

# A PREZ RELEASE from AGTS

Join us for our Day of Renewal today via Internet  
All services at AGTS carried live at [www.agts.edu/day\\_of\\_renewal.html](http://www.agts.edu/day_of_renewal.html).

## *Monthly commentary from the President of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary*

### **The Minefield January 2004**

We are in the throes of the presidential race of 2004. Potential candidates have already been shocked and polls blindsided. What is becoming increasingly evident is that the U.S. is facing a year in which the diversity of this nation will become more obvious. The term “diversity” is severely limited when we use it only to describe racial, ethnic and color differences. The diversity equation must realistically include some additional facts. Research at the Brookings Institute in Washington, D.C. is suggesting our nation is morphing itself into three distinct regions. The Melting Pot region is largely urban, ethnically diverse, coastal and most impacted by recent immigration. Out of the Melting Pot region is flowing domestic migrants who are creating a present day counter-part to the 20<sup>th</sup> century phenomenon of the suburbs. This New Sunbelt are states like Nevada and Arizona in the West and the Carolinas in the East. The New Sunbelt already has 20% of the nations population and is growing twice as fast as any other segment of the new American regionalism. The third part of this new understanding of the U.S. is known as the Heartland, described as such because it is mostly the middle part of the country least impacted by immigration or migration from other areas.

Why are these new configurations so important to understand? We’ve already seen presidential candidates mistake political expediency for patronization. The identity of each region cannot be easily understood from a distance and stereotypes are limited in developing regional strategies for politicians. The very real possibility exists that we may face in 2004 what we experienced in 2000 in our presidential race: a very close race decided by the electoral college and the Supreme Court.

I’m not stumping for a commentator position at MSNBC or Fox News. I am the president of a seminary. I live in a nation that is changing significantly though these changes seem to be off the radar. The fact that pollsters and politicians are miscalculating their evaluation of numbers only points out what Christian leaders ought to be readily discerning: unless we are increasingly reliant on the guidance of the Holy Spirit—in clearly understanding the challenges we face—we are going to continue in ineffectiveness and mediocre ministry, wondering why our calculations led us astray.

Acts 13:1-3 reveals a crucial season for the leadership at Antioch and their willingness to implement what God said and follow the Spirit's direction. This was not mystical nor strategy by the seat of their pants. Paul and Barnabas knew their task, but most importantly allowed the Holy Spirit to give specific guidance toward greater effectiveness.

I am fearful that Christian leadership in the U.S. is creating strategic ministry for demographics that no longer exist. Without clear commitment to listen for the sake of understanding, one will miscalculate strategic efforts. Without clear guidelines that only the Spirit can provide, we will expend our best effort for Christ in places that no longer require what we have to offer.

**Byron D. Klaus, President**  
**Assemblies of God Theological Seminary**

## **Information on AGTS events for 2004**

### **Thursday, January 29—Day of Renewal at AGTS**

- We will carry this event live via audio-streaming on our website. Join us via Internet and be a part of this special Day of Renewal: [www.agts.edu/day\\_of\\_renewal.html](http://www.agts.edu/day_of_renewal.html).
- All classes are cancelled; all offices will be closed. We are fasting our usual business to simply give God space in our lives to speak to us.

### **March 19—Seminary Day at AGTS**

Interested in attending AGTS? Check us out on this one-stop invitation to experience AGTS.

**March 24-26—Growing and Leading The Large Pentecostal Church, Fort Myers, FL**  
Hear Dan Betzer, Wayne Blackburn, Lowell Harrup, Barry Meguiar and Maurice Watson speak on elements crucial to the large church moving in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**April 12-14—Leadership Roundtable with Dr. Stanley Grenz, Denver, CO**

**November 8-9—Leadership Roundtable with Dr. Stanley Grenz, Charlotte, NC**

For details and registration for these exciting events check out our website [www.agts.edu](http://www.agts.edu)