

Tributes

"We all knew Dr. McGee as a top notch Pentecostal historian and scholar of international fame. He impacted thousands of lives through his teaching, mentoring and writings. The contributions he has made to the global Pentecostal movement in general and the Assemblies of God in particular cannot be easily forgotten."

— A.C. George, Southern Asia Bible College, Bangalore, India

"With deepest sympathy, all Gary's friends in the Roman Catholic missiological community join you in prayer—in gratitude to GOD for his beautiful life and ministry and profoundly holy witness to our oneness in the Lord."

— Sr. Janet Carroll MM, Maryknoll Sisters

"I am so sorry to hear of Gary's passing. He was such a gift to the body of Christ, including to me. He was one of our most beloved teachers, and he made a great difference in our lives. That he finished his task and is with the Lord is a big comfort, but we will miss him."

— Craig Keener (M.A. 1985, M.Div. 1987),

Professor of New Testament, Palmer Theological Seminary, Wynnewood, Pa.

"I grieve with you today over the passing of not only a precious member of your personal family, but a giant among us in the world of the Spirit. His contributions to the Kingdom are beyond estimation and I know with you that his arrival 'home' was one of heavenly festivity. Please know you are in our prayers during this valley of the shadow. May God's presence comfort you."

— Dan and Darlene Betzer, Senior Pastor, First Assembly of God, Ft. Myers, Fla.

"I was a freshman at CBC in 1978. I was at the point of returning home and resigning God's calling because I couldn't handle the academic demand due to my ninth-grade English level. I had Dr. McGee for a couple of classes. I remember telling the Lord, 'This is it,' if I can't handle it, then it is because I'm not fit to be a minister. But he was such an encouragement and inspiration. He worked with me, not only so that I could understand the class but also helped me improve my English skills. I owe a lot to Dr. McGee."

— Dr. Saturnino Gonzalez: District Superintendent, South Eastern Spanish District

"I am across the oceans at an undisclosed sight serving along side some brave men and women in uniform. I am more than convinced my time at AGTS under the mentorship and spiritual covering of professors such as Dr. McGee profoundly prepared me for such a time as this. I will never forget the encouragement Dr. McGee gave me as I prepared for the Air Force Chaplaincy."

— Eusebia Rios (M.A. and M.Div. 2002) Ch, Capt, USAF, Deployed Location

Service of Honor *for* *Dr. Gary B. McGee*



1945-2008



ASSEMBLIES of GOD
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY

Dr. Gary B. McGee, AGTS distinguished professor of church history and Pentecostal studies, slipped from this life into the arms of his loving Savior shortly before noon December 10, 2008. McGee was hospitalized on November 13 with complications due to a bacterial infection and a weakened immune system from a long fight with cancer. McGee was released from the hospital December 9 and passed away at home with his family present.

Few Assemblies of God educators have attained the breadth of influence achieved by McGee. His extensive college and seminary teaching experience spanned five decades (1967-2008). He was a prolific author, and he helped to build bridges through his leadership in numerous professional and interchurch organizations. He taught at AGTS since 1984 and previously at Central Bible College (1970-1984) and Open Bible College (1967-1970).

McGee authored seven books and numerous articles in dictionaries, journals and magazines. He is probably best known for his two-volume history of Assemblies of God World Missions, *This Gospel Shall Be Preached* (GPH, 1986, 1989), for his biographical approach to Assemblies of God history, *People of the Spirit* (GPH, 2004), and for coediting the award-winning *Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements* (Zondervan, 1988). He completed his last book, *Miracles, Missions, and American Pentecostalism* (Orbis Books, forthcoming 2009), just weeks before his death.

McGee was one of the most highly-respected and loved educators in the Assemblies of God, as well as one of the most articulate voices concerning the history of Pentecostal missions. In the academic community, McGee was best known for his publications on the history of early Pentecostalism and missiology. His family and friends knew him as a man of sterling character, good humor, humility, spiritual sensitivity and personal warmth. According to fellow historian Grant Wacker, McGee "was always ready for a joke as well as a prayer." In March 2008, the Society for Pentecostal Studies conferred on him the Lifetime Achievement Award.

During the last ten years of his life he suffered from cancer and arthritis, but McGee did not complain. Instead, he joyfully focused on other peoples' needs and labored to complete the tasks he believed the Lord had given to him. In the past two weeks, McGee tied up loose ends, said goodbyes, and did not show despair, but faith in his great God. This has been a difficult, but beautiful, time.

McGee leaves behind a wife, Alice; two daughters, Angela Brim and Catherine McGee; and two grandchildren, Bailey and Marshall Brim, all of Springfield, Missouri. Other survivors include his mother, Velma L. Davis, two brothers and two sisters. McGee was a longtime member of Evangel Temple Christian Center.

By Darrin J. Rodgers (M.A. 1998)

Welcome and Prayer

Byron D. Klaus, President
DeWayne Adcock (M.A. 2007), Pianist
Hymn #91—O For A Thousand Tongues

Honoring our Colleague and Friend

Doug Oss (M.Div. 1980)
Dan Morrison (2008-2009 Student Advisory Council President)
Annette Newberry (M.A. 1996, M.Div. 2003, D.Min. 2007)
Michael Burnette (M.Div. 2008), Special Music
Joel Triska (M.Div. 2008)
Cheryl Taylor (M.A. 1991, D.Min. 2003)

A Continuing Legacy

Byron D. Klaus, President

A Time to Sing and Pray

Randy Walls (M.Div. 1997, D.Min. 2004)
Hymn #424—Hark the Heralds Angels Sing
Hymn #45—Great is Thy Faithfulness

Concluding Prayer

Melody Palm (M.A. 1996)

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to AGTS designated for the McGee Research Collection for Pentecostal Studies and Church History.

The historically-rich pulpit used during this service was originally located in Moorhead, Minnesota, at the Swedish Free Mission. The Mission's pastor, John Thompson, preached Pentecost as early as 1903, before the Azusa Street revival.