

AG NEWS

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THIS WEEK IN AG HISTORY

BY GLENN W. GOHR

Fifty years ago, the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada (PAOC) was commemorating its 50th anniversary with a "Jubilee Celebration."

Looking back on PAOC history, in 1909 an early attempt was made to create an organization among Canadian Pentecostals, but that did not materialize. About 10 years later, the PAOC was formed in eastern Canada, receiving its charter on May 17, 1919, in Ottawa. About this same time, Pentecostals in Saskatchewan and Alberta, Canada, joined the U.S. Assemblies of God and became what was called the Western Canadian District. By 1925 this district had dissolved and those ministers and churches had joined the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

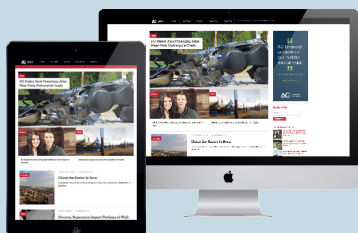
From about 20 congregations

in 1919, the PAOC increased to approximately 900 congregations by 1969. Pentecostal work began in Ottawa with a church established by R. E. McAlister in 1908, who later served as the PAOC's first general secretary. Toronto and Winnipeg were other early centers of Pentecostalism in Canada.

Because of its close connections with the U.S. Assemblies of God, the PAOC adopted the same Statement of Fundamental Truths, which had been approved by the General Council. The PAOC made changes to their statement of faith in later years.

Read more about the 50th anniversary of the PAOC on page 14 of the Aug. 3, 1969, issue of the *Pentecostal Evangel* online at s2.ag.org/aug31969.

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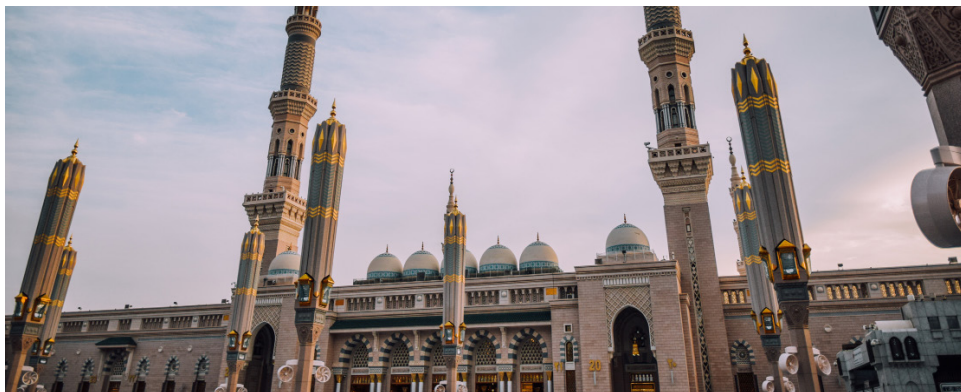
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A SAUDI'S QUEST FOR TRUTH

EVANGEL, TEEN
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A SAUDI'S QUEST FOR TRUTH

BY DAN VAN VEEN

When Aziz Saeed* turned 19, he left Saudi Arabia for the United States to attend college. Not fluent in English, he spent the first six months of his collegiate career in English school.

One day, a student told Saeed about a Bible study and invited him to come. He explained that Saeed could practice his English and make friends. Saeed accepted.

"I was clueless about Christianity," Saeed says. "The only thing I knew was that in Islam, Jesus was a prophet, but Christians think Jesus is God."

For the next two years, Saeed attended the Bible study as he went to school. Unexpectedly, he left the group, partying and doing drugs.

"But then I ran into this girl who I used to see at the parties," Saeed says. "I asked her if she was still involved in that, but she told me no — she had gotten saved."

Saved? Saved from what? He wanted to know more.

The young woman invited Saeed to attend a Chi Alpha meeting. Chi Alpha

Campus Ministries U.S.A. is the U.S. Missions ministry to college students.

"From the very first meeting, I wanted to know more, I wanted to be involved, and I wanted to be a part of this group," Saeed says.

"He was really open to a relationship with me and he started coming to everything we would do," says Jesse Cook, a U.S. missionary and the former Chi Alpha director at the university. "I met with him frequently."

As he met with Cook, Saeed realized that the truth of Christianity overpowered the "truth" of Islam.

"We would compare Islam to Christianity, and it was impossible to do — there's nothing you can compare," Saeed says. ". . . I tried so hard to deny it, but that was just from a sense of pride. No one wants to be wrong [about their beliefs]. I wanted to be right."

In October 2015, Saeed attended a Chi Alpha retreat. The messages spoken were like a constant knocking at Saeed's heart. Toward the close of one service, students were asked to find a place

CHURCH SATURATES CITY WITH SERVICE

BY REBECCA BURTRAM

Over the course of seven weeks this summer, 600 Journey Church youth are spending a total of 12,000 volunteer hours serving the city of Kenosha, Wisconsin. Journey Church is working with Group Missions Trips' Week of Hope for the seventh year in a row.

According to Bob W. Griffith, executive pastor, attendees serve at assisted living facilities, the Easter Seals camp for students with special needs, Inspiration Ministries, Meals on Wheels, and local food pantries.

At the Week of Hope Teen Camp, students assist residents at the food pantries; interact with residents of assisted care facilities through conversation, games, and crafts; help individuals with special needs at local camps; and complete special projects.

The Week of Hope provides youth an on-ramp to service that impacts their hearts for a lifetime, infuses the city with practical help directed through the local church, and creates

community relationships that extend beyond the summer.

"It glorifies God and builds up youth with what it means to serve," Griffith says. "It becomes part of what they do in life, and they continue looking for ways to serve."

Griffith has organized a Week of Serving three times a year at Journey Church for all ages. Church attendees spend one week each fall, winter, and spring serving the same nonprofits the teens work with in the summer in order to maintain contact and relationships throughout the year.

The camp is one of many ways Griffith has worked to connect Journey Church to areas of need in Kenosha. Ministry Efforts include repair projects, visits to the elderly, park cleanups, Convoy of Hope outreaches, and creating disaster response team.

The church has served 60,000 people in the past four years through acts of compassion.

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."



ALASKAN CHURCH CAMP "SAVED"

BY DAN VAN VEEN

Church camp for kids in Alaska is different than most kids experience at an AG summer camp.

At the Alaska Ministry Network's Little Beaver Camp and Retreat Center, bear or moose are the animals that catch the kids' attention. And while testing the water temperature before swimming even in a pool is typical, at Little Beaver it's blue lips and laughter as kids plunge into 48-degree waters.

Meanwhile, salt blocks around the swimming area help keep leeches away, and despite having insect-capturing devices all over the camp, Barry Orzalli, the camp director, warns that if kids get too close to the woods they'll likely be engulfed by clouds of insects. And the state isn't known as the Land of the Midnight Sun for nothing!

But that's camp life in Alaska. However, on Nov. 30, the camp faced something even it wasn't ready to handle when a powerful 7.2 earthquake struck.

"The quake knocked four buildings off their foundations, broke all the water pipes, disabled the boiler systems, [damaged] water storage tanks, and our cabin septic lines were broken," Orzalli, 49, says.

Orzalli's list didn't include damages to the kitchen, the collapse of a two-story chimney, interior plumbing damages, sheet rock damage, and other issues caused by the quake.

After immediate repairs were made to restore heat, several groups came to clean and work on repairs. However, with only about a week left before 150 campers arrived for church camp, the cabins, water lines, and septic lines still hadn't been repaired.

Then "Pastor Charlie" (Arsenault) and volunteers from Evangel Temple in Springfield, Missouri, arrived. In just five days, the cabins were reset, trenches were dug and new water lines placed, and the septic lines were fixed — along with a multitude of other painting and repair jobs.

The team not only saved the camp season, but rescued lives.

"Volunteer workers come thinking that they're here to help the camp," Orzallisays. "What they don't realize is that they're actually participating in suicide prevention. There are kids coming from all over the state who think suicide is their only answer, but then God meets them at camp and sets them free."

ROUNDBOUT CALL FOR PASTOR

BY RACHEL ELLIS

Sylvia Marie Simons, 55, had been absent from Flemington AG in her West Virginia hometown for a long time, but during that span she says God taught her to serve the church she would one day pastor. A granddaughter of a preacher, Simons grew up helping her mom — the church custodian — clean the facility weekly.

In early adulthood, Simons took her two young daughters to church alone. Soon afterward, her husband left her, leaving her with no source of income. She became a church secretary and treasurer.

Simons married a Christian man, Frank Simons, during the 10 years she worked at the church before the couple transitioned to Trinity AG in Fairmont. She began volunteering as a youth Sunday School teacher and served on the youth staff.

After the pastor at Trinity, Ray L. Crabtree, found out she had secretarial experience, he hired her as executive secretary at the church. Simons began taking classes for ministerial credentialing, and Crabtree became her mentor.

When Crabtree retired in 2017, Simon began preparing to become a lead pastor. She has been pastor at Flemington since May 2018. In an effort to help others, she is transparent about her challenging life experiences such as divorce and single parenting.

CHRIST CONTINUING TO DRAW MUSLIMS

BY KRISTEL RINGER ORTIZ

Mark Brink, director of Global Initiative, AGWM's ministry to Muslims, says a revival is sweeping the world's Muslim population and is being reported from every corner of the globe.

In many ways, Brink says, the revival is being drastically propelled by Muslim refugees pouring into nations where for the first time they are able to meet Christ followers and receive Bibles and other Christian materials.

While dramatic visions of Jesus are reported with exciting frequency across the Muslim world, Brink believes such experiences are not the ultimate expression of God's influence. He believes dreams and visions send Muslims searching for God, but it is when Muslims come into personal contact with followers of Jesus and with the Word of God (particularly in their own language) that they are led to the Lord.

"We have a bigger audience and a bigger responsibility than ever before," Brink concludes. "Every miracle, every vision, every divine revelation, and every salvation is brought about by prayer."

To view five remarkable testimonies of Muslim-background believers from five different nations, visit morethandreams.org. *Journey to Understanding* (s2.ag.org/j2u) is a resource to equip Christians with a biblical perspective toward reaching the lost while also helping believers learn to share the truth about Jesus with Muslims.



YTHOLOGY — NEVER TOO OLD

BY DAN VAN VEEN

What would it be like if gray hair became more common in youth leadership? What would happen if younger youth leaders had youth mentors rather than having to resort to learning by trial and error?

Jeff Grenell, founder of ythology, a youth ministry organization, and part-time instructor at North Central University (NCU) in Minneapolis, has been involved in youth ministry for more than 35 years.

After serving as youth pastor at various churches with his wife, Jane, Grenell accepted a position to teach youth ministry at NCU in 2005. While teaching full time at NCU, he continued in youth leadership serving as mentor, coach, and minister.

In 2015, the Grenells decided to launch ythology.

"One of the main reasons I began ythology was because there were very few veterans in youth ministry," Grenell states. "So a major part of what I'm doing is inspiring longevity in youth ministry. Unless the Lord directs you, there's no reason to get out of youth work. We just simply have to reinvent ourselves at every stage. Besides, the family has been disintegrating in America — youth ministry should be

leading the way to model healthy family to this generation."

Grenell explains that oftentimes self-doubt disables youth leaders.

"As a youth leader gets older, he or she may start to question themselves," Grenell observes. "Are they relevant? Can they relate to the younger generation? Is it time for someone younger to lead?"

Grenell, 57, says that one of the biggest misconceptions in youth ministry is that there is an age-out process.

"I believe students need youth leaders who are willing to run the course of life — rookies similar in age, big brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts, fathers and mothers, and also grandfathers and grandmothers who can model family and who understand stages of development," he says.

"The response by youth leaders has been amazing," Grenell says. "The rookies really want that experienced leadership around them."

And his popularity with youth is confirmed by his summer camp and retreat calendar. "I think I might be home 10 or 12 days all summer long," Grenell laughs.

To learn more about Grenell's ministry, see ythology.com.

outside to speak with God.

Saeed recalls: "I remember saying, 'If you are the real God of the Bible, the God I'm supposed to follow, change my life today. I want to know You . . . I'm so confused. Come to me — I don't know how to come to You.'"

Desperately wanting to hear from God, Saeed returned to the center. As he did, several people asked if they could pray for him — his heart filled with joy.

On the last night of the retreat, the altar call was given. "I heard in my head a voice that said, 'Aziz, it is the time!' I felt so much courage, felt so peaceful. I

raised my hand, people began to pray for me, and then I went to the altar. It was just clear that it was the right thing to do."

Since his salvation decision, Saeed has been baptized in water, baptized in the Holy Spirit, married a fellow Chi Alpha student, and has started mentoring other international students.

"I believe the power of prayer is what brought me to where I am now," Saeed says. "I made a decision for Christ, not in my strength, but through God's power and the power of prayer."

**Name changed for safety.*

EVANGEL, TEEN CHALLENGE PARTNER

BY DAN VAN VEEN

"Teen Challenge USA is preparing and planning for what we believe to be a Holy-Spirit inspired vision: Putting hope within reach of every addict," states Gary Blackard, president and CEO of U.S. Missions Teen Challenge USA.

Blackard believes that the Holy Spirit wants to do things through Teen Challenge over the next decade that will exceed all the miraculous accomplishments since its inception in 1960.

The first step to following the Holy Spirit's plan to unimaginable success, Blackard says, is to understand what about Teen Challenge is successful and what needs to be changed.

Blackard connected with Donna Washburn, director of the Center for Compassion at Evangel University,

concerning an evaluating study.

"This fit right in with our reason for being," Washburn says. "Evangel faculty and students have been conducting studies and surveys that require empirical, professional research for decades."

Blackard believes that even though the survey will be landmark for the future of Teen Challenge, it's only through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit that a transformative impact can be made.

"The need is exponential," Blackard explains. "There are 270 million-plus addicts around the world, with 20 million in the United States."

So far, 76 centers are participating in the study. Results of the study are expected by early September.