



108 CAREER WORKERS COMMISSIONED

BY JOHN W. KENNEDY

ORLANDO, Florida — The final service of the biennial gathering of the Fellowship Aug. 4 marked the first time in the 105-year history of the U.S. Assemblies of God for new world missionaries to be commissioned during a General Council service.

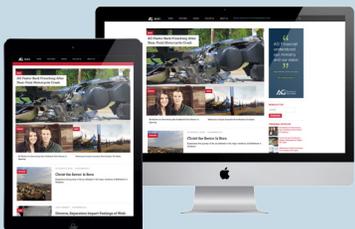
The AG commissioned 108 new career workers to take the gospel into 48 nations, with one-third of them heading off to unreached people groups. Missionaries encircled the front of the auditorium as mentors prayed over them, presented them with Bibles, and placed prayer stoles around their shoulders.

While many denominations and mission-sending agencies are curtailing efforts, AG World Missions Executive

Director Greg Mundis believes now is the time to advance as never before. AGWMM has a five-year goal of putting 3,900 career workers and associates on the field — an increase of nearly 1,200 from the existing force — as well as outreach to 570 unreached people groups, an expansion of 249 such indigenous ethnic groups today.

Customarily in summer, commissioning of missionaries occurs in June in Springfield, Missouri. But Mundis, in consultation with AG General Superintendent Doug Clay, suggested moving the service to the end of General Council, as AG missionaries from around the globe prepared to gather for an unprecedented three-day conference after General Council.

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AG NEWS

A COLLECTION OF THIS WEEK'S STORIES FROM NEWS.AG.ORG



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CELEBRATING GOD'S CALLING

BY DAN VAN VEEN

ORLANDO, Florida — In a passionate message about celebrating the call of God, General Superintendent Doug Clay gave his keynote address to a General Council audience of nearly 7,000 on July 31 in the Orange County Convention Center.

"Our calling is not a job — it is so much bigger than what we do for a living," Clay stated. "It is the definition of God's intention for our lives."

Referencing John 15:16a, Clay examined the cycle of God's call on a person's life and the typical experience with "the call."

Clay explained after receiving a call, people often question the divinity of the call, then place themselves in a position to prepare, step out, wonder if they really heard from God, and finally ask if God really knew what He was doing when He placed them there?

And with that final step of the cycle, Clay pointed to 1 Corinthians 7:17a — *where you are right now is God's place for you!*

Clay continued: "Contentment in the

ministry doesn't have as much to do with geographical location as it does vertical and horizontal relationships."

Clay then expressed his prayer that wherever a person serves, that "you would fall in love with the place of your calling" and "to mine the diamond opportunities where you are."

Changing direction slightly, Clay observed that a person's calling includes being a part of the AG family.

"We can embrace the entire body of Christ, while at the same time stewarding our loyalty to our immediate family," Clay said. "I challenge us, if you carry the card, be all in."

What does it mean to be Assemblies of God? Clay provided a clear identity: biblical engagement, Spirit-empowered, and missions participation.

"I want to be known as the church that believes in the power and inspiration of Scripture, to be known as the church that believes in miracles, and to be known as the church that simultaneously believes and practices the gifts of the Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit," Clay declared.

A POWERFUL GC PRAYER EXPERIENCE

BY DAN VAN VEEN

ORLANDO, Florida — The General Council Prayer Experience was truly an interactive prayer experience.

The Prayer Experience featured eight stations with placards offering a Scripture, explanation, and instruction for visitors to interact with in prayer.

Jamie Morgan, pastor of Life Church, Williamstown, New Jersey, and a staff of nine volunteers from the church oversaw the Prayer Experience.

The first prayer station guests encountered was called *Draw Near* and was reinforced with a red carpet approach to a white throne — representing God's throne of grace, which people were encouraged to approach in prayer.

The second station was *Anchor of the Soul*, illustrated by a large anchor on a stage surrounded with Bibles in multiple languages. Visitors were encouraged to write on provided cards situations in their lives pulling their eyes from God, then find a promise in one of the Bibles to write on the back of the card, followed by giving thanks to God for always being steadfast in their lives.

More prayer stations followed: *He Had Compassion* with 40 images of people in need of prayer; *Surrounded* offered over 50 pictures and explanations of the history of the Pentecostal movement; *The Church Worldwide* had a large wooden world map with country summaries; *The Church Home* featured a large wooden U.S. map and guidance to think of a minister, leader, or congregation in need of prayer and marking the location on the map; and *How is Your Heart* provided opportunity for self-reflection and an area to prayer.

Greater Things was the final prayer station. The area offered an additional place to pray and provided the opportunity to take Communion.

Morgan and her staff not only greeted guests and provided explanation to the Prayer Experience, but were available for prayer and to give Communion.

To take a virtual tour of the Prayer Experience with General Superintendent Doug Clay, see s2.ag.org/ptour.

THE ABCs OF SALVATION

ACCEPT that you are a sinner, and God's punishment for your sin is death and separation from God forever.

BELIEVE that Jesus paid God's price for your sin when He died on the cross.

CONFESS "Jesus, I believe You are who the Bible and history declares You are — the Son of God. I humble myself and surrender to You. Forgive me. Make me spiritually whole. Change my life. Amen."



FIRST WOMAN EXECUTIVE ELECTED

BY JOHN W. KENNEDY

ORLANDO, Florida — Delegates at the 2019 General Council returned AG General Secretary Donna L. Barrett and AG World Missions Executive Director Greg Mundis to their posts for new four-year terms on Aug. 2.

In Orlando, Barrett and Mundis, ratified as the lone candidates for their positions by the General Presbytery, received overwhelming support in a yes or no retention question put to minister delegates.

The election marked the first time a woman has been elected to a national office by a General Council vote in the 105-year history of the U.S. AG.

Barrett, 59, came into office in June 2018 by a vote of the Executive Presbytery. She received a standing ovation after the outcome announcement on Aug. 2.

Saying she is humbled and honored to be elected to a four-year term, Barrett noted she is a nontraditional

executive in that she is a woman and single. She thanked General Superintendent Doug Clay for taking a step of courage in nominating her in the first place. Barrett had been pastoring Rockside Church in Independence, Ohio, a bedroom community south of Cleveland, since planting the congregation 16 years earlier.

Mundis, 68, came into office in 2011, succeeding the retiring L. John Bueno. As executive director of AGWM, Mundis provides leadership for 2,747 AG missionaries and associates who serve 256 countries, territories, and provinces.

After the election, Mundis thanked Clay, the rest of the Executive Leadership Team, the AGWM Executive Committee, and Sandie, his wife of 48 years. He served as the first AGWM Europe regional director starting in 1998.

MISSIONARY BACK FOLLOWING TRAUMA

BY JOHN W. KENNEDY

At 2 a.m. on May 19, 2014, Amy Farley, AG missionary in Senegal, sat up in bed, startled to hear her bedroom door open. Two men quickly flanked Farley, blindfolded her, bound her hands with rope, stuffed a gag in her mouth, and put a knife to her throat.

For two hours they raped and tortured her. All the while they alternately threatened to abduct her or kill her. Following the ordeal, the men left her home. Terrified, Farley flew back to the U.S. immediately.

Farley underwent daily counseling for nearly eight months. In the healing process, Farley grappled with why God allowed such a horrific event to happen after she had responded to a missionary calling.

Nine months after the attack, Farley committed to a yearlong stay with AG missionaries Joel and Marie Watson in Vietnam, whose efforts included pastoring an international church, leading a consulting business, supervising a school for disadvantaged children, and overseeing an orphanage. Two days after Farley returned to Vietnam from itinerating, Joel Watson collapsed and subsequently died at 64.

The River Church in Ho Chi Minh City voted Farley, 41, in as pastor last December. On Aug. 1 at the Influence Conference in Orlando, Farley received the Young Influencer Award for her extraordinary impact.

NEW EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERS ELECTED

BY JOHN W. KENNEDY

ORLANDO, Florida — Delegates to the General Council biennial convention in Orlando on Aug. 3 elected four new executive presbyters while returning another three EPs to office. The 21-member Executive Presbytery serves as the board of directors for the AG.

New EPs set to begin four-year terms in October will be Bradley T. Trask, Don E. Miller, D. Rick Ross, and Darnell Keith Williams Sr. Re-elected to a new four-year term is Duane P. Durst, Wilfredo “Choco” De Jesús, and A. Elizabeth “Beth” Grant.

Trask, lead pastor of Brighton AG in Michigan since 1992, succeeds incumbent Larry H. Griswold, who had been Great Lakes Area EP since 2008. His father, Thomas E. Trask, served as AG general superintendent for 14 years ending in 2007.

Miller, who has been Southern Missouri district superintendent since 2011, succeeds Rod Loy.

Ross, who has been North Carolina district superintendent since 2016, will replace the retiring Dan Betzer. Ross served as pastor of First AG in Concord, North Carolina, from 2004-16.

Williams succeeds the retiring Nam Soo Kim as Language Area (other) EP. Williams has been pastor of New Life Church International in Lima, Ohio, since 2006. He also is vice president of the AG’s National Black Fellowship and is active in the AG’s International Ministry Network.



INFLUENCE CONFERENCE INSPIRATION

BY DAN VAN VEEN

ORLANDO, Florida – In a powerful Influence Conference session at the Orange County Convention Center on July 30, John Lindell and Robert Madu led off with captivating messages.

Lindell, lead pastor of James River Church in Ozark, Missouri, explored the topic of God's grace.

"On your worst, on your dirtiest, and on your best days, He loves you," Lindell said.

Lindell offered Colossians 2:14 to help explain God's grace, when He nailed "all of our" sin to the Cross.

"God forgives all your sin — all your past sin, all your present sin, and He forgives every sin you will commit in advance," Lindell said. "Because at the Cross, *all of our sin was future.*"

He explained that God doesn't look at believers based on their actions, but on Christ's actions.

Lindell noted that the apostle Paul's words (Romans 6) concerning God's grace does not mean "keep on sinning."

"When a person comes to Christ you died to sin. Sin doesn't have dominion over you . . . grace has dominion . . .

God's grace is working in you, sanctifying you, changing you."

Madu, who has his own ministry and is a member of the teaching team at Trinity Church in Cedar Hill, Texas, presented an oftentimes humorous, but pointed message he titled "Get Over It."

We're living in the era of offense, he said. Victimhood has gone viral.

Madu pointed out that offenses are guaranteed in life, as Luke 17:1 (NKJV) quotes Jesus in saying that it is impossible for no offenses to come.

Then Madu clarified: "An offense is an event, but to be offended is a decision."

Throughout his message, Madu referenced Matthew 15:21-28, the story of the Caananite woman pleading for Jesus to heal her daughter. Madu noted that Jesus placed her miracle on the other side of multiple offenses.

At every offense, the woman refused to be offended, while her faith in Jesus remained. In the end her faith was rewarded.

"Your miracle is on the other side of your offense," he said. "God wants to give you the grace to get over it."

Clay also directed attention to the fourth and subsequent generations of the church.

"I want the students of this Fellowship to know that our generation is passionately in love with Jesus, that we are all in on Scripture, Spirit, and missions," Clay said, adding later, "but I do want them to experience their own Pentecost."

Addressing the issue of people, Clay agreed that it takes the affection of Christ (Philippians 1:8) to love them as sometimes the unredeemed *and* redeemed are not always easy to love.

Clay then stated, "It's all about serving people. If serving is beneath you, then leadership is beyond you."

He urged believers not to let their self-talk to be louder than God talk, contrasting his personal discovery when reading the defeating self-talk in Job 3:25 (NKJV) and the overwhelming power of God talk in Joshua 1:5-9.

"It's my desire for many of us to be baptized with a Spirit of enthusiasm for living out your calling," Clay said. Don't let common excuses the enemy uses, such as I can't, I don't know how, I don't have time, I'm afraid, I can't afford it, or I'm all alone keep you from operating in the enthusiasm of your calling!

To watch any or all of the General Council evening services or Influence Services, see Generalcouncil.org and click on the Video tab.

DUBOSE TO SUCCEED RETIRING GARRISON

BY JOHN W. KENNEDY

ORLANDO, Florida — Current AG General Treasurer Rick W. DuBose will become the new assistant general superintendent of the Fellowship. Delegates to the biennial General Council in Orlando on Aug. 2 elected DuBose, 62, on the fourth ballot to succeed Alton Garrison, who chose not to seek re-election. The changeover takes place in Oct. 2.

"What an honor you have brought my way today," DuBose told the crowd after the outcome of the Aug. 2 election. He said he has fallen in love with the AG at a new level since moving to the national office in Springfield, Missouri.

"May this Church be the Church God needs it to be for this generation and generations to come," DuBose said.

DuBose earlier served as North Texas district superintendent for a decade.

The election of the assistant general superintendent comes from the floor rather than from recommendations of the General Presbytery as some other executive posts. Initially, 17 candidates garnered the necessary 15 votes to advance to a first ballot. However, five of those candidates withdrew their names from consideration: General Secretary Donna L. Barrett, Executive Presbyter Melissa J. Alfaro, Peninsular Florida General Superintendent Terry Raburn, Florida Multicultural District Superintendent Nino González, and Alton Garrison — who earlier announced his intention not to seek another four-year term.