

Encourage

Inspiration for IPHC Leaders

SPECIAL ISSUE

HOLY MOMENTS
IN ORLANDO

A full report
on the 28th
IPHC General
Conference



REFLECTIONS After Our Historic Gathering in Orlando



The Holy Spirit's presence was evident among us during our General Conference.

The communion service on July 26 featured a reenactment of the first Lord's Supper.



BY DOUG
BEACHAM

DOUG BEACHAM is the presiding bishop of the IPHC. He has served in various roles in the church including Georgia Conference Superintendent, executive director of Church Education Ministries, and executive director of World Missions Ministries. You can follow Bishop Beacham on [Facebook](#) or Twitter [@DougBeacham](#).

More than 1,000 delegates, along with several hundred visitors, gathered in the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida, for the 28th IPHC General Conference, July 26-28, 2017. Prior to the General Conference, Discipleship Ministries hosted another well attended and successful YouthQuest, Fine Arts Festival and Day of Training for Adult Ministries in the IPHC as well.

Each event experienced the special presence of the Holy Spirit. Many remarked that the spiritual atmosphere of this General Conference was one of the most significant in recent memory.

The atmosphere was set in the opening communion service and continued through the Friday night service. The altars were filled following the evening services featuring Beth Moore and Sammy Rodriguez. Again, the altars were filled on Friday night as I shared the vision for the IPHC as we prepare to commemorate the 2000th anniversary of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in the period 2030-2033.

The closing service, with the presentation of soil from across the USA and the world, continues to inspire our hearts. You can view most of the services and special speakers at <http://iphc.org/live>.

The event concluded with some changes to government and new assignments in ministry. Among the changes adopted were that the spouses of licensed and ordained ministers will be granted seat, voice and voting privileges at the 2021 General Conference. Conference certification must be met for all delegates; and for those serving in elected conference and denominational offices, one can serve three four-year terms by majority vote before the two-thirds nominating vote begins. This second item goes into effect immediately and will be the guidance for the 2018 Quadrennial

Conference elections.

Throughout the week, other items of business were discussed and determined. They are

reflected in the conference minutes which are available [online](#) in both English and Spanish. The final changes will be included in the new IPHC Manual available this fall. The debates surrounding the business were handled in such a way that reflected the fruit of the Holy Spirit among us. Church business can and should draw forth strong feelings. Yet it should also draw forth the character and heart of Jesus among us.

President Chris Thompson of Holmes Bible College in Greenville, South Carolina, had previously announced he would not be considered for another term as executive director of Evangelism USA. Several were nominated to fill his position. After four ballots, the former field director of Acts2Day Conference, Rev. Garry Bryant, was elected as the new executive director of EVUSA. Bishop Bryant, whose ministry is described in this issue of Encourage, is a godly

leader with vision and energy.

Bishops Tommy McGhee and Talmadge Gardner were reelected to their respective ministries

in Discipleship Ministries and World Missions Ministries. In an historic election, Bishop McGhee was the first executive director of Discipleship Ministries to be elected vice chairman of the denomination.

I was also reelected by acclamation as General Superintendent, and this proved to be historic

in our modern history as a denomination. To paraphrase Acts 15:28, it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to the delegates to do that in 2013 and again in 2017. I am deeply humbled, and not in the least worthy, to serve you for the next four years as the General Superintendent and Presiding Bishop. Susan and I, along with our children and grandchildren, covet your prayers for wisdom, protection and good health.

I am praying we will have a passion to evangelize the lost—sharing our testimonies with love and compassion.

I am praying we will have the vision and courage to go to areas

I am praying
that younger
generations
will discover
God's call and
cause through
the IPHC.

Encourage

A place of hope. A people of promise.

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All photos in this issue by Kelly King

of the USA and world where we are not present and plant house churches and other congregations.

I am praying that our seven core values will seed generosity, justice, and mercy in each generation as we make manifest what it is to be “A Place of Hope and A People of Promise.”

I am praying that younger generations will discover God's call and cause through the IPHC that it will inspire them to serve their generation.

One of my favorite songs is Mark Altrogge's *I Want to Serve the Purpose (In My Generation)*. I often hum and sing it, and you can listen to it [here](#). I first heard this song in London, in a multi-ethnic and cultural setting. These lines continue to speak to my heart:

“I want to give my life for something that will last forever, Oh, I delight, I delight to do Your will. I want to see the kingdom of God in my generation . . . I want to live my life for something that will last forever.” ■



Samuel Rodriguez' message and the worship team were marked by God's strong presence.

Conference Begins With a Call for 'HOLY FIRE'

Author Beth Moore challenged the IPHC to cry out for genuine spiritual revival

We need the fire: Author Beth Moore's message triggered an unplanned altar call

BY J. LEE GRADY

During the IPHC's 28th General Conference in July, hundreds of delegates wept and prayed at the altar for more than an hour after author and preacher Beth Moore said she is "unsettled and unsatisfied" when she looks at the current state of the American church.

"I read the New Testament over and over, and I'm not seeing what Jesus promised," said Moore during her sermon, delivered on opening night of the convention. "I want holy fire!" she declared.

A holy hush fell over the audience as Moore, a Southern Baptist, described how the contemporary church in the United States has focused on events and programs instead of the genuine anointing of the Holy Spirit. She called on the IPHC to repent and return to total dependence on God's power.

"Jesus wants to baptize us with the Holy Spirit and fire," said Moore, who bases her popular teaching ministry in Houston, Texas. "We have settled for the spiked Kool-Aid of cool, cultural Christianity. We are too hungry to fast. We are too busy for prayer. It's time for leadership to repent."

During opening ceremonies, missionaries and foreign delegates marched into the auditorium carrying flags from 100 nations. It was a reminder that the IPHC, which started as a revival movement in the American South, has now grown to become an international missionary force.



A diverse team of IPHC musicians from all over the world led worship



Revisiting a prophetic word: John Dawson of YWAM with Bishop Doug Beacham



One hundred nations were represented in the march of flags

After all delegates took Holy Communion, IPHC General Superintendent Doug Beacham asked if everyone had been served. At that moment missionary delegates from various regions of the world went to microphones in the audience and announced that millions of people groups in Asia, the Middle East, North America, Africa and Latin America had yet to hear the gospel of Christ.

It was a powerful reminder that the IPHC still has much work to do in its global mission.

On the second night of the conference, fiery Latino preacher Sammy Rodriguez told delegates they are standing on the verge of a great spiritual breakthrough—and he prophesied that God will do miracles when we least expect them.

“We are about to surprise the world again,” said Rodriguez, who leads the National Hispanic Leadership Conference as well as a church in Sacramento, California.

Speaking from the story of the paralytic in John 5, Rodriguez said we can sometimes become paralyzed by life’s circumstances and difficulties. He called IPHC members to step into the aisles and walk confidently into a future marked by spiritual revival.

Stepping into revival was a theme throughout the conference. Youth With a Mission leader John Dawson read a prophecy that he gave to IPHC leaders in 1991. It stated that the IPHC is called to serve other denominational streams in the global church.

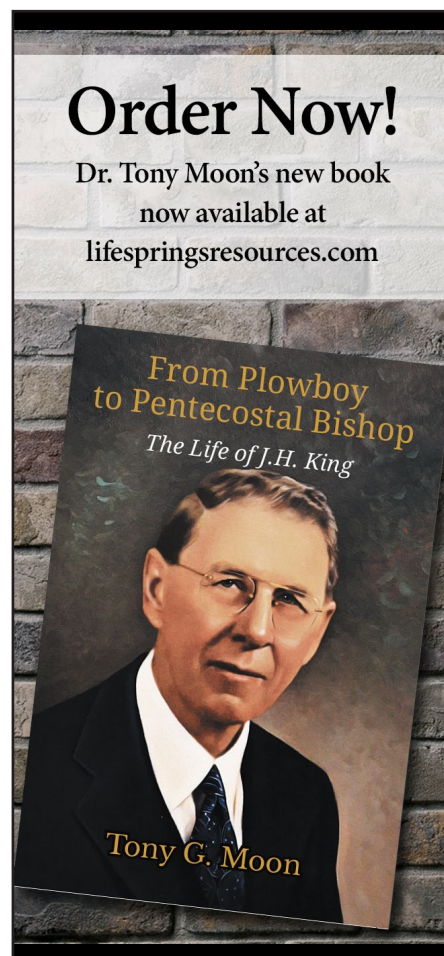
“You are a doorway to the nations,” Dawson said, reading the 26-year-old prophetic word. He also stated that the United States is currently in a season of destabilization—a time when “God shakes the idols.”

Church growth expert Ed Stetzer also addressed the General Conference about how to boldly and effectively reach our culture with the gospel. Stetzer also announced that, in spite of claims that evangelical churches are shrinking in the United States, research proves the opposite.

“The church has not collapsed. The mission field has changed. It is time for the mission force to engage.”
— Ed Stetzer

Stetzer cited studies that showed that planting new churches is the best way to reach people who may consider themselves Christian but have no real relationship with God. “We need an IPHC that captures the fervor of church-planting,” Stetzer said.

We must sacrifice our lives for the gospel and look for mission opportunities in an increasing secular society, Stetzer added. “The church has not collapsed. The mission field has changed. It is time for the mission force to engage.” □



GENERAL CONFERENCE

Business Sessions Were Bathed in the Holy Spirit's Presence

Delegates in Orlando voted for leaders to take the IPHC into a new season of growth

Garry Bryant (left) is congratulated by Doug Beacham and his predecessor, Chris Thompson (right)



Four more years: Doug Beacham was unanimously elected to another term as bishop

By J. LEE GRADY

During business sessions at the General Conference in Orlando, delegates unanimously reelected Doug Beacham to serve another four-year term as the IPHC's General Superintendent. He ran unopposed. Beacham told the crowd: "I can't tell you how humbled I am to serve you."

In another key vote, Bishop Garry Bryant was elected to serve as executive director of Evangelism USA. Bryant has served as director of Acts2Day for 10 years. He will now replace Bishop Chris Thompson, who is retiring from his position as head of Evangelism USA after serving in that role since 2009.

Thompson has served as vice chairman of the IPHC since 2012. He has now assumed the presidency of Holmes Bible College in Greenville, South Carolina.

Bryant will step into some big shoes when he replaces Thompson. But he's excited about the challenge.

"My focus is on the harvest," says Bryant, who is 57. The third-generation IPHC minister has led Acts2Day for the past 8 years and has focused his attention on planting new IPHC churches in states where no churches currently exist.

Thompson, who is 67, has served the IPHC in various roles since he was a pastor in the North Carolina Conference in the early 1970s. He was the bishop of the North Carolina Conference from 2001 to 2009, when he became EVUSA director. He has also been on the boards of Emmanuel College, Holmes Bible College and Falcon Children's Home, as well as many

other ministries. He has also been vice chairman of the IPHC under Beacham's leadership.

Thompson says he has full confidence that Bryant will take EVUSA to a new level during the next four years. "I know Garry personally, I know his walk with God," Thompson said. "He is well-seasoned, well-experienced and he is prepared for this job."

Other colleagues in the IPHC give Bryant high marks. Dayton Birt, who leads Redemption Ministries Conference, worked closely with Bryant when he was based in Virginia. "It thrills my heart to see that we have elected another leader who is passionate about reaching America with the gospel," Birt said. "Garry is passionate about planting churches that plant churches. I believe great days are ahead for our movement!"

At the end of first evening of the conference, many delegates gathered for a reception to honor Thompson and to thank him for his years of service.

Garry Bryant was especially grateful for the way Thompson has served the church so faithfully. "Bishop Thompson has advanced this church in an unparalleled way during his eight years of service," Bryant said.

During other conference business sessions, Tommy McGhee was elected to a second term as executive director of Discipleship Ministries, and Talmadge Gardner was reelected as executive director of World Missions

"Delegates unanimously reelected Doug Beacham to serve another four-year term as the IPHC's General Superintendent."

Ministries. McGhee was also elected to serve as vice chairman of the IPHC, replacing Bishop Chris Thompson.

In other business, delegates voted to extend term limits for executive officers of the church. And a special presentation was made about the 100th anniversary of the publication of *The Advocate*, the IPHC's first magazine. A commemorative copy of the May 3, 1917 issue was given to every delegate.

Delegates also watched a special "State of the Church" video that profiled IPHC churches in various parts of the world. The video celebrated the diversity of the IPHC family and the unique ways IPHC churches are reaching their communities. Those included:

- A church in Bethlehem, Israel, that is offering the healing of Christ to people with damaged emotions;
- A predominantly African-American church in Jonesboro, Louisiana, that offers youth programs to troubled teens;

- A growing Hispanic church in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma;
- A multiracial church in Rahway, New Jersey, that has pioneered a Celebrate Recovery program for people who struggle with opium addictions;
- A church in Laodicea, Turkey, that is winning people to Christ in a nation that is 99 percent Muslim.

History was also made on

July 27 when more than 50 IPHC women met for the first official gathering of credentialed women clergy. The group included women senior pastors as well as women who serve on conference boards. The women discussed the unique challenges they face—including how to work graciously with men who don't feel comfortable working with women.

During Thursday's evening service, a special announcement was made about the upcoming Global Assembly to be held in Santiago, Chile, in February of 2019. Rev. Eduardo Duran, pastor of the First Methodist Pentecostal Church of Chile, invited all delegates to visit his massive church—which has been in a unique partnership with the IPHC for 50 years.

In Friday's closing service, former General Superintendent James Leggett commissioned Beacham in a solemn ceremony to serve as presiding bishop of the IPHC. □



A new generation: A group of children sang to open the first business session on July 26



Delegates used digital voting machines to select new leaders and to change bylaws.

Bishop Beacham Challenges IPHC to Acquire **NEW TERRITORY**

In a dramatic prophetic act, pastors and leaders prayed for miraculous expansion

A new season: Delegates worship in the Orange County Convention Center

BY J. LEE GRADY

Delegates who attended the third day of the IPHC's 28th General Conference in Orlando will never forget what happened at the close of the evening service. In a dramatically visual prophetic act, missionaries, foreign delegates and conference superintendents came onto the auditorium's stage and poured soil into a large plexiglass container.

The soil came from places as diverse as Pakistan, Congo, Mexico and Germany. Sandy soil from Arizona was mixed with volcanic soil from Hawaii. There was dirt from Tanzania, Haiti, Romania and Nicaragua. There was even soil from Falcon, North Carolina—where the IPHC began—as well as dirt from Turkey, where today 99 percent of its population is Muslim.

There was soil from Israel. And a Palestinian pastor invited a Messianic Jewish believer in Jesus to place soil in the container from the Palestinian territories.

"God is calling us to fruitfulness," said Beacham, in a sermon based on Jesus' parable of the soils in Matthew 13. "Jesus knew there are times that we sow in tears, but we have an assurance there will be reaping with joy," Beacham proclaimed. "In spite of the tears, we nonetheless go forth with seed for sowing."

During his sermon, Beacham cast an ambitious vision for the future of the IPHC. He showed maps of the United States, noting that many of the nation's population centers don't have an IPHC church. "Today we have an IPHC presence in 100 nations," Beacham said. "My goal is to reach 150 nations by 2033."

Months prior to the quadrennial convention, Beacham had instructed specified delegates to bring small packets of soil from their respective states and nations to the General Conference. At the close of his sermon at this year's event, Beacham challenged the IPHC to expand its global influence by planting hundreds of new churches.

The container of dirt was meant to represent the new territory God is calling the IPHC to claim for Christ.

After Beacham noted that Rhode Island and Wyoming are the only two states in the U.S. that have no IPHC church, newly elected Evangelism USA Executive Director Garry Bryant poured soil from those states into the container. "We now have a Bible study meeting in Wyoming," Beacham pointed out. "I believe somebody is being called right now to go to Rhode Island."

One of the IPHC's first female conference bishops, Wallapa Wisawasukmongchol of Thailand, placed soil from her country in the container. And delegates from Ukraine dumped dirt they had collected from all 28 districts of their country.

How can IPHC leaders achieve these lofty church growth goals? Beacham said it would require 1) prayer; 2) training strategies; 3) measurable goals; and 4) radical generosity. The audience cheered in agreement.

"Christians around the globe are beginning to prepare to celebrate the 2000th anniversary of Jesus' death and resurrection," Beacham said. "If the Lord tarries, those celebrations will be remembered in the time frame of 2030-2033. That is barely 15 years from now. That timeline gives us a unique opportunity to focus on what Jesus is calling the IPHC to be."



A messianic rabbi puts soil from Israel in the container on the stage

In recent years, Beacham said, the IPHC and the larger body of Christ have set lofty goals for evangelism. IPHC leaders launched the Target 2000 campaign in 1984; in 1997 they adopted the Mission 21 movement; and in

2009 church leaders launched Vision 2020. All of these movements were catalysts for global expansion of the gospel.

Today, leaders are looking forward to 2030-2033, which will be the 2,000th anniversary of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Many denominations are now adopting goals for that time frame.

Some of the statistics Beacham shared revealed that the IPHC has a

long way to go to reach the most populated areas of the United States. While 50 percent of the U.S. population lives in only 143 counties, IPHC churches are often in rural areas rather than in major cities. Currently, IPHC churches are in only 514 of the nation's 3,142 counties.

Beacham said he believes the Holy Spirit will empower us to do the following in the next 15 years in the United States:

- Plant IPHC congregations in 75 percent of the nation's 3,142 counties
- Start 200 traditional congregations that are focused on new immigrant populations
- Launch an aggressive plan to plant house churches in major U.S. cities. Many of these house churches would be in high-rise apartment buildings and other high-density population areas.

While the IPHC is currently working in 100 nations, Beacham is calling the IPHC to have churches planted in 150 nations by 2032. He is also envisioning 5,000 new IPHC congregations outside the United States.

The goals are daunting, but Beacham says he believes they can be obtained if the IPHC prays fervently, adopts effective training strategies, sets measurable goals and releases "radical generosity" to cover the enormous costs of global evangelism.

Beacham declared to the audience in Orlando: "We will be fruitful in the next season!" □



A prophetic act: Soil from many nations represents the IPHC's new territory



"DAY OF DISCIPLESHIP"

Offers Training for Men, Women and Families

The event hosted by Discipleship Ministries was designed to minister to the whole family.

These talented volunteers offered children's ministry during the General Conference.

BY SASHA LEBLANC

The IPHC has entrusted Discipleship Ministries with the responsibility of inspiring all generations to actively pursue Christ. To fulfill this vision, they hosted a Day of Discipleship on Tuesday, July 25, prior to the start of the 28th IPHC General Conference in Orlando. This Day of Discipleship was both inspirational and impactful, as stories were shared to illustrate how we are all part of God's family and each belong in the Big God Story.

For the first time, Discipleship Ministries provided children's ministry at the IPHC General Conference for the morning and evening worship services. Tuesday morning through Friday evening, children met with our team for fun connections, high-energy worship and engaging services built on God's Word. More than 100 IPHC children from infants to 5th grade attended the sessions. The team leaders



Healing the family: DM's first-ever family ministry event

shared multiple testimonies of how children heard the Lord's voice in their prayer time.

The Day of Discipleship began with both Men's Ministries and Women's Ministries conventions. Women's Ministries invited women to join the conversation about God's purpose in an event called "Ignited for Kingdom Purpose." Women all over the IPHC were praying for a fresh wind of the Holy Spirit and the revelation of God's beckoning love.

The convention began with business, and new IPHC Women's Ministries bylaws were adopted. The Women's Ministries Board members who have served over the last quadrennium were honored, and a new board was affirmed. IPHC Women's Ministries Director Samantha Snipes said: "We look forward to the next four years to be awesome as God's glory and love is revealed in His people! We will continue to see women all over the IPHC, in America and throughout the world, be ignited for purpose, make the difference they were created to make!"

God encouraged men from all over the IPHC as they engaged in worship and received a timely word from Dr. Joaquin Molina, senior pastor of

Spring of Life Fellowship in Doral, Florida, and author of the *What is a Man?* He challenged the men to live the lives of champions!

With more than 20 IPHC conferences participating, the men's event proved to be a convention to remember. Rev. Bill Terry, Men's Ministries director, stated, "I am confident that the 2017 Men's Ministries Convention was a defining moment for IPHC men's discipleship. In the coming quadrennium, men must raise the bar to become spiritual leaders and mentors in the pursuit of fighting for family, marriage and church."

A unique joint training event for men and women was offered in the afternoon. Dr. Michelle Anthony, the IPHC's family ministry consultant, spoke at this first combined event. To begin this session, the children and the children's ministry team joined the adults to participate in several interactive worship and response stations involving crafts, games and scripture learning. When the children entered the room, they merged with a group to experience the worship and response stations as a family unit and engaged in each activity together.

The children then went to choir



Florida Pastor Joaquin Molina

practice for the opening ceremony of the General Conference. Drs. Michael and Michelle Anthony shared the necessity of heart transformation to further life-long disciple making. They also emphasized the importance of a family ministry philosophy within the church. The attendees discovered how every church should become God's intergenerational family.

The Day of Discipleship concluded with an evening at the Adult Ministries Banquet. The Southwestern Christian University Jazz Band set an elegant atmosphere while attendees enjoyed a delicious meal. As the attendees began dessert, the Anthonys tag-teamed to offer an empowering message to about God's Grand Redemptive Narrative.

You can visit iphc.org/discipleship for more information about any of these events or to read the quadrennial ministry reports. □