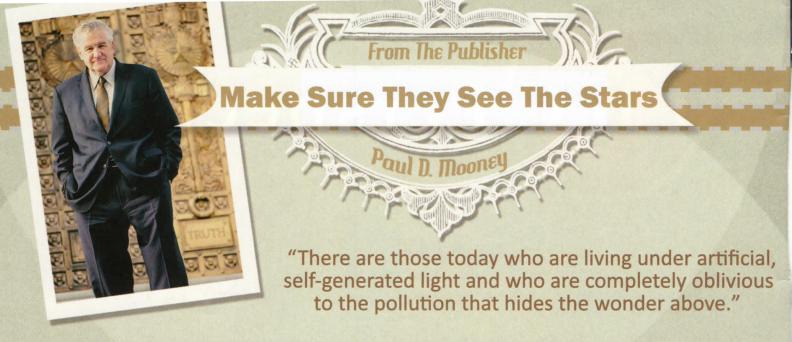
VOL.24 NO.01 INDIANA BIBLE COLLEGE



# BC Perspectives

DIMNELYEXCLUSIVE



Perhaps a dozen years ago, I arranged for the whole family to assemble at our little getaway in the country we called "the farm." We had remodeled an old house originally constructed in the 1860s, and fashioned a deck off the second story that faced northeast. It was the perfect place to escape the destructive lights of the city and view a dark sky peppered with stars. Looking at the stars was the sole purpose for our family rendezvous that night. Astronomers had announced a late August meteorite shower: shooting stars falling into the atmosphere at the rate of several hundred a minute. I wanted the family to enjoy it together. We spent most of the night on the deck with hot chocolate and snacks enjoying the screams as we shouted, "Look at that! Wow, that one came so close!" We have never forgotten the spectacular display we all witnessed together that night.

I read recently about the concerns of an urban schoolteacher who noted that most of her students have never seen a dark sky filled with dazzling stars. Light pollution in the big cities has made the mind-numbing display of creative power that has amazed mankind since the beginning of humanity basically unknown to them. Their only experience with a night sky filled with the beautiful display of sparkling lights is reduced to what they might have seen in a book or watched on a video. The artificial lights of the city have blocked their view. The lesser light of the city has become a destructive force, and they have no sense of the vastness of the lights in the sky.

Personally, I cannot express the spiritual impact that viewing the mysterious star-filled sky had on me and my life when I was a young boy. It was the lights of God. The awesomeness of His creation pulled at my soul. The wonderment I experienced as a boy staring at that glorious canopy lives in me still.

What deeply concerns me most is similar to the teacher's concerns about her students never seeing the starry sky. There are those today who are living under artificial, self-generated light and who are completely oblivious to the pollution that hides the wonder above. They are completely unaware that they are being shielded from the fullness of the divine mysteries that are just outside.

Is the church susceptible to living under the effects of Satan's polluting agenda that blocks our vision and our ability to see the power of God's hand? Are we falling prey to the temptation to add our own "light" that comes from an egocentric sense of our own brilliance? Do we substitute ideas of our own illumination for the anointed direction of God?

Will we end up creating a man-made church? Will we trade God's church for one of our own hand like the bishops at the Council of Nicaea who established their own opinions as the highest authority? They ignored the teachings of Jesus, who made it clear that he was God manifest in flesh, thus God's revelation of himself to man. The gospel writers had no other concept of Jesus. But the bishops gave the world the doctrine of the Trinity. Separated from truth, they accepted their own self-imposed concepts of God and gradually assumed all authority. They gave themselves to enforcement, and over time they committed despicable acts of exile and torture against any who resisted their authority.

It's never long after men set their own agendas that reality sets in. Failure stalks the arrogant. Blind lead the blind. The artificial supplants the real. The true sky is hidden beyond a haze of manmade light bouncing off his own smog, tenting him - shielding his soul from the blaze of glory that emanates from God's great heaven. As Apostolics, we may still be holding to our doctrines, our core beliefs; but Satan is clever. He knows where to strike. Perhaps he doesn't need to get us to change our beliefs or water down our doctrine if he can hide the true Holy Ghost power behind our own arrogance and egocentrism. We tolerate too much "theater church." We are too comfortable in services where it's all a performance – a constructed, predictable format – devoid of anointing, fire or divine revelation and insight. We've obstructed the view to the heavenly. Remember, once the apostles saw the light, they did not turn back.

What if someday we realize our children have never seen the stars? That they have never experienced the outpouring of the Holy Spirit? What if they never experience the power of truth? What if they never develop the deep conviction of the heart that prefers death to compromise? Will we lose the faith because we forgot to show the next generation the stars?

That night we went to the farm to see the meteor shower was a big deal. We woke the kids up in the middle of the night, grabbed extra blankets, and drove the 30 or so miles from our houses in the city out to the Indiana cornfield. It took some effort. It took some planning. We could have stayed in our warm beds, got a good night's rest. But ... I wouldn't trade that memory for anything. Sometimes you just have to make sure the next generation sees the stars!

Jauthamy

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

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#### Jeff Hall, Walla Walla, WA

I have pastored for 16 years. We had eight in our first service, and most of those were one family. Don't settle for anything less than powerful Spirit-filled services. We have a website, teach Bible studies and do outreach in our city, but there is no substitute for what the Spirit does.

It is important to adapt. We reached out to the large Spanish population in our city and began a Spanish service with an interpreter. I am in the process of learning

Spanish. We adapted and have seen great growth in this area.

Do not live by your feelings. If God has truly called you to a

Do not live by your feelings. If God has truly called you to a city, stay until you see the promise. If I had given in to the way I felt at times, I would have left years ago. Sixteen years later, we are beginning to see the fruit of our labors.

Learn balance. To have longevity in a city, you MUST learn to balance your family and your calling. Otherwise, the ups and downs of pastoring will destroy your ability to stay. Create traditions with your family. Do fun things with your children. Develop hobbies you all enjoy.

The dangers of comparing: Comparing yourself with others interferes with God's specific direction for your life. Abraham would have missed God's will had he fallen into this trap. Others' success stories can sometimes cause us to question our success. God will bring His results in His timing.



#### Robert Axton, Palmyra, MO

We started as a home missions work 28 years ago. We rented a small metal building for 13 years, shared an Episcopal building for four years, growing from 24 to 40. After purchasing our own building, we reached out to another community near us, and God blessed our efforts at home. After a Harvest Conference on retaining people, our average

attendance has more than doubled. We recently had about 120 to 130.

We invite new converts to our New Life Discipleship class on Thursday nights and serve a meal. We also invite our Life In Focus students to attend the meal before their class and have made tremendous relationships. Sis. Axton has connections to the courts and DFS and leads a team that teaches Anger Management, A.C.T.S. and Parenting Skills.

A novice pastor should connect with an anointed man of God through whom the anointing flows and gather knowledge from him. Don't play the Lone Ranger. Today is so different from the '80s. Often the focus was on getting a building. Today, the focus is to build people, and everything else will follow.



#### Andres Ramirez, Pasco, WA

I have pastored 16 years, and I believe our success here can be summed up in one word: others. It is about having an evangelistic spirit by planting seed, helping other pastors to build, and investing in gifted ministries of young preachers and pastors. In 2004, we averaged about 35, and today we average around 75. Being a servant to

others is the key to unity. One young preacher ministered in our church, and our attendance doubled from 75 to 150 in just 16 weeks. Prayer is critical from the beginning, and knocking doors has worked for us.

You don't have to be big to have a big vision. Our youth group was the first in the nation to work with Microsoft at Las Vegas event. Stay focused on vision, regardless of attendance. Pray for a Teflon spirit where nothing sticks. Don't save a message for bigger events. My favorite place to preach is in our church. I wish I had realized sooner that I didn't have to perform for my mentors. They didn't require that, and it doesn't work anyway.



#### Miguel C. Garrick, Brooklyn, NY

I have pastored for 3 1/2 years and averaged 25 to 30 when we first came. We have a lot of first-time visitors in our area. Our Sunday morning services are evangelistic to get them to the altar or secure a home Bible study. We utilize the 30 Minute Pentecostal Experience study and New Birth study by Michael Blankenship. A 13-week New Convert class follows, and people usually receive the Holy Ghost in a couple of weeks.

Plowing Before the Planter taught me to get a consensus of my area, inside and out. There are sexual predators and a prostitution ring close to our church. We prayed specifically, then interviewed the neighborhood to find out what they expect and what attracts them to a church. Once inside the church doors, they won't be the same. I am still learning a lot in the area of people skills, balancing the old with the new, and church culture.

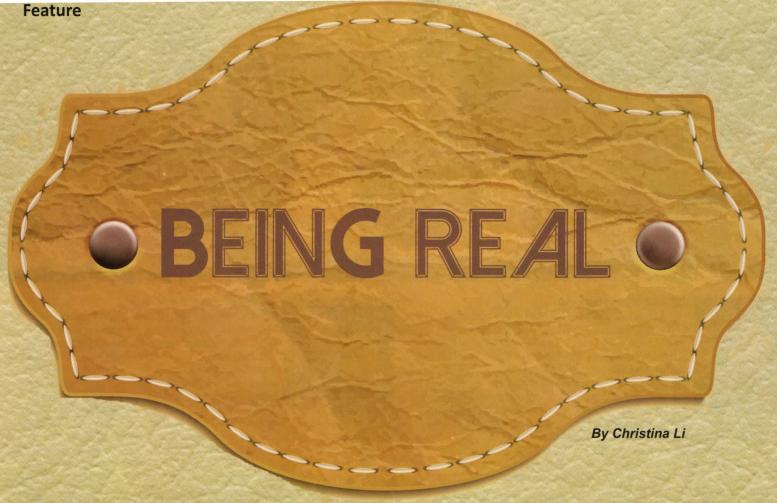


#### Ernest D. Collins, Binghamton, NY

This is my fourth year pastoring. We began with six people, and we are running 60 now. We started serving dinner and having fellowship after every service on Thursday and Sunday morning. This gave those who were uninvolved in the church something special to do and has helped our growth tremendously. Some may come off the street to eat, but the dinners have helped us retain visitors as well. We have done after-school door knocking

but found that our revivals have brought the greatest spiritual response.

A novice pastor should listen to people who have experience and be open to things one might not naturally do. The main thing is to stay on your hands and knees and have the favor of the Lord upon you. When I began pastoring, I was under the impression that people would just get behind me and work. I was focusing on them and what they needed to do, rather than focusing on myself as pastor to help them grow. I know now that my largest role is to train them and focus on leadership instead of going a hundred different directions.





Bro. and Sis. J. Stanley Davidson Gadsden, AL

"(We need) to be real, to never project something in front of our children or the congregation that scrutiny would reveal we were not living ourselves, says Pastor J. Stanley Davidson of Church on the Rock in Gadsden, Alabama. "That to me opens the door to people receiving the ministry of the Word, personal faith in God and a personal walk with God. I think just being real in front of people also means being transparent with your own weaknesses.

When people are around you, you're not putting on some kind of pretence or trying to be some kind of super spiritual person, but you are going to do the best you can to live the same message you preach.

#### Giving to Grow

Remaining positive and persistent has greatly aided in the growth of Church on the Rock. "Pastors who remain evangelistic

and positive will build churches. For increasing attendance, Pastor Davidson says, "Having good church and staying positive is key.

He believes a revival pastor should put people as a priority. "To me there's nothing like teaching and training and building relationships, he said. "We have a very thorough developmental process. It starts off with building good relationships, but goes on even to the point of ministry training. We've got to pour ourselves into people if we're going to see growth.



Exterior view of Church on the Rock in Gadsden, AL

Pastor Davidson sees giving as going far beyond money. "Giving out preachers, musicians, etc. multiplies our own work. We've had several daughter works we've been able to start through the development of people and then releasing them into ministry. When people walk through our doors, we get them into a Bible study and keep them in it as long as they will stay. The longer we can keep them in a Bible study, the faster the church grows. We've just seen steady growth. I tell our people that every mature Christian should spend time with a new convert every week."

#### Planning and Management

Church on the Rock's organizational structure has in its center "our pastoral staff, Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor and Administrative Secretary, all full-time employees. Then all departments answer to them. Those are Music, Children, Ladies, Men, Media and Technology, Prayer and Missions, Evangelism,

Pastor Davidson has calendar planning sessions once a month, typically on Wednesday nights after service. This is to plan the calendar for a month or any long-term events. He explained, "Mainly it's just a follow-up session and checking up on things. We also have semi-monthly meetings with various

individuals. We do not hand in monthly reports. That is covered in the monthly meetings verbally. We do have very good communication through e-mail and Facebook as well as a common Dropbox folder. We also have very detailed job descriptions.

Every year, there is an annual planning retreat where all leaders go to a retreat area. "We have a fun time, training time, and some scheduled planning in that. When we do our annual

meeting, we build it around our 'nesting' vision."

#### Train to Maintain Growth

'As the church grows, administration is constantly changing," says Bro. Davidson. "When you're planning one tier of leadership, you need to have in the back of your mind the fact that you will be advancing forward. The time I spend with preachers that God has put under my care is precious." Leaders change and grow as the various ministries and needs change. "The Youth Division has a very good book on developing youth ministers. We've taken it and trained people on how to train and manage a committee, how to follow up their plans, and how to report plans and progress to the staff."

The Church on the Rock has about 40 percent of its congregation involved in some form of ministry and 20 to 25 percent involved in evangelism. Pastor Davidson encourages involvement "by constantly putting into the people that everyone has a ministry, everyone is called to ministry. We even put a lot of effort into our Bible study teachers. They know that even though they are teaching a new convert, the end goal is putting those people into ministry. We've evaluated what departments can have a brand new person in their ministry and which ones require more maturity. It comes down to the fact that people have to say no to involvement because it's right in front of them. They won't feel comfortable until they buy in and are actually involved."

#### **Future Growth Plans**

Church on the Rock has three buildings on its property.

"One is a parsonage in which our youth pastor and his wife live," explained Pastor Davidson. "We have a building that used to be a data processing center across the street. Our main building is a sanctuary, fellowship hall area, and a children's ministry area. It is brick, seats about 300 and was built for a church building, sitting on probably five acres of

'The first week I drove through town, the Holy Ghost stopped me in front of this property. I went in the parking lot and just sat there wondering what I was doing there. Eleven years later, we bought it. I had no idea. Contractors told me a building was for sale and there wasn't even a sign in front of it.'

As far as future growth plans are concerned, "We have just added an office suite. Our primary concern is planting churches. However, we do have enough property that we could probably build a large auditorium here. That may become necessary. Right now, we've spent most of our time discussing how to plant new churches. We're thrilled because one of our daughter works now has a daughter work. So, we've got a granddaughter. I believe that's the concept of giving. When it comes time to build, God will take care of it.

Pastor Davidson explained that Church on the Rock has gone through 18 months of significant growth. "On average, our current rate of growth is maybe five percent consistently, 10 percent some years. It's been steady since we've come here. Each year, we have between 30 to 40 who receive the Holy Ghost and are baptized in Jesus' name." Attendance in 2010 was 170, in 2011 it was 190, in 2012 it was an even 200 and has remained about the same so far in 2013. "We did a study and between our church and our daughter congregations, we're closer to 450 people total," he said. "We have seen growth, not necessarily in our local church but in other congregations founded from this one.

#### **Brief History and Outreach Methods**

Pastor Davidson and his wife, Cheryl, were evangelizing and had been led to preach in Southern Alabama. "I'd been led to sell my motor home," he said. "A man told me there was a church in Gadsden that needed a pastor. God spoke to my heart at that time and gave me a vision. There

was a barren, desert place. At first it looked like there were no roads. The district superintendent showed me a small road that led from Mobile, Alabama to Gadsden. The Lord told me I'd have to get small enough to walk that road. There have been no more prophetic words than that! I felt strongly at that point that's where God wanted me. I was overwhelmed by the challenge at first, but God reaffirmed his calling to me.'

When Pastor Davidson got there, there were only eight voting members. "The feelings seemed to be so down that I questioned whether or not I was supposed to be there," he said. "I prayed and the second service was explosive. The Holy Ghost moved, and I was very thankful for that. I had some good people, just not a lot of them.

For outreach, "we tried everything that came down the pike. The one thing we've consistently done is Bible studies. I've heard 'the longer the Bible studies, the faster the growth.' That has worked. We hung door hangers, prayed over houses, knocked on every tenth door. We've done a lot of youth community activities. It has always come down to teaching Bible studies and keeping people in Bible studies."

#### **Concluding Comments**

Pastor Davidson said, "I believe that in the end time years, we need to concentrate on church planting. Some of the statistics verify that the fastest growth taking place today is in new church starts. I believe that our society needs to get away from mega church concepts. I think we'll reach more people by training more people and planting more churches.











Clockwise from top left: Youth chapel service; children's presentation to the church; a baptism; singers lead in worship from the platform; Pastor Davidson ministers to the congregation.



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## 7 Reasons Your Church Needs to Go on a Diet

By Thom S. Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources

Is your church overloaded with activities and events, or does it concentrate on discipleship? Most churches-more than eight out of 10-are busy; too busy. These churches need to slim down their plethora of programs, activities and ministries. They need to go on a

Unfortunately, many church leaders equate activities with godliness or ministry fruitfulness. For certain, churches must have some clear plan of discipleship for their members. Sadly, some of the

busiest churches actually diminish discipleship fruitfulness. And ceasing certain activities in the church can be extremely hard. You can run into sacred cows and favored ministries. Still, most churches should pursue a busyness diet for at least seven reasons.

1. Excessive activities can preclude members from growing spiritually. One church member said he didn't have time to read his Bible. He was worn out almost every day from church activities.

2. A church that is too busy rarely evaluates the effectiveness of its activities. Leaders often erroneously presume that the busyness is a sign of fruitfulness.

3. Activity-focused churches are often inwardly focused. Those ministries are typically for the members and are rarely evangelistic or community focused.

4. A busy church can hurt families. Many churches have different activities for children, students and adults on multiple days of the week. Family members rarely have time together.

5. Activity-focused churches can cause member burnout. When a member burns out, he or she then drops out.

6. It is difficult for a church to do a few things well when it does too many things. Quantity thus replaces quality, and the most vital ministries suffer.

7. Busy churches often lack vision clarity. Because these churches are going in so many directions, members are confused about the priorities and vision of the church.





Stephen Judd www.mansionkids.org

From time to time. Erma and I have had the opportunity to do what we call relief-houseparenting" at the Mansion, where we give our full-time houseparents some time off and are able to spend our own quality time with the children who call TCM home.

We've helped with homework, played Wii games, done laundry, ironed clothes, prepared meals and assigned chores. Believe me, there's never a dull moment. It's a lot of work for us 60-year-olds, but oh so rewarding!

At bedtime, we tuck them in and say our prayers together. And, of course, we never know what they are going to pray about.

A few nights ago, my heart was touched as little Mark's six-year-old prayer went something like this: "Dear God, please forgive me of my sins. Help my brother to talk nice, and my sister to stop acting up, and for my mom and dad to get out of prison. Amen."

I'm thinking, Wow! What burdens for his

young heart to bear!

So often, the prayers of our Mansion kids reveal the emotional struggles and extreme hurt that they are facing as a result of rejection, abuse and abandonment.

Some time ago, a hand-written note was placed on my desk from Ashley, one of our precious teenage girls. It was a prayer request addressed to "Pastor Judd" and read as follows: "Please pray that my mother, or fifth step-father, will either call me, or come and visit me." I teared up as I read that sincere plea for prayer.

Today, I'm requesting that you help me pray for Mark and Ashley (not their real names), and all of our children here at the Mansion. Please open your heart and feel the pain of these young innocent lives.

I am also asking you to consider a financial gift, which will enable us to continue this work into the New Year. We want to reach out to more children like Mark and Ashley, offering them help and hope for the future!

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leaders. For more information or to give online, go to www.mansionkids.org.

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Michelle L. Young Ontario, Canada

Tell us about yourself.

My name is Michelle Young. I was born and raised in Ontario, Canada. I was baptized in Jesus name in 1996 and since then I have had a burden for the lost. I enjoy working with young people and spend a lot of time with

them. I also enjoy writing my thoughts and sometimes even my prayers out on paper. I love it when I have the opportunity to reach people with the gospel of Jesus.

While working in a Christian bookstore in our city for over 11 years, I have seen sick people healed as they were prayed for. I have been blessed to pray with people that have received the Holy Ghost and were baptized in Jesus' name. God gave me a vision during this time, and I began writing Two Trees and Twelve Fruits That Will Change Your Life Forever. At first I thought that it would be a soul winning book for the people in my own life. As I began to write, it became even more.

#### How did you come to know the Lord?

I grew up going to a Baptist church with my mom and brother. I believed in God and His Word and prayed throughout my childhood. I remember, when I was about seven years old, a Sunday school lesson was taught about how the name of Jesus was very powerful and anything that we asked in His name that He would answer.

Every day after school a friend and I were bullied and chased about five blocks on our way home. One day my friend was sick, and I walked home alone. The bell went off and I ran, but the bullies were right behind me. I made it as far as the house across the street from mine, but I was cornered. I remembered the Sunday school lesson and though I was scared, I shouted, "In Jesus name leave me alone!" They laughed at me while they were walking away but never bothered me or my friend again. It was then that I began to know the power that was in the name of Jesus.

As I grew into my teen years, I had a hard time understanding why God would send His Son to die and why He wouldn't have come Himself. It didn't make sense to me. I had many questions and wondered about a lot of things. During these years my grandmother, whom I was very close to, also passed away and I was devastated. With her passing, I came face-toface with the bitterness of death for the first time. I thought God had abandoned me. Yet there was always a longing in my heart to find truth.

Making My Way

I made my way through high school and then began selling vacuums door-to-door. This is where I met my husband-to-be. We both did very well in sales but spent most of the money that we made going to bars with friends. My life was a mess; we moved around from city to city. We still weren't married and nothing seemed to work out for us. And then we found out we were going to have a baby. We had no stability, no finances to support a child; we didn't even have furniture. I was afraid of everything that had to do with doctors, hospitals and medical procedures of any kind. It was then I remembered how powerful prayer was and began to turn back to searching for God!

Learning to Pray

I did not know how to pray, so I made a cardboard box with the words "With God all things are possible" written on it. I taped it up except for an opening to fit an envelope and began writing my prayers out to God. One by

one He began to answer.

On Jan. 25, 1994 our daughter, Ashley, was born. She was full-term yet weighed only 3 lbs. 14 oz. It was during this pregnancy that I broke out in eczema from head to toe. Our little girl cried a lot and doctors didn't know why. I needed answers; I needed Jesus! We lost our business and moved in with my parents and put our belongings in storage.

How were you led into the truth?

One day on a simple routine drive to our storage unit, God gave me a revelation of who He is. That night we prayed three prayers. First, we wanted to get married, because we knew we weren't living right. Second, we asked the Lord to help us get our own home to raise our family and finally have stability. And third, we wanted to be baptized.

Things began to take a turn when a call came from a friend we hadn't spoken to in a while. He used to make fun of people who read the Bible or talked about God. Now, he was on the other end of the phone witnessing to us about God. He was a new Christian and had been healed and changed. He told us to get the

Bible and turn to Acts 2:38

After we read that, he told us to call all the churches in our area and see if they baptized in Jesus name and if they didn't to hang up. After calling all churches in our phone book, we found not one that baptized in the name of Jesus. We called our friend back and told him our results. "Well, then you need to travel here because my church baptizes the Bible way, he explained. He was 18 hours away, and we didn't have a cent to our name, only a vehicle.

Somehow, the money for gas was put in our account. We packed up our belongings and began a new journey, a walk of faith. We were baptized in Jesus name on October 6, 1996 and married five days later. This was the best decision that we had ever made in our lives!

How did you come to write this book?

In 2007, our second daughter was born and thus triggered the worst case of eczema I had experienced. My skin was raw and leatherylooking. I lost my hair and even my fingernails thinned out. I would scratch until my skin bled, and still there was no relief. Doctors offered no help and the loss of sleep made me feel like I was losing my mind. I prayed, friends prayed, the church prayed and yet it didn't seem like anything was helping, until it reached a peak. My condition was so bad that the pain from the scratching made it hard even to move my neck.

It was Sunday, and I almost didn't go to church. I forced myself. As I sat during the preaching, it felt the same as it always did. There was the altar call; I didn't move because I didn't feel I had the strength to fight this anymore. My husband reached for me, and we went up. As he prayed for me, our assistant pastor came over and prayed too. I gave it all to God. Seven days later, I was healed, and I will testify ...

What is the purpose of your book?

The writing of Two Trees and Twelve Fruits That Will Change Your Life Forever began in 2008 and became my testimony of trial, healing and triumph. In the book, I have mentioned the physical healing properties of certain fruits that God has created for us. I also talk about emotional and spiritual healing and how it can affect our physical bodies.

While writing the book, our son Joshua was born; he is a miracle and our little fighter. I had many complications throughout this pregnancy and was even asked if I wanted to terminate the pregnancy. This was not an option because we know that this child is created by God and is not just an image on a screen to be deleted. Needless to say, he has come through general anesthesia six times because of heart procedures and operations. He has been on life support and has come through many challenges, all before he was six months old. He is now amazing all of his doctors. Joshua is on no medications whatsoever and is eating from the fruits and nutrients that are written about in my book.

Two Trees and Twelve Fruits That Will Change Your Life Forever can be purchased at www.2treesand12fruits.com and through Pentecostal Publishing House. Contact her at

michelle@2treesand12fruits.com

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.

# aposto i Calendar 2014

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DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SPEAKERS	CONTACT / INFO
JAN 24	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 Roden- bush, Lindel Anderson, IBC Choir, IBC Chorale, IBC Praise	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or calf (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
FEB 6-8	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 vis- it Twitter: winterfireconf or Facebook: winterfire
FEB 27-28	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 Roden- bush, Jason Gallion, Bobby Killmon, Lindel Anderson, others.	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or calf (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
MARCH 20-23	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 Roden- bush, Lindel Anderson, IBC Choir, IBC Chorale, IBC Praise, others	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or calf (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, holinessminded 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 Park- way, 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
Ост 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
Ост 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
Ост 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 5-7	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
JAN 2015	Times of Refreshing Conference - Odessa, TX Ministers' fellowship dinner after service each night. Friday night youth activity after service.	To be anounced	To be announced	For more info: visit www.gordonpoe.com/ TOR/conference. (717) 755-7202

#### Theology: Are the Miraculous Events in Scripture Still For Today?



Robert L. Rodenbush

#### Church Today rlrodenbush@earthlink.net

Safeguarding Our Churches

Our children are the future of our church. Satan is determined to do everything he can to destroy them and our witness in our community. Imagine the devastating effects to your church and more importantly to a child should a child be physically abused

or sexually molested in your church. And if the spiritual, physical and emotional damage to the child and family are not bad enough, incidents of child sexual abuse in the church are not only costly financially (with legal fees and jury verdicts in the millions of dollars), but the church and ministry also face nearly irreparable harm to their reputation.

<u>Prevention is the only real solution.</u> We have a legal and, more importantly, a moral obligation to prevent the possibility of abuse or molestation from ever occurring in our churches. It is my experience as an attorney and a minister that it is almost impossible to cure a problem that involves an allegation of child sexual abuse. Once the incident occurs or the allegation is made - it is too late. The damage has already been done to the child, the church and the ministry. An actual occurrence of abuse or molestation is not required. A false allegation with the ensuing cost of defense, negative media coverage and emotional outrage can be almost as devastating as an actual incident. Prevention of both incidents and false allegations is the only real solution.

Heightened risk for churches. Churches and ministers are at risk because the public and legal community is becoming more aware of the potential for bringing claims and lawsuits against churches due to an unprecedented increase in the magnitude of allegations, lawsuits and awards of damages. Personal injury attorneys often view churches as an untapped source of revenue in this arena. Further, churches and ministers are highly susceptible to actual occurrences as well as false accusations of child sexual abuse due to (1) the trusting and unsuspecting environment surrounding churches, (2) the easy access by adults to children in a church setting, and (3) the church's lack of awareness and lack of preventative measures to reduce the risk of actual occurrences and false allegations.

Preventative measures. Churches can implement preventative measures that will (1) significantly, and most importantly, reduce the chance of an actual incident of abuse or molestation from ever occurring, and (2) discourage false accusations and make unmerited claims very difficult to prove. No preventative plan can reduce all risk; however, failure to implement any plan creates a very serious risk that leaves the church and ministry extremely vulnerable to actual occurrences, false or malicious accusations, and legal liability. Preventative plans need to focus on at least three main areas: (1) adequate screening, (2) adequate supervision and (3) adequate reporting.



Bobby Killmon

#### Theology

bobby.killmon@sbcglobal.net

How would you respond to the statement: "All the miraculous events in Scripture no longer are for today"?

This view is the "cessation" view suggesting all miracles, including gifts of the Spirit, are no longer used today. Why not believe in the miraculous? The reply, though varied in nuances, is essentially, "We don't need that now because those were miraculous

signs endorsing the apostles' message. Because we now have their record included in Scripture, these signs are no longer necessary to vindicate the message.

The portion of Scripture most quoted in this regard is 1 Cor. 13:8-10. The text is clear that Paul refers to the "ceasing of tongues," the doing away of "partial knowledge," and also "prophecy." The discussion hinges not on "if" but "when" this occurs. Paul says it occurs when that which is "perfect" comes. So defining in context "that which is perfect"

The interesting thing is contextually there are no grounds to argue for cessation now. Without going into a detailed analysis it's simple to see Paul's discussion is about seeing "face to face," which shows a complete direct knowledge contrasted with "seeing through a glass darkly..." and "knowing in part." Our coming to full knowledge where we "shall know, even as I am known" (vs. 12) is what he's discussing. By this we see the context clearly speaks of the state of glorification (vs. 13).

Paul is asking when will tongues, prophecy and partial knowledge cease? Has partial knowledge vanished away? When will our partial knowledge be gone? Only at Christ's second coming. This is a picture of the full knowledge we will have when we are face to face with God having our changed bodies.

The fascinating thing is that current scholarship is moving away from using 1 Cor. 13 as a basis for cessation. Multiple non-Pentecostal scholars agree. One example is Richard B. Gaffin Professor of Systematic Theology at Westminster Theological Seminary. He states, "Paul's primary emphasis here is on the partial, obscured quality of the believer's present knowledge brought by prophetic gifts, in comparison with faith, hope, and especially love that have what we might call an eschatological 'reach' or 'grasp' (vv 12-13). Such knowledge will not cease until the arrival of 'perfection' (v. 10), at Christ's return; only then, in contrast, will full 'face to face' knowledge be ours (v. 12)." He then goes on to be more blunt stating, "To argue as some cessationists do, that 'the perfect' has in view the completion of the New Testament canon or some other state of affairs prior to the Parousia is just not credible exegetically."

I could list a dozen New Testament scholars from a range of non-Pentecostal perspectives who admit both linguistically and exegetically it's impossible to argue from here the miraculous has ceased. While not conclusive, "enemy attestation" gives us the high ground in a debate. It often helps in witnessing to not simply show our beliefs are true, but also to point to others, even in their own denominations, that acknowledge this truth. Sometimes people are simply not up to speed on what their own denomination's scholarship has admitted. This can be a powerful way forward.



#### Church Growth

tmassengale@apostolic.edu Keeping Your Converts

A recent research study was helpful in showing the importance of friendship in the process of becoming

a new disciple. The study, T. W. Massengale reported in Church Growth America magazine, identified

240 new converts presently active and involved in their churches. In addition, a second group of 240 people were identified who were classified as backsliders. A third group of the same size were identified who had been presented the Gospel message but had not responded to salvation.

In individual interviews with these

720 people, each person was asked to characterize the person who had presented the Gospel to him or her. They were asked if this individual would best be described as a "friend," a "salesman," or a "teacher."

The results of the survey were very revealing: Almost all (94%) who saw the church member as a "friend" were still in church at the time the survey was taken. However, those who saw the church member as only a "salesman" often made an initial decision, but soon dropped out of church - in large numbers (71% were no longer attending).

Finally, 84% of those who saw the church member as simply a "teacher' generally did not respond at all. The implication of this survey was clear: The non-Christian who perceives your

relationship with him or her as that of a "friend" is far more likely to respond to the Gospel and to continue in the faith than is the person who sees you as either a "teacher" (instructing in doctrine, sin and morality), or as a "salesman" (manipulating toward an eventual decision).

If you want to see a greater percentage of converts retained, teach your saints to do more than witness. The old adage says, "you must win a friend to win a soul." This is very true, but in addition to this, you must develop a program to help your new converts make friends with others in the church. If you would like more information on how you might do this, download file NCGE10.txt from AIS or call 1-800-800-0247. Free to AIS subscribers, \$5 to non-subscribers.

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# APOSTOLIC STUDY BIBLE



Pre-ordering begins in mid-January Visit pentecostalpublishing.com/ASB



Carol Clemans

Spiritual Growth

God's Truth Heals the Hurting Heart!

The church must become the "healing hospital of hope" described by Isaiah in chapter 61. Jesus Christ came to bring us sal-

vation, but He also came to heal the brokenhearted and set the captives free from their "stinkin' thinkin'." The devil comes to kill, steal and destroy. We have people sitting on our church pews who are saved but deeply hurting from painful experiences. The devil schemes to magnify their emotional pain through the lack of forgiving self, others and the inability to believe that God fully loves, fully accepts

and fully forgives.

I recently posted a four-page article on my website – <a href="www.carolclemans.org">www.carolclemans.org</a>, "The Schemings of the Devil," to explain how the devil attacks. If someone was abused as a child, exposed to pornography and now has a sexual addiction, they are fearful of who they can trust in the church to receive help. They are saved but hurting. They need help with their distorted thinking. I recorded two one-hour DVD's available through my website, Sexuality in the Church, to help the church understand how to be healing

My ministry can be of great assistance to pastors through my teaching on site and counseling by phone/Skype nationwide. Recently in Caledonia, MS, I ministered for Pastor Mitchell – counseled on Saturday, taught to whole church Saturday p.m., Sunday a.m. and p.m. services, counseled on Monday and spoke for their ladies on Monday evening. I taught on several subjects for spiritual, emotional and relational growth. I provide "off campus" confidential counseling for pastors.

helpers and give hurting people hope.

Because of my teaching the Word of God for over 50 years and 21 years as a certified pastoral counselor, God has enabled me to be a conduit to speak His truth. People can be transformed by "renewing their minds" with His Word. We must become equipped to open hearts to the healing of God's truth.

Go to: <a href="https://www.carolcemans.org">www.carolcemans.org</a> for Carol Clemans' bio, teaching products, book: God's Design for Marriage. Carol and husband, Rev. Harold Clemans' pastor is Bishop Jerry Dillon of Madison, MS. Supt. David Tipton Jr. refers Carol's ministry to the MS Dist. Call (636) 448-0121 to schedule nationwide teaching or counseling.



Revival Concepts
evangelistnorman@gmail.com

Where Are You Headed?

"After these things the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision" -Genesis 15:1.

Vision is a powerful Brian Norman thing. Think about how hard it is to find your way

when traveling, get to your destination and arrive safely without vision. This is true in the physical and spiritual realm. Vision is imperative in order to get where we are going.

If you look at major moments of transition and forward trajectory in scripture, you will find them marked by visions of some sort. Abram becoming Abraham, Moses leading the Hebrews out, Isaiah understanding the fullness of God's glory, the spread of the New Testament Church and Saul becoming an Apostle, to name a few. Visions are significant.

Visions are intertwined with faith, desire and confidence in God's ability to bring us somewhere. We can also add words such as *God's will* and *trust* when discussing vision. Proverbs 29:18 declares that "where there is no vision, the people perish." Literally *perish* means "destruction," or in context we could say that all progress halts and comes to a screeching stop. We must have vision.

No, vision by itself is not enough. Without follow-through, etc. nothing will come of it. We must work toward the vision. But be assured, without vision we only have the ability to see our dreams and growth self-destruct. One of my favorite sayings is "dream big, because little dreams produce little things."

As 2014 begins, it is imperative that we get a vision of where we want to see our ministry and Church grow. Without it, our forward progression and Kingdom growth is severely capped. With that in mind we must:

- Think on the "why God can" things and remove from our thought process the excuses of the "why not's."

- Get a God vision of goals for that year and beyond.

 Present the vision to core leaders, sell them on it. With God, we can do this thing!

 Keep the vision at the forefront of our thought process and the people we lead.

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



Aubrey Jayroe

Finance jayroeone@sbcglobal.net

I recently heard about a Health Care Tax Credit that was available for businesses that paid the health insurance premiums for their employees. Is this something that is available

for our church since we pay the insurance premiums for all employees?

Yes, this is available for churches. The Affordable Health Care Tax Credit is a refundable tax credit for any employer that would otherwise meet the qualifications. The refundable credit is available for churches even though a church does not pay taxes.

In brief, the church must pay at least 50 percent of the health insurance premiums of their employees (including the pastor). The average wages for all employees cannot exceed \$50,000 and if the pastor is the only employee and the church pays for his/her insurance premiums that would also qualify.

All employee wages must be reported on a W-2 Form, as self-employed individuals do not qualify for the tax credit.

The credit is available for year 2010, 2011 and 2012, and there is still time for the church to go back and get the refund if they otherwise qualify. The credit is normally 25 percent of the premiums paid and must be claimed on Form 990-T for each of the years the church would qualify.

Please contact your accountant for a worksheet to determine if your church is able to get this refundable tax credit.

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

Start Your New Year With a Financial Review

As you plan for the year ahead, is an investment checkup leading your list of resolutions? Taking time for a detailed financial

review -- including retirement planning, college savings, and your tax situation may help you progress toward your long-term goals. Consider the following items as part of your checkup:

Capitalize on tax reductions. If you plan to adjust your investment allocations, make sure you understand the tax consequences of your actions. Taxes on both long-term capital gains -- profits

earned on investments held for more than one year — and equity dividends are generally lower than rates on ordinary income (15% for many taxpayers, 20% for those in the highest tax bracket). Because of these tax reductions, you may now have greater incentive to hold your mutual funds for the long term and include equity funds that pay dividends within your portfolio.

School yourself in education incentives. Consider opening a 529 college savings plan account if education is part of your family's future. Contributions to a 529 plan compound tax-deferred, and withdrawals are tax free<sup>1</sup> when the money is used for qualified higher-education expenses.

Remember three important letters – IRA. You can boost your retirement planning efforts by making the maximum annual contribution of up to \$5,500 to

either a traditional or Roth IRA. Investors aged 50 and older get an added bonus: A \$1,000 "catch up" contribution that can be made in addition to the annual maximum for a total investment of \$6,500. Your money compounds tax-deferred until you begin withdrawals.

There are other factors to consider — such as your investment mix — as you evaluate your progress toward your long-term goals. But this list can help you get started as you chart your financial course for the year ahead.

1Withdrawals used for expenses other than qualified education expenses may be subject to a 10% additional tax on earnings, as well as federal and state income taxes.

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, <a href="mailto:eric.hall@lpl.com">eric.hall@lpl.com</a>, Member FINRA/SPIC

#### THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS

#### Parents Protest Pro-Islam Slant in FL Textbook

Hundreds of parents, angry at what they say is a biased student textbook with a decided pro-Islam slant, have launched a campaign demanding equal religious representation. The book, "World History," devotes 32 pages — an entire



chapter — on "Muslim Civilizations," including descriptions of the

Koran and a listing of the Five Pillars of Islam. But noticeably missing is information on any other religion.

Protesters are demanding students tear out the Islam chapter until the school, in Volusia County, Florida provide a like number of pages on other religions. "The problem is there needs to be balance," said District 2 Deltona commissioner Webster Barnaby, in *The Daily Caller*. "Why relegate Christianity to a footnote in an entire history book, and you give an entire chapter on the teachings of Islam? To suggest everybody knows about Christianity is total ignorance."

The Council on American-Islamic Relations, meanwhile, has sent out a statement in opposition to the protest. "This group is displaying an alarming level of intolerance and brazen disregard of minority religions," CAIR said. District officials said they have

District officials said they have no plans to drop the textbook, saying that other religions like Christianity and Judaism are randomly represented in other pages.

#### **LEGAL TRENDS**

### Millionaire Gay Couple Sues to Force Church Wedding

Barrie and Tony Drewitt-Barlow, a millionaire gay couple, have launched a legal challenge to the right of churches to opt out of gay weddings. In recent comments published by the *Chelmsford Weekly News* in the U.K., Barrie Drewitt-Barlow said he and his civil partner, Tony, would go to court to force gay weddings on churches.

"It is a shame that we are forced to take Christians into a court to get them to recognize us," he said. A government bill legalizing

A government bill legalizing same-sex marriage in the U.K. cleared Parliament earlier this year, and the first same-sex weddings are expected in 2014. But the legislation allows churches to opt out of performing gay weddings, and it specifically protects the Church of England.



#### Filipinos Recovering From Effects of Typhoon Haiyan

By John Wolfram, UPCI Missionary

The Filipino people are no strangers to tragedy. These incredibly resilient, good-natured people are survivors. Each year, more than 20 typhoons hit this country, along with earthquakes, volcanoes, mudslides and citywide floods. In addition to the natural disasters, extreme poverty is an insidious threat to the almost 100 million people that make up this multi-island nation. The poverty line is right at \$400 a year and more than a quarter of the nation's population falls under this line. The average family income is a meager \$4,200 a year

As a missionary serving in this region for many years, I have personally observed every major calamity possible. While living on the island of Guam, Typhoon Paka caused \$500 million in damage, and we were without electricity for almost two months. Just four years ago, we witnessed a flash flood caused by tropical storm Ondoy, which submerged three-fourths of the city of Manila. Hundreds of people lost their lives, and local villages held mass funerals. Thousands of people were forced into community shelters and became dependent upon churches, the Red Cross, and other humanitarian aid for weeks on end.

If this happened to less resilient people they would be crushed beyond despair. However, the Filipinos seem to be made out of tougher material. At the end of the day, they will shake the dust off their flip-flops and sandals, put a smile on their faces and go on living. This doesn't mean they don't grieve the loss of their loved ones and material belongings. They just have a sense that God sees their plight and will faithfully guide them through the tough times.

This bodes well for bringing people to Jesus Christ. Most Filipinos are Catholic and are what you would call very "religious." Their sensitivity to God makes revival easy compared to other countries around the world. While millions of people were being pounded by the fierce winds of Typhoon Haiyan in Central Philippines, a large group of UPC churches met in Manila for a Holy Ghost crusade sponsored by Bro. George Guy and associates from the United States. In just a few short hours of worship and preaching, more than 500 guests received the baptism of the Holy Ghost for the very first time.

Calamities bring out the best and worst in human nature. Desperation has no rules. It's heartbreaking to think of the ten million people being affected by the Typhoon Haiyan (Yolinda) and 600,000 becoming homeless overnight. But it's the human-inflicted suffering in the aftermath—the looting, robberies and rapes—that is most troubling. On the other hand, thousands of compassionate volunteers from all over the world have come to bring assistance and hope. We are reminded that good and evil will dwell side by side until the glorious day of our Lord.

Dennis, a second year Bible student here at ACTS, waited anxiously for several days for news that his family was alive. They survived but lost everything, including their modest home. An eight-foot high wall of water Continued on page 24

#### **RELIGIOUS TRENDS**

#### Bible Translator Hopes to Reach Every Tongue, Every Nation by 2025

Wycliffe Bible Translators USA announced new statistics illustrating the continued dramatic progress in Bible translation efforts around the world.

Today, 4.9 billion people can access the Bible in their first language. The Wycliffe Global Alli-



ance reports there are 2,167 translation projects in progress, while 1,919 languages are waiting for a translation

project to begin.

"We are making rapid progress in our goal to have Bible translations in progress in every language by 2025," says Bob Creson, president of Wycliffe USA. "These statistics are a clear indicator that we are advancing in the mission God has given us, and I hope they will encourage those who have invested in the Bible translation movement and others who want to join our efforts."

The 1,919 languages that may need Bible translation started represent an estimated 180 million people worldwide. Of these, 1,576 languages—98 million people—have no known Scripture. "The last translator for the last Bible translation program is alive somewhere in the world today," Creson says. "We can see the finish line. Our partners and organizations all over the world are dedicated to bringing God's Word to people in even the most remote parts of the globe."

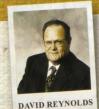
#### **EDUCATION TRENDS**

#### Teacher Who Opposes Planned Parenthood Branded "Unfit"

According to reports, Planned Parenthood is working with a school district in Portland, OR to remove the teaching license of Bill Diss, a computer science teacher. He reportedly advised his students to make healthy choices that don't include the agenda being forced upon students by Planned Parenthood and other agencies who promote "free sex" and similar agendas.

Paul Rondeau wrote in *The Washington Times*, "Bill Diss is an experienced, highly qualified teacher. He is the only teacher in Oregon to earn the distinction of being credentialed to teach computer science for college credit at the high school level. He earned special recognitions for his work with at-risk black students and for helping to stop gang violence in Portland parks. But, because he refused to allow Planned Parenthood into his classroom, school administrators branded him 'unfit to teach' and intend to end his career with Portland Public Schools."

# SAVE-OUR-FAMILIES



Be Fruitful and Multiply: A Case For Large Families

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male

and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them,

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: Genesis 1:27,28

I remember Pastor Carl Adams, former missionary to the Philippines, saying, "I'm so glad that my parents did not limit their family to twenty children—if they did, I would not be here today."

One reason for the family is so God can have a "godly seed" upon this earth. God instructed Noah to be fruitful and to multiply in order to replenish the earth [Genesis 9:1]. God promised Abraham that he would make of him a great nation and to make his dependents as the sand of the seashore and as the stars in the heaven – why? So He could have a Godly nation who feared and served Him. Why does He have a church? He has the church so that he might have a "godly seed." The reason for seed is to multiply the genetic structure of the organism.

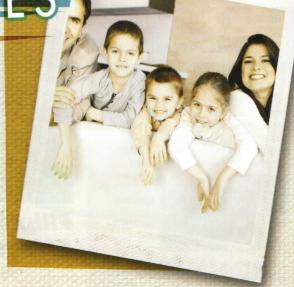
There are two ways to "grow" the kingdom of God. One is by evangelism, and the other is to raise large families to love and serve God. God told Adam and Eve to "be fruitful, and multiply, and to replenish the earth." A couple cannot multiply unless they have more than two children. If there was ever a time for us to replenish the earth, it is today.

Many of us in the church have bought into this world's materialistic values and are now limiting our families to one or two children in order to maintain the "good life." It does cost to have children-but it has always cost. Have we ever stopped to consider what we are giving up in order to have the big house and the two cars?

I often watch parents with only one child, the center of their universe, try to discipline this child. I know that what that child needs is one or two brothers and sisters. What the parents spend in money, time and emotional energy could be better spread over three children—and would help with the discipline of the one.

Time magazine, December 2, 2013, carried a feature article, "Why China Needs More Children." It stated that "To combat poverty and overpopulation, China unveiled a one-child policy for many citizens in 1979. Local officials resorted to compulsory sterilization and abortions—even on women days from delivery." The birthrate went from 6.2 children per woman to 1.7 in 2011. China now has too small a birth rate to continue their culture and to fuel their economy. They will have too few youths, too few women and too many elderly. Crime rates, bride trafficking and sexual crimes are rising.

Research forecasts that Europe will lose its identity and culture in just 20 years as its fertility rate is only 1.28 children per family. Any nation must have at least 2.11 children to even maintain a culture. In France, the Muslim families are averaging 8.1 children. In



the Netherlands over 50% of all births are Muslim. Germany can no longer recover their identity. In Canada and in the U.S., the birth rate is only 1.6 children per family. Canada and all Europe will become Muslim nations within 30 years. How long will it take for us to be overwhelmed?

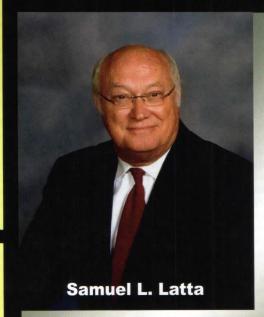
I believe we are limiting our Christian families for selfish materialistic reasons. We are sending our wives out to work for the same reason our culture is doing it—to buy that house and those two cars. It is easier to give our children things than to give them time and training.

Remember also that when a church or denomination does not reproduce and grow—death is the natural result.

Note: The reason for this column is to counter the values of our culture that oppose the direct instructions of God in His Word.

Author, Evangelist and Teacher - to families. David Reynolds has 30 years experience in the public schools as a teacher and principal. He spent many years working with Our Sunday Schools, SS Curriculum Committee, Christian Schools and Global Training Institute. He has written seven books on the family and education. Contact: <a href="mailto:apostolicfamilles@gmail.com">apostolicfamilles@gmail.com</a>, web: apostolicfamilly.org

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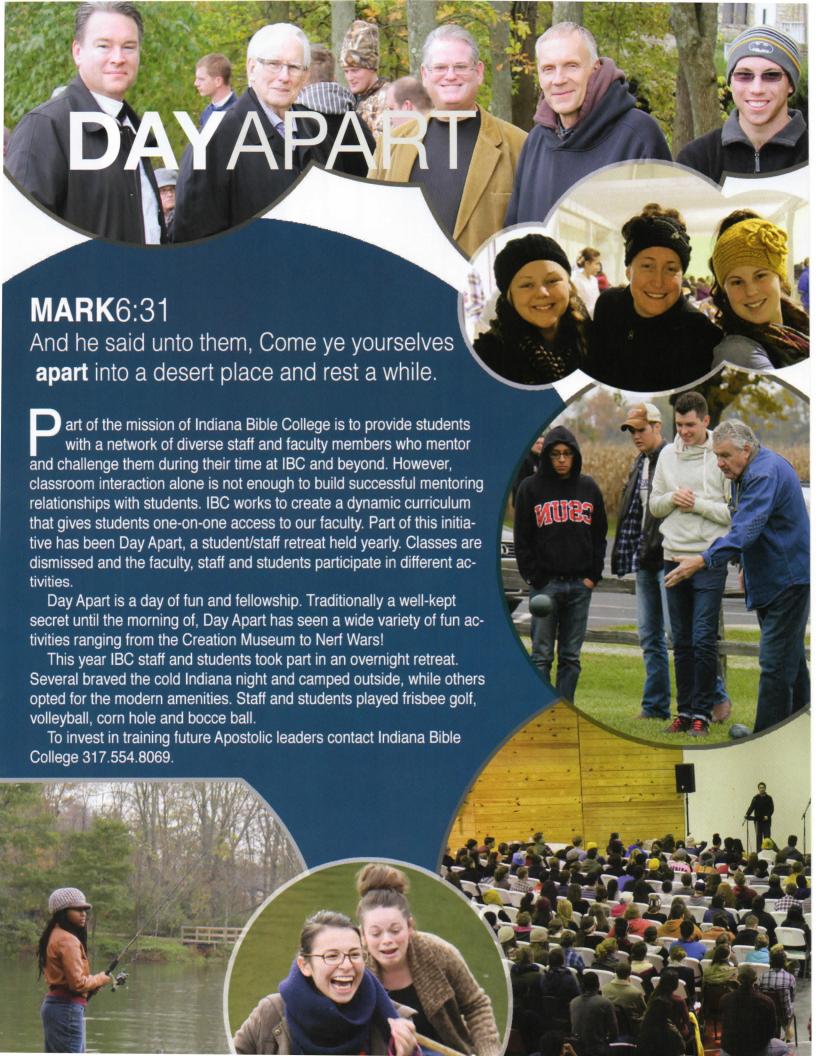
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Bishop John Fonzer Jr. Pastor, Richmond, IN

an you believe it? Here Jesus has everything going for Him. His church is packed. His ministry is highly acclaimed and then He turns and says something as church-splintering (not merely church-splitting) as: "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:26). To be clear, He said, "I want you to hate, not just dislike the people who are nearest and dearest to you, and come to

Me" (paraphrased). If I were there, I might have tried to respectfully whisper, "I know you're Jesus and I love you, but Jesus . . . did you really mean to say that?" After all, He did permit questions, even if He didn't always answer them!

His statement, spoken to a multitude, followed a series of controversial actions and statements that upset the religious and civic leaders. Although He was neither crude nor malicious, Jesus was good for upsetting the system. Spiritually, He was safe and on point: He spoke what He was commanded to speak and repeated what His Father said (John 12:49, 50). He did what was written of Him (Luke 24:27). Naturally and professionally speaking though, His timing could never have been worse.

His coarse language was divisive and not the least bit seekersensitive. It would certainly not pass for qualifying as a gracious call to discipleship. It was extremely opposite of inviting, almost as though He wanted no followers.

The radical commitment Jesus called for screamed of cult by almost any religious standard, because spiritually it required exclusivity to the furthest extent — and then some. Few, if any cults would have been so forward as to make such a demand, and certainly not initially. They definitely wouldn't have used the word hate. They would have methodically indoctrinated and wooed their prospective convert first. The most conservative Apostolic would warn against following leaders who made such demands, even if they were one of our own.

While Jesus was pro-family, as were His disciples (John 19:26,27), dual commitment was clearly out of the question, and His demands seemed to be the most stringent when it came to family. Jesus was a daring example of sole commitment beginning at age 12 when He was left behind at the Temple. When His mother asked Him why He had "treated them so" (Luke 2:48), He answered, "Why is it that you have been looking for me, did

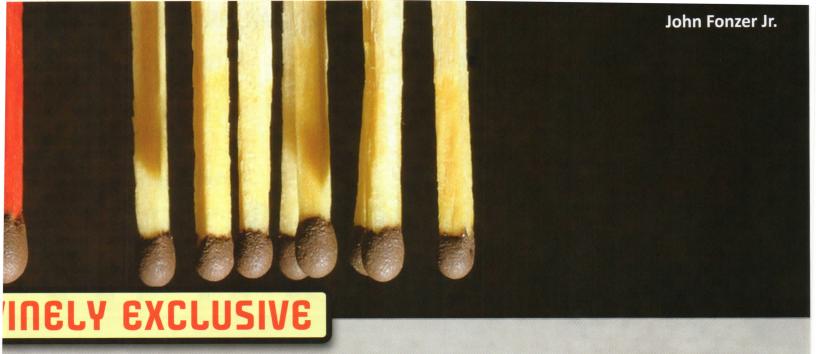
you not realize that I had to be in my Father's house?" He almost harshly challenged His own mother at the wedding at Cana of Galilee when she came to Him saying, "They have no wine. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? Mine hour is not yet come" (John 2: 3,4). On another occasion, Jesus refused to even pause His teaching to visit with or acknowledge His mother and brothers who came to one of His gatherings and desired to speak with Him. When one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee," Jesus shockingly asked, "Who is my mother? And who are my brethren?" (Mt. 12:48). When it came to choosing between following the dictates of His Father or pleasing Himself and His family, as meek and lowly as Jesus was, He became ruthless and offensive. For the sake of the text, I daringly say — He hated His mother and brethren. Hate here simply means there is no gray area or in between when it comes to doing the will of the Father.

Jesus was so adamant about commitment and assignment over familial relationships that when He invited "a certain man" to follow Him and the man requested that he first be permitted to bury his father, Jesus imposed, "Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God" (Mt. 8:22). In so many words He was saying to the man, "From this point on, your family will be . . . whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Mt. 12:50).

A disciple is a pupil and learner. The teacher, particularly in the culture of Bible times, was the pupil's master. For members of the multitude to become Jesus' disciples, He had to become their master and they had to publicly wear "his yoke." Neither a yoke nor a cross was jewelry of choice—not when it came to the demands Jesus imposed. Wearing Jesus' yoke meant going where He went and doing what He did indefinitely and unconditionally. Indeed that would be grounds for charges of cultism, heresy, bondage and legalism. Add the demands that the disciple hate family and his own self, and all those charges would be well justified.

Had Jesus, without disclosing the conditions, asked the multitude, "Who wants to be my disciples?" everybody would have raised their hands. Being in intimate company with Jesus who could walk on water, feed the multitudes, heal the sickest of the sick and turn water into wine would have placed them into a spiritually elite group.

Disciples, though, are not made in the grandeur of public settings or even defined by the miraculous things they do on Jesus' behalf. It is when they are called by Jesus away from the comfort of family, livelihood and the familiar to be fitted for yokes and crosses. This is not the kind of presence of Jesus we seek and celebrate in our circles, but it is the presence of Jesus



"It is no wonder Jesus said

His disciples would be

hated for His namesake.

As time progresses, even

many of us will sadly

become more silent or even

compromise in order to

survive or be accepted."

nonetheless. Disciples are not made in the place of phenomena, music and Shekinah glory, but there is another place in His presence, a place where they who answer His invitation take on a different look, sound and their preferences and passions change.

When Jesus called His audience from multitude to discipleship, He was in essence saying, "If you want to be a member of the congregation, that's one thing. If you want to see the water turned into wine, the lame walk and the blind see, that's another thing. You can be numbered among the congregation and eat the loaves, behold the miracles and even personally benefit from them. You can make great claims of seeing the works of Jesus firsthand and even talk all the talk that people equate with spirituality, but — you still won't be My disciple. You might

even follow Me to every camp meeting, support My ministry and seize upon My every word, but if you want to be My disciple, it's going to take hating the people you love and being willing to die

for what you believe.

Apostle Paul displayed great power in his ministry. He cursed Bar-Jesus (Elumas) with blindness. He healed a lame man in Lystra. People were miraculously healed who touched his garments and handkerchiefs in Ephesus. During a late night meeting of the church in Troas, he brought Eutychus back to life when he fell from a second story window. To Paul, none of those things were enough.

He understood that the healings and miracles through him were manifestations of the Spirit, not necessarily proof of discipleship. Above all, he desired the knowledge of all knowledge and experience of all experiences: that he could know Jesus, the power of His resurrection, to fellowship in His sufferings, and be made submissive, obedient and compliant unto His death

(Philippians 3:1).

In so many words, he said, "I don't just want to preach, teach and do mighty works; I want it all: the good days and the bad; being celebrated and humiliated. I'm really in this. I accept everything Jesus went through, including death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21).

Our generation demands inclusion of everything and everyone and every belief, and there are fewer distinctions with each passing day. Open relationships are becoming more commonplace. We are increasingly accommodating of both heterosexual and homosexual relationships. Every theology is

accepted as long as it has some merit or logic. For the sake of transparency, no subject is taboo in any setting. Distinctions and boundaries are disappearing in favor of comfort, tolerance and social acceptance. Public and private, day and night are the same. People even wear their bedclothes in public places! Titles and etiquette are being discarded in favor of supposed humility and making all things common.

The doctrine of extreme grace and inclusion is appeasing and destroying already weak consciences. Anything a person wants to do, they simply write into their theology. Everybody claims to believe in holiness, but the holiness they believe in is refined, revisited, and reinterpreted and made palatable. Our beliefs are a la carte, even in Pentecostal circles. We embrace what we

> want and leave the other. Exclusion is considered Pharisaic, dictatorial and outdated. Hate of any kind is out of the

question, even hating sin.

We don't follow the anointing when we look for a church today. We follow our preferences, and we look for a ministry where we are a good fit and which requires the least of us. If the rules are not agreeable to us, we leave. Laws are despised in our day, especially if they are imposed by the Church; yet Jesus imposed laws and conditions for discipleship.

True discipleship and doing ministry as Jesus commanded it will be deemed more cultic in our day,

especially if we hate whom and what we must. It is no wonder Jesus said His disciples would be hated for His namesake. As time progresses, even many of us will sadly become more silent or even compromise in order to survive or be accepted. In our multitude mindset, we will somehow opt to foster a plan so we can fit in and change the world at the same time. Instead, we will be as salt that has lost its savor or effect, which neither changes the flavor of meat or preserves it. Without its savor, it looks like salt and feels like salt, but in all actuality, it is only granulated white stuff. So it is with those who cherish membership over discipleship.

Heaven counts on disciples to carry out the plan of God; persons who would not merely do the mighty works of Jesus but live the life of Jesus, both the gory and the glory indefinitely. They are people who will lay down their lives and reputations ... who love not their lives unto the death (Rev. 7:11) and who will wash their robes and make them white in the blood of the Lamb.

That's discipleship!



For further information, please contact:

Rev. Tim Pedigo alvarv Tabernacle Church

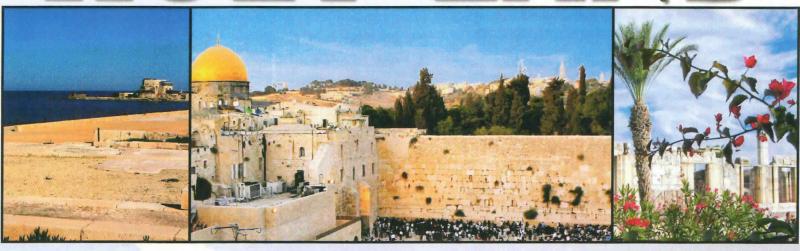
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## Landmarks on the Road Home A documentary on the Oneness Pentecostal Movement

Transcribed by Gregg Stone

postolic history comes to life. In honor of the 100-year anniversary Lof the Jesus name message, Word Aflame Productions has recently released a new documentary, Landmarks on the Road

Home, telling the story of the emergence of the Oneness Pentecostal movement.

"The thesis of the documentary is that the restoration impulse or the desire to restore the church to its Apostolic roots is the best lens to look through to understand the emergence of the Pentecostal—and in particular Oneness Pentecostal-movement," said Executive Producer, Bro. Robin Johnston. "This documentary captures the poignancy and fervor of the ongoing restoration

impulse as believers attempt to find their way home, guiding viewers from the Constantinian fall of the church to its recapturing of Apostolic truth.

This documentary combines narration, interviews and artifacts to tell this compelling story."

The Division of Publications released the documentary to coincide with the 100-

year anniversary of the Arroyo Seco camp meeting, and the live footage depicting the Arroyo Seco camp meeting was shot on the campgrounds of the Florida District in Ocala.

"It took about three months to produce the documentary," explains Bro. Johnston. "The creative director at PPH directed and was the principal videographer for the project. The assistant editor for the Division of Publications produced the documentary, and I

wrote the script and served as executive producer.

"Over the years, I have used the idea of landmarks on the road home as a narrative approach to teaching Pentecostal history. The nature of the documentary required a condensed version of the larger narrative. We produced the documentary to tell our story. I am convinced there is spiritual significance to telling the story of what God has done in our midst. We are charged by God to remind His people how He has worked among them.'

The documentary is being used in a number of ways. "Obviously people are watching for their own edification," said Bro. Johnston, "However, churches are showing it to educate their congregation, and a number of churches have used it as an outreach in their community. Word Aflame Press provides all the tools you need to host a screening for your community, and PPH has promotional material that can be downloaded free to help with this effort."

The documentary is available in both DVD (\$24.99) and Blu-ray (\$29.99) formats at pentecostalpublishing.com or by calling Pentecostal Publishing House at 866-819-7667.



## "The Godhead Made Simple" Spostolic Bible Study Leads to Greater Understanding



Pastor Mark Coburn and family Harvestime Church, New Bern, NC

It was in the small city of Williamston, NC that Bro. Mark Coburn wrote the Bible study, The Godhead Made Simple. It was also in this city that he started a Home Mis-

sions church in 1995.

"I was working third shift as a night clerk at Days Inn, and at about 3:30 a.m. the Lord spoke to me to begin writing the Bible study. The first time that I taught the Bible study was to our neighbors who lived behind us, and when we got about halfway through it, they saw the truth and wanted me to re-baptize them in Jesus name that night!" explains Bro. Coburn.

"The church that I started was surrounded by many denominational churches, and I wanted to help people understand who Jesus Christ is."

He explains, "I have used the Bible study many times, and I am currently using it today to help people see who Jesus Christ is. We are re-baptizing many in the name of Jesus Christ.

Bro. Coburn's wife encouraged him in 1997 to put the study in booklet form instead of the regular notebook paper he was using.

"I taught the Bible study just last week to a woman in our city of New Bern, NC, who had been going to a Baptist church most of her life. She agreed to take the Bible study, and she immediately saw the revelation of the name of Jesus Christ. I just rebaptized her in Jesus name last Sunday," says Bro. Coburn.

"I've had calls from a brother in Tennessee who has a prison ministry in his church. He called and thanked me for writing the

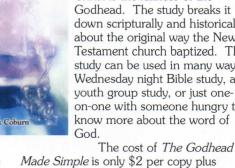
Bible study, because he taught it in the prison and many have seen the truth. He's re-baptized them in the name of Jesus Christ, one being a Baptist minister."

The main approach of the Bible study

is to help people not be confused about the Godhead. The study helps them understand that there are not three persons of the Godhead, but that Jesus Christ is the fullness of the Godhead. The study breaks it down scripturally and historically about the original way the New Testament church baptized. The study can be used in many ways: Wednesday night Bible study, a youth group study, or just oneon-one with someone hungry to know more about the word of

shipping, and can be ordered through Bro.

Coburn at: mcoburn238@yahoo.com



Godhead"

Tabernacle. Schedule them now." P.D. Mooney

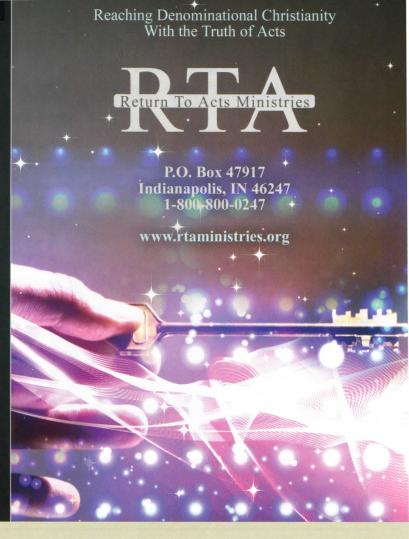
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## Filipinos Devastated by Typhoon Haiyan

Continued From Page 17

demolished it, along with thousands of others, near the beaches of Tacloban. With dead bodies decaying in the streets and with no food, water or housing, Dennis's family was desperate. We wired funds to relocate his entire family to Manila for refuge until they can decide what to do.

The Haiyan Typhoon is one of the worst to ever hit the Philippines. This category 5 storm has made headlines around the world. Long after the media fades and the public moves on to the next big news story, remember those who are left behind. In tragedies like this, Compassion Services International of the UPC has always provided aid and relief. Many of our Filipino churches were completely destroyed and suffered great material losses, including lives.

Funds donated from saints and local churches in

America have always faithfully provided the means to help feed, shelter and rebuild devastated lives when the needs arise. On behalf of everyone here in the Philippines, we thank you very much for your generosity, prayers and concern. Donations to the relief effort can be made through Compassion Services International.











Top left clockwise: An Apostolic minister (left) helps remove trees and debris; a desperate cry for help; Apostolic saints from the church in Maya praying on the Sunday after the typhoon; a home devastated by the storm; Apostolic family prepares to deliver supplies to Northern Cebu.

#### Word To The Wise:

Eventually you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \*

**Tooth Fairy** 

While working for our church organization that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, I used to take my 4-year-old daughter on my afternoon rounds. She was unfailingly intrigued by the various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers and wheelchairs.

One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely turned and whispered, "The tooth fairy will never believe this!"

\* \* \* \* \* \* \*

On my way to a church picnic, I stopped at a fast-food place to order a quart of potato salad.

"We don't sell it by the quart," the clerk snapped. "Okay, then give me two pints, please," I replied.

I'm proud to say I held my tongue when she asked, "Do you want it in one container?"

\* \* \* \* \* \* \*

One long-term officer who recently left the military was reportedly asked his reasons for leaving. He replied, "When I joined the military, it was illegal to be homosexual. Later, it became acceptable. I'm getting out before it becomes mandatory!"

\* \* \* \* \* \* \*

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Penance

Ducking into confession with a frozen turkey in his arms, Dewey said, "Forgive me, Father, for I have sinned. I stole this turkey to feed my family. Would you take it and settle my guilt?"

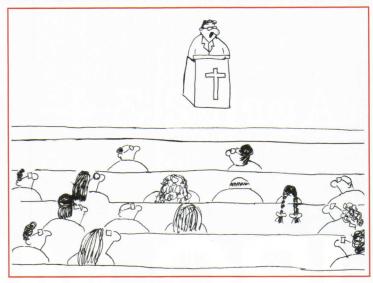
"Certainly not," said the priest. "As penance, you must return it to the one from whom you stole it."

"I tried," Dewey sobbed, "but he refused. Oh, Father, what should I do?"

"If what you say is true, then it is all right for you to keep it for your family."

Thanking the priest, Dewey hurried off.

When confession was over, the priest returned to his residence. When he walked into the kitchen, he found that someone had stolen his frozen turkey.



"Now verse 33 is one of the most difficult and controversial passages in the whole Bible. So let's go on to verse 34."

A Spinster

Mr. Smith was brought to a Catholic hospital and quickly taken in for emergency heart surgery. The operation went well and, as the groggy man regained consciousness, he was reassured by a sweet nun, who was waiting by his bed.

"Mr. Smith, you're going to be just fine," said the nun, gently patting his hand. "We do need to know, however, how you intend to pay for your stay here. Are you covered by insurance?"

"No, I'm not," the man whispered hoarsely. "Then can you pay in cash?" the nun asked.

"I'm afraid I cannot, Sister."

"Well, do you have any close relatives?" the nun questioned.

"Just my sister in New Mexico," he volunteered. "But she's a humble spinster nun."

"Oh, I must correct you, Mr. Smith. Nuns are not spinsters. They are married to God!"

"Really?" said Mr. Smith. "In that case, please send the bill to my brother-in-law!"



"If you want them to grow, you hafta say a prayer to your gardening angel!"

April 2.3.4

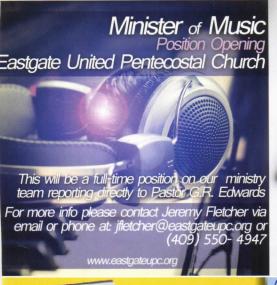
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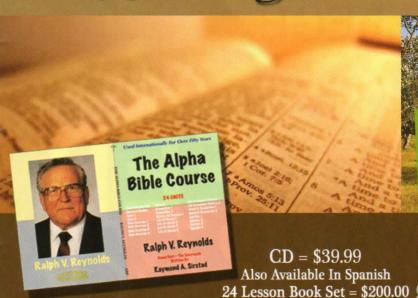
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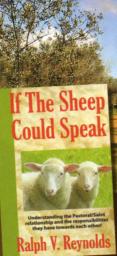
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The relationship between the pastor and the saint of God is beautifully illustrated in this explanation of church structure.

The author places the pastor in the position of honor as pertains to the Scripture. He gives an enlightening explanation of the sheep of the fold, or the saint of God, under the leadership of the pastor, as to the rights that he has to speak. All of this is couched very scripturally in a beautiful area of mutual relationship be-

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