Our children matter. Our friendships matter. But in her frailty our lives that truly matter. We concluded that people matter. She has, in many ways, reconstructed me personally and made me see afresh what really matters in this life.

As I began writing the Perspectives article for this month, I paused a moment, glanced at some notes and flipped through some diary entries that I had written so far this year. I was emotionally overtaken as I began to revisit the health issues that my wife has suffered during the past 16 months or so, and how we are getting through it. While in that state of reflection, I also could see how this trial has reshaped us.

Enduring most any kind of trial is to some degree like being on a ship, tossed about in a storm. And even if we are on a good ship, built to survive raging winds and the pounding waves, nevertheless, the storm, any storm, gives us pause. Can we make it? Will things hold together? Will the crew sustain their courage, keep their faith in the ship and maintain their trust in each other?

As storms pass over, thankfully, so comes the relief. The tension on the ropes begins to relax, the crew recovers and examines the many ways in which the ship held together. They talk about how the ship endured, which waves hit the hardest, how some of the most crushing waves missed the ship and how the ropes were taut but somehow did not break. The realities of the situation are recalled and the truth and weight of it all – its influence and the elements that made the difference between victory and loss – become very clear.

I want to dedicate this article to my wife, Micki – or as I often describe her, my sweet Micki.

Micki has endured a prolonged affliction . . . issues with her heart, breathing and an old spinal injury that worsened after a fall. She has undergone many procedures, and even suffered a failed surgical procedure that had to be redone less than 24 hours after the doctors had completed the first attempt. Despite the setbacks, the pain and the weakness, she never lost hope or faith. She has stayed strong enough to inspire and comfort us all. She has, in many ways, reconstructed me personally and made me see afresh what really matters in this life.

During a particularly low moment, we had an intensely poignant conversation. Much of what we discussed was personal to us, but ultimately it was a deep assessment of the things in our lives that truly matter. We concluded that people matter. Our children matter. Our friendships matter. But in her frailty on that stormy night, Micki added one other thing to our list that struck my heart so very strongly. With conviction, she said firmly, “And . . . the Church matters!” We cried. We prayed. And that idea has clung to my spirit ever since . . . the Church matters!

God has created in us, through the baptism of the Holy Ghost, a gift that binds His people together. The letter to the church in Ephesus expresses thusly: “With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism” (Ephesians 4:2-5).

The unity of the Spirit is worth striving for. It must be achieved. It will take love, longsuffering and patience. We will go through trials, low times, hardship and temptation. But we must endure. The body of Christ is not divided into various levels of redemption. There is only one Spirit. It matters! “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:13).

I believe that when Peter answered the question, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” he gave the answer to how one becomes a Christian – by repentance, baptism in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and the infilling of the Holy Ghost. Peter’s answer matters.

The Church cannot abide in disunity, dissension and discord. Christ did not offer a plan by which the members of the body may all pick and choose their own doctrines, beliefs, life-styles, and just “agree to disagree.” Christ came that we might dwell in the bond of peace. Anything less than unity in the Spirit will ultimately lead us to confusion and chaos. It matters!

There are truly few lonelier moments on this earth than when life-threatening situations arise. In some of those lonely moments that Micki and I spent together in the hospital over the course of her illness, we were encouraged by the sweet comfort of the Holy Spirit. And, in unique clarity, we could look back over our life and ministry and without a doubt know that the baptism of the Holy Spirit has been our power and hope, and the source of all our blessings. Certainly we know we are not interested in supporting or doing anything that would destroy the love and trust that we have built in our family. And just as certainly, we aren’t interested in doing anything that would deconstruct our commitment to the message of one Lord, one faith, one baptism that connects us to the beautiful body of Apostolic believers around the world. We will not be separated from His Spirit and His anointing. And while we may be facing a wind-tossed night, He will never leave us or forsake us. The old ship of Zion will prevail – as Micki so profoundly proclaimed, “the Church matters!”

P.S. I must add a few words. Thankfully, Micki has received good care and we believe she has received a touch from God. She is getting stronger, and has received good reports in recent days. The prayers, the kind notes, the encouragement of our children and church family has made a true difference. We are most grateful. She is still recovering and we covet your prayers for her complete healing.
FEATURE: LOVING GOD AND PEOPLE
(MARK JOHNSON)

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
Vol.28 / No.4

05 Opinions: Packing In The Pews
A Renewed Look At Church Security

11 Plainly Speaking: More Than A Piano Player
The Calling of A Pastor’s Wife
(Karla Christian)

20 Guest Pulpit: Keepers Of The Glory
Joey Campetella

9 News You Can Use

13 Answer Forum

16 Columnists

17 World News

23 Apostolic Ministry
YOUR INVESTMENT BUILDS THE KINGDOM

The United Pentecostal Church Loan Fund is a financial ministry that benefits individuals, churches, and ministries of The United Pentecostal Church. We offer certificates with competitive fixed rates of interest and use investment proceeds to make loans to churches and ministries of the United Pentecostal Church.

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<th>Minimum Investment</th>
<th>Fixed Interest Rate</th>
<th>Yield to Maturity</th>
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Opinions

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**David Tipton, Grenada, MS** - One would think such senseless acts of violence would take place in larger cities, but we found out, after what happened in Sutherland Springs, Texas, that’s no longer the case. These questions need to be asked: “What if it happened here?” “Who’s going to call 911?” “Who is the backup?” “Who’s going to talk to the media?”

Now, more than ever, our pastors have to be proactive to ensure the safety of our congregants and guests. Right now, our churches are completely vulnerable. If you have proper training and defined roles, I have no problem with firearms at all. My recommendation is to identify persons in your congregation who have retired from the military or are serving in law enforcement. Certainly, you would want those who have people skills and mental and emotional stability.

My wife was nearly abducted one time. A man had a hand around her throat and was trying to force her into a waiting car. She prayed under her breath, and she will testify that something was restraining him that kept him from doing her harm. Still, there are other cases when someone prays and that doesn’t happen. Prayer is first and foremost. But as somebody in one of the wars had a camera security system installed that covers the parking lot as well as inside the church. The people most likely to be taken out in the case of a tragedy would be the ushers, because they are the first people a shooter would encounter. So you should also have designated people in the audience who are trained and prepared -- people who basically sit in the same place all the time. We brought in a professional security trainer to train our people in case of an emergency situation. Having security for our church family doesn’t mean we’re not a praying, believing church. We still see signs, wonders and miracles, and you don’t have those without faith!

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**Carlton Coon, Springfield, MO** - It is unfortunate that the words church and security have to be used in the same sentence. We have already rethought our security. Several people in our church have careers that position them to carry firearms. Another fellow is a martial arts expert. He is actually in the Martial Arts Hall of Fame. These people are qualified to serve as an informal security team. They are approved to take necessary action should there be a threat.

Obviously, I believe in prayer. I also believe in being prepared to address whatever comes. We are surrounded by violence. A person angry with his or her spouse could come in and do great harm. We apply the adage, “Watch and pray.” I’ve also communicated that those who are not licensed to carry are not to bring a gun to church.

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**Dan Cox, Warsaw, IN** - We do have armed security, but you also need to have a security guide for procedures placed into your church bylaws, in case there is an incident. We recently had a camera security system installed that covers the parking lot as well as inside the church. The people most likely to be taken out in the case of a tragedy would be the ushers, because they are the first people a shooter would encounter. So you should also have designated people in the audience who are trained and prepared -- people who basically sit in the same place all the time. We brought in a professional security trainer to train our people in case of an emergency situation. Having security for our church family doesn’t mean we’re not a praying, believing church. We still see signs, wonders and miracles, and you don’t have those without faith!

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**James Whitmer, Newton, TX** - The shooting in Sutherland Springs, which is about 300 miles from us, heightened our awareness as to how lax we are at taking people for granted and giving them the benefit of the doubt. We’re in a rural church, in a community of about 300. Everyone knows everybody, and you wouldn’t expect something like that to happen.

Now, the elders and men of the church are paying more attention to who comes in and out of the church. A couple of men in our church have concealed carry licenses, and I let them know that it is acceptable to carry, as long as the weapon is concealed, and that them being armed would probably benefit us. I don’t believe it’s an indication of less faith. It’s just keeping up with the times. You can’t wait for something to happen to you before you make changes.

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**Lionel Taylor, Jackson, MS** - David was a doorkeeper in the house of God, but he was also a man of war. I believe that’s why he was a doorkeeper. Peter held his sword, while he accompanied the Lord and did ministry with Him. I don’t believe he had to go and find his sword when trouble came. I’ve got sword carriers around the church, and I have had them since the inception of our ministry; but we have doubled down on it because of the rash of church shootings.

Two of them already work in security in their secular jobs. Some of them are military, so they are trained. These are faithful men and women of God, full of the Holy Ghost -- persons who show signs of stability. These are people I know and trust. They are also bold. They are people who will eliminate the aggressor.

Some church shootings are random and some are intentional. In Texas, it was a vendetta. Any of those things can happen in our churches. A person can simply show his disdain for our traditional values on marriage, homosexuality or anything. We don’t even have to know who the person is. Spirits are angry. Society is irreverent to the Christian church. America is not really protecting the Christian faith, so we have to pray and protect ourselves. Like anything we pray about, faith without works is dead.

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**David Alexander III, Pensacola, FL** - What if someone comes in who is mentally ill, waving a gun, and it’s creating fear among your congregants? What if someone runs in and says, “Help! Someone is chasing me!”?

Men and women’s ministries can be direct lines of communication to help with domestic situations that could perpetually come up in your places of worship. This is especially true when the sister is saved, and the husband isn’t. The husband can show up at the church and create a scene. Someone, at least, needs to be appointed to lock the door.

Just as Nehemiah had a sword in one hand and a trowel in the other, as a pastor I have a responsibility to protect those God has placed under my care. Some say they don’t want guns in the church, and that’s fine, but you still need a plan.

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“We want to meet people, wherever they are, and lead them to Christ,” said Pastor Mark Johnson of Life Tabernacle Church in Elkhart, Indiana. “Our vision is to love God and love people. We have a multi-cultural congregation with 14 different backgrounds represented, so we strive to cross barriers and reach other groups that are diverse. We have a goal to impact our community with the gospel, and to impact our state and the world through missions, by both giving and going to preach and teach.”

Bro. Johnson and his wife, Marci, have three sons: Isaac (34) who serves as his assistant pastor, Titus (29) who serves as Hyphen director for Illinois and youth pastor for Bro. Brian Labat, and Joshua (23) who serves as youth pastor for Bro. Jason Staten.

Bro. Johnson has held the following offices: sectional youth director, Indiana youth secretary, sectional SS director, SS secretary, SS director, and national Launch Your Ministry secretary. He currently serves as Indiana district secretary, executive board member of Tupelo Children’s Mansion and as regional presbyter, North Central region.

**Principles of Growth & Revival**

“We are focused on meeting people’s needs to open space in their life to fulfill their spiritual needs,” said Pastor Johnson. “My priority as pastor is in growing people and finding opportunities to help them succeed. Fathering and training sons, as my good friend Nathan Scoggins has preached many times, are my focus today. God calls, and we develop our callings together.”

The methods that have worked best for increasing attendance at Life Tabernacle Church have been special events such as revivals, block parties, graduating young people from life skills training, and music groups. These are the big events people come to and stay because of the worship, teaching and preaching. “Our members bring their friends and acquaintances to church, and we have a constant flow of guests seeking God in their lives as a result.” Bro. Johnson explained. “It’s been said that a new person will stay in church after a year if they develop seven friends, so to keep people, we try various ways, such as small groups, to connect with them. We also have a coffee shop before church on Sundays where we gather and fellowship.”

**Organization & Management**

The departments and ministries of Life Tabernacle Church are numerous. The list includes a services team, such as music and worship, A/V team for live worship, as well as ushers and guest services. The church has an education team that includes the Youth Department, Hyphen Ministry, and Children’s Ministry. They have other outreach and body ministry teams such as Hospital & Shut-ins Ministry, Prison Ministry, Spanish Ministry, Deaf Ministry, Van Ministry, New Life Team (new convert care weekly class), and Follow-up. The church also has a Home Bible Study Ministry, One-way Club (a midweek children’s service), Video Team, Prayer Team, Special Events Committee, Food Services Team, Coffee Shop Team, and Office Team. They have a great partnership with Pastor Brian Lane in Whiteland, Indiana to host a Block Party Ministry for other churches, and Life Tabernacle’s Fundraising Team serves food for University of Notre Dame football home games.

Pastor Johnson meets monthly with department and ministry leaders, and their office team meets daily to review and coordinate their volunteer efforts. There is a handbook of job descriptions, and team members give monthly verbal reports and do event reviews and SWOT analysis before major events. “I meet with the leadership team at a yearly retreat off-site,” said Pastor Johnson. “We have used the Launch Your Ministry material for training at one point but are currently using videos from the Trajexion training conference. We include training in some of our monthly meetings, pass out books, review them, and email articles and information for the ministry team to review. I serve with a committee of pastors who host INVision, an Indiana seminar for ministry training that our ministry team participates in annually as well.”

Approximately 50 percent of Life Tabernacle’s members serve in at least one ministry, and some serve in several. Not including children, the figure would be close to 70%, Pastor Johnson noted. “Fifteen to 20 percent of our leaders are actively reaching out to new people or serving new converts.” He promotes and encourages involvement by preaching and modeling it. “Our church participates in CIAD projects, and our ministry teams serve our neighboring churches, providing musicians and preachers to churches when they have a temporary outage.
Pastor Johnson’s favorite subject to preach on is faith. They seem to have a hard time trusting a healing. It’s not surprising insurance companies still refuse to cover her or her kidneys, for she was healed of her disease after we landed in Hong Kong and has never been killing her and the baby if we went. Instead, she was completely out of treatment.

The cancer was gone! He was dismissed from the hospital with no further treatment.

Pastor Johnson, “We purchased it about 30 years ago. It has a high ceiling and tall stained glass windows. We have approximately 22,000 square feet on three levels. The sanctuary seats 350, including our balcony. We have purchased 36 acres on the south side of town to use for our expansion, as we are landlocked at our present facility.” He continued, “We have had several churches start from our congregation. We are currently rebuilding and working toward planting a daughter church. Our attendance is about 175. We were at 130 a couple of years ago after the economic downturn and having two churches separate from us. Elkhart had the country’s worst economy, according to unemployment, and many young adults moved for jobs. We have been in constant revival and growth since the economy recovered. During the downturn, we established a community training center, purchased a bank of computers and taught retraining classes to our community. We also developed and taught a 36-lesson life skills program to troubled kids from Bashor Children’s Home in Goshen, Ind. for a number of years. We had a number of our members participate in that outreach and education process, based on their expertise. We were teaching 20-30 non-attending young people a week.”

Personal History

Pastor Johnson’s father served in the Army for 24 years, serving one tour in Korea and two full tours in Vietnam. “Most of my early life was spent on or around Army bases in the U.S. and Germany,” said Bro. Johnson. “My father retired out of Ft. Benning, Ga., and most of my youth was spent in Columbus, Ga. at Bro. Harold Sheppard’s church. His mother, Alice Sheppard, was my pastor.” He explained, “I was raised in a divided home. My father was a heavy social drinker and wasn’t saved until later in life. My older brothers were saved but left the church as teenagers. My two younger brothers and I lived for God with Mom through our teen years, but my brothers left the Apostolic movement when they reached adulthood. My mother remained faithful to church. Today she has Alzheimer’s disease but attends Atlanta West Pentecostal Church in Atlanta, Ga. when possible.”

Bro. Johnson received the Holy Ghost at age 12 at a Georgia youth camp. He said, “My Sunday school teachers, like Joan Sheppard, greatly impacted my younger life. As a teenager, my teachers and youth leaders, Harold Sheppard and Randy Blizzard, felt I had ministry potential and invested in me. Since my father wasn’t in church, the men of the church often took me aside and directed me. I felt the call of God to Bible college at age 16 and went to Apostolic Bible Institute (ABI) a year later. I graduated from ABI in 1982. I am currently enrolled at the Urshan Graduate School of Theology.”

He said, “Many men in Indiana influenced my ministry. Paul Mooney, with his leadership and vision, has been invaluable to my growth. Others who gave me opportunities to work and preach for them were Charles Benninghoff, Ron Humphrey, Robert Stroup, Simeon Young Sr., Tom Simison, Jim Fielder, and Missionaries Robert Forbush and Robert Arthur. I count many of my peers to have an ongoing influence as well, especially my ABI classmates.”

Bro. Johnson began his ministry upon graduation from ABI at 20, working under Bruce Bush as youth pastor in Decatur, Ind. He preached his first sermon at age 16 to a group of American soldiers and officers on a Sunday outreach.

“The milestones of my ministry began with getting married,” said Pastor Johnson. “I chose a good thing, which has been invaluable to me and my family’s ability to grow and serve. And graduating from ABI not only taught me the Word of God more deeply but introduced me to lifelong friends and peers.

“My greatest personal joy comes from being with family. I have three granddaughters that I adore, and spending time with them brings me great pleasure.”

Special Miracles

“We have three mute/deaf members who have received the Holy Spirit,” said Bro. Johnson. “One clearly started speaking in tongues by saying ‘Hallelujah’ repeatedly.

“And a gentleman had a visible tumor on his neck and on the X-ray. He was scheduled for surgery. We prayed, and one of our board members visited him and laid hands on him on a Sunday evening before his surgery on Monday. The next day, the doctor ordered a final X-ray before surgery, thought the machine was broken, moved him to a second X-ray station, and cancelled the surgery. The cancer was gone! He was dismissed from the hospital with no further treatment.

“My personal history has a giant miracle. My wife was told she would be unlikely to ever have children, due to treatments she had for a severe kidney condition since age two. She was told her life would end up with her on dialysis and an early death. When she became pregnant with our second son, we were on our way to Hong Kong to serve as AIMers. Her doctor told us we would be killing her and the baby if we went. Instead, she was completely healed of her disease after we landed in Hong Kong and has never had a recurrence. Since there was no known cure for her disease, insurance companies still refuse to cover her or her kidneys, for they seem to have a hard time trusting a healing.” It’s not surprising that Pastor Johnson’s favorite subject to preach on is faith.

Current Facility

“Our building was built in 1928 by the Brethren church,” said Pastor Mark Johnson...
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“Thank God For Cyclone Gita”

On February 12, Cyclone Gita swept across the South Pacific archipelago of Tonga. According to the United Kingdom’s national weather service, the British Met, Gita was the worst storm to hit Tonga in 60 years. The UPCI regional directors Roger and Becky Buckland are working to help meet the needs in the aftermath of this natural disaster. They have reached out to Compassion Services International and our supporters to join the effort.

Tonga, otherwise known as the Kingdom of Tonga, is a Polynesian group of 169 islands, of which only 36 are inhabited. The population of the Kingdom is approximately 108,000. Per the National Geographic, “hurricanes, cyclones, and typhoons are all the same weather phenomenon. Scientists just call these storms different things depending on where they occur.” The wind speeds of the Category 4 Cyclone Gita reached approximately 143 miles per hour.

A large concern is that Gita destroyed many of the local food sources, including breadfruit, bananas, and other crops. This brings immediate need and will also lead to ongoing food shortages. Among the first requests for aid from our contacts in Tonga was for food and hygiene supplies.

Secretary Vai has also been assessing the damage and gathering quotes for repairs. His appraisals have included the cost of repairs to their headquarters, the local churches, and other facilities. In fact, all of the UPCI church buildings have suffered damage. At this time, the team is trying their best to fix the churches enough to be able to use them for services. Additionally, Bible school classes are on hold until repairs can make the facilities operational.

CSI is actively continuing to mediate relief aid that has already been distributed, reimburse requests for aid from our contacts in Tonga was for food and hygiene supplies. Secretary Vai has also been assessing the damage and gathering quotes for repairs. His appraisals have included the cost of repairs to their headquarters, the local churches, and other facilities. In fact, all of the UPCI church buildings have suffered damage. At this time, the team is trying their best to fix the churches enough to be able to use them for services. Additionally, Bible school classes are on hold until repairs can make the facilities operational.

Bro. Buckland stated, “We are very grateful to CSI for their initial investment.” Following the immediate relief aid that has already been distributed, the next project is aimed at sending building materials for churches and homes. CSI is actively continuing to raise funds for Cyclone Gita relief.

How Billy Graham Was Able to Avoid Scandal

Evangelist Billy Graham lived 99 years, wrote 30 books, met with 12 sitting American presidents and preached the gospel to millions. But when he was buried on March 2 in his hometown of Charlotte, North Carolina, he will be remembered not only as a world-changing hero of faith but as a humble preacher whose personal integrity set the gold standard for every minister in this country.

How was he able to keep his ministry free from scandal for more than 75 years?

In 1948, when Graham was just 30 years old, he and his small ministry team met for Bible study and prayer at a tiny motel in Modesto, California. The other men in that meeting included assistant evangelist Grady Wilson, singer George Beverly Shea and song leader Cliff Barrows. Graham challenged them to pray about what codes of behavior they needed to adopt in order to keep the ministry clean.

The results of that meeting were profoundly prophetic. The men outlined what would become “the Modesto Manifesto”—a list of core ministry values that became the guiding principles of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. The BGEA was founded two years later, in 1950, just one year after media coverage of Graham’s eight-week gospel campaign in Los Angeles made him a household name.

Here are the four key components of the Modesto Manifesto, along with notes that Cliff Barrows jotted down in their meeting:

1. Honesty: “It was resolved that all communications to media and to the church would not be inflated or exaggerated. The size of crowds and the number of inquirers would not be embellished for the sake of making BGEA look better.”
2. Integrity: “It was resolved that financial matters would be submitted to a board of directors for review and facilitation of expenditures. Every local crusade would maintain a policy of ‘open books’ and publish a record of where and how monies were spent.”
3. Purity: “It was resolved that members of the team would pay close attention to avoiding temptation—never being alone with another woman, remaining accountable to one another, etc. A practice of keeping wives informed of their activities on the road and helping them feel a part of any and all crusades they undertook would be encouraged.”
4. Humility: “It was resolved that members of the team were never to speak badly of another Christian minister, regardless of his denominational affiliation or differing theological views and practices.”

Top: The aftermath of Cyclone Gita in Tonga: Damage to one of our Tonga UPC churches

and working under the direction of Bro. Buckland. He put together a plan to supply 50 families in the nearby islands of Tongatapu and Eua with food provisions. Using a loaned car, Secretary Vai personally distributed the food and water to church constituents’ homes.

An estimated 1,400 homes were destroyed or damaged on the islands and power lines were down. Our UPCI church members are among those homeowners whose houses have borne structural damage as a result of Cyclone Gita. Many islanders are currently living under tarps.

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Bro. Buckland stated, “We are very grateful to CSI for their initial investment.” Following the immediate relief aid that has already been distributed, the next project is aimed at sending building materials for churches and homes. CSI is actively continuing to raise funds for Cyclone Gita relief.

Bro. Buckland shared Secretary Vai’s tremendous attitude: “Thank God for Cyclone Gita, as it gives me an opportunity to be a servant.” If you too want to be a part, please go to: http://www.compassionservices.org/donate
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Tell us a little about yourself and your ministry.
I was raised in the little Texas Panhandle town of Farwell where my folks were members of a United Pentecostal church. My dad played the piano, led the singing, worked as church secretary and janitor, taught the youth class, etc. Suffice it to say, I was raised in the church. I married the finest young evangelist ever known from the Texico District (my opinion, of course). We have been privileged to serve as evangelists, youth pastor, outreach director, pastor, district secretary, and hold executive positions at World Evangelism Center for the United Pentecostal Church International. (She and her husband, Mark, now pastor First Church of Leesville in Leesville, Louisiana.)

I have written six books: Perspectives from a “Smart” Christian, Are You a Joymaker?, Love’s Guiding Light, His Guiding Hand, Guided Home, and my newest release Living The Moments Of Life.

Do you consider the role of a pastor’s wife to be a “calling?”
I do believe that being a pastor’s wife is a “calling.” I believe that God ordains individuals to serve in His Kingdom and places a burden on them to fulfill His purpose. Not everyone is willing to submit to His calling, but if we submit to His will, He leads and guides us to fulfill the role in His plan for our life. I have watched couples through the years whose talents seemed to be synchronized together, and in the light of this combined effort, operated as one, constantly complimenting the efforts of God’s purpose that had now jointly become the mission of both of their lives. Together, they were willing to “seek first” the Kingdom of God.

I have also seen situations where a wife has made it very difficult for her husband to minister. When the two are “not of one mind and one accord,” it is much more difficult for God’s purpose to be carried out. I believe it can be done, as God will always honor those who are willing, but not being in unity can create a disconnect that in time only further defines a divide that God never intended to be there.

What, in your opinion, are the important traits necessary to be a successful pastor’s wife?
The traits of a pastor’s wife have changed since I was a small girl. In my younger days, a pastor’s wife MUST know how to sing and play. How else could a young lady serve? Thankfully, we have now realized that women are capable of so much more. I strongly believe that a pastor’s wife must have compassion and be willing to “share another’s burdens” as if they were her own. I believe she should exude an approachable demeanor, not standoffish or appearing as if she exists on a level above all others. I believe she should try her best to portray the joy of the Lord in her everyday living – not being the type of person that you never know from one day to the next whether they will be negative or positive, happy or sad, etc. (better known as moody).

What are some of the more common mistakes that a pastor’s wife will make in learning her role?
Bro. J. T. Pugh, an incredible mentor of ours, once said that it is important for leaders to recognize they should not feel obligated to rise to every occasion. There are times a pastor’s wife does not “see” some things or “hear” some things. The goal, it seems, should be to point people to a higher level of living in life. If leaders constantly react to every exchange around them, their life may become mired in constant controversy.

Can you share a personal experience that in some way defines what the life of a pastor’s wife is like?
I had the privilege to know one of the greatest ladies in the world, Sis. Bessie Pugh. I watched her kindness on a daily basis. She always seemed to have the capability to remember even the smallest of details. Her generous spirit and kind voice were a strength to all. She told me once that she thought people should leave church feeling better than when they came. Sis. Pugh shared some advice with me that I have reiterated to myself through the years. “Karla,” she said with her beaming smile, “you cannot let the cares of people and the responsibility of being a pastor’s wife ever get control of you so that it takes away your joy, and affects you so much that you change.”

Pastors’ wives often talk about “life in a fishbowl.” What is meant by this?
The key to providing balanced relationships in life is the all-important principle to treat others in the same way that we would like to be treated. None of us can guarantee that life will be fair. In fact, in large part, it is never fair. “Life in a fishbowl” is the concept that you are being watched all the time. I attempt to exude a joyful attitude, but honestly my tendency is to first see the negative side. I am working on that and hope I am becoming better. So, instead of looking at it as if someone is watching me, hoping I’ll do something wrong, I want to view it as if I have the chance to see everything around me. I have a clear vision of the beautiful world God placed me in. If we can change our outlook on life to positivity, we can perhaps influence those around us to do the same thing.

Tell us about your recent book, Living The Moments Of Life.
Living The Moments Of Life is a collection of various stories, humorous and inspirational, about myself, friends and family that I enjoy sharing (with their permission, of course), and endeavor to apply Biblical principles and aspects to help reiterate the importance of presenting Jesus Christ in the very best way possible. My hope is that those who read it, especially pastors’ wives, will be uplifted, encouraged and inspired. And if it brings laughter to the readers, I will feel like I have achieved success.

How to order, cost, and how may readers contact you if they have additional questions?
The cost of the book is $12.99. You can order Living The Moments Of Life, or any of my other books, from the Pentecostal Publishing House, 636-229-7900. Also, you can order through me as well via email: joyfulkarla@gmail.com or phone: 636-448-9060.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
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<tr>
<td>APR 3-5</td>
<td>Indiana Bible College THEOLOGY CONFERENCE</td>
<td>Indiana Bible College 1502 Sumner 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>APR 11-13</td>
<td>Indiana Bible College MUSIC FEST 2018</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>
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<td>APR 23-27</td>
<td>Ascend Student Convention 2018 A competitive convention for Christian school youth to develop talent in over 150 areas.</td>
<td>Carlinville, IL</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ascendsc.org">www.ascendsc.org</a> <a href="mailto:ascendstudentconvention@gmail.com">ascendstudentconvention@gmail.com</a> (317) 769-8710 ext. 194</td>
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<td>JUNE 6-8</td>
<td>Power Conference 2018 Sponsored by Gospel Tabernacle Church.</td>
<td>Crossroads Arena 2800 S. Harper Rd. Corinth, MS 38834</td>
<td>Jerry Dean and Scott Graham</td>
<td>For more info, call Josh Hodum (662) 287-4118 or (662) 872-9999</td>
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<td>AUG 1-3</td>
<td>The Apostolic Conference A conference designed for the North American Missionary and Church Planter.</td>
<td>Parkway Pentecostal Church, 601, Reunion Parkway, Madison, MS 39110. Host Pastors: Jerry and Jason Dillon</td>
<td>J.W. Dillon, Wayne Huntley, Chester Wright, David Shatwell, Raymond Woodward, and Mark Morgan</td>
<td>(601) 853-2607 <a href="http://www.parkwaychurch.net">www.parkwaychurch.net</a> ParkwayChurch.net/NAMRegistration</td>
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<td>AUG 3-7</td>
<td>Arkansas International Campmeeting - North Little Rock, AR A conference where Apostolic doctrine is not only preached but embraced. The message of Acts 2:38 remains the same!</td>
<td>First Pentecostal Church of North Little Rock 1401 Calvary Dr., North Little Rock, AR</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td>For more info visit aricm.net</td>
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<td>AUG 16-17</td>
<td>Investing in Futures A conference for those who invest in students. Educating, encouraging and equipping student ministry workers.</td>
<td>Apostolic Sanctuary 1501 John Deere Pkwy Silvis, IL 61282. Hosts: Gary Randol and Scott Graham</td>
<td>Jimmy Toney, David Bernard and Tom Foster</td>
<td>For more info visit invest-in-futures.com (309) 792-0414</td>
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<td>SEPT. 2018</td>
<td>Mid-America Renewal Conference (MARC) Indianapolis, Indiana - A Power Packed Preaching Conference in the Heart of the Midwest.</td>
<td>Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN</td>
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<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>SEPT 25-28</td>
<td>93rd Annual UPCI General Conference Don’t miss it!</td>
<td>Kentucky International Convention Center, 221 S. 4th St., Louisville, KY 40202</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td>Online registration, hotel reservations and exhibit registration available at <a href="http://www.upcigc.com">www.upcigc.com</a></td>
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<td>OCT 2018</td>
<td>MidAmerica Conference 10th Celebration</td>
<td>First Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christ, 1401 Calvary Rd., N. Little Rock, AR 72116</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td>For more information visit midamericaconf.com</td>
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<td>NOV 2018</td>
<td>West Coast Conference - Fresno, CA 35th Annual Fresno Meeting</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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<td>FEB 2019</td>
<td>Indiana Bible College LIVE RECORDING Under the direction of Lindel M. Anderson, Dean of Music.</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 2019</td>
<td>WinterFire 2019 WinterFire’s focus is ministering to those in ministry. Our objective is that every member of your team will leave renewed and refreshed.</td>
<td>First Cathedral 1151 Blue Hills Ave. Bloomfield, CT 60002</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td>For more info: visit <a href="http://www.winterfire.org">www.winterfire.org</a> or visit Instagram/twitter/ Facebook @winterfireconf</td>
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**Church Growth: New Convert Involvement**

**Family & Culture**

Jaye Rodenbush

Inspiration Matters

So much of what we see in our church culture, our worship culture, our church communication culture has become infused with popular culture. Call it methodology, programming, branding or whatever you like – but many of the programs we are designing, the activities we are planning, the music we are incorporating (especially into our kids’ and youth areas) are explicitly derived from a secular media source. Perhaps it’s inevitable. We want to stay current. We want to relate to the audience, and if that audience is children, the American Academy of Pediatrics says on average they are spending seven hours per day connected and interacting with electronic devices. Perhaps it’s only logical to appeal to them by just tweaking the entertainment they are consumed by, changing it enough to make it have a positive message, a Christian theme, and possibly kids won’t even notice they aren’t “plugged in” when they are at church.

This generation, upon whom the end-time revival, end-time persecution and end-time struggle has come, needs their leaders, their parents, their church to be inspired by the Holy Ghost. Every lesson, every song and every moment that they are under our care and our influence is sacred and cannot be defiled by worldly inspiration. I have children in this light. It is my greatest desire to see them walk in truth. It is my desire to see the future of the Apostolic movement guarded and protected from the corrupting influence and pull of the world and worldliness upon their hearts. But how will they hear without a preacher? They need someone to PREACH to them. God forbid they leave Apostolic pew entertained but not instructed in righteousness and holiness. They need someone to sing to them new songs, not the world’s new songs, but a new song that declares His glory, His strength, His salvation and the beauty of holiness (Psalm 96).

As leaders, as teachers and as parents, we have the daunting and terrifying task to prepare this generation as much as possible for the road ahead. It may seem overwhelming, frightening really. We can’t rely on ourselves or much as possible for the road ahead. It may seem overwhelming, frightening really. We can’t rely on ourselves or

**Theology**

Bobby Killmon

Are there historical or scientific “errors” in the Bible that shouldn’t be considered errors because of our modern standards of truth in these categories?

Well, no. An error is an error, whether written now or 4,000 years ago. There are some liberal methods regarding the inerrancy of Scripture that people try to make seem conservative. We must guard against these claims, which can often unwittingly, be reproduced by good people because they don’t understand the implications. Often the approach used is deadly to the doctrine handled.

This means that questions of method are foundational to the issues that arise in understanding any biblical truth, including the inerrancy of Scripture. For instance, how should we make sense of “Father/Son” language in the NT? Do we use 2nd-4th century philosophy to understand the NT and dismiss the OT revelation itself? Even noted Trinitarian scholar Oscar Cullmann dismisses this method saying, “If we are to avoid the danger of seeing the Christological problem of the NT in a false perspective from the very beginning, we must attempt first of all to disregard all these later discussions.” He shows the NT language is rooted in the OT speaking of Jesus the man as “servant of the Lord” like all other kings, prophets, and ministers. Cullmann demonstrates the WAY we approach theology matters as much as what we SAY theologically. One, in fact, will determine the other. As Apostolics, we must base our doctrine on seeing Scripture’s own explicit statements on any matter first and foremost, and then continually be checking and changing our understandings by the claims of the Bible itself.

The problem with many modern liberal approaches is attempting to privilege human fallibility over God’s Word by using non-biblical sources to “make sense” of inspiration. Our beliefs and doctrine regarding the inerrancy of Scripture must come from the claims of Scripture itself. Modern liberal views like Peter Enns who insists that conservatives ought no longer to find inspiration and authority of Scripture. This “incarnational-inspiration” has been condemned by many in his own evangelical ranks. As one man poignantly has asked, “What does exactly this conditioning involve?” Can you claim there are historical errors or errors in science but they’re not “real” errors? So, Scripture is technically inerrant but not truly inerrant by our definitions? This is theological doublespeak meant to hide liberal assumptions. It’s dangerous and devastating to the authority of Scripture.

John Frame says this of inspiration, “I find much to agree with in this book, in the end I would not recommend it as a basic text on biblical inspiration to a seminary-level reader... Seminarians need to study biblical inspiration in a way that motivates both humility and confidence in God’s word. The present volume says much (both legitimately and illegitimately) to motivate humility. It says nothing to promote confidence in the truth of the biblical text. That, I think, is a serious criticism.” Again, the methodology matters. Do you leave with confidence AND humility? Or do you just leave with doubt? We must resist this type of attack on Scripture’s authority.

**Church Growth**

T. W. Massengale

New Convert Involvement

New convert care is one of the three essential ingredients to successful church growth (church organization/management and church outreach being the other two). The three elements of successful new convert care are: instruction, fellowship and involvement. I am often asked, “How soon can you start using a new convert and how are they best involved?”

- How soon is immediately? Every new convert should be taught a home Bible study (HBS) if they are not already involved in one.
- They should be encouraged to invite their family to be involved in the HBS with them. As soon as the study is completed, they should be encouraged to set up a HBS with their local friends, neighbors or other family members. An experienced, trained teacher teaches these studies, but the new convert attends and assists as needed. After having been taught a HBS, assisting in several additional studies, and attending a “How to Teach A HBS” seminar (a course that should be taught at least annually), I believe they are qualified to begin teaching HBS’s on their own.
- New converts can also be involved in other areas of evangelism very soon as long as they mentor under a mature Christian, including door knocking, bus ministry, street evangelism, rest home ministry, visitor follow-up, and others. New converts should also be involved in the CCC ministry, which encourages saints to witness and invite people to church every week.

Every convert should complete a new converts course which is taught at the church on Sunday morning during the Sunday school hour. One or more lessons of this course should focus upon “Finding Your Ministry and Gifts.” Teaching about the “service gifts” and helping them discover their God-given talents is an important part of Christian service. An important outcome of this course should be to see every convert integrated into active ministry and involvement.

For a more detailed description of how new convert care works, order Total Church Growth by calling 1-800-800-0247.
MILE HIGH REVIVAL
July 27-29, 2018

It's you who'll CLIMB the mountain.

It's you who'll reach the PEAK

Martyn Ballesteros
Franco Platania
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Timothy Spell
THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER RECORD BREAKING 2017 OFFERING $4.325 MILLION
Spiritual Growth

Replace Toxic Thoughts With the Mind of Christ

Our spiritual warfare is in the battle of the mind. Every negative thought that comes in our minds is from the master deceiver. The devil delights in dropping toxic thoughts into our minds. Every person that calls me for counsel nationwide is bombarded by the lies of Satan about his/her life. The devil knows our today and yesterdays, but he does not know our future. He uses the negative/painful things in our past and present to do great spiritual warfare.

People get stuck in the mud of their painful experiences by entertaining the toxic thoughts that the devil plants in the mind. The basis of my counseling is from the foundational scripture – Romans 12: 1 & 2 - Amplified Bible (AMP) 12:1 "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies [dedicating all of yourselves, set apart] as a living sacrifice, holy and well-pleasing to God, which is your rational (logical, intelligent) act of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed and progressively changed (as you mature spiritually) by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you]."

The path to emotional and spiritual healing comes from the Word of God. I help people filter their pain by asking, “What is God’s truth about my life?” When we become a ‘word feeder,’ we gain the mind of Christ. It is the power of the Holy Ghost – 1 Cor. 2:16. We become transformed by renewing our mind. We must choose to purge toxic thoughts and replace them with God’s truth.

Read the 470+ articles @ www.carolclemans.org - read ‘about ministry’ page for bio. Watch 100+ teaching videos on Carol Clemans’ YouTube channel for spiritual, emotional and relational growth. If you are saved but hurting, schedule one counseling session (636) 448-0121.

- Carol Clemans

Cost Savings

It happens without anyone really noticing. Year after year, certain vendors increase their costs. Perhaps the increases aren’t significant, but they add up over time. Here are a few areas that we encourage churches to review on a regular basis.

- Cell phones: There is so much competition that it is recommended to call two to three times per year to see if money can be saved by switching to another plan or to see if discounts are available. It doesn’t mean you have to switch providers, and you may get a larger data package without an increase in cost.

- Internet: Plans that are only a year old are probably out of date already. We recently doubled the speed of our plan for the same cost we were paying before.

- Trash: Shop for a better price at least once a year. Also, determine if you can rent a smaller container or decrease the frequency of your pick up to save money.

- Commercial Insurance: I have seen churches save 40% in premiums by shopping for their commercial insurance. We recommend shopping every year. Remember to also evaluate the savings from higher deductibles ($2,500 - $10,000).

We suggest calling other vendors for competitive quotes, as well as calling your current vendor to ask them to reduce their costs.

- Delano Sherley

The WOW Factor

Focused Vision

Vision is so important to a church leader. It should remain clear and simple. Don’t clutter your vision with too much busy work. Have a strong focus on a limited set of intentions. Do a few things with great intensity and high excellence. Be specific, choosy and particular.

The Apostle Paul demonstrated his focus when he said, “But this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:13-14).

This kind of focus will cause us to realize that God is doing something special with us.

In Luke 10, Martha complained to Jesus about having no one to help her with her chores in preparing for Him. Jesus said, “Martha, Martha . . . one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better…” (Luke 10:41-42).

Sometimes we try to do everything and wind up not doing it to the best of our abilities. Let’s increase our focus and do our vision well.

When Nehemiah was rebuilding the broken-down wall of Jerusalem, Sanballat and Geshem wanted to meet with him to stop his momentum. Nehemiah’s answer is classic, “I am doing a great work and I cannot come down.” (Nehemiah 6:3)

He refused to be distracted or disturbed. Remember, good is the enemy of best. When you increase your focus, you decrease your options. Greater concentration equals higher power.

When our vision is very clear, it is easier to do what Jesus called us to do. Chasing every rabbit that jumps is one way to get off target.

I’m not suggesting that doing many things in ministry is wrong. Just don’t overlook the power of focus. Let’s direct our focus and concentrate our power and master our potential.

- Tom Foster

Home Bible Studies – Take a Topic

We all use different approaches. The primary methods of teaching are “expositional” and “topical.” My efforts in evangelism have been better with a topical approach.

Topical evangelism is where a word or concept becomes a foundation for the content of the lesson. In grammar school, topical teaching is the norm. There is a class on geography and another on history. Geography certainly affects history. It is after a person understands geography that the education expands to include studying how that geography has affected history.

Topical teaching gives basic building blocks for learning.

The same concept has worked to evangelize people who have little understanding of God or the Bible.

My home Bible study What the Bible Says . . . includes seven basic building block type lessons. The seven topical lessons explain What the Bible Says . . . about the Word of God, salvation, repentance, baptism, the Holy Ghost, speaking in tongues, and the nature of God.

In a sense, Peter’s Acts 2 message is topical. He focused on the Messiahship of the Lord Jesus as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. Peter used a wide range of Old Testament scripture to make his point. Most topical teaching, including What the Bible Says . . ., does the same thing.

One reason the topics of What the Bible Says . . . works is because it brings unasked questions onto the table. An example is found in the lesson on baptism. Acts 10 and Matthew 28 both have scriptures regarding baptism. How can we explain that the disciples did not repeat what Jesus said in Matthew 28? Addressing such questions is important.

Finally, topical teaching drives the stake deep. When a topic is thoroughly taught, the lesson is clear. In topical teaching, like What the Bible Says . . ., each lesson has a clear target.

A discount on What the Bible Says . . . and all other products is available at CarltonCoonSr.com. The discount code Persp5 provides a 5% discount on any purchase.

- Carlton L. Coon Sr.
Harvard Christian Group On Probation For Asking Gay Leader to Resign

The Harvard College Faith and Action group is on “administrative probation” for a year after the group pressured a leader of the group to resign because of a same-sex relationship. HCFA co-presidents Scott Ely and Molly Richmond said the group was placed on probation because of their “standards for leaders.”

“We reject any notion that we discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in our fellowship,” the co-presidents wrote in an email recently. “Broadly speaking, the student in this case was removed because of an irreconcilable theological disagreement pertaining to our character standards.”

In September, HCFA leadership reportedly asked for the resignation of a female Bible course leader in the group after they found she was dating another female student, according to The Harvard Crimson. The Harvard College Student Handbook says that recognized student groups cannot discriminate on the basis of “sexual orientation.”

Jerusalem Abuzz With Historic “Support Trump” Campaign

Jerusalem hosted one of the largest marketing campaigns in the city’s history with 110 massive billboards, buses with signs and even camels showing love for U.S. President Donald Trump.

The campaign, created by Dr. Mike Evans of the Friends of Zion Museum, launched when President Trump first visited Israel last May. The billboards declare, “God Bless Trump, From Jerusalem D.C. (David’s Capital) to Washington, D.C.”

Evans, a prominent Christian Zionist who was one of Trump’s first high-profile backers in the evangelical community, said, “No president in history has ever built such an alliance for the state of Israel and the Jewish people, and no president has courageously stood up for the state of Israel on the global stage. President Trump’s historic recognition of Jerusalem will secure his place in history as the first American president to take that step since founding the State of Israel in 1948.”

To honor Trump, 30 evangelical advisers met in the Oval Office to present the president with the Friends of Zion Award.

President Trump’s declaration that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel takes its place as one of Israel’s historic milestones, which include the Balfour Declaration and President Harry Truman’s acceptance of Israel into the family of nations.

CA High School Bans National Anthem For Being “Racist and Outdated”

The National Anthem has been banned from a California High School in San Ramon, California, according to The Washington Times. This decision was made by student leaders at the high school.

It is the third verse of the National Anthem that the students took issue with. “It was brought to our attention that the national anthem’s third verse is outdated and racially offensive,” Ariyana Kermanizadeh wrote in an open letter. “We had nothing but good intentions by removing the song so that we could be fully inclusive to our student body.”

The line in the third verse of the Anthem that was deemed especially concerning says: “No refuge could save the hailing slave / From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave.”

Kermanizadeh said, “This song was written in 1814. That was written 204 years ago. Imagine all the traditions and laws that have changed ... and so must our traditions.”

News in Brief

- The extremely popular Bible App recently released its 2017 Year in Review, which revealed leading trends in Bible reading over the past year. It specifically revealed that Joshua 1:9 was the verse that was shared, bookmarked and highlighted most often by Bible App users around the world.

- Joshua 1:9 reads, “Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest” (KJV).

- Retail chain Target has already been widely criticized for its transgender bathroom policy, but now Walgreens stores are following in Target’s footsteps. The Christian Post reports that Walgreens is now allowing individuals to use the restroom that corresponds to their gender identity instead of with their biological sex.

- “All individuals have a right to use restroom facilities that correspond to the individual’s gender identity, regardless of the individual’s sex assigned at birth,” states the new directive. Walgreens has been ranked as one of the most LGBT-friendly places to work.

- The city of Coronado, California, will be removing a church directory sign from city property. The sign has been on the property since the ‘60s, and its removal is being prompted by “First Amendment concerns.”

- According to the Freedom From Religion Foundation, the inclusion of only Christian churches on the list “could give the appearance that Coronado promotes Christianity over other faiths.” And, as the organization expressed in a letter to the city, this raises “serious constitutional concerns under the Establishment Clause.”

AL Government May Stop Issuing Marriage Licenses

When the Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage in 2015, Christians in the business of officiating marriages faced a new challenge. To avoid going against biblical teachings on marriage, some judges in Alabama skirted the conflict by simply closing down their marriage license divisions. To these judges, no marriages at all meant no same-sex marriages.

Alabama judge Wes Allen recently explained his decision to stop issuing marriage licenses: “I believe marriage is between a man and a woman, and firmly believe that biblical world view,” he said. “And I couldn’t put my signature on a marriage license that I knew not to be marriage.”

Because of this dilemma, some people in more rural areas have to travel significant distances to obtain a marriage license from a judge who will sign their license. To skirt around the issue of marriage licenses in Alabama, the state government is considering a bill that will eliminate marriage licenses altogether. In this legislation, marriage licenses would be replaced with contracts. Several other states are considering this action, as well.
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At 5 p.m. on Thursday afternoon, February 22nd, a crowd of high school juniors and seniors began to stream through the front door and into the lobby of Indiana Bible College. The event they were attending was CONNECT, Indiana Bible College’s preview weekend. The purpose of CONNECT is to help prospective students experience IBC for themselves and decide if it is a fit for them. That evaluation is always in part practical, including determinations such as, “How is the living situation?”, “How are the teachers and classes?” and the all-important question, “How is the food?” But it’s also about something else … something more essential and subtle.

At check-in, IBC students helped the CONNECT students get settled into their rooms. From check-in Thursday to departure following Saturday brunch, CONNECT weekend was full of activity. An information session began at 7 p.m. and was followed by the CONNECT Social. The social was designed for students and guests to get to know each other amid nerf arrow wars, volleyball games, pizza, board games, and clusters of conversation.

Students made their way to 8 a.m. classes the next morning, choosing whichever classes interested them. For those exploring the Worship Studies program, it may have been Foundations of Christian Worship with Dr. Lindel Anderson. Others may have joined career missionary Bro. R.K. Rodenbush expounding on the Apostolic History of Missions, Bro. Bobby Killmon teaching Holiness, or any of the other classes about leadership, urban missions, or human relations. Classes were split by the centerpiece of the day – a special chapel with IBC President Paul D. Mooney who preached a powerful word about overcoming fear in a sermon titled, “Where No Fear Was.”

Friday afternoon, many explored downtown Indianapolis on impromptu guided tours with their student chaperones, walked the scenic canals, visited Monument Circle, and sampled local fare. That evening, a Worship Studies concert provided a powerful end to the weekend. Near the finale of the concert, within an atmosphere of God’s presence, IBC Campus Pastor Jason Gallion reminded those who began to pray, “We don’t so much care whether or not you come to IBC, but we do care that you follow the will of God for your life.” That is the essential part of CONNECT; it’s not a connection with a particular school but a connection with the will of God. For some, the weekend was primarily about fun, for others it was informative, but for some it was a confirmation of the need to “say yes” to what God has asked.

Freshman Ashton Sargent had this to say about her CONNECT experience: “My senior year of high school I ventured from San Diego, Calif. to Indianapolis, seeking the direction of God for my life. Indiana Bible College had always been a dream for this West Coast girl and the distance was extremely frightening. This was my first real experience with IBC, but through CONNECT God opened my eyes to life at IBC. I knew that if I were to come to IBC the next fall, I would be faced with a new culture, a new environment and an unfamiliar place. That scared me. However, when I came as a CONNECT student, I felt nothing but peace. The students and staff made me feel so welcome. I felt at home, comfortable and completely at peace. I left with an excitement to start my new journey at IBC. Despite my confusion, anxiety and fear, God used IBC CONNECT to help me align my dreams into a plan and brought understanding of His will for my life.” Also a freshman, Claire McElhaney said, “I always tell students that ask me about IBC, ‘Come to CONNECT! Even if you have zero plans of coming to Bible school, it will change your entire outlook on what happens here every day.’”
It is very clear from the Apostle Paul’s writing in 1 Corinthians 11 that men should cut their hair but women should not (1 Cor. 11:14-15). Various adversaries to this teaching have used Paul’s words in 1 Corinthians 11:16 as a defense for their point of view, saying that he dismissed the essentiality of his own argument when he said, “We have no such custom…” However, history gives us clarity on which custom Paul was referring to. He was referencing a pagan custom practiced by the Corinthians in their city (See National Geographic, June 1972, page 774), where the women would cut off their hair and burn it in mourning for Aphrodite’s lover, Adonis. Otherwise, why would the Apostle Paul spend 15 verses explaining this doctrine, and then dismiss it by saying something akin to, “Well, if this irritates you, we just don’t do this stuff?”

Paul was emphatic about this teaching. He said it was a shame for a man to let his hair grow, and a shame for a woman to not let her hair grow. It is important to recognize that the word “shame” was not used in reference to cultural shame, as some have stated in an attempt to lessen the weight of a violation of this doctrine. Instead, Paul told us that nature teaches us it is a shame. Nature was created by God and has nothing to do with culture. Therefore, any violation of this teaching is a violation of God’s natural order and has nothing to do with cultural shifts.

Power of the Woman’s Influence

When Satan began his attack against humanity in the Garden of Eden, it is important to notice that he targeted the woman for his deception. Many have said he went after Eve because she was the weaker of the two. However, it seems very clear in hindsight that he went after the woman because of the influence she had. Satan knew if he got the woman, he would get them both. It was not Satan that convinced Adam to sin. It was Eve. Evidently, Satan understands how powerful the woman’s influence really is. Paul taught Timothy that the woman is the guide of the house (1 Tim. 5:14). Additionally, Peter said that the backslidden husband could be won by the conversation of the wife (1 Pet. 3:1). It does not show us this level of influence in the reverse order.

While there is no doubt that Satan hates both men and women, it can be seen that he has a peculiar hatred for the woman. God said to Satan in Genesis 3:15, “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman…” It does not say this in reference to men. The woman has incredible influence over the man and over society as a whole. The woman is the regulator of morality in culture. Excepting Israel, any time a country or city is given a gender, it is always female. In addition, the book of Revelation speaks of Babylon as the great harlot. It was a “she” that corrupted the nations, not a “he.”

From the beginning, Satan has used the woman to spread his influence in society. In particular, he uses the image of the woman. The image of the woman has incredible power over the spiritual atmosphere. Men were not given that power. This is visually evident as you walk through the grocery store checkout aisle. There are a plethora of magazines featuring women on the cover, but not many featuring men. Men showing off their bodies simply does not have the same effect as the image of the woman.

A Sign of Submission

When God made the woman, He made her so that Adam would have a suitable helper. The counterbalance to Adam was Eve the woman. Woman means the opposite of man, according to Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English lexicon of the Old Testament. An opposite has equal power, but in the case of man and woman not equal authority. Paul gave us the hierarchy of authority in 1 Corinthians 11:3, in which he stated the descending order as God, Christ, male and female. The lower office is submitted to the higher office, facilitating the flow of power and authority from the higher office. Christ was submitted to His Father, yet He said in Matthew 28:18 that He had all power. Being in a lower office did nothing to diminish His power because He was totally submitted to His authoritative head. In other words, submission is the channel through which real power and authority flow.

Paul said that if a woman uncovers her physical head, she dishonors her authoritative head, the man. Therefore, the woman’s covering, which verse 15 reveals is the hair, is a sign of her submission to her authoritative head. The reason why her covering is a sign of her submission is because God made it an earthly pattern for a pre-existing spiritual reality. Every act of obedience we perform in response to God’s commandments on Earth connects us to God’s pre-existing reality in the heavens. In Exodus 25:40, God told Moses to be sure he followed God’s pattern when building the tabernacle. His preference didn’t matter, because the purpose of the pattern was to make a connection from heaven to Earth. When the pattern was correct, and God’s commandments were followed, the glory of God in the heavens became a reality on Earth. When the pattern was broken, and God’s commandments were disobeyed, God’s glory left Israel and God’s judgment fell.

Angels Guarded the Glory

Several places in scripture give us a view of the presence of the Lord in the Heavens. In particular, Isaiah 6:1-2 and Ezekiel 1 show us pictures of God’s glorious presence and what the angels were doing there. The angels guarded the glory, and they covered themselves in the presence of that glory. They guarded the glory in ministry to God, and they covered them...
selves as a sign of their status of submission to God. The Ark of the Covenant is a physical example of this spiritual reality. Here again, the angels covered the glory, and they covered themselves in the presence of the glory. Ezekiel 28:14 tells us that Satan was in the head position of guarding the glory. The word covereth here means “to hedge, fence about, shut in, to block, overshadow, screen, stop the approach, shut off, to cover.” In other words, Satan was the restraining force of protection for the glory of God. Ezekiel 28:13 tells us that he was also “covered” in the presence of the glory he was guarding.

Isaiah 14:13-14 tells us that Satan despised his position of submission and decided he would change his God-given role. Because the Most High had no covering, to be “like” Him, Satan would’ve removed his covering to show that there was no difference between them. But, instead of going up, Isaiah 14:15 told us that Satan will be brought down to hell.

A Fallen Angel
What is a woman doing when she does anything to shorten the length of her hair? Whether she realizes it or not, she is attempting to change her God-given role and show that there is no difference between her and her authoritative head. In other words, gender doesn’t really matter. When Satan removed his covering, he became a fallen angel. The fallen angels that removed their covering can relate to women that cut their hair. In contrast, the submitted angels that refused to remove their covering can relate to the women of God who refuse to cut their hair. This is why Satan hates the woman so much. The woman who refuses to remove her covering is doing on Earth what Satan used to do in the heavens. She is now the keeper of the glory instead of him.

Finally, Paul said in I Corinthians 11:10 that the woman has power on her head because of the angels. The phrase because of can mean “through, in and among” the angels. Because the woman of God refuses to cut her hair, the pattern that connects heaven to Earth remains unbroken. The covered woman works with, in and among the covered angels of God. The word power here is the Greek word exousia, which means “authority, power, jurisdiction, moral influence, and more.” The jurisdiction that Satan used to possess as keeper of the glory is now given to women who remain covered.

Paul’s teaching on the hierarchy of authority puts women on the bottom. That might not sit well with some women, because they are, in fact, on the bottom. However, so is the foundation of any building. Women are the foundation of spiritual authority in the Earth. They are the restraining force of protection for the glory of God. Satan’s attempts to remove the glory from any church will be confronted by ladies who stand with uncut hair on the first line of defense. Ladies, with your uncut hair, you are the keepers of the glory of God. Stay covered. Stay powerful!

Bio: Joey Campetella began his ministry at Souls Harbor First Pentecostal Church in Belleview, Florida under the Apostolic leadership of Bishop James Barnum and Pastor Jason Barnum where he served as student pastor and outreach director. Bro. Campetella travels internationally as an evangelist with the UPCI, along with his wife, Jessica, and their three sons.
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Hope For the Future Generation
Young Children’s Evangelist Travels Across U.S., Delivering a Positive Message

By Jillian Kidder

Children’s ministry is more than just babysitting; it’s influencing the future. Sis. Lauren Crutchfield, 22, has been involved in children’s ministry for four years. She has witnessed over 100 children receive the gift of the Holy Ghost for the first time with several others being reified. She has also seen dozens get baptized in Jesus name. “We are impacting the next generation of preachers, missionaries, evangelists and teachers. Beyond that, we are ministering to today’s worshippers,” Sis. Crutchfield said.

Her passion and calling for children’s ministry started at a young age. Her parents served as Sunday school directors in the Georgia district for eight years. She grew up on the campgrounds watching and learning, and began helping with camps by age 8. This exposure allowed her to gain lasting relationships with mentors such as Lloyd Squires, Vicki Oliver, the Borlik family, Daniel Autrey, Josh Combs, and several others. These connections became extremely vital as the Lord led her to His true purpose for her life.

At the age of 18, Sis. Crutchfield became a children’s evangelist and established her position as the children’s pastor at Life United Pentecostal Church in Hinesville, Ga., pastored by her father, Thomas Crutchfield. These factors led to ministering in services and conferences across the United States at a young age. Sis. Crutchfield began attending the College of Coastal Georgia where she was heavily involved in her campus as the International Association President. Upon graduation in May 2017, she knew the Lord was propelling her to ministry. She had scholarships and graduate programs that had accepted her into their psychology program. However, she already felt the Lord pulling her a different direction. She knew full-time evangelism was the next direction for her life.

In the summer of 2017, Sis. Crutchfield ministered in camps such as Texico Crusaders Camp, Georgia Junior Camp, Connecticut and the Ontario district in Canada. She ministered in services in South Carolina, Mississippi, Massachusetts, Georgia, New York and Florida. She also served as the Building the Bridge Children’s Ministries liaison. Through this, she has seen many children filled with the gift of the Holy Ghost.

In the services, Sis. Crutchfield uses action songs, games, music, puppets, and interactive lessons to engage with the kids. The feedback she has received has been positive. Her services have established long lasting friendships resulting in many of the ministers inviting her back. She has received many results of children being baptized, asking for Bible studies, reading their Bible and growing daily in their walk with the Lord. Sis. Crutchfield’s main goal for the children she minister to is a lifetime relationship with the Lord. God seems to be honoring that prayer. “We are ministering to children facing broken homes, negative school atmospheres, and so much more,” Sis. Crutchfield said. “We are giving them hope that carries them from today throughout their future.”

Spiritual Warfare in the Kingdom of Skullbonia

By Linda Schreckenberg

In 1952, the governor of Tennessee made a proclamation that the land between the Tennessee and Mississippi rivers in northwest Tennessee would be known as the Kingdom of Skullbonia. The name was in reference to the colorful history of the area, which had been widely known for vices such as bare-knuckle boxing (to the skull only), gang warfare, prostitution, the KKK, illegal gambling, etc. One historian said the Wild West was tame compared to the Kingdom of Skullbonia. Skullbone is a small community located seven miles from Greenfield, Tenn.

The history of the area prompted Bro. Wendell Jellison to write his book Spiritual Warfare in the Kingdom of Skullbonia. When he came to Greenfield in 2004, the church had been closed for a year. For 13 years, there had been no pastor, and in the 37 years before that, there had been 13 pastors. The area was saturated in drugs and alcohol, and a spiritual battle in that area that had never been won. At a conference, Pastor Jellison consulted Bro. Steve Willoughby, who was from northwest Tennessee, regarding the area. The missionary shared his story about going to Singapore to start a church. As he began a morning prayer walk, the Lord spoke these words, “You’ll never have revival here until the sins of the land are repented of!” Bro. Willoughby didn’t understand. As he walked, he came across a bronze plaque on a building that he hadn’t noticed on previous walks. The plaque was in commemoration of 27,000 Chinese men who had come there for promised jobs during a war, only to be massacred on that site. The Holy Ghost spoke to him, “Until this sin is repented of, there can be no revival.”

Every city of the world has its own occupational curses, its own sins of the land . . . spirits that have to be conquered,” said Bro. Jellison. His book is basically a devotional of short messages focused on spiritual warfare that he has preached on his radio broadcast. It focuses on prayer, fasting, sound doctrine, intercession, sins of the land, generational curses and other topics that are vital to the spiritual warfare that we are fighting.

Pastoring in the area called Skullbonia, Bro. Jellison began daily prayer walks in his town that have continued for over 12 years. The book is dedicated to the inmates that he has had the privilege of praying with and baptizing in Northwest Tennessee jails through the ministries of Veneda Ing and Betty Hodge. “I want to encourage and strengthen those who have been trapped in cultures of perversion, immorality or godless influence,” said Bro. Jellison. “Jesus thought they deserved better. I do too.”

Spiritual Warfare in the Kingdom of Skullbonia is a 166-page book with 46 short devotional chapters good for new converts, soul winning and outreach. The book is $15 and may be ordered at www.thechandlermusic.com or by mailing $15 plus $4 shipping to Wendell Jellison, PO Box 273, Greenfield, TN 38230.
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**Word To The Wise:**

“If some people said what they thought, they’d be speechless.”

* * * * * * *

The young boy was spending a Sunday afternoon with his grandpa. Looking at pictures of his grandpa in his military uniform, the boy asked, “Grandpa, did you ever kill anyone in the war?”

“No champ, I never did.”

“That’s a good thing.”

“You’re telling me,” said Grandpa, “I was the cook!”

* * * * * * *

An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers.

In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she wrote, “They wouldn’t take me out while I was alive; I don’t want them to take me out when I’m dead.”

* * * * * * *

A fellow decided to buy his wife some perfume for their anniversary, so he went to the cosmetic counter at her favorite store. The prices were horrific! No matter what the saleslady showed him, even the tiniest bottles were beyond his budget.

Finally, he asked her: “Can you show me something really cheap?” She handed him a mirror.

* * * * * * *

An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers.

In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she wrote, “They wouldn’t take me out while I was alive; I don’t want them to take me out when I’m dead.”

* * * * * * *

The long-awaited Q&A session with Moses begins in heaven.

* * * * * * *

**TOP 10 THINGS OVERHEARD ON THE ARK**

10. “Did anyone think about bringing a couple of umbrellas?”
9. “Hey, there are more than two flies in here!”
8. “Wasn’t someone supposed to put two shovels on board?”
7. “Okay, who’s the wise guy who brought the mosquitoes on board?!”
6. “Help! I need some Pepto for the elephants, QUICK!”
5. “Don’t make me pull this ark over and come back there!”
4. “No, Ham, you cannot eat the pig!”
3. “And whatever you do, DO NOT pull this plug out.”
2. “Nice doggie...”
1. “Are we there yet?”

* * * * * * *

A police recruit was asked during the exam, “What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?”

He answered, “Call for backup.”

* * * * * * *

We were at a red light when a car pulled up, its music blasting.

“He’ll be deaf before he’s 25,” I said.

“That won’t help us,” my wife replied. “He’ll only turn it up.”

* * * * * * *

“*In conclusion, churches that sold only frito boats lost members but churches that sold peanut brittle saw substantial growth. So, congratulations, we’re going to sell the brittle again.*”

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**Young Adults Class**

**Fasting Schedule:**

April: Facebook

May: Twitter

June: YouTube

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**Interviewer:** “You have no experience in this field - and yet you’re asking for a rather high salary.”

**Applicant:** “Yes, work is so much harder when you don’t know what you’re doing.”

**Interviewer:** “Interesting answer. We just happen to have an opening for people like you.”

“Oh, great,” the man said, “What is it?”

“It’s called the door.”

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**Fasting Schedule:**

“When you broke the first set of Commandments, did you throw them on the ground or smash them with a hammer?”

“Did you think you were going crazy when the burning bush started talking to you?”

---
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