

News and Current Events :: New General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God

New General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God - posted by hulsey (), on: 2007/8/10 10:23

Just minutes ago (<http://www.georgeowood.com/templates/System/details.asp?id22125&PID50251>) George O. Wood was elected as the General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God.

The link above on his name will take you to a list of his sermons that you can download.

I am hopeful that this brother will be more true to classical pentecostalism.

Re: New General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/8/10 11:02

Quote:

-----I am hopeful that this brother will be more true to classical pentecostalism.

Just curious, and certainly not opposing what you wrote, but in what ways might Trask (and the General Council) be "less true" to modern Pentecostalism?

Brother Paul

p.s. I have a feeling we're going to "amen" each other by the time this thread is over, as I have quite a few disagreements with the Assemblies, and have been less than delighted by some of their programs and various endorsements. I guess I should say "our", because I have credentials through them.

Re: - posted by LoveHim, on: 2007/8/10 11:20

Quote:

-----p.s. I have a feeling we're going to "amen" each other by the time this thread is over, as I have quite a few disagreements with the Assemblies, and have been less than delighted by some of their programs and various endorsements. I guess should say "our", because I actually have credentials through them.

can you be credentialed through them and still disagree with a couple of the 16 fundamentals that they adhere to. i am a 1/2 class away from being credentialed, but i cannot with conviction say that i agree and will preach the 16 fundamental truths that they hold. i would like to be credentialed for a couple small reasons, but not at the expense of my convictions.

Re: - posted by chadster, on: 2007/8/10 12:07

I was credentialed with them for 25 years and then withdrew. You do need to sign on the dotted line that your'e in agreement with their doctrinal postures and denominational positions.

I had a huge problem with giving 2/3 of my tithe to the Assemblies of God district office and that's one of the main reasons why I withdrew.

Regarding TRASK, I knew him personally, he is a wonderful man of God and I think the fact that he withdrew before his term was concluded may say something about the direction of the denomination.

Re: - posted by LoveHim, on: 2007/8/10 12:09

thanks brother chadster. i appreciate the info. i guess i will remain as i am (studying the word and preaching the gospel with no credentials). that's fine with me.. thanks brother.

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/8/10 15:49

Quote:
-----Regarding TRASK, I knew him personally, he is a wonderful man of God and I think the fact that he withdrew before his term was concluded may say something about the direction of the denomination.

I think our brother is right. I've heard Trask preach at a ministers conference and remember how frustrated he was becoming with the denomination. And this was back in 2003. He told the 1000+ AG ministers in attendance that we've lost sight of Jesus Christ; He's no longer glorified and centralized like He once was back in the day. We've drifted. We've become mechanical and dry and program-plagued and we're not fooling anyone...especially the godless who visit our churches and see there's no authority. It was a powerful rebuke, and Trask's exhortation of the loss of Jesus Christ's centrality in His church was akin to a Sparks sermon.

I too have a problem with automatically sending two-thirds of my tithe up the corporate ladder (cheerful giving or not, they still demand it), but I can at least find comfort knowing the Assemblies of God continue to have a fantastic missions agenda.

Brother Paul

Re: - posted by JoeA (), on: 2007/8/10 20:40

I'm a member of a Foursquare Church, which is right next door to the Assemblies. In the past couple weeks I've read Vinson Synan's "The Old Time Power" and "The Holiness Pentecostal Movement". When I look at Pentecostalism of yesteryear, compared with today I'm almost speechless. We seem to have lost that "old time power".

In those days they didn't need flashy programs, carnivals, and great choirs to bring the unsaved in. Their preaching was characterized by Holy Ghost conviction that humbled sinners and brought down saving grace. The only method they had for bringing people in was preaching the Gospel in the power of the Spirit which brought people to an encounter with God.

I pray God would send that "old time power" again.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2007/8/10 20:47

An early pentecostal evangelist once said, "If I cannot attract people with the gospel, what can I attract them with?"

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/8/10 21:07

In those days, men walked in the authority of God, completely sold out. They read scripture on their knees. It was a different breed of men, but with the same God we have today. Wigglesworth wouldn't even allow a newspaper in his home. I like to listen to Leonard Ravenhill talk about Smith Wigglesworth (who preached at Assembly of God conventions back in the 1920's) and men like John G. Lake where people would leave the meetings beaming with the radiance of God like they'd been to the upper room. The Holy Spirit would descend so strongly that people wouldn't dare even speak a word on the way home, fearing to break the awesome solemnity.

Re: - posted by tjservant (), on: 2007/8/10 21:12

Quote:
-----people would leave the meetings beaming with the radiance of God like they'd been to the upper room. The Holy Spirit would descend so strongly that people wouldn't dare even speak a word on the way home, fearing to break the awesome solemnity.

Let us pray brothers and sisters.

PRAY FOR REVIVAL!

Re: - posted by sonofadam777 (), on: 2007/8/10 22:40

Where can you read the 16 fundamentals of the AOG church?

Re: - posted by hulsey (), on: 2007/8/11 0:07

Paul,

I was kind of speaking in general terms about the A/G as a whole. While I did have my concerns about the GS, my comments here were not of that nature.

I also was acquainted with the soon to be former GS. I even ate pizza with him at his home one night while I was attending CBC.

My concern in the A/G is that the leadership, not specific to the general presbytery but rather in general and nation wide, is not acknowledging the real problem (crisis as bro. Crabtree called it in his sermon in Indianapolis). I don't think that they are aware of what the real crisis even is. Speaking of bro. Crabtree, he gave an inspiring speech last night at the Gen. Council, however, while he nailed the symptom on the head and I applaud him for it, he missed the disease and therefore the cure.

The problem in the A/G is not the lack of discipleship, evangelism, church planting,...etc. Opal Reddin was right on when in the last years of her life she was heart-broken over the real problem: the loss of the Gospel in the Assemblies is the crisis.

When the Gospel is not at the center, everything else is. As important as discipleship, evangelism,...etc is, they pale in comparison to the true Gospel. When the gospel is guarded and preached and believed, discipleship, evangelism, church planting naturally follows.

When my house has cracks in the walls and in the ceiling I don't fix the cracks until I've checked the foundation because those cracks didn't just happen on their own. When there is a crisis in discipleship, the problem really exists, but it's likely a symptom of a deeper problem.

Liberalism is almost systematic in the A/G's now especially amongst the young urban ministers. They don't call it liberalism btw, instead it's called *being Progressive*. When John Bueno can stand on a platform at a General Council and tell the leadership of the A/G's that the solution to our lack of evangelism is the contextualization of the Gospel there's a crisis in the A/G's.

I love the Assemblies. If you took my blood type it would probably be A/G, but I love the Gospel MUCH MUCH more. Without denying the need for discipleship, evangelism,...etc, all these needs are more than met in the faithful proclamation of the Gospel.

Blessings,
Jeremy Hulsey

Re: - posted by lovegrace, on: 2007/8/12 3:39

Thanks Husley for your comment. It's great to read an article like that.

I'd say my doctrinal convictions are a mix between Vineyard, Foursquare, Calvary Chapel, and AoG. Yet, I'm called to AoG. I have no problem with God's leading. May the sheep be cleaned!!!

Just keep in mind. No church denomination is perfect. The tares WILL grow with the wheats till He comes again.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2007/8/12 8:45

Perhaps part of the problem is that we shouldn't have denominations to begin with? Perhaps the reason denominations fall apart is because they are built apart from Christ? Maybe they are falling apart because Christ is causing them to fall apart so as to bring the thing He longs for out of the body?

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/8/12 9:42

The ironic thing is that the Assemblies of God never set out to become a denomination. They originally identified themselves as a cooperative fellowship, and the mindset was anti-denominational and creedal statements were to be rejected. Any kind of leaning towards a centralized authority was feared. Many of the founding ministers came from disenfranchised Baptist and Methodist backgrounds who had experienced the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and who were no longer welcome in their own denominations.

Re: - posted by ccchhhrrriiiss (), on: 2007/8/13 12:05

Hi hulsey...

I certainly agree with your points! There is a very real rift developing within the US Assemblies of God. However, it is difficult to rhetorically express what this "rift" entails -- except that it is easy to separate congregations in a "conservative" and "liberal" manner.

After having traveled into Mexico on several occasions with missionaries and local Mexican pastors, I was shocked at the massive differences between what was mostly the rural versus urban church cultures. Like the economic conditions in Mexico, there was little "middle class" between the two sides of Mexican AG churches (liberal and conservative). Most of these churches were either extremely "growth at all cost" oriented -OR- extremely "traditional."

The city churches resembled many of our mega-churches in the United States. They had programs for everything! They had dance teams, drama teams, sports teams, hand choirs, pop-music worship, "evangelistic" concerts, "famous" guest speakers, youth pop/rock music teams, etc... There was a major thrust to achieve "church growth." In fact, the friends of mine within these churches commented about how they were committed to "do what it takes" in order to achieve such growth, including "thinking outside of the box." Quietly, there was a certain level of silent pride that it exhibited too. The pastor even commented that his church used to be small like the other local AG churches until he "realized his own religious error" and committed himself to "reaching the entire community." The youth in these churches are commended for their involvement. However, I detected just a hint of "popularity contest" within the large youth groups. Most of the youth (including the extremely poor) attempted to at least look like the popular youth in the group (or like the popular youth from Mexico's rich, light-skinned music and TV personalities). I noticed that the musicians in the youth group's bands were treated almost like quasi-celebrities.

On the other hand, there are some extremely traditional AG churches in Mexico. There aren't many "programs" within such churches that are designed to explicitly raise attendance, other than traditional one-on-one evangelism or occasional public rallies. Such churches preach an extremely strict, uncompromising doctrine. One of the women who accompanied us on my first mission trip was a licensed cosmetologist. She gave free haircuts to the children, particularly those afflicted with lice. When the pastor of this church discovered that the hair of some of the young girls was cut, he immediately kicked this well-meaning woman off the premises. Every allegation or accusation of outward "worldliness" is called into question. Music, clothing, hairstyles, and even diet are sometimes publicly called into question. As a result, these churches aren't particularly appealing to sinners. Nor do the churches enjoy the increase in attendance from "transfer" coming from existing churches with fewer programs.

A similar rift seems to be occurring in the US Assemblies of God. There are "urban" churches which are dedicated to the "church growth" philosophy. These churches seem impressed to "do whatever it takes" in order to achieve growth in attendance. Along the same lines, there seems to be excitement-starved pastors who will allow anything (even questionable practices) in order to get the church "energized." I have been to AG churches that openly embrace the "prosperity gospel," the "holy laughter" movement, and all sort of questionable doctrines that fill the pews. In fact, I have heard some AG churches lose the "absolutely essential sanctification" rhetoric of the 16 fundamentals. On the other hand, there are a few traditional churches that are becoming even more sectarian. I visited one AG church that actually separated the sexes during service (men sat on the right pews, women on the left).

Overall, however, I feel that the vast majority of AG churches seem to be headed toward the liberal theology. Why? Have you visited any of the AG Bible Schools lately?

There used to be a time when you could look up any AG church in the phone book and know what to expect. That's not the case anymore. Local churches in the AG are provided the opportunity to write their own local constitutions. As such, some pastors are voted upon yearly while others are given nearly lifetime leadership opportunities. Some churches have vibrant "checks and balances" (with church elders providing a good balance to the pastor's authority), while others are run like dictatorships with pastors on ego-authoritarian trips (you know, the "pastor is your umbrella of leadership" type of rhetoric).

I no longer attend an AG church. Even the one where I came to know the Lord in has slowly morphed into a modern prosperity-centered, "charismatic" type of church. Where the church once wept for the condition of this world, they now laugh, dance and "jam" to the music of a finely tuned rock and jazz band. Instead of pleading for lost souls and personal holiness and intimacy with Christ, they publicly "claim" the riches of this world. I do hope that the Assemblies of God return to the simplistic holiness calling of their 1914 Hot Springs, Arkansas ideology. Personally, I find today's "corporation" styles of "seeker churches" to be quite undesirable or truly impacting in a greater spiritual sense.

:-)

Re:, on: 2007/8/13 12:21

AOG has been warned strongly.. all that's left for them if they continue on their course is to sink deeper into strong delusion.

Quote:

The Dangers of the Gospel of Accommodation

A sermon given by David Wilkerson at an Assemblies of God headquarters chapel service.

I am not coming to you as a pastor but with a prophetic word. God so shook me recently with this message that I should bring it somewhere, sometime in Springfield. This morning the Lord, by His Spirit, spoke to my heart that this is the time. He has called me to be one of His watchmen, and I have wept over this and prayed that He will help me deliver the message in a spirit of love. This is not a chastisement but a warning for the Assemblies of God.

A New Gospel

Accommodate means to adapt, to make suitable and acceptable, to make convenient. A gospel of accommodation is creeping into the United States. It's an American cultural invention to appease the lifestyle of luxury and pleasure. Primarily a Caucasian, suburban gospel, it's also in our major cities and is sweeping the nation, influencing ministers of every denomination, and giving birth to megachurches with thousands who come to hear a nonconfronting message. It's an adaptable gospel that is spoon-fed through humorous skits, drama, and short, nonabrasive sermonettes on how to cope—called a seeker-friendly or sinner-friendly gospel.

(http://enrichmentjournal.ag.org/199901/078_accommodation.cfm) David Wilkerson's address to the AOG general council

Re: New General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God, on: 2007/8/13 17:33

Are credentials from accredited institutions important in the Kingdom of Heaven?

Just curious.

Re: - posted by intrcssr83 (), on: 2007/8/13 19:04

Yikes! The way Ps Dave describes the seeker-friendly movement is exactly how AoG Australia is at the moment (specifically a certain megachurch in Sydney).

Re: - posted by chadster, on: 2007/8/15 18:44

Earlier in this thread, a link was given to the new Superintendent's sermon website. Can anyone confirm that this is indeed George O. Wood's site and not his son's, (George P. Wood) who apparently is pastoring a church. I've listened to some of the preaching on this site and it is excellent...I'm confused because this guy sounds a lot younger than what I imagined the elder Wood to sound like. If anyone can clarify, I'd appreciate it! Thanks!