

Hot Springs: AGTrust Centennial Celebration Commemorates 100th Anniversary



Approximately 300 people gathered on April 10-11, 2014, for the AGTrust Centennial Celebration at First Assembly of God in Hot Springs, Ark., the birthplace of the Assemblies of God Fellowship.

This meeting was held to honor the founders of the Assemblies of God, to take a look at the worldwide growth of the church today, and to reaffirm the church's commitment to the future of this Fellowship. Attendees signed a proclamation, reaffirming the 16 Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God.

The centennial event featured seven speakers and a night of gospel music and worship. AG General Superintendent Dr. George O. Wood opened the celebration on Thursday by recounting the five reasons for the formation of the Assemblies of God as enumerated in the century-old "Call to Hot Springs." Greg Mundis, executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, shared a timeline presentation of missions work over the century and highlighted a few of the early missionaries who made great sacrifices to take the gospel to the world. Assistant General Superintendent Alton Garrison preached on the bedrock importance of the Word of God. In his message Wilfredo De Jesús, pastor of New Life Covenant Church, Chicago, Ill., encouraged those carrying on the Pentecostal legacy to help the younger generation learn about the power of the Holy Spirit.



Dr. George O. Wood welcomes attendees.



Thursday evening, Johnny Minick and the Goodman Revival (*left*) praise band led participants in rousing worship that included song selections from every decade of AG church history.

Friday morning, three younger ministers spoke — Rod Loy (First Assembly, North Little Rock, Ark.), Rob Ketterling (River Valley Church, Apple Valley, Minn.) and Aaron Cole (Life Church, Milwaukee, Wis.). They described how Assemblies of God founding principles are being carried out in the church today and envisioned the future of the Fellowship.

The celebration concluded with a pilgrimage to the site where the Hot Springs Grand Opera House, the actual meeting place of the original 300, once stood. The 300 attendees viewed the new historic marker placed there in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Assemblies of God and gathered for a new photo in the same spot where the iconic photograph from the first general council was taken.



“The Assemblies of God, throughout its history, has been marked by purpose and passion,” says Dr. Wood. “Our purpose is embedded in our doctrine, mission, values and strategies. Our passion comes from the work of the Holy Spirit who continues to empower us to do the greatest work of evangelism the world has ever seen. The future for the Assemblies of God is truly as bright as the promises of God.”

Other highlights from the event...



Jacob Zorehky, grandson of Dr. George O. Wood and representing the future generation, gives testimony of Assemblies of God leaders that are impacting and influencing his life for Christ, including his grandfather.



Alton Garrison, assistant general superintendent of the Assemblies of God and master of ceremonies at the event, preaches on the bedrock importance of the Word of God, past and future, and leads worshipers in a time of concentrated prayer.



Greg Mundis, executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, shares a video timeline presentation that highlights several missionaries who made great sacrifices to plant the church in countries around the world.





Event participants enjoy a great meal, prepared by the Light for the Lost steak team, in First Assembly's fellowship hall.



Tanya Goodman Sykes, daughter of Rusty and Billie Goodman, and Russ Taff sing a duet.

Pastor Larry Burton and his team of First Assembly volunteers bless those in attendance with their many acts of loving service during the event.



Guest speakers at the event included:

Wilfredo De Jesús
Pastor
New Life Covenant Church
Chicago, Ill.



Rob Ketterling
Pastor
River Valley Church
Apple Valley, Minn.

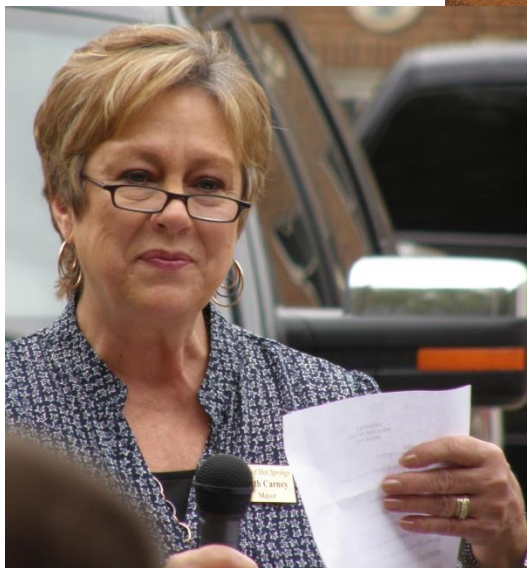


Rod Loy
Pastor
First Assembly
N. Little Rock, Ark.



Aaron Cole
Pastor
Life Church
Milwaukee, Wis.

Rod Loy, pastor of First Assembly, North Little Rock, Ark., presents a few youth from his church — representing the future generation of the AG — who are already active in ministry at the start of the Fellowship’s second century.



On April 11, 2014, Ruth Carney, mayor of Hot Springs, Ark., meets with the AGTrust Centennial Celebration crowd at the site where the founders of the Assemblies of God met in 1914. Mayor Carney welcomes them to the city and offers a prayer of blessing upon the worldwide ministry of the Assemblies of God. Ruth Carney and husband Ken pastor First Church of the Nazarene in Hot Springs.



The Centennial Celebration attendees, at the conclusion of the event, move in progression up a trail on a Hot Springs hillside to the location where the infamous photo of the 1914 founders was taken. There, they pose for a new photo to mark the launch of the second century of the Assemblies of God Fellowship.

