

# Compassionate Missionary Council

## Member Biographical and Ministry Summaries

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**Kevin Babin** serves in the Assemblies of God Deaf Culture Ministries Office, on the Administrative Committee of the Assemblies of God National Deaf Culture Fellowship, and in the U.S. Missions Intercultural Ministries Department as the National Field Representative for Deaf Culture Ministries. Born in Donaldsonville, Louisiana, Kevin met Jesus in 1976 and responded to His call into ministry in 1981, and specifically into Deaf ministry after attending the Louisiana Assemblies of God Deaf Camp. He received a B.A. degree in Pastoral Studies and Deaf Culture Ministries from North Central University in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Kevin and his wife, Karla, met while serving in Deaf ministries and have more than 17 years of pastoral experience.

**Dr. John Battaglia** is a Chaplain and a U.S. Missionary Associate with the Assemblies of God. He serves as the Capitol Commission Missouri State Minister, providing Bible study, prayer, and relationship building opportunities for legislators and staff at the Missouri Capitol. He formerly served as a pastor for more than twenty-four years and was a co-founder the Central Missouri Stop Human Trafficking Coalition. John has also served the Not For Sale Campaign as Missouri State Representative and National Director of Faith-Based Initiatives and served as a board member with F.R.E.E. International, a US Missions anti-trafficking organization. John and his wife of 24 years, Christine, are committed to being a voice for the voiceless, helping local churches and followers of Christ engage communities in the fight against human trafficking.

**Chris Beard** serves as lead pastor of Peoples Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. The church has a long history of racial reconciliation and service to the community and is presently co-laboring with other churches in the Coalition of Care where Chris serves on the board of directors. Chris is committed to inspiring local churches and mobilizing Christ-followers to welcome children into safe and loving adoptive and foster families. Pastor Chris is a graduate of Evangel University and of Regent University in Virginia Beach and has been married to his wife, Jan, for 25 years.

**John Brady** is lead pastor at First Assembly of God Church in Minot, North Dakota, where his philosophy of ministry is to “discover the rich resources that have been given to the local church and release them to advance Kingdom ministry”. Through its “About the Father’s Business” tractor-trailer ministry, the church ministers to those in need through local and national disaster response and outreach, including inner city food ministry, assistance to Hurricane Sandy victims, and ministry to orphanages and churches in Mexico. Pastor Brady has been in ministry along with his wife, Naomi, for 33 years, and presently is a District Presbyter for North Dakota.

**Malcolm Burleigh** serves as National Director of Intercultural Ministries for U.S. Missions at the National Leadership and Resource Center. Prior to moving to Springfield, he served in pastoral ministry in Chicago, Illinois, and most recently in Tampa, Florida, where he was also active as a district presbyter. He served as President of the National Black Fellowship of the Assemblies of God from 2008-2012. He has been married to Maria for 42 years; they have three adult children and four grandchildren.

**Charlie Chivers** is an Assemblies of God U.S. Missionary to people with disabilities. He and his wife, Debbie, founded Special Touch Ministry over 30 years ago, to bring faith-based support to the disability community. Their focus is on helping the Church understand and deal with the spiritual, emotional, and daily “felt” needs of this underserved population, providing consulting tools and certification courses for churches as well as evangelism-oriented camps for the disabled.

**Dr. Manuel Cordero** is the Senior Director for U.S. Chaplaincy Ministries for The General Council of the Assemblies of God. He is an ordained minister in the Penn/Del District Council and has been in prison ministry for over 38 years, including nearly 24 years with the Federal Bureau of Prisons. He has served as an assistant to the Chief of Chaplains in Washington, D.C. Dr. Cordero also served as associate pastor at Oasis City Church in Philadelphia until 2009. Currently, Dr. Cordero is an adjunct professor at Nyack College in Washington, D.C.; Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois; and the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary in Springfield, Missouri. He conducts workshops and seminars internationally on prison ministry, pastoral care, and marriage and family. He is the president of The Coalition of Prison Evangelists; is the first vice-president of the American Correctional Chaplains Association; is a board member of the Oasis City Youth

Foundation, the Correctional Ministries and Chaplains Association, and the Billy Graham Center's Institute for Prison Ministry. He is also the immediate past treasurer of the American Protestant Correctional Chaplains Association.

**Steve Donaldson**, after losing his father in a car accident as a child, was inspired by the support his family received from their church to provide that same kind of love and care for others. He and his wife, Rebecca, have spent many years in pastoral ministry, church planting, and assisting Steve's brother Hal with the Convoy of Hope ministry. In 2003, they founded Rural Compassion to strengthen and partner with rural churches to address the needs of rural communities impacted by severe poverty.

**Ramona Edgman** is the Administrator of U.S. Missions at the National Leadership and Resource Center. She brings a wealth of experience from her 25 years at the NLRC, including several years as U.S. Missions Finance Manager, to the administrative side of U.S. Missions. In addition to supervising the day-to-day operations of the division, her work helps missionaries to access Speed the Light and BGMC funding and manage the practical requirements of their ministry.

**David Houck** has been in ministry for over 20 years. With his wife, Tammy, and their nine children, he founded SoZo Kids to serve Florida's rural poor, many of whom lack basic services such as electricity or running water. He also oversees Camp SoZo which offers a Christian camping experience to those children in addition to being available for other groups to experience the beautiful Ocala National Forest wilderness. David and Tammy are U.S. missionaries through the Intercultural Department.

**Jim Lopez** is a U.S. missionary to Native Americans through the Intercultural Department of U.S. Missions. He and his wife, Belinda, have been in full-time ministry since 1974, serving in a number of pastoral ministry positions in Native American churches in Arizona and as a staff member at the American Indian College of the Assemblies of God. Jim presently serves the Arizona District as Director of Intercultural Ministries. As part of his duties, he assists pastors in areas of personal needs within their lives and family as well as directing them toward ministry resources.

**Jay Mooney** served the National Leadership and Resource Center as National Youth Director before leaving that post in 2012 to direct the CompACT Family Services Agency of the Assemblies of God. CompACT comprises a number of family service-oriented ministries including foster care, adoption, transitional living, Highlands Maternity Home, and Hillcrest Children's home.

**Sandra Morgan, RN, PhD** is director of Vanguard University's Global Center for Women and Justice, overseeing the university's Minor in Women's Studies and teaching courses on family violence and human trafficking. She has been active in numerous organizations, including the Faith Alliance Against Slavery and Trafficking and the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force, working to promote awareness of human trafficking and to provide training for healthcare providers, law enforcement, teachers, social workers, and other professionals about the issue. The Global Center for Women and Justice works to increase awareness through its yearly "Ensure Justice" conference, as well as by equipping Vanguard student mobilization teams for ministry to teens and producing a weekly "Ending Human Trafficking" podcast.

**Eric Porter** is a U.S. Missionary serving in Specialized Chaplaincy ministry to orphans and foster children. He is Vice President of Church Relations for The Keep, a ministry in the North Texas District of the Assemblies of God that facilitates church-based child welfare, focusing on equipping biological families with the skills to get their children back in the home, foster and adoptive placements, and serving youth aging out of the foster system.

**Dr. Charles Sanderfur** serves as pastor of New Vision Fellowship in Knoxville, Tennessee, and is also a recording artist and songwriter. In addition to traveling extensively as a motivational speaker on a variety of topics, he is a certified foster parent trainer and a licensed professional counselor. He and his wife, Marlene, have nine children, six of whom are adopted, and are very much involved with ministry to orphaned children.

**Richard Smith**, a U.S. missionary through Missionary Church Planters and Developers, has spent the last 38 years helping others break the cycle of poverty and despair. As lead pastor of Faith Assembly of God in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he guides the congregation in outreach to students and young adults through incentives that advocate abstinence, social skills, and educational

goals. The church also works to serve the poor with food assistance, job referrals, parenting and marriage counseling, addiction recovery, and re-entry following incarceration. Faith Assembly of God is featured in the book *Churches That Make A Difference* by Ron Sider and Hedi Unruh.

**Zollie L. Smith, Jr.** has served as Executive Director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions since 2007. Prior to leading U.S. Missions, he served as executive presbyter representing ethnic fellowships, as President of the National Black Fellowship, and as a district official in the New Jersey district. Zollie's heart for compassionate ministry helped lead to the creation in 2011 of the Research and Resource Center and the Compassionate Missionary Council.

**Cindy Thomas** is the Administrative Coordinator for Research and Compassionate Ministry for U.S. Missions. Cindy's experience prior to working at the National Leadership and Resource Center included serving as director of a crisis pregnancy center and as an assistant shelter supervisor, hotline advocate, and office manager for a domestic violence shelter. She and her husband, Phil, are currently working to mobilize churches and individuals in Stone County, Missouri, where Phil is a schoolteacher, to provide resources to underserved youth.

**Gary Webb** and his wife, Tammie, are U.S. Missions Specialized Chaplains who work to connect the faith community with foster children living in group homes, training church members to provide mentorship as well as resources for youth aging out of the foster system. Gary and Tammie operate OCJ Kids, a non-profit organization created to serve foster children through visits, celebration events, and field trips. Gary has written two books, *150 Ways to Connect* and *The Faceless Generation*. He has served on the Governor's Council for After School Services for the state of Arizona and serves as a committee member for the National Compassion Care Project.

**Paul Weingartner** has directed the Center for the Blind, a ministry of the Intercultural Department of U.S. Missions, since 1994. Born visually impaired, Paul has overcome his own challenges to serve along with his wife, Caryl, in several churches and Christian organizations, including ministry to inner city families impacted by disability. Under the motto, "Making the Cross Accessible," the CFTB converts curriculum, periodicals, and Christian books into formats

accessible to the Blind and assists churches with integrating the Blind into church activities and Christian community.