

MONDAY 26 JUNE 2017

DAILY SUMMARY

29TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY & CONVENTIONS



ISSUE NO. 06

HAPPENING TODAY

NTS Alumni
Breakfast
6:45 – 10 AM

GA Plenaries
8:30 AM – 12 PM
3:45 – 5 PM
7 – 9 PM

Committee
Meetings
1:30 – 3:30 PM

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'GRACE AND TRUTH'



As Nazarenes gathered for the Sunday morning worship services, attendees from around the world shared what the morning's theme, "One Lord," meant to them through a video.

After congregational praise led by combined choirs and the orchestra, General Superintendent David W. Graves opened in prayer and Eugénio R. Duarte read the theme verse for General Assembly, Ephesians 4:1-6. Gustavo A. Crocker emphasized opportunities for prayer and received the offering.

The choir sang a beautiful rendition of "Lord, You're Holy" before J. K. Warrick shared the morning message.

Warrick's message began with a focus upon

the person and work of Jesus Christ, particularly emphasizing Jesus as the "human face of the living God," citing N. T. Wright. Quoting Eugene Peterson, Warrick noted that Jesus is a "one-of-a-kind God expression." Two of the words that define Jesus in John 1, Warrick said, are "grace and truth."

"We should not be afraid to speak a word of truth," Warrick reminded.

We are to be people of love and truth; however, not in a way that separates the two.

"Jesus Christ is Lord in and of truth," Warrick said.

Therefore, Christ-centered truth will be loving, and Christ-centered love will be grounded in the truth of God.

Grace reminds us that the "door is always open," the sermon continued.

"We are invited into a new story with a better ending," Warrick said. "Nobody on the face of this earth is beyond the reach of the grace of God."

A strong comfort to us, Warrick said, is that "Jesus is Lord in and of His Church." Jesus would say that "You are now the light of the world," to His disciples. Therefore, the Church exists not only for ourselves, but for those who are longing for something better.

"When we follow Jesus, we are called and compelled to reach out and build bridges," Warrick proclaimed, because that is who Jesus is to us and for us.

Warrick concluded by calling the assembly to the Communion table, inviting the congregation to come to Jesus as savior and to fully surrender to the Lordship of Christ, who commissions His Church to go in grace and truth. ■

– Courtesy of *Holiness Today*

WORSHIP SERVICES CONCLUDE WITH FOCUS ON FAITH



Sunday afternoon's service – the final worship service of General Assembly 2017 – began with a special presentation led by the worship team and Leslie Hart focusing on children. A video reminded the assembly to pray for children at risk. General Superintendent David W. Graves opened with prayer and later introduced the offering and the speaker for the evening, Eugénio R. Duarte.

Duarte's sermon emphasized faith in terms of portraits. He began by reminding the assembly that faith is not a buzzword. Instead, faith is "a manner of life, a standard of life," that allows us in the words of Paul to "stand firm together" (Phil. 1:27).

Faith, Duarte reminded, comes from "hearing and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17).

Using examples of biblical characters such as Abraham (Genesis 15), Duarte stated that faith is more than head knowledge. It is a "specific way of life" exemplified in Abraham's willingness to "let go and become fragile" in order to become fully dependent upon God.

Drawing from his own journey into faith and then into Christian ministry, Duarte framed faith first of all in terms of endurance: "Today, the same faith, maturing and developing, keeps me resolved never to give up on the promises of God."

The second portrait

of faith is framed in regard to choices: God calls and allows us the opportunity to choose His way. Contrasting Ahaz and Hezekiah in the Old Testament, Duarte highlighted examples of two men given opportunities from God who

made decidedly different choices: one for evil, the other for good. Likewise, in response to the call of God, we may choose dependence upon God or self-centeredness.

The message also framed faith in the context of action. Duarte spoke of the work of a 79-year-old Brazilian woman named Sister Nelcia, who was the first female pastor

in her country. She has planted 11 churches in three different states. He brought her on stage to ask "What does faith mean to you?" She replied: "Faith means to totally trust Jesus Christ, and know that He can do whatever He says He can do. That is how I was able to help plant 11 churches, because of what God did through faith." He then asked her son, who is now a district superintendent in Brazil, the same question. He replied that his mother taught him to both love and obey God. This is faith.

Finally, faith is framed in the portrait of change. Citing Charles Colson, Duarte concluded that "faith can be frightening and upsetting...but it is never boring." When we honor God by faith, we will experience change, but we have no need to be afraid. ■

– Courtesy of *Holiness Today*

CHARACTERISTICS

Meaningful Worship
Theological Coherence
Passionate Evangelism
Intentional Discipleship
Church Development
Transformational Leadership
Purposeful Compassion

MISSION

To make Christlike disciples in the nations.

VALUES

Christian
Holiness
Missional



nazarene.org

THE NAZARENE CONNECTION WITH INDIANAPOLIS

Nazarenes have come to Indianapolis for the sixth time to hold their quadrennial General Assembly and Conventions. Only Kansas City has been a host city more often (9). During the first Indy meeting in 1989, Nazarenes found that the abundance of hotel rooms within walking distance of the convention center made the city a good venue, but Nazarene roots in Indianapolis run far deeper than just its history with General Assembly.

C. W. Ruth

C. W. Ruth of Indianapolis crisscrossed the U.S. throughout the 1890s and early 1900s as a National Holiness Association



evangelist. For four years he headed the Holiness Christian Church, a small denomination centered in Pennsylvania and Indiana. In 1901, he joined the Church of the Nazarene as associate pastor of Los Angeles First Church and assistant general superintendent to Phineas F. Breesee. After 18 months in Los Angeles, Ruth moved his

family back to Indianapolis and resumed his vocation as a full-time evangelist, but he retained the office of assistant general superintendent, which included authority to ordain ministers and organize new churches.

As he traveled across the U.S., Ruth dreamed of uniting smaller Wesleyan-Holiness churches dotting America's religious landscape. Eventually, he succeeded. These groups united at the general assemblies of 1907 and 1908 in Chicago and Pilot Point, Texas.

Indianapolis District

J. W. Short served as superintendent of the Indiana District for six years until it was divided in 1926 to create the Northern Indiana and Indianapolis districts. There were six Nazarene churches in Indianapolis at the time, and Short was superintendent of the newly hewn Indianapolis District before moving on to lead other districts. He returned and led it again from 1949 to 1953. Other superintendents include Remiss Rehfeldt, who served as executive secretary of the church's Department of World Missions. Ron Blake currently leads the district.

The Indianapolis District is now home to more than 60 churches.

Lillenas Publishing Company

Haldor and Bertha Lillenas were ordained side-by-side in 1912 by Hiram Reynolds.

They co-pastored Nazarene churches in four states, but their most pivotal



pastorate was Indianapolis First Church, where they served from 1923 to 1926. The church's membership grew from 150 to 250 in that time. During these years, Bertha's sermon "Christian Freedom" was published in *The Nazarene Pulpit*, a book showcasing Nazarene preaching.

By the end of their pastorate, Bertha had assumed more of the preaching and pastoral responsibilities, while Haldor devoted more attention to music. He dreamed of heading his own gospel music company.

They resigned in 1926 but remained in the city. Bertha began conducting revivals while Haldor launched Lillenas Publishing Company. Its success

depended on his talent and enterprise, but also on their unique marriage. Bertha's financial contributions helped stabilize Lillenas Publishing Company in its early years, and Nazarene Publishing House in Kansas City noticed. NPH wanted to improve its music program under a leader with a proven track record, and in 1930 it purchased the company and retained Haldor as its manager. Haldor and Bertha then moved to Kansas City.

Shepherd Community

In the 1970s, the Church of the Nazarene began rediscovering the importance of urban and social ministries. Out of that wave of renewed interest, the Central Nazarene Mission was organized in Indianapolis in 1985. The next year, Dean Cowles and 12 members of Westside Church of the Nazarene opened a compassionate ministry center that offered food and clothing in a poor section of the city. The mission changed its name to Shepherd Community in 1988.

Cowles was followed by John Hay Jr., and then returned for a second tenure. Since 1998, Jay Height has served as its executive director. Many ministries have grown out of Shepherd Community, and the center is just one example of Nazarenes making a difference in the world. ■

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUE

There are several opportunities for prayer as the 29th General Assembly continues.

The Board of General Superintendents emphasized the importance of prayer by asking Nazarenes around the world to set aside every Friday afternoon — from 24 March through 23 June — as a time of fasting and prayer for General Assembly 2017 and to pray daily during the assembly, Sunday 25 June through Thursday 29 June.

The words of Phineas F. Bresee, the denomination's first general super-

intendent, remain true today: "These are days that call for Spirit-filled men and women who pray in the Holy Ghost and expect and receive great things from God."

A Concert of Prayer was held prior to the opening General Assembly business session in Halls ABC from 8:00 to 8:15 a.m. Monday 26 June.

Two other locations were set aside for prayer. The 24/7 Prayer Room, located in the Westin Hotel, is available through 28 June for private prayer. Each evening, from 9:30 to 10:30 p.m., there will be a



time of corporate prayer.

Show Office 1 on the second floor of the Indiana Convention Center will be open Monday until 10 p.m. The room includes Bibles in multiple languag-

es, a basket to leave prayer requests, specific prayer topics from the Board of General Superintendents, and a historic altar used by Phineas Bresee at camp meetings in 1904 and 1905. ■

History of General Assembly locations

1. Chicago, Illinois (1907)
2. Pilot Point, Texas (1908)
3. Nashville, Tennessee (1911)
4. Kansas City, Missouri (1915)
5. Kansas City, Missouri (1919)
6. Kansas City, Missouri (1923)
7. Columbus, Ohio (1928)
8. Wichita, Kansas (1932)
9. Kansas City, Missouri (1936)
10. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (1940)
11. Minneapolis, Minnesota (1944)
12. St. Louis, Missouri (1948)
13. Kansas City, Missouri (1952)
14. Kansas City, Missouri (1956)
15. Kansas City, Missouri (1960)
16. Portland, Oregon (1964)
17. Kansas City, Missouri (1968)
18. Miami Beach, Florida (1972)
19. Dallas, Texas (1976)
20. Kansas City, Missouri (1980)
21. Anaheim, California (1985)
22. Indianapolis, Indiana (1989)
23. Indianapolis, Indiana (1993)
24. San Antonio, Texas (1997)
25. Indianapolis, Indiana (2001)
26. Indianapolis, Indiana (2005)
27. Orlando, Florida (2009)
28. Indianapolis, Indiana (2013)
29. Indianapolis, Indiana (2017)

SPONSORSHIP SURPRISE



During Sunday evening's worship service, Benaia Freire Furtado, a former sponsored child from Brazil, met her sponsor, Judy Veigl, who serves as an administrative director at the Church of the Nazarene's Global Ministry Center.

When Benaia was young, her father died suddenly. Struggling with grief and feelings of abandonment, she stopped speaking for four months.

"I felt abandoned, like my world was upside down, and I didn't understand why he left me," she said in a video made for Nazarene Compassionate Ministries.

Child Sponsorship had a deep impact on Benaia's life. It was during this time of grief that she was first accepted into the program.

Later, when her family moved to an area where they didn't know anyone, the letters she received from Judy helped her feel grounded and supported.

"The program enabled us to dream again," Benaia said. "It is very important for the child who receives the letter – it brings love to our hearts."

For more information on NCM's Child Sponsorship program, visit ncm.org/cs. ■

COPIES OF
PREVIOUS DAILY SUMMARIES
ARE AVAILABLE OUTSIDE
THE DOORS TO
Halls ABC.

FOR MORE GA NEWS,
VISIT NAZARENE.ORG/NEWS
AND CHOOSE
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SECTION.

ONLINE RESOLUTIONS

Following the Delegate Prayer and Commissioning Monday morning, General Assembly delegates will begin voting on resolutions. The resolutions were made available online in advance of the assembly at ga2017.com/resolutions

in English, French, Korean, Portuguese, and Spanish.

No special invitation or password is necessary to view these documents. Late resolutions were accepted through 1 June 2017. ■



