

# International Ministerial Congress Congreso Ministerial Internacional

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Monday Evening, December 5, 1994

Elder Jerry Griffin opened the delegates' reception at 7:45 p.m. He called upon Calvin Burrell, President of the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day) of Denver, Colorado, who welcomed the Congress to the United States and who led us in opening prayer.

Elder Jerry Griffin then gave announcements and distributed copies of the various studies to be considered this week.

We then had a fruit buffet and visited with one another.

Tuesday, December 6, 1994

The fifth International Ministerial Congress was called to order by the president at 8:35 a.m.

Pastor Miguel Correa of Brazil led in the invocation. The Registration Committee reported 55 delegates, 11 observers, and 2 translators present. MOVED to approve the report of the Registration Committee. Seconded. Carried.

The North American delegation led in the morning devotion. Lynn Taylor led in choruses; Steve Kurtright gave a devotion based on Exodus 17:8-16. Prayer was then offered for our meetings and for some members who were not able to be present due to injury, illness, and other reasons.

MOVED to adopt the printed program as the orders of the day. Seconded. Carried.

Jerry Griffin appointed a Resolution Committee as follows: Lorenzo Arroyo-Chairman, Sergio Carlos Ceron, Samuel Piggott, Robert Coulter, and Miguel Josef at Santa Cruz.

The president then gave his report for the past four years.

The secretary gave the highlights of the 1990 meeting in Oaxtepec, Mexico. He then introduced the delegates, the observers, and the interpreters.

Jerry Griffin read the financial report:

## INTERNATIONAL MINISTERIAL CONGRESS

April 1, 1991-November 30, 1994

Funds Available-April 1, 1991	\$ 305.92
General Conference Grant	1,568.29
Mexican Conference Grant	1,000.00

1994 IMC  
Corpus Christi, TX

Wednesday, December 7, 1994

The Congress opened at 8:05 a.m. at the call of the chair. The delegation from Mexico led in the morning devotion. A quartet sang "Let the Lower Lights be Burning." Fidel Guerrero used II Corinthians 11:24-33 as his text and also referred to II Thessalonians 3:1-4. We had a time of anointing and prayer.

The minutes of Tuesday were read and approved. The Registration Committee reported that we now have 56 members registered and 12 observers.

MOVED to seat Domingo Huezco as an observer. Seconded. MOVED to amend by substituting, "That the chair appoint a committee of three to interview Domingo Huezco, in consultation with the brethren of Central America, to determine the appropriateness of seating Brother Huezco as an observer." Seconded.

MOVED to close debate. Seconded. Carried

Motion to substitute Carried.

The substitute motion Carried.

Ramón Ruiz, Robert Coulter, and Humberto López were appointed by the chairman as the committee.

Jerry Griffin introduced the subject of the deity of Christ and explained the procedure we will follow in this discussion.

Jonathan Martínez presented the Mexican Conference study on the deity of Christ.

We recessed at 10:00 a.m. and reconvened at 10:37.

Brother Martínez completed his presentation, and then answered questions for clarification.

The Resolution Committee presented the resolution of the Mexican Conference:

BE IT RESOLVED that the International Ministerial Congress affirm the position that Jesus Christ was created by God in eternity.

Esteban Moys presented a study on the deity of Christ. He then answered questions in order to clarify parts of his presentation.

Pedro Martínez led in prayer.

We recessed at 12:35 and reconvened at 2:15 p.m.

MOVED to table the resolution concerning the deity of Christ. Seconded. Carried.

The committee appointed to interview Domingo Huezco recommended that we not seat him.

MOVED to decline to seat Domingo Huevo. Seconded. Carried.

MOVED to take the resolution concerning the deity of Christ from the table. Seconded. Carried.

Cesar Herazo gave a presentation from Colombia. Cesar answered several questions concerning his presentation.

Jerry Griffin turned the chair over to the first vice-president, Miguel Correa. Miguel then called upon Jerry Griffin to give a presentation on the deity of Christ.

MOVED to amend the resolution of the Mexican Conference by substituting the following:

WHEREAS the statement of Faith of the International Ministerial Congress declares in Section 3: "We believe in Jesus, Messiah and Savior, only begotten Son of the Father...," and

WHEREAS Section 3 does not state or imply that Jesus was "created by God,"

BE IT RESOLVED that the Congress interpret the phrase, "only begotten Son of the Father," as follows:

The phrase, "only begotten Son of the Father," reveals two complementary truths about Jesus Christ: 1) His inherent nature, and 2) His position within the Godhead.

In regards to nature, the phrase indicates the full deity of Christ. Through the act of begetting, the Son exists of the same nature, substance, or "stuff" as the Father. The term "begotten," by definition, makes the Son divine because the One from whom He was begotten is divine. Since the Son is of the same divine substance as the Father, He is an equal member of the Godhead and shares with the Father the nature, attributes, and title of "God."

In regards to position, the phrase, "only begotten Son of the Father," also indicates the relationship of the Son to the Father. The term "begotten," by definition, places the Son under the Father's authority. The Son is begotten, while the Father alone is unbegotten. Because the Son acts only in accord with the Father, and not of Himself, He is subordinate to the Father in rank. However, the subordination of the Son does not make Him a separate or second "god." By nature, the Son remains equal to the Father, sharing with Him the divine substance of the Godhead. Although the Father and Son differ in role and position, the equality in nature of Father and Son preserves the oneness of the Godhead.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress distribute this resolution to each member conference or council with instructions that each conference or council in turn distribute a copy of this resolution to its ministers, pastors, and church workers.

Seconded.

Jerry then answered several questions dealing with his presentation, for clarity and further explanation.

Miguel Correa turned the chair back to Jerry Griffin after the discussion period.

MOVED to table the motion. Seconded. Carried.

Several announcements were made.

**Thursday, December 8, 1994**

The chairman called the Congress to order at 8:08 a.m. The delegates from South America led in devotions. Felix Fermin Lopez led a song. Williams Correa led in prayer. Cesar Herazo used Matthew 13:44-46 as the text for the devotional. A quartet from Mexico sang. Brothers Muller and Iza closed with prayers.

The minutes were read and approved.

The chairman made announcements and read a greeting from the Church of God in Pueblo, Mexico.

MOVED to change the orders of the day to take up the discussion of the deity of Christ until 11:15 a.m. Seconded. Carried.

MOVED to take the resolution on the deity of Christ from the table. Seconded. Carried.

Jerry Griffin turned the chair over to Miguel Correa, the first vice-president. Miguel turned it over to Ramon Ruiz, the second vice-president, who then chaired this discussion.

Recessed at 10:06 and reconvened at 10:37.

MOVED and seconded to table the motion. Carried.

Ramon Ruiz turned the chair back to Jerry Griffin.

Isaac Uribe made the presentation of the Mexican Conference concerning the church and state.

Henry Harley dismissed us with prayer.

Recessed at 12:32 and reconvened at 2:08 p.m.

Isaac answered questions concerning the presentation of church and state.

The Resolution Committee presented this motion:

BE IT RESOLVED that the International Ministerial Congress adopt the following statement that sets forth a definitive course of action appropriate for Christians in response to civil authority:

1. That the Church have more participation in the social sphere, practicing the love of God for our fellow man.
2. That the Church be instructed so that members know the proper procedures for voting.
3. That the parish be taught to take part in all civil acts, without compromising their Christian integrity, thus fulfilling their duties as good citizens.
4. That the members of the Church be informed as to what patriotic symbols should be respected.
5. That the faithful who have financial revenue with real estate taxes be instructed to execute their fiscal obligations.
6. That the pastors of the Church study the political constitution of their country and the universal declaration of human rights, so that they may know their rights and obligations.
7. That the Church of God (Seventh Day) cooperate when possible with the evangelical churches of the country, creating a common cause to demonstrate peacefully, according to their right, when the government violates human rights.
8. That the Church of God (Seventh Day) cooperate when possible with the alliance of evangelical churches in each country to protest and reject all arrangements and laws that come from the government that affect free expression and primarily the faith we confess.

MOVED and seconded to amend item 3 by omitting the word "all." Carried.

MOVED and seconded to amend item 5 by omitting the words "revenue with real estate taxes" and substituting with the words "resources which are taxable." Carried.

MOVED to close debate. Seconded. Carried.

The resolution Carried.

The chair made some announcements.

Terry Slowe dismissed with prayer.

Recessed at 4:04 p.m.

**Friday, December 9, 1994**

The chair called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. The delegates from Central America led the devotions. Jose Julio Osorio led us in "Revive Us Again" and "Rock of Ages." Esteban Moys brought a devotional based upon 1 John 4:8. David Armando Villanueva Ruiz closed with prayer.

The minutes were read and approved as read.

Terry Slowe reported that Guyana has 6 active groups, 3 full-time evangelists, 1 part-time minister and several lay workers, and 300 members.

Henry Harley of Jamaica reported that they have 162 churches, 2,400 members, 22 ministers, and 70 workers.

Esteban Moys reported for Central America. They have 13,680 members, 174 ministers, 315 churches, and are divided into 6 councils.

Alexander Chepkwony reported that Kenya has 23 congregations, 1,879 members, and 11 pastors.

Ramon Ruiz showed a video for Mexico's report. They have 16,000 members, 186 ministers, 545 churches.

We recessed at 10:00 and reconvened at 10:35.

The floor was opened for nominations for president. Ramon Ruiz, Isaac Uribe, and Josafat Santa Cruz were nominated. Ballots were passed out.

Calvin Burrell gave the report for the North American General Conference. He reported 150 churches, 130 ministers, and 6,000 members.

The Ballot Committee reported this count: Ruiz-41, Isaac Uribe-5, Josafat Santa Cruz-7. Ramon Ruiz is the new president.

Nominations were given for first vice-president: Lorenzo Arroyo, Henry Harley, Lynn Taylor, Alvaro Gonzalez, Raul Lopez, Williams Correa, Samuel Piggott. Ballots were cast.

Lewis Guy reported for Trinidad Tobago. He reported the death of Brother Wilfred Saunders this past year. He reported that they have 5 congregations, 125 members, 4 part-time ministers, and 1 full-time minister.

The Ballot Committee reported the results of the vote for first vice-president: Arroyo-19, Harley-4, Taylor-12, Gonzalez-10, Correa-5, Lopez-3, and Piggott-2. No election.

MOVED and seconded to vote between the two highest. Carried. Ballots were cast. The vote was Arroyo-32 and Taylor-19. Lorenzo Arroyo is elected.

Nominations were made for second vice-president: Henry Harley, Lynn Taylor, Alvaro Gonzalez, Miguel Correa. Ballots were cast.

The president gave a summary of the council reports. Eleven conferences and councils are present, and one reported by mail.

The Ballot Committee reported this vote: Harley-8, Taylor-22, Gonzalez-15, Correa-9. No election.

MOVED and seconded to vote on the two highest. Carried. Ballots were cast. The vote resulted in the election of Lynn Taylor (Taylor-34, Gonzalez-19).

Nominations for secretary were: Isaac Uribe, Paul Heavilin, Daniel Davila, Esteban Moys. Ballots were cast. The results of the ballot were: Uribe-11, Heavilin-19, Davila-15, and Moys-10. No election.

MOVED to vote on the two highest. Seconded. Carried. The result of this ballot was the election of Paul Heavilin (Heavilin-30, Davila-24).

Nominations were made for the treasurer: Isaac Uribe, Alvaro Gonzalez, Miguel Correa, Esteban Moys, and Daniel Davila. The results of the ballot were: Uribe-7, Gonzalez-19, Correa-14, Moys-6, and Davila-7.

MOVED to vote on the two highest. Seconded. Carried. The results were Alvaro Gonzalez was elected treasurer (Gonzalez-35 and Correa-18).

The Resolutions Committee reported that there are three resolutions to present.

#### Resolution #1

WHEREAS the Guyana Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day) has made a formal request for membership in the International Ministerial Congress,

BE IT RESOLVED that they be extended full membership in the IMC. Carried unanimously.

#### Resolution #2

WHEREAS there has been a division in the Church of God in the republic of El Salvador which has affected a significant number of members, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the 1994 session of the IMC recommend that the ministerial council of the Church of God in El Salvador request that a member council or conference of the IMC assist it in mediating between the church and those who have left the church for the purpose of bringing about reconciliation between the church in El Salvador and those who have left it. Carried.

#### Resolution #3

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee provide proposed amendments to the Bylaws for consideration at the 1998 session of the Congress, which will make the following objectives possible.

1. That the number of the elected officers that compose the Executive Committee be increased.

2. That the time and frequency of the meetings of the Executive Committee be specified.
3. That the Executive Committee be authorized to provide assistance in the form of consultation and mediation in resolving conflicts to any member conference or council which solicits such assistance.
4. That the president of the Executive Committee be responsible for maintaining the ongoing communication with the administrations of member conferences and councils.
5. That a financial plan be implemented that will provide for a full-time salary for the president of the Executive Committee, traveling expenses, and other administrative costs.
6. That the two primary objectives of the IMC continue to be upheld as priority functions of the Congress.

MOVED to amend by adding to the end of the resolution:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Committee prepare a study to be presented to the Congress that will inform it of how these proposed changes will impact the current purpose and structures of the IMC. The purpose of this study is to help the Congress to maintain its perspective of its purpose and how its structure supports it, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this study be presented to the Congress in session before the amendments proposed in this resolution are presented for adoption by the Congress. Seconded.

Recessed at 12:33 and reconvened at 2:10 p.m. The amendment passed.

MOVED to close debate. Seconded. Carried. Resolution #3 Carried.

Jerry gave the final financial report. We now have a balance of \$274.43.

MOVED to take from the table the substitute motion concerning the deity of Christ. Seconded. Carried.

Jerry Griffin stepped from the chair and the second vice-president, Ramon Ruiz, presided.

Recessed at 3:05 and reconvened at 3:30 p.m.

MOVED to strike the words "the act of" in paragraph 5. Seconded.

MOVED to close debate. Seconded. Carried.

Motion to strike Carried.



MOVED to strike the word "exists" in paragraph 5 and substitute with the word "consists." Seconded.

MOVED to close debate. Seconded. Carried. Motion to substitute Carried.

MOVED to close debate. Seconded. Carried.

Motion concerning the deity of Christ Carried.

Ramon Ruiz turned the chair back to Jerry Griffin.

The minutes were read and approved.

Carlos Martinez led in prayer.

Adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

The new Executive Committee is:

Ramon Ruiz of Mexico	President
Lorenzo Arroyo of NAMC	First Vice-President
Lynn Taylor of NAMC	Second Vice-President
Paul Heavilin of NAMC	Secretary
Alvaro Gonzalez of Mexico	Treasurer

### **Friday Evening Worship Service**

The Friday evening service was a joint worship with the local Corpus Christi congregation.

Psalm 95:1-6 was read by Daniel Davila as the call to worship.

After a period of worship in song, Elder Victor Burford brought a message from Hebrews 12:1,2 reminding us that Jesus is the author and perfecter of our faith.

After some choruses in Spanish, Alvaro Gonzalez spoke to us, basing his thoughts around the two objectives of the IMC, evangelism and unity of doctrine—both based upon love.

Worship closed with more choruses.

After introductions of the outgoing and incoming Executive Committees of the IMC, one of the local elders dismissed us with prayer.

### **Sabbath Morning, December 10, 1994**

The brethren from the islands directed our morning devotions. Lewis Guy led in prayer. The brothers from the Caribbean, Guyana and Kenya (Africa) led in "Blessed Assurance." Terry Slowe from Guyana (South America) sang "Because He Lives." Alexander Chepkwony of Kenya, Africa sang in Swahili, giving praise to the love of God. Henry Harley of Jamaica used Matt. 5:23 and 24 as the basis for the devotional