



THIS WEEK IN AG HISTORY

BY GLENN W. GOHR

I. V. Hill (1895-1965) of Dallas experienced "smothering" spells which made it necessary for him to be rushed to the hospital several times a week. He was suffering from heart trouble, asthma, bladder trouble, and a hip infection that prevented him from walking.

One morning in November 1957, after listening to the *Morning Worship Hour* radio broadcast by H. C. Noah of Oak Cliff Assembly of God (now Oaks Church), Hill called Pastor Noah. He told him about his condition and asked him for prayer, which he did.

Later that morning, Hill received a call from Mrs. Maymie Faust, the

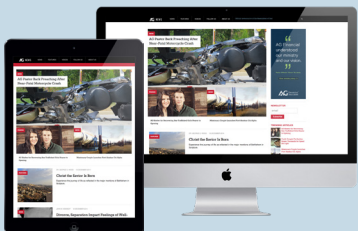
minister of visitation for the church. She visited his home, prayed for him, and Hill accepted Christ. That night, Hill went to church and proclaimed his faith.

Hill was determined to believe God for healing of his many ailments. During that Friday's Bible study, he went forward and began praying. The Lord met him there. He was healed!

This healing testimony was endorsed by Pastor Noah who declared, "This is one of the greatest testimonies I have ever witnessed."


Read the article, "I'm a New Man Now," on pages 22-23 of the June 2, 1963, issue of the *Pentecostal Evangel* online at s2.ag.org/june21963.

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AG | NEWS

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HUNDREDS FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT ON PENTECOST SUNDAY

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HUNDREDS FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT ON PENTECOST SUNDAY

BY DAN VAN VEEN

On Pentecost Sunday, C/Life Orlando church in Florida experienced 100 people being filled with the Holy Spirit with evidence of speaking in tongues within minutes of each other.

But the wave of Baptisms didn't just happen and it wasn't really unexpected — it had been five years in the making and has its roots about 60 miles northeast of Orlando at Calvary Christian Center (CCC) in Ormond Beach.

About five years ago, Jeremy and Missy Dunn planted C/Life Orlando Church after having served as young adult and youth pastors at CCC.

"We're a church focused on outreach, evangelism, and true Pentecostalism," says Jim Raley, CCC's senior pastor. "We've intentionally held strong to the part of our distinctives that we are unashamedly Spirit-filled."

When Raley, 54, shared the opportunity for the Dunns to plant a church in Orlando, the Dunns prayed and fasted for five days, then accepted the challenge.

The Dunns were set on bringing the DNA of CCC to the Theme Park Capital of the World. "As I laid on the floor at CCC, praying," Jeremy Dunn says, "I begged God for a Presence-driven church that was multicultural."

God has granted the request. The church, which started in a living room with 10 people, now has about 450 attending on a weekly basis. Dunn estimates the congregation is made up of 40 percent African-American, 40 percent white, and 20 percent hispanic and Asian, while also being strongly multigenerational.

But what really draws people to the church is a culture of expectation of a move of God. People come anticipating God is going to work miraculously in hearts and lives — they walk into the service and can feel His presence.

It has taken time to build this culture of expectation. Dunn explains that every year for several weeks leading up to Pentecost Sunday, the church focuses on the Holy Spirit and why

LIVING BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT

BY MARY YERKES

Pastor Philip T. Dunn knows what it means to live by faith and not by sight. Nine years into his 24-year ministry as lead pastor of Valley Christian Assembly in Charleston, West Virginia, Dunn began experiencing vision impairment. At 45, he received a diagnosis of macular degeneration and found himself grappling with the potential end of his ministry.

Although he believed God for a miracle, Dunn's vision progressively worsened. A year and a half after his diagnosis, he could no longer drive. As his sight deteriorated, sermon preparation and preaching grew more difficult. To counter his declining vision, he began increasing the font size on his computer. When that no longer worked, he made notes with magic markers.

As he stood at the podium to preach one Sunday, he hit bottom. When he looked down at his notes, he couldn't read them.

Disheartened, he prayed. To his surprise, God brought to mind Scripture verses he had memorized years before in Bible Quiz. He preached from those

verses, and God faithfully gave him a new message each week.

When Dunn received his first electronic Bible, his passion for God's Word ignited as never before. While listening to the Bible, Dunn says God dropped a new text in his heart and wove together a sermon for the following week.

Dunn next went to a rehabilitation center, where he learned how to use a specially designed computer program using keystrokes. Using this program, he could listen to emails and brush up on Bible commentaries.

Armed with these new tools, Dunn's ministry expanded to include preaching at a maximum-security prison, where for more than seven years he told the inmates about Jesus.

Dunn has faced many challenges in the past 15 years, but he has maintained his Christ-like spirit and trusted God when his future looked bleak.

"The things the Lord has taught me in the darkness, I could not have learned in the light," says Dunn.

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."



TREE TOP KIDS WORK FARM

BY AUSTIN JACOBS

Since his childhood, Tony T. Geselle has felt called to minister to at-risk youth. More than a decade ago, the Minnesota native started a bus ministry and after-school programs while at Tree of Life Assembly of God in Lexington. Geselle and his wife, Jill, have raised funds to purchase a working farm that would expand the reach of their ministry to children from mobile home communities.

"Ministering to young people on a farm was always a dream I had in the back of my head," says Geselle, 41. The ministry, known as Tree Top Kids, reaches out to at-risk adolescents from kindergarten through 12th grade who live in mobile homes and low-income housing around Chisago Lakes, a town of 5,000 located 35 miles northeast of the Twin Cities.

In 2016, Tree Top Kids purchased a property to expand the programming for the ministry. It's now Geselle's full-time work.

Over the course of a year, more than 200 volunteers had a hand in

renovating the 1890s farmhouse and preparing the rest of the property for ministry. This year, Tree Top Kids added chickens, sheep, and goats.

Students, with parental or guardian permission, arrive at the farm each week. Their evenings begin with chores, which include cleaning, caring for, and feeding the animals. This spring and summer, they are tending a garden as part of their regular activities.

In addition to caring for and learning about plants and animals, students hear a Bible lesson that relates to their hands-on activity.

In the few months since the farm has been open for ministry, three children have accepted Christ as Savior.

After chores are finished, students head to the kitchen where they learn to cook farm-grown produce. Students then set the table and eat the meal they have prepared together. The shared meal provides an opportunity for Geselle and a team of volunteer mentors to pray before eating and to practice common table manners.

SAVING PHILLY'S MEAN STREETS

BY PETER JOHNSON

David and Shirrie Dominguez minister on the overlooked mean streets of Philadelphia, where dirty heroin needles carpet empty lots and prostitutes openly sell their services. Earning serious street cred heading outreach programs for Calvary Christian Center in Ormond Beach, Florida, for 12 years, the couple is launching the Philly Dream Center Church (PDCC).

The couple moved to the city with their four children in 2016, starting weekly outreaches with a small team of Christians. They minister in McPherson Square Park, notorious for open drug dealing, and Fotteral Square, across from a low-income apartment project. Between 30 to 50 youngsters, ages 6 to 16, show up at each location for Bible lessons, games, snacks, and mentoring. The team also feeds about 100 homeless street people weekly and distributes canned goods to families.

While the couple currently runs PDCC from their home, they are searching for a permanent rental facility. The ministry operates within the Dream Center Network. PDCC will have a soft launch this month, followed by the official public opening this fall.

Shirrie Dominguez leads a team of women called "the Midnight Angels" who minister to prostitutes and those caught in human trafficking. Building relationships and offering prayer, they visit strip clubs and provide gift baskets that include Bibles.

HISPANIC CHURCH BOOSTED BY BILINGUAL BLEND

BY JOEL KILPATRICK

Moses Lake, a city east of Seattle, is home to Sendero Life Center, a church of more than 400 attendees that combines Spanish-speaking and English-language ministry.

Twenty-one years ago, when Mike and Mary Alvarado became the youth pastors, it drew around 120 people and offered no English service.

At age 26, and knowing little Spanish, Mike accepted the senior pastorate.

As a second-generation Hispanic, Alvarado didn't feel comfortable writing and speaking Spanish, and for three years he wrote his sermons in English and gave them to his mother to translate before each service. He now is fluent in Spanish.

The biggest shift involved starting an English-speaking service to reach the next generation of Hispanics. Alvarado had seen peers outgrow a Spanish-language church and fall away from faith — or leave to attend an English-speaking-only congregation.

At first, English-language gatherings only attracted a small crowd. But a decade later, the English service draws three times as many as the Spanish one, mainly because second- and third-generation Hispanics are attending.

The English service remains 85 percent Hispanic, but lately the church is drawing more people without any Spanish-speaking background.



LIBERIAN WATER GOALS IN SIGHT

BY JOEL KILPATRICK

The SoCal Network, connecting with the AG in Liberia through AG World Missions, has partnered with a leading maker of water filters and a nonprofit provider of clean water to pursue the ambitious goal of giving everyone in Liberia clean water by December 2020.

AG world missionary Gaylord M. Brown connected with Darrel Larson, missions pastor at Newbreak Church in San Diego. Larson also works for Sawyer Products, which manufactures industry-leading water filters. Sawyer partnered with the The Last Well to provide clean water and the gospel to every Liberian by 2020. Larson, working with an initiative organized by the SoCal Network and AGWM, wondered if the AG in Liberia would be interested in joining the effort.

"We were able to create an evangelism strategy to provide holistic missions — human relief with clean water, planting churches, evangelism, education, and Bible school training," says John E. Johnson, assistant superintendent for the SoCal Network.

Every AG ministry in the SoCal Network is supporting the Liberian effort this year. For example, Speed

the Light paid for 20 "jungle bikes," motorcycles that teams use to reach remote villages, plus 20 Android tablets to collect data in the field. The Network surpassed its goal of \$1.2 million to build a new school for church planters in Sierra Leone, to provide scholarships and curriculum help to train 900 workers in Liberia and Sierra Leone, and to invest in the clean water project.

Teams of people from Liberian AG churches take donated water filters and buckets into villages, via motorcycles, canoes, or just plain hiking. Clean water prevents babies and elderly from dying from typhoid and cholera. That compassion opens the door to evangelism and church planting.

While training the users, teams talk about Jesus, the Living Water, and how clean water is a gift from God to their family. Weeks later, teams revisit the same villages to ensure that residents are using and cleaning the filters. The national church then sends newly trained pastors to plant churches there.

Already, the filters have dramatically reduced the amount of diarrhea and illness in these villages.

people need Him, how to experience the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and what happens when His presence is in a person's life.

"Following the final service on Pentecost Sunday, we have a soft release, but encouraging those who want to be filled or filled again with the Spirit to stay," Dunn says. "The first few years, maybe 20 or 30 people stayed, but this last year, I'd say at least 90 percent stayed."

It shouldn't be much of a surprise to learn that on Pentecost Sunday, CCC, which, in total, runs about 3,500 to 4,000 in weekly attendance, saw 500 baptized in the Spirit, and another of its church plants in New Smyrna Beach also reported nearly 100 Baptized.

"I told Jeremy that he needs to build a church that in five years it would still be a church he would want to go to — a place the Spirit of the Lord has residence and reign," Raley says. "They've done that. Jeremy and Missy have done a great job in building a church that is intentionally Pentecostal."

Dunn says that so far this year C/Life Orlando has grown by 30 percent.

"If we feed people what they're hungry for, it's a disservice," Dunn observes. "What we want to do, instead of feeding them what they're hungry for, we want to change their appetites so they hunger for things [God's things] that they haven't hungered for before."

AG, CONVOY ASSIST VOLCANO VICTIMS

BY DAN VAN VEEN

The lava flows emanating from Mt. Kilauea over the last three weeks have not damaged or threatened any Assemblies of God churches, but according to Pastor John Trusdell, the Big Island presbyter and senior pastor of Living Waters Assembly of God in Hilo, AG members have been evacuated from the area and many have family or friends who have either lost their homes or cannot return to their homes.

Despite the losses, AG churches in the area are working with other relief organizations to provide food, clothing, and shelter. Convoy of Hope has also shipped a container with 42,000 pounds of relief supplies to Hilo.

The Teen Challenge Center on the Big Island has been evacuated several times due to the gases, but is not currently being threatened by the lava.

A big concern, however, is that the wind is expected to shift and blow the gases to the northeast, placing the city of Hilo in its path.

"Pray for the evacuees," Trusdell says. "They are under some really unbelievable stress of losing their homes and being forced out of their community because of the gases — many are retirees and don't have anywhere to go."

For those interested in assisting the Hawaii District Council in its relief efforts, see hiaog.com.