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THINGS PENTECOSTALS DON'T KNOW

— About The Relationship Between First-Century Pentecost & Modern Pentecost —

#pen-11 — Online NEWSpaper "PENTECOST" series. Each article builds on the aggregate foundation of all the previous ones.

Continued from #pen-10—

There is strong evidence to suggest that Parham's student, Agnes Ozman, had also known Maine cult leader, Frank Weston Sandford. She said that preacher A. B. Simpson and his associate, Steven Merritt, were her two favorite spiritual teachers. We think her claim...well, *empty*. Why? Mr. Simpson was a major critic of all the hyperspiritual goings-on that observers justly associated with that early period of modern pentecost, U.S.A.

the witnesses of that event could speak or understand any foreign language, we think it had just "sounded" like either German or Chinese or Corinthian-styled gibberish to them.

Whatever the truth about that, preacher Parham promptly embarked on a six-month tour of the Midwest and Southwest to market his *xenoglossolia* doctrine. He preached that xenoglossolia was soon to become widespread and the primary tool for world evangelism: "Just go to any country and open your mouth. God will take over from there."

Many of his hearers got really excited about that, as you might imagine. Still, there was no discernable *beginning of a Modern Pentecostal Movement*. The xenoglossolia revival fizzled almost as quickly as it had started. The Topeka school for missionaries closed its doors, too, in the Spring of 1901.

Enter William Seymour.. .

school for missionaries. There, she had learned about Parham's xenoglossolia theory. For the reason that you will understand below, it is unlikely that she had ever observed the phenomenon or spoken in *tongues*, herself.

Seymour enrolled as a student in a 6-week Bible school that preacher Parham agreed to bring to Houston in 1905, at the behest of his former governess. Parham insisted that Seymour sit in the hallway, though...his race, you know?

Seymour went on to found the **Azusa Street Mission** in a poverty-stricken Los Angeles neighborhood. It was 1906.

Excited about his early success, Seymour invited Mr. Parham to visit his meeting. Parham came, and immediately wanted to take charge of it.

You can imagine, with us, what his motives might've been. Miffed when he didn't get his way, Parham left and started another pentecostal mission nearby. It quickly fizzled.

Soon after that, Parham was arrested and charged with sexual molestation of several young boys. The charges against him were dropped, though: Some claim that the boys refused to testify.

Charles Fox Parham was the enemy of Seymour and the Azusa Street Mission. His monthly newsletter labeled it "a darkie camp meeting."

Parham, the much lauded co-founder of the Assemblies of God, through which my late father was ordained, was a KKK member. (His surviving family members denied it.)

Seymour quickly became disillusioned with white *tongue*-talkers. All the white folk left. The Azusa Street mission and its fiery revival slowed to a nearly all-black simmer and then faded into complete oblivion.

His questioning may have gone something like this: "How can, and why would the Holy Ghost speak through people who hate other Christians? He doubted the validity of their "Pentecostal experiences."

Seems to us his doubting was fully justified. We cannot help but wonder, though, if he ever studied to learn what the Bible specifically says about tongues.

You may wonder, too, if he ever read those strong warnings at 1 Timothy 4:1 and 1 John 4:1 about the seducing spirits that yield the same "warm fuzzies" that most evangelical Christians associate with The Holy Spirit.

There were open displays of Occult activity—hypnotic trances, fleshly contortions and Spiritualistic manifestations. Some even tried to conduct séances. Occult spirits are real.

(Continued in next editorial...)



Miss Agnes Ozman
(1870–1937)

Most writers say that on January 1, 1901, Parham's student, Agnes Ozman, became the first U.S. resident ever documented to have spoken, supernaturally, in a known tongue.

Some say that language was perfect German. At least one report insists that it was not German, but Chinese—that she spoke only in Chinese for three days and that she could only write using Chinese characters. Others are certain that Miss Ozman's tongue was *unknown*.

Preacher Parham was quite certain that it was German. How might he have arrived at that conclusion? Because we have yet to find evidence that any of



William J. Seymour
(1870–1922)

The female pastor of a holiness church at Houston, Texas, introduced preacher Seymour to the subject of *tongues*. She had previously served as a "governess" at Parham's school

