



Royal L. Harrison
Greater L.A. Region Director



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About the Region

It has been a tremendous blessing to be a part of the Greater Los Angeles Region (GLAR) and to serve as its region director. During the last four years, we have seen God lead, direct and challenge our region to newer and greater heights. It has truly been my honor to work alongside some of the most gifted and spirit-led men and women in all of North America, and because of them, I am a better leader, a better pastor and a better person.

I want to, first, thank God for blessing our region with pastors who are dedicated and committed to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Men, who still believe that the gospel can and will transform lives if it is preached with passion, taught with love and lived out with a sense of transparency and vulnerability before the people. During the last four years, GLAR has experienced an influx of new pastors to its field: Dr. John Trusty, Pastor Eugene Hamilton, Pastor Gamal Alexander, Pastor Ira Barksdale, Pastor Donovan Childs, Pastor Rahshan Wall, Pastor Trevor Stewart and Dr. Lanston Sylvester. Each of them has, in their own way, added a renewed energy and excitement to our field.

For the last four years, we have seen wonderful growth in our region. We have added more than 400 souls to the Kingdom of God, and even more have come in through profession of faith. All of our churches are consistently engaged in evangelism, and we continue to study and learn new ways to share the gospel with our family, friends and neighbors.

Outreach at Breath of Life

Breath of Life church is one of those churches that has experienced such growth. Under the leadership of Pastor Eugene Hamilton, Breath of Life hosted their first block party on a Sabbath in 2017, and the community response was tremendous. More than 1,000 not-yet-members attended this event, and more than 700 back-to-school backpacks were given to parents who had children returning to school.

Another community outreach event followed, which was geared toward pregnant mothers. This time, the church hosted a community-wide baby shower for these moms-to-be. Again, the response was tremendous; more than 100 mothers attended and the church showered them with love, care and affection. The Lord's anointing was upon them, and many attendees expressed their desire to get more involved and receive Bible studies and baptism.



March Madness at Philadelphian

Another example of God's blessing in the area of kingdom building was with the Philadelphian church. Pastor David Zaid led his church into a season of intense planning and strategizing, during which he and his team meticulously trained his members for more than a year in preparation for an evangelistic crusade in early 2018. The Breath of Life Ministries, led by Dr. Carlton Byrd, came to Long Beach, and for several weeks preached the gospel of Jesus Christ. At the conclusion of the crusade, more than 50 souls were led to Christ and baptized.



Truly, there is no telling what God can do when we put our trust in Him. These are just two examples of churches in our region that engaged in creative and traditional evangelism, but all of our churches do some type of outreach and inreach to share the love of God and His love for all humanity, for which we believe is the gospel at its core.



GLAR Convocation

Each April, we have our annual convocation at the White Memorial church, where between 1,500-2,500 of our members gather from our 19 churches and worship together. Our theme for the first three years of convocation was “Back to the One,” about remembering our first love. For the last two years, our theme was “Re-focusing on the Family,” where we focus on strengthening and uniting families.

We recognize that our churches are only as strong as our weakest family, and as the family goes, so goes the church. We have been blessed with some tremendous preachers at these events, including Dr. Debleaire Snell; NAD President, Dr. Dan Jackson, Dr. Gene Donaldson, Dr. Keith Morris and Dr. Emil D. Peeler. This is always a wonderful time when church members are encouraged to come worship in one place and in one accord. Convocation is a time of revival, replenishing and the renewing of our faith.





From Greater to Global

Finally, I want to share where God is leading us and how He is expanding our borders. In 2017, we launched our GLAR Health Network under the supervision of Dr. Noel Brathwaite. Our emphasis was to support and assist our churches in developing an active and viable health ministries department in each of our churches. We saw this as a means to not only connect with our communities, but also an opportunity to increase awareness and provide training for our communities regarding health and well-being practices.



Another direction where we believe God is leading is in the area of missions. God has opened doors in which the Greater Los Angeles Region is partnering with churches in Thailand and is presently building a school for elementary and academy students.

There is a plan to take 15 to 25 youth to Thailand for a mission trip this December. Fedly Bonneau, a young missionary, has been working with the churches in Thailand for more than two years and through his non-profit organization “Bottles 4 Life Ministries,” he has provided life changing and life saving ministries to hundreds of people in the city of Mae Sot, Thailand.



Lastly, GLAR hosted its inaugural golf tournament, the “AJK (Anthony Jeremiah Kelly) Education Benefit Golf Tournament.” This event brought in more than 60 golfers and raised more than \$15,000 in educational scholarships for worthy students in the Greater Los Angeles Region.

Conclusion

In closing, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve the Greater Los Angeles Region, and I am grateful to God for how He has led and is currently leading our region to expand our borders, to impact lives and to instill in our young people a heart for service. God is awesome! God is great — and I have been blessed to watch Him work, up close and personal, in our region. Thank you, and God bless you!

Sincerely,

Royal L. Harrison

*GLAR Region Director
Southern California Conference*