

THIS WEEK IN AG HISTORY

BY DARRIN J. RODGERS

Hans Nielsen Hauge, a lay preacher who spent decades promoting revival in Norway, helped to transform the religious and social landscape of his homeland.

In 1796, Hauge experienced a "spirit baptism" while plowing his father's farm. This experience transformed his life. He began studying the Bible and shared the gospel and his testimony wherever he found an audience.

Hauge inspired a movement that revived Christianity in Norway. It is estimated that half of Norwegians experienced salvation under the ministry of Hauge and his fellow evangelists. For the next 100 years, Norway became known as "a land of revivals."

However, at the time, it was illegal to hold a religious meeting without a licensed minister present. Hauge was arrested at least 14 times and suffered greatly. His health failed in prison, resulting in his premature death.

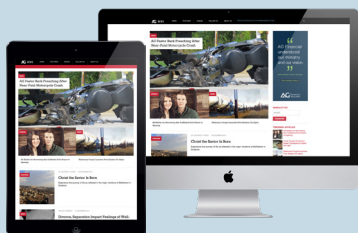
Followers of Hauge, who had settled in Minnesota and the Dakotas, experienced a revival in the 1890s and early 1900s that included healings and speaking in tongues. Many of these Scandinavian



immigrants became leaders within the Pentecostal movement. G. Raymond Carlson came from a Norwegian Haugean background in North Dakota and ultimately served as general superintendent of the Assemblies of God (1986-1993).


Read, "Beginnings in Norway," by Armin Gesswein, on page 12 of the June 14, 1947, issue of the *Pentecostal Evangel* online at <http://s2.ag.org/june141947>.

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AG[®] NEWS

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FATHER'S DAY GIFT

BY KEITH SURFACE

From fishing poles and golf clubs to hand-scribbled cards, this Father's Day will see dads receiving various tokens of affection from their children. But what kind of gifts are dads giving to their kids? This day offers a timely reminder of some of the greatest ways fathers can bless their children.

My father, Mel, had no regular hobbies that I can recall growing up. He wasn't a golfer or hunter (not that there would have been anything wrong with that). I now realize Dad's hobby was spending time with me. I went through a season of interest in, bowling so on his day off we'd go bowling. Then, I became interested in fishing and he, too, became a fisherman. He showed love by doing things I enjoyed doing. Though he was busy and some

of my interests may not have been appealing, he expressed no hint of that at the time. All I knew was my dad wanted to be with me.

Time is a precious gift that we can give our children. I may not always feel like throwing the ball around, playing a board game, or simply watching one of my four children do something they enjoy. Yet, in the long run, those brief moments will far outweigh whatever important items may be on my agenda. The way we choose to spend our time speaks volumes about what we value most. Let's make sure our kids know they have priority in our lives.

My dad loved me. I know that because he told me so. Often. I can remember many times when he'd put his arm around me and say, "I love you,

DEFUSING TEMPTATIONS IN MINISTRY

BY JOHN W. KENNEDY

The AG is in the process of rolling out resources to help ministers and their families cope with the spiritual, emotional, and mental health challenges of their profession.

General Superintendent Doug Clay last fall asked Donald A. Lichi, vice president of EMERGE Counseling Services, to chair a committee to develop such assistance. Lichi says the 10-member committee, which has met four times so far, has a dual intent.

"The first purpose is to provide help, support, resources, and safe places for our credential holders to receive spiritual and emotional support," Lichi says. "We will provide easily accessible resources and confidential help as needed for prevention as well as remediation."

AG General Secretary Donna L. Barrett, whose role includes credentialing and decertifying ministers, is a member of the committee.

"Leaders need to be aware of what propensities they have toward weakness and vulnerabilities; they need

to intentionally set up safeguards in advance for protection," says Barrett.

"Ministry is incredibly stressful," Lichi says. "It can be a perilous profession. A pastor who is too lonely, anxious, bored, angry, or depressed is at risk."

Struggles ministers battle in isolation include ongoing depression, porn addiction, and social media obsession. An improper relationship can develop with someone who provides a listening ear.

"The fact is, whether a leader intends it or not, the wrong situation with the wrong person at the wrong time can result in an allegation that sullies a reputation and greatly diminishes the effectiveness of God's kingdom," says Lichi. "Why take that chance?"

In nearly three decades as a licensed psychologist and therapist, he has counseled hundreds of pastors after a moral failure.

"In every moral failure, there is a place of compromise, where the person could have caught the situation and prevented it from escalating," Barrett says.

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."



COVERING THE MINISTRY BASES

BY JOHN W. KENNEDY

James Robert Damude has been immersed in various areas of ministry in the AG, including on a church staff, pastoring at college campuses, and serving as a world missionary. But he may have found his niche with his current assignment as a military chaplain.

Damude, 41, served nine years on staff at Christian Celebration Center, an AG congregation of 900 in Midland, Michigan. He then spent a couple of years as an AG world missionary to Southern Asia before returning to Michigan as a Chi Alpha campus pastor.

While serving as college and career pastor at Christian Celebration Center, Damude simultaneously directed a Chi Alpha chapter on the campus of Northwood University. Back in the U.S. in 2012, Damude pioneered a Chi Alpha group at Saginaw Valley State University.

A couple of uncles encouraged Damude to become a military chaplain.

Despite being in his late 30s, Damude joined the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps in 2016. He is currently assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division as battalion chaplain at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Last year, Damude deployed in the fight against global terrorism. He had the opportunity to baptize 75 military service members and Department of Defense employees. That's quite a switch for someone who had never attended church until age 18.

Damude believes coming from a nonchurch background has helped him build bridges with soldiers whose lifestyles are marked by swearing, complaining, and drug use.

"At most I have three years with these people, as Christ did with the disciples," Damude says. "I want to make the most of every opportunity to pray right then and there, because I know every moment I spend with these troops could be their last."

THE VALUE OF A GOOD FATHER

BY DAN VAN VEEN

Just as there is no overstating the value of a good mother, repeatedly studies confirm the value of involved fathers in families.

According to the Child & Family Research Partnership at the University of Texas in Austin, involved fathers play a key role in their children's future success.

Their research has found that involved fatherhood "is linked to better outcomes on nearly every measure of child wellbeing, from cognitive development and educational achievement to self-esteem and pro-social behavior."

Even the U.S. government has on its "fatherhood.gov" site numerous examples of how involved fathers make a significant difference in children's lives — everything from increased verbal skills and mental dexterity to greater empathy and self-control.

"The Church must confirm the value God places on being a good father," states Rick Allen, director of AG Men's Ministries, adding that it includes loving and respecting their wife and teaching and reinforcing Scripture to their children.

"The Bible is the authoritative source for being a good father," Allen says, "and passing along scriptural truth to our children so that they grow up walking with God may be the most important responsibility a father has."

Today is National Men's Ministries Day in the Assemblies of God.

EXECUTIVE BACK FROM TROUBLES

BY GINGER KOLBABA

Faith J. Fitzgerald's professional life thrived, but her personal life didn't. She married after college and wanted to start a family, but doctors told her she would never have children because of scarring from three surgeries due to her endometriosis. She began to call out desperately to God. In 1994, she gave birth to her son, Bridger.

She continued to climb the career ladder, but her marriage disintegrated in 2004. To get through her days as a single mom, she leaned heavily on prayer, reading her Bible, and attending Emmanuel Christian Center.

Her professional life took a hit when in 2009 the company she worked for laid her off. She sensed God nudging her to start her own business. So in 2010, Fitzgerald and a former co-worker started a successful company, but the next year tragedy struck again, when her business partner left to care for her husband who had a brain tumor. That meant dissolving the company.

Unable to find a job, Fitzgerald began selling jewelry just to make enough to pay her utilities. In 2012 she restarted her company, Fitzgerald Recruiting, this time without a partner.

Fitzgerald in 2012 married Jim Michaelson and they attend Southland City Church in Rosemount, Minnesota.

She says enduring her struggles has given her a ministry platform to help others in similar situations.



FLASH FLOOD INUNDATES AG CHURCH

BY DAN VAN VEEN

Rain began to fall in LaFollette, Tennessee, on June 7. But this was no ordinary rain. Five to 8 inches of rain fell in just a few hours. The small creek behind Faith Way AG breached its banks and then a flash flood of murky, roiling water swept down from the surrounding countryside.

Eight to 10 feet of muddy water filled the church in just 60 minutes, leaving the building and its contents in muck-covered ruins. By Saturday morning, the waters had receded and Pastor Steve Bruce and his congregation were left stunned.

Bruce, 62, who has led the congregation of about 100 since 2001, says the church did not have flood insurance. "About 30 years ago the fellowship hall experienced some slight water problems, but the new building has never had any flooding — we're not in a flood zone."

On Monday, Bruce met with a TEMA (Tennessee Emergency Management Agency) official and a code enforcement officer to go through the buildings and assess the damage. The TEMA official called the rain a "500-year" event.

"He estimated both of our buildings

were irreparable, completely destroyed, because of the amount water that was in it over an extended period of time (6 to 8 hours)," Bruce says, his voice briefly cracking. "The codes enforcement officer then placarded the buildings, marking them both as uninhabitable, and prohibiting them from being occupied or used."

Last Sunday, the congregation gathered at Roane State Community College for service.

"We had a wonderful service," Bruce says. "The atmosphere was filled with the presence of the Holy Ghost. Two people were saved. The service was a Balm of Gilead for some hurting people."

In addition to calls from local and network representatives, offering prayer and support, Bruce says several churches have sent donations.

"We're really thankful for people willing to help us and for every donation," he says. "We're hoping that TEMA or FEMA will declare this area a disaster, but we won't know that for awhile."

Bruce requests the Fellowship to pray for them and believe with them for God's blessing.

son, and I'm proud of you." I'm grateful to have had a dad who was willing to express affection. Men generally are not vocal about their feelings and tend not to show emotions. Many men grew up with fathers who set a sterling example in work ethic and strong discipline, but lacked an ability to express affection.

Our kids need us to be intentional in expressing our love through simple words or a hug. Do your children know you love them?

I daily observed my dad's faith and consistent walk with the Lord growing up. He spoke to me about God, led us in family devotions, and was always available for my questions. The apostle Paul urged fathers to bring their children up in the training and instruction of the

Lord (Ephesians 6:4). Ultimately, our kids will choose for themselves whether to follow God. Yet, what a tragedy if I pour myself into achieving success, giving my kids the nicest things, but see them reject Christ. We must do everything within our power to point our kids to Jesus.

This Father's Day, take a moment to reflect on the gifts you're giving to your kids. Are you spending time together? Are you showing your love through both your words and actions? Most importantly, are you being a godly example, pointing them to our Savior? This is the greatest legacy we can leave to them.

Image: Keith and Mel together on the golf course.

RURAL HOUSES OF TRANSFORMATION

BY ERIC TIANSAY

Laconia Grace Tabernacle is a church with an average attendance of 225 in an Indiana town of 50. The AG congregation operates five halfway houses called Butterfly Transformation House. Many of the 40 men and women residents are in a six-month drug rehabilitation program.

"I thought I was going to go through the motions of a rehab or institution and then be back to my old life in no time," says Victoria Hegedus, a former addict who graduated from the program. "But within a few weeks I was waking up in the morning with joy and hope. I wasn't defined by my addiction and a life of sin."

Besides providing housing, jobs, and support, Butterfly Transformation House is a ministry. Applications come in daily for the four men's houses and one women's house. There is a waiting list.

On Monday nights, Butterfly residents are in a Stepping into Freedom program, which is based on Adult & Teen Challenge. On Tuesdays, they are at Hearts Alive, a church service geared specifically for those who have come out of the drug dependence that is led by former addicts. Residents attend Grace Tabernacle on Wednesday nights, Sunday mornings, and Sunday nights. On Thursday nights, they are involved in a roundtable share group.