

THIS WEEK IN AG HISTORY

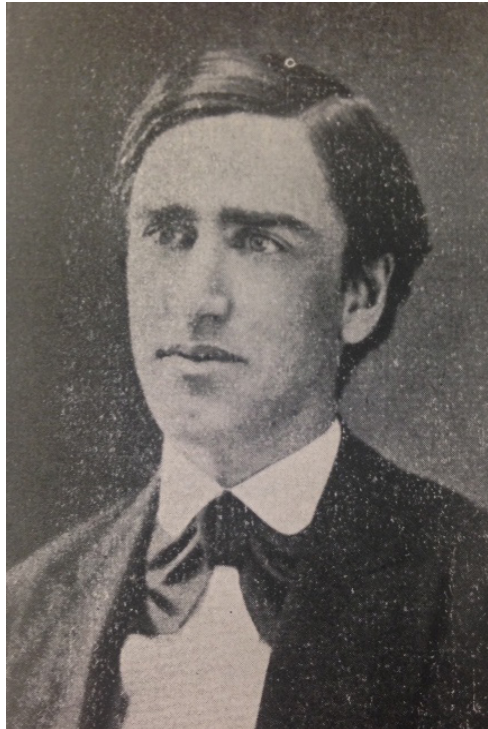
BY DARRIN J. RODGERS

One hundred years ago, AG missionary Albert Norton witnessed the starvation and suffering of countless people in India. He responded to this humanitarian crisis in a *Pentecostal Evangel* article, in which he argued that Christian preaching must be accompanied by works of compassion.

Outside America, missionaries were often surrounded by great suffering and felt compelled to minister in both word and deed. In a 1919 *Pentecostal Evangel* article, Norton wrote the following bold statement:

"A Christianity that coldly sits down, and goes on its routine of formal work, and allows its fellowmen to starve, or to be obliged to go through all the hard sufferings and exposure connected with famine, without effort to help them, might as well quit its preaching."

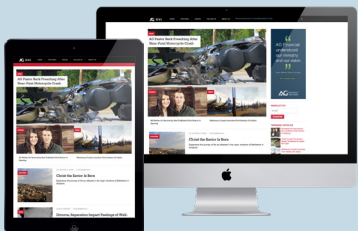
Pentecostal Evangel editor Stanley H. Frodsham responded and devoted the entire front page of the Feb. 22, 1919, issue to the desperate situation in India. He asked readers to send famine relief to Gospel Publishing House, which he promised would "be promptly sent to the field."



Despite limited resources, early Pentecostal missionaries such as Norton understood the need to minister in word and deed.

Read Frodsham's entire article, "Plague and Famine Raging in India," on pages 1-2 of the Feb. 22, 1919, issue of the *Pentecostal Evangel* online at s2.ag.org/feb221919.

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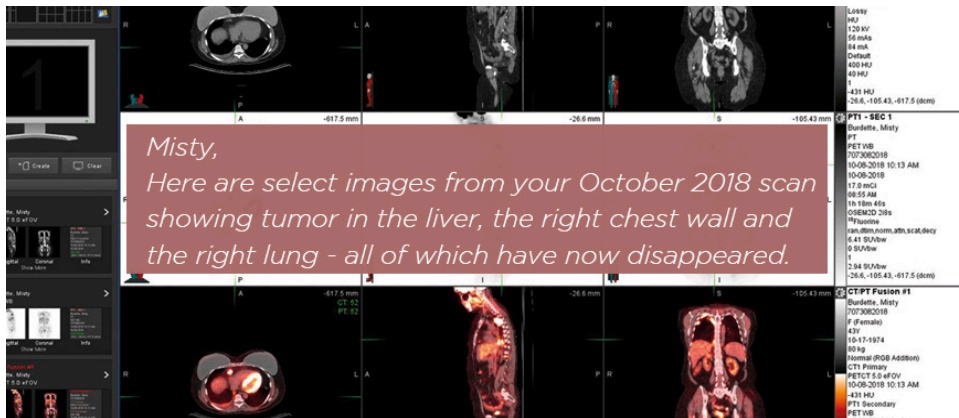


**HEALED OF STAGE 4
BREAST CANCER**

**PRIORITIZING SINGLE
PARENTS**

**HE LOST EVERYTHING
BUT JOY**

**BGMC BREAKS GIVING
RECORD — AGAIN**



HEALED FROM STAGE 4 BREAST CANCER

BY DAN VAN VEEN

Misty Burdette was dying. Breast cancer, which had been in remission for eight years, had returned. This time doctors were using phrases such as *quality of life* and *slowing the progression* because there is no known cure for stage 4 breast cancer.

Burdette, who is the women's director at Woodward (Oklahoma) First Assembly, was diagnosed with stage 1 breast cancer in 2007 when she was 32. Following a double mastectomy and IV chemo therapy, it appeared Burdette had a full recovery. But in March 2015, the cancer returned at the stage 4 level.

Stage 4 breast cancer means that the cancer has metastasized — spread — from the breast to other areas of the body. Burdette had metastases in her lungs, hips, pelvis, and spine.

She spent the next four years enduring a battery of chemotherapy and cancer inhibiting drugs. Her PET scans, used to identify the location of cancer in the body, revealed the cancer was advancing.

"Once the cancer enters your hips

and pelvis, the pain in your legs is excruciating," Burdette says, admitting that one night the pain was so intense, she prayed that God would either take her life or take the pain away. Within hours, the pain was gone.

"In October my PET scan came back absolutely horrible," she says. "My lymph nodes, the internal mammary chain in my chest, that whole chain lit up with cancer. They also found another spot in my lungs and a spot on my liver."

"It seemed that every time she would go to the doctor, the results would be worse," says Woodward First Assembly pastor Brad Smith, who has been ministering at the church for about a year. "She was really struggling with it . . . and then, she got serious with God."

"After hearing pastor Brad's story of healing, I started asking him about what to do to receive what God has promised," Burdette recalls.

In addition to providing counseling, Smith pointed her to specific Scriptures and encouraged her to spend quality time worshipping God.

GRATITUDE FOR CHAPLAINS

BY ROBERT E. MIMS

Eight years ago, Ted L. Cederblom, pastor of the 900-strong Life360 Church in Springfield, Missouri, dedicated the congregation to helping would-be chaplains fulfill the military's requirement of serving two years in formal ministry before taking on their spiritual roles in the armed forces. Four have completed the program.

U.S. Army Capt. Peter K. Pyo, a 2016 Assemblies of God Theological Seminary graduate, focused first on leading worship at Life360. He then completed gathering his preaching and other prerequisite pastoral experience at the fellowship's Fairbanks campus. Since November 2017, he has been stationed at Schofield Barracks at Oahu, Hawaii.

Pyo, 29, serves as associate pastor at the Wheeler Army Airfield Chapel, leading worship, preaching, and providing pastoral care for 100

congregants. When warriors go on field training or combat operations, the chaplain is with them.

"It's a sacred bond of trust, caring for the souls of men and women whose job involves life and death," Pyo says.

For U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Chris VanNatta, 35, who recently began Life360's ministerial experience program, chaplaincy marks a change in a military career already 14 years in the making as an active duty U.S. Army criminal investigation special agent.

"Now I want to help others through holy investments," says VanNatta, a reservist who completed the Army's basic officer chaplaincy training in December 2018. He is juggling classes at AGTS while gathering the needed pastoral experience at Life360. That latter process has just begun, but VanNatta says he is looking forward to working with Cederblom and other staff at the Chesterfield campus.

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."



HE LOST EVERYTHING BUT JOY

BY DAN VAN VEEN

When the Camp Fire destroyed Paradise, California, in November, one of those escaping was 97-year-old AG minister Allen Wine.

Allen's escape was perilous. Sharon Rose, 75, Allen's daughter, had dropped off her husband, Bob, 81, to get her dad and drive him to safety while she drove their car. All Allen had time to grab was his Bible as the fire was closing in.

The trio made it safely out of Paradise, but Allen, as well as Bob and Sharon, lost everything in the fire.

In 1936, Allen gave his life to the Lord in a church his sister started in Republic, Missouri. The family moved to California after that and God spoke to him, calling him into the ministry.

After graduating from Pasadena Bible College in 1948, Allen began ministry with his wife, Fern. The couple ministered in small towns and even smaller churches in Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, and California. He also built three churches along the way. Fern died in 2005.

But money was never a problem for the Wines — they didn't have any. So, when the Camp Fire destroyed his

mobile home and meager positions, it wasn't like he hadn't done "without" before.

Robert Wine, 72, the district superintendent for Nebraska, is Allen's son. "Dad's joy in the Lord was his strength, whether he had enough to feed his family or had to trust God to provide for us."

Following the Camp Fire, Allen moved to a small trailer in Red Bluff, California. His material possessions are few, but his love for God is contagious.

When Allen goes to visit Robert in Nebraska, he chooses to travel by train. "I take the train because I want to witness and talk about Jesus with people," he says.

There's nothing that excites Allen more than being able to share his faith in Jesus with someone, and, as Robert has observed, "His excitement [goes] over the top if he is able to lead someone to Christ."

"I would to God to see the Church wake up, fire up, and there be a great move of the Church," Allen states. "In a day like this, in the hour we live, that God would do this."

BGMC BREAKS RECORD — AGAIN

BY DAN VAN VEEN

For the fifth consecutive year, giving to Boys and Girls Missionary Challenge (BGMC) has broken the previous year's record-giving total. In 2018, giving crested \$8.5 million for the first time in the history of the program.

According to David Boyd, BGMC national director, in 2018 \$8,541,108.67 was given through BGMC to help missionaries reach the world for Christ.

The Peninsular Florida District led in overall giving as it marked its third consecutive year in breaking the \$1 million mark.

This past year, the top giving per capita districts were West Florida (\$18.18) followed by Pen-Florida (\$13.49). The next three top districts were Wyoming, Iowa, and North Dakota.

"There aren't a lot of megachurches in Wyoming, Iowa, and North Dakota," Boyd says, "but there are a lot of smaller churches with a 'sell-out' passion for missions — from the kids in preschool to the senior saints — and it shows."

Boyd says that he knows of kids across America individually raising hundreds and thousands of dollars for BGMC.

"BGMC is a program that not only raises money for missionaries," Boyd explains, "it also introduces kids to missions, helps develop hearts of compassion within children, and reveals what God is doing through our missionaries and BGMC around the world today."

EVENTS DRAW UNCHURCHED

BY IAN RICHARDSON

Summitcreek Church has grown to more than 300 weekly attendees since it launched in 2015 in Johnston, Iowa. Lead pastor Jonathan C. Palmer and his wife, Heather, started Summitcreek, a plant out of Oaks Church in Red Oak, Texas. The church's steady increase over the past three years has been especially noticeable among young married couples and children.

This year, Summitcreek moved services to the gymnasium and performance hall of Des Moines Christian School in nearby Urbandale. This has enabled the church to use new state-of-the-art light and sound equipment at the school.

The church has geared many special events toward younger audiences. In the fall of 2017, Summitcreek launched monthly nights of worship and teaching for middle and high school students followed by a party. These Motion Nights have since grown to more than 50 students and attracted multiple unchurched families to the Sunday services.

For another special event, the church each November creates a theater feel in the auditorium, complete with snacks and popcorn. A movie-themed sermon is broadcast each week.

Summitcreek added a second service last fall to give members options for service times and to allow volunteers to serve at the church and attend a service in the same week.



SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW

BY DARLA KNOTH

Bethany McGrath didn't stop loving God after her miscarriages, but she often questioned His decisions.

"I was angry so many times," McGrath recalls. In a two-year span, she and her husband, Griffin, of Phoenix, went through six miscarriages, requiring emergency room visits and surgeries.

For Ashley Houston, and her husband, Scott, of Irvine, California, miscarriage meant no shared memories with others. Even the surrounding presence of loved ones didn't provide immediate solace.

"We felt we walked through this alone, in isolation," recalls Houston. "Others felt sad for me, but didn't have the same sense of loss. They couldn't empathize."

Houston now is able to discuss the topic openly. She and Scott have a 5-year-old son, Jude. Since then, Houston, 30, has miscarried twice.

"I remember feeling this incredible loss — when I hadn't even known this 'person,'" Houston says.

McGrath, 29, says one in four women has miscarried, and one in eight women is infertile.

"Odds are that multiple women around you are in this category," McGrath says. Bethany and Griffin got a "rainbow" baby (born after miscarriage) on her seventh pregnancy. Myler came into the world in early 2017. On Feb. 4, 2019, they welcomed a second child, Wallace.

Both women agree that strong church support is important for a couple going through the aftermath of miscarriage.

"The Church should not be afraid of this conversation," Houston says. "We need to minister to those in infertility, miscarriage, and infant loss." She says sharing experiences helps couples know they are not alone.

"Just having friends who weren't afraid to talk with me was very helpful," McGrath says. "Even a simple 'I'm sorry' is often enough, but ignoring us was painful."

"Once I got to building my faith, getting more worship in my life, and truly spending that quality time with God, things started to change for me," Burdette says.

Then in November, Smith preached on being thankful, asking, *Are you truly thankful for the gifts and life God has given you?*

Suddenly, Burdette felt an intense presence of the Holy Spirit.

"At that point, I looked up and from the deepest place in my soul, I thanked God for my healing," she says. "That day, the Holy Spirit did a miracle in my life, that day my body changed — I could feel that my body was different."

For skeptics, *feel* and *fact* are typically on the opposite ends of the spectrum,

especially as she didn't have any medical proof. But on Feb. 4 she went in for her next PET scan.

Every indication of cancer was gone — the scan was completely clean, even her bones were recalcifying, with no sign of degeneration!

Burdette left the doctor's office in tears of joy and literally dancing.

"The doctors were dumbfounded," Smith says. "But although many people were praying for Misty, I believe this was the result of a journey of personal faith — she got serious with God."

"People ask what I did differently," Burdette says. "The only thing I changed was how I believed and how I worshipped God."

PRIORITIZING SINGLE PARENTS

BY DARLA KNOTH

Paul and Julie Richardson pastor the AG church in Licking, Missouri. Among the 3,100 residents are over 200 single moms and 100 single dads. The area also has a high poverty rate.

Now, two to three times annually, the congregation reaches out to single parents and grandparents. Licking AG creates a list of items for church families to purchase before the event. The inventory includes various household items that single parents cannot buy with food stamps or other assistance. Many women in the congregation had either been single moms themselves or worked with single moms — and knew their stories.

In a recent outreach, each family

attending received about \$240 in supplies. The church served 42 family units, representing 81 children. Rural Compassion, based in Springfield, donates items such as dry pasta, hand soap, or sandals for the women.

On the event morning, single moms line up at the door. Younger women, men, and youth help load the single moms' cars. Older women encourage the single moms by talking with them, giving them a hug, then walking them to their vehicles. All volunteers are a part of the congregation.

One mom said, "I have not had a new pair of shoes in years, because our money bought clothes for my child."