



ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES



President connects with alumni and friends at General Council

Left to right: Byron D. Klaus, AGTS president; Del Tarr, former AGTS president; D.V. Hurst, friend of AGTS; Glynn Hall, former AGTS president



Terry and Alfred (M.A. 2005) Sanchez



Don Geraci (M.Div. 1992); Paul Martinez (D.Min. 2004), AGTS director of development



Lori O'Dea (D.Min. 2002), Barbara Cavaness (M.A. 1975), Ralph (D.Min. 2002) and Carol Adcock

Class of 1976

Lester Ridenour died in July. He served for many years as a veterans administration chaplain.

James Smith is the pastor at First Baptist Church in Derry, N.H.

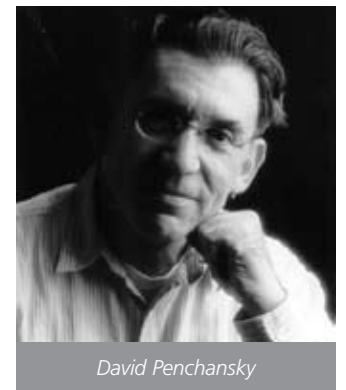
Class of 1979



Wayne (class of 1979 and 2002, left) Cagle is president of Asia Pacific Theological Seminary (APTS), Philippines. His wife, Judy (class of 2002), is D.Min. program coordinator at APTS. Paul Lewis (class of 1988, second from right) serves as the academic dean. Chris Carter (class of 2001, right) teaches New Testament, biblical languages and hermeneutics.

Class of 1981

Anthony Cervero received his doctor of ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary in June.



David Penchansky presented a paper at the International Society of Biblical Literature in Vienna, Austria, in July. His paper, "The Meaning of the Book of Job," is part of a larger project, an introduction to wisdom literature in the Bible, which David is writing.

Left to right: Byron D. Klaus, AGTS president; Joseph Castleberry, Northwest University president; Jim Comer (M.A. 1992), American Indian Bible College president; Kermit Bridges (M.A. 1988), Southwestern University president; Gary Denbow (D.Min. 2001), Central Bible College president



Class of 1987



Bernard Smith and Paul Parks (see Class of 1994)

Bernard Smith is a professor at West Africa Advanced School of Theology and a doctoral candidate at Pan-Africa Theological Seminary, Lome, Togo.

Class of 1989

Brian Frizzell is a licensed professional counselor and cofounder of Marriages by Design and the founder of Christian Counseling Services, Springfield, Mo.



Elie Koumbem

Elie Koumbem is associate pastor at Central AG, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, Africa, and the assistant superintendent of the Ouagadougou District. He also is an adjunct professor at West Africa Advanced School of Theology.

Class of 1990



Jean Bandé (left) with translator

Jean Bandé is vice president of West Africa Advanced School of Theology and director of the master's program. He is a Ph.D. candidate in Old Testament studies at Université Laval, Québec, Canada.



Darrin Rodgers (M.A. 1998); Richard Lafferty (M.A. 1988)



Anthony (M.Div. 2002) and Deanna Scoma



Greg Mundis (M.A. 1997); Tim Southerland (M.Div. 1987); Mark Hausfeld (M.Div. 1983); David Baca (M.Div. 1991)



My weakness—God’s strength

by Steve Kramer (M.A. 2002)

Missionary to the Netherlands

My life journey has been different than most. I was born over two months premature, with cerebral palsy. The doctors told my parents I would be lucky to live a normal life—if I lived at all. As a child, lying in hospital beds after surgery or enduring the ridicule of kids on the playground, I knew I was different. I never wondered, *Why me?* but I did question why I was not healed. Saved in an AG church, I had seen miraculous healings. Sometimes, awakened in the night by discomfort from my leg braces, I wondered why God didn’t heal me too.

Now my wife, Julie, and I are partnering with local Dutch churches to establish effective ministries to half a million university students in the Netherlands. God called me to the Netherlands at the age of 12. I remember wondering how a kid like me could fulfill this call.

(continued on next sidebar)

Class of 1991



Lane Stockeland

Chaplain (Major) Lane Stockeland is deputy command chaplain (Active Guard Reserve), U.S. Army, for the 84th Training Command (Leader Readiness) in Fort McCoy, Wis.

Class of 1992

Brent and Rosemarie Hanson welcomed Sienna Claire Amani in June.

Class of 1993

Doug Wever is the chief operating officer at the Alabama Teen Challenge and a D.Min. candidate at Reformed Theological Seminary.

Class of 1994

Trudy Ruehmann married Scott Jackson in November.

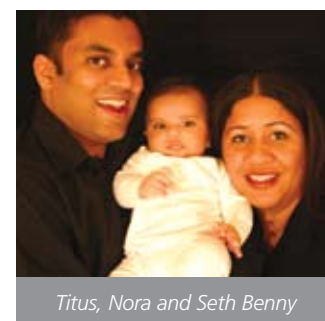
Scott Sherretz is an army chaplain stationed at Fort Knox, Ky. He completed his D.Min. at Oblate Theological Seminary in December 2006.

Paul Parks is an international educational representative with the Center for Muslim Ministries.

Class of 1995

Denis Cox, with his wife, Karen (Wuertz, class of 1990), is the command chaplain for Marine Air Group 12, based in Iwakuni, Japan.

Class of 1997



Titus, Nora and Seth Benny

Nora (Fernandez) and Titus (class of 2002) Benny welcomed Seth Luis in May. Nora is a school psychologist and consultant and is starting Integrity Training and Consultation Services, Houston, Texas.

(continued from previous sidebar)

Greg Mandigo pastors
Assembly of God Church,
Alma Center, Wis.



Jean-Baptiste Roamba

Jean-Baptiste Roamba
is the pastor of Central
Church, Ouagadougou,
Burkina Faso, Africa.

Class of 1999



Kaitlyn Elizabeth Houst

Brian and Amy Houst
welcomed their first child,
Kaitlyn Elizabeth in
January.

Class of 2000

Christopher Clark
celebrated the 25th
anniversary of the church
he pioneered, Chapel on
the Hill in Emlenton, Pa.,
in October.

Class of 2001



Michael and Pamela Berkowitz

Michael and Pamela
(Pryor) Berkowitz are
missionaries with Chi
Alpha at the University of
Wisconsin.

Bruce and Cora Jackman,
pastors in South Africa,
provided clean drinking
water for the local
population by digging a
well in a remote part of
Zimbabwe.

Often we are reluctant
to share our weakness
because we see it as just
that. We put on a smile
and pretend all is well.

The other day I battled
the cold and rain as I rode
my three-wheeler bike to
Dutch class at the univer-
sity. I was filled with won-
der and asked God, "How
can life be this good?"

You see, in class I sit next
to Torsten. He is almost
completely blind. On the
first day of class, he asked
me how I know for sure
that I am a Christian.
Because of my physical
weakness, he is able to see
Jesus more clearly in me.
Later my professor looked
at me with astonishment
when I got on my bike to
ride home. In almost every
class, she has a new ques-
tion about my faith.

I never fully understood
what Paul wrote in 1
Corinthians 1:27 until I
arrived in the Netherlands.
"God chose the foolish
things of the world to
shame the wise."

I wonder what would
happen if, instead of trum-
peting our successes, we
began to glory in the God
who is made strong in our
weakness.

God redirects student to urban church planting



by David Godbout (M.Div. student)

In 2006 I found myself feeling very comfortable in a staff position at a great church in Kansas City while working on my M.Div. at AGTS through the Continuing Education program. In the spring of that year, I took a one-week modular course on intercultural urban ministry with Mark Hausfeld on location in Chicago.

Somewhere between the required reading, the lectures and field explorations, God used that course to unsettle my heart, mind and spirit and to uproot me from all I had been finding security in. I am now on the path toward an urban church plant in inner-city St. Louis as a U.S. missionary. Thanks, AGTS, for "messing up my life!"

Visit www.agts.edu/rapport for more to this story.

Matt and Lucy Johnson, missionaries to East Africa, welcomed Madeline Joyce in February.



Kowalczyk family

Richard and Nancy Kowalczyk completed their second adoption from China in August 2007. They welcomed Jacob Alexander FuMin to the family.

Class of 2002

Eusebia Rios is serving as a chaplain in Iraq.

Class of 2003



Gwong Yih Thong

Moon (Chai) and Dennis Thong welcomed Gwong Yih Thong in July.

Katherine Sobey is pastor of First AG in Orangeburg, S.C.

Mark Wootton is vice president of college advancement at Central Bible College, Springfield, Mo.

Class of 2004

Shannon Buckner is director of student life and services at Continental Theological Seminary, Belgium.

Mark Forrester married Janine Armstrong in June 2006. He is the coordinator of connections at North Point Church in Springfield, Mo.



Chris McGough and family

Chris McGough is the associate director of residence life at Colorado Christian University, Lakewood, Colo.

AGTS trains Spirit-empowered counselors

by Tracey Swift (M.A. 2007)

Tracey and her husband, Chuck, own Swift's ISL, which provides residential services for people with physical and mental disabilities.



LeRoy Rodriguez is a resident hospital chaplain at St. Johns Hospital in Springfield, Mo.



Rob Storer

Rob Storer is a hospital chaplain in Springfield, Mo. Above, he prays with a woman in the hospital on a visit to Thailand in July.

Class of 2005

Abate Bitew is pursuing doctoral studies at Oral Roberts University.

Eric and Raylene Cochrane received AG endorsement as U.S. Navy chaplains in May.

Roseanne Candell is included in the 2006–2007 edition of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*.

Jerrold Ramirez is a U.S. Navy reserve chaplain and associate pastor at Christian Life AG, Lubbock, Texas.

Ray Reid is a resident hospital chaplain at St. Johns Hospital, Springfield, Mo.

Lillian and Stephen Sparks are pastors of Faith AG, Uniontown, Pa.



Jim Thacker

Jim Thacker serves as academic dean of Pan-Africa Theological Seminary, a doctoral-level ministry-training institution in Togo, West Africa

Nathan Watson is executive director of Toledo Youth for Christ, Toledo, Ohio.

When I started my M.A. in counseling at AGTS, I expected to learn about diagnosis, behavioral support, medications and counseling strategies, but I didn't expect that I would grow as a Christian, wife, mother and friend.

The counseling professors challenged and mentored me. They are people of great faith and integrity—sincere, in tune with the real world and yet without compromise.

Most importantly, they have taught me how essential it is to rely on the leading of the Holy Spirit as well as knowledge and skill in order to help hurting people.

Keeping you connected

Alumni E-Newsletter

Are you receiving the monthly Alumni E-News? If not, email us at alumni@agts.edu or call 417-268-1022.

Past issues are available online at www.agts.edu/alumni.

Send us your news

We want to hear from you! Email your latest news and photos for possible publication in *Rapport* and the Alumni E-Newsletter. Send your current mailing address, email address and phone number to alumni@agts.edu or to the AGTS Alumni Office, 1435 N. Glenstone, Springfield, MO 65802.

Visit the website

You can access the alumni directory, alumni news, special-event notices and exclusive alumni benefits at www.agts.edu/alumni.

Refer a student

Do you know someone who could benefit from a seminary education? Let us know using our online referral form at www.agts.edu/referral.

Class of 2006



James Courter and family

James Courter is an AG missionary to Haiti serving in the areas of healthcare evangelism, church and leadership development, and compassion ministries.



Students at AG Bible College in Tanzania

Ron Swai is principal of the AG Bible College, Dodoma, Tanzania, Africa.

Mark and Laura Wells are AG missionaries to Northern Asia.

Class of 2007

Debra Brown is a faculty member at Valley Forge Christian College, Phoenixville, Pa.



Elliana Grace Fairchild

Brent and Amanda Fairchild welcomed Elliana Grace in July.

Brian and Debbie Fulthorp welcomed their daughter Mercy in January 2007. They are copastors at the Grand Canyon AG Church, Grand Canyon, Ariz.

David Hewkin is an AG missionary to Croatia.

Dean Lewis is senior pastor of Branchview First Church of God in Concord, N.C.



Mark Schaeufele

Mark Schaeufele is lead pastor at New Life AG in Mt. Gilead, Ohio.