{ADAM, WHERE ART THOU?}
The notorious historical figure Jim Jones was involved with several, mostly independent Oneness churches during his time in Indianapolis. He was born in the small town of Crete, Indiana located about 90 miles east of Indianapolis near Richmond. It would be Indy, however, where he first began to build his following, his reputation and his infamous congregation that he named “The People’s Temple.” It was many of these people who left with him to travel across the country to California and then on to the fateful Guyana. I remember his early days in Indianapolis, before he built his church, when he was drawing large crowds preaching tent revivals for a group of independent Apostolic churches. I recall the excitement when the “revival” tent was pitched on the property of my mother and father’s small church.

My excitement was short-lived. The first night of the revival Jones preached a very non-Apostolic sermon. My humble, but brilliant father was a devoted and diligent student of the Word and an excellent teacher. In wisdom, my father took objection to Jones’ lack of emphasis on Acts 2:38 and, supported by a couple other elders, he reprimanded him, and Jones agreed not to go that route again in his preaching. The tent seemed to be bursting at the seams with people as the crowds poured in to see this charismatic preacher.

The second night of the revival Jones violated the promise he had made, straying again from the essentiality of scripture, and the reaction against the sermon was strong. My father, along with three or four other preachers, fearlessly approached the pulpit and asked Jones to be seated. He refused. It was then, my father commanded him to leave the pulpit. At first, Jones, in a theatrical manner and vain attempt to reference scripture, literally tried to shake the dust off his feet. At that point, the ministers attempted to pick him up and physically drag him away from the pulpit and off the platform. Eventually, the tussle ended and he ran out to his car and peeled away from the revival; rocks and dust spewing all over the tent and the congregation. Looking back, our family and the others who were witnesses to that night recalled with clarity and under-standing the decision that was made concerning Jim Jones. They had removed from the platform a man who became the notorious cult leader, dictator and false prophet who enticed and forced more than 900 followers to commit suicide in “Jonestown,” Guyana, South America.

The appeal of false doctrine, especially in the minds of pseudo-Christians and pseudo-prophets themselves, is founded upon the desire for influence, importance and self-aggrandize-ment. It becomes a symbiotic relationship dependent upon the willingness of both parties to ignore the truth in exchange for a variety of trade-offs. Most often the individuals are seeking power, control, esteem through intellectualism, and entrance into groups of “elitist” thinkers who envision themselves as revolutionaries, social influencers or change makers. Such must be confronted.

It is commonly accepted that power corrupts, but it is also true that weakness corrupts. Weakness causes fear. Weakness turns men from the battle, especially if they are made to feel that they don’t matter and are pushed about as if they are needy and unconnected. But all men are able through Christ to overcome human weakness and the deceptions of our day. And we must! The Apostle Paul writes: “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong” (1 Corinthians 16:13).

The Apostles’ teaching of the new birth, including Peter’s declaration of the answer to the basic question asked at the upper room outpouring of the Holy Ghost, was clear and complete. “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:37-38).

Personally, I will not walk away from these commands. I believe they are the essential doctrine. They are not to be set aside or diminished in our by-laws, weakened in any of our educational training, or toned down in our preaching.

There are moments in the course of our lives and in the ways of men when serious issues develop among nations, churches, families and cultures. Issues that redefine who we are and that determine our destinies. In such times we must speak. We live in such a moment. I beg of you, men and women of faith – SPEAK! You do not need someone’s permission or special endorsements to lift up holiness, to preach the truth, and to follow God’s anointing. He will be there with you. You need not hope that someone else will come along and save you and our children. We must save ourselves from the ungodliness, worldli-ness and false doctrine that is permeating our culture. As Peter strongly admonished us in the book of Acts: “Save yourselves from this untoward generation” (Acts 2:40).
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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GUEST PULPIT:
ADAM, WHERE ART THOU?
-SCOTT LEWIS
IT’S NEVER TOO EARLY TO PLAN FOR TOMORROW

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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**SOCIAL MEDIA USES AND ABUSES**

*Interviews by Jillian Kidder*

**Opinions**

Consistency. Teach others in the church to do the same.

media. Build unsaved friend groups and reach out to those people if you are a pastor, you should figure out how to use social media for effective ministry. Build unsaved friend groups and reach out to those people through it. As a pastor, you should figure out how to use social media for effective ministry. Build unsaved friend groups and reach out to those people consistently. Teach others in the church to do the same.

Media managers are a necessary position in the church because the last thing a leader wants is to start something and spend all our energy on a project that is not utilized. If a church is going to have a presence on social media, then it should spread the workload. The pastor should not have to make his title slides. The church secretary should not have to manage the church Facebook page. Both of these people could have administrative privileges on any platform. I do think churches should consider having a single person or a team to manage social media.

We would love to partner with your local congregation to provide training for your social media and digital outreach efforts. Topics include starting a podcast, practical tips and tools for lyric projection, generating quality content and more. If interested in this partnership, contact Chris Henderson, chenderson@go2ibc.com.

In the last year, we have had at least 11 people baptized, filled with the spirit, or attending church regularly... all through social media. Our mission regarding social media is to market ourselves within the community. If we don’t keep up with social media, it could allow others to define us to our community.

It leaves people with the impression that we don’t care about our community and limits our reach. Our attitude is that social media is the common social gathering place of our generation. Unsaved people allow us to engage them in spiritual discourse through it. As a pastor, you should figure out how to use social media for effective ministry. Build unsaved friend groups and reach out to those people consistently. Teach others in the church to do the same.

**Chris Henderson, Indianapolis, IN** - You need to know the purpose of your social media. Is your Facebook page for weekly announcements geared primarily toward current members? Or is it an outreach page where current members can point potential visitors to? The answer to this question dictates what is posted, when it is posted, and how your page is laid out for users.

Media managers are a necessary position in the church because the last thing a leader wants is to start something and spend all our energy on a project that is not utilized. If a church is going to have a presence on social media, then it should spread the workload. The pastor should not have to make his title slides. The church secretary should not have to manage the church Facebook page. Both of these people could have administrative privileges on any platform. I do think churches should consider having a single person or a team to manage social media.

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**Aaron Arrowood, Seymour, IN** - In the last year, we have had at least 11 people baptized, filled with the spirit, or attending church regularly... all through social media. Our mission regarding social media is to market ourselves rather than letting the devil label us within the community. If we don’t keep up with social media, it could allow others to define us to our community.

It leaves people with the impression that we don’t care about our community and limits our reach. Our attitude is that social media is the common social gathering place of our generation. Unsaved people allow us to engage them in spiritual discourse through it. As a pastor, you should figure out how to use social media for effective ministry. Build unsaved friend groups and reach out to those people consistently. Teach others in the church to do the same.

**Mark Hattabaugh, Cooper City, FL** - My advice for pastors using social media is to use it but don’t abuse it. The social media page of the church you pastor is not the same as your personal social media platforms. The social media of your church represents your entire church. Messages shared should be informational, inspirational and apply to the whole or part of your church and/or community. This is different from how you may post on your personal platforms, which may include followers from outside of your church and community. However, when using social media for outreach - and you should always have an eye on outreach with church social media - treat every post as if you are communicating with someone in your community who knows nothing about church or a first-time guest that has just walked into your church.

**Derek Borders, Norman, OK** - Don’t downplay the significance that social media can have in evangelizing your community. Everything your church does communicates a message. Keep a consistent and positive presence for people to get a glimpse of your church. This goes beyond branded church accounts and trickles down to personal accounts of leaders. A social media policy for your ministry team is a great way to make sure that an individual doesn’t damage the reputation of the church with an unthoughtful post. Consistency, consistency, consistency. It’s easy to quickly become discouraged when there are no results coming in. But you must be ready for that one who will stumble across your social media site while searching the internet for answers.

**Jack Leaman, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada** - I think it’s important to realize that all of these platforms can serve as a means of communication, but it’s important that the information be authentic. Present who you are, not who you wish to be. Use it as a tool, not “the way.” People are still the most effective means of winning people. One-on-one, friends bringing friends. Don’t compare yourselves among yourselves. Keep information current. Don’t offer a blog if you are only going to have one post from a year ago... it diminishes your credibility.

Have all information to be posted that is under the banner of your church’s name pass through the pastor or his designated authority. Be aware of legal responsibility (such as posting information about minors). Tend it, or it can be a garden full of weeds, instead of a place of fruitfulness. Let it be a tool to help you get to where you feel like God is leading you. Your follower count isn’t an indicator of God’s approval or plan.

**Anthony Cox, The Pentecostal Church, Harvey, IL** - We see the potential social media has given us for reaching out to a wider audience, so we see it as an important avenue for outreach and evangelism. We have actually placed a designated person from our church in charge of heading up our social media platforms and are always looking for new and better ideas of how to incorporate social media in our efforts.

We have to realize that social media is very important these days. We have the opportunity to connect with hundreds and maybe thousands of people right from our cell phones. You have the opportunity to share your church’s passion with your church community, surrounding cities, surrounding states, and even internationally by the click of button. Don’t be afraid to use the tools we have today to build God’s kingdom.
BEYOND OUR FOUR WALLS

Tony Oliver >> Indianapolis
“Ministry isn’t just behind the pulpit,” said Pastor Anthony (Tony) Oliver of Westside Apostolic Pentecostal Church in Indianapolis, Indiana. “Ministry is reaching out in your community, going into the highways and the byways.”

Keys to Growing a Church
Pastor Oliver continued, “We are blessed to be in an inner city neighborhood in downtown Indy. It is a place that some would overlook and many would want to move away from. But we feel like this is the vineyard that God wants us to reach. We work hard to make an impact on our community.

“We regularly walk the neighborhood knocking on doors and greeting people. We host community picnics, Vacation Bible School, community clean-up days, and are honored to officiate the majority of the memorial services of the loved ones that have passed on. Every Sunday we have faithful bus drivers who pick up the children around our church for Sunday school, where we feed them and teach the Word of God to them.

“A couple of years ago we implemented Bro. Tim Massengale’s Total Church Growth plan. It has helped us with structure and retention, and we have seen tremendous growth. We are averaging 230 in service and 150 in Sunday school. Since its implementation, approximately 45 percent of the saints are working in different ministries of the church.”

Current Facility
The Westside Apostolic Pentecostal Church was established in 1914 at 1547 West Ohio Street, across the street from where the church is now located. “The property that the church is built on now was a scrap yard for several years until the late Reverend and Mrs. D.L. Spall acquired it and began to build the existing church in 1958,” explained Pastor Oliver. “The current building was remodeled in 1999 by Reverend and Mrs. D.L. Winters and has a seating capacity of 250. We currently have nine classrooms and three offices. Our future plan is to build a new sanctuary and gymnasium.”

The church owns almost two city blocks in the inner city of Indianapolis. “We have finished the fellowship hall that we use for the youth class on Sundays, and we had a new concrete parking lot installed a little over a year ago, with curbs and sidewalks.”

Personal History
Pastor Oliver grew up just a few blocks from the church he now pastors. “I am the fourth generation in the same church and therefore our children are the fifth.” Pastor Oliver was baptized when he was nine years old in June 1984 by Elder Horace Neal. “I received the Holy Ghost on January 27, 1991, when I was 15,” he said. “I was surrounded by my Sunday school teachers, my future father and mother-in-law, Rev. and Mrs. D.L. Winters, and my parents, Rev. and Mrs. Greg Oliver. I have had great men invest in my life, taking the time to teach me the importance of God’s Word and a daily prayer life. Among these great men were the late Bishop D.L. Spall (my childhood pastor), Bishop D.L. Winters (my father-in-law), Rev. Greg Oliver (my father), the late Rev. Charles Synasael, and my current pastor, Rev. Gary Keller. I will be forever indebted to them for making me what I am today.”

Church History
Bro. and Sis. Rogers founded the Westside Apostolic Pentecostal Church on West Ohio Street. Bro. and Sis. Hedge took over after the unexpected passing of Bro. Rogers. “An interesting fact is that the late Bishop G.T. Hayward preached at the church in 1927,” said Pastor Oliver. Bro. and Sis. Spall began pastoring in 1953, and the late Bishop N.A. Urshan preached at the church in 1983 for their 30th pastoral anniversary. Bro. and Sis. Winters then pastored for almost 20 years, followed by their son, Bro. and Sis. D.J. Winters. The Olivers have been pastoring since March 2010.

Special Miracles
“While remodeling our fellowship hall across the street from the church, our plumbing contractor asked if we had found cabinets and appliances,” related Pastor Oliver. “He then obtained cabinets and a commercial Viking oven from a man whose kitchen he was remodeling. When the men of the church installed the cabinets and range, they fit perfectly. Thank you, Jesus! The man who made that miraculous donation was none other than Jim Irsay, the owner of the Indianapolis Colts.”

Concluding Remarks
“I want to thank everyone that has influenced and invested in us,” said Pastor Oliver. “It is an honor to pastor such a great group of people at Westside Apostolic Pentecostal Church. I want to say a special thanks to Bro. Tim Massengale for assisting us in implementing Total Church Growth. It has been a blessing. We are excited about what God is doing and what He has in store for us in these last days. We give Him all the honor and glory.”
Feeding OUR FAMILY

End Hunger Now.

HUNGER AFFECTS OUR FAMILY.

Northern Uganda is experiencing its third year in a row of severe drought. Much of West Africa's Sahel region is facing its worst famine in years. Our sources report that in one area alone, 18,000 refugees are without food or shelter. CSI is on location in these and other famine-affected areas around the world working to feed our family of humanity, including our church family.

$25 Helps Feed a Whole Family for a Month
$100 Helps Feed Four Families for a Month
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HOW YOU CAN HELP feed our family.

Pastors, missions directors, and friends, we invite you and your church to be in prayer for those suffering famine. Please also consider donating to the "End Hunger" campaign of CSI.

CSI is endorsed by the UPCL and UPCI Global Missions offering credit is available for donations made to CSI's international relief efforts.

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A missed meal. Sometimes just a delayed meal. That is how many of us experience “hunger.” But for millions across the globe, hunger has a very different reality. The definition of world hunger encompasses malnutrition and undernutrition. There are approximately 7.6 billion people in the world today. One out of every nine individuals is undernourished, which adds up to over 800 million people. Beyond the suffering of empty stomachs, malnutrition and undernutrition lead to increased susceptibility to disease, difficulty fighting off illness, stunting of growth, and cognitive delay.

However, the risk of quoting statistics such as these is two-fold. First is that we will forget that the numbers represent actual human lives. Second is that we will be overwhelmed with the daunting enormity of the need and give up before we begin.

Instead, we must ask ourselves: What should I do, and what can I do? The question of responsibility is easily answered. “But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?” (1 John 3:17). We are all part of a family—the family of humanity and an Apostolic church family.

The question of opportunity and ability requires we look for a place to start where real needs can be met. With the Feeding Our Family campaign, Compassion Services International is currently focusing on two areas: Uganda and the Western Sahel region of Africa. Our humanitarian representatives in both of these countries have reached out to make CSI and its donors aware of the tenuous situations in their respective locations. They are looking at real hunger in the faces of their friends, neighbors, and church constituents—our family.

Northern Uganda is currently in the third year of a drought and famine. Per UPCI Missionary Phil Tolstad, the food shortage is complicated by the presence of approximately one million South Sudanese refugees in that part of Uganda—one humanitarian crisis compounding another humanitarian crisis. The United Nations has been unable to deliver supplies to refugees directly, so instead they provide money for the purchase of food. This in turn drives the cost of food supplies higher.

CSI has already sent funding, but more is needed. With this support, Missionary Tolstad was able to purchase food in another region of Uganda and transport it to the North. However, two pastors’ wives in Uganda have recently passed away from secondary causes related to their lack of nutrition. All of these church members in Uganda are our family.

There are many parallels between the situation in Uganda and the Western Sahel region of Africa—civil unrest, religious opposition, unfortunate weather, large numbers of refugees. In such places, when the crop yield is low (as it has been for several consecutive years), there is little to no reserve or buffer. According to local news sources, after an irregular rainy season, almost one million people in the Western Sahel alone are facing food shortages. Acute malnutrition affects at least one person in ten. At the same time, terrorism has also increased, adding safety insecurity to the food insecurity.

CSI is supporting funding in the Western Sahel region for food supplies, specifically grain, during this difficult time. Our humanitarian representative there has a system of distribution to reach the largest needs within a village. With careful planning, approximately $25 can feed a family for an entire month. However, this amount of grain provides only sustenance. They are surviving, but our work is not done. These villagers are our family.

“The worst sin toward our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them. That is the essence of inhumanity” (George Bernard Shaw). Compassion Services International’s Feeding Our Family Campaign is an opportunity to answer that question “What can I do?” Uganda, the Western Sahel region and other famine-affected areas of the world are in need. Join us in Feeding Our Family.
MILE HIGH REVIVAL
July 27-29, 2018

It's you who'll climb the mountain.

It's you who'll reach the peak.

Martyn Ballestero
Franco Platania
Mark Yandris
Timothy Spell
Plainly Speaking

were named as the first intracultural mission-maries in South America. In 2007, my wife and I served as youth pastors in Bolivia, field superintendent in Bolivia, and as sub-regional coordinator in South America. In 2007, my wife and I were named as the first intracultural missionaries in the United States. We helped plant the first Spanish daughter work in 2008, and have started 28 more since then.

As a part of our ministry, I have been conducting a conference call every week on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. CST. This began in January of 2017 and already one of the participating pastors has started his own daughter work via the phone conference. I walk them through the steps of how to start a Spanish daughter work, and we also discuss challenges that may arise.

Pastors can also fill out an application for us to come and help start the daughter work. We usually stay about six months on location to help the church get started.

Why should every pastor consider starting a Spanish work?

There is usually a sizable group of Hispanics in all communities, especially in the cities across the U.S. They are a group that is ready for revival. It is relatively easy to reach out to them, particularly if they are first generation, meaning they just came into the country. They usually have no religious connection of any kind in the U.S., so they are often ready to respond to an invitation to visit a Spanish church. I have found that respecting their culture and language is very important. If they visit an English-speaking church, they may like what they feel, but they don’t understand most of what they hear. Having an environment where language is considered and spoken so that they can understand is important. The move of the Spirit coupled with understanding is more fruitful.

A big part of being Apostolic is the worship, and they usually can’t connect with English worship. Pastors considering these things and the ease with which they can usually reach into the Hispanic communities can start a daughter work. It just makes sense! If we are going to send missionaries into foreign fields to reach these people, why wouldn’t we want to reach Spanish-speaking people living right outside our back door?

Most of those that have started a daughter work have been very blessed by the effort. People will come, receive the Holy Ghost and be baptized. By starting the Spanish church, you are building your English church long-term because by the third generation they generally speak English only. If you get grandma and grandpa into truth, it sets spiritual direction for the family!

Many people don’t have a clue as to what our ministry consists of, even though the Intracultural Missionary Evangelist (ICME) program was launched more than 10 years ago. In fact, they don’t realize that the UPCI has this ministry available. Currently, there are three ICME missionaries working in North America – with the Spanish, Native Americans and African immigrants.

What are the first steps pastors should consider if they wish to start a Spanish work?

First and foremost, there has to be a leader that is bilingual or someone who has a burden to reach the Spanish community. Being bilingual doesn’t necessarily mean they are leadership quality. I have found that if there is a person in the English congregation who has a burden to reach the Hispanics, they will acquire the language themselves. If they don’t, sometimes there is a competent translator they can use and work through. I have seen it do both ways. It’s best if a Spanish speaker leads the group, but a leader can work through a translator and still be successful if they have the burden.

Hispanics are social, and mixing with their community is very important to them. They are family and socially-oriented. They like it when the leadership of the church mixes with them on a social level and visits their houses or maybe a soccer game, rather than just seeing them at church.

I would recommend that those interested in planting a Spanish daughter work research and see where Hispanics are living in their area. Then they should pray for a leader for the group that can work with both the Hispanics and the English pastor. The Spanish leader and English pastor must have a good relationship for this to be successful. The English pastor needs to be willing to spend time to develop and mentor the leader. Once the leader for the Spanish group is found, the pastor also must consider others that can help start the new church, such as musicians and singers to learn the Spanish songs, van drivers, ushers, those that can help with outreach, etc.

Next, they should start knocking on doors to get word out about when and where the first service will take place. We try to set up Bible studies in homes with Hispanics and develop a relationship in the community where they live so they know who we are. We work with training and evangelism for several weeks, and then we set a launch date on the calendar for the first service. There are two or three Saturdays of blitz evangelism where we invite every Hispanic we can. We knock doors, use billboards, place fliers and invitations in laundromats, restaurants, etc. We get the word out any way we can. We really promote the first service with an open house, meal or refreshments, door prizes, and special music. We want to capture their attention!

After launching the Spanish church, we continue weekly training and helping them in service for the next two to three months. After the church has the ability to continue without us, we transfer leadership completely to them. We then go to the next location and repeat the process.

What are some of the more common mistakes you have seen that have led to unfortunate results? How can these be solved?

In some situations, the English-speaking pastors wanted to start a daughter work, but no one in the congregation shared that burden with them. The pastor is not the only one that has to have the burden. Someone in the congregation has to share the burden that can lead the Spanish group. There have been some situations where the leader didn’t have a good working relationship with the English pastor, so they took the group and started their own church in a different location. And we have also seen where the Spanish leader quits coming to church altogether. You can avoid these problems by having the right person with a burden to reach the Hispanics – someone that is compatible with the English pastor’s style of leadership.

How can you be contacted if a pastor is interested in starting a Spanish daughter work?

They can call me personally at 318-658-5805. I can add them to the text and email list to notify them of the phone conference each week. There is no cost involved. Or they can contact Brocc Chavis, Multicultural Ministries, at 318-837-7300.
For information about these events, call the event coordinator. If you would like your event on this list, call (800) 8000-AIS. IBC Perspectives does not endorse any seminar or conference listed. This page is provided simply as a service to the greater Apostolic community.

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<td>Crossroads Arena 2800 S. Harper Rd. Corinith, 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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<tr>
<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, and Mark Morgan</td>
<td>(601) 853-2607 <a href="http://www.parkwaychurch.net">www.parkwaychurch.net</a> ParkwayChurch.net/NAMRegistration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<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 Joel &amp; Nathan Holmes</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td>For more info visit aricm.net</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<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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<tr>
<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 Host: Paul D. Mooney</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 25-28</td>
<td>93rd Annual UPCI General Conference Don’t miss it!</td>
<td>Kentucky International Convention Center, 221 S. 4th St., Louisville, Kentucky 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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 10-12</td>
<td>The Apostolic Conference North A conference designed for the North American missionary and church planter.</td>
<td>Holiday Inn Conference Center, 3100 Wellington Place, Janesville, WI 53546 Host pastor: David Punzel</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td>Contact info: 608.921.4971 <a href="http://www.therockchurchwi.com">www.therockchurchwi.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<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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<tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 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 Host: Paul D. Mooney</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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<tr>
<td>APRIL 2019</td>
<td>Ascend Student Convention 2019 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:ascendsc19@gmail.com">ascendsc19@gmail.com</a> (317) 789-8710 ext. 194</td>
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</table>

February 2019

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.

Contact your local church for details. For more info: visit www.winterfireconf.com

FEB 2019

March 2019

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A competitive convention for Christian school youth to develop talent in over 150 areas.

Contact your local church for details. For more info: visit www.ascendsc.org ascendsc19@gmail.com (317) 789-8710 ext. 194

April 2019

Indiana Bible College THEOLOGY CONFERENCE

Your chance to visit the IBC campus and see what Bible college is all about!

Contact your local church for details. For more info: visit www.compassionservices.org

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Church Today: Social Media Mediums?

Social Media Mediums?

The Internet and television has brought about a resurgence of an old profession: the psychic medium. The popularity of celebrity mediums that supposedly “read” clients and then speak to dead loved ones on the “other side” has created a demand for purveyors of such services and social media has provided the platform for people to readily provide them. Social media mediums are offering “readings” on live video streams and the fees to access their “gifts” vary widely.

Growing up in Africa and being exposed to global missions ministry my entire life, I have seen first-hand the devastating effects of witchcraft, voodoo, ancestor worship and other forms of spiritualism contrary to God’s Word. It greatly disappoints me to see charlatans use trickery, slight of hand and age-old illusions to manipulate and take advantage of spiritually hungry, hurting and grieving people.

Anyone feeling drawn to such entertainment or curious about these types of spiritual phenomena should be very careful. While some may be mere entertainers or swindlers, there is a dark form of spiritualism and magic that can draw hearts and minds into demonic possession and satanic influence. It was not uncommon in places around the world to see people possessed or oppressed by demonic spirits. And today such spiritual attacks are becoming just as prevalent in North America. Deliverance is certainly available through Jesus Christ. However, the long-term psychological and spiritual effects of giving oneself over to such darkness are destructive.

The Catholic Church is speaking out about the sharp rise in demands for exorcism and the training of their clergy to deal with the effects of spiritual possession and black magic throughout the globe. An article in a Catholic web-based publication, The Tablet, documents the phenomenon (Cornwell, Gabinle, April 2018). A British priest stated, “I think it is partly due to the Internet, which makes it (satanism) so accessible. Films and television programmes are also a factor. There’s a fascination.” The authors state that approximately 500,000 requests for exorcism are received each year by the Catholic Church.

We may assume that church attendees will have a natural hesitation toward evil and darkness and that the temptation to turn toward such religious practices or dark forms of entertainment will not be as great. In the past, perhaps; but I am not certain we can make that assumption today when the enemy is gaining access directly into our homes through modern technology.

“Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God (Leviticus 19:31).

Church Growth

Dr. David McClellan, professor of psychology at Harvard University, once stated, “Most people can be divided into two broad groups. There is the minority, which are challenged by adversity and opportunity – and are willing to work hard to achieve something. Then there is the majority, which really don’t care about anything at all much.”

What I admire most about Apostolic pastors and leaders is their passion for souls and their desire to see their communities reached with the truth and their wonderful burden for souls. But too often they become distracted by the majority that don’t really care whether the church grows or not, those that are content with the status quo. Most people do not like change. They also shy away from adversity – it does not challenge them, it repels them. Therefore, the successful, growing pastor is aware of people’s resistance to change and is willing to put forth the extra effort in spite of it.

Hundreds of years ago, the famous Italian politician, Machiavelli, wrote, “There is nothing more difficult to carry out, nor more doubtful of success, nor more dangerous to handle, than to initiate a new order of things.” It is for this reason that no pastor will fight his way into consistency if the enemy is gaining access directly into our homes through modern technology.

The result of modeling these examples is a powerful worship encounter designed by God. Wherever the doctrine of essentiality is lifted up, it points people to the heavenly reality. People don’t just hear an encounter designed by God. Wherever the doctrine of essentiality is lifted up, it points people to the heavenly reality. People don’t just hear songs about this doctrine. But remember we are in good company with the NT writers themselves. And if we can’t sing this song now, we won’t be a part of those singing this song in heaven.
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My book, God’s Design for Marriage, came out of my teaching marriage and family seminars, plus the six years I taught at Christian Life College under Dr. Daniel Segraves. My parents gave me a wonderful counseling education that was integrated through God’s Word. This is explained on my website: www.carolclemans.org on the ‘about ministry’ page.

I love teaching God’s anointed Word for pastors and lay people—(636) 448-0121. For a conversation about revival, e-mail carltoncoonsr@gmail.com. Blog posts and resources are at CarltonCoonSr.com.

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Planned Parenthood Calls For Disney Princess Who “Had An Abortion”

Planned Parenthood recently drew criticism for tweeting that there should be a Disney princess who has had an abortion.

LifeNews.com reports that a Planned Parenthood branch in Pennsylvania posted to Twitter: “We need a Disney princess who had an abortion. We need a Disney princess who’s pro-choice.” The same tweet also said, “We need a Disney princess who’s an undocumented immigrant. We need a Disney princess who’s actually a union worker. We need a Disney princess who’s trans.”

LifeNews.com writer Michelle Bilger criticized the abortion provider: “Impressionable, idealistic little girls often adore the strength, bravery and compassion of the princesses displayed in Disney films. They dress like them, sing their songs, look up to them and imagine being them because they portray something good, something noble.”

The Planned Parenthood tweet received ample criticism, even from those who identify as pro-choice.

Studies: Marriage Brings More Happiness Than Living Together

It turns out that marriage has a distinct benefit that the hookup culture and living together without vows frequently lack. That benefit is happiness.

Citing research from the Journal of Happiness Studies, Susan Pinker writes in The Wall Street Journal that happiness in adults correlates directly with marriage. According to these studies, the effects of marriage on happiness aren’t a one-time thing either. As Pinker’s headline says, “For long-term happiness, the wedded win the race.”

Albert Mohler, in his discussion of the WSJ article and the research, notes that these effects are “measured over a lifetime.” The studies show that married couples are especially happy in the early years of their marriage. And, although happiness for married couples seems to wane during the middle of the marriage when kids and careers cause stress, the happiness levels go back up for older adults who have made it out of the hectic stage of child-rearing.

But why? What makes marriage so much more conducive to happiness than other relationships? As Pinker notes in the article, marriage probably brings more satisfaction than simple cohabitation because of the “level of commitment” it requires. Plus it’s a commitment “formalized by a ritual and a legal document,” making it a serious matter for the people involved. Ultimately, she notes, people find satisfaction in knowing that “someone has [their] back.”

Mohler points out that these conclusions about marriage align with the biblical perspective of the institution. As he suggests, the hookup culture and cohabitation don’t satisfy humans in the same way that marriage does because men and women weren’t designed for mere hookups and cohabitation. God designed them for marriage, and He designed marriage to reflect the Gospel—His own commitment to His people. His own covenant with us, sealed by Christ’s blood.

Many nonbelievers reported turning to prayer in times of crisis. According to The Christian Examiner, a new survey has shown that one in five nonbelievers in the UK will turn to prayer when facing difficulty. The survey found that half of those surveyed say they pray, including one-fifth of those who describe themselves as not religious. Some of the nonbelievers who reported praying in times of tragedy or crisis said they do so “on the off chance that something could change.”

A California high school teacher has been placed on paid administrative leave after she questioned whether a student walkout would be allowed for the pro-life cause. On March 14, thousands of students participated in a walkout to protest gun violence and to honor the 17 students and teachers killed in the Parkland, Florida high school shooting.

Reason.com reports that Julianne Benzel, a teacher at Rocklin High School in California, was placed on leave after she questioned whether the school’s administrators would give the same treatment to students who wanted to participate in a walkout for the pro-life cause.
“Where can you get the sense of a foreign field here in America?”

This was the question posed over 20 years ago by Bro. Jim Sleeva, a long-time instructor and Dean of Urban Missions at Indiana Bible College. Serving as executive vice president at the time, Bro. Tom O’Daniel suggested the Navajo reservation, a place that he had traveled to in the past. The Navajo reservation covers an area of 17,544,500 acres, occupying portions of three states. The church in Tohatchi, N.M. was started in 1985 by Sis. Carrie Eastridge, then pastored by her son, Jerry Eastridge, and for nearly a decade has been pastored by his son, Martin Eastridge.

The first time Bro. Sleeva brought students to Tohatchi in the early '90s, he immediately fell in love with the people and place. Nearly every year since then, as IBC students head across the country for spring break, a group travels to Tohatchi. “I tell students before they leave on a trip, look at yourself in the mirror and realize that when you come back you will not be the same person,” Bro. Sleeva said. “You will not stay unchanged. Once you are stretched, you will never be able to shrink back to the same size you were.”

“When you come onto the reservation there is no influence of America anymore,” said IBC senior Jane-Claire Turner, who experienced Tohatchi for the first time this year. “There are no billboards and no businesses; it’s just houses scattered and land.” IBC freshman Jillian Kidder is from the Chicago area where “light pollution is real,” but said of New Mexico, “Looking up at the stars has been surreal.”

Most students are ready for a vacation during spring break, a reset before the final push to the end of the school year. It is a sacrifice to give up a leisurely spring break to minister in an unfamiliar place, but then, sacrifice is the point. The schedule moves at a grueling pace.

After a 22-hour drive, students arrive on Saturday, get some sleep and wake to minister in four different services Sunday. The week is filled with day trips and five more services before the 1,450 mile journey back to Indianapolis the following Sunday. “It was almost like a missions boot camp,” said first-time trip attendee Josh Ogle. Bro. Sleeva said, “You’re pushing yourself beyond what you think your limit is, but I want students to realize you do have more capacity than you think.”

The pace is only one aspect of the stretching. On the trip, nobody is an observer. Bro. Eastridge encourages everyone to testify during the week. People who rarely sing are asked to sing. People who rarely preach are asked to preach. People who rarely play an instrument are asked to play. Bro. Sleeva identifies that the insecurity produced by working outside your comfort zone leads to increased dependence on God, which leads to powerful demonstrations of God’s Spirit.

Special bonds are always formed and mindsets affected during spring break trips; however, there is something special about the Tohatchi trip. Perhaps it is the lack of light pollution that leaves the mind clear enough to see what really matters. Perhaps it is the burden of the Eastridge family, their faith and heritage that affects students. Or perhaps it is the sincerity of the Navajo people and their purity in worship, in glowing contrast to the dark background of drug and alcohol abuse, high rates of suicide, and spiritual oppression which plague the nation.

Whatever it is, on the drive home students share an unspoken unity they did not have before. Spiritual battles are fought, hearts stretched, and bonds of friendship formed. Everyone knows what they need not say, they are not returning the same.

If you would like to help fund IBC’s mission trips to the Navajo Nation or other locations, or you would like to sponsor an IBC missions student in need, please contact our Dean of Missions Rev. Robert K. Rodenbush at 317-554-8069 or at rkrodenbush@go2ibc.com.
“Where can you get the sense of a foreign field here in America?”

This was the question posed over 20 years ago by Bro. Jim Sleeva, a long-time instructor and Dean of Urban Missions at Indiana Bible College. Serving as executive vice president at the time, Bro. Tom O’Daniel suggested the Navajo reservation, a place that he had traveled to in the past. The Navajo reservation covers an area of 17,544,500 acres, occupying portions of three states. The church in Tohatchi, N.M. was started in 1985 by Sis. Carrie Eastridge, then pastored by her son, Jerry Eastridge, and for nearly a decade has been pastored by his son, Martin Eastridge.

The first time Bro. Sleeva brought students to Tohatchi in the early ‘90s, he immediately fell in love with the people and place. Nearly every year since then, as IBC students head across the country for spring break, a group travels to Tohatchi. “I tell students before they leave on a trip, look at yourself in the mirror and realize that when you come back you will not be the same person,” Bro. Sleeva said. “You will not stay unchanged. Once you are stretched, you will never be able to shrink back to the same size you were.”

“When you come onto the reservation there is no influence of America anymore,” said IBC senior Jane-Claire Turner, who experienced Tohatchi for the first time this year. “There are no billboards and no businesses; it’s just houses scattered and land.” IBC freshman Jillian Kidder is from the Chicago area where “light pollution is real,” but said of New Mexico, “Looking up at the stars has been surreal.”

Most students are ready for a vacation during spring break, a reset before the final push to the end of the school year. It is a sacrifice to give up a leisurely spring break to minister in an unfamiliar place, but then, sacrifice is the point. The schedule moves at a grueling pace.

After a 22-hour drive, students arrive on Saturday, get some sleep and wake to minister in four different services Sunday.

The week is filled with day trips and five more services before the 1,450 mile journey back to Indianapolis the following Sunday. “It was almost like a missions boot camp,” said first-time trip attendee Josh Ogle. Bro. Sleeva said, “You’re pushing yourself beyond what you think your limit is, but I want students to realize you do have more capacity than you think.”

The pace is only one aspect of stretching. On the trip, nobody is an observer. Eastridge encourages everyone to testify during the week. People who rarely sing are asked to sing. People who rarely preach are asked to preach. People who rarely play an instrument are asked to play. Bro. Sleeva identifies that the insecurity produced by working outside your comfort zone leads to increased dependence on God, which leads to powerful demonstrations of God’s Spirit.

Special bonds are always formed and mindsets affected during spring break trips; however, there is something special about the Tohatchi trip. Perhaps it is the lack of light pollution that leaves the mind clear enough to see what really matters. Perhaps it is the burden of the Eastridge family, their faith and heritage that affects students. Or perhaps it is the sincerity of the Navajo people and their purity in worship, in glowing contrast to the dark background of drug and alcohol abuse, high rates of suicide, and spiritual oppression which plague the nation.

Whatever it is, on the drive home students share an unspoken unity they did not have before. Spiritual battles are fought, hearts stretched, and bonds of friendship formed. Everyone knows what they need not say, they are not returning the same.

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Genesis 3:6-9, “And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?”

The Image and the Likeness of God

Anthropology is the study of mankind; however, anthropology is also a strong foundation for the revelation of theology. We can look at the things the Bible said that are seen and understand the things that are not seen. Romans 1:20 says, “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.” The study of man can also give us a vision of the revelation of the deep understanding of God.

I want you to note that man was made in the image and the likeness of God; however, I want to emphasize that only Adam and Jesus Christ were made in the image of God, and since there was only one person of Adam then we must simply conclude that there is only one person of God, because Adam was made in the image and the likeness of God! If God was three persons, then Adam would have had to have been three persons, because Adam was made in the image and in the likeness of God. And since Adam is only one person, we can only conclude that God is one person. If you are so blessed, privileged and selected by God that you should make heaven your home, and if your eyes ever behold God, you will see Him in the body of Jesus Christ!

Adam, Where Art Thou?

Nobody celebrates Christmas like true Apostolic Pentecostals because the One in the manger was not a stranger to us! He was born the mighty God, the everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace. I want you to understand that the earthly body of Jesus (God manifested in the flesh) was not made in the image of Adam, but rather Adam was made in the image of the One who was to come. I don’t believe that Adam ever looked like a cave man. If you want to know what Adam looked like, look at Jesus Christ, because Adam was made like Jesus was going to be made when He came.

When God called unto Adam and said, “Adam, where art thou?”, I believe that it was a deep sigh of hurt and disappointment in the very heart of almighty God. I pose for your consideration that it was the result of God not being able to recognize and identify Adam after he sinned, because after he sinned he lost his image and likeness of God. When God looked at Adam, he saw the man that He had created that no longer bore His likeness or His resemblance or His identity, and so He said, “Adam where art thou?”

The Creator was to be seen in His creation, but sin stripped man of that image and likeness of God. How strange it is because of sin that when God looked for man, He did not recognize him, and when Christ came and men looked for God, they didn’t recognize Him! When God looked at a fallen Adam, He said, “I don’t know you! Adam, where art thou?” And when Christ came, God manifested in the flesh, the Bible said in John 1:10, “He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.” Adam was created to reveal God but sin had stripped him of his power to reveal God, so Jesus came as God manifest in the flesh.

The Purpose of Your Sonship

The purpose of the Sonship was to be the revelation of the Father through Jesus Christ, and the purpose of your sonship is to reveal Jesus Christ. The reason why we are the sons of God is because God wants to look down on this world and see Himself again in flesh and see Himself in a human body, so that He can recognize the body and the world can recognize the body as God in flesh!

Now let me establish my point further here in Genesis 5:1-2. “This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.” God called THEIR name Adam. One reason God would call THEM Adam is because Eve came out of Adam. Don’t miss the point. Out of HIM came HIS Bride! Genesis 5:3 says, “And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth.”

This is what I want you to see: after Adam fell, men were no longer created in the image of God. Adam procreated and his offspring was not in the likeness and the image of God, but in the image and the likeness of a fallen Adam. That’s why man cannot justify and prop up his sinful lifestyles and his sinful residence by saying, “God made me that way!” God did not make man a sinner! When Adam fell, then all of the DNA was passed on through him. The only man apart from Adam and Jesus Christ were made in the image of God, and I am not sure how long that lasted, but it was not...
an eternal relationship because Adam blew it when living in the Garden of Eden! With the best of every opportunity, he blew it and failed God, and when he did, sin stripped him of that unique privilege and power. After the fall, men were begotten not in the image of God but in the image of a fallen man named Adam.

When Adam sinned, he lost his likeness of God and he lost his image of God, and what God was saying was, “Where are you, Adam? I don’t recognize you anymore, Adam. I don’t identify with you anymore, Adam.” Before, when God saw Adam, He saw Himself, and now He did not.

You have to understand that God formed man, but sin deformed man, and God was saying, “Adam where art thou?” because throughout the entire Old Testament history there was not a body that bore His image in which He could truly see Himself. Something was lost in Adam that was gone for 4,000 years. There was nothing on earth now that God could look at and see Himself.

The Apostolic New Testament Church

Thus I bring you to a greater understanding of Pentecost and the power of the gospel, and the new birth experience being revealed in all of us. The purpose of the church is that God wanted again a body on earth in which He could one more time see Himself and reveal Himself to a world! The Church is the body of Christ in the earth. We are here to reflect Him, reveal Him, illustrate Him and to be a representative of Him here on this earth. It’s about God looking down at a body and not seeing a body that is cursed by the effects of the world but is sanctified, separated, set apart, Spirit-filled, water baptized, and born again! That’s the key word: born again. Born again so that we regain the image and the likeness of God!

Matthew 22:17-19 says, “Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny.” He said, “All right, we are going to decipher whether you should pay taxes or not, and this is how we are going to determine if it is right or wrong to pay taxes.” True ownership and possession is proven by two points: Whose image do you bear and whose name do you wear? If you bear His image and you wear His name, then you belong to Him! And that is why for 4,000 years God was asking, “Adam where art thou?” Because until men are born again of the Spirit, which imparts to them His image, and born of the water which imparts to them His name, God cannot find the body on earth that He wants to reflect Him and to reveal Him.

The Joy of Pentecost

That was the joy of Pentecost because it was at Pentecost that they got His image and name, and now because of rebirth, God sees Himself in the Church! What was lost in Adam is regained in the miracle of the new birth experience — being born again of the water and the spirit.

Bro. Scott Lewis entered the ministry at the age of 18 as a full-time evangelist. For 12 years, Bro. Lewis preached in tent revivals, rallies and extended meetings lasting as long as 15 weeks, building a reputation for anointed and dynamic preaching. While evangelizing across the United States, he witnessed miracles, healing and the salvation of thousands of people.

In May of 1995, Bro. Lewis moved to West Houston, assuming the pastorate of Calvary Tabernacle with a unanimous vote of 17 members. The name was later changed to The Pentecostals of West Houston. The church has become one of the fastest growing churches in Houston. Pastor Lewis continues to lead the congregation of approximately 400 members to serve West Houston in its fullest capacity. Pastor Lewis also serves as presbyter for the Houston Metro West Section of the South Texas District UPCI.
Sacrifices Of Friends Remembered

Special thanks to those who donated funds to make this memorial possible:


John & Deborah Wolfram:

(678) 654-1487
johnwolfram@me.com
johnwolfram.com
Ultimate Sacrifice Honored

Beautiful New Apostolic Bible School Built On Donated Land in Vietnam

By Gregg Stone

Before the Vietnam War was resolved, three and a half million Vietnamese and 58,158 Americans gave their lives. The walking wounded includes millions of family members and friends who forever mourn the loss of their loved ones. Bro. Wolfram knows this heartache all too well. His two tours (1968 and 1970) made an eternal impact on him. Not only was he himself wounded but three of his high school buddies and five SEAL teammates never came home alive. Bro. Wolfram’s spiritual journey eventually led him back to Vietnam in 1993 as a missionary. That stirring call provided a unique opportunity for a much-needed healing. The saving message of Jesus Christ not only brought former enemies together, but it also brought a means to obtain eternal life.

From day one, God’s favor rested on Bro. Wolfram. “It’s like riding a wave to the shore after battling your way through rough surf,” he mused. “While facing unbelievable obstacles, you feel small and helpless, yet this magnificent power is all around you, bringing you safely to shore.” Through his ministry in Vietnam, thousands have found salvation. Amazingly, revival has broken out in the very places his friends died. Bro. Wolfram took this as a sign for a Bible school to be built in their honor on donated land of one of his converts who has personally baptized more than 1,500 people in the name of Jesus Christ.

As a former Bible school president, Bro. Wolfram understands how important Bible schools are to reaching and establishing a nation. “We decided to step out in faith,” he explained. “God touched hearts, and today we have what I believe was the missing link to establishing a strong work in Vietnam for many years to come. Harvest is always about timing. I’ve often said that if Vietnam is to be reached, the Vietnamese people themselves will have to do it. They just need a little support and guidance. The needs now are to supply the school with dorm beds, kitchen items, desks, whiteboards, and other equipment to help educate the students. We also need funds to print textbooks and sponsor students.”

Only four percent of Vietnam’s 94 million people are Christians of any kind. “Our goal has always been to saturate Vietnam with Apostolic truth,” said Bro. Wolfram. “We accomplish this through teaching seminars and distributing doctrinal books and soul-winning tools to the masses in their own language. Then we let God work.”

After investing so many years in Vietnam, it’s comforting for Bro. Wolfram that a foundation has been established, a system is in place and his efforts are strong enough to be self-perpetuating long after he’s gone. One thing is certain -- this Memorial Day will be extra special for Bro. Wolfram. “Building this school in honor of my friends can never fully repay their sacrifices,” he said, “but hopefully it will bring some good out of a senseless war that robbed both sides of its youth.”

To help sponsor a student, please visit www.johnwolfram.com. Donations are tax deductible.

Building Props and Stage Sets for Children’s Ministry

By Linda Schreckenberg

Bro. Craig O’Brien said, “Sometimes it’s so funny, we can’t get off the floor for laughing!”

Bro. O’Brien, who attends The Pentecostals of Jonesboro under Pastor Darrell Runyan, builds stage props and sets for the Children’s Division of the state of Arkansas. His props have gone to the North Texas District and as far away as Canada. He provides props for churches, children’s camps, kid’s revivals and districts. In fact, kids’ camps are some of the largest events he has made sets for.

It all starts with an idea on paper. To move from an idea to a finished set, he uses a team to put the stage sets together. Since he does home improvement as well, a lot of the skills needed come naturally to him. If there is an area he does not have the skills for, he uses someone who has expertise in that area.

“For example, we used the Finding Dory concept and titled it Finding Glory. It involved a gigantic underwater theme, incorporating materials that we had as a district. The entire underwater set, Finding Glory, was built in only 48 hours. “The most unusual set we’ve done was a Gotham City two-story cityscape with a Super Heroes theme. We rode motorcycles into the sanctuary and did a fight scene to get the children’s attention. The characters were Batman, Superman and Spiderman. Then we went right into the revival. That theme was a hit, because there were a lot of bus kids there.”

After doing this so many years it will incorporate the Star Wars theme.

Bro. O’Brien is willing to travel, and he is available for seminars on building props and stage sets. He may be contacted through his email: cobenterprises@yahoo.com, by phone 870.897.4787 or through his Facebook page, Craig O’Brien Prop Building & Stage Sets.
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Word To The Wise:

“Never judge people by their relatives.”

* * * * * * *

A hunting party, hopelessly lost in the mountains, blamed their guide for leading them astray.
“You told us you were the best guide in Colorado!” they cried.
“I am,” he said, “but I think we’re in Wyoming now.”

* * * * * * *

It was Palm Sunday but because of a sore throat, 5-year-old Johnny stayed home from church with a sitter.
When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. Johnny asked them what they were for.
“People held them over Jesus’ head as he walked by,” his father told him.
“Wouldn’t you know it,” Johnny fumed, “the one Sunday I don’t go and He shows up!”

Pastor Jones was very adept at finding those great hidden truths within the Scripture text.

* * * * * * *

A new prisoner is placed in his cell. Before long it is time for “lights out” and the cellblock becomes dark and nearly silent.
Eventually a voice from the darkness cries out: “Twenty-two!” and everyone breaks out into raucous laughter. A while later, another voice calls out “Forty-one!” and again the entire cellblock hoots and roars.
The new prisoner asks the guy in the next cell: “What’s going on?”
The guy says: “We’ve been here so long, we all know each other’s jokes. So we assigned numbers to them, and when we want to tell a joke we just use the number.”
The new prisoner calls out “Ninety-eight” and sets off uproarious laughter, much more than the other numbers. So he asks the guy in the next cell why that was.
Through barely-controlled mirth, he replies, “Nobody had heard that one before.”

* * * * * * *

I went to the doctor the other day. She told me that I needed to get some exercise. So I went to McDonald’s. My wife wanted to know why I went there. I told her the doctor told me to get some extra fries.
She made me an appointment with a hearing doctor.
United Pentecostal Foundation

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