



Membership Matters: Developing Dynamic Disciples Connected in Ministry

Week 4 – It's Bigger Than We Are
November 18, 2020
First Lady Agnes Clark, Instructor



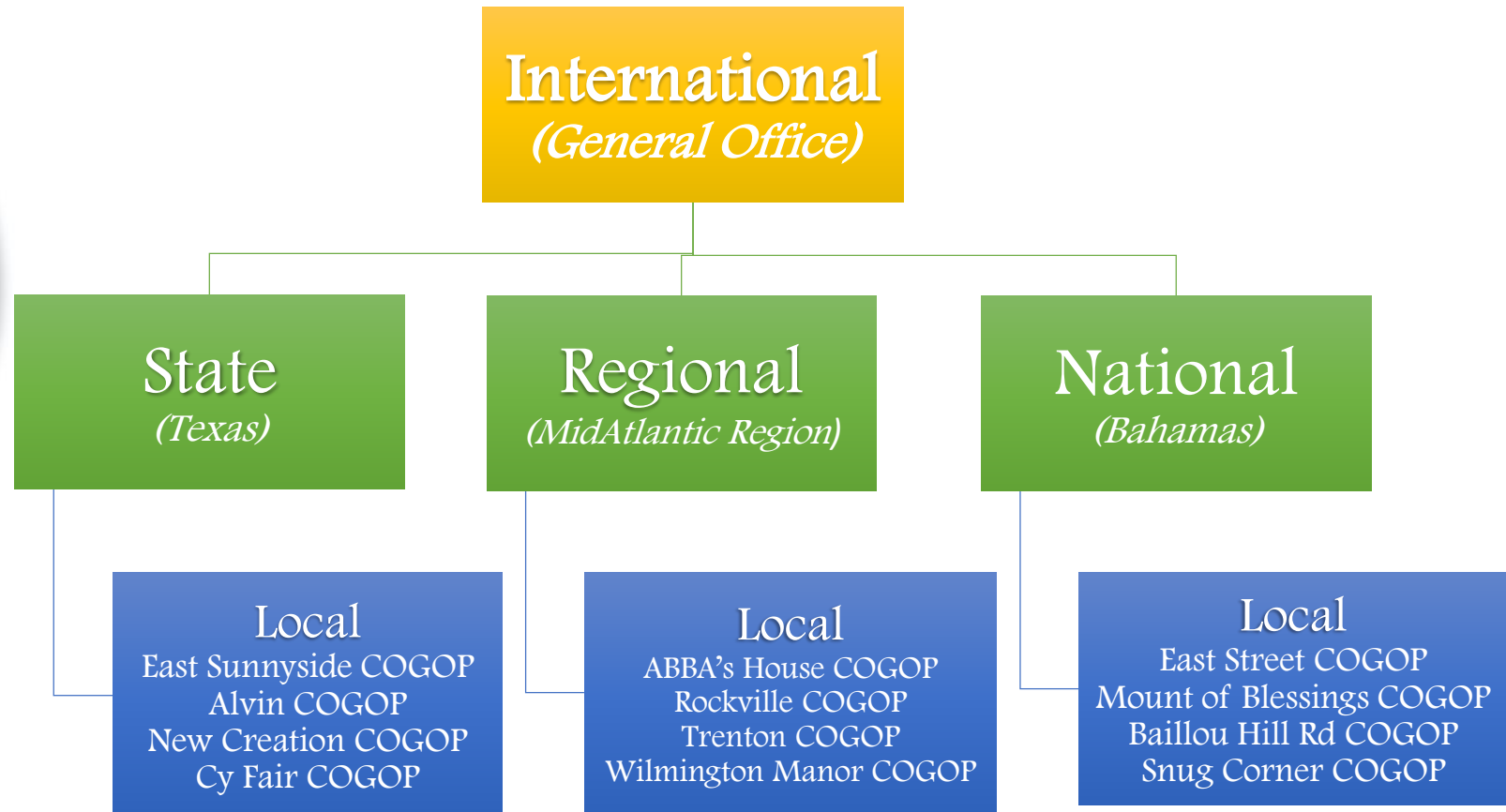
It's Bigger Than We Are

Lesson 4

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- Over 1,000,000 members worldwide
 - Over 10,000 churches & missions
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- In approximately 130 nations
 - 90% of global membership is outside of North America



Organizational Structure



The Church of God of Prophecy Historically

- The Christian Union
- Shearer Schoolhouse Revival and the Fire-Baptized Influence
- The Holiness Church at Camp Creek
- AJ Tomlinson and the Church of God
- First Assembly in January 26-27, 1906
- Name formerly changed to Church of God on January 11, 1907
- Publishing house built in 1913
- Bible Training school started in 1918
- First orphanage 1920
- Church of God Becomes a Part of the Pentecostal Movement
- Church split in 1923
- Courts officially change name in 1952 to The Church of God of Prophecy



General Overseers

Ambrose Jessup “AJ” Tomlinson 1903-1943

- A quaker from Indiana
- Bible salesman & Preacher
- June 12, 1903 Burger Mountain prayer experience
- Vision of “Last Days Church of God”
- June 13, 1903 joins the Holiness Church
- Becomes pastor and eventually General Overseer
- Planted churches in the mountain areas of Tennessee, Georgia, Kentucky, West Virginia and North Carolina
- First Assembly held in 1906
- Baptized with the Holy Ghost Jan 12, 1908
- First international campaign to the Bahamas in 1911
- Began construction of Fields of Woods
- Passed away October 2, 1943 age 78





Milton Ambrose “M.A.” Tomlinson

1943-1990

- Vision of “All Nations Church” driving force
- Strong mission focus
- 20 countries to 90 countries
- 1,400 churches grew to over 5,500
- Surrounded himself with gifted people
- White Wing Publishing House built in US and other countries around the world
- Led an integrated and internationalized leadership
- White Wing Christian Bookstore
- 10,000 seat auditorium for General Assemblies
- General Headquarters executive offices
- Voice of Salvation Broadcast Ministry
- 1984 “Call to Repentance”
- Bible Training Institute expansion to over 64 short-term schools
- Youth Camp & Retreat Ministry
- Tomlinson College
- Retired at age 83
- Passed away April 26, 1995



Bishop Billy Murray

1990-2000

- "Turning to the Harvest"
- Church doubled in membership worldwide
- Encouraged alliances and fellowships with other evangelical organizations
- Restructuring of Intl Office
 - Pluralizing Leadership
 - Restructuring Finances
- "Vibrant Local Churches" focus rather than General Headquarters driven
- Leadership Development
- Adornment 1994
- 90 Countries to 120 Countries
- Entire administration-"Christ is the message; the church is the messenger"
- Passed away December 8, 2004

Fred S. Fisher

2000-2006

- “Passion for People”
- Urged the body from an “Exclusive” mindset
- 120 countries to 132 countries
- Huge heart for pastors – strengthening pastoral roles
- Launched a renewed higher education program for ministers through Tomlinson Center
- Strong local churches
- 2004 instituted the Proxy system
- 2006 Divorce & Remarriage Issue






Randall E. Howard

2006-2013

- The Church's return to her roots in Word and Spirit necessitated reforms and restructuring to better reflect the gospel of Jesus Christ
- The spirit is pointing the way and has given us leadership compatible with divine direction
- Divorce & Remarriage Issue Finalized



Samuel Clements 2013~Present

*The man who walked
the church through
crisis!*



As a Spirit-led
church we
joyfully honor
our past, and
thankfully
celebrate our
present, and
boldly anticipate
and embrace our
future.

~Bishop Randall E. Howard

