

The Assemblies of God Trust presents . . .

Transform America

THE CHURCH
MULTIPLICATION
INITIATIVE



"Survival is not the heart cry of this Fellowship.
Thriving and winning the lost are at our very core."

Dr. George O. Wood

Transform America

THE CHURCH
MULTIPLICATION
INITIATIVE

OUR CORE VALUES

*To passionately proclaim,
strategically invest,
vigorously plant and revitalize,
skillfully resource
and fervently pray.*

Transform America is a ministry of AGTrust.



ON THE COVER



On the Cover. This photo explains why we passionately plant churches in the Assemblies of God. Before Gateway Fellowship Church in Helotes, Texas, was planted — by a team led by Pastor John Van Pay (L) — Aaron Del Rio's family did not attend church. Here with the help of Aaron's father, Austin, Pastor Van Pay baptizes Aaron in a makeshift baptismary outside the Silverado 16 Movie Theatre where the church meets. The expression on Aaron's face explains our motivation. We can transform America by planting new, vibrant churches. We can pass the baton to the next generation.

“Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18, KJV).

Dear Friends,

I come to you today with a special mission — a mission to Transform America.

America needs to be transformed!

I don't have to spend time convincing you of that. You watch the evening news and read the morning newspaper.

Through Transform America we are hoping to ignite a church planting movement among the people of our Fellowship. We can survive as a church at our current meager rate of growth, but survival is not the heart cry of this Fellowship. Thriving and winning the lost are at our very core.

As I've said many times since our Fellowship asked me to serve as general superintendent, all of the studies show that the most effective way to evangelize and disciple young converts is to plant new churches. To transform our great nation, we must bring church planting front and center in our Fellowship.

Transform America is a campaign to generate \$15 million to help start 500 new, vibrant churches across America to reach the unchurched, the dechurched and the next generation. This is your opportunity to get in on the ground floor of this effort.

Each of these 500 churches will be provided with \$30,000 in startup funds to help them reach out to their communities and plant a church. Our goal is not to plant 500 steeples. Many of these churches will meet in schools, theaters and rented halls. Many will not be the traditional churches some of us are more comfortable in. But all will be Spirit-filled churches, bringing people to an encounter with Jesus Christ that will transform their lives. As we do our part to plant churches that help transform lives, we will see America transformed.

Here's an awesome part of our plan. Each of the new churches will get \$30,000 in interest-free matching funds that they will pay back to the Perpetual Church Planting Fund. We have already planted 100 churches by this plan through the efforts of AGTrust and the Church Multiplication Network.

Based on the results of the first 100 churches planted, if we are successful in putting \$15 million to work planting 500 more

churches and Jesus carries, in 20 years the results will be:

- 2,447,500 confessions of faith
- 453,000 water baptisms
- 317,000 baptisms in the Holy Spirit
- 3,600,000 people in church on Sunday morning
- \$438,000,000 given to missions
- 2,000 new churches funded



DR. GEORGE O. WOOD

AND the \$15 million will still be at work planting more churches because the new church plants are repaying their original \$30,000 in matching funds.

Now that is a business plan anyone can get their arms around and embrace.

As I've said many times ... all the studies show that the most effective way to evangelize and disciple young converts is to plant new churches.

I ask every member and adherent and church in our Fellowship to get involved in the Transform America effort. Thank you in advance for being a part of the Transform America campaign. With God's help, as we work together we can Transform America.

Dr. George O. Wood
General Superintendent
Assemblies of God
Chairman
Transform America

TRANSFORM AMERICA

WHO WILL TRANSFORM AMERICA?

In 1990, on an average weekend, 1,460,248 people (0.587 percent of the total U.S. population) attended a morning service in an Assemblies of God church in America. In 2006, that number increased to 1,763,401 persons (or 0.589 percent of the total U.S. population). This is a net gain of 303,153 people, or a 0.002 percent gain compared to population growth over a 16-year period.

The optimist might say we are making progress . . . slow but steady. But is that really a pace of growth that fills the Father's heart with joy?

In that same 16-year period, 91,000,000 people were added to the population of the United States through birth and immigration. What do we say to the 90,696,847 people we did not reach with the gospel?

Another religious group in America reported its growth from 1994–2000. In six years, not 16, that group grew from 500,000 adherents to 2,000,000. That's an increase of 300 percent. The number of their houses of worship grew from 962 to 1,209. That is an increase of 25 percent.

What group was it?
Islam!

A total of 386 people attended Journey Community Church's launch service in Cleveland, Ohio, on March 29, 2009.



Pastor Todd Bishop, who planted The Point Church at Westbury, Long Island, New York, baptizes new believers in the Atlantic Ocean.



Sunday morning worship at The Gateway Church in Des Moines, Iowa

TRANSFORM AMERICA

A DEFINING OPPORTUNITY

At this very moment, more than **25 church planters are waiting** for you to answer God's call to partnership. They're ready to start as soon as Perpetual Matching Funds become available. In the next wave, we have **175 church planters ready to apply for matching funds**. They already have completed BootCamp and the assessment process. From the Assemblies of God campus cohorts nationwide, **613 students have committed to giving a year to help start churches** either as part of the launch team or as pastors.

During the first six months, we hope to fund **50 new churches** and **50 more in the following six months**. In 2011 our vision is to fund **150 new churches**, and in 2012 to fund **250 new churches**, bringing the total to **500 new churches in the next three years**.

The Investment Timetable

- To reach six-month goal.....\$1.5 million
- To reach one-year goal.....\$3 million
- To reach two-year goal\$7.5 million
- To reach three-year goal\$15 million

Short- & Long-Term Spiritual Return on Investment

The following outcomes are an expression of the five Core Values set for our Fellowship: to passionately proclaim, strategically invest, vigorously plant, skillfully resource and fervently pray. The projected figures are based on actual numbers reported by one-year-old Perpetual Matching Fund churches.

Value of one \$30,000 investment over 20 years

- 4 churches funded with \$120,000 through replenishment agreements
- 4,895 confessions of faith
- 906 water baptisms
- 635 Spirit baptisms
- 7,200 people in church on Sunday morning



Pastor Jim Wilkes and Journey Community Church in Cleveland, Ohio

\$876,000 given to missions
\$325,381 replenished

Value of one \$3,000,000 investment over 20 years

- 400 churches funded with \$12 million through replenishment agreements
- 489,500 confessions of faith
- 90,600 water baptisms
- 63,500 Spirit baptisms
- 720,000 people in church on Sunday morning
- \$87,600,000 given to missions
- \$3 million replenished valuing \$12 million

Value of one \$15,000,000 investment over 20 years

- 2,000 churches funded with \$60 million through replenishment agreements
- 2,447,500 confessions of faith
- 453,000 water baptisms
- 317,500 Spirit baptisms
- 3,600,000 people in church on Sunday morning
- \$438,000,000 given to missions
- \$15 million replenished valuing \$60 million

Value of \$30,000 invested

- 20 years at a fixed rate of 4.50% = \$73,662 (the cost of one luxury car)
- 20 years in the Perpetual Matching Fund = \$1,070,800

Our Pastors . . . Our Planters . . .

Jim Wilkes:

Journey Community Church, Cleveland, Ohio

We trusted God to guide us as we started a weekly Bible study in our home with only three other couples. Within six months, our group had grown to 45 people, and we needed a larger meeting space. On March 29, 2009, we launched Journey Community Church with 386 people attending. That day four people accepted Christ, and in the weeks that followed an additional 14 people were saved.

“Each time God asked us to risk something or do something beyond ourselves, He has always come through. He has always met us right where we needed Him.”

John Van Pay:

Gateway Fellowship Church, Helotes, Texas

A third-generation church planter, I transitioned naturally from associate pastor to church multiplier in 2007 when the Lord led me to start Gateway Fellowship Church. Our launch team of 35 people made relational discipleship a priority by setting the goal of building new relationships with 1,200 unchurched individuals. Sixty-two baptisms and 130 professions of faith later, the leadership team at Gateway is busy following up with 1,300 people.

“If we do not love each other as a church family, we will find it difficult to reproduce ourselves and fulfill the mission to which God has called us.”

Adelita Garza:

Puente de Vida, Santa Paula, California

On Oct. 25, 2009, we launched Puente de Vida in Santa Paula, California. Finding practical ways to connect with people in the community, we have seen roughly 25 people accept Christ since the church launched. One way we reach out to the community is by conducting a church service before providing food to families. We started out feeding about 40 families; today we feed nearly 110 families on a weekly basis, and many are coming to know Jesus.

“We’re finding a way to connect the physical with the spiritual. Even when Jesus fed the 5,000, He met a spiritual need as well.”



Pastor Paul Stewart, The Gateway Church, Des Moines, Iowa

Todd Bishop:

The Point at Westbury, Long Island, New York

Targeting college students, young families and professionals, The Point launched on Feb. 17, 2008, in a high-traffic area that had two major malls and 42,000 college students within 4½ miles. Today, roughly 175 people call The Point their home church.

“We have had 135 professions of faith since we started,” says Pastor Todd Bishop. In 2009, The Point at Westbury became the first Perpetual Matching Funds church to replenish the full \$30,000 awarded to them.

“Our vision is larger than one church plant. Our mission is to create a movement of church planting, planting 10 churches in the next 10 years.”

Paul Stewart:

The Gateway Church, Des Moines, Iowa

The call to be a church planter came in the form of a “call to missions” for Pastor Paul Stewart of The Gateway Church in Des Moines, Iowa. While preparing for world missions, an instructor of Stewart’s pointed out that the United States is the third-largest mission field in the world. From that time on, Stewart knew his destiny was to plant churches. With a launch team of 40 people, The Gateway Church began services in September 2009 at The Temple for Performing Arts in downtown Des Moines.

The Perpetual Matching Funds that Paul received on behalf of The Gateway Church were a direct result of the replenishment of matching funds by The Point at Westbury, Long Island, New York.

WILL YOU JOIN US IN TRANSFORMING AMERICA?

We need each Assemblies of God church in our Fellowship to join with us in this effort to Transform America. We need each person who reads this brochure to join with us. America is being transformed. But it is being transformed into something not remotely like what we feel God intends for the nation.

Will you join with the leaders listed here? They have committed to helping raise \$15 million to start a church planting process that over 20 years, should Jesus tarry, will bring more than 2 million people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. AND because each church will be repaying their initial \$30,000 in

matching funds, the original \$15 million invested will still be ministering, planting churches.

Please make the most significant contribution you can make to help Transform America. We need one-time gifts and monthly commitments. God is calling the church planters. As soon as the funds are received, they will be invested in new, vibrant Assemblies of God churches that will reach out to the lost in every corner of America.

Thank you in advance for joining with the leaders listed here, as together we help Transform America!

TRANSFORM AMERICA CAMPAIGN



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Dr. George O. Wood



Co-Chairman
Dr. Alton Garrison



Co-Chairman
Rev. Rick DuBose



Co-Chairman
Rev. Randy Valimont

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Rev. Mark Lehmann
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