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Perspectives

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From The Publisher

Optional Reality

Paul D. Mooney

"We cannot turn our backs and close our ears to the desperate cries of the lost. We cannot pretend that sinful lives are a non-issue with God."

There are no optional realities. There are imagined realities and of course there are those who attempt to create their own realities, but reality is indeed reality.

In his book, *Intellectuals and Society*, Thomas Sowell makes several interesting observations along these lines. He notes how far society is being pushed from reality, and objective truth by misinformation and lies. The public is often manipulated by those (mostly intellectuals, academia and media) whose own visions, they believe, are so important that they are justified to conspire, lie and scheme to create "optional" realities, false of course, submitted as true and unfortunately perceived as true. This is a process that America has seen played out in the "Affordable Care Act" debacle (Sowell's book predates this matter).

Sowell sounds an alarming warning, "However dramatic or attractive a particular vision may be, ultimately everyone must live in the world of reality. To the extent that reality has been filtered to fit a vision, this filtered information is a misleading guide to making decisions in an unforgiving reality, to which we must all adjust, because it is not going to adjust to us."

Establishing reality - the truth about where we are - is not a negative thing. As a matter of fact, it is essential to going forward. It is useless to offer solutions to problems or concerns without discovering the root of a problem (Amos 3:10). It is pointless to propose programs that ignore underlying realities. Such as, let's say an offended brother, "A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle" (Proverbs 18:19). Now, there is reality. A wise man will not say, "I don't care about my offended brother. Be done with him!" But rather, he will work toward a solution, however difficult, before he tries to go forward. A pastor or a CEO who accepts a church or business that is suffering deep hurts, offenses or betrayal will be wise to deal with that "reality" before launching complicated changes.

While trying to write a new script for revival, Apostolics cannot ignore the reality of sinfulness. Concerning the consequences of sin, there is no "optional" reality. Christ came to redeem sinners, sin is the cause of death, and separation from God. Sin is the core problem. There is no alternative truth to this reality. The church cannot back away from the sin issue. It will not, in Sowell's definition, assume it will adjust to us. We must define it. We must deal with it. We must ask the questions, "What is sin?" "What is worldliness?" "Do we care if our people live in sin and incorporate worldliness into their lifestyles?" We cannot turn our backs and close our ears to the desperate cries of the

lost. We cannot pretend that sinful lives are a non-issue with God. The cross speaks the eternal hope of liberation from the curse and power of sin. We instinctively know that God will never be happy with a carnal, worldly church. When we loosen our **stance toward the world, when we forsake the assembling of ourselves together, when we gravitate toward worldly entertainment, when we substitute the pursuit of anointing for the pursuit of intellectualism** - can we really call that progress?

In Psalms 64, the prayer is made to God that He would preserve the righteous, "from fear of the enemy." That is a crucial matter. For the enemy lies in wait to press upon the saints fear that entices them to accept "false" reality and to make enemy of those who hold on to the truth or reality. "That they may shoot in secret at the perfect: suddenly do they shoot at him, and fear not. They encourage themselves in an evil matter: they commune of laying snares privily; they say, Who shall see them?" (Psalms 64:4-5).

We are at a dangerous juncture. Elitists in politics, religion, education, communication and economics are attempting through human wisdom a secularist revolution of deconstruction. Apostolic preachers must stay strong, fearless, real and anointed. For the purveyors of this revolution to succeed, they must create an "optional" reality that turns God's people away from His revelation. They appear to be making progress, but it is an arrogantly applied deception that ultimately will fail. "But God shall shoot at them with an arrow; suddenly shall they be wounded" (Psalms 64:7).

However, we must guard our hearts that we are not deceived ourselves and become instruments of false doctrine, false hope and false reality.

The church must stand ready to preach Truth, and to be the beacon of God's ultimate reality.

Thomas Sowell's book from which I have drawn this article is a good read. I heavily underlined this book when it first was released in 2009. The chapter "Optional Reality in the Media and Academia" is worth the price of the book. I also highly recommend that readers add to their devotion the entirety of Psalms 64.

(Daniel Evans)

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♦To report on those trends and events which directly affect the work of the church.

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The Devastating Consequences of Compromise

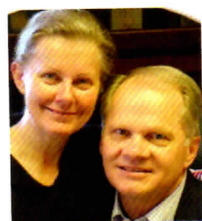
Note: The opinions on this page are entirely those of the individual and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Indiana Bible College.



Brian Norman, St. Louis, MO -- There's a sleeping giant in America called Christendom. The secular, homosexual and atheistic agendas have overtaken our culture almost to the point of no return. For too long, we have assumed that people "know" what is right and understand basic Biblical truths and principles. All the while, a secular system, void of the Church's influence, has advanced its cause by unabashedly shouting its views.

The Bible is clear. God created humankind as male AND female (Genesis 1:27). That is where gender distinction and the subsequent principles of separation began, not in Deuteronomy. It was in the Garden that God joined a man and a woman, with such being the perpetuation of the human race up until now. Secularists have allowed a radical homosexual element of our society; so much so that most do not realize it has already scientifically been proven that no one is born gay. If we're not careful, America will fall into the place some neighboring countries have: gays are given one day a school year to come in and explain to 5-year-olds how being gay is okay.

The answer to having people hold to timeless truths and victorious living in our present world is to teach the Word of God. Our Pentecostal landmarks were put there for our protection and preservation. The Bible has not changed. And our love for souls should not either.



Anthony Tamel, Oak Creek, WI -- Changing sex attraction is nothing short of a miracle. The position we should take is that we won't condemn them for their attraction, but we do tell them that we are praying they will change and that acting out their homosexual desires would be sin.

We want to love them, accept them the way they are and use them as they embrace true holiness. We need to address relevant topics relating to the changes in the culture. It will go a long way toward eliminating some of the compromise.



Kevin M. Schramm, Danville, PA -- Churches reducing their service schedule is an area I see as a problem. It infringes on the scripture about not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together. We have to be careful that we don't forfeit the basics of our relationship with God in lieu of trying to be current.

Many people today feel the need to be entertained. We overload our lives with non-spiritual things instead of focusing on the things of God. When Christians lose that connection with God, the Word of God no longer takes on its true meaning.



Larry W. Rudesill, Paducah, KY -- My biggest shame for the Church is that the evangelist can't be the evangelist, a prophet can't be a prophet and an apostle can't be an apostle. If they walk into a church and preach something the pastor is not in agreement with, they will be run off. Only one thing can hold back the tide of compromise: preach the truth. If something was wrong, it's still wrong. Patting homosexuals on the back to get them to live for God does not work. Truth is the only thing that makes a man free.



Scott A. Phillips, Clinton, MS -- Intellectual pursuit will never make the things of God logical. When we try to explain things from within the confines of our human understanding, the result is the over-complication of the simplicity of truth; and we remove the narrow path that truth provides. When we try to make God like us, we reason away hell, punishment and our responsibility to obedience. In many cases, we have this spirit that says there is no

difference between the sin of adultery versus gluttony. It's a deception. We need to maintain the standard of excellence. We cannot allow the past of our parishioners to silence the voice of moral standards the scripture provides.

We must stand in the way and call for the old paths. The things that insulated a previous generation are still the same things that will insulate this generation's fellowship: preaching and teaching the Word of God and disciplines such as prayer, fasting and separation. We have to be vigilant at redrawing the lines that technology and our culture erase. Affluence has distracted us. We have become more educated, live in bigger houses and drive nicer cars. These things have not been a blessing to us. There is such a downward gravity. We have to cry loud and spare not. It is hard for people to follow leaders who do not have a track record of moral purity. This is the high calling!



Theodore Brooks, New Haven, CT -- The Church must stand fast and pray in this homosexual revolution. When homosexuals come, be sure to teach them and give them the kind of leadership they need so they don't feel beat upon and denounced. Respect them but politely disagree. We must not compromise one iota. Pastors want to have large congregations. We want to be accepted by society at large, but as we become more involved in our communities, we need to be careful we don't compromise our spiritual integrity. And whatever we do, we must not sell our souls for grants and funding.



Charles A. Sims, Columbus, IN -- Same sex marriage is vehemently against the Word of God and an abomination. There should be no compromise. The only thing we can do is preach the Word of God and be strong in our convictions.

Today's Apostolics are going through an identity crisis. Our forefathers knew who they were. They were bold in the positions they took, and they were more willing to be ostracized and criticized for their position. The more we love God and the more knowledge of Him we have, the less compromising we will do.



Roger Roth, Gig Harbor, WA -- We serve a King! It's His kingdom and His principles. Social drinking, jewelry, style of dress and hair are biblical principles to be obeyed. We need to teach holiness in such a fashion that it's a joyful part of our covenant. But we leave so much wiggle room. The 21st century 'church' almost acts like homosexuality is just another lifestyle choice, but it is an outright sin. Pastors have found creative ways not to be offensive in preaching about jewelry. Why can't we find right ways to preach against homosexuality?

UPC PARTNERS WITH HISTORIC WORK IN INDIA



Bro. Daniel Evans
Visakhapatnam, India

Despite being dominated by the influence of Hinduism for centuries, the country of India is experiencing a massive revival of souls. The people of India are hungry to worship a living God that hears their prayers.

"It's a day of opportunity," said Bro. Daniel Evans, a longtime bishop of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World who has now joined forces with the United Pentecostal Church International. "There is a great revival breaking out in India. People have been blinded by all kinds of religious structures but with more education and modernization they are starting to rationalize and question previous religious domination.

This is the time that we need to reach out."

Presently, Bro. Evans and the Bible Believers Ministries of India have established 249 Apostolic churches, a Bible college and eight orphanages throughout the state of Andhra Pradesh. Each orphanage is home to at least 25 children. This is a remarkable ministry that has benefitted hundreds of needy orphans throughout the years.

An estimated 1.2 billion people live in India, which is geographically one-third the size of the United States. Christianity is the minority, accounting for about two percent of the total population. "Masses of people are idol worshippers, so it takes the hand of God to reach out to these people," said Bro. Evans, who pastors in Visakhapatnam. "There are 30 million gods worshipped in India."

Bro. Evans is thankful for the support that he receives from his fellow pastors in India. "I'm blessed to have such a wonderful group of brothers working with me," he said. "Many pastors in my group don't even have bicycles. We have to buy them bikes. Some of them ride 20 to 25 miles to preach the gospel."

Although the larger cities in India are becoming more modernized, many of the villages are still without water or electricity. "That's the kind of people we are targeting in our ministry, and we've been very successful."

History

Bro. Evans, 63, was born in Rajahmundry, one of the oldest cities of India. He received the Holy Ghost and was baptized in Jesus name at the age of 14, but he didn't answer the call to the ministry until much later. Instead, he decided to pursue a career in the business/corporate world, eventually earning a Ph.D. in Environmental Ethics from the prestigious Andhra University. "I was born and raised up in Apostolic truth, but I never wanted to be a preacher," he said. "I wanted to know where my next meal was coming from." After college, he secured a good job at a pharmaceutical company; however, God had other plans for his life. "I had so many opportunities to settle down in the United States but I realized my call was for India, and I wanted to stay over here and do what the Lord wanted me to do."

At the age of 25, Bro. Evans began ministering full-time under his father at the church in Rajahmundry, a city of about 300,000 people. "I was preaching and evangelizing and co-pastoring with my father," he said. At that time, many of the people in their congregation lived in the surrounding countryside often not accessible by vehicle. "They could only travel by foot, bicycles and such," he said. "But the people were hungry to accept Jesus and have the truth." The church in Rajahmundry is currently pastored by his elder brother, Jaikumar Evans.

Heritage

Bro. Evans attributes the spread of the Apostolic message in southern India to his father, the late Jonah Evans, who stumbled onto the truth through study and prayer. At the time, he was attending a Trinity Pentecostal church. When he began to question the pastor about baptism in Jesus name, he was ex-communicated.

"My father did not know about Apostolic truth, but when he was praying and asking God about baptism in Jesus name, God revealed to him about the oneness of the Godhead," explained Bro. Daniel Evans. "He was looking for someone to baptize him in Jesus name. He heard about a man in the northern part of India about a thousand miles away."

Jonah Evans traveled that great distance to the city of Bhagalpur to be baptized by Bro. James Morar, an Apostolic pastor. "From that time until now, they had a wonderful, beautiful friendship," said



A young man is baptized in the bay of the Indian Ocean.



Several hundreds gather at a massive baptismal service at the 2012 India Crusade.



The Mooneys receive the tract.

Daniel Evans. "Bro. Morar was a great man, highly educated. He was a great preacher and kept up to the standards of Apostolic teaching."

Strangely enough, another relationship was born out of that friendship – a marriage between their children. It was decided that Daniel Evans should marry Joy Morar. "I didn't even see her before we got engaged," he laughed. "But it all worked out." The couple, who have been married for 38 years, now have three children and three grandchildren.

An interesting side note -- Bro. Daniel Evans was filled with the Holy Ghost when his future father-in-law held a revival at his church. His wife was filled with the Holy Ghost as a child when her future father-in-law preached a revival at her church.

A Continuing Legacy

After receiving a revelation of Apostolic truth, the elder Jonah Evans sold his thriving business and began sharing the Oneness message mainly in the southern part of India, in the state of Andhra Pradesh. This area is presently inhabited by about 80 million people who speak the language of Telugu. The impact of his ministry was significant. At the time of his death in 1984, at least 36 churches had been started. "All the ministries in the south are a direct result of my dad's teachings," said Bro. Daniel Evans.

His goal is to continue his father's Apostolic legacy in India. The growth of the work, even after the death of his father, has been phenomenal. "The people, the pastors, the churches all come under the leadership and direction of the Lord," he said. "We are not just as an organization but like a family."

Many of the current Indian pastors were raised in one of the church's orphanages and then attended the Solid Foundation Apostolic Bible School in Visakhapatnam, which educates about 10 to 12 students each year. The students go through nine months of classroom teaching as well as on-the-job training at local churches. This intensive training propels them into a life of ministry. Once they express an interest in pastoring, they are sent to areas of need. "That's how we have grown," said Bro. Daniel Evans. "We are all like one family."

Once a year, he and his pastoral team host the India General Conference, a dynamic time of preaching, singing and worship. It is attended by an estimated 10,000 people from 12 districts throughout India. Also, it is not uncommon for large preaching crusades to be held in the city of Kakinada in southern India. "We do several crusades a year, depending on the availability of funds," said Bro. Daniel Evans. "Usually, the eight thousand seats are full, with standing room only. It is a massive crowd, filled with many visitors from the community."

Trials and Triumphs

In his 38 years of ministry in India, Bro. Daniel Evans and his family have faced many obstacles. He has watched Hindu extremists attempt to burn Apostolic churches and homes. Continued on page 24

Brief Story of the Merger

Bishop Daniel Evans and his wife, Joy, have attended and ministered at Calvary Tabernacle in Indianapolis, Indiana several times in recent years. They travel to the United States to visit their children (Sumeeth and Hannah Evans and family) who are employed in America and members of Calvary. From these visits, Pastor Mooney and Bishop Evans have enjoyed several long and warm conversations together.

Bishop Evans attended the UPCI General Conference and was hosted and warmly received by Superintendent David Bernard, Secretary Jerry Jones and Global Missions Director Bruce Howell, and many others. Bro. Evans extended an open invitation for the Mooneys to visit India.

Bro. and Sis. Mooney agreed to minister at the 2012 Crusade and Minister's Conference in Kakinada, southern India. They had previously visited India several times and developed an interest in Indian history, religions, and literature, a love for the people -- as well as an active monitoring of the exploding acceptance of Pentecostalism across India. While pastoring in Muskegon, MI, the Mooneys enjoyed hosting James Morar and supported his work (see cover story). Furthermore, Bro. Evans' love for America and historical depth and his sacrificial life help bind the two men together.

In conversation along the way, Bishop Evans broached the possibility of the PAW of India, of which he was the overseer, partnering with the UPCI. It was considered that by working together the advancement of the Apostolic doctrine and efforts of evangelization would be enhanced. Both groups, it was noted, share a commitment to the Apostles' doctrine and a belief in living a life of holiness unto the Lord.

The vision was that such an effort would forge a strong and bold advancement of the Pentecostal message in India.

Later, meetings and visits were arranged with Bruce Howell, Lynden Shalm, Asia Regional Director, and others including leaders in the UPCI of India. From these meetings, prayers and guiding of the Holy Spirit, this historical and devoted band of Apostolic ministers have agreed to join hands with the UPCI. As Bishop Evans described, the revival in India is truly "a day of opportunity" and by embracing in fellowship and labor, that opportunity takes on a whole new dimension.

Pastor Mooney stated that he and the great people of Calvary Tabernacle will "forever be grateful to have played a small role in making it all happen." During this "get acquainted" period, Calvary will serve as a North American contact for promotion, information and fundraising, which includes orphanages and outreach churches. All funds will be processed through the United Pentecostal Global Mission Division. Account #IUN-125738

Keep India in your prayers. About 1.2 billion people live in India. The country is a principle player in the new global order.



Formal greeting from Bishop Evans and ministers.



Indian pastors worship at the Minister's Conference in Kakinada.



Sis. Micki Mooney interacts with children at the orphanage.

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Help For Lonely Pastors

By Thom S. Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources



The number of pastors experiencing loneliness is high—very high. I hurt for these pastors, and I want to help in any way I can. The three most common causes of loneliness shared with me by pastors are insightful:

1. *Church members do not want to get too close to a pastor.* Actually, it works both ways. The pastor is seen as the spiritual leader of the church. For many, it's hard to get close to someone who holds a perceived lofty position.

2. *The pastor is accustomed to giving instead of receiving.* In healthy relationships, both parties give and sacrifice. The pastor is accustomed to giving and ministering. Sometimes it's hard to be on the receiving end.

3. *The pastor is in a defensive mode.* Many pastors have been burned and hurt by church members. As a consequence, they are always "on guard," rarely able to lower their defensive shields to be in a healthy relationship.

Here are the three most common negative consequences of loneliness:

1. *Burnout.* Healthy relationships energize people. Loneliness depletes people of energy. The lonely pastor is more likely to experience burnout than those pastors who have developed mutually healthy relationships.

2. *Moral failure.* Unfortunately, some pastors seek to fill the voids created by loneliness by entering into inappropriate relationships. Ministries are destroyed, and families are torn apart.

3. *Depression.* Some level of depression is inevitable but some of it can be very serious.

I plead with pastors who are experiencing loneliness to take one or all the following steps:

1. *Find a confidant.* Be intentional about developing a healthy relationship with someone.

That person may be a pastor in another town, but don't stop until you have found such a person.

2. *Involve your spouse.* Many pastors are reluctant to involve their spouses in the messy details of church life. I would hope that you view your spouse as your best friend with whom you can share the good, the bad and the ugly.

3. *Get professional help.* Pastors are among the last to seek professional help.

Unfortunately, their loneliness can degenerate into depression, causing them to leave the ministry and even have suicidal thoughts. Please get help before it's too late.

PURE Religion
by Stephen Judd



Their First Real Christmas!

By Stephen Judd, TCM President



Stephen Judd
www.mansionkids.org

*It's the most wonderful time of the year
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For many of us, the Christmas season truly is "the most wonderful time of the year."

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Many times, I walk away from these meetings with a heavy heart. The abuse and turmoil that these children faced prior to being placed here is unimaginable.

A few days ago, as we discussed a particular sibling group, our social worker mentioned that once again promises were made and plans developed for these children's parents to "get their act together" in order that

the girls could return home. But once again, this hasn't happened, and the girls realize now that they may never return home. How devastating this must be for these children.

In the midst of how overwhelmingly sad I felt, there was also a reassuring comfort that they are with us now. They are safe, they are loved and they are truly cared for.

One of the girls actually remarked to the social worker, "TCM is my family now, and I know I'm much better off being here. I have a bright future and my destiny has been changed!"

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By Gregg Stone



Bro. and Sis. David Plappert
Oakdale, MN

Bro. Plappert, tell us a little about yourself and your ministry.

I grew up in Minnesota at the First United Pentecostal Church in Oakdale, MN under Bro. Gerald Grant, President of the Apostolic

Bible Institute. UCstreaming was developed as a way for us to broadcast our services to homebound elders like Bro. Robert Norris.

Bro. Grant set a budget of \$100 per month. After contacting over 50 possible providers, I found them either lacking default features, or their solution was out of the church's budget. When approaching Bro. Grant with a minimum of five times the budget, he jokingly said to me, "Do you believe you can build a more affordable solution?" I responded by building UCstreaming, while in the 6th grade.

The first version of UCstreaming took about six months to build. Not only did it have all the features we wanted, but it cost less than the budget to maintain. Soon after that, a local research and development company that holds major contracts with Fortune 100 companies received word of this system and asked if they could use it. This company became the first paying user of UCstreaming.

Today, UCstreaming is a comprehensive solution churches can afford, starting at \$25 per month. God allows us to use 15,000 servers located in 100 countries.

Life Springs, a venture capitalist wing of the Stewardship Department of the United Pentecostal Church International (UPCI), has made an investment into UCstreaming, and we pledged to donate 50 percent of our profit back to the UPCI. Everything I do is for God's honor and glory, not my own. UCstreaming only seeks to service Apostolic churches.

What exactly is UCstreaming, and how can it help a church?

UCstreaming enables churches at a minimal cost to use video streaming and can bless a church in six areas:

1. *Connect* with homebound elders.
2. *Extend* your ministry to saints in the armed forces.
3. *Build* an online library of teaching and training videos as a resource.
4. *Mentor* young ministers.
5. *Review* improvements with your platform team.
6. *Give* your community a glimpse of your church online.

Is UCstreaming used only to stream services live or are there other uses for this platform?

When streaming live, UCstreaming automatically creates the video file on our servers for the archive. This enables services to be ready in the archive in just minutes. The core of UCstreaming is putting church services online.

Is this geared for larger congregations or is this something smaller churches can afford and benefit from as well?

UCstreaming is built on two technical designs: 1. leverage modern techniques to configure minimal cost and 2. leverage the power of a larger third-party infrastructure to maximize the quality. Smaller congregations can start using the service today, while larger bodies will find the features to meet their needs while maintaining the "running away" cost of other providers.

By limiting the number of videos you can archive and the number of views, we are able to offer a forever-free account to home mission-sized ministries.

What is the initial cost, and what are the monthly costs?

UCstreaming does not charge any initial setup fees. UCstreaming can assist you in equipment configuration and embed

our player in the church's website.

Monthly, UCstreaming is a pay-per-use service, where you pay exactly for what you use. We have three fees and our support fee, which is a fixed price per month. This enables 24x7x365 phone, email, live chat, and text message access to UCstreaming's developers for support. Next, we charge per video hour stored per month. Lastly, we charge per hour of video views (either when the video was live or archived). Churches can check out our latest pricing online at our website at <http://ucstreaming.net>. We have dropped our prices five times since we have been in business. Our cost savings is your cost savings.

What is the importance of building a web presence for your church and getting the Apostolic message into the world wide web community?

You are limited in encapsulating what your church has to offer in a flyer. Going live allows your community a first-hand, engaging experience – a try-before-you-buy scenario. Now this does require that you advertise your video streaming via social sites and in printed matter. Your URL will need to be placed everywhere you place your church name. We have discovered this is the most visited part of any church website. We recommend that you put the video player on the front page of your website.

How can a church that is interested contact you for more information or to try your services? Do you have a website, Facebook, Twitter?

The best way is to call us (612) 234-7527. You can visit our website at ucstreaming.net. Also, email at sales@ucstreaming.net works. We have social sites at both Facebook and Twitter, under UCstreaming. Also, feel free to contact me, David Plappert, personally. My direct cell phone is (651) 894-4607 and my direct email is daplappert@ucstreaming.net.

For information about these events, call the event coordinator. If you would like your event on this list, call (800) 800-AIS. IBC Perspectives does not endorse any seminar or conference listed. This page is provided simply as a service to the greater Apostolic community.

apostolic alendar 2014

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SPEAKERS	CONTACT / INFO
JAN 2-5 2014	Times of Refreshing Conference - Odessa, TX Ministers' fellowship dinner after service each night. Friday night youth activity after service.	Life Challenge Church 4500 Grandview St. Odessa, TX 79762 Host Pastor: Dan Smelser	Bill Davis, Rob McKee, Mark Hughes and Gordon Poe	For more info: visit www.gordonpoe.com/TOR/conference . (717) 755-7202
JAN 24 2014	Indiana Bible College LIVE RECORDING 2014 Under the direction of Lindel M. Anderson, Dean of Music	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN Host: Paul D. Mooney	Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, Lindel Anderson, IBC Choir, IBC Chorale, IBC Praise	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
FEB 6-8 2014	WinterFire 2014 WinterFire's focus is ministering to those in ministry. Our objective is that every member of your team will leave renewed and refreshed.	First Cathedral Bloomfield, CT	David Bernard, Morton Bustard, Sam Emory, Anthony Mangun, Mark Morgan, Terry Shock, Mike Williams, Raymond Woodward	For more info: visit www.winterfire.org or visit it Twitter: winterfireconf or Facebook: winterfire
FEB 27-28 2014	Indiana Bible College CONNECT 2014 Your chance to visit the IBC campus and see what Bible college is all about!	Indiana Bible College 1502 Sumner Ave Indianapolis, IN 46227 Host: Paul D. Mooney	Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, Jason Gallion, Bobby Killmon, Lindel Anderson, others.	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
MARCH 20-23 2014	Times of Refreshing Conference - Tulare, CA	Living Christ Church 2516 North M St. Tulare, CA 93274 Host: James McPhail	Jeff Arnold, Doug White and Gordon Poe	For more info: visit www.gordonpoe.com/TOR/conference . (717) 755-7202
APRIL 2-4	Indiana Bible College MUSIC FEST 2014 Under the direction of Lindel M. Anderson, Dean of Music	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN Host: Paul D. Mooney	Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, Lindel Anderson, IBC Choir, IBC Chorale, IBC Praise, others	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
APRIL 10-12	Eagle's Summit Apostolic Conference Santa Rosa, CA A conference for saints, staff and leadership alike which focuses on equipping the minister and believer for Apostolic ministry.	Santa Rosa, CA	Stan Gleason, Raymond Woodward, Dr. James Hughes and John Arcovio	For more information: (888) 776-0797 www.eaglessummit.net
MAY 1-4	Prophetic Word Conference 2014 Wayne, MI	The International Church of Metro Detroit 31650 Van Born Rd. Wayne, MI 48184	Lee Stoneking, Stan Gleason, Art Wilson and many more	For more information: www.theinternationalchurch.com
JULY 2014	Mile High Conference: 2014 Rocky Mountain Region Meeting designed to strengthen the cause of Oneness, holiness-minded preachers, churches and families.	Calvary Apostolic Church 5900 E. Yale Ave. Denver, CO 80222 Host: D. E. Haymon	To be announced	(303) 758-5900 www.cacdenver.org DEH2@comcast.net
AUG 2014	Arkansas 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!	To be announced	To be announced	For more info visit www.arkansascampmeeting.com
AUG 2014	The Apostolic Conference - Madison, MS A conference designed for the North American Missionary and Church Planter.	To be announced	To be announced	For more info: visit www.parkwaychurch.net or call 601-853-2607
AUG 21-22	Investing in Futures A conference for those who invest in children. Educating, encouraging and equipping children's ministry workers.	The Apostolic Sanctuary, 1501 John Deere Parkway, Silvis, IL 61239 Host Pastor: Gary Randol	Marrell Cornwell, Steve Cannon, Brent Coltharp, Jerry Jones and Wayne Huntley	For more info: visit invest-in-futures.com
SEPT 2014	Eagle's Summit Apostolic Conference New Whiteland, IN A conference for saints, staff and leadership alike which focuses on equipping the minister and believer for Apostolic ministry.	To be announced	To be announced	For more information: (888) 776-0797 www.eaglessummit.net
OCT 2014	90th Annual UPCI General Conference Official conference of the UPCI. Don't miss it!	St. Louis, MO	To be announced	For more information visit the UPCI website at: www.upci.org
OCT 2014	Oklahoma District Women's Esprit Conference - Yukon, OK Early Registration: \$35/\$40. Deadline for early registration: September 30, 2013	To be announced	To be announced	For more information: (405) 354-3388 wepresident@yahoo.com
OCT 2014	All Nations Sunday A global harvest -- it's right next door. Multicultural ministries.	Any participating church in North America		For more information: AllNationsSunday.com
NOV 2014	West Coast Conference - Fresno, CA 31st Annual Fresno Meeting	To be announced	To be announced	For more information call: (559) 225-1622 www.truthtabfresno.org

Church Today: Legislating Morality



Robert L. Rodenbush

Church Today

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Legislating Morality

If you engage in discussion about how Judeo/Christian "values" have historically guided our legal system and American culture, the typical response from non-believers is, "Why do Christians always try to legislate morality?" Gordan Runyon answered this question in his article entitled, "Why Would We Want to Legislate Something Other than Morality?" (*Freedom Outpost*, July 2013). Runyon contests that there truly is no such thing as moral neutrality. In fact, someone's values will always be in play. Even if people decide that they will have no value system, that in and of itself is a form of values. Our laws, the direction of our country, the discussions that come out of Washington, D.C., extreme political correctness, the anti-Christian bias that permeates our culture -- all of these things have their root in someone's opinion, someone's morality.

Runyon describes it this way, "All law is moral in nature. It's not possible for it to be otherwise. How's that? Because every law that gets dreamed up and foisted upon us started out as someone's idea for how to 'make things better,' or how to make sure people act 'the right way,' or not act 'the wrong way.' All law hopes to tell its subjects what they should and shouldn't do. And all the words that are used here are about things being better, and distinguishing between right and wrong, and what 'ought' to be done - all of this is the language of morality. There is no escaping it." Someone's values will prevail. When our country makes laws, when America abandons the principles upon which it was founded, there will be moral consequences. If we remove morality from our laws, what will replace it, immorality? There is an if/then, cause/effect reaction. Runyon asks, "The question is not whether to legislate morality, but only which morality will become law?"

A similar debate works its way into the conversation of the church. Should we really be in the business of legislating holiness? Are we exercising biblical authority in some legalistic way? Should we really preach standards? Yet we must ask, what happens if we fail to address these things? What happens when the church stops preaching holiness? Doesn't it stand to reason that it will fall into worldliness? Isn't the absence of spiritual and doctrinal absolutes the breeding ground for permissiveness, confusion and chaos?

Neutral is definitely a choice. Just look at the gearshift in your car. Did they leave the letter "N" off, has neutral been blotted out? No, they didn't! It is simply another choice among forward, reverse and park. Deciding not to decide is a DECISION. Not preaching truth promotes falsehood. Not confronting worldliness promotes ungodliness. Finding ways to get around the Apostolic message, ways to avoid mentioning the essentiality of the Holy Ghost and baptism in Jesus' name will not lead us to great revival, but to great destruction. We will make a choice, and it WILL have consequences.



T. W. Massengale

Church Growth

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Developing Tomorrow's Leaders Today

Where do you see your church 10 years from now? What will be your average attendance? What ministries, departments and programs might you have? Will you

oversee these yourself or delegate them to others? Most reply "delegate" and rightly so. The only way a church doubles or triples its current size is by developing a ministry team that will work closely with the pastor in order for everything to oper-

ate smoothly and productively. So this begs the question: will you have the leaders you need to operate a church of that size and scope? Developing leaders takes time. God rarely sends you leaders "readymade and ready to go." The vast majority of the time you get raw materials that must be shaped and polished into a finished product. It took Jesus over three years to develop 12 leaders. It's doubtful you will do it faster.

Local church leadership development takes on two aspects: current leaders and future leaders. If your church is already organized into departments, then you already have leaders over these critical areas. Remember this truism: Your church

Theology

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How can God endorse things in the Bible like the story of Judges 19-21?

This is a disturbing portion of Scripture and one could ask how did this happen and why is it in Scripture? The answer lies in rightly dividing the Word. Further sometimes our "loose"

preaching at times creates confusion in our saints. Here's where the issue of hermeneutics (rightly interpreting the meaning of the text) touches the inspiration of Scripture. How do we read difficult passages like this particular story in Judges and see it as "revelation" from God?

The Bible is both prescriptive and descriptive, and we must determine what's going on in these narratives to discern which is happening. By prescriptive I mean the Bible says "do this" and by descriptive I mean the Bible says "this is what happened." So the record of an event isn't necessarily God endorsing it. As a matter of fact, these stories tell us powerful truths by negative example.

Further misclassifying these narrative as merely "historical books" is an issue as well. Jesus classified these books in a different way that could help us better appreciate how they speak to us. He says in Luke 24:44, "And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me." So Jesus divides the OT as the Law (Pentateuch), the Prophets, and the Psalms (or Writings). So, Joshua through 2 Kings was seen as the "Former Prophets" while the "Latter Prophets" we would recognize as "Major and Minor Prophets."

Why is this important? Because it's not merely recording history although it records true history. It's also prophetic in that it preaches to us. It not only passes information but also instruction. It's God's commentary on that history and that's HOW it preaches to us! So the whole point of the book of Judges is in the last verse, "... every man did that which was right in his own eyes."

So, at times our preaching and teaching misleads people. By using OT stories to preach things totally foreign to the text may get some "good preaching" but it exposes an unwittingly low view of inspiration. We should be less concerned with our interpretation of a story than what God's commentary is on that story, and then preach that. An extreme example is an article that said like Absalom "won the hearts of the people in the gates" a music minister should "win the hearts of the people" -- away from who? The King? This teaches rebellion. Worse, the article goes on to say like Lucifer "won over a third of the angels" we should win over people, too. So the sermon would be to "be like Lucifer"?!

This is a ridiculous example but shows the importance of not taking Scripture out of context and abusing the way it should preach. It's inspired revelation and needs to be handled that way. This will help the average person to understand correctly passages like the one in Judges. The point is that even our preaching teaches.

will not grow unless your departments grow. Your departments will not grow unless your department leaders grow. Your leaders will not grow unless you motivate and challenge them to grow. You should be training your current leadership to expand their vision to develop a larger Sunday school, youth, outreach and music ministry. To oversee one of these ministries at twice its current size will require greater leadership skills. Are you doing this?

How about future leaders? Do you have a plan in place to train the new leaders you will need in three, five or 10 years? If you would like a plan on how to train leaders, request file CMLD03 from the Apostolic Information Service. Free to subscribers, all others \$5.

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Carol Clemans

Spiritual Growth

carol@carolclemans.org

Sexuality in the Church - DVD

Sex is a gift from God to be enjoyed by husband and wife. As a church we must address the healthy sexuality that God designed. We also must address the sexual sins of fornication, adultery, sexual addictions (including pornography) and homosexuality, etc.

The reason I decided to teach a seminar and produce a DVD on this subject is because I've been counseling these issues for 21 years. The church is a place for restoration and reconciliation with God and others. I have people calling me nationwide seeking help with addiction to pornography and how to deal with homosexual tendencies (I provide nationwide phone/Skype counseling).

We must not shun these subjects, because they do exist among us. One sexual sin is not a lesser or greater sin than all the rest. It is the church's duty to become 'healing helpers.' The person addicted to porn may also be a sexual abuse victim. The person fighting homosexual tendencies can feel emotionally empty because of unhealthy bonding as a child. He/she seeks same-sex relationships for all the wrong reasons, not understanding that God desires to 're-parent' them.

God is the healer of our brokenness. My teaching DVD's, *Jesus, the Healer of Our Brokenness* and *Dealing with Life's Wounds*, share how God is our healer and what we need to know as healing helpers. *Sexuality in the Church* DVD shares tools and an understanding of these subjects.

God's desire is to save us and heal our brokenness. My heartbeat is teaching from God's Word for spiritual, emotional and relational growth for churches and conferences. When we learn to have an intimate relationship with God, we can be victorious over all sin. Go to my website: www.carolclemans.org to order the above DVD's. Email: carol@carolclemans.org or call (636) 448-0121 to schedule speaking or counseling.

Carol Clemans is a Certified Pastoral Counselor/ointed teacher of the Word. Her ministry of counseling and teaching is nationwide. Carol and husband, Rev. Harold Clemans, attend Parkway Church in Madison, MS - Pastor Jerry Dillon.



Brian Norman

Revival Concepts

evangelistnorman@gmail.com

Can I Grow . . . By Myself?

"I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase" - 1 Cor. 3:6

God has a plan for every church's growth. It includes some planting and others watering, then God giving the increase. It is to our own detriment that we try to abandon or avoid this process of God. Can we have revival or increase without this? Sure but not to the extent we can when we follow God's plan.

One of the greatest strengths of Americans in general is our rugged sense of individualism. But as is often the case, our strength is also our weakness. No one can go it alone. God did not design His kingdom that way. God's economy of Kingdom growth includes some planting and others watering, then He gives the increase.

This is the importance of the five-fold ministry operating properly, Biblically. This is the importance of a pastor allowing his local church body to be exposed to other ministries to labor with him in the vineyard of the Lord. No minister can be every piece of the puzzle that equals the growth of the local church.

Consider the Apostle Paul; some even consider him the greatest Apostle. He reveals he did not do it by himself. He planted, but someone else watered AND because they followed God's plan, God gave the increase. If we want the full "increase" God has destined for us, we must follow His plan for growth. Ask yourself. Do I ...

- Periodically have visiting ministers and special meetings?
- Try to make sure others are allowed to labor in the vineyard I oversee?
- Allow God to connect me with other ministries to labor together?
- Open myself to other ministers' insight on church growth?

It has been my pleasure to minister in meetings around the world. My observation has been that pastors that allow other ministries to labor with them experience the greatest level of growth. Example: Local churches that host a Harvest Conference increase their average attendance by 35%.

Brian Norman travels full-time preaching Jesus Christ. Phone: 636-544-0627 Website: GlobalEvangelism.org or HarvestConference.org



Aubrey Jayroe

Finance

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Our church's by-laws have not been modified or changed in many years. How often should the pastor or board review this document and update it?

Unfortunately, laws change and they change often. Because of this, the church's administration must stay aware of these changes and keep the necessary documents current at all times.

It is our recommendation that the church by-laws (or constitution as some call it) be reviewed at least a minimum of every three years. In the past 10 years, there have been numerous changes and if the church administration has not reviewed the by-laws in a while, then that document may be outdated. For many reasons (including legal ones) a church wants to maintain a current set of by-laws along with the necessary resolutions/policies that are required of all non-profit organizations.

The church administration should review the by-laws in view of IRS changes and make those changes as an addendum to the existing by-laws. In most cases (but not all) the pastor and the church board can review the by-laws and make the changes without taking it to the church membership.

It is also advisable to have someone professionally review the by-laws on a regular basis. It is difficult for the church administration to know of all the changes that are passed each year; however, outside sources who stay up-to-date in these areas could be of great help in keeping the by-laws current.

It is easy for a church to establish a set of by-laws and then 'forget' them because a church may not be required to use them often; however, when you have a dispute, a problem, or need to have all the corporate documents up-to-date for banking or legal purposes, it is of great benefit to have them up-to-date at that point.

Contact us for help in this vital area. We have helped churches for over 42 years stay current with all regulations and documents.

Aubrey L. Jayroe is an Accredited Tax Advisor, Accredited Tax Preparer and Enrolled Agent by the IRS, as well as an Apostolic pastor. Contact him at: (870) 633-6045. Jayroe & Company, P.O. Box 1217, Forrest City, AR 72336. Email: jayroeone@sbcglobal.net



Eric K. Hall

Investments

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Three Key Retirement Income Considerations

There are two factors that can determine whether you'll have a comfortable retirement: the amount of money you've saved and how quickly you spend that nest egg after you retire. The rate of annual withdrawals from personal savings and investments helps determine how long those assets will last and whether the assets may be able to generate a sustainable stream of income over the course of retirement. A number of factors will influence your choice of annual withdrawal rate. The following are three key considerations:

Consideration 1: Your Age and Health.

As you think about what your withdrawal rate should be, begin by considering your age and health. Although you can't predict for certain how long you will live, you can make an estimate. However, it may not be wise to base your estimate on average life expectancy for your age and sex, particularly if you are healthy. The average life expectancy has risen steadily in the United States, reaching 78.2 years.

Consideration 2: Inflation. Inflation is the tendency for prices to increase over time. Keep in mind that inflation not only raises the future cost of goods and services, but also affects the value of assets set aside to meet those costs. To account for the impact of inflation, include an annual percentage increase in your retirement income plan.

Consideration 3: Variability of

Investment Returns. When considering how much your investments may earn over the course of your retirement, you might think you could base assumptions on historical stock market averages, as you may have done when projecting how many years you needed to reach your retirement savings goal. But once you start taking income from your portfolio, you no longer have the luxury of time to recover from possible market losses, as retirees and near-retirees during this latest market downturn experienced firsthand.

We can help you determine a withdrawal strategy that seeks to minimize the drain on your portfolio.

Eric K. Hall is an Independent Financial Advisor with LPL Financial and the Senior Pastor of Greater Life Church in Greentown, IN. Contact him at (765) 860-9335, eric.hall@lpl.com. Member FINRA/SPIC

THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS**IRS Becomes 'Belief Police,' Tells Nonprofit to Keep Faith to Itself**

The Internal Revenue Service was caught on tape telling a nonprofit organization, which waited nearly 2 1/2 years to receive tax-

exempt status, to keep its faith to itself.



Alliance Defending Freedom made public recently the audio of a

phone conversation that the IRS placed to a nonprofit organization that provides support to women in abusive pregnancy situations. In the recorded phone conversation, an IRS agent lectures the president of the organization about forcing its religion and beliefs on others and inaccurately explains that the group must remain neutral on issues such as abortion.

Alliance Defending Freedom represents the group, which did not receive its tax-exempt status until last month, nearly 2 1/2 years after applying for it.

"The IRS is a tax collector; it shouldn't be allowed to be the speech-and-belief police," says senior legal counsel Erik Stanley. "The current scandal isn't new but has merely exposed the abuse of power that characterizes this agency and threatens our fundamental freedoms."

The IRS grants tax exemptions to religious, educational and/or charitable organizations. In January 2011, Pro-Life Revolution, which operates from Texas under all three purposes, filed an application for tax-exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service.

LEGISLATIVE TRENDS**California Bill Targets Young People**

California state lawmakers have been pushing through legislation that blurs gender rules for youth groups, schools and sports teams. One state Assembly bill, AB 1266, would give teenage boys and girls who "identify" with the opposite sex, full access to sports teams and facilities normally reserved for the opposite gender. That includes showers, bathrooms and locker rooms.

The Pacific Justice Institute has launched a campaign to fight these bills.

**Anti-Faith Sentiment Growing**

Hostility against Christian Americans is growing at an alarming rate, according to a new survey from the Family Research Council and Liberty Institute.

The Liberty Institute's Jeff Mateer noted that while last year's survey was based on 600 cases, "this survey that we're releasing right now is almost 1,200. So we've almost doubled in just one year."

One such case involved college student Audrey Jarvis, who was asked twice to remove her cross, or at least hide it, at a student orientation. "My supervisor came up to me out of nowhere and asked me to remove my cross necklace because he thought it would be offensive to incoming freshmen," she recalled.

Jarvis received an apology from her college, but couldn't forget how hurtful the man was who found her cross so objectionable. "I think he was just kind of ignorant to the fact that his words could offend me in attempting to not offend somebody else," she said.

In another case, Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Phillip Monk got in trouble with his lesbian commanding officer when she ordered him to answer how he felt about gay marriage. "This is about religious freedom because I expressly stated that I had a religious conviction that wouldn't allow me to answer the question the way it was posed to me," Monk said.

Former NFL running back Craig James found himself a victim of growing anti-faith sentiment when just one hour into a new job as a FOX Sports analyst, he was booted off the air. He insists it was because a top network manager disapproved of a statement James made about gay marriage 15 months before in a political debate. "They knew who I was, what I stood for," James told CBN News. "And I'm being punished -- I was fired -- for my religious beliefs."

FOX says James just wasn't a good fit, but Liberty Institute is fighting to get James his job back.

With some 1,200 cases like these documented in the new Religious Hostility Survey, Mateer says he's frightened for his country. "The threats are increasing at a dramatic rate, and this survey demonstrates that," Mateer said.

Mateer noted that when believers fight back, they almost always win. So only by meekly accepting defeat will they let the enemies of religion triumph.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ For the fourth consecutive summer, teen employment has been at record lows, prompting experts to fear that a generation of youth is likely to be economically stunted with lower earnings and opportunities in years ahead. In 1999, slightly more than 52 percent of teens 16 to 19 worked a summer job. By this year, that number had plunged to about 32.25 percent over June and July. It means that slightly more

than three in 10 teens actually worked a summer job, out of 16.8 million U.S. teens.

■ Regret weighs down many Americans. According to a study from LifeWay Research, almost half feel the weight of a bad choice from their past, even though a majority believe God gives second chances. When asked to respond to the statement, "I am dealing with the consequences of a bad decision," 47 percent agree.

GOVERNMENT TRENDS**FL Food Pantry Refuses to Give Up Jesus, Loses Govt. Food Contributions**

A Florida Christian food pantry that provides meals to low-income Lake City residents will continue to show

Christian images as it distributes food while carrying out its charity work, and will continue to ask if people would like to be prayed for.



The decision by the Christian Service Center (CSC) has come despite the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) mandate prohibiting the Florida-based Christian organization from keeping faith components in its programming. The USDA has threatened that if it does not comply then the center will no longer remain eligible for government food.

The CSC has served food to residents for 31 years. CSC prays with its clients and asks them if they would like to learn more about Christ. But under a new contract with the USDA, CSC was asked to halt the religious aspects of their programming. It was also asked to take down pictures of Jesus and 10 Commandments signs currently on their walls. CSC has refused to comply with the new regulations, even though the loss of the USDA food will severely cut into the food it has available. It hopes to make up for the anticipated food shortage through the support of church and individual donations. Anyone who wishes to assist the CSC may send a check to P.O. Box 2285, Lake City, FL 32056.

SOCIAL TRENDS**Teen Behavior Influenced by Online Images of Friends**

A study from the University of Southern California (USC) claims teens are so impressionable that they can be influenced by what they see their friends doing online. Specifically, teens who see their friends drinking and smoking in Facebook and Myspace pictures were more likely to do so themselves. According to USC's data, 30% of the teens they surveyed had smoked while nearly 50% had tried alcohol. Most of these teens — four out of five — used social networks to communicate with their friends. "Our study shows adolescents can be influenced by their friends' online pictures to smoke or drink alcohol," explained Thomas Valente, professor of preventative medicine. "To our knowledge, this is the first study to apply social network analysis methods to examine how teenagers' activities on online social networking sites influence them."

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THE POWER OF AN ATTITUDE

Transcribed by Ch



Marrell Cornwell,
Pastor, First Pentecostal
Wichita, KS

I am going to preach on two subjects. The first is the power of an attitude. Everything we do is controlled by an attitude. Then I want to talk about a paradox that's found in these Scriptures. He says, "Come out from among them and be ye separate," and then the next Scripture says, "Go ye into. . ." Come out from the world and then go back into the world.

I believe in holiness, but I am branded many times as a liberal. A few weeks ago, we had a four or five night meeting. We had 29 new people pray through in those four or five nights. And on Sunday night, after the evangelist had left, we had some visiting preachers with us. There were about 25 of the 29 of

our new converts there that night. Our new ladies hadn't learned about appropriate clothing yet and they had on some make-up and ear bobs. But what was so funny is what happened to that one new lady who had real short hair and was wearing bright red lipstick and a pant suit. Wouldn't you know that, when the spirit of the Lord got to moving, she started praising God and dancing right down in front. I thought, "My God! What are these visiting preachers going to think?" I got up and started making excuses for our new converts. And sure enough, a few weeks later I found out that "Bro. Cornwell has gone liberal."

When I first started teaching home Bible studies and winning souls, I was under a lot of pressure. From my peers, I was given advice that as we won souls, we should "get them cleaned up as fast as we can." I made a lot of Pharisees out of my first few converts. But I finally realized that I was not cleaning them up for God. But I was cleaning them up to ease the pressure I was under.

Now you may have the results of praying somebody through to the Holy Ghost and the next day or next week they are perfect before God in all areas. But I have never seen that yet. And my attitude got real bad. I did not want anybody else, especially preachers, to come to my church. I got selective in evangelists. I had to pray through but I found out something that has helped me greatly, especially in reaching out to people that need God. We need our people to come out from the world, not to have a

standard to compare with somebody else, but they need to *come out* of the world, so they can *go back into* the world. I have never had trouble with people and holiness when they knew they had to reach the sinner; because a sinner will slice you apart if you're not consistent.

If we are going to reach our world we need to quit nitpicking. I have a personal conviction that the pastor is the head of that congregation and sets the standard for that church. I have a standard in my church, and you have a standard in your church and so on. I went to a convention one time and that's all I heard, "Everybody is letting down on standards." I travel all over America, and I'll tell you what I see, I see a revival coming. I see people getting right with God. I see more holiness than I have ever seen before. I see more churches striving for holiness. The reason is that they are coming out because they gotta' go back in to reach the lost. Our attitude and the power of our attitude is going to mean a lot if we are going to reach our cities and our communities with the Gospel.

Now Jonah was a preacher; he was called to Nineveh to preach against that city. But Jonah knew if he went there and preached to that heathen bunch of Gentiles that God would save them. So instead of going to Nineveh he went to Tarsus. On the journey, the storm came and the sailors and mariners on that ship did everything they could to save that backslidden, hypocritical preacher. But Jonah said, "If you will throw me overboard, the storm will calm."

You know the story; they threw him overboard and a fish swallowed him. And only when that fish took him to the bottom and when he got seaweed wrapped around him and the slime covered his eyes and ears did he finally cry out to God. When you get to the place where God has to *make* you do something, you are in a terrible place.

Jonah finally repented but he didn't repent on the way down, he waited until he hit bottom. Even the fish got so sick of the hypocrite that he puked him out. In Nineveh, his preaching was loud and strong, "Forty days and God is gonna wipe the whole mess of you out!" But his odor was just as loud as his preaching! His attitude was, "God made me come here; I didn't want to, so I am going to do what He told me to do and not one thing more."

You say, "Bless God, they got me to drive this bus, but I'm not going to wash the windshield; I'm not going to check the air in the tires, and if the thing breaks down, I ain't gonna worry

“WE’VE GOT VISIONS OF REACHING THE THOUSANDS, BUT THE WAY TO REACH THE THOUSANDS IS TO GET THEM ONE BY ONE.”

about it. I don’t want to drive it anyway.” Like Jonah, you only do the bare minimum of what you’re asked to do, just enough to get by and to stay in fellowship but your attitude stinks!

If you don’t want to drive the bus, park it. And let all of those precious kids that you bring to church just die and go to hell. You say, “Well they’re *just* kids.” You double-barreled, low-down hypocrite! I have an eight-year-old and a five-year-old, and they both received the Holy Ghost when they were four years old. Are you Catholic and believe that the kid won’t die and go to hell until he’s 12 years old? Don’t forget that if those kids that ride the bus end up in hell, the blood is going to be on your hands.

I’ll tell you why some of you pastors don’t run a bus ministry -- because it hits you in the pocket book. Why don’t you quit taking five-week vacations or buying \$500 shotguns? Then you could afford it. Your attitude is going to determine your altitude. Some of you say, “I’d teach Bible studies, but after Sundays sometimes I feel like I’m going to have a nervous breakdown so I take Mondays off.” It is a shame that you’re going to have a nervous breakdown after preaching about the peace of God. If you can’t stand the heat, get out of the kitchen! And if you’re a preacher and haven’t won a soul, then why don’t you turn in your license and get a shovel and do an honest day’s work? And quit robbing the people of God.

Some of you are so busy that you don’t have time for Bible studies or telling the lost about the Gospel. You got something going on almost every night of the week so you’re too busy. Why don’t you cancel a lot of that mess and get your people out there to do the real work of God? Jonah only went to Nineveh because he had to. And when he got there he only preached because he had to. He was hoping God would destroy them all.

You want perfect conditions; some of you say, “I won’t teach Bible studies in a home that smokes and have that mess of smoke blowin’ in my face.” Friend, you’ve never taught a Bible study until you’ve had to set your Bible up amongst the beer cans. Let me tell you something. Paul lived in a jail that was a whole lot worse than a house with some easy chairs and carpet on the floor and a little bit of smoke. You say, “My city is too hard” or “Everybody in my city is religious.” I was shocked a few weeks ago when the Wichita paper came out saying they had done a survey and that 65 percent of Wichita claimed *no born again experience*. About 35 percent claimed church membership, but less than 10 percent, of that group, even go to church on Sunday morning. And I can

guarantee that it is the same way in your town or city.

If you are only preaching because you’re afraid of God, you need to quit preaching. You need an attitude change. God has unique ways of making us realize we’re in bondage. The Israelites got used to their bondage, then God allowed the Egyptians to kill their babies. After 40 years of their babies dying they finally started crying out to God for a deliverer. How many babies were killed in 40 years? What’s God trying to tell us when, in 1980, two million babies were aborted. And a million unwed teenagers had their babies aborted.

We are in bondage! We are worried about how we are going to pay that new car note, and we’re worried about having the newest style of shoes, and we’re worried about a lot of things. We need to lay some garbage down and get the world out of our hearts. America needs to wake up, but more than anything God’s people need to wake up. Do you understand that there are 250 million people in America that may go straight to hell?

We’ve got visions of reaching the thousands, but the way to reach the thousands is to get them one by one. I may not be able to preach a citywide crusade to the masses, but I *can* get a Bible study chart under my arm and work until I can reach that *one*.

Sometimes we do it wrong. We get a fresh young convert and sit him down on the pew and spend six months making sure he looks just like we do and talks just like we do, and we let him shrivel up and die right on the pew. We’ve got the wrong attitude. New converts can win other new converts if we will teach them and keep them excited.

Brother, you can double your church if your attitude can get right. You need to quit worrying about what your peers think. We have lost people over the nitpicking and fault finding and criticism about who is holier, and who has the highest standards. This is what I am trying to get across this morning. I want to be holy because I’ve got to reach back into a sinful, lost world to find the unsaved. If you can get deliverance over what kind of house you live in and what kind of car you drive and let God get ahold of you so you can go back into the world and preach to people who have no shoes, or to the banker who has everything. Brothers, we need to come out so we can go back in and reach our world. It all depends on our attitude.

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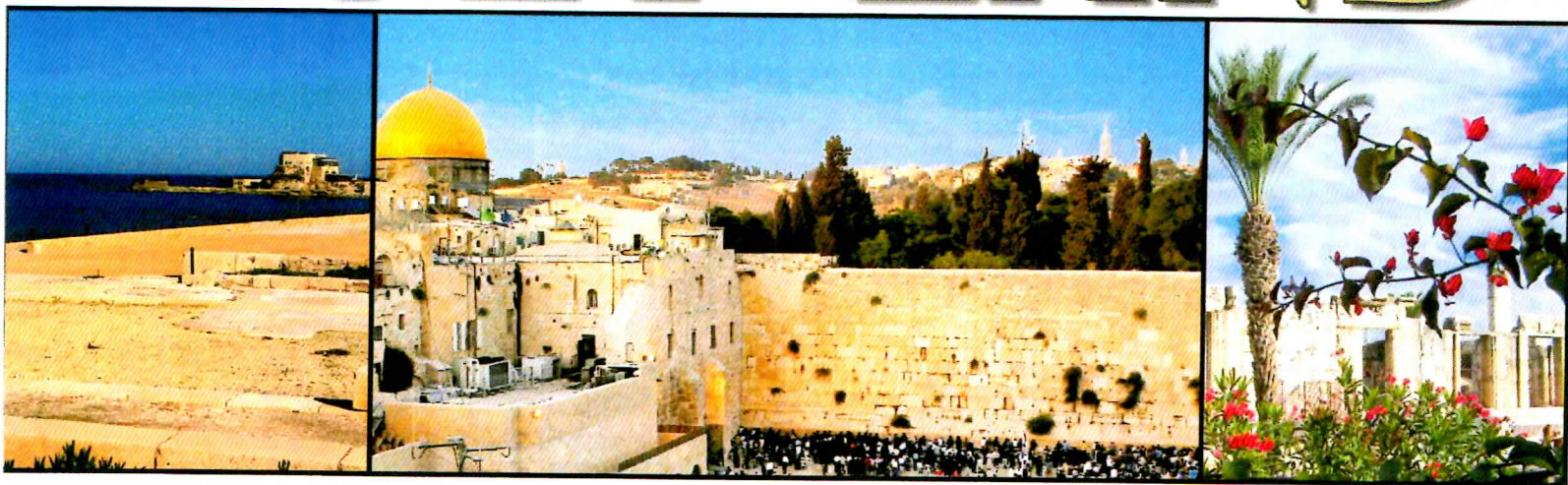
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Helpful Book: A Survival Guide to the Teenage Years

By Gregg Stone



David Reynolds
Author

Have you ever looked for a road-map, only to find a roadblock? Welcome to the teen years! It's a time that can be just as exasperating for the parent as it is for the teen. *A Survival Guide to the Teenage Years*, written by David Reynolds, gives parents guidelines

and tips to help their children during this unique time of their lives.

"Parents have a responsibility to parent until the child is an adult and has left home," said Bro. Reynolds. "Too many parents are lifting the hand of discipline before the teen has learned responsibility."

A Survival Guide to the Teenage Years is divided into the following sections: Understanding Your Teenager, Guiding Your Teenager, and You and Your Teenager. "Our greatest challenge today is to shelter the minds of our teens from the perversity that is in this world," said Bro. Reynolds. "The Internet and cell phones are now in the hands of our teens – even in the church. Apostle Paul says in all of us there is a battle going on in our minds between the Spirit and the flesh. The teens in the church are not above this battle and in their curiosity and weak moments, temptation is only a 'click' away. If they

give in enough times, habits of thinking are formed that bring condemnation into their lives."

Living in a culture where public schools fill teens with doubts relating to God and His Word and where teens are taught to actively question God's absolutes, parents are faced with the job of monitoring their teens and all influences. "Parents should know what their kids are viewing, who their friends are and where they are spending their time," said Bro. Reynolds. "Parents must spend time with their teens; they must take the time to talk and to listen to them. All families need to sit down and eat together—at least one meal per day. All families should have a 'Family Altar' – a time when they read God's Word and pray together – yes, even when they are teens. Teens always struggle with self-esteem. They are facing a scary world. Parents must stay close, listen to them and constantly assure them they can do all things through Jesus Christ who enables them and gives them strength. They must know they are not alone."

The church is an important aspect in the teen years, is vital in their growth and success, and must be a support for

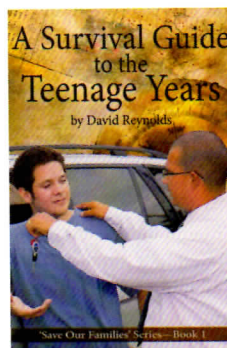
the parents and a sanctuary for the teens. "The church must be a friend to the teen," said Bro. Reynolds. "Not judgmental but a safe place for them to try, fail and not give up. The church must not be only a social sanctuary but must emphasize the need for a personal 'New Birth' experience for

every teen. Parents must never take for granted that just because the teen has attended the church all of his or her life that they are saved."

Bro. Reynolds said he has confidence in the power of the Word and in prayer, but he is not optimistic as far as this world is concerned. "Evil will abound and wickedness will wax worse and worse," he said. "As parents, we must get serious about protecting and seeing our children saved. I still believe in prayer and living as an example before our teens. Keep

your teens in church and in church-related activities. Strengthen the family bonds, and your teenagers will not just survive their formative years but will develop a lasting relationship with you, the parents, the church, and with their God."

You can obtain *A Survival Guide to the Teenage Years* from Pentecostal Publishing House – watch for the E-Blast coming out soon. In addition, you can order directly from: David Reynolds, apostolicfamilies@gmail.com.



Software Tracks Church Attendance, Manages Follow-Up

By Susan Thomas



Brian Davis
Licensed Church Consultant

ChurchTracer.com is a web-based church management software solution that gives churches the ability to easily track attendance, manage follow-up, track financial contributions, and much more.

"The thing that really makes Church Tracer different is its Automated Follow-Up Technology," says Bro. Brian Davis, a church consultant and retention specialist. "The program was designed so that churches can have the flexibility to set up their own follow-up plan. The system will remind them daily of exactly what needs to be done that day."

"You can send automatic e-mail reminders to multiple people, so nothing slips through the cracks. And, it's all web-based which gives you and your team access from anywhere."

Church Tracer is a robust system that seems simple on the surface, but helps church leaders in lots of ways. The system

automatically recognizes who the first-time guests are, who the second-time guests are, who has missed two, three and four consecutive services, etc.

Church Tracer helps churches grow by increasing their retention rates and reducing the frustration. "Most church leaders are surprised when they see how many guests have visited their church over the past year," states Bro. Davis. "They're also extremely disappointed when they realize that they didn't effectively follow up with most of those guests."

"Follow-up is more than a quick letter or phone call. It requires focus, consistency and the right tools." Church Tracer keeps all the information organized so that it is easy to understand, gives you access to the reports you need, and takes the guesswork out of follow-up.

"Several years ago, I noticed a common problem among churches," says Bro. Davis. "They didn't have a system to make sure follow-up was done. Many pastors confided how frustrated they were because they were struggling with retention, and they didn't know where to start. We found that they didn't have a

good system for gathering attendance data and managing follow-up. That's when we set out to develop a resource that would solve this problem."

According to Bro. Davis, there are hundreds of success stories. "The most rewarding thing to us is when we hear from somebody using Church Tracer and now their load is lighter, their job is easier, their frustration is less and their church is growing more consistently," he says. "We regularly hear from churches that tell us that their retention rate is up by 20 to 30 percent since using the program."

"We don't have any long-term contracts, the subscription rates are so affordable that any church of any size can afford it, and once you subscribe your rates will never go up. Apostolic churches in every state in the U.S. and in several countries around the world are enjoying the benefits of ChurchTracer.com, and we would love to partner with your church as well."

If you would like more information, go to ChurchTracerInsider.com/Perspectives. You can watch a quick video showing you more details AND a special deal for *IBC Perspectives* readers only!

You will enjoy the ministry of the Duncans at your church as we have at Calvary Tabernacle. Schedule them now." P.D. Mooney

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UPC Partners With Historic Work in India

Continued From Page 6

At times, some of the pastors and church members had to run to the jungles to hide. One of his worst memories was the day his special "brother-in-the-Lord" was intentionally hit by a truck and killed. When Bro. Evans tried to complain to police to investigate the incident, he was threatened by arrest if he didn't leave it alone. These are just a few of the harsh moments endured in India.

Personally, the Daniel Evans family suffered a tragedy, then subsequent miracle, when they moved to Visakhapatnam to start a church. "The first day we got there, my wife became paralyzed on her left side, almost like a vegetable," he explained. "The doctors said she wasn't going to live. There was a tumor on her brain. It was a very tough time for about 15 days. They were going to open her brain up and take the tumor out. Just before surgery, I insisted that they take another scan of her brain. They did so, and couldn't find the tumor. It was gone. What a miracle that happened in her life!" From that day 30 years ago until now, Joy Evans has never even suffered a headache.

Conclusion

Bro. Daniel Evans has seen a shift in the mindset of many Indian people who were bound by religious oppression for many centuries. As a whole, the people are becoming more educated and looking for answers. "The harvest is even greater now," he said. "I can guarantee and proudly say we are investing into the Kingdom of God."

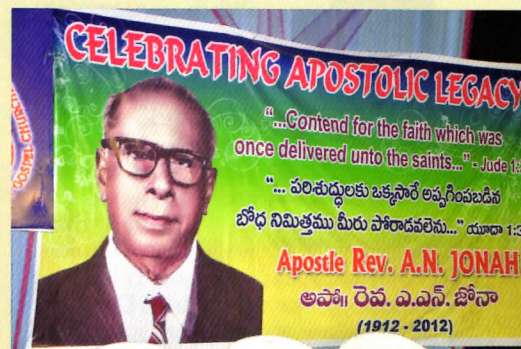
He is excited for the opportunity to join hands and work directly with the United Pentecostal Church International. Although the core of churches are autonomous works, as they are in the United States, he feels that the partnership will be beneficial to everyone. As a result of this merger, our UPC churches will have the opportunity to offer financial support especially for the churches and orphanages in India.

Bro. Evans looks forward to U.S. visitors to their crusades and annual convention.

"There is such a big need in India," he said. "The most important thing is conversion. If we can reach souls, we can make a difference one at a time. Christ is the answer!"



Top left clockwise: Bishop Evans and Pastor Mooney; a billboard in memory of the late Jonah Evans; Sis. Mooney and Sis. Evans hand out gifts at an orphanage.



Word To The Wise:

Always be sincere, even if you don't mean it.

* * * * *

At one point during a game, the Christian school coach called one of his 9-year-old baseball players aside and asked, "Do you understand what cooperation is, what a team is?" The little boy nodded in the affirmative.

"Do you understand that what matters is whether we win or lose together as a team?" The little boy nodded yes.

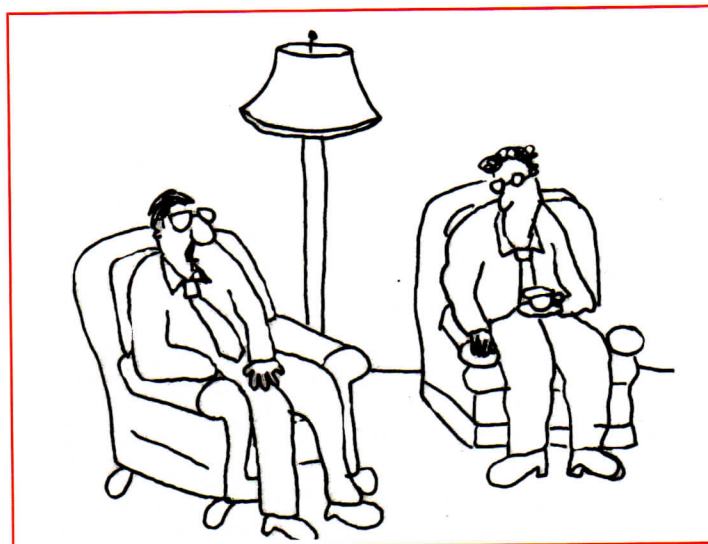
"So," the coach continued, "I'm sure you know, when an out is called, you shouldn't argue or call anyone an idiot or blind. Do you understand all that - that it's not a Christian way to act?" The little boy nodded yes again.

He continued, "And when I take you out of the game so another boy gets a chance to play too, it's not good sportsmanship to call your coach stupid, is it?" The little boy shook his head no.

"GOOD," said the coach, "Now go over there and explain all that to your grandmother."

* * * * *

If lawyers are disbarred and clergy defrocked, then doesn't it mean electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?



"I can't stand to listen to anyone else preach. Does that mean I have a call into the ministry?"

A minister dies and, resplendent in his clerical collar and colorful robes, waits in line at the Pearly Gates.

Just ahead of him is a guy dressed in sunglasses, a loud shirt, leather jacket and jeans. Saint Peter addresses this guy, "Who are you, so that I may know whether or not to admit you to the Kingdom of Heaven?"

The guy replies, "I'm Joe Green, taxi driver, of New Yawk City."

Saint Peter consults his list, smiles and says to the taxi driver, "Take this silken robe and golden staff, and enter into the Kingdom." So the taxi driver enters Heaven with his robe and staff, and the minister is next in line.

Without being asked, he proclaims, "I am Michael O'Connor, head pastor of Saint Mary's for the last 43 years."

Saint Peter consults his list and says, "Take this cotton robe and wooden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

"Just a minute," says the preacher, "that man was a taxi driver, and you issued him a silken robe and golden staff. But I get wood and cotton. How can this be?"

"Up here, we go by results," says Saint Peter. "While you preached, people slept. While he drove, people prayed."



"Two people signed up to scoop gunk out of the gutters, and 35 signed up as prayer support."

Having grown up just outside New York City, I barely knew a cow from an ear of corn. Until, that is, I married a small town Ohio girl. While I was in seminary school, I had a temporary assignment at a church in a rural community.

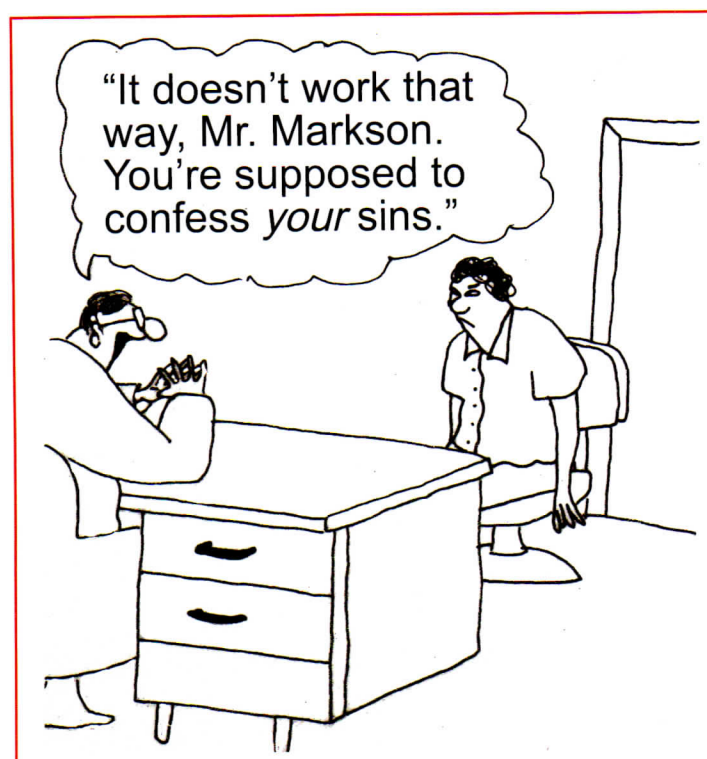
The day of my first sermon, I tried very hard to fit in. Maybe too hard. With my wife sitting in the first pew, I began my discourse, "I never saw a cow until I met my wife."

* * * * *

Joe had been a long-time and very valued member of his church in Austin. He was a trustee and always preferred to fix things rather than replace them, and he was very adept at doing so.

One day the pastor came into the office on his day off to get something. He was dressed in very grungy clothing and wearing a pair of running shoes that were falling apart. In fact, when he walked down the hall to his office it sounded like he was wearing flip-flops. This old trustee heard the noise and told the preacher, "I think I have some glue that will fix those shoes if you'll give them to me." A couple of days later he did just that.

A week later, when he went into his office he saw a brown bag on his desk. Upon opening it he found his repaired running shoes and a handwritten note stuffed in one of them. It read: "It is a rare occasion when a parishioner is able to save the pastor's sole."



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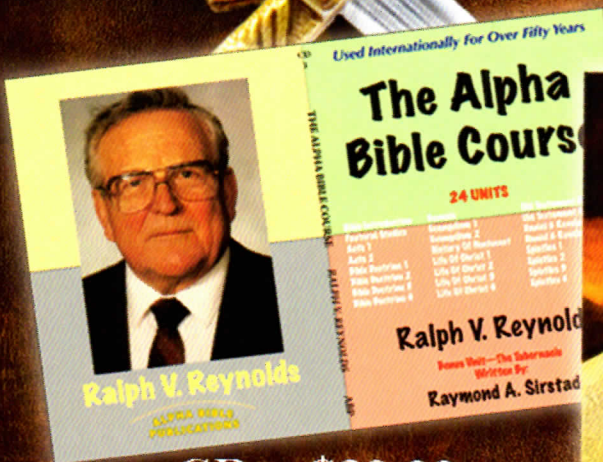
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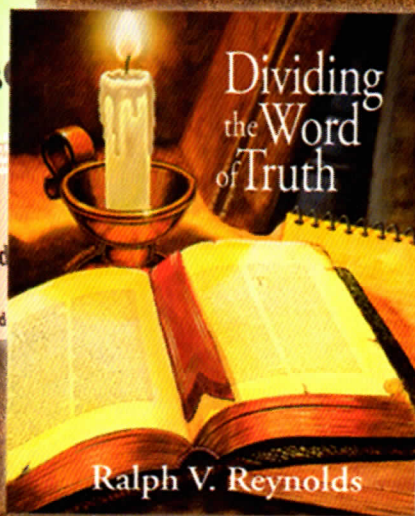
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