

# THIS WEEK IN AG HISTORY

BY RUTHIE EDGERLY OBERG

Thomas J. Jones (1896-1970) was a dynamic British preacher and Bible teacher, much in demand by American congregations. Jones taught at North Central Bible Institute (now North Central University) in Minneapolis for 21 years and was known as a man who could make the Old Testament come to life.

Accepting Christ as Savior in Birmingham, England, in 1914, Jones had an insatiable desire to understand God's Word and to teach the Bible to anyone who would listen.

While Jones was in America responding to a ministry invitation, Britain declared war on Germany. He could not return home, so Doris, his wife, and their five children lived in a cottage until the war ended and Jones returned. When he did he brought with him an invitation to teach at North Central Bible Institute (NCBI), the AG Bible school in Minneapolis.

Jones was considered a "preacher's preacher" by the students at NCBI and those who gathered to hear him speak at camp meetings and ministry schools.

The *Pentecostal Evangel* published



more than 60 articles and sermons by Jones. He retired in 1967 due to poor health, and died in 1970. In 1974, the college named its library, the T.J. Jones Memorial Library, in his honor.

Read Jones' sermon "The Blessedness of Salvation" on page 2 of the June 20, 1942, issue of the *Pentecostal Evangel* online at [s2.ag.org/june201942](http://s2.ag.org/june201942).

SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2019

# AG NEWS

A COLLECTION OF THIS WEEK'S STORIES FROM NEWS.AG.ORG



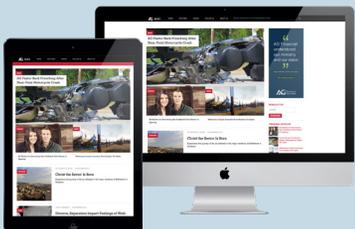
**SOARING WHILE WELL-GROUNDED**

**CONCIERGE ANSWERS LONG ISLAND CALL**

**CHAPLAINS DEFUSE SOLDIER STRESS**

**A DREAM (CENTER) COMES TRUE**

Read the full versions of these stories on [news.ag.org](http://news.ag.org)



NEWS FOR, ABOUT, AND FROM THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

CONNECT WITH US ON

 FACEBOOK  TWITTER

 RSS AND OUR WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER

VISIT [NEWS.AG.ORG](http://NEWS.AG.ORG) FOR MORE INFORMATION.



## SOARING WHILE WELL-GROUNDED

BY JOHN W. KENNEDY

Felix Sanchez traces his New Mexico roots back four generations. Until his sixth year, however, his parents, Jose and Carlota Sanchez, spoke only Spanish. His parents earned a meager living as migrant workers who traveled annually to Colorado to harvest potatoes, beans, and other crops.

Jose only went to school until sixth grade, but he told his son he could become anything he wanted — as long as he got an education and obeyed the Lord’s commandments. Felix aspired to become an airplane mechanic, so he wouldn’t have to toil as a seasonal farmhand all his life.

Sanchez studied diligently, earned good grades, and received a four-year full-ride scholarship to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy outside Colorado Springs. He entered the academy’s aeronautical engineering program.

“By then I had loftier goals of being an engineer instead of a mechanic,” remembers Sanchez, 70. “I was confident I could fly or design planes. It’s not that I was smarter than others; I

just worked harder, studying three hours every night, knowing God had a plan for me.”

He earned a bachelor’s degree in aeronautical engineering from the Air Force Academy, then a master’s in aerospace engineering from Georgia Tech. He served 24 years in the Air Force, rising to the rank of colonel, while leading numerous high-tech aerospace programs testing new aircraft and missile systems. He also taught four years at the academy: aircraft design and advanced concepts in automatic flight control systems, thermodynamics, flight mechanics, flight test techniques, and aircraft performance.

Along the way he served as program director for a \$294 million advanced technology demonstrator aircraft program that successfully tested and validated state-of-the-art technologies for future fighter aircraft.

After retiring from the Air Force in 1996, Sanchez became president of ORION International Technologies in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In 2004, he

## LOVING HER DISPLACED NEIGHBORS

BY RACHEL ELLIS

As a child of AG world missionary parents in Italy, Kari M. Hoggard’s neighborhood became the site of one of the greatest refugee migrations of the 20th century after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. She had no idea at the time refugee work would be a vocation.

Hoggard eventually became the resettlement director of a regional refugee resettlement center through the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants. She became comfortable beginning conversations on how to assist refugees and to integrate foreigners as part of a faith-based community.

After moving to Springfield, Missouri, Hoggard became research adviser at Convoy of Hope in 2017.

“What exists in Convoy is a desire, particularly in the core programming, in community health, women’s empowerment, and nutrition programming specifically, to engage vulnerable people, displaced people

around the world,” Hoggard says.

Hoggard is collaborating with AG National Women’s Ministries to develop curriculum useful for churches and women’s groups as a resource on how to minister to refugees and the foreign-born in transition.

“Displacement is not just a geography that they move from one place to another,” she says. “It’s a loss of community, and there’s a grief process from that loss; they left a physical place of home and safety that they identified as theirs. They are forced into this resettlement process where they have a new identity, a new community, and they have to call on resources to do that.”

Hoggard says Christians have an opportunity to learn in the transition with refugees and display trustworthiness.

“The Church is called to be above politics, above the polarity, and we can be in that space of reconciliation and do so with integrity,” she says.

### THE ABCs OF SALVATION

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

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

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



## CHAPLAINS DEFUSE SOLDIER STRESS

BY JOHN W. KENNEDY

The basis for a strong U.S. military is a well-equipped and well-trained force. But in recent years, the armed services also have come to understand the importance of soldiers possessing a sound mind.

AG chaplains Christopher W. Weinrich and Joshua J. Ziegler work at the Watters Family Life Center for Counseling and Resiliency at Fort Bragg in North Carolina. The center offers free confidential counseling, to individuals and couples, for service members, veterans, and dependents.

"The big issues are deployment stress, anxiety in relationships, and anxiety about personal goals," says Weinrich. "The image of what the Army was supposed to be doesn't always match their experiences."

Weinrich and Ziegler help soldiers find remedies in areas such as setting goals, communicating effectively, and establishing healthy boundaries.

"Young soldiers often get into bad

habits like alcohol abuse while trying to 'fit in' because they don't know alternative behaviors," Weinrich says.

Kelly Ginder is an ordained AG minister who is working on obtaining her marriage and family license through the Family Life Center. She simultaneously is counseling soldiers and their family members. In referrals by chaplains, she focuses on soldiers and family members with marriage and relationship challenges.

"By incorporating the Holy Spirit in counseling models it often leads to healing the complete person," says the extroverted Ginder.

Clients aren't necessarily Christian, but Ginder says she isn't restricted in sharing about the importance of making a commitment to the Lord.

"People know they are coming in for spiritual attention," Ginder says. "Clients can be atheist, pagan, nominal Christians, or dabbling with palm readers. I can show what isn't godly."

## A DREAM (CENTER) COMES TRUE

BY CHRIS COLVIN

Jody Dow was on track to earn a degree in personal relations when a trip to Nashville, Tennessee, her junior year, changed her trajectory. That's where she encountered a Dream Center for the first time.

"I felt like God was saying, 'This is exactly what you were made to do,'" Dow says.

After graduation, Dow joined the staff of North Point Church (AG) in Springfield, Missouri. This gave her an opportunity to lead community outreaches, but she knew God was calling her to something bigger — a Dream Center.

Another local church was relocating and decided to offer North Point its existing building. That facility is now the home of the Springfield Dream Center.

The Springfield Dream Center offers help and hope through classes to young moms and families, helping them with everything from high school equivalency exams to learning basics about financial stability.

On Wednesdays, the center hosts dinners for the neighborhood. Other outreaches include block parties, a food pantry and a clothing closet.

"Every day, I meet people who need love, but they also have dreams that are dying or dead," Dow says. "They want a future for their own children, but they also need to know their dream is still alive and well."

## CHURCH GROWS AS A MICRO CHURCH

BY AGTRUST

Ron and Allison Crum launched Cove Church in Panama City, Florida, in March 2018, utilizing a micro church model. Today, with the help of AGTrust, Cove Church averages 45 people during their weekly worship service with three micro churches gathering weekly in local homes and averaging about 10 participants.

After moving to the Cove neighborhood in 2005, the Crum family traveled outside of Cove to attend a Spirit-filled church. In 2011, Ron and Allison started High Calling Church in nearby Eastpoint, Florida, which also received AGTrust Matching Funds to help with startup expenses.

Over the last several years, God gave them a burden to plant a church in Cove as they felt the absence of a Pentecostal presence. "We felt it was now God's timing to plant in Cove," Ron Crum says.

The Crums have devoted themselves to discipling believers in the community. The Cove Church congregation has also been impacting the local neighborhood school by creating relationships.

"With our micro church model, we believe growth will happen, and we will be a multiplying church!" Ron Crum says. "We want this generation and future generations to experience the fullness of God's goodness close to home. Just as there are community schools, we believe in community churches."



## SPIRIT FIRST, THEN TECHNIQUE

BY DAN VAN VEEN

On May 14-18, dozens of worship leaders and band members from area colleges in Maputo, Mozambique gathered for a worship music conference hosted by AG missionaries Matt and Andrea Marlin. Leading the conference was Jeff Deyo, the former lead vocalist of the Grammy-nominated, Dove Award-winning group, Sonicflood, and the Jeff Deyo Band and now Worship Arts specialist on the North Central University (NCU) faculty in Minneapolis.

The Marlins have been working with students at about 30 colleges in Maputo over the last five years, using music as a ministry inroad. Although Deyo and the Marlins had never met, their ministry focus blended so well that when it was proposed that Deyo come teach on worship music ministry, it was quickly agreed upon.

"This was less traditional than most missions trips — such as building a church — but it was right down my alley," Deyo explains.

In the mornings, the conference

focused on spiritual growth, including engaging in spiritual warfare.

"Our goal was to help our conference attendees grasp the supernatural partnership they can have with God to destroy the enemy as they lift up the name of Jesus," Deyo says. "It's more than just singing, it's glorifying God with the understanding that we are pushing back the darkness with our praise."

"One of the greatest wins was that our students were given a framework and vehicle to carry what God was doing in their hearts and put it into worship," Matt Marlin says. "This will have a far-reaching impact as most of these students are worship leaders in many of the influential churches in Maputo."

Marlin says he loved how Deyo balanced the event. "What made him awesome was his marriage of technical ability steeped in a really strong desire to meet with God," Marlin reflects. "His personal intimacy with God really helped lead others to a deeper intimacy with God."

began working for Albuquerque-based Applied Research Associates, where he remains as director of corporate development and mergers and acquisitions.

While still a student at the Air Force Academy, Sanchez met his future wife, Judi. They have been married 48 years. During much of their marriage, Felix and Judi taught Sunday School, led home groups, and worked with youth. In 2002, the couple, who attend Abundant Life Church in Silverthorne, Colorado, began counseling married couples. For the past seven years, Felix and Judi have conducted marriage retreats in the five states of the Central District.

"I was the recipient of the blessings of my earthly father and my Heavenly

Father," Sanchez says. "Although God can use bad choices and curses for His glory, He doesn't necessarily want people to go through those things to have a testimony to demonstrate His power and love."

Dennis J. Rivera, director of the AG's Office of Hispanic Relations, says the couple often travel to minister in local congregations at their own expense.

"God has given Felix and Judi great skill in addressing the needs of marriages that are in trouble, or possibly stagnated, through their weekend seminars for couples," Rivera says. "They have been a great blessing to pastoral couples, conducting marriage retreats for pastors and leaders."

## CONCIERGE ANSWERS LONG ISLAND CALL

BY REBECCA BURTRAM

New Yorker Marlon A. Rodriguez planted Nueva Esperanza Centro de Adoracion on Long Island less than three years ago while working bivocationally. But Rodriguez has left his job in the corporate world to devote himself to full-time ministry.

As Rodriguez prepared to start the church, he worked as a concierge in a building in Manhattan. But when he launched the congregation, he decided to move to a job as an assistant teacher in Long Island in order to be part of the community where the church is located. During school hours he helped students, and he spent the rest of the day working to grow the church and disciple its members.

Rodriguez and his wife, Rosally, worked with a team of five others to find a site. Nueva Esperanza Centro de Adoracion grew slowly but steadily and Rodriguez started teaching leadership development based on materials from the Church Multiplication Network website.

On many occasions from midnight to 3 a.m., he studied for sermons and the credentialing courses in which he is enrolled through the Spanish Eastern District School of Ministry.

Two years after opening, the church outgrew its space and relocated. The board also created a salary package for the pastor.