

100

**MOMENTS THAT INSPIRE US TO
GREATER THINGS**

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

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Lillian Trasher 1887–1961

MISSIONARY TO ASSIUT, EGYPT

“ I’d rather do this work than anything else in all the world—taking care of the babies of Egypt.”

Lillian boarded a ship to Egypt in 1910 despite her family’s protest. Today the Lillian Trasher Memorial Orphanage has been home to more than 25,000 children.

Long before she became known as “Mamma Lillian,” Lillian Trasher was a shy, nine-year-old child who knelt beside a fallen log in the forest and declared: “Lord, I want to be your little girl.” At age sixteen she agreed to work with Miss Marker at the Faith Orphanage in Atlanta and started to learn what a life of faith was all about. At the age of twenty-two, two things happened. She felt a call to Egypt as a missionary, and she fell in love with a young pastor, Tom Jordan. They were deeply in love, but ten days before her June wedding, after a tearful night in prayer, she made her decision: “I cannot marry Tom. God has called me to be a foreign missionary, and I can’t refuse God.”

Lillian arrived in Assiut, Egypt in 1910 and immediately began to gather orphans around her. Her love for these children gave her great faith—faith to fill empty cupboards with food and faith for the resources to build a complex large enough for both orphans and widows. The facility gained the attention of the Egyptian government and donors around the world. A Muslim official once said, “I believe that when she dies, in spite of the fact she is a woman and a Christian, God will take her directly to paradise.” The facility was later renamed Lillian Trasher Memorial Orphanage.



Azusa Street Revival 1906

312 AZUSA STREET / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

In summer 1906, revival erupted at the Apostolic Faith Mission in Los Angeles. Known as the Azusa Street Revival, it attracted thousands of curiosity seekers and pilgrims from around the world. The Assemblies of God movement traces its heritage in part back to this revival, which became a focal point of the emerging Pentecostal movement.

“The Holy Spirit fell upon me and filled me literally. I seemed to be lifted up, for I was in the air in an instant, shouting, ‘Praise God,’ and instantly I began to speak in another language. I could not have been more surprised if at the same moment someone had handed me a million dollars.” —ANSEL POST

The run-down mission at 312 Azusa Street was an unlikely location for an event that changed the face of Christianity. The newly formed congregation soon became a local sensation. Critics attacked the congregation as its mild-mannered, black Holiness preacher, William J. Seymour, preached racial reconciliation and the restoration of biblical spiritual gifts.

Criticism aside, remarkable testimonies came from the Azusa Street Revival, including the one of Gaston B. Cashwell. Baptized in the Holy Spirit, he returned to the Southeast and influenced holiness preachers, churches, and entire denominations to become Pentecostal. Mack M. Pinson was one of many preachers who were Spirit-baptized under Cashwell's ministry. Pinson became a fiery evangelist throughout the South. He founded a Pentecostal newspaper, *Word and Witness*, and was one of the five men who signed the call to Hot Springs for the organizational meeting of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

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Roberto Fierro

1916–1985

EVANGELIST

“ The power of the Spirit was upon our [pioneers]. . . . They feared nothing. They had implicit faith in God and just asked for enough light to take the next step. Nothing stopped them. Buildings? A brush arbor was good enough. They had tribulations, persecution, famine, peril, but they were more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”

Roberto was considered one of the twentieth century’s most important bilingual and bicultural Latino Pentecostal evangelists.

An elderly woman went door-to-door handing out copies of the Gospel of John in Spanish. A copy was placed in the hands of fifteen-year-old Roberto Fierro. Roberto had been baptized in the Roman Catholic Church, but the church was not part of his life. He had never read the Bible but was so entranced with the stories of Jesus, he couldn't put the little booklet down. He took the address of the church from the book's cover and attended the next Sunday. He watched in rapt attention as the people prayed for the sick. Not much later, his mother became ill, and Roberto insisted that he take her to the church. That night she was both healed and saved. Soon Roberto surrendered his life to Christ; one year later he enrolled in Bible college and became an evangelist.

The name of the elderly woman passing out copies of the Gospel remains unknown, but her faithfulness to the task led to one of the most important bilingual and bicultural Latino Pentecostal evangelists of the twentieth century. Roberto preached fluently in both Spanish and English. He preached throughout the United States and in Spanish-speaking countries and eventually expanded his personal appearances by means of publications and the Spanish language radio program, "The Cross of Calvary."

This book is available in electronic versions and in Spanish.

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“ We have placed in your hand the torch of faith in God and in the Bible. Hold it high and never let it flicker in your grasp.”

—RALPH RIGGS, PASTOR & GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT (1895-1971)

100: Moments That Inspire Us to Greater Things is a selective peek at the history of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. These 100 stories represent the fellowship in its diversity, dedication, and commitment. Brief glimpses into the lives of men and women, missionaries, evangelists, and pastors display the incredible range of gifts that God gives to each individual. Marking the founding moments of the Assemblies of God movement, this amazing collection of historical highlights will inspire the church today to greater things.

As The General Council of the Assemblies of God marks its centennial, these amazing stories reflect the shaping events of the fellowship. This reflection on what God has done in the last 100 years sets an incredible benchmark for the next 100.

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