THE HELP OF HOPE
"Thankfully, most who enter a quest for knowledge mostly do so in the interest of bettering our world and overcoming its weaknesses, but there are some for whom the quest is much more sinister. It becomes about power, domination and, ultimately, control."

Years ago, I jotted down this quote from T.S. Eliot’s famous essay, “Choruses from the Rock.” Since then, I have transferred it to various study notebooks as a constant reminder that indeed the wisdom of the world does not bring us nearer to God. When we draw near to God through the Holy Spirit, however, we come into the presence of truth, and it is that truth that sets us free. Truth is revealed not apart from God, through our own intellect, but by the Spirit to men’s hearts.

“I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come” (John 16:12-13).

Indeed, the gift of the Spirit came empowering, awakening, teaching, guiding and revealing to us mere creatures true spiritual knowledge. Truths that man could never know apart from a guide, and truths they could never understand apart from a teacher. Man as a creature is fully indebted to the Creator. He lives by God’s grace and discovers the unknown only when God chooses to reveal it. It is only by His hand and in His timing that we are shown what is and what things are to come.

Eliot’s questions are profound and challenging. Let us explore for a moment the deep importance of the inquiry: “Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?” Ponder this question and its modern relevance to the growing weaknesses in our national defense against immorality, socialism and America’s Christian foundation. Surely, we can see that in all our advancement, some things have been lost.

Jesus’ promise to guide us into all truth by the infilling of the Holy Spirit is a profound promise beyond measure. This promise surely included more than just discovering the mysteries of the universe but also the real and meaningful knowledge of living and being. As Eliot asked, “Where’s the life we lost in living?” The modern world’s quest to understand space, digital technology, medicine and the power of the human mind has certainly moved us forward, but what was the trade-off? Think of all the communication arts, beautiful ways in which we used to interact with others and even our world, now lost to technology.

Thankfully, most who enter a quest for knowledge mostly do so in the interest of bettering our world and overcoming its weaknesses, but there are some for whom the quest is much more sinister. It becomes about power, domination and, ultimately, control. And … the searching will never cease. The desire for knowledge will forever be man’s passion.

Our minds are our most valuable gift. We should develop and expand them. But while we are pushing into new worlds of knowledge and boasting of our human advances, what might we be missing? Just as we know that money, self-serving political power, carnal pleasures, and other such things do not fulfill our lives or stabilize our futures, man should consider that our great advances may contain hidden seeds of destruction.

“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection ...” was the Apostle Paul’s desire (Philippians 3:10). He was reaching for higher knowledge, life after death, and the peace attached to such hope. Christ promised the greatest element of man’s journey through this world, His peace. The promise of His peace and contentment that we receive through the infilling of His Spirit conquers our doubts and soothes our fears.

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27). “My peace!” Dare we show disinterest or set aside the great gift of peace? His peace. Of all the things men have accomplished, and no doubt they shall continue to unfold great inventions and surprising possibilities, one great failure looms. Mankind continues in a restless daze of drunkenness, killing, warring, stealing, conquering – there is no peace aside from His spirit.

There is much that He might say to us. There is much wisdom we might add to our knowledge, life we could add to living, knowledge we might add to all the information we are consuming, but it must come through the Holy Spirit. We must desire it. We must seek it. It is only then that we will experience the true peace of God, which will lead us beyond all of our own understanding and keep our hearts and mind through Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7).
Mission Statement

• To promote revival and growth among Apostolic churches and pastors by encouraging unity and cooperation among those of like faith and by providing a forum for the sharing of new ideas, ministries, and programs.
• To report on those trends and events which directly affect the work of the church.
• To promote and enhance the ongoing ministry of Indiana Bible College.

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Contents

05 Opinions: The Ethical Debate On Genetic Engineering
06 Feature: Empowered For Service (Bishop Leroy Francis)
11 Plainly Speaking: A Church Planter’s Adventure (Scott Armstrong)
09 News You Can Use
13 Answer Forum
16 Columnists
17 World News
23 Apostolic Ministry
## OUR RATES ARE TAKING OFF

<table>
<thead>
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<th>CHOOSE YOUR INVESTMENT</th>
<th>MINIMUM INVESTMENT</th>
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Interviews by Gregg Stone

Note: The opinions on this page are entirely those of the individual and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Indiana Bible College.

**Matthew E. Drake, Richlands, NC** - I believe careful study of both the Old and New Testament will reveal the mind and will of God and that once we are able to understand who God is and His plan for humanity, we are better able to answer what our position should be on these difficult topics. These answers, in my opinion, will ONLY come from the Word of God.

Genetic engineering and reproductive technologies are vague terms that are difficult to answer in short form, as they could encompass many different areas—from creating new species to developing insulin for diabetes. I am not fundamentally opposed to research that involves providing solutions to diseases, but I would be against the development of new species or drastically altering genetics from God’s design. The bottom line is that we are God’s creation, and how we govern ourselves must be patterned in Scripture.

**Kevin Luke, Kountze, TX** - We live in a world depicted by Paul in Romans as “inventors of evil.” I believe it would be amiss of us today to take every new advancement as a good means to further our society. We cannot be “ignorant of the devil’s devices” but must compare everything to the Word of God! Before you allow any type of new innovation into your life, learn about it and ask yourself if it violates God’s design or the principles that govern the fabric of your life, and does it please God no matter what everyone else is doing?

We should identify with the mindset of Paul and be a “wise master builder.” We must be mindful to take heed how we build upon the Apostolic foundation we have been given. We have to keep our minds geared toward God and not allow ourselves to be deceived.

**Kevin Whitney, Foley, AL** - God controls life and death. Advancements in treatments and medicine should never come at the expense of life, i.e. abortion. Science inhumanely attempts to “fix” what God “broke.” Every church is different, so not every pastor needs to discuss this from the pulpit. We can teach the Biblical stance on these issues in classes to interested members. We can equip the saints who may have friends and co-workers seeking direction on these difficult issues. We cannot just sweep it under the rug. Human reasoning should not override what God says. Our beliefs and values should reflect the Word of God onto a culture that is starving for truth.

**Jonathan Blake, Pana, IL** - Social media can be a blessing or a breeding ground for negative behavior. I enjoy instant communication, GPS, and keeping up with folks on social media. I love having unlimited study resources on my computer. Technology is a blessing but requires a balanced approach. We celebrate technological progress, but not every advance is a move in the right direction. Occasional teaching regarding these advances would be very beneficial.

**Seth Simmons, Austin, TX** - Technological advances of the last half century have raised important ethical questions. As a result, many are looking to Christian leaders for answers. Time, cultures and contemporary questions do not change this truth: “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness” (2 Tim 3:16).

Pastors and teachers have an opportunity to address these concerns from a biblical worldview. Otherwise, in the digital information age, people may find alternative views online from unaccountable and less reputable sources. Going forward, we can follow the example of Christ. He was aware of the controversial issues of His time but did not allow the Pharisees to put Him in a position that would compromise His primary purpose while on this earth: to seek and save the lost. May our answers to the skeptical and the sincere be filled with the wisdom, love, grace and truth of Christ.

**Wesley Manning, Leesville, LA** - As a leader and representative of Christian beliefs, I believe we must take a firm stance against these such subjects. The uncompromising Word of God gives us clear lines of understanding. The way we deal with these issues going forward is to know the signs of the time and do our part to be educated enough to talk about them. We need to know what we believe and stand for truth. We cannot compromise with the world and have revival. We must take a firm stance against sin and not waiver. We are God’s representation in this world, and we must give Him our very best.

**Tom Murphy, Hineston, LA** - The belief science embraces is counter to God’s sovereign design. When mankind interferes with God’s design, the results are disastrous! We are still encountering the fallout of Sarah’s decision for a child. God is the final authority on all that humanity intellectually conceives, and the outcome is based on His Word being obeyed. Humanity must be submitted to God in all things in order for the outcome to be favorable. The genetic engineering, reproductive technologies and so on are God’s business and must be preached and taught as God’s perfect will alone!

**Keith Manning, Casper, WY** - I do believe the Bible is the ultimate authority. The principles of the Bible applied in the first century can still work in the 21st century if applied today. God is the same today as yesterday; He changes not.

Yes, I do believe technological advances should be discussed from the pulpit. This will bring awareness to the times we are living in. Technology has never been the problem; the root cause of using technology for evil has always been wicked and perverse hearts. We should be teaching how we can use technology for the glory of God. In these last days, it is paramount we address issues that are relevant to society today by teaching the ways of the Lord.
Situated on the River Thames, and often referred to as the world’s cultural capital, is London, one of the world’s most visited cities. With a diverse range of people and cultures and more than 300 languages spoken in the region, London is one of the world’s premiere destinations. Located in Battersea, one of the oldest recorded districts in London, is Life Tabernacle. Pastored by Bishop Leroy Francis, the mission of this Apostolic international church is to lead individuals into a vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ by demonstrating the love of God, fostering discipleship, making connections and empowering for service.

A Passion For Revival
With a passion for revival and church growth, Bishop Francis and the saints of Life Tabernacle open their doors for everyone. “In our experience, the most important key to having a growing church is being open to accommodate all races and cultures,” said Bishop Francis. “We are an intergenerational congregation. As the Lord began to bring non-English speaking communities into our services, we had to introduce translations into the meeting programs. We had to embrace other cultural traditions and review our standard approach to doing things. Eventually, the growth led us to establishing Korean, Latino and Filipino extension works. On the last Sunday of every month, all the groups gather together for an International Celebration Service. This gives us all the opportunity to maintain a close relationship and to encourage one another.

“We also place great emphasis on developing leaders. When possible, we send our young people to full-time Bible college for training and give opportunities for ministry across our various departments and preaching points.”

A Multitude of Ministries
Life Tabernacle implements a variety of ministries and methods in an effort to reach not only its neighborhood but surrounding communities as well. “Historically, weekly house groups (which we call Life Cells) were tremendously effective in bringing guests into contact with our members and then to the church,” said Bishop Francis. “More recently, we have found that the efforts we put into securing our new building in Croydon has led to visitors just walking in off the street. We also have all-night prayer, prayer meetings coupled with fasting, and departmental prayer meetings that have all proven effective. We also use social media such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, and we stream our services through our website. In a culture where social media is growing by leaps and bounds, this can be an effective way to connect with people. Another way we connect with the community is to rent out some of the halls of our new building for community use -- nursery, senior citizens lunch club, etc. However, the most effective tool that we have to reach others is simply our members. When we provide services to their families such as weddings, baby dedications, funerals and so on, our leaders engage with the families and guests and let them know that we are there for them beyond their special event. We put them in touch with the appropriate department heads so that they are kept informed about relevant events.”

Connecting With Leaders
With around 40 percent of members involved in ministry and 40 percent involved in evangelism, connecting with ministry and department leaders is essential to maintaining a great working atmosphere and keeping everything flowing in the right direction. “The leaders all have job descriptions,” explained Bishop Francis. “They send in reports quarterly and always after special events. All leaders participate in our annual planning session and send in reports of the year under review and present their forward plans for the year ahead. Leaders also list their training needs in their annual review report. In addition, I provide ‘umbrella’ training sessions during the year that all leaders attend. I meet with the pastoral heads and the trustees quarterly, and I meet with the other leaders regularly, on a less formal basis, when I am involved with their events.”

Ministry Milestones
Born in Jamaica, Bishop Francis came to England at the age of eight and was raised in South London. He is the oldest child, with three brothers and three sisters. “I was saved at age 15,” he said. “Prior to that, although I attended a denominational Sunday school from time to time, my focus was on becoming a professional footballer. In 1971, I reluctantly attended a youth service at Calvary Temple UPC (founded by Missionary Mervyn Miller) when invited by my uncle Eddie Hall, who is now a UPC pastor. That night I gave my heart to the Lord and was baptized in Jesus name. Later that year, I received the Holy Ghost in a service where Anthony Mangun was the guest speaker. Very early after my conversion, I felt God’s hand upon my life and a calling to ministry. This was confirmed by my pastor, Bro. James Dallas. I began ministering at age 18 -- working with the evangelism and youth departments where I initiated strategies, lesson plans and outreach activities. I created an outreach team named The Gospel Eagles, and we travelled across the UK to evangelize wherever local churches needed assistance. I also devised a course on Cults and Religions as a direct result of being in charge of evangelism. Since then, I have taught this course in our full-time Bible college annually and have also taught it globally.”

Bishop Francis can look back over his ministry milestones and see the hand of God in his life, directing him to where he is today. He attended Bible school in 1978-79 along with his wife, Olive, and served as national Sunday school director and national

A young woman is baptized.

Leroy and Olive Francis
London, England

Written by Gregg Stone
Bishop Leroy Francis

Christian Artifacts

In addition to pastoring and traveling the world as a conference speaker and Bible teacher, Bishop Francis enjoys spending time with his family. He and his wife have three children: Lee-Ann Diaz, Carl Francis and Monique Francis (deceased). He also finds time for a few hobbies. “In addition to playing guitar and photography, I am a keen gardener,” he said. “I’m also an avid antiques fan. I’m always seeking out bookshops which sell Christian artifacts. My collection includes antique Bibles and Christian books, full-sized and miniature guitars, stamps and globes.”

Bombed in WWII

Battersea Park Road is a former Baptist church built by renowned minister Charles Spurgeon. “It was called Battersea Tabernacle at that time,” said Bishop Francis. “The original building seated 1,000 people. Unfortunately, it was hit by a bomb during the war (that area is now used for parking) and all that was left of the building was the School Hall. The church was purchased for £25,000 by Pastor Dallas and 20 members who gave sacrificially in order to do this. Today, Life Tabernacle is an established international church consisting of over 35 different nationalities. It has a pastoral team of eight, church board of six, 30 different departments, a Latino Fellowship, a Korean Fellowship, New Life Christian Fellowship, East London Fellowship and Mitcham Fellowship.”

Steady Growth

Life Tabernacle (based in Battersea) was originally an extension work of Calvary Temple (based in Camberwell). At that time, the church did not have its own building, so they rented a community club hall called The Devas Center. There were about 12 saints under the leadership of Pastor Dallas. “Our primary location now is 32 Battersea Park Road,” said Bishop Francis. “This facility includes the sanctuary where we hold services, a kitchen, dining area, prayer room/school room, along with the offices of the pastor and administration.”

Throughout the main church and extensions there has been steady growth. Notably, the Latino group has doubled over the last 12 months and, since 2001, they have seen a 200% rate of increase in membership. Due to increased growth, Bishop Francis and his team continue to look for ways to expand. “We recently completed the purchase of a 19,000-square-feet church complex in Croydon, now known as Croydon Inspired,” he explained. “Constructed in 1886, the site consists of the sanctuary, which seats 800, a lower hall seating 220, an upper hall seating 250, a chapel seating 100, a committee room seating 100, an administration office and four ancillary rooms. There is also a garden which provides a play area and an outer storage area. Currently we have Sunday school, Sunday worship and mid-week Bible study there. This is in addition to the meetings held at Battersea Park Road and our other extension works. Our future plans for this site are to modernize the site to make it a 1,000-seat conference center with all the necessary ancillary services, including a Christian nursery and preschool, youth center and senior care center, a children’s education center, a men’s support center, a family center and a ladies’ support center.”

Empower the Community

The excitement level is high, and Bishop Francis and his team are passionate about continuing to empower the community by connecting with God’s love. “We are grateful to God that He has blessed us with a congregation that consists of individuals from all over the world,” said Bishop Francis. “We truly are an international, intergenerational church. We have a vision to be a 1,000-plus member resourced church – resourced spiritually, numerically and financially to fulfill the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:19... locally, nationally and internationally. The work has only just begun, but we know that the same God that has brought us this far will see us through. We are passionate and purpose-driven in the knowledge that God has given us a vision and that He is also empowering the vision.”

youth director. “Following the passing of my infant daughter, Monique, in 1989, I received fresh impetus to achieve something great for God,” he said. “I became the assistant and then associate pastor to Bro. Dallas. In 2002, Bro. Dallas attended a conference in the U.S where he received a prophetic word that he and his wife, Joan, should return to Ireland to establish church works there. After seeking God for confirmation and clear direction, Bro. Dallas felt led to hand the leadership of Life Tabernacle over to me and my wife. The transition service took place in March of 2000 at Life Tabernacle’s anniversary service. In 2002, I was elected general superintendent of the UPCI in Great Britain and Ireland.”

In addition to his other duties, Bishop Francis also sits on the Global Council and Executive Global Council, the RRDC (Regional Research and Development Commission) for Europe and the Middle East, and he is a trustee of Compassion Services International.

Exciting things have happened for the Francis family through the years, and God has used some great men to speak into their lives. Bishop Francis has seen their words come to pass in a mighty way. “During the 2003 European Conference in Holland, Bro. T.F. Tenney prophesied over me, saying I was a chosen vessel to go through every open door,” said Bishop Francis. “He said God would attract other ministers to the light that was placed in me and that many would be attracted, surprised and astonished by the anointing. The next day I was slain in the spirit for over an hour. Then, during a visit to Texas for General Conference, prophecy was spoken over my life emphasizing that I was wearing a purple robe and would stand before dignitaries and royalty.

Since that time, I have been to the House of Commons, House of Parliament, 10 Downing Street (official residence of the UK prime minister), and Lambeth Palace (official residence of the archbishop of Canterbury). During a visit to Grand Cayman, I was invited to speak to a gathering of political leaders and subsequently invited to a four-hour audience with the speaker of the House of Parliament. God has blessed me tremendously, and I count it all joy for the work of the kingdom.”
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TIM GADDY, SENIOR PASTOR
NEW LIFE CHURCH - CABOT, ARKANSAS
CSI Board Member Understands Effects of Natural Disasters

By Camra Faulkner, MD

Bro. Lloyd Shirley has been involved with Compassion Services International in administration and a leadership role for at least 18 years. For the last 10 years, he has served as a CSI board of trustee member. Prior to that, he advised and led through his role on the Foreign Missions board.

However, Bro. Shirley’s first interaction with CSI was as a UPCI Global Missionary in the Leeward Islands. In 1989, Hurricane Hugo came through the islands and devastated St. Croix, the island where he and his family lived. He remembers, “Our whole house was blown away by Hugo. We were totally cut off from communication. We saw no one from the outside for seven days. We were just there, with no way to do anything or go anywhere.” Bro. and Sis. Shirley, their family, and the churches in St. Croix became some of the earliest recipients of CSI’s disaster relief fundraising.

The Shirleys started their lives of ministry evangelizing in 1964 and shortly thereafter pastored a home missions church in Worthington, Minnesota. Around 1973, Bro. Shirley heard that the islands of the Caribbean were ready for revival and needed church workers.

He recalls, “I decided to go to the islands to see if this was where I might fit into the work of the Lord and was overwhelmed with the great need. I did not hear a voice or see writing in the sky but did feel the need to assist in bringing a revival to a needy area of the world.” So they made application and received their appointment in 1973, and they arrived on the field the next year.

The Shirleys served in the Caribbean as missionaries until 1993 when they were appointed as regional field supervisors for Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean. They saw exciting growth and revival throughout the region while filling that role. In 2000, Bro. Shirley transitioned to being the director of Education and of AIM and served in that capacity through 2010. During his tenure, the Global Association of Theological Studies (GAT) came into being and has grown now to include over 500 overseas Bible colleges.

“Having been through a couple of disasters myself on the field...it helps one to understand that you can’t make it alone,” he says. “Going through a helpless situation makes you realize the importance of someone coming to help. I still remember the first person coming up the hill after seeing no one for seven days. Fellow missionaries Gary Landaw had managed to get into St. Croix from Puerto Rico and brought aid to us.” Compassion Services International was started to be this kind of help for our missionaries and churches all over the world in times of humanitarian need, after natural disasters, and when other desperate situations arise. Bro. Shirley has continued to work with Compassion Services International all these years, because he believes in the mission of CSI and the need for the work that the organization does.

CSI needs your funding, support and prayers to continue our work. To donate, please visit www.compassionservices.org. Donations, contributions and offerings made to CSI’s international relief efforts can also qualify for direct offering credit through the UPCI Global Missions.

The Ultimate List of 50 Best Christian Books of All Time

By Joshua Infantado, author and blog writer

This list, organized by Joshua Infantado, was compiled from an algorithm based upon popularity, reviews, ratings, and number of copies sold. It is an interesting collection of both older classics and modern best sellers. While you will certainly not agree with every book in this list, you will find it interesting to check how many you have read and a great list to consider for future reading.

1. The Holy Bible
3. When Bad Things Happen to Good People – Harold Kushner
4. A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23 – Phillip Keller
5. Mere Christianity – C.S. Lewis
6. Knowing God – J.I. Packer
7. The Pursuit for Holiness – Jerry Bridges
8. The Case for Faith – Lee Strobel
9. Shocked by the Bible – Joe Kovacs
10. The Pursuit of God – A.W. Tozer
11. Life Application Study Bible NIV
12. The Invitation of Christ – Thomas Kempis
13. In His Steps – Charles Sheldon
14. My Utmost for His Highest – Oswald Chambers
15. The Cost of Discipleship – Dietrich Bonhoeffer
16. The Hiding Place – Corrie Ten Boom
17. The Normal Christian Life – Watchman Nee
18. What’s so Amazing About Grace? – Philip Yancey
19. The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism – Timothy Keller
22. Trusting God: Even When Life Hurts – Jerry Bridges
25. Killing Jesus: A History – Bill O’Reilly
26. Boundaries: When to Say Yes, How to Say No to Take Control of Your Life – Henry Cloud
27. Follow Me: Experience the Living Leadership of Jesus – Jan David Hettinga
28. The 5 Love Languages: The Secret to Love that Lasts – Gary Chapman
29. Gifted Hands – Dr. Benjamin Carson
30. Every Man’s Battle: Winning the War on Sexual Temptation – Stephen Arterburn
31. The Seven Laws of Success – Herbert Armstrong
32. Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years - Diarmaid MacCulloch
34. Chase the Lion: If Your Dream Doesn’t Scare You, It’s Too Small – Mark Batterson
35. Entrusted – Bible Study Book: A Study of 2 Timothy – Beth Moore
36. The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith – Timothy Keller
37. The New Strong’s Expanded Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible – James Strong
38. The Love Dare – Stephen and Alex Kendrick
39. How to Memorize the Bible Fast and Easy – Adam O’Hong
40. Uninvited – Lysa TerKeurst
41. I kissed Dating Goodbye – Joshua Harris
42. The Richest Man Who Ever Lived: King Solomon’s Secrets to Success – Steven Scott
43. The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived: Secrets for Success from the Life of Jesus – Steven Scott
44. Mystery of the Ages – Herbert W. Armstrong
45. Fox’s Book of Martyrs – John Foxe
46. The Shack – Wm. Paul Young
47. Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God – Francis Chan
48. Jesus Calling – Sarah Young
49. Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream – David Platt
50. Celebration of Discipline: The Path To Spiritual Growth – Richard Foster
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Tell us a little about yourself and your ministry.

I was called to preach at 24 years old while serving in the military in Operation Desert Storm. After returning from the Middle East, I joined the ministers-in-training program at The Pentecostals of Murfreesboro, Tenn., where my pastor, Bro. Phil De Priest, was casting vision for daughter works around our area. My wife, Susan, and I helped with the first church plant in Woodbury and a few years later, we started our own daughter work in Mt. Juliet, Tenn.

It was not until after many highs and lows that God began to move in a great way there. We built a new facility, planted two daughter works, sent out multiple ministers to other churches, and developed one of two Purpose Institute campuses in Tennessee. Finally, in 2014 God redirected me to St. Charles, Mo.

In your opinion, what are the most important keys to success in church planting?

Preparation. It is vital to prepare yourself financially and spiritually, and to study the best practices of current Apostolic church planters. Serve in a church plant for a week. Have lunch with a church planter. If possible, attend North American Missions “LAUNCH” training program, and you can find out more at www.launchachurch.fiez.

Clarity. You must have full confidence in your calling to your city, as there will be days your commitment will be tested. From my experience, there is a cycle in church planting. Years 1-3: You are so excited and you struggle to disciple and keep all those folks you won. Years 4-6: The honeymoon is over, you must continue throughout your life. Schedule vacations and block off family time. Take care of yourself. Sometimes the most spiritual thing you can do is take a nap.

Persistence. There is incredible power in staying put. You will outlast your enemies, gain credibility and good reputation in the city, and your roots will grow deep.

What are the most common barriers that cause a church planter to fail?

Unrealistic Expectations. Every church planter goes into a city with past experiences and current comparisons. This is okay, as long as it is not used as a benchmark of success. What works in one area may not be as effective in your area. Social media makes comparison almost unavoidable, but one usually only reports the best news. It is important to stop comparing yourself with others and current comparisons. This is okay, as long as it is not used as a benchmark of success. What works in one area may not be as effective in your area. Social media makes comparison almost unavoidable, but one usually only reports the best news. It is important to stop comparing yourself with others and current comparisons. This is okay, as long as it is not used as a benchmark of success. What works in one area may not be as effective in your area. Social media makes comparison almost unavoidable, but one usually only reports the best news. It is important to stop comparing yourself with others and current comparisons. This is okay, as long as it is not used as a benchmark of success. What works in one area may not be as effective in your area. Social media makes comparison almost unavoidable, but one usually only reports the best news. It is important to stop comparing yourself with others and current comparisons. This is okay, as long as it is not used as a benchmark of success. What works in one area may not be as effective in your area. Social media makes comparison almost unavoidable, but one usually only reports the best news. It is important to stop comparing yourself with others and current comparisons. This is okay, as long as it is not used as a benchmark of success. What works in one area may not be as effective in your area. Social media makes comparison almost unavoidable, but one usually only reports the best news. It is important to stop comparing yourself with others and current comparisons. This is okay, as long as it is not used as a benchmark of success. What works in one area may not be as effective in your area. Social media makes comparison almost unavoidable, but one usually only reports the best news. It is important to stop comparing yourself with others and current comparisons. This is okay, as long as it is not used as a benchmark of success. What works in one area may not be as effective in your area. Social media makes comparison almost unavoidable, but one usually only reports the best news. It is important to stop comparing yourself with others and current comparisons. This is okay, as long as it is not used as a benchmark of success. What works in one area may not be as effective in your area. Social media makes comparison almost unavoidable, but one usually only reports the best news. It is important to stop comparing yourself with others and current comparisons. This is okay, as long as it is not used as a benchmark of success. What works in one area may not be as effective in your area. Social media makes comparison almost unavoidable, but one usually only reports the best news. It is important to stop comparing yourself with others and current comparisons. This is okay, as long as it is not used as a benchmark of success. What works in one area may not be as effective in your area. Social media makes comparison almost unavoidable, but one usually only reports the best news. It is important to stop comparing yourself with others and current comparisons. This is okay, as long as it is not used as a benchmark of success. What works in one area may not be as effective in your area. Social media makes comparison almost unavoidable, but one usually only reports the best news. It is important to stop comparing yourself with others and current comparisons. This is okay, as long as it is not used as a benchmark of success. What works in one area may not be as effective in your area. Social media makes comparison almost unavoidable, but one usually only reports the best news. It is importan...
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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
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<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>SPEAKERS</th>
<th>CONTACT / INFO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>Indiana Bible College LIVE RECORDING</td>
<td>Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN</td>
<td>Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, Lindel Anderson, IBC Choir, IBC Chorale, IBC Praise, others</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ibc@apostolic.edu">ibc@apostolic.edu</a> <a href="http://www.go2ibc.com">www.go2ibc.com</a> or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069</td>
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<td>Feb 21-23</td>
<td>WinterFire 2019</td>
<td>First Cathedral 1151 Blue Hills Ave. Bloomfield, CT 06002</td>
<td>Jon Petoskey, Sam Emory, Sean Libby, Janice Sjostrom, Kenneth Carpenter, Mark Morgan, Scott Sistrunk, Elias Limones and Jerry Jones</td>
<td>For more info: visit <a href="http://www.winterfire.org">www.winterfire.org</a> or visit Instagram/Twitter/ Facebook @winterfireconf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2019</td>
<td>Compassion Sunday 2019</td>
<td>Contact your local church for details.</td>
<td>Robert L. Rodenbush, director</td>
<td>For more info: visit <a href="http://www.compassionservices.org">www.compassionservices.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2019</td>
<td>Indiana Bible College THEOLOGY CONFERENCE</td>
<td>Indiana Bible College 1502 Summer Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46227</td>
<td>Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, Jason Gallion, Bobby Killmon, Lindel Anderson, others.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ibc@apostolic.edu">ibc@apostolic.edu</a> <a href="http://www.go2ibc.com">www.go2ibc.com</a> or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069</td>
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<td>April 29-MAY 3</td>
<td>Ascend Student Convention 2019</td>
<td>Carlinville, IL</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ascendsc.org">www.ascendsc.org</a> <a href="mailto:ascendsstudentconvention@gmail.com">ascendsstudentconvention@gmail.com</a> (317) 789-8710 ext. 194</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2019</td>
<td>Power Conference 2019</td>
<td>Crossroads Arena 2800 S. Harper Rd. Cornith, MS 38634</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td>For more info, call Josh Hodum (662) 287-4118 or (662) 872-9999</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 31-Aug 2</td>
<td>North American Youth Congress 2019</td>
<td>The Dome at America’s Center St. Louis, MO</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td><a href="http://www.northamericanyouthcongress.com">www.northamericanyouthcongress.com</a></td>
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<td>July 2019</td>
<td>Mile High Revival 2019</td>
<td>Calvary Apostolic Church Of Denver, 5900 E. Yale Ave. Denver, CO 80222 Pastor Don Raymon II</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td>(303) 758-5900 <a href="http://www.cadcenver.org">www.cadcenver.org</a> milehigh revival.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2019</td>
<td>The Apostolic Conference</td>
<td>Parkway Pentecostal Church, 601 Reunion Parkway, Madison, MS 39110. Host Pastors: Jerry and Jason Dillon</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td>(601) 853-2607 <a href="http://www.parkwaychurch.net">www.parkwaychurch.net</a> ParkwayChurch.net/NAMRegistration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 2-6</td>
<td>Arkansas International Campmeeting - North Little Rock, AR</td>
<td>First Pentecostal Church of North Little Rock 1401 Calvary Rd., North Little Rock, AR Joel &amp; Nathan Holmes</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td>For more info visit aircm.net</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 2019</td>
<td>Mid-America Renewal Conference (MARC)</td>
<td>Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ibc@apostolic.edu">ibc@apostolic.edu</a> <a href="http://www.go2ibc.com">www.go2ibc.com</a> or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 2019</td>
<td>UPCJ General Conference</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td>Online registration, hotel reservations and exhibit registration available at <a href="http://www.upcjc.com">www.upcjc.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 10-11</td>
<td>Investing in Futures</td>
<td>Apostolic Sanctuary 1501 John Deece Pkwy Ste 6, IL 61282 Hosts: Gary Randol and Scott Graham</td>
<td>Gary Randol, Scott Graham, David Brown, Nathan Scoeggs and Stan Gleason</td>
<td>For more info: visit invest-in-futures.com (369) 792-0414</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 2019</td>
<td>MidAmerica Conference</td>
<td>First Pentecostal Church of North Little Rock, 1401 Calvary Rd., North Little Rock, AR 72116</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td>For more information visit midamericaconf.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 2019</td>
<td>West Coast Conference - Fresno, CA</td>
<td>Fresno Convention Center 848 M Street, Fresno, CA</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td>For more information call: (559) 225-1622 <a href="http://www.truthtabfresno.org">www.truthtabfresno.org</a></td>
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Church Today: No Shame in Waiting

T. W. Massengale

Resist the Easy Path

The Henry Ford maxim is often quoted and still stands true: “If you keep on doing what you have always done, you will keep getting what you’ve always gotten.” Over the years, I have observed that revival churches continually try new things: ministries, programs, events, you name it. Attending these churches is exciting because something is always happening. One pastor put it this way: “I marry the message, not the method.” We have a powerful and eternal message. But the method of propagating this message must change with the times. It is extremely true that the only thing in life that’s achieved without risk is failure. Nothing worth striving for and obtaining ever comes easy. J. C. Penney once observed, “Geniuses themselves don’t talk about the gift of genius. They just talk about the hard work and long hours.” What are you planning to do differently in 2019? What is your plan for revival? Are your leaders and church members aware of these plans and are they on board with the effort needed to achieve them? Revival churches often do the following to break out of the “same ol’ same ol’” mold:

Plan on having an Annual Planning Retreat with your ministry leaders this fall to plan the coming year. Usually this is an overnight, out-of-town event. Make it special. Consider going Friday evening, all day and overnight, out-of-town event. Make it special.

Make evangelism the top priority for the coming year. Plan a series of activities and events that will result in baptisms and new convert retention and events that will result in baptisms and new converts. Discuss new convert retention and events that will result in baptisms and new converts. Make sure we enter that rest. The “rest” we now have is the new Sabbath as a “sign” pointed to the rest in the Holy Ghost. Sabbath anticipated our redeemed rest in God. Salvation is the full expression. People take a day off, but they don’t have rest. Why? Because rest is not a day at the end of the week. That day was only a reminder, a pointer! So the “weekend” was to be a constant reminder pointing to the eternal “end” or purpose God had for us. A sign can point us to a destination, but the sign is not the destination. Sabbath as a “sign” pointed to the rest in the Holy Ghost where we are realigned in relationship! Ps. 95:11 is repeated in Hebrews, which says NT folk must make sure we enter that rest. The “rest” we now have is the new life lived outside the dominion of sin by being filled with the Holy Ghost. That’s why Jesus said in Matt. 11:28, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Here “rest” is the same Greek word the rabbi’s used to characterize Sabbath. Matt. 12:8 demonstrates Jesus is the “Lord of the Sabbath.” That means He rules and can give rest. Heb. 4:9-10 shows we can cease from sin and self. Even Isa. 28:11-12 prophesies of this rest coming by the Holy Ghost. So, while the NT is clear that no Christian needs to practice the OT notion of Sabbath (Col. 2:16-17; Rom. 14:5-6; Gal. 4:9-10), everyone needs the fullest expression. If you want rest, you must come to Him! Acts 2:38 still brings rest. You can have righteousness, peace, and joy... How? In the Holy Ghost!
CHRISTMAS FOR CHRIST

THIS YEAR’S OFFERING DATE

DECEMBER 23, 2018

Christmas for Christ is an annual offering for North American Missionaries.

This special offering is received during the Christmas season and is used to enlist, train, and financially support missionaries who are called to establish churches in unevangelized areas in North America.

VIDEOS & RESOURCES

Find your 2018 Christmas Stories & Resources at www.christmasforchrist.faih
### Spiritual Growth
Join me: WALKING IN THE WORD
Carol Clemans
Carol Clemans – Anointed Bible teacher, Certified Pastoral Counselor, teaching/counseling nationwide (636) 448-9121. Enjoy the 500+ articles on www.carolclemans.org. Mins. Ref: Pastor Daniel Batchelor, Dupo, IL

In my nationwide ministry, I am counseling, teaching and writing from the Word of God daily. It is the foundational source of our living for God. Many people have told me how much they enjoy my teaching God’s Word. God put it on my heart to create a site where I will be posting teachings on a weekly basis.

I teach for spiritual, emotional and relational growth. I also will be teaching on all the issues that I counsel – marriage/family/parenting, sexual abuse recovery, emotional healing, porn addiction recovery, developing an intimate relationship with God, etc. James 1:21 (NKJV): “Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”

My great concern is that parents must become better equipped to teach their children God’s truth that will give them strength to resist the world and stay strong in the Lord. Children and youth tell me they can understand my teachings. Pastors can share these teachings with staff and church. I will be teaching from my unpublished book, God’s Healing for Hurting People.

Join @ www.patreon.com/carolclemans - read/watch the introduction. The minimal membership donation will be used to expand the production/ministry of Life Enrichment Ministries, Inc. You can access these teachings (for members only) at any time. Share them with your family and others. This is a way for me to share God’s wisdom and mentor others from my 72 years of life for His glory! This Bible teaching can go around the world through the Internet. Share this with others.

God and His Word must be the most important issues in life. Bible teaching can never go by the wayside. His Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Jesus is coming soon! Join @ www.patreon.com/carolclemans.

### The WOW Factor
Six Things That Strain Our Relationship With God
Tom Foster
Tom Foster is the Bishop of Dallas First Church in Dallas, Tx. He is the Presbyter of the SE Section of the North Texas District and the Church Growth Director for the UPCI. You can follow him @tjfoster04 or email him: tfooster@dallasfirstchurch.com.

In the hustle and bustle of life, if we are not careful our relationship with God can grow strained, or even cold. These issues, if not managed and kept in proper perspective, can quickly separate us from God’s purpose in our lives.

1. Stress – Learn to stress drive you to God. Stress can cause us to isolate ourselves, and we will rely on our own abilities instead of God.
2. Time Pressures – This can cause us to neglect prayer. We make excuses because we are busy with the work of God, but we can’t forget the God of the work.
3. Possessions – When pursuing possessions, we must ask, “Do I own them or do they own me?” We must be responsible with our possessions and use them for God’s purpose. When God blesses much, we must give equally.
4. Poor Choices – We need to make sure we are making decisions based on the principles of God’s Word. When we make choices without God in it, we pay for it.
5. Wrong Priorities – We must keep all things in the right perspective. Don’t sacrifice your relationship with God, your family or your own health for the “work of God.” Your priorities must constantly be realigned. God first, then your spouse, then your children, next your job and your ministry.
6. Lack of Discipline – You are the only one who can improve you! When we are unwilling to discipline ourselves, it will hinder our spiritual development and stymie our personal growth, which will in turn affect every area of our life.

Take time and review Psalm 139 this week to let it renew you and remind you of God’s love and purpose in your life. Take time to let God search you and know your heart. Nothing can ease the pressures of life like getting into the refreshing presence of the Lord.

### Church Marketing
Chris Henderson
Chris Henderson joined the team of Indiana Bible College after graduating from there in 2008. He serves on staff as the Dean of Communications & Media Minor and the Director of Promotions. He serves off staff as a husband and a father. He made the best decision of his life when he married Leah, and together they are raising two sons, Corbit and Wyatt.

Delano Sherley & Associates, Inc., 8240 Beckett Park Dr., Suite A, West Chester, OH 45069. Email: Delano@dsacpaInc.com Website: www.dsalcpainc.com

### Accounting & Tax
Security Cameras
Delano Sherley
Delano Sherley is a CPA and president of Delano Sherley & Associates, Inc. He can be reached at 513-737-1314. Delano Sherley & Associates, Inc., 8240 Beckett Park Dr., Suite A, West Chester, OH 45069. Email: Delano@dsacpaInc.com Website: www.dsalcpainc.com

We routinely recommend that churches install a security camera system. Having one protects the church attendees and church property. It also acts as a deterrent to would-be thieves.

Ideally, any area where privacy is not expected (i.e. bathrooms) should have a camera. Be sure to include common areas such as stairwells, foyers and hallways.

Parents will feel more at ease knowing cameras are in rooms where children are taught. Every entrance way should be monitored, as well as the parking lot, playground, etc. We have seen where automobiles in a church parking lot received damage or were stolen. A security system could have helped identify the vandal.

There are many systems available. Consider getting one that backs up online. Another desirable feature is having one that allows church staff to monitor the cameras either online or from a cell phone.

You may also receive a discount on your commercial insurance, so call and let them know if you are installing a system.

Besides deterring theft, a camera system will protect children and protect the church from a false injury claim. It is recommended that you post signs at every entrance to inform members and visitors that they are being recorded. How long you keep the recordings is determined by your state’s laws and statute of limitations.

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Rapist Who Identifies As Woman Sent to Female Prison Where He Sexually Assaulted More Women

British prison authorities are being criticized for placing a male individual who identifies as a woman into the female prison system, where the person -- who had been accused of raping women -- sexually assaulted female prisoners.

The shocking story began when Karen White, who was born Stephen Wood, was accused of raping a woman in 2016. The Telegraph reported. Even though Wood had not completed sex reassignment surgery and remained biologically male, prison officials placed Wood into a female-only prison. Within days, Wood had sexually assaulted four female prisoners.

Wood then was transferred to an all-male prison after authorities learned of the attacks. "We apologize sincerely for the mistakes which were made in this case," a prison official said, according to the newspaper. "While we work to manage all prisoners, including those who are transgender, sensitively and in line with the law, we are clear that the safety of all prisoners must be our absolute priority."

The 52-year-old Wood previously had been convicted of sexually assaulting a minor. It later was discovered Wood had raped a woman in 2003, too. Prison policy was not followed in this case, the Telegraph reported. When a transgender prisoner wishes to be housed in a prison that does not correspond to his or her birth gender, the case first must be reviewed by the Transgender Case Board, which looks at the offender’s history. That, though, was not done.

Ann Farmer, writing at Mercator.net, said Wood’s case isn’t an isolated one. "There are 125 transgender prisoners in jails in England and Wales. With this sort of encouragement from those in authority, for whom public safety should be a first priority, this problem is not going to go away any time soon."

Ken Ham, president of Answers in Genesis, said, "The Bible is clear that there are only two genders. When you deny Scripture and blur the lines between the sexes, you create confusion and open the door for sexual predators."

China Shuts Down Churches, Seizes Bibles in “Ambitious Effort” to Eradicate Religion

China is in the midst of an “ambitious new effort” to lesson or even eradicate the influence of Christianity and religion from the country, according to an investigation by the Associated Press. An in-depth story described churches being shut down, Bibles being seized and restrictions being placed on other religions, too. Crescents have been removed from mosques and Tibetan children removed from Buddhist temples and placed in public schools.

One Christian named Guo described an incident in which Chinese officials interrupted a church meeting and told everyone to leave. They ordered church leaders to remove a cross, a Bible verse and a painting of the Last Supper off the wall. Guo didn’t give his full name for fear of government repercussions.

“I’ve always prayed for our country to get stronger,” he said. “They were never this severe before, not since I started going to church in the ’80s. Why are they telling us to stop now?” In recent months, Chinese authorities have:

- Shut down hundreds of Christian house churches.
- Seized Bibles and forced e-commerce retailers to stop selling Bibles.
- Prevented children from attending church in some areas.
- Urged Christians in one location to replace posters of Jesus with pictures of President Xi Jinping.

The AP story further said that under Xi, Christians “are seeing their freedoms shrink dramatically even as the country undergoes a religious revival.” Xi is “waging the most severe systematic suppression of Christianity in the country since religious freedom was written into the Chinese constitution in 1982,” according to AP. The goal is to “Sinicize” the nation’s religions with “Chinese characteristics.” First among these is loyalty to the Communist Party.

“Xi is a closet Maoist -- he is very anxious about thought control,” Willy Lam of the Chinese University of Hong Kong said. "They were never this severe before, not since I started going to church in the ’80s. Why are they telling us to stop now?"

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“Xi is a closet Maoist -- he is very anxious about thought control,” Willy Lam of the Chinese University of Hong Kong told AP. “He definitely does not want people to be faithful members of the church, because then people would profess their allegiance to the church rather than to the party, or more exactly, to Xi himself.”

NEWS IN BRIEF

- A new study examining family structures reveals that children from broken families accumulate nearly $62,000 less wealth on average over the course of their lifetimes than those raised in an intact family. The study, “Childhood Family Structure and the Accumulation of Wealth Across the Life Course,” found a median wealth penalty of at least $61,600 at ages 47 to 55 for individuals who did not live continuously with both biological parents from birth to age 18.

- It was announced recently at the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Austin, Texas, that church officials are considering revising the Book of Common Prayer to say that God does not have a gender. The Rev. Ruth Meyers, a scholar and divinity school professor, said the prayer book should be revised to reflect the changing world around believers. She said recent talk about gender-neutral revisions has been influenced in part by the MeToo movement.

Elementary Schools Using Drag Queens To Teach Kids About Gender

Some public schools in the U.S. have utilized the “Drag Queen Story Hour” to teach about gender identity. The website describes the story hour as, “drag queens reading stories to children in libraries, schools, and bookstores. DQSH captures the imagination and play of the gender fluidity of childhood and gives kids glamorous, positive, and unabashedly queer role models.” The New York Times described one of the events, hosted by a branch of the New York Public Library, in 2017. A six-foot performer named Harmonica Sunbeam, wearing a neon camoufage bodysuit and a purple tutu, read to the children. “She” read from Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress by Christopher Baldacchino. The book is about a boy who wore a beloved dress to school every day, and was teased by his classmates.

Alessia Hernandez, a first-grade teacher at a public school in Brooklyn, praised the program: “What an amazing way to teach about individuality, empathy, and acceptance! Drag Queen Story Hour gave my students a fun and interactive platform to talk and think about social and emotional issues.”

Videographer Sean Fitzgerald disagreed, saying, “The taxpayer is funding adult-themed performers to come and read to our smallish children in order to indoctrinate them into a political ideology about gender.” The Drag Queen Story Hour was founded in 2014 and now has chapters in 20 states and the UK.

New Law: TN Schools Must Display “In God We Trust”

Students heading back to school in Tennessee will see “In God We Trust” displayed prominently in their schools. A bill requiring the national motto to be displayed in a prominent place was signed into law in April.

The law defines “prominent place” as a “school entry way, cafeteria, or common area where students are likely to see the national motto.” The phrase “may take the form of, but is not limited to, a mounted plaque or student-made artwork.”

The bill was sponsored by Republican Representative Susan Lynn. “Our national motto is on our money. It’s on our license plates. It’s part of our national anthem,” she said. “Our national motto and founding documents are the cornerstone of freedom, and we should teach our children about these things.”
BE A PART OF SOMETHING BIG

SUGAN APPLICATION DEADLINE NOVEMBER 16, 2018

Indiana Bible College exists to train tomorrow’s Apostolic leaders today. The unique blend of training experience, classroom learning, and hands-on learning opportunities create real ministry experience that allows students to be a part of something bigger than themselves.

Are you or someone you know ready to be a part of something big? Visit www.go2ibc.com/admissions
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In June of 1910, Robert Scott began the Terra Nova Expedition, journaling his expedition to the South Pole. The early entries are full of energy and enthusiasm. They were fueled by the incentive of being the first to plant their nation’s flag at the South Pole. However, when they arrived at the South Pole on January 17, 1912 they found that Roald Amundsen’s party had reached the pole and staked their flag five weeks earlier. Scott’s anguish was reflected in his diary: “We took risks; we knew we took them, but we bow to the will of Providence. All the daydreams must go. Great God! This is an awful place.” The feeling of defeat in Scott’s expedition became so heavy that as they retraced their steps, they began to lose hope of returning. They began to faint, to fall, and finally to die.

If you cannot see light at the end of the tunnel, and the days become dreary, dark and long, and joy disappears … hope provides the energy that constantly replenishes, drives and motivates our wills. Hope is the dynamo, and if that hope is removed, we become very discouraged.

Misplaced Hope

George Moore wrote in one of his novels about the peasants during a severe famine of 1847 in Ireland. These hungry, hard-working peasants were proud and wanted to work, so they were given jobs building a road through the countryside. For a time, the people worked with their picks, shovels and wheelbarrows. They were so grateful to have employment, to have a reason to earn their food, that they whistled and sang as they labored. After a time, however, they discovered that the roads they were building ended up in dreary bogs and swamps. In reality, the roads they were building led nowhere! With that realization, a tremendous change came over the workers. Their cheerfulness disappeared. They became unhappy, disgruntled and difficult to deal with. All of their whistling and singing disappeared. The observation was made that, “Roads that lead to nowhere are hard to build.”

When hope is gone, you don’t feel like carrying on. When real hope is absent, you may exist, but life loses its boldness and courage.

The hope placed in human ingenuity and creativeness will fall short, but a hope that is rightly placed in Jesus Christ is eternal and cannot be snuffed out.

One way we become discouraged is by misplacing our hope, by anchoring it to those things that are seen. Real hope has to be based on more than material possessions. There is nothing in scripture that says we have to lose all of our material goods. In fact, Christ said in John 10:10, “…I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” Jesus referenced a farmer in Luke 12 who said, “I will pull down my barns, and build greater barns. I will store all of my goods there and then take mine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.” Christ said, “You’re a fool, man. Tonight, your soul will be required of thee: then whose shall those things be?”

The man in this story was not condemned because he happened to be good farmer or because he had fertile ground. He was condemned because he had misplaced his priorities. He had forgotten who the owner was. He had forgotten that he was called to be a steward. He had misplaced his hope when he focused it primarily on possessions. Misplaced priorities and lost hopes always go together.

Stop Your Noise

A church organist was in the sanctuary late one evening playing a great pipe organ, preparing for Sunday services. That particular evening, as he stopped playing to exchange pieces of music, he heard a banging noise on the outside door. He said, “The noise was coming from the Main Street porch. One of the transients who sleeps on our porch during the summer months was beating on the outside door, saying, ‘Would you hold down the noise? We’re trying to sleep out here!’”

How tragic that the very hope that could turn his world around lay just on the other side of the door he was sleeping in front of. The message of hope that the church carries is being meshed in with so many other voices today that it can be mistaken simply as noise. The world is banging on the door of the Church today, saying, “Stop your noise!” I say that it is time for the Church to sing louder and preach harder the message of hope that is found in Jesus Christ.

We must also make sure that hope is not misplaced in our own personality, ability and talent. In Luke 10, when Jesus gave His disciples power to spread hope to the world, that hope somehow got transferred to their own power. “Lord, we healed diseases; we cast out demons; we were able to do all kinds of things. Lord, it’s great having all of this power.” But Jesus put hope back in perspective quickly by saying, “Listen, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Don’t ever get so blinded that you forget where the power comes from. Let me remind you to just rejoice in the fact that your names are written in heaven.”

Tim Pedigo // Indianapolis, IN
Hope of Eternal Life

Emil Brunner, in Christianity and Civilization, said, “We are so overwhelmed by our complicated problems and all that presses us on every side, that we begin to look on eternal life as though to believe in it as some kind of luxury.”

The hope found in Jesus Christ is not some unattainable luxury afforded to a limited few. It is a help that is offered to whosoever will ask. It is the only hope of eternal life. It is the only way to really attack our problems.

There will always be those who are trying to make a utopia out of this present world. “You only go around once, so grab all you can get the first time through.” Life becomes a selfish cycle of attaining what you can, pressing on toward some kind of utopia where you will finally have it made. Some are caught between illusion and despair. They create their own illusions, believing that one more acquisition... one more experience... one more thrill will make their lives complete. And when they get a small taste of their so-called utopia, their souls remain untouched and unsatisfied. They still don’t have that which they need most, so they fall into despair.

George Harrison, lead guitarist for the Beatles, once said in an interview, “There was never anything in any of the Beatles experiences really that good; even the best thrill soon got tiring.”

C.S. Lewis, in his book Mere Christianity, said, “Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for those desires exists. A baby feels hunger: well, there is such a thing as food. A duckling wants to swim: well, there is such a thing as water. If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.”

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

We were made for another world. That’s why this one doesn’t truly satisfy. If you are confident that your citizenship is in heaven, you are under no illusions about this world and its limitations. You can live without despair in this world.

“My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus blood and righteousness I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus’ name On Christ, the solid rock, I stand All other ground is sinking sand…”

When the Bible speaks about real hope, it is not talking about the heaven that is “out there” someday, nor is it talking primarily about the material or physical. It is actually talking about the power and presence of Jesus Christ.

Fear Not

Paul was on his way to Rome when the ship on which he was traveling was caught in a terrible storm off the coast of Crete. They were driven for days by the high winds, the clouds hid the sun, and they couldn’t tell if it was night or day. They threw their cargo and the ship’s tackle overboard. Acts 27:15, “And when the ship was caught, and could not bear up into the wind, we let her drive.”

In other words, they could no longer control the ship, so they released it to the storm. But Paul came up on the deck of the ship and told the sailors to “eat and take courage” because they probably would be shipwrecked! Or they might not. Either way, it was going to be all right.

Acts 27:23, “For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.”

Real hope comes with the very presence of God standing beside us, saying, “It’s going to be all right. In spite of the storm, in spite of the shipwreck, it’s going to be all right.” Real hope saves us from being driven by the storm, drifting out of control.

One True King

I was blessed to take a trip to London, England in search of used and possibly rare books. At the end of the trip, we visited Westminster Abbey. It is a breathtakingly beautiful church. The tour had us crossing by the crypts of many great historical figures such as Tyndall, Dickens, Chaucer, Kipling, Browning; composers such as Handel and Williams; scientists such as Isaac Newton, et cetera. I came to the right side of the altar and entered the Hall of Kings & Queens of England. It was hard to imagine that I was that close to the crypts of all of the royalty that I had read about for years. I walked the Hall of Kings wondering if I could hear some word of wisdom, if there might be a whisper from the sages of the ages who had ruled this great country. I heard nothing.

As I exited the Hall of Kings & Queens, I realized that I was once again at the altar on the other side of the church. It was there that the Lord reminded me that all of the wisdom, help and hope I would ever need starts and ends at the altar. There has to be more to life than building and chasing kingdoms. All dynasties have crumbled and fallen. There is only one true King and only one kingdom that will last forever. We cannot be caught up in building our own roads and our own kingdoms.

Remember, “Roads that lead to nowhere are hard to build.” Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”

Hebrews 6:17-19, “Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath. That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us. Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast…”

Paul said in Acts 27, “For there stood by me this night the angel of God... Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar. I know I’m going to die someday...but not on this day. Why? Because I have to make it to Rome.”

That sounds a lot like 1 Peter 1:3-4, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.”

This is our help... this is our hope. It is greater than the promise made to Paul by the angel that he would make it to Rome. We have a hope that is eternal. We have a destination that awaits us that is not of this world. If it is reserved in heaven for you, then God must be expecting you.

Bio: Bro. Tim Pedigo has been involved in ministry of music, worship and the Word for many years. He began as a music minister in his local church while studying music education at the University of North Texas. The next dozen years were a mix of songwriting, recording, and traveling while doing concerts, as well as choir and vocal clinics. In 1991, Tim married his wife, Adena, and their music ministries were joined together in the first of several recordings. By the end of that year, they moved to Indianapolis where he served as administrative assistant and instructor at both Indiana Bible College and Calvary Christian High School. He currently serves as assistant pastor at Calvary Tabernacle in Indianapolis. Bro. and Sis. Pedigo have two children, Macli and Georgeon.
Apostolic Ministry Training Center
Germany, Switzerland, Austria & Liechtenstein

AMTC Purpose
AMTC is the annual training program in the German Speaking Nations strategically designed to:
1. Standardize the apostles’ doctrine
2. Serve as a catalyst for local church discipleship
3. Serve as a catalyst for lay ministry development
4. Deploy strategic evangelism across our field.

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Global Harvest Through Apostolic Training

Apostolic Ministers Needed to Teach, Preach at Training Center Overseas

By Brooke Wright

Revival is happening all over the world! To get workers ready for the harvest, the United Pentecostal Church of the German Speaking Nations (UPC-GSN) has consistently conducted an annual Bible school training program, Apostolic Ministry Training Center (AMTC), for 11 years.

In January 2008, Missionaries Charles and Stacey Robinette founded AMTC in Vienna, Austria with 50 local students. Now, AMTC is facilitating global Apostolic harvest in many nations involving multiple Trinitarian organizations. Over the last two years, AMTC has doubled its campuses and students annually. In 2018, AMTC experienced another great year of growth with 17 campuses and 305 students. Eighty-seven students from mostly Trinitarian organizations were filled with the gift of the Holy Ghost and 23 were baptized in Jesus name during 10 days of intensive AMTC training.

“A seven-billion-soul global harvest can only be achieved through consistent and purposeful Apostolic training!” said Bro. Robinette, UPC-GSN General Superintendent and AMTC President.

He said the purpose of AMTC is four-fold: 1) Standardize the teaching of the apostles’ doctrine, 2) Serve as a catalyst for local church discipleship, 3) Serve as a catalyst for lay ministry development, and 4) Serve as a deployable strategic evangelism tool.

“AMTC is part of our global harvest vision that must be pursued,” said Nathan Hulsman, missionary to Zurich, Switzerland and UPC-GSN vice president of AMTC. “It is an opportunity for the body of Christ to link arms globally in order to facilitate end time revival!”

Bro. Robinette testified of results witnessed through the program. “From 2015-2018, nearly 200 Trinitarian pastors/ministers/leaders have been filled with the gift of the Holy Ghost and baptized in Jesus name across the German-speaking nations,” he said. “As a result of these conversions, we received a call from the Bishop of the Evangelical Trinitarians of the nation of Angola. He said, ‘You have been baptizing all of my pastors in Jesus name; please don’t baptize anymore of my pastors until you baptize me.’

“The Bishop lands October 23 in Munich, Germany, and we will baptize him in Jesus name and he will receive the gift of the Holy Ghost! He has asked us to begin AMTC in all 400 of his churches in Angola by 2020 and to conduct a crusade in November 2019 so all 20,000 of his people can be born again!”

AMTC is an opportunity for ministers from North America to take part in God’s global harvest. The UPC-GSN is looking for Apostolic ministers to teach, preach and harvest during the Nov. 14-27, 2019 AMTC semester. They are projecting over 40 AMTC campuses, 500 students, and that 250 people will receive the Holy Ghost and be baptized during the 12 days of classes.

This would be considered a missions trip, which is paid for by the instructor. AMTC campuses will be held simultaneously in Austria, Germany and Switzerland. If you are interested in serving as an AMTC instructor at one of the 40 campuses in May 2019, please contact Bro. Hulsman by email at nhulsman23@hotmail.com.

DayStar Ministries

Apostolic Resources Provide Pastoral Counseling, Help Restore Marriages

By Linda Schreckenberg

As the coming of the Lord draws near, pastors are being faced with complex situations within the church. DayStar Ministries was established in 2012 to help with those complexities, specializing in marriage and pastoral counseling.

“There has been an all-out attack on marriage in the church,” said Bro. Daniel Sirstad, founder of DayStar Ministries. “Even in our ranks, pastors seem to be recognizing divorce more and more as an option, but there is an alternative when God is involved.” Often, disagreements on finances and sexual relationships affect the intimacy of the marriage. Bro. Sirstad feels that social media has done more damage than help, and emotional adultery is on the rampage. Pornography is not only affecting Christendom as a whole but is impacting Oneness congregations as well.

The purpose of DayStar Ministries is three-fold: 1) To provide counseling and teaching by Apostolics, 2) To provide instructional seminars, customized to the local church need, and 3) To offer a degree transfer program in pastoral counseling. The ministry also initiated the Partners in Counseling program for churches. Information on that program is available through the Partners in Counseling tab at www.dsmindustries.com.

Bro. Sirstad, who holds a Ph.D. in Clinical Pastoral Counseling and has been a UPCI licensed minister for over 30 years, explained his reason for starting DayStar Ministries: “My personal experiences in life drove me back to school to get the education necessary for this ministry when I was in my forties. This ministry was founded to fight the implosion of families and marriages, particularly in the preachers’ families and marriages.”

Bro. Sirstad noted that marriage is under attack more than ever before and that the pastor/preacher/church leaders’ marriages are not immune. He said, “Having an Apostolic resource or safe place of someone who understands Apostolic values and is trained, is a major blessing.”

Many marriages have been restored and enhanced through this ministry. A comment Bro. Sirstad hears many times is, “Now we have hope.” He has witnessed healing from childhood abuses in the lives of men and women that brought healing to the marriage. He continued, “It is awesome to see people understanding themselves and their spouses better.”

Bro. Sirstad travels mostly weekends, teaching seminars on Friday and Saturday and preaching on Sunday. He speaks mainly to couples about marriage. “There is a desire, especially among wives, for help with marriage and building intimacy. We laugh openly and at times cry inwardly. I also teach on forgiveness, depression and shame.” He and his wife, Jeannie, attend Apostolic Worship Center, pastored by Bro. Ted Graves, in Gresham, Ore.

DayStar Ministries may be contacted at www.dsmindustries.com. He may also be contacted by email at disirstad@dsmindustries.com or by phone at 503.481.2934.
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**Word To The Wise:**

"Thanksgiving is great because people tend to speak less when food is lodged in their mouths."

There was a truck driver who had to deliver 100 penguins to the state zoo. As he was driving through the desert, the truck broke down. He waved another truck down and offered the driver $500 to take these penguins to the state zoo for him.

The next day the first truck driver arrived in town and discovered the second truck driver crossing the road with 100 penguins walking in single file behind him!

He jumped out of his truck and said, "What's going on? I gave you $500 to take these penguins to the zoo!"

The guy replied, "I did take them to the zoo. And I had money left over, so now we're going to Sea World."

Daughter: "Dad, when will I be old enough to go on a date alone with a boy?"

Dad: "When you're a year older than your brother."

The daughter thought for a moment and replied: "But I'll never be older than my brother; he was born first."

Dad: "I guess there's your answer. But don't blame me, go talk to your brother."

"The problem is that I can't tell the difference between spiritual wisdom, the voice of God, and one of my own bone-headed ideas."

**Thanksgiving Wit**

- What happened when the turkey got into a fight? He got the stuffing knocked out of him.
- What do you get when you cross a turkey with a banjo? A turkey that can pluck itself.
- Why did they let the turkey join the band? Because he had the drumsticks.
- What did the mother turkey say to her disobedient children? "If your father could see you now, he'd turn over in his gravy."
- Why did the police arrest the turkey? They suspected it of foul play.
- What sound does a space turkey make? Hubble, Hubble, Hubble.
- Why did the turkey cross the road? It was the chicken's day off.
- What did the turkey say to the computer? Google, google, google.

See Matthew 17:20.
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