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THINGS PENTECOSTALS DON'T KNOW

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

#pen-12 — Online NEWSpaper "PENTECOST" series. Each article builds on the aggregate foundation of all the previous ones.

Continued from #pen-11—

Seymour seldom preached at Azusa Street. When he did, he typically read just one or two words at a time from a really small Bible. Then he would walk the room, challenging unbelievers face to face and shouting to those kneeling at the altars to "Let the tongues come forth!" and sometimes "Be empathetic!"

The Azusa Street revival attracted an amazing gaggle of gregarious opportunistic charlatans—magicians, Occult practitioners spiritualists and, Oh! lots and lots of preachers!

The preachers may have been looking for something new and exciting that they might use to attract followers and their dollars. Reasoning that "This stuff is extremely marketable!" most of them jumped at the chance to start their own pentecostal churches.

Most of those churches failed, but least two of them had staying power. The African-American Church of God In Christ and the mostly-white Assemblies of God are said to be the *legitimate* groups whose founders had abandoned the Azusa Street Mission.

But there must have been a few preachers who visited the Azusa Street revival who were naïve, but sincere seekers of Truth. Just one man prompts us to draw that conclusion...



Gaston B. Cashwell
(1860–1916)

Cashwell played a major role in the bringing of several Holiness movements into the modern pentecostal camp.

A Methodist Episcopal Church minister at first, he joined the Holiness Church of North Carolina in 1903. In November, 1906, he traveled to Los Angeles to visit the Azusa Street revival. About a month later, he had an experience that he thought was baptism in The Holy Ghost—with *tongues*.

On December 31, 1906, he preached about it in the Holiness Church at Dunn, North Carolina. Interest was great. He rented a local tobacco warehouse and began a month-long crusade. A revival broke out.

Most of the ministers of the Pentecostal Holiness Church, the Fire-Baptized Holiness Church and the Holiness Free Will Baptist Churches were swept into pentecostalism by that revival.

Over the next six months, he toured the south preaching. His zeal and influence in spreading pentecostalism earned him the title, "Apostle of Pentecost to the South."

On January 12, 1908, A. J. Tomlinson, co-founder and

first general overseer of The Church of God at Cleveland, Tennessee fell to the floor after hearing a sermon by Cashwell. He claimed to have spoken in at least ten (10) foreign tongues. How might he have determined that? How many multilingual folk do *you* think there were in 1908 East Tennessee to hear it?

And Then He Jumped Ship!

After such a strong impact, Gaston Cashwell vanished from the pentecostal scene to rejoin the Methodist church in 1909. That was but three short years after he started!

He distanced himself from everything that even resembled pentecost. We think we know why, but that's conjecture: We will leave it to your personal pondering...



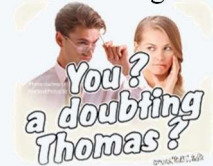
Ambrose Jessup Tomlinson
(1865–1943)

A Quaker and colporteur^ for the American Bible Society, Mr. Tomlinson was yet another well known denominational leader who had connections with Frank Sandford's *Shiloh* church, *The Kingdom* and *The Holy Ghost and Us Bible School* at Durham, Maine.

^peddler of religious books

Mr. Tomlinson was the co-founder and first general overseer of the Church of God at Cleveland, TN. Because the Assemblies of God claims it is *not* a denomination, the Church of God is the world's largest pentecostal denomination.

You a doubting Thomas? Have you ever been accused of it? Have you ever heard or observed something in church that didn't sound or feel quite right? Have you kept those thoughts and feelings to yourself? Have you also felt guilty about entertaining such thoughts and feelings?



If you have, then we have something in common. That something may well be our mutual key to learning what's true and what's new! God's Written Word is Original Truth. That, alone, matters. It is not sensibly debatable.

For decades before my 2006 retirement from my second rewarding secular career, I was also an adult Bible teacher. By the measure that is currently acceptable within familiar Christian circles I was a very successful Bible teacher—large Sunday AM sanctuary classes.

(Continued in next editorial...)

