



Welcome to *the family.*

You are part of a story that began with a prayer meeting in Los Angeles more than a century ago, travelled to South Africa, and now lives on in Sandton. This pack tells that story, who we are, and what we're not.

WELCOME PACK

AOG Sandton City Church · 17 Humber Street, Woodmead, Sandton · aogscityyouth.com



From Azusa Street *to South Africa.*

1906

Azusa Street, Los Angeles

A revival led by William J. Seymour begins at 312 Azusa Street. People of every race pray together and are filled with the Holy Spirit. Within two years the message reaches more than fifty nations.

1908

Missionaries reach South Africa

Charles Chawner (Canada), Henry and Anna Turney and Hannah James (England) begin ministry in Zululand and around Pretoria. This is the start of the Assemblies of God in South Africa.

1914

The Assemblies of God is formed

Pentecostal believers meet in Hot Springs, Arkansas (USA) and form the Assemblies of God. In 1917 the South African work joins, and the name is registered in Pretoria.

1929

A young man meets Jesus

Nicholas Bhengu, born in 1909 at Entumeni near Eshowe, gives his life to Christ in Kimberley through two travelling evangelists.

1938

Bhengu joins the AOG

After ministering with the Emmanuel Mission in Nelspruit, Bhengu and his companions join the Assemblies of God. His ministry grows from Benoni.

1940S

"Back to God"

A crusade in Port Elizabeth sees about a thousand people saved in a few weeks. Bhengu calls the message "Back to God", and it spreads to East London and city after city.

1950S

A nation hears the gospel

The Back to God Crusade plants churches across Southern Africa. In 1959 TIME magazine calls Bhengu "the black Billy Graham".

1990 · today

Assemblies of God Back to God

The churches born from his ministry become the Assemblies of God Movement, today known as the Assemblies of God Back to God. Bhengu went to be with the Lord in 1985.

OUR FOUNDING FATHER

Nicholas *Bhengu*.

Nicholas Bhengkosi Hepworth Bhengu (1909–1985) is the father of the Back to God movement and the founder through whose ministry the Assemblies of God took root in townships and cities across South Africa.

He preached Jesus Christ with simple, fearless faith. Thousands were saved and healed, and many turned away from crime as their lives were changed.

He taught holiness and the fear of God, and he called believers to dignity, honest work and self-reliance, so that local churches could stand on their own feet and support their own pastors and buildings.

"Back to God" was never a new denomination. It was a call: turn from sin and come back to the living God.

WHAT WE CARRY FROM HIM

The gospel first. Every town, city and nation needs to hear about Jesus.

Holiness. A changed heart shows in a changed life, at home, at work and in the community.

Dignity and self-reliance. We give, work and build together, so the church can bless others.

Prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit. We expect God to save, heal and deliver today.

Unity. Like Azusa Street, the church is a family where every language and background belongs.

What the AOG *is not*.

NOT

A one-man church

We follow Jesus Christ, not a personality. Pastors and leaders serve the church, and they are accountable to God, to the Bible and to each other.

NOT

A cult or secret society

We are part of the worldwide Pentecostal family that grew from Azusa Street. What we believe is open, written down and taken from the Bible.

NOT

A separate "Back to God" denomination

"Back to God" began as the name of Nicholas Bhengu's crusades. It was a message, a call to return to God, and it still is.

NOT

A political party

We pray for our nation and serve our communities, but our mission is the gospel of Jesus Christ for everyone, whoever they vote for.

NOT

Salvation by works or membership

No one is saved by joining a church or doing enough good. We are saved by God's grace, through faith in Jesus (Ephesians 2:8–9).

NOT

Only for perfect people

Church is a hospital for the broken and a home for the searching. Come as you are; God does the changing.

OUR CHURCH

The birth of *AOG Sandton City Church*.

AOG Sandton City Church was born from a vision: a city church in the heart of Sandton, where people who live, study and work in the city can find Jesus, grow in faith and be sent out to serve.

Today we meet at 17 Humber Street, Woodmead, with services through the week and a youth ministry that is close to our hearts.

The full story of how we began is being written down and will be added here soon.



IN SHORT

What we *believe*.

The Bible is God's Word, our guide for faith and life.

Jesus Christ died and rose again; everyone who believes in Him is saved by grace.

Water baptism by immersion, and **baptism in the Holy Spirit**, for every believer.

Holiness: a life that honours God.

Holy Communion, remembering the Lord's death until He comes.

Divine healing and deliverance through the power of God.

The Great Commission: go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19).

The church is a family. We gather, pray, give and serve together.

Join

Become a member at aogscCYOUTH.com/join. A leader will walk with you.

Devotions

Read today's verse in your profile and pray with the church every day.

Serve

Find a ministry: worship, media, youth, children, hospitality and more.

Ask SCC

Service times, events, tickets and the church calendar, any time.