

Superintendent Report
Reflections on the State of the AGK Ministry Network
January 1, 2023 – May 7, 2024

This document serves as my last report to you as superintendent.

This is Who WE Are... We Celebrate Each Other

I rejoice to share the following great news. These few lines represent but a token of the activity of God across the AGK Ministry Network.

1. In 2023, we received into our AGK fellowship a wonderful Hispanic church in Kansas City. They meet in the historic Victoria Tabernacle building – built by Herschel Barnett, father of Tommy Barnett. This multi-lingual congregation pulsates with Spirit-life, vision, and vibrancy for the Great Commission. Their presence makes us stronger.
2. An Anglo church in KC selflessly houses our Myanmar congregation. They conduct their earnest, lively services in the Burmese language. Their presence and evangelistic effectiveness among their immigrating people helps this AGK fellowship better reflect Revelation 7:9 “...and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.” This precious congregation joined the AGK due to our local pastor seeing and responding to the need as he did. **This is Who WE Are... We Watch for and then Seize Kingdom Opportunities!**
3. Two rural, non-AG churches left their organization due to their denomination departing from biblical orthodoxy. They joined one of our thriving western Kansas churches as campus sites. In only a few months, these small-town churches have grown by double digits.
4. A similar congregation left its organization due to the glaring drift from Jesus’ mission. Their pastors have a relational connection to one of our central Kansas churches. Through that relational connection, this “*committed to biblical truth*” congregation learned of **AGK Rescue Day** and gave a large offering to that worthy missionary cause! **This is Who WE Are... We Synergize for His Kingdom’s Sake!**
5. In the last few years, one of our pastoral couples wanted to quit – after nearly 30 years of faithful ministry in one town. They felt discouraged by the *status quo, no growth, lethargic membership, and immature leaders*. NOW they express unbounded joy that they stayed a little longer. They tell us that they *learned some helpful principles from a neighboring pastor*, then embraced fresh methodologies. The church they lead now experiences *spiritual and numeric breakthroughs*. In their “discouraged” season, they felt *uncomfortable* about the AGK emphasis on planting new churches. Now, THEY are planting a new church (a second campus) in a nearby town, because they recognize “*church planting as the greatest evangelism tool known to the world!*”
6. The pastors of a three-year old church in western Kansas saw the need in a dark county 40 miles north and *planted a daughter church!* They established a core congregation and will finish the first phase of a church facility by summer of 2024. **Jesus said He would build His church!**
7. Another church plant in south-east KS adopted as a campus a congregation in a neighboring town. That campus returned from the brink of closure and now exudes vibrancy, viability, and missional effectiveness within its county. We thank God for so many visionary and compassionate leaders. **This is Who WE Are... We See the Invisible and Take Risks to do the Impossible!**
8. Several first-time lead pastors have seen fresh seasons of spiritual impact under their new pastoral leadership. The former and current pastors describe an infusion of fresh purpose, spiritual energy, and numeric growth. The new pastors recognize *and eagerly acknowledge the faithfulness and efforts of their predecessors*. Each one gives praise to Jesus for the unusual season of harvest the local church currently enjoys. We do well to keep this truth in mind – “*One plants. Another waters. Increase comes from the Lord!*” **This is Who WE Are... We Rejoice in Someone Else’s Breakthroughs!**

9. In March of 2024, AGK churches piloted a “*first ever network-wide effort in the USA*” simply called **AGK-Rescue Day**. We raised a total of \$1xx,000. Our prayerful giving will help rescue, lead to Jesus, disciple, and heal women and children that have experienced the indescribable abuse of sexual slavery at the hands of brutal abusers.

I Praise God for the privilege to report such wonderful wins for “**Team AGK!**” I know you praise Him as well.

To capitalize on an old saying: “*It’s not the size of the dog in the fight that counts as much as the size of the fight in the dog!*” That also rings true in local ministry. **It’s not the size of the church in a spiritual battle that determines the outcomes. It’s the size of the spiritual fight – vision – determination in the heart of the leader and church that determines most outcomes!** The key for a ministry to thrive hinges on *the leader and people* praying and strategically working toward the priorities of *Jesus as stated in Acts 1:8 “...and to the ends of the earth”* which clearly includes all of Kansas.

This Is Who We Are...

We Embrace Compelling News

I feel an urgency to acknowledge some important facts. In 1999, the AGK consisted of more local churches and credential holders than we do today. The churches still operating – as a rule – express strong missionary commitment and often have larger, ministry focused congregations. *As encouraging as this seems,* I feel compelled to remind us that if the AGK were an animal, *conservationists would place us on the Endangered Species List.* Why? Our {church} *death rate exceeds our {church} birth rate.*

From a national perspective, the impact of the Church on the spiritual condition of this nation continues to decrease. As reported by The ARDA (Association of Religion Data Archives) between 2010 and 2020, the Church of Jesus has not accomplished all it desires in making disciples. The number of “un-claimed” people continues to rise in most counties in the United States.

To state it in “business” vocabulary, the overall “market share” of the Church continues to drop. The water baptism and Spirit-baptism rate does not match or exceed the physical population growth rate in the USA. You and I do not ignore this growing gap in the market share. We will not assume a posture of *shame*. Neither will we look for excuses of why reality looks as it does. No! Instead, AGK ministry leaders **embrace** this compelling reality as our “marching orders” from Jesus. We seek the Spirit’s strategic aid to see a new trend, a “last days outpouring” trend, a “mobilization of God’s people” trend - because ***this is who we are!***

As Spirit-filled, God-called leaders, we will *reject discouragement!* We will imitate David the Great, who “*encouraged himself in the LORD*” during a dark hour. *The tide of this battle will turn* as AGK credentialed women and men – and the ministries they lead – unify their hearts around the big picture, see with eyes of the Spirit, and move with the unailing, unconditional, unwavering love of Jesus toward the unclaimed in our spheres of influence.

This Is Who We Are...

We Make Good Use of Analytics

The Annual Church Ministries Reports represent a valuable diagnostic tool and healthy leaders eagerly embrace it. The self-reported statistics ***do not tell the profound level of devotion, prayerfulness, community presence, and spiritual impact*** of a local pastor, staff, congregation, or missionary. *However,* these “self-reporting” tools ***do*** provide an excellent basis for *annual evaluation.* By taking a serious look each year at where we’ve been, we have opportunity to make adjustments that position a local church to get healthier and produce more of the fruit Jesus wants produced. *Effective Pentecostal leaders and churches* desire to maximize their full potential for Jesus and His mission in their county. Using ACMR diagnostics/analytics helps support that *healthy, godly desire.*

ACMR Highlights

- Water and Spirit baptisms reflect the two most important numbers in the Annual Church Ministries Report. (ACMR)
 - Our churches counted 1,517 people that went public with their faith via water baptism in 2023.
 - We saw 482 people experience the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Jesus called it “the promise of the Father” in Act 1. (*Our Father has **neither rescinded that promise nor ratcheted back on its necessity** for optimum local and global missional effectiveness! I therefore urge every ministry leader: **populate your preaching calendar with at least one “Baptism of the Spirit” sermon and response opportunity each quarter.***)
- 2023 revealed the largest – very encouraging gap – of growing over declining churches we have seen in the past 25 years.
- Average weekend attendance **moved** from 103 in 2022 to 115 for 2023.
 - That means an average of 12 more people per church X 79 churches = 948.
 - Divide 948 by the average of 115 and we have **grown the equivalent of 8.24 “average size” churches!** *THAT* is good news.
 - We still need to plant more churches in our 31 dark counties and underserved public school district, **but we should rejoice in how the Lord has utilized “Team AGK!”**
- 119 churches gave offerings to AG oriented missions endeavors (USM, AGWM, STL, etc.)
 - *I feel immense gratitude for the way so many visionary pastors gave their people multiple opportunities to participate in the Great Commission! Effective Pentecostal leaders and churches never allow missions to devolve into mere fund raising. Effective Pentecostal leaders recognize that the proper promotion of missions **always enhances** individual discipleship, enlarges local effectiveness, and increases local generosity!*
- 24 churches gave almost \$59k to the AGK Vision Fund (*The Vision Fund helps with church revitalization projects, church planting, and provides limited support for operating Wheat State Camp.*)
- Our largest AG averages 1,013 each weekend. Our smallest congregation averages eight each weekend.
- 103 churches reported water baptisms.
- 79 churches reported Spirit baptisms.
 - I echo what Pastor Chris Hodges says: “*Spirit baptism doesn’t make me better than someone else. Spirit baptism makes me better than ME.*”
 - I have confidence that the Spirit will guide every local leader as they seek Him about the next strategic step to see a fresh awakening and mobilization of the Spirit-baptized people of God!

This Is Who We Are...

We Act!

“*In the last days, says the Lord, I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.*” Despite a significant “falling away” we see happening in this nation, *healthy* Pentecostal leaders and churches **do not** acquiesce to the trends. *Healthy* Pentecostal leaders and churches **recognize** spiritual atmospheric changes and energetically adjust to place this message of HOPE in front of the “un-claimed” in their county. *Healthy* Pentecostal leaders and churches **emphasize** discipleship through water baptisms and empowerment for service through Spirit-baptisms. *Healthy* Pentecostal leaders **mobilize** the people of God to pray and take strategic, consistent **action**.

AGK leaders, if the condition of your ministry does not quite satisfy your heart... if you feel less than certain how to mobilize the people you lead *but still believe Jesus has more in mind for your ministry...* please, *connect with a fellow AGK leader whose ministry you admire.* If you see the kind of fruit *there* that you believe Jesus wants to produce in your locale, then *connect and enjoy learning from them* for the sake of making more impactful disciples. ***This is Who WE Are... We Act!***

In Conclusion

Next year, the 10th AGK Superintendent will carry the responsibility of reporting to the AGK Ministry Network about the overall condition of the Fellowship. **I pray Supt. 10** will know the joy of describing a *proliferation* of church planting, an *increase* in church health, an *upswing* in missions giving, an *escalation* of women and men, and our sons and daughters saying “yes” to the call of God to ministry leadership, to cross-cultural missions, and to missionary work in this nation. **I pray Supt. 10** will see what *effective Pentecostal leaders and churches* desire and strive in the Spirit’s might to bring about: to make ***Kansas - an easy place to experience the presence and forgiveness of Jesus***. I pray the ***next four years*** – should the Lord not return first – **allows the 10th AGK Superintendent to** report ZERO dark counties and that an *effective Pentecostal presence* has made measurable Kingdom impact on the un-claimed in every county and every public-school district.

The paragraph above describes the will of Jesus for the AGK Kansas Ministry Network. **This is Who WE Are... We Walk by Faith Into His Preferred Future!**

I leave you with the words of Paul in **2 Corinthians 13**: “¹¹ *Dear brothers and sisters, I close my letter with these last words: Be joyful... Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace... ¹⁴ May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*”

Submitted with undying love and thankfulness,

Terry L. Yancey

AGK Superintendent

June 1, 1999 – May 31, 2024