

THIS WEEK IN AG HISTORY

BY DARRIN RODGERS

Charles S. Price (1887-1947), pastor of the theologically liberal First Congregational Church in Lodi, California, visited a Pentecostal revival service in 1921. His purpose was to expose the evangelist, Aimee Semple McPherson, as a fraud.

Some of Price's church members had attended the revival services and reported large numbers of conversions and miracles. He scoffed, "I can explain it all. It is metaphysical, psychological, nothing tangible." Price arrived at the revival and was seated in the section reserved for people who desired healing.

Price was surprised to discover that McPherson's sermon was thoroughly biblical and compelling. Hundreds responded to accept Christ. He quickly became a believer, however, once he began witnessing numerous healings, including a blind person regaining sight and a lame person being able to walk.

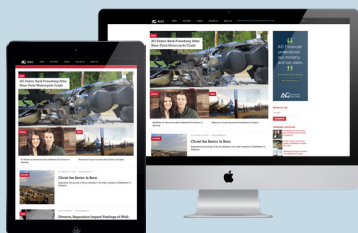
Price continued to go back to the nightly revival meetings. After four nights praying at the altar, Price was baptized in the Holy Spirit with the



evidence of speaking in tongues. He ultimately became one of the best-known Pentecostal evangelists of the 20th century.



Price preached a message, "Meet for the Master's Use," at the 1931 General Council of the Assemblies of God. Read his sermon on pages 2, 3, and 16 of the Oct. 24, 1931, issue of the *Pentecostal Evangel* online at s2.ag.org/oct241931.

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AG NEWS

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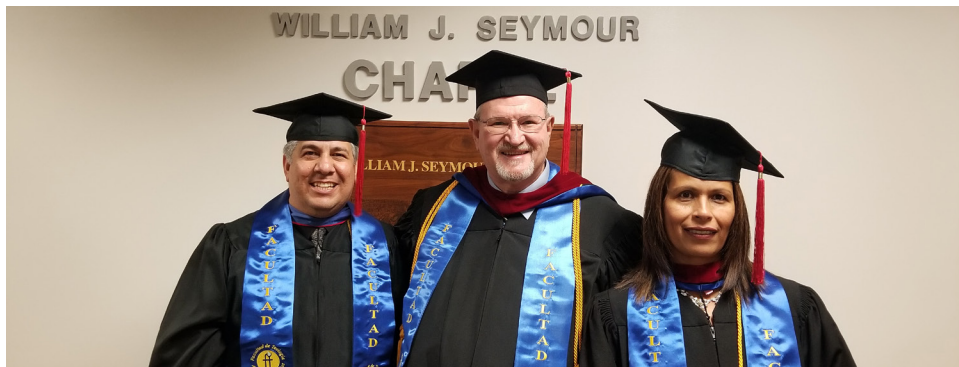
**TRAINING LATIN
AMERICAN
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**AGTRUST
AWARDS RIGGS
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**GRADUATING FROM
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**EVANGELIST
STARTED AS TEEN**





TRAINING LATIN AMERICAN PASTORS

BY JOHN W. KENNEDY

A Springfield, Missouri-based ministry is helping Hispanic ministry leaders throughout the Western hemisphere obtain higher education in the only Assemblies of God graduate-level Latin American Bible school training system.

Facultad de Teología, in conjunction with AG World Missions, is the graduate school branch of the Fellowship's theological education system in Spanish-speaking Latin America. The majority of the over 47,000 students learn in three-year Bible institute-level schools that meet in 450 brick and mortar Bible institutes and seminaries, 450 church extension sites, and 150 roving locations.

The fourth year of the program then is taught in strategically located regional Bible schools with roaming professors as part of the Latin America Advanced School of Theology (LAASST). Students learn in a trio of one-month-long live-in intensive courses.

Each year, Facultad de Teología conducts three-week modules in Panama, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, El Salvador,

Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Venezuela, Cuba, and the U.S. A different professor teaches each new course for 30 hours each week, with students writing a research paper at the conclusion.

"We are the AGWM graduate program for all of Spanish-speaking Latin America," says Facultad President H. Allen Martin. "We are mentoring the top leaders, both current district and national officials as well as up and coming ministers. Over 80 percent of our students are currently Bible school professors, and many are preparing to become foreign missionaries."

For the first time in its 30-year history, Facultad de Teología last month graduated two Master of Divinity students, Gilberto Montes de Oca and Consuelo Ribas de Barrón.

The school has offered master's degrees in practical theology and advanced theological education since being founded by Sam Balius. The new Master of Divinity program includes 10 added biblical language courses in Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic.

BELIEVERS OFFER "RICH GENEROSITY"

BY CRAIG MATHISON

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, local Christians know what it is to experience scarcity. Conditions were dire during a vicious civil war from 1991-1995. Though the fighting stopped long ago, Bosnians since then have lived meagerly, compared to the nations that surround them.

A recent surge of migrants and refugees from outside Europe is creating new challenges. With the harsh winter approaching, Bosnian believers are generously working together with their fellow citizens and with outsiders to help the migrants in their midst. AGWM personnel are joining in the effort to bring love, kindness, and tangible help to migrants and those who are generously serving them.

"There are so many people coming in every day," says AGWM missionary Katie Sasser. "Bosnians remember the war and how it felt to flee, and the people here are genuinely big-hearted. Many are doing as much as they can with what little they have."

Ministry team members in Bosnia and Herzegovina have requested help from

AGWM and Convoy of Hope. Convoy of Hope sent a two-person team to help prepare a coordinated response. Bosnian believers and AGWM personnel are already working with other Bosnians to meet immediate needs.

"At a local center for migrant families, House of All, we have helped cook a meal for the occupants, helped do maintenance on the house, donated food, and done whatever we can to help," says missionary Curt Hobbs.

Sasser adds, "Helping at House of All has also allowed me to get to know several migrant families and love on them in this hard time. But it's a tough time for them. We've seen grateful smiles and lost looks."

The apostle Paul commended early Christians in Macedonia who gave toward the needs of others in spite of their own limited resources: "In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity" (2 Corinthians 8:2, NIV). This biblical example is now being repeated in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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."



GRADUATING FROM ADVERSITY

BY JOHN W. KENNEDY

David Steeves had an inauspicious beginning in life. His Nigerian immigrant father met his mother, fleeing civil war in Ethiopia, in a refugee camp in Istanbul. At the age of 6, Steeves fled with his mother, Janet, to Canada. The marriage didn't last, and Steeves hasn't seen his father for 15 years. But his mother found protection in Jesus in the refugee camp and instilled faith in her only child.

Steeves, 21, is a pastoral studies major in his final year at Trinity Bible College in Ellendale, North Dakota. However, the transition to a remote, overwhelmingly white American school proved a culture shock for the African-Canadian immigrant. In his second year, Steeves sought widespread friendships and made first - team All - American as a Trinity Lions football player.

"Jesus was a people person," Steeves says. "He didn't do ministry with only white people or only black people. I don't want to set up roadblocks because

of the way people look."

Yet his junior year proved toughest of all. His girlfriend, Amelia Speltz, died in a vehicular wreck in March. Trinity students and professors rallied to his side to comfort him.

"Over the summer I had to learn how to really submit to God, how to let Him be my Father," Steeves says. "At the end of the day, God is in control."

Steeves primarily is an inside linebacker. He has led the defense in tackles in a majority of games this season, averaging around a dozen per game. Last season, Steeves set a Trinity Lions single game record for tackles for loss (6) as well as the school record for season tackles for loss (16) — a mark he equaled Sept. 29 this season.

"Being a disciple is more important than playing football," Steeves says. "I want people to be in true relationship with God. People shouldn't miss out."

EVANGELIST STARTED AS TEEN

BY PETER K. JOHNSON

Dale W. Everett, an AG evangelist based in Joliet, Illinois, hit the evangelistic trail in 1973 after graduating from high school. He continued traveling until 1993, when he began pastoring full time and traveling part time conducting short-term crusades. In 2007, Everett launched a global ministry.

"I heard the voice of the Lord challenging me to take the gospel to the nations," says Everett, ordained with the AG since 1979. Doors opened unexpectedly for evangelistic campaigns in Durban and Cape Town, South Africa. New speaking opportunities poured in from Kenya, Tanzania, Swaziland, and Burundi. In the past 11 years, he has ministered in 10 countries.

During a June 2018 outreach in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, Everett preached to 10,000, including an estimated 8,000 non-Christians following Islam, Hinduism, and other beliefs.

More than 3,500 people received Christ as Lord and 2,700 received the gift of the Holy Spirit, he reports. Everett, 63, travels 300 days a year.

According to Everett, audiences in Africa reflect a deeper hunger and passion for God than in the U.S. or Western Europe.

"Africans are more aware of the spiritual levels of life," he observes. "And Jesus said it's the hungry and thirsty who get filled. Yet the miracles are the same in every country."

STL BOAT SPREADS GOSPEL IN PERU

BY AG YOUTH MINISTRIES

When thinking of vehicles provided by Speed the Light (STL), people typically think that means a car, truck, or van. However, one missionary couple required a unique form of transportation to help them more easily, effectively, and conveniently preach the gospel.

In Peru, missionaries Steve and Theresa Ford teach the gospel to unreached people groups of the Amazon jungle. Due to the complexity of the jungle's landscape, traveling to these villages is more quickly accessed by boat.

Before receiving a boat from STL, the Fords traveled in a boat built by Rodrigo Fajardo, a pastor they've partnered with to plant churches in Candoshi villages. But they needed something more stable to advance their ministry. As a result, STL provided them with an aluminum 12-meter boat, powered by a 60-horsepower outboard motor.

Theresa says, "The new motor is more powerful and makes short work of the long distances one must travel to get to these mostly unreached people."

The boat is ideal for long trips and for hauling large groups of people.

Steve and Theresa's boat has allowed them to share the gospel with countless Candoshi communities. These people groups are responding to their "evangelistic Scripture narratives" and are sharing these stories with others.



BACK IN THE GROOVE

BY CINDY J. THOMAS

As a teenager in a troubled New Jersey blended family in 1974, Eric Tomasino developed an addiction to methamphetamines. By age 18, Tomasino had multiple arrests for assault and drug possession. He realized a spiritual avenue would be his only hope. Even in their dysfunction, the family had sporadically attended an AG church, where Pastor Carl Colletti reached out to the teenager.

Colletti drove Tomasino to a Teen Challenge center. Tomasino completed the program, stayed on as staff, and married his wife, Patty. Eventually, he became an Adult & Teen Challenge staff member in Philadelphia and then in Alaska, where he served as executive director for 15 years after ordination.

But in 2008, life took an unwelcome turn. The years of drug abuse returned to haunt Tomasino in the form of hepatitis C, leading to rheumatoid arthritis and debilitating pain. Over the next few years he endured cataracts,

kidney problems, and five joint replacements. He couldn't physically continue the demands of full-time ministry.

In 2016, at age 59, Tomasino became a candidate for a new cure for hepatitis C with a 99 percent success rate in clinical trials. Cost was a drawback — the pills were over \$1,000 each. Miraculously, his insurance company agreed to pay for the experimental treatment.

Today, Tomasino is cured of hepatitis C. His energy has returned, and there is no further progression of rheumatoid arthritis. He praises God for the financial provision and for the treatment, which offers other recovering addicts the opportunity for better health.

The Tomasinos, now married for 40 years, live near their three adult children and eight grandchildren. He volunteers at Summit Worship Center in Wasilla, Alaska, while continuing to work as a substance abuse counselor. He has retired from Teen Challenge.

Overall, in three decades 1,500 students have enrolled in Facultad de Teología, with 450 currently taking classes. There are 45 professors, evenly divided between missionaries and nationals. Missionary professors pay their own travel expenses to keep costs low, while churches in the countries cover the housing and meals of the visiting faculty. Professors teaching modules receive an offering from students.

Montes de Oca graduated summa cum laude and has been an ordained AG minister in the U.S. since 2008. He leads the Dallas-based Iglesia El Buen Pastor. He obtained his first master's in theology from Facultad in 2015, as a prerequisite to obtain the Master of Divinity.

For the past two years, Montes

de Oca, has been a teacher as well, traveling around Mexico, the U.S., the Caribbean, and Central America. When teaching in economically depressed Cuba, he donates his pay to provide scholarships for students.

Facultad de Teología has a contractual relationship with Assemblies of God Theological Seminary in which students study in English, but write papers in Spanish. Montes de Oca believes Facultad fills a vital role.

"The best books of theology, commentaries, lexicons, and other resources are in English, not Spanish," he says. "Most Latin American ministers don't speak English, so Facultad provides these good master's level theological teachings in their own language."

AGTRUST AWARDS RIGGS SCHOLARSHIPS

BY AGTRUST

Ten high school graduates, attending Assemblies of God colleges and universities beginning with the 2018-2019 fall semester, have been awarded Ralph Riggs Scholarships.

The General Superintendent's Scholarship (\$30,000 each, distributed over a four-year period) is awarded to one male and one female high school graduate. Scholarships of \$5,000 each are awarded to eight more high school graduates.

Chandler Gray and Bethany Malsam each received the Ralph Riggs General Superintendent's \$30,000 Scholarship.

Gray, of Sedalia, Missouri, is attending Evangel University in Springfield, Missouri, and Malsam, of Brandon,

South Dakota, is attending North Central University in Minneapolis.

The Ralph Riggs \$5,000 scholarships recipients are: DJ Fields, Griffin, Georgia, attending Vanguard University, Costa Mesa, California; Cierra Jones, Southside, Alabama, and Laken Wallace, Beckley, West Virginia, attending Southeastern University, Lakeland, Florida; Araceli Gonzalez, Fowler, Colorado, and Elizabeth Mills, Sycamore, Illinois, attending Southwestern Assemblies of God University, Waxahachie, Texas; and Kellie Kuehl, Sussex, Wisconsin, and Gary Trey Pontius III, Holland, Ohio, and Keilah Rodgers, Ithaca, New York, attending Evangel University.