

Chronology of Events

- 1886 - The Church of God is founded as the Christian Union with five female and three male members.
- 1906 - The first General Assembly is held with 21 delegates, seven of whom are women.
 - Women have full voice and vote.
- 1907 - Delegates to the second General Assembly express interest in the large number of female members of the church.
- 1908 - Women are licensed to minister and given the rank of deacon.
- 1909 - It is determined that there is no precedent for the ordination of women in the New Testament.
 - Deaconesses are given the rank by virtue of their husbands' ordination.
- 1910 - Women enter the mission field in large numbers.
- 1913 - Women account for one-third of the ministers in the Church of God.
- 1917 - Women are encouraged to become Sunday school superintendents.
- 1918 - Bible Training School opens with Nora Chambers as the only teacher.
- 1923 - Alda B. Harrison established the Young People's Mission Band.
- 1926 - Boards are appointed to govern the ministries of the church.
- 1929 - YPE is established through the efforts of Mrs. Harrison who begins publication of the *Lighted Pathway*.
 - Mrs. S. J. Wood organized a Ladies Willing Worker Band in Electra, Texas.
- 1931 - Maria Atkinson established four churches in Sonora, Mexico.
- 1936 - The Ladies Willing Worker Band is established as a national organization at the General Assembly.
- 1938 - Pearl and Edmond Stark leave for Angola.

- 1939 - Edmond Stark dies and Pearl returns to the U.S.
- Maria Atkinson established churches in Ciudad Obregon and Nogales, in the state of Sonora, and in Mazatlan, Sinaloa.
- 1947 - Matilda Paulson brought 700 Brazilian Christians into the Church of God.
- 1948 - Pearl Stark opened a mission and 80 preaching stations in Angola.
- 1950 - General overseer's wife is appointed as national LWWB president.
- 1952 - Margaret Gaines departed for Tunisia.
- 1954 - LWWB mission is expanded at General Assembly to include spiritual as well as financial concerns.
- 1957 - Margaret Gaines organized a Tunisian Church of God with 35 members and 45 adherents.
- Pearl Stark's mission is closed by the government.
- 1959 - Pearl Stark returns to Angola and eventually wins 10,000 people to the Lord, and adds 5,000 to the Church of God.
- 1964 - LWWB Department is created and Dr. Ellen B. French becomes the first executive secretary. Board of Directors is established.
- 1966 - The *Willing Worker* magazine is published.
- Women begin sponsoring ladies activities at the General Assembly.
- 1969 - Young Ladies Auxiliary (grades 7-12) is organized.
- 1970 - Ladies Willing Worker Band is renamed Ladies Auxiliary.
- Guide for Advancement program is introduced.
- 1974 - Joy Belles (grades 4-6) is initiated.
- 1975 - National women's seminars are sponsored in seven locations throughout the United States.
- 1977 - Bible school is built in India.

- 1978
 - Supported missions work in Kenya.
 - Women in ministry account for 9.2% of the total.
- 1978-80
 - Bible school is built in Dominican Republic.
- 1979
 - Counselor's Enrichment Training Course (CETC) is introduced.
- 1980
 - **Standard of Excellence** is introduced and Women's Ministries expanded.
- 1982
 - Ladies Auxiliary is renamed Ladies Ministries.
- 1982-85
 - Girls dormitory is built in Indonesia.
- 1984
 - Bluebelles (grades 1-3) is created.
- 1985-86
 - Supported Home Missions project.
- 1986-88
 - Supported Guatemala/Mexico City project.
- 1987
 - Sponsored Regional Seminars in five locations.
 - The *Willing Worker* magazine renamed *Unique*.
- 1988
 - YLA renamed YLM.
- 1988-90
 - Built Nigeria Medical Clinic.
 - Provided medical mission and support in Belize and the Philippines.
- 1990
 - First Girls Clubs Counselors Conference convened in Gatlinburg, Tennessee.
 - The Department of Ladies Ministries restructured to include the Advisory Council (Executive Committee wives) in addition to the appointment of members to the Board of Directors.
- 1990-92
 - Supported Hope Ranch, Costa Rica.
- 1991
 - International Ladies Ministries Conference sponsored in Asheville, North Carolina.

- 1992
 - Second Girls Clubs Counselors Conference sponsored in Gatlinburg, Tennessee.
 - International Ladies Ministries Conference for Ministers Wives sponsored in Asheville, North Carolina.
 - Women allowed to vote in the General Assembly business sessions.
 - New logos adopted for Ladies Ministries and Girls Clubs.
- 1992-94
 - Provided facilities for the Office of Ministerial Care.
- 1993
 - *Insight* magazine published.
- 1994
 - New Bluebelles and Joy Belles curricula published.
 - 25th Anniversary Girls Clubs Counselors Conference, New Heritage USA, Fort Mill, South Carolina.
 - Established the building of an orphanage in Brasilia, Brazil, as the World Missions Project for 1994-96.
- 1995
 - Regional Ladies Ministries Conference, Mobile, Alabama.
 - Regional Ladies Ministries Conference, Lancaster, PA.
- 1996
 - Ladies Ministries World Missions Project for 1996-98—*Women of the Harvest . . . Sharing a Dream*—Rebuilt Seminaire Biblique in Haiti and built a new discipleship training center in Kenya.
 - Regional Ladies Ministries Conference, Honolulu, Hawaii.
 - Regional Ladies Ministries Conference, Colorado Springs, CO.
- 1997
 - Regional Ladies Ministries Conference—**Renewal '97**—convened in Fort Mill, South Carolina.
 - Discontinued *Unique* Magazine.
- 1998
 - First Church Ministries Conference held in Cleveland, TN—Women's Ministries Department vital part of conference.
 - Department produced video against abuse titled, *Silent Suffering . . . Silent Shame*.

- Provided a toll-free abuse helpline—1-800-895-9985.
 - Girls Clubs Counselors Conference—**Chosen to Care**—convenes in Orlando, Florida.
 - New YLM curriculum published.
 - Department of Ladies Ministries renamed Department of Women’s Ministries.
 - Women’s Ministries 67th General Assembly Luncheon, Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, San Antonio, Texas, *Let There Be Light*, with Cynthia Clawson.
 - Women’s Ministries World Missions Project for 1998-2000, **WWAM (Women With A Mission)**—*Loving Hearts . . . Gentle Hands*—Provided new and enlarged facilities (birthing clinic) for Gentle Hands Ministry in Manila, Philippines.
- 1999
- Regional Women’s Ministries Conference—**Renewal ’99**—*Passing on Our Spiritual Legacy*—convened in Long Beach, California.
 - Second Church Ministries Conference held in Cleveland, TN—Women’s Ministries Department vital part of conference.
 - Women’s Ministries obtained e-mail address: *cogwwam@aol.com*.
- 2000
- Women’s Ministries 68th General Assembly Luncheon, America’s Center Ballroom, St. Louis, Missouri, *Lift Up Your Eyes*, with Rebecca Pippert.
 - Women’s Ministries World Missions Project for 2000-2002, **WWAM (Women With A Mission)**—*Welcome Home, Children*—Established a permanent orphanage in Obregon, Mexico.
 - Launched Women’s Ministries web site: *www.womensministries.cc*.
- 2001
- Partnered with Department of Lay Ministries to honor laywomen through a biennial induction to the Hall of Christian Excellence.
 - Regional Women’s Ministries Conference—**Renewal ’01**—*Knowing God and Making Him Known*—scheduled in San Antonio, Texas. (Due to 9-11-01 tragedy, conference was rescheduled for March 2002.)
- 2002
- Introduced new club for preschool girls—Little Sweethearts.

- Women's Ministries 69th General Assembly Luncheon, Marriott Downtown Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana, *Crown Him with Praise*, with Babbie Mason.
 - Women's Ministries World Missions Project for 2002-2004, **WWAM (Women With A Mission)**—*Let Knowledge Flow*—Multi-purpose Ministry Training Center—Fiji, and International Learning Centers around the world.
 - Regional Women's Ministries Conference—**Renewal '01**—*Knowing God and Making Him Known*—convened in San Antonio, Texas. (Due to 9-11-01 tragedy, conference was rescheduled for March 2002.)
- 2003
- Regional Women's Ministries Conference—**Renewal '03**—*Set to Soar*—convened in Phoenix, Arizona.
 - Partnered with Lay Ministries in *Quest for Excellence* Conference which convened in Cleveland, Tennessee.
 - Little Sweethearts curriculum first published.
- 2004
- International Women's Ministries moved in to new Church Ministries Center.
 - Both local and state Women's Ministries reporting changed from monthly to quarterly with a **Commitment to Ministry** incentive. Former **Standard of Excellence** incorporated as a part of the *Service Commitment* section of the report.
 - Women's Ministries 70th General Assembly Luncheon, Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, San Antonio, Texas, *Brokenness to Blessing*, with Henry Davis and Peniel.
 - Women's Ministries World Missions Project for 2004-2006, **WWAM (Women With A Mission)**—*Brokenness to Blessing*—Peniel—Multi-purpose Ministry Training Center.
- 2005
- Regional Women's Ministries Conference—**Renewal '05**—*Reflections of His Glory*—convened in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.
 - Assisted the General Overseer's office with *Women in Ministry* conference for credentialed women, March 14-17.
- 2006
- Women's Ministries 71st General Assembly Luncheon, Marriott Downtown Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana, *Experience the Revelation*, with Karen Heimbuch.
 - Women's Ministries World Missions Project for 2006-2008, **WWAM (Women With A Mission)**—*A Heart for Zambia: Giving Faith and a Future*—Nyamphande Orphanage—Caring for children in crisis through housing, feeding, educating and discipling.

- The 70th Anniversary of Women's Ministries in the Church of God was observed.
- 2007 - Regional Women's Ministries Conference—**Renewal '07**—*A Fresh Anointing*—scheduled for Jacksonville, Florida, Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront Hotel, October 12-14.