

December 21, 2011

Dear General Assembly Member:

Greetings in the name of our Lord. This has been a significant year in the life of the Church of God! We have had tremendous success in ministry in spite of the significant economic challenges, which many of you have also experienced. We connected in massive prayer and fasting efforts to identify God's vision for the Church of God and for the expansion of the kingdom, as 719 churches united for Focus 40. Through our 11-11-11 event, we leveraged the wealth of knowledge within the movement to transform ministry and enrich the lives of pastors and congregations. As we present the fiscal outlook for 2012, we want to celebrate these examples of what we accomplished together in this year:

- We celebrate the momentum generated from the Strategic Planning Conference, where 132 Church of God leaders rallied around an awakening vision for GC²—the Great Commission and Great Commandments.
- We celebrate the growth in missions around the world, specifically in Botswana, where we welcomed five new Church of God congregations into the Church of God family, and in Latin America, where eight new church congregations were planted in Colombia, Argentina, Costa Rica, and Chile.
- We celebrate the growing endowment of the Church of God Foundation. Because of this we have been able to support church planting (\$10,000), scholarships (\$20,000), and retired ministers in need (\$31,800 distributed to 212 persons as of 2011).
- We celebrate the collective efforts of international leaders who have worked diligently to lay the groundwork for the Global Gathering in 2013. The Church of God is poised to welcome the world to Anderson, Indiana, for five days of discussion and worship that will equip the body to stand together and face the needs of a changing world.
- We celebrate transformation in the lives of pastors connecting with and supporting one another through Sustaining Health and Pastoral Excellence (SHAPE) activities. Now active in fifteen regions in North America, the program will extend its reach to address congregational health and effectiveness through SHARE.
- We celebrate the response from the church at large to the need for relief following natural disasters. Over one million dollars in aid was distributed, bringing relief to disaster victims in Haiti, Japan, the Philippines, and tornado- and flood-ravaged communities in the United States.
- We celebrate the continued presence of the Lord at the North American Convention, where we connected with seven hundred plus viewers in worship and celebration via the Internet from cities all over the nation and the globe.
- We celebrate the work of Christians Broadcasting Hope (CBH), our radio and Internet evangelism ministry, which completed construction of a new studio at Mediterranean Bible College in Lebanon and laid the groundwork for future broadcasts in Haiti and Thailand.

Enclosed you will find the 2012 World Ministries Budget (WMB) for the Church of God (Enclosure A). In accordance with the Baseline Budgeting* process adopted by the General Assembly in 2008, we have prepared a budget, totaling \$10,314,661. The WMB provides the resources to sustain the collective ministries of the Church of God movement and to support the decisions of the General Assembly.

In the midst of our celebration and thanksgiving for the blessings of this past year, we are mindful of the toll the economy has taken on the church body. It's negative impact is evidenced by the drop in donative giving when compared against this time

last year. Congregations face challenges in resourcing local ministries. Economic constraints have limited their support to the collective ministries that depend upon the WMB. Congregational giving to the Unrestricted portion of the World Ministries Budget (WMB) declined by 3.8 percent this year. Giving to the Donor Restricted portion of the WMB was bolstered by disaster relief giving, but in regular categories, decline was evident. Our hope has been strengthened, however, by Church of God congregations contributing for the first-time (303 since 2009). We are thankful for these, who, along with existing contributors, represent 68.48 percent of the Church of God congregations in the United States in giving to the WMB. The story of our movement continues to unfold, and we are richly blessed.

The 2012 budget, based on the last year's income, leaves us with greater fiscal challenges than we have faced in, perhaps, a decade. As always, our commitment to stewardship, serving the local congregation, and leveraging any and all resources to fulfill God's call, will guide everything we endeavor to do.

We appreciate your prayerful support of the WMB and our collective ministries. At the Strategic Planning Conference this year, we affirmed the need for strengthened relationships, greater accountability, and increased connectivity to one another as the body of Christ. We are journeying together to transform culture, and it will take the partnership and sacrifice of all 2,145 congregations to witness the full potential of our collective ministries. I am thankful for the blessing of faithful support from individuals and congregations throughout the movement.

There will be opportunities in the coming year for us to make meaningful connection as we go forth with our shared vision. The planners for Focus 40 2012, which will take place February 29 through April 8, 2012, envision introducing 25,000 people to Christ during our time of fasting and prayer. An updated list of Focus 40 resources is now available online at www.chog.org. Spanish-language materials will be available early in 2012.

We hope you will join us at the Global Gathering in 2013. Plans are already underway, and this event promises to be time of connection on a massive, global scale. In order to provide sufficient resources for the preparations, we have included \$84,753 under the Events portion of the CGM budget. We hope you will register early to take part in this exciting event.

We will continue to share stories from the across the Church of God through our website, www.chog.org, *CHOGNews*, and *Communion Together*. These stories are a testament to the strength of our local congregations, as well as the work that we can do together. We offer these publications and our social media sites (e.g., Facebook, MyCHOG) as a means by which your voice can be heard, sharing resources or discussing the most pressing issues facing the church today.

As always, we welcome your input and are available to address questions and concerns, to inform, and to serve God's church. Thank you in advance for your prayers that undergird the national leadership and the tasks that lie ahead. Your General Assembly, Ministries Council, CGM staff, and I are honored by your confidence and trust in us. If you have any questions or comments about the attached budget, please contact Dewayne Repass, of the Stewardship Ministry Group, at 800-848-2464, ext. 2121, or DRepass@chog.org.

Grace and peace,



Ronald V. Duncan
General Director

Enclosures: A. General Assembly's 2012 World Ministries Budget
B. Church of God Ministries' 2012 Budget

* The Baseline Budget process uses the actual giving from the previous year and establishes it as the baseline for the unrestricted portion of the next year's budget.

 CHURCH of GOD MINISTRIES