

Celebrating 100 years of Pentecost

Continued from page 5B

Those concerns reached a fever pitch on April 18 — just five weeks after Seymour's arrival — when San Francisco was rocked by a massive earthquake. Many saw the quake as a sign of the apocalypse.

The same day as the disaster, a major Los Angeles newspaper published a front-page story about Seymour's strange prayer meetings — all-night services so rowdy that two policemen were posted full time at the church to keep order. The story bore the headline "Weird Babel of Tongues: New Sect of Fanatics is Breaking Loose."

Soon, all eight major newspapers were covering the revival, as were religious newspapers called "holiness circulars" that were passed among evangelical churches nationwide. Word spread across the nation — and then the world — about the massive revival under way in Los Angeles.

One of the revival's most notable characteristics, experts say, was that blacks and whites worshipped under the same roof and shared pastoral duties.

"At its height, it drew people from all classes, wealthy and poor, Hispanics, blacks, Jews — you name it, everybody came," said Synan. "Whole churches collapsed and joined it. There was a force there, it was almost supernatural. People said they could feel it in the air from about three blocks away."

Within eight months, nearly 20 missionaries from the revival struck out for Africa, India and China to start Pentecostal churches, said Cecil M. Robeck Jr., professor of church history and ecumenics at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena.

Revival attendees also established Pentecostal churches across the South and the Midwest, including the Pentecostal Holiness

Church, the Church of God in Cleveland, Tennessee, and the Church of God in Christ in Memphis.

Pentecostalism's influence can also be felt in other evangelical churches, particularly in the music and worship style of megachurches, Synan said.

"I can go into almost any Baptist and Methodist church and feel like I'm in a Pentecostal church," he said.

"They sing the same songs, the same choruses, they lift their hands."

Today's Pentecostals are less likely to speak in tongues, however, perhaps in part because the practice caused them to be shunned by some mainline denominations. Experts estimate that only 40 percent of Pentecostals speak in tongues today, and even fewer do so overseas, where the move-

ment is growing the fastest, Robeck said.

"That's a real pastoral issue these days," he said. "We still do argue that every Pentecostal should have that ability but a lot of folk are not following through with it."

Those attending the centennial celebration, including a who's who of Pentecostal preachers, hope to address those concerns and plan their ministry for the next 100 years.

"Pentecostals are no longer as much on the wrong side of the tracks and are again in the mainstream of evangelical life in America," Wilson said. "We want to evaluate what has happened. Have we gone the right direction with what God originally did?"

On the Net:
Azusa Street Centennial:
<http://www.azusastreet100.net/history.htm>

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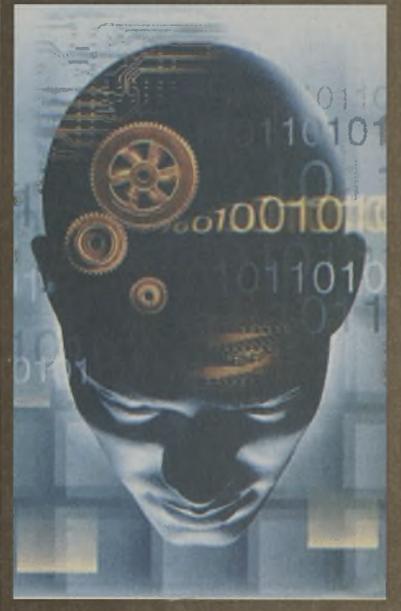
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OBITUARIES

Elizabeth Ross Dargan

Retired educator and community activist, Elizabeth Ross Dargan peacefully traveled on to her final resting place Sunday, April 3, 2006. Full of life and energy, Dargan believed that to get out of bed a t day break, go for a two-mile or more walk, attend one to four meetings several times a week, attend computer training classes and share her experiences with others best described her involvement in the community. Dargan was a registered North Carolina cosmetologist, and after practicing for eight years, she got an opportunity to attend Fayetteville State Teacher College and graduated with honors. To advance in the field of education, she attended graduate school at New York University and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill where she earned a masters degree in elementary education, counseling and school administration. After 35 years as a classroom teacher, guidance counselor and school administrator for Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools, Dargan retired June 30, 1990. To nurture her faith, Dargan worshipped and witnessed at Mount Carmel Baptist Church, where she was active as a member of the Board of Trustees, and was church treasurer. Concerned for the community, she was actively involved in various organizations. She

sat on the board of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Health Services Foundation, Carolina Medical Center, Education Advancement Foundation, YWCA Board of Directors, and the Charlotte Symphony Board of Directors Education Committee. In addition, she was vice chair of the National Conference of Community and Justice, and School Workers Federal Credit Union, and former board member United Way of Central Carolinas.

Elizabeth Dargan's work did not go unnoticed. In 2004, the Urban League of Central Carolinas presented her with the Legacy Award at their annual Whitney M. Young Jr. dinner. The Legacy Award recognized lifetime commitment to equal opportunity and to advancing the ideals of economic self-sufficiency and racial inclusion in the Charlotte community.

Working until the end, Dargan was convening dedicated ladies volunteering their time for the annual United Negro College Fund's Maya Angelou Women Who Lead Luncheon scheduled for June.

Her late husband, Percy J. Dargan, preceded Elizabeth in death; she has one daughter and two grandsons.



Dargan

'Da Vinci Code' poster removed from Rome church

Continued from page 5B

The story contends that Jesus married Mary Magdalene and had descendants, and that Opus Dei, a conservative religious organization close to the Vatican, and the Catholic Church were at the center of covering it up.

"It advertises something that is against Christ and against the church," St. Pantaleo's rector, the Rev. Adolfo Garcia Duran, told The Associated Press.

The Interior Ministry, which owns the church and awarded the contract for the renovation to an external company, said the poster would be removed in the next few days. Officials confirmed the Rome Vicariate had sent a letter requesting the poster be taken down.

Plastering posters on scaffolding is a common advertising technique in Rome.

Opus Dei and other church officials have spoken out against the novel, with an Italian cardinal, Tarcisio Bertone, calling for a boycott of the book last year.

Opus Dei, portrayed as a murderous, power-hungry sect in the novel, has described "The Da Vinci Code" as a work of fantasy that offers a deformed image of the Catholic Church.

In a recent homily, the preacher for the papal household, the Rev. Raniero Cantalamessa, denounced theories that make huge profits in deny-

ing Catholic teaching about Jesus.

Cantalamessa, a Franciscan priest, did not cite "The Da Vinci Code" by name, but he obviously appeared to refer to it and to the upcoming movie.

"No one succeeds in stopping this speculative wave, that instead will register a boom with the imminent release of a certain film," the preacher said.

Charlotte Post

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Graham

Continued from page 8B

City.

O'Brien, who first created a plastic foam form of the figure and then, applied clay to model and finish it, has sent a mold of the statue to a foundry in Lubbock, Texas, which is in the process of casting it in bronze and assembling it.

When finished, the statue of Graham in a three-piece suit will be 9 feet, 4 inches tall while the cross will be 17 feet. At the foot of the cross is a stone inscribed with John 3:16 and three nails.

The statue's permanent home will be outside the Southern Baptist Convention's Nashville headquarters and its publishing house, LifeWay Christian Resources after it's presented at the June convention.

Michael Epps Utley, marketing coordinator for LifeWay.com, said LifeWay started a Web site earlier this year that's dedicated to celebrating Graham's life and ministry.

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Several parents were inadvertently omitted, therefore we'd like to highlight them now.

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Afton Nivens Zebulan Vance Parents: Moses & Saundra Nivens	Danielle Phifer Harding University Parents: Daryl Searcy & Valerie Phifer	Kamila Rankin Zebulan Vance Parent: Sharan Rankin	Nicole Smith Independence High Parents: Rev. Antonio & Pamela Smith	Donnarae Wade East Mecklenburg Parents: Donald & Verna Wade	Ciara Wiley Zebulan Vance Parents: Joseph Wiley & Cecelia Clark	Davina Wright Olympic High Parents: Robert & Earline King