

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD NEWS SERVICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

15,000 ARE EXPECTED IN ORLANDO TO PARTICIPATE IN NUMEROUS ASSEMBLIES OF GOD YOUTH ACTIVITIES

ORLANDO – Some 15,000 teenagers are expected to converge in Orlando, Florida, August 4-7 for the 53rd General Council of the Assemblies of God. Youth will be participating in numerous activities including National Fine Arts Festival, community outreach and nightly services.

The Fine Arts Festival is designed to help students discover and develop their fine art talents, while promoting healthy competition. Every September, over 70,000 junior and senior high school students begin preparing for the district competitions. Seven main divisions are featured including art, communication, drama, exhibition, instrumental, vocal and writing. Students may enter as many as 35 of the 52 categories within these seven divisions.

Those who score high enough at the district level are then extended an invitation to participate in the nationals. More than 14,000 teens received the invitation to participate in this year's national competition. Many of the 19 Assemblies of God endorsed colleges and universities offer scholarships to students achieving high scores at nationals. Representatives from some schools will also be on-site to hold music scholarship auditions.

Approximately 500 youth will also be participating in the Ambassadors in Mission (AIM) community outreach as well. Participants will be working with Orlando Hispanic churches over a three day period to meet community needs by making door-to-door grocery deliveries and holding children's outreaches.

Evening youth services will be held Monday, August 4 featuring Mark Vega, pastor of Ignite Life Center in Gainesville, Florida, and on Wednesday, August 6 featuring Jay Mooney, national youth director of the Assemblies of God. A Celebration Service will be held Friday, August 7 recognizing top Fine Arts participants.

For more information on the youth activities during General Council, visit www.orlando9.com.

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The General Council is the biennial business meeting of the Assemblies of God, one of the largest Pentecostal groups in the world with nearly 60 million members. This meeting is for the U.S. Assemblies of God, which has nearly 3 million members and adherents.

The 53rd General Council convenes in Orlando, Florida, August 3-7, 2009. Over 30,000 church members are expected to gather at the Orange County Convention Center for activities during the day, then for evening services Monday through Friday nights.