

# Appreciation Sunday

Sunday, September 11, 2016



Effective

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

2025



Police Officers



Fire Fighters



Military



Educators



Medical Professionals



Entrepreneurs



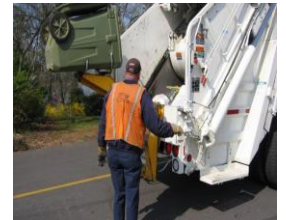
Student of the Year



Transit Workers



Postal Workers



Sanitation Workers

August 11, 2015

Bishop David Bernard, General Superintendent  
The Executive Board  
The General Board

Christian greetings,

As members of the Building the Bridge Committee, we are honored to have been given this privilege to present this proposal that was birthed in Tampa, Florida. The Committee collaborated at the meeting to strategize, define and refine the Building the Bridge Ministry within the United Pentecostal Church International.

This proposal is being submitted for your approval to implement an "Appreciation Sunday" for the next ten consecutive years, effective September 2016.

This unprecedented day of appreciation would result in:

1. five million people being introduced to the United Pentecostal church and apostolic message within a ten year period.
2. exposing all 5,000 United Pentecostal churches to their municipalities and citizens and
3. repeat visitors, new converts, the potential to teach more bible studies and ultimately new members added to the church overtime.

In view of the above, we ask of you to favorably consider this Strategic Evangelistic Proposal, and that we expediently capitalize on the expected gains to be derived.

Yours truly,

Building the Bridge Committee

## CHAPTER 1

### Urban Evangelism Appreciation Sunday

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...Go into all the world and preach  
the gospel to all creation.

(Mark 16:15, KJV)

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To fulfill the great commission, the apostolic church must purposely design and implement strategic programs that will affect the community that God has chosen for them to impact.

At New Life Tabernacle, over the past 26 years we have seized the opportunity to strategically implement several evangelistic programs that have contributed to our growth.

One such program is our **Appreciation Sunday**. We were privileged to honor several entrepreneurs, civil servants, educators, health providers, public servants and other women and men of distinction that serve the municipalities. These honorees brought along with them family members, colleagues, friends and neighbors to celebrate with them on this iconic day.

These events were phenomenal resulting in repeat visitors, new converts, and ultimately new members added to the church as we met their spiritual needs.

If every United Pentecostal Churches (UPC) of North America would collaborate to honor a select group of individuals within the community to which the local church resides; this could potentially advance the growth of the local churches, the district and the organization at large.

### **The Current Climate**

In lieu of our current conditions across North American, it would be in the best interest of the United Pentecostal Church to be seen in the eyes of the community as bridge builders; attempting to repair the damage that has been created between law enforcement and the municipalities served.

We are living in a society where law enforcement and in particular police officers are being questioned based on the actions of a few. Some have fallen into disrepute because of some unfortunate incidents that have taken place in our cities that have created pandemonium.

The abuse of power over justice and equality for all has become questionable in the minds of citizens. These incidents have placed Law enforcement under the microscope. We can all testify that police officers are placed in our communities to enhance the quality of

life; vast majority are doing an excellent job in keeping and maintaining peace.

Be that as it may, due to the mayhem in some of our cities as seen in the town of Ferguson Missouri, Staten Island New York, Michigan and Baltimore; in the eyes of the world these acts of injustice introduces a spirit of hopelessness, but for the church it is an open door to strategically evangelize our nation. The United Pentecostal Church therefore needs to effectively strategize and implement ministries, while attempting to reconcile the community to wholeness. Keep in mind that the Lord has given unto us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18, KJV).

Consequently, can you envision the effect that a religious organization such as the United Pentecostal Church of North America could have in leading in the area of reconciliation between law enforcement and the communities? In selecting a particular day and declaring that day to the world as "*Law Enforcement Appreciation Day*" as well as other categories of honorees listed below for each subsequent years would be seen as a landmark event.

Year	Category of Honorees
2016	Law Enforcement
2017	Educators
2018	
2019	
2020	
2021	
2022	
2023	
2024	
2025	

The primary focus of these events are to give churches a clear evangelistic strategy for the next ten years. This proposal is based on a six-month plan and to be launched around the first or second week in September of each year. In so doing, it helps us as a nation not lose sight of the importance of September 11<sup>th</sup> and the individuals that demonstrated acts of bravery in the face of terrorism.

With fervency in prayer and careful implementation of the strategy, we can prevail. The possibilities are endless. The harvest is ripe. The time is now. Let us cease the moment.

## CHAPTER 2

### Casting the Vision

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*...write the vision, and make it  
plain upon tables, that he may run  
that readeth it  
(Habakkuk 2:2, KJV)*

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Declaring one day in the year as "Law Enforcement Appreciation Sunday;" implementing the challenge to all United Pentecostal Church of North America; based on the size of the church, honoring within the range of 10-50 officers, would be a milestone for the United Pentecostal Church organization.

This community program has the potential to add several repeat visitors, new converts and ultimately new members to churches overtime. There might be churches that are currently engaged in some form of appreciation services; however, this proposal serves to unite the entire United Pentecostal church at large for maximum impact in one day.

Let's consider 5,000 United Pentecostal Churches across North America, showing and embracing solidarity in honor of police officers. Each church based on size, would choose between 10-50 police officers to be honored. This can be seen if each church honors 10



police officers which would equate to 50,000 officers in one day. Likewise, with 50,000 police officers attending church with families, friends and colleagues each officer bringing a minimum of 10 visitors, would equate to **half a million visitors** attending a United Pentecostal Church **in one day**.

This unprecedented day of appreciation would result in exposing half a million people to the United Pentecostal Church and the apostolic message. Moreover, 5,000 United Pentecostal churches will be exposed to their municipalities and citizens. Thereupon, granting each local assembly a pool of visitors to pursue, a percentage of frequent visitors and individuals knowing that assembly exists which would facilitate the following needs: baby dedications, funerals, weddings, hospital visitations and other personal/family needs. Consequently, over a ten year period, 5 million people will be exposed to the United Pentecostal Church and apostolic message.

Ideally, with a follow-up system in place, the church has the potential to teach more bible studies, convert souls, add to the membership overtime and introduce other programs such as afterschool, daycare and pantry program.

## Illustration of the Vision

Year	Category of Honorees	5,000 Churches	Total Honorees	Visitors (1 Honoree inviting 10 visitors)
2016	Law Enforcement	10 Honorees	50,000 Honorees	500,000 Visitors
2017	Educators	10 Honorees	50,000 Honorees	500,000 Visitors
2018		10 Honorees	50,000 Honorees	500,000 Visitors
2019		10 Honorees	50,000 Honorees	500,000 Visitors
2020		10 Honorees	50,000 Honorees	500,000 Visitors
2021		10 Honorees	50,000 Honorees	500,000 Visitors
2022		10 Honorees	50,000 Honorees	500,000 Visitors
2023		10 Honorees	50,000 Honorees	500,000 Visitors
2024		10 Honorees	50,000 Honorees	500,000 Visitors
2025		10 Honorees	50,000 Honorees	500,000 Visitors
<b>TOTAL Over a 10 year Plan</b>		<b>100 Honorees</b>	<b>500,000 Honorees</b>	<b>5,000,000 Visitors</b>

5,000,000 Visitors in 10 Years

## **Chapter 3**

### **The Methodology**

To effectively host this *Appreciation Sunday*, we need to purposefully execute and implement a comprehensive plan of action with fervency in prayer. Based on the schedule of public servants, such as chief of police, the Governor and Mayor, business associates and honorees, let's consider a six-month plan:

#### **Month 1**

Firstly, the Pastors of each church would convene a meeting with their staff and key leaders to cast the vision in honoring 10-50 police officers. This would be followed by a meeting with the congregation.

Secondly, the Pastors would then put together a committee and identify a chairperson to lead and oversee the *Appreciation Sunday*, set the criteria and garner names of individuals who would be honored. The pastors would first solicit names of individuals to be honored from the congregation.

Thirdly, once the committee is formed and the date for the event is established, the chairperson would appropriately devise a strategy and write a letter of intent (see addendum - addendum 1) to include a requested meeting with the Police Commissioner/Chief Police/Head of the local Precinct. This meeting would

be to introduce the vision and solicit names of individuals to be honored.

Finally, the committee would then discuss fund raising ideas to facilitate the event.

## **Month 2**

Upon receiving the names of prospective honorees, an invitation letter would be sent from the church to the respective individual. (see addendum for sample letter - addendum 2).

## **Month 3**

The Steering Committee meets again in preparation for the day of honor. At this meeting, it should be clear of the total numbers obtained to be honored. Upon receiving acknowledgement from the prospective honorees accepting the invitation to attend the Appreciation Service, a letter of confirmation would then be forwarded to each respective individual (see sample letter in addendum - addendum 3).

Can you envision the impact this day of honor with visitors, potential converts and membership growth overtime will have on the church and the community at large?

For such reasons, urban evangelism is effective. As the church honors these special individuals, the impact on church growth overtime, will exponentially increase as the medium of honoring is utilized as an evangelistic tool over the next ten years. Pastors will have the continued added benefit—the opportunity to preach the message of salvation.

As the meetings progress, a decision is made on the type of presentation, awards and style of fellowship to be held immediately after the service. Consideration should be given to cost, wording, Proclamation/Citation from all three offices: the Governor, Mayor and Chief of Police. Additionally, solicit participation from politicians/public figures, key business leaders and the community affairs officer representing citizens and business owners. A letter should be sent to the aforementioned offices (see sample letter in addendum - addendum 4).

Following this meeting, the Chairman or assigned committee member should call the media network, followed by a letter of intent and seeking assistance in promotion which will result in widespread visibility.

#### **Month 4**

Based on belief and conviction, the church need to

utilize any form of communication/promotion to advertise and garner support for the event.

### **Month 5**

The Pastor convenes a meeting with the congregation to inform the church of the progress thus far. Topics highlighted will include, but not limited to: total number of confirmed honorees. Further, he will encourage the congregation to spread the word and elaborate on the potential of more than 100 visitors attending the service, if only 10 honorees are selected.

### **Month 6 - Evaluation**

In the pastor's final meeting, he will review and conduct an assessment to ensure everything is in place. For example, awards are picked up, ushers and hostesses assigned, dress code confirmed, and dignitaries along with honorees seating arranged.

### **Day of Event**

All key leadership: usher, hostess, security and committee members will be in their respective place one hour before the service is scheduled to begin.

Guests will be seated at 15-30 minutes prior to the service start time, or as they arrive.

- a. A follow-up information card will be given to each person that enters (usher's responsibility).
- b. Names of honorees and dignitaries placed on seats.
- c. Five to ten seats reserved for each officers' family, friends and associates depending on seating capacity.
- d. Seating for family members and friends reserved on the opposite side of seating for the honorees (based on the layout arrangement in church).
- e. Fellowship immediately after the service to meet and greet with honorees, families and friends. Based on budget, this is a sit down meal or finger food.
- f. The Pastor acknowledges the committee and other responsible members.

## **Chapter 4**

### **Resources/Budget**

The campaign will be based on the resources and size of the church. The following costs should be taken into consideration: volunteers, type of awards,

stationary, supplies, stamps, food, snacks, decorations, advertising and fellowship time.

### **Closing**

Can you envision that one may bring 20? Can you envision the impact of this day of honor resulting in repeat visitors, new converts and members added to your church overtime through this community program?

This initiative has the potential to increase membership growth overtime and, the church has the opportunity to preach salvation to their souls. If each church participates in this Appreciation Sunday over the next ten years, the Local Assembly, District and Organization at large has the potential to experience an exponential growth.



## ADDENDUM - Sample Program

\_\_\_\_\_ (the name of your church)

### Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

September 11, 2016

Welcome..... .  
Scripture Reading..... .  
National Anthem/Pledge/American Flag and Allegiance to Flag..... .  
Remarks (Speech)..... .  
    First Lady (First Lady would define the day)

#### **Sample Speech by First Lady**

Today we are elated as a church family to honor individuals who have exemplified a spirit of excellence in serving our community with integrity, fairness and without partiality.

We are pleased that our community/municipalities, Governor, Mayor or Chief of Police are present with us today to honor these officers in a manner that is appropriate. This day will truly go down in history for police officers all across our nation. We ask of you to remain standing as our Pastor comes and asked God's blessings...

Song..... .  
    (choir/small group/soloist)  
Remarks..... .  
    Mayor  
    Governor  
    Chief of Police

Recognition..... .  
    First Lady to call honorees one by one  
    Awards distributed by Governor, Mayor and Chief of Police along with the pastor

Song..... .  
    Choir sings

Offering..... .  
Remarks..... .

    Sermon - 20 min. (example of sermon - One came back to give thanks - Jesus

walked into a particular city, introduced to 10 lepers as he gave instruction how to be clean).

Closing Remarks.....

First Lady will say "glad you're here and lead them to fellowship time (depending on the fellowship arrangement).

**Sample letter to Police Commissioner - Addendum 1**

Dear

\_\_\_\_\_ (the name of your church), a member of the United Pentecostal Church of North America, located at \_\_\_\_\_ (your church address) in collaboration with the congregation at large, have agreed to honor \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the number of prospective honorees) police officers within our community. We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you in your district office during the week of \_\_\_\_\_ to discuss the Appreciation Sunday and to solicit names of individuals.

This meeting is part of a larger, ongoing effort of the United Pentecostal Church of North America to inform and educate citizens of the vital role of officers in our communities; and to celebrate their success.

We would greatly appreciate if your office could contact me at \_\_\_\_\_ to schedule an appropriate time for this meeting.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Yours sincerely

\_\_\_\_\_  
The Pastor's name

**Sample letter of invitation - Addendum 2**

Dear (prospective honoree's name),

\_\_\_\_\_ (the name of your church), a member of the United Pentecostal Church of North America, in collaboration with our Community Precinct and Public Servants have agreed to honor several officers within our community. Your name has been selected to be one of the honorees.

This iconic day is scheduled to take place on \_\_\_\_\_ (date) at \_\_\_\_\_ (the name of your church) at \_\_\_\_\_ (set time). We would be elated if you could confirm your attendance at your earliest convenience via a letter, phone call or email.

We are aware that no honoring is complete without families, friends and colleagues. They are all welcome. Your diligence in this matter is greatly appreciated.

We humbly await your response.

God bless you and your family.

Your sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
(The pastor's name)

**Sample letter of confirmation - Addendum 3**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ (confirmed honoree),

Christian greetings. Thank you for accepting our invitation to be honored along with your colleagues at our Appreciation Service.

We would like to remind you that your family, loved ones, friends and associates are more than welcome to share in this iconic day with you. We also welcome the opportunity to send them a personal invite and ask if you could please forward the names of those individuals, phone number, email or address and we will be happy to notify them on your behalf of this momentous day. However, if the decision to come is made at the last minute our coordinator we will be contacting you to obtain the names of those individuals.

Again, thank you for accepting our invitation.

We look forward to celebrate with you on \_\_\_\_\_ (date of event).

Your sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
The pastor's name

**Sample letter to Chief Police/Governor/Mayor's Offices - Addendum 4**

Greetings,

\_\_\_\_\_ (name of your church) and the entire United Pentecostal church of North America have selected \_\_\_\_\_ (date) to be the Appreciation Day for police officers. Your Chief of Police or Head of Precinct has recommended \_\_\_\_\_ (number of individuals) individuals they would appreciate to be part of this auspicious day.

As the Governor of this State/Mayor of this City/Chief of Police, we would be honored if you could be there personally to present a proclamation to each police officer from your office. We believe this day would go down in history and would leave a better statement in the eyes of the citizens that there are police officers that are indeed worthy of such honor—men and women that fulfill their duties with integrity, fairness and without partiality and exude the spirit that all men are created equal in the eyes of God.

We await your response and open to any further recommendations you may have that would make this day a more distinguished one in the eyes of the citizens.

Yours sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
The pastor's name

**Sample letter to the Media Addendum 5**

To Whom it May Concern:

\_\_\_\_\_(name of your church), United Pentecostal Church, the Police Commissioner, Mayor and Governor have united to honor several police officers in our community. We have selected a day nationally known as *Police Officers Appreciation Sunday*. The Mayor, Governor and Chief have agreed to make this day one of distinction.

We would like to ask of your assistance to highlight this day in your next print or news cast, so the citizens in our community can also be united with us and make this event a day of distinction.

We believe your participation in spreading good news of a good cause could help heal our community, in which the incidents have left a mark on the minds of the people. As the promoters of a good idea, we also believe that you could help in the process of healing the city through this program.

Thus we are asking of you kindly to advertise this epic event to the citizens of this great city of whom are your customers. We look forward to a favorably response.

Yours sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pastor's name