

# PENTECOST:



## INTERNATIONAL REPORT

A Communications Service of the International Pentecostal Press Association

### IPPA honors former president Dr. Ronald Williams

**Williams continues in ministry, writing, for International Church of the Foursquare Gospel**

The Board of Directors for the International Pentecostal Press Association expressed its appreciation to Dr. Ronald Williams for 18 years of continuous service to the organization. The recognition was made at a breakfast hosted by the North American Chapter in Dallas, Texas.

IPPA President John Maempa presented Williams with a plaque saluting him for his “gracious spirit, positive attitude, sense of humor, principled leadership, and enormous contributions to the ministries of IPPA.”

Williams retired in 2002 as editor of the *Foursquare World ADVANCE* and director of communications for the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel (ICFG) based in Los Angeles. He accepted a position as Historian and Editorial Consultant — Foursquare Heritage — effective October 1, 2004.

Dr. Jack Hayford, newly-elected ICFG president, says few people in the movement are as uniquely qualified for the role of historian as Williams. “We believe his insight and writing ability will chronicle an objective record of

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— Dr. Jack Hayford

the events as they occurred, as well as provide positive spiritual lessons we as a church must learn. It will be an invaluable contribution to the movement,” he says. Williams is a published author, theologian, and teacher.

Ron and his wife, Carole, returned to the United States in

June 1985 following more than 16 years of missionary service in Hong Kong and Asia. That year, Ron accepted the appointment as editor of *ADVANCE* magazine. He served that office until November 2002. Under his leadership, the ICFG Office of Communications was formed, as was Foursquare Media, the Foursquare News Service, the Foursquare Web site, Foursquare Archives, and other services in the Los Angeles offices. (See one of his radio devotionals below.)

In 1988, Williams was appointed to the church’s Board of Directors, where he was a member until 2000 and a consultant until 2002. Since then he has served as special counsel to the office of the president, convention coordinator, and pastor of a Chinese-speaking congregation in South El Monte, California. He will continue to serve as an executive officer for the Pentecostal/Charismatic Churches of North America (PCCNA).

### A Fresh Start: “Clay Pots and Cardboard Boxes”

Where do you store your valuables? Probably not in the proverbial sock or under the bed. Most of us store those things which we value in safety deposit boxes or under lock

and key in a hidden place.

While we would not place valuables in a cardboard box or breakable pot, God does. Listen to the apostle Paul’s words in 1 Corinthians 4:7: “But we have

this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.” He is saying that God took His precious gospel and gave it to us.

please see Clay Pots next page

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Clay Pots continued from page 1

In the households of the Early Church, clay jars were common. Each one had a purpose. Some were large, like the waterpots at the marriage in Cana. Others were designed for filling smaller vessels. Still others were used for keeping parchments and other important documents. These jars were ordinary, very common and highly breakable. Some were decorative and more pleasing to the eye than others. Their importance was related to their function and the treasure they carried.

God has placed His treasure – the gospel of His Son – in people who are like clay jars. The excel-

lency is not in the vessels but in the gospel. It does not depend on our natural abilities, position or resources. The Master-Potter fashions His jars of clay upon His wheel, molding each one for the task and ministry He has designed.

First Corinthians 1:16 says, "God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen."

Most of us go through times when we feel inadequate to fulfill what we know is the will of

God. But then God says, "You are the one I have chosen." We again express our dependence on Him and lose our self-sufficiency. We recognize that the force of the gospel of Jesus Christ is through His authority, strength and wisdom.

By the way, there is another side to this. We may be only a cardboard box or breakable pot, but we ARE the pot and box which God has chosen! And His finger never points us to a task that His hand is not present to supply all that is needed to be successful in His will.

It is His hand upon us that provides the FRESH START each of us needs to serve Him.

## PAOC schedules 'Kingdom Conspiracy'

### Churches to celebrate foundational ministry of the Early Church

The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada has coordinated a nationwide focus among its churches on key events that set the Early Church on a mission to change its world. The series is designed to start on Easter Sunday, March 27, and end on Pentecost Sunday, May 15.

The series is entitled "Kingdom Conspiracy," with the theme chosen from Acts 1:3. Organizers chose the word "kingdom" because Jesus' post-resurrection teaching is all about the kingdom of God. The word "conspiracy" was chosen because of its specific meaning "to breathe together, agree; to act in har-

mony towards a common end" (Webster's Dictionary). The stated purpose is to see a fresh and genuine empowerment of

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Are people coming to Christ?'*

— David Hazzard

the Spirit in PAOC lives and churches.

Following His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His followers over a period of 40 days and spoke about the kingdom of God. Immediately after the ascension, 11 disciples were joined by more

than 100 additional believers who gathered for prayer in anticipation of the promise of the Holy Spirit. The "Kingdom Conspiracy" series will track the ministry of Jesus over the 40-day post-resurrection period and conclude with the additional 10-day period leading to Pentecost.

"If you are like me," states David Hazzard, assistant superintendent for Fellowship Services, "you have asked yourself how your church can be strengthened in the vital areas of discipleship, fruitfulness, missions and genuine Pentecost. We wonder if the people we serve are living out the Christian disciplines.

Are our ministries fruitful? Are there real Kingdom results? Are people coming to Christ? Are our churches missions-minded? Are we Pentecostal enough, or have we neglected the New Testament emphases that contributed to the vitality and growth of the Early Church and the entire Pentecostal movement?"

The Fellowship has developed a national campaign aimed

at assisting pastors in mobilizing their congregations in the areas of discipleship, fruitfulness, missions and Pentecost. Ministry tools including sermons, PowerPoints, a devotional booklet and various promotions are available to be used during a 50-day period starting on Easter Sunday and continuing until Pentecost Sunday.

"We have been in dialogue

with pastors, leaders and laypeople in the local church," Hazzard says, "who have identified and affirmed that the areas of discipleship, fruitfulness, missions and Pentecost are values that we must not only retain, but strengthen."

More information on this national thrust is available at the Fellowship's Web site at [www.paoc.org/kingdomconspiracy](http://www.paoc.org/kingdomconspiracy).

## Difficult days in Southeast Asia

### Church of God congregations reach out to tsunami victims

Tommy Smith, missionary to Indonesia, writes: "Today was a difficult day. It is 11 p.m. here in Medan. I got four hours' sleep last night, and the night before it was the same. Destruction is everywhere. Poppy and I saw at least 100 body bags lying on the streets waiting to be collected. The smell is awful. Our appetite for food has left us."

The loss of lives, homes, churches and businesses in the wake of the underwater earthquakes and tidal waves that hit Southeast Asia are almost beyond comprehension.

In Indonesia, at least 28 Church of God people perished. In Thailand, one church was destroyed. In India, our medical center at Cuddalore was completely washed away, killing the staff. At least 25 members have perished in India. In Sri Lanka at least 19 churches have been destroyed, 34 members have died, and more than 1,000 mem-

bers are missing. Several pastors have been killed.

Operation Compassion has sent 80 containers of supplies to Indonesia where the Bethel Church of God in Medan Plaza, with Pastor Bambang, is coordinating relief efforts. In cooperation with MAP

*Operation Compassion has sent 80 containers of supplies to Indonesia where the Bethel Church of God in Medan Plaza is coordinating relief efforts.*

International, medical supplies, food and tents have been sent to the most needy. Food, medicine, tents, mattresses, water, generators and cash have been rushed to our aid workers. Three aid stations have been set up in Aceh, Indonesia.

Hardest hit of our church constituency are Sri Lanka and India.

One of our Bible school students lost his entire family.

World Missions is involved in relief efforts to provide the basic necessities for survival. We are also partnering with several other relief agencies. The greatest need is for cash since food and shelter items are available within their country if they have funds. After basic survival needs are met, World Missions will concentrate on assisting our local people with rebuilding their homes and churches and in reaching the unreached people groups which have been opened to the gospel through this tragedy.

Church of God congregations are encouraged to contribute to "Tsunami Relief, Project #765-0034." All donated funds will go directly to the people in need.

— Douglas LeRoy is assistant director of Church of God World Missions in Cleveland, Tenn.

### **Foursquare teams minister to tsunami victims**

**I**CFG leadership reports that the response to the South Asia tsunami has been widespread and generous. Individuals and churches have given sacrificially to help those affected.

With the funds sent over thus far, on-site national leaders or missionaries have purchased fishing boats and nets to help people get their businesses started again. Many wells have been cleared of the salt water and purified.

Foursquare Sri Lanka has been working diligently to establish a community center that will act as the command post for the construction teams that are forming under the church's continuing relief efforts.

An ICFG medical team that was in Sri Lanka returned on Friday, February 18. One of the team leaders, Phil Starr, reported, "What a rewarding experience this team has had, and it was a wonderful team; God's grace abounded. What a powerful time for us to have been able to come in the love of Jesus and touch lives for His Kingdom's sake. I am very grateful that we could be allowed to have been there for this difficult time."

"The response to the tsu-

nami has been incredible," says Mike Larkin, director of Global Operations and Missions.

•As of February 8, Foursquare Missions had received \$985,561.85 to help the countries affected by the disaster.

•47 doctors, nurses and other medical personnel from 20 U.S. Foursquare churches served in Sri Lanka on the medical team.

•Team members carried 102 suitcases with more than \$1 million in medicine, as well as some 5,000 pairs of glasses.

•Construction teams are being planned for mid to late March.

— [www.foursquare.org](http://www.foursquare.org)

### **Arthur S. Winsor remembered by Newfoundland Assemblies**

**T**he Pentecostal Assemblies of Newfoundland dedicated their January-February 2005 issue of *Good Tidings* to the life and ministry of Pastor Arthur S. Winsor, who passed away on January 10 less than a month before his 100th birthday.

The life and ministry of Arthur Winsor were woven into the historical fabric of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Newfoundland and Labrador. He pioneered in Norte Dame Bay, establishing early roots for a number of assemblies, including Springdale, Grand

Falls-Windsor and Bishop's Falls. He attended the Fellowship's first Conference and all others but the most recent. In 1963 he and his wife, Palmer, became the Fellowship's first Chaplains for Institutions in St. John's, a position they held until their retirement in 1982. Arthur also served as Eastern District Superintendent from 1967-76.

### **IPHC evangelists reaching Nigeria**

**D**r Princewell and Juliana Ibe report that during 2004 they had crusades in affiliation with the International Pentecostal Holiness Church in three strategic regions in Nigeria. In Itigidi, Cross River State, the chief renounced his title and privileges and denounced all idol worship as he accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. His entire family came to the Lord as well as 47 other people. The chief has donated land for a church to be built. In Okposi, Ebonyi State, a young man known as Satan, gave his heart to the Lord along with 28 other people. In the third crusade in Enohia, a predominately Muslim area, 36 were saved and 6 miraculously healed. Preaching points have now been established in these three locations.

— [www.iphc.org](http://www.iphc.org)

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