

EVANGEL UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS AND THE PIONEERS FOR WHOM THEY WERE NAMED

**Prepared By Evangel University Archives
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Educational Committee of 1953

Three persons for whom Evangel University buildings are named were members of the Committee on Education that reported to the full General Council of the Assemblies of God, gathered in Milwaukee in 1953. It was their report that was accepted by the General Council, resulting in the founding of Evangel University.

Those men were Charles W. H. Scott, who was chairman of the Committee; Klaude Kendrick, and J. Robert Ashcroft. Another member of the committee was Ralph M. Riggs, who had for a number of years headed a movement to establish an Assemblies of God college of arts and sciences. He was elected as general superintendent of the Assemblies of God at this same General Council.

Following is more information about all the individuals for whom Evangel University buildings have been named, and about the buildings themselves.

I. Dr. Klaude Kendrick Library

This was the first permanent building built by Evangel College (now Evangel University). The campus with its wooden barracks buildings had been part of a temporary Army general hospital (O'Reilly Hospital) during World War II. Evangel then utilized as classrooms and dormitories the buildings inherited from the Army, phasing them out year by year as they could be replaced by permanent structures. The process is still ongoing, but the end can be seen.

Library Groundbreaking: October 13, 1961.

Dedication: February 23, 1963.

Building Named For: Dr. Klaude Kendrick, first president of Evangel College.

Biographical Sketch of Klaude Kendrick

Klaude Kendrick was born in Arizona near the Mexican Border. His family moved to Tempe when he was ready to start second grade, and his parents enrolled him in the laboratory school of Arizona State University. He has said, "As a consequence I had the good fortune of receiving training that I feel far surpassed what would ordinarily have been found in a regular line public school."

After completing high school, in 1935 Klaude Kendrick enrolled as a student in Southwestern Bible Institute (now Southwestern Assemblies of God University). It was then located in Enid, Oklahoma. After his graduation Klaude Kendrick served Southwestern as teacher, dean of men, business manager and vice president successively. Then in 1955 he came to Evangel College as its first president. In 1956-57, his second year as president of Evangel, the University of Missouri Committee on Accredited Schools granted recognition to Evangel's academic program. A capsule of his career follows.

Ordained into the ministry of the Assemblies of God.

Faculty member, then administrator of Southwestern Bible Institute, 1940-1955.

President, Evangel College 1955-58.

Academic dean, Evangel College, 1958-60.

President, Southwestern Assemblies of God University 1960-64.

Chairman, History Department, Texas Wesleyan College 1964-77.
 Dean, Southern California College (now Vanguard University) 1977-79.
 President, Far East Advanced School of Theology, Philippines, 1984-86.
 Earned degrees: B.A., Texas Wesleyan; master's degree, Texas Christian; Ph.D., University of Texas.

Reference Room Named For: Carl I. Erickson, who was reference librarian at Evangel and also taught sociology courses from 1958 until his death in 1968. A commemoration service was held on September 9, 1968, dedicating the reference room to his memory.

Biographical Sketch: Carl Erickson

He was a pastor and high school teacher, and then served as executive secretary of the Christian Business Men's Committee International. Later he joined the faculty of Central Bible Institute (now Central Bible College). He came to Evangel in 1958, serving as reference librarian and also teaching courses in sociology. At different times he was president of the Greene County Mental Health Association, district chairman of the Missouri Association for Social Welfare, and board member of the Greene County Tuberculosis Association. At the time of his death in 1968 he was treasurer of the Springfield Library Association.

2. Ashcroft Center

This is the home of the Evangel University Crusaders basketball and volleyball teams. Seating capacity is 2,000.

Groundbreaking: April 5, 1966.

Dedication: October 20, 1967.

Building Named For: J. Robert Ashcroft, second president of Evangel College. He was president from 1958 to 1974.

Biographical Sketch of J. Robert Ashcroft

When J. Robert Ashcroft was a small child, his father was healed of serious burns and devoted himself to preaching the gospel. J. Robert Ashcroft has said, "I was a very young child, and we traveled from Rhode Island to Florida and back and forth in an open car. We were gypsies almost. Sometimes we slept in the car. We had our lunches in the car, and we had street meetings wherever we went. My mother was a very efficient pianist so she added greatly to the evangelistic services. She also conducted children's services.

"I would go from one school to another, and sometimes I would be in the third grade and sometimes in the first grade and sometimes in the fifth grade. I never knew, because they would place me wherever they wanted to when I would go from one school to another. As I grew a little bit older my parents decided to leave me with my grandmother for my education.

"In my late teens I began evangelistic work myself. I started out as a musician and song leader, joining with others in campaigns. I played all the brass instruments and began with the piano."

Milestones of his administration at Evangel included accreditation by the North Central Association, National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education, and the National Association of Schools of Music. Here are highlights of his experiences:

Pastor and evangelist, 1929-47. Ordained minister of the Assemblies of God.

Faculty member and department head, Central Bible College, 1947-53.

National Secretary of Education, Assemblies of God, 1953-58.

President, Evangel University, 1958-74. For five years of this time (1958-63) he was also president of Central Bible College.

Missionary pastor, Brussels, Belgium during the late 1970's.

President, Valley Forge Christian College, 1982-85.

President, Berean College, 1985-88.

Earned degrees: B.S, Central Connecticut State College; M.A, New York University; completed course work for doctorate at New York University.

Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree conferred by Southern California College.

He died January 5, 1995.

3. Inez Spence Hall

This was the first permanent residence hall built at Evangel University.

Groundbreaking: October 19, 1967, just a day before the dedication of the Ashcroft Center.

Dedication: October 18, 1968.

Building Named For: Inez Hover Spence, former director of women students at Evangel University.

Biographical Sketch of Inez Hover Spence:

Inez Hover was graduated from Davis Bible College, Binghamton, New York, in 1920. She studied there under C. I. Scofield, author of the notes in the Scofield Bible. A year after her graduation she was married to Thomas Spence, a businessman. They lived in Bayonne, New Jersey for twelve years and then moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma. Mrs. Spence served as Director of Christian education in churches in both cities.

Thomas Spence died in 1955. Inez Spence came to Evangel that fall, 1956 (the college's second year) as hostess of a women's dormitory and the cafeteria. During her ten years at Evangel she supervised both men's and women's dorms. Evangel was a small, new college. One of her first projects was to furnish the recreation hall and buy table games for it so there would be a place for men and women students to meet. The students called her "Mom Spence."

Recalling her first year, Mrs. Spence said, "There was a challenging opportunity of establishing traditions and standards. We had the beginning of our basketball team that year, and we have memories of the games we almost won."

Spence Hall was built after her retirement in 1966. She died on September 14, 1983.

Please Note: Neither Inez Spence nor her husband was related to Robert H. Spence, the third president of Evangel University.

4. Noel Perkin Apartments

The Noel Perkin Apartment building for married students is situated on the north part of the Evangel University campus.

Dedication: October 17, 1969 during Homecoming.

Building named for: Noel Perkin, director of Assemblies of God foreign missions 1926-1960.

Biographical Sketch of Noel Perkin

Noel Perkin was born and educated in London, England. He came to Canada in 1911 to work for the Bank of Montreal in Toronto and became head of the bank's savings department. He was ordained to the ministry, and served as a missionary in Argentina from 1918 to 1921. He then pastored churches in New York State until 1926, when he came to Springfield, Missouri, to direct the Foreign Missions Department of the Assemblies of God.

Rev. Perkin was a pioneer of modern evangelical concepts of missions, building strong national churches and overseas ministerial training schools. Under his leadership the number of A/G missionaries increased from 277 to 776, ministering in 71 foreign countries. Missionary contributions per year rose from less than \$200,000 to \$5.5 million.

He seemed equally at home on a missionary trip deep in the interior of the Congo, being escorted by a group of pygmy spearmen, or fulfilling his responsibilities as Foreign Missions Director and Executive Presbyter in the old Assemblies of God headquarters building in Springfield, Missouri. Following his retirement in 1959, Rev. Perkin served as minister of visitation at Central Assembly of God, Springfield, Missouri.

He died October 3, 1979.

Please Note: Perkin is the correct spelling. There is no "s" in the name.

5. Crusader Hall

Evangel's first cafeteria was a wooden dining hall and kitchen built by the U.S. Army in 1941 for O'Reilly General Hospital. The College replaced the dining hall with a new brick structure in 1970, but the original attached kitchen continued in service. The entire building, both the old and newer parts, was bulldozed in 2000. Evangel University students now dine in a new cafeteria, which is an important section of the John K. Cantrell Student Union.

Throughout all these vicissitudes, the name of the cafeteria has remained Crusader Hall. Ever since 1955, when the University opened for classes, Evangel varsity athletic teams have been nicknamed the Crusaders.

6. Krause Hall

Krause and Walther residence halls were built at the same time, from the same plans that had been used for Spence Hall.

Groundbreaking: October 18, 1968. This was a joint groundbreaking for Krause and Walther Halls, and it was held the same day that Spence Hall was dedicated.

Dedication: A joint dedication service was held for Krause and Walther Halls. It was on October 16, 1970.

Building Named For: Henry Krause, a Christian businessman.

Biographical Sketch of Henry Krause

Henry Krause, "God's plowman," was the eldest son in a poor Midwestern farm family. When he was just a young boy his father became an invalid, and Henry had to shoulder the toil and responsibility of the farm. He longed for an education, but was only able to attend school for a short period in midwinter when there were few farm chores. He never got as far as the fourth grade before he had to give up school entirely. However, he studied his Bible diligently.

In 1927 at the age of 20, Mr. Krause moved to Hutchinson, Kansas and went into business for himself, manufacturing plows and other farm equipment. In 1939 he developed an improved plow that revolutionized wheat farming, making it possible for one man to plow a much greater acreage in a day. Later he established student loan funds at Evangel University and Central Bible College. He was a member of the first Board of Directors of Evangel University, and was chairman of the board of the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship.

Mr. Krause said in 1969, "My experiences have made me appreciate the value of education. I made up my mind years ago to do all I could to try to educate young people."

He died in November 1972.

7. Walther Hall

Groundbreaking and Dedication: See Krause Hall.

Building Named For: Grace Walther, Evangel University associate professor of education.

Biographical Sketch of Grace Walther

Grace Walther was graduated from Rochester Bible Institute, New York in 1921. She found a job in a city orphanage and attended business school. In 1926 she sailed to India as an Assemblies of God missionary.

Miss Walther has said, "I was all alone, twenty-three years old, and I knew no one going on that particular boat. I wonder now how I did it, such a green young person, not very experienced in that far traveling." She became principal of an A/G school for girls in Bettiah, India, and was a witness to the struggle for the independence of India. She recalls, "In 1942 one day when I was in the bazaar I saw and heard Gandhi."

Returning to the U.S. on furlough in 1944, Miss Walther was on the faculty of Eastern Bible Institute (now Valley Forge Christian College) for a year. Back in India, she assisted in a school in Kalimpong, India, for six years.

Grace Walther came to Evangel in 1955, the college's first year. As a faculty member in education she organized Evangel's student teaching program. Her work was vital in the accreditation of Evangel. She served on the Mayor's Commission on Human Rights in 1963-64, and was a member of the Executive Committee of the Missouri Association for Student Teaching. She retired in 1977, and died in 1994.

8. Scott Hall

This residence hall was built from the same plans as the previous halls, except that Scott Hall has a basement under its center section.

Groundbreaking: September 18, 1970.

Dedication: September 20, 1972.

Building Named For: The name commemorates two individuals equally, the Rev. Charles W. H. Scott and his wife, Gertrude Northrop Scott.

Biographical Sketch of Charles W. H. and Gertrude Scott

Charles W. H. Scott was born and grew up in Quebec, Canada. He attended Rochester Bible Training College and Princeton Theological Seminary. He was ordained as an Assemblies of God minister in 1925, and pastored churches in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Michigan. In 1945 he was elected superintendent of the Michigan District. An early supporter of Evangel College, in 1954 he became the first chairman of the college's board of directors. He was elected assistant general superintendent of the Assemblies of God in 1957, serving until 1965.

Charles W. H. Scott stated, "From the earliest history of our Movement there have been Bible schools for training ministers. However, there was no Assemblies of God liberal arts college for our young people who planned on other occupations. The founders of our Movement back in 1914 determined that this would be one of the objectives of the new church."

Gertrude Scott was instrumental in founding the Evangel University Ladies Auxiliary, and was national president from 1956 to 1964. The organization continues to actively support Evangel to the present day.

Rev. Scott retired from the Executive Presbytery in 1971. He and his wife then went to Arizona and pioneered a new A/G church. He died January 3, 1993.

9. Burgess Hall

Burgess was built from the same plans as the previous residence halls, except that it has four stories rather than three.

Groundbreaking: December 12, 1977.

Dedication: November 17, 1978.

Building Named For: Doyle E. Burgess, former member of the Evangel College Board of Directors and president of the Council of Evangel College.

Biographical Sketch of Doyle E. Burgess

Doyle E. Burgess was an Assemblies of God layman in Memphis, Tennessee. He had printed on his business stationery, "My main object in life is to work for God. To earn a livelihood I practice pharmacy."

Mr. Burgess was present at the first meeting of the Council of Evangel College in 1955, and remained active in the Council until his death. He was president of the Council from 1970 to 1977, and was a member of the Evangel College Board of Directors from 1974 to 1977.

He was the first director of the Tennessee District Men's Fellowship, and in 1955 became the first layman chairman of the A/G national Men's Fellowship Committee. In addition, he served on the Board of Directors of the Hillcrest Children's Home, and conducted monthly services at Fort Pillow Prison Farm and the Crippled Adult Hospital.

He died September 11, 1977.

10. Lewis Hall

Like Burgess, Lewis Hall was built from the same plans as the earlier residence halls except for having four stories rather than three.

Groundbreaking: November 27, 1979.

Dedication: October 9, 1980.

Building Named For: Gayle F. Lewis, former assistant superintendent and general superintendent of the Assemblies of God.

Biographical Sketch of Gayle F. Lewis

Gayle F. Lewis was general superintendent of the Assemblies of God in 1953, when the General Council met in Milwaukee. He was presiding officer as the Education Committee's report, recommending the establishment of Evangel University, was brought to the floor. The official minutes of the General Council state, "Considerable discussion ensued, with strong sentiment being expressed both for and against the resolution. Finally it was moved and seconded that the resolution be adopted, and the motion carried."

Gayle F. Lewis was one of the four assistant general superintendents of the Assemblies of God when General Superintendent Wesley R. Steelberg died suddenly in 1952. Gayle F. Lewis was chosen by the General Presbytery to succeed him, and he served through 1953. After his term ended, he served again as assistant general superintendent until 1965.

He had begun his ministry as pastor of a small Assemblies of God church in Austinburg, Ohio in 1921. Supporting his family by working as a subcontractor in the housing industry, he brought the Gospel to this rural community by driving the 68 miles from Youngstown every Sunday in a Model A Ford. The church grew from 12 members to a congregation large enough to support a full-time pastor.

Gayle F. Lewis died September 7, 1979.

11. Robert H. Spence Chapel

Seating capacity of the building is 2,170. The platform is large enough to accommodate a symphony orchestra.

Groundbreaking: November 29, 1979.

Dedication: April 2, 1982. Speaker was the Rev. Thomas F. Zimmerman, general superintendent of the Assemblies of God at that time.

The stained glass windows in the front of the chapel were donated by Mr. Earl Fester in memory of his wife, Mary Elizabeth Fester. Dedication of the stained glass windows was on April 5, 1985, in the morning chapel service.

The 40-rank, three-manual Schantz pipe organ was donated by the Evangel University Ladies Auxiliary. It was dedicated on April 1, 1982.

A gift from the Earl Couch family made possible the addition of the *trompette en chamade* to the organ. The *trompette* was dedicated in a recital on October 29, 1996. Organist was Dr. June Kean, with the Evangel University Chorale and Brass Ensemble.

Chapel Named for: Robert H. Spence, president of Evangel University since 1974. By action of the Board of Directors, the chapel was named for President Spence in a convocation on April 22, 1994. President Spence was not informed or aware of this honor in advance. The date was chosen to mark the twentieth anniversary of his accession to the University presidency.

Biographical Sketch of Robert H. Spence

At the age of 16 Robert H. Spence entered the University of Alabama, earning a B.A. in History, and later an M.A. in School Administration. An ordained minister of the Assemblies of God, he was a pastor in Alabama for 20 years. He was chosen as president of Evangel University in 1974, and has served

continuously in this position to the present. Southeastern College of the Assemblies of God conferred an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree upon him in 1975.

He has served on the General Presbytery of the Assemblies of God, and is currently the Commissioner of the Commission on Christian Higher Education of the Assemblies of God. President Spence is also active in civic and community affairs in Springfield, including membership on the Board of Directors of Cox Health Systems and Cox College of Nursing, and the Board of Directors of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce.

12. Academic I Building

This three-story building contains two lobbies; 27 classrooms, lecture halls, and science labs; 18 computer labs, research rooms and conference rooms; a greenhouse; and the Instructional Resource Center. The building is the home of four academic departments: Business and Finance, Education, Science and Technology, and Social Sciences. There are 49 faculty and staff offices.

A commitment was made by the Board of Directors to build without incurring long-term debt, and this goal was accomplished. More than 600 donors, including foundations, businesses, and individuals, each contributed \$1,000 or more. The six largest donations together totaled \$2.5 million.

Groundbreaking: April 17, 1995.

Dedication: October 3, 1997.

13. Mabee Student Fitness Center

One building on the Evangel University campus owes not only its existence but also a major part of the cost of its construction to the students themselves. Borrowing an idea from a university on the East Coast, the 1986-87 student government leaders asked the student body if they would be willing to pay an extra \$25 at registration each semester. The money would be set aside, to be used for a future student fitness center. Nearly 90% of the students voted "yes." Succeeding classes continued to pay into the "Save for the Future" fund.

Ten years after it was launched, the fund reached \$750,000. A challenge grant from the Mabee Foundation provided \$450,000 after alumni and other friends contributed the rest of the money for construction. The building was built debt free.

Groundbreaking: July 1, 1998

Dedication: October 1, 1999

14. John K. Cantrell Student Union

This building provides more spacious and greatly improved facilities for student-related services that were formerly housed in various outdated temporary buildings. The John K. Cantrell Student Union is the new home of Crusader Hall (the cafeteria), the Joust (student gathering place), the college bookstore, student government and student ministry offices, the Wellness Center (Health Center and Counseling Services), the Career Development Center, and commuter student services, as well as conference rooms and student lounges.

Dedication: September 28, 2001
Building named for: John K. Cantrell

The John K. Cantrell Student Union also was completed debt free, except for some long term self-amortizing borrowing on the cafeteria portion.

Biographical Sketch of John K. Cantrell

John K. Cantrell was a successful Christian businessman who was a founder of Ozark National Life Insurance Company and Commonwealth Industries. At the same time he served his local church as Sunday school superintendent, teacher, youth leader, board member, and president of the men's fellowship. He was a member of the Evangel University Board of Directors from 1987 to 1995.

Several years ago, while walking across the Evangel campus, Mr. Cantrell felt that the Lord spoke to him and asked him to do something significant for Evangel. Mr. Cantrell's reply was, "Lord, if you supply the means, I'll do it"! The building commemorates his life and the fulfillment of his promise to the Lord and to youth.

John K. Cantrell died November 15, 1997.

15. Lawrence & Alletha Barnett Fine Arts Center

This building houses the Evangel University Department of Music and the Art and Drama sections of the Humanities Department. It includes an acoustically engineered concert recital hall seating 300, music practice rooms, a 250-seat theatre for Evangel's drama productions, an art gallery and art studios, as well as classrooms and faculty offices.

Honoring the commitment of the Board of Directors, this building also was completed debt free.

Groundbreaking: May 3, 2001
Dedication: October 11, 2002

Biographical Sketch of Lawrence and Alletha Barnett

Lawrence Barnett is first of all an ordained minister of the Assemblies of God, having served as pastor, evangelist, and staff minister. He has also contributed his business experience and acumen to charitable, educational, and professional organizations as president or board member. He was President and Chief Executive Officer of Christian Fidelity Life Insurance Company of Waxahachie, Texas from 1971 until November 2000, when the company was acquired by an insurance holding company. Besides making first mortgage loans for building churches, Christian Fidelity made many charitable contributions to church-related institutions.

A few of the other organizations Lawrence Barnett has served are: National Alliance of Life Companies, President; Highlands Child Placement Services, Board member; and the Southwestern Assemblies of God University, member of the Board of Regents.

Alletha Barnett, his wife for 53 years, has been his partner in ministry, having taken on the responsibilities of pianist, organist, teacher, and choir director. She is a member of the American Guild of Organists. Both are Board members of Christian Fidelity Foundation.

Please note: Alletha Barnett's first name is spelled correctly, with two l's.

Academic II Building

At Homecoming 2002 a capital campaign was launched for construction of a second classroom building, to be located next to Academic I. It will house the Departments of Behavioral Sciences, Biblical Studies, Communication, and the languages section of Humanities.