



THIS WEEK IN AG HISTORY

BY GLENN W. GOHR

John Peter Kolenda (1898-1984), an Assemblies of God missionary to Brazil and Germany, pastored churches in the U.S., founded churches overseas, established Bible schools, started printing plants, and taught extension courses. He never grew tired of doing the Lord's work.

Kolenda was born in Germany and lived in Brazil from ages 4 to 11 before his family immigrated to the United States. Converted at age 18 and then filled with the Spirit, he attended Southern California Bible Institute (now Vanguard University). He was ordained in 1922.

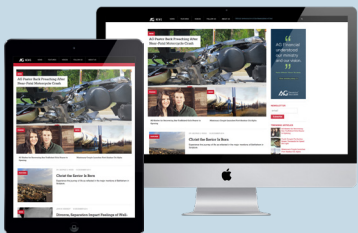
After serving as an evangelist and pastoring a series of churches in Michigan, Kolenda and his wife,

Marguerite, felt called to Brazil as missionaries — he was over 40 years old when they arrived.

Kolenda started quite a few churches in Brazil. When they left for their first furlough, over 100 churches or preaching points had been established. After serving 14 years in Brazil, he also served as a missionary to Germany for 10 years. He later returned to both mission fields to evangelize and teach in their Bible schools. His work significantly shaped the Pentecostal work in both countries.

Read Kolenda's exciting reports in "Missions Advance in Brazil," on pages 6 and 7 of the July 11, 1942, issue of the *Pentecostal Evangel* online at s2.ag.org/july111942.

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AG | NEWS

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TEEN WITH AUTISM IMPACTS CAMP

BY DAN VAN VEEN

It was a late night in February when Jeremy Kuehn, 28, the youth pastor at The Assembly in Siloam Springs, Arkansas, received a text from Joe Butler. Butler, a U.S. missionary with Intercultural Ministries, was asking permission for his 17-year-old son, Micah, to attend church camp in June.

Although Micah is a beloved member of the youth group, he is a young man with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). He is also cognitively impaired, has attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and struggles with other physical issues that could make participating in camp activities difficult.

Kuehn put the phone down — this was going to take a lot more than a text-message response. The next morning, Kuehn called Butler. “So, Micah wants to attend church camp...” he began.

When Butler explained that he would be willing to go as a camp worker and be there for Micah’s needs, the path to “making it happen” became clearer.

Over the next several months, the

men worked out the details, including contacting then - Oklahoma district youth director Doug Everard. The Assembly kids attend the Oklahoma camp because it’s closer than the Arkansas district camp. Everard approved the plan, urging the men to do what was needed to make the experience a success.

For people with ASD, there are “triggers” that can cause extreme reactions. Loud sounds, large groups, unexpected or unfamiliar situations, and flashing lights are some of the things that can lead to an episode that could involve screaming, flailing, running, crying, collapsing, repetitive motions, etc.

Youth church camps are often associated with all those potential triggers. But God had things covered — Micah was just the person He needed to accomplish His plans. For Micah, camp was one success after another, growing in his relationships with other youth as well as spiritually, as he even reached out and prayed for others.

But Micah’s success paled in comparison to what God was doing in



A NEW JOURNEY IN KNOXVILLE

BY IAN RICHARDSON

The name New Journey Church in Knoxville, Iowa, carries multiple layers of significance. For Dave Woodcock and his wife, Sara, the church’s opening nearly two years ago began a new journey working as lead pastors. It also marked a return to the area where, just over 12 years ago, Woodcock started his personal journey out of alcohol addiction and into a relationship with Christ.

Now, Woodcock’s goal is that each week the church can be a place for men and women walking through its doors to receive their own fresh start, no matter their background.

“We want to attract people who are coming to the Lord for the first time, and we’re really reaching out to those who are addicted,” says Woodcock, 52. “We feel like God wants to do a lot

of restoration in this town.”

Knoxville’s previous AG church closed in 2015. A year later, Indianola First AG pastor Barry Hill noticed that several attendees drove to services from Knoxville. The district still owned the building and parsonage in Knoxville.

Indianola First planted a new congregation on the premises as a parent-affiliated church. Indianola First remodeled the Knoxville church’s sanctuary, repainted the building, and fixed up the parsonage.

To lead the church plant, Hill sought out Woodcock, who in 2005 had been saved at the church in Indianola — where he grew up. Woodcock graduated from Adult and Teen Challenge of the Midlands in Colfax, Iowa.

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.”

EVERETT'S LONG JOURNEY

BY ASHLEY B. GRANT

Chris Patrick finished his Master's Degree in Christian Ministries and Leadership Development in 2005 at Assemblies of God Theological Seminary in Springfield, Missouri. Because Chris received a full-time management promotion, he decided to stay at a clothing retailer where he worked part time during school. By this time, his wife, Kami, was expecting their third child.

During the course of the pregnancy, doctors informed the Patricks their child would face multiple medical complications.

"The instant Everett made his entrance, he was immediately rushed out of the room, closely followed by a medical team," says Chris, 35. "After two excruciating minutes, Everett took his first breath, but our relief was short lived." Everett had no roof of his mouth and his cleft lip was not only large, but also open. Doctors told the Patricks their infant boy had a double cleft lip and double cleft palate.

The next day, the couple discovered Everett didn't have a left eye and his right eye was half its intended size. By the fifth day of life, hearing tests determined the baby was deaf, he received a diagnosis of pulmonary stenosis due to missing a chamber in his heart, and his kidneys wouldn't function properly.

Eventually, Everett received an official diagnosis of Charge Syndrome,



a rare, complex genetic disease with life-threatening birth defects.

The Patricks, who live in Nixa, Missouri, periodically must go to Cincinnati for several days when Everett receives medical care from a specialist.

On June 7, 2018, Everett, now 4, underwent a successful surgery to receive cochlear implants. Meanwhile, the Patricks are dealing with paying Everett's medical bills,

"I don't know what people do without faith," says Chris, who attends James River Church in Ozark.

CHURCH AS AN ADVENTURE

BY JOEL KILPATRICK

As a child, Karie A. Griffin suffered physical and sexual abuse. As an adult, she became a single mother in and out of dead-end relationships.

"I struggled with being a single mom," says Griffin, 40, of Powell, Ohio. "Things never seemed to work out for me."

In 2013, Griffin, who had no church background, accepted an invitation to an information session for a new church. At the time, Adventure Church, founded by Kyle T. Hammond, still met in a living room.

"I had a lot of questions as we were going through different sermons and I was reading devotionals and the Bible," Griffin says. "I could ask even silly questions and not feel judged. They would explain things to me."

Griffin and her 13-year-old daughter, Isabele, have attended Adventure Church in Lewis Center, Ohio, ever since, and both were baptized in water.

"I love that I'm making a change for generations to come in my family," Griffin says. "God has done so many amazing things, and Adventure Church is the main reason."

"We've been able to reach a lot of people because of relationships and friendships even going back to high school," says Hammond, 37. Griffin was one of those friends.

The church draws more than 600 a week now.

TRANSFORMED AND EQUIPPED

BY AARON KOZAK

On June 15, Global University celebrated its 16th annual commencement with 1,014 graduates from 49 countries.

Students from 13 U.S. states and seven countries converged on Springfield, Missouri, to officially walk the line and receive their Global University diplomas. These 42 graduates included one doctoral (Global University's first Doctor of Ministry degree awarded), five master's, six undergraduate, and 30 Berean students.

Three unique reflection speakers addressed the graduates at the ceremony.

Lisa Marshall, Berean School of the Bible speaker, told of her ministry through the local library where she teaches regularly on hermeneutics.

The Undergraduate School of Bible and Theology speaker, Richard Shreves, spoke by video. He is changing the heart of a Montana prison — from the inside out. Shreves is a prisoner who is unlocking the hearts of those around him through Christ.

The Graduate School of Theology speaker, Kathi Gregoire, was a victim of a traumatic brain injury. Unable to read or write, God called Gregoire to pursue her master's degree. Through perseverance and divine healing, she finished her degree and delivered a challenge to her fellow graduates.

Global University's mission is to train and equip people from around the world, no matter their circumstances, to be ministers in their own setting.



MOTIVATED TO IMPROVE

BY ALLY HENNY

Travis C. Jones, 31, launched Motivation Church, a multiethnic congregation in Richmond, Virginia. It is a parent-affiliated church of Cornerstone Church, a predominantly white suburban congregation.

Motivation Church started in September 2017 and has grown to an average attendance of 325. With over 1,600 likes on Facebook and close to 800 Instagram followers, Jones and the Motivation Church team leverage the power of social media to generate buzz. Motivation's social media presence reaches those who may be skeptical about visiting a church and allows them to experience Motivation online before they ever step foot onto its physical campus.

Motivation Church is changing lives, impacting the city, and building bridges across socio-economic divides. Many attendees have experienced positive changes in their family dynamics.

"People are getting married who

have never had marriages in their families," Jones says.

Some who lacked motivation now are finding a purpose. Several attendees who had dropped out of school have earned a General Educational Development diploma. One man ready to give up on life entirely found the motivation to keep living when a church member warmly greeted him his first time at Motivation. That man is now a faithful leader in the church.

"If we want to change the world, we have to serve the world," says Jones, who also serves as a chaplain for a local police precinct. "We can't just complain about the problem, we have to be part of the solution."

People who attend the church come from a variety of social, political, economic, and educational backgrounds. The church is about 50 percent African-American, including Jones, and 50 percent white, reflecting the overall racial demographics of Richmond.

the lives of those around him. God used Micah to help kids see people with disabilities as individuals to love and include, rather than a burden to avoid.

"The guys made a real effort to include and get Micah involved," Kuehn says. "They were caring for him, loving him, including him — and that's hard to do with those who can't always reciprocate, such as Micah, especially with teenage boys. But they went to another level, including him in games and church services."

Kuehn recalls how on the last night of camp everyone was down in front during worship, and one song had the teens moving quickly back and forth in front of the stage in a mass crowd — something Micah, with impaired motor

skills, was unable to do.

"The guys literally picked him up and ran back and forth with him so he could be a part and not get run over," Kuehn says. "I saw my guys living out Christ in a tangible way — it was incredible to see."

"The whole week the boys demonstrated a Christ-like example of loving others," Butler agrees.

When the youth group came back together the next Wednesday night, Kuehn talked to them about Micah. "I told them, one day, Micah was going to have a restored and glorified body, just like us, in heaven. He'll be no different than us, but I believe he'll remember this time — that students loved him . . . just because he was him."

EIGHT HOURS DOWN THE AMAZON

BY KRISTEL ORTIZ

Early in June, a boat cruised eight hours down the Amazon River. Aboard was a 20-member Builders International team, headed for a Brazilian destination so remote that it cannot be found on a map — it does not even have a name.

"This isolated river settlement would be overlooked by most people," says team leader and Builders International missionary Tom L. Moore. "But God has an interest there."

The work was difficult, hot, and at times slowed by tropical rains. But that did not deter the team and the Brazilians who worked alongside them.

"The building we worked on will be a place where people can belong for

years to come," Moore says. "We did not build an ordinary structure. Yes, it is made of ordinary cement, block, steel, and roofing, but it is so much more than that. We built a place where people can find hope, no matter what kind of problem they are facing."

The team was a result of Builders International's recent partnership with AGWM missionaries Mark and Helba Lemos, who spearhead an initiative to plant 100 churches along the Amazon River Basin.

The church constructed by Moore's team was number 90. Another team has begun work on church number 91.

Learn more about Builders International at buildersintl.org.