

PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES OF THE WEST INDIES INTERNATIONAL *SUMMARY OF* **32nd BIENNIAL GENERAL CONFERENCE** ACCRA BEACH HOTEL & RESORT, BARBADOS MAY 25 – 29, 2008

1. OPENING CEREMONY

The 32nd Biennial General Conference of PAWI Workers commenced with the usual pomp and ceremony befitting the largest Pentecostal Fellowship indigenous to the Caribbean. The opening ceremony was convened at the People's Pentecostal Church, Drax Hall, Christ Church, Barbados at 6:00 pm on Sunday 25th May 2008. As protocol demanded, Crusaders International, a paramilitary youth ministry of the Fellowship, marched in the flags of the various nations where PAWI has established churches and ministries, together with the PAWI flag and that of its premier ministry training institution, the West Indies School of Theology.

1.1. Nations Represented

Nations represented were Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Brazil, Canada, Dominica, Grenada, Malawi, Montserrat, St. Lucia, St. Kitts/ Nevis/ Anguilla, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, United States of America, and Venezuela.

1.2. Welcome of Special Invitees and Delegates

The Conference acknowledged and welcomed as special invitees, a number of dignitaries representing Christian organizations with which PAWI enjoys fraternal relations. These included Rev. Thomas Maginley – Trinity Fellowship, United Kingdom; Rev. Terrance Charles and Rev. Wharton Nicholson, the latter being a former World Missions Director of PAWI – Pentecostal Association of

North America; Rev. James Guskjolen – Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada; Rev. Gerry Seale – Evangelical Association of the Caribbean; Rev. Dr. Andy Homer – Open Bible Standard Churches; Rev. Harold Caulkins – Assemblies of God, USA; Rev. John Smith – Assemblies of God, Guyana; and Rev. Trevor Campbell – PAWI missionary to Malawi.

Conference host, Bishop Ophneil Forde, Assistant General Bishop and Presiding Bishop of Barbados District also extended acknowledgements and welcoming greetings to all PAWI ministers and church delegates, who were present or were following the live webcast in their respective countries and homes. Through their demonstrations of love, commitment and sacrifice, they have laboured to make PAWI the Fellowship that it is today.

1.3. Opening Address

The opening address was delivered by incumbent General Bishop, Rev. Dr. Pat Glasgow on the Conference theme: "The Man: His Vision, His Mission". His scriptural text was taken from John 1:6 – "There was a man sent from God whose name was John".

2. FEATURED SPEAKER

As he focused on the Conference theme, Rev. Dr. George Phillips, Featured Speaker of the Conference shared timely, inspiring and relevant insights from the word of God at each morning's devotional. He moved participants to laughter, reflection and serious

introspection as each examined his/her life in light of the revelation of God's truth. He climaxed his delivery on the last morning with an anointing service of all Conference participants.

3. CONFERENCE FIRSTS

A number of firsts in the history of the Fellowship were registered at this 32nd Biennial General Conference. They included:

1. A live webcast of the opening and closing ceremonies beamed to districts throughout the Fellowship from Barbados.
2. The highest number of workers and delegates registered and attending

MISSION STATEMENT

The Pentecostal Assemblies of the West Indies exist to fulfill the purpose of God as described in the Holy Scriptures which is to call out of the world a people who shall constitute the Church of Jesus Christ, to build up and establish upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets - Jesus Christ himself being the Chief Cornerstone, that New Testament Church and to ordain and send forth Spirit filled ministers for the edification of believers and for propagating of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

any General Conference in living memory – 281 persons.

3. The use of two venues for the conduct of night rallies – the northern venue being the Christ Is The Answer Family Church in Speightstown and the southern venue, the People's Pentecostal Church, from Monday 26th through Wednesday 28th May.

4. A total of six (6) different speakers ministered at the night rallies, one each at the northern and southern venues. They were Revs George Frederick, Melch Pope, Rebecca Roberts, Thomas Eristhee, Eldon Paul and Bishop Ophneil Forde.

5. All speakers at the Conference were Caribbean nationals, indigenous to the PAWI Fellowship.

6. Two women were elected to serve on the General Executive as members-at-large. They were Dr. Pearl Rivers and Mrs. Shirlene Pope.

4. ELECTIONS AND RATIFICATIONS

4.1. General Executive Officers

The following General Officers were returned to office:

Bishop Dr. Pat Glasgow
General Bishop

Bishop Ophneil Forde
Assistant General Bishop

Bishop Errol Bartholomew
General Administrator

Bishop Knowles Mc Call
Executive Director; Church Ministries

Bishop Nigel Henry
Executive Director; World Missions

4.2. WIST

The Conference ratified the new Board of Directors of WIST Educational Foundation:

Professor Alvin Thompson
Chairman

Rev. Nolan Warner
Treasurer

Dr. Michael Crichlow
Member

Rev. George Frederick
Member

Dr. Pearl Rivers
Member

Mrs. Belinda Dillon
Member

Ms. Andrea Phillip
Member

Bishop Dr. Pat Glasgow
WIST President

4.3. Church Ministries' Departmental Directors

The following appointees were ratified as Church Ministries' Departmental Directors:

Rev. Albert Grey
Youth Ministries

Rev. Albert Cooper
Christian Education

Rev. Andrew John
Men's Ministries

Mrs. Eudine Banfield
Women's Ministries

Mrs. Pamela Dickson-Stewart
International Crusaders

5. RECOMMENDATIONS – GENERAL BISHOP'S REPORT

The Conference decided that all recommendations from the General Bishop's report be placed on the Conference agenda.

The recommendations included:

5.1. Strategic Planning

The three (3) sectors of the fellowship use the plan as a guide to develop their own action plans for operating. Each District and church should examine the plan and give consideration to the development of their Districts and churches within the various Islands. In doing this, room would be given for uniqueness, innovation and at the same time have the same theme for our operations.

5.2. Church planting

i. Demographic studies and needs assessments must be done within each District, identifying population shifts and concentrations in order to arrive at the best possible location to establish these churches.

ii There may be the possibility that some churches will have to be merged, relocated, or some to parent smaller entities in order to maximize benefits from our resources. Therefore each District should give consideration to the above and design an effective church-planting strategy.

5.3. Succession Planning Mentorship

i. That for greater resource to be made available to WIST, ensure that a suitable environment is fostered and relevant programs be offered to attract the young people of this generation to prepare them for the ministry.

ii That all Districts and local churches adopt a pastoral mentoring program to ensure the nurturing and development of younger ministers to ascertain continuity in the system.

iii That there be a strategic place for the elders in PAWI. We must cherish the elders amongst us. I propose that a group of five (5) elders be appointed to serve as Advisors in the organization and that in every District we have at least three (3) elders who will be designated and available to advise on matters relating to the development of the work of God.

5.4. Care

i. Develop a policy to remunerate workers in each District. This should include monthly salary, pension, vacation allowance, health insurance, etc.

ii. Develop systems within our Districts to adequately subsidize those churches that are unable to take care of the workers.

5.5. Church organization that wisely addresses issues in the society

That we not remain silent on issues:

i. Encourage our membership to be salt and light everywhere. They can be of the King at their places of employ. They should be willing to affect the society, influence decisions and speak out against ills.

ii. Do the research. Districts should appoint a committee that can research the issues that affect their areas both positively and negatively so that they will be able to give an intelligent biblical response.

- iii. Speak out. We must be willing to speak out.

5.6. The International Office

That all credential workers in the organization send their personal tithes to the International Office to assist in the operation. Each additional contribution will multiply the financial capability and effectiveness of operations at this level of our organization.

6. APPROVED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

The Conference approved the following amendments:

6.1. Amendment to Bylaw 5, Section 5.5 – Insert a new clause # 5.5.3

All credential workers shall normally be expected to attend their respective District Conference and at least fifty percent (50%) of their district activities.

6.2. Amendment of Bylaw 5, and Section 5.3

6.2.1. Amend # 5.3.2

Insert the words 'who have been' before 'recommended' in line #1. The clause reads:

“Credentials shall only be issued to persons who have been recommended...”

6.2.2. Amend # 5.3.9

On recommendation of the District Executive, a credential holder of PAWI may be given approval by the General Executive to pastor an affiliate assembly.

6.2.3. Insert a new clause # 5.3.10

Affiliate members may hold any position except those of District, National or General Executive office of the Fellowship, (cf. Clause 9.2.9).

6.3. Amendment of Bylaw 9.2

6.3.1. Insert a new clause, # 9.2.7

In the case of a group of assemblies wishing to be affiliated to the Fellowship, the International Office shall work out the specific terms of agreement and present them to the General Executive for modification and/or approval. The terms of agreement shall include but not be limited to the following: the statement of faith, administrative oversight by the International Office or any particular district as the General Executive may

determine, credentials, attendance at conferences, financial obligations to the Fellowship, and sharing of pulpits.

6.3.2. Insert a new clause, # 9.2.8

Credentials shall be issued to affiliate ministers who function extra-regionally or are former credential holders. The following regulations shall obtain:

1. The International Office shall authorize a person or persons in that locality to certify the applicant's fitness to be granted credentials, through interviews, examination of documents, qualifications, experience, credentials currently held, affiliation to any Christian organization, ministerial conduct, and any other considerations as the International Office may deem appropriate.
2. Persons not affiliated to a PAWI District or to the International Office, shall apply to the International Office.
3. The International Office shall determine the terms and conditions under which credentials may be granted.

6.3.3. Note:

The original clause # 9.2.7 becomes # 9.2.9.

6.4. Amendment of Bylaw 9.9.6, # 9.9.6.4

Insert the phrase “by the General Conference” after “time” in the last line. The clause reads:

“Persons in our assemblies who are divorced and remarried may be permitted to participate in areas of Ministry below pastoral level and such other areas as may be determined from time to time by the General Conference.”

6.5. Amendment of Bylaw 5.2.1,

6.5.1. Amend Section C, 'Special Cases', # i – delete the words:

“...on the recommendation of the District in which he resides.”

6.5.2. Insert a new clause in Section 5.2.1.1, # viii:

“All candidates for Ordination Credentials shall be recommended by the respective District Executive and District Conference to the General Executive.”

7. APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

7.1. MOTION – Dissemination of Conference Minutes

That the General Executive be responsible for the dissemination of copies of minutes to all workers

7.2. MOTION – International Office Support

That each credential worker gives \$ 50.00 on a monthly basis towards the support of the International office

7.3. MOTION – WIST Financial Report

That the WIST financial report be handled by the General Executive

7.4. CONSENSUS – Mission Statement

The General Executive was authorized by consensus to take responsibility for shortening the present Mission Statement.

8. CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY OF BUSINESS

8.1. Tabled Resolutions and Recommendations

The Chairman directed that all tabled resolutions and recommendations not yet dealt with to be posted on the PAWI website to give workers access to the information.

8.2. Scholarship Fund – Rev. Dr. T. Nelson

The Conference was informed that a “Turnel Nelson Scholarship Fund” was established for students who were interested in pursuing studies in Missions at WIST. The Chairman indicated an increase in credential fees to \$100.00, part of which would be allocated to the Scholarship Fund. He also encouraged delegates to contribute monthly towards the Fund and advised that an offering will be taken at the Conference to begin the Scholarship Fund.

8.3. Church Ministries

The Chairman defined the needs of the Church Ministries Department as men, methods and finance. He reminded the Conference of the Church Ministries Executive Director's directive to each Department to contribute \$40.00 US per quarter to the International Office.

8.4. Strategic Planning

The Chairman expressed the need for each District to utilize the Fellowship's existing Strategic Plan and to assist their churches to explore its provisions since he found that strategic planning was absent in many churches.

8.5. Church Planting Efforts

The Chairman stated that church planting efforts have slowed down and needs to be increased. Churches were asked to 'mother' new churches and for church planting to be done strategically.

8.6. Succession Planning

Increased giving to WIST was encouraged for the strengthening of the institution. The Chairman renewed the call for the ministry to be presented to the churches and to our membership. Young people must be encouraged to present themselves for ministry.

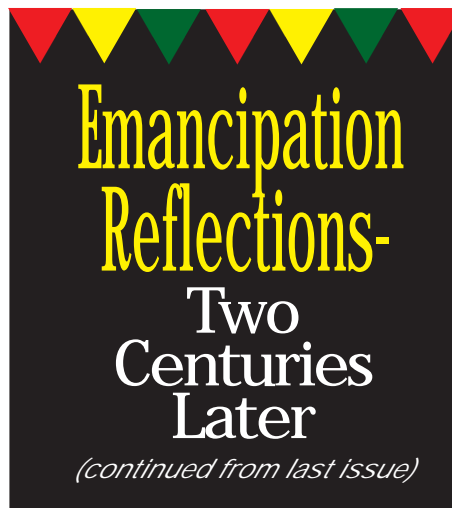
9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. PAWI will celebrate its centenary in the year 2010. Bishop Knowles Mc Call heads the centenary celebrations committee.
2. PAWI Trinidad and Tobago shall host the next General Conference which is scheduled for May 16-23, 2010 in Trinidad.
3. Rev. Thomas Maginley, former WIST President is in the process of writing a researched history of PAWI from its inception. The book's publication is imminent and its launching shall coincide with the commencement of PAWI's centennial celebrations.

Respectfully submitted
Bishop Errol Bartholomew
General Administrator.



Pentecostal Assemblies
OF THE WEST INDIES INTERNATIONAL



By Pastor Tom Maginley

The history of slavery took a significant turn with the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833— it gave all slaves in the British Empire their freedom and became effective on 1 August 1834. The Act was a middle ground between slavery and full emancipation and allowed for the following:

- All children under the age of six years were to be freed immediately.
 - Older slaves were to serve a term of apprenticeship for four years before being granted full freedom. Antigua opted for immediate emancipation — unlike the islands of Barbados and Jamaica.
 - During Apprenticeship the 'slaves' would be required to work for forty hours per week for their 'masters'. After that they could work for other masters.
 - The 'masters' were to continue supplying basic food, clothing, housing and medical care.
 - The *right* of the owner to order punishment was removed. A special body of magistrates would be sent out of England to settle disputes.
 - If an apprentice wished to purchase full freedom, such a one was allowed to do so at a price to be decided by his/her owners and the magistrates.
- Slave owners were required to compensate their workers with wages.
- The British Government passed a bill for the disbursement of twenty million pounds to be distributed among slave owners who had lost their income due to emancipation. How insidious!

The slaves brought their customs and religions to the New World. Haiti with its voodoo is a prime example of a spurious religion practiced by the slaves. Those imprisoned found release through music — many of the negro-spirituals have their root in the experiences of the displaced people who laboured on the plantations in the Southern United States. Many of these 'spirituals' are still sung today and reflect the anguish of an enslaved people longing for freedom.

The Caribbean plantation owners often co-habited with the slaves and produced a mixed race often referred to as mulatta. Most West Indians need only to retrace their family-tree to three or four generations to discover their European connection. The first General Superintendent of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the West Indies was Montserratian born William Patrick Ryan — names rooted in the Irish involvement of Montserrat.

In this twenty-first century, slavery has taken on a new dimension. An estimated two million children are dislodged and trafficked each year around the world; thousands of women are enslaved in prostitution; in emerging countries cheap labour is exploited. Slavery to drugs and addictions in all their forms enslave today's generation.

To a people held in servitude during much of their four hundred and thirty years in Egypt, God had a poignant word to be delivered to Pharaoh: "Let my people go, so that they may worship me in the wilderness." Exodus 7:16 Their emancipation finally came when Moses led three million people to freedom.

The 'freedom' that emancipation endeavoured to produce must also take a spiritual connotation. Jesus declared in His manifesto found in Luke chapter four verses eighteen and nineteen that 'He had come to set the prisoner free.' Let us herald the good news. On its reception and implementation all shackles of slavery in all its forms can then be annihilated. "For whom the Son sets free, is free indeed". (John 8: 36)

The 'Walk of Witness' highlighted the following: Remembrance; Repentance; Restoration. It is hoped that the events which transpired in London on Saturday 24 March 2007 will be the catalyst that will jog the memory, evoke contrition and initiate restitution.