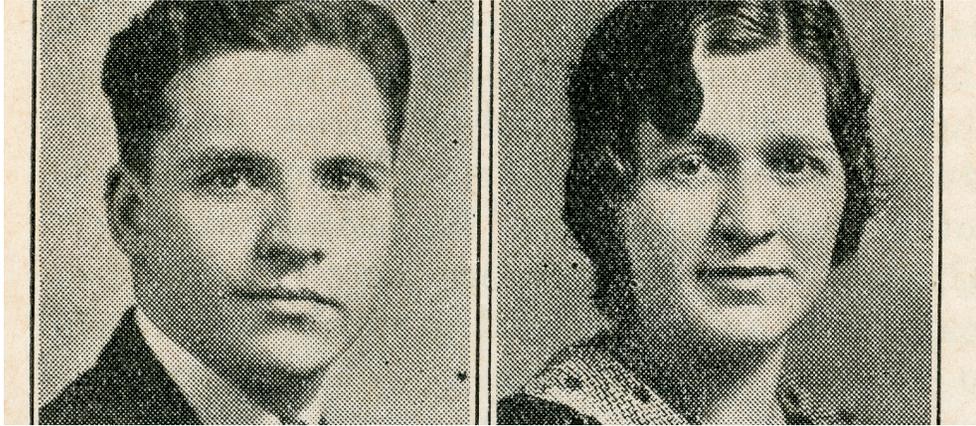


THIS WEEK IN AG HISTORY

BY RUTHIE EDGERLY OBERG



Paul L. Kitch (1910-2005) was an AG missionary to Burkina Faso, then known as French West Africa. He, his wife, Bernadine, and young son, Paul Jr., left the United States for the mission field in March 1938.

In August 1939, their daughter, Lita Ann, was born. Sadly, typhus claimed the life of Lita Ann at the age of 2. Seven months later, Bernadine died.

In October 1942, Kitch and his son boarded a cargo ship to return to America. Three weeks into the journey, the ship was hit and sunk by a torpedo. Kitch and Paul Jr. found themselves on a lifeboat with 35 people

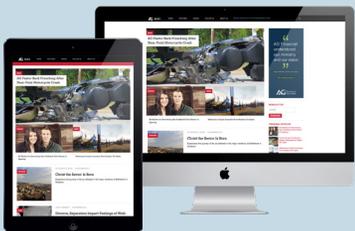
With limited rations, the group

rowed toward where they believed land might be. On the 10th day, a plane spotted them and alerted the coastal patrol, which took them to the island of Barbados.

For one month, Kitch had the opportunity to speak in island churches and share of the faithfulness of God. Later he learned that many believers had been praying that a Pentecostal missionary would come — they rejoiced that God answered their prayers.

Read the full article, "Ten Days in a Lifeboat," on page 1 of the March 13, 1943, issue of the *Pentecostal Evangel* online at s2.ag.org/mar131943.

Read the full versions of these stories on news.ag.org



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SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2019

AG NEWS

A COLLECTION OF THIS WEEK'S STORIES FROM NEWS.AG.ORG



MOMMA T AND THE WARRIORS

STL — FAR MORE
THAN MONEY

DISCOVERING
MOTHERHOOD JOYS

CROSBY NAMED EMERGE
PRESIDENT



MOMMA T AND THE WARRIORS

BY RACHEL ELLIS

Every week in Parkersburg, West Virginia, in one of the poorest sections in the city of 30,000, trucks pull up to Lynn Street filled with tables to erect, hot home-cooked food, and bags of clothes to distribute.

Volunteers wearing purple “Momma T and the Warriors” sweatshirts set up warming plates, lay out clothing and blankets, and look for direction from a smiling lady the locals call Momma T.

Teresa Ann “Momma T” Racer, 60, never had worked on the streets before she began her food and clothing ministry in October 2018. She had spent the past five years taking care of her husband, Tom, as he battled dementia.

After her husband died in June 2018, Racer wondered about her purpose in life, with Tom gone and her four children grown. She believes God told her to minister to people on the streets — feeding, clothing, and helping them

without condemnation.

The first week, Racer and her prayer group from Parkersburg First Assembly went out with one table and three pots of chili. By the third week, Racer had enlisted the support of her daughter, Heather M. Willis, 35.

Currently, the ministry feeds around 350 people per week. Donations for the food, which costs around \$800 weekly, come from a multitude of sources, including passersby who stop at the site to contribute.

Racer posts the week’s menu on Facebook. Many donations and helpers come from Parkersburg First Assembly. Racer and a few helpers cook the food at their homes, then truck-driving volunteers transport the meals and clothing donations.

“There are so many people that need help, and obviously the ultimate goal is their soul,” Racer says. “But they have

CHURCH SUES STATE OVER ABORTION

BY JOHN W. KENNEDY

Cedar Park Church, an AG congregation in Bothell, Washington, filed a federal lawsuit on March 8 against Washington state officials to challenge a newly implemented law that forces all employers — including churches that already provide maternity coverage — to pay for abortion and abortifacient contraceptives in health insurance plans.

“We’re standing for the rights of people of faith to not be forced into being complicit with something inconsistent with our faith,” says Jay W. Smith, senior pastor. “Abortion is the antithesis of who we are as an organization, what our beliefs are, and how we live out our faith.”

The suit, filed by Alliance Defending Freedom, declares that abortion is the ending of a human life and a grave sin. No abortion exemptions are allowed for churches or religious organizations that provide insurance coverage for maternity care. Cedar Park currently provides comprehensive coverage as part of its employee package.

The bill, signed last year by Gov. Jay Inslee, requires employee health plans to also “provide a covered person with substantially equivalent coverage to permit the abortion of a pregnancy.”

Kristen K. Waggoner, senior vice president of Alliance Defending Freedom, notes that under the current law church leaders would face not only fines, but also prison time for noncompliance.

“Government shouldn’t force a church that believes life begins at conception to pay for abortion,” Waggoner says.

Cedar Park, with a weekly attendance of 1,500, has 185 employees who are eligible for health insurance coverage. Under its umbrella is Cedar Park Christian Schools, which includes the Bothell campus that has over 1,000 students.

Clint M. Behrends is superintendent of Cedar Park Christian Schools. Behrends is the father of Waggoner, who filed the suit for ADF.

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.”



DISCOVERING MOTHERHOOD JOYS

BY REBECCA BURTRAM

By the time Lauren Russak Adamson learned how to drive a car, she already had mastered sniffing coke and snorting pain pills. At the age of 25, she spent over \$200 a day on heroin.

But everything changed when Adamson had to choose between losing her 2-year-old daughter and getting clean.

Adamson passed out from shooting up when police arrived. Officers found illegal drugs in her house. As Adamson sat handcuffed in the kitchen, Child and Youth Services removed her daughter from the residence.

A family friend came over and helped Adamson find Beauty for Ashes Women and Children's Home, one of only 11 Teen Challenge centers in the U.S. to allow mothers to have their children with them during treatment.

"I didn't want to do it," Adamson recalls. "I only did it because I wanted to have my daughter back."

Adamson thus far had attempted 20

other treatment programs, with minimal impact. However, she says Beauty for Ashes didn't feel like an institution that considered her a patient.

"It felt like my home; it was my daughter's home," Adamson says. "God's presence was so penetrating."

Through Beauty for Ashes, Adamson came to view her daughter in a new, healthier way.

"She developed a passion for being a mom and her daughter became the deserving recipient of a fully engaged, God-redeemed mom," says Cindy Zello, the program's executive director. "It wasn't about losing her daughter anymore; it was about having her for the rest of her life."

Adamson, now 27, graduated from the program and is working to continue a drug-free life. Last September, she wed a friend she has known since high school. She and Mike are raising two children in Pittsburgh.

CROSBY NAMED EMERGE PRESIDENT

Robert C. Crosby has been elected the new president and CEO of EMERGE Ministries in Akron, Ohio. EMERGE Ministries provides confidential, biblically based, and Spirit-empowered outpatient mental health care.

Crosby has served as vice president of Southeastern University and as professor of practical theology at the AG school. Before coming to SEU, Crosby and his wife, Pamela, pastored churches in New York and Boston for 25 years.

The Crosbys are co-founders of Teaming Life, conducting services, seminars, and conferences on topics related to pastor health, wellness, marriage, and team-building. Their newest book together is *The Will of a Man & The Way of a Woman: Balancing & Blending Better Together*.

Crosby has written several other books, including *The Teaming Church: Ministry in the Age of Collaboration*, *More Than a Savior*, and *The One Jesus Loves*.

EMERGE Ministries was founded in 1973 by Richard Dobbins, a pioneer in the field of Christian psychology, uniting a biblical foundation with pastoral care and clinical counseling. EMERGE has become a go-to source for church leaders and adherents.

The organization has been instrumental in bringing renewal and restoration to thousands of pastors, missionaries, and laypeople, serving over 250,000 people to date.

JUNGLE TEACHERS

BY KRISTEL RINGER ORTIZ

AGWM missionaries Steve and Theresa Ford have dedicated their lives to telling the story of Jesus to remote people groups of the Amazon jungle.

In December 2018, they responded to requests for training from 30 church leaders among the Shipibo — an indigenous tribe located along the Ucayali River in Peru's rain forests.

"We held a leadership seminar fully tailored to meet their needs," Steve and Theresa report. "We used the Orality Bible, a format in which Shipibo believers excel."

At the close of each section, a participant could volunteer to recount the lesson just learned, which the Fords say they did with "word-perfect recall."

The Fords were assisted in their endeavors by Marlon and Joice, a young Peruvian pastoral couple. Both proved invaluable.

Theresa says, "Joice's gifted ability to tell Bible narratives shines with poise and charm, drawing out the best in her listeners."

After three days of training, the group disbanded — the leaders eager to pass on their knowledge to their congregations.

The benefits of the training have already become evident. Joice's mother, a pastor's wife in a rural community, reports that her church is experiencing an awakening of spiritual appetite and is requesting more of this teaching.



FOUR-LEGGED LESSONS IN PRISON

BY DEANN ALFORD

In the quarter-century that Randy Helm has broken and trained mustangs, the ordained AG minister had long since discovered that his work with horses is a lot like how God works with people.

As supervisor of the Wild Horse Inmate Program at Arizona State Prison Complex in Florence, a mainstream plan to address recidivism by instilling responsibility and life skills in the offenders, Helm finds that the program's nonspiritual focus doesn't thwart the Lord from transforming the hearts of participants.

Helm, 64, recently released a devotional book, *Lessons From Horses*, which draws upon his experiences as a pastor and horse trainer. In the book, Helm links foundational Scripture to his horse-training methods.

Overall, within five years, more than three-quarters of released offenders end up right back in prison. In contrast, only one of the 75 inmates who have graduated from the program has

returned to prison.

The wild horse instruction is a win-win for all. Those who learn responsibility and life skills through preparing animals captured for adoption by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will readjust better to society and be less likely to end up reincarcerated. The BLM removes excess horse and burro populations from public lands unable to support them.

Helm oversees five employees from the Department of Corrections and around 25 inmates. In a year, 50 horses and burros are trained.

Such inmate training programs also exist in other states. One in Carson City, Nevada, is the subject of a feature film released March 15 called *The Mustang*. The film, produced by Oscar-winning director and Sundance Film Festival founder Robert Redford, is generating worldwide press interest in Helm's program.

to trust first and know we aren't judging them and that we care about them."

The first week Willis went out to serve, she and her mother met a couple recovering from heroin use. The woman, four months pregnant, lived in a home without food and utilities that had been shut off. The man worked, but without a vehicle he could only find a minimum-wage job nearby. Willis decided she and her mother would raise the money to buy them an automobile.

Willis went through her residence looking for items to sell, put out a request on Facebook, and worked to raise donations. After a month, she had raised \$1,200, enough to buy a 1991 Buick LeSabre, first month's insurance,

taxes, title, and a tankful of gas to donate to the couple. Racer and Willis have continued to aid the couple, including buying heaters for their home.

"So many within our Fellowship and community have embraced this mission with an infectious passion and love for those they are ministering to and for those they are ministering with," says Pastor Brad W. Puckett, Parkersburg First Assembly pastor. "This outreach is not only ministering to the community, it's ministering to the churches. This ministry isn't just about clothes on backs and food in stomachs. It's about Jesus touching and changes lives through His Church."

STL — FAR MORE THAN MONEY

BY DAN VAN VEEN

Giving to Speed the Light (STL) increased for the third consecutive year in 2018, as Assemblies of God youth raised more than \$9.8 million for missionaries — the highest total in more than a decade.

Although being able to meet missionaries' transportation and communication needs to an even greater extent has generated a lot of positive excitement, something else far more significant has caught the attention of youth leaders.

"Over the past eight months the question has been asked of students, *Who will go and who will tell them?*" explains Eric Hoffman, national director of Speed the Light. "There are several billion people around our globe that

are labeled 'spiritually lost' and it's this generation's responsibility to tell them."

The challenge has not been rejected. In the past five months alone, more than 600 students have said 'yes' to God's call to become missionaries.

Hoffman says the efforts by and generosity of students and leaders this past year has been an incredible blessing to witness. However, the dollars shouldn't overshadow what the Holy Spirit is doing in the hearts of students.

"I believe we are in the midst of the greatest missional movement our Fellowship has ever seen," Hoffman states.

Follow what's happening in STL at [Facebook.com/teamstl](https://www.facebook.com/teamstl).