

Milestones in the Movement

Celebrating 35 years of Charisma 1975-2010



A look back at some of the most significant stories in Charisma's 35 years of covering the charismatic movement

The charismatic movement started long before the first pages of *Charisma* were ever printed in 1975. Though this magazine has since become the touchstone publication for Spirit-filled believers, the renewed emphasis within the American church on the Holy Spirit's power began decades earlier. The wave started in 1906 with the Azusa Street Revival, continued throughout the first half of the 20th century and expanded beyond non-Pentecostal groups with Episcopal priest Dennis Bennett's announcement on Passion Sunday in 1960 that he'd received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Fifteen years later, at the height of this newfound movement that was now impacting every denomination and part of the body of Christ, an *Orlando Sentinel* reporter named Steve Strang formed *Charisma* as a newsletter for his local church, Calvary Assembly of God.

That was 35 years ago this month. Since then, Spirit-filled believers have joined us for a wild ride through countless highs and lows, triumphs and tragedies, highlights and scandals. For our loyal readers who have been with us through many of those years, here's a walk down Memory Lane. And for those newer to the charismatic experience, consider this a crash course on some of the most influential, memorable and significant stories we've covered in the past 35 years. What a ride it's been!



1975

Charisma's premiere issue debuts in August



1976

Healing evangelist Kathryn Kuhlman dies



1977

Pat Robertson founds CBN University in Virginia Beach, Va., which later becomes Regent University



1979

Paul Yonggi Cho's Yoido Full Gospel Church in Seoul reaches an

unprecedented 100,000 members and draws international attention to growth of Christianity in South Korea

1980



The Washington for Jesus prayer rally, organized by charismatic pastor John Gimenez, draws an estimated 700,000 Christians to the nation's capital in April and places evangelicals on the political map as a substantial voting bloc



1981

Despite ongoing financial struggles, Oral Roberts opens the City of Faith medical complex in Tulsa, Okla.

1982



Rising Southern Baptist televangelist James Robison experiences a radical deliverance from demonic oppression and includes public healing and deliverance ministry in his services



John Wimber joins the Vineyard movement and, as its leader,

forms of the Association of Vineyard Churches

1983 Though hosted by Billy Graham, the International Conference for Itinerant Evangelists (aka Amsterdam 83) takes on a decidedly charismatic flair as more than a third of the 4,000 ministers present are Pentecostal

Amid heightened persecution of Christians behind the Iron Curtain, seven Soviet Pentecostals, known as the “Siberian Seven,” are released after five years of living in the sanctuary of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow

1985



Integrity's Hosanna! Music releases its first recording of praise and worship music, starting a multimillion-dollar industry that transforms worship worldwide

The “Happy Hunters,” Charles and Frances Hunter, heal and train thousands as part of their “Healing Explosion” conferences

1986

Pat Robertson says he'll run for president if within the year 3 million people sign a petition asking him to seek the

office. The next year, he announces his candidacy after receiving more than 3.3 million signatures.

1987

After costs for Oral Roberts' City of Faith hospital spiral out of control, the televangelist tells supporters that unless \$8 million is raised, God might "take me home"



The multilayered PTL scandal breaks: Jim Bakker resigns as president after confessing a 1980 sexual encounter with church secretary Jessica Hahn (and an attempt to pay her hush money), and the Charlotte Observer uncovers the ministry's mismanagement of millions of dollars from donors. Within months, PTL declares bankruptcy and is sued by the IRS for \$56 million in back taxes. (In 1989, Bakker goes to prison.)



1988

Televangelist Jimmy Swaggart confesses to his worldwide TV audience unspecified sins and later resigns his Assemblies of God credentials after refusing to accept rehabilitative discipline

1990

Nigeria sees massive church growth, highlighted by mega-congregations such the 345,000-member Deeper Life Bible Church movement

The fall of the Iron Curtain opens the door for evangelism throughout the Soviet Union

1991

ABC's PrimeTime Live accuses health-and-wealth  televangelist Robert Tilton of stealing donor funds. Within two years his dwindling ministry cancels its flagship show, Success-N-Life.

Pentecostal revival sweeps through Latin America, reshaping Roman Catholic countries such as Brazil, Guatemala and El Salvador into evangelical hot spots

1992

Revival in Argentina, which began in the 1980s under evangelists such as Carlos Annacondia, Héctor Giménez, Omar Cabrera and Claudio Freidzon, expands into reported 13,000 all-night prayer meetings held regularly throughout the country

1993



Rodney Howard-Browne's "laughing revival" in Lakeland, Fla., sparks both controversy and a renewed interest in the Holy Spirit



1994

Revival fires spread throughout China's underground church, which some estimate to have grown to 100 million almost overnight

The Toronto Blessing movement begins, drawing hundreds of thousands (particularly burned-out pastors) from around the world to the Toronto Airport Vineyard Christian Fellowship for spiritual refreshing

A flood of revival fervor engulfs churches throughout the U.K., beginning with London's Holy Trinity Brompton

1995



A Father's Day message by evangelist Steve Hill sparks a multiyear revival at Brownsville Assembly of God in Pensacola, Fla.

A Promise Keepers rally in Boulder, Colo., draws 50,000 and continues a movement that calls men back to integrity, purity and servant leadership



1996

Revival erupts in tiny Smithton, Mo., drawing people worldwide to what later is called the Smithton Outpouring

T.D. Jakes moves his ministry from Charleston, W. Va., to Dallas and launches The Potter's House

1997



March for Jesus, which started in 1987 as a simple praise march in London, grows into a phenomenon that involves 75 nations and millions of believers each year

Promise Keepers' Stand in the Gap rally in Washington, D.C., draws more than 1 million men to repent for their sins and the sins of America

1998



Joyce Meyer rapidly expands her outreach beyond conferences and local TV into a worldwide ministry



Crenshaw Christian Center pastor Fred Price uses a series of his TV shows to trigger public debate over racism in the church



1999

Joel Osteen takes the pastorate of his late father, John, at Lakewood Church in Houston. Already a megachurch, Lakewood quickly becomes the nation's largest congregation with more than 43,000 members.

2000

More than 30,000 college students from around the country gather in Memphis, Tenn., for worship and prayer event *OneDay*

TheCall, organized by pastors Lou Engle and Ché Ahn, begins a prayer movement that specifically impacts a younger generation of Spirit-filled believers

An unprecedented 6 million Nigerians attend a six-day Reinhard Bonnke crusade in Lagos, where the evangelist had been barred from preaching since 1990

2001

The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 spark massive prayer gatherings nationwide and turn much of the church's attention toward Islam

2002



As waves of revival sweep through Nigeria, many of the country's charismatic pastors begin to impact Africa and beyond through their church-planting networks

2003

With Hispanics now the largest minority group (and fastest-growing ethnic group) in the U.S., Hispanic churches—particularly Pentecostal congregations—explode in a surge that continues throughout the decade

Within months of one another, pioneering charismatic leaders Bill Bright, Kenneth Hagin Sr. and Derek Prince die

2005

Paul Cain confesses to “immoral behavior” after the longtime prophet is disfellowshipped by charismatic leaders Rick Joyner, Mike Bickle and Jack Deere, who say he won’t submit to a restoration process



2006

Ted Haggard steps down as president of the National Association of Evangelicals and is dismissed as senior pastor of New Life Church in Colorado Springs, Colo., after he admits to sexual immorality and purchasing drugs

Pentecostals worldwide celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Azusa Street Revival



2007

After decades of sexual scandal involving separate lawsuits filed by women at the Cathedral at Chapel Hill in Decatur, Ga., DNA testing proves that Earl Paulk lied about past infidelity and is the father of his nephew, D.E. Paulk

Iowa Sen. Charles Grassley of the U.S. Senate Finance

Committee investigates an alleged misuse of donor funds involving the ministries of Benny Hinn, Joyce Meyer, Kenneth Copeland, Creflo Dollar, Bishop Eddie Long, and Randy and Paula White

Within weeks of each other, high-profile ministry couples Randy and Paula White and Juanita Bynum and Thomas Weeks III announce their divorces

2008



The highly criticized Lakeland Outpouring draws thousands to Lakeland, Fla. Six months after Todd Bentley begins leading the daily healing services, the Canadian revivalist leaves amid controversy involving his divorce and remarrying a ministry staffer.

2009

Oral Roberts, arguably the most influential leader on modern-day Pentecostalism, dies

The Mike Bickle-led International House of Prayer in Kansas City, Mo., celebrates 10 years of nonstop prayer and worship

2010



Freda Lindsay, co-founder of influential charismatic Bible school Christ for the Nations in Dallas, dies

The charismatic renewal movement marks the 50th anniversary since Episcopal priest Dennis Bennett's announcement that he'd experienced a "personal Pentecost" sparked a renewed interest nationwide in the baptism of the Holy Spirit