



General Superintendent George Wood spoke in chapel at AGTS on September 14, 2007.



GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT LAYS OUT VISION FOR EDUCATION

Dr. George O. Wood, chair of the AGTS Board of Directors, was elected general superintendent of the AG at the Indianapolis General Council in August. Prior to this, Dr. Wood had served the AG as general secretary since 1993. He follows Rev. Thomas Trask, who resigned in July.

In a recent AGTS chapel service, Dr. Wood laid out five enduring core goals that express his vision for the AG:

1. Passionately proclaim, at home and abroad, by word and deed, Jesus as savior, baptizer in the Holy Spirit, healer and soon-coming King.
2. Strategically invest in the next generation.
3. Vigorously plant new churches.
4. Skillfully resource our fellowship.
5. Fervently pray for God's favor and help as we serve him with pure hearts and noble purpose.

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Expressing support of higher education, Dr. Wood recounted:

One of my real heroes of the faith, Dr. Robert Frost, prayed this sentence: “Lord, help them to lay foundations that are strong enough to bear the weight you will later place on them.” There are a lot of people in the Assemblies of God who want to take shortcuts to ministry. A lot of people in the kingdom of God don’t want to really apply themselves to the biblical text, to theology, to practical theology, to missions. They don’t want to take time to study the Greek or the Hebrew—just rush in and do the job. And I’m afraid we’re seeing a fair share of ministerial failures, burnouts and crashes because people have not taken the time in their lives to lay strong foundations.

While expounding on his second point, strategic investment in the next generation, Dr. Wood addressed the fact that our 19 endorsed schools of higher education need to receive more than just token support from AG churches.

Our churches need to be looking at [AG] higher education the same way they look at U.S. missions and world missions. It must not be a minimal token commitment but a major commitment. When I pastored in Southern California, our missionary budget when I left in 1988 was \$45,000 a month. Between \$7,000 and \$8,000 of that amount went to Vanguard University (Southern California College at the time), because a college is not just another \$100 commitment. In fact, I challenge you, when you graduate from AGTS and go out and lead churches, to make massive contributions back to this school, because we need to lower the price of ministerial preparation and education so you do not graduate with a \$30,000 or \$60,000 school bill.

To listen to Dr. Wood’s entire message, go to www.agts.edu/news. Click on the “General Superintendent” link under September 2007.

Four AGTS family members elected to AG executive leadership

The following AGTS family members were elected to the AG Board of Administration during General Council.

- **George O. Wood** (chair, AGTS Board of Directors) elected general superintendent
- **Alton Garrison** (member, AGTS Board of Directors) elected assistant general superintendent
- **John Palmer** (M.A. 2004) elected general secretary
- **John Bueno** (member, AGTS Board of Directors) reelected executive director of world missions

Railey honored at General Council



The Alliance for AG Higher Education presented the Distinguished Educator Award to Dr. James Railey, AGTS professor of theology, on August 9 at General Council for his exemplary faithfulness and distinction as a minister and educator for more than 27 years.

Other faithful service:

- Dr. Jim Hernando (M.Div. 1978), professor of New Testament, received the Educator Award for 25 years of service.
- Joe Marics (M.Div. 1980), director of library services, received the Administrator Award for 20 years of service.

AGTS hosts Islam and preaching seminars at General Council



In his seminar on the growth of Islam in America, Dr. Mark Hausfeld (M.Div. 1983), 2007–2008 J. Philip Hogan Professor of World Missions, highlighted the importance of the local church taking the lead to reach Muslims in America.

Dr. Doug Oss (M.Div. 1980), professor of Bible exposition, expounded on the practical nature of expository preaching in his Pentecostal preaching seminar. “Preaching for real life is the only preaching that counts,” said Oss. Missionary Joel Ellis said, “Preaching the gospel in culturally relevant ways applies to any ministry context. I’m thankful to AGTS.”

Earl and Janet Creps to plant church in Berkeley



Earl Creps (D.Min. 2002) and his wife, Janet, (M.Div. 2004) are transitioning to Berkeley, Calif., to plant a church. The Creps will team up with Chi Alpha to establish a campus church. The University of California at Berkeley is home to more than 30,000 students, faculty and staff. Researchers find that about half of the 70,000 people at Berkeley are “trendsetters” who invent the urban culture consumed in the rest of the country. To touch Berkeley, then, is to change the future. Earl will remain a member of the AGTS adjunct faculty.

Lim and Taylor take on new responsibilities



Dr. Stephen Lim, professor of leadership and ministry, has been named academic dean at AGTS. He fills the position vacated by Dr. Joseph Castleberry in August 2007.

Dr. Cheryl Taylor (D.Min. 2003), visiting professor of practical theology, follows Dr. Earl Creps as director of the Doctor of Ministry Program.

“AGTS is committed to academically vigorous and relevant education,” said President Byron Klaus. “Steve Lim and Cheryl Taylor bring the academic skill and ministry sense necessary to effectively serve AGTS and its mission.”

First D.Miss. cohort meets at AGTS



In June, 16 students came together from 5 continents and 11 countries to inaugurate the Doctor of Missiology program at AGTS. Dr. DeLonn Rance (M.A. 1983), program coordinator, challenged participants to create space in their lives to yield to Spirit empowerment in order to respond to dynamic global realities. Students commented:

- “These amazing classes will keep me more Christ-oriented and dependent on Holy Spirit empowerment.”
- “God is bringing me from a cocoon back to a vibrancy of faith and life.”
- “The passion for the Spirit is infectious.”

New issue of Encounter Journal posted online



The newest issue of the *Encounter: Journal for Pentecostal Ministry* was published online in November under the editorial supervision of Dr. Deborah Gill (M.Div. 1978, M.A. 1979), professor of New Testament exposition. Featured in this issue:

- “Coaching: A Christian Overview and Response,” by Dr. Gary Collins
- “Sacred Serenade: The Role of Music in Spiritual Formation,” by Don Detrick (AGTS D.Min. Cand.)
- “Making Space for God to Fill and Transform,” by Dr. Stephen Lim