

THIS WEEK IN AG HISTORY

BY DARRIN J. RODGERS

In 1934 a rising tide of anti-Semitism seemed to be sweeping the Western world. Responding to this anti-Semitism, *Pentecostal Evangel* Associate Editor Charles E. Robinson wrote an article “as a solemn warning to all Christians” to avoid playing any role in the persecution of the Jews.

In his article, “A Lawyer Examines Evidence,” Robinson invoked his professional training to demonstrate that a book purporting to be a secret Jewish manual for world domination was a hoax.

The book in question, *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, was what might be called “fake news” today. Millions of people fell for its false claims that a Jewish conspiracy was responsible for global economic and political turmoil.

Assemblies of God leaders warned readers in the 1930s to carefully judge stories that seemed designed to vilify others. “Fake news” stories about conspiracies may, ironically, be a conspiracy to engender hostility



against alleged conspirators.

Read Robinson’s entire article, “A Lawyer Examines Evidence,” on page 3 of the Jan. 27, 1934, issue of the *Pentecostal Evangel* online at s2.ag.org/jan271934.

Do you have Pentecostal historical materials that should be preserved? Please consider depositing these materials at the Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center in the AG national offices. Call toll-free: 877-840-5200. 



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NEWS

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TOP STORIES FROM PENEWS.ORG

SUNDAY,
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TRANSFORMED BY LOVE – THE WALTER HOVING HOME

BY DAN VAN VEEN

Beth Mann was scared. Diagnosed with multiple personalities and schizophrenia, even with her drug-altered mind, where voices spoke to her constantly, she knew this was very likely her last chance for life.

Mann was being escorted to the Walter Hoving Home, a Teen Challenge center for women in Garrison, New York. Teen Challenge founder David Wilkerson had asked his friend and Teen Challenge Assistant Director, John Benton, a credentialed AG minister, and his wife, Elsie, to lead this new home just for women.

The couple accepted. since then, the Bentons have seen thousands of women come through the doors, but few compared to Mann.

“She was a tough lady to work with,” John admits.

At the age of 9, Beth had started drinking and using cocaine. During her senior year in high school, recreational use began to transform into addiction. When her parents dropped her off at college in 1988 for her freshman year, all restraint disappeared.

“That first semester, 80 percent of the time I was in a drunken stupor or high,” Mann says.

Mann dropped out of school, but before she did, she experienced a bad drug hit — she started hearing voices. She would go from job to job, living in her car or going to detox centers to sober up long enough to get another job and start drinking and doing drugs again.

By the time Mann turned 20, she hit the wall — attempting suicide, multiple times.

Ultimately she would be placed in the state psychiatric hospital where she was diagnosed with schizophrenic tendencies and multiple personalities. With the help of a former youth pastor and her church, she was sent to the Walter Hoving Home.

“There were a lot of reasons they shouldn’t have accepted me,” Mann says. “I had severe mental health issues to the point that the addiction was nearly secondary. But I was later told that they (John and Elsie) prayed about accepting me and felt like the Holy Spirit told them to let me come.”

GENERAL COUNCIL: ANAHEIM ON A DIME

BY DAN VAN VEEN

Anaheim will be the site of the 54th General Council this August. However, many General Council attendees will be looking to extend their stay. The question is, how do visitors get the most for their dollar in Anaheim?

Staying at a hotel that offers a free breakfast or has a kitchen to make your own meals is a great start. The internet is also key. Try using groupon.com to get deals on restaurants and attractions. If Anaheim is a road trip, explore groupon.com for cities along the way. However, note that Groupon coupons’ values often expire in 120 days.

Those familiar with the coupon-packed Entertainment Books (s2.ag.org/ebook) may find investing \$20 to purchase the Orange County, California, coupon book worth the while.

Driving to Anaheim? Then consider using gasbuddy.com to find the best prices in gas.

Another great site to visit is visitanaheim.org. Explore its deals/ coupons and its blog posts for a variety of savings opportunities. It also offers

a list of the top 10 things to do (s2.ag.org/topten) in Anaheim as well as fun indoor activities (s2.ag.org/indoor) families can enjoy.

“Two of my most cherished family outings as a child were Farrell’s (s2.ag.org/farrells) and Shakey’s (s2.ag.org/shakeys) Pizza Parlor,” says Gina Gayer, services and events marketing manager at Visit Anaheim. “Both can be found close to the Anaheim resort area for a budget-friendly family good time.

And of course, a visit to Anaheim would not be complete without taking the tribe to the Original Joe’s Italian Ice (s2.ag.org/joes) where all of their ice cream dreams can come true.”

And the mouse in the room? Disneyland! A good site to get “great deals on all things Disney” is mousesavers.com.

For AG churches in Anaheim, consult the AG church directory (s2.ag.org/churches).

Finally, don’t forget a GPS unit (with an updated map) or app on a smart phone for directions. 

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.”

PRAYER AND THE PRODIGAL

BY PATTI-TOWNLEY COVERT

Brooklyn Tabernacle Pastor Jim Cymbala and his Grammy-award-winning choir director wife, Carol, had long suffered parental agony over their eldest daughter, Chrissy. At a Tuesday night prayer meeting at the church in 1991, Cymbala announced: “Our daughter Chrissy is really away from God. We’ve done everything we can — there’s only one answer. So we need to pray.” The 1,700 people assembled in the building began to cry out to God.

Chrissy, now 47, says an emotional attachment to a man led to increasingly dark places: dismissal from college; destroyed trust and separation from her parents; lost job opportunities. For a few days, she even relinquished her baby to foster care. Despite having no means to support her daughter, Chrissy quickly realized she loved Susie far too much to let her go permanently.

The night of BT’s prayer meeting, Chrissy says she saw a menacing pitch-black figure appear in the darkened room and says she heard it claim her life and little Susie’s. As BT members continued laboring in prayer, a cloud-like entity radiating brilliant light became visible and vanquished the evil one, disappearing along with it, she says.

By the next morning, Chrissy repented of her sins. She raced to her parents’ home and asked for their forgiveness — as she introduced them



to their granddaughter.

Al Toledo, 50, was in the balcony that night of the prayer meeting, but he didn’t realize he was interceding on behalf of his future wife and the mother of his children. The couple have been married 24 years.

After Chrissy became the choir director at the AG’s Northpoint Bible College, love blossomed between the two friends. They married, and Toledo adopted Susie. They now also have another daughter, Annie, 22, and a son, Tommy, 21.

Today, Al and Chrissy lead a multiethnic Assemblies of God church. Toledo says since its inception in 2002, Chicago Tabernacle has established the Tuesday night prayer meeting as the most important meeting of the week. He and Chrissy know that when God’s people gather to call upon His name, miracles can happen. Chicago Tabernacle has 1,000 regular attendees. PE

RIPE FOR HARVEST

BY ERIC TIANSAY

The founder of Florida-based Arab Outreach Ministries (AOM) believes God is opening tremendous ministry opportunities to Arabs.

Jerusalem-born Arab George A. Rafidi, and his wife, Jessica, launched AOM in Jacksonville, Florida, in 1996. The Rafidis are U.S. Missions Intercultural Ministries missionaries and, over the years, 627 people have made salvation decisions through AOM.

More than 300 people attended an AOM Christmas outreach for Arabic refugees in Tampa, Florida, with 98 of them coming to an altar to surrender their lives to Christ.

“We were very surprised by the number of people that showed up, and more surprised by how many came to the altar,” Rafidi, 45, says.

During the inaugural Tampa Christmas Outreach, attendees registered for prize drawings. Every family received an Arabic Bible and a copy of the *Jesus* film in Arabic. Rafidi says the ministry is keeping in touch with new converts through calls and home visitations. AOM also provides bus transportation to church services to new Christians who request it.

AOM has helped to plant seven congregations in the Sunshine State with an average of 35 adherents.

“We are believing that in 2017 we will see more Arabs come to a saving knowledge through faith in Christ than ever before,” Rafidi says. PE

REASONS I DON’T DRINK

BY JAMIE MORGAN

Assemblies of God Pastor Jamie Morgan, an ex-alcoholic, offers reasons she believes Christians should avoid alcohol. She asks readers to prayerfully consider the list.

- I can’t be sober-minded if I’m not sober.
- Alcohol is a depressant.
- I don’t want to make my brother or sister stumble in the name of exercising my “Christian liberties.”
- Alcohol skews my judgment.
- Alcohol doesn’t bring others closer to the Lord when they see me drinking, but further away.
- Alcohol doesn’t bring me closer to the Lord when I drink, but further away.
- Show me a family for whom alcohol has made a positive difference in their lives.
- I have never heard anyone say, “Wow, that gin and tonic made me feel so Christlike!”
- Alcohol causes me to lose my filter.
- Alcohol is addictive.
- Alcohol is a numbing agent for pain and sorrow only Jesus can heal.
- No one has ever said, “If only I had taken a drink, things wouldn’t have gotten out of control.”
- Alcohol is a factor in 50 percent of violent crimes.
- Alcohol lowers my resolve to resist temptation.
- Alcohol and prayer don’t mix.
- The only influence I should be “under” is God’s. PE



MISSIONARIES TO MINISTERS

BY JOHN W. KENNEDY

By the time ministers connect with T. Shane Couch they usually are in crisis mode. Couch, an Assemblies of God U.S. Missions chaplain, teaches preventative measures in the areas of sexual purity and relational boundaries. But more often he counsels those in the throes of damage control.

“Every person has stress, but those who call are dealing with some sort of trauma,” says Couch, who also is an ordained AG minister.

Couch, 48, can relate to pastors because of his own history of pornography and masturbation.

As with many males who struggle with porn, the roots of the addiction took hold during a broken childhood. Couch tried to pray away the sin and memorize Scripture as a means to combat lust. Getting married and attending an AG college didn’t relieve the compulsion.

A decade into his marriage, while serving as a youth pastor, Couch confessed his sexual addiction to his wife, Marty Danae Couch — who worked as a marriage and family therapist. She and Shane went to counseling to begin the healing process.

“Trust started to build when I got help on my own and when Shane fully

committed to the recovery process,” says Marty, 47. “That helped me to get freedom.”

In recovery, Shane began to sense God calling him to help others overcome sexually immoral behavior. In 2011, Shane and Marty became AG chaplains, counseling individuals and couples under the banner Missionaries to Ministers.

The first step toward healing is to remove the cause of the misconduct, Shane says. Then he recommends calling a sponsor to check in for daily accountability and regularly attending 12-step recovery group meetings.

“Immediately we address bad behavior and replace it with good behavior,” Shane says. “Whatever the secret, we deal with the symptom — the acting out with porn, strip clubs, massage parlors, prostitutes, voyeurism. Then we go back to where the trauma began.”

Marty, who also is a licensed AG minister, leads a confidential group for pastors’ wives to recover from the pain of betrayal.

Shane and Marty counsel those who have an intimacy disorder and other issues in their San Jose, California, office, via Skype, or, over the phone. 

When Mann saw the sign in the home’s yard stating, “We Love Our Girls,” a peace settled upon her — she felt a sense of hope for the first time in years.

But what took most people 12 months to complete, took Mann 18. The Bentons and the home’s staff struggled with the difficulties Mann presented — three times they considered dismissing Beth due to her behavior.

But Mann vividly recalls the day she chose to rededicate her life to Christ. “The staff came around me and started praying for me about the voices I was still hearing,” she says. “I was baptized in the Holy Spirit with the gift of speaking in tongues, and I’ve never heard the voices again!”

But even while her spiritual transformation was taking place, Mann knew she still had to face the judicial system for a crime she committed. Miraculously, the judge reduced a possible 40-year sentence to 8 months and restitution.

When Mann was released, the Bentons gave her a job at the home. For the next 25 years, she would be under the mentorship of the Bentons, working as the business manager since 1995. Recently, Beth (Mann) Greco was named CEO of the Walter Hoving Home locations, which will soon expand to four sites.

Reflecting, Mann explains her transformation: “At the Walter Hoving Home, people fall in love with Jesus.” 

BIG BLESSINGS IN TINY TIMBO

BY CHRISTINA QUCIK

With a single stop sign and fewer than 50 residents, little Timbo, Arkansas, hardly looks like a place where big things are happening.

But over the past 25 years, Timbo Valley Assembly of God has given more than \$1.3 million to missionary efforts around the world. The congregation of 120, which meets in a \$1.5 million building paid off within two years of construction, supports 100 missionaries on a monthly basis and helps fund several local and global outreach projects.

For 37 years, David G. Campbell has served as the church’s senior pastor, starting when attendance hovered around 20.

During the early 1990s, Campbell

launched an end-of-the-month missions offering, dubbing it Broke Sunday since it came at a time when household finances were tightest. Over the previous eight years, the church had given a total of just \$613 to missions. That year, the missions offering exceeded \$5,000, and attendance began to grow.

Several local residents, including a number of drug dealers and addicts, accepted Christ as Savior and became regular attendees. Some Sundays, people rushed forward for salvation before the sermon even started.

“You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving,” Campbell says. 