

THIS WEEK IN AG HISTORY

BY GLENN W. GOHR

George Jeffreys (1889-1962) was possibly the most gifted preacher that the British Pentecostal movement ever produced. The son of a miner, his family belonged to the Welsh Independent (Congregational) church.

In his youth, George suffered from a speech impediment and showed the beginnings of facial paralysis. But together with his older brother, Stephen, George was converted in the revival at Shiloh Independent Chapel in 1904, which was during the Welsh Revival.

When the Pentecostal movement was introduced to Wales in 1908, the brothers were both opposed to the new revival. But after Stephen's son was baptized in the Spirit, the two Jeffreys brothers sought this experience for themselves. In 1911 George was baptized in the Spirit and received healing of his speech impediment.

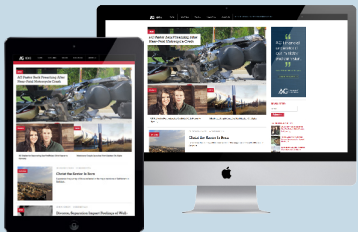
After being mentored and receiving specialized Bible training, George went into evangelistic work. George and Stephen began traveling together and were known as the Jeffreys Brothers.



Soon they gained the reputation of being England's greatest evangelists since Wesley and Whitefield. From the 1920s into the 1940s, they conducted revival meetings throughout England and Europe, with thousands converted and others receiving healing.


Read George Jeffreys' address, "How to Get a Revival," on pages 6-8 of the Oct. 30, 1920, issue of the *Pentecostal Evangel* online at s2.ag.org/oct301920.

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AG NEWS

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



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ETHNIC UNITY VIA MARRIAGE

BY JOHN W. KENNEDY

Married couples active in Assemblies of God ministry may be a key in helping to bridge the racial divides plaguing much of American society. Many interracial couples report that leading from a pair of ethnicities is beneficial to ministry.

“It helps to break barriers of prejudice and racism that are in human hearts,” says Awakening Ministries International founder Will Jones, who also is staff evangelist based at People’s Church in Oklahoma City. Jones is African-American; Jennifer is his white wife of six years.

“When people hear our story of how God put us together and how God is blessing the ministry in which we serve, it gives us opportunity to have conversations with young couples of different ethnicities who are dating,” Will says. “There is still very apparent prejudice in the pews of our churches. But God is using interracial marriages to break that.”

Raydon Haskins is a Chi Alpha missionary at Indiana University in Bloomington. Haskins, who is black,

believes ministering with his white wife, Kimberly, is beneficial.

“It shows a picture of the gospel,” says Raydon. “People of different ethnicities, cultures, and backgrounds — when submitted to Jesus — can work through differences.”

Todd and Synoilva Halbach are Milwaukee-based missionary associates with Special Touch Ministry. Todd, who is white, and Synoilva, who is black, agree that unity in Jesus erases racial differences.

“When people see the love of Jesus that we have that binds us together, they look at our hearts rather than the color of our skin,” Todd says.

Tim and Consuela Parsons, co-lead pastors at The Journey Church in Avon, Indiana, understand the significance for interracial couples to worship in a church where they both feel comfortable. Tim is white and Consuela is biracial, but identifies as African-American.

“Churches tend to be monoethnic,” Tim says. “It’s important for a couple to attend where neither feels unvalued or unheard.”

RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM

BY JARED LASKEY

After rising from the dead, Jesus told His disciples, “I am sending the promise of My Father upon you. But wait in the city of Jerusalem until you are clothed with power from on high,” (Luke 24:48b-49). Jesus was telling His disciples that the Holy Spirit would equip and empower them. The baptism in the Spirit is a promise from God the Father that Jesus gives His children. It’s an empowering to tell others about Him.

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is for all believers. As the disciples on the Day of Pentecost were speaking in tongues, the apostle Peter confirmed that what was taking place was fulfilling Joel 2:28-32. It says that the Spirit will be poured out on all flesh, evident as dreams, visions, and prophecy.

On the Day of Pentecost, a festival day of thanksgiving to God, tongues were prophetic as the disciples participated in forth-telling the Word of God. People from many nations gathered during the festival heard “them speaking in our own languages the mighty works of God” (Acts 2:11b).

The spiritual gift of tongues confirms the ongoing prophetic and priestly ministry of Christ to the world. Spirit baptism is showing how God has called and set apart His church from the world in order to effectively reach the lost with the gospel of salvation with signs following.

If you want to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit so that you will be an empowered witness and take part in the continual priesthood and prophetic ministry of Christ, ask Him to fill you, knowing He will give you His marvelous Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13). Then focus your affection on Jesus in worship, believing you will receive the promise from the Father and will speak in tongues. If it doesn’t happen immediately, keep asking and exercising your faith as you seek Him daily.

You will do the speaking as His Spirit enables and empowers you while worshiping Him. After receiving this promise, thank Him and pray in tongues daily.

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.”



DOMESTIC LIFE IN CHRIST

BY DEANN ALFORD

Menaced by a hurricane, an erupting volcano, and an ever-growing spool of bureaucratic red tape, two years after First Assembly of Honolulu Senior Pastor Klayton Ko felt prodded by the Holy Spirit to build a Christian community for homeless single moms and children, The Shelter is ready for residents.

The Oct. 24 dedication of the pilot program, which uses 12 fiberglass igloos to meet a critical housing need for the rising homeless population on the islands, brought together 175 leaders from First Assembly, churches within and outside the AG Hawaii District, government, businesses, and civic groups.

The program marks the first-ever Hawaiian use of these domes as viable options to other structures, such as shipping containers, for sheltering the homeless.

"It's been a long journey, but not a wasted two years," says Ko, who is also Hawaii AG district superintendent. "It's been a journey working with the city and

making sure that all the agencies and permit processes were done correctly."

That way, after launching the program in the regulation-heavy state, no legal questions would force its closure, and other churches and charities could follow the same steps to replicate the project.

"The change of the heart will make an everlasting difference," Ko told the diverse attendees at the dedication. "Everyone can do something. What happens if all of us would just pray a simple prayer: *What can I do?* You never know. God might answer you."

A coalition of these churches, charities, and businesses raised the funds for the Hawaii project. Nine domes will serve as domiciles for single moms and their children. Two are bathroom facilities, and one is the residence of the on-site property manager. The church is raising funds to operate the program, which will average nine months, aimed at transitioning the homeless into greater self-sufficiency.

BRIEFING HELD FOR FAITH LEADERS

BY DAN VAN VEEN

President Trump signed an executive order in May that, in addition to limiting the IRS's actions against religious organizations engaged in political campaign activities, created a new area within state departments that focuses on interacting with the faith community.

"Each major department — FEMA, Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, HUD, FDA, Education, Labor and Commerce — now has a Faith and Opportunity director," says Kent Hulbert, Youth Alive coordinator and U.S. missionary, who attended a White House briefing in October. "The meetings are designed to introduce the directors to the faith community and to provide insight to their purpose and vision."

Hulbert explains that the Faith and Opportunity directors give the faith community someone to talk to concerning things such as federal policies or issues impacting the exercise of religion liberties. The door swings the other way as well, as the directors now have people they can reach out to for feedback and perspectives.

Hulbert is returning to Washington, D.C., on Nov. 9 to meet with the Department of Education at a Faith Leader Summit.

"The briefing was awe-inspiring," Hulbert states. "I was very impressed with the directors' sensitivity to the faith community."

CONFERENCE AIMS NEXT GENERATION

BY KRISTEL RINGER ORTIZ

The World Assemblies of God Fellowship (WAGF) hosted its fifth World Missions Conference at Nueva Vida (New Life) Church, Oct. 18-20, in Madrid. It was also the first-ever combined missions conference of the WAGF and the Pentecostal World Fellowship.

Missionaries, leaders and representatives from more than 90 nations participated, rallying under the slogan, "The Future is Calling: Raising Up the Next Generation."

"Amid practical workshops and useful seminars, U.S. Assemblies of God General Superintendent Doug Clay's message stood out as a powerful challenge to depend on Spirit empowerment for mission achievement," says Omar Beiler, Assemblies of God World Missions regional director for Eurasia. "The response was enthusiastic, and leaders from around the world embraced a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit."

Greg Mundis, executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions USA, also spoke at the event, as did George O. Wood, chairman of the WAGF and former U.S. AG general superintendent.

"We need to prepare to relay and pass the baton to the new generations, to reverse the trend of secularization in Europe," stated Juan Carlos Escobar, president of the Federation of the AG of Spain. Spain is home to vibrant indigenous AG churches — some of the fastest-growing churches in Europe.



INVESTING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

BY JOHN W. KENNEDY

Billy L. Cockrum grew up two blocks north of the church he has pastored the past nine years, Passion Assembly of God. The church is tucked away in an economically challenged Springfield, Missouri, residential neighborhood.

After being healed of thyroid cancer from chemical exposure at a manufacturing plant where he worked, Cockrum says God told him to minister in the community where he always resided. Passion AG had fallen into disrepair, dwindled to a dozen members, and faced closure. Cockrum convinced Southern Missouri district officials to keep it open.

Cockrum, who has mechanical, electrical, and construction ability, shut the church down for a month and led a transformative renovation effort that resulted in an attractive sanctuary, cozy café area, and well-appointed classrooms.

Today, around 100 people attend Passion AG, most of them nearby residents. Cockrum also is vice president of Heart of the West Side, the local neighborhood improvement association.

"This community needs a lot of help," says Cockrum, 38. "Some have been to prison for drug and alcohol abuse. Sometimes people call me before they call the cops."

That included a situation in which Cockrum intervened with an intoxicated neighbor determined to drive. The man initially pointed a loaded gun at his own heart, but Cockrum pleaded with him to put down the revolver. When the pastor refused to relinquish the car keys, the drunken man said he would kill him. He shot at Cockrum three times at close range, but missed.

"Drugs and alcohol change a person," Cockrum says. "But with God we still have hope."

Although many of the parishioners are poor, the church is debt-free. Cockrum is committed to investing in those who live nearby.

"These people who come here mean everything to me," says Cockrum, who has completed studies through the district's School of Ministry and Global University. "God has supplied all our needs."

The Journey Church has grown more multiethnic since the couple arrived nearly two years ago — from 95 percent white to one-third minority.

"People see the diversity in our marriage and immediately make the correct assumption that we care about diversity," says Tim.

Jamil Stell, who is African-American, and his wife, Vanessa, of Mexican-Filipina heritage, are Chi Alpha directors at California State University-Stanislaus in Turlock. Jamil says he has witnessed more progressive attitudes in the Assemblies of God compared to when he started ministering. He says, there are more platforms for intentional ministry by minorities than before.

"A small group should be larger than your ethnicity; it should look like

heaven," says Stell.

Jones concurs that racial understanding has improved among AG constituents.

"We're not where we could be, but churches really have become more aware," he says. "Some are still figuring out how to have a comfortable conversation about it. While there remains some obliviousness to the issue, more churches are being intentional about hiring minority staff to reflect the demographics of the local community."

Haskins says while ministry leaders can address racial issues from a biblical perspective, the Lord must change hearts.

"God created all people in His image," he says. "We're all sacred to Him."

COH HELPING HURRICANE SURVIORS

BY JESSICA BLAKE

In the aftermath of Hurricane Michael, Convoy of Hope, the Assemblies of God compassion partner, is providing relief supplies to thousands of people affected by the storm's destruction. Over the past two weeks, Convoy has been in Florida providing disaster relief supplies to hurricane survivors.

Convoy of Hope has helped more than 130,000 people and has received nearly four million pounds of product to distribute to storm survivors. Convoy has established a main distribution hub, including a drive-through distribution site set up at Rivertown Community Church in Marianna, Florida, where they have served more than 7,000 cars. From this hub, they are also distributing

disaster relief supplies like water, food, and hygiene kits to surrounding areas. Thirty-five communities have been served through their mobile distribution services, which help those in outlying areas still struggling with a lack of resources. Some are still without power.

"Convoy of Hope plans to be in Florida helping those affected by Hurricane Michael for the long haul," said Jeff Nene, Convoy of Hope's national spokesperson. "We have responded to numerous storms, and this is one of the worst I have seen. Convoy is here to help ease some of the burden by providing the basics: food, water, hygiene kits, and other disaster relief supplies."