

THIS WEEK IN AG HISTORY

BY GLENN W. GOHR

Arvid Ohnrell (1891-1963), who served as the first national prison chaplain for the U.S. Assemblies of God was born in Vadstena, Sweden.

In 1911, Ohnrell entered school and studied theology, psychology, mathematics, penology, journalism, and languages. He committed his life to Christ at age 14, was water baptized in 1915, and baptized in the Holy Spirit in 1916.

Ohnrell attended Bible school at the Filadelfia Church, the flagship Pentecostal congregation in Stockholm, and was ordained there on Dec. 2, 1919. He then pioneered churches in Gustafs, Borlange, and Palsboda, Sweden. He also helped create a prison division for the Swedish Pentecostal movement.

His prison work eventually carried him to the United States in 1925. By 1935, he had gained so much respect in the institutions that he visited, that the governor of Washington appointed Ohnrell as the state prison chaplain.

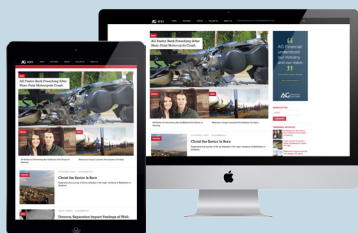
Ohnrell transferred his ordination to



the AG in 1937. In 1951, he accepted the position as the first national prison chaplain for the AG. He saw this as an opportunity to extend his work to hundreds of prisons and thousands of inmates.



Read "Touring the Prisons," by Ohnrell on pages 16-18 of the Nov. 9, 1948, issue of the *Pentecostal Evangel* online at s2.ag.org/nov91958 and more about Ohnrell at s2.ag.org/fall79agh.

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AG NEWS

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

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CHAPLAINCY
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MISSOURI**

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HEARTACHE AS CHAPLAINCY TRAINING

BY JOHN W. KENNEDY

When a grieving spouse is watching his or her loved one die, endorsed hospice chaplain Kevin W. Stowe can empathize.

Stowe dealt with a gamut of emotions himself while enduring the long, agonizing death of his 48-year-old wife, Kathy, in 2008. Five years into his pastorate in Fort Smith, Arkansas, Kathy received a diagnosis of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. With other family members, Kevin took care of the bedridden Kathy the final two years of her life. Assemblies of God hospice chaplain Jon L. Hamby helped him, his 21-year-old son, and 18-year-old daughter to cope.

After Kathy died, Kevin pastored Gentry First Assembly of God in Arkansas for three years. Yet, he came to realize God gave him a heart to work with those who are grieving. He wanted to help others realize all those outlandish feelings they experience during grief are normal.

For the past six years, Stowe has been an endorsed chaplain with U.S. Missions working for VITAS Healthcare

for greater Miami and the Upper Keys. Since 2015, he has been bereavement services manager for the company, the largest U.S. provider of end-of-life care, including over 2,000 patients in Dade and Monroe counties in Florida.

"If it has anything to do with bereavement — predeath or post-death — I am involved in some form or fashion," Stowe says. Once someone in hospice dies, he stays connected with the family for a year with grief support mailings and bereavement support via phone calls.

Stowe is careful not to divulge his wife's death as a conversation-starter.

"When people are grieving, they are the ones who need to be heard, not me," says Stowe, 51. "I don't want to offend. I will only share if someone asks if I've ever gone through anything like this."

More than four years after Kathy's death, Stowe married Carla T. Rodrigues, who is manager of the Miami Rescue Mission Center for Women and Children. With both Kevin and Carla engaged in potentially

SALVATION IN THE STREETS

BY CHRISTINE TEMPLE

AG evangelist Ivan Itzkowitz Jr. became a Christian on a street corner late one night in 2004, and since then he's led a ministry on one of the busiest thoroughfares in Hollywood, Florida. He says he has led 5,000 people to salvation in Jesus.

Fourteen years ago, Itzkowitz, now 45, says he was an angry man carrying pain from a childhood in an abusive and controlling home. Then he learned what it meant to be a Christian from an unlikely source: his best friend, a gang member and drug dealer. His friend had killed the son of a fellow drug dealer. Authorities deemed the killing occurred in self-defense, and Itzkowitz's friend felt compelled by God to return to preach on streets in the same neighborhood where he shot the man earlier.

Itzkowitz says he sensed God call him to minister to people on the streets. He began preaching and praying for the sick just two weeks after receiving salvation, eventually forming Walk for Christ Ministries.

The ministry's primary outreach is an annual three-mile walk on Pines

Boulevard and University Drive. The walk is always the Saturday before Thanksgiving, this year landing on Nov. 17.



Itzkowitz says nearly 1,000 volunteers — people from various churches, backgrounds, and ethnicities — have joined him on the walk over the years. The ministry features live worship, preaching, and prayer.

"We try to get as many Christians as we can and we do a walk right on the busiest street," he says. "God wants to show people you don't have to be within four walls to see His glory and see His power."

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."



UNPACKING BAGS IN NORTH DAKOTA

BY JOHN W. KENNEDY

Offensive lineman Jordy Nuñez transferred to Trinity Bible College in Ellendale, North Dakota, in 2009, unaware that the football team recently had endured multiple winless seasons, including a record-setting 105-0 shellacking by Rockford College.

During his three years at Trinity, the Lions went 5-5 one year, equaling the team's best mark ever, and Nunez achieved All American honors. He wed his wife, Elizabeth, in 2012.

That same year, Jordy graduated with a degree in intercultural studies and initially found work at Trinity overseeing men's dorms. That coincided with the arrival of Paul Alexander as the school's new president. Elizabeth graduated the following year with an elementary education degree.

Alexander approached the pair about developing a program where prospective students could go on short-term mission trips — to South Africa, Israel, Native American reservations, and inner-city neighborhoods.

Jordy served as director of PackYourBags at Trinity. The program

is geared for high school graduates — especially those unsure of their future plans — willing to dedicate a year to missions.

"Students need to figure out early on what God is calling them to do," Jordy says. "We don't want seniors in college to become a children's pastor if they don't really like kids."

"PackYourBags needed an entrepreneurial couple to get it started and Jordy and Elizabeth were a perfect fit," Alexander says.

"Wherever students go on trips will be in a cross-cultural context," Nuñez says. "It won't be like Ellendale. God's family is very diverse."

Now Elizabeth is director of marketing while Jordy is vice president of college relations at the school, in charge of recruiting and enrollment.

Alexander says Jordy's displayed maturity and insight with his creative leadership of the PackYourBags program.

"It was a natural progression for him to move into student affairs and then into college relations," Alexander says.

ON WINGS LIKE ÁGUILAS

BY JEFF CHAVES

Las Vegas is home to one of the fastest-growing Hispanic churches in the West: Águilas Centro Familiar Cristiano (Eagles Christian Family Center). On any Sunday, the campus swells to about 3,500 adults and close to 1,200 children at three services. Guillermo Jimenez has been senior pastor since 2004.

Jimenez attributes much of the increase to small group ministry. The church has 350 casas de paz or houses of peace across the Vegas valley. Each small group leader has been mentored and disciplined by an elder, who is accountable to a pastor.

The church has an active intercessory ministry that includes more than 300 people in prayer around the clock every day. Jimenez cites prayer as a key factor in obtaining its land. Águilas Centro Familiar Cristiano was halfway through financing the purchase of a plot from a private seller and had raised \$50,000 for the next installment.

Then Jimenez says he heard the Lord leading him to give the money away. An orphanage in Honduras needed the exact amount for construction. In a test of faith, Jimenez says the church donated funds to the orphanage, with no idea how to come up with money for the property payment.

The seller forgave, not \$50,000, but \$1,050,000. He waived the entire remainder of the purchase price, and the church gained title to the land.

POLITICAL CENTER PLANNED AT SEU

BY PRISCILLA BURR

Southeastern University in Lakeland, Florida, has announced that Congressman Dennis A. Ross will join the faculty as a distinguished professor of political science to launch the new American Center for Political Leadership (ACPL) next spring.

The bipartisan center will house key research activities, academic programs, courses, workshops, and resources that will prepare students to promote traditional American values and individual freedoms with civility, authenticity, respect, and decorum in government and society.

Ross will teach courses in political science, hold seminars on civic engagement at SEU's extension sites, convene town halls, and help lead the center's research focus.

"Servant leadership is absent in much of today's political landscape," Ross says. "The American Center for Political Leadership is a much-needed incubator that will cultivate a new generation of leaders who can protect and promote traditional American values and individual freedoms at all levels of government."

"Sadly, far too many Americans feel disconnected from and disappointed in today's political process," says SEU President Kent Ingle. "The American Center for Political Leadership will provide a trusted pathway for anyone to learn about government."



KOREAN-ENGLISH FELLOWSHIP FORMS

BY JOHN W. KENNEDY

The U.S. Assemblies of God has authorized the formation of the Korean-English Fellowship (KEF), primarily as a vehicle for second-generation Koreans to gain leadership opportunities in churches.

The U.S. AG already has two Korean districts, comprised of 117 largely Korean-language congregations. Many of the churches are led by senior pastors who immigrated to the U.S. in the 1970s from South Korea. The new fellowship is made up of subsequent generations.

"The Korean-English Fellowship will recruit and mobilize second-generation Korean-American pastors in the U.S.," says Joshua I. Kang, president of the group. "They've grown up speaking English, been educated in the U.S., have multicultural experience, know how to adapt to different cultures, and have spiritual fervency of the Korean church. God wants to mobilize this particular people group."

Kang is senior pastor of Full Gospel Las Vegas Church, which holds services in both English and Korean for 600

regular attendees.

"First generation pastors need to know that second generation pastors are capable of big and important responsibilities in churches," says Kang, who arrived in the U.S. at the age of 9 with his immigrating parents.

Saehee Duran, co-lead pastor of Life360 Intercultural Campus in Springfield, Missouri, is KEF's new vice president.

"We don't want to lose potential leaders because of a lack of connections they feel with the first generation," says Duran, who first came to the U.S. at the age of 15. "The fellowship will help develop second and third generation leaders who may not really understand the first generation Korean culture."

The two AG Korean districts fully supported the formation of the Korean-English Fellowship, which has become the 23rd distinct language/ethnic fellowship group in the U.S. AG. Fifteen churches in 15 states successfully petitioned the Executive Presbytery for recognition as an ethnic fellowship.

draining ministry, they make sure they have a date night every week, away from phones.

"As difficult as losing his wife was, God used that experience to prepare Kevin for what he is doing now," says Carla, 43. "It's made him a stronger man, and he can relate to the pain people feel after they have lost a loved one."

Carla says she has learned much about ministry from her husband, especially how to balance compassion with toughness. The rescue mission serves up to 14 families and eight single women. Homeless women also can stop by for a shower and a meal.

"It's such a blessing to minister to women who come in broken, hurting, and with huge spiritual and emotional baggage," Carla says. "It's rewarding to see God move in the lives of women who come in with nothing, even if that's getting day care for kids or securing low-income housing."

Although a decade ago he never envisioned leaving Arkansas, Kevin is grateful the Lord opened new ministry vistas.

"We don't realize it when it's happening, but God, through the events in our lives, prepares us for where He's going to place us," Kevin says.

HIGHLANDS REOPENS IN MISSOURI

Since its beginning in 1966, Highlands Child Placement and Maternity Services has placed over 3,000 babies in adoptions. In 2006, Highlands relocated operations from Kansas City, Missouri, to the Hillcrest Children's Home campus in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

During its annual meeting in October, the COMPACT Family Services board of directors approved the reopening of Highlands Adoption and Maternity Services in its state of origin, Missouri. While Highlands Maternity Home on the Hillcrest Campus in Hot Springs will continue, its placement services will shift to Springfield, Missouri. Highlands will begin to offer services for a larger demographic of AG constituents.

The Highlands Adoptions program will serve as a matching service between home-study-ready couples and birth

parents. Highlands will network with agencies across the nation to keep informed of potential adoption situations. Highlands then will contact home-study-ready couples from its database about the potential situations. If an adoptive couple is interested in pursuing a potential match, Highlands will "introduce" the two parties and a private adoption will take place.

This new process allows Highlands to help match its adoptive families with more potential birth mothers than those just at its residential program in Hot Springs.

For more information on how to be placed on the ministry's matching database, contact Ashley Grant (agrant@compactfamilyservices.org) or call 501-262-1660.