

THIS WEEK IN AG HISTORY

BY GLENN W. GOHR

Missionary prayer bands (groups of believers who gather regularly to pray for missions) have been an integral part of Assemblies of God churches and Bible schools. However, it may surprise readers that some Christians outside the United States have viewed America as a mission field.

In an early example of this reverse-missionary work, students from Bethel Bible Institute (BBI), an AG school in Manila, the Philippines, founded in 1941, decided to band together in the 1960s to pray that the American church would experience revival, develop a continual sense of God's presence, and train dedicated gospel workers.

In 1967, the group of Filipino students who had dedicated themselves to pray for America consisted of six people. Harold Kohl, the U.S. missionary who served as BBI's president, asked the students, "What is the main reason for forming the USA prayer band when some of the other fields seem to be more needy?"



Two themes were predominant: a deep appreciation for the positive influence of American Christians on the world; and a deep concern for the future of Christianity in U.S.

Read the article by Harold Kohl, "Filipinos Pray for the USA," on pages 22-23 of the May 14, 1967, issue of the *Pentecostal Evangel* online at s2.ag.org/may141967. 



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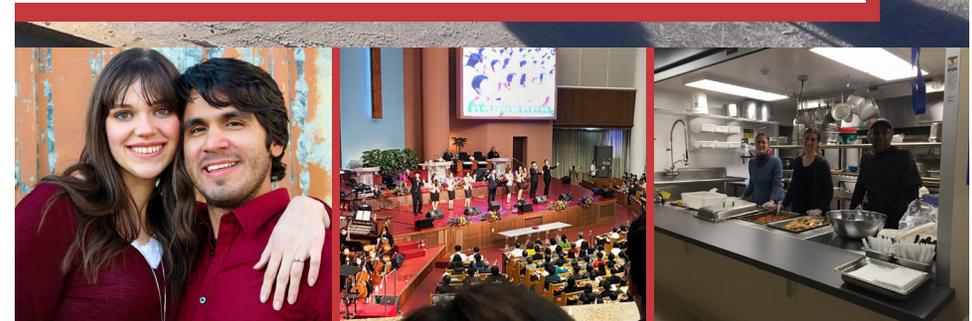
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TOP STORIES FROM PENEWS.ORG

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PASTOR'S CREATIVE HOCKEY IDEA HELPS TO BOOST CITY'S ECONOMY

BY ASHLEY GRANT

Imagine a weekend in the dead of Minnesota's frigid winter when every hotel in the city of 19,000 is booked to capacity and restaurants are overflowing with customers. Beating the winter doldrums — at least temporarily — is now an annual reality in Stillwater, thanks to Pastor Jarvis Glanzer and Watermark Church.

Full of history and charm, Stillwater offers residents a quaint small-town atmosphere while making available the conveniences of the nearby metro Twin Cities area. That's what drew Glanzer and his wife, Jane, to the city in 2004 when they visited to celebrate their one-year wedding anniversary. At the time, the Glanzers had no clue they would return eight years later to plant Watermark Church, and leave a lasting mark on the city.

Soon after arriving, Glanzer met with local business owners concerned about the need for economic stimulation during January and February.

Knowing that the church needed a platform to reach Stillwater, Glanzer began to brainstorm ideas to boost the city's off-season economic

decline. Because ice hockey is a huge cultural factor in Minnesota, Glanzer determined it could become Watermark's community connection.

Glanzer, a graduate of North Central University in Minneapolis, wondered about the feasibility of building a hockey rink for families to use year-round. Ultimately, he settled on using several existing hockey rinks in order to accommodate a hockey festival.

The concept caught on like wildfire and in January 2016 the city hosted its first hockey tournament for kids 8 and under. The "Sticks in Stillwater" tournament immediately became the largest in the area, consisting of 50 teams.

This winter, the tournament reached capacity at 58 teams and had more competitors on a waiting list. A total of 15 presenting sponsors came together to make the event a success. Over 5,000 visitors descended on the city.

Glanzer, who turns 38 on Monday, credits John McClellan, executive director of the Herb Brooks Foundation, for ensuring that the annual event succeeds.

NOURISHING BODIES AND SOULS

BY MARY J. YERKES

Faith Assembly of God Church in Hyannis, Massachusetts, has a new certified commercial kitchen, renovated at a cost of \$250,000, and paid for by the Cape Cod Council of Churches. Faith AG is one of 14 local congregations that takes turns serving restaurant-quality food to the poor.

After another local church that provided meals to the needy burned to the ground, the Cape Cod Council of Churches approached several area congregations seeking use of facilities for the ministry. Stephen Hawley, lead pastor of Faith AG, jumped at the opportunity, inviting the group to use the church's fellowship hall.

"The community came to us asking for help," says Hawley, 43. "How could I possibly say no?"

However, due to local ordinances, the city would not permit meal preparation in the church's existing residential-style kitchen. That meant volunteers from other participating churches needed to cook the meals, transport the food, staff the dining hall, and then gather the dirty dishes.



After almost five years, the routine had burned volunteers out. The Council of Churches again reached out to Faith AG, asking if they would agree to host the dinners at the church — three times a week for 10 years with the understanding that the kitchen would be built.

"I recognized God dropped this opportunity in our lap," says Hawley.

Faith AG hosts dinners thrice weekly for 75-125 people, at two separate seatings. A professional chef prepares each meal, using fresh ingredients instead of highly processed foods.

The quality of the meals and interactions with volunteers gives patrons a sense of dignity and self-respect. 

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."



PASTOR MACPHAIL'S JOB-LIKE JOURNEY

BY ROBERT E. MIMS

For more than two decades, New Hope Community Church and Pastor Malcolm P. MacPhail filled needs in Gilroy, California, by leading or partnering in efforts to rescue youth from gangs, feed the hungry, aid struggling families, battle addictions, and counsel the grieving victims of crime and tragedy.

Through it all, MacPhail has been the gregarious, smiling face of the Assemblies of God church to the community. Whether in soup kitchens, working with homeless and foster parenting programs, or hosting an annual banquet to honor police officers and firefighters, Gilroy residents have come to expect seeing MacPhail, wife Kathy, the church staff, and adherents of the 800-strong flock living their faith.

Few knew the 59-year-old MacPhail was enduring a prolonged Job-like journey. In 1994 MacPhail received a diagnosis of chronic myeloid leukemia. Doctors informed him he had two years to live.

The diagnosis devastated MacPhail, then just 36 years old and with four children under 8 years old. Taking then-

experimental interferon treatments, MacPhail stretched his life an additional four more years, although he felt sick almost every day. Then his kidneys began to fail; doctors told him that a bone marrow transplant, despite long odds, was his last chance.

Congregants and people all around Gilroy prayed for the pastor. Doctors performed a bone marrow transplant in 1999. But weakened by six months of chemotherapy, MacPhail slipped into a coma for several weeks, and didn't leave the hospital for another five months.

Slowly, however, he recovered. By 2003, he had weaned off the drugs. He began to throw himself completely into ministry. The church has grown 11 times larger than the 75 who attended when he arrived in 1992.

In 2013, MacPhail awoke to chest pain and went into full cardiac arrest. Rushed into surgery, by the following week MacPhail returned home.

"I've come to realize that every hour matters," he says. "I've become a lot more intentional about where I spend my time, and how I spend my time." PE

A PLACE FOR THE BELIEVER AND THE SKEPTIC

BY JANET WALKER

Since River City Church began four years ago, 73 people have followed the Lord in water baptism, and the church is currently averaging 152 in attendance.

Damian and Nancy McCrink launched River City Church in January 2013 at the Batavia (Illinois) Fine Arts Center. In 2015, the growing congregation relocated to St. Charles. The Illinois cities of Batavia, St. Charles, and Geneva — with a combined population of nearly 100,000 people — are connected by the Fox River.

Pastor Damian McCrink says the name River City Church reflects their location and this Scripture: "There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God" (Psalm 46:4, NIV).

"We want to be a place where people can find the love and hope of Christ," McCrink says. "From the first day of our church, we have seen it to be a place where both the believer and the skeptic feel welcome.

During the first year of the church, more than half the congregation had not attended church regularly, or at all, before coming to River City Church."

The congregation currently supports 20 world missionaries, church planters, and local missions, giving more than \$30,000 to missions last year. PE

LATINO MINISTRY ON THE PLAINS

BY IAN RICHARDSON

In 2011, when Daniel Lopez made the 1,500-mile trek from his hometown in Mexico to Trinity Bible College in North Dakota, he knew little English. But he felt certain God had placed him on the path to the school.

Six years later, Lopez has made North Dakota his home, serving as associate pastor at Grafton First Assembly of God, with a focus on ministering to the small town's Hispanic population.

Lopez met Heidi Arin at Trinity and the couple wed last June. Lopez, 26, officially joined the Grafton AG staff under lead pastor Dave Sjostrom last September. Daniel and Heidi quickly jumped into the community, working bivocationally and establishing relationships, with plans to start a Spanish-speaking Bible study this month.

Lopez grew up in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, where his father pastored an AG church. Lopez initially planned a business career, but switched as he felt drawn to the ministry.

After a year as an intern at Minot First, Lopez received the job offer at Grafton First from Sjostrom, who had been seeking someone who could focus on reaching the town's Hispanic population and lead the youth group.

"Even though we are focusing on Hispanics, we don't see skin colors, we only see souls," Lopez says. PE



CHURCH INTERCEDES FOR NORTH KOREA

BY MARK FORRESTER

SEOUL, South Korea — Every Friday evening the massive auditorium of Yoido Full Gospel Church (YFGC) in Seoul, South Korea — the world's largest church — begins to fill with parishioners. The faithful gather en masse for an overnight prayer meeting which usually lasts from 9 p.m. until 4 a.m. the following day.

“Many people believe that such Friday overnight prayer meetings have been one of the main reasons for the rapid growth of YFGC,” says Younghoon Lee, senior pastor of YFGC and general superintendent of the Assemblies of God of Korea.

One of the primary topics of prayer has been for the reclusive nation of North Korea. For many in South Korea, it's personal, as they have friends and family they have remained separated from for decades.

About an hour north, thousands gather to pray multiple times daily at the Osanri Prayer Mountain, just miles away from the North Korean border. The facility can accommodate 20,000 simultaneously. Loud, fervent prayers can be heard echoing off the hills.

Many YFGC members will fast and pray for days, even weeks, on end for their neighbors north of the 38th parallel. The church dedicates a full third of its annual budget to missions and compassion ministries. YFGC maintains one of Asia's largest welfare communities for children, elderly, and those facing extreme poverty and health issues.

As it relates to North Korea, YFGC also places action to their faith.

Nearly a decade ago David Yonggi Cho, founder of YFGC, announced a project to build a massive seven-story cardiac hospital along Pyongyang's Daedong River. The \$22 million project would provide North Koreans critical cardiac care with state of the art equipment in the 260-bed facility.

In 2008, 23 trucks trekked across the contentious demilitarized zone (DMZ) into North Korea with equipment and heavy machinery. As progress on the facility moved steadily along for months, it was suddenly halted in 2010 by North Korean authorities. Lee is confident it will be completed eventually. 

McClellan is in charge of team registration and scheduling 104 games over two days at the St. Croix Valley Recreation Center.

“The event is really for the kids,” McClellan says. “It gives them a tremendous experience.” McClellan notes that the festival operates buses allowing out-of-town visitors to shop in the community. He applauds Glanzer for his continued participation in the festival.

“Because of his dedicated involvement, we are able to utilize youth volunteers from across the country,” McClellan says. “These are truly outstanding, kind, thoughtful,

and fun young people to work with.” McClellan characterizes Glanzer as a generous team player.

“Jarvis is a blessing to Stillwater, the tournament, the Herb Brooks Foundation, and his church,” McClellan says. “We could not do it without his involvement.”

Along with coming up with the idea to boost the local economy, Watermark Church, which has a regular weekly attendance of around 200, has gained community recognition for its service. Watermark Church also has served the school district through various means, including providing meals for parent-teacher conferences. 

TRUMP SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER PROTECTING RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES

BY DAN VAN VEEN

The National Day of Prayer was given greater prominence this year as President Donald Trump was joined by dozens of religious leaders in the Rose Garden at the White House Thursday morning for the signing of an executive order that promotes free speech and religious liberty.

Trump, who campaigned on the promise of reversing the Johnson Amendment, which threatened churches and religious organizations with the loss of their tax-exempt status if they endorsed or opposed political candidates, told religious leaders that he signed the executive order “to prevent the Johnson Amendment from interfering with your First Amendment rights.”

AG General Superintendent George O. Wood, who was in Washington, D.C., for the National Day of Prayer event and the subsequent signing of the executive order, said he was pleased and encouraged by the signing.

“In our 103-year history, we have emphasized an apolitical stance and continue to encourage pastors to use the pulpit to proclaim the gospel, not political campaigning,” Wood observed. “That said, we welcome these changes, as we always remain in support of a reduction in government regulations on religious bodies. Religious liberty is often called the first freedom and it is something we all hold dear.” 