



Rev. Jorge Acevedo, lead pastor at Grace Church, Ft. Myers FL, addresses the plenary.

Today's highlights

- 8:00 AM Worship-Bill Dobbs
- 9:30 AM Plenary Session Teaching Session-Jorge Acevedo
- 1:30 PM Plenary Session - INM Celebration
- 4:30 PM Mission & Ministries Panel Discussions
- 7:00PM Penary Session -Celebration of Clergy



“...Baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.”

-Matthew 28:20

FAITHFULNESS & FRUITFULNESS

ADRIAN, Mich. (MIC) — “I will wear my preacher hat today and my teacher hat tomorrow,” Jorge Acevedo explained at the beginning of his floor time on Friday morning. Like the Rev. Scott Chrostek, who addressed the body in Chapel Worship before him, Jorge’s personal story and his faith-filled instruction focused on God’s power to do great things with flawed people. Today, the pastor of a fast-growing church in Florida, Jorge confessed he came from a life of addiction and abuse.

Using the metaphor of faithfulness and fruitfulness, Acevedo began by recalling a childhood memory of biting into a “holy artifact” in his parents’ dining room only to discover it was just a plastic apple. “I wonder about our lives today,” he said. “Is our fruit artificial and not of the value God would have it be?”

Jorge offered principles based on John 15, the chief among them: “Faithfulness precedes fruitfulness.” “Jesus wants a bumper crop, friends! Jesus wants individuals and congregations to be like the 4H kid who grows a 1,000 pound pumpkin.” He confessed belief that the kind of growth experienced at Pentecost “...is not a fairy tale. They added to their numbers daily and that can happen again.” He then provided three requirements for faithfulness:

See **FRUIT** on back



FRUIT continued from front page

1. Faithfulness requires community: to those who frequently live in isolation, Jorge reminds us that Jesus often used the phrase, “y’all.” He shared statistics about the incidence (twice the national average) of pastor depression and reminded people that John Wesley also valued community. “When Wesley says, ‘there is no holiness but social holiness,’” Acevedo asserts, “he was not talking about giving away mosquito nets. He is saying there is no holiness outside of rich, accountable, authentic relationships.”

2. Faithfulness requires abiding: “We *try* to be Christian rather than *training* to be Christian,” Jorge continued. He said the faithful life is not without pain...we choose either the pain of discipline or the pain of regret. He shared his plan for daily devotions and commended that plan to all as a process of “dethroning the self.” “Are you taking on Jesus’ easy yoke?” he asked.

3. Faithfulness requires pruning: Jorge explained that pruning is about both God’s discipline and God’s deliverance. “God sometimes takes me to the woodshed,” he reported. “We don’t need a God who is a kind, gentle, fluffy teddy bear. We need God to challenge us.” Recalling experiences while on a spiritual sabbatical, Acevedo said, “God sees our low-lying ways and cleans us up and lifts us up on the trellis so we may be fruitful.”

The Conference’s guest teacher concluded with a statement by a favorite author, Brandon Manning. From *A Ragamuffin Memoir*... “Grace is enough. He is enough. Jesus is enough.”

#DAC15 SWEET TWEET

 Alyssa G @AgrantLyssa · 6h

As a fellow fast talker, the message by @scottchrostek was exciting. As an interpreter, not so much. #DAC15 #handcramps #karma

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“God breathes his life in us today so we can go back to the cities we came from to tell people about Jesus and his love for us. Let us embrace our identity as God’s misfits.” A Michigan native and a Detroit Tiger fan, Scott Chrostek and his wife, Wendy, moved to the staff of The Church of the Resurrection in 2009. He now serves Resurrection Downtown in Kansas City. His Friday sermon, based on the gospel story of the Samaritan woman at the well, emphasized God’s pattern of doing the illogical. “Our God is a God who chooses slingshots over super powers. He chooses infants not infantries. The entirely nonsensical makes perfect sense to God,” he asserted.

THERE’S AN ELECTION!

Six elections as a matter of fact. With equipment back up and running after failing on Thursday, the balloting process for General and Jurisdictional conferences accelerated on Friday. By evening the General Conference Delegation was elected after five ballots. Clergy in order of election include: the Rev. Charles Boayue, the Rev. Joy Barrett, and the Rev. Melanie Carey. Laity elected: Jackie Euper, Wayne Bank, and Diane Brown. Delegation leadership alternates between first-elected lay and clergy every four years. In 2012 Jackie Euper chaired the delegation, so Charles Boayue will be chair in 2016, as the clergyperson receiving the greatest number of votes at this annual conference. There was no election on the first Jurisdictional ballot taken Friday evening. Results of a second Jurisdictional ballot will be reported Saturday morning.