

## THIS WEEK IN AG HISTORY

BY GLENN W. GOHR

Sunday School and Bible training have been a mainstay of the Assemblies of God since its founding in 1914. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, the AG made a concerted effort to promote Sunday School training. The AG hosted national Sunday School conventions annually during the 1940s and early 1950s in Springfield, Missouri. After 1953, regional conferences replaced national meetings.

In the fall of 1980, seven regional Sunday School conferences were held across the country, which centered around the contemporary work of the Holy Spirit.

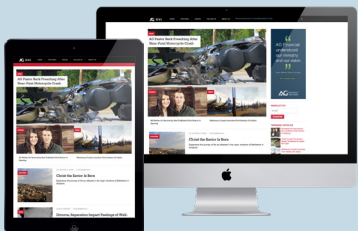
At each conference, General Superintendent Thomas F. Zimmerman delivered a keynote address called, "This Is That," which focused on the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

"Exciting things are taking place!" reported Zimmerman. "Thousands are responding to the gospel of Christ, and believers around the world are awakening to the power of the Holy Spirit."

Zimmerman also brought to light areas of concern and confusion in the Church. Much discussion took place concerning these topics, and one of the outcomes was the announcement of a national convocation on the Holy Spirit, which was held in Springfield, Missouri, in August 1982.

Read "Regional Conferences Focus on the Contemporary Outpouring of the Spirit" on pages 6-7 and Zimmerman's address, "This Is That," on pages 8-10 of the Dec. 14, 1980, issue of the *Pentecostal Evangel* online at [s2.ag.org/dec141980](http://s2.ag.org/dec141980).

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SUNDAY, DEC. 16, 2018

# AG NEWS

A COLLECTION OF THIS WEEK'S STORIES FROM [NEWS.AG.ORG](http://news.ag.org)



**CALLED OUT**

**JULIE'S COOKIE**

**EVANGELISM DREAM  
FULFILLED**

**EMPTY SPACE  
DURING THE HOLIDAYS**



## CALLED OUT

BY GINGER KOLBABA

Janet L. Boynes felt deeply unhappy. The Maple Grove, Minnesota, native had been medicating her pain through alcohol and an eating addiction, but nothing seemed to quell the ache she felt, especially the homosexual lifestyle she lived.

Boynes had walked away from her faith 14 years earlier when she broke off a wedding engagement to pursue a lesbian relationship. Although the relationship with the woman soon ended, Boynes believed she had found the sexual orientation right.

"I'd always been more masculine," she says. Part of that can be traced to Boynes growing up in a family of seven children with four different fathers. Among the parade of surrogate adult males, Boynes witnessed multiple fights between her mother and an alcoholic stepfather — who also molested her.

So in 1985, Boynes thought she found peace as a lesbian.

"I'd found a place where I fit in and was receiving wonderful attention, surrounded by people who accepted me," Boynes recalls.

Even so, she could never shake the feeling that she had a void in her life. To fill it, she began drinking, then using drugs. When those failed to satisfy, she became enmeshed in an eating disorder that nearly killed her. She wanted to die. That all changed early one morning in 1998.

At 3 a.m. Boynes began conversing at an all-night grocery store with another shopper, Tami Brown. Their discussion quickly moved into spiritual topics, and the woman invited Boynes to the AG church Brown attended in Maple Grove. Two weeks later, Boynes recommitted her life to God. She became involved in

## REVITALIZATION TO THE RESCUE

BY JOHN W. KENNEDY

Gray A. Nordan had a ministry model in mind when he became pastor of the struggling Countryside Assembly of God in Bolivar, Missouri, 11 years ago. The church had an average attendance of 28 and half-a-million-dollar indebtedness.

Nordan's goal focused on growing the church by hiring staff along the way to oversee children, youth, worship, and senior adults. Nordan achieved his target once the church hit 300 people packing the pews on Sunday morning. Five different pastors, including Nordan, handled a different ministry area.

"But my model didn't fit the community," says Nordan. "We didn't build teams under us as I hoped."

From a peak attendance of 342, the church began to drift. Pastors began bailing, and so did congregants.

"When you get in decline, some people think it's cool to leave the church," says Nordan, who originally is from Butler, Alabama. He looked into

attending quarterly cohorts of the Acts 2 Journey. Attendance dipped to 90.

"Acts 2 has solidified our need for a new vision, for retooling, for redoing our core values," says Nordan. "Acts 2 has breathed new life into our church. Laypeople enjoy being involved in ministry now."

Countryside is on the rebound, up to 150 churchgoers, with debt whittled to \$42,000. Nordan is the only paid staff member as 28 volunteer team members manage various programs of the church.

"That's a better fit for our community," says Nordan. "Although it was easier for staff members to do all the ministry rather than building a team, I should have included laypeople in ministry."

Nordan notes that the three-person deacon board is empowered to make decisions and each leader is responsible for a six-member team.

### 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."





## EVANGELISM DREAM FULFILLED

BY ROBERT E. MIMS

Growing up amid the hardscrabble farms and poverty of east Texas in the 1940s and early 1950s proved even tougher when Doyle Glynn Jones, the youngest of six children, lost his father to an unsolved murder at age 3.

Three older brothers struck out on their own over the ensuing years, each falling prey to drink. The boy's future looked dim. Then a woman from an AG church asked his mother if she take the 11-year-old Jones to Sunday services.

"I got saved and then baptized in the Spirit," Jones recalls. "I went every Sunday to church with that lady." At 11, Jones says a dream eventually would lead him into an international ministry of preaching and planting more than 50 churches in 20 different countries, primarily in Latin America, as well as in Africa and India.

"In the dream, there was a party at our house with music and dancing and people arriving, but with no place

to park," remembers Jones, now 75. "They were driving off a cliff and I was screaming, trying to stop them. One lady waved at me as she went over the precipice; that's when I woke up."

The message of the nightmarish vision became prophetic for the young man. "I knew I must stop people from going to hell," Jones says. "That was my first indication of a calling to the ministry."

At 18, Jones enrolled at Southwestern Assemblies of God University, preaching in summer revival services; his work as an itinerant evangelist expanded upon ordination at 23. He joined a three-month crusade to Africa two years later, which further fanned the flames of evangelism.

Jones returned to SAGU in 1991 for a 14-year stint as director of missions at the school. For the past 24 years he has operated Doyle Jones Ministries, a worldwide evangelism outreach.

## EMPTY SPACE OVER THE HOLIDAYS

BY JARED LASKEY

The holidays are thought to be times of joy and celebration, yet for some, there is an empty space.

The empty space may be a specific chair in the house that is now empty because of the loss of a loved one, a feeling of despair after a divorce, or the loneliness due to a deployed spouse. Whether it's the first year or the 20th year of the empty space, loneliness and depression can become consuming.

Often during the holidays, the empty space reminds us that the love and laughter enjoyed before is no longer present. It is natural to feel sorrow, grief, pain, or anger, but it is what we do with those emotions that is key.

When Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane, He was in an empty space. In His loneliness and despair, Christ surrendered His emotions and feelings, praying to our loving Father God, "Not My will, but Yours be done." Soon after "an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him." This tells me that when I surrender my emotions and memories to God, He will strengthen me.

This Christmas season, if an empty space is holding you back from fully celebrating God's gift to the world, surrender those empty spaces to Him, praying His will be done in and through you, and asking the God of all comfort to strengthen you as you celebrate our Savior's birth.

## SERVING EUROPE'S REFUGEE CAMPS

BY KRISTEL RINGER ORTIZ

Since 2015, Europe has scrambled to respond to the arrival of millions of refugees and asylum seekers from the Middle East and North Africa. AGWM missionaries across Europe are also responding.

In 2016, Neil and Kathy Vanaria transitioned to service in Sicily after ministering for 25 years in Papual New Guinea. They recognized the plight of refugees who had been deceived by human smugglers that guaranteed incomes and free housing awaited them. Now, many are trapped in a form of servitude, working with no wages.

The Vanarias have opened two ministry locations in Sicily called *Casa Di Rifugio* (House of Refuge). One is located in the town closest to Europe's largest refugee camp, Cara Mineo. "We gather three times a week for prayer, discipleship, Bible study, praise and worship, Italian lessons, soccer, and games," the Vanarias say.

The second location is located in Caltanissetta, home to one of the largest populations of Middle East immigrants. Through that ministry, the couple has formed friendships with many Muslims and share Jesus in word and deed to them.

"These are desperate people coming from lands where Jesus cannot be preached," the Vanarias conclude. "This is our time to offer the only Hope that the world cannot take away."



## CHAPLAIN LEADS BUSH PROCESSIONAL

BY JOHN W. KENNEDY

AG Chaplain Judy T. Malana appeared multiple times on national television last week, leading the military funeral processions for former President George H.W. Bush.

On Dec. 3, Malana, a Navy captain, escorted the flag-draped coffin of the 41st president on Air Force One from Texas to Washington, D.C. Bush died at his home in Houston on Nov. 30 at the age of 94. Dignitaries and other visitors paid their respects at the U.S. Capitol rotunda until the body was transferred to Washington National Cathedral for a state funeral Dec. 5. All four living ex-presidents — Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama — plus President Donald Trump attended the ceremony.

Malana, as the chaplain escort, participated in all military ceremonies and provided a pastoral presence and support to the family, friends, and staff members traveling with the official party. The AG chaplain also accompanied the coffin in various motorcades.

Malana accompanied the remains on the flight back to Houston for a service

Dec. 6 and boarded a special train that transported the former president to his final resting place at the Bush Presidential Library Center in College Station, Texas. During the trips on Air Force One, Malana sat next to the casket.

"This was symbolic, as it conveyed to the traveling party that God's presence was with President George H.W. Bush's body until his committal and internment," Malana tells AG News.

The most unforgettable part of the week for Malana involved providing pastoral support to friends and family she accompanied, including former President George W. Bush.

"A memory that I will forever hold in my heart was the opportunity to privately minister to those who were grieving, including the former first family," Malana says. "Those are sacred moments only the Lord could create."

Malana, the first woman Navy chaplain in the AG, remains the highest-ranking female naval chaplain representing the Fellowship.

a Bible study where women surrounded her with compassion and showed her the meaning of being a Christian and a woman.

"They never acted like I was a threat to them and they never looked down on me," she says.

Boynes wanted to leave the gay lifestyle completely behind, knowing it would never satisfy her or please God. Not long after her decision, Boynes moved in with a family from the church, Mat and Julie Melius, who continued to help her grow in her faith.

As Boynes found healing, she began to share her story wherever she could — at high schools, colleges, women's conferences, and churches. In 2006, she started Janet Boynes Ministries to help those who desire to be set free from

homosexuality. She also wrote *Called Out*, which details her story. In April, Boynes, 60, became an ordained AG evangelist.

"People need to know God's plan for sexuality," Boynes says. "Living a same-sex lifestyle is not part of that plan and is not OK. The Church needs to step up and share that message."

She longs to see churches take a stronger role in ministering compassionately to those who are part of the LGBT community.

"Before people will believe and make a change, they need to feel like they belong," Boynes says. "They need a safe place where they can go and not be rejected. The Church needs to build a new community they can be part of, like what happened with me."

## JULIE'S COOKIE

BY ONEYA OKUWOB

Hawaiian snowballs, peanut butter reindeer, and Christmas Eve mice are just three of the 25 varieties of cookies to be consumed on Cookie Day at LeRoy Assembly of God. These sweet treats have enabled Julie Patterson to make a connection with the Kansas town of 550 people where her husband, Charlie, is pastor.

Cookie Day is a tradition that dates back to the couple's arrival in LeRoy 13 years ago. The event is now a massive undertaking, with Julie single-handedly baking 2,400 cookies each year. This year's event will take place Thursday.

"That first year, it was just the people

in our church that came," she says.

"Every year it grows and we invite more people." Residents, some who didn't know the church existed, find their way to the fellowship hall in December to taste Julie's concoctions. Patterson admires how the day encourages people to fellowship with one another.

"It's people stopping during the busy part of the year, and they come in as a family and sit down and take time to visit with each other," she says. Patterson also appreciates the joy that it brings.

"One of my favorite mottos is, *Be the reason somebody smiles*, and that's what Cookie Day is," she says.