

“The Call” to Hot Springs, Arkansas

5 Men Risked Their Ministries by Calling 1st Council

Recently a man in Georgia telephoned the Archives wanting information on the origin of the Assemblies of God. “Who is the founder of the Assemblies of God?” he asked.

He was surprised to learn that the Assemblies of God can single out no one man as the founder but that several were responsible for its origin.

And the more one looks at the five men who called the first General Council in Hot Springs in 1914, the more important they become.

No, they are not the founders of the Assemblies of God, but they certainly were God’s men at a crucial time in the history of the Pentecostal movement. The Christian Church has benefited for 68 years because of the vision and courage of M. M. Pinson, A. P. Collins, H. A. Goss, D. C. O. Opperman, and E. N. Bell.

These are the men who prayerfully and carefully wrote a preliminary announcement titled, “General Convention of Pentecostal Saints and Churches of God in Christ,” and published it in E. N. Bell’s paper, *Word and Witness*, December 20, 1913.

Up to this point in the history of the Pentecostal movement, there was little organization. There were a few organizations, but the mainstream of the movement was independent — and with no plans to ever change.

Many early Pentecostals believed they would lose their spiritual fervor and fall into bondage if they organized the revival.

But without the safeguards and disciplines an organization generally brings, many of the local independent assemblies were in trouble. The trouble sometimes

came after certain unscrupulous individuals would stop by to “bless” the local saints. Many churches were left in shambles.

One of the Pentecostal leaders who knew something had to be done about the situation was Howard A. Goss. He had been converted in the great Galena, Kansas, revival of 1903 under the ministry of Charles F. Parham.

Goss talked with his friend E. N. Bell and found a similar concern. Later the two discussed the idea of some type of organization with D. C. O. Opperman, a Bible teacher who was earlier associated with John Alexander Dowie in Zion, Illinois. Then M. M. Pinson and A. P. Collins

joined the discussions.

The five men knew it was risky to call any type of organizational meeting of Pentecostals. Many Pentecostals could brand them as “compromisers” — a very serious charge which could limit or even destroy their ministries.

But, like the signers of the Declaration of Independence, they were ready to take the risks. They outlined five major reasons for calling the meeting, which are summarized below:

1. Create unity in doctrine and in identifying Pentecostal congregations.
2. Develop ways to conserve the work at home and abroad.

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The first Executive Presbytery of the Assemblies of God, elected in Hot Springs, Arkansas, April 1914. Front row (left to right): T. K. Leonard, E. N. Bell, C. B. Fockler; back row (left to right): J. W. Welch, J. R. Flower, D. C. O. Opperman, H. A. Goss, and M. M. Pinson. Four of the above — Bell, Opperman, Goss, and Pinson — signed “the call” to Hot Springs. The fifth signer, A. P. Collins (inset), was elected chairman at the next Council.



“We stuck to our guns and prayed. This took courage, but it seemed we had a special filling of grace from the Lord, and we truly felt that He was leading.” — H. A. Goss

Paul Christopher Nelson, more widely known as P. C., was providentially prepared to play a significant role in 20th century Pentecostal institutional education. His background resulted in his having to overcome numerous imposing handicaps to feel any sense of adequacy in the work of God's kingdom. His immigrating parents brought him to Iowa from Denmark in 1872. By the age of 20 he felt "called" to the ministry, but his early efforts proved so ineffective he was overcome by disillusionment. In fact, he renounced his call and neglected his faith for a short period. Through the understanding ministry of the Rev. James G. Bryant, P. C. was restored and licensed to preach when he was hardly 21. Recognizing his need for training, he enrolled in a seminary in Chicago. The course was special in character, since he did not have the college prerequisites for graduate work. That year of work only "whetted" his intense thirst for understanding.

Consequently, the next several years he was involved in a tenacious pursuit of a formal education. He entered Denison University in 1890, subjecting himself to a long desperate struggle to sustain himself by manual labor while he continued his studies. He married Myrtle Garmong in 1893, who also joined his struggle to complete his training. He completed his bachelor degree in 1897 and continued graduate work, concentrating in language studies.

By this time P. C. was ministering in connection with his studies. His sense of personal inadequacy in the pulpit resulted in his entering Rochester Theological Seminary in 1899, where he completed his graduate studies in religion.

From this campus experience he launched a full-time Baptist ministry. For several years he was involved in evangelism and pastoring, as well as YMCA work during World War I. Though his career blossomed slowly, success and recognition inevitably came. Soon after World War I he received a call to pastor the great Conley Memorial Baptist Church in Detroit. He distinguished himself there as an outstanding minister of the Word.

During the summer of 1920 he encountered for the first time persons associated with the modern Pentecostal movement. Though he felt no hostility toward the Pentecostal posture as a result of this contact, neither was he particularly impressed. Circumstances that followed, however, would change this response.

Almost immediately he was faced with a serious infection due to complications from a minor auto accident. When his condition worsened, his physician in-

A Pioneer Pentecostal Educator

P. C. Nelson Prepared Young People for Christian Service

By Dr. Klaude Kendrick



Former Baptist P. C. Nelson promoted the four cardinal doctrines on this poster advertising meetings he conducted in Springfield, Illinois. This poster is just one of several P. C. Nelson revival posters dating back to 1903 which are part of a collection at Southwestern Assemblies of God College, Waxahachie, Texas.

formed him his knee would be stiff the rest of his life, and — if his plight did not improve — the infection could prove fatal. Besides the trauma of a serious diagnosis there was intense pain. In this desperate experience P. C. made a new commitment to God including a willingness to herald the news of divine healing and an openness to Pentecostalism. This commitment was promptly followed by his complete healing, an event that drastically altered his life.

P. C. Nelson related that the following Sunday he preached a sermon on divine healing for the first time in his 31 years of ministry.

When his church refused to endorse his new experience and ministry, he resigned to move immediately into an international evangelistic ministry, stressing the message of divine healing. During the next seven years, in addition to seeing many accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour and receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, he estimated that he anointed and prayed for

no fewer than 40,000 persons having physical needs. Unbelievable miracles resulted in his services.

Soon he felt a deep need for broader Pentecostal fellowship. When he became acquainted with the Assemblies of God, he concluded this body could meet his need for Christian association. He was thrilled to see the extent of God's blessing on the Assemblies of God but also observed that while scores of young people were entering the Pentecostal ministry, they were poorly prepared to minister the Word. This caused him to remember the frustration of his own experience as a young minister, and a deep concern was born within him to minister to these committed and devoted young people.

In 1927, in connection with the building of an Assemblies of God congregation in Enid, Oklahoma, P. C. Nelson established Southwestern Bible School. No worse time could have been chosen for such an undertaking. The opening of Southwestern had hardly been broadly publicized when the Great Depression broke with its devastating economic collapse. The economic problems, however, failed to deter Nelson's efforts. The school soon provided three years of Bible training for potential Pentecostal ministers.

Southwestern patterned its program after the Moody Bible Institute model, adding emphasis on Pentecostal distinctives. Because of his commitment at the time of his healing, divine healing and missions were especially emphasized in the curriculum. The logo, "The Whole Gospel for the Whole World," very soon popularly characterized the thrust of the school.

The institution struggled to survive during the ominous 1930's. President Nelson traveled widely soliciting financial help. In connection with this promotion, he blessed the fellowship of the Assemblies of God with his powerful pulpit ministry. During those desperate years he never turned away a deserving student, regardless of his fiscal ability. Miraculously and victoriously the school emerged from those trying years. The effort, however, had left its mark on the founder.

Possibly sensing the approaching terminus of his professional involvements, P. C. Nelson negotiated with other school leaders on merging in 1941 the Shield of Faith and Southern Bible schools with Southwestern. The new school was relocated in Fort Worth.

In 1942 Nelson learned that the former campus of Trinity University in Waxahachie was available. He was convinced

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The Men Who Have Led the A/G

Since 1949: Steelberg, Lewis, Riggs, and Zimmerman

Part 2

Editor's Note. Nine men have led the Assemblies of God in its 68-year history. In Part 1, which was published in the winter issue of Heritage, we looked at the lives and ministries of the first five: E. N. Bell, A. P. Collins, J. W. Welch, W. T. Gaston, and E. S. Williams. In this concluding part, we will look at the four men who served from 1949 to the present: W. R. Steelberg, G. F. Lewis, R. M. Riggs, and T. F. Zimmerman. There are no living former general superintendents. However, three widows survive: Ruth Steelberg Carter, Mary Evelyn Lewis, and Lillian Riggs.

Wesley R. Steelberg (1949-52)

When Ernest S. Williams chose to retire in 1949 after 20 years in office, it was the end of an era. In 1929 he had reluctantly accepted the position but then became "the man of the hour" to guide the Assemblies of God through the Great Depression and the decade of the 1940's.

But as he approached retirement age he was confident there were many young and capable men who could assume the leadership and guide the movement to even greater victories for the kingdom of God.



After the 1949 General Council delegates recovered from the initial shock of having an Assemblies of God without E. S. Williams' leadership, they chose Wesley R. Steelberg — one of the several young and capable leaders available at the time.

Like E. S. Williams, Wesley Steelberg began to preach in Los Angeles. And like Williams, he also pastored Philadelphia's Highway Tabernacle.

As a young man in Los Angeles Steelberg was in touch with the early Pentecostal leaders. In fact, he married Ruth Fisher, a daughter of one of the leaders.¹

In his early years of ministry, Steelberg organized big youth rallies and is given credit for helping originate a youth program in the Assemblies of God. When *Revivaltime* was created in 1950, Steelberg became the speaker.

He was a deeply spiritual leader, but his friends could always count on him to entertain them with his many stories and great sense of humor.

His widow told about the time they assisted Evangelist Smith Wigglesworth in meetings in California. Since the church auditorium was too small to accommodate the crowd, about half of the people were seated in an adjoining overflow room. There was no public address system, so it was Steelberg's assignment to relay the message to the overflow congregation.

"Wesley began to imitate Brother Wigglesworth's British accent," Mrs. Carter remembers, "and after a while the overflow crowd could hardly tell the difference between the two voices."²

In the spring of 1952 Steelberg suffered a heart attack, but he recovered sufficiently to resume some of his activities.

A short time later while ministering in Cardiff, Wales, he suffered a second heart attack and died July 8, 1952, at the age of 50.

Those who knew Wesley Rowland Steelberg agreed that the title selected for his biography — *All for Jesus* — was an appropriate motto for this 6th general superintendent of the Assemblies of God.³

Gayle F. Lewis (1952-53)

Before Gayle F. Lewis was elected as an assistant superintendent in 1945, he had served as superintendent of the old Central District for 15 years where he had seen many new churches planted.

His election as assistant superintendent in 1945 marked the beginning of a 20-year ministry in Springfield. At the death of Wesley Steelberg in 1952, Lewis was selected to fill the unexpired term. In 1953 he returned to his position as assistant superintendent where he served with distinction until his retirement in 1965.

Through his extensive travels while in national offices, Lewis made many friends. Some of the more lasting friendships were made in Alaska where he assisted the state in becoming a district.



Among other activities in which he was involved was the Pentecostal Fellowship of North America, serving as its chairman and member of the board.

In his *Suddenly . . . From Heaven*, Carl Brumback speculates on why Lewis was not elected as general superintendent at the 1953 General Council: "Lewis was an advocate of balance, and the mood of the

delegates at the 1953 General Council in Milwaukee was ultra-progressive."⁴

In his retirement years Lewis found fulfillment in speaking at ministers' institutes and camps and as doctrine editor for the Church School Literature department. He remained comparatively active until his death at age 80 in 1979.

Evangel College named their newest dormitory in memory of Gayle F. Lewis, Ohio's gift to the leadership of the Assemblies of God.

Ralph M. Riggs (1953-59)

When 18-year-old Ralph Riggs arrived in Hot Springs, Arkansas, in April 1914 to attend the first General Council, little could he realize that some day he would become the leader of the Assemblies of God.

Neither could he have any idea where his ministry over the next 39 years would take him before he would become general superintendent in 1953.



After attending the Elim Bible Training School in Rochester, New York, Riggs pastored for three years in Syracuse. In 1920 he answered a call to missionary service and went to South Africa where he ministered for six years.⁵

When Riggs returned to the United States, he pastored Bethel Church in Newark, New Jersey, and taught at the Bethel Bible Training School.

In 1929 Riggs joined the faculty of Central Bible Institute. Here in Springfield he would spend the next 30 years as a teacher, pastor, administrator, and writer.

It wasn't long before the congregation at Central Assembly saw his preaching and leadership skills and in 1931 elected him as its pastor. Eight years later he became district superintendent of the Southern Missouri District Council, a position he kept until he was elected as the assistant general superintendent in 1943.

Then another change took place in his leadership role in 1953 when he was elected to fill the position of general superintendent.

After serving the fellowship as general superintendent for six years, Riggs returned to the classroom — this time to Bethany Bible College, Santa Cruz, California.

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Recommended Reading

Heritage applauds the efforts of a 2nd generation Pentecostal, Fred T. Corum, who recently reprinted the 1906-08 issues of *Apostolic Faith*. Corum, whose mother was the leader of the first Pentecostal congregation in Springfield, Missouri, owns one of the few available collections of the *Apostolic Faith* — the official paper of the Azusa Street Mission in Los Angeles.

The reprinted issues are bound and titled *Like As Of Fire* and are available from Gospel Publishing House (03-1915, \$7.95).

Mr. Corum is a retired attorney and lives in Wilmington, Massachusetts.

Charles Barfoot has written a new book on the life and ministry of one of the best-known evangelists of the 20th century, Aimee Semple McPherson. Mrs. McPherson was a member of the Assemblies of God (1918-21) before she founded the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel.

The new biography is titled *Sister* and will be released by Harper & Row this summer.

Another book that will be of interest to *Heritage* readers is Homer Brooks' *Life Begins at Seventy*. The author's father, Edward B. Brooks, was an Assemblies of God evangelist-pastor in Alabama and West Florida. The author is a retired attorney who practiced in Washington, D.C.

Life Begins at Seventy is available at \$2 from the author: Homer Brooks, 10417 Ewell Ave., Kensington, MD 20795.

P. C. Nelson

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this facility would better accommodate the training services needed by the Assemblies of God.

P. C. Nelson did not live to see the fulfillment of his burden and dream, for he died quietly after a short illness October 24, 1942. His dream did not die, however. Southwestern continued to flourish. In keeping with the Nelson vision, the college did obtain the Waxahachie campus, and its program was upgraded to the college level in the 1940's.

It is a credit to the memory of P. C. Nelson, its illustrious founder, that Southwestern became a charter member of the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges and instituted the first accredited junior college program in the Assemblies of God.

Dr. Klaude Kendrick is a well-known Assemblies of God educator and historian. His book The Promise Fulfilled is a history of the modern Pentecostal movement.

A/G Superintendents, 1949-82

(Continued from p. 3)

In Springfield the older generation remembers Ralph M. Riggs for his unselfish "mothering" of new churches while he pastored Central Assembly. Every student who attends Evangel College can thank this man for his effort to establish this liberal arts college. Across the fellowship he is remembered as a man who promoted the Sunday school work. He is also remembered as a prolific writer.

Ralph M. Riggs had a tremendous influence on the Assemblies of God — an influence that is still being felt 11 years after his death.

Thomas F. Zimmerman (1959-)

Dr. William Menzies described the change in leadership which took place in 1959 as "the transition from charismatic leadership to a charismatic-statesmanship type."⁶

This transition marked the election of Thomas F. Zimmerman from his role as an assistant superintendent to that of superintendent.

Since 1959 Zimmerman has been re-elected seven times and has served a record 22 years in this office.

When he was a boy, Brother Zimmerman's mother suffered from tuberculosis. There was nothing unusual about people suffering from this dreaded disease; but in the Zimmerman family's case, it would drastically alter their lives.

Mrs. Zimmerman was completely healed through the ministry of a Pentecostal congregation in Indianapolis — now Parc-Way Assembly of God. And as a result of the healing, the family left the Methodist Church and united with the Pentecostal congregation.

Mrs. Zimmerman had dedicated her son Thomas to full-time ministry before he was born. While a teenager he was active in the youth group which gave him opportunities to preach in street meetings. As he grew older he took a more active role in the church leadership. And he got better acquainted with the pastor's daughter — Elizabeth Price — who became his wife in 1933.

The next year Zimmerman gave up a promising business career to accept the pastorate of a struggling church in Harrodsburg, Indiana. Later he served pastorates in South Bend, Indiana; Granite City, Illinois; Springfield, Missouri; and Cleveland, Ohio. During his pastoral ministry he was also active in the leadership of the districts in which he ministered.



Today he serves on numerous boards and committees and is president of the Assemblies of God Graduate School.

In addition to his long-time service to the Assemblies of God, Zimmerman has provided strong leadership in many other organizations such as the National Association of Evangelicals, Pentecostal Fellowship of North America, National Religious Broadcasters, and the Pentecostal World Conference. He served as the chairman of the planning committee for the 1981 American Festival of Evangelism, and is the chairman and a speaker for the 13th Pentecostal World Conference in Nairobi in September.

Thomas F. Zimmerman's contributions to the Assemblies of God and other Christian groups around the world would fill a book. His influence has been felt on every continent.

And it all began when a godly mother dedicated her son to the Lord's service before he was born.

Nine superintendents have served the Assemblies of God since delegates met in Hot Springs in 1914 for the organizational meeting. Each of the nine — from E. N. Bell to Thomas F. Zimmerman — has been used of God to help establish the Assemblies of God as a mighty force for the Kingdom. Each of them arrived on the scene just when their particular gifts were needed most.

Today we honor them — Bell, Collins, Welch, Gaston, Williams, Steelberg, Lewis, Riggs, and Zimmerman — for their dedicated leadership during the 68-year history of the Assemblies of God.

¹Ruth Fisher's father was Elmer Fisher, pastor of the Upper Room Mission, Los Angeles, and co-publisher of *The Upper Room* paper. Ruth Steelberg Carter still makes her home in Springfield, Missouri.

²Oral history tape, Assemblies of God Archives. Taped September 17, 1980.

³Lester E. Sumrall, *All for Jesus* (Springfield: Gospel Publishing House, 1955).

⁴Carl Brumback, *Suddenly... From Heaven* (Springfield: Gospel Publishing House, 1961), p. 320.

⁵Later in 1920 Ralph Riggs married Lillian Merian, also a missionary to South Africa. She lives in Scotts Valley, California.

⁶William W. Menzies, *Anointed to Serve* (Springfield: Gospel Publishing House, 1971), p. 306.

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD HERITAGE

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Letters to the Editor

When Pentecost Came to Coffee County, Alabama

Bro. M. M. Pinson came to Coffee County in 1907 with the Pentecostal message. My father, James J. DuBose (a pioneer Assembly of God minister) received the baptism of the Holy Spirit in June 1907. He was one of the first to be ordained in Alabama. His first ordination certificate was issued by the Church of God in Christ. . . From the Pinson revival the El Bethel Assembly of God was organized.

Laurelle DuBose Weatherford
New Brockton, Alabama

Editor's Note. Two charter members of El Bethel live in the New Brockton area: Mrs. Ernie Hornsby and Mrs. Bertie Hornsby. A third charter member, Mrs. Rilla Bruce, lives in Dothan, Alabama.

Where Are Your Home Movies?

The Archives is looking for old 8 or 16 mm movies that help tell the story of the Assemblies of God. Anyone who has old movies taken at General or District Councils, Bible schools, foreign mission fields, camp meetings, important ground breaking services, building programs, etc., is asked to contact Wayne Warner, director of the Assemblies of God Archives.

Historically significant films will be copied on video tape, and the originals will be returned to the owners.

Persons who would like to help finance this project are urged to send their tax-deductible gifts to the Assemblies of God Archives.

ARCHIVES ACTIVITIES

Recent Acquisitions

Journals, correspondence, and other papers of Victor Plymire, donated by David Plymire. Also included is a video tape which contains old movie film Victor Plymire shot in Tibet and China.

Like As Of Fire, a photographic reprint of the original 13 issues of *Apostolic Faith* which was the paper produced by the Azusa Street Mission in Los Angeles (1906-08). Reprinted and donated by Fred T. Corum.

Video taped interviews: Maynard and Gladys Ketcham on PTL, and William Emanuel being interviewed by J. Foy Johnson.

Dr. Charles S. Price's *Golden Grain* magazines, donated by Marjorie Price.

Miscellaneous photographs donated by James Crouch, Paul Franklin, Ralph Harris, and F. Helen Jarvis.

Finder Services Added

Catalogs on oral history tapes and book collection have been completed.

Heritage Paper Available Free

As long as the supply lasts, the first issue of *Heritage* is available free. Persons wishing to distribute the paper should send their request for the free copies to the Archives.

PRESERVING YOUR CHURCH HISTORY

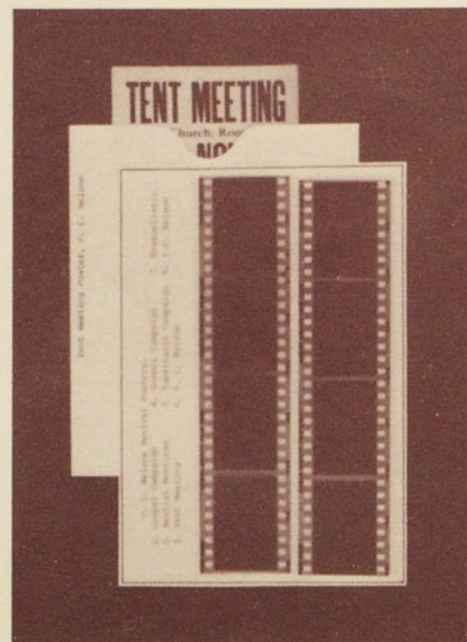
How to Select and Store Your Church's Photographs

Pam Eastlake

Archival records come in many forms: committee minutes, correspondence, diaries, tapes, and books. However, one form of record that may be overlooked is the photograph. Photographs of the buildings, people, and activities form a visual record of the ministry of your church. Pictorial directories, usually produced to serve the purpose of helping to match names with faces, are an excellent record of church membership over the years. Special events, such as the Christmas cantata, may be photographed for future advertising, a year-in-review, or an anniversary celebration.

Not all photographs in the files should be kept as archival records. Some photographs may not be historically valuable. Every year you should screen the photographs in your files and decide which are permanently valuable to your church. Pictures of former pastors, guest ministers, special meetings, deacons, Sunday school teacher, committees, and church members are items that should be retained. Any photographs of current buildings and those used in the past should be stored permanently. Pictures of the buildings in various phases of construction are also good to keep. Photographs and materials documenting out-reach programs, such as prison ministry, are archival records. In deciding what photographs to keep, choose some candid shots rather than posed pictures; your photographs will be more interesting. When a photograph is received in the church office, it is important to immediately identify the people in the picture, or the building, or the occasion, as well as the date it was taken. Too often pictures are put aside for future cataloging and are then filed with no identification. When they are later pulled from the files, no one is quite sure who the man on the left is or what was the occasion. If you have unidentified photographs in your files, church members may be able to assist you. To determine the date of a photograph, you may be able to use the information in the image itself to help. Carefully examine surrounding buildings, if they are under construction, being remodeled, or completed, that can help pinpoint the date of the picture. The style of clothing worn may assist you in dating a group photograph.

Planning how to store your photographs is important. Prints and negatives should be stored separately as the print may



Negatives and prints will be preserved if stored in protective sleeves and envelopes.

contain chemicals that are harmful to the emulsion of the negative. Negatives can be cleaned by brushing lightly with a camel's hair brush. Next, place the negative in a triacetate or polyester sleeve. The sleeve will protect the negative and also allow viewing while in the protective folder. Prints may be wrapped in acid-free envelopes. After placing in the sleeves or envelopes, the prints and negatives may be stored in Hollinger boxes. The storage area should have temperature and humidity controls if at all possible. High humidity may cause damage to the emulsion of negatives or prints.

The book *Collection, Use, and Care of Historical Photographs* by Robert A. Weinstein and Larry Booth, from which much of this information is taken, is an excellent reference guide. It is available from the American Association for State and Local History. Materials for the storage and protection of photographs and negatives are available from Hollinger Corp., 3810 S. Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington, VA 22206; and TALAS, 104 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011.



Pam Eastlake is Archives Assistant, A/G Archives



Visitors and delegates at the First General Council of the Assemblies of God, Hot Springs, Arkansas, April 2-12, 1914.

“The Call” to Hot Springs

(Continued from p. 1)

3. Develop a workable system for the support of missionaries.

4. Charter local churches under “one Bible name.”

5. Discuss the possibility of a Bible training school.

The admirable goals proposed by the five men met with strong opposition from many who wondered what these “compromisers” meant by trying to organize God’s revival!

In reflecting on the reaction, Goss said, “We stuck to our guns and prayed. This took courage, but it seemed we had a special filling of grace from the Lord, and we truly felt that He was leading.”¹

The *Word and Witness* continued to promote the convention, and other Pentecostal leaders joined the efforts of the five original signers. And by the time April 2 rolled around, Hot Springs, Arkansas, was the scene of what became the 1st General Council of the Assemblies of God.

True, not everyone of the 300 people who attended the sessions united as charter members. The well-known evangelist,

John Lake, was there; but he was just one who decided to remain independent.

And the meetings had times of disagreement. David Lee Floyd, 92, who was in charge of the housing, remembers one session in which there was much disagreement. “One of the brethren from Mississippi stood to his feet and began to sing ‘Peace, peace, wonderful peace, coming down from the Father above, sweep over my spirit I pray.’”²

Floyd added that the audience picked up the song and it served to quiet some of the more vocal delegates who wished to push their particular viewpoints.

Willie T. Millsaps remembers the apprehensions many of the delegates expressed concerning organizations. But the benefits were outlined by the leaders which calmed many of the fears they had.

Millsaps who now lives in Bristol, Virginia, has seen many changes in the movement during the past 68 years but proudly exclaims, “We’re still preaching the same doctrine we preached in Hot Springs.”³

The delegates at the first Council recognized the spiritual and leadership qualities of Pinson, Goss, Opperman, and Bell by electing them to the first executive presbytery. The fifth man, A. P. Collins, was also recognized at the 2nd Council when he was named chairman.

The rest is history. But one can only speculate whether the Assemblies of God would be what it is today had it not been for five men who put their ministries on the line and published the “call” which ultimately brought about the origin of the movement.

The Assemblies of God — and indeed the entire Christian Church — is indebted to these five men of courage and vision.

May these two qualities ever live in the movement they helped create.

¹Ethel E. Goss, *The Winds of God* (New York: Comet Press Books, 1958), p. 175.

²David Lee Floyd, oral history tape, Assemblies of God Archives.

³Willie T. Millsaps, oral history tape, Assemblies of God Archives. Millsaps and Floyd met in 1981 for the first time since 1916 (see *Pentecostal Evangel*, December 13, 1981). The two and Dollie Simms, Crossett, Arkansas, are perhaps the only three surviving adults who attended the 1st General Council.

Editor’s Note. As this issue of *Heritage* was going to press, we received word that David Lee Floyd died on March 9.

College Yearbooks Available

Are you looking for a copy of your college yearbook?

The Assemblies of God Archives has a miscellaneous collection of college yearbooks which it no longer needs. A list of the yearbooks and prices is available by writing to the Archives.