

# Hear The Shepherd's Voice

**FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD  
COLMESNEIL, TEXAS**

**FREE**

**November 2012**



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## What is Pentecost?

Message by: Leroy Surface

**Definition of the word "Pentecost:"** (Strong's #4005) "pentēkostē - Feminine of G4004; *fiftieth* (G2250, 'day' being implied) from Passover, that is, the festival of Pentecost."

The meaning of the word "Pentecost" is simply "fiftieth." When the scripture says, "...when the day of Pentecost was fully come," it is actually saying, "...when the fiftieth day was fully come," and refers to the "feast of Pentecost," or literally, "the festival of the fiftieth day." The children of Israel had celebrated "Pentecost" on the "fiftieth day" after the Passover for almost fifteen hundred years before the hundred and twenty disciples of Jesus received the Holy Ghost on the "Day of Pentecost," as recorded in the Book of Acts. The first "Pentecost," or "fiftieth day," is the day God appeared in fire on Mount Horeb to speak to the children of Israel. This was the day He gave His "Ten Commandments," speaking to the entire nation in an audible voice. It was in memory of that day, that Moses instituted the "festival of the fiftieth day" which we call "the feast of Pentecost." The children of Israel were commanded to keep the feast every year on the fiftieth day after the feast of Passover. For the sake of understanding this message, we will refer to the day God spoke to the children of Israel from Mount Horeb as the "original" or "first" Pentecost, and we will refer to the day that the hundred and twenty received the Holy Ghost as the "second Pentecost," because, it was on this day, the day of the "second Pentecost," that God was finally able to fulfill the promise of the "first Pentecost," upon all who believed and obeyed Him.

### The Promise of the "Fiftieth Day"

**In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai.**

**Exodus 19:1**

The children of Israel left the land of Egypt on the fifteenth day of the first month, which the modern Jewish calendar calls "Nissan." We recall that Moses had commanded them to take a lamb, one "without spot or blemish," out of their flocks on the tenth day of the first month, to be slain in the evening of the fourteenth day. They were to brush the blood of the lamb above the door and on the door posts of their house. During the night hours they were commanded to eat the flesh of the lamb with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. This was the first "Passover"

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## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Dear Brothers and Sisters

This past week as I was visiting in the community I was surprised to meet all these men that were out of work. Many wanted to talk about the economy and the effect it has had on their family. They talk about our country and where it is headed; you could see the fear in their faces and hear it in their voices. Some are separated from their wife's because of the economy and their inability to find work. My heart goes out to these men.

The fear and the stress these men are under is just overwhelming. The fear of losing, their families the stress of paying bills. If only they could have the peace of Jesus Christ.

*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. [28] Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I. John 14:27-28*

Satan fears our peace. He fears that when we begin to live a life of peace, our stress and worries will come to an end. The enemy lives on our stress. He

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Message By:  
Leroy Surface  
What is Pentecost

Message By: Leslie Jordan

**BE ENCOURAGED**

## What is Pentecost?

*feast,*” which took place on the night the death angel passed through the land of Egypt to slay the firstborn child of every household. Only those who believed God and placed the blood over their doors were spared from the death angel. God said, “*When I see the blood, I will pass over you*” (Exodus 12:13), hence the name “*Passover.*” It was early in the morning of the fifteenth day that they left the land of Egypt. Forty five days later they came into the wilderness of Sinai, which would have been the first day of the third month. There they made their camp near to Mount Horeb, where they would stay for almost a year. On the next day Moses went up into the mountain to speak with God, and returned with a message for the people.

**And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.**

**Exodus 19:3**

God had certainly, in the ten plagues He had brought on Egypt, proved His great power to deliver the children of Israel. The final plague came on the night the death angel passed through the land to slay the firstborn of every house. They saw the protection God had provided for them through the blood of the Passover lamb, when they placed it over the doors to their house. Possibly the greatest display of His power was the day He parted the water of the Red Sea to make a “*way*” for the children of Israel to pass over. God reminds them, “*Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.*” The term, “*I bare you on eagles' wings*” refers to the great love and care God demonstrated in delivering His people, protecting them, providing food and drink for them, and in the last words of the verse, “*I...brought you unto myself.*” In these few words we see the purpose of the deliverance from the bondage in Egypt. Their ultimate destination, according to the promise God made to Abraham concerning his descendants, would be the land of Canaan, to give it to them for their inheritance. More important than Canaan, however, is Mount Horeb, where God brought His people “*to Himself.*”

**Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.**

**Exodus 19:3-6**

This wonderful promise that Moses had brought from God to the children of Israel on the forty eighth day was to be fulfilled on the “*fiftieth day,*” which would be the “*original*” or “*first Pentecost.*” Notice the two conditions, which were required to receive the wonderful threefold promise.

**1. Obey my voice:** The apostle Paul tells us that sin entered into the world by Adam’s “*disobedience*” (**Romans 5:12, 19**). When He gave the covenant of blessing to Abraham and his seed, God said it was because “*...thou hast obeyed my voice*” (**Genesis 22:18**). The children of Israel, who were Abraham’s descendants through Isaac and Jacob, fell into bondage in the land of Egypt where they had dwelt for four hundred and thirty years. God had delivered them from slavery to bring them to Himself at Mount Horeb, where He would bestow upon them the His great blessing if they would simply “*obey His voice.*”

**2. Keep my covenant:** The covenant God spoke of was not the Law of Moses, which would later be “*added because of transgressions*” (**Galatians 3:19**). Instead, it was the covenant that God had confirmed in Christ and given to Abraham hundreds of years before (**Galatians 3:17**). It was the covenant of blessing they would enjoy forever, if they would only “*believe God*” and “*obey His voice.*” The words of God, which we call the “*Ten Commandments,*” actually defined what they would be if they would “*obey His voice.*”

The “*blessing*” that would be theirs was threefold:

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## FROM THE PASTOR DESK FROM PAGE 1

**feeds on our fears. Decide, do you want a day full of trouble or a mind full of peace? It's your choice.**

*These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. John 16:33*

**We here at First Assembly of God may not be able to pay your bills or make your problems go away, but we know the Prince of Peace his Name is Jesus Christ. You too can know him as the Prince of Peace, Lord of Lord in your life. He and He along can help you; trust Him today as your Lord and Savior.**

## The Truth about Persecution in Cuba

Much has been written and said about the new season of openness for Christians in Cuba. But those who are able to speak freely say that the persecution is still there, though it is now better concealed. Since the government redefined Cuba as a “*secularist*” nation from an “*atheist*” nation in 1992, evangelicals have experienced an era of tolerance, where they meet without permission, but are largely ignored by the government. As an example of this tolerance, one church of around 1,000 members has given birth to 18 independent house churches. These new congregations range in size from 300 to 700 people.

But while few Christians have gone to prison for their faith in recent years, the Cuban government still mistreats, marginalize and openly oppose Christians, especially those who live according to their Biblical convictions. “*The persecution now is a closed persecution; it's hidden,*” said VOM’s field worker. Another Christian worker on the island characterized it as discreet. “*The pastors tell us they have an enemy without a face. They aren't confronted directly. Sometimes they don't know who has infiltrated the church [to inform on them],*”

One Cuban pastor, “*David,*” shared his experience with VOM this week. “*Don't be fooled by appearances,*” he said. “*Many brothers won't speak about this because of fear. If they speak out in Cuba, there will be consequences. They'll be expelled from the country or falsely accused of being counterrevolutionaries.*”

David became a believer when he was 15 years old. His family kicked him out of the house, and he was forced to work as a field hand to sustain himself. He didn't give up his faith though, and at 22 he became a pastor. At 57, he's lived through the decades in which many Cuban Christians left the island and the church was whittled down to a faithful few. He also led his church during times of revival. But “*if you want to pastor in Cuba, you cannot say anything against the government,*” he said.

He has been interrogated more than 20 times, and humiliated, beaten and threatened. His interrogators blamed him for the growth of his church, accusing him of using “*secret indoctrination methods*” from the United States. For these offences, he was forced to spend six months cleaning public outhouses every day. He was also prohibited from leaving the island for more than four years. The officials in charge never told him why his exit permits were never granted. There was always an excuse: “*We lost the paper work!*” or “*We never got your application.*”

When David was finally able to obtain a telephone connection for his house, the first phone call he received was from the state security office, warning him that they knew his phone number and they knew all about him. They even described the color of the books in his office, and told him, “*We can make something happen to you if we want.*”

# What is Pentecost?

Message by: Leroy Surface

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**1. ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people:** God had already delivered them out of slavery, which is the lowest estate known to man. In slavery, they were *"beneath all people,"* but God promised they would be *"above all people"* if they would *"obey His voice."* In fact, they would be God's *"special people,"* a people that God could display among the nations as proof He is God.

**2. ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests:** Every person among them would be a *"priest unto God."* God would continue speaking to each of them, not as the voice which thundered from the mountain, but in His *"still small voice,"* which they would obey and be greatly blessed.

**3. ye shall be unto me...an holy nation:** The words that God spoke from Mount Horeb, which became known as *"The Ten Commandments,"* would be written in the hearts of the people by the *"finger of God"* (the Holy Ghost). Righteousness would be their nature and holiness would be their fruit. They would be known among the nations as *"the nation that obeys the voice of their God."*

Other blessings that would also come upon them were those God gave to Abraham and his seed: They would *"possess the gate of their enemies,"* and, *"in them every nation would be blessed"* (**Genesis 22:17-18**).

## The "Fiftieth Day"

Things did not work out on the *"fiftieth day"* as God had intended. This was a day of destiny for the children of Israel. It was the day the living God of Israel would speak to His people out of the fire, just as He had spoken to Moses from the burning bush, only a year or so before on this very same mountain. Moses had met God for the first time at Horeb; and now, the entire nation would *"meet God"* and *"hear His voice"* at the same place. It was meant to be a day of rejoicing in the receiving of the blessings God had promised to Abraham and *"his seed."* The people would rush forward to the mountain, hoping to catch just a glimpse of the wonderful God who was speaking these wonderful words. When they arrived at Horeb they were still slaves in their hearts; but, from this day forward, they would be the *"special people"* of God, His *"holy nation,"* and, a *"kingdom of priests."* Less than a year later they would enter the land of Canaan, which, at their coming, would blossom as a rose, and God would send hornets before them to drive out the evil inhabitants of the land (**Exodus 23:27-28**). Sadly, however, nothing went the way it should have on the fiftieth day. The children of Israel missed their *"day of destiny."* Instead of rushing to the mountain to see God, they turned their backs and ran from God. Instead of obeying God's voice, they refused to even listen to His voice. Most theologians believe this was a wonderful day for Israel; the day God made covenant with His people and promised to be their God forever. The apostle Paul saw these events in a totally different light.

## Two Mountains

In the **twelfth chapter of Hebrews**, Paul speaks of two *"mountains,"* the first, a *"mountain that might be touched,"* and the second, a *"spiritual mountain"* that *"cannot be touched"* by the hand of man. The **first** is Mount Horeb, also known as Sinai, where God came down in fire to speak to the children of Israel. The **second** is the spiritual Mount Zion that all the children of God are gathered into.

*"For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them anymore"* (**Hebrews 12:18**). Mount Sinai (Horeb) is a mountain in Arabia (**Galatians 4:25**), which is visible to the eye and can be touched by hand. Tourists visit and explore it, but in the day that God came down on the mountain to speak to the children of Israel, they were commanded not to touch it. Paul says that it *"burned with fire,"* but **Deuteronomy 19:18** says, *"...the LORD*

*descended upon it in fire."* The *"fire"* that burned upon the mountain was the same *"fire"* that *"burned"* in the bush in the **third chapter of Exodus**.

*"Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb. And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush"* (**Exodus 3:1-2**). Mount Horeb became known as the Mountain of God long before God revealed Himself there to the children of Israel. It was there that God first revealed Himself to Moses, speaking to him out of a burning bush. Horeb later became known by the name *"Sinai"* because of the incident of the burning bush. It is believed that the name *"Sinai"* is derived from the Hebrew word *"seneh"* (meaning, a bramble bush) hence, *"Mount Sinai,"* or *"bush mountain."*

It was on Mount Horeb that God first revealed Himself to Moses from the burning bush. He warned him, *"Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground."* Next, He introduced Himself to Moses, saying, *"I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."* This was a forerunner of the day that God would reveal Himself to the entire congregation of the children of Israel out of the burning mountain.

*"But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel"* (**Hebrews 12:22-24**). The *"Mount Sion,"* which Paul speaks of, is a spiritual mountain that cannot be touched by hand. Neither can it be seen by the eyes of man; but, it is the *"reality"* of all who **do** *"see"* it, *"touch"* it, and *"enter into it."* In Mount Sion is *"the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem."* It is inhabited both by *"an innumerable company of angels,"* and *"the spirits of just men made perfect"* (those who 'died in faith' before Christ died for us). It is the gathering place of *"the general assembly and church of the first born."* God, who is *"the judge of all,"* is there, as is *"Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant."* Last of all, we hear a voice speaking from Mount Sion. It is the *"voice"* of *"the blood of sprinkling that speaketh better things than that of Abel."*

## The Speaking Blood

The blood of Christ is the voice that speaks from Mount Sion. Thus, the apostle Paul warns, *"See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven"* (**Hebrews 12:25**). It is the blood of Christ that speaks from the heavenly mountain. Notice that Paul understands that the children of Israel refused God when he spoke to them at Horeb, crying unto Moses, *"Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die"* (**Exodus 20:19**). In this, they never received the promise that was set before them that day. Like Adam before, they could have eaten of the *"tree of life"* which God was to them; and, they could have *"obeyed His voice."* Instead, they turned to Moses and promised to obey him, who in turn, gave them a law with six hundred and thirteen commandments and ordinances. This law, which became their *"tree of knowledge of good and evil,"* could not give them life, but held them, through fear of death, all the days of their life (**Hebrews 2:15**).

The scripture tells us that the blood of Christ, which is the *"blood of sprinkling"* in the New Covenant, *"...speaketh better things than that of Abel."* It is easy to believe that this verse compares the blood of Christ to the blood of Abel, which, as God told Cain, *"...crieth unto me from the ground"* (**Genesis 4:9-10**). This is not, however, the comparison the apostle makes. Instead, he refers back to his own epistle, **Hebrews 11:4**, where he writes, *"By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous."* Abel's *"more excellent sacrifice"* was a spotless lamb from the flock, whose blood he shed as a sacrifice to God. This was the *"blood"* that

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Abel "sprinkled," which was a forerunner of the millions of lambs that would be slain over the centuries to cover the sins of the people; but in all those lambs, whose blood flowed as a river, there was not found one drop of blood that could "take away sins" (Hebrews 10:4). The blood of Abel's sacrifice, which was "more excellent" than Cain's bloodless sacrifice, spoke of sins covered. The blood of Christ which was "sprinkled" for us, speaks of sins "taken away." John the Baptist introduced Jesus (the Christ) to Israel, saying, "Behold the lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

### The Second "Fiftieth Day"

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:1-4

When the Passover lamb was offered in Egypt, it delivered the children of Israel from Pharaoh and the Egyptians, but it could not deliver them from sin and Satan. When "Christ, our Passover" was offered at Calvary (I Corinthians 5:7), He "delivered us from the power of darkness..." (Colossians 1:13). The apostle Paul explains that Christ was offered, that "...through death, He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil" (Hebrews 2:14). Through His resurrection, all those who "believe God," i.e., believe that "Jesus is the Christ" (I John 5:1), are "begotten again unto a lively hope" (I Peter 1:3). The hundred and twenty Jews that "trusted in Christ" received the "new heart" and the "new spirit" God had promised in Ezekiel 36:26. And when the "fiftieth day" came, God performed everything He had promised Moses He would do for the congregation at Mount Horeb; if they would "obey His voice, and keep His covenant."

The "first Pentecost" was the "fiftieth day" from the day the Passover lamb was offered in Egypt. Sadly, that "first Pentecost" turned out to be a "dry run," because the children of Israel did not have a "heart" to receive the things of God. God said to Moses, in the same day the congregation rejected His voice, "O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children forever!" (Deuteronomy 5:29). The second "fiftieth day," however, was not a "dry run," because God was able to do for them what He could not do for the children of Israel at Horeb.

And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

Acts 5:32

David, after describing almost perfectly the sufferings of Christ in the twenty second Psalm, said this; "A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation. They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done this" (Psalms 22:30-31). This is a prophecy of the "new creation" of the children of God. They are God's "holy nation." They shall "serve Him." There is a people who will "obey His voice" when they hear it. They do not look to Moses or to his law, or to the commands and principles of those who would be a "modern day Moses." They "know God" because they are "born of God." God has placed "His Spirit (the Holy Ghost)" in them, and because they have received the "new heart" and the "new spirit" of the "new creation," a "new heart" and a "new spirit" which will "obey His voice" when He speaks. These were those who "turned the world upside down" in the first generation after Pentecost, and no wonder: they were God's "peculiar treasure;" they were a "king-

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## RUSSIA: CHURCH DESTROYED

Unidentified workers, backed by police and civil volunteers, tore down the Holy Trinity Pentecostal Church in east Moscow in the early morning hours of Sept. 6, then accused the pastor of holding an unapproved meeting for the worship service he led on the grounds of the destroyed church two days later. The workers came at midnight with bulldozers and diggers, looting the building of sound equipment, musical instruments, service books and Communion materials before using heavy equipment to demolish the structure. A church caretaker was taken to the police station and prevented from contacting church members for three hours.

The church's pastor, Vasili Romanyuk, rushed to the church in the middle of the night to halt the destruction, but it was too late. As other church members arrived to help salvage church property, civil volunteers surrounded the site and refused to allow them access. "A car was destroyed, while a generator, the mixing desk with microphones, musical instruments and other valuable items were taken away," church members complained in a Web post. By morning, the church building was a pile of rubble. "The workers didn't say who they were or who had sent them," said Pastor Romanyuk. "[But] they did all this with the protection of the police." The church held a service on Sept. 8 at the site of the destroyed church, using chairs and other materials salvaged from the church.

Holy Trinity Church was established in 1979 by Serfim Marin, a man who spent 18 years in Soviet labor camps for his faith, and the church was officially registered with Soviet authorities. The church's destruction follows a long-running court case between the church and city officials. Church members had long struggled to retain the church building, and Pastor Romanyuk said they were given no official warning of the destruction. "In late August, a district official told us verbally and unofficially that they would go ahead with the destruction by Sept. 15," he said. "We didn't believe they would just do this."

## Church Of The Lord Jesus Christ

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LOVE LIFTED ME

## BE ENCOURAGED

*Leslie Jordan*

Do you need an encouragement today? Do you need a reminder that you do not walk alone? We all have days we need to be encouraged. Have you talked to the great Friend, Jesus, today? Have you had a little time to read some of the Word and be encouraged? If you have not, then do stop what you are doing and read a little, pray and talk with Jesus. You know that He waits to hear you call Him; He is always there for you. No situation can arise in which He would be irrelevant, for He is all things to all men. Nothing is too difficult for our Savior and Friend; nothing is too complicated or too confused for Him. For us? Oh yes, we can be overwhelmed, confused, and just plain pitiful. That is why we need His help and we need to know He is close by.

Look for a moment at **Galatians 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."** Now look further in **Galatians 6:7-9, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."** Read these words aloud so you hear yourself say them, your ears get the blessing as your eyes read. Sometimes we breeze quickly over verses, saying the list of words is too long, we get it. Stop and savor the words as you would a fine bit of special chocolate. The words are smooth and rich and will stay with you, as would the chocolate. The fruit of the Spirit is sweet to the soul, it is good for everyone.

When trouble blows into your life next time try this: kneel by your bed, lay your Bible on the bed open to Galatians 5. Read aloud these verses. Now talk to the Lord, tell Him about the trouble you are having; next ask Him to help you see in your life and heart and mind each of the parts of the fruit. Ask one by one for them: Father, help me feel and show love; please give me joy; Lord Jesus, may I know peace; and so on. It may seem to take some time to you but what rewards can you reap? Each time you try this you are more comfortable, you are getting to know your Father and Friend. Perhaps it has been a long time since you felt close to Him. Well, child of God, He is still waiting and still will answer when you call out to Him.

Before you rise from the bedside, read the other verses. Verse 7 is heard often as a warning against sin. It is a warning, but it is also true that if you sow good seed, good fruit will result. Go ahead and do what is needed to reap life everlasting. Don't get weary, don't faint; you are going to reap if you faint not. It will take all parts of the fruit to keep on sowing and moving forward and having the life God wants you to have and the life you want. A life of peace and fruitfulness and joy will be yours. You will never feel alone for He will never forsake you and is ever with you. Fear need not overtake you for the Captain of the Lord of Hosts stands for you. How blessed we are when we know Jesus as our Friend! How sad to be living without Him. Should you by chance be reading this and not know Him personally, He wants to hear from you. He is always ready to receive a new child into His fold. You can read that Word too, there is power in the Word of God and in the blood of Jesus. That blood will wash you clean of your sin and you will know Him as your Savior and Friend.

Be encouraged, He is near.

## AG responding, but Sandy's destruction extensive

Fri, 02 Nov 2012 - 4:37 PM CST

Estimated to be second only to Hurricane Katrina in cost, officials are still learning the true scope of death and destruction caused by Superstorm Sandy. The death toll climbed to 98 people at last report, while media outlets are now filled with images of wiped out neighborhoods, flooded subways and streets, destroyed homes and hurting people.

The New York, New Jersey and Spanish Eastern districts of the Assemblies of God have all reported churches experiencing heavy loss due to Superstorm Sandy, but still have not heard from some churches. Certain areas of all three of these districts, people are still not permitted to enter. Also, with the lack of power and damage done to land phone lines and cell phone towers have made connecting with churches a challenge.

So far, the Convoy of Hope has distributed more than 60 tons of relief supplies in the hard-hit areas of New York and New Jersey, the international humanitarian relief organization reported in a press release. Items including food, water, blankets and cleaning supplies have been distributed in several communities in the Long Beach, Staten Island and Pleasant Point areas in New York; as well as Bayonne and Jersey City in New Jersey.

With more trucks already en route from its headquarters in Springfield, Missouri, by the end of the weekend, Convoy of Hope expects to have distributed a total of 100 tons of relief supplies to victims of the superstorm.

The New Jersey District (Superintendent Carl Colletti) is working with Convoy of Hope to get relief supplies to victims in its district. The district also has a team from Christ In Action from the Potomac District working on tree removal and clean-up.

The district has had confirmed reports of damage to the following churches:

- \* Bayonne - First Assembly of God has heavy water damage, with chemicals in the water.
- \* Jersey City -The Hope Center Tabernacle (home to at least two AG churches), Riverside AG, God is Love Ministries (AG) and New Jerusalem AG (a Haitian church) all have flood damage.
- \* Asbury Park - Mount Zion AG has significant flooding.
- \* Englishtown - Crossroads AG was hit by a falling tree, resulting in a large hole in the roof.
- \* Middlesex - Christian Life Church (AG) has wind and rain damage

According to the district office, about 70 percent of Jersey City is flooded and there have been reports of chemicals leaking (possibly oil) into the floodwaters, causing even greater damage and potential health risks.

The New York District (Superintendent Duane Durst) reports that the following churches have reported damages:

- \* Bellmore - Neighborhood AG has flood damage.
- \* Island Park - Full Gospel AG has flood damage.

## AG responding, but Sandy's destruction extensive

\* Queens - Howard Beach Assembly of God has flood damage.

\* Staten Island - Calvary AG and a second church have reported minor wind and water damage.

\* Hicksville - The Point Church lost a portion of its roof and has water damage.

Convoy of Hope is also working with the New York District and delivering relief supplies in several locations.

The Spanish Eastern District (Superintendent Rafael Reyes) overlaps the New Jersey and New York districts. The district office reports several Hispanic churches have experienced significant damages:

\* Hoboken, New Jersey - Iglesia Pentecostal Antioquia has flood damage.

\* Brooklyn, New York - Spanish Coney Island Tabernacle has extreme flood damage.

\* Oceanside, New York - Iglesia Arca de Salvacion has flood damage.

\* Brooklyn, New York - Iglesia Rey de Reyes has flood damage.

All three districts say that they have still not heard from all of their pastors in the impacted areas and that many pastors and church members have had their homes damaged or destroyed by flood waters..

To give to the Sandy Disaster Relief fund, [click here](#). To watch a video message from Dr. George O. Wood, [click this link](#). Checks may also be sent to the General Council of the Assemblies of God, 1445 N. Boonville Ave., Springfield, MO 65802 and write "Sandy Disaster Relief" in the memo line.

Authors: Dan Van Veen

## AG World Missions launches Pray 21 for November

Mon, 29 Oct 2012 - 3:54 PM CST

"What could happen in the world if we all prayed in the same direction?" asks AG World Missions Executive Director Greg Mundis.

AG World Missions has asked Assemblies of God missionaries and their friends and families to join online beginning this Thursday, November 1, to pray during the next 21 days about three critical needs.

"We're asking people to invest in prayer for three of the most critical needs in the world today," Mundis says. "From November 1-7, we're asking for focused prayer on the suffering church; from November 8-14, for missionaries in desperate need; and from November 15-21, for unreached peoples."

Randy Hurst, AGWM Communications director, explains that the Pray 21 initiative is going to be highly interactive as urgent prayer requests from around the world are posted regularly on the AGWM Facebook page and Twitter feed.

## School consolidation prayer gathering to be live streamed

Wed, 31 Oct 2012 - 2:50 PM CST

On Monday, November 5, at 7 p.m., CST, representatives from Central Bible College, Evangel University and the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, along with guests from area churches and the AG national offices, will gather at AGTS in Springfield, Missouri, to pray for God's blessing and guidance upon the consolidation of the three academic institutions.

The prayer service at AGTS is unique in that it will be live streamed on the Web so that many others across the nation may participate in this important time of prayer. Access information to view the service will be posted at [www.agts.edu](http://www.agts.edu).

Following greetings and opening prayer by AGTS president, Dr. Byron Klaus, a Scripture reading and devotional will be presented by Dr. Robert H. Spence, president of EU. Dr. Randy Walls (AGTS) will lead a time of worship followed by prayers offered by members of the Consolidation Prayer Task Force: Mrs. Joanne Strom, consolidation coordinator; Rev. Sandra Drake, founding director of the AG National Prayer Center and former director of AG Women's Ministries; Dr. Jay Taylor, director of Spiritual Formation, AGTS; Rev. John Maempa, director of the AG Office of Prayer & Spiritual Care; Rev. John Plake, EU campus pastor; and Rev. Alan Baker, CBC campus pastor.

Prayers during the event will focus upon unity and community, commitment to legacy, academic excellence, spiritual vitality, the administration and staff and for assurance amidst change.

Closing remarks and prayer will be offered by Dr. Gary A. Denbow, president of CBC and coordinator of the Consolidation Prayer Task Force.

"Please plan to join us in person or via the Web for this special time of prayer," Denbow urges. "Our desire is to see God's hand move in powerful ways, bringing clarity and direction to the process underway and to imprint His purposes on our hearts and minds as we move forward. Much has been done, yet there still are myriad details to be worked out. Prayer is needed for God's strength, wisdom and assurance as we proceed to fulfill this important initiative."

Authors: AG News

"Some of the requests will list the location of the church or missionary in need of prayer and some will not - depending on how sensitive the region of the world is," Hurst says.

During the last few months, violence has escalated against Assemblies of God churches, pastors and members around the world. Hurst says that Pray 21 intentionally begins with prayer for the suffering church.

"This Sunday, we're especially asking pastors to lead their churches in prayer for the suffering church," Hurst says. "Tragically, persecution of the church and believers is accelerating in many parts of the world today. Believers are harassed, entire church bodies placed in extreme danger, and people even killed. The suffering church needs our prayers more than ever."

To learn more about Pray 21 and receive the latest prayer request updates, [click here](#) and click "Like." Twitter users can visit @AGWorldMissions and "follow" AGWM to keep posted on the latest prayer request updates.

Authors: AG News

.....and the sheep hear his voice: .. John 10:3

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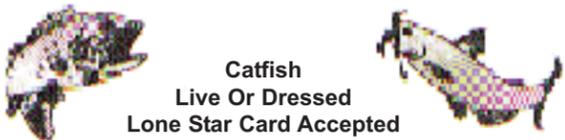
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