



THE ECHOES

September , 2022

FGCI GENERAL CONVENTION

General convention 2022 is in the books and what a great time we had! I would like to thank everyone who helped make this year's convention such a success, but most of all I want to thank God for creating an atmosphere of love and unity. When I arrived at the church on Monday afternoon. I sensed such a spirit of love and it was so hard to believe how it began to build throughout every service. God really is awesome!

Our theme, John 13:35, says, "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples...that you have love one for another." It is not enough to have love one for another but we have to have love one "TO" another. Throughout the convention' from the business meetings and the distribution of funds to our missionaries, and especially our mission service (where we had a foot washing), it became evident to me that our Fellowship really does have love one to another.

The late Pastor Wayman Mitchell once said, "A church, ministry, or fellowship in the survival mode will never be in the revival mode." For some it may have looked as if FGCI was in the survival mode after effects of the COVID-19 shut down. However, that is not the case today! We are definitely in the revival mode! God is moving in great ways...churches and ministries are being added regularly.

Remember, God is not getting ready to do great things. God is ready, and He is waiting for us to get ready for what HE wants to do through us in these last days.

*Again, thank you so much for all you do.
It is an honor to serve as General Superintendent. I love you all.*

Pastor Jim Yates

MY OBSERVATION OF THE 2022 GENERAL CONVENTION

by Rev. Gus Franklin

Two words set the atmosphere for me in attending my first general convention in its entirety. The words are "for" and "to". I know beyond a shadow of doubt that every person in attendance of the convention is flawed. Under normal conditions each of us tries to keep our flaws covered. But in doing so we develop a superficial façade. Our greetings to each other are done in love for each other. That way we are not in danger of allowing our flaws to be seen. To have love for another means having total disregard for our flaws, or those of others. We are willing to be totally honest and open to all we encounter.

I can only speak for myself, but, within four days I saw people open themselves up to each other and a sense of intimacy filled the atmosphere. I watched this grow at the hotel, and the assemblies, at times we were eating, so much so, until Thursday afternoon closing. It seemed as though we were having a family reunion. People were hugging each other, praying for each other, hesitating to leave that atmosphere.

Several times I was over whelmed by the presence of the Lord. The first, was during the general board meeting of the state and national officials. I was sitting a table in the dining area with Isaac Mbijwe from Uganda, Africa, when Pastor John Wilson, from Chihuahua, Mexico came and sat down. Brother Chris Bacon pulled up a chair and hearing the experiences of those brothers was far better than any seminary class I had ever attended. I was so impressed with the background of each man and how they recognized and responded to a call of God on their lives. Though our personal and cultural histories differ, God had us there together and the focus was not on who we were, but who we are in the purpose of God. I thought of how wonderful it would be for a missionary from each country that Full Gospel Churches International supports to be present at one general convention. Unity in the midst of diversity, what an inspiration for churches.

I saw the presence of God on two occasions. But before I relate these times, I want to be very clear that I'm writing of my personal experience during convention: doing so hoping someone else experienced the degree of worship I was privileged to share in. The first occasion was on Tuesday evening when brother Brian Warren and siblings led the worship service. When they sang, it was as if the Presence of God just exploded into the room. There seemed to be a combined expression in the whole sanctuary of "oh my Lord!" I felt we had found the wavelength God is operating on tonight. The second, and to me the most profound, occurrence happened on Wednesday, when Rev. Elizabeth Major called for those who have ben serving of the mission field to come for ward. As they moved to the front of the sanctuary. It seemed to me a very small cloud developed in the front of the podium just above the heads of those involved. As the foot washing service began to expand so did the cloud. I sat at the back of the auditorium, and as I moved forward I became engulfed in the ever-increasing cloud, my goosebumps began to get goosebumps. It was in that moment I understood the meaning of Chabad. "weighty Presence of God". I knew that kind of presence couldn't last long. To me this was the highlight of the week. In it I saw the Savior as a servant. The very God of glory would wash feet! That one experience put the role of servant above apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, or teacher. If one doesn't serve in whatever ministerial gift he has been given, he has missed his purpose. By the time we were leaving Thursday, it seemed we were seeking opportunities to serve or deliver the love we had "to" each other. I encourage everyone to attend one convention. It is addictive. (Just sayin...)

NATIONAL LADIES RETREAT

MAKE PLANS NOW TO ATTEND!

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

Ephesians 2:10

***October 7th & 8th
The Wallace Building
325 Harwood Ave., Lebanon, Missouri***

*This year we will be starting at 5:00 pm with a class
6:00-6:30 pm - Registration (Fee \$4.00 per person) & Dinner
Service at 7:00 pm
Classes and Service Saturday starting at 9:45 am*

HOTELS

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**NEW MEMBERS,
REINSTATEMENTS,
ADVANCEMENTS,
NEW CHURCHES**

New Ministers

Arkansas:

Steven Neal-ORD
Ginger Hewitt-EXH

Oklahoma:

Rev. Christopher Bacon-ORD

Reinstatements:

Arkansas:

Tony Monreal-ORD

Advancements:

New Churches:

FGCI GENERAL OFFICE

Credentials - Church Charters
Tithes & Offerings
Home Missions Offerings
By-Law Books—\$5.00

Send or call all inquiries and
change of addresses to:

Rev. Amy Patrick
General Secretary/Treasurer
2101 East 34th Place
Joplin, Missouri 64804
(417) 850-1254

Send your email addresses to:

Email:
amyjpatrick44@yahoo.com

Check out our website
where you can see what's
happening in the FGCI:

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FGCI EMERGENCY DISASTER RELIEF

Vision statement:
*Helping people in our group
and enabling them to help
others.*

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*All designated funds will go
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NATIONAL YOUTH DEPARTMENT

OFFERINGS go to:

Rev. Denise Loness
3805 Village Lane, #G
Granite City, IL 62040

FGCI MEN'S MINISTRIES

*In May we had our national men's conference and what a time we had as the men of FGCI. God poured out in the services and we had a great teaching for the ministers early Saturday morning. It was a great time in fellowship with my brothers and awesome to get to know some of the brothers in our fellowship. Psalm 133:1 reads "Behold how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." I want to just recall and let you know when you begin to fellowship you will find we have some of the best of the best in FGCI. I am excited for what God is doing and can't wait to see you all again in the near future! Exciting times ahead my friends!!
National Men's President Joshua Patrick*

ARKANSAS FALL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Saturday, September 24th, 9:30 am
Theme: What Happens When We Listen
1 Samuel 3:9-10
Location: Living Word Fellowship
1600 W. Main, Corning, Arkansas
Contact: Rev. Cheryl Johnson 870-239-8811
Arkansas State Ladies President

ILLINOIS STATE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Saturday, November 5th, 9:00am-3:00pm
Theme: Walking in Your Godly Purpose

At: Rivers of Life Community Church
3131 E. 23rd Street
Granite City, Illinois
For information call: 618-971-0684
Registration: <https://forms.gle/vwJJmCkCuruSWkN6>

**“And let us not be weary in well doing:
for in due season we shall reap, if we
faint not.” Galatians 6:9**

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GENERAL CONVENTION

2022



