

Vol. 23, No. 4, Winter 2003-04

Assemblies of God

# HERITAGE



**Homer Brooks**  
**Minister and Attorney**



# Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center



## Come Explore Assemblies of God History

The photos on this page highlight the communication displays at the FPHC Museum. From the left, TV programs kiosk; sound bytes from radio programs; radio photos and memorabilia; *Revivaltime* production team; C. M. Ward's early RCA microphone; and below a family listening to *Revivaltime*.

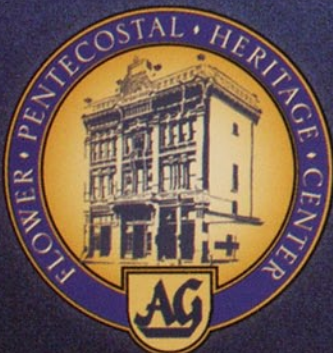


- **Museum Hours:** Open daily, Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Admission:** No admission fee. Free parking. Handicap accessible.
- **Tours:** Guided tours are available for interested groups.

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## HOMER BROOKS: MINISTER AND ATTORNEY

From a one-room shack in rural Alabama, Homer Brooks became an attorney arguing cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. More than that, in his opinion, he became a credentialed minister at the age of 72. Now at 99, he has an opportunity to look back. By *Glenn Gohr*



## BIBLE SCHOOL, CAMP MEETINGS, AND EVANGELIZING

Winnifred A. Robeson, a 90-year-old veteran minister, tells what it was like during the great depression in the Upper Midwest. As told to her son Robert B. Robeson



## VIOLINMAKER SEES INSTRUMENTS PLAY IN CONCERT

The Scriptures and history speak well of generous souls. Aldor Reuterfors built and donated 20 violins to Evangel University and Central Bible College. He died a week after the violins were dedicated. By *Christine Byers*



## STRATON MURAL DEDICATED 40 YEARS AGO

It was an exciting time at the 50th Anniversary of the Assemblies of God when Warren Straton's mural in the Headquarters lobby was dedicated. Here is a reprint of a newspaper story of the mural and the acclaimed artist who has left his work to speak to future generations.



## THE SEVEN DAYS OF CREATION IN STAINED GLASS

For more than 40 years Assemblies of God Headquarters visitors and employees have admired Doug Phillips' "The Seven Days of Creation" in stained glass. His widow says it was "one of his most dramatic and expressive designs." Now it has been relocated in the Headquarters chapel.

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Cover: Homer Brooks sitting at a desk in his home in the 1970s soon after his retirement from secular work.

## Harold Headrick, A Builder of People and Buildings

By Wayne Warner

He admits to being an old-fashioned preacher. At age 90, Honolulu's Harold Headrick doesn't plan on changing. And anyone who knows him can't believe this builder of people and buildings will ever change.

"I have not met his equal," former Northern California-Nevada District Superintendent William O. Vickery, wrote. "He is pastor, teacher, evangelist, missionary, administrator, church builder, people builder, and above all, a faithful servant of the Lord."

Headrick speaks his mind when he feels it is important. That happened when he saw crowds rushing for seats to hear a visiting evangelist, whom Headrick claimed employed "hypnotism, the power of suggestion." A Honolulu newspaper published his critical letter regarding the meetings.

And he made visiting preachers to his own church toe the mark. Before he retired from the Honolulu Assembly of God, Headrick told *Star-Bulletin* reporter Mary Adamski that he set ground rules for speakers. "I don't want him to roam [around the sanctuary]. Healing is OK, but I don't want him to push anyone over. And don't give God a clap offering," he adds, "give him praise."

He calls the clapping worldly and a poor substitute for audible praise. "God's holy, he's awesome, give him praise." He added that he's always been Pentecostal, but hula dancing in the church is on the fleshly side. "Some of these churches are too wild for me."

One of the Honolulu churches



One of scores of constructions projects credited to Harold Headrick.

Headrick obviously had in mind was Wayne Cordeiro's New Hope Christian Fellowship, an exploding church with attendance of nearly 10,000 on weekends. Reporter Adamski drew a comparison between the two churches, calling them "churches traveling the same road but in slightly different vehicles." Elwin Ahu is executive pastor of New Hope—which in addition to the Honolulu congregation that meets in a rented school auditorium, has planted other churches in the islands and along the Pacific Rim. He says, "We'll do whatever it takes to get the message out." With the great number of changed lives, it is apparent that New Hope and other contemporary worship centers are indeed traveling the same road. Even so, the candid Harold Headrick has strong reservations about that.

The "slightly different vehicle" style for Missouri-born Harold Headrick began in Hawaii before Cordeiro and Ahu were born. His background in construction has helped him plant churches, construct buildings, and rebuild them throughout the islands from Hawaii to Australia.

He quit building churches when he was 80, but he used to be as much at home in a hard hat on a building site as he was in a suit and tie behind a pulpit.

He has survived everything from challenges to his old-fashioned ideas to crash landing his private plane in the Pacific Ocean. And more recently, at 90, he survived a heart attack and surgery with seven bypasses.

Life for Harold Headrick began May 15, 1913, at Cape Girardeau, Missouri, almost a

year before the Assemblies of God was birthed next door in Arkansas. He came by construction work naturally as his father paved highways and worked on dams. Harold also worked on dams in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Illinois, and Washington. As an adventuresome 20-year old, he took a job on a Panama Canal power plant project.

He could have worked full-time in the commercial construction business, but God had other plans. And he has no regrets the way God led.

At the age of 25, Headrick dedicated his life to help build the kingdom rather than dams and highways—with his first preaching attempts on California beaches. During World War II he worked for the Corps of Engineers, building new airstrips in Hawaii, Fiji, and New Caledonia. He also learned to fly—a skill that he would use in getting from Oahu to other islands. While attending Glad Tidings Bible Institute in San Francisco (now Bethany College of the Assemblies of God), he directed a flying group and taught several ministers to fly, including Frank Boyd,

Wesley Steelberg, Melvin Steward, and Elmer Geesey.

Following graduation from Glad Tidings, he moved to Hawaii where he helped build Honolulu's First Assembly in 1947—whose first pastor, Eldon Vincent, had recently moved there from Massachusetts. After devoting 11 months to First Assembly, Headrick moved to Wahiawa where a new congregation he assembled began meeting in a converted cow barn. But not for long. He led the construction of a new building for the congregation and pastored for 12 years. As if he didn't have enough to do, Headrick served as district superintendent and helped other churches, of several denominations, in building or remodeling projects on Hawaii's other islands.

### **Pastor Harold Headrick had a hand in building, remodeling, or enlarging nearly a hundred churches.**

How many church buildings did he have a hand in? It's hard to keep track, but it was nearly a hundred. After helping to build in Korea, he returned to Hawaii and built a church at Waipio and pastored there for 12 years. Then Honolulu called again, and he answered. When most ministers at age 63 are checking out Maranatha Village, Sun City, or some other attractive retirement complex, Headrick planted a Honolulu church in 1974 and remained the next 27 years. And he continued helping other churches during his last pastorate, completing the last one in 1990.

And what about ditching his plane in the Pacific?

The front page of the June 20, 1956, *Honolulu Advertiser* pictures a Hawaiian Pineapple Co. crane lifting Headrick's plane from the Pacific after divers located it in 140 feet of water. The "flying parson," as the reporter

called Headrick, was flying his Stimson Voyager from a workers training course at Hilo with three passengers when it crashed off Lanai. Headrick and his passengers—his wife Lucille, his son Harold, and a district Sunday school director—were pulled from the water almost immediately by a pineapple tug.

"The minister-pilot and his three passengers," the story concluded, "have declared their survival 'a miracle.'"

Sorrow invaded his life in 1981 when his wife Lucille suffered a heart attack and died. Little could he know at the time that one of the many who offered sympathy through a card would later become his wife.

Helen Kelly and her late husband Glenn had evangelized from Canada to Cuba and from the Atlantic to Hawaii. In 5 years, they conducted 65 revival meetings, usually 3-4 weeks each. One of their 1957 revivals was for Harold and Lucille Headrick in Hawaii. Sorrow hit Helen's life—just as it would Harold's—when Glenn died in 1975 after brain surgery. For five years she ministered at the Oral Roberts Prayer Tower, listening and praying with people who poured out

their own sorrows and tragedies.

Then Lucille's passing and the sympathy card.

And as they say, the rest is history. Harold remembered the evangelist's widow and began a courtship by mail, which led to their marriage in 1982. The new team taught and/or supported ministries throughout the South Pacific Islands, Micronesia, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Greece, and Australia. Helen also served as Women's Ministries director for the Hawaii District.

### **His advice for young preachers is simple— "Preach the Word. Depend heavily upon the Holy Spirit. And love the people."**

One of the highlights of the Headrick ministry proved to be the Berean Bible classes they conducted in Honolulu Assembly of God during the 1990s. The Hawaiian Berean School (now part of Global University, Springfield, Missouri) was the largest extension center during the time. The national office recognized Headrick's ministry by naming him the recipient



**Pastor Headrick in 1956 and his wrecked plane after it was pulled from the ocean in 140 feet of water. The plane was beyond repair.**

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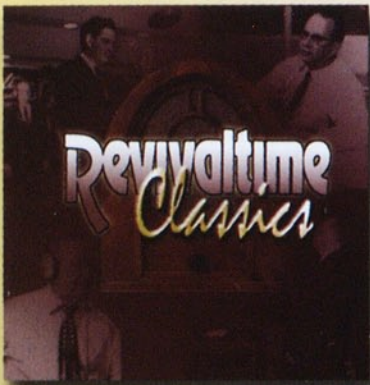
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J. Robert Ashcroft, right, and Harold Headrick at the first graduating class for Berean College campus in Honolulu, 1991. Ashcroft, president of Berean at the time, was the speaker.



Harold and Helen Headrick at their last pastorate in Honolulu.

of their third Royal Order of Berea Award in 1991.

Berean president Zenas Bicket spoke of Headrick in the same breath as he did the Apostle Paul. “While Paul supported his ministry through tent making,” Bicket wrote in 2001, “you used your God-given skills as a construction specialist.”

Reminding the Headricks that one soul is worth more than the entire world, Hawaii District superintendent Woodrow Yasuhara in 2001, then asked, “How many souls have you touched during these twenty-seven years?” He added, “You folks must be rich. It may not be in the worldly goods but certainly in souls.”

Calling Headrick the apostle to all of the churches he started, C. M. Ward—then president of Headrick’s alma mater—awarded him an honorary doctorate. Jerald Ogg, pastor of Kailua Assembly of God, couldn’t bestow an honorary doctorate but paid a high compliment to Headrick. “I’d call him Mr. Pentecost of Hawaii,” he told reporter Mary Adamski. “He’s a

builder of buildings and a builder of people.” Ogg’s Kailua building is one of dozens that Headrick had constructed.

Building people. That’s what it’s all about for Harold Headrick. “We have altar calls,” he said of his last pastorate. “Those with situations in their lives come down and we pray.” Regretting that some churches no longer use altar calls, Headrick added, “You want to be prayed for, you are having trouble...give it to God.”

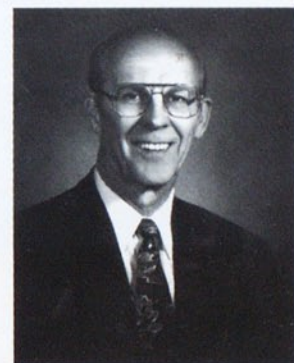
When I asked him if he had advice for young preachers, he was quick to say, “Preach the Word. Depend heavily upon the Holy Spirit. And love the people.”

The Headricks moved from Hawaii to Springfield, Missouri, in August of last year. But the humid weather became a hardship on them. And here Headrick suffered a heart attack, which required seven bypass surgeries at St. John’s Regional Health Center. In October the Headricks moved back to their beloved Hawaii. Before they left, Helen and the family,

with a gift to the Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center, placed his name in the Center’s Hall of Honor—a deserving tribute to the builder of churches and of people.

And as the title goes for a Headrick scrapbook, “To God be all the glory.”

Information for this column came from Mary Adamski’s “That Old-time Religion,” which appeared in the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, July 21, 2001; a scrapbook prepared by the Headricks; and an interview January 25, 2004.



Wayne Warner is director of the Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center and editor of *Heritage* magazine.

## Young Homer prayed for two goals: to become a minister as his father was, and become a member of the U.S. Supreme Court.

The body of Christ has many members, each with unique gifts. Homer Brooks of Palatka, Florida, who will turn 99 this year, has used his talents to further the Kingdom in a variety of ways. Saved at the age of 4, and having served the Lord ever since, Brooks has been involved in Christian work all his life, wherever the Lord could use him. Not only has he served as a minister, but he contributed his abilities as an attorney when needed and also served as a college board member. He assisted the Assemblies of God in legal matters following World War II and helped to secure the property on which today Evangel University and the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary are located.

Born April 19, 1905, at Evergreen, Conecuh County, Alabama, Estle Homer Brooks, is the second of 11 children born to Edward B. and Sallie G. (Martin) Brooks.<sup>1</sup> His parents were converted in a brush arbor meeting conducted by Walter B. Jessup near Bowles, Alabama, in 1908. His father was called into the ministry and served as a pastor and evangelist in the Alabama and West Florida District in the early days of the Assemblies of God. With Homer being born in a one-room shack in rural Alabama, it was obvious the family was poor. But so was everyone else in this rural setting. He attended Mount Zion grammar school and Mount Zion Junior High (now Lyeffion High School). The Brooks family farmed for a livelihood, and Homer remained a plowboy on the farm, helping out until age 20.

At age 12 he asked God, that if it be His will, he would like to attain two important places in life: 1) to be a minister of the gospel to preach and save souls like his father, and 2) to become a member of the Supreme Court of the United States. About the same time, Homer reports that he had a vision of hundreds of acres of cotton, representing people whose souls needed to be saved. This vision stirred his heart to work for the Lord for the saving of souls in any avenue that might arise. He has always been faithful to his church and the work of the Assemblies of God. He spent the first years of his life working as an attorney.<sup>2</sup>

Early in 1925 he was employed as the commissary clerk at Alger Sullivan Lumber Company. Later he worked as a pharmacy clerk in the Evergreen City

# Homer Brooks Minister and Attorney

By Glenn Gohr



Homer Brooks, age 13, standing with his father, Rev. Edward Brooks, in about 1918.

Homer on his 98<sup>th</sup> birthday.





Homer Brooks at his home office in the 1970s.

Drug Store. He also drove the school bus, and one of the students he picked up in the mornings was Lucille Brooks, a distant cousin of his, who was the daughter of John Zachary Brooks. They both grew up on farms in Conecuh County, Alabama. A friendship soon developed into love.

After several months of study, Brooks graduated from Georgia-Carolina School of Commerce, Brunswick, Georgia, in 1926. In December of that year, in search of a better career, he accepted a job with the Southeastern Railway Express Company in Birmingham. Soon after this, his grandfather wrote him a letter on January 17, 1927, saying, "Come back here and get your girl and be happy." Homer and Lucille Brooks were married by a justice of the peace at Evergreen on April 24, 1927. They became parents of four children, Marcus Homer, Sybil, James Paul (deceased at 8 months), and Edna Montez.

It was not long before the Depression hit. Even so, Homer Brooks found a chance to study through correspondence with LaSalle University Law School of Chicago, receiving a bachelor of law degree after 3 years of study. From the lean years and throughout their long marriage, Homer's wife, Lucille, was supportive and encouraged him in all his various careers and endeavors. She was a faithful wife and mother and solid role model and mentor for each of their three children.

While putting the Lord's work first, there was a time when Homer Brooks took an interest in politics. He

was a candidate for Lieutenant Governor of Alabama in 1938 and 1942, receiving the endorsement of union members of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks.<sup>3</sup>

### **Moving From Alabama to Washington, D.C.**

On March 2, 1942, Homer Brooks was admitted to the bar of the state of Mississippi. He received the certificate of admissions to practice law in the State Supreme Court of Mississippi and also the United States Circuit Court of Appeals.

In October of that year, the Brooks family moved to Washington, D.C., where he accepted a position as senior freight examiner with the General Accounting Office. He also was a claims agent for two years during the war. The Brookses began attending Bethel Pentecostal Tabernacle, and Pastor Harry Schaeffer assisted them in finding a place to live. Homer became editor of the *Bethel Messenger*, a publication of the church. He also served as Sunday school superintendent.

In 1945 Homer Brooks received the certificate of admission to the United States Court of Emergency Appeals and the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. He also received a certificate of admission to the United States Court of Military Appeals, the Supreme Court, and United States Court of Claims.<sup>4</sup>

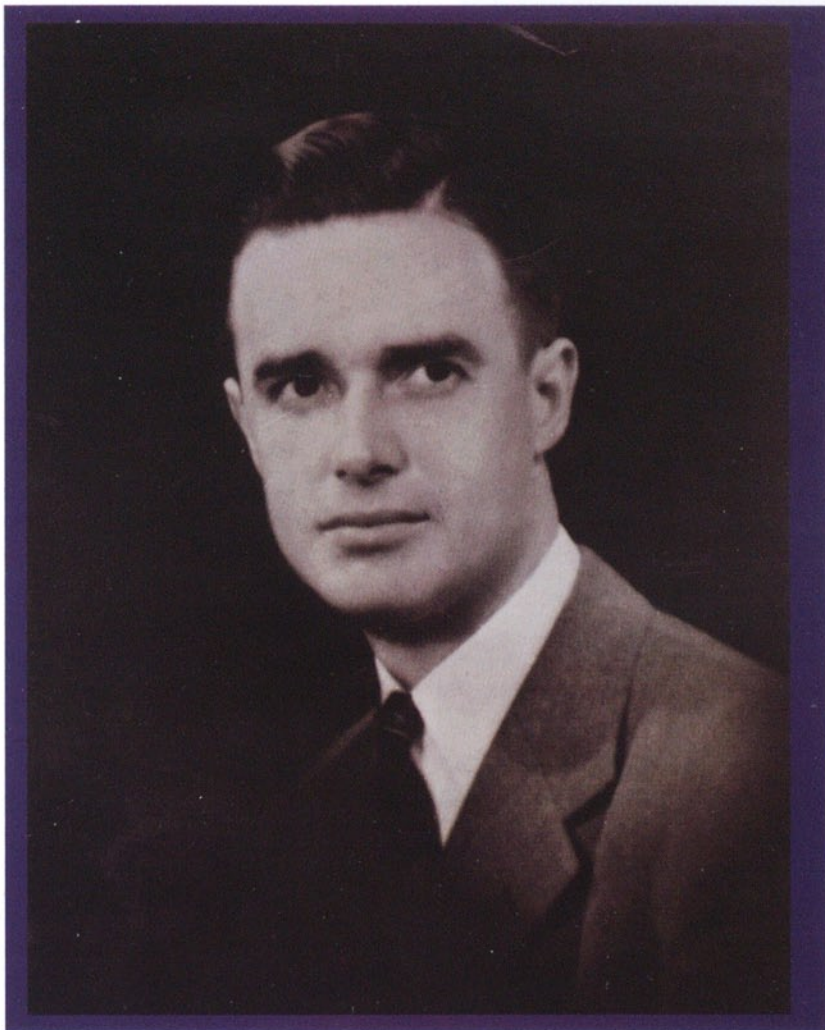
Brooks transferred to the Office of Inter-American Affairs (a World War II agency) in 1946, where he served in the legal division as an assistant attorney under Nelson A.

Rockefeller. While in the legal profession, he did legal research and wrote legal opinions, including "Third Term Presidents" in 1940 and a synopsis of the "Taft-Hartley Labor Law" in 1947.<sup>5</sup> While still working full-time for the U.S. Government, he opened his own law firm in Washington and practiced before the Appellate Courts and several cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.<sup>6</sup>

During World War II and the years following, in addition to his other legal duties, Homer Brooks represented the General Council in legal matters on a national level. When allotments were cut and rationed during the War, Brooks helped to secure an extra allotment of paper for the Gospel Publishing House. An exception was made for religious organizations in publishing necessary material.<sup>7</sup>

A few years later, he submitted a letter to Washington regarding religious persecution in Italy. At the 1951 General Council held in Atlanta, Georgia, a resolution was passed regarding the need for religious liberties in Italy. That fall, the leaders of the Assemblies of God decided to address this issue with the Secretary of State in Washington, D.C. However, both General Superintendent Steelberg and Foreign Missions Secretary Perkin were out of the country for an extended period of time. Homer Brooks, as an elder in his local church in Washington, D.C. and as a member of the Supreme Court, was asked to write a letter to Secretary of State Dean Acheson outlining the resolution and the need to outlaw the persecution of

**During World War II and the years following, Homer Brooks represented the General Council in legal matters on a national level.**



**Homer Brooks in the 1940s, about the time he began practicing law in Washington, D.C.**

evangelicals and provide freedom of worship for all the people of Italy.<sup>8</sup>

Brooks hoped that this document would be taken in consideration during U.S. negotiations for a Peace Treaty in Paris in November 1951. In a letter addressed to J. Roswell Flower, he said, "I pray that this of course may have some effect towards accomplishment of our purpose. I shall be glad to serve you in any capacity in way of help here I can, and there is no charges for my little time spent. Just glad to do anything for the cause of Christ."<sup>9</sup>

### **Securing Property for Evangel College**

Not long after this, he represented the General Council in securing surplus property which had been the site of O'Reilly General Hospital, a U.S. Army temporary hospital, in Springfield, Missouri, used during World War II and in the immediate postwar period. O'Reilly Hospital was declared excess property by the U.S. Government in December 1952. Almost immediately, the executives of the Assemblies of God began negotiations to try to procure the property for use as a new liberal arts college. Several other institutions also jumped at the chance to purchase the O'Reilly Hospital site.

By November 1954, the U.S. Government still had not decided who would receive the surplus property. General Superintendent Ralph Riggs and Assistant Superintendent Thomas F. Zimmerman made a trip to Washington, D.C. to investigate the delays and to receive some definite answers. Upon their return to Springfield, the General Services Administration sent a telegram explaining that a ruling would be made in a matter of days and that the church could expect it to be favorable.<sup>10</sup>

In the meantime, Homer Brooks, as an attorney in Washington, had offered his gratis services to the church to make sure that all proper application procedures were followed and that the proper political contacts were made.<sup>11</sup>

He had a conference with the General Services Administration (GSA) and addressed letters to U.S. Senator W. Stuart Symington, the



**The Brooks family siblings at a gathering in 1991. Back, l-r: Harold Brooks, John Brooks, Eva Hall. Front, l-r: Bessie Miller, Bertha Address, Ethel Flowers, Homer Brooks, and James A. Brooks.**

Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW), Nelson Rockefeller, and others concerning the Assemblies of God desiring to obtain the surplus O'Reilly property. He also solicited letters and petitions from Assemblies of God constituents to assist in showing the widespread need and support for obtaining the property for education purposes.

The result was that on December 14, 1954, a public announcement appeared in the front page of the Springfield, Missouri *Leader-Press* that 58.51 acres of the O'Reilly property had been granted to the Assemblies of God at 100% discount, to be used "for educational purposes only" as the campus of Evangel College (now University). This campus of 68 building on 59 acres was a definite answer to prayer as the Assemblies of God opened a Christian-based liberal arts college in its headquarters city.<sup>12</sup> A portion of this property also now houses the

Assemblies of God Theological Seminary.

Nelson A. Rockefeller, Brooks's former boss, was Director of HEW at the time, and he is the one who signed the transfer.<sup>13</sup> One of the representatives of the college said "The Lord looked ahead and placed an attorney in Washington, D.C. at our disposal to represent us in the legal matters we needed in securing this college."<sup>14</sup>

The General Council sent Brooks an honorarium in appreciation of his tireless efforts. In a letter from Thomas F. Zimmerman, he announced: "The Executive Presbytery of the General Council of the Assemblies of God has passed a resolution of thanks to you for your valuable assistance in getting favorable action in Washington on our application for the O'Reilly General Hospital property. It gives me pleasure to advise you of this action, and to pass along to you our official note of appreciation."<sup>15</sup>

The Board of Directors of Evangel University recently presented Homer Brooks with a plaque in recognition of his part in the acquisition of the property for Evangel University.

The plaque has this inscription on it: "Evangel University, Springfield, Missouri - The Board of Directors of Evangel University offers this expression of gratitude to E. Homer Brooks for extraordinary and untiring efforts in 1954, assisting the Assemblies of God in securing part of the former O'Reilly Army General Hospital property for the development of the Evangel campus." It is dated November 13, 2003 and signed by the President and Vice President.<sup>16</sup>

#### **His Labor Continues**

Brooks continued a friendship with Thomas Zimmerman throughout the years. In 1955 Zimmerman, as president of the National Religious Broadcasters, made a trip to Washington to attend a joint meeting of the NRB and International Christian Leadership, Inc. While there, Zimmerman and Brooks rekindled their friendship.

Later that year, Zimmerman wrote a letter asking Homer Brooks to look into the Social Security guidelines and

**"The Lord looked ahead and placed an attorney in Washington, D.C. at our disposal to represent us in the legal matters we needed in securing this college."—an Evangel College representative**

housing allowances for ministers. He was glad once again to be of service to the General Council of the Assemblies of God.<sup>17</sup>

Along with his interest in Christian higher education, in 1962 Brooks accepted a position on the Board of Regents at Northeast Bible Institute in Green Lane, Pennsylvania (now Valley Forge Christian College) for a 2-year term. He also served as a member of the Council of Evangel College (now Evangel University) in Springfield, Missouri for a 5-year term. As a council member of Evangel during the 1960s, Brooks sent out a number of letters to major oil companies for possible donations. He also contacted quite a large number of other businesses for support. Many replies were acknowledged, and some companies were able to contribute. This was a great asset to the school. He also secured a ruling that monetary gifts to Evangel College would be tax deductible.

In 1967, he was appointed to the position of Committing Magistrate for Montgomery County, Maryland, for a 2-year term. He continued as Magistrate in the Criminal Division, until his retirement in 1973.

After retiring from all secular work, he was granted credentials by the Potomac District as a licensed minister with the Assemblies of God in 1977 at the age of 72, having been a Pentecostal Christian since about age four.<sup>18</sup> General Superintendent Zimmerman wrote him a special note which said in part: "Welcome to the Fellowship! One of the greatest assets of the Assemblies of God is the many

men and women who, like you, are answering the call of God and devoting their lives to His service. I am happy to congratulate you on the ministerial recognition extended to you by the Potomac District Council. I believe your association with the Fellowship will greatly enhance your ministry, and I am confident your participation will be a blessing to our Movement."<sup>19</sup>

Brooks enrolled in correspondence courses with Berean School of the Bible, Springfield, Missouri, receiving his certificate of graduation on April 19, 1983 (his 78<sup>th</sup> birthday). At a period in life when many ministers would retire, he evangelized in Alabama, Florida, South Carolina, and Maryland in addition to ministering in various nursing homes in the Washington Metropolitan area.

Brooks continued with visitation ministry for more than 15 years. He had a regular schedule of visiting three or four nursing homes each week. Since he did not play the piano, he would use his tape recorder as music for some of the old hymns. Then he would hold a Bible lesson with the groups and offer prayer and encouragement to each person he came in contact with. He also served as the visitation minister for First Assembly of God in Silver Spring, Maryland, for several years. A notice in the church bulletin said, "Today we officially welcome Rev. Homer Brooks as our Minister of Visitation. His duties at First Assembly will be to join the pastor in praying for you each week, calling by telephone and personal visits when necessary. Brother Brooks has a wonderful love and knowledge of

the people of First Assembly and he has freely offered his service at this time."<sup>20</sup> In the years that followed, he was awarded numerous citations and certificates of appreciation for his devoted and invaluable services to the shut-ins.

### **In His Latter Years**

A few years later he experienced the tragedy of his wife, Lucille, passing away on January 4, 1989 after a short illness. They enjoyed 61 years of marriage together and serving the Lord. Lucille was a wonderful teacher of the Word and filled in for the pastor on many Friday evenings at Bethel Tabernacle in Washington, D.C. where they attended for many years. She also assisted Homer in his nursing home ministry and visitation of shut-ins when they lived at Silver Spring, Maryland.

In 1990, Brooks rekindled an old family friendship with Ruby Hazel Duck, whom he had known for well over 50 years. She is the daughter of Charles Lewis "C. L." Duck, who was an early evangelist and pastor in Florida, Alabama, and South Carolina. He was assistant superintendent in South Florida and was district secretary-treasurer. C. L. Duck also served as superintendent of the West Florida District and later of the South Carolina District of the Assemblies of God. Ruby Hazel was also an ordained Assemblies of God minister and pastor for many years.

Homer and Ruby Hazel were married on June 29, 1991, and they now live in Palatka, Florida. She is a wonderful Christian and loving wife.

# Evangel University

Springfield, Missouri

The Board of Directors  
of  
Evangel University  
offers this expression of gratitude to  
**E. Homer Brooks**  
for extraordinary and untiring efforts  
in 1954, assisting the Assemblies of God  
in securing part of the former  
O'Reilly Army General Hospital  
property for the development of the  
Evangel campus.

November 13, 2003

*Robert H. Spence, President*  
*Glenn H. Bernet, Jr., Vice President*

Brooks, at age 99 years of age in April, has accomplished so much in his lifetime that it seems he has gone full circle. He is well-loved by many, and he will leave an outstanding and greatly appreciated legacy. Following in his footsteps are his 3 children and spouses, seven grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. He speaks often about their successes and is proud of each one's accomplishments. In addition to Homer and his father, Edward Brooks, several others of the Brooks family have followed into the ministry.

General Superintendent Thomas F. Zimmerman addressed a letter to Homer Brooks in 1983, expressing much appreciation for his efforts in advancing the kingdom of God:

"Thank you for your very thoughtful and encouraging letter which came to my desk in this morning's mail. With it came a flood of happy memories and joyful recollections of meaningful fellowship together as the Lord permitted us to be a part of mutual efforts through the years for the advancement of the work of God. We thank God for every remembrance of you and for the joy of being a fellow-worker in seeing things accomplished for the building of His everlasting kingdom....Your support and prayers mean more to me than I can find words to express."<sup>21</sup>

Wallace Odum, a former superintendent of the Potomac District, while living at the district campgrounds at Falling Waters, West

Virginia, addressed a letter to Homer Brooks in 1993. It said in part: "You are missed on these campgrounds, for your faithfulness through the years is not forgotten, nor shall it ever be by those who have known you. Like yourself, there are so many who have meant much to this camp and its successful work since its very beginning. You and your dear pastor, our beloved Harry Schaeffer, were among that number, which includes such men as Ralph Jeffrey, Walter Long, E. F. M. Staudt, Alex Clattenburg, Arthur Graves, Guy Duty, just to name a few. We thank the Lord that you are still in the land of the living. But somehow I think your own spirit in some way joins theirs in hovering over the sacred and dedicated grounds of Potomac Park Camp."<sup>22</sup>

Odum also recounted a time in 1972 when he was near death in the hospital with internal bleeding. Emergency surgery was called at 2:00 o'clock in the morning. He shared the testimony that Homer Brooks was awakened in the middle of the night with a burden to pray for him, and God answered that prayer.

Howard Spruill, former superintendent of the Potomac District, was pastoring at First Assembly at Silver Spring, Maryland, from 1974-1979. During that time he remembers Homer and his wife, Lucille, as very dedicated church members. The Brookses were active in nursing home ministry and were a blessing to many. He also remembers, "When I became district superintendent in 1979, Homer Brooks and his wife kept in contact. If I was

**"He went on to become a member of the U.S. Supreme Court before his retirement. Afterwards he obtained ministerial credentials and served as an evangelist, a minister to nursing home residents, and a visitation pastor. He served God and attained both of his lifelong goals."**

preaching in any church close by, Homer Brooks would make a special effort to come hear me speak.”<sup>23</sup>

Art Shell of Cape Coral, Florida, has known Homer Brooks all his life. Art’s father, Arthur Shell, Sr., and Homer’s father, Edward Brooks, were pioneer ministers together in the Alabama District. They traveled in evangelistic work for several years at the start of each of their ministries.<sup>24</sup> The Brooks family was held in great esteem by the early ministers in Alabama, and his father took a special interest in Homer. Art says, “Dad was very happy to have had a part in Homer’s ministry.” And Art reciprocated by asking Homer Brooks to speak for him once in the church he pastored at Clearwater, Florida. With both now living in Florida, they continue to stay in touch, after all these many years.<sup>25</sup>

Although semi-retired because of his advanced age, Homer Brooks is willing to pray and minister when called upon. From an Alabama plowboy, to store clerk, then an attorney advancing to criminal court magistrate and legal advisor to government officials during World War II in Washington, D.C., Brooks has always kept his sight on the Lord and his purposes. It was the providence of God that he was able to assist the Assemblies of God in certain legal matters including the acquisition of the government surplus land that became the home of Evangel University. He went on to become a member of the U.S. Supreme Court before his retirement. Afterwards he obtained

ministerial credentials and served as an evangelist, a minister to nursing home residents, and a visitation pastor. He served God and attained both of his lifelong goals. What a tremendous testimony!



**Glenn Gohr is assistant archivist and copy editor for the Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center.**

#### Notes

1. “Homer Brooks, Minister-Evangelist,” typed transcript of taped interview, [1980?], 1.
2. *Ibid.*, 2, 6.
3. Homer Brooks, *Life Begins at Seventy* (Annandale, VA: Charles Baptist Studios, 1979), 30.
4. Sybil Brooks Evans, “A Tribute to Dad,” *Evergreen (AL) Courant*, June 21, 1998, 12.
5. Brooks, *Life Begins at Seventy*, v.
6. Evans, “A Tribute to Dad,” 12.
7. Estle Homer Brooks, “Life’s Railway to Heaven,” typewritten, April 19, 1986.
8. Homer Brooks, letter to Secretary of State, Washington, D.C., October 30, 1951.
9. Homer Brooks, letter to J.

Roswell Flower, October 30, 1951.

10. J. Robert Ashcroft, letter to Klaude Kendrick, December 3, 1954, Evangel University Archives.

11. *Executive Presbytery Minutes*, December 21, 1954, 327-329; Barry Hugh Corey, “Pentecostalism and the Collegiate Institution: A Study in the Decision to Found Evangel College” (Ph.D. dissertation, Boston College, 1992), 186.

12. Millard E. Collins, “Establishing and Financing of Higher Educational Institutions in the Church Body of the Assemblies of God in the U.S.A.” (Austin, Texas, 1959), typewritten, 110.

13. “Homer Brooks, Minister-Evangelist,” 4,

14. Brooks, *Life Begins at Seventy*, 31.

15. Thomas F. Zimmerman, letter to Homer Brooks, December 27, 1954.

16. Sybil Brooks Evans, e-mail, December 18, 2003.

17. Thomas F. Zimmerman, letter to Homer Brooks, June 1, 1955.

18. Being 72 years of age when he was first granted credentials, it is possible that Homer Brooks might hold a record for being one of the oldest to apply for ministerial credentials.

19. Thomas F. Zimmerman, letter to Homer Brooks, February 13, 1978.

20. Church bulletin, First Assembly of God, Silver Spring, Maryland, May 1, 1988.

21. Thomas F. Zimmerman, letter to Homer Brooks, August 3, 1983.

22. Wallace Odum, letter to Homer Brooks, September 17, 1993.

23. Howard Spruill, telephone interview, January 8, 2004.

24. For more information on Arthur Shell, see “Arthur Shell, Sr.: Early Days of Pentecost in Alabama” *Assemblies of God Heritage*, Fall-Winter 1999-2000.

25. Art Shell, telephone interview, January 8, 2004.

# Bible School, Camp Meetings, and Evangelizing

*90-year-old Veteran Minister Tells What It Was Like  
During the Great Depression in the Upper Midwest*

**By Winnifred A. Robeson**

**As told to her son Robert B. Robeson**



The author, left,  
and Lois Grant  
(later Nelson)  
standing outside  
North Central  
Bible Institute in  
1935.



I was a high school student in Sauk Centre, Minnesota, in the late 1920s when Charles C. Beatty—later dean and an instructor at North Central Bible Institute (now North Central University)—visited our small Assemblies of God church seeking Bible school students. He emphasized that the proposed plan was to establish this institute in 1930 in the basement of the Minneapolis Gospel Tabernacle at 3015 Thirteenth Avenue, South. This church was then pastored by Frank (F. J.) Lindquist, who was also superintendent of the North Central District.

I'd been saved at the age of 11 in July 1924. This occurred during a tent meeting in Sauk Centre before our permanent church was built. In the years that followed, I remember what a significant event Lake Geneva Bible Camp in Alexandria, Minnesota, was each summer. Ministers such as A.A. Wilson, Charles S. Price, and A.G. Ward preached to eager audiences hungry for the Word in that uncertain and unsettling period. Here believers were provided the most important advice anyone could ever receive: when faced with seemingly impossible circumstances and struggles, ask God for guidance and direction, keep going, and never give up.

Even as a small child in grade school, I had a desire to be involved in music, not yet understanding how important that would become to the ministry later. My parents had a pump organ, and I used to annoy my mother by constantly picking out pieces of

songs at home. I taught myself to play by ear—with no instructor—but finally learned to read music in high school choir. When I was a teenager, I'd walk to our church after school (which was only a block from our house) to practice on that piano. In winter, in an unheated sanctuary, I'd frequently practice so long that I would lose feeling in my fingers.

But the extended years and hours of persistent practice finally found an important outlet that began by word-of-mouth at Lake Geneva Bible Camp toward the end of my high school years. Wesley R. Hurst, Sr., was conducting a tent meeting in Cokato, Minnesota, and someone had told him

about me. He asked if I'd assist them over the summer by helping care for their children and playing the piano for services. Even at this young age, I felt led to become involved in this endeavor. It was my first experience in active evangelizing. And this is where I was introduced to the Hurst sons, Wesley, Jr. and Duane, who would later have significant Assemblies of God missionary and ministerial posts around the world.

One of the humorous things I remember about that summer is that the Hursts had a difficult time trying to get the two boys to take their cod-liver oil as a source of vitamins A and D. I finally devised a successful method by holding their noses. When they finally opened their mouths for air, this dreaded and distasteful dose was efficiently delivered. When Duane (D.

V.) was later president of Northwest College in Kirkland, Washington, we met again at the church my late husband—Byron B. Robeson—pastored in La Grande, Oregon. After all those years, he still recalled that dreaded cod-liver oil conspiracy in Cokato. (In the summer of 1934, I was also present in the Lake Geneva Bible Camp prayer room at two o'clock in the morning when

Wesley, Jr. was filled with the Holy Spirit. Both he and his sister Pauline were speaking in other tongues for a long period of time. It was as though they were ministering back and forth to each other. What a wonderful and special moment that was to share with them.)<sup>1</sup>



In 1932 I made the decision to attend N.C.B.I. that fall. The Great Depression in America was in full stride, and times were hard for most people. It was especially difficult for Bible school students whose families had barely enough to exist on without sacrificing more for a college student's tuition. That was my situation.

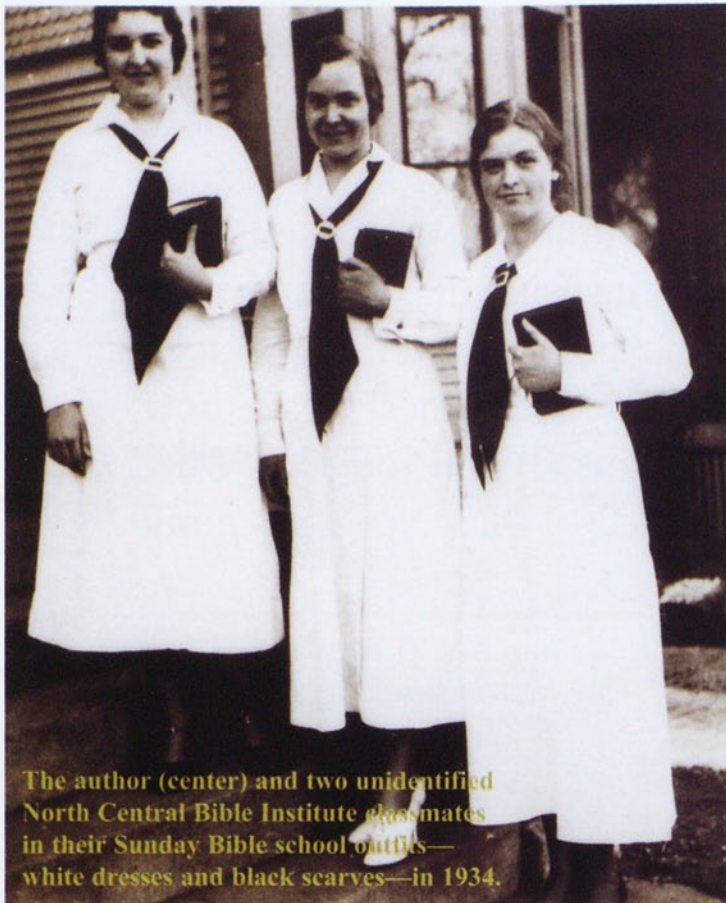
While I was at Lake Geneva Bible Camp that summer, a sister of Ruby Huey—who was starting a work in Hettinger, North Dakota—made it known that a pianist was needed to assist Ruby in this new ministry. That's how things happened back then. If someone required assistance in a ministry, the word would quickly spread. Before long, the Lord would lead someone to volunteer his or her help. This time it was me.

I found a ride all the way to Hettinger—near the South Dakota border in southwestern North Dakota—which was a very long, hot, and uncomfortable trip in those days. I assisted Ruby the rest of the summer and was late reporting to Bible school due to transportation problems. At the last moment, I learned that a N.C.B.I. student was returning for his final year from somewhere in North Dakota. Franklin O. Cory, a member of the pioneer graduating class of 1933, gave me a ride to Minneapolis from Hettinger, after I had received permission.

The only money I had was \$18 from a love offering given to me before leaving Hettinger. When we left, I couldn't find my purse. We drove around town looking for it everywhere. Finally, after praying, my purse was discovered on the running board on my side of the car. We'd driven all over and it hadn't fallen off. This money

was critical because a portion of it was needed to repair two flat tires we endured en route to Minneapolis.

In all of these early evangelistic ventures, there was a willingness to go where the Lord wanted us to go and do what He wanted us to do. It was valuable preparation for when my future husband and I were in full-time ministry.



The author (center) and two unidentified North Central Bible Institute classmates in their Sunday Bible school outfits—white dresses and black scarves—in 1934.

My class of 1935 made its first appearance at N.C.B.I. on October 3, 1932. We encompassed 68 students from 7 states and Canada.<sup>2</sup>

There was no application paperwork in those days to go to school. A person merely showed up and the administration helped the females find a job. When you had employment and a place to stay, you could go to school. My tuition for the entire year was \$50, which didn't include meals or books.

All of the women were housed in private homes. One of my first jobs at Bible school provided room, board, and meals, plus \$1 a week. I did

housework, cleaning, cooking, washing, and babysitting—working 52-54 hours a week—while taking a full load of courses at school. This was common for most students I knew. I paid 10 cents tithe out of that dollar and the other 90 cents went for streetcar fare. That's why I was always behind on my tuition payments until another job came along that paid \$1.50 per week.

(As a means of comparison between then and now, in 1932 the average annual income was \$1,652, a new car cost \$610, a loaf of bread was 7 cents, and gas was 10 cents a gallon.)<sup>3</sup>

Money was scarce, and we continually operated on faith to make ends meet. That simple childlike faith and trust in God is a mighty thing. It is stronger than the darkest fear. It can make even the weakest heart brave.

During the summer of 1934, I attended Lake Geneva Camp Meeting where I stayed in a tent and washed dishes for food. I was also involved in special music. While there, Gladys Welter—an N.C.B.I. student from Grafton, North Dakota—asked me to go with her to Park River, North Dakota (about 18 miles from Grafton) to help conduct special tent revival meetings in an attempt to establish a new work. There was no Assemblies of God church in this town of approximately 1,600 residents.

We received a ride to Crystal, North Dakota (population of about 300) where a Christian woman (Anna Anderson) owned the only hotel in town. She let us stay there all summer, and we earned our lodging and meals by making beds, cleaning rooms, and doing dishes during the day.

God supplied our need for transportation from Crystal to Park

Some of the participants in the 1934 revival at Park River, North Dakota. From the left, Lloyd Jorgenson, E. N. Oster, Helen Lockwood, Winnifred Gennow (Robeson), Myrtle Erickson (later Slater), and Mr. and Mrs. Louis Mudge, Bellingham, Washington.



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**In all these early evangelistic ventures, there was a willingness to go where the Lord wanted us to go and do what He wanted us to do.**

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River each night through another resident of this hotel. Lou Dahl, who did not even claim to be a Christian, volunteered to drive us to these revival meetings (40 miles round trip) without being asked. He did this all summer and would also attend the services.

In those days, word-of-mouth was the most efficient advertising. Quite a number of people would attend these services because that was one of the few things going on in small towns when finances and community events were limited. The tent was located one block off the main street of Park River. The floor of our tent was merely the ground of this vacant lot. Seating was

on rough benches, and it was always very dusty. Gladys and I wore our white school uniforms every night of revival, and we were constantly having to wash them because they were always dirty from the environment.

A great deal of Christian support came from people returning from camp meeting. They were always interested in where new churches were being planted or special meetings were being held. Gladys was usually the speaker, unless there were visiting pastors or other Bible school students. Gladys played a guitar. I sang and played a guitar and the piano. We received a little support through offerings, but

times were tough and it was minimal.

I remember one day in particular because the humidity was overwhelming. It felt hot enough to bake bread without an oven. A fierce wind suddenly sprang up, and bricks and boards began flying through the air from the facades of buildings nearby. I had never encountered such a wind. (It may have been a mini-tornado.) I was trying to keep the tent from blowing away by hanging onto the tent ropes. Finally, a gentleman named Olson yelled, "Miss Gennow, get down! Get Down!" We all fell to the ground. The tent ripped wide open and was blown over, but not one lightbulb inside was

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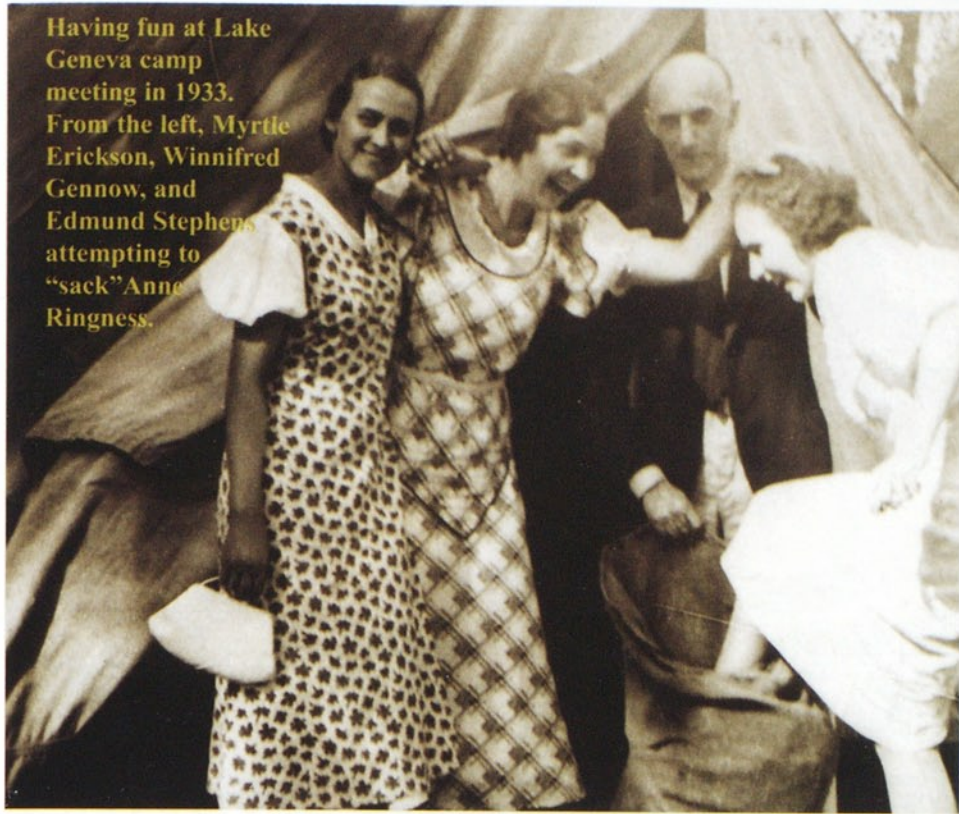
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Having fun at Lake Geneva camp meeting in 1933. From the left, Myrtle Erickson, Winnifred Gennow, and Edmund Stephens attempting to "sack" Anne Ringness.



## In the midsts of the Great Depression, we never doubted that the God of Elijah still lived.

broken. We worked all afternoon repairing and sewing the tent. It was up again and ready in time for the next night's service. Later, a full gospel church was established there as a result of these efforts by so many to spread the Word.

Through our small contributions, we were fulfilling the purpose of N.C.B.I., which was "... to promote a thorough knowledge of the Word of God, in order that the lives of those who enter may be conformed to Bible standards and governed by a supreme devotion to the interests of God's kingdom."<sup>4</sup>

During several weeks of another summer during Bible school, I was asked to assist Alvin and Maybelle Ruehman (who were brother and sister) with a tent meeting in Willmar, Minnesota. I played the French horn and piano, and also directed children's church. This began a lifelong interest and involvement in children's ministry.

That was the way many of our summers were spent, doing what we could in establishing works wherever the Lord led.

**N**ow, nearly 70 years since those days, it's easy to graze in the meadows of reminiscence. Our lives (as is common with all other generations, too) were woven together with both positive and negative moments. And we discovered that there were plenty of tests, trials, and tribulations to go around for everyone. But in the midst of the Great Depression, we never doubted that the God of Elijah still lived. And even though many of us faced a perpetual financial crisis, through the help of the Lord, our needs were always met.

With tenacity, perseverance, and the ability to learn from our mistakes and rejections, we were successful servants in taking His message of salvation to the lost in every part of the world. Through those long and often

difficult years, we were able to do things far beyond anything we could ever have imagined because we trusted God and took Him at His word. Most importantly, we became intimately aware that prayer is the greatest weapon known to man. The fact is, we really can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. And relinquishing anything in order to obey God always results in spiritual growth and added blessings.

At the age of 90, I am no longer the same person I once was. Nor is anyone else who has ever been touched by God's twin miracles of grace and mercy. During those years, and the many that followed, we realized that we weren't powerless. We could make a difference. And, through God's care and guidance, He allowed us to do just that.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY WINNIFRED A. ROBESON



**Winnifred Robeson, along with her son, Robert, contributed this story from her early ministry. They both reside in Lincoln, Nebraska.**

### Notes

1. See "A Cherished Spiritual Heritage" by Wesley R. Hurst, *Assemblies of God Heritage* (Winter 2002-2003), 29-31.
2. *The Archive 1935* [North Central Bible Institute Year Book], 20.
3. *1932 Pages of Time* (Millersville, TN: Seek123.Com Seek Publishing Company), 13.
4. *The Archive 1935*, 7.



# Violinmaker Sees Instruments Play in Concert Before Death

By Christine Byers

*Rockford Register Star*

This newspaper article tells the story of Aldor E. Reuterfors and his gift of 20 violins to Central Bible College and Evangel University. Just a week after the presentation, Reuterfors passed away with cancer on August 2, 2003 in Rockford, Illinois, at the age of 84. Memorial services were held at First Assembly of God, Rockford, with burial in Scandinavian Cemetery. The original story appeared in the Rockford (IL) *Register Star* on August 7, 2003 and is reprinted with permission. Photos by Michael Clancy, *Rockford Register Star* and by Evangel University.

ROCKFORD—Al Reuterfors sat in the recital hall, entranced as he listened to the four violins he had made with his own hands. It was the first time he had heard his instruments played together and, at times, he extended his arms upward as if to feel their music.

Family members say that moment at a Springfield, Mo., university was what Al needed before he could let go. On Saturday, a week after the concert, Aldor S.E. Reuterfors died of cancer at age 84.

Al took up violinmaking as a hobby after he retired in 1984. He decided to donate 20 of his instruments to two schools associated with his church, First Assembly of God. The concert was a combined dedication ceremony for the schools, Evangel University and Central Bible College.

“He wanted them to be instruments of God,” said 84-year-old Rachel, Al’s wife. “He sat in the front row and held his hands up to God as they played his violins. It was just like heaven.”

**“The Evangel family is deeply saddened by the news of the passing of Mr. Aldor Reuterfors. We are pleased that he was able to attend the recent dedication ceremony with his family, where the violins were presented to our music department. The craftsmanship in these instruments represents more than 20,000 hours of his life, but the blessings to our students will last for generations.”—Dr. Robert H. Spence, president of Evangel University, in Springfield, Missouri**

## The Violin Player

Al was the seventh of nine children, and he was born in Stockholm, Sweden, Feb. 10, 1919. His uncle played the violin for Al when he was 7 years old.

“There was an immediate attraction,” said 51-year-old David Reuterfors, Al’s son.

Money was hard to come by for Al’s family, so he waited until he was 14 to buy his first violin and take lessons. As he progressed, he began playing for his church in Sweden.

Al worked as a machinist full time and went to college at night to become a mechanical engineer. At 19, Al accidentally cut off his left middle finger just above the knuckle with a metal stamping machine.

“He didn’t think he could play the violin anymore, so he bought a piano,” Rachel said. “When he found out he could play again, his friends asked him, ‘What are you going to do with the piano?’ and he said, ‘I’m gonna find a girl who plays the piano,’ and that was me.”

**Opposite page: An unfinished violin rests on the counter in the varnish room of the Reuterfors' home in Rockford.**

Al married Rachel on Nov. 6, 1943. Bored with his life in Sweden, Al wanted something better for his budding family.

In October 1948, he moved to Detroit. Rachel and their first child, Robert, followed about six months later—only after Al determined America was the best place for the family. The couple's son David was born in 1952, and daughter Lois in 1956.

Al worked as an engineer creating dental drills until he saw a job ad for Estwing Manufacturing Co. in Rockford. He learned of the city's large Swedish population and accepted a job with the company in 1960. The family followed him about three months later.

### **The Violinmaker**

At age 65, Al retired.

"Routine household maintenance was boring for him," David said.

So, Al began reading about how to make violins and turned his basement into a virtual violinmaking assembly plant.

The "varnish room" is complete

with barometers, an exhaust system and a rotisserie-like device to rotate violins and allow varnish to dry streak-free. An unfinished violin still rests on the table waiting for its next coat.

Hundreds of tools, some still in packages, line the walls of his workroom, where he cut and shaped wood. Al wrote his favorite slogans—"Patience and Perseverance," and "Accuracy is the key to Success"—on papers that hang above his work table.

He invented a device to resonate the violins, which is in his office. He would suspend a violin in the soundproof wooden box, and speakers inside would play classical music for 500 to 1,000 hours. This process helped the violins "sing," David said.

Al obtained a patent for the pegs he created, known as the Reuterfors Repositional Thumb Piece Pegs. They allow a violinist to position the pegs to a straight position after the strings have been adjusted.

Before his death, Al completed 37 violins and one viola, which he gave to his daughter. When he was diagnosed with cancer in March, Al wanted his violins to serve God, Rachel said.

David contacted Central Bible School and Evangel University and asked whether the music departments would be interested in his father's

custom-made instruments.

The schools accepted. Twelve violins went to Evangel University and eight to Central Bible College.

"Let's put it this way: Our music teacher is giddy with excitement," said Dr. Michael Kolstad, a professor of music at Evangel University, where the dedication concert was held July 26.

"The benefit of these high-quality instruments is that the students will take possession of the instruments and go out of their way to take care of them, and secondly because they are a higher-caliber instrument and they're going to sound better sooner than a low-end instrument."

Al's 20-year-old granddaughter, Sarah, spoke at the ceremony, and his 16-year-old granddaughter, Emelia, sang "Amazing Grace."

Kolstad recalled that Reuterfors listened as if "he was worshiping" the violins he'd made.

He said goodbye to his grandchildren after the ceremony, and they knew it would be the last time they saw their grandfather, David said.

On Saturday, Al was in his bed with Rachel and a nurse at his side.

His busy hands were still.

"Now his labor is done," Rachel said. "He plays a violin of gold in heaven."



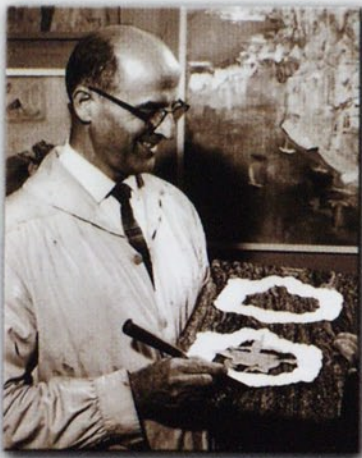
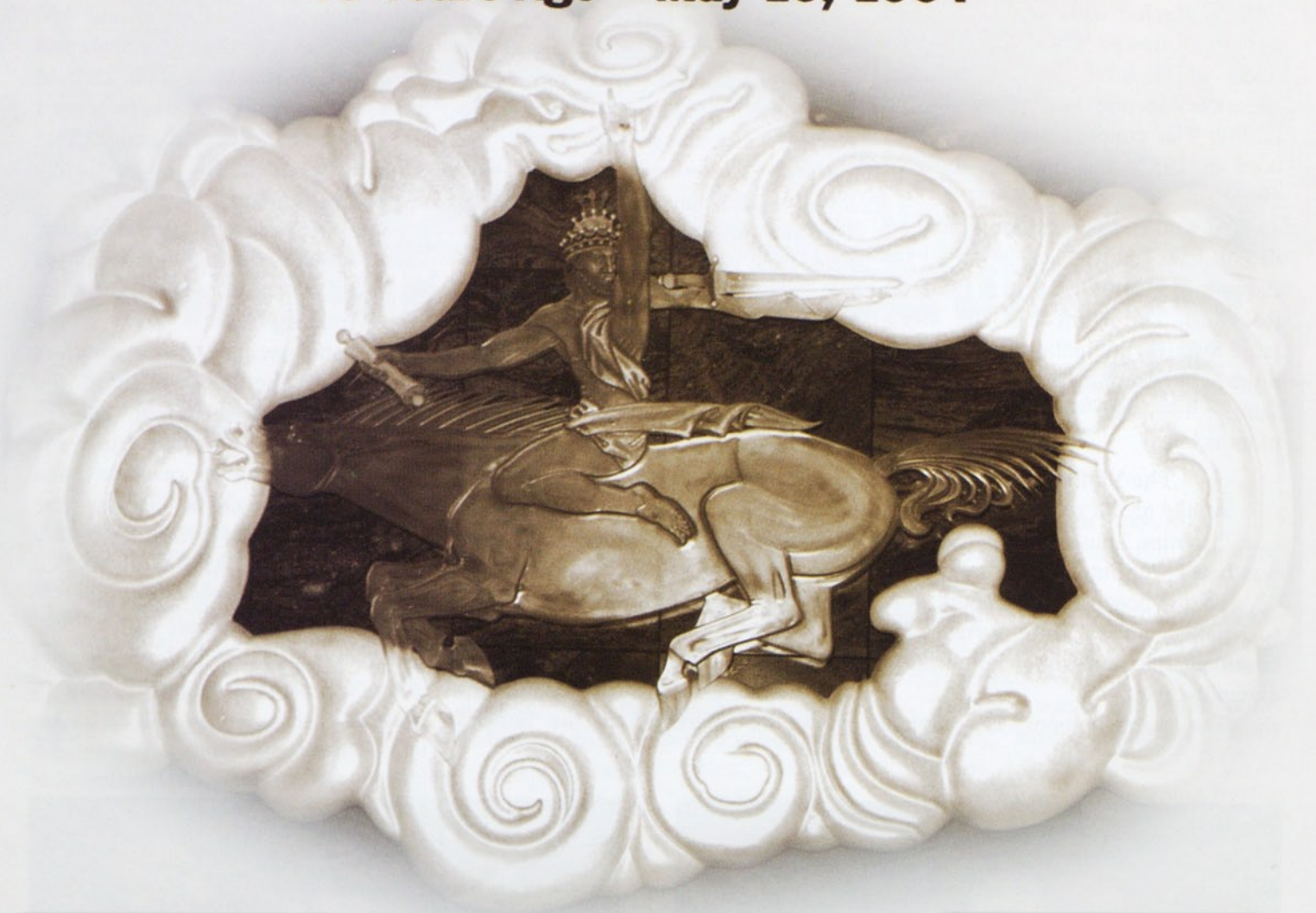
Emelia Reuterfors adjusts a display of violins which were handmade by her grandfather and donated to Evangel University and CBC. *Photo by Paul K. Logsdon, Evangel University.*



Rachel Reuterfors holds a violin her husband made entirely by hand at their Rockford home. She is accompanied by her daughter, Lois Ritter, and son, David Reuterfors.

# Straton Mural Dedicated

40 Years Ago—May 15, 1964





Open house will be held at the Assemblies of God international headquarters, 1445 Boonville Avenue, from 7 until 9:30 p.m., Friday as part of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year observance.

Activities of the evening will include dedication at 9 p.m. of the sculptured lobby mural designed and created by Warren Straton, head of the Evangel College art department. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary film entitled "Like a River" will be shown at 7:30 and 8:30 in the headquarters auditorium.

Visitors are welcome to come and go throughout the evening, taking a tour of the buildings, viewing the film, and receiving refreshments in the cafeteria. The 30-minute sound and color film was premiered during the April 20-23 anniversary convention.

Dedication of the sculptured lobby mural will include an official showing. The presentation has approximately 10 minutes of music, narration, and color changes. The Rev. Thomas F. Zimmerman, general superintendent, will officiate at the ceremonies.

Placed on a wall of rainbow granite, the mural pictures Christ coming through a cloud on a galloping horse. The rider is wearing crowns, holding a scroll in his right hand, and has a sword pointing back from the left shoulder.

The cloud, rolled back like a scroll, forms a circle around the horse and rider with formations in the cloud depicting turmoil and unrest of the world. The cloud is a single cast piece of translucent fiberglass one quarter inch thick covered with three coats of powdered pearl. A series of red, yellow, and blue lights are set behind the cloud formation.

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**Left Center: Sculptured in plastics, the "Behold He Cometh" mural in the A/G Headquarters lobby depicts the return of Christ riding upon a white horse as described in Revelation 19:11-16. It is a visual sermon using sculptured figures, colored lighting, music, and narration.**

The horse, shown running and leaping, expresses the swiftness and warlike attitude of the climactic event. The rider, representing Christ as king, wears a three-tiered crown topped by three crosses which glow red during the presentation, symbolizing blood. His clothing is draped to form an "S" and also turns red in the finale.

The horse and rider are hand carved from a 12- by 12-foot piece of lens quality Plexiglas® three quarters of an inch thick. Sculptured similar to crystal carving, the underside is a mirror finish and the outer surface is polychromed and frosted.

The mural has no significant color in natural light. However, at the climax of the presentation, a single ray of ultraviolet light produces a rainbow of color and a three dimensional effect. The cloud turns from pearl white to royal purple; the horse is pale translucent white with silver white hooves; the garment looks a pale red; and various colored jewels appear in the crown. The artist has endeavored to visualize "glory" in the presentation through the use of the truest colors and methods of lighting known.

Curtains, lighting, and narrative functions of the mural are controlled by reversible rheostats activated through switch relays. An intricate wiring system connects the motors and relays to a 46-inch timing wheel motorized to run a complete cycle in approximately 10 minutes.

The artist has worked on the symbolic piece during the past three years. He started by making a scale model using the actual materials.

Straton has a long history in art creations. Among his better-known works are the scale model and tower design for the Chrysler building, New York City; Department of Justice Building, Washington, D.C.; eagles for Arlington Memorial Bridge, Arlington, Va.; and eagles for the American Embassy in France.

Adapted from "Straton Mural to Be Shown," a story in the May 10, 1964, *Sunday News and Leader*, Springfield, Missouri.



## WARREN B. STRATON

He was an artist with extraordinary skills in several areas: painting, ceramics, sculpturing, violinmaking, and architecture. As a young man he worked for famous sculptors, Carl Paul Jennewein and Adolf Alexander Weinman, whose commissioned works included designs of the Nelson Tower, Chrysler Building, and George A. Fuller Building, New York City; and the Department of Justice Building, Washington. Two murals Straton completed in the early 1960s are at the Oral Roberts University campus, and the Assemblies of God Headquarters. He was an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God. After pastoring in the old Eastern District, he came to Evangel College in 1956 to establish the new school's fine arts department.

In 1966 he had accepted a position with Oral Roberts University and was traveling to that campus on April 18, when he lost control of his car on I-44 near Carthage, Missouri. He died in the crash. Evangel College (now University) president J. Robert Ashcroft said of the 58-year-old artist and friend, "It is a loss to our generation and to the future." He was the son of the famous fundamentalist, Dr. John Roach Straton, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in New York.



# Creation

## The Seven Days of Creation in Stained Glass

When visitors walk into the Assemblies of God headquarters auditorium in Springfield, Missouri, the first thing that catches their eye is the striking seven-section stained glass “Creation.” Artist Douglas Phillips, Cleveland, Ohio, created the beautiful work for the newly constructed headquarters building in 1962. For many years it served as a screen and was part of the building tour on the executive floor.

When the executive floor was remodeled in 1999, the stained glass panels were carefully removed, crated, and stored—with the thought that they would again be placed in a prominent

place. Last year, the time came for Douglas Phillips’ beautiful artistry to be uncrated and to once again be on display for the admiration of visitors and employees. Now, backlit and mounted in a new cabinet on the stage of the auditorium, “Creation” is again reflecting the first book of the Bible and the creativity of the late Douglas Phillips (1923-95).

“The design is a basic contemporary pattern,” Phillips explained of the 2,500-piece stained glass work of art, “abstract in quality, into which has been introduced a flowing movement carrying the main theme of creation, which gains

momentum as it unfolds, carrying the details from one succeeding day to the other.” And he adds, “With the broad movements, we have tried to gain a sense of the grandeur and the wonder of the days of creation—movements that gradually increase in momentum as they reach their peak in the sixth day of creation and diminish to the quiet of the seventh.”

In his younger years, Douglas Phillips had his heart set on being an Episcopal priest, but he took a new direction by studying art, following his service with the army during World War II. He became an internationally known artist with his work featured in



## DOUGLAS PHILLIPS' DESCRIPTION OF THE STAINED GLASS

1. Creation of light, night, and day. Just above the center of the panel is the earth bathed in light, divided into hemispheres of light and shadow. Note the dove, symbol of the Holy Spirit moving over the face of the waters.

2. Creation of the firmament. The large shape symbolizes the hand of God, separating the waters above the heaven.

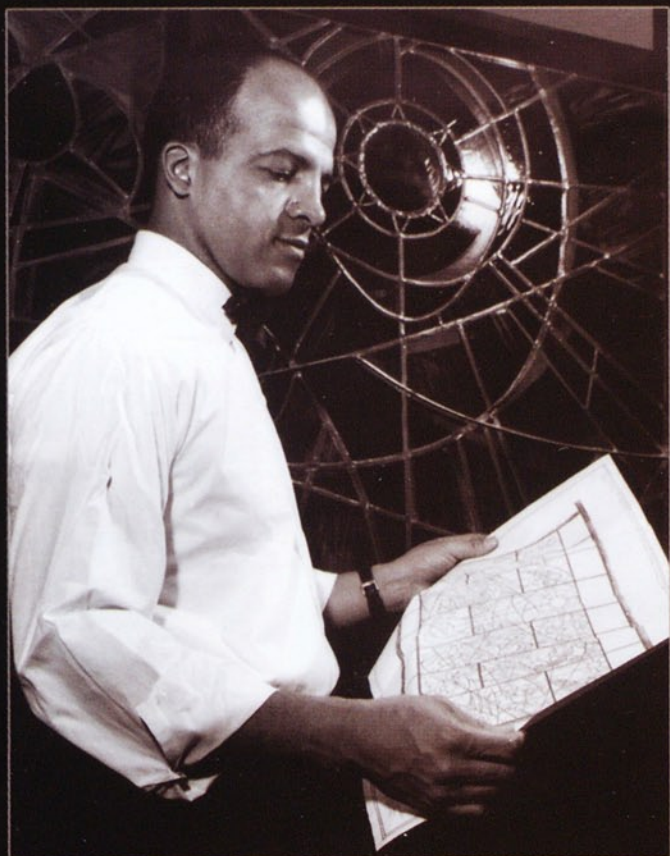
3. Separation of the land from the sea and the creation of the plants.

4. The heavenly bodies with the sun to rule the day and the moon to rule the night.

5. Creation of the birds, fish, and whales. "A dinosaur indicates that the story of creation is universal and timeless through all the eras of this earth's history."

6. Shows the creation of Adam and Eve and the animals of the earth. Note the harmony in the Garden of Eden with the lamb and lion lying together.

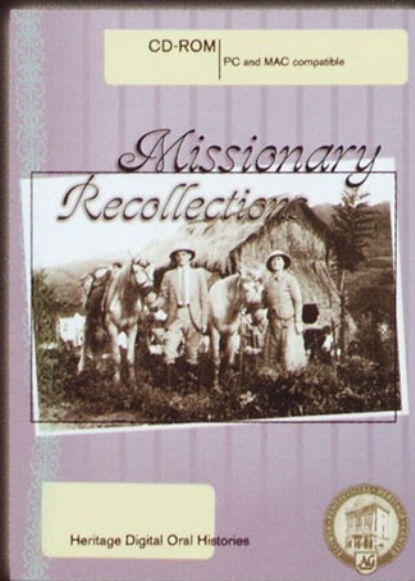
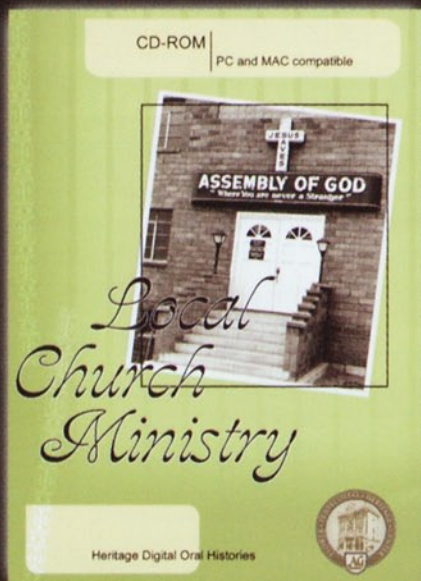
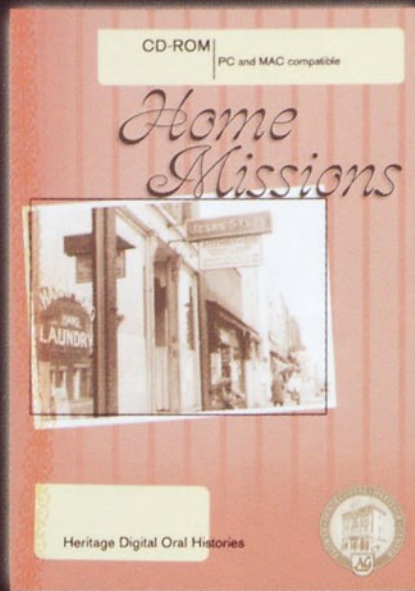
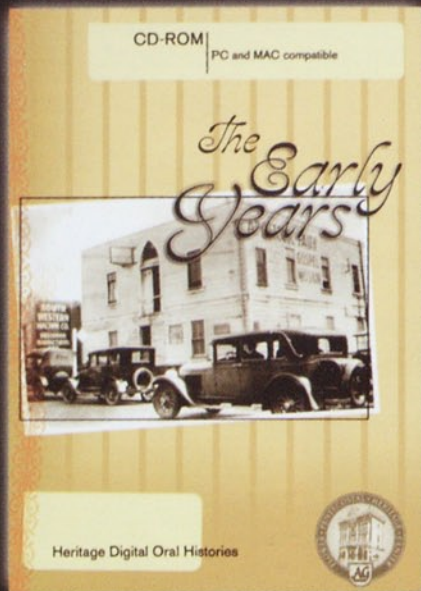
7. Creation is complete, as shown on the seventh day, the day of rest.



Douglas Phillips designed the 2,500-piece stained glass "Creation" for the new Assemblies of God headquarters in 1962. When Phillips died in 1995, his wife Mona continued his stained glass business in Cleveland, Ohio.

# Oral History

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This 4-CD collection contains over 100 hours of interviews of people who contributed to the origin and development of the Assemblies of God. Listen to the voices of those who witnessed the early years of our fellowship, pioneered home mission works, ministered in local churches, and served God in mission fields around the world.

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several publications, including *Ebony*, *The Stained Glass Quarterly*, and several newspapers. Authors of a 2003 book, *From Meetinghouse to Megachurch*, write about the Phillips Stained Glass Studio. Following his death in 1995, Phillips' widow Mona—also an artist—assumed his stained glass projects in progress and continues today.

**From Mona Phillips**

*The Assemblies of God project was early in Doug's career. I still think it is one of his most dramatic and expressive designs. Since then, we have completed some large and prestigious commissions. I like the memorial windows we made for a medieval church in England, in Little Easton, near a WW II air base. Our largest commission was one I was responsible for completing after Doug's death—Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago. It has 240 windows, 2,400 square feet, illustrating figures and episodes from Black history.*



“Creation” as a screen on the executive floor, 1962-1999

**FACTS ABOUT THE STAINED GLASS**

Overall length, 26 by 10 feet high. Each panel is 37.5 by 73.5 inches. It contains 2,500 pieces of colored glass. Cost in 1962 was \$8,000; estimated cost in 2004 is \$17,800, plus frames and installation. The workmen who created the new home for the artwork included Ed Hope, designer, builder, and installer; Bill Conaway and Scott Garner, painters; Ed Blunt, Robert Bowers and Donnie Holtgrewe, electrical design and installation. Dedicated with the new building, March 2, 1962. Relocated in the Headquarters auditorium in 2003.

**Your Historical Materials Are Valuable**

The Assemblies of God has a dynamic and inspiring history—in the U. S. and around the world. This is why the Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center is actively searching for historical materials before they are lost or destroyed.

And you can have a vital part in this important ministry.

If you or a loved one were involved in the origin or development of any ministry relating to the Assemblies of God, please write or call today. Materials or information you can contribute might be just what we need to fill gaps in one of our many collections.

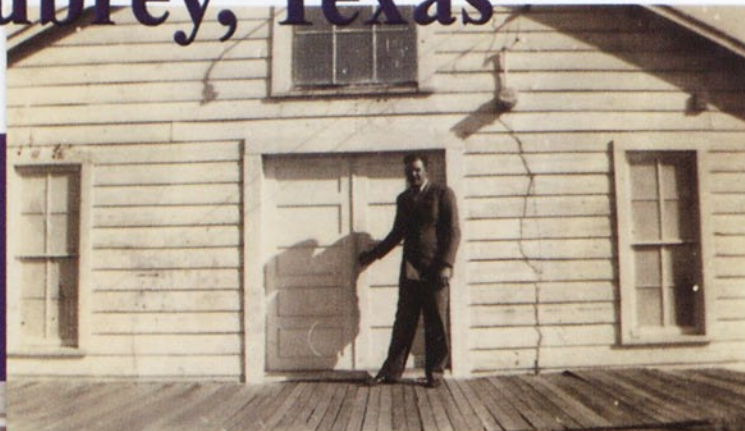
You are invited to stop by the new Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center whenever you are in Springfield so you can see firsthand how we are working together to preserve our Grand Heritage.



# TIME FRAME

## The Planting of a Church in Aubrey, Texas

Founding pastor Herbert Johnson at the Aubrey (Texas) First Assembly of God. Volunteer helpers constructed the building—outsiders referred to it as “the Mule Barn”—during the Great Depression.



Above: Charter members of First Assembly, Aubrey, Texas. The women to the left and the men on the right.



Left: The first water baptismal service in the Aubrey pond.

Herbert Johnson spotted a congregation when he saw people gathering in the streets of Aubrey, Texas, for the Saturday merchant's drawing. It was in the middle of the Great Depression in the small town northeast of Denton. So he began reaching them with the gospel in street meetings in 1935. In July 1936 he conducted a revival in Aubrey, and people were saved and baptized in the Holy Spirit. The new converts and other believers, who joined the cause, wanted a church building. So the men and boys got together and built a primitive building—a far cry from the present modern building. The only light in the dirt-floor building, which some called “The Mule Barn,” was a single lantern.

Everything was handmade, including the pulpit and a stove fashioned from a large oil drum.

The late Herbert Johnson remained for 7 years. His widow, Marie Johnson, wrote her autobiography, *Memories of This and That*. It is available from the author at 1401 Blazing Star, Burleson, TX 76028, for \$10 postpaid.

“This picture story of our beginnings is timely,” current pastor David Bruce told the editor recently. “The congregation voted to sell the property and erect a new building on the other side of Aubrey.” The congregation is hopeful that they will be in the new building by fall.

# We Have the Music

Did you see the lyrics to an old song that the 1927 General Council sang while ballots were being counted (page 28, Fall 2003)? We picked up the story from the October 15, 1927, *Pentecostal Evangel*. Readers responded, and on this page we have what we think is the original music—a Holiness song—which the good folks at the 1927 Council sang with their substituted Pentecostal lyrics.

Ralph Leverett, who has Nazarene background, remembered “How the Fire Fell,” by Johnson and Miriam Oatman. Leverett, who is a professor at Union University, Jackson, Tennessee, FAXed the music to us, and told us that he remembers that the chorus was “amended” to fit the occasion. One he remembers is, “I was saying ‘yes’ to Jesus when the fire fell ...” The earliest date he could find for the music was 1905, but the one on this page could have been later.

Maybe you have it in an old songbook around the house or church.

Patricia Pickard, historian at Zion Bible Institute, knows the tune. “We sang this at our church in Bangor [Maine] many a time.” She also remembers a verse that said, “I was kneeling at the altar when the fire fell ...”

Then we heard from Suzanne Earle. She sent the music that she had written from memory “after hearing my mother, Alice Reynolds Flower, sing it many, many times during my childhood.” Suzanne, who is the widow of Albert Earle, lives in Limington, Maine. Three of her siblings—Joseph, Adele, and David—live at Maranatha Village, Springfield, Missouri.

**How the Fire Fell**

Johnson Oatman, Jr. 1856-1922 Miriam E. Oatman, 20th Century

1. Oh, I love to tell the bless - ed sto - ry  
2. All my doubts and fears are gone for - ev - er  
3. To the world no more my heart is turn - ing Since the Lord  
4. There's a crown a - wait - ing me in heav - en

sanc - ti - fied me; For my soul re - ceived a flood of glo - ry  
For His peace flowed o'er me like a riv - er  
For on me His Spir - it fell with burn - ing  
For a heart made clean to me was giv - en

REFRAIN

When the Lord sanc - ti - fied me, Oh, I nev - er shall for - get how the  
fire fell, How the fire fell, how the fire fell. Oh, I  
nev - er shall for - get how the fire fell When the Lord sanc - ti - fied me.

# FROM OUR READERS

## CORRECTION

*Heritage* editors try hard not to make someone older than they are. But sometimes we mistakenly take a few years off of one's age. In Tommie Paul's case, we took off more than a few. On page 35 in the fall issue we said he was the oldest credentialed minister in the Assemblies of God at 102. That is true. But we proceeded to say that he was born on October 12, 2001.

If that were true, he would have had only two candles on his cake rather than 102 last October.

Brother Paul was born in Pope, Mississippi, and later moved to Arkansas where he was licensed to preach. He recently moved into a nursing home in Bald Knob, which is about 60 miles northeast of Little Rock. He has four living children, 18 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, 24 great-great-grandchildren, and one great-great-great-grandchild. That's six generations.

*A feature on Tommie Paul as AMA's oldest pioneer preacher appears in the February-April 2004 issue of Caring published by the Benevolences Department.*



In 1993, Tommie Paul at 92

## Superintendents Quiz

After further research, we have another correction to question 3 of the quiz on district superintendents which appeared in the spring issue. J. D. Courtney was superintendent of three

Assemblies of God districts: Mississippi (1931-1933), South Carolina (1942-1944) and Peninsular Florida (1960-1966). He was also assistant superintendent of the Georgia and Peninsular Florida districts as well as secretary of the Alabama District.



J. D. Courtney

## Former *Revivaltime* Member Busy as RVer

My husband Doyle and I are almost full-time RV Mappers and are working on a project in West Virginia this summer. We have had more than enough rain, so these dear people need all the help we can give them. We had thought about going [to the *Revivaltime* Reenactment], but feel we need to stay. We come through Springfield a couple times a year to visit Mom [Almeda Elliott]. Doyle is a history buff so we come through your department when we can. He was fascinated and amazed at what you had done there. An awesome job, Wayne!

It is always good to hear of you and your work. God bless you.

Margo Elliott Cook  
Leesburg, Florida

## Dan Betzer Writes to the Editor

Thank you so much for the summer and fall issues of *Heritage* in which you featured *Revivaltime*, the decades-long running network radio broadcast of the Assemblies of God. As you noted in the articles, I was the

speaker on the broadcast from January 1979 through the end of August, 1995. I had the challenge of following C. M. Ward in the *Revivaltime* pulpit. For 42 years, we never repeated a program. Cyril McLellan, who directed the broadcast choir, always "rang the bell" with his anointed music. Lee Shultz was the faithful narrator and even a long while before that with Brother Ward's ministry.

*Revivaltime* was the passion and call of my life, one that I never lost long after the last broadcast had faded into the air. Through the years—and even now—I meet people around the world who come to me to say, "*Revivaltime* brought me to Jesus," or "*Revivaltime* changed my life!" My marvelous late father-in-law, C. T. Beem was the business manager and director of the broadcast for over 20 years during C. M. Ward's tenure. He and his relatively small staff handled 11,000 letters a month on the average with a usual 24-hour turn-around time (before computers which, I think, increased the turn-around time to several weeks!).

I will always be grateful to Lee Shultz and then-General Superintendent Thomas F. Zimmerman for bringing me on board in November of 1977. (I was actually there the last full year of Brother Ward's ministry as Radio-TV department director.) *Revivaltime* was truly a high-water mark in the ministry the Lord gave me. My deepest thanks to you for bringing memories of the broadcast to many younger folks who knew little or nothing of it as well as to those of us to whom *Revivaltime* was a passion.

God bless you, Wayne. Your work at the Heritage Center is urgently needed and deeply appreciated.

Yours and His,  
Dan Betzer  
Senior Pastor, First Assembly  
Fort Myers, Florida  
and Southeast Region EP



### **Revivaltime Reenactment**

Wayne [Warner], the *Revivaltime* Reenactment CD/DVD/video came yesterday. I enjoyed them immensely. I admit that I favor "blended" worship, and that was apparent in the service ... some traditional gospel songs and meaningful contemporary ones. Please know how much I appreciate your recreating the broadcast; and I saw Sharon Rasnake's name as well. Bless both of you.

Ralph Leverett  
Jackson, Tennessee

See *Revivaltime* advertisement in this issue.

### **Appreciates FPHC**

Thanks for your hard work in preserving our heritage. It's a truly marvelous gift to the future.

Rob Burkhart  
Livonia, Michigan

### **Williscrofts Fleeing Europe**

I just received the Fall 2003 copy of *Heritage*. I want to thank you for the wonderful tribute to my parents. I have worked for a decade to make this happen, and seeing it finally just before Christmas is a wonderful reward for my work. I immediately called my sister Beverly in central California, and she is as thrilled as I.

You folks did a wonderful job with the old photos. I was delighted to see that you came up with several additional photos to round out the presentation. Well done! And thank you once again from the bottom of my heart.

Robert G. Williscroft  
Studio City, California

It was a surprise to receive a copy of the fall issue with Gladys and Paul Williscroft's story and pictures. I went to the same Foursquare Church in Yakima, Wash., when Paul was saved. His face just "shone" and they called him "Sunshine" for a nickname. Paul is in the photo of many of the people

### **EBI Memories of Early 1950s**

The 1952 EBI picture [on the cover of the Fall 1993 *Heritage*] includes me between Edgar Rowand and Ken (or Don) Gustafson (the one holding the magazine). You notice that I am wearing a bow tie (no doubt all of us wanted to be Daddy Swift, former president of EBI who was a spiritual icon in those days!). Bro. Swift was NEVER without a bow tie! At my table is seated Howard Garman, at the end, and on the corner with his back to the camera is Richard Barth.

Well, you can imagine how pleasantly shocked I was to see this



saved that year. It is taken in front of the church. So I really enjoyed reading about them.

Thank you for sending *Heritage*. I'll let others who knew Paul know about the magazine.

Ruthanna Hatch  
Des Moines, Iowa

### **Appreciates Parents' Faithfulness**

My mother and dad were Harry and Zella Brown. They moved to Wichita in 1928 as newlyweds and started going to a church in a tent. The congregation moved to a building (I think on Indianapolis St.), and then moved to Lincoln and Main. My earliest memories are at Lincoln and

cover. Kathleen and I laughed and laughed. She said, "You were a cute kid!" Bro Wells is standing at the door. Beth Gortner is seated in front of him. I am going to have this picture FRAMED!!! Think of it, this is some fifty two or three years ago!! WOW!

Needless to say, I'm consuming these [*Heritage*] magazines. Thanks so very much, Wayne.

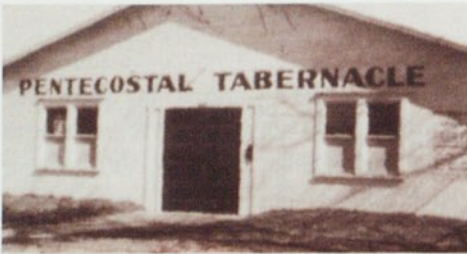
David Verzilli  
Canfield, Ohio

*David Verzilli is a retired minister who served as Kathryn Kuhlman's assistant pastor in meetings conducted in Youngstown, Ohio.*

Main. A small white church with a heating stove (everyone sat as close as possible in the winter). The pastors were Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Garlock. A Swedish minister, Brother Sheall, followed them.

After the large red brick church was built, my parents usually sat on the right side, close to the back. The Whites, Greenamyers, and Browns usually sat in the same area.

I was the oldest of five children; the others are Harry, Jr., Shirley, David, and Jimmy. I'll forever be grateful for our parents' faithfulness to God. All five of us grew up to serve the Lord (Shirley passed away in 1987).



The Pentecostal Tabernacle, Wichita, Kansas, as it looked when H. B. and Ruth Garlock were pastors (1929-1931). The church is now called Maranatha Worship Center.



Harry and Zella Brown in 1978.

In 1945 we moved to Missouri. Robert C. Cunningham, former editor of the *Pentecostal Evangel* was pastoring a church in Ozark. Mom and Dad attended that church until 1949 when they moved back to Wichita. They attended Bethel Assembly of God the rest of their lives.

Betty (Brown) Harris  
Claremore, Oklahoma

*Mrs. Harris donated to the FPHC a missionary prayer reminder of the H. B. Garlock family and other items.*

#### Visitors from Church of God

Thanks for taking time with Brother [Gene] Rice and me during our visit to Springfield [Jan. 23]. It was a great help to see how the Assemblies of God got started. You even had pictures of some of your ministers before the church became an

organization. You have done a great job in your exhibit center. I just want to thank you for taking so much of your time with us to see your display. Hopefully, we can get something going in that direction. We appreciate you.

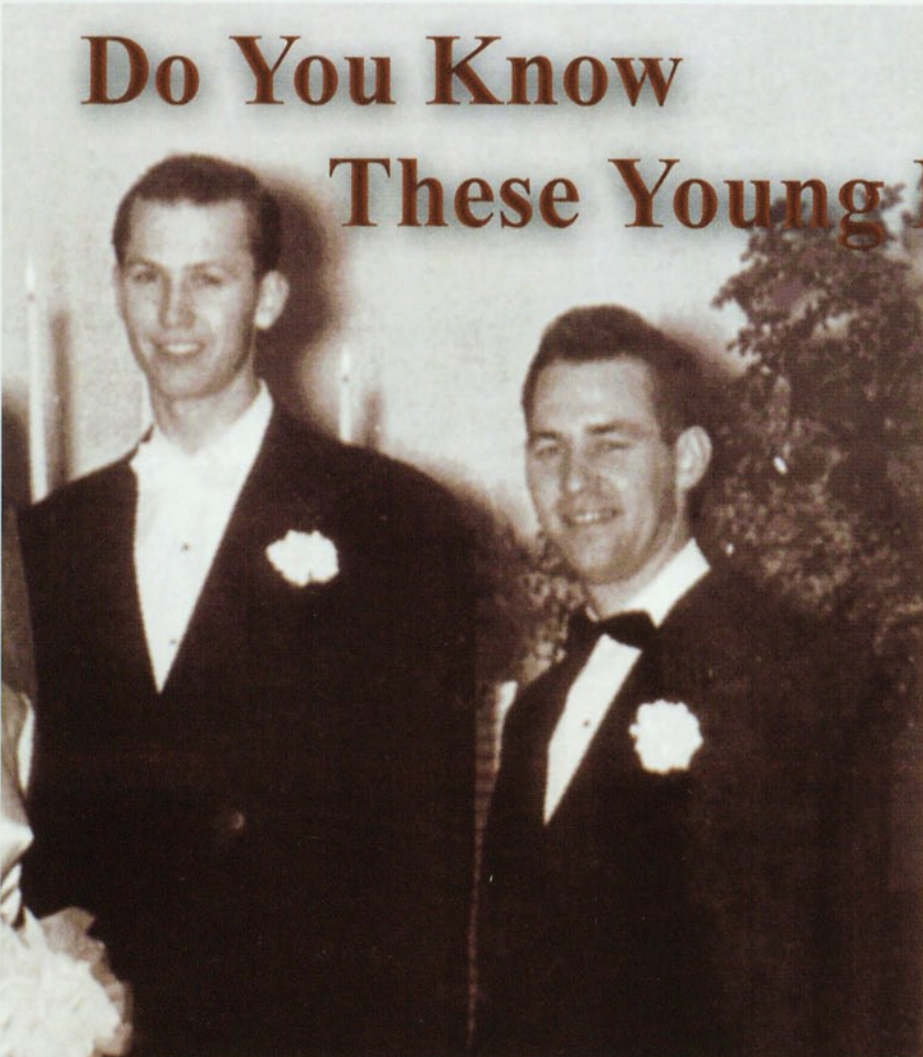
Dr. Bill F. Sheeks  
Assistant General Overseer  
Church of God  
Cleveland, Tennessee

#### FPHC Storefront Church

We went through the Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center museum. It was wonderful. When Jack and I went into the last room that looks like an old-fashioned little church, we both got teary-eyed. It sure took us back. It's nice to have such good childhood memories.

Jack and Pam Fortner  
Grass Valley, California

# Do You Know These Young Preachers?



These brothers were ordained together in 1953. They are third-generation Assemblies of God ministers. Both are graduates of Bethany College. Their ministries led them in different directions, away from Northern California, and last year their districts, Northwest and Southern California, recognized them for 50 years in the ministry. Do you know them? Check your answer on page 37.

# PHOTOS FROM OUR PAST

Left: David Nunn, standing at left, served in the U.S. Army as a flight photographer during World War II. He was saved after returning to Dallas after the war.



Above: A salvation and healing meeting with Evangelist David Nunn in Elmira, New York, July 23, 1954. *Gene Lent Photo*



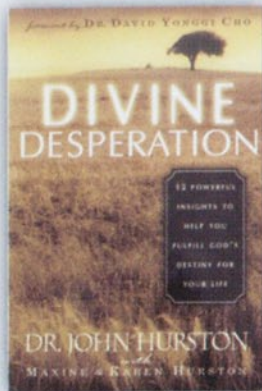
David Nunn preaching the Word.

When the name of David O. Nunn comes up, the ministry of an evangelist comes to mind. He did pastor two churches, but from 1950 until his death, David Nunn was an evangelist. He died last April at the age of 81. His widow Leona donated these photos to the Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center.

The youngest of nine children, David grew up during the Great Depression selling newspapers and magazines. When World War II came along, David was tapped as a photographer and accompanied bombing crews over Germany. After his return to Dallas, he was saved under the ministry of Anna B. Lock. He entered the ministry as a pastor but then saw that his gift was in evangelism. Pastor Gaylan Claunch, Duncanville, Texas, wrote, "He is a man worthy of honor and esteem...His vision to reach the world with the message of Jesus Christ has given him fruit in many countries on several continents."



David Nunn leads an African meeting.



## Pray, Obey, and Get Out of the Way

John and Maxine Hurston are well-known Assemblies of God missionaries, and David Yonggi Cho, Seoul, South Korea, calls him his mentor as he entered the ministry. Now with his wife Maxine and daughter Karen, John combines his autobiography with practical insights “to help you fulfill God’s destiny for your life.”

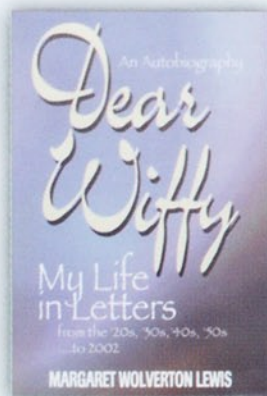
After ministering in Liberia, the couple transferred to Seoul where they met the young David Yonggi Cho. They helped him in his early ministry and co-pastored the Seoul church, said to now be the largest church in the world. Then it was off to Vietnam where they ministered to Vietnamese in relief work, drug recovery, Bible correspondence, training of nationals, and teaching on the Holy Spirit. Not wishing to leave, they waited until the final day of the evacuation before flying out of Saigon. They later returned to Seoul where they helped Cho launch Church Growth International.

Tommy Barnett, pastor of Phoenix First Assembly, wrote about Hurston: “His ministry alongside Dr. Cho is legendary; this book is birthed from the heart of one of God’s choice servants.”

L. John Bueno, executive director of the Assemblies of God World Missions, has known the Hurstons for

30 years. He wrote, “His experiences are not only an inspiration, but his book, *Divine Desperation*, speaks to all of our hearts about what God can do through a life that is dedicated to Him.”

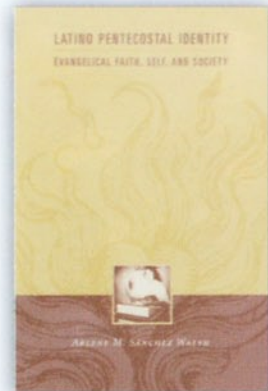
*Divine Desperation*, by John Hurston, with Maxine and Karen Hurston. Published by Creation House Press. Copies can be ordered from the author at Hurston Ministries, P.O. Box 385, Gulf Breeze, FL 32562-0385 at a *Heritage* special for \$10 postpaid (regular price for book is \$13.99). Web site: [www.hurstonministries.org](http://www.hurstonministries.org)



## An Autobiography in Letters From 1920 to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Margaret Wolverton Lewis promised her niece that she would write about the family history and life in the Roaring 20s, the Great Depression, World War II and into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. *Dear Wiffy*, which was intended as a personal memoir, became a 213-page autobiography, telling of working in Washington, D.C., the world of sacred music, the family’s faith, being a pastor’s wife, and the pain of losing two husbands.

*Dear Wiffy, My Life in Letters from the '20s, '30s, '40s, '50s, ....to 2002*, by Margaret Wolverton Lewis, can be ordered from the author at 11 Vispera St., Irvine, CA 92620, for \$14.00 postpaid.



## An Examination of Latino Pentecostals in the U.S.

If you thought that the Assemblies of God and other Pentecostal groups number a great many Latinos in their congregations, you’re right. Of the 37 million Latinos living in this country, 5 million are either Pentecostal or Charismatic. And the rate of growth is rapid. And it isn’t just new growth; some Latino families have been Pentecostal for a hundred years.

The author of this new book on the history and identity of Latinos, who is Latino and a convert to Pentecostalism, wrote, “Through this book I hope to pry into Pentecostal lives and move beyond the superficial, the God-talk, to compel them to analyze their faith lives not simply as a litany of pat biblical verses but as a holistic part of their constructed selves.”

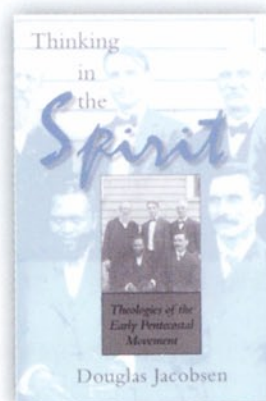
An assistant professor of Latino and Asian American religions, Rudy Busto, writes that the book “provides a synthesis of much of what is known and available about Mexican American Pentecostalism and views the topic through the crucial lenses of race, gender, institutions, and power relations.”

R. Stephen Warner, University of Illinois at Chicago, writes, “At last! The story of Mexican American Pentecostalism told from its beginnings.”

Arlene M. Sanchez Walsh is an

assistant professor of religious studies at DePaul University.

*Latino Pentecostal Identity, Evangelical Faith, Self, and Society*, by Arlene M. Sanchez Walsh. Columbia University Press, New York. Price, \$24.95 paper, \$59.50 hardcover.



### Understanding Past and Present Theological Debates

The jacket copy of *Thinking in the Spirit, Theologies of the Early Pentecostal Movement*, by Douglas Jacobsen, promises an important addition for understanding what 12 early Pentecostal leaders taught, and how the same positions might be interpreted today.

The 12 selected theologians are William Durham, David Wesley Myland, Charles Parham, William Seymour, George F. Taylor, Richard Spurling, Joseph H. King, Garfield T. Haywood, Andrew Urshan, Robert C. Lawson, Fred F. Bosworth, and Essek W. Kenyon.

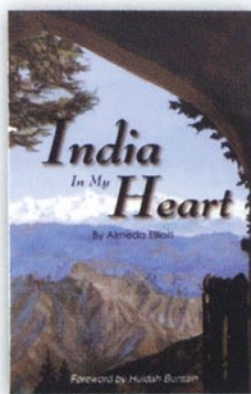
The author recognizes that other authors would no doubt select a different list of leaders, such as A. J. Tomlinson, Charles H. Mason, J. Roswell Flower, or Howard Goss.

“My goal,” Jacobson writes, “is to summarize the thinking of the twelve selected theologians as fairly and as positively as possible, employing outside references only as they help

clarify what an author himself was trying to say....I have consistently tried to keep my own voice to a minimum.”

Douglas Jacobsen is distinguished professor of church history and theology, Messiah College, Grantham, Pennsylvania.

*Thinking in the Spirit, Theologies of the Early Pentecostal Movement*, by Douglas Jacobsen, is published by Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Indiana, and is available in bookstores for \$24.95.



### Answering a Marriage Proposal and Missionary Call to India

When Almeda Valley was 15 and living on a farm near Washburn, Maine, God called her as a missionary to India. And she knew the call meant leaving her family and friends for years at a time. Another single missionary and former classmate at Zion Bible Institute, Leon Elliott, was already in India. One day in 1938, Almeda went to the mailbox and found a letter from Leon. Inside was an engagement ring and a proposal for marriage. The next day Almeda sent a telegram, telling Leon that she accepted his proposal and would make plans to join him.

India was not only in her heart; Almeda Valley was soon in India and the bride of Leon Elliott. This book is

her story of those years in India and for the past 40 years back in this country.

After the Elliotts served with typical missionary assignments, the Assemblies of God leader, Noel Perkin, asked them if they would consider administering the Childers Lodge in Landour. It was another adventure to take over this missionary retreat home high in the Himalaya Mountains that are close to the Tibetan and Chinese borders. Almeda described Childers as not only a place for tired missionaries but also as an “upper room” where they could wait on God for the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

“On many occasions,” Huldah Buntain wrote in the foreword, “when we [she and her late husband Mark] were young missionaries and stayed at Childers Lodge, Almeda was my role model.”

This book is the adventure on the mission field—an adventure she and her husband loved—but their tenure also brought many concerns. They lived through the controversial partitioning of India in 1947 to form India and Pakistan, which brought death and destruction on both sides. They had to battle diseases such as cholera and work around misunderstandings. Sending their two daughters to a boarding school was also part of the sacrifices.

When the Elliotts left the mission field in 1963, they settled in Springfield, Missouri, where Almeda became secretary for Robert Cunningham, editor of the *Pentecostal Evangel*. In recent years they have made their home at Maranatha Village. Leon died in 2002 at the age of 88, and Almeda continues living at Maranatha.

*India in My Heart*, by Almeda Elliott. Available from the author, c/o George Crawford, 3868 South Lexington Court, Springfield, MO 65807. Price \$10, plus \$2.50 shipping and handling.

# TESTIMONY TIME

## Traveling With F. A. and Inez Sturgeon

By Mildred Herman

Dear Wayne [Warner] and staff:

Your very interesting story about the Williscrofts in Germany brought back many memories. My husband, Evangelist Hal Herman and I, occasionally crossed paths with them when we were ministering in Germany. We were entertained in their home and had great times of fellowship. But what really got my attention was the fact that they sailed home to New York on the good ship "Stavanger Fjord!" That was the ship that F. A. and Inez Sturgeon and I sailed home on from Norway in 1949.

We had been three years in Australia in evangelism and came home by Europe (the long way around) where we spent several months

ministering first in England and Norway, then attending the 2nd World Pentecostal Conference in Paris. The Sturgeons took off for Italy while I traveled to Czechoslovakia to visit my sister, who was a secretary in the U.S. Embassy there. The Sturgeons and I got together again for more meetings in Norway and Sweden, and then boarded the "Stavanger Fjord" for the trip to New York and home.

In Australia so many young men and women had gotten saved and felt a calling to serve the Lord that the Sturgeons started a Bible school in Melbourne, then known as the Commonwealth Bible College. It is now the Southern Star Bible College located in Sydney, Australia.

An interesting thing happened to me in Paris—I was mistaken for Princess Margaret on three different occasions! She was in Paris at that time but was keeping her schedule a secret, so the Parisians were all watching for the princess, and I, looking "foreign," filled the bill!

Thanks for all the blessings and memories the *Heritage* magazine brings, and for the splendid work the Heritage Center is doing.

Sincerely,  
Mildred J. Herman

P.S. Inez Sturgeon is now 94 and living in Eugene, Oregon. Brother Sturgeon went to be with his Lord in 1991.



Mildred Thompson Herman (left) is shown with F. A. and Inez Sturgeon during ministry in Australia, 1946-49.

### Eugene 'Princess' Mobbed in Paris

#### Local Girl Taken For British Royalty

By Margaret Bennett

It happened in Paris. (Do most parents things do?) A Eugene girl, Miss Mildred Thompson, was mistaken for Princess Margaret Rose, who was also in Paris that week.

"It all started at the Geneva show," says Miss Thompson, who was traveling in Europe with the Rev. and Mrs. F. A. Sturgeon on an evangelistic speaking tour. "Did you ever suddenly become aware that hundreds of people, whose language you do not speak, were looking and looking in your direction? A most amazing feeling."

#### Orlando of Florence

"They looked at me with flowers in their hands and they were holding up their babies to see me. We stopped in a hotel, but that afternoon we went into the Hotel de Ville to buy a scarf and the same thing happened. We went to the store, I finished my scarf and bought a pair of gloves instead—they changed me 10 for them. I couldn't help but think—it must be expensive to be a princess."

"We found out afterward that the princess that same day was wearing a pink dress and a pearl hat. I was wearing a pink dress and a white hat. The changing of the dress did little good—I was still mistaken for the princess, when ever I appeared in public."

Long Trip  
The Princess Margaret Rose in Eugene High School.



PRINCESS MARGARET ROSE

Miss Thompson played her part, piano, and made in the Grand Hotel in Europe, and also in dark hair, and gave James white "a" in order to keep the King's.

The Sturgeon party is meeting tonight on their experience, at the Light House Temple for an indefinite stay of several weeks.

Miss Thompson is the daughter of Mr. Alvin Thompson, 181 Madison St., and a graduate of Eugene High School.



PRINCESS MARGARET ROSE IN EUGENE! If Eugene thought so this week they need not think. A local girl also disrupted Paris with her striking similarity. Miss Mildred Thompson, above, has the dark brown hair, bright eyes, stature, and a peach-and-cream complexion which goes with the pinkish hue in Buckingham Palace. (Lithillus photo, Wiltshire engraving.)

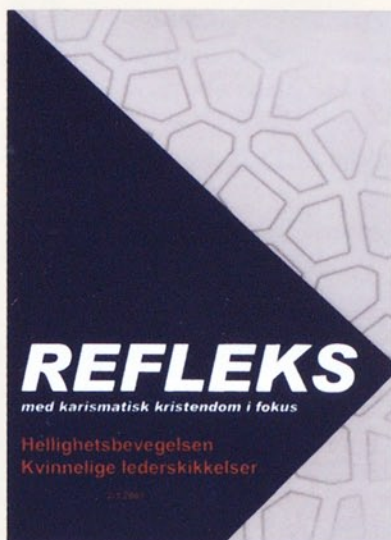
# Norwegian Scholar Introduces *Refleks*

Are you interested in how Pentecostals from around the world view history and theology? Several journals in this country are channels to what is being discussed in classrooms, new books, articles, and history and theology seminars. One of these is *Pneuma: The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies*.

Now Geir Lie, a Pentecostal scholar in Norway, has introduced *Refleks*, a bilingual scholarly journal dedicated to the study of the Holiness-Pentecostal-charismatic traditions. It will be published once or twice a year.

The 2003 issue features studies (in English) on The Christian and Missionary Alliance, by ORU professor, Paul L. King; Jessie Penn-Lewis, by Geir Lie; Elisabeth S. Fiorenza, by Pamela Holmes; and a book review of Geir Lie's *E. W. Kenyon: Cult Founder or Evangelical Minister*, by Joseph McIntyre. Other articles and book reviews are in Norwegian.

Information on subscriptions is available in North America from Brett Pavia, 5028 W. Tarkio St., Springfield, MO 65802, or e-mail: [bpavia@juno.com](mailto:bpavia@juno.com). Readers can also contact the publisher: Refleks Publishing, Ravnkroken 60-G, N-1254, Oslo, Norway, Europe, or e-mail: [geili@start.no](mailto:geili@start.no)



## Answer to Photo Quiz

From Page 32

If your answer is Lewis and Ruben Wilson, Jr., you are right. They were ordained at the Northern California-Nevada District Council at Richmond, California, on February 27, 1953. How well they remember that service and the prayer of ordination by Superintendent W. T. Gaston.

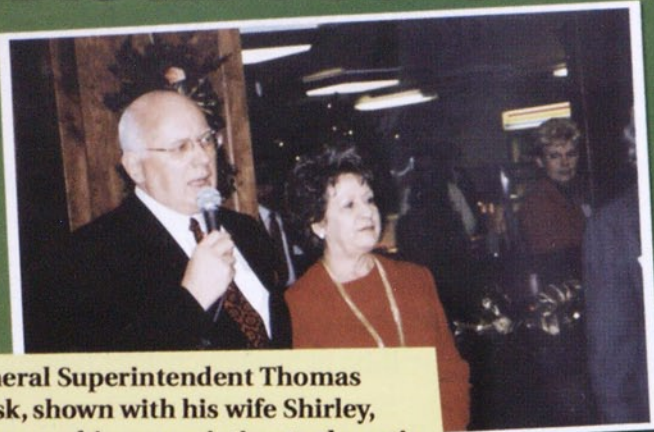
Lewis, who has been a member of the Southern California District for 40 years, received his 50-year recognition at the district council in Anaheim. He pastored churches in Roseville, Camino, Santa Cruz, and Oakland, California—all while obtaining his education to be used in training Christian leaders. He became a missionary to South Africa, teaching in a Bible school. Later he joined the faculty at Southern California College (now Vanguard University) of the Assemblies of God, where he retired as vice-president for academic affairs.

The Northwest District Council honored Ruben at their district council in Olympia. Ruben served the Northwest District for 30 years. He has pastored in Umatilla, Oregon; Colusa, Woodland, and Escalon, California. For 18 years he pastored Westminister Assembly, Seattle, Washington. Ruben concluded his 50 years in the ministry as associate pastor at Calvary Temple, Seattle (now Calvary Christian Assembly).



Lewis and Ruben A. Wilson, Jr.

# Retirees Christmas Dinner

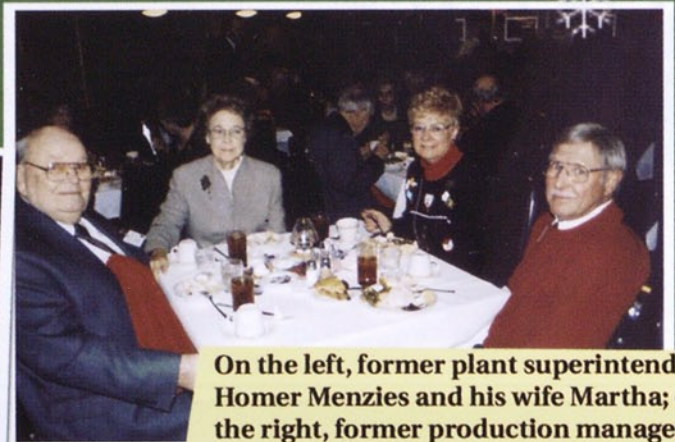


General Superintendent Thomas Trask, shown with his wife Shirley, expresses his appreciation to the retirees for their contribution to the Assemblies of God. The Trasks left immediately for a White House dinner.

The annual complimentary Christmas dinner at the Assemblies of God Headquarters attracted 399 retirees. As in the past, current employees served the retirees. The photos on this page show a small section of the guests.



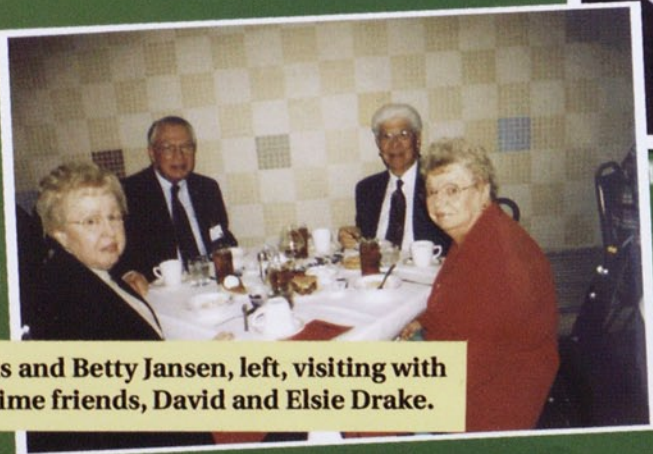
Former national director of publications Bill Eastlake and his wife Nancy eating with Sandy Clopine (left), former Women's Ministries director.



On the left, former plant superintendent Homer Menzies and his wife Martha; on the right, former production manager Merrell Cooper and his wife Pat.



Linda Reece, supervisor of the Secretariat, pouring ice tea for Agnes Veale (left), Dorothy Wilken, and Ruby Gum.



Harris and Betty Jansen, left, visiting with longtime friends, David and Elsie Drake.





# Pauline Parham Dies at 93

**Pauline Parham**  
1910-2003

Pauline Holman, Joplin, Missouri, was born again at the age of 5 under the ministry of Charles F. Parham, the founder of the modern Pentecostal movement. Fifteen years later, in 1930, she married Charles and Sarah Parham's youngest son Robert. When she died at the age of 93 on December 22, 2003, she was the last link with first generation Parhams.

She and her husband entered the ministry during the Great Depression. She was widowed in 1944 but continued in the ministry. She pastored four churches, founded two Bible colleges, and published the *Apostolic Faith* magazine.

She served as assistant dean of women at Oral Roberts University, and then moved to Dallas where she was dean of women and on the faculty of Christ for the Nations Institute for 25 years.

In demand as a speaker, she traveled throughout the U.S. and on mission fields. One of her preaching missions was in Springfield, Missouri, in 1983, at the invitation of the Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center. Here she addressed the chapel services of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Central Bible College, and Evangel University.

FPHC staff members, Glenn Gohr and Wayne Warner, attended her memorial service at the Bethel Community Church, Baxter Springs, Kansas. The interment followed in the Parham family burial site at the Baxter Springs Memorial Military Cemetery. Participants included Mrs. Parham's daughter and her husband, Leslie and Roberta Hromas; Ralph and Allene Wilkerson; Ruthanne Garlock, Randy Bozarth, and other Christ for the Nations staff; and Evangelist Billye

Brimm. Friends and family gathered around Charles Parham's pulpit grave marker and joined in singing an old song of comfort and hope, "When We All Get to Heaven."

**Below and left: Roberta Hromas relates a story of her mother. She is seated between her daughter Lee Ann Bowman and her husband Leslie. On the right, holding the Bible, is Evangelist Billye Brimm.**

**Below and right: Friends and family gather in a committal service under a tent, Saturday, January 10, for Pauline Parham, 93. Her daughter Roberta and her husband Leslie Hromas stand in front of the pulpit marker for Charles F. Parham.**



# ARCHIVES ACTIVITIES

**Zachary Berman:** News clips pertaining to John Ashcroft, 1970s-90s; Photocopies from Hillcrest High School yearbooks, 1959-60. **G. Raymond Carlson family via Elaine Overturf:** Honorary doctorate to G. Raymond Carlson by North Central Bible College, 1968; Ledger, 1947-48. **Gary Carlson, Africa Library Services Office:** Cassette tapes of Jimmy Swaggart, PTL Club, Lillian Watters, and others. **Ada Combs:** News clip:[1953] re Crossroads Revival team [Stockton, MO]. **Paul Cope:** Photograph album of the ministry of Rev. & Mrs. Arthur W. Erickson and Maywood (CA) Assembly of God.

**John Davis:** Books: *Adventures of a Gipsy Boy and Other Stories* / Gipsy Simon Smith, 1924; three other titles (duplicates: *Timnath-Serah: The Victor's Inheritance: Expository Sermons Making Old Truths New* / A. N. Trotter; *Praying to Change Things* / Charles Elmo Robinson; *Ages and Dispensations* / Frank M. Boyd). **Margaret Drake:** "Prince of Peace" Christmas cantata composed by Mable Richards, on cassette and CD-ROM. **Glenn Gohr:** News clip: "Assemblies of God gets old library," *The News-Leader* (Springfield, MO), 18 Dec. 2002; News clips: *The San Antonio Light* and *The San Antonio Daily Express*, July 19-24, 1907 concerning Charles F. Parham's arrest and release.

**Mary Hamby:** Rolled photograph of general view of Jerusalem. **Bob and Martha Henderson:** Cassette tapes of Evangelist Bessie Fisher preaching. **Ernest Leon Hiebert:** Cassette tapes of Paul Lowenberg preaching. **Paul and Myrtle Hild:** Photographs of their ministry in children's and evangelistic work. **J. Calvin Holsinger:** Correspondence and historical documents concerning the history of the founding of the Chi Alpha program of the Assemblies of God. **Charles Jennings:** Photographs of Samuel C. Perry. **Charles E. Jones:**

Booklet: *From Darkness to Light: The Remarkable Life Story of Blind Tracy Bowles* [personal testimony, 1940].

**Ruth E. Kent:** *Battlements for Thy House* / Loine C. Honderick; Cassette: "Train While You Travel" / Richard Dobbins; chapel tapes from Central Bible College, 1984 with typed outlines. **Samhwan Kim, International Theological Institute, Seoul, Korea:** English translations of books by Yonggi Cho: *A Bible Study for New Christians*, 2002; *A Call in the Night: A Sermon Series vol. 1*, 2002; *March Forward to Hope: A Sermon Series vol. 2*, 2002; *When I Am Weak, Then I Am Strong: A Sermon Series vol. 3*, 2002; *Spiritual Leadership for the New Millennium: Commemorating the 45th Anniversary of Dr. Cho's Ministry*, 2003. **Virginia Kusrow:** Tapes, photographs, and miscellaneous items.

**Bill and Peggy Jo Lasley:** Missionary slides and films of Senegal. **Florence Petersen:** Photograph of Ray Ton's Kids Kamp at Big Bear Lake, California, July 5, 1954. **Pat Pickard:** Tract: "Three views of the Godhead" / John Dearing; Song: "The Pilgrim Way" / by Carl E. Olivebring, trans. from Swedish by Alice R. Flower.

**Darrin Rodgers:** 75th anniversary booklet, *A Legacy to Share*, Evangel Temple, Bismarck, ND, 2003; Tract: *The Bride and Her Preparation* (Rochester, NY: Elim Publishing House, 1920s) / by S. A. Duncan; Photo: Christian Hild revival meetings, Hartford (CT) Gospel Tabernacle, 1950; Yearbook: *The Messenger* (Aberdeen, SD: Hub City Bible Institute, 1964). **John Sandifer:** Photographs of the Stone Church, Yakima, Washington. **Thomas Trask:** Reel-to-reel tapes of Bert Webb preaching.

**Arlene Sanchez Walsh:** Book: *Latino Pentecostal Identity* / Arlene Sanchez Walsh, 2003. **Wayne Warner:** LPs: *Songs of the Holy Spirit* by the Cameron Family and Roy

Turner, 1967; *Sing Along with the Cameron Family and Roy Turner*, 1969; *Just One Way to the Gate: Pastor Gene Canter* [196?]; Cassette tape of Lyda and Lois Paino speaking at Lakeview Christian Center, Indianapolis; Photographs of FPHC warehouse, 2003 General Council, and *Revivaltime* Reenactment. **Dillard Wood, purchased from:** Memoirs of Richard Baxter Hayes [Pentecostal Holiness preacher], 1945. **Daniel Woods:** Information on L. C. Hall from the *Christian Witness and Advocate of Bible Holiness*, May 10, 1900.

**Marian (Mrs. Calvin) Olson:** Harmonium used on the mission field in India and Bangladesh. **Allen and Janway families:** Pump organ for Bell Chapel, Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center (Look for a story in the spring issue of *Heritage*).



Missionaries Calvin and Marian Olson with their harmonium in Landour, India, 1956. She recently donated the instrument to the Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center.



Marian Olson playing the harmonium recently. Her husband Calvin is deceased, and she makes her home in Willmar, Minnesota.

# Early Periodicals



With this line of CD-ROM products you can browse through pages of periodicals that played a major part in shaping the early Pentecostal movement. If you are looking for a particular person, place, event, or theological topic, try using the included search engines to search the text. Each of these products is Windows 9X, 2000, ME, NT, XP and MAC compatible.

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Assemblies of God  
**HERITAGE**

1445 N. Boonville Avenue  
Springfield, Missouri 65802-1894



Ralph Harris, 91-year-old Assemblies of God retired minister and editor, holding a 1924 revival poster of meetings the Argue family conducted in Berea Tabernacle, Detroit. Harris was baptized in the Holy Spirit at this meeting. The poster is part of a collection of materials Peg Martin (Mrs. Clair), West Bloomfield, Michigan, donated to the FPHC. Her father was Norman Brandt, a member of Berea.

