

THIS WEEK IN AG HISTORY

BY GLENN W. GOHR

SAGU (Southwestern Assemblies of God University) American Indian College was founded in 1957 by Alta M. Washburn and her husband, Clarence, under the name All Tribes Indian Bible School. Classes first met on the church campus of All Tribes Assembly of God in downtown Phoenix. In 1967 the school was renamed American Indian Bible Institute (AIBI) and became a regional school of the AG.

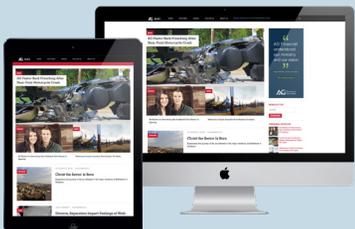
The school dedicated its current site in a north Phoenix neighborhood in 1968. Charles W. H. Scott, executive director of Home Missions and chairman of the board of directors of the school, was the guest speaker. He challenged those in attendance

“to believe God for the erection of needed buildings on the new site.” But cautioned, “A vision is but a fleeting dream without undertaking actual labor.”

Two dormitories, a dining hall-kitchen complex, and a classroom building were planned for the first phase of the relocation. Additional funds were also needed to pay for the property, but just two years later, the move to the new campus was completed.

Read the article, “New Campus Site for Indian Bible School Dedication,” on pages 14-15 of the April 28, 1968, issue of the *Pentecostal Evangel* online at s2.ag.org/april281968.

Read the full versions of these stories on news.ag.org



NEWS FOR, ABOUT, AND FROM
THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

CONNECT WITH US ON

 FACEBOOK  TWITTER

 RSS AND OUR WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER

VISIT [NEWS.AG.ORG](http://news.ag.org) FOR MORE INFORMATION.

SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2018

AG NEWS

A COLLECTION OF THIS WEEK'S STORIES FROM NEWS.AG.ORG



FIRST WOMAN EXECUTIVE ELECTED

A CRISIS PATH TO CHAPLAINCY

MASSIVE ACTS OF COMPASSION

KIDMIN CONFERENCE — CHEERS AND TEARS



FIRST WOMAN EXECUTIVE ELECTED

BY MARK FORRESTER

The Assemblies of God Executive Presbytery has unanimously elected Donna L. Barrett to serve as the 11th general secretary of the U.S. Fellowship. With this election, the 21-member executive board fills the unexpired term of James T. Bradford, following his midterm resignation to pursue full-time pastoral ministry at Central Assembly in Springfield, Missouri.

Barrett's ministry includes service on the Executive Presbytery of the Ohio Ministry Network and on the AG General Presbytery. She was saved and baptized in the Spirit in 1975. After serving as a paralegal, she lived out the call of God on her life to serve in full-time ministry.

Barrett became an AG minister in 1988. Serving 10 years as youth pastor in Youngstown, Ohio, she then served seven years as associate pastor in Cleveland before planting Rockside Church in 2002.

"Through her service as a church

planter, district leader, and general presbyter, Donna has shown humility paired with a special gifting for leadership," says General Superintendent Doug Clay. "I've seen God use her time and time again to speak wisdom into difficult circumstances at the district and national level."

Barrett's ministry has been marked with a passion for prayer. For the past two years, she has opened the legislative session of the Ohio House of Representatives in prayer. Additionally, Barrett has led the National Day of Prayer observances in her area for the past 15 years.

"I have been consistently impressed with Donna's wisdom, grace, and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit," says Bradford, who has served as general secretary since 2009. "This Fellowship will be blessed by her anointed leadership."

Barrett will serve as the first woman on the AG Executive Leadership Team.

KIDMIN CONFERENCE — CHEERS AND TEARS

BY DAN VAN VEEN

By the time Josh Holdeman, children's pastor at Lighthouse AG in Richmond, Indiana, crumpled to the Central AG stage floor, weeping, few if any dry eyes were left in the packed auditorium.

Holdeman was attending the 2018 KidMin Conference (April 11-13) in Springfield, Missouri. He had enjoyed the companionship of the more than 1,200 children's pastors and participating in some of the nearly 120 workshops.

But he'll never forget Friday the 13th.

Unknown to him, he had been selected to receive the Children's Ministries Big Impact Award. Mark Entzminger, national Children's Ministries director, explains the award is given to a children's pastor who sees obstacles as opportunities for God to do something big.

When Holdeman was named the winner, he came to the stage, swiping tears from his eyes. But he didn't realize that the award came bearing gifts!

First, Convoy of Hope promised

a pallet of food to help with the church's children's feeding program. Holdeman's tears turned to streams.

Next, the Indiana District Council provided Holdeman with a \$2,500 voucher for gas and repairs for the five buses the church uses to pick up children. Holdeman buried his face in his hands. But there was more!

Imprint Graphics then committed to wrapping all five of the church's buses in graphics. Holdeman began to look like a boxer being rocked by punches.

Then, David Boyd, national director of Children's Ministries and BGMC, gave the knockout blow. He shared Speed the Light was providing Holdeman with some new wheels — and a bus to go along with them!

Holdeman collapsed to his knees, falling forward with his face in his hands, weeping while the audience cried, clapped, and cheered.

"I was a mess," Holdeman admits with a laugh. "I was just so overwhelmed!"

THE ABCs OF SALVATION

ACCEPT that you are a sinner, and God's punishment for your sin is death and separation from God forever.

BELIEVE that Jesus paid God's price for your sin when He died on the cross.

CONFESS "Jesus, I believe You are who the Bible and history declares You are – the Son of God. I humble myself and surrender to You. Forgive me. Make me spiritually whole. Change my life. Amen."

A CRISIS PATH TO CHAPLAINCY

BY PETER K. JOHNSON

Settling into his new role as pastor of Faith Assembly of God in Hertford, North Carolina, in 1993, Duane Keith Campbell faced a crisis that tested his call to ministry.

Waking up suddenly one night from a strange noise coming from the bathroom, Campbell discovered his wife, Julie, on the floor — unresponsive and in a pool of blood. At 23, she suffered a stroke, hitting her head on the bathroom sink. Two weeks earlier, Julie had given birth to Carissa, her second child.

The strain of being a pastor and caring for Julie, the newborn, and their 22-month old daughter, Hannah, overwhelmed Campbell.

“No chaplain or clergy were available to help me walk through the trauma,” he says. “I was only 30 and felt abandoned by God and fearful.”

Julie slowly regained her lost memory, and eventually graduated from nursing college. Campbell continued pastoring until 2002. However, the lack of professional emotional support during his crisis kept bothering him.

“I never wanted anybody to be alone without knowing God was there to walk with them through a health crisis,” he says.

The couple returned to their hometown of Cincinnati. In 2006, Campbell joined The Christ Hospital as a staff intensive care unit chaplain. He ministers to patients, their families, and



hospital staff who are facing burnout and compassion fatigue.

“Hurting people want to talk with a person of faith and just want prayer,” Campbell says. “Sometimes people in pain and need don’t remember what you say, but they remember that you were there.”

“Chaplain Campbell regularly supports the hospital staff in high stress areas, such as critical care,” says Stephen D. Mueller, geriatric medicine section chief for The Christ Hospital Health Network. “There would be a major void in the patient’s care plan if we did not have chaplains as part of the interdisciplinary team.”

EVANGEL, CONVOY CREATE CENTER FOR COMPASSION

BY PAUL K. LOGSDON

Evangel University, Springfield, Missouri, has announced a new partnership with Springfield-based world relief organization Convoy of Hope to create a Center for Compassion.

The center will serve to expand the learning and service opportunities available to Evangel students. It will also develop training and for-credit learning opportunities for people involved in compassion ministries through churches and various global initiatives.

“There is a pressing need for graduates trained in all academic disciplines who have a heart for service,” said Carol Taylor, president of Evangel.

“In this new partnership with Convoy, the Center for Compassion will include an expanded internship program, curriculum plan, and online training programs for badges, certificates, and academic programs,” Taylor said.

The educational components of the Center for Compassion will find their home on the Evangel campus, with the pilot serving as a model for additional campuses in the future.

Donna Washburn is a long-term Evangel educator, will be transitioning to lead this new endeavor, starting this summer. She will serve as academic chair of the Center for Compassion.

LIVING THE CALL

BY GINGER KOLBABA

After graduating from North Central University in 1967, Mel Erickson headed to Spirit Lake reservation in North Dakota with his new wife, Corliss. Mel became a U.S. missionary to Native Americans.

They had their work cut out for them. Community Worship Center in Tokio averaged only seven attendees. The Ericksons carried out ministry while also working full-time jobs to cover their living expenses. They didn’t exactly blend in with other residents.

The Ericksons knew they needed to earn trust before they could fully minister to Native Americans, so Mel joined a softball team and Corliss focused on connecting with the reservation’s women. Slowly, residents began to warm to them. Corliss believes the fact that they raised their children on the reservation proved helpful.

As the years passed, the Ericksons opened their home to 36 Native foster children, ultimately adopting three. In 1976, Mel became chairman of the reservation housing authority.

The Ericksons served the Spirit Lake community for 20 years, in which they saw the church grow to averaging 148 in Sunday services. In 1987, the Ericksons became special projects coordinator for Intercultural Ministries, overseeing planting churches on U.S. reservations.

In the past 30 years, Mel Erickson has coordinated building projects of 21 churches and nine parsonages.



MASSIVE ACTS OF COMPASSION

BY JOEL S. KILPATRICK

Even before the SoCal Network launched a new initiative for compassion ministries called CityServe, retailers began donating millions of dollars in furniture, school supplies, toys, and other items to be given to the poor through local churches.

Canyon Hills AG in Bakersfield functions as one of five hubs operated by the SoCal Network. Two hubs — in Fresno and Bakersfield — already are receiving 20 truckloads of products per month and distributing them among churches. Three more, in San Diego, Los Angeles, and Victorville, are almost up-and-running. Together they will have the capacity to serve all 470 AG churches throughout Southern California.

“The power isn’t in the goods that are being given away, but in the relationships that are being developed,” says Wendell R. Vinson, pastor of Canyon Hills AG in Bakersfield.

To that end, Canyon Hills already is training hundreds of local pastors and leaders cross-denominationally to distribute goods in a relational way — whether it’s building a dining

room table or setting up a new bed for a needy family. Over Christmas, Canyon Hills gave away \$1.7 million in household goods, shoes, school items, beds, and toys — mostly through other congregations.

“We train churches to build relationships with people they’re taking things to,” says John E. Johnson, assistant superintendent for the SoCal Network. “It’s not about people lining up at your church, getting food, and you never see them again.”

“The local church is God’s infrastructure for the transformation of communities,” Vinson says.

One in-kind provider donated hundreds of new suitcases to CityServe, which Canyon Hills and other congregations gave to foster children. Volunteers stuffed the baggage with sleeping bags, coloring books, and other goodies.

Johnson says CityServe is part of the “Compassion Galaxy,” which targets populations of critical need the SoCal Network wants each AG church to address: the homeless, the poor, widows, orphans, the oppressed, the addicted, prisoners, and the vulnerable/exploited.

“While Donna was not selected on the basis of her gender, I know this moment will be meaningful for many women who feel God’s calling on their lives,” Clay says.

The AG has ordained women in ministry from its founding in 1914. Many women have played foundational roles in the Fellowship. Currently, 24 percent of AG ministers are women.

“I’m humbled at this invitation to

serve a Fellowship I love,” Barrett says. “I look forward to what God has in His heart for the future of the Assemblies God and I’m honored to be part of this outstanding team of leaders.”

As general secretary, Barrett will oversee the credentialing of ministers, church chartering, the collection of official statistics, and the Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center. Her term begins on June 1.

SAVED IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE

BY AUSTIN JACOBS

When Anthony G. Torres became pastor of Mountain View AG in Alamogordo, New Mexico, in 2015, the 53-year-old church averaged 20 people in attendance. Torres and his wife, Sasha, were the youngest in the congregation.

In 2½ years, Mountain View now regularly has 300 in attendance and continues to welcome new guests each week.

“I never thought I would be a pastor,” says the 37-year-old Torres, who spent much of his teens and 20s addicted to drugs and alcohol. Torres thought he would need to wear long sleeves to cover up his tattoos if he wanted to attend church.

At his lowest point, his battle with addiction nearly cost him his family. He had been estranged from Sasha, then his fiancée, for four months. As a last-ditch effort to get sober, Torres entered a detox facility.

After treatment, Torres moved



in with his aunt, who invited him to attend church with her. That Sunday — the morning after an unsuccessful suicide attempt — Torres accepted Christ as Savior. In January, Torres celebrated eight years of sobriety. He and Sasha now have four children.

Torres later served on staff at First AG in Mesquite, Texas. During his 2½ years there, Torres received ministerial credentials through Global University.

According to Torres, Mountain View’s re-emergence has been the result of two factors he wants to extend to those in Alamogordo who are struggling with addiction: establishing a presence in the community through outreach and having weekly altar times during Sunday gatherings.