

# THIS WEEK IN AG HISTORY

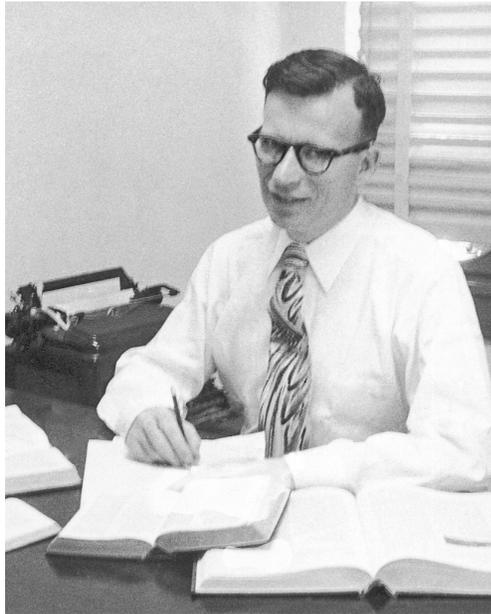
BY RUTHIE EDGERLY OBERG

Stanley M. Horton (1916-2014) was one of the most influential teachers in the history of the Assemblies of God. He taught at the highest level in AG institutions of higher education and authored the standard textbook on the Pentecostal understanding of the Holy Spirit, but it was through writing Sunday School material that he yielded his broadest influence.

After high school, Horton attended University of California at Berkeley. He then earned a Master of Divinity from Gordon Divinity School, a Master of Sacred Theology from Harvard, and ultimately his doctorate from Central Baptist Theological Seminary in 1959.

Horton taught at the university level for 63 years. He authored dozens of books and published more than 250 scholarly articles.

However, it is possible that his broadest influence in the Pentecostal world came through serving as author of the *Adult Teacher* Sunday School quarterly for 25 years. Each Sunday, teachers and students would open



these quarterlies to glean a deeper understanding of biblical principles from the same pen that was writing university textbooks.

Read the article, "A/G Editors Honor Stanley Horton for 25 Years of Writing Ministry," on page 26 of the April 27, 1975, issue of the *Pentecostal Evangel* online at [s2.ag.org/april271975](http://s2.ag.org/april271975). Read his biographical sketch at [s2.ag.org/smhbio](http://s2.ag.org/smhbio). 



PENTECOSTAL  
EVANGEL  
NEWS

A COLLECTION OF THIS WEEK'S  
TOP STORIES FROM PENEWS.ORG

SUNDAY,  
APRIL 30  
2017



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## BREATHING ANEW IN NEW ORLEANS

BY JOHN W. KENNEDY

Six months after embarking on his first church plant, Wayne A. Northup awakened one morning and couldn't breathe. Northup always had lived with mild asthma, but on this day he couldn't even walk up the stairs in his house.

A battery of tests spawned various asthma-related treatments prescribed by doctors, ranging from downing unhealthy doses of Prednisone to walking around with intravenous tubes hanging from his body. Besides side effects that included weight gain and abscesses, Northup struggled with fevers, infections, and — still — breathing difficulties.

As the weeks of health troubles dragged into months, Northup, a usually faith-filled Christian, began to hear Satan whispering lies: the New Orleans church he planted would fail; he would die; he would leave behind his wife, Kristi, and the couple's two children, Libby and Lincoln.

For much of his first two years as pastor of Saints Community Church, Northup couldn't get out of bed.

Finally, doctors at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, diagnosed Northup with bronchiectasis. A daily regimen of powerful pharmaceuticals and therapy that involves a one-hour self-cleaning of his lungs, now allows Northup to live a fairly normal life.

Northup says the medical journey also yielded a spiritual learning curve.

"The Lord said I had only known 50 percent of Him — the power of His resurrection," Northup says. "Now I know the other half — the fellowship of His suffering."

By embracing that affliction, Northup says he has learned to be a pastor, after spending 16 years as an evangelist.

"God made me a shepherd through this, giving me empathy for people who are sick or hurting," Northup says of his illness.

Unlike some church planters who start a congregation and move on, Northup says God specifically called him to reach New Orleans for the long haul.

The geographical draw to the Big

## NOT STOPPED BY 32 SURGERIES

BY CHRIS MAXWELL

Kayla Buckley, a 24-year-old licensed AG minister and a graduate from North Central University, is a circuit-riding preacher serving five North Dakota congregations. Buckley has endured 32 major surgeries, but instead of giving up, she has chosen to focus on serving Christ and other people.

Born with VATER syndrome, spina bifida, and only one kidney, Buckley's operations have included removal of the upper half of one kidney, one leg lengthened twice, and a back surgery to fuse her sacroiliac joint. She lives with chronic pain, yet her severe physical problems cannot stop her from believing in a deeper healing. Buckley ministers with her husband, Reid.

"Every Sunday I drive the circuit to two of the five churches while my senior pastor does the other two," she says. "We cover the fifth church on Thursday evenings, and the next Sunday I preach where he preached the previous Sunday and he does the same." The churches all are within a 45-mile radius.



As a mentor to youth, Buckley has built a leadership team of nine, equipping them to preach, lead small groups, and mentor teens outside of Wednesday evenings.

Buckley says her Pentecostal beliefs have helped her to listen to God closer and trust Him deeper.

"The strength God has given her to cope with years of pain shines through in everything she does for our home and in every person she touches," her husband, Reid, says.

"Spending so much of my life in a wheelchair, missing school, being on crutches, surgery after surgery, all really taught me that this is my life," Buckley says. "God has such amazing plans, no matter if I'm struggling with chronic pain." 

### THE ABCs OF SALVATION

**ACCEPT** that you are a sinner, and God's punishment for your sin is death and separation from God forever.

**BELIEVE** that Jesus paid God's price for your sin when He died on the cross.

**CONFESS** "Jesus, I believe You are who the Bible and history declares You are — the Son of God. I humble myself and surrender to You. Forgive me. Make me spiritually whole. Change my life. Amen."



## TRANSFORMED BY GOD; DEDICATED TO WINNING THE LOST

BY DAN VAN VEEN

Joe H. Oden was addicted to drugs and using LSD when a preacher on TV pointed into the camera and told him that God was going to transform his life — and He did!

Less than a year later, Oden gave his life to Christ in a small Assembly of God church when a team from the Brownsville Revival visited. “I never heard anyone preach with a baptism of fire like this man,” Oden says. “I literally ran to the altar and began to repent. I walked out that night set free, baptized in fire, and called to be an evangelist.”

Passionate to share Christ with others, he asked members at the church to go along with him in street witnessing efforts, but no one would. That didn’t stop him.

For a year, unaccompanied, he laid hands on hundreds of people and prayed for them, offending many with his unorthodox methods, and experiencing limited results. Desperate for God to use him, Oden began to fast

in addition to praying “without ceasing.”

Then it happened. “I laid hands on a homosexual man, just like I had done to others hundreds of times before, believing God would touch him,” Oden recalls. “When I touched him, the fire of God hit this guy, knocked him out cold, and when he came to, he gave his life to Christ right there! That night I stepped into an anointing.”

Today, Oden, 40, is the North Texas District Evangelism coordinator. His vision is for every AG church to be filled with members who have been trained and are mobilized to reach others for Christ. So, section by section, Oden and other evangelists are training and equipping believers to effectively share the gospel and move in the gifts of the Spirit.

“If God was only looking for people who are talented or gifted, he would have bypassed me,” Oden says. “But He’s not; He’s looking for people who are available!” 

## CHURCH REVERSES FINANCIAL WOES WITH IRS

BY ERIC TIANSAY

An AG church that was in dire financial straits is now on the verge of being debt free after the congregation, its new pastor, sectional leadership, and district staff worked together to save the fellowship.

In 2012, Jeff Jennings took over as interim pastor of Florida City First Assembly of God, located south of Miami, after the congregation lost its pastoral and office staff, leaving only 30 adherents.

“The IRS placed a lien on all properties of the church due to unpaid employee taxes over a period of seven years,” says Jennings, elected as church pastor in 2013. “By the time we came on, almost \$500,000 was owed, with the threat of property seizure any day.”

“Due to unpaid payroll and property taxes to the city, state, and IRS, the buildings and property at Florida City were in urgent jeopardy,” says AG Peninsular Florida District Superintendent Terry Raburn. “Peninsular Florida and the local congregation were within weeks of losing the physical assets of the church.”

However, sectional presbyter David Stocker and his team perused the documents, rallied the congregants, and changed the milieu. The IRS forgave penalties. Florida City First Assembly now averages 150 attendees. 

## GENERATIONS OF GLOBAL PASSION

BY MARK FORRESTER

Believers from 84 nations gathered in Singapore for the eighth triennial World Assemblies of God Congress (WAGC) recently. The conference, themed “Generations: A Prophetic Legacy,” featured three days of preaching, worship, and workshops for those gathered.

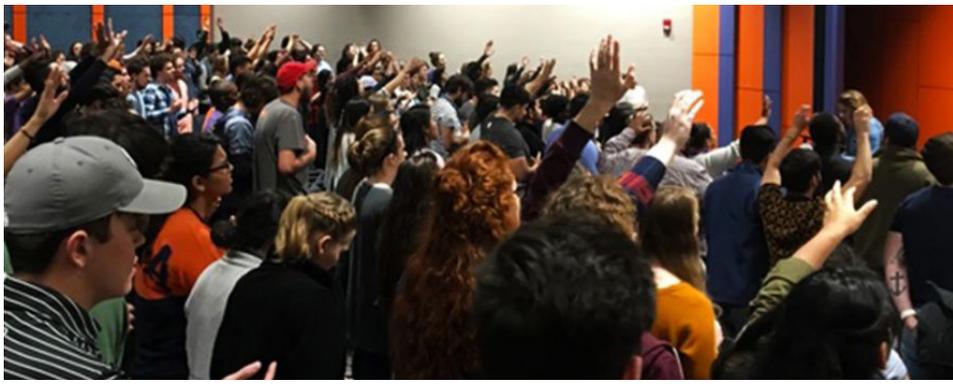
The WAGC is the official gathering of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship (WAGF). The AG throughout the world represents 67.9 million followers in 255 countries, territories, and provinces, in more than 365,000 churches. It is the world’s fourth largest Christian group.

The WAGF was established in 1989 as a non-legislative body which serves to help propel the work of the gospel through collaboration among the various national fellowships.

The 2017 WAGC was hosted by the AG of Singapore, primarily at Trinity Christian Centre, which is pastored by the nation’s general superintendent, Dominic Yeo.

In executive committee meetings that immediately preceded the WAGC, Yeo was elected the new secretary of the WAGF. Also, George O. Wood was re-elected as chairman and David Mohan, general superintendent of the AG of India, was re-elected vice-chairman.

Evening power rallies had more than 16,000 in attendance. Wood and Mohan led a prayer for the 365,000 churches in the AG to expand. 



## CHI ALPHA CHAPTER SUPERSIZED

BY DEANN ALFORD

Johnny Hauck's broad welcome into Chi Alpha small groups covers everybody on the University of Texas at San Antonio campus: believers in Christ, those thinking about becoming a Christian, "or not thinking about becoming a Christian."

Surprisingly, even those who consider themselves in the latter group are just as likely as the second category to put their faith in Christ, says Hauck, Chi Alpha director at UTSA, which has a student population of 28,500.

"We see students all over the board give their hearts to Jesus," Hauck, 40, says of the chapter, which averages 600 students between two weekly meetings at UTSA, making it among the largest Chi Alpha chapters in the country.

San Antonio Chi Alpha launched nine years ago with Hauck, his wife, Amy, and a handful of pioneering team members. Today it features 124 small group Bible studies led by student disciplers and 44 staff members.

The roots of the thriving ministry lie

200 miles east in the fertile soil of the Chi Alpha chapter at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. That's where Hauck began attending school in 2000. At Sam Houston, Hauck connected with Chi Alpha as a student and later as an intern. There he came to understand the definition of discipleship.

"Jesus took 12 men and for three years He poured all His resources into them," Hauck says. He points out that Jesus' method was to weave His life together with the others as they lived beyond a once-a-week interaction.

Hauck encourages spring break ministry, this year in 30 different places, including Teen Challenge. Teen Challenge is close to Hauck's heart as his own brother found freedom from drugs and experienced spiritual transformation through the program. In 2015 alone, 290 from the San Antonio chapter lent a hand at Teen Challenge locations. Hauck has organized around 100 trips for students since launching the San Antonio group. 

Easy began during Northup's junior year at North Central University. Upon laying eyes on the French Quarter for the first time, Northup began to sob. His weeping lasted for 2½ hours. By the end of the evening, Northup says God had given him a love for New Orleans.

The next February, Northup organized the first of his annual treks to the Mardi Gras, toting a dozen North Central students along in a van. The numbers have grown over the years, with nearly 4,000 people participating in an Answering the Cries outreach. Teams from 15 churches and schools took part this spring.

The five-day encounters are designed to win souls and raise

up soul winners. Northup believes being immersed in a cultural clash environment of blatant immorality can serve as a training ground for spiritually empowered Christians to share their faith with the unconverted. Participants try to engage the carousers in conversation, incorporating everything from dance to rap contests.

Nearly 5½ years into the church plant, Saints Community Church is a multiethnic and multigenerational congregation, with around 30 percent of attendees African-American and 15 percent Hispanic. The church is located in Metairie.

Northup, 41, never intends to leave the city that has a spiritual climate like nowhere else. 

## LIGHT FOR THE LOST CONTINUES TO IMPACT WORLD

BY MANDY KENNEDY

In 2016, Light for the Lost (LFTL) supporters gave \$7,298,037.71 to provide evangelism resources for missionaries around the world. Giving to LFTL in 2016 exceeded four of the last five years, and was an increase of 14 percent over the previous year.

"Today we have the greatest opportunity to present the gospel to all nations, to all people groups in every village, town, hut, or city," states Rick Allen, national director of LFTL. "The power of the gospel is the most powerful voice on our planet, and the voice of the lost is getting louder wanting to hear it."

In the 63-year history of LFTL,

donors have given over \$318,000,000 to the cause.

"God can raise a mighty army, and that is what we are," Allen says. "We are an army of prayer warriors and missional givers who have not wavered in the mission of Light for the Lost."

Starting in 2014 and every year since, LFTL can report that every second of every day someone, somewhere, is actively using a LFTL resource to discover who Jesus is or learning more about Him.

This year, Sunday, May 7, is National LFTL Day in the Assemblies of God. See [lftl.ag.org/resources](http://lftl.ag.org/resources) for free downloads. 