a "double-edged sword" that helped the film break records but also put it in the line of fire for critics.

"Even the simple announcement of our release date put a

unique kind of spotlight on our modest, little film and certainly antagonized some folks at the same time it was inspiring many others," Swartzwelder said.

Swartzwelder encouraged the group of creatives to not be intimidated in sharing their ideas and also shared production stories from the film shoot. One particularly interesting fact was that he revealed the movie was edited in nearby Chattanooga and he lived in Ooltewah for a year during that phase of production.

During her mentoring session on Saturday evening, Nicole C. Mullen spoke about her history as a songwriter and recording artist, along with sharing what inspired her breakout hit "Redeemer."

In answering a question about hitting a creative roadblock in songwriting, Mullen told the group, "When I am unable to press through (the roadblock), I have to shut out (everything), I have to close out the things around me."

Mullen also shared some of the best advice she had been given through the years, to not be

See CREATE, Page F3



RIK SWARTZWELDER, writer, producer and star of the independent film "Old Fashioned," gave a keynote address during the second CREATE conference, sponsored by the COGOP Communications department.

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AUTO HOME LIFE BANK

CREATE

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afraid to go back and refine the songs she had written.

“Skill takes time,” she said. “Sometimes God will drop an idea in our hearts but He will leave for us to be challenged to learn the skill and craft in order to convey that message.”

Throughout Saturday, 20 workshops divided into five tracks were offered by professionals in various fields, including music, media (tech), media (art), drama, and writing. Marsha Robinson, who led a workshop on grammar, also served as a keynote speaker Saturday morning. A panel discussion on Saturday also allowed for questions and answers with experts for creative applications for local churches.

The weekend concluded with a time of ministry on Sunday morning with Mullen during the Peerless Road Church Sunday morning worship service. A video produced by the drama track, “Is It Well With Your Soul?,” was also premiered.

The weekend earned kudos from those who attended, citing the professionalism and large amount of relevant material presented by the workshop leaders.

“The expertise of the presenters combined with the hard work of the conference staff and partnership with Peerless Road Church made this conference truly a top level event,” said DeWayne Hamby, Director of Communications. “Weeks and months later, we are still hearing reports of those who were re-energized and inspired to make a difference with their talents.”

GLOBAL MISSIONS MINISTRIES

The mission of Global Missions Ministries within the Church of God of Prophecy is to assist national ministries to evangelize throughout the world by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ and by planting vibrant local churches that will multiply and saturate their cultures.

Global Missions Network Capsule – This ministry consists of over 12,098 churches internationally; more than 13,000 preaching points where the gospel is proclaimed; ministry in 134 nations with national/regional offices globally; providing the Gospel message and ministry to Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim, and tribal peoples around the world.

Global Missions Ministries includes cooperation through funding resources known as Harvest Partners, Helping Hand Ministry, One Child Fund, and the initiatives of the Global Partners Cooperative.

Harvest Partners is a mission giving opportunity available through local churches. This partnership continues to assist support in national offices and ministries in 134 nations through HP Mission Giving. HP Project Giving complements the Helping Hand Ministry – an opportunity given for individuals – to contribute to active mission projects. Together these combine to assist the nations through ministry support, building construction, transportation vehicles and disaster response to every region within our mission network. In the wake of crises throughout the world, these partnerships rally to provide communication efforts and financial support over and above normal and budgetary Mission Giving. In the past year we have responded to the needs of our people in recovering from the recent typhoons and super storms in Myanmar, the Caribbean, the earthquakes in Nepal, India, and other critical needs throughout Asia and the nations of Sudan and Nigeria, the storm damage and ministry sup-



BISHOP ADRIAN L. Varlack Sr., church historian and instructor, receives prayer requests during the Church’s Night of Prayer web-cast.

port in North America, and continued rescue efforts for those most affected by the Russian military aggression in Ukraine. In the days after the most damaging warfare, orphaned children were being offered for sale in the affected area. When our local pastors notified us of this atrocity, our global church family rallied to purchase, rescue, and place more than 150 children in loving homes among the surrounding nations.

The ministry of One Child Fund continues to supply monthly orphanage support, education opportunities, construction efforts, and holiday celebrations to our children in Belarus, Bulgaria, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Mali, Myanmar, Nepal, Paraguay, Philippines, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Uganda, and Ukraine. Exciting testimonies from this ministry during the past year is the progress and completion in construction projects on three of our orphanage compounds within the nations of Haiti, Philippines and Paraguay. Haiti’s orphanage continues to benefit from our partnership with Global Aid Network (GAIN Germany) and their commitment to help rebuild a Children’s Village after the destruction realized during the earthquake of 2010.

This year, GAIN requested and received a grant from the national government in Germany to complete a new kindergarten. The new kindergarten was dedicated a few days ago and will service not only the children within our orphanage, but also the children who live in the surrounding community. Our OCF work in Philippines completed the second onsite dormitory and has made progress on the future playground. In Paraguay, our OCF staff became the organizational base for a team that came to reconstruct homes for their surrounding community. Most of the homes in which these people were living were far from repair, so the construction team demolished the old dwellings and rebuilt in their place 11 new homes. More community work is planned for the future.

Church Planting – A main focus for The Church of God of Prophecy is to promote and implement the Harvest through Church planting. This vision has been especially progressive in Latin America over the past few years in partnership with Multiplication Network. Our efforts to win the lost are increasing even more through the establishment of healthy local churches. The results of our efforts have been good with every nation throughout Latin America currently involved new church plants and in training church planters.

Last year more than 1,000 new church plants were established and are progressing in Latin America. Our projection is to

establish another 1,000 church plants by December 2016.

With this progressing work, we have intensified our leadership training so as new churches open there will be new pastors prepared to lead.

Indigenous Leaders – Another primary objective for our mission ministry is developing and utilizing indigenous leaders. We believe that indigenous leaders understand the culture and context of ministry perhaps better than leaders from other cultures. This year in the mission network we have indigenous leaders taking the primary role in most of our national ministries.

As we communicate the stories and testimonies from the nations, we celebrate what the Holy Spirit is doing on earth and connect our local supporting churches in that celebration of our God. We are witnesses to the initiation of new and unique ministries. We are experiencing a fresh fire in prayer for those who are on the front lines of mission activity in line with the will of God with a conscious focus and a constant reminder that this effort concerns rescuing souls for an eternity. Paul encourages, “from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love” (Ephesians 4:16 NASB).

Among our statement of beliefs we contend that God wants every person, everywhere, to be reached with His life-altering message of salvation. Our vision of what God desires for human beings is not limited by personality, geography, nationality, language, culture, race, education, income, or religion. Its scope is universal, its reach is global, its intent is world encompassing, its perspective is personal, and its purpose is transformational.

Global Missions Ministries is currently expanding our communication efforts to include: electronic newsletters connecting local churches with the nations communicating updates, global prayer needs, new ministry resources, and evangelistic opportunities; social media to connect and communicate within our global network; and producing digital communiqués connecting local churches with national ministries.

Exciting testimonies rise as we celebrate mission efforts. We continue to be grateful for the presence and power of the Lord through this unique and anointed work of ministry.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The driving cause of the Center for Biblical Leadership, under the leadership of David Bryan, executive director, is to deliver a bib-

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CATHY PAYNE, Global Missions Ministries coordinator, participates in a ribbon cutting for a new kindergarten in Haiti, along with members of Global Action Network Germany.



CHURCH OF GOD of Prophecy leaders minister to victims of the earthquake in Nepal.

Prophecy

From Page 1

ical, theological, and practical curriculum in three-day schools (Schools of Practical and Advanced Studies) and other practical formats for church leaders and members. The Center envisions transformative impact as church leaders and members become more engaged in Christ's mission to love and redeem the world.

SOPAS: The Next Generation, the re-tooling of SOPAS to add over 30 new courses and add a robust strategy for increasing reach, was launched internationally in the Bahamas and domestically in Alabama. A new global partnership with Multiplication Network Ministries for sharing materials, training, and resourcing has powered the ongoing evolution of SOPAS.

In 2015, there were 27 schools with 1,127 students and nine seminars (preaching, pastoral leadership, pastoral counseling) with 712 students. SOPAS: The Next Generation was held in 4 locations with more than 447 students.

Altogether, SOPAS was held in 10 states and 16 nations including Argentina, Bulgaria, Belize, Egypt, Ethiopia, Cuba, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Children's Ministries: mentoring, training, modeling and providing
The focus of Children's

Ministry at the International Offices continues to be on leadership development through mentoring, training, modeling and providing resources.

During 2015 the following initiatives provided opportunities for the Church to accomplish these objectives:

- International Institute of Children's Ministry — The Institute provides three to five days of intensive children's ministry training and leadership development to children's ministers throughout the world.
- One-day Training Intensives provided more localized training at the local, district, and regional levels in North America.
- IMPACT! Online and Video Training is now available in English and in Spanish. These training modules provide on-site, individualized ministry skill training to children's ministers in English or Spanish-speaking nations.

Ministry Leadership Conferences — Strategic development of children's ministry has led to the development of continental Children's Ministry Leadership Conferences. These conferences bring national children's ministry leadership together for training, sharing of resources, and the formation of continental ministry and leadership development strategies.

The young harvest
The International Youth Ministries of the Church of God of Prophecy exists to raise followers of Jesus, equip leaders, and train youth pastors/leaders for the building and the sustaining of healthy youth ministries in local churches throughout the world.

Youth Ministries training
Youth Ministries International traveled abroad in 2015 for the purpose of understanding youth ministry on a global scale, and to train leaders and reestablish relational connection with youth ministries around the world. These are some of the areas traveled to and a brief look into their purpose.

College and Career Ministries Network
Connect 2015 saw a grassroots event for College and Career ministry convening in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, with representation of attendees from seven states. This unique arm of Youth Ministries, ministered to college and university students, young professionals, and young married couples. The weekend was filled with worship, relevant preaching, and practical moments of connection with each group.

Reports were given that as these young adults returned to



PART OF THE CROWD in the stadium for a youth conference held in Honduras.



THE SCHOOL OF Practical and Advanced Studies held a preview weekend of new curriculum in Green Pond, Alabama. Shown are instructors and students.

their homes they began to develop this new grassroots movement of College and Career Ministries, and engaged in new relational service projects and events for their local churches and their communities.

Czech Republic
Youth Ministries in the areas of Europe, C.I.S. and the Middle East met in Frydek-Mistek, Czech Republic for the "Get Plugged In" Conference. Attending the conference were youth leaders and key team members of youth ministries from 13 countries. Seven languages being translated during the conference.

The five-day event was filled with relevant training such as, "The Future of Youth Ministries for the Continent," along with classes in the arts with training in voice, singing, and dance. There was also training in, "Relational Youth Ministries" with a concentration in dating and marriage relationships. Each night was filled with charismatic worship and power packed preaching and presentations from speakers from the continent and the United States.

The attendees left the conference with anticipation of growth and new enthusiasm for creating and developing dynamic youth ministries!

South Africa
South Africa was the place chosen for the very first unified leadership conference ever for leadership on the continent of Africa. Convening in Johannesburg, South Africa, representatives from every African nation participated in vision casting, leadership development, and relational connection for the future expansion and growth for all of Africa.

Leadership from the International Offices in Cleveland attended and presented from their area of ministry. Leadership Development, Global Missions, Youth Ministries, and the General Overseers Office were all in attendance and shared in training, presentation, and preaching of God's Word. Youth Ministries presented a vision for the future of youth ministry and the development of youth ministers as a vital part of the future growth for the continent.

The excitement and anticipation for the future success for Church of God of Prophecy in Africa was at an all time high as the conference came to a close. Pastors and leaders alike were full of hope and determination to return to their nations to develop relevant ministry and growth strategies for all of Africa!

Central and South America
Youth Ministries International

traveled to the following countries for youth ministries training and development in the areas of Central America, South America and the Spanish Caribbean; Honduras, Dominican Republic, and Brazil.

In all areas, youth ministries was promoted and vision was cast for the future of youth ministry in the areas of Central and South America. Each event was filled with classes, practical moments and preaching for the development of the leader as an individual, as well as the development of Youth Ministries throughout the regions.

Each event concluded with a community wide concert with a guest artist from each area. The attendance for the conference ranged from 800 to 1,200 leaders and the community concerts attendance ranged from 1,000 to 11,000 persons!

The participants of the conferences shared, "these events created a spiritual renewal, and a new heart and vision for Youth Ministries in my area of service!"

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CHILDREN FROM the Church of God of Prophecy orphanage in the Philippines are shown.



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The International Offices of the Church of God of Prophecy are located in Cleveland, Tennessee, but our ministry reaches across the globe. From aiding refugees in the Ukraine to building orphanages in Haiti; from training leaders in Europe to evangelizing children in Africa, the ministry is happening every single minute. Every 24 hours, a new church opens its doors, more than 500 people receive salvation, more than 10,000 preaching avenues are proclaiming the gospel and more than 200 are baptized in water. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, through prayer, we will plant churches and equip leaders to carry out the biblical mandate to make genuine disciples of all the peoples of the world, to the glory of Christ our Lord, Head of the church. Our vision is that we will be a Christ-exalting, holiness, Spirit-filled, all-nations, disciple-making, church planting Movement with a passion for Christian union.



CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY INTERNATIONAL OFFICES

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