

Superintendent Report

Monday, May 7, 2018

Introduction:

Father Juan Padillia – part of Coronado’s original exploration party – circa 1544 – gave his life as the first Christian martyr on the soil of (what is now) Kansas.

- God ALWAYS pays attention to the martyrs’ blood
- I believe Father Juan laid the foundation for the Topeka outpouring some 360 years later.
- THAT moment in history changed the WORLD.
- On August 6 – 9, 1918, a handful of zealous, passionate Spirit filled ministers gathered just north of Alton, KS for a Camp Meeting. There, they organized themselves into a State Council, to join the four-year-old General Council.
- We know those men and women intended to saturate Kansas and the world with the message and experience of a New Testament Pentecostal reality.

One-hundred years ago...

- THEY were despised and rejected by non-Pentecostals
- WE now regularly receive a warm welcome by many non-Pentecostals

- THEY prioritized the benefit and necessity of Spirit baptism – sometimes to an extreme emphasis on tongues
- WE still BELIEVE in Spirit baptism and will benefit greatly as we remember Jesus’ emphasis of Spirit empowerment for culture impacting ministry in nearby and far off places.

- THEY saw His Cause as their CALLING and determined to reach as much of Kansas as possible before He returned or they died.
- WE are committed to His Cause as well and have made progress on what THEY started. We have a long-way yet to travel but have made progress in the last 50 years.

An Encouraging 50 Year Trajectory

SLIDES - ACMR information
(analytic information from Marc Marcelo)

AGK Attendance

2017	16,612
1968	11,634

Growth Rate	43%
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Membership

2017	9,159
1968	7,614

Growth Rate	20%
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Total Ministers

2017	506
1968	333

Growth Rate	52%
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Kansas Population

2017 2,920,000
1968 2,216,000

Growth Rate	32%
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2017 ACMR Totals

Info from Robin

Water Baptisms: 1207 (avg. 8 per church)

HS Baptisms: 552 (avg. 3.75 per church)

Praise JESUS for the lives affected by AGK churches & leaders! Disciple making in progress!

Listen to this REAL-TIME testimony from a pastor that accepted a struggling church in a *shrinking* community FIVE MONTHS AGO.

Lives are changing by the work of the Spirit.

- *Wins for April:*
- *THREE water baptisms – a first for a single Sunday/ Ton’s of Visitors*
- *Easter Sunday, we had 91, and last year Easter their attendance was 41*
- *We gained 2 families from Easter*
- *We gave \$300 to help another AG church with roof repairs*
- *We put together a Friends and Family Day in the park / my wife started a women’s Bible study and has 8-10 each week*
- *We conducted a young couples game night at our house & 15 showed up*
- *I’ve met with key people in the city... “I’m just in awe of God. He has totally changed the look and dynamics of this church in 5 months.”*

Permit me an observation and a suggestion:

We’ve noticed the obvious and sincere willingness within our family to weep with those that weep. How about **we also rejoice with those who rejoice!** We ARE on the SAME TEAM. WE are making a difference!

By the way, that pastor has already signed up for Recalibrate, but more about that in a moment.

Markers Indicating a “New Testament Healthy” Local Church

Besides weekend attendance averages, what other markers exist that indicate health?

(slide) A random church with ratio numbers on screen

All churches received this information in a March mailing, inviting you to join Recalibrate.

I’ve asked **Dr. Mike Clarensau** – former KYM/CE Director, now **Dean at SAGU’s College of Bible and Church Ministries** to walk us through these numbers.

Recalibrate

- Throughout our 100 years of history, AGK leadership has shown concern and care for the credentialed family of this Network. Now, for nearly two decades, we have specifically prioritized and provided training opportunities for existing churches.
- We’ve offered multiple approaches through the years – NOT on whims or a “new flavor of the month” attitude. *Instead*, we offer various trainings with understanding that “one size usually does not fit all.” For whatever benefit any of you have found through those efforts, we are thankful.
- RECALIBRATE represents our next training initiative.

Greg Ford VIDEO

- What is RECALIBRATE?

- A *PARTNERSHIP* pilot project between AGK & the General Council’s Church Multiplication Network.
- RECALIBRATE will unfold in a series of training sessions designed to help local churches *that have interest in producing MORE fruit for the King.*
- Recalibrate will focus on **improving** the **overall** health of local churches.
(ushers distribute business size card – some of the dates may need to change)
- The Origin:
 - Karen and I took a team of pastors to a Church Planter Launch training. The idea was to expose these pastors to the rigors of training all our approved planters undergo. Then, from a place of awareness, they could more effectively encourage our church planters.
 - Almost every “table talk” session turned to: “*WE need to implement this / that...*”
 - **Ryan Webster & Brad Wicks** tell their story
- FOUR sessions for the pastor and spouse (to provide comfort in leading your local team through the final session) ONE session on a weekend for your church leaders
You will leave the weekend with a “Spirit Breathed” / behavior based plan / YOU will lead your team to create. Then, you and your team will implement that plan and see if the HEALTH INDICATORS look better by 2020.

WE are committed to YOU dreaming the God-size dream HE has for YOUR location and you seeing the results HE WANTS for your local church to produce.

- You’re about to receive a push notification through the AGK App to facilitate SIGN UP.
- This Centennial Celebration provides the PERFECT TIME to go “all in” **again**.

The Unfinished Task

I trust that our track-record displays our commitment to strengthen existing local churches. Existing local churches weigh heavy on my heart. However, the UNFINISHED TASK of **church planting** is JUST AS important *as improving church health in our existing churches.* That’s why the Executives and Presbyters say, we exist... “**To strengthen and establish effective Pentecostal leaders and churches.**”

The Need Seems Obvious to Me

- Map of Kansas (DRY ERASE MARKER)
[105 counties / 284 Public School Districts / 146 total churches](#)
- According to hard count: more than 50% of Kansas remains UNCLAIMED (Perhaps some of you remember the council we unveiled that county by county census.)
- Map of Kansas: **overlay** showing **blacked out** counties
 - 32 counties **without** an AG, many with NO Spirit-filled witness
 - Other counties should show GREY scale since some churches have posted ZERO water baptisms or Spirit baptisms for years. Barely hanging on isn’t what Jesus had in mind for a Spirit-filled church.
 - I know it makes some pastors very uncomfortable when I talk like this.
 - But my **first** job as a leader is to define and face reality.
 - **We cannot fix what we will not acknowledge.**
 - Please – don’t take offense at this. Take the challenge and *Recalibrate!*
 - Thirty-two DARK counties: **that’s 67 high schools** without our intentional full-gospel ministry reaching unclaimed families.
- What’s the answer?
 - **Churches planting churches! YOUR church planting churches.**

- If a Romanian congregation of 14 people can launch a church in the village 10 miles away, ANY healthy church in the AGK can launch a new congregation.

Conclusion:

At every opportunity, Karen and I have made it our business to...

- *specifically* notice and applaud hard-working local leaders AND churches, and we have so many! NO DOUBT we haven't noticed or applauded everyone when they needed it but we do SEE so many hard - working local leaders.
- *unswervingly* elevate biblical priorities. (FRAN – friends, relatives, associates, neighbors)
- *intentionally* promote big faith and faithfulness.
- *purposefully* help improve church systems when given the opportunity.
- *consistently* encourage local pastors and congregations to see themselves as the ANSWER to the desperate need all around us.
- *Lovingly* urge support of Kansas missionaries in their gospel labors around the earth.
- *fervently* pray the AGK eventually sees CHURCH PLANTING...
 - not as COMPETITION with existing churches but
 - as **one** of the **two** *integral parts of Jesus' plan for world evangelism*.
 - *Part One*: existing local churches **living** “New Testament healthy”
 - *Part Two*: “New Testament healthy” churches **planting** daughter churches

Will your (healthy) church – whether small or large – accept the challenge and meet this need of planting more churches, especially in the 32 counties currently without the Spirit filled witness of an AGK congregation?

Will you take advantage of Recalibrate and position your church to produce *more than its already* producing?

Only healthy local churches possess the ability to cause *the dream* to one day become reality that... *Kansas will become the easiest place in North America for people to experience the presence and forgiveness of Jesus.*