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News



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Online Newspaper

THINGS PENTECOSTALS DON'T KNOW

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

#pen-10 — Online NEWSpaper "PENTECOST" series. Each article builds on the aggregate foundation of all the previous ones.

Continued from #pen-9—

The première ambassador of revived Corinthian pentecost in the U.S.A. was, in fact, the "colorful" seafaring preacher, Frank Weston Sandford. Born in Bowdoinham, Maine, his *The Holy Ghost and Us Bible School* at Durham, Maine, was like a hyperspiritual magnet to a literal parade of ambitious folk. They learned what they could and many of them went on to find their own fame and fortunes.

An autocrat who demanded unquestioning loyalty, Sandford insisted that commune members pray (on their knees) for hours on end, fast regularly and live "by faith," instead of seeking gainful employment.

Malnourishment became a serious problem. Sandford was convicted of manslaughter and cruelty to children in 1904, after 14-year-old Leander Bartlett had died from it. Maine's Supreme Court reversed his convictions in 1905.

After that ruling, he sailed to Jerusalem several times. In 1910, he traveled to Africa on the *Kingdom* with more than 70 men, women, and children. In March, 1911, the *Kingdom* went aground and was destroyed off the coast of French West Africa.

He acquired another vessel soon after that and sailed in it to Greenland, to establish a mission station. Six members of his crew contracted scurvy and

died. Authorities arrested him upon his docking at Portland, Maine. He was convicted and sentenced to seven years in the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary. Why? He had knowingly sailed without enough food or supplies. He got out early on "good behavior," though.

Among the dignified folk who have, from time-to-time, been called the U.S. pioneer of Pentecost but got what they knew about it directly from Sandford was Mr. Charles Fox Parham.



Charles Fox Parham
(1873–1929)

He first heard *tongue-talking* when some of Mr. Sandford's students emerged from Shiloh's Prayer Towers during his visit there in the summer of 1900.

After studying for at least six weeks at Shiloh, he and Mr. Sanford went on a evangelism tour of Canada. Shortly after that, he fashioned his Topeka, Kansas school for missionaries after "The Holy Ghost and Us Bible School."

Both Parham and Sandford are on record as having insisted that all Holy-Ghost-inspired tongues are known languages. That is certainly in agreement with scripture, but they were

both in the habit of identifying the *tongues* they heard by the way they "sounded," too.

On page 453 of her book, *Fair Clear and Terrible*, Shirley Nelson wrote that six months before Parham arrived at Shiloh to study, Sandford had said it to a local newspaper reporter, who published it.

We haven't learned when but, eventually (maybe decades later), some sensible person ascribed the "how hyperspiritual gibberish *sounds*" rationale to irrational, wishful thinking. Might we reasonably presume that to have been the insightful A. B. Simpson?

Whoever first applied the term, *glossolalia*, to what they were hearing was a marketing genius! It has certainly proven its staying power.

Much of what is written about Mr. Parham suggests that he had never even heard about any modern-day pentecostal phenomena. Yes; we are aware that the fully-vetted factual contradictions of that won't sit well with the *religiously correct* crowd.

Parham taught his missionary students that there should be no need for them to study the foreign languages of the regions where they were to minister. He insisted that, according to the Bible, those foreign languages should spring forth automatically, for efficient and effective

communication of the Gospel message to any group of foreign-language natives. They believed him.

Their believing followed by their embarrassing failure in those lands beyond the sea, left many of them financially destitute and fully disenchanted.

The heartbreaking news of it reached A. B. Simpson. It made him extremely angry. He wrote extensively about the evil cruelty of it...the *nerve* of a person who masquerades as an agent of God who'd toy with the sincere trust of his followers!

Later, Parham co-founded the Assemblies of God. That organization claims not to be a denomination. Officially, its name is the World Assemblies of God Fellowship—a group of over 140 autonomous but loosely-associated national church groupings. Together, they are, in effect, the largest pentecostal *denomination* on the planet.

> Note: The largest pentecostal denomination on Earth is The Church of God...the one with headquarters at Cleveland, TN. Its primary founder and first General Overseer is known to have been connected with Frank Sandford, Shiloh, "The Kingdom" and "The Holy Ghost and Us Bible College." (more on that in an upcoming editorial)

But there's a lot more!

(Continued in next editorial...)

