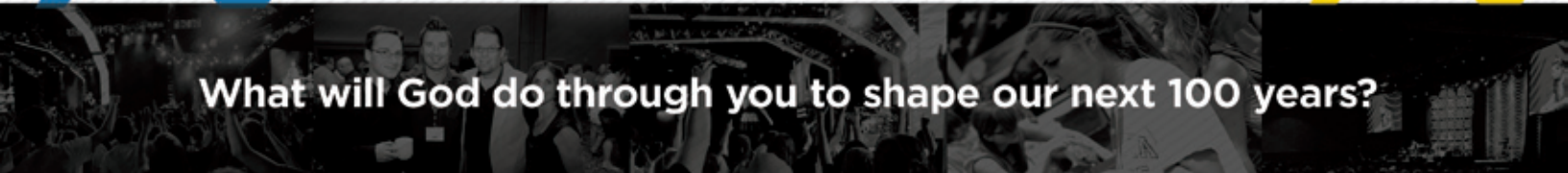




**MAKE YOUR  
MARK ON OUR  
MOVEMENT**



# Called to Serve



**What will God do through you to shape our next 100 years?**



FROM THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

## Roadtrip Leadership

**M**y newest book, *Roadtrip Leadership*, is off to the press as we start this New Year. In it, I share principles that I've learned in life and ministry through the people and circumstances the Lord has placed in my path. I hope that you will find encouragement, counsel, and resources as you read this book.

I selected a sample from the book for you, triggered by an experience I had today. My workday was all planned as usual. I knew exactly what I wanted to do. My list was made out. As I was getting started on the tasks, my wife, Jewel, called. Her car suddenly stopped running. It was a cold day and she was by the side of the road, wanting me to leave the office and come pick her up.

I'd like to tell you that I was overjoyed at the chance to help my wife and rescue a damsel in distress. Alas, not so. I didn't want to leave my task list! Reluctantly I got up from my desk because I knew it was my duty to help her. Shame on me!

I later thought of the part of my leadership book I had written regarding interruptions. I was experiencing what I had written about! You ever done that—preached a sermon, and then later had to live it?!

Well, in my book I'm still trying to live what I write—and I hope you'll be blessed by it, and even order the book. There's a lot of good stuff in it!

What can you expect out of your life or ministry?

- The unexpected.
- The unpredictable.
- And the unplanned.

Nowhere have I seen this play out more continuously than when I became the assistant district superintendent of the Southern California District. I soon discovered that, by the end of each day, I felt as if I had done nothing but respond to an unending series of interruptions. I quickly grew frustrated because I wasn't getting my agenda done like I had in the pastorate.

Then one day at a staff meeting my friend Ray Rachels, district superintendent, gave a devotional that made a deep impact on me.

He encouraged us to look through the Gospels and discover that none of the miracles in Jesus' ministry were on His schedule for that day. Not one was on His calendar. All the miracles were unplanned. You won't find a passage where Jesus woke up and set goals like these: "Today I've got to heal a blind man; I've got to heal ten lepers; I've got to heal a paralytic." There was none of that.

What were the circumstances of Jesus' miracles? Interruptions. The woman with the bleeding disorder in Mark 5 was an interruption to an interruption. Jesus had been interrupted by Jairus, whose daughter was dying. Then the woman came along and interrupted Jesus on the way to heal the girl. Emergency piled on top of emergency.

Look in Jesus' teachings, and you'll find He prescribes life like this for the rest of us, too. Consider the story of the Good Samaritan. A Samaritan on a journey encounters an injured man by the road. Where the priest and Levite did not interrupt their day to offer assistance, the Samaritan stopped to help that man and even provided him with extended care.

*Continued on page 4*



## FROM THE ASSISTANT GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

# The Case for Change

In 1986, after 18 years as a traveling evangelist, I became pastor of First Assembly in North Little Rock, Arkansas. As an evangelist, I was comfortable with my ability to relate to people, conduct services, and minister around the altar. But it did not take me long to realize that leading a church required another set of abilities. I needed to change.

First Assembly needed to change too. It was a good church with great people, but its attendance had been stuck between 450 and 600 for about 35 years. No matter how many or how few people attend a church, all churches follow the same rule of thumb: The longer a church is at a plateau, the more difficult it is to revitalize it.

Perhaps you and your church find yourself in a similar situation. Acts 2 provides a powerful model of a changing church. Let's take a closer look at it.

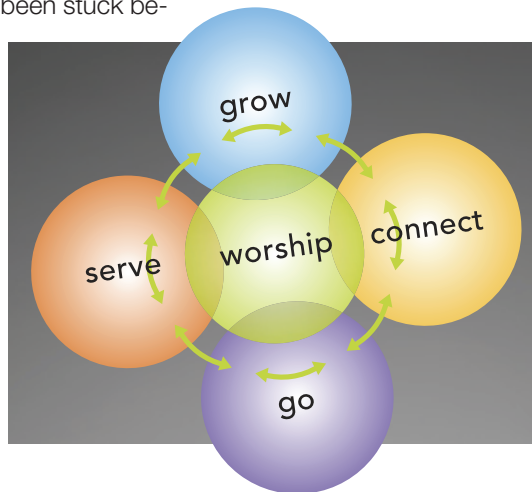
### The Need for Change

Acts 2 begins with 120 disciples gathered together for fervent prayer (2:1). When God pours His Spirit upon them, they begin "declaring the wonders of God" in many tongues (2:4, 11), and Peter preaches a powerful evangelistic sermon (2:14–39). The result? Three thousand people come to faith in Jesus Christ "that day" (2:41), and more follow them on a "daily" basis thereafter (2:47). These people aren't casual converts either. They are "devoted" followers of Jesus Christ whose change in lifestyle reveals their change in faith (2:42–47).

Are you and your church experiencing this kind of growth? Is your church growing broad through conversion and growing deep through discipleship? If not, you're not alone. Statistics reveal that from 1999–2009, 56 percent of Assemblies of God churches declined, 3 percent plateaued, and 41 percent grew.

Even growing churches need to change, however. Lovett H. Weems Jr. writes: "For Christians, there is a strong theological grounding for change. We must change. The way things are in the world at any moment is never synonymous with God's ultimate will." Even the Jerusalem church made significant changes. Among other things, they changed their leadership structure to include deacons (Acts 6:1–7), and they changed their target audience to include Gentiles (15:1–35).

The Acts 2 church is never static. It changes to meet new challenges and to follow Jesus Christ into new mission fields, both at home and abroad. Change, in other words, is purposeful. As Rick Warren writes in *The Purpose-Driven Church*, "if you serve in an existing church that has plateaued, is declining, or simply is discouraged, your most important task is to redefine your purpose."



### Purposeful Change

Why does your church exist? What is its purpose? Do you know the answer? Do your church members? In his book, *High Expectations*, Thom Rainer writes: "The vast majority of church members today do not understand the basic purposes of the church. How can we expect them to be involved if they do not understand what they are supposed to be doing?"

Acts 2 outlines five reasons why the church exists. It exists to...

- 1. Worship:** We see the Acts 2 church "declaring the wonders of God" (2:11), "devot[ing] themselves...to prayer" (2:42), and "praising God" (2:47).
- 2. Connect:** The Acts 2 church were "all together in one place" (2:1), "they devoted themselves to...the fellowship" (2:42), "they continued to meet together" (2:46), and many were "added to their number" through Spirit-empowered evangelism (2:41, 47).
- 3. Grow:** Not only did the Acts 2 church grow quantitatively through evangelism, it grew qualitatively through discipleship. "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching" (2:42).
- 4. Serve:** The Acts 2 church met the day-to-day needs of people through compassionate ministry. "Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need." (2:45).
- 5. Go:** The Acts 2 church preached the gospel and called for conversion. "What shall we do?" the Jerusalem audience asked Peter after his evangelistic sermon. "Repent and be baptized everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for

the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call” (2:37–39).

A church that lives these five purposes is a healthy church, and a healthy church is a growing church, just like the Acts 2 church. If your church is plateauing or in decline, the first step toward change is determining your purpose.

## Strategic Change

The next step toward change is outlining and communicating your vision, mission, values, and strategic plan. Let me define and illustrate these terms for you.

- **Vision tells you where you’re going.** It describes your preferred future.
- **Values tell you who you are.** They describe what is distinctive and important about your church, both to those inside the church and outside of it.
- **Mission tells you what you do.** It describes your core functions.
- **Strategic plan tells you how to get where you need to go.** It describes the methodology your church uses to pursue your vision, consistent with your values and mission.

In one sense, the vision, mission, values, and strategic plans of all churches are the same. Any church that desires to be an Acts 2 church will have a vision for health and growth. It will value relationships with God, with fellow believers, and with the lost. Its purpose will be to worship, connect, grow, serve, and go. And its strategic plan will rigorously evaluate where it is compared to where it needs to be.

But in another sense, the vision, mission, values, and strategic plans of all churches are very different from one another. An urban church will do things differently than a suburban church or a rural church. A multigenerational church will do things differently than a church with a target audience of the Millennial Generation. Some churches will use Sunday schools to accomplish their mission, others will use small groups. One church might have traditional worship music, another contemporary worship music, another country-flavored worship music, and still another worship music that sounds like rock-’n-roll.

Acts 2 churches pursue the same end through different means. The Bible determines the end we pursue, but local culture shapes the means we use as we pursue it. Another way of putting this is that the Word determines the substance of

our message but the world influences the style of our methodology. An Acts 2 church is both biblically grounded and culturally savvy.

## Leading Change

Change in the church must be purposeful and strategic. But it also must be managed carefully. I have often seen pastors get excited about their church becoming an Acts 2 church. In their excitement, however, they have attempted to impose change on their churches rather than to lead change in their churches. What is the difference between imposing and leading?

Pastors who lead change pay attention to three things:

1. **Direction:** Leaders exercise influence rather than authority. They help people discover the need for change on their own rather than imposing change on them from the top down. People will go in the direction of your church’s vision if they have a clear understanding of what that preferred vision is and why it’s important.
2. **Price:** Leaders help people determine that the cost of making changes is worth the benefits. Change is costly to your church members’ status, security, and stability. But people will make those changes if they understand that doing things differently will result in greater benefits for the kingdom.
3. **Pace:** Leaders manage change at a pace that is sustainable for all church members. Change that moves too quickly loses older members. Change that moves too slowly loses younger members. Change that moves at the right pace brings old and young together in a community of shared

sacrifice. Everyone sacrifices their preferences out of love and respect for the others.

---

...the Word determines the substance of our message but the world influences the style of our methodology.

---

## Change Works

When I became pastor of First Assembly, I needed to change, and so did my church. As we reflected on the Acts 2 model together, our church began to experience both renewed health and new growth. Today, under my successor, Rod Loy, that church is a healthy body of Christ’s followers, reaching their community and the world.

The church needs to change. Through the grace of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, the church can change. So, following the biblical model of the Acts 2 church, let’s change the way we do things so the world might experience the life-changing power of God!

---

*Alton Garrison is assistant general superintendent of the Assemblies of God (USA).*



Interruptions, Ray told us, are as much a part of God's plan for your life as your own agenda. That has been very, very helpful to me because life is filled with interruptions. It is characterized by the unplanned, populated with people who inject their agendas into our own.

But, in the middle of it all, God continues to use us. He creates coherency out of the chaos. He maps out the route that He alone sees and will reveal in His time.

Meanwhile, we must be faithful with His gifts, disciplined servants of the King who lay the foundations able to support the superstructure He is building.

[*Roadtrip Leadership*, Influence Resources, 2011]



*George O. Wood is general superintendent of the Assemblies of God (USA).*



...the roadmap any pastor needs... Rick Warren

**PREORDER NOW!**  
Available  
Spring 2011

**ROAD TRIP  
LEADERSHIP**  
-- George O. Wood --

Mileposts Along My Way in Ministry

**50JK0107 \$14.99**

[www.influencerresource.com](http://www.influencerresource.com)

 **Influence**  
resources  
Practical Relevant Proven

## Executive Leadership Team

**George O. Wood**  
General Superintendent

**L. Alton Garrison**  
Assistant General Superintendent

**James T. Bradford**  
General Secretary

**Douglas E. Clay**  
General Treasurer

**Zollie L. Smith, Jr.**  
Executive Director,  
Assemblies of God U.S. Missions

**L. John Bueno**  
Executive Director,  
Assemblies of God World Missions

## Executive Presbytery

**Warren D. Bullock**  
Northwest Area

**Richard L. Dresselhaus**  
Southwest Area

**Clarence W. St. John**  
North Central Area

**J. Don George**  
South Central Area

**Larry H. Griswold**  
Great Lakes Area

**Douglas E. Fulenwider**  
Gulf Area

**H. Robert Rhoden**  
Northeast Area

**C. Dan Betzer**  
Southeast Area

**Saturnino Gonzalez**  
Language Area – East Spanish

**Jesse Miranda, Jr.**  
Language Area – West Spanish

**Nam Soo Kim**  
Language Area – Other

**John E. Maracle**  
Ethnic Fellowships

**R. Bryan Jarrett**  
Ordained Pastor under 40

**A. Elizabeth Grant**  
Ordained Female



The General Council  
of the Assemblies of God  
1445 N. Boonville Avenue  
Springfield, MO 65802-1894



# MAKE YOUR MARK ON OUR MOVEMENT



What will God do through you to shape our next 100 years?

## This year, General Council is going to be different.

That's because **General Council 2011** will be uniquely designed to empower you as an AG leader to **make your mark on our Movement**. This focus is not about change for the sake of change, nor about making our message more marketable. Instead, it is the result of a faith-filled commitment to prepare strategically for our future.

The best way to experience the many ways that General Council 2011 will be different is to attend the event, **August 1–5, in Phoenix, Arizona**.

One of the ways General Council 2011 will be unique is that this strategic focus—"make your mark on our Movement"—will unite our past and our future in a way that impacts your life and leadership in the present.

### The Past

From Hot Springs in 1914 to the far reaches of the globe nearly a century later, the explosive growth of our Fellowship has been and is the supernatural work of God. And yet, God has accomplished much of this work through His people.

Paul explained it this way:

*We are co-workers in God's service"*  
(1 Corinthians 3:9).

In Phoenix, we'll be celebrating those whom God has used to make a mark on our Movement. Their contributions helped to establish the thriving Fellowship we know today. We're not looking back to be nostalgic, however. We're looking back to gain perspective for the sake of our future.

### The Future

As our Fellowship approaches its 100th Anniversary, there's a sense that, should the Lord tarry, He will do even greater things in our next 100 years. Speaking of the promised Holy Spirit, Jesus said:

*Whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father"*  
(John 14:12).

Another way General Council 2011 will be different, is that it will place a unique focus on our future. In fact, the Executive Leadership Team is preparing **an important announcement** that will focus the Fellowship on the

---

**Interacting with other like-minded leaders...gives us fresh perspective and new ideas...**

---





**“I want to develop a website that has online training and coaching for pastors all over the world.”**

— Justin Lathrop, Red Oak, Texas

Phoenix, Arizona | August 1-5, 2011 | [GeneralCouncil.org](http://GeneralCouncil.org)

growth and health of the local church as we look toward our next 100 years.

What will God do through you to help shape our next 100 years? Come to General Council 2011 and make your mark on our Movement.

## The Present

Beyond an appreciation for the past and a focus on the future, the General Council team is hard at work on some exciting changes designed to give all in attendance the best experience yet—from registration to resources and almost everything in between.

And while much will be different about General Council 2011, you can still expect many of the things you've come to know and love about the experience:

- **Inspiring** encounters with God,
- **Interaction** with old friends and new,
- **Involvement** in the shaping of our Movement, and
- **Influence-building** opportunities for life and leadership.

## Inspiration

We all need regular doses of inspiration. From time to time, we need to get away from the familiarity of our day-to-day roles and responsibilities. More than the occasional break, sometimes we need to take a big step back and be

inspired—whether we're being reminded why we do what we do in the first place, or are stirred to find a better way to do it.

General Council is an opportunity for you to capture life-giving divine inspiration that will propel your life and leadership forward.

At General Council 2011 you'll be inspired by:

- Refreshing encounters with God,
- Encouraging stories from the field,
- Challenging messages for life and leadership, and
- Practical ideas and resources to take back home.

## Interaction

God designed us for relationship, so it's no surprise that we are strengthened by interaction with other believers.

As leaders, we are often so busy overseeing others that we neglect opportunities to interact with our peers. Interacting with other like-minded leaders reminds us that we're not alone, gives us fresh perspective and new ideas, and expands our network of support.

General Council is an opportunity for you to strengthen old relationships and to build new ones—to be encouraged, challenged, and sharpened through interaction:

- Relaxing with old friends and family,
- Meeting like-minded leaders, or
- Gathering with your team to dream about the future.



## GENERAL COUNCIL 2011-THIS TIME WILL BE DIFFERENT.

Not only will you hear what God is doing in and through extraordinary individuals like yourself, but you'll also have the opportunity to impact the direction of our Movement as a whole.

It's an opportunity to get together with like-minded leaders—not just to celebrate what's been accomplished, but also to collaboratively shape the direction for our future.



---

...we can't do anything of **eternal value** without God, we are called to partner with Him to carry out His plan.

---

### Involvement

God has a plan to reach this world that involves each of us in an important way.

We each have unique backgrounds, abilities, and gifts. When we all get involved—when we all work together—God can do exponentially more than all of our best efforts added together.

GC is an opportunity for you to be actively involved in the future of our Movement. Whether you're voting on important initiatives, developing strategic partnerships, or investing in next generation leaders, General Council is one of the best ways you can make your mark on our Movement.

### Influence

God gives each of us degrees of influence. Our responsibility is to use our influence to advance His cause in this world. Our influence isn't static. It's always growing or diminishing, depending on our stewardship of it. Though we can't do anything of eternal value without God, we are called to partner with Him to carry out His plan.

General Council is an opportunity for you to sharpen your influence—in your life and as a leader. That's why we've added the Influence Conference—a first rate leadership conference—to the General Council experience.

### Register

General Council 2011 is about our past. It's about our future. And it will benefit your life and leadership in the present.

Register today at [www.GeneralCouncil.org](http://www.GeneralCouncil.org) and make your mark on our Movement!

Also, we want to hear how God is using you to shape our Movement. While you're on the General Council site to register, take a minute to share your story with us by video. You can also participate in a unique Make Your Mark Video Conference hosted by George Paul Wood—Tuesday, January 25 at [www.MinistryDirect.com/LIVE](http://www.MinistryDirect.com/LIVE).







Though General Council 2011 will be unique, you can expect all of the things you've come to know and love about the experience:

**INSPIRING** encounters with God

**INTERACTION** with old friends and new

**INVOLVEMENT** in the shaping of our Movement, and

**INFLUENCE** building opportunities for life and leadership

Make your mark on our Movement.

**Register today at [GeneralCouncil.org](http://GeneralCouncil.org).**



Phoenix, Arizona | August 1-5, 2011 | [GeneralCouncil.org](http://GeneralCouncil.org)

## MAKE YOUR MARK VIDEO CONFERENCE

Streaming at [MinistryDirect.com/LIVE](http://MinistryDirect.com/LIVE)  
Tuesday, January 25th from 10am - 2pm CST

**MAKE YOUR  
MARK ON OUR  
MOVEMENT**

Join George Paul Wood at **MinistryDirect.com**, where you'll hear more than 25 leaders share what God is doing through them to make a mark on our Movement.

General Council 2011 - This time will be different.

**Register today at  
[GeneralCouncil.org](http://GeneralCouncil.org)**

