

WHITE WING

100 YEARS

SEPTEMBER 2023

# MESSENGER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY

YEARS

A Century of Connection



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# 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

## Celebrating 100 Years of the *White Wing Messenger*

"Extra! Extra! Read all about it!"

As early as the mid 19th to early 20th centuries, young boys called "Newsboys" or "Newsies" could be seen and heard on most every street corner in the larger cities of America. It was their job to distribute newspapers to the public as soon as they came off the press.

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the *White Wing Messenger*, I want to shout, "Extra! Extra! Read all about it!" In this edition, we reflect on its rich history and the impact it has had on multiple generations within the Church of God of Prophecy. It has been a primary source of communication for our movement. Readers have been blessed to read sermons and inspirational articles, testimonies of healing, news from around the world, and local church happenings. The *White Wing Messenger* has been a reliable source for the dissemination of important information, new initiatives, major announcements, and so much more. It has provided a common connection for our church family and has served as a lifeline for shut-ins, hospital patients, military personnel, and those in prison. Our magazine has also been a valuable tool for outreach and evangelism. It has helped to communicate the mission, vision, and core values of the Church and has provided a space for readers to learn about our beliefs and values.

In the early days, it was not uncommon for the *White Wing Messenger* to be placed on the sick or underneath their pillows. Just as diseases left the sick and the evil spirits went out from them when Paul's handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body (Acts 19:11-12), many have used the *White Wing Messenger* as a similar point of contact. Our church magazine is still prayed over before it goes to distribution so that it will continue to be an anointed tool that God can use for his glory.

This magazine has been a constant in my home literally my entire life. From an early age, I enjoyed looking at the pictures from around the world. In my teen years when I was sensing the call of God on my life, I became more



**Tim Coalter**  
Presiding Bishop

interested in reading the sermons and articles. Even now, I look forward to receiving each new monthly edition and perusing its pages. Just as every carpenter needs a hammer in his toolbox, I am of the opinion that every church leader and every member should have the *White Wing Messenger* in their toolbox. Lawyers read legal publications, bankers read financial publications, and Certified Public Accountants read tax publications. Why then wouldn't we insist on having access to our church-related publications, especially our very own *White Wing Messenger*?

Leaders are readers. Very seldom will one excel in Christian leadership who is not given to reading. As you make it a practice to read our church magazine, perhaps it will inspire you to expand your reading to other books, magazines or articles that can sharpen your mind, expand your horizons, disciple you in Christ, and develop your particular calling or gifting. As noted by Jim Rohn, "Reading is essential for those who seek to rise above the ordinary." Some make the excuse that they just don't like to read. Well, if that is you, let me encourage you to give it another try. Turn off the television and open the pages of the *White Wing Messenger* or read a good book. Groucho Marx once said, "I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book."

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of our church's very own *White Wing Messenger*, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the many who have contributed their time, talents, and energies to produce such a high-quality church publication. God has used their efforts to inspire and inform our faith community.

As we look to the future, the *White Wing Messenger* will continue to play a vital role in telling the story of the Church and connecting us to one another. As the Lord wills, we look forward to seeing it thrive for another 100 years and beyond.

# CONNECTIONS

## Transition Announcement

Bishop Dr. Brian Sutton, general presbyter of North America recently announced, "After an extensive time of prayer and seeking, and in consultation with the presiding bishop, general presbyters, and North America Council, it is with great excitement I share the forthcoming appointment of **Bishop Paul Holt** as state bishop of Tennessee, effective September 1, 2023."

For the past 13 years, Bishop Holt has served as the executive director of Finance and Administration for the Church of God of Prophecy worldwide. At the International Offices, he also served as the Heritage Ministries director, a Corporate Board member, an Executive Committee member, Stewardship Ministries coordinator, Assembly Task Force chair, and Global Missions Committee chair.



Bishop Holt was born and raised in Tennessee serving in various positions in his local church before planting a church in East Tennessee. As an appointee in Tennessee, he served as a member of the Marriage Enrichment Board, the State Finance and Stewardship Committee, the Ministerial Review Board, Tennessee Center for Biblical Leadership instructor, youth camp director, State Men's Ministries director, and area presbyter. Before transitioning to the International Offices in 2007, he served as a lead pastor for almost 20 years with pastorates in Rogersville, Knoxville, and Cleveland, Tennessee. As a minister in Tennessee, he was privileged to work with state bishops Eugene Weakley, Wayne Hall, and E. C. McKinley.

Bishop Holt earned an Associate of Science in Business from Tomlinson College, a Bachelor of Science in Leadership from Johnson University, and an MBA from Bryan College.

Bishop Holt and his wife Barbara have been married for 38 years. They have two sons and seven grandchildren. The Holts recently co-authored their first book, *The Goldfish Principle*. Barbara, who is passionate about prayer and Bible study, wrote a study on the book of Job that will be published soon. The Holts attend church at Keith Street Ministries in Cleveland.

Presiding Bishop Tim Coalter made an announcement recently, sharing that effective September 1, 2023, **Bishop Daniel Felipe** will be transitioning from his appointment as state bishop of Texas to International Office appointment as executive director of Finance and Administration.

Bishop Felipe was born in the Dominican Republic and moved to Brazil at the age of five when his father, the late Daniel Felipe, Sr., was appointed as the national bishop for that country. He grew up in Brazil in a missionary household and moved to the United States in his late teenage years. With this rich international history, he is fluent in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.



Bishop Felipe started his ministry as a youth pastor in Arizona. He later served as regional youth director and camp coordinator for the Arizona/Nevada/New Mexico region. He was appointed to pastor his first church at the age of 22, later serving as a district supervisor in that same region. In 2016, he was appointed to serve as a member of the Global Finance and Stewardship Committee, and in 2018 was appointed state bishop of Texas. Most recently, he has also begun serving as the chairman of the Church Planting Commission for North America.

Bishop Felipe received a Bachelor of Arts in Business Management from the University of Phoenix and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Grand Canyon University. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Organization and Management with an emphasis in Leadership at Liberty University. Bishop Felipe is an advocate for organizational excellence and Spirit-led strategic planning in the pursuit of healthy and strong ministries.

Before becoming a full-time pastor, Bishop Felipe spent more than 10 years in the financial industry as a banker, investment consultant, and financial advisor for major financial institutions: Wells Fargo Bank, Wells Fargo Advisors, J.P. Morgan Chase, PNC Bank, and PNC Investments. He is a contributing writer for Leadership Development and Discipleship. He writes instructional materials concerning church administration and financial stewardship for the *Foundations: Minister's Development Program* and the *Church of God of Prophecy National/Regional/State Bishop's Manual*. His greatest joy is to be married to his wife Laura. They have been blessed with three children.

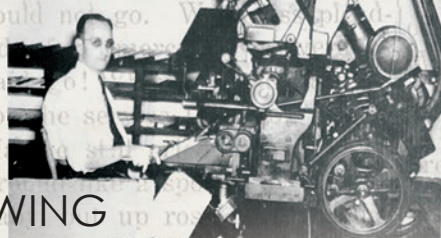
We welcome Bishop Daniel Felipe to the International Offices and congratulate him in this new season of ministry as we labor together to reconcile the world to Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit!

know of a better thing to do after a continuous pilgrimage of many years.

In his early experience Charlie spent much time in prayer. I can almost imagine now I can hear him pray. It has been many years since I heard him pray, but it is a pleasant memory to reflect back on those days when we prayed much of the time during the day and then were off to revive at night. The people came for miles, they wanted Charlie sing, pray and talk. How his big eyes would flash with light as he told of His love. I do not know he is now, but for my still going on with Jesus. I thought I mixed up a little with age, though I don't take the long walks I used to I believe a heavier supply of zeal did when I used to walk and run so much.

There is a revival of religion now than there has been slow as a water drop. The presence of God is great. The work seems almost too good to be true. I want to say that way. This is a time of harvest in the business world. The rush, rush, rush spirit should strike every class of men.

home for the night. I fell over on the bed. I could not get out all the day, but I was due at the place about eighteen o'clock that night. I could not go. I was so tired!



# WHITE WING MESSENGER Historical BEGINNINGS

Adrian L. Varlack, Sr.

While praying and meditating about the work, God whispered to me the words, "Samson's Foxes" and I was made to know that He wanted a school where children could be trained and educated for the cause of Christ. . .

At that time we had not thought of a paper, but as the work developed and many friends had written to know how the work was progressing, the paper seemed a necessity and for weeks before the first issue appeared, the name "Samson's Foxes," was ringing in our ears almost day and night.<sup>1</sup>

So wrote Bishop A. J. Tomlinson as he entered the world of publishing to help support his missionary work in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in Western North Carolina. Along with his family and the assistance of others at Culberson, North Carolina, he published *Samson's Foxes*, which had 620 subscribers by January of 1902.<sup>2</sup>

As most sources would testify, Tomlinson was a prolific writer who early recognized the value of publishing. After all, he had been a colporteur for the American Bible Society and the American Tract Society. He not only edited and published his own paper for about two years, but around 1904 he also published *The Way* together with one of his assistants, M. S. Lemons. From 1908 to 1910 he served as corresponding editor for G. B. Cashwell's *Bridegroom's Messenger*, indicating that he was not above sharing in the work of others. He was an avid reader of religious

magazines and books among which were *Evangelical Visitor*, *Tongues of Fire*, *The Mountain Missionary*, *The Way of Faith*, *God's Revivalist*, and *The Bible Advocate*. He was acquainted with the writings of George Fox, George Müller, David Brainerd, *The Ante-Nicene Fathers*, and Eusebius' *Ecclesiastical History*.<sup>3</sup>

The first issue of *The Evening Light and Church of God Evangel*, the Church's first official major publication, was published March 1, 1910, and later *The Faithful Standard* was added. Retaining this latter paper in 1923 when a serious division in the work occurred, Bishop Tomlinson made an attempt to keep it going, but it did not last and was, ultimately, not necessary.<sup>4</sup> At a special council meeting called by A. J. Tomlinson and held in Chattanooga, Tennessee, August 8–10, 1923, a number of decisions were taken, among which was a new publication, *The White Wing Messenger*. Lillie Dugger's biography of Tomlinson reported the matter as follows:

One other important matter was discussed and decided upon by this council and that was that A. J. Tomlinson, as editor, negotiate means to start a paper. The name decided upon was "The White Wing Messenger." A brother saw a vision of the paper while the council was praying about the name. He said: "When I was praying this morning, I saw a vision which showed me the name of the paper in the most beautiful form that I have ever seen. The name appeared in arched form, THE WHITE WING MESSENGER, with a beautiful dove bearing an olive branch in its claws just beneath the arch."<sup>5</sup>

This called council closed on Friday, August 10, 1923, and the first *White Wing Messenger* was dated September 15, 1923.<sup>6</sup> We note the symbolism of their dependence upon the Holy Spirit (the Dove) even in their search for an appropriate and reflective name for the publication. This God-dependency is still the Church's way, through prayer, in matters both large and small.

Twenty-one years later at the 39th Assembly, 1944, the then-business manager of the publishing house, Avery D. Evans, testified:

Well do I remember the afternoon back in 1923 when our beloved A. J. Tomlinson packed his suitcase for a journey to Louisville, Kentucky, to attend the state convention. Just before leaving his home at 2525 Gaut Street, in the southeastern room on the second floor where I had a small office, he walked up to me while I was sitting at a little desk and, leaning over me, drew a long breath and let out a big smile and grunt and said, "Avery, I am about to go and I want you to see if Mr. Harle will let you have some money so you can get the *White Wing Messenger* printed." In a few minutes he was gone and I proceeded to carry out his instructions, borrowing \$50 at the Merchants Bank of this city with which we printed and mailed the first issue of the *White Wing*. For quite a while the *White Wing* was printed and mailed from the little offices in Brother Tomlinson's home. [Also] for a time I carried each issue to the Post Office in a mailbag or two strapped to the handle bars of a bicycle that belonged to a boy whose name was Milton.<sup>7</sup>

## International Connectivity

To a centrally built organization like the Church of God of Prophecy, international connectivity is crucial. The *White Wing Messenger* has been one of the greatest instruments of the Church's connectivity. The late General Overseer Billy Murray wrote in a January 1997 *White Wing* editorial:

For more than 70 years, the *White Wing Messenger* has been an inspirational publication, blessing readers around the world. Going into the homes of

so many of our members, it has served as a means of connectivity among the churches.

As early as 1920, A. J. Tomlinson expressed the desire to publish the then *Church of God Evangel* in Spanish. In a section of his annual address titled "The Spanish-Speaking People," he wrote:

Before I close I want to make mention of a subject that has been on my heart for two or three years. I refer to an opportunity to reach the Spanish-speaking people who are constantly flowing into the United States. For a long time I have started to prepare literature in the Spanish language and scatter it among them. Would to God someone who has the money would make it possible to add this to our printing plant. Some of our friends in the southwest have been urging us to print the *Evangel* in Spanish. This would be a great way to do foreign mission work at home.<sup>8</sup>

The drive to launch out internationally through publishing was indeed realized by the Church of God of Prophecy as its international *White Wing Messenger* (in some form) has been produced, translated, and printed from time to time in Spanish, French, Telegu (India), Indonesian, Zulu, Afrikaans, and Greek.<sup>9</sup> Together with the widespread presence and distribution of the English *White Wing Messenger*, this informational organ has served as a vital point of communication, connectivity, and representative presence for the worldwide Church. Although not produced in as many languages today, the *Messenger* still plays this critical connecting role.

## Social Progress and Professionalism

From the days of *Samson's Foxes* (1901-1902), children and young people were given a vital role in publishing. Halcy Tomlinson, one of Bishop A. J.'s daughters, at age 11, was put in charge of the Children's Department of the paper. Here is a sample letter and her editorial response:

Arvada, Wyoming, April 9, 1902

Dear Halcy:

I though[t] me to write to the dear little paper. We do not go to school now. My studies are reading, writing, spelling, and grammer [sic]. I am nine years old. I am a little Christian girl and have three brothers. One is eleven, one ten years old, and the other three months old. Good night.—Pearl Creswell.

Halcy's answer:

We are very glad that you have joined our little band of witters [sic] and that you have put yourself in the care of Christ while so young. We hope to here [sic] from you again.<sup>10</sup>

*Continue on page 21*



# The Story of the White Wing Messenger:

## This Silent Preacher Has Blessed Thousands of People

**M. A. Tomlinson**  
WWM December 18, 1954

The following article appeared in the December 18, 1954, *White Wing Messenger* as Bishop M. A. Tomlinson prepared its readers for an upcoming change in the magazine's format. He did this by providing a brief and interesting history of the Church's early publications with emphasis on early innovation and determination that eventually evolved into the magazine we know today.

In telling the story of the *White Wing Messenger*, the official publication of the Church, I think it will be good to go back a number of years and refer briefly to other publications as it is possible that many of our people do not know the reason for our having the *White Wing* now and why it was so named. The Church has not always had a *White Wing Messenger*, but it has published a paper for many years.

My father, the former General Overseer, liked to read and he liked to write as a school boy. He stated once that when his father realized that he so much enjoyed writing that he told him he would do his best to educate him so he would be able to write. This proved a great blessing to him and to others after he entered the ministry. He realized the value of the printed page, and in 1901 he began publishing a small two-page paper which he named *Samson's Foxes*. He heard God whisper these words to him, and he wanted the fire the foxes spread to go to all the world to show people the way of life. The paper was enlarged to four pages, but in 1904 it was discontinued on account of a lack of finance. In 1905 my father started the publication of *The Way*. He was confident that he had found the right way, so it is not surprising that he selected this name for the paper. My father, mother, and the older children set the type and operated the foot press and prepared it for mailing. After a while the name was changed to *The Evening Light and Church of God Evangel*. Then sometime later the words "Evening Light" were dropped from the name, and it was called *The Church of God Evangel*. In the early years

of the printing business for the Church, the subscription list was so small that my father carried the paper to the post office in a bag on his back. A number of people in Cleveland, in speaking concerning the progress of the Church, have referred to the times they had seen him almost running down the streets to the post office with a bag of mail on his back. A one-room office was built on Gaut Street across from my father's home. The circulation of the paper increased and the publishing business grew and the building was enlarged three times. The Church of God Evangel was a weekly publication.

There came a time when it was necessary to start another publication. Our publishing business was taken from us, and we were left without any means of anything to do with, but my father felt that the work must continue. When he learned that it was impossible to work with some of those with whom he had been associated for years, he called a council of those who desired to continue with the Church as they had in the past. This council convened in Chattanooga, Tennessee, August 8-10, 1923. During this council, steps were taken to start publishing a paper, and before the council closed, it was given a name. A suggestion for a name was made and there were no objections offered to it, but at a later session of the council, a brother said, "When I was praying this morning, I saw a vision which showed me the name of the paper in the most beautiful form I have ever seen. The name appeared in arched form, THE WHITE WING MESSENGER, with a beautiful dove bearing an olive branch in its claws just beneath the



arch." According to statements made by those present, it seemed good to them and to the Holy Ghost for the paper to be called *The White Wing Messenger*. We still feel it is an appropriate name for our Church publication, and we want the Holy Ghost, of which the dove is a symbol, to accompany each paper and bless the contents to the hearts of all readers.

The first issue of the *White Wing Messenger* was printed and mailed to only a few hundred subscribers September 15, 1923. From the time of that first issue until now it has been winging its way to the thousands of readers with a message of sunshine, gladness, and cheer. It has proved to be a powerful preacher in setting forth the teachings of the Church and a great promoter of the work of the auxiliaries. It has entered many homes and blessed the occupants. Hundreds of times the statement has been made, "I couldn't do without the *White Wing Messenger*." Tears have rolled down the cheeks of many as they read articles and news that blessed their souls. Some have shouted and talked in tongues as they read its pages. Many sick bodies have been healed as prayer was offered and the *White Wing* was laid upon them. We will never know in this life just how much good has been accomplished through the *White Wing*, but we do know it has been worth so much to our people and the advancement of the work that we wouldn't think of doing without it.

A few years ago, the Assembly recommended that the *White Wing* be published weekly instead of biweekly. We have never felt that we could do this until now, and beginning with the first of the new year we will expect to make it a weekly paper. That means that our subscribers will receive the *White Wing* each week. I feel this is a forward step in our publishing business, and we believe our people will be happy to have the *White Wing* coming to their homes each week.

This will be the last issue of the paper for 1954 and our subscribers may not recognize the first issue of the new year as the *White Wing Messenger* until they have examined it. It will not be the usual six-column, four-page paper, but it will be a three-column, sixteen-page paper similar to the *Joyful News Broadcast*. Those who have been subscribers



June 1947 *White Wing Messenger*

for years may miss the paper in the old style and will probably feel a little lost without it for a while, but when we get accustomed to the new style, I believe we will like it.

I hope all of our people will be careful to read the *White Wing*. I know it is easy to lay it aside and forget it, but our ministers, church officers, auxiliary leaders, and officers should be very careful to read each issue, and all of our people will receive blessings by reading it. We read newspapers every day, so I feel we can take the time to read the official publication of the Church once a week. I have

known some of our people to fail in performing their duties because they did not read the instructions and information given in the paper. We receive letters quite often asking for information that has appeared in the *White Wing*. If they had read the paper, they would not have needed to ask for help.

I am sure the *White Wing* in its new dress and coming to our readers each week will be worth the time we spend in reading it. We expect it to carry the same good spirit with it that has always accompanied the *White Wing*. Our people may use it in time of sickness the same as in the past. Prayer will be offered for each issue before it leaves the Publishing House for the post office. It is expected that the news it carries will be more up-to-date than in the past, and we want every article and every testimony and every report of the work and everything contained in the paper to be so full of interest and blessing that when the paper is picked up by our readers, it will not be laid down until every word is read. We want it to prove the greatest blessing to our people, and the way for it to do this is for everyone to read every page of it.

May the Lord richly bless this last issue of the year and this last issue printed in this style to our people in a very real way. We have a special kind of feeling for the things we have been accustomed to for so long. But when the weekly *White Wing Messenger* makes its appearance in its new style, let's receive it gladly. Let's give it the necessary attention and receive all the good that we can from it so it will be able to fill its place in the Church in these last days.

# Turning to the Harvest with Grace and Truth

(Editor's note: Throughout its history, the *White Wing Messenger* has served as the voice of the Church of God of Prophecy. Here is an excerpt from an Assembly sermon reprint that first appeared in the September 10 and September 24, 1994, issues of the *White Wing Messenger* from General Overseer Billy D. Murray. It changed the course of the Church forever.)

John called Jesus "the Word," declaring that *the Word* was God. "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). His very title, *the Word*, is expressive of communication, of revelation, and God chose to communicate with us powerfully through this One whom John called "the Word made flesh."

Of course, this same Word, being Creator of this universe and everything in it, had communicated already much of His power and of His wisdom through His creation: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork" (Psalm 19:1). While we stand in awe at His great power by which all His creation is now being upheld, something greater than this is *His great love*! Apart from this love what would His great power



**BILLY D. MURRAY**  
FORMER GENERAL  
OVERSEER

and great wisdom mean to us? Our relationship with Him, our love for Him, stems not from the greatness of His power, but from the greatness of His love. John said it well, "We love him because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19).

He loved us in our sins, and He loves each of those who still live in sinfulness just as much as He loves any one of us. Jesus came as a Savior for us all. It remains His will that none be lost. He would have all men to be saved. He came to earth as a Savior to express this desire and

He expressed it strongly at Calvary. O that our hearts might be knit with His heart in His love for every lost person!

It seems easy for us to sit in judgment upon a decadent society, decrying the sinfulness that abounds. Jesus came to this earth for judgment all right, but His was not

"This world is in darkness. People have lost their direction. What is their hope? Being introduced to a Person and by God's amazing grace finding a relationship with Him. His name is Jesus! He is their Savior! Apart from Him they are forever lost."

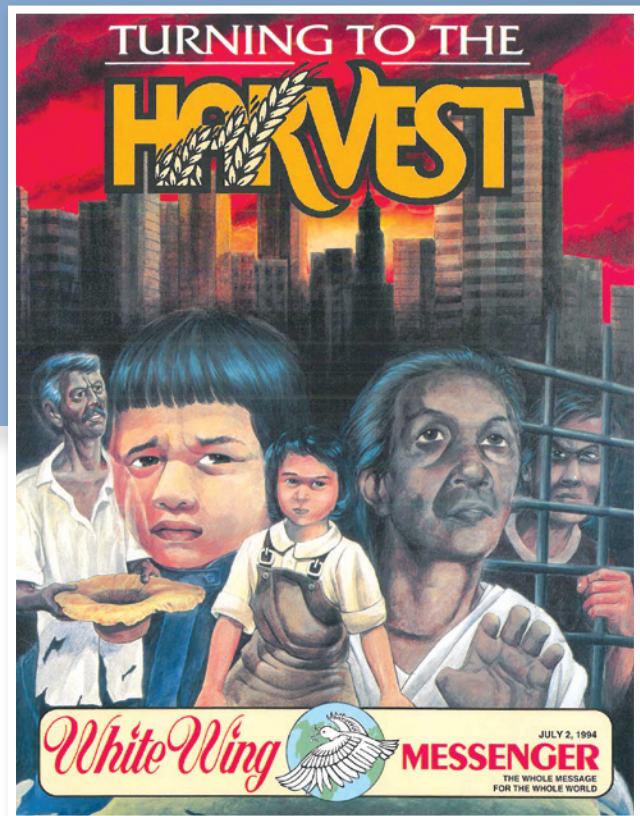
—Bishop Billy D. Murray,  
Address to 88th General Assembly

a judgment to condemnation. The people were condemned already. Matthew wrote, in reference to Isaiah's prophecy, that Jesus would "send forth judgment unto victory" (Matthew 12:20). His judgment differed from the judgment of Moses' law by which they stood condemned. In Him was the power for deliverance from condemning sins, the power for restoration to a loving relationship with their Creator....

Remember, Jesus came to bring *grace and truth*. Grace enables truth to become relational. It removes it beyond being purely doctrinal and causes it to be a matter of experience, written and known in our hearts (Hebrews 10:16). It can then be *lived out* in practical expression before those among whom we shine as lights (Philippians 2:15) in a world of darkness—*turning to the harvest*....

Promotions and programs will not suffice; a compelling passion must be our driving force. Programs are designed by the mind, while passion is of the heart; it sets the spirit aflame. Passion is defined as "extreme, compelling emotion; intense emotional drive or excitement."

The passion being called for by God is not a "pumped up" emotion, one that rises and falls in proportion to someone's ability to excite or arouse feelings. It is rather the



passion which drove our Savior while He was "tabernacled" among us (John 1:14), and it will be felt in our hearts in proportion to our relationship with Him. O to see with His eyes, to love with His love, to feel with His heart!...

The passion needed right now is produced from heaven, from our union with that One who came from heaven, a union which is strengthened on our knees. Do you feel a oneness with Jesus? Do you believe His burden is your burden? Can you weep with Him over those who are lost?...

O that those who are lost might feel the burden that Jesus has for them right now, that they might feel tonight the burden the church has for them, as "the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (Revelation 22:17).

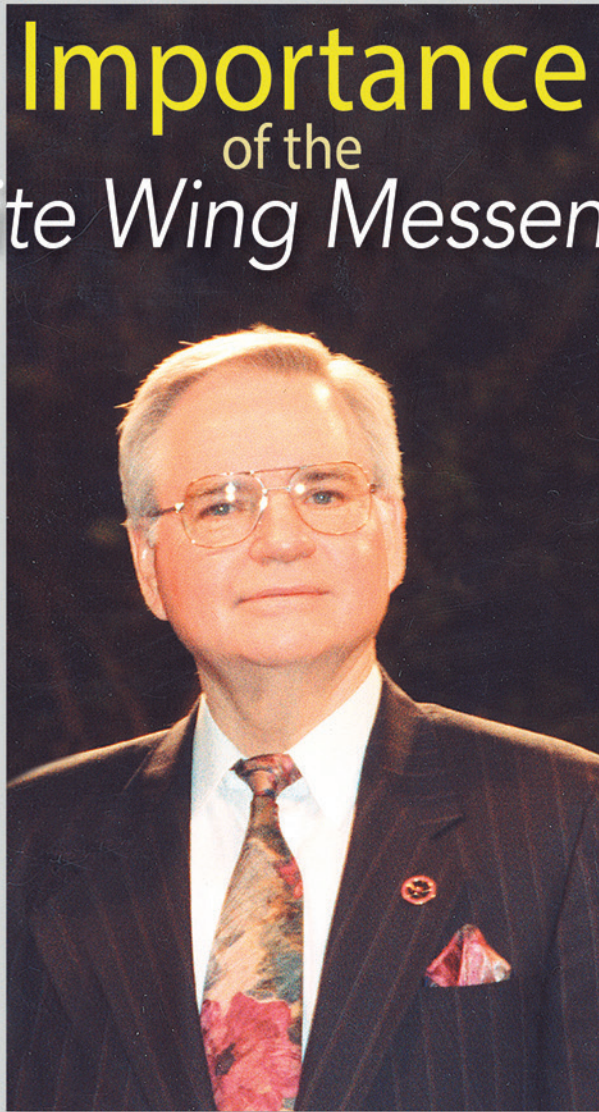
# Importance of the *White Wing Messenger*

## What was the impact of the *White Wing Messenger* during your tenure as General Overseer?

A leader usually finds a theme that captures his vision that he would like to lead the church forward in reaching the organization's goals and head in the same direction. This is repeated and implemented many times via the *White Wing Messenger*. The *Messenger* series as a whole is to keep these goals and the ringing theme before the leadership and membership of the church. Hopefully, the theme ideas will become the vision of the church and not his only.

## What are some of the themes of memorable editorials/articles you wrote?

My calling as that of a pastor and much of my writing was very simple. It was my desire that the Holy Spirit would use these words as "warm words of encouragement."



**BISHOP FRED S. FISHER**  
FORMER GENERAL OVERSEER

"Our future as an organization" captured my mind and thoughts and how important it was to always be looking forward—planning and preparing for the future before it gets here. God knows the end from the beginning! Nothing catches God by surprise. My desire was for the leadership to remain current with the times and relevant to the world. We must not be unprepared for the next generation.

## Who worked with you to keep the *WWM* running?

My wife, Betty, is excellent in sentence structure and the written word of my thoughts. Therefore, before my writing was sent to the editor, Jenny Chatham, my wife always ensured the basics to work with were legible before publishing.

Jenny was always congenial and helpful with me and my writings for the *Messenger*. Finding good writers is always a challenge! But she was able to find them and organize the *Messenger* around a good theme and for seasonal holidays. During my six-year tenure as general overseer, the staff published



meaningful and relevant articles resulting in thought-provoking and inspiring messages by anointed leaders from around the world.

The production of the magazine required a team. Some who helped were Jenny Chatham, Elizabeth Witt, April Kirby, Perry Horner, Diane Stuart, David Smith, Gene Browning, and Gene Gillum. All of these individuals were behind the overall production of each magazine.

## What do you think is the purpose of the WWM?

Proverbs 18:21 states, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue: And they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof." When words from the tongue are published into print, it becomes a powerful force. The fruit and results from the written word bring an organization to life. The printed word is put into action and all who love it "eat the fruit thereof."

The *Messenger* is a magazine of information, instruction, and inspiration. The magazine shares information about events and upcoming dates, as well as interesting facts from around the world and targeted instruction for local leadership. The *White Wing Messenger* further develops, inspires, and encourages the readers and ministers at the local church level.



## Do you still read it, and what do you enjoy about it?

It was in 1951, soon after Betty and I married at almost 17 years old, that we began a pastoral assignment in a small rural area in South Carolina. We had no car, no phone, no parsonage, and no money. The church consisted of 12 members but no church building. We went from house to house to meet and have our church services.

There were times of discouragement because of our lack of fellowship with our church family outside of our small congregation. The only contact with the outside world was when the issue of the *White Wing Messenger* arrived at our local church. The contents of the magazine served to inform, instruct, and inspire.

Betty and I will be 89 years old this October. When the *Messenger* arrives at our home, we read the magazine from cover to cover every month! As we read, we are connected to the Church of God of Prophecy outside of our local church and, once again, informed, instructed, and inspired!

I ask myself the question, "How can I keep my family connected to the Church of God of Prophecy?" I order ten yearly subscriptions of the *Messenger* for my family that are sent to each one of their homes every month. This is a small effort to keep my family connected. Share the *Messenger* with your family!

# WHITE WING MESSENGER

VOL. I. No. 1.

CLEVELAND

6 cts. Copy—\$1.50 a Year

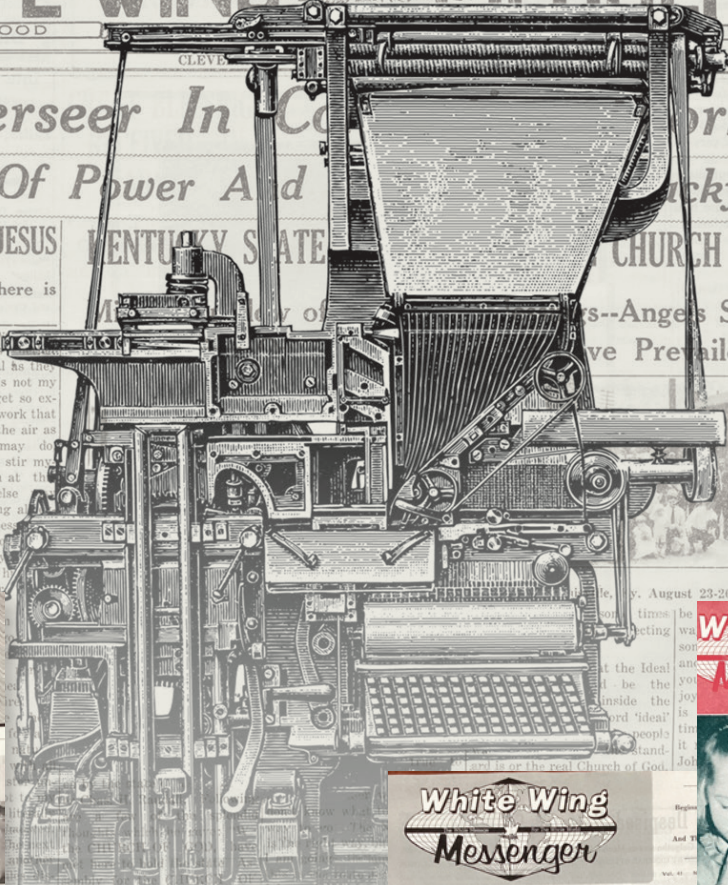
## General Overseer In Convention Work Few Days Great Outburst Of Power And Gladness In Kentucky State Assembly GOING ON WITH WORK FOR JESUS CHURCH OF GOD

Better Hurry as Time is Short and There is  
But Little Time to Work

STIR SOMEBODY AS YOU GO

Call attention to a young man, we will call him Charlie for short, for that was his family name. He was converted in early life and bid fair to make a useful man in the world. He sang well, testified well and was used of God in drawing his associates to the Savior. He was tall and well built which gave him an attractive appearance. In a certain place about forty miles from his home he made a good impression among strangers.

they will find themselves on with work for Jesus. They are as full of zeal as they should be or not. It is not my will for any body to get so excited about the Lord's work that they will simply beat the air as Paul indicates some may do but it is my desire to stir myself up and while I am at it, probably somebody else will catch the spell. Laying aside excitement and restlessness and getting down to common sense business I say to myself, all that we had better do is time is short and there is



GENERAL OVERSEER IN  
CONVENTION WORK  
FOR FEW DAYS

During the past few days the General Overseer, A. J. Tomlinson, has been holding state conventions in different states with wonderful success. Thousands have heard His messages of love and were blessed.

HEALING BY THE  
POWER OF GOD

But Don't Say You Are



56th Anniversary of First Assembly is Celebrated



...White Wing Messenger Day '66.  
(See pages 2, 3 and 18)



California Makes Ready for Crusade  
(See page 6)



Cleveland B. T. C. Begins Tomorrow — April 1



Identifying  
the Church  
(See page 11)  
April 16, 1908

Tomlinson College Chapel Groundbreaking



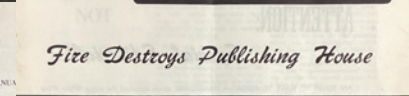
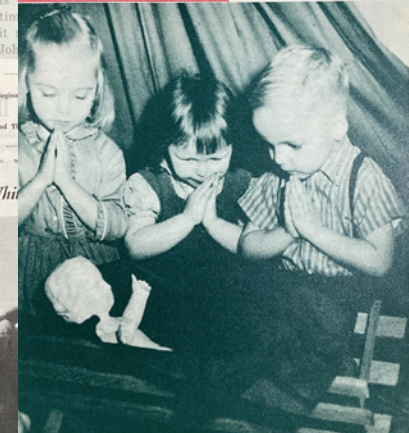
Secretary of Commerce is Presented White Wing



PUBLIC RELATIONS PERSONNEL  
VISIT SERVICE MEN  
IN GERMANY



Wishing for all Nations  
God's Very Best Blessing  
At this most Sacred Season



Fire Destroys Publishing House

See Page 6



# WHITE WING MESSENGER



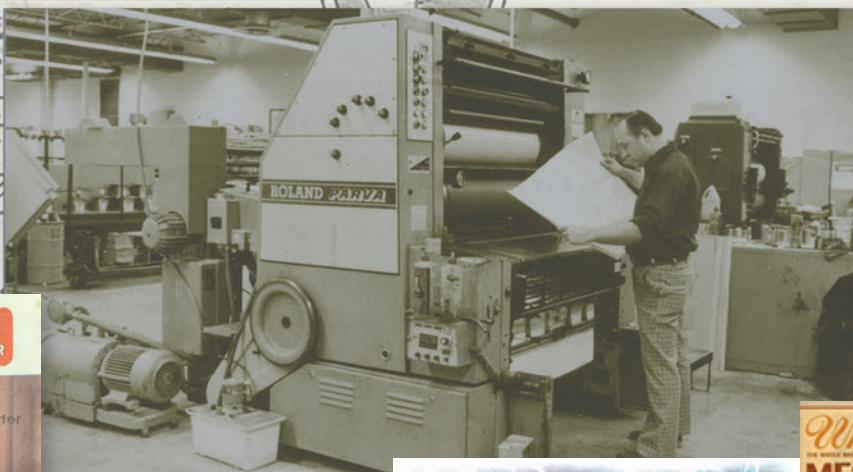
VOL. XXIV—No. 12

PUBLISHED BY  
CLEVELAND

NEED  
PLACE  
SEE

6c Per Copy. \$1.50 Per Year

Go Ye Into  
To Every  
The Church  
An Institution Jesus Built. Pr



The Gospel  
People

Death Row Prisoner  
Is Born Again

In writing this, I hardly know where to start. I am so overwhelmed with joy from the knowledge that God was faithful and just to forgive me of my sins which were many, through the blood of Jesus Christ our Saviour. I thank God for that, above all. I also thank Him for keeping me in this wicked world and for bringing me to a place to

THIS ISSUE IS DEDICATED TO OUR GENERAL OVERSEER  
JANUARY 31, 1970

WHITE WING MESSENGER



Open Letter  
to the Cover

White Wing MESSENGER  
THE WORLD MESSAGE FOR THE WORLD PEOPLE  
DECEMBER 6, 1980



White Wing MESSENGER

THEME:  
KNOW  
YOUR  
FAITH

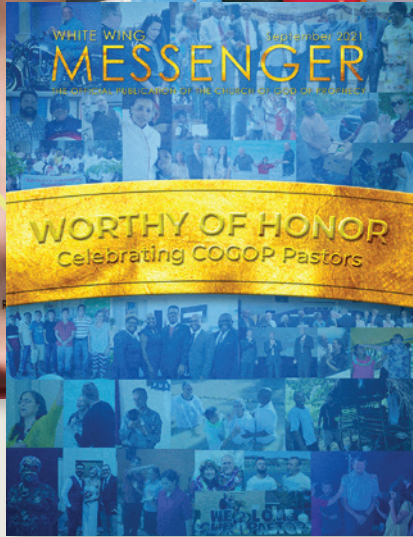
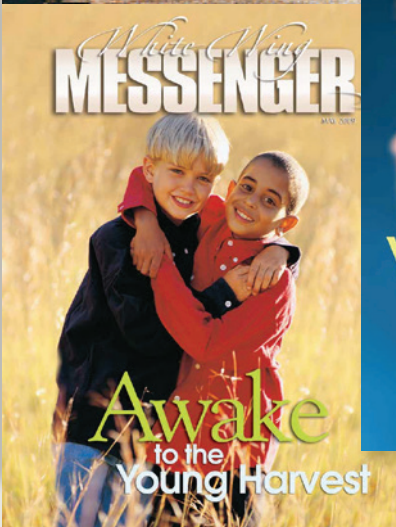


BIBLE TRAINING INSTITUTE



Neither know we  
what to do,  
but our eyes  
are upon the

WHITE WING MESSENGER  
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY  
AUGUST 2010



# White Wing

Management from

## Editor/Publisher

A. J. Tomlinson: September 15, 1923–October 2, 1943  
M. A. Tomlinson: October 16, 1943–April 28, 1990  
Billy D. Murray: May 12, 1990–July 11, 2000  
Fred S. Fisher: July 12, 2000–August 24, 2006  
Randall E. Howard: August 25, 2006–April 30, 2013  
Sam Clements: September 1, 2014–August 31, 2022  
Tim Coalter: September 1, 2022–present

## Office Editor

A. D. Evans: September 27, 1924–September 25, 1926  
(From 1926 until 1944, no office editor or assistant editor was appointed.)

## Assistant Editor

C. T. Davidson: October 14, 1944–September 11, 1948  
L. A. Moxley: October 2, 1948–September 29, 1951  
Robert F. Wright: October 13, 1951–August 28, 1954  
Buford M. Johnson: September 25, 1954–September 11, 1965  
R. O. Covey: September 25, 1965–August 27, 1977  
Billy D. Murray: September 10, 1977–September 30, 1989  
Robert J. Pruitt: October 14, 1989–August 31, 1991  
John Pace: September 14, 1991–July 30, 1994  
Richard E. Davis: August 13, 1994–August 10, 1996  
John Pace: August 24, 1996–July 26, 1998

## Managing Editor

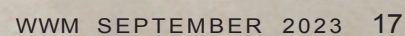
Virginia Chatham: August 24, 1996–August 31, 2010  
DeWayne Hamby: September 1, 2010–February 28, 2019  
Marsha Robinson: March 1, 2019–present

## Assistant Publisher/Publishing Director

A. D. Evans: September 25, 1926–August 14, 1948  
C. T. Davidson: October 2, 1948–August 29, 1953  
M. M. Burt: September 26, 1953–August 28, 1954  
Robert F. Wright: September 25, 1954–October 5, 1957  
Hubert R. Smith: October 12, 1957–October 3, 1959  
Everett L. Higdon: October 10, 1959–September 22, 1962  
Hugh R. Edwards: September 29, 1962–June 8, 1966  
Perry E. Gillum: September 24, 1966–September 12, 1970  
Leonard F. Kendrick: September 26, 1970–September 2, 1972  
Harry L. Moore: September 16, 1972–September 13, 1975  
Henry O'Neal: September 20, 1975–July 30, 1994  
John Pace: August 13, 1994–April 10, 1999  
Oswill Williams: April 24, 1999–November 1, 2003  
Perry E. Gillum: March 2004–December 31, 2006  
Ben Feliz: March 1, 2007–September 1, 2010



## 1923 to the Present





# One Hundred Years of

## Virginia Chatham, Managing Editor 1996–2010

### How did you hear about the job?

I was still in graduate school. I was going back to get another master's in English. Larry Duncan called to see if I would be interested in it. I said, "No, I'm a teacher." He said, "Well, how about just coming and filling in for a while?" I came and talked to Richard Davis, and they talked me into it with the intention I was going to finish that master's and go into teaching.

### What type of articles have ministered to people over the years?

You don't get a lot of feedback; only if it's something they don't like. You don't get too much on articles they loved. It's like messages. I did get a lot of positive [feedback], too, but I can't think of one particular subject.

### How many women had served as managing editor?

None. I was the first woman and the first non-bishop, so it was very challenging. It was really fifteen years of changes. The first year, I mainly assisted Brother Davis. I took it over and they were sending off the art, and they would send it back. It was an anniversary issue of something, and I begged them to let me do it in color. Then we did the cover in color.

It used to be once a week. It was like a pamphlet and then it went biweekly. Then we decided finally to do it once a month, full color, because of the price. But then we had a printing press, our own printing press. I loved it. The press guys took ownership of it.



### What would an average day look like?

I came to work at eight and I would meet with my staff and talk about what needed to be done. One thing I don't miss is deadlines. We had a small staff. There was no system, so I had to develop a system of proofreading with another editor; we would go back and forth. You always need another eye to look at it. Elizabeth Witt was with me for eleven years; she would know what to do. You still have mistakes; they can't be avoided.

### What made you stick to that job for so long?

I love this organization and when I realized I could do something positive, it was just a blessing to my life. I'm not a minister; don't like to speak in public. When I was going through hard times, this place was my family—I had such prayer support. I know God put me here.



**Interesting fact:** The first issue of the White Wing was published with a \$50 loan from Merchants Bank in Cleveland.



# Ministry:

## Talks with Three Who Served

### Perry Horner, Graphic Artist 1972–2016

#### When did you start working on the White Wing Messenger?

In 1972. I worked with Gary Glover and Jerry Simpson. We were the only artists. He came about five years before I did. Henry O'Neil was the business manager and R. O. Covey was the assistant editor. He gave us



roughs, and we just cleaned it up in galleys and wax. Brother Covey was a very accurate, disciplined journalist. He was a writer, a good writer. He also bought equipment for other nations and would send artwork so they could do the *White Wing Messenger* printing in their countries. He set all that in place.

#### Looking back, what has it felt like to make this your career?

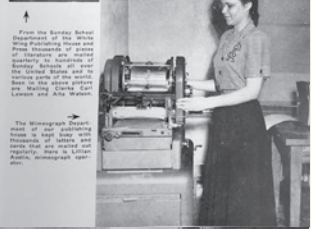
As a child, it was a dream to come here and work. I thought it would never happen. That's what led me to talk to Brother Glover and Brother O'Neil in 1972—to see if anything like that could ever materialize, since I had a background in artwork. They called me a couple of weeks later.

#### What purpose do you think the White Wing has served?

If you don't communicate, you don't know what the others are doing. You don't see the encouragement, the excitement. It's a connection to the Church that's always been needed. I think it's good that the magazine survived the closing of the Publishing House—that there was foresight to keep it going.

#### What are some of the changes you've seen through the years?

After some time, it became two-color more than it did before. Then we began to see a four-color cover and then half-issues in color. We started getting into clip art, then Dynagraphics came out with four-color artwork we could shoot and place. Little by little, it opened up. It was the



**Interesting fact:** In the 32nd Assembly, the Questions and Subject Committee agreed with General Overseer A.J. Tomlinson "that every minister and every member should be a reader of the Church paper, which has so nobly served to pilot the Church through years of conflict, and [has] been the means of brightening the experiences of thousands."

## DeWayne Hamby, Managing Editor 2010–2018

### How did you come to be managing editor?

I may be a rare bird, but I read the *White Wing Messenger* as a teenager. Oddly enough, when I was at Tomlinson College, Billy Murray, who was general overseer at the time, visited chapel and we took a picture together. Our newspaper staff made a joke that he had announced me as assistant editor of the *Messenger*, maybe because it seemed so far-fetched for me as a young college student. Who would have ever thought it would eventually happen? But it did, and it was such a blessing and honor to be a part of this legacy.



### What changes have been made during your tenure?

We struck a delicate balance of having things that need to be shared with our readers and at the same time providing information the readers want. To provide more direct connection from COGOP leadership, our department was moved to the direct oversight of the general overseer, now the presiding bishop, which is where it began. We also conducted surveys and interacted on social media to connect with more immediacy.

**Interesting fact:** The highest quantity of White Wings ever printed was for the Assembly issue in 1981, which was 21,400.

### Where does the *White Wing* fit in the history/mission of the COGOP?

A. J. Tomlinson, who printed it in the beginning, called the *White Wing Messenger* “our greatest preacher” that can travel to so many places and reach so many people. It was very important to him that all ministers stay connected through the *Messenger*, and if you read his sermons, you see many instances where he was pretty direct in his approach, even sometimes calling into question the seriousness of a minister who did not receive it. That’s pretty strong, but it shows that he believed we all need a common point of connection, and that’s what I believe this magazine provides.

**Interesting fact:** A 1975 source reports that the *WWM* was being published in multiple languages including Spanish, French, Telegu, Greek, and Arabic.

When all is said and done, we all want to leave this earth and this Church better than we found it. We want our children to take up the leadership roles and, I believe for that to happen, they need to be connected to their global family in this Church. We can’t disregard our identity and believe that somehow our children are going to suddenly plug into it.

Because I believed we needed to get more young eyes reading, we began a youth page in 2012. The goal was to provide information that youth could turn to and realize this page was meant for them. We also began new columns on personal evangelism and a section for leaders called Ministry Helps and began offering digital subscriptions through an online store.

### Is the *White Wing Messenger* still relevant for modern readers?

There is no doubt. I’ve said it so much I sound like a broken record, but it’s very evident everyone is searching for truth. We cannot abdicate our responsibility to provide sound truth to our readers along with keeping them connected to the global body. I know print magazines have struggled for the past decade or so, and we’re not married to the medium. The most important thing is the message getting out.

**Interesting fact:** Through special “self-denial” offerings, free subscriptions were provided to the aged, disabled, widows, financially distressed, men and women in the Armed Forces, the mission field, and various public institutions.

# WHITE WING MESSENGER

## Historical Beginnings

Continued from page 9

Early in the Church's history, its youth were charged with fund-raising for free literature work, both its production and distribution. Eventually, through what became the Free Literature Department at the publishing house, the "Victory Leaders" (as they were called) raised hundreds of thousands of dollars, and a main feature of this thrust was to provide free copies of the *White Wing Messenger* to older folks and to the Church's more indigent international community. In fact, this youth-sponsored fund provided the bulk of the money for the printing of the *White Wing Messenger* in the various languages noted above.

In the Church's growth and transitions over the years, the *White Wing Messenger* featured prominently as an avenue not only to report the group's international progress, but to be a vocal witness and representation of the Church's social development and maturity. In a church led primarily by bishops (overseers), it was expected that key positions on its international staff would be held by men who were themselves ordained bishops or at least seen as those who could deal authoritatively with other bishops and with doctrinal issues. Of course women had always provided the office support, secretarial help, and literary expertise for much of the Church's operations. However, it was not until 1991 that Church leadership broke this mold with the appointment of Jerlena Riley as its chief financial officer for the Church's worldwide operations. More to the focus of this article and during the international office restructuring of 1996, Virginia Chatham was appointed as managing editor of the *White Wing Messenger*, assuming the responsibilities assigned to the former all-male assistant editor's position.<sup>11</sup>

This appointment and Virginia's competent professional leadership brought a new day to the Church's official publication, both in its design and format and in the depth of the materials presented. It became a quality Christian magazine that was second to none. Around the same period, both the Spanish and French *White Wing Messenger* magazines took on a new look under the editorial leadership of Diana Garcia, another of our competent professionals. Not only did the *White Wing Messenger* gain prominence and respect among Christian literary organizations, but it became one of the most visible symbols of the Church's scriptural and social progress. It brought a kind of respectability to the



Church's presence (and to its people) across the international spectrum.

## Conclusion

When the history of a people is written, their art, literature, and poetry play a significant role for later interpreters. I have no doubt that the *White Wing Messenger*, in its journey across these 100 years, has served this Church well and will be found by historians to have done so. But beyond that, the *Messenger* is

fulfilling its role of promoting the gospel of Jesus Christ; of representing, explaining, and connecting the Church with its international mission; of giving a forum to God's people to express and to share their gifts. Publishing and printing is an expensive and dynamic business and has had a somewhat turbulent history among us. I marvel, however, that by God's grace and calling, this small Church has sustained this great effort these many years. This incredible magazine, its noteworthy achievements, and its faithful presentation of the Word of God will continue to be a source of joy to the Church of God of Prophecy and a blessing to the nations.

"The Lord gave the word; great was the company of those who published it" (Psalm 68:11).

<sup>1</sup> *Samson's Foxes* (undated issue) CGP Archives, Cleveland, TN.

<sup>2</sup> A. J. Tomlinson, *Diary of A. J. Tomlinson, 1901–1924*, Heritage Series 5 (Cleveland, TN: White Wing Publishing House, 2012), 33.

<sup>3</sup> Stanley M. Burgess, ed., "Ambrose Jessup Tomlinson," *The New International Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements*, rev. ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing, 2002), 1143–1145.

<sup>4</sup> Burgess, 1143–1145.

<sup>5</sup> Lillie Duggar, A. J. Tomlinson (Cleveland, TN: White Wing Publishing House, 1964), 220.

<sup>6</sup> Duggar, 220.

<sup>7</sup> *Minutes of the 39th Assembly of the Church of God over which A. J. Tomlinson is General Overseer* (Cleveland, TN, 1944), 60. Historical note: The boy named "Milton" was none other than Milton A. Tomlinson who would have been 17 at the time and who, at 37 in 1943, would succeed his father as general overseer and therefore become the second editor and publisher of the *White Wing Messenger*.

<sup>8</sup> *General Assembly Annual Addresses 1911–1927*, Heritage Series 2 (Cleveland, TN: White Wing Publishing House, 2011), 135.

<sup>9</sup> Report of the World Language Secretary, *Church of God of Prophecy 1988 Assembly Minutes*, 131.

<sup>10</sup> *Samson's Foxes*, Children's Department, May 1902.

<sup>11</sup> It was at this 1996 Assembly that the Church amended and adjusted its longstanding position on the role of women in ministry, broadening its approach to only what could be biblically sustained after proper exegesis.



# Legacy of Education

with Tomlinson College, Spirit & Life Seminary,  
and Legacy Endowment Fund

**GAYLA BREWER** | SPIRIT & LIFE SEMINARY DIRECTOR  
OF LIBRARY SERVICES

**T**he Church of God of Prophecy is a Pentecostal Christian denomination that strongly emphasizes education and equipping its members for ministry. Two important institutions associated with the Church of God of Prophecy's legacy of education are Tomlinson College and Spirit and Life Seminary.

Tomlinson College was founded in 1948 in Cleveland, Tennessee, by the Church of God of Prophecy. It was named after Ambrose Jessup Tomlinson, the founder of the Church of God of Prophecy. The college aimed to

provide quality Christian education to individuals who desired to serve in ministry or pursue other careers within the Church. Tomlinson College offered programs in theology, ministry, education, and other fields.

The college played a crucial role in training ministers and leaders within the Church of God of Prophecy, equipping them with the knowledge and skills necessary for effective ministry. It provided a platform for students to develop their spiritual gifts and gain a deeper understanding of the Bible and Christian theology. Tomlinson College also fostered a sense of community and encouraged students to live out their faith in practical ways.

However, in 1992, Tomlinson College closed its doors due to financial difficulties and declining enrollment. Since its closure, the legacy of Tomlinson College continues to impact the Church and its commitment to education. Graduates and alumni have strong feelings about spending time in remembrance of experiences from the school.

Spirit & Life Seminary emerged as a significant educational institution within the Church of God of Prophecy following the closure of Tomlinson College. The vision for higher education was rekindled under Dr. Ortiz in 2009. As director of Center for Biblical Leadership at that time, he negotiated the first seminary partnership at the international level. Since 2016, Accredited Ministry



## Spirit & Life SEMINARY

Development, a ministry of the Church of God of Prophecy, has partnered with other institutions of higher learning to provide accredited theological education for its members. Former AMD Director Bishop Shaun McKinley was tasked by then executive director of Leadership Development and Discipleship, Dr. Brian Sutton, with developing an accredited certificate program in partnership with a seminary in Cleveland, Tennessee. With this arrangement, AMD was responsible for marketing, admissions, and registration with the goal of utilizing an all-church member faculty. In August of 2017, AMD began regular certificate program courses using church member instructors. In October of 2017, Dr. Michael Plumley was hired to examine the requirements of THEC authorization for establishing our own institution due to his rich background after more than forty years as an educator.

In September of 2018, the newly appointed director of AMD, Dr. Michael A. Hernandez, was tasked by the executive director of Leadership Development and Discipleship, Reverend Kathryn Creasy, with beginning the process of applying to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission for authorization. Dr. Hernandez worked with Dr. Plumley to meet all the requirements of THEC authorization, which was granted in November of 2019. Immediately upon receiving THEC authorization, Spirit & Life Seminary (SLS) launched its first classes (January 2020). Dr. Hernandez and Dr. Plumley then began working towards receiving certification from the Association of Hispanic Theological Education (also known as AETH). In April 2022, SLS was found by AETH as having completed all requirements for certification which allows the Ministry and Theological Studies program to function as a bachelor's equivalency program, which permits graduating students to apply towards master's programs accredited with the Association for Theological Schools. This past May (2023), SLS was authorized by THEC to offer the Bachelor's in Ministry and Theological Studies program for those students who possess an associate's degree and desire to transfer credits into SLS.

The primary role of Spirit & Life Seminary is to prepare men and women of the Church of God of Prophecy who will be equipped to fulfill the Great Commission, anointed for service, and broken in heart for lost humanity. "Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning" (Proverbs 9:9 KJV).

Like Tomlinson College, Spirit & Life Seminary plays a crucial role in training ministers and leaders within the Church of God of Prophecy. It continues to uphold the denomination's commitment to education and equipping individuals for ministry, carrying forward the legacy of Tomlinson College. Alumni from Tomlinson College and Spirit & Life Seminary are the legacy. Former alumni, instructors, and a librarian who worked for Tomlinson

College are currently employed at Spirit & Life Seminary.

Overall, the Church of God of Prophecy's legacy of education, through institutions like Tomlinson College and Spirit & Life Seminary, demonstrates its dedication to providing quality theological education and preparing individuals for service in the church and the world. These institutions have played a vital role in shaping the denomination and its leaders, ensuring a strong foundation of knowledge and faith for future generations.

## Legacy Endowment Fund

The Church of God of Prophecy Spirit & Life Seminary Legacy Endowment Fund is a financial initiative established to support the ongoing mission and operations of Spirit & Life Seminary. An endowment fund is a pool of invested assets whose earnings are utilized to provide long-term financial support for an organization or institution. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17 KJV).

The purpose of the Spirit & Life Seminary Legacy Endowment Fund is to ensure the financial stability and sustainability of the seminary. It allows the seminary to generate a continuous stream of income to support its educational programs, faculty, scholarships, facility, and other operational needs.

Church of God of Prophecy members, Tomlinson College alumni, Spirit & Life Seminary alumni, supporters, and other individuals who value the mission and work of Spirit & Life Seminary can contribute to the endowment fund through donations, bequests, or other forms of financial support. These contributions will be used to support the seminary's student scholarships or tuition fees.

The establishment of an endowment fund demonstrates the long-term vision and commitment of the Church of God of Prophecy and its supporters to the ministry of education and the future of the Spirit & Life Seminary. It allows the seminary to plan and invest in its program and students, ensuring the continuity of its mission to equip and train ministers and leaders for effective service in the church and the world.

Over time, as the endowment fund grows through additional contributions and investment returns, it can provide an increasing level of financial support to the seminary, strengthening its capacity to provide quality theological education and to fulfill its mission. The fund represents a lasting legacy of support and investment in the future of the Church of God of Prophecy and its commitment to education.

Inquiries into contributions and donations to the Legacy Endowment Fund may be directed to Jacob Coleman (jcoleman@cogop.org).

# The Historical Value of Children in the Church of God of Prophecy

**F**rom its inception, the Church of God of Prophecy has placed a high value on children. Discussions on discipling children in an official Assembly can be found as early as 1906. These earliest dialogs usually involved the discussion of Sunday school or some other auxiliary, but it was evident from the context that children were the primary focus:

We highly favor this important service as a means to teach the children to reverence God's Word and the house appointed for worship, and also, to elevate the morals of a community. It is, therefore, the sense of this Assembly to recommend, advise, and urge every local Church to have a Sunday school every Sunday during the whole year.<sup>1</sup>

As the church expanded rapidly, so did its ideas and thoughts toward children. Although the Church of God of Prophecy was taking root in rural areas of the southeastern United States, during a time when children were largely thought by the wider culture of the region to need very little attention, the church found itself going against this cultural norm. A great example of this developing thought is found in a discourse by A. J. Lawson. His sermon to the 1912 Assembly is notable for its progressive ideas of children in the Sunday school being likened unto a horticultural nursery full of young and tender plants. Perhaps his most surprising statements are those in which he stresses what he calls the "shallow idea" that if a class of boys and girls can be made to sit quietly and hear the lesson, a suitable goal has been achieved. He sees in children kernels of valuable seed that, if given attention, will soon become a great harvest. His discourse is as follows:

I will commence by asking a question. What relation

has the Sunday school to the church? It is the nursery of the church. I never realized the need of a nursery until I visited one in a large florist establishment.

The gentleman in charge of it told me that they take any kind of seed, just so it has a kernel, and plant it. They depend upon the budding for the fruit. I have since thought that we ought to bring into the Sunday school all the material we can find, no matter what they are, and see if we can't raise sturdy men and women, with clean, pure characters for Christ. In a few years, the church will look for new members from the ranks of the Sunday school.

There is not enough attention given by the teachers to the salvation of their pupils. It is thought that just so long as a class has someone standing in front of it, and the children do not misbehave too much, it is all right, but that is a shallow idea. The teacher has in his or her hands the lives of boys and girls who will one day become the very ones who will sit in the seats of authority, and the after life depends largely on the training in Sunday school.<sup>2</sup>

From this time forward the push for Sunday schools as means for reaching children was given great emphasis. Only one year later, in the 1913 Assembly, the church began to feel a great burden and yielded themselves to the Holy Spirit—which produced cries, tears, and prayers for children to be reached. The official Church wanted a Sunday school in every town.

Following these early years, the Church of God developed and talked about many avenues for reaching children with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Programs such as the Cradle Roll, Gleaners, Vacation Bible Schools,

Victory Leaders Band, and youth camps were developed and promoted. Children were encouraged and expected to receive the full blessings of God.

## Speaking Out for Children's Ministry

Throughout the history of the Church of God of God of Prophecy, various leaders have heralded the call to minister to children. Whether through the provision of material needs to orphaned children, the establishment of educational ministries to children like Sunday school or Gleaner Band training, or the creation of the Children's Ministries Department, God has continued to use our leaders to "speak out" on the value and importance of ministry to children.

### A. J. Tomlinson

In 1899, when A. J. Tomlinson settled with his family in Culberson, North Carolina, to establish a ministry base, he founded a school for children, a Sunday school, a clothing distribution center, and an orphanage. As a means of appealing for financial support, Tomlinson published a four-page periodical called *Samson's Foxes*. Through his writings, it is revealed that he envisioned the children to whom he ministered as potential "firebrands" of the gospel among the Appalachian people.



### Billy Murray

In his Annual Address to the 89th General Assembly, then General Overseer Billy D. Murray affirmed a continued call to reach the harvest of children and young people in his desire to encourage "Vibrant Local Churches."



We live in a corrupted society where much immorality exists. However, at the same time, there is a move of God underway, and many people are being stirred to search for something better than what they are experiencing. They want something better for their children. In their search for a local church, one of the first questions many ask is, "What does your church offer my children?"

Children and youth are that segment of the population that is most receptive to the gospel. A church that is to be vibrant and growing, must give attention to children and young people. This is a ministry that will require extra planning and much hard work, but it must be done.<sup>3</sup>

### Fred S. Fisher, Sr.

During the 92nd General Assembly, Bishop Fred S. Fisher, Sr., admonished the Church during his Annual Address to "believe" in our "incredible, invincible, indispensable youth."



Leadership, let's step forward and lead this generation that will not be overcome with the things of this world, but will become workers for Jesus Christ. Set the goal, fire the shot, and watch these youth respond for the glory of God.<sup>4</sup>

### Randy Howard

In an editorial written for the White Wing Messenger, Bishop Randall E. Howard continued his "Priority Focus" series by spotlighting ministry to children. In the article he stated the case for making children a priority for ministry in the Church of God of Prophecy and concluded his comments by writing:



May we remember that children are the most receptive element of the Harvest. As we reach out to children, we are sowing seed for the godly future of our culture. In an ungodly culture, ministry to children is still an open door often endorsed by godless parents. Satan is aggressively attacking our children and youth, so let the church rise up to call for a gospel counterattack. So often churches that win children also win the hearts of the parents in time.... Every church can prioritize the easiest to reach, those that can give the most life to Christ, and those that will impact the future most significantly. We can have the heart of Christ and focus to win the children.<sup>5</sup>

In the letter to Timothy from the apostle Paul, there is a clear indication of the importance of children being brought up in the faith. When Timothy's spiritual father addresses the faith that "dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois and thy mother Eunice" (2 Timothy 1:5), he is clearly alluding to the positive benefits of children being exposed early in childhood to God. In many areas of the COGOP, we have had a wonderful heritage of children being reared and disciplined in Jesus Christ. Many of our greatest leaders are the product of the great value we have placed on a child in our community of faith. Thankfully, we have a strong heritage of ministering to children and recognizing their value.

\*Portions taken from *The Value and Spiritual Life of Children*, a resource from [cgpkids@cogop.org](mailto:cgpkids@cogop.org) ([cogop.org/children/resources-5/](http://cogop.org/children/resources-5/)).

<sup>1</sup> *General Assembly Minutes 1906–1914: Photographic Reproductions of the First Ten General Assembly Minutes* (Cleveland, TN: White Wing Publishing House, 1992), 15.

<sup>2</sup> *General Assembly Minutes 1906–1914*, 146.

<sup>3</sup> Billy D. Murray, *Minutes of the 89th Assembly of the Church of God of Prophecy* (Cleveland, TN: White Wing Publishing House, 1996), 91.

<sup>4</sup> Fred S. Fisher, *Minutes of the 92nd Assembly of the Church of God of Prophecy* (Cleveland, TN: White Wing Publishing House, 2002), 40.

<sup>5</sup> Randall E. Howard, "Priority Focus: Children," *White Wing Messenger* 86, no. 10 (2008):12.



Dr. Cathy Payne coordinates Global Missions Ministries for the Church of God of Prophecy internationally and has ministered in more than 100 nations. Cathy obtained a Master of Divinity from Pentecostal Theological Seminary and earned a Doctor of Ministry from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Cathy and John have one son and five grandchildren.

**REVEREND CATHY PAYNE, DMIN** | GLOBAL MISSIONS MINISTRIES COORDINATOR

## Weekend Training in Spain

Recently, we had the opportunity to attend two events of utmost importance for the integral development of each of the members of our church with special guests, Bishop Elías Rodríguez and our Brother Alfonso Guevara. We thank these brothers from the bottom of our hearts for being a blessing to our lives and our church.

The first conference, with 50 attendees, was led by our brother, Alfonso Guevara. During this conference, he reminded us of the importance of walking beside Jesus and the importance of a pastoral ministry integrally consecrated to the Lord. On Saturday, Bishop Elias Rodriguez led the seminar "Called to the Ministry," which was attended by a total of 100 people. This seminar made us think about the different ways in which our Lord speaks to our lives through time and affirms in our hearts the call to serve his harvest fields.

That same day we had the blessing of celebrating the Lord's Supper and the washing of feet. This was a blessing to our lives and to the lives of our children who participated in the ceremony, with one of them being baptized by the Holy Spirit, which fanned the flame of our hearts. The seminar culminated on Sunday with a general service in our church in Mostoles with a total of 107 adults and 10 children.

No doubt the Lord had a blessed weekend for each of us. We rejoiced in his presence and learned more about him. We are thankful for each of our guest speakers and for the attendance of our brothers from Portugal and Belgium who had willing hearts to learn more about our Lord Jesus Christ.



**Reported by Melissa Ortíz**

National Leader of the White Wing Messenger

## Myanmar One Child Fund



Older children sharing with the community in the evening



Children helping in the garden that supplies some of the food for the orphanage



Foundation for boys' dormitory at Carmel Children's Home



Children working in the vegetable garden



Students working on the boys' dormitory

Thank you for your continued generosity in your support of our Global family. They are deeply grateful for your love, encouragements, prayers, and faithful support.

Churches may give to special needs through Project Giving (Level 2 on the treasurer's report) or individuals may give through our Helping Hand Ministry and One Child Fund. All gifts are tax deductible and 100% of your gift will be applied to the need specified.

### Donations may be given:

Online: [globalmissions.org/donate](https://globalmissions.org/donate),

By phone: 423.559.5209, or

By mail: Send a check or money order to

Global Missions Ministries

P.O. Box 2910

Cleveland, TN 37320-2910.



**BISHOP ELIAS RODRIGUEZ, DMIN**  
CENTER FOR BIBLICAL  
LEADERSHIP INSTRUCTOR

# Like Cold Water to a Thirsty Soul

My father, Bishop Tulio Rodríguez, was appointed during the General Assembly of 1973 to be the National Overseer of Perú. Soon after the appointment, both of my parents traveled to Lima to start the moving process. After two months of separation, they returned to our country, the Dominican Republic, to make the preparation to move the whole family (seven children). We traveled with them in January 1974. I was about to turn 16 when I left my country and went to Perú. As a teenager, this experience turned my whole life around. I had to leave behind my family, friends, church, school, neighborhood, etc., and move to a new country far away from home.

Despite the negative things that came with moving to a different country, I was also excited because of the great expectations of what lay ahead and that I was going to learn new things. When we arrived in Lima, the capital city of Perú, I was thrilled with everything I saw, contrasting it with Santo Domingo, a city much smaller than Lima.

The best part began when I started meeting my church family. We went to the local church and met the wonderful brothers and sisters of Lima. Two weeks after our arrival, Bible Training Institute started and I got acquainted with brethren from several regions of Perú, developing relationships and building friendships with them. Attending BTI gave me a new perspective and understanding of our church and ministry. It was an eye-opening experience for me, helping me to develop a deeper relationship with God.

As a result of this new experience, my conscience as a missionary grew, and I developed a real passion for the mission field. Because I was a missionary, I could think about missions and the missionaries in a different way, and when the March and October mission drives came along, we participated with more enthusiasm. Something special that happened was that back in my country, people started to see the mission field in a different way because of us and other Dominican missionaries serving in different countries.

I remember during those years that the *White Wing Messenger* became very important for me because it was the means to communicate what was going on in the church in Perú and to know what was going on in our church around the world. The magazine became a connecting point with the rest of the church and somehow made me feel that I was not alone, but that I was part of something bigger. When I read the *White Wing Messenger*, I could feel what the writer of Proverbs said: "Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country" (Proverbs 25:25 NRSV). The *White Wing Messenger* brought us the good news of what God was doing through our church throughout the world, and that was very comforting and uplifting. I thank God for our *Messenger* because it continues building bridges and connecting our community of faith around the world.

# Postcards

I want to give congratulations to the people who produce the White Wing Messenger and work in that department. They have done an outstanding job for these 100 years. It has been a blessing to our people. They look forward to receiving it on a monthly basis. It has been a tool of my ministry for many years, and I have several bound volumes in my library. It has progressed so far, and our magazine today is one of the top Christian magazines. It's an outstanding magazine that is relevant today. I'm very thankful to have had this area of ministry in my life for these many years. I encourage people to read it because it would be such a benefit to them.

—Bishop Sam N. Clements,  
Former General Overseer

The White Wing Messenger for me has been an ongoing service and source to keep our church family together. It has been for me a newsletter, photo album, and in a healthy way—a brag book, where we can rejoice together, even weep together, at the passing of our heroes (1 Corinthians 12:26). Thank you for keeping us informed. Happy 100th!

—Dr. H. E. Cardin  
Cleveland, Tennessee

The White Wing Messenger was under my pillow as a child; mom trusted it more than medicine. I began writing for the WWM at the request of Assistant Editor Billy Murray in 1980. Thank you, White Wing Messenger, for the years of faithful service to the COGOP. Of course, mission news and pictures have always been my favorite content.

—Dr. Wallace R Pratt  
Idaho, Oregon, Utah, and the Navajo Nation Regional Bishop

All my life the White Wing Messenger was like a letter to family. It was a means to keep up with everyone and share important news and announcements. In early years, there were even wedding photos and anniversary celebrations. With time, the "family" grew to the point that was no longer feasible.

My favorite memories are from the 1960s at the International Offices (Bible Place) when the White Wing would be in postal bags ready for shipment around the world. A large bell would ring throughout the building and people would immediately leave their desk exclaiming, "Let's go pray for the White Wing." Everyone, led by General Overseer M. A. Tomlinson, would go down the halls to the press area and gather around bags of magazines. I can still smell the aroma of print, paper, and dusty bags. The booming voice of the general overseer would lead the chorus of voices as hands were laid on these periodicals going to homes of this organization all over. Blessings and anointing were placed on these papers. It was not just paper; it was connection. It was a "letter from home" and the prayer was always for lives to be changed and enhanced by it. I believe God heard and continues to hear those prayers!

—Londa J. Richardson, CFO  
Tennessee State Office

The White Wing Messenger has been such an important part of my COGOP life ever since I joined the church in 1967. My pastor encouraged me to be a faithful subscriber and reader of the White Wing Messenger from the very beginning. I have kept these papers and still have them filed away in my office. I often refer back to some of the articles and read little excerpts from them. I am very thankful for them.

—Bishop David L. Browder  
Pastor, Mastin Lake Road Church of God of Prophecy  
Huntsville, Alabama

The White Wing Messenger is a tool of transition and it became a mode of survival and communication for A. J. Tomlinson and the church of that era to keep our people abreast, connected, and with a vision. Through the years, it has grown to become more diversified, more international. That diversity has served us well and, here of late, it has become even more diversified in ministries, in views, and even presenting counterculture analysis of postmodernism. It has served as a bridge to connect our people, keep them informed of dangers, positives, and the future. So it has its place. I trust in the future that there will be a greater embracing of the White Wing Messenger by the Church worldwide.

—Dr. Hector Ortiz  
Former Director of Center for Biblical Leadership

The White Wing Messenger was a fixture in our home. I never knew where I'd see it. It could be on my parents' bed, where one of them left it while reading, or on the coffee table in the living room, or even under my pillow if I'd been sick. Yes, my pillow.

Daddy would tell us that men of God had prayed over that White Wing and we were joining their prayers with ours by placing it wherever we hurt! They would place the White Wing on our bodies, their hands on the White Wing, and prayers would commence to heaven! Often, we would just hold the White Wing there; sometimes it would go under the pillow. White Wing Messenger magazines were never thrown away. They were taken to hospitals or jails or anywhere there were hurting people. Some were saved for many years because of messages they contained that were particular blessings or encouragement. The White Wing Publishing House produced many first-rate books, by original authors, that remain viable today. They put much prayer and care into the White Wing Messenger, which was evidenced by its content and appearance. We were never ashamed to share them.

Instead of looking to the past, I am focused on the future, for surely the best is yet to come. God has done great things through the White Wing Messenger over the years, and I thank God for every lesson, message, article, and testimony. Thanks, White Wing Messenger, for your many years of faithfulness. Keep up the good work!

—Sophia Smith  
Hollister, Florida



## It's a New Day

**M**y dear friends, as the pages of this issue have shown, September 2023 marks the 100th anniversary of the *White Wing Messenger*, the official publication of the Church of God of Prophecy since 1923. For a century, our magazine has connected the COGOP's global ministries by publishing inspirational articles from our leaders, ministers, and members as well as sharing the various activities of this all-nations Church.

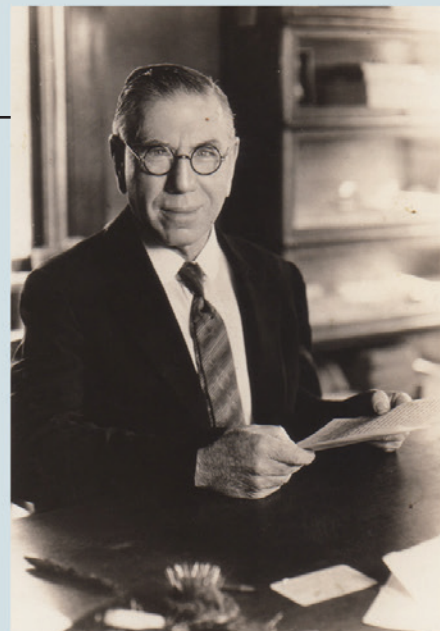
It was under the leadership of A. J. Tomlinson that the influence and Holiness Pentecostal message of the Church was taken outside its secluded Appalachian origins. One of the ways that message was carried was through printed materials: the *Evangel*, *Samson's Foxes*, and the *White Wing Messenger* were all periodicals Tomlinson created and published. His vision of taking the gospel around the world was realized as the Church was established outside the United States. It is difficult to overstate the influence of Tomlinson on the earliest days of the Church of God and the latter-day Pentecostal movements. The *White Wing Messenger* is pleased to honor A. J. Tomlinson as its creator and first publisher.

But A. J. Tomlinson was more than a publisher. He was more than a figurehead. He was a visionary and innovator. His writings confirm that his heart was to use the most effective means available to him to connect and teach the members of the growing movement he founded. I sincerely believe he would have championed the use of a digital platform to disseminate the *White Wing Messenger*. He would have seen the tremendous value of a more immediate connection with readers and interactive communication with them. He would have looked for ways to use video and downloadable materials to supplement articles. He would have linked resources to his publications for further study of the

information shared. I believe he would have done all of this **if the way to do it had been available to him**. All of these tools are available to us.

The editorial team has spent many hours of prayer and research over the past several years considering how to best honor the heritage of the *White Wing Messenger* and how to continue to effectively produce anointed, high-quality communication. We looked for innovative ways that the *Messenger* could connect us all, young and not so young, on every continent.

Also in view was our duty to steward budgeted resources for the greatest impact. The presiding bishop,





general presbyters, and the Corporate Board were consulted about the future viability and impact of the *White Wing Messenger*. Those leaders prayed. They reviewed the data and our proposals. They gave direction and a timeline was approved to meet the future of the magazine head-on.

August 1, 2023, we suspended accepting new or renewal subscriptions for the print magazine. **We will publish hard-copy Messengers to honor current subscriptions for the printed magazine through May 2024.** Should you have a subscription that extends beyond this date, you will be given the option of a prorated refund or converting the remaining balance to the *Messenger* as a donation/offering.

The forward movement to an enhanced, interactive magazine will ensure that this revered icon of the Church, our precious 100-year-old *White Wing Messenger*, will live on! The editor will continue to gather articles and edit them for space, grammar, and readability, artists will still choose images, copy editors will proofread the content multiple times, and the International Offices staff will continue to pray over each issue that is produced. And because of those prayers, and the anointing that goes with them, we expect to continue to hear accounts of healing, deliverance, salvation, and provision that come to the readers of the *White Wing Messenger*.

The presiding bishop, general presbyters, and Corporate Board of this Church have affirmed their commitment to the *White Wing Messenger* and its important place as a voice of the Church. It is at their direction that we are offering a continual subscription

**at no cost.** We give thanks to God that the digital *White Wing Messenger* will be available to every member and friend of the Church of God of Prophecy around the world. This was not possible with the printed magazine. The editorial team struggled for many years to get magazines to our brothers and sisters in Africa, Asia, Greater Europe, and mountainous regions of Central and South America. We met defeat in this endeavor time after time. We shipped hundreds of magazines to various addresses on these continents, to individuals and national offices, and most of those magazines were never delivered and not returned. There were even some parts of the Caribbean and North America that were unreachable by mail.

But now, anyone, anywhere, with a phone, tablet, laptop, or desktop can view a full-color, flipbook version of the *White Wing Messenger* every month. It will feature embedded media, links, timely news, live chats, and many more enhancements. It will be downloadable and shareable. Pages can be enlarged and the volume of videos can be adjusted or closed captions can be used. There is even an option to pay for a bound magazine if that is desired.

It is a new day in the life of the magazine! The *White Wing Messenger* will be more than it has ever been. Join us in praying for the impact of the *White Wing Messenger* as it unites our family around the world.

I am asking all of you, as your print subscription ends, please go to [cogop.org](http://cogop.org) and continue participating in the conversation with your global COGOP family through the *White Wing Messenger*.



Join us in celebrating a century of excellence  
as we mark our 100th anniversary.

100  
*years*

Monday, October 9, 2023  
2:00-4:00 pm

Ministry Training Center  
3720 Keith Street NW  
Cleveland, TN 37312

RSVP to [editorial@cogop.org](mailto:editorial@cogop.org)