

Hear The Shepherds Voice

FREE

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Miracles

That Cannot be Denied!

A testimony of God's miracles;
By Leroy Surface

Part II

At the time of this great miracle, I had been fasting for a long period of time, seeking a miracle of healing for our children's minister, who had been diagnosed with cancer at only thirty nine years of age. We did not receive that miracle, and Lorna Eberly passed from this life to be with the Lord in July of 2005. A couple of weeks after her death, I went to a camp-meeting in Sheridan Arkansas. While I was gone, we received a call from the daughter of Gloria Wingate, who was in a comma, waiting for the time the doctors would say that she should be disconnected from life supports. In my absence, Keith took the call and agreed to go to the hospital to pray for her. Keith later told me that when he arrived at the hospital, he stood beside his car and wept in despair over the loss of our precious friend, Lorna Eberly. Keith, myself, and others in the church had fasted and prayed almost continually for six months for God to heal her, but the healing did not come. Keith literally cried to God, "You must do something for me. I have got to know..." I do not know all the confusion that was in Keith's heart that day, but He said the moment he walked through the hospital doors, the presence of God came upon him with great confidence, as if he knew exactly what to do. He walked into the room where Gloria was on life supports. Her daughter Mimi was with her, and as he entered Keith said, "Gloria, Jesus has sent me to wake you up." He then took her by the hand and spoke directly into her ear, "Gloria, wake up in the name of Jesus Christ." He turned around to talk to Mimi, when suddenly both of them heard noises behind them. They looked, and Gloria was pulling the tubes out of her body and trying to get up. Mimi screamed so loud that the nurse came running, "What's wrong?" Mimi said, "Mama just woke up!" The nurse screamed back, "That's impossible, your mama can't wake up," but she did, not a week later or a day later, but immediately when hearing the command to "wake up in the name of Jesus Christ." Gloria recovered, returned to her home, came to our church to give her testimony, and lived for several more years, to the glory of God. In her testimony Gloria said that when she awoke, she saw a man standing behind Keith. She said it might have been an angel, but she did not believe that it was. We asked if He said anything. She said He just waved His hand and said to her, "Peace ...peace!"

The Lame Walk

The only "city wide" meeting I have ever preached was in Reynosa Mexico in 1966, when I was twenty six years old. Missionaries Bob and Dixie Arriola set it up and brought me in to preach it. The second time I went to Mexico was to the desert village of "El Tajo," which is between the cities of Saltillo and Matehuala. I preached every night for three



Just as the Azusa Street Revival began the modern Pentecostal Movement in 1906, out of which the Assemblies of God arose, we pray for an Azusa moment that will ignite our hearts for Jesus and set our belief in motion.

Men of the Assemblies of God



By:Kirbbie L. Cowart

1906 Buick

The Year 1906 -A moment like this only happens every 100 YEARS

The Assemblies of God are celebrating their one hundred year anniversary in 2014. Looking back, we can be proud of where we came from, with only 300 members in Hot Springs Arkansas, to over 66 million worldwide today. It is only by the blessings of God that we have accomplished so much. We, as a movement, must not forget what it took to get where we are today. Our forefathers were men and women of prayer, seekers of Gods Holiness and ministers that wanted to please God more than man. They went all over the world preaching the gospel with God working with them with signs and wonders following. They did not go with appeasing messages trying to get the approval of the people. They did not use entertainment to entice the people to join the church for the sake of having large numbers. They sought God for a move of the Spirit in their churches, and God did the rest.

They were men and women that stormed the Gates of Hell with a gospel message that delivered millions of souls from the strongholds of Satan and brought them into the glorious liberty of the children of God. They preached repentance toward God and faith toward Jesus Christ. They preached a message of freedom; freedom from sin and death to the old man and being made a new creature in Jesus Christ. They were men that did not preach with enticing words of man's wisdom, but with the demonstration of the Spirit and power of God. "And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demon-

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nights in the school house, which was pretty well filled with people, but I had absolutely no response to my altar calls. In the fourth day, I walked up on a mountain to pray. I was deeply disturbed, because I had expected to see a real move of God. As I was praying, I began hearing two scriptures. First, from Zechariah 4:6, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts." The second scripture was from Hebrews 13:8; "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." From these scriptures, a very simple message was birthed in my heart. If Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever, then He will do the same things tonight that He did when He walked on earth in the days of His flesh. I told the team workers to go throughout the village and find all the sick people and get them to the night service. That night the school house was crowded to the walls with no aisles and hardly room to move. There were many standing outside that could not get into the service. After I preached my message, which was a challenge to the people that anything Jesus did two thousand years ago, if He is still alive, He will do today, I called for the sick to come, and they pushed forward. I prayed for a couple of old women with internal problems, and there was no evidence that anything happened. About the third person in line, however, was a woman who had brought her fifteen year old daughter, who had been stricken with some malady about six months before and had not been able to walk since. They actually brought her to the service on a bed, carried by four men. I prayed for the girl, asking God to give us a miracle. I told two of the men to pick her up on her feet, and when I would tell her to "walk in the name of Jesus," they were to turn her loose. They picked her up, and when I commanded her to "walk in the name of Jesus," they turned her loose, and she fell to the floor. Her mother ran to her, and even though I could not understand her language, I knew she was saying something on the order of, "Oh my baby, my baby." I told the men to move the mother away from her daughter and pick her up a second time. This time I said to the young lady, "You can walk because Jesus has touched you. I say to you, Walk in the name of Jesus Christ, because you can walk." This time, when the men turned her loose, she stood, took one trembling step, and then another, and then walked across the front of that school and back.

For a moment there was total silence in that school house, but then something truly amazing happened, which I shall never forget. A man that I had noticed in the back of the room each night jumped up, running and leaping to the front of the auditorium. He literally leaped over some that were sitting on the floor in the aisles in his rush to get to the front. He fell on his knees, crying and praying for a minute or so. Then he stood up and began speaking to the people in a loud voice. I do not understand Spanish, but my interpreter, Sister Amalia, told me what he was saying. It turned out that this man was the Spanish pastor of a Mennonite church in that village. He said, "I told you that you could come to this meeting, but I told you not to believe anything this man says. I told you that he is a crazy man, and that his god can do nothing." He continued, "But I was the one that was crazy, and you, if you do not believe this man's God, you are crazy." That entire crowd tried to get to the front, falling on their knees everywhere, repenting and receiving the Jesus Christ who is "the same yesterday, and today, and forever."

The next afternoon, our service was out under a brush arbor because the children were in the school house. I was praying for the sick when suddenly an old man came from outside the arbor straight to me and said, "I came to be healed." I had heard of this man. He was the rich man of the village, and owned the only mill in the village to grind the corn for the people. He had refused to grind corn for anyone who came to my services, which placed another hardship on those who did come, as they had to grind their corn by hand to make their food. I told the man, "If you will

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Men of the Assemblies of God

By Kirbbie Cowart

stration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." (I Corinthians 2:4)

As pastor, I have followed great men and women of God here at the First Assembly of God of Colmesneil. One Man I am thinking of is Rev. Joe Carter that was the pastor of this church for almost forty years. He was a man that knew what it meant to suffer persecution for the sake of Christ, because when he was a young man, there were those who threw rotten eggs at him while he was preaching the gospel. He was a man of great integrity and of high morals who came to be highly respected by everyone in the community as a man of God. It was men like Brother Carter that made the Assembly of God great; thousands of men and woman that lived what they preached in the communities they served. They were men and women that loved God and loved the people; they were not hirelings.

Thank God for thousands of men and women in the Assemblies of God today who are seeking God for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the people, to anoint them and empower them to storm the gates of hell one more time. Thank God there are those in this hour who see the urgency of the times we live in, who seek only for a harvest of souls, not only for the Assemblies of God but for every movement or church that will stand for the truth of Christ. One hundred years ago the cry was "It's Harvest Time." Today more than ever, "It's Harvest Time!" I BELIEVE GOD IS SAYING "GO, GO, GO!!!"

Luke 10:2: "Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest."

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Hear The Shepherd's Voice



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Message By: Kirbbie Cowart
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FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Colmesneil, Texas

Services

Sunday - 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Night - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday - Advance Christian Development
Classes 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday - 3:00 p.m & at 6:00 p.m. Membership
Classes

Thursday - 3:00 p.m. & at 6:00 p.m. Membership
Classes

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repent and surrender your heart to Jesus, I will pray for you.” That old man immediately said, “Jesus healed everyone that came to Him.” It upset me that this old man in a poverty stricken village in the deserts of Mexico would try to instruct me, but I heard the voice of the Spirit say, “He told you the truth.” I agreed to pray for him, but I told the interpreter not to interpret my prayer. I asked God to touch his heart and let him feel His presence and the love of Christ for him. I prayed until I saw one lone tear coursing down his dusty leathery face, and then I prayed, “Now, Lord, heal his body and make him completely well.” When I finished praying for him, he left the arbor as quickly as he had come, and I went on to pray for others. About ten minutes later he returned to the service and asked to say something. The following is his testimony; “All you people know me. You know that an ox cart fell on me fourteen years ago, and that for all these years I have not been able to move without great pain in my back. I could not bend over or straighten up...” With that he bent over and touched his toes and immediately rose up and lifted his arms above his head. He continued, “This man’s God has healed me; for such a God I give the rest of my life.” His last name was “Raiese (if my spelling is correct).” He was the father of the village judge. From that day forward, he loved Jesus with all his heart and became a great blessing in that village. It was another “miracle of grace” that cannot be denied.

Growths Removed

I preached a two week revival at the Goff Drive Pentecostal Church of God in 1965 where Brother M.R. Smith was the pastor. We saw God do many wonderful healings in that revival, but there was one great tragedy also. First, the healings: A lady came for prayer for headaches. She had constant pain in her head since she received a blow to her head in an accident several years before. She also had a large bald spot in the place where the pain was. We prayed, and the headaches immediately went away. Headaches are one of the things that skeptics will call a “Psychosomatic Disorder,” which means that it can be caused by the state of your mind, and will go away when your state of mind is improved. There may be some truth to that, but it is just another way of saying that many “sicknesses” are only in your mind. Either way, they are very real to the one that is sick. In this case, however, the miracle of God was proven, not only in that the headaches did not return, but before the two week revival was over, new hair was growing in her bald spot. In the same revival, a visiting pastor’s wife, Sister Leg, brought her eight year old son for prayer. He had a small growth on his lip. She said, “It doesn’t bother him, but it just shouldn’t be there, and I want God to take it away.” We prayed that God, in the name of Jesus, would curse the roots of that growth and take it away. Sister Leg later gave this testimony. “After Brother Surface prayed for my son, the growth on his lip got worse instead of better. It seemed to be getting larger every day, and it bothered him. After about a week I took him to the doctor. I told the doctor about how the growth had been there for years, but only recently it had started growing. I asked him if there was anything he could do.” The doctor answered, “I can remove it, but there is no reason to.” He explained that the growth was not growing, but that it was dead and coming out by the roots. He took it in his fingers and tugged on it just a little, and it fell out in his hand. The “growth” had died when we prayed, but it took two weeks to “go away.” Many healings may seem to be a small thing, but to the one who receives them, they are wonderful.

I spoke of a “tragedy” that happened during the Goff Drive revival. Since the early days of my ministry, I have received many visions of things to come as well as of current conditions that I knew nothing about. One brother, I believe it was Brother Smith’s nephew, had been very faithful during the first week of the revival, really “getting in” and seeking God

in the altar services. Saturday night I received a vision about this brother while I slept. In the vision, he was working in the woods picking up broken branches. I saw him bend over to pick one up, and a snake struck him in the throat. That was all that I saw in the vision, but I believed that Satan had set some snare for this brother and that I should warn him and pray for him. The next morning he was on the way to church when his car broke down, and he did not make the service. I told Brother Smith about the vision, and said “I will pray for him tonight.” That night he stayed home to fix the car for his wife, so I said I would pray for him the next time I saw him in service. As it happened, this man made his living in the woods as a “pulp wood hauler.” He had his own truck, and on Monday, the woods were dry enough to return to work after several weeks of rain. I never saw that brother again. On Friday, he and his young son were in the woods loading the truck with pulpwood. He noticed that the truck engine seemed to have a miss, so he raised the hood to check the carburetor. In doing so, he raced the engine and when he did, a small blade from the generator fan broke loose and hit him in the throat, exactly as I had seen the snake strike him in the throat. He sent his son to run for help, but when help came, the man had bled to death. Such events take a toll on a man or woman of God, because we always second guess ourselves. Should I have done more? Should I have gone to him instead of waiting for him to come to the service? Would it have changed anything if I had? Only God knows the answer to those questions, but the death of that dear brother weighed heavily on me.

The first time that God instantly removed a growth was while I was still the pastor at Almeda Full Gospel Church. A young man had come to the altar for salvation. After about twenty minutes of tearful repentance to God, the young man looked up and I noticed a large knot on his cheek bone. I asked him what it was, and he told me he had gotten it in a fight. I thought it was something simple like what we call a “goose egg” that would eventually go away, but I told him “Jesus wants to take it away.” There were probably a dozen people around the altar that night and we all prayed for him. I placed my hands over that “knot” and when I removed them after prayer, everyone within ten feet of that young man heard a sound like the breaking of a dry chicken bone. His hand flew up to his cheek, and he screamed, “It’s gone.” It was gone. It was only then that I found out that it was not “swelling” on his cheek bone, but a calcium deposit that had formed around a broken cheek bone, which explained the sound of breaking bones that we heard. Nothing is impossible with our God for those who fully trust in His precious Son, Jesus Christ.

The year 1965 was surely a blessed year for this ministry. I had resigned as pastor of the Almeda Full Gospel church and was free to go wherever God would send me. During that time, I received many visions from the Lord concerning ministry. Sometimes I actually saw the service for the next night, who would be there, and what their great need was. It was at those times that we saw the greatest healings and miracles. There were several times that God instructed me through visions where to go and what to say when I got there. It was in one of those visions that I saw two special circumstances of a church in a distant South Texas city I had never been to. This was a large church and a very well known revival center of that day, where the pastor brought in every well known gifted minister to preach. God did not send me to that church to preach; instead, he sent me to the pastor with a message. I arrived alone at that church about midday. No one was there, and I did not know where the pastor lived. I saw a woman walking across the street, and I asked her if she knew the pastor. She was the pastor’s wife, and she invited me into their home. I told her that I had received a message for them in a vision from the Lord, but I had to give it directly to her husband. After about twenty minutes, her husband, the pastor arrived, and I introduced myself to him. I told him there were two things concerning circumstances in his church that God had spoken to me about that I was to tell him. As I began to tell the first, I saw tears fill the eyes of the pastor’s wife. She got up, went to their desk and brought me a document to look at. It was exactly what I had seen in the vision, and God had told me that it was alright to do what was in that document. In the second part of the vision, I had seen a crew of men building a wing on their church, but when they tried to connect the new roof to the old building, they could not. They were saying, “Pastor, it just won’t work! We can’t make it work.” A second time his wife went to the

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desk and brought back a blueprint of a church addition. By now the tears were flowing down her face as she said, this is what you saw in your vision. I had to tell that pastor that it would not be built until a certain issue between himself, his wife, and the congregation was resolved. The pastor got mad. In fact, he exploded! He said, "Of course I can build that wing on my building. I can build anything I want to build on my church. Those 'issues' have nothing to do with what I can do." With that, he walked out, leaving me stunned and his wife in tears. I knew that my "mission" had been confirmed and fulfilled whether he received it or not, so I told the pastor's wife I was leaving, but she begged me to stay for the night service, which I did not. She followed me to the porch, asking me, "Is there anything else that God told you for us?" I said, "No, I have told you everything I saw in the vision." Suddenly, standing on that porch, rejected by one of the most famous pastors in Texas, I received "knowledge" of something from the Lord. The scripture calls this a "word of knowledge." I don't know how I knew, but I told her, "There is someone who lives in this house that has something wrong on the right side of their head." She immediately said, "That's my daughter (she called her by name)." She had two teen age daughters, and she told the one I had met, "Go get your sister." She explained that her daughter had a growth behind her right ear that had been growing for several months, and they had been trying to trust God for it. When the young lady came, I felt of the growth, which was under the skin and about two inches long and stood out at least half an inch, about the size of my little finger. We prayed for that young lady standing on their front porch. We asked God, in the name of Jesus, to "take it away." When I removed my hand, the growth was still there, but when the young lady felt for it, she screamed "It's gone," and it was gone. It had instantly disappeared from her body. This was another miracle of God of the sort that cannot be denied.

The Dead Are Raised

I have never told of this incident publicly because I do not know for certain what God actually did that night. It was near midnight on a Friday or Saturday night that I received a call from one of the new converts in my church. His brother had tried to kill himself by drinking a bottle of rat poison. We lived in the country, and this happened many years before the world heard of calling 911, so this brother asked me if I would go with them to take his brother to the emergency room. He lived about two miles from me and by the time he arrived I was up and ready to go. I got in the back seat to be with the young man who drank the poison as we sped at high speed to the Methodist hospital in Houston. He was doubled up, groaning and crying aloud. His heart was pounding and his breathing was heavy. I literally wrestled with that young man even as I prayed to God for mercy. His heart beat so hard it seemed it would explode, as his body jerked violently. We were still about five miles from the hospital when suddenly his body went limp. Perhaps he went unconscious, but I could not detect any breathing, heart beat or pulse. I was scared. I'm only twenty five years old in the back seat of a speeding car, and it seemed to me the one I'm praying for has died. I began crying aloud, rebuking the devil, rebuking death, frankly, rebuking everything I could think of to rebuke, and calling for life to come back into his body. In all of this, I

was crying, "In the name of Jesus." He must have been limp for at least five minutes, when suddenly his body gave a great heave. He jerked only one time and began breathing normally. His pulse was normal and though he was dazed, he was waking up. We took him into the emergence room, and they pumped his stomach, but found nothing. They could find absolutely nothing wrong with that young man. I asked his brother, "Are you sure he drank the rat poison." He said, "Yes, I am sure. He drank the whole bottle." Whether he died that night or not I do not know for certain, but I do believe that if God had not done a great miracle for that young man, he would have died. On the way home, he told me, "Brother Surface, something terrible happened to me tonight on the way to the hospital." I asked him what it was, and he said, "I don't know, but it was terrible." It was something he didn't want to talk about. I didn't know what it was, but I did know that young man was alive only because God is a miracle worker.

Brain Concussions

We were at a service station in my work truck. While I was taking care of business in the station, my second son Kenneth, who was about two years old at the time, crawled out of the passenger door window. Kenneth could climb even before he could walk. No one saw him as he tried to climb to the top of the truck, but we heard him when he fell on the concrete drive, landing on his head. When I picked him up, it was obvious that he had suffered a concussion; his eyes were dilated, he had a large knot on his head, and he was in and out of consciousness. We took Kenneth home and began to pray for God to heal him. After two days and nights there was no change. On the third night, Kenneth's mother was walking the floors with him, praying for him in the middle of the night. Her heart was broken for her son when she made her final request of God. "If you're not going to heal my son, please take my son; but if you're not going to take my son, then heal my son." Instantly, Kenneth woke up, ready to eat and play; he was his old self, just as he would awake from sleep in the morning. Oh what a wonderful God and savior we serve. We can trust in Him.

Birth Deformities

In the year 1969 Missionary Ralph Nicol had come out of Mexico for the birth of their seventh child, who was born with what they called a "clubbed foot." The baby's foot was deformed at the ankle, and the foot was turned totally to one side, and lay beside the ankle. Brother Nicol brought his child for prayer in our Sunday morning service. I had the men of the church gather around as we prayed, asking God for a miracle. Within three days, the child's foot was perfectly normal.

My third son is Keith Surface who is also associate pastor of Calvary Outreach. When Keith first married Karen, they wanted children, but could not have them. The doctors tried every procedure for several years, and finally told Karen, "There are some women that cannot have babies, and you are one of them." With that, Keith asked his young wife if she would trust God for a child, and she said that she would. After receiving prayer during a revival with Evangelist R.L. Harris from Winchester Kentucky, Karen conceived almost immediately and gave birth to their firstborn son, Christopher. "Chris," as we call him, was born with an abnormality in his skull, which was diagnosed as "Craniosynostosis," which means that the growth plates in his skull were fused. He had a sharp bony ridge vertically in the middle of his forehead, and was also born totally cross-eyed. The doctors said the only remedy was an operation in which they would surgically remove the front half of the child's skull, cut it into multiple pieces, then replace the skull. The pressure placed upon Keith by the doctors was unbelievable. They told him that if he did not allow them to do the surgery, Christopher's appearance would worsen as his skull grew and that he would be mocked and ridiculed by other children when he came to school age. The doctors were very clear; "This condition will only get worse. It cannot get better." Unknown to me, Keith brought his son to the church many times in the middle of the night, praying and calling on God to let him know what to do. "God, you gave me this son when the doctors could not; how can I give my son into the hands of the doctors now?" Even so, when he prayed, he would still hear the doctor's words, "Your son will look like a freak."

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www.colmesneilfirstaog.com

and you can hear my sermons, singing & read the Shepherds Voice

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Tattoos: The Mark of a Gang? Or the Mark of the Devil?

BY Kirbbie L. Cowart

I have noticed when going through cities like Houston, Dallas, and other large cities, you see the marks of gang activity everywhere. They "mark" what they call their "turf." The claim a certain part of the city as their own and leave their marks on walls and buildings everywhere as a warning to other gangs. These gang members do not understand it, but it is not them, but a demon spirit that is working in them that does these things. When the Law comes in and breaks up the gangs, only then can the people clean up and paint over the markings the gangs left behind, because a greater authority has taken over. When I see people marking their bodies with tattoos, I know that it is really not that person, but a demon spirit that is "marking his turf," and taking ownership of that person. The people themselves do not understand why they want to mark and mutilate their bodies, but they absolutely deny that a demon spirit has anything to do with it. Darkness has settled over our culture and is blinding the eyes of the people to the extent that they cannot see what is happening to themselves even as demon spirits take full possession of them. They cannot see anything wrong with what they are doing. I cannot believe a Spirit filled Child of God would get a tattoo of any kind on their body if they had any understanding at all.



I Corinthians 6:19: "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"

Your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost. We are to glorify God in our body and in our spirit which are God's. The question must be asked, "Who is living in the house?" God will not live in a duplex house. In other words he will not share your body (His temple) with the devil.

As I have said before, having a tattoo on your body will not send you to hell, but being in bondage and a slave to Satan will. Repent and ask Jesus to forgive you and to come into your heart. Just as many of our soldiers that were prisoners of war still wear the scars they received while in bondage to the enemy, and many Christians still wear the marks and scars the receive while they were slaves to sin.

I Corinthians 6:20: "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's"



Long after the war, Auschwitz survivor Sam Rosenzweig displays his identification tattoo.

I Thessalonians 5:23: "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Galatians 5:16: "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."

Galatians 5:25: "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

Romans 8:1: "There is therefore now no

condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

Romans 8:4: "That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

John 14:20: "At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you."

Do you remember what Hitler did to the Jews in Germany? He tattooed his mark on the arm of every Jew, young and old alike. Those that are

alive today still have that number on their arm even though they were delivered by the Allied Forces, and are no longer held in captivity.

I preached a message against tattoos and piercings several years ago. After the service, a man came to me and said, "Pastor, I love you and this church, but I will not be back because of the tattoos I have all over my body." As far as I knew, this man had tattooed his body before he had received Christ, so I asked him, "Are you proud to have all these tattoos on your body?" He answered, "No, I am ashamed of them, but there is nothing I can do about them." I told him that if he repented of all sin when He surrendered to Jesus Christ, and was ashamed of the marks of sin that remained on his body, then he was holy and clean before God, and I was proud to have him in my church. I also told him that if he was "proud" of his tattoos and dressed in a way to show them off, then he was still guilty before God. Certainly, God knows the heart of man, and He knows that the heart that still glories in the shame of the past is not right with God. If you are one that tattooed and mutilated your body before you were saved, you are not condemned by those things if they are no longer in your heart. If you have tattooed or mutilated your body since you first trusted in Jesus, you should repent before God, and turn away from all such ungodly things.

'A Vital Step Forward': The AG and UPCAG Unite

Fri, 14 Feb 2014 - 9:37 AM CST

During Black History Month, the Two Organizations Announce their Cooperative Affiliation

At the iconic Azusa Street revival, a focal point of the emerging Pentecostal movement, believers regardless of race worshipped and ministered together. This was significant in an era marred by racial division. In spite of this unified beginning, a single decision in 1917 resulted in two separate Pentecostal organizations. However recent efforts, nearly 100 years later, have begun to mend the relationship and have resulted in a new partnership linking the two for the cause of Christ.

"We have now been on a four-year journey with the United Pentecostal Council of the Assemblies of God, which was birthed in 1919 because of racism in the Assemblies of God," says Dr. George O. Wood, the General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God. "Now, the Lord has brought us together again in a more formal partnership, to hold high the name of Jesus and advance His mission in the power of the Spirit."



UPCAG International Presiding Elder Thomas A. Barclay (center left) and AG General Superintendent George O. Wood (center right) are surrounded by their leadership teams as they sign an agreement of cooperative affiliation during a special chapel service at the AG national office in Springfield, Missouri.



Thomas A. Barclay addresses the AG national office staff during the February 11th chapel service.

The Assemblies of God (AG) organized in 1914, and three years later, Alexander Howard, an African-American Pentecostal believer from Chicago, approached the AG and asked to be sent as a missionary to Liberia.

AG leaders of the time refused to appoint Howard—on account of his race.

Ultimately Howard connected with a group of African-American churches in New England. This group organized in 1919, and in 1920 became the United Pentecostal Council of the Assemblies of God (UPCAG) partly to fulfill Howard's purpose of going to Liberia as a missionary.

The AG and UPCAG remained separate organizations for nearly a centu-

Miracles Part 2 That Cannot be Denied!

From Page 4

Chris was three months old, and his eyes had never straightened. One Sunday morning at the close of the altar service, I said, "God wants to do a miracle for someone." Immediately, Karen came to the front with Chris. I asked my wife to take the child in her arms as many of the worshipers gathered around to ask God for the miracle. While we prayed, the child's eyes straightened, but the skull remained unchanged. The next Sunday while I was preaching, Keith began shouting aloud, "It's alright! It's alright!" I stopped preaching and asked, "What's alright?" He answered "Chris is alright. I just heard God say 'It's alright.'" I expected to see a miraculous change, but nothing visible had happened, but on the basis of what God had spoken to Keith, he refused the surgery, to the dismay of the doctor's. Over the months that followed, Chris's head formed perfectly normal. Today he is a graduate of Texas A&M University with a degree in Civil Engineering. Years later we saw a documentary on the operation that the doctor's had pressured Keith to approve, and the majority of those who received it were either physically deformed or mentally challenged. Thank God that Keith chose to trust in Christ. He did as the apostle Peter said to do; "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (I Peter 5:6-7).

Read The "Shepherds Voice" on our church web-site,



www.colmesneilfirstaog.com

Planned Parenthood President: My Children's Lives Began at Delivery, Not Conception

Despite its status as the nation's biggest abortion business, Planned Parenthood very rarely talks about abortion — and it almost never talks about the development of unborn children.

The abortion giant essentially admitted long ago that science was not on its side in the abortion debate, since basic biological facts of fetal development and the advent of 3-D and 4-D ultrasounds clearly depict a human being growing and developing in the womb before birth.

Yet, in a new interview with Fusion TV's America with Jorge Ramos, Richards talked about the question of when life begins. Although science makes it certain that life begins at conception or fertilization, Richards attempts to explain it away by saying it's just not relevant to abortion.

"For you, when does life start? When does a human being become a human being?" Ramos asked during the interview.

"This is a question that I think will be debated through the centuries," she said.

"But for you, what's that point?" Ramos continued.

"It is not something that I feel like is really part of this conversation," she said. "I think every woman needs to make her own decision."

'A Vital Step Forward': The AG and UPCAG Unite

From Page 5

ry. Four years ago, Rev. Thomas Barclay, the International Presiding Elder for the UPCAG, was stirred to connect the two fellowships and mend the divide.

Under the banner of 1 Cor. 1:10, which says, "I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought," Barclay reached out to Wood and they soon began an eager discussion on how to repair the relationship.

Barclay's declaration began an important process of reconciliation. In recent decades the AG has sought to build bridges across ethnic, linguistic, and cultural divides. More than 40 percent of the current AG membership in the United States is made up of ethnic minorities. To connect now with the UPCAG is both a natural and redemptive shift, one Wood calls "a vital forward step."

Last year, UPCAG delegates and the AG Executive Presbytery approved plans for the cooperative affiliation. Under this agreement, any UPCAG church that so desires will be welcomed into local AG districts, as well as all national AG programs and missions while maintaining their own credentialing practices and autonomy.

It seems fitting that this historic reconciliation would culminate during Black History Month, when the UPCAG leadership joined the AG national team for a celebratory chapel service on Feb. 11.

"God has put us together, and there is something about to happen," Barclay shared in his chapel sermon at the AG's National Leadership and Resource Center in Springfield, Mo. "No longer will we be separated from you. We came to lock arms with you."

For more information about the United Pentecostal Council of the Assemblies of God, read the Pentecostal Evangel's article on the UPCAG or visit their website. You can also hear Rev. Barclay's sermon through the GCAG website. To read the full cooperative fellowship agreement, click here.

Authors: AG News

Gay and lesbian troops perform in drag on American military base

Gay and lesbian troops perform in drag on American military base Troops based at the Kadena Air Base in Japan know how to party. On Saturday, six gay and straight service members applied some of their finest makeup and lip synced to "I Wanna Dance with Somebody" in what is believed to be first drag queen and king show on an American military base. The show was thrown in support for the base's recently formed OutServe-SLDN chapter, a nonprofit advocacy group for the army's LGBT community.

Navy Lt. Marissa Greene told Stars and Stripes she only expected to sell 75 tickets for the variety show, but ended up selling more than 400 in ten days. The event went through the same approval process as other on-base fundraisers go through, with the only caveat being that it was not allowed to be labeled a "drag show" in its publicity materials. The show was warmly received by spectators, who rocked out to performances by the likes of Manny Nuff and Chocolate Sunrise ("a crowd favorite," the website notes.)

Just a few years ago, performances like these would have been grounds for a possible discharge. The repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell has made it possible for events like this to occur. --Jordan Valinsky

Events in Ukraine Lead Wood to Issue Call to Prayer

Mon, 03 Mar 2014 - 4:54 PM CST

The dramatic events that have occurred in Ukraine over the last several weeks, including the ousting of former President Viktor Yanukovich and deadly attack by riot police, have drawn worldwide concern and attention to the region.

Dr. Marek Kaminski, general superintendent of the Pentecostal Church of Poland (Assemblies of God), contacted AG USA General Superintendent George O. Wood on Sunday, updating him on the conditions in Ukraine, having just returned from a visit with Christians in Kiev, Ukraine's capital.

Kaminski explained that as the Pentecostal Church of Poland (PCP) prayed and fasted for Ukraine, he and his wife took an offering from the PCP churches to Kiev to help the families of the 100 protestors who were killed by riot police in around Kiev's Maidan Square two weeks ago.

Kaminski says he spent an extended time with Mikhajlo Panochko, senior bishop of the Church of Christians of Evangelical Faith of Ukraine. "He shared the stories of people fighting for their freedom and dignity," Kaminski recounts.

Revealing that some of the Christians in attendance at Maidan Square were killed by a sniper, Panochko shared with Kaminski that Ukrainian Christians have stepped forward to provide food, medical assistance, and help in any possible practical way.

"There are prayer and Christian psychological help tents provided at Maidan Square by the church," Kaminski says. "The gospel was preached at the main stage. I truly admire Ukrainian Christians and our Pentecostal brothers and sisters for their wisdom, sacrificial ministry, and for standing tall in the face of evil."

However, Kaminski admits that much of the time he was there, he was fighting back tears.

"We personally went to Maidan," he says. "The view was horrible. The destruction was beyond my ability to describe. The place was full of tents, barricades."

But the destruction wasn't the only thing bringing the emotional response. Kaminski says that the peace in the hearts and behavior of the people were striking. "I saw no aggression, no hatred towards anybody including Russians," he says.

"My visit to Ukraine was a deep, emotional shock," Kaminski continues. "I visited every place where the innocent civilians were killed by snipers. ...I do not think anybody can understand the character of Ukrainian problems without seeing Maidan. It was against the corrupted government, nothing else. I saw nothing nationalistic there, especially no signs of hatred or aggression towards Russian people."

In concluding his letter to Dr. Wood, Kaminski said the Christians in Ukraine need spiritual support.

"We should make the choice not to be indifferent. Please, let us not leave them alone in their suffering," he wrote.



In responding to Kaminski, Dr.

Wood expressed his deep concern about the suffering in the Ukraine and for the heroic efforts of the people.

"Be assured of our prayers," Wood wrote. "We stand ready to assist you and the church in the Ukraine in any way we can. ...I express deep gratitude to you and the Polish Assemblies of God for all the prayers and help you have given. Truly, this desperate situation calls for intercessory prayers from the Body of Christ all over the world. We will do our best to inform the World Assemblies of God Fellowship and our USA Assemblies of God as well."

In light of Dr. Kaminski's request and the dramatic events taking place in Ukraine, Dr. Wood issued the following call to prayer and peace for Ukraine:

"A call to prayer - Peace be unto you! We pray for the safety of our missionaries, ministers and churches in the wake of this season of unrest in Ukraine. We pray for God to restrain violence and to protect all peoples living in the Ukraine who are suffering uncertainty and fear. "A call to peace - May the governing authorities involved seek to serve the best interest of all peoples in Ukraine. May there be a peaceful and

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"A call to peace - May the governing authorities involved seek to serve the best interest of all peoples in Ukraine. May there be a peaceful and positive resolution. May the Spirit of God empower His Church to be filled with love and bring forth the peace that passes understanding. May God's people continue to bring Him glory during this difficult hour."

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