VOL.24 NO.02 INDIANA BIBLE COLLEGE



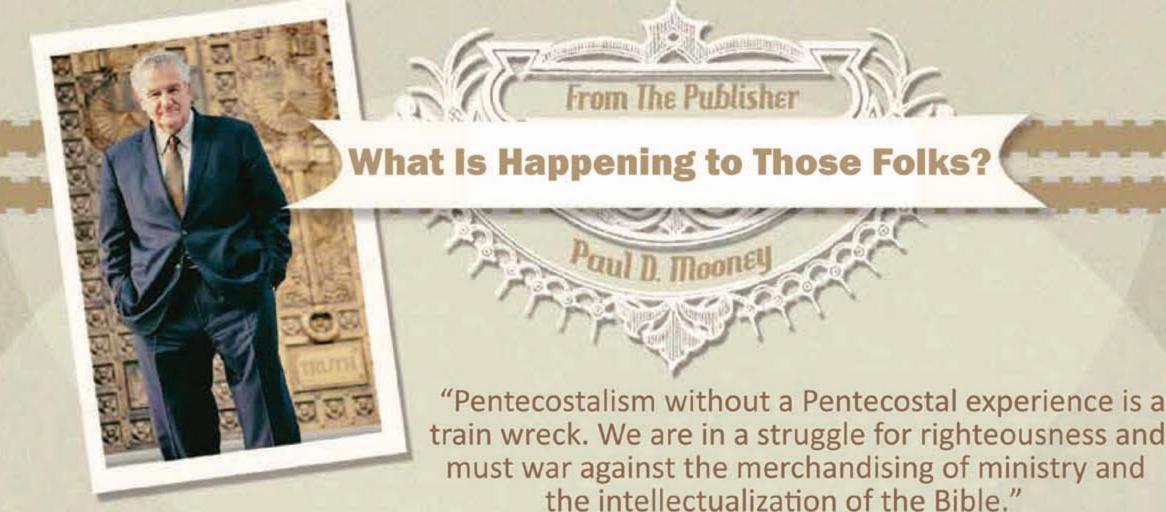
Perspectives

REVIAL









I struggle everyday as I peruse the news, crying out in prayer and trying to understand and identify exactly what is going on in our country and in our churches. It's like the horror of a bad car accident on the highway. One can see the carnage, but does not know, at first view, exactly how the crash happened.

Recently on a long auto drive, out of the blue I mumbled to my wife, "What's happening to those folks? Where is it going to end up?"

"Who knows?" she said. Her voice was soft and sad.

Hopefully we're past the trite analysis that posits, "Well, this is just a generational thing, and things always change." This is true enough but is not the right conclusion about the tragic spiritual carnage of our day. What we are seeing today, if I may be so bold, is a deep and determined (and in some cases, organized) departure from the fundamental truths that undergird our very faith in God and His Word. And running parallel to what's happening within Christianity is a reckless departure from constitutional democracy in America.

But to the point: are there root causes for the spiritual confusion that exists today? I think those who love the "way of righteousness" should be mindful of the Apostle's admonition: "For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them" (2 Peter 2:21).

From the Apostle's warnings, we may see in part an explanation of the loss and destruction that develops when the ugly primary motivation of covetousness takes control of our ministries and leads to the 'merchandising' of the church and of people, and which then develops further into the raw use of people, the church, and power to advance oneself and one's man-made agendas. Such passions quickly begin to ignore the call to righteousness, the true mission, and the care of the flock. The investigator at a fire scene or train wreck with his trained eye knows where to look and what to turn over. He notes the language in the rubble. This is what the Apostle is doing. He is answering the question, "What happened here?"

Secondly, even the most casual first look at our spiritual crisis reveals a broad departure from the Word of God. In my view, there appears to be a fear to take a stand, to draw the sword. There exists a notion that we can attract the masses through compromise. And we can attract, maybe; but make true disciples?

Not likely. The level of compromise is shocking. As Paul said to the Galatians (1: 6-11) "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel... For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ." The casual dismissal of the Apostles' doctrine is tragic. Pentecostalism without a Pentecostal experience is a train wreck. We are in a struggle for righteousness and must war against the merchandising of ministry and the intellectualization of the Bible. We are meant to LIVE the Word not merely discuss it.

A library full of books may be something we just catalogue without ever experiencing anything that is written in the books. People can walk into a room and give a lecture or preach a sermon about things they have never felt. Living in Christ is quite different than talking about others who have lived in Christ. Suffering is to suffer. This is different than becoming a professor and talking about the fact that another suffered. Knowing that others have been born again of water and Spirit and acknowledging the same is different than being yourself born again.

Allow me to summarize by quoting the Jewish Novelist Franz Kafka who makes the point that 'the book' and great books in general are meant to move us, not leave us unchanged:

"If the book we are reading does not wake us, as with a fist hammering on our skull, why then do we read it? So that it shall make us happy? Good God, we would also be happy if we had no books, and such books as make us happy we could, if need be, write ourselves. But what we must have are those books which come upon us like ill-fortune and distress us deeply, like the death of one we loved better than ourselves, like suicide. A book must be an ice-axe to break the sea frozen inside us."

Jauttamy



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



Edwin Harper, Huntington, WV — Every spring we have a four Sunday attendance campaign leading up to Easter. The intention is to capitalize on the public's perception concerning church attendance on this holiest day of the year. The first Sunday of the drive is Family Day, the next is Friends Day, third is Children's Day. Each day is driven by points to win for your particular team. The push is to have all of the family, friends, church and neighborhood children all present Easter morning.

The aforementioned, along with the bi-annual enroll to grow revival, garners a healthy list and clientele to work on throughout the year for Home Bible Studies and Revival Time converts. All guests are met by one of the door greeters and foyer hostess who registers them and gives them a small gift. The next week they receive a letter signed by me and a phone call from the respective Sunday School Department Superintendent. We also use a computer program called phone tree, and I will leave a message about the upcoming event and the title of my message for that service. Direct mail, billboards and media advertisements provide the church a public presence which gives the congregation confidence to engage in personal evangelism. Nothing works better for getting guests to church than the personal invitation and companionship of an acquaintance or friend. 65% of all members attend their particular church because they know someone who attends church there, 7% because of preacher, 10% because of location, 5% because of denomination or doctrine, 3% because of building's beauty, and 10% because of the music. It takes it all for the whole but you as a church member are the greatest asset for church growth.



Jason Upton, Somerset, PA -- We do outreach activities to target family and friends as well as cold contact outreach to reach those who do not know anyone in the church. We just finished up 7 Super Sundays and in those seven weeks we had 54 first-time visitors, three baptized and two received the Holy Ghost. We expect each service to be a Holy Ghost outpouring in

worship and Word. As a result, the members are excited, and they feel when they invite people they will be blessed and drawn into the presence of God. We have small invite cards available in the foyer. The key to using these cards is preparing the person's heart before you give it. Be excited about the church and God and ignite a hunger in the person's heart and then hand them the card and invite them to church. Our home Bible study ministry has exploded over the last two years and it really serves to turn a first-time visitor into a long-term member. Also fueling our growth is our Sunday school ministry. Our classrooms are overflowing with kids. We have parents coming to church just because they want their child to be in Sunday school and then they also stay for the worship service. We also serve coffee after church, and this has been a huge success. The visitors get a chance to stick around a little after church, and it gives the saints a chance to get to know them. I encourage their return with customized postcards. After their first visit, I will send them a handwritten postcard expressing how much we enjoyed having them in church. I make it a point to mention their children also, so they realize that children are important at our church.



Paul Pamer, Barberton, OH -- The functions that attract the most guests to the Apostolic Church range from revivals to social gatherings. What determines how many guests come to an event has more to do with planning and marketing than itinerary. If we plan, prepare and market the event well, guests will be there. If we don't do that, people don't come. One outlier would be repeat events. If an event is a part of our culture it usually attracts well regardless. Most of the guests who visit our church are a product

of personal invites. There is no better sell than a person with an existing relationship standing before you telling you about a church they have experienced. I would say the next best things to attract guests are seasonal services and anything involving kids. Members are more likely to invite their friends and their friends are more likely to come during holidays like Easter and Christmas. Currently, our hospitality ministry includes: valet parking, guest parking spots, a team of greeters, ushers, a welcome center team to give direction and information, a hospitality director who delivers a gift bag and gets a contact card from the guest, and a roaming pastoral staff to connect with guests. For follow-up they are sent a hand-written thank you and are added to our church mail-out list.



Eugene Wilson, Olive Branch, MS — While there is certainly great value to be found in inviting people to church, as well as doing all we can to connect and follow up with them, there is even greater value to be found in making disciples at home, at our workplace, with our neighbors, etc. Contrary to common belief, discipleship is not a six-week course, nor is it post-salvation. If we go and make disciples we will have little trouble getting them to attend our churches. Also, we need to use a system of follow-up for second and third

time guests. In a world in which personalized handwritten notes are a rarity, a handwritten note thanking the guest for attending accompanied with a \$5 gift card that says "The gas for your car is on us" can go a long way in making a good impression. The strongest possibility for additional membership to the church will come from the second and third time guest. When guests feel genuine love coming from the saints, they are more apt to return.



Seth Simmons, Hutto, TX — Our primary focus is relationships. We encourage our church members to grow authentic relationships with friends and family. Then, we highlight a variety of social and worship opportunities to invite them to be a part of our church community. In the same way, we are cultivating relationships with the city by serving at city-wide events and connecting with city leaders. Our goal is to be known in our city as a church

who loves, serves, believes in the power of the name of Jesus Christ and the miraculous demonstration of His Spirit. We attract guests mostly with personal invitations, but we also use our website and community involvement. We have a Guest Reception Ministry. The welcome team first greets them at the door, connects with guests and introduces them to others before leading them to a seat (children are escorted to their ministry). Refreshments are then offered. We follow up with guests by letter, email, and/or call as well an invitation to join our Life+Groups on Wednesday nights.





Jason D. Beardsley

By Charlotte L. Pound

"Welcome to The Sanctuary! Together, we're striving to become the kind of church described in the Bible - a church with relevant teaching, heartfelt worship, honest friendships, constant prayer, and compassionate care for those in need. In short, we'd like to have the kind of contagious Christianity that can influence and encourage the entire community, one life at a time." These sentiments are expressed by Jason Beardsley, pastor of The Sanctuary of Cary, Illinois.



Bro. Jason Beardsley Cary, IL

A Higher Calling

Bro. Beardsley was called into ministry in 1994 in Harrisburg, IL under Pastor Robert Moore. There he served as Worship Leader, Youth Leader, and also worked in secular employment as a barber. He moved back to his hometown of Rockford, IL in 1995, where he attended Silver Hill United Pentecostal Church under Pastor Robert Bailey. During that time, he received his local license with the UPCI.

The doors to The Sanctuary (Crystal Lake United Pentecostal Church) are wide open to people from all backgrounds.

"We are simply a group of people joining together to help and encourage one another through the challenges and trials of life," said Bro. Beardsley. "We've come to an understanding that we have a greater strength gathered together under the umbrella of God's grace. We want our visitors to feel comfortable, for the

Church History

The original church was a Home Missions work in Crystal Lake, IL founded in 2003 by Bro. Larry Joe Beardsley (Jason's brother). They held church services in Pastor Joe's home. At the beginning, they moved to a 2,000 square foot industrial building in Crystal Lake. "We quickly outgrew this space as God sent a harvest of souls," he said. Moving and Growing The church's next move was to a 7,500 square foot

were receiving \$75 a month as a Home Missions church. Within a few months, the church grew and was able to rent a garage

new church, so he and his family moved to the Crystal Lake area

in October of 2003. The brothers were co-pastors for three years.

Jason Beardsley was voted in as the new pastor. The church then

In 2006, Pastor Joe felt the call to Elk Grove Village, IL and

Jason Beardsley felt a call to assist his brother, Joe, with his

industrial building within a strip mall at Lake in the Hills, IL. God truly blessed the church, as the previous owners had already spent \$75,000 to renovate the space to include Sunday school classrooms, offices, a sanctuary that would seat 200, and much more. "After several years of being in this building, God miraculously opened the doors to purchase our current building in Cary," explained Bro. Beardsley. "The name of the church was changed from Crystal Lake United Pentecostal Church to The Sanctuary in order to reflect our true purpose: to reach souls not just within our city but throughout the Chicago land area.

"In 2008, we began a Spanish work, reaching out to the Hispanic community in our surrounding area. Thirteen people attended the first service. This past year (2013) marked the fifth year anniversary of the Spanish work."

The Sanctuary also celebrated its 10-year anniversary in

June of 2013. During this time we have had nine men receive their ministerial license. As God sent willing vessels into the church, these men were trained and developed, then sent to minister in other areas as God directed. These men include Bro. Rema Duncan, an



space.

The choir ministers to the congregation of The Sanctuary.





Pastor Beardsley performs a baptism.



The spirit moves during an intense altar service.

evangelist, and Bro. Mark Lashbrook, co-pastor in a neighboring city," he stated.

Keys to Church Growth

"Outreach began as seeking out the backslidden of the community; also, area pastors and concerned family members gave contact information," said Bro. Beardsley. "If we weren't in church, we were together. It was an informal setting where youth and adults could get together and discuss the Bible."

In the second year, the church called a time of prayer and fasting. For three consecutive days, the men of the church sought the face of God, never leaving the building. Those that were unable to stay were involved throughout the day or evening. It was during this time God gave Pastor Beardsley a vision. In this vision, he saw the church filled with people. God told him these people would be developed within the church and sent out, and

that the church would be a hub to develop ministry to reach the Chicagoland area.

Managing Growth

"We manage our growth in a number of ways, including New Converts class, Men's Bible Study, Ladies Bible Study and Ministerial Training," Bro. Beardsley said. "It has been said that if you will win those that most people overlook and often discount, God will give you those that everybody wants — people with money and influence. But here at The Sanctuary, our version of that

sentiment is that we try to win those that nobody wants and God makes them into those that everybody wants, not just people with money and influence, but real saints that share the pastor's burden and accomplish big things in the work of God."

Church Ministries

The Sanctuary includes a large variety of ministries. "We try to cover all the needs of the church and also to give our saints ways of contributing to the work of God," said Pastor Beardsley. "Some of our ministries include English and Spanish, Bus Ministry, Greeter and Usher Department, as well as an 'In Reach' Department where we do close follow-up on our visitors and guests. We have Ladies and Men's Ministries, Missions, Music, Outreach, Sunday School, and Youth Ministry."

Involving Saints

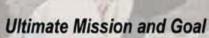
The worship teams, musicians and ministers are rotated at The Sanctuary. "We have found that constant development and promotion of singers, musicians and service leaders is very beneficial," said the pastor. "English and Spanish musicians and praise teams are often sent to assist other churches, and also travel for English/Spanish conferences and camps. Our saints participate in our daughter works, Spanish church, Apostolic Living Lighthouse of Woodstock and in the daughter work in Elk Grove Village and various nursing homes. We also involve new saints in different areas of the church such as ushers, greeters, cleaning the church and assistance in fundraising."

Retaining New Converts

"I was talking to (someone in) leadership from a mega church, and he made a statement about maintaining growth. He said the problem wasn't bringing people in but keeping the back door closed. Here at The Sanctuary we have created a program called 'In Reach.' It consists of a number of methods of involving every member of the church.

We give our leadership two to three names of

churchgoers, in or out of church, that they are responsible for. The purpose of the 'In Reach' Department is to keep in contact with our new converts as well as saints within the church. Our new converts are participants in a New Converts class, where we teach basic and foundational doctrines."



The mission of the Sanctuary is to equip and develop the people of God in order to reach the lost souls of the Chicago area. "There have been many people that were

great additions to this ministry; however, at times some have had to relocate or have even fallen out of the way," said Pastor Beardsley. "I told God, this couldn't be Your will. But one day God impressed on my heart that it was His will, because they were in His way. We hear a lot about people being in God's will, but there are some that are in God's way. Intentionally or unintentionally, some people can hinder what God is trying to do in growing a church. We couldn't move forward because the revival that God wanted to send was at a standstill. I've settled in my heart that if God is in charge of the increase, then God is in charge of the decrease. When seasons like these come, I don't take it personally because it is not my church; it is God's church. And we go on reaching for the lost and changing lives, one soul at a time."

Pastor Beardsley has taught various seminars on Being a Worship Leader, Outreach, Church Planting, Effective Bible Studies, and has taught with Bishop Art Wilson on Cross Culture. He is available to teach on any of these subjects. For more information, you may contact Bro. Beardsley by phone at 847-462-2166 or 815-505-7861, e-mail: lakeupc@gmail.com or on the website: www.clupc.org.



Exterior view of The Sanctuary of Cary, Illinois



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Many Churches Require New Members to Take Class

By Thom S. Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources

Does your church require a class before people can join? In a 1997 survey I conducted, only 17 percent of churches were requiring a new member class. In a recent non-scientific Twitter poll I conducted, 86 percent of those who responded said their church requires a membership class to be formally affiliated with the church. This change is remarkable if not dramatic. The number of churches requiring a membership class has increased 400 percent in 15 years! Here are seven key trends we see today in new member classes:



1. Requiring church membership classes has become a normative church practice. Indeed this practice is almost as pervasive as churches with small groups or Sunday school classes.

The longer a church has required a membership class, the shorter it becomes in length.
Many churches start with membership classes multiple weeks in length. Because of teaching
efficiency and the need for better participation, they typically move toward one-day classes.

3. The most common length of a new member class is three hours. Of course, there is a wide variety of lengths and days of these classes, but the three-hour class is now the plurality among those offered. It still is a long way from becoming the majority preference, though.

4. The most common day the class is offered is Sunday. The logic is that people are already at church, so offer the class while they are there. I have heard from many church leaders whose churches offer the class during the Sunday school/Bible study/small group time. Others offer the class immediately after the worship services, typically connected to lunch.

5. The most efficient membership classes have options. If the church offers classes at different times, more people are likely to participate. An example is a church that offers a class on two Wednesday evenings for 90 minutes each or one Sunday afternoon for three hours.

6. Among the minority of churches that do not require new member classes, there are strong feelings against them. Some church leaders and members view such a requirement as legalistic and/or unbiblical. This issue still evokes strong emotions.

7. Leaders in churches are enthusiastic about the benefits of new member classes.
Though I have no metrics, I do hear anecdotal testimonies about improved member retention, better stewardship, stronger ministry participation and lower conflict.

PUREReligion by Stephen Judd



Goodness

By Stephen Judd, TCM President



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The word goodness is listed in Galatians 5:22 as a fruit of the Spirit and was used in the New Testament to portray a person who is generous, big-hearted and liberal. We would call this person a giver.

According to Acts 10:38, this "goodness" operated mightily in Jesus,

as He was anointed "with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good and healing all..." In this verse, we generally focus on the reference to healing and overlook the "doing good" part. However, these words are from the Greek word euergeteo, which denotes a philanthropist or one who financially supports charitable works. It was used to describe one who assisted those who were less fortunate.

Jesus didn't only operate in the supernatural; He also used the resources that were available to Him to do "good works" in the natural realm. He cared for the poor; He ministered to the basic needs of mankind.

I recently did a concordance search of the phrase "good works," and was amazed at the number of times these words appear in the New Testament. Acting in "goodness" is a character feature of the nature of God. As Spirit-filled people, we should be selfless, using our resources to help others. As we walk in the Spirit, we will be sensitive to the needs of those around us, and our hearts will be moved to give.

This may seem foreign to our understanding, but it appears that Jesus had some supporters that contributed to His ministry. Luke 8:3 tells us that several women with considerable means backed Him financially. In other words, they were sponsors. Judas' words in John 12:5 would indicate that Jesus' ministry had a significant philanthropic outreach to the needy.

Would you like to "do good" by supporting a great cause that is very close to the heart of God? Please consider supporting Tupelo Children's Mansion. For more information or to give online, go to www.mansionkids.org.

The above article was partially inspired by Sparkling Gems From The Greek by Rick Renner. It's a great book!

We invite you to connect with Tupelo Children's Mansion on Facebook and Twitter: @mansionkids @stephenjudd @ermajudd. At www.mansionkids.org, you can subscribe to our blog: The Tupelo Insider and our monthly e-newsletter, The Mansion Minute.

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Bro. Jason Carr Redlands, California

Bro. Carr, tell us about yourself and your ministry.

I have been privileged to spend the last 20 years of my life with my wife, Brenda. We are blessed with two wonderful children, Brooklyn (14) and Boston (10). I am a licensed minister with UPCI and a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. I am the

Family Pastor in my local church. I have been working with youth and families for over 20 years. I currently operate a counseling practice in Redlands, CA. I specialize in working with teens, couples and families.

Many feel our teens are in grave danger today. Is this your opinion as well?

The danger for our teens is very real and uncomfortably close. Technological advancements have made tremendous inroads into our lives and the effects are both positive and negative. Some of the negatives I deal with on a weekly basis as a therapist working with Apostolic teens are: sexting, unmonitored social networking, on-line relationships and pornography. If an individual gets caught up in this behavior at an early age, there is tremendous potential to struggle with it throughout their lifetime.

Some feel teens are maturing earlier for a variety of reasons. How early should parents and youth leaders begin talking to teens about

sensitive topics, like sexuality?

Sociologists report the stage of adolescence in America is from 11 to 25 years of age. The actual physical maturity process occurs earlier, but the emotional maturity age remains the same, so what we have is emotionally immature adolescents in a more mature body. This can create high levels of adolescent confusion and premature sexual feelings. Adolescents are inundated with sexual content when they enter junior high school; for this reason I recommend parents and youth leaders address the issue of sexuality as early as 11 years old. However, each parent needs to stay actively involved in his or her child's life to make the right decision.

What effects are cell phones and the Internet having on our teens' development and morals?

Cell phones and Internet only have as much influence as parents allow them to have. The more unmonitored access adolescents have to these devices, the more morally

degrading the influence. Filters are a great tool to help keep our kids and teens from viewing inappropriate material. However, a filter is not going to stop everything. One of the best tools for teaching personal responsibility is accountability software like Covenant Eyes. Accountability software does not stop someone from viewing inappropriate web pages on the Internet, but it will send an e-mail report detailing what sites were visited on the Internet to someone like a parent or pastor, who can hold them accountable for their actions.

At what age should parents consider getting a cell phone for their teen? Should the cell phone have Internet access?

Parents should get their child a cell phone when they need it, NOT when they want it! Research clearly shows the cell phone is quickly replacing the computer as the number one method by which adolescents view inappropriate and pornographic material. One goal of parents is to raise children to become spiritually, emotionally and physically healthy adults who make wise decisions. Young teens absolutely should not have Internetcapable phones, but as they mature and prove themselves capable of greater responsibility, I believe it becomes an option. If the only teaching method we use to train our children is the word "no," they never learn to self-regulate their flesh. We have all heard stories of kids who turn 18 and go absolutely wild because they were never allowed freedom or trained to use wisdom in life.

What kind of controls and guidelines do you recommend for computers in the home?

All computer screens should be positioned in such a way they can immediately be seen by anyone who enters the room. This creates accountability for computer use for all members of the home. All computers, tablets and smart phones should have both blocking and accountability software installed on them. Absolutely no cell phones, tablets or video games in the bedroom. This type of behavior allows for secrecy, which is the breeding ground for temptation. The bedroom should be a technology-free zone. Also, I recommend parents place limitations on the amount of time a child spends with technology. Research has shown correlations between the amount of interaction with technology and problems like ADD, ADHD and social skill dysfunctions.

What effect is pornography having on our teen boys? Teen girls?

The effect of pornographic use is huge and could possibly be lifelong. The therapeutic world is being inundated with both young men and women who are incapable of having a normal relationship with another person because they have conditioned their brain to respond sexually and emotionally to pixels of naked people on a 20-inch computer screen. A secular neuroscientist stated, "People who think they can view naked pictures and it not create a problem is neurological ignorance. Research has shown the male brain is unable to differentiate a digital video on a computer screen from a real life sexual encounter."

Sexual perversion is exploding - perverted morals and sexual norms. How blunt do we need to be with teens today?

We need to be very honest and transparent. Apostolic parents have told their kids half-truths regarding sexuality, and the world has stepped up to fill in gaps we felt too uncomfortable to talk about. The problem is more widespread than most believers are willing to accept. The spiritual reality is if we, the church and parents, don't take a proactive stance with this issue, our children will be conformed to present world philosophies and behaviors that are highly morally disturbing and destructive.

Parents and pastors sometimes feel we should not talk about certain topics - especially sexual topics - for fear it introduces these topics to innocent youth. Your thoughts on this?

I think that question is best answered by another question. Who do you want to introduce your child to the topic of sexuality? The Internet, other teens, the entertainment world, or someone with a Biblical perspective of the topic? By not addressing these issues properly, we are setting our children up for disaster and possibly marital failure. We have a tremendous responsibility and a God-given mandate to teach our children about proper sexuality. The integrity, purity and future of our youth is worth far more than the uneasy feeling or embarrassment some may get from discussing the topic with our youth.

Tell us about your DVD and workbook set. Do you teach seminars to youth?

The DVD series is titled "Biblical Straight Talk for Teens and Parent." It is a fourpart DVD series that addresses: Puberty, Technology and Adolescent Sexuality. Each of the four DVDs is approximately 45 minutes in length, and a workbook is available for the teenager. The DVD series is available at Pentecostal Publishing House and at www.turnpointcounseling.com for \$45, the workbooks are \$7. I also teach seminars to youth on a regular basis.

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.

CIPOSTO Calendar 2014

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DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SPEAKERS	CONTACT / INFO
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 call (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 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
JULY 2014	IMPACT Family Conference 2014 Day sessions to meet the needs of your entire family unit (Married, Single, Parents, Teens & Children) and your church leadership.	Woodlawn Church Hwy 98 - Columbia, MS Host Pastor: James Carney	To be announced	For detailed schedule, visit www.woodlawn- church.cc (601) 736-5128
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.arkansascampmeet- ing.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
SEPT. 30- OCT. 3 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	James Townley, Jimmy John- son, Rocky Dunlap, Wesley Jackson, Tommy Jackson, Ron Garrett and Jesse Galindo	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
FEB 2015	WinterFire 2015 WinterFire's focus is ministering to those in ministry. Our objective is that every member of your team will leave renewed and refreshed.	To be announced	To be announced	For more info: visit www.winterfire.org or vis- it Twitter: winterfireconf or Facebook: winterfire

Church Growth: Double Your Church in 3 - 5 Years



Robert L. Rodenbush

■ Church Today rlrodenbush@earthlink.net

The Harvest At Our Doorsteps

The cover story of *Time* magazine from April 2013 nearly reads like a report from our North American Missions Department. In summary, the article documents that a great number of Latino Catholics who are leaving their homelands to come to America are also leaving behind their religion in favor

of evangelicalism – most notably Pentecostalism. Author Elizabeth Dias states that immigrants are "seeking a break with the past, a quicker assimilation into the middle class and a closer relationship with God," and are therefore "pouring into Protestant churches across the U.S."

A chart used to illustrate statistics provided by the Pew Research Center is entitled, "Leaving the Rosary Behind." It shows that the longer Latino families have been in the U.S. the more likely they are to be Protestant, and there is particular movement toward evangelicalism among young adults. These evangelicals are committed to their newfound faith. 70% attend services at least once a week, compared to 47% of Latino Catholics and 36% of the U.S. general population. They are opposed to abortion, and more opposed to same-sex marriage than their Catholic counterparts.

This Pentecostal revival again has gone largely undocumented, having its beginnings in storefronts and basements of other churches. But, we are seeing now the rise in the number of Spanish-speaking megachurches. Dias points out that the members of these churches call one another "brother and sister," and quotes one pastor as saying, "Church is what they have. They don't have many places where they can feel welcome. That's what they are looking for. That's where they have a family, a place to belong." Beyond religion, they are looking for an experience. "Latinos are turning not just to Protestantism but to its evangelical strain for a variety of reasons. Above all, Latinos who convert say they want to know God personally, without a priest as a middleman," says Dias.

I do not believe the immigration "problem" in America is just a political issue that we can ignore. Perhaps this isn't some big accident. Although I believe it is our government's job to protect our borders and our economy, I also believe that God can use this situation to further His kingdom. Immigrants are pouring into this country and their hearts and spirits are hungry – not unlike the conditions at the turn of the last century that led to the first great outpouring of Pentecostalism in the U.S. Only now, we have the infrastructure, the buildings and the resources that can help carry out the quick work God has planned.

Apostolics are strategically positioned to play a significant role in this great revival. For we know that it is not enough for people to reject one false doctrine only to pick up another. They are searching for what we have. Will we be ready, willing to open our doors and our hearts to reach out, and be a part of what God is doing? Or will our affluence keep us locked in a state of indifference toward the great harvest at our doorsteps? No doubt, there will be great Oneness, Apostolic revival among many nationalities in the U.S. in the coming years. I truly believe it is unstoppable. The only question to us remains – will we play a role? Dias, E. (2013, April). Evangélicos. Time, 20-28.



■ Theology

bobby.killmon@sbcglobal.net

Why do some ministers emphasize right doctrine over more practical life application?

While it is true people can be caught up in so much intellectual pursuit their preaching or teaching never touches everyday life, this is not what God intended.

Bobby Killmon Paul deals with this quite pointedly in Col. 1:9-10 which says, "...do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord..." His point is right thinking or right ideas is essential to right living or right walking. Earlier in Col. 1:6 he says, "... bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:" So the grace of God always brings fruit. It empowers, it redeems, it enables. But the point Paul is making is the vehicle of this happening in our life is hearing and understanding truth. You don't get more practical than this.

Paul prayed they would be filled with knowledge so they might "... walk worthy of the Lord." So, thinking matters. Theology is not meant to be an exercise in abstracts for mere intellectual stimulation. God intends for us to become literally the means by which His will is enacted in the world. But it is only as we understand His will and purpose can we then act in concert with His agenda.

So, we must know what God's will is, His goals, His end in view. This touches teleology, which simply means what is the "end" or "goal" God is aiming at through us. Col. 1:13 says, "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness..." The end God has in mind is redemption or freedom from the principalities and powers of the fallen world. That is why 2 Pet. 1:3-4 says, "...his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: ...that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." Romans 1 gives an example of what sin's dominance looks like in everyday life. It is a life marked by corruption. Freedom then in very practical terms is freedom from these concrete expressions of sin unto new life. Rich depth in theology is critical to practical living.

Theology matters. It is entirely practical. I'll concrete this. Someone asked, "Are you a holiness preacher?" The only response is, "Of course. There is no other kind of preacher." To be a true preacher, a declarer of the "good news," one must know God's aim which is to seek and to save the lost. To set people free from the dominance and dominion of principalities and powers. How? John 8:32, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Theology is always practical. But seeing the big picture theologically allows us to understand what and who we are resisting and why.



T. W. Massengale

■ Church Growth

tmassengale@apostolic.edu

Double in 3-5 Years

You cannot grow by your own efforts alone. Growth will come by sowing much seed, harvesting that seed, and retaining your harvest. To do this effectively requires the active involvement of your

church members and leaders. So you need to organize your members and then manage that organization. Leaders need well-written job descriptions. Managing those leaders requires you to meet with them as a team regularly for vision casting (annual planning retreat), goal setting (departmental one-year plans), plan implementation (monthly leadership meeting)

and assignment accountability (regular tag-in's).

If your goal is to double in five years, this goal needs to be broken into annual goals for attendance, membership and conversions. Without clear goals in each area you have no way to evaluate your progress and make needed adjustments. Goals should also be set each year for key evangelism ministries such as first-time visitors, home Bible studies, witnessing contacts, and Sunday school.

Growing churches have a high percentage of active member involvement (usually over 80%). At least annually members should be given the opportunity to commit to involvement in areas of ministry with a strong emphasis upon outreach-oriented ministries.

Growing churches should have several key evangelism ministries that are aggressively promoted. The most important is a good visitor follow-up ministry. Second should be a strong home Bible study ministry. Person witnessing should be promoted and encouraged with several effective programs. Also, your Sunday school should be a primary method of evangelism with special attendance times (Easter, Pentecost Sunday, Fall Friend Day and Christmas) and an active bus or van ministry.

Finally a church needs a comprehensive new convert care ministry to retain your harvest. This requires an emphasis upon instruction, fellowship and involvement. An individual should be appointed over this ministry to ensure no convert is overlooked. Growing churches usually see around 60% convert retention in a calendar year.

For detailed instructions on everything mentioned in this column, order the Total Church Growth package: call 1-800-800-0247.



2NDUPCI MULTICULTURAL SUMMERICA

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(Some resources will be available to purchase in some of the sessions)

WHAT is the MULTICULTURAL? SUMMIT:

It is a gathering of all the cultural groups under the umbrella of Multicultural Ministries and is designed to promote evangelism, present training, offer resources and bring the various leaders and constituents together to celebrate a Multicultural Revival taking place in North America.

We invite you to attend the SECOND Multicultural Summit which will take place in St. Louis on June 19-21, 2014. The theme of the conference is "Global Harvest At Home - Advance The Kingdom". This is a great opportunity for every local church to gain the practical training and inspiration needed to be effective in the multicultural harvest.

David K, Bernard General Superindendant, UPCI



Jewish Ponugue PUR POSE

The FIRST Multicultural Summit convened in 2011 with great attendance both during the day training sessions (400+ registrants), and the evening services (The Sanctuary Church was filled and the overflow area was opened up both nights).

Numerous attendees came to me saying,

"THIS conference has CHANGED MY LIFE!"

Definitely, a lot of people were impacted to be more diligent in reaching our world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

MCM Summit 2014 is an opportunity to equip and empower us to reach our world around us. Plan to attend and learn the opportunities and how easy it can be to reach the diverse world around us. Lots of information and resources will be available for you to take home with you.

Donald D. Hanscom, Sr., Multicultural Ministries Director, UPCI



...to bring UNITY among all the ministries within Multicultural Ministries.

... to create AWARENESS in the fellowship to the vast Multicultural Ministries opportunities.

... to provide TRAINING to the ministry on outreach to Multicultural groups.

... to build relationships through INSPIRATION with all levels of UPCI leaders.



COMING TOGETHER

JUNE19-21,2014



965 Anglum Rd. . Hazelwood, Missouri



Carol Clemans

Spiritual Growth

Ignite the Romance of Marriage

The song says, "Love and marriage go together like a horse and carriage!" As we are in the "carriage ride" of marriage,

the romance must always

be nurtured or it will be left by the wayside amidst the stresses of life.

In my book, God's Design for Marriage, I share the three sides of intimacy. The word intimate in today's world assumes physical involvement in a relationship. Yes, the gift of sex is part of God's gift to marriage, but it is only 1/3 of the intimacy needed for complete fulfillment of marriage that I describe as passion.

Emotional intimacy and spiritual intimacy will produce passion. Every woman I know desires to be connected with her husband emotionally. She wants to share her feelings and thoughts with him. As the husband is to be the pastor/ priest of the home, it thrills the wife's heart when her husband takes leadership in sharing times of prayer and reading the Bible together with the children.

When both husband and wife are willing to invest time to develop emotional and spiritual intimacy, they are erecting healthy boundaries around their marriage that leads to passion and a guarantee against an affair. What better gift can you give to your marriage and children?

Yes, affairs happen – they are usually not planned. It's the lack of planning and working on the marriage that creates an open door for Satan's foothold of dissatisfaction. If God is first in your life, your spouse second and your children third, your life will be blessed. Romance will always be ignited when you follow God's design!

God's Design for Marriage gives you the "tools" you need to have a marriage full of love, joy, peace and passion. Go to www.carolclemans.org to order the book, CD's and teaching DVD's. I provide nationwide counseling by phone/Skype to help hurting marriages and hurting people – (636) 448-0121.

Carol Clemans is an anointed teacher of God's Word for churches/conferences, a Certified Pastoral Counselor and Christian Life Coach. Rev. Harold & Carol Clemans' pastor is Jerry Dillon of Madison, MS. (FB - Life Enrichment Ministries, Inc. & Carol Theobald Clemans).



Revival Concepts

Building Faith

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" - Hebrews 11:1.

Faith plays such a Brian Norman major role in our relationship with God. Our relationship

with Him, in fact, begins with faith. Why? Because relationships are only built with trust. With trust there comes a transparency, an openness that otherwise does not exist, a willingness to believe that someone will do right by us.

When reading the Bible we find that for the most part faith is a New Testament word. It is synonymous with Old Testament words like trust or confidence. As ministers, there is nothing more imperative in what we do than building people's faith. It is only when people have faith in Jesus that they trust Him with the salvation of their soul. And every other component of relationship with God is based on faith on people's part.

God is a constant. His love, His Word, His truth, His will for us to be saved, healed, made whole and in relationship with Him are unchanging. Relationship with God is based on our faith, trust and willingness to allow Him to do what He always, always, is willing to do. This is the importance of building people's faith. As preachers, it is the major thing we do when we preach. Why? Because when people have high faith they have great ability to allow God to infuse them with His love, His Word, His truth, and His will for them to be saved, healed and whole.

Hebrews 11:6 declares that, "without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is." And this truth, this profound but simple truth not only translates to the individuals and their own walk with God but the local body and Church at large. People only go where they trust God to bring them to and take care of them.

Want to see a local church body believe for bigger and better things? Build their faith in God. As preachers there is no greater thing that we do. We build faith in Christ, His Gospel and His promise to each person and each truth-proclaiming Church.

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



At present I have not

Finance

done any planning for retirement or for my senior years. I do not have a will and have not set up a trust, What do I do to resolve this problem?

Aubrey Jayroe You are not alone in this matter. Most people today do not have a will, have not considered a trust, did not properly plan for retirement, and as a result will leave their estate in shambles when they die. The spouse or children may have to pick up the pieces, which can be costly and burdensome.

To set up many documents you may need such as a will or trust, you will need to have this done by your attorney. However, before you go see your attorney, call your accountant or tax preparer. The accountant will give you advice as to what is needed that may save time and money later. Your accountant or tax preparer sees you more often than you usually see your attorney, so he or she will have information to provide you that will be of great help to the attorney when drawing up the necessary documents.

Everyone needs a will and many need a trust to provide adequate protection at death. Regardless of your age (and especially if you have children) you need a will. It is never too late. And it is not too late for a retirement plan. We are all guilty of putting things off that will happen later in life, but as the old adage says, "time flies," and the older you get the quicker it flies. Meet with your accountant or tax preparer to discuss the type retirement you need, then meet with the broker or retirement agent to establish a plan. You may be able to only put aside a few dollars at first, but it will amaze you how fast it will grow.

There are many types of plans available; however, to the minister the best available today is the 403(b) retirement plan such as is available with the Minister's Retirement Plan of the UPCI. These plans are awesome with the various benefits they provide.

It is difficult to discuss something that will happen many years in the future. However, we must do the proper financial planning to provide the financial security needed in the future. Don't put it off ... meet with a professional to assist you in designing your financial and retirement plan.

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

Retirement Planning Tips for Fifty-Somethings

Entering your 50s and behind in your retirement planning goals? Don't fret. You still have time to get back on financial track.

There are many steps older investors can take to better prepare themselves for retirement. Here are six tips to help you make the most of your final working years:

1. Catch up. If you have access to a 401(k) or other workplace plan, make the \$5,500 catch-up contribution available to participants 50 and older. Note that you are first required to contribute the annual employee maximum, \$17,500 for 2013, before making the catch-up contribution.

2. Fund an IRA. Investors 50 and older

can contribute \$6,500 annually (the \$5,500 annual contribution plus an additional catchup contribution of \$1,000). An investor in his or her 50s who contributes the maximum amounts to both a 401(k) and an IRA could accelerate retirement savings by more than \$25,000 a year.

3. Consider dividends. If you do not have access to a workplace-sponsored retirement plan, or you already contribute the maximum to your qualified retirement accounts, consider stocks that offer dividend reinvestment. Reinvesting your dividends may help to grow your account balance over time.

4. Make little cuts. Consider how you can trim expenses while continuing to enjoy life. Some suggestions for quick savings: Eliminate or reduce premium cable channels that you do not watch, memberships that you do not use regularly, and frequent splurges on dining out or coffee runs. An extra \$100 a month saved today could make a big difference down the road.

Review strategies for postponing retirement. You may be able to learn new skills to increase marketability to potential employers. Even a part-time job could reduce the need to deplete retirement assets.

Don't give up. Many pre-retirees falsely believe that there is nothing they can do to build retirement assets, and as a result, they do nothing. Remember that you control how much you invest, and in many areas, how much you spend. Make a plan - and stick with it.

7. Work with a Financial Advisor. You work with a physician to maintain your health. You work with an accountant to stay compliant with the IRS. Working with a financial advisor will help you make good choices when it comes to retirement needs.

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

Obama's Request to Close Vatican Embassy Offends Many Believers

The Obama administration, in what's been called an egregious slap in the face to the Vatican, has moved to shut down the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See — a free-



standing facility and relocate offices onto the grounds of the larger American

Embassy in Italy.

And while U.S. officials are touting the relocation as a security measure, a cautionary reaction to last year's attacks on America's facility in Benghazi, several former American envoys are suspicious.

It's a "massive downgrade of U.S.-Vatican ties," said former U.S. Ambassador James Nicholson in the National Catholic Reporter. "It's turning this embassy into a stepchild of the embassy to Italy. The Holy See is a pivot point for international affairs and a major listening post for the United States, and ... [it's] an insult to American Catholics and to the Vatican."

Nicholson also called the justification for closing the existing facility a "smokescreen." He described the existing facility as having "state of the art" security.

Raymond Flynn, former envoy, said the administration's announcement reflects a hostility toward the Catholic Church. "It's not just those who bomb churches and kill Catholics in the Middle East who are antagonists, but it's also those who restrict our religious freedoms."

EDUCATION TRENDS

8-Year-Old Suspended For Shooting Invisible Gun

Bonnie Bennett is lashing out at the Osceola County School District in Florida after her 8-year-old son, Jordan, was suspended from school for using his fingers to shoot invisible guns in a game of cops with his friends at Harmony Community School. In an interview, Bennett said she thought the school's response to the actions of her son went overboard. "It was a finger gun, a pretend gun. He didn't threaten violence. He didn't utter words that were inappropriate." She is worried he will be labeled as violent with a suspension on his school record.



Federal Judge Orders Veterans Memorial Cross to be Torn Down

A federal judge recently said the Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial Cross must be removed from the San Diego, California site. Liberty Institute vows to appeal the decision all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court — if necessary.

The tug-of-war started in 1989 when the ACLU and other groups filed suit saying the cross violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. Since then many attempts have been made to save the cross. Congress passed a law in 2004 making the city-owned display a national memorial.

"The judge reluctantly agreed with a previous ruling by 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that this hallowed veterans memorial must be removed," said Hiram Sasser, director of litigation for Liberty Institute. Sasser said he's confident that the memorial will win on appeal.

The cross, which was erected in 1954, is surrounded by 3,000 plaques to memorialize America's war heroes from the Revolutionary War forward.

"It is unfortunate that the 9th Circuit left the judge no choice but to order the tearing down of the Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial Cross," Bruce Bailey, president of the Mt. Soledad Memorial Association, told Fox News. He added that he's grateful the judge chose to allow the memorial to remain in place while the court challenge continues. Sasser wants the memorial to be protected for future generations.

"The most important thing is that over two million veterans have had their voices heard in this case," he said. "The American Legion and the VFW filed friend-of-the-court briefs. There are a lot of veterans watching this case with all kinds of faiths, and some with no faith at all, who want to preserve this veterans memorial."

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ Not only did President the 150th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address recently, he ignored and omitted the words under God in his rendition of President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, filmed by documentary filmmaker Ken Burns. White House spokesman Jay Carney gave an explanation: "He read the version of the address that Ken Burns provided," adding that Burns is a "noted Civil War scholar." According to Burns' website, learntheaddress.org, there are

Not only did President obama snub the ceremony for the 150th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address, and Obama was asked to read the "Nicolay Version."

■ Research strongly suggests that individuals with religious and spiritual beliefs cope better during their battle with cancer. Prayer also leads to optimism, reduces stress and bolsters the immune system, studies say. According to a Women's Heath Initiative study by the U.S. National Institute of Health, those who regularly attend religious services reduce their risk of death by 20 percent.

GOVERNMENT TRENDS

Israel Ready to Strike Iran Alone, According to Former Security Advisor

The plan is set. The air force has trained. Everything is in place. Should Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

order a full scale attack on Iran's nuclear facilities, the Israeli



Defense Forces are ready to go into battle. They are ready to do so alone, without American or other allied support. And Israel will succeed.

This was the message of Netanyahu's outgoing national security advisor Yaakov Amidror in recent days, and it has Mideast analysts buzzing.

Amidror, a devout Orthodox Jew and long-experienced intelligence analyst, rarely gives interviews and doesn't do spin. When he starts speaking publicly about a possible Israeli preemptive strike and says, "We are not bluffing," heads start turning and ears prick up.

Three years ago, before Amidror was named national security advisor, he spoke at a conference in Washington, D.C. and said he fully expected a war with Iran. "Technically, Israel will be ready [to strike Iran] if and when the decision will be taken.... [but] no one is eager for war with Iran," Amidror said at the time. "If war with Iran comes, American planes will be used — the question is will it be American pilots or Israeli pilots flying those planes? It would be a dirty one, a long one, one no one wants to be in. We want to postpone as long as possible. If you ask me for my assessment - and that's what I have done for 25 years, doing assessments I believe it is almost impossible to stop Iran without military force."

Now consider Amidror's latest statements, given just as he is stepping down from government service after several intense and grueling years in the inner circle. "An Israeli strike on Iranian nuclear installations would halt Iran's ability to produce nuclear weapons 'for a very long time,'" said Amidror, giving a rare interview to British newspaper Financial Times. He reportedly also said the Israeli air force has conducted in recent years "very long-range flights...all around the world" as part of preparations for a possible military confrontation with Iran. "We are not the United States of America, of course, and believe it or not they have more capabilities than us. But we have enough to stop the Iranians for a very long time."

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HEWIN OF THE

Transcribed by Charlotte L. Pound

but now it is time to take it to the streets. Just the other night, Bro. Suber prayed for someone in a restaurant, and they were healed. The waitress was an eyewitness to it and broke down weeping and crying and received the baptism of the Holy Ghost in the restaurant. That did not happen 2,000 years ago but that happened this week! That means Jesus is the same. That means if they could do it, we can do it. We can do it!

Fastest Growing Religion

We have heard that Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world. Nonsense! In the New York Times newspaper the week after New Year's, they did a whole page article that said that the Pentecostal religion is the fastest growing religion in the world. It had pictures of people with their hands raised, weeping and crying, speaking in other tongues. Every country in the world gets that. It does not say that in the last days Islam will cover the earth. It is written that, "in the last days, sayeth God, I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh." That's what the Bible says!

I am talking about POWER! If you think Jesus is coming back for a watered down version of the church from the book of Acts, you are totally void of understanding. You don't have a clue, friend. He is not coming back for a weak and watered down version of His church. He is coming back for a church without spot or without wrinkle, full of power and demonstration of the Holy Ghost. I can hear the sound of the abundance of rain. I can hear the rushing mighty wind. It is the power of God.

God is networking people of like precious faith and bringing them together for such a time as this. The reason He is doing it is because God is getting ready to do something mighty in the earth, and He needs a network of believers to carry out His plan. God is bringing a unity to this conference like never before. What's being born here is never going to die. God is preparing you to do a mighty work in the earth.

Jesus Can

I was in Singapore in July for an "Encounter Jesus" crusade. I was told on Friday night that the next night they were bringing two Muslim men crippled and in wheelchairs.



Bro. Lee Stoneking Malta, NY

Signs of the Believers

Mark 16:17-18, "And these signs shall follow them that believe. In my name shall they cast out devils, they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them. They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover."

Because of the times we are living in, there is one last wave of revival coming. If we miss this last wave of revival, then we have missed it! We cannot lose this last wave of revival. Whatever it takes, we

are going to have to do it. We are going to have to do it like we have never done it before.

The Bible says in the beginning of the church, every believer was a preacher. Every believer was a soul winner. They shook their world. They did it outside; the miracles were performed in the open. They shook the Roman empire from center to circumference. There was nothing that could stop it. It wasn't like anything that Judaism or religiosity had ever seen in the history of their existence. It was because every man was a preacher. Every woman was a preacher, and signs followed them. The miracles happened in the streets.

Our problem is that we have kept this inside four walls,

On Saturday night, I saw two men sitting over to the left in wheelchairs. They appeared to be of Middle Eastern descent so I assumed that these were the two Muslims they had told me about. God spoke to me and said, "I will heal them but don't go to them until I

tell you."

One of the men was younger than the other. The younger man had suffered a stroke. His arm was in a white sling, and he was just sort of stooped over. But the other man was much older. His hands and arms were paralyzed. His legs and feet were paralyzed. And he could not move. He was kept in a nursing home. You know what this aged Muslim man told the Apostolic Christians who witnessed to him? He said, "The god that I have prayed to all of my life doesn't love me, and he can't help me." And they said, "But Jesus can."

I began to preach about Jesus and as the Holy Ghost began to move in that place, God said, "Go." I walked down off the platform and went to the younger man in the wheelchair. I took his arm in my arm, and I carefully pulled him up and began to walk with him. And as we began to walk, I kept saying, "In Jesus name, in Jesus name." Suddenly, he caught his weight and started walking on his own. When this Muslim man realized that the Jesus whom I had preached about was healing him, he pulled the sling off his arm and raised it up over his head. When he did, the audience came running and surrounded him. He raised both his hands and started sobbing, and God filled him with the baptism of the Holy Ghost. He began to speak in other tongues.

Then I went to the older man and did the same thing. He had just seen what had happened to a fellow Muslim. So we put his arm through mine, and I pulled him up. It was difficult because the leg muscles had become atrophied as they had not been used for so long. But he was giving it all he had, and we only took about 15 steps when he caught his weight and began standing under his own power. The place exploded in praise and worship. God also gave that older Muslim the Holy Ghost, and he began to speak with other tongues.

Signs Shall Follow

Seated behind them was an elderly Chinese man who was dying of liver cancer. He was just skin and bones, but his stomach was swollen the size of a basketball with the cancerous tumor and hideous infection. So the people gathered around him and began to pray for him. This aged Chinese man who could not speak a word of English began to weep and raise his hands and speak in other tongues. God filled him with the Holy Ghost as his Buddhist relatives watched. They had no idea what was happening to him.

The saints had taught the man in Chinese about baptism in Jesus name, and he wanted to be baptized. So they took him to the baptistery and when he began to climb into the baptistery, his stomach went flat right in front of their eyes. This is the only kind of Jesus I preach. And this is the only kind of Jesus I'm going to preach. These signs shall follow them that believe. It is

written!

Five Fold Kingdom

Ephesians 4:11 says; "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work

of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." God wants to create a kingdom unto Himself. But in order to have a kingdom, He has to have a government, and so He called apostles to govern this kingdom. What good is a kingdom without guidance? So He called prophets to guide this kingdom. But a kingdom has to have subjects, so He opened the office of evangelists with powerful anointing to gather the subjects for the kingdom. But you can't leave the sheep with no shepherd, so He called pastors to guard the ingathering. Pastor and shepherd are synonymous within the context of the Holy Scriptures. But then He called teachers to ground them.

So, in the beginning, the apostles governed the church, the prophets guided the church, the evangelists gathered for the church, the pastors guarded the church and the teachers grounded the church. It is a master plan. It was flawless. The simplicity of its context and purpose and its magnificent effect staggers even the most intellectual mind. A master plan!

Influence is Power

"There is no higher

calling. I tell young

people, why stoop to be

a king when you can be a

preacher? There is no one

more powerful than a true

believer. The mantle of

anointing is falling.

In the Old Testament, prophets were more powerful than the kings. We've always thought the position was power. The position is not power. Influence and anointing is power. But influence is like respect; you don't demand respect, you earn it. You can't manipulate or manufacture influence. It comes by years of service, faithfulness and living and preaching the truth

I prophesy here to you tonight that before Jesus comes in be kings or queens, dictators or politicians. It will be a man of God, a woman of God who has the power and anointing of

> the Holy Ghost in their lives. And can you believe that God has called everyone here tonight; no matter who you are -- man, woman, young person — if you are preaching the gospel, God has entrusted you with the greatest call that the human heart or life can ever receive. He has called you to be an ambassador, a spokesman on His behalf.

There is no higher calling. I tell young people, why stoop to be a king when you can be a preacher? There is no one more powerful than a true believer. The mantle of anointing is falling. I command in the name of Jesus that the anointing that has slipped away be restored in

Jesus name. Something very prophetic and very Apostolic is about to happen. There is something hanging in the air above

God spoke to me this afternoon and said that He was going to pour out the five-fold ministry upon the believers. If you have a desire to be used of God in any of these offices of the ministry, lift your hands and it will fall on you. It is falling all over this place. I feel it! It is falling on the missionaries, it is falling here tonight. That office is upon you, you will never be the same after tonight. Receive it in Jesus name!

and adhering to it. the clouds of glory, the most powerful people on earth will not

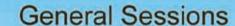
Bro. Lee Stoneking, 73, is a minister, teacher, lecturer, author and foreign tour guide. He graduated from Apostolic Bible Institute in St. Paul, MN in 1967 with a Bachelor of Theology in Apostolic Studies. He also earned a Doctorate of Christian Philosophy in Christian Education from Institute for Christian Works Bible College and Seminary in South Carolina, as well as a PhD in Divinity from Southern Eastern University.

Bro. Stoneking has pastored three different churches since 1967, pioneering one new work from the ground up through "Christmas for Christ" support. He has done evangelistic preaching and ministering between pastorates and now extensively for the last 20 years.

August 21-22, 2014

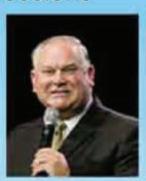
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The Glory Story Quilt

A Unique Way to Teach Bible Studies to Women in the Community

By Linda Schneckenberg



Sis. Cheryl Koren with the Glory Story quilt

Jesus may not be the talk of the town in Neosho, Missouri, but He is definitely the center of attention at Sis. Cheryl Koren's alteration shop. When she started the Block of the Month Club for quilters, the Lord gave her a unique idea for Bible studies. Although quilt blocks have been used to convey memories or beautifully stitched pictures, the Glory Story quilt conveys so much more. The Glory Story quilt is an inroad for Sis. Koren to share

the glorious gospel of the Lord. It has given her a strong platform for teaching the women about God, and that teaching has proved to be quite effective.

Most Block of the Month clubs mail packets to quilters, but there are no personal connections in that process. Sis. Koren has found that quilting is an excellent time to connect with those who love to quilt, and amazing friendships are formed from the closeness of those quilting. The Lord inspired her to use the Glory Story quilt for such an opportune time. Once a month, quilters are invited to her shop to make a special quilt block on the Glory Story quilt. Each block's design is the foundation for a short but very powerful Bible study. The 12 quilt blocks are actually given names of each individual study of the Word. The first block, known as Down from His Glory, proclaims the prophecies of Jesus Christ. The second quilt block, The Announcement, describes His birth, and God With Us explains His oneness. The blocks continue with No Sweeter Rose revealing Him as the Rose of Sharon, and Sweet Harmony details the message He taught. The Crown of Thorns

is about His crucifixion, while About Face is about the turning of one's direction at the cross. The quilt block, Cleansing Waters, explains baptism, and the one called Go Fish explains the resurrection. Blocks 11 and 12 are called Cross & Crown and Ultimate Glory.

Sis. Koren noted that quilting opens up common ground for friendships, enabling her to have the opportunity to invite the quilters to church. One quilter has already been baptized, signifying the success of this unique approach to Bible studies. Those who purchased her packets at General Conference have already begun to use this idea in various states. Since statistics show there is one quilter in every 13 households in America, this idea is really gaining popularity. The packets include templates for 12 blocks, a picture of the Glory Quilt, and Bible lessons and tips.

For more information on teaching the Word of God to quilting groups, email Sis. Koren at sewsewsweet@hotmail.com. The cost of the leader's packet is \$19.95 plus shipping, and a discount is given when the leader orders for her students. Contact Sis. Koren by phone at 417-592-3709.

"The Value of One Lamb" -- Hope For the Prodigal

By Gregg Stone



Sis. Pam Vaughn, author Pensacola, FL

What's it worth?
The age-old question. We all have a perceived value of something, but what we think it should be worth is not always what somebody is willing to pay for it. A growing number of lambs are missing from our folds. Many of these lost lambs feel helpless and alone. Some feel

that God doesn't love them anymore. This attitude has driven them into a deeper state of hopelessness. They do not feel there is anyone they can confide in, nor anyone that truly cares. Therefore, their lives are ridden with guilt and shame. The Value of One Lamb, written by Sis. Pam Vaughn, gives us a look into the lives of people who have left the fold, and have become trapped in darkness.

Regardless of the type of sin involved (homosexuality, substance abuse, or any other), Jesus and His mercy remain the same toward the sinner. "I want people to be aware that hope and mercy are available to lift a person out of any sinful situation," said Sis. Vaughn, who attends First

Pentecostal Church in Pensacola, Florida under the direction of Pastor Brian Kinsey. "The Bible shares with us a beautiful parable of a shepherd that had a hundred sheep, yet when one went astray, he left the ninety and nine to go search for the one that was lost. We, as Christians, have a responsibility to the Father concerning

His flock. If one sheep is taken by the enemy, we, as anointed children of God, are to seek out the 'lost lamb' and recover it out of the mouth of the lion." As you read the words

penned in the pages of *The Value of One Lamb*, you will see how much value Jesus places on the one lamb. "Some have left and become trapped in darkness, because they felt hopelessness due to unresolved inner struggles," said Sis. Vaughn. "Some of those struggles are the result of past situations they

encountered as children. Often, these wounds occurred before they had a chance to hear about Jesus and His love for them. He waited at a well for one 'lost cause' from Samaria. He also trumped the crowd who wanted a sinner stoned for breaking a commandment, by simply stating, 'He who

is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.' Jesus then gave the woman a new direction for her life by saying, 'go and sin no more.'

"I am sure that the prodigal son was not looking his best when he showed up at his father's house that day, but the father didn't care what the son looked like;

all he cared about was that his child was back home safe. If our prodigals can get back to Jesus, He will clean them up."

Have you wandered away from the fold? Do you have a loved one who has gone astray? If so, this book is for you. Regardless of the sin, Jesus is the answer. Calvary and the Lamb of God offers hope to the hopeless, strength to the weak, and restoration to the lost. One lamb is worth it all.

A portion of Sis. Vaughn's testimony can be found in *The Value of One Lamb*. Also, her

complete story and restoration process can be found in her book, *Through The Eyes of Mercy*, which is also available in Spanish.

To contact Sis. Vaughn or to order her book please visit pamvaughn.com.



Reaching for lost lambs

Pam Vaughn



For further Information, please contact:

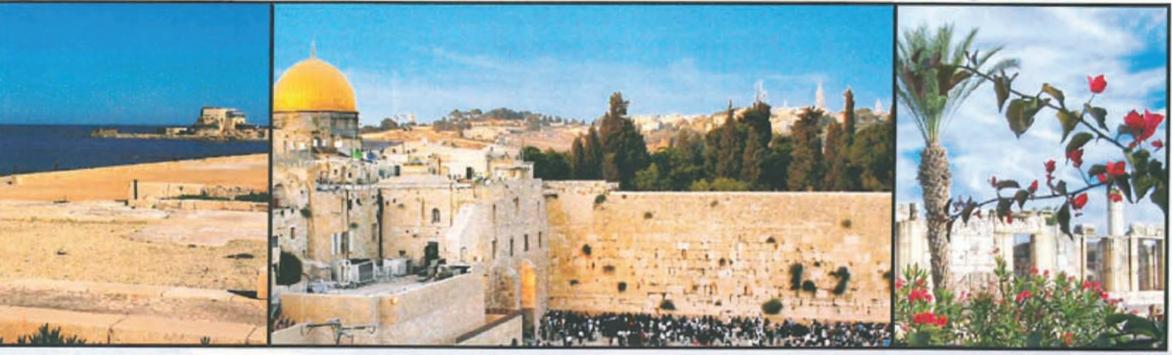
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Word To The Wise:

A bill collector came to my house the other day, so I gave him a nice big stack of old bills.

* * * * * * *

Lee, a seven-year-old boy, was asked to say thanks for the Christmas dinner. The family members bowed their heads in expectation. Lee began his prayer, thanking God for his mommy, daddy, brothers, sister, grandma and all his aunts and uncles. Then he began to thank God for the food.

He gave thanks for the turkey, the stuffing, the Christmas pudding, even the cranberry sauce. Then Lee paused, and everyone waited . . . and waited.

After a long silence, the young fellow looked up at his mother and asked, "If I thank God for the Brussels sprouts, won't he know that I'm lying?"

Questions I Am Glad I Didn't Ask

- 1. What do you call a boomerang that doesn't work? A stick.
- 2. What do you call cheese that isn't yours? Nacho cheese.
- What do you call four bullfighters in quicksand? Quattro sinko.
- What lies at the bottom of the ocean and twitches? A nervous wreck.
- What is the difference between a Harley and a Hoover? The location of the dirt bag.
- 6. How are a Texas tornado and a Tennessee divorce the same? Somebody's gonna lose a trailer.



Unable to raise enough money for a 10-day trip to the Holy Land, the Mudville Missions Club had to settle for three days in Cleveland.

Sunday school children were asked to draw their rendition of the Christmas story. Most of the kids drew manger scenes to include the shepherds, angels, the star, and the baby Jesus in the manger.

Little Jimmy proudly showed his picture of a jetliner. There were four distinct faces looking out the windows.

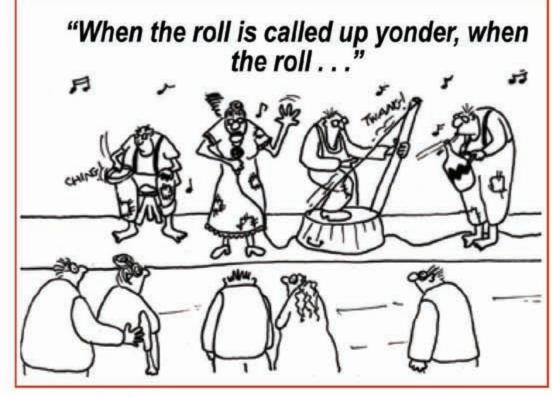
When the Sunday school teacher asked Jimmy to explain the drawing, he said it was the "flight out of Egypt." He pointed to one face and said, "That is Joseph," another face was Mary, the little face of course was Jesus.

The teacher asked him to identify the face in the front of the plane. Jimmy replied, "It's Pontius the pilot, of course."

For Those Special Circumstances

You, [recipient name], are hereby notified that under the forgiveness recommendations set forth in the Holy Scriptures – namely that we are to forgive one another 7x70 (equivalent to 490 times) – you are now at 478 and have only 12 free passes remaining.

Signed, Your name



Tired of infighting among the musicians, Pastor Rupport selected his own praise singers (and God was well pleased . . .)

(Actual) Church Bulletin Bloopers

- Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.
- A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
- Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
- The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.
- The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
- Miss Charlene Mason sang, "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. at the First
 Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
- Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. Please use the back door.



The bullies knew they didn't stand a chance against a fully-loaded KJV.

April 2.3.4

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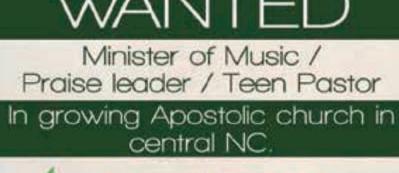
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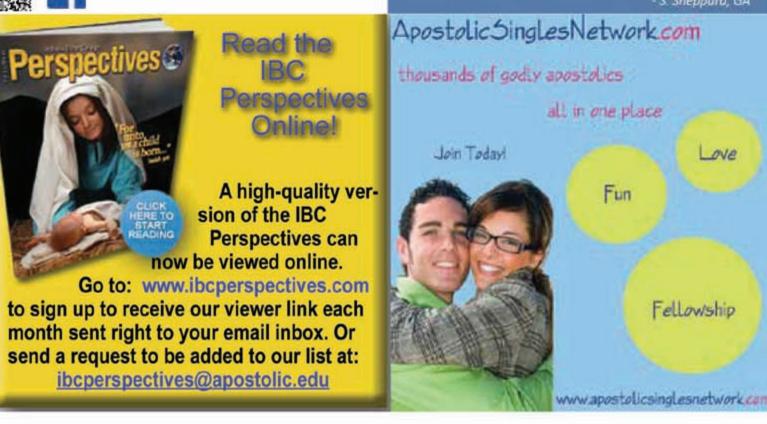
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For more information contact Pastor Lawson Whitson at 704-361-3319 or email resume to pastornljc@yahoo.com







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