

# RAPPORT

SUMMER 2017 VOL. 33 NO. 1

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## Continuing the Legacy

**JORDAN DEESE** A NEW PASSION

**DR. CAROL TAYLOR** PROMISE AND  
SIGNIFICANCE OF AGTS TODAY



ASSEMBLIES of GOD  
THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY



DR. CAROL TAYLOR

# From the President

**O**n Saturday, May 6, 2017, AGTS celebrated its 44th commencement in the Robert H. Spence Chapel on Evangel University's campus. My heart overflowed with gratitude for the 53 graduates who received their seminary degrees, for the professors and staff who have served these graduates, and for the many family and friends of AGTS who have supported our newest alumni with prayer, encouragement, and scholarships. Many of our graduates pursued their seminary degrees while serving in full-time ministry and caring for their families. It is clear in their stories that they were propelled by a sense of calling to pursue advanced preparation, not for professional recognition, but because of a deep desire to be equipped for even more effective Kingdom service.

Our newest graduates join 3,717 AGTS alumni—a growing community of men and women who are serving around the globe to proclaim the good news of Christ.

At the March meeting of the Seminary Board of Advisors, Dr. Mark Hausfeld recommended that, as a now fully embedded seminary, AGTS shift to a dean-directed model. In an extraordinary act of sacrificial servant leadership, he graciously offered to step aside at the conclusion of this academic year. The Seminary Board of Advisors and the University Board of Trustees received Dr. Hausfeld's recommendation and expressed their deep appreciation for his service. At our luncheon following commencement, Mark and Lynda Hausfeld were recognized. We are delighted that Dr. Hausfeld will continue to serve our Center for Islamic Studies and Urban Ministries.

After much work with an AGTS Transition Planning Team and engagement with the AGTS community, Seminary Board of Advisors, and Executive Presbyters, the Board of Trustees approved a proposal for a Vice President/Dean of AGTS as the leader for our seminary. The VP/Dean of AGTS will lead the seminary and serve as a member of the President's Cabinet and University Planning Council. We are also pleased to announce Dr. George O. Wood as the first Chancellor of AGTS. See page 10 for the story. We continue to live into the mission of AGTS to shape servant leaders with knowledge, skill and passion to revitalize the church and evangelize the world in the power of the Spirit.

Sincerely,

*Carol A. Taylor*

Dr. Carol A. Taylor  
President, Evangel University

**Read Dr. Taylor's article on page 10:**  
*"The Promise and Significance of AGTS Today"*

DR. MARK HAUSFELD

# In Closing

**T**hirty-four years ago, I graduated with my Master of Divinity ('83) from AGTS. My AGTS degree prepared me to be a church planter in the city of Chicago, a missionary to Muslim peoples in Pakistan, and to minister in global Muslim contexts. I would have never dreamed, as an alumnus, that I would eventually be asked to serve as the president of AGTS. It has been a joy and honor to serve the General Council's university and seminary for the last two years. To this day, when I reflect on what has been most meaningful to me in life and ministry, my student experience at AGTS tops my list. Who I've become, who I married, my private self, my ministry self, my capacities, my joys, the disciple I'm still becoming—just about everything that relates to God's plan in and through me—remain rooted in this seedbed. Nothing will ever change that. I look forward to further service as Professor of Urban and Islamic Studies at AGTS.

In gratitude,

*Mark A. Hausfeld*

Dr. Mark A. Hausfeld

**EVANGEL UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT**  
Carol Taylor, president@evangel.edu

**EDITORIAL COMMITTEE**

Audrey Adkins (editor), Jennifer Hall,  
Christina Ayres, Mark Hausfeld, Ava Oleson,  
Brandon Schmidly, Dan Shaffer,  
Jay Taylor, Randy Walls

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donors and friends of AGTS.

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**

**Tammy Bickett ('91)**  
**Christina Ayres**

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Dan Shaffer, development@agts.edu

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**Library**

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**Spiritual Formation & Student Services**

Jay Taylor, studentservices@agts.edu

**Undergraduate Programs**

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Shaping servant leaders with knowledge, skill and  
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**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

1435 N. Glenstone Avenue  
Springfield, MO 65802

Phone: 417-268-1000, 1-800-467-AGTS

Fax: 417-268-1001

agts@agts.edu, www.agts.edu

AGTS is a unique graduate-level educational  
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and its doctrinal commitment is found in the  
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# RAPPORT

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# Robyn Buntain Wilkerson

## FAITH OF OUR FATHERS, HARVEST OF THE FUTURE

BY TAMMY BICKET ('91)

*The heritage of the past is the seed that brings forth the harvest of the future. —Wendell Philips Inscription on the National Archives Building*

**R**obyn Buntain Wilkerson (D.Min. '17) is on the cutting edge of exciting changes in inner city ministry. She and husband Rich pastor Trinity Church in Miami. In addition, they founded and oversee Peacemakers, a ministry that feeds the hungry, mends the broken, heals the dysfunctional, teaches the uneducated, and breaks the cycle of poverty and hopelessness for families in Miami by harnessing the resources of the faith community, businesses, and government. They are changing the city by changing lives and hearts.

This is a rich harvest of seeds planted in the past. In 1994, Robyn and Rich strongly felt God's call to the inner cities. From their home base in Tacoma, Washington, they launched their outreach to cities across the continent. Then in 1998, eager to build a prototype of what they had been teaching as a new, integrated pattern of ministry they felt God wanted for America's most populous and troubled urban areas, they accepted the call to pastor in Miami.

"After months of conversation, we uprooted our brood from suburban America to ethnic, inner city ministry," Robyn explained. "Every part of our spiritual leadership was tested in a new set of circumstances. Going back to Tacoma was what I wanted to do, but our call strengthened our resolve to stay."

It was exhausting and difficult work. Some members of the all-black church watched skeptically to see just how committed this new white pastor's family would be to their church and community. But it didn't take long for them to see the Wilkersons' servant hearts. They poured themselves and their resources into the people, doing whatever was needed—picking up trash, mowing lawns, and buying food for the church breadline from their own pockets.



“Rich had been traveling worldwide as an evangelist,” Robyn said. “The financial situation in Miami was difficult, to say the least, and Rich had to continue traveling occasionally to help make ends meet. I began preaching when Rich was gone, and we’ve never looked back.”



#### Find a need and meet it. —Fulton Buntain

Key to the Wilkersons’ ministry paradigm are integrated programs designed to combat poverty, hunger, violence, joblessness, broken families, and the fallout from crime in urban neighborhoods. Such programs require a great amount of money and many partners, and finding both was a challenge. But God was about to open a door, and Robyn would find a way to walk through it.

“In 1998, I stumbled onto an advertisement in the local newspaper for a government grant,” Robyn recalled. The ad invited organizations to propose plans for providing a summer day camp for children of women involved in a welfare-to-work program.

“We were desperate for funds to continue helping those in our community, and had exhausted our

personal savings and the small amount of money the church could provide.” So, with no experience in grant writing, Robyn wrote her first proposal. To her surprise, they were awarded \$175,000! That was the beginning of their successful Summer Blast camp program that, last year, ministered to more than 1,000 kids. In the 19 years since that first grant, Peacemakers has been awarded millions of dollars in government funds to meet urgent needs in the inner city.

The initial financial strain of their new endeavor

also brought about major changes and developments in Robyn’s leadership as she transitioned to co-senior pastor. “Rich had been traveling worldwide as an evangelist,” Robyn said. “The financial situation in Miami was difficult, to say the least, and Rich had to continue traveling occasionally to help make ends meet. I began preaching when Rich was gone, and we’ve never looked back.”

“Robyn is one of the most impactful female pastors and leaders in the nation,” said Dr. Ava Oleson, AGTS professor.

In addition to preaching, Robyn excels at organization and administration. She has been vital in the launching and maintaining of Peacemakers’

**“Key to the Wilkersons’ ministry paradigm are integrated programs designed to combat poverty, hunger, violence, joblessness, broken families, and the fallout from crime in urban neighborhoods”**

many programs, including a food pantry, family center, disaster preparedness, veterans’ programs, daycare center, after-school programs, abstinence programs, parenting classes, marriage counseling, and much more.

Robyn has no doubt that God has been evident in the daily details. “Inside the routine administration of building an organization—a faith community—came the miracle of transforming me into a senior pastor.”

Her education at AGTS has been an invaluable asset in that transformation. “I have been privileged



Robyn Wilkerson,  
husband Rich,  
and family

to learn from some of the best professors while I sat in classes with other leaders from around the country and the world. With each class, I learned new knowledge that solidified my call,” Robyn said. “After each class at AGTS, I returned to Miami excited to incorporate new principles and knowledge into my ministry. I not only use the knowledge myself, I have also shared it with our church staff at Trinity and the staff of Peacemakers.”

### **Love is not only something you feel, it's something you do. —David Wilkerson**

Love for people in the inner cities has motivated Robyn and Rich to do what they can to help. But the right kind of preparation and education is vital for success. “AGTS provides a theological leadership education with our Pentecostal heritage woven through the experience,” Robyn said. And she should know a bit about Pentecostal heritage. She and husband Rich are both children and grandchildren of ministers. Her parents, Fulton and Lorraine Buntain, were also pioneers in ministry and pillars of the faith (Figuratively and literally. Fulton Buntain is one of AGTS’ Pillars of Faith recipients). Although the programs of Trinity Church and Peacemakers may seem new, they are still very much in keeping with the traditions, priorities, and vision of Robyn and Rich’s families’ ministries. Their family heritage is intertwined with the history of the Assemblies of God.

“The Buntains are a dynasty in the Assemblies of God and have contributed significantly to the impact and influence of our movement, not only nationally, but globally,” said Dr. Oleson, who was privileged to work on staff with Robyn’s father at Life

Center Church in Tacoma, one of the first megachurches on the West Coast. Like his daughter Robyn, Fulton Buntain impacted lives in his community in countless ways. He built an externally focused church, a K-12 academy, and a multi-structured retirement community. His legacy also includes founding KTBW television, which became Trinity Broadcasting Network. He was a co-founder of Mission of Mercy in India, with his brother Mark Buntain and Mark’s wife Huldah.

Robyn and Rich are the next generation in this legacy of ministry and service—but they are not the last. All four of the Wilkerson sons are involved in ministry. Youngest son, Taylor, has started Peacemakers in Harlem, and oldest son, Jonfulton, has

**“AGTS provides a theological leadership education with our Pentecostal heritage woven through the experience,” Robyn said.**

launched the new downtown campus of his grandfather’s church, Life Center Church, which shares Robyn and Rich’s heart for people in the city. Sons Rich Jr. and Graham play key roles in the Miami ministry programs.

New seeds are being planted even as seeds sown long ago grow to maturity and produce a harvest. Some of the angry, foul-mouthed children impacted by those first summer camps are now young adults in the church. Their lives have been changed. Some are starting to invest themselves in ministry. Robyn and Rich’s heritage is making possible a new godly heritage in countless families in Miami. Who knows what the harvest will be?

# CREATE A LASTING LEGACY AT AGTS



The AGTS Faith Legacy Initiative honors men, women and churches with a vision to ensure that the legacy of Pentecostal faith is transferred to subsequent generations of ministers, missionaries, teachers, church planters, counselors, chaplains and lay leaders through top-quality education and training. We acknowledge their remarkable lives and the generous contribution of \$25,000 or more made in their honor to AGTS and its mission to shape servant leaders. Honorees are featured prominently in the Great Hall at AGTS.



Robyn Wilkerson's father, Dr. Fulton W. Buntain, graduated from Central Bible College. He pastored churches for more than 60 years, most notably First AG Life Center in Tacoma, Washington, where his

influence and leadership affected the entire community. Prior to the Buntain pillar's unveiling in 2011, Dr. Warren Bullock, then member of the AGTS Board of Directors, worked in conjunction with First AG Life Center to fund the endowment in honor of Buntain.

## AGTS is proud to announce two new Faith Legacy Initiative honorees.



### WARREN D. BULLOCK, PILLARS OF THE FAITH

Warren D. Bullock served as senior pastor of Northwest Family Church in Auburn, Washington. He also served as superintendent of the Northwest Ministry Network for eight years and has been a Northwest area executive presbyter for the Assemblies of God since 2001. He is the author of *When The Spirit Speaks* and is an advocate and supporter of Christian higher education, serving on the boards of Northwest University, Evangel University, and AGTS.



### J. DON GEORGE, PILLARS OF THE FAITH

J. Don George has served since 1955 as both pastor and evangelist. After traveling as an evangelist for seven years, he held pastorates in Texas and Louisiana before becoming senior pastor of Calvary Church in Irving, Texas, in 1972. He has traveled across the world for evangelistic outreach crusades. George is an advocate of higher education and has served as a board member of AGTS and Evangel University. He has also served as a non-resident member of the Executive Presbytery, representing the South Central Region, for 16 years.

To learn more about the Faith Legacy Initiatives visit [agts.edu/faith331](http://agts.edu/faith331), call 417-268-1012, or email [development@agts.edu](mailto:development@agts.edu).





# Jordan Deese

## A NEW PASSION

BY TAMMY BICKET ('91)

A boy with a passion for basketball celebrated his graduation from Evangel University in May of 2017, planned to get a job teaching high school history, and coach basketball. Instead, a young man with a passion for ministry and church planting strode across the platform to claim his diploma before crossing Park Drive to continue his education at AGTS.

Jordan Deese had big plans; God had bigger plans. Evangel University was the common thread in both. "My parents attended

CBC, and they always talked about how much they loved Springfield," Jordan recalled. Evangel was always his plan A.

"My dad was involved in local church ministry. That had a huge impact on my life," Jordan explained. "That being said, ministry was the furthest thing from my mind when I was looking at college."

When he won a Founder's scholarship, everything seemed to be going according to plan. He would major in History Education, but that was just to open the door for his real passion—basketball.

This was plainly evident to all who knew him. It consumed him from 7th to 12th grades, as he lived to play on his school teams. It was the centerpiece of his future.

But an unexpected encounter with God at the Illinois District youth camp the summer before he started college changed everything. When he got home, Jordan announced that he was changing his major: God had called him into the ministry!

His mother, Sharon, was the first to recognize the magnitude of the change in her son's life. "I knew that during those two weeks of camp God had changed his heart," she explained. "When he left for Evangel, we noticed that he left his basketball in his closet. We knew then his passion had changed from basketball to ministry."

"We are extremely proud that Jordan has answered God's call to full-time ministry," Jordan's father, David, said. "From a young age, we instilled in all of our children the importance of developing their God-given abilities and talents and using those abilities to serve in a local church. But never did I imagine that the Lord would place the call to full-time ministry into the heart of my child! As a father and a minister, I am deeply humbled by that."

One of Jordan's teachers who has been "extremely impressed" by Jordan's character and ability is Dr. Michael Jaffe, professor of preaching and church leadership at Evangel University. "Jordan is an impressive young man who has answered God's call to full-time vocational ministry," Dr. Jaffe said. "While at Evangel, he has not only been an extraordinary student in the classroom, but he has also demonstrated a passion for the church."

During his four years as an undergraduate, Jordan's vision of ministry has grown. "I believe I have been called to serve and equip the local church," Jordan explained. "I have a heart and passion for healthy local churches."

In his final semester at Evangel, Jordan interned with the Church Multiplication Network (CMN), the church-planting program of the Assemblies of God, where his

passion for church planting blossomed. "Church planting provides the best opportunities for reaching into communities," Jordan said. "Now I couldn't imagine a different calling or vocation than leading in the local church."

The path to Jordan's future leads through the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary. "God honors preparation," Jordan explained. "I want to be in a position where I have prepared myself for success in whatever role God has planned for my future. The extra year of study and training is huge in the development process."

Jordan is taking advantage of a special program that allows Evangel students to maximize learning and earn an advanced degree in a short amount of time. This means that Jordan will start pursuing his Master of Arts in Christian Ministries (MACM) this fall, and he should complete his program and earn his Master's Degree in Summer of 2018. He would love to one day plant a church in one of the cities on CMN's list of 10 largest cities without a Spirit-empowered church.asdf

"Ultimately, I want to be as prepared as possible when I go into the actual planting, as I believe that is the best way to steward the gifts and abilities God has blessed me with," Jordan said. He is excited to take the next step in his education and preparation for ministry. He is eager to learn and grow even more at AGTS. "Investing in the next generation of the church seems to be at the heart of the Assemblies of God," he said. Surely, he has seen that firsthand in the legacy of his parents and the training of his teachers, like Dr. Jaffe. He is convinced that legacy will continue through his time at AGTS.

"AGTS has trained some of the best pastors, missionaries, and leaders in the Assemblies of God," Jordan said. "It's an honor to be a part of that history."

**"I believe I have been called to serve and equip the local church," Jordan explained. "I have a heart and passion for healthy local churches."**



**"Church planting provides the best opportunities for reaching into communities," Jordan said. "Now I couldn't imagine a different calling or vocation than leading in the local church."**



# The Promise and Significance of AGTS Today

BY Dr. Carol A. Taylor ('78) / President of Evangel University



As I begin my fifth year of service, I want to provide an update on the consolidation. As a graduate of both Evangel and AGTS and one who took additional classes at CBC while attending AGTS, I am deeply indebted to those who served at these institutions and had such an impact on the lives of tens of thousands of alumni.

The promise of consolidation was to provide enhanced ministerial training and education to serve our Fellowship. The June 2011 Consolidation Proposal established four specific goals:

1. **Maximize financial and organizational stewardship,**
2. **Significantly spur enrollment growth through integrated programming and operational efficiencies,**
3. **Enhance and expand ministerial preparation to meet the growing needs of the AG Fellowship, and**
4. **Meet 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges and opportunities in higher education.**

By aligning our theological undergraduate and graduate programs within AGTS, today the Seminary comprises one third of all Evangel University students. Our undergraduate ministry majors are now the fourth largest area of study among undergraduate students.

In a move to enhance their overall preparation for service, twenty percent of undergraduate ministry majors are double majors, pursuing both a ministry degree and a second degree. Common second majors include counseling, psychology, intercultural studies, education, nonprofit business and social enterprise, and management.

With respect to our graduate programs, Vice President/Dean of AGTS James Railey has commented, “The graduate programs of AGTS continue to produce men and women who are the best reflection of our mission to shape servant leaders with knowledge, skill and passion to revitalize the Church and evangelize the world in the power of the Holy Spirit. In May, we commissioned another 53 AGTS graduates, many of whom are already serving in places of significant influence and ministry.”

Current AGTS students and alumni who participated in a series of focus groups this year reported that pursuing their theological education at AGTS was life-changing. They told stories of how they enjoyed the depth of academic scholarship infused with the breath of God as the Holy Spirit was invited into their academic pursuits. They commented on how effectively professors balance theory with praxis, igniting a lifelong love of learning and service in the power of the Holy Spirit.

In early March, a diverse group of ministry leaders participated in a focus group in response to the AGTS core initiative on envisioning the Seminary's preferred future, especially focused on ministry preparation.

One of the key outcomes of the meeting was a clear reaffirmation that the Seminary was founded and continues to exist to serve our Fellowship with graduate level applied scholarship designed to equip ministers, missionaries, and chaplains for effective service as Pentecostal ministry leaders. Where those three elements come together – Serve the Fellowship, Equip with applied scholarship, Live our Pentecostal identity – is AGTS's "sweet spot."

A key partner in the mission of AGTS is Dr. Beth Grant, Chair of the Seminary Board of Advisors, member of the Board of Trustees, AGWM leader, Executive Presbyterian, and highly regarded missionary.

Following our recent meetings, Dr. Grant stated: "From its inception, AGTS has been uniquely linked with Assemblies of God World Missions to equip Spirit-empowered missionaries. The Seminary Board of Advisors along with Evangel University leadership has reaffirmed this essential strategic partnership. As growing numbers of EU undergrad students prepare for global ministry in community with Global Missions seminary faculty and students, there is a new sense of synergy, urgency and vision. We pray that seminary students and undergrad ministry students alike will experience 'knowledge on fire' for their shared mission of taking Jesus to the nations."

## Maximizing Stewardship

Since the first year of implementation of the consolidation in 2013-2014, we have realized a savings of \$1.8M in operational expenses at AGTS. This was achieved by the University absorbing many AGTS operational functions and implementing improved processes and systems at the University.

With AGTS part of the overall University fund development efforts, we are also seeing significant benefits. Total giving this past academic year, including AGTS, was \$5.0M compared to \$2.5M last year – a 99% increase – with 353 first-time donors. In addition to these gifts, AGTS received a General Council grant of \$1.4M.

We also saw a 25% increase in unrestricted giving, including AGTS, over the past three years. This year our unrestricted giving exceeded \$1M.

In June, the Board of Trustees approved a recommendation for some structural changes, with a shift to a Vice President/

Dean of AGTS leadership model. Dr. George O. Wood, General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God, stated, "This provides a strategic opportunity to live more fully into the consolidation and promise of enhanced ministerial education and preparation, with increased stewardship of resources."

With each step forward, we have embraced the opportunity to continue to design a structure and academic programs that actively engage all of our students and joint faculty in the unique missions of the seminary and the University at large.

The VP/Dean of AGTS reports directly to the University Provost/Executive Vice President on all academic matters of AGTS. The VP/Dean serves as a University Vice President and reports to the University President for matters related to church, external, and public relations. The VP/Dean also works with the President on fund development in collaboration with the University Advancement Office. The VP/Dean is a member of the President's Cabinet and University Planning Council and collaborates with University vice presidents on operational matters. The VP/Dean is the resource person to the Seminary Board of Advisors and is the liaison to the Association of Theological Schools and any other seminary associations.

The Board also approved Dr. George O. Wood to serve as Chancellor of AGTS reporting to and working directly with the University President. The Chancellor of AGTS is an ambassador and champion of the seminary within our Fellowship and with other publics and assists with fund development.

Dr. James Railey has agreed to delay his retirement and continue his service as Vice President/Dean of AGTS to ensure a smooth transition while a search is undertaken to find the new VP/Dean.

The University has now undertaken the search for the new Vice President/Dean of AGTS and welcomes inquiries and recommendations. For a full position description, please visit [evangel.edu/job-openings/2017/06/20/vice-presidentdean-agts/](http://evangel.edu/job-openings/2017/06/20/vice-presidentdean-agts/)

Each year as we commission a new group of graduates, I am reminded of the global reach of our graduates for the Kingdom. Today over 3,600 Evangel, CBC, and AGTS graduates are Assemblies of God credentialed ministers with over 200 serving as district, national and international leaders. My response is profound gratitude and prayer that we will continue to live into God's call and vision for Evangel and AGTS.



C O M M E N C E M E N T

# Congratulations to the graduating class of 2017!

**WELCOME  
TO THE AGTS  
ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION.**

**O**n Saturday, May 6, 2017, AGTS celebrated its 44<sup>th</sup> commencement in the Robert H. Spence Chapel on Evangel's campus. The celebration honored 53 graduates, including 20 doctoral graduates and 33 master's graduates. Dr. Mark Hausfeld who completed his tenure as president before the start of summer, said, "What an exciting time to participate with women and men who are fulfilling the call of God with excellence, by graduating, to revitalize the church and evangelize the world, in the power of the Holy Spirit, in tandem with an excellent education."



Paul Kazim earned a Ph.D. in Intercultural Studies. A missionary to Mexico with his wife, Sandy, he also currently serves as the Assemblies of God World Missions area director for Mexico. Kazim was a child of Albanian immigrants with a birth certificate that said "Muslim." During commencement, he shared about his journey to faith in Christ and his call to missions.

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Shannon Polk earned a Doctor of Ministry. An attorney with Polk Legal, PLLC, she also serves as a consultant with Leadership Solutions, LLC, and as a ministry assistant to the pastor at Riverside Tabernacle in Flint, Michigan. With a heart for the marginalized and underrepresented, a knowledge of the law, and now a Doctor of Ministry degree, Polk's vast knowledge has empowered her to "assist ministers experiencing the challenges of an ethnically shifting populace."

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Yisrael Vincent earned a Master of Divinity. He currently serves as the associate pastor of young adults at Evangel Temple in Springfield, Missouri. Vincent shared how AGTS has prepared him in a way no other institution could, saying, "AGTS was unequalled in its ability to couple a Pentecostal education with the hands-on experience of ministry."

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C L A S S O F 2 0 1 7

# New Resources

FROM AGTS AND EVANGEL UNIVERSITY

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## LECTURES

Visit [agts.edu/resources331](https://agts.edu/resources331) to watch these and other lectures.

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### “Early Twentieth Century Pentecost in China: Insights Emerging from Selected Biographical Narratives”

Mike McAteer has served with Assemblies of God World Missions in Northern Asia since 1983. He is the 2016–2017 J. Philip Hogan Professor of World Missions at AGTS.

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### “Money, Greed and God”

Dr. Jay W. Richards discussed his book on the capitalist system within the context of the Christian faith and examined how enterprise based on hard work, honesty, and trust fosters creativity and growth.

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### “Calvinism and the God of Love”

Dr. Jerry Walls of Houston Baptist University addressed Calvinism’s glaring blind spot when it comes to God’s universal love.

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### “Christian Moral Teaching on Sex, Family, and Life”

During the Society of Christian Philosophers Conference, which met at Evangel in the fall, Dr. Richard Swinburne of the University of Oxford made a case for the traditional views of the church regarding contemporary moral issues.



**Mike McAteer delivers his inaugural address, part one of the Hogan Lectureship Series, at AGTS.**

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### “Taking Rites Seriously: Faith, Reason, and Religious Liberty”

During the Society of Christian Philosophers Conference, which met at Evangel in the fall, Dr. Beckwith addressed the role of religion in the public square. He calls into question the common practice of disregarding, or discounting, religiously connected contributions to public discourse, especially in academia. He then made a case for the importance of religion in our social conversation and practice.

# Center for Islamic Studies News

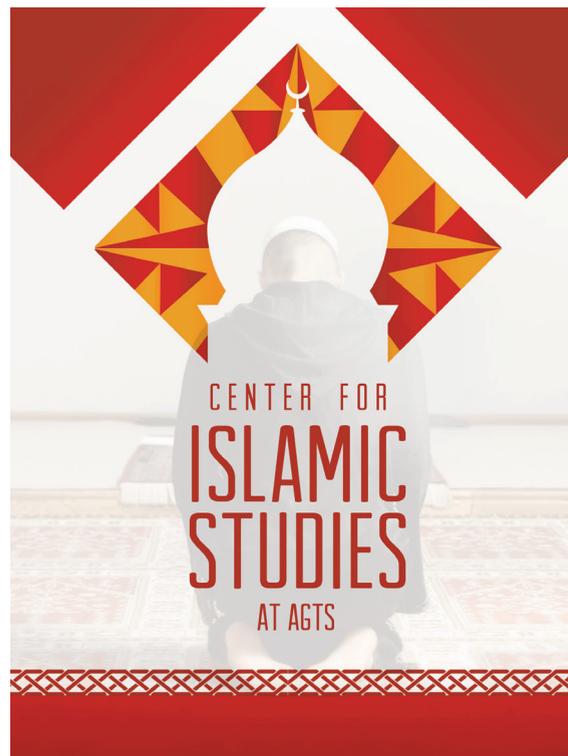
AGTS is fast becoming known for outstanding training in ministry to Muslims.

This year, in addition to the Islam in America seminar and the robust Summer Institute for Islamic Studies, AGTS was proud to cosponsor the “Spiritual Freedom From Islam” workshop in January with AG World Mission’s Global Initiative: Reaching Muslim Peoples.

The workshop featured Dr. Mark Durie—scholar, human rights activist, Anglican pastor, writing fellow at the Middle East Forum, and adjunct research fellow of the Arthur Jeffery Centre for the Study of Islam at Melbourne School of Theology. He has published many articles and books on Christian-Muslim relations, religious freedom and the language and culture of the Acehnese (an ethnic Muslim population in Indonesia).

The workshop covered the discipleship of Muslims who have turned to Christ as well as gender, theological, and leadership issues.

Watch both the 2015 and 2016 Islam in America seminars at [agts.edu/islam331](http://agts.edu/islam331). Find out more about the 2017 Summer Institute for Islamic Studies (July 3–14) at [agts/siis331](http://agts/siis331).



## Meguiar, Corum, Sommers

Special guests provide unique learning experiences



In January, AGTS and Evangel were honored to host Barry Meguiar, president of Meguiar’s, Inc. Meguiar spoke to students in chapel and business classes at Evangel and at a luncheon for area business owners at AGTS.

Widely known as a successful businessman and TV host, Meguiar also has a passion to see lay people minister wherever they are planted. This desire led him to found Revival Outside the Walls, a ministry resource to encourage lay people to intentionally share their faith. ROTW challenges lay people to get off the bench (pew) and into the game where the adventure of being a Christian begins.

In March, Carl Sommer spoke in chapel at AGTS about Entrepreneurship and God’s Word.

Sommer is a Central Bible College alum, devoted educator, businessman, and author of award-winning children’s books. He is the founder and president of Advance Publishing, Inc. and Reliable EDM, a precision machining company that is the largest of its kind in North America.

An 86-year-old with a worldview that includes a healthy lifestyle, Sommers can do 100 push-ups and 25 chin-ups at a time and has no plans to retire.

Sommer was honored in 2011 as CBC’s distinguished alumnus of the year. He has appeared on numerous national radio and TV programs, including the Oprah Winfrey show.

Also in March, AGTS and Evangel hosted world-renowned scientist Ken Corum in chapel, he spoke in several classes at Evangel and at AGTS for a time of questions and answers.

Corum holds hundreds of patents. He and his brother, James, have spent more than 40 years creating a revolutionary technology that can transmit electricity wirelessly.

He is also the grandson of Lillie Corum, the first person in Springfield, Missouri, known to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. In 1907, evangelist Rachel Sizelove, made the long journey from Azusa Street in Los Angeles, California to Springfield to see her sister, Lillie Corum. As friends and neighbors stopped by to learn about the Azusa Street revival, prayer meetings began to overflow out of the Corum home into tent meetings that eventually formed the body of Central Assembly of God. The story is captured in the book, *The Sparkling Fountain*.

# Dennis Ottalagano:

## SERVING WITH HONOR



Evangel University and the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary have been awarded the 2017 Military Friendly® School designation, a national recognition for their efforts on behalf of veterans, military service personnel, and their families.

Service is important to our military men and women and our veterans. It's important to Dennis Ottalagano, too. When he was 18, near the end of the Vietnam War, Dennis registered for the draft, passed his physical, and waited for a call to duty that never came.

So instead of military service, Dennis chose to serve God in another way. After graduating from Central Bible College, he enrolled at AGTS. "AGTS gave me the tools for ministry and opened doors to other areas, like military and medical chaplaincy, that were never in my mind when I entered the seminary," Dennis said.

Through AGTS, God opened many unplanned doors for Dennis and his wife, Noreen, including 21 years as a children's pastor, opportunities to speak at children's ministry conferences around the world, a stint as an adjunct professor at Bethany Bible College, and the successful pioneering of a church. This church started a motorcycle ministry called Advocates for Christ. Every Memorial Day, Dennis and other members of the group would ride to Balboa Park to celebrate with the vets of Outpost 0472.

As Dennis and his church became well known for honoring vets, they urged him to fill out an application to join the Vietnam Veterans of America, in spite of his never having served in the military. He was quickly accepted, and the Outpost 0472 vets voted him their chaplain for life. Now he counsels, prays with, encourages, and spiritually leads the vets during life's highs and lows, even as he leads the motorcycle group that follows the 0427 float in holiday parades.

In addition, Dennis is now the lead pastor at New Life Assembly of God in Ramona, California, and a hospice chaplain. This dovetails nicely with his work as a chaplain to veterans. Many of his dying patients have been Vietnam veterans; he has officiated at more than 200 memorial services for them and their loved ones.

"I've learned so much hanging around these vets," Dennis admits. "They have seen and done some horrible things; they've come home with scars that remind them daily of what war is like. They have helped me to become a better pastor, to be a good listener, and to walk beside a person in their suffering."

"God knew I wanted to serve in the military like my dad and other family members, but it just didn't happen," Dennis said. "God had other plans for how I could serve these men and women,



Ottalagano taking his friend Frank's helmet for one last ride in a parade after he passed away in 2015. A sticker on the helmet reads "We were winning when I left."

# Alumni News & Notes

CENTRAL BIBLE COLLEGE AND THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

**Albert Marialke** (CBC '49) of Saginaw, Michigan, passed away in September 2016 at the age of 92. He was a WWII veteran and a captain in the Civil Air Patrol Chaplaincy Program. He established Allegan AG and later served as associate pastor at Saginaw First AG. Albert also served as presbyter, trustee and representative for many churches in Michigan. During his retirement years, he continued his love of Bible study and teaching at the local Teen Challenge.

**Guy A. Davidson** (CBC '52) of Santa Paula, California, passed away in November of 2016. He was 86 years old. This pastor's passion for children and faith started as a student pastor at Community Church in Long Lane, Missouri. He continued on to work as the youth and education director at First Assembly of God in Portland, Oregon. He served on the boards of several organizations, directed publicity for Gospel Publishing House and supported international missions work. Davidson also founded and pastored several churches across the country.

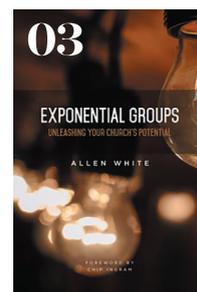
**Vincent E. Beemer** (CBC '59) of Vinton, Virginia, passed away in November of 2016 at the age of 85. Beemer was a former U.S. Naval Officer. After his honorable discharge in 1954, Beemer earned a degree from CBC and went on to pastor five different churches, also serving as an instructor and member of the Board of Administration for Valley Forge Christian College.

**01 Bill** (CBC '80, AGTS '02) and **Wendy** (Stockton, CBC '80) **Snyder** developed The Compass Experience, a program designed to teach young men and women from America's inner cities leadership skills and basic business competencies. They reside in Overland Park, Kansas.

**Thomas Sutterfield** (CBC '73), age 85, of Springfield, Missouri, passed away in September 2016. A highly-decorated veteran, Sutterfield served in the US Army for 21 years and fought in the Korean War. On retirement from the Army, he came to CBC and was ordained in 1976. He served as a pastor and evangelist in Missouri and Arkansas. In his later years, he served as a beloved Sunday school teacher and helper in many areas.

**Mark Drysdale** (CBC '74, AGTS '75) passed away in November of 2016. Drysdale worked as an employee of the city of Riverview, Michigan, for 30 years. He was the supervisor of the Department of Public Works, as well as the projects coordinator and the interim community development director. Drysdale continued on to work for the city, working with the Downriver Solid Waste Task Force and the Emergency Operations Center.

**02 Andréa** (CBC '85, AGTS '98) and Darla **Snaveley** have been approved as missionaries to Europe and Africa.



**Perry LaHaie** (AGTS '88), recording artist, recently landed at the top of the Independent Christian Radio Chart with his song "Ahead."

**Don** and **Mary Kay Glunt** (both CBC '89, both AGTS '93) reside in Springfield, Missouri. Don pastors Gibson Chapel Presbyterian, and Mary Kay was recently installed as pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Stockton, Missouri. She authored and published *Word of Wisdom, Thoughts of Hope*, a devotional/poetry book in 2016.

**03 Rudolph Allen White** (AGTS '90), of Greenville, South Carolina, wrote *Exponential Groups: Unleashing Your Church's Potential* (Hendrickson Publishers). White coaches churches on growing people through small groups and blogs about small group ministry strategy at [allenwhite.org](http://allenwhite.org).

**Robert Bernard Jr.** (AGTS '91) went home to be with the Lord in December of 2016. He served in the US Navy from 1972 to 1976 at the Defense Language Institute. Over the years he pastored five churches across the Midwest. He was also an adjunct professor for North Central University and the Minnesota District of the Assemblies of God School of Ministry.

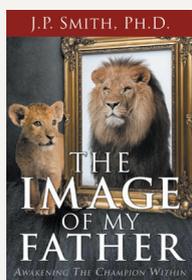
# Alum of the Year



**Chaplain Smith was awarded AGTS Alum of the Year at Evangel University's 2016 Homecoming Celebration Luncheon.**

Major John P. Smith is a seasoned combat veteran, an author, and an ordained minister. A 2005 graduate of AGTS, he has been a U.S. Army chaplain for more than 10 years and has served three combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Dr. Smith was raised in the absence of his biological father, lost his mother early in life and was told he would never amount to anything. In



his book, *The Image of My Father*, he shares stories of how God took someone out of brokenness and, through His grace, created a champion. Overcoming all odds, he now holds two master's degrees

from AGTS—one in Divinity and the other in Theological Studies. He also earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Leadership from Regent University.

Thinking about chaplaincy? AGTS is a leading seminary for the training of military and institutional chaplains. Let us know how we can partner with you (info@agts.edu, 417-865-2815).

**Major Jill Holm** (AGTS '95) has been appointed deputy wing chaplain of the Minnesota Civil Air Patrol for North Central University and the Minnesota District of the Assemblies of God School of Ministry.

**04 Louis A. DelTufo** (right, AGTS '95) was promoted to the rank of colonel in the U.S. Army during a ceremony at West Point, New York. After entering active duty service as a chaplain, he served tours in Panama, Korea, Germany, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait. He also spent more than 40 months deployed to Iraq. Currently, Chaplain DelTufo is the Command Chaplain at the U.S. Army Cyber Center of Excellence located at Fort Gordon, Georgia. Also pictured is Brian Tung (left, AGTS '07), a US Army chaplain currently instructing other chaplain families undergoing training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

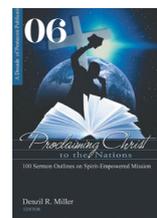
**05 Ronald Gay** (AGTS '96) completed a doctorate of education in curriculum, instruction, and assessment from Walden University in 2016. He teaches history in Georgia public schools while helping plant churches in the Atlanta metropolitan area. He also serves as trustee and vice president of Live Free Church and leads STRONG Life men's ministries.

**Michael Alvarez** (CBC '02) lives in Aurora, Illinois, where he is helping to plant a church designed to reach urban young adults.

**David Ely** (CBC '04) is a high school math teacher in Crane, Missouri. He resides in Lampe, Missouri, where he assists at his father's church, Highview Assembly of God.

**Ralph Jarvis** (AGTS '04) authored *Dynamics of Godliness and Christianity* (Outskirts Press 2016).

**06 Denzil Miller** (AGTS '05) wrote *Proclaiming Christ to the Nations: 100 Sermon Outlines on Spirit-Empowered Mission* (AIA 2017). The book will be distributed throughout Africa to aid pastors and leaders in mobilizing their churches for Spirit-empowered mission.



**07 Stephen Buchanan** (AGTS '06) was promoted to the rank of Major in the U.S. Army. His ceremony was held on the USS Missouri.

**Amber Duvall** (CBC '06) is a fourth-grade teacher in Togiak, Alaska. She completed her MA in teaching in 2016.

**08 Allan Howard** (CBC '06) serves on staff at New Dimensions Ministries in Barbados and gives direct oversight to evangelism, missions, and discipleship while directing the drama ministry. Allan married Jacinth Browne on November 5, 2016.

**Kurt and Stephanie Plagenhoef** (both AGTS '06) are planning to return to Albania and the Balkans in September to begin their fifth term of missions service.

**09 Brian and Debbie Fulthorp** (both AGTS '07) welcomed Benjamin Patrick on March 17. Brian is a chaplain with Pruitt Health Hospice in Farmville, North Carolina. Debbie is an adjunct professor with SUM Bible College and Theological Seminary and an ESL teacher with 5 1 Talk. Benjamin joins Mercy (10) and Samuel (7).

**10 Jeremy** (AGTS '08) and Kate **Alsup** welcomed Benjamin Lev in 2016.

**Damaris Carlson** (AGTS '08) became the connections pastor at City View Church, San Diego, California, in December 2015. Her husband, Kristian (AGTS '09), is the command chaplain on the USS Bunker Hill. He is scheduled to deploy again with the USS Theodore Roosevelt Strike Group in fall 2017.

**Darrek and Lindsey** (Van Hal) **Arneson** (both CBC '09) serve on staff at Peoples Church in Salem, Oregon. Darrek is the worship and fine arts pastor, and Lindsey is his administrative assistant. They have two children, Elijah (4) and Hailey JoAnn (2).

**11 Ernie** (AGTS '09) and Sandra **Peacock** are serving as interim lead pastors of ICMadrid, an international church located in the heart of Spain's capital city. It hosts as many as eight weekly services in English, Spanish, and Mandarin.

**12 Rye Bailey** (CBC '10, AGTS '12) serves as a rear-detachment chaplain with the U.S. Army, stationed in Fort Riley, Kansas. This summer he will join the 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion in Grafenwoehr, Germany. Rye and wife Aurea have three sons: Jude (9), Josiah (6), and Justus (2).

**Samantha** (Aulds) **Bobb** (CBC '10), of Gahanna, Ohio, works for the Ohio AG Network Office as a credentialing specialist and administrative assistant to the network secretary, leader development director and Southeastern University's Ohio Network Campus provost.

**Joey and Mikayla** (Smail) **Winafeld** (both CBC '11), are bi-vocational youth/associate pastors at True North Church in Minerva, Ohio. They have two children, Joelle and Chloe.

**13 Helen Kim** (AGTS '15) completed her theology of work curriculum, *God's Story of Work for Kids: Teaching Children to Think Wisely and Well About Work*.



## New COGIC Leader is Graduate of CBC and AGTS

**B**ishop Lemuel F. Thuston, a graduate of Central Bible College ('79) and the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary ('81), was elected at the 109th annual Holy Convocation last November to serve as Chairman of the General Assembly of the Church of God in Christ (COGIC).

As Chairman, Thuston presides over the legislative session, establishes legislative priorities, and works between convocations to shepherd legislation. He will serve out the four-year term vacated by Bishop James W. Hunt, who passed away suddenly just before Holy Convocation. Thuston previously served as Vice Chairman of the General Assembly.

Thuston will remain Bishop of the Kansas East Jurisdiction of the COGIC, a position he has held since 2004. He will also continue as pastor of two congregations: Historic Boone Tabernacle Church of God in Christ (Kansas City, Missouri) and Mason Temple Institutional Church of God in Christ (Kansas City, Kansas).

# FACULTY NEWS

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**Ben Aker** (professor emeritus), **Jim Bennett** ('79, SIIS faculty), **Mark Hausfeld** ('83), **Jim Hernando** ('78), and **Wave Nunnally** co-authored the chapter entitled, "The Necessity for Retaining Father-Son Terminology in Scripture Translations for Muslims," in the book *Controversies in Missions: Theology, Peoples, and Practice of Mission in the 21st Century*.

**Roger Cotton** ('78) taught "Pentateuch" at the Illinois School of Ministry in April.

**Beth Grant** (CBC '71, AGTS '80) was a plenary presenter on transformational anti-trafficking initiatives at The Salvation Army 2017 National Social Services Conference in April.

**James Hernando** taught a seminar titled "Introduction to New Testament" for the Illinois School of Ministry in April.

**Paul Lewis** ('88) presented the paper "Christian Missions along the Eastern Silk Road" at the Society for Pentecostal Studies meeting in March. He co-edited *A Light to the Nations*, a volume of essays compiled in honor of the late AGTS professor Gary B. McGee. Lewis also edited the latest issue of *Encounter: Journal for Pentecostal Ministry* ([ags.edu/encounter331](http://ags.edu/encounter331)).

**Terry Lewis** ('74/'78), passed away in August 2016 at the age of 74. He pastored in several churches and served on the faculty at CBC ('74-'81), EU ('83-'85), AGTS ('85-'88) and other AG schools.

**Martin Mittelstadt** presented "Canada's First Martyr: The Suspicious Death of Winnipeg's WWI Pentecostal Conscientious Objector David Wells" at a meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies in March. With Wes Laturmus, he co-authored the article "No Time for Musings on Prayer: Confessions of a Theologian" published in *The Pentecostal Testimony Magazine* (Jan/Feb 2017).

**Jeff Nelson**, missionary in residence at EU, spoke about the past and future of Pentecostal missions at the Alaska Ministry Network Conference in April.

**Wave Nunnally** authored numerous articles for *PE News* including "Jesus in the Grainfields" and "Secrets Unlocked from Ancient Scroll." He spoke at the Christian Center in Brussels, Belgium, in May. He also led five study trips to Israel this spring.

**Lois Olena** ('06) co-edited volume 21 of the *Global Pentecostal and Charismatic Studies* series, "Women in Pentecostal and Charismatic Ministry: Informing a Dialogue on Gender, Church, and Ministry." The book features participation by Loralie Crabtree ('14), Beth Grant (CBC '71, AGTS '80), Stephanie Nance ('09/'13), Ava Oleson ('11), Barbara Cavaness Parks ('75, former AGTS visiting professor) and Joy Qualls (former EU faculty).

**Ava Oleson** ('11) was a panel participant at the annual meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies in March.

**DeLonn Rance** ('83) took part in the Latin American AG Dialogue for Ministerial Education in March. He also presented a workshop at the Missions Commission of the World AG Fellowship in Singapore and a plenary session at the Latin American Together in Missions Consultation in Honduras in April.

**Valerie Rance** ('09/'11) attended the meeting of the AG World Missions Missiology Committee, on which she serves, in Hong Kong in March.

**Brandon Schmidly** (EU '98), and **Geoffrey W. Sutton** (retired EU professor) edited the book *Christian Morality: An Interdisciplinary Framework for Thinking about Contemporary Moral Issues*, released in August 2016. Dr. Schmidly also presented a paper on the grounding of custodial rights of parents over children at the American Philosophical Association in March.

**Charlie Self** traveled throughout the USA preaching, consulting for several churches and speaking on whole-life discipleship. His work has appeared on the Acton Institute Power Blog, the AGTS Discipleship Network, Discipleship Dynamics and the Influence podcast.

**Randy Walls** ('97/'04) taught several classes for the Illinois School of Ministry this spring. He received the 2016 Hall of Fame Award for Significant Contributors of The Church Network.

**Mark Wootton** ('03) will assume the position of president of Bethel College in Hampton, Virginia, this summer.

# A LIFETIME OF GENEROSITY, A FUTURE OF INFLUENCE



BY CHRISTINA AYRES

Some people spend years searching for a cause or ministry they feel is worthy of a lifetime of giving and dedication. Bill and Janette Kassiss were fortunate to find that cause early on.

For the past 50 years, they have devoted their time and resources to countless students and orphans. Their desire, now, is to influence future generations.

At the age of 12, Bill went to live at a Christian orphanage in the Middle East. When Bill was old enough to leave, he stayed on at the orphanage to help with the construction of new facilities, doing so even after he got a job at the airport.

Janette's parents heard about Bill from an elderly woman working with Youth for Christ. They wrote to him asking if he would be interested in coming to school in the United States.

In 1959, Bill was accepted into a community college and moved to Oakland, California, to live with Janette's family. He quickly discovered he wanted to be an engineer.

## A LIFETIME OF GENEROSITY, A FUTURE OF INFLUENCE

Despite life's obstacles, Bill graduated and went on to earn his bachelor's in electrical engineering from California Polytechnic State University and his master's from San Jose State University, followed by a job with IBM. While working for IBM, he earned an advanced degree in engineering from Stanford University. Along the way, Bill and Janette fell in love and were married in 1961. He worked at IBM as they built their life together.

After visiting the orphanage a couple of times, Bill took a year's leave from IBM so he and Janette could travel to work in the Lebanese orphanage. "We lived at the orphanage in Lebanon and loved the contact with the boys," Janette reflected. "We also visited the Lillian Trasher Orphanage in Egypt several times."

In 1989, Bill transitioned from IBM to volunteer work with Bethany University. He taught a class on the book of Job while his wife volunteered in the employment office. As their volunteer work grew, they began to form a "family" of new relationships that offered fresh avenues for giving.

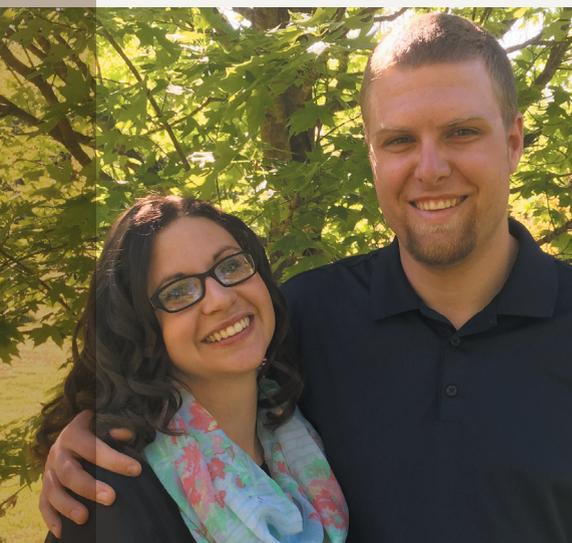
Over the years, Bill and Janette have provided tuition and found jobs for students. Now, they have a burden to reach the Arab world through students.

"We want to help students fulfill their calling to get the message and hope of Jesus Christ to that needy part of the world," Janette explained.

In order to continue their commitment to giving into the next generation, they have created a scholarship specifically for AGTS students who plan to minister in the Arab Middle East.

They believe in the work AGTS is doing and have devoted their resources to see it continue to be a strong base for the training of those who want to reach the Arab world for Christ in the power of the Spirit.

## PENTECOSTAL LEADERS FUND



*"At AGTS, God has worked in my life in transformative ways through my classes and interactions with fellow students and professors. He is equipping me for ministry. The Arthur Klaus Preaching Scholarship has enabled me to continue pursuing this formational education. I look forward to using what I have learned at AGTS to help build God's Kingdom wherever He calls me." — Jake Krahn, AGTS M.Div. Student*

### Will you prayerfully consider a gift toward student scholarships?

The primary reason students delay or forgo training that could equip their ministry is lack of funds. The Pentecostal Leaders Fund gathers funds from a network of churches, districts, and individuals who have chosen to invest in the next generation of AG pastors, missionaries, church planters, military chaplains, and other servant leaders by providing student scholarships.



**For more information, contact the Development Office.  
417-268-1022 • [development@agts.edu](mailto:development@agts.edu)**

# Heaven Welcomes Two Pillars of the Faith



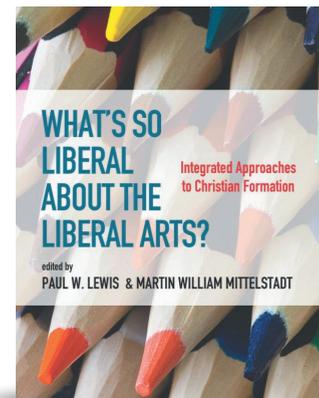
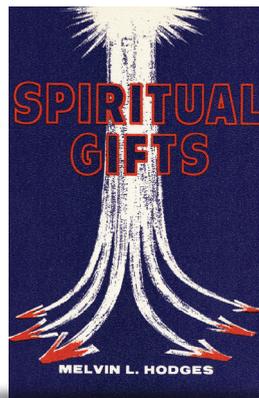
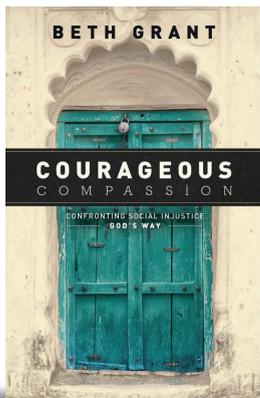
**Loren Triplett** and his wife, Milly, began serving as missionaries to Nicaragua in 1954, where Triplett served as director of Nicaragua Bible Institute and leader in the national church fellowship. In 1966, Triplett was appointed manager of Editorial Vida, now known as Life Publishers. In 1973, he went on to become the regional director of Latin America and the Caribbean and eventually the executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, where he served from 1990 to 1997. After his retirement in 1997, Triplett and his family continued to have an effective ministry in the United States and overseas. He finished his 90-year adventure this side of heaven on Christmas Day 2016.



**D.V. Hurst** was a distinguished statesman, administrator, and visionary leader in the development of Christian higher education. He served in the AG National Sunday School Department for 15 years. He then assumed the presidency of Northwest University from 1966 to 1990 until he became president of Asia Theological Centre for Evangelism and Missions in Singapore. Most significant to AGTS, D.V. Hurst served as the chairman of the “For Such a Time” capital campaign, which raised \$6.2 million to build the current facilities. He went home to be with his Lord on December 28, 2016, at the age of 93.

For more information about the Pillars of the Faith Initiative at AGTS, visit [agts.edu/pillars331](http://agts.edu/pillars331).

## KNOWLEDGE ON FIRE BOOK PROJECT



AGTS' commitment to developing Pentecostal leaders is seen in our faculty's numerous publications showcased in the halls of the seminary. Sponsor a framed book cover for a donation of \$500 toward student scholarships. The books listed here have yet to be sponsored. See them all at [agts.edu/books331](http://agts.edu/books331). To sponsor, contact the Development Office (417-268-1022, [development@agts.edu](mailto:development@agts.edu)).

# SERVING THE FELLOWSHIP. REACHING THE WORLD.



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The dynamic learning environment, practical leadership application, and focus on strategic thinking made my time at AGTS a transformational leadership experience.

—Chris Railey, M.A., M.Div, D.Min  
Sr. Director of Leadership & Church Development  
AG National Leadership and Resource Center

