

# Haggai Fest



## ***Denny Hartford***

Denny Hartford has been the Director of Vital Signs Ministries for over 25 years. A courageous and creative Christian activist, Denny has not only led one of the most active, most influential pro-life agencies in the nation, he also has maintained a busy regimen of traveling, speaking and organizing similar ministries across the nation. Denny's popularity as a speaker and inventive educator, however, is based largely upon his own example of personal spirituality and commitment to effectively "rescue those being led away to slaughter." For example, he has served a quarter of century as a sidewalk counselor at Omaha-area abortion mills and was one of the first evangelicals to be involved in peaceful "rescue" actions. In addition, Denny and his wife, Claire, were the principal founders of the AAA Center for Pregnancy Counseling.

Denny's contributions to the Omaha community and especially the pro-life movement have been recognized in several ways. In 1984, he was asked by Nebraska State Senator Bernice Labeledz and then-Governor Robert Kerrey to accept a position as the 7th District's State Senator when it was unexpectedly vacated, but Denny decided he could better serve the cause of Christ and His "little ones" as a non-political Christian activist and, remarkably, he declined this prestigious offer. Denny's work has been gratefully acknowledged by such outstanding leaders as Joe Scheidler; the Director of Boys Town, Fr. Val Peter; Judie Brown; the late U.S. Senator Edward Zorinsky, Governor Kay Orr; Congressman and Mayor Hal Daub; and even President Ronald Reagan. Wrote President Reagan in September of 1985: "There is no cause more noble, no cause more necessary, than to restore full legal protection to innocent unborn children... You have been in the thick of the struggle, and your courage and effectiveness have inspired many others... God bless you."

Under Denny's leadership, Vital Signs Ministries has untiringly championed the sanctity of all human life in a variety of services. Indeed, a hallmark of the ministry is a defense of the sanctity of human life which is

1) comprehensive and 2) deeply grounded in the Word of God. In the course of Denny's wide-ranging service, he has organized and conducted peaceful, prayerful demonstrations against the abortion industry; developed a daily sidewalk counseling ministry outside Omaha's abortion clinics; created an inspirational

## Haggai-Fest 2008

By the grace of God the Haggai-Fest is seeing it's first edition in Burkina Faso.

The Lord provided us with a platform of speakers, teachers and preachers on fire for the Gospel and we celebrate that.

The Calendar of activities includes;

- A visit to the orphanage wenefangde
- A seminar to train children ministers
- A fun day with Games to reach out to children and families
- A marriage seminar to strengthen couples involved in the leadership of the local churches.
- A 3 nights crusade/ large group evangelization

*Patrice and Linda Kabore*

drama outreach; hosted numerous pro-life conferences and public educational outreaches; initiated regular visitations of area elders in nursing homes, and more.

Through all of this, Denny has continued a ministry of inspirational and informational public speaking, testifying before innumerable audiences throughout the U.S. and in Canada, Great Britain (three month-long tours), Germany, Russia, Nigeria, India, Poland (3x), Burkina Faso, and ten times in Belarus regarding the case for the sanctity of life, the gracious invitation of the gospel, and the necessity of Christian activism. It is a responsibility that has involved him with civic groups, churches, schools, pro-life events, the state Legislature and hundreds of media interviews.

In specific media outreaches, Denny has produced and hosted the radio programs “Doers of the Word,” “Vital Signs,” and “Vital Signs Weekend.” These popular programs have featured not only Denny’s own insightful commentary regarding a whole host of critical issues, but the perspectives of innumerable Christian leaders who brought their learning and experience to bear on these matters. Those Christian heroes have included: Melody Green; Edith Schaeffer; John Whitehead; Frank Peretti; Scott Wesley Brown; Joe Scheidler; Molly Kelly; Meadowlark Lemon; Chris Godfrey; Sal Bando; Judie Brown; Larry Norman; Randy Stonehill; Norm Geisler; James Mills; UNL Coaches Tom Osborne, Turner Gill, and Ron Brown; Dave Breese; Joseph Sobran; Dr. Jack Willke; Alan Keyes; Joni Eareckson-Tada; Calvin Miller; Rep. J.C. Watts; Phyliss Schlafly; Terry Talbot; Ray Boltz; Marvin Olasky; Governor Kay Orr; Erwin Lutzer; John Walvoord; Rosie Grier; Dave Dravecky; Walter Wanegrin; Os Guinness; Sherword Wirt; Senator Bill Armstrong; country music superstar, Charlie Daniels; Steven Curtis Chapman; Mary Beth Bonacci; Carol Everett; A.C. Green; Randy Alcorn; Congressman and Mayor, Hal Daub; and many more.

Denny possesses a Bachelor’s degree in Liberal Studies from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, graduating magna cum laude, and a Master’s degree in History from the same institution. Now 56, Denny has been a Christian since the spring of 1970 when he was converted to the Faith through the ministry of Young Life in his home state of Colorado. Denny later moved to Omaha where he worked with an inner-city evangelism and discipleship ministry, the Christian Brotherhood. Following his marriage, Denny’s primary Christian service was conducted through his church, home Bible studies, Inter-Varsity Fellowship and Metro Right to Life until helping found the Omaha Christian Action Council in 1982. He and Claire (a former high school English instructor and now a leading pro-life activist herself) have been married 36 years.

### **Pastor Kristen Gray**



As Children’s Pastor, Kristen Gray has an intense desire to see children grow up strong and mighty, serving the Lord with fervency of heart. Raised in a broken, alcoholic home - Pastor Kristen knows the heartbreak that so many men, women and children face daily. Radically saved from a troubled youth in 1985 at the age of 18, she has served the Lord since then in various capacities. Just a few months after receiving Christ, Kristen left for college in Olathe, Kansas. God opened doors for her to do street witnessing, drama ministry, preaching, evangelistic outreaches, youth ministry and children’s crusades in a variety of settings.

Pastor Kristen became a part of Eagle’s Nest Worship Center in 1991 and has been on staff as Children’s Pastor since 1994. The children’s ministry at Eagle’s Nest is vibrant and exciting! Many

children who have never been in church before are coming to hear about Jesus. Picking up busloads of kids on Wednesday nights, Pastor Kristen and her staff see kids getting saved, filled with the Holy Spirit, learning the Word and being transformed. And their parents are coming to church as well! There are entire families planted and active in the church as a result of the outreach of the Eagle's Nest children's department. After-School homework help at a local elementary, walking the kids to school in the morning and meeting with school counselors about struggling kids are all a part of Pastor Kristen's ministry to the neighborhood children.

As an outreach minister, Pastor Kristen's passion is to see the lost come to Christ. Ministering the Gospel in the world, not just from the pulpit, Pastor Kristen has seen hundreds of souls surrender to Jesus standing in local parks and parking lots!! God has given her a unique ministry where she is welcomed into the homes of single moms, drug addicts, rebellious teenagers, hurting kids and backslidden Christians. Ministering the love of God in practical ways (food, clothing, time, tutoring) has softened the hearts of many to receive Christ.

Pastor Kristen preaches and teaches in a variety of settings including conferences, women's conferences and church services. When ministering to "adults" Pastor Kristen brings a strong message of the Father's love, radical redemption through Christ and deliverance from the past. God uses her straight-forward, real-life preaching and humor to set the captive free and heal the broken hearted.

Pastor Kristen is proud to be the wife of Mr. Jes Gray.



***William Femi Awodele***

Femi was born in Lagos Nigeria on the 21st of August 1966 into a Christian home. He literally attended church every day till he went away to a boarding house for his high school. In high school he rebelled against his upbringing, abandoning every day/week church, because he felt he has attended enough church in his life. After graduating from the university in 1988, he rededicated his life to the Lord.

While in college, he met Olatokunbo Songonuga (they both belong to a choral group). They got married in 1992 and Femi moved to the United States joining Ola, who was then a medical student. Their marriage soon ran into problems that no one told them would happen. What they heard all through was that as Christians, they have the right foundation. After seeking counsel for their problems, Ola and Femi started the Christian Couples Fellowship International Inc., in 1998 with the Vision of "reducing the incidence of divorce in Marriages".

This vision is being fulfilled in three strategic ways. First, through monthly meetings of couples discussing issues relating to their marriage (we currently have five functioning chapters), secondly, through the various conferences conducted by Femi worldwide and thirdly, by helping churches set up a pre-marriage and marriage ministries that will prepare and enrich couples at their church.

In June 2000, Femi and Ola moved their family from New Jersey to Omaha, Nebraska resigning as an Operations Manager in a Fortune 500 organization. In March 2001, Femi registered CCFI as a non-profit organization and went into full time ministry. Today, he has been blessed to visit over 40 churches in North America, Africa, the Islands and Europe, and in 8 mainline denominations. God continues to open more doors. In 2003, he was invited to speak on TBN Channel 14 in Houston on his book "Peculiar Conflicts –

African Marriages in Western Cultures”. His books, ministry and opinions have been featured in secular and Christian newspapers in his home state of Nebraska. To date he has published 5 books, the sixth book is scheduled for May 2006 publication.

In 2006, Femi is scheduled to visit Australia, India and Guatemala for the first time.

William Femi Awodele graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in geography (Social sciences) from the University of Ife, Ile-ife Nigeria in 1988. He is married to Olatokunbo Awodele MD MPH, the Medical Director of Soteria Family Clinic in Omaha, NE (<http://www.soteriaclinic.com/>) and they are blessed with two wonderful boys, Ibukunoluwa and Fiyinfoluwa.

The family attends Glad Tidings Church (A/G) in Omaha, Nebraska.



***Pastor Teran Anderson***

Pastor Teran Anderson is an Assembly of God Pastor. Close to 7 years He has been serving as the Senior Pastor of Freedom church Assembly in Omaha Nebraska. A part from being a great husband and a father, Teran is a great preacher and evangelist. His recent trip to Nairobi Kenya add to his international preaching curriculum.

As busy as he is, he still actively pursues a PHD in psychology.

He has been devoted to serving the community of North Omaha by implementing a number of out reach programs.

1) In attempt to provide a relief for families, he started a day care center within the church so that moms and dads can go to work with peace in their mind that their children are safe.

2) The ARK, stands for Acts or Random Kindness. It was designed by Pastor Teran to reach out to the community by showing generosity, service, and friendliness. As a result of this outreach many great testimonies have been recorded to the glory of God

3) The international ministry. Omaha is rapidly becoming the ultimate center for new comers to the united State. International students, refugees and assylees all add to the growing number of the international community. Pastor Teran recently started a ministry with a strategic plan to reach out to that community.



**Amy Negus**

Assistant to Pastor Kristen at Eagle’s Nest Church.

