



Perspectives

The Intent of the Heart





From The Publisher

Clear and Present Danger

Paul D. Mooney

“Who can ignore the cultural shift toward wickedness, vulgarity, fornication, selfishness and crassness? These moral depravities are blatantly exposed and celebrated through pop culture, music, media and social networking.”

Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes coined the phrase “a clear and present danger.” The words became well known much later, when a best-selling author used them as a title for a book that later became a Hollywood film.

Perhaps we should adopt Holmes’ phrase to identify the challenge facing every church, every ministry, every sermon, every conference, every family, and every prayer meeting. Good men are likely to agree that we are, in fact, living in a time of “clear and present danger.” One could list a variety of events and failures that have brought us to this crucial moment in history. It is a dangerous moment, I believe, for both our church and our nation.

We are in perilous times. We indeed face “clear and present dangers.” How we will prevail is a pressing issue.

The spiritual battles of our times are not superficial. The challenges against the Bible are real. The direct attack against religion by the scientific community and academia is a full-blown, in-your-face confrontation. The popular atheists Richard Dawkins and Richard Krauss draw massive crowds worldwide in their presentations of science that take a direct approach against the idea of religion of any sort, belittling and marginalizing those who believe in God.

Most major universities posit that religion is the source of most human stress, wars and conflicts. They ignore the idea that money, power, human ambition, and evil are the real causes. Most of our youth attend schools and universities that make a case against religion, especially conservative religion, labeling it the enemy of America’s progressive future.

And speaking of clear and present dangers, who can ignore the cultural shift toward wickedness, vulgarity, fornication, selfishness and crassness? These moral depravities are blatantly exposed and celebrated through pop culture, music, media and social networking.

Recently in deep prayer and travail, I was searching for solutions to the spiritual crisis of our day. I’m uncomfortable speaking about this, but I press on. I felt a call to explore my own heart, to ponder the probing questions that were being hurled at me in the spirit. I felt a bit like Job. I felt weak, disoriented, confused, unsure and in great fear.

Suddenly, I was consumed with a great hunger for God. A need for His presence, a hunger of the heart. A longing for God’s assurance. You have all been there. And for me, at that moment, I felt that the answer to our crisis and the way to meet the “clear and present danger” is simply the drawing nigh to God. James 4:8 came alive in me: “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.”

Sorting out and identifying the true matters, passions, desires and beliefs of our own hearts, and the heart of our nation, is an

important and deep ponderance, but an absolutely necessary one.

Our mouths ultimately speak of our hearts. Unfortunately, today much talk in the church is about the world: entertainment, success, things, places, power, positions and personal preeminence. Do the worldly entertainers, rockers, rappers and actors speak our hearts? Do they set our direction? Do we envy the popularity and the financial success of the false preacher and the dishonest prophet? Are we prepared to endorse the artificial, fabricated faux anointing that is produced by the imitators of this world, their entertainment, their manipulation and their usury as if it were real?

Vine’s Expository Dictionary says: “The Bible describes human depravity as in the ‘heart,’ because sin is a principle which has its seat in the center of man’s inward life, and then ‘defiles’ the whole circuit of his action, (Matthew 15:19, 20). On the other hand, Scripture regards the heart as the sphere of Divine influence, (Romans 2:15; Acts 15:9)... The heart, as lying deep within, contains ‘the hidden man,’ (1 Peter 3:4), the real man. It represents the true character but conceals it.”

We should never be afraid to open our hearts to God. Through Christ we have all the help we need. We rush to Him with our problems, and that’s a good thing. Never forget Hebrews 7:25: “Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”

But there is another point I’m trying to make. Is there hunger in our hearts for God’s presence? Or a love for the Word and a desire for the closeness of the Spirit? Historical accounts of the early Pentecostals emphasize their hunger for God’s presence. That hunger was the driving force of why they went to church. “Waiting on God” was a common expression. That’s what I’m trying to express. It’s a question of the heart. Do we hunger for God? Of course we want miracles, a word from the Lord, as we say. But that desire can often be a self-centered pursuit, without having a real hunger to walk with God, but instead following Him for the loaves and the fish.

We do not have to look far to find the source of our conflicts as a nation and as a holiness people. It is in our hearts.

Ephesians 4:18 says “Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:”

Consider the spiritual condition of our nation and some of our churches. Is there not a “clear and present danger?”

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♦To promote revival and growth among Apostolic churches and pastors by encouraging unity and cooperation among those of like faith and by providing a forum for the sharing of new ideas, ministries and programs.

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

♦To promote and enhance the ongoing ministry of Indiana Bible College.

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PROPHETICAL TIME CLOCK

Compiled by Linda Schreckenberg

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



Andrew T. Urshan, St. Peters, MO - I believe the New Testament church was ministering in the period known as the "last days." My opinion is that we are now living in the last of the last days. I believe we are currently seeing a last day revival. We must see what God is doing on a global basis and not just in our own backyard. In the UPCI alone, the statistics of miracles, conversions and church

plants are remarkable. Revival is here, and I am awaiting the onslaught of revival, miracles, signs and wonders my father and other elders longed to see. Many in the church are not living as though the rapture is imminent. Prosperity, recreational pursuits and entertainment have made them comfortable. Gone is the pilgrim mindset of our forefathers, but the rapture could take place at any moment. There used to be more preaching and singing concerning the rapture and heaven.

I do believe the Antichrist will be revealed after the rapture. We have already seen economic collapses to some extent in many nations, even in the U.S., but more widespread, crippling collapses are possible. I do try to preach on the soon return of the Lord but not enough. In an effort to be progressive in our titles and sermons, we often neglect the clear, powerful major doctrines of the New Testament. As far back as I can remember, end time prophecy has been a great outreach. Sinners want to know what's happening in our crazy world. People are afraid of the future and are first drawn to the altar by fear. That initial response is good as long as it leads to a long-term devotion to Jesus and His Word. However, we must avoid proclaiming concepts that could be a stretch or highly personal opinion regarding end time events. Without sensationalizing, the sound prophetic teachings of God's Word are enough.



DeMarlon Nixon, Austin, TX - As we pay attention to the signs of the times the Bible speaks of in Matthew 24, we see that much of what that chapter discusses is currently taking place. We are in the last days. And, as so much is changing within this world, we can see that the Antichrist is already at work in our midst (1 John 2:18). The church is dealing with great apostasy, and man is abandoning the fact that God is real for ideals of being their own God or the ideal there is no God. I do believe, however, that we are on the heels of a great end time revival, and we will soon experience

the rapture of the church. One can tell the Lord is conditioning us to have a better understanding of the true love of God. Man is seeking the truth we have, but the Lord is teaching us how to deliver that truth to them without offending them.

It is very possible our economy will get even worse. II Timothy 3:1 tells us that perilous times shall come. I believe these perilous times, because of the hearts and actions of man, will affect every aspect of our economy in a negative way.

I believe those who are truly saved and have surrendered their lives to Jesus are living as if he is coming soon. We as Apostolics must maintain our identity and remain keepers of the name of Jesus.

Not a month goes by that I do not take the opportunity to preach and teach on the coming of Christ and the end time. I believe that is a very effective outreach, but preaching on the love of God is even more effective. Jeremiah 31:3 says, "Therefore, with loving kindness have I drawn thee."



Jerry L. Burns, Rio Rancho, NM -- I absolutely believe we are living in the last days. I feel the rapture will be the next event we see. Personally, I feel it is dangerous and irresponsible to preach anything else. I believe the coming of the Lord is imminent! The Lord is coming for a bride who is watching and waiting for Him, not the Antichrist. I believe we are already in the midst of a great end time revival. Entire church organizations are receiving the revelation of the name! The UPCI

alone has churches and contacts in over 200 nations.

A major economic collapse is imminent even though it doesn't have to happen before the rapture. Governments are simply putting a band-aid on the problem. The world's economic system will soon implode. The U.S. is already borrowing 40 cents of every dollar we spend. That is absolutely unsustainable. Unfortunately, most Apostolic Christians are not living as if Jesus is coming soon.

I mention the coming of Christ and end time prophecy frequently in my preaching, only in the positive sense. I never use it as a scare tactic. I don't believe you will go to heaven simply because you don't want to go to hell. Everyone in heaven will be there because they love and have a relationship with Jesus Christ. Relationships can last for eternity. I preach relationship!



Dennis Krog, Marion, IA - I believe we are living in the last days beyond a shadow of a doubt. As for the next event, I believe there will be a shaking, persecution, then harvest and rapture rapidly following. I believe God is opening doors to great revival now.

I do believe we will see a major economic collapse before the Lord returns, because in Revelation 6 the world happily receives the Antichrist's plan. I do not think we, as Apostolic Christians, are living as if Jesus is soon coming. I see many backsliding and few operating in the gifts or winning souls.

I frequently preach on the coming of Christ and end time prophecy in my own congregation and recently in other denominational churches. I do believe preaching and teaching prophecy can be an effective form of outreach, but we must be careful to follow Biblical scripture on teaching prophecy. My wife and I were so blessed to be pastored by the late Bishop Jonathan Urshan and to be recipients of his excellent teaching on Bible prophecy.



Larry Gammons, Lilbourn, MO - I definitely believe we are living in the last days. I believe we will see great tribulation before the rapture takes place, considering the earthquakes, tsunamis, and violent tornadoes we are seeing. I believe we will see a great end time Apostolic revival before the rapture, but I don't think we are really seeing that yet.

I definitely believe we will see a major economic collapse before the Lord returns. We have already seen some economic collapses.

And I don't think we, as Apostolic Christians, are living as if Jesus is coming soon. In fact, we have gone backward in some ways.

I preach the coming of Christ almost every time I get behind the pulpit. I do believe preaching or teaching prophecy is an effective form of outreach. Sinners are saying the end is near, and sinners are sometimes more aware than some Apostolic Christians are.

A CHURCH STARTED WITH CHUMP CHANGE

By Susan Thomas



"Originally, this church started with 30 people and only \$2.38 in the treasury," said Pastor Kenneth Mendenhall of South Bend, Indiana. "We were located in the area of a city known as 'dog patch.' In two years, we averaged about 129 people. The church then moved to

East Indiana Avenue. After about 275, once again the church location."

137 averaging had outgrown its

Church History

Bro. Mendenhall became the pastor of United Pentecostal Church of South Bend about 54 years ago. He previously was the associate pastor of the Morningside Gospel Church in South Bend where his father-in-law N.L. Holland was the pastor. "Brother Holland left to take a larger church in Crawfordsville, Indiana," he explained. "The church tried out several ministers. No one seemed to want the church. Out of the necessity of needing a pastor, I became the pastor.

"A local funeral director told us of an ideal location for sale on the south side of town. The current property was originally bought for \$10,000. The value of the property now exceeds its original

price tag and then some. We are currently located right off the Route 20 South Bend Bypass 4609 South Ironwood. The property was purchased and the church built with growth in mind!"

The current church was constructed with colonial brick and has the seating capacity of one thousand when the balcony is in use. There is a full-size gymnasium, softball field, and a five-stall garage on the property as well. Future building plans include a 20-foot bell tower and a second parking lot. The current property value is over \$5.5 million.

Principles of Growth

"The most important key to having a growing church is for the pastor to have a great burden for his principality," said Pastor Mendenhall. "This burden then needs to be implanted into each member of the church. Our responsibility is the Michiana area. This is our assignment from the Lord.

"The priority of a 'revival pastor' is to evangelize and to lead the church in praying for revival. The church needs to be directed toward prayer, reading the Word and training the church to reach the lost. Oikos ministry is one man telling another about the Gospel. This has always been the best method for increasing church attendance. It is good for the pastor to associate with positive people, and also to sit and talk with the reapers ... as in the book of Ruth, she sat with the reapers. Always ask the successful pastors about the secret to their growth. Brother V.A. Guidroz once told me, 'All successful pastors attend conferences.'"

Outreach

"Some of our outreach and evangelism methods involve many classes such as Search for Truth Home Bible Studies, Endtime Prophecy and Bible University," said Bro. Mendenhall. "We are baptizing many through these classes. Our church has a wonderful Spanish Ministry that meets at 9 a.m. every Sunday and 6 p.m. every Thursday at our church. They regularly host dinners for the Latino community. They also organize a clothing donation program, so new converts can obtain clothes if needed. We host a multicultural English class weekly. This class teaches English as a second language. Students from China, Taiwan, South Korea and several Spanish-speaking countries have and are being taught weekly at our church.

"Several times a year we have a Soup & Salad night at the church. We encourage our members to bring neighbors, friends and family to these events to get them acquainted. One of our biggest events at the church is the outdoor service and hog roast each Memorial Day weekend. Outreach is our main purpose for this gathering. Many have received the Holy Ghost at our old-fashioned brush arbor-style meeting. This event draws many guests, members and former members. Besides the great food, fellowship and outdoor events, it has become a wonderful way to reach our community.

"We do a weekly mailer to our guests, shut-ins, military members, incarcerated and former members. We give a synopsis of each service included in the mailer. We have had great response to this."

Bro. Mendenhall also noted, "We hold a prophecy conference each year with Rev. Irvin Baxter; this event pulls people in from all over the Michiana area. We collect data from all the first-time attendees, and many then enroll in the Endtime class that we host. We are seeing great results from this. Some people travel great distances to attend this conference. Bro. Baxter always concludes the conference with the plan of salvation. Baptisms that night are promising! We have 10 Endtime classes meeting weekly in the extended Michiana area."

Organization & Management

Pastor Mendenhall meets often with each department and the ministry leaders individually. Each department hands in monthly and annual reports; individual job descriptions are overseen by the leaders within that department. With the verification and approval of Pastor Mendenhall, each leader within his or her department is trusted to handle any event or outing for the purpose of growth and outreach on their own.

Pastor Mendenhall says, "Eighty percent of the church members are involved in some form of ministry, and we would hope that all of them are involved in evangelism. We are all called to witness!"

"We also have two large choirs at our church. Joyful Sounds is directed by my daughter, Cami Walker, and Hymnal choir, a senior choir, is directed by my wife at age 81. They sing six times a month.

We have many pastors and pastors' wives from this church throughout our fellowship, both in the states and on the foreign mission field. Bro. Clint Walker, my son-in-law, has recently been voted in to be the next pastor in succession."

Special Miracles

"One of the great miracles that happened in our church was a lady being raised from the dead," said Pastor Mendenhall. "Service was in progress when a dear saint started to sway a bit and then slumped over in the pew. We have six nurses who came to her aid. They tried to get her pulse. She was laid out on the floor and had lost her bodily fluid. She had passed away. The service went on and as the special 'Jesus Never Fails' was being sung, the church started worshipping and stretching their hands toward her. The ministry laid hands on her, and she was raised from the dead as the whole church witnessed. Talk about a faith builder! The ambulance had been called at the onset of the situation and by the time the ambulance and EMT's arrived, she was sitting up and talking as if nothing happened. The EMT's that had been notified of her death were quite confused."

"They asked what had happened. Our usher replied, 'Have you ever heard of miracles? You're too late; this is just how my God works!' She did go to the hospital. The nurses from our church who were on staff at the hospital testified to the miracle. She underwent testing for one week in the hospital, and they could find nothing wrong with her. This is the second person in our church to be raised from the dead!"

How Have Things Changed?

Pastor Mendenhall said, "In our moving the church from three locations, we have not lost a saint. In the last 61 years the saints who voted me in have now all passed away. Presently there are no current saint/original voting members. I find that very interesting!"

Personal Ministry

Deep prayer and finding the will of God gives Pastor Mendenhall's ministry direction and purpose. "I knew a man that once prayed for his heart to be broken with the things that break God's heart. Sadly that man died young. He died of compassion fatigue. My favorite subject to preach would have to be faith. I also enjoy teaching about the lives of individual Bible characters."

He recently started teaching the entire Bible - expository style - to the congregation. "I wish I would have adapted this teaching method a long time ago," he said. "Holiness, faithfulness, prayer and outreach are the targeted areas I like to focus my ministry on. My ultimate goal as pastor is to give my time to prayer and the ministry of the Word. That is making the main thing the main thing!"

Personal History

Pastor Mendenhall was raised in church and by the time he was 12 years old he already had six different pastors. He received the baptism of the Holy Ghost at the age of 13. His sixth pastor, R.G. Jones, greatly influenced the days of his youth and at the age of 20 he felt the call to preach. Pastor Mendenhall never had the privilege of attending Bible school, but he feels that a pastor is never out of school.

"I spend many hours in study and preparation," he said. "I have taught seminars at ABI, the Canadian Bible School at Fredericton, New Brunswick. I received an honorary Doctorate degree from Indiana Bible College Seymour. Last year I had the privilege of speaking at the IBC commencement service. I spent four years at electrical school and became a certified industrial electrician."

Bro. Mendenhall and his wife, Betty, are 81 years old. They have been in the ministry and held a UPCI license for 61 years. They have been married 61 years. They are both third generation Apostolic Pentecostals.

Interests

"My favorite preachers include Ray G. Jones, Mark Hanby, J.T. Pugh, Jimmy Toney, Devin Akers, and Cory Porterfield. In my leisure time, I enjoy holiday gatherings with my family and our traditional three-day trip to Mackinac Island. Another important

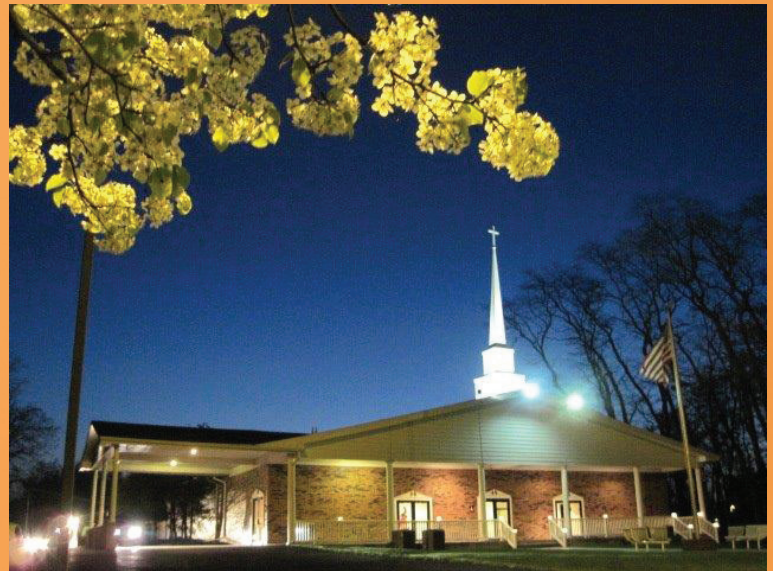
activity I enjoy during my leisure time is reading religious books," concludes Bro. Mendenhall. "I love to collect books. My favorite authors include David Bernard, John Mean, J.T. Pugh, W.A. Criswell and Clarence McCartney."

Concluding Comment

Bro. Mendenhall asked, "I have a question... 'Where is retirement mentioned in the Bible?'"



Kenneth and Betty Mendenhall
South Bend, IN



Top left clockwise: Pastor Mendenhall preaches to the congregation; a child is baptized; the exterior of United Pentecostal Church of South Bend; the youth choir ministers in song.



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Christian Leaders Need Social Skills to Avoid Offending People

Ministry leader, how are your social skills? Here is a list of six basic social skills every servant of the Lord will need as he/she leads God's people.

1. *Say thank you.* There is no more basic social skill than simple gratitude, appreciating what others have done for you. We do well to say thank you to the waitress, to the child who holds the elevator door and to our spouse for his/her kindness.

2. *Say "I'm sorry. Please forgive me."* A principal had enraged his faculty and student body by some ridiculous policy. Now everyone was mad at him, and school morale was in the basement. A counselor suggested he get on the intercom and admit the policy was wrong, ask everyone to please forgive him and say he would try to do better. A few days later, the principal told the counselor, "Everyone reacted so well, they're now coming up and hugging me. It worked so well, I'm now looking for some other stupid decision to make so I can apologize again!"

3. *Politely ask people to do things and not order them to do it.* "Would you please type this letter for me?" "Could you possibly pick up the speaker at the airport? I'd love for you to know him and him to know you." Always ask politely with any requests.

4. *Remember names.* The sweetest sound on earth -- a baby's laughter, a bird's song, your favorite concert artist, your sweetheart cooing in your ear? Nope. The sound of one's own name being called ranks far and above all the others. Pastors who stand at the exit and greet departing worshippers should work at calling names. But accept that you will get one wrong from time to time. This is happening so quickly, you're on autopilot, and no one is perfect. When you get a name wrong, just say, "Sorry!"

5. *Refrain from defending yourself or alibi-ing when you have offended another.* "A soft answer turns away wrath" (Prov. 15:1) was never truer than in the ministry. Granted, there may be those rare times when an explanation for our behavior is in order. But in most cases, to explain will come across as trying to excuse misbehavior.

6. *Write notes of appreciation when a simple verbal thank you is insufficient.* Sometimes what the individual did was far beyond just a simple act of kindness. They went out of their way to come to your aid or were extremely generous. In such cases, email and tweeting and Facebook notes are all out. Sit down and handwrite a personal, well-thought-out letter of appreciation.



Mansion Sunday -- November 2

By Stephen Judd, TCM President



Stephen Judd

www.mansionkids.org

Mansion Sunday, November 2, will be a special day, set aside in conjunction with "National Orphan Sunday," that specifically focuses on Tupelo Children's Mansion.

Please join with Apostolics across North America and feature Mansion Sunday on November 2 by doing three things: 1) Inspire your congregation with the "pure religion" mission of the Mansion, 2) Pray for the children and the staff, and 3) Receive a special offering to bless the work at TCM.

Thank you for becoming the hands of God to the most vulnerable of our society, the fatherless.

For more information about Tupelo Children's Mansion, go to www.mansionkids.org.



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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"I can tell you unequivocally that Brian Norman is the real deal. From my first encounter of hearing him minister in a Harvest Conference where he personally ministered to both my wife and I in the Spirit and it was a definite word from God. I can recommend Bro. Norman as a God send who breaths r-e-v-i-v-a-l."

Bishop David Hudson
D.S. of West Virginia



"We have held two Harvest Conferences at our Church. Since having Bro. Norman come in we have went from averaging in the 40's to now moving into a new building that will accomodate 400 people. Much of that growth, numerically and financially, can be attributed to Bro. Norman and his ministry."

Pastor Robert Axton
Palmyra UPC in Missouri



"Within 6 months of hosting a Harvest Conference our Churches average attendance had went from 250 to 300."

Pastor Bill McGraw,
Greater Faith in Lexington, Kentucky



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END TIME PROPHECY

Interviewed By Gregg Stone



James Merrick,
Duluth, MN

Bro. Merrick, tell us a little about yourself.

We presently live in Duluth, Minnesota where we served as pastor for 38 years. During those 38 years, we also served as the District Superintendent for the Minnesota-Manitoba district and later for the Minnesota district for 30 years. I lost my first wife Donna

[Leaman] Merrick to cancer after 34 years of marriage; my second wife, Carrie Ann, and I just celebrated our 20th anniversary. Since retiring in 2008, we have traveled and taught in districts and in churches trying to be a blessing especially to the smaller works that find it hard to afford special meetings.

Why, in your opinion, should a pastor teach end time prophecy?

I do not see prophecy as the most important study; I believe the salvation message comes first. Secondly, the Epistles with all the details concerning the spiritual life that qualifies one for eternal life is vital; if we don't get these two doctrines straight prophecy will not matter. However, having said this, I do believe our church people have a right to know what God is sparing them from and others have a right to know what to expect when the church is gone.

Do you feel we are in what the Bible calls "the last days" and if so, why?

I believe we are living in the last hours of the last days. Signs in the heavens above and the earth beneath are everywhere in our world and picking up with intensity. Our world is looking for a leader with the answers – a savior, a redeemer – but not Jesus Christ. The message of tolerance and acceptance of all that is evil has corrupted our culture and the political leadership of the nations of the world.

Are you pre, post, or mid-tribulation rapture?

Those of us who believe in the pre-tribulation return of Jesus Christ do not believe the church will never have to suffer. However, I and most others do not believe the wrath of God poured out on this world during the great tribulation period will be experienced by His espoused bride. I believe the scriptures clearly prove a pre-tribulation return of Jesus Christ for His church. Remember that God has only one wife at a time on this planet, and the church is His espoused bride for this present age which

will end in rapture. No one can ignore the fact the church is on the throne, every seat filled, crowns of gold on their heads promised to them at the appearing of Jesus Christ in Revelation 4. Obviously, He has already returned.

They never leave the throne for the rest of the book; however, there is a great multitude that joins them in Rev 6:9 and 7:9, martyred after the rapture for the word they held and their testimony. They never sit with Him in His throne but stand before the throne in white robes and serve Him; this is clearly not the bride of Christ. Though these martyrs had knowledge of the word and a testimony, they certainly are not a part of the previously caught-up bride. These martyrs as well as others are a part of the first resurrection [Rev. 20:4-6]. The 144,000 man-child Jews, having been sealed by God and becoming Israel's first fruits during the tribulation, appear with Christ and sing a new song that no one else can learn but them. They do appear before the throne, where the church is still seated since Revelation 4.

The U.S. does not appear to be mentioned clearly in Bible prophecy. Are we headed for economic/governmental collapse?

Any knowledgeable person knows we are not only headed for but are experiencing and watching this very collapse. A look at the ever increasing national debt should cause any thinking person grave concern regardless of their political persuasion. No, the U.S. does not appear in Bible prophecy despite the efforts of some who mistakenly use specific references from the book of Daniel designated to and for his people and the holy city. These gentile kingdoms represented and explained by the king's image which Daniel interpreted, their individual beasts with natures like unto the kingdoms they represented, and Daniel's recording of God's 70 weeks has no hint or connection to modern nations.

Some see an end time revival, others an end time apostasy. In your opinion, which will it be?

There will definitely be an apostasy but at the same time, the church could see great revival. I guess an end time revival is not just up to God but also depends on the exercise of faith and works by the church and the acceptance of truth by the lost world.

We are seeing a resurgence of Russia of late. In your opinion, is Russia the king of the North (Gog and Magog) mentioned in Ezekiel 37-38?

If I answer this question, most of it would be largely speculation, which we try to avoid when teaching prophecy. I do not know all the sequence of Old Testament prophecies

pertaining to Israel and how much we will see before the Lord comes for His church. I've always believed Russia would be involved and play a very important part in all that happens to Israel. We can easily see where Russia and those who stand with her will exercise great influence in the United Nations.

Just how bad will the tribulation be? How long will it last?

One needs to read the book itself with its detailed defining of God's wrath poured out with the breaking of the seven seals, the sounding of seven trumpets, and the pouring out of the seven golden vials; since nothing has ever occurred on this planet on such a scale it would be humanly impossible to describe the results.

If one goes to the end of the book of Revelation and counts back seven years, which is the length of Daniel's 70th week, one can readily see God is finished with the gentiles by the 11th chapter when the court of the gentiles is left out, but the rest of the temple is measured. The exact number of years given to the gentiles from chapter 4 to 11 is unknown; an additional seven years would be a good guess but would only be speculation.

What will the role of the church be during the Millennial Kingdom?

I believe our understanding of the Millennial Kingdom is at best minuscule. We know the church and others will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 years when He establishes the kingdom on earth. The Holy City, the dwelling place of the church, will set upon the earth that has changed geographically or as some believe, the ruling and reigning will take place apart from this earth.

Tell us about your prophecy series, how to order, cost, etc.? Are you available for prophecy seminars?

We felt such a need to put all of our files together and do a strictly Biblical overview of Bible prophecy without so much speculation concerning current events. Yes, my wife and I are available for prophecy seminars.

At the present time we have sets of six DVD's each containing 1 1/2 hours of teaching, sets of CD's of the same material and notebooks containing the printed text. Cost for the 60-page notebook is \$30, DVDs are \$60, and CDs are \$40, plus minimum postage and handling. This material is available on the internet: merrickministries@gmail.com. You may also contact us personally at 218-390-8350. Our mailing address is 3626 Piedmont Avenue, Duluth, MN 55811.

apostolic alendar 2014

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.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SPEAKERS	CONTACT / INFO
SEPT. 4-5	Mid-America Renewal Conference (MARC) Indianapolis, Indiana - A Power Packed Preaching Conference in the Heart of the Midwest.	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN Host: Paul D. Mooney	Paul Mooney, Michael Ensey, Elias Limones, Charles Shearer, Kenneth Carpenter and Sam Emory	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
SEPT 18-19	ALJC Women's Esprit Ladies Conference The theme is "For Such a Time As This."	Gatlinburg Dept. of Tourism and Convention Center, 300 Reagan Dr., Gatlinburg, TN 37738	Kenny and Penny Carpenter, Gina Vera and Nita Hodges	For more info: contact Dana Green at 832-603-2182
SEPT 19-21	Apostolic Doctrine Conference Strengthening Our Doctrinal Foundation	New Life Fellowship, 7849 Wabash, Terre Haute, IN 47803, Host Pastor: Jeffrey Harpole	Lee Stoneking, Dr. James Hughes and Dr. Daniel Segraves	For more info: www.newlifereterehaute.com or 812-877-9348
SEPT 26	Times of Refreshing - Denver, CO TOR will be hosting a fellowship dinner Friday and Saturday for pastors, full-time evangelists, assistant pastors, missionaries and retired pastors.	Landmark Tabernacle 2727 S. Sheridan Blvd., Denver, CO 80227, Hosts: Pastor Dannie Hood and Bishop Billy Hale	Greg Godwin, Todd Nichols and Gordon Poe	For more info: visit www.gordonpoe.com/TOR/conference . (717) 755-7202
SEPT. 30- OCT. 3	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
NOV 5-7	West Coast Conference - Fresno, CA 31st Annual Fresno Meeting	Fresno Convention Center, 848 M Street, Fresno, CA	James Townley, Jimmy Johnson, Rocky Dunlap, Wesley Jackson, Tommy Jackson, Ron Garrett and Jesse Galindo	For more information call: (559) 225-1622 www.truthtabfresno.org
JAN 1-4	Times of Refreshing - Odessa, TX TOR will be hosting a fellowship dinner Friday and Saturday for pastors, full-time evangelists, assistant pastors, missionaries and retired pastors.	Life Challenge Church Odessa, TX Host Pastor: Dan Smelser	To be announced	For more info: visit www.gordonpoe.com/TOR/conference . (717) 755-7202
JAN 30 2015	Indiana Bible College LIVE RECORDING Under the direction of Lindel M. Anderson, Dean of Music	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN Host: Paul D. Mooney	Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, Lindel Anderson, IBC Choir, IBC Chorale, IBC Praise, others	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
FEB 19-21	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.	First Cathedral Bloomfield, CT	Sam Emory, Jelaine Lumpkin, Elias Limones, Mark Morgan, Theodore Brooks, Jerry Jones, David Bernard, David Hudson and I.J. Cunningham	For more info: visit www.winterfire.org or visit Twitter: winterfireconf or Facebook: winterfire
FEB 26-28	Indiana Bible College CONNECT 2015 Your chance to visit the IBC campus and see what Bible college is all about!	Indiana Bible College 1502 Sumner Ave Indianapolis, IN 46227 Host: Paul D. Mooney	Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, Jason Gallion, Bobby Killmon, Lindel Anderson, others.	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
JULY 2015	Mile High Conference 2015 Revival of Prayer, Praise and Evangelism	To be announced	To be announced	(303) 758-5900 www.cacdenvr.org DEH2@comcast.net
JULY 2015	IMPACT Family Conference 2015 Day sessions to meet the needs of your entire family unit (Married, Single, Parents, Teens & Children) and your church leadership.	To be announced	To be announced	For detailed schedule, visit www.woodlawn-church.cc (601) 736-5128
AUG 2015	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!	First Pentecostal Church of North Little Rock, 1401 Calvary Dr., North Little Rock, AR Host Pastor: Joel Holmes	To be announced	For more info visit www.arkansascampmeeting.com
AUG 2015	Indiana Bible College Fall Semester Begins Register for Fall classes today!	Indiana Bible College 1502 Sumner Ave. Indianapolis, IN President Paul Mooney	Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, Lindel Anderson, Dave Brown, Bobby Killmon, Jim Sleeva, others.	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
AUG 2015	Investing in Futures A conference for those who invest in children. Educating, encouraging and equipping children's ministry workers.	The Apostolic Sanctuary, 1501 John Deere Parkway, Silvis, IL 61239 Host Pastor: Gary Randol	To be announced	For more info: visit invest-in-futures.com

Church Today: They Are Not Leaving!



Robert L. Rodenbush

■ Church Today

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They Are Not Leaving!

In Habakkuk 1:6 God tells his people "For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwellingplaces that are not theirs." We see the same thing happening today. A sinful and wicked spirit has risen up and possessed our land, encroaching even into the hearts and minds of our youth. We are kidding ourselves if we think this is going away, that this will pass – that if we just mind our own business it won't affect us. If we don't antagonize or provoke, don't stand too hard for our beliefs, that the enemy will leave us alone. No - wickedness and sin are here to stay. They are not leaving!

We may question: Why, God? How can you allow this to happen? Like David lamented - why do the wicked always seem to prosper while the righteous battle? We struggle to pay the bills for Apostolic churches while false doctrine mega churches seem to have an endless supply of funding. In the political realm it seems that evil men and their agendas wax worse and worse but gain more and more support. Anti-Biblical views, hedonism, homosexuality are being forced upon us and -- more troubling -- impressed upon our children through media, entertainment and the educational system. The authority of the Bible and the values it teaches of moral purity and righteousness are scoffed at and scorned. But God told the prophet this would happen (Habakkuk 1:10). The Chaldeans would scorn and scoff at any ordained authority. So it is in these last days - as it was in the days of Noah . . . the Chaldeans have come; sin and unrighteousness have overtaken us. And just like Habakkuk we ask: How long, O Lord, shall we cry and you not hear, not answer?

But they are *not* leaving! For "[t]hus saith the Lord; Deceive not yourselves, saying, The Chaldeans shall surely depart from us: for they shall not depart" Jeremiah 37:9. They are coming after us, after our churches, after our children to "possess the dwellingplaces that are not theirs." So we have a choice to make. We are in a battle and we must decide which side we are going to be on. No man can serve two masters – who are we going to serve?

It doesn't matter if my church isn't the richest – what matters is that my church preaches the truth. I don't care if my children are the most successful, the most popular – I care that my two children are saved and not eternally lost. God has always orchestrated things so that His people could see the contrast between good and evil and choose the right path. He is separating the wheat from the tares. If we stay strong and true we will be victorious, we will come forth as pure gold tried in the fire.



Bobby Killmon

■ Theology

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I have a question I need help with. John talks a lot about the Sonship of God, specifically in chapter 4. Is it at all odd that we Apostolics never refer to the Sonship of Christ? Our insistence upon the Oneness seems to preclude even the role of the Son.

That is a great question, and I understand how one could be confused on this particular issue. First, let me say I don't believe I've ever heard about a Oneness church never referring to the Sonship although it may have been in different terms. Some Oneness people have serious issue with the term *Sonship* because they want to use biblical language instead of inventing non-biblical words or constructs because we critique our Trinitarian friends on those very grounds. Mostly we refer to the "Son of God" in couched or understood language -- Jesus Christ, the Son of God, etc. It is throughout all our songs when we sing about His death, His blood, and even when mentioning Jesus' name baptism because that is about applying the mediatorial work accomplished by the man Jesus that God became (1 Tim. 2:5).

So, do we preclude the role of the Son? The short answer is no. Here's why you may be wrestling with this. In our past, two battles were fought. One was around Jesus' deity. Modernism postulated Jesus was merely a man or good teacher so the external threat was assaulting whether He was in fact God incarnate. The second was around the re-surfing debate regarding whether Jesus was the second person of a trinity, or the one God incarnate. I've treated this quite a bit so I won't rehash this subject now, but that framework has pushed our primary emphasis to deal with the issues of the day.

As a result, most of our preaching and teaching has been about Jesus being God, and affirming the biblical position that He is the one God incarnate. That said, our emphasis on the Son as Oneness people is particularly strong especially in application of the work God accomplished as the man Jesus. Every time someone quotes Acts 2:38 it's addressing that mediatorial role. Every song and every bit of preaching about His blood, His name, and the infilling of His Spirit is made possible by the atoning work of the man Jesus.

So, my point is this isn't merely some abstract, disconnected, esoteric lip service to the role of the Son. But this is definite concrete application which is absolutely fundamental to how we preach, teach, sing, and are Apostolic. There is no other movement as strong on the role of the Son as we are because we put into fundamental practice the application of His role as Son and as our sacrifice and Priest when we baptize in Jesus' name.



T. W. Massengale

■ Church Growth

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We are struggling to make the Home Bible Study Ministry work in our church. Any suggestions?

There are several things you can do to jump-start your Home Bible Study (HBS) program. First, I strongly recommend *every year* to bring in someone to promote the potential of the HBS ministry (lots of success stories) and then offer a HBS training seminar. Having been successful with the HBS ministry themselves, those teachers can speak with the voice of authority that it really works.

There are many in our fellowship

that can do this very effectively. Contact the North American Missions (UPCI) for suggestions. Remember, a successful HBS training seminar does not teach the actual lessons but rather *how to teach and get a home Bible study*. Your saints need the HBS ministry reinforced to their hearts and minds annually.

Following this annual seminar, conduct a HBS Emphasis Month. The push will be to get everyone in the church involved in the HBS ministry in some way. One of the best ways to do this is with a HBS contest. Divide the church into two teams. Let the contest run for 30 days or so, ending on a Sunday night with the winning team recognized.

Each team accumulates points in the following ways: teach a HBS, host a

HBS (in your home or in any location) but someone else teaches it for you, assist at a HBS (going as a non-teaching but praying partner), baby-sit for a HBS (either the teacher's children or the students), pray for a HBS (you will be praying as the study is being taught), support the HBS ministry (give at least \$20 to the ministry to purchase charts, books, etc.). Assign points to each type of involvement. The team with the most points at the end wins.

Finally, promote the HBS ministry at least monthly utilizing a variety of promotional methods. Do these three every year and the momentum will likely carry you all year and the end result will be many souls saved.

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Carol Clemans

Spiritual Growth

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God's Truth Heals

It is God's rewarding joy to see people 'transformed by renewing their mind' with God's truth. God has given me the nationwide anointed ministry of *teaching* for churches, ladies conferences and *counseling by phone/Skype*. The counseling is God-based and in complete confidentiality.

We've been in all phases of ministry plus 50 years teaching God's Word that includes 22 years as a Certified Pastoral Counselor. I counsel pastors and lay people. Pastors call me for counseling advice regarding issues in their churches. God's wisdom gained through His Word, education, teaching at CLC six years and 22 years in the trenches with the hurting people makes a unique repertoire for my ministry of helping others heal and grow in God.

Life Enrichment Ministries, Inc. is a 501c3. Pastor Daniel Batchelor of Dupo, Illinois and Supt. of UPCI Education Division is on my board of directors. I counsel and teach from God's Word on marriage/family/sexual abuse recovery/porn addiction recovery/singles' issues/grief recovery/healing for damaged emotions/spiritual-emotional-relational growth, etc. Isaiah 61--Jesus bringing good news of salvation to bind up the broken-hearted and set the captives free of their "stinkin'-thinkin'."

Romans 12:1-2--"be transformed by renewing your mind." Ephesians 4:23--"and be renewed in the spirit of your mind." With God's truth, I help people exchange toxic thinking with God's thinking! It's amazing to witness the hurting heart become a healed heart in the power of His Spirit.

Ministry leaders, call me at (636) 448-0121. I will send you a free DVD of my God-based teaching. I will explain to anyone the low-cost counseling process. Go to www.carolclemans.org for bio, 80+ articles, teaching CD's, DVD's and book: *God's Design for Marriage*.

Carol Clemans' heartbeat is sharing God's truth through anointed teaching/counseling and writing. She and husband, Rev. Harold Clemans, currently live in Madison, MS. Bishop Jerry Dillon is their pastor. Call with questions: (636) 448-0121.



Brian Norman

Revival Concepts

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4 Elements of a Growing Church

It has been a pleasure to serve the Kingdom of God. Traveling throughout America and abroad has exposed me to a variety of Apostolic churches in regard to music, leadership styles, cultural community settings and demographics of the congregation. Yet those things aside, I have noticed that every growing church has some common traits.

1) *Prayer* - Growing and revival churches put an emphasis on prayer -- before, during and at the ending of services. Jesus did say His house would be called the "House of Prayer" (Luke 19:46). E.M. Bounds famously said, "Prayer projects faith on God, and God on the world." Prayer is the epitome of a believer's personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

2) *Worship* - "But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel" (Psalms 22:3). Churches that create an atmosphere where each individual is encouraged to give God extravagant praise simply have a more revival type spirit. It is in this type of setting that chains come off everyone around (Acts 16:25-27). High praise to Jesus brings great power down. And the chains of those that worship, and those around them are destroyed.

3) *Doctrinal Preaching* - Doctrine simply means Biblical teaching. If something is clearly taught by the Bible, it is a doctrine. Churches that clearly, sincerely, and with conviction and love boldly proclaim Bible have more faith-infused services and see greater confirmation from God, the author of the Book (Mark 16:20). "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).

4) *Altar Services* - Churches that place a premium on ministering to people as they respond to the sermon and feel God's drawing spirit simply see more results. This of course is a highlight of revival and growing churches. It is in fact the purpose of the Church (Luke 19:10). No amount of counseling sessions or education can ever replace the working of the Spirit.

Brian Norman is a former Pastor and Church Planter and now travels full-time ministering as a Global Evangelist. www.GlobalEvangelism.org Phone: 636-544-0627



Aubrey Jayroe

Finance

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I have recently had a church member ask me a question about our staff salaries. Am I required by law to disclose salaries of individual staff members?

In short form, the answer is NO. First, everyone has to understand that there is an employee-employer relationship here that involves very sensitive and confidential information which must be protected and is governed and protected by various IRS and labor laws.

There is no law or regulation that requires the disclosure of individual salaries or compensation of church staff. While church members do have a right to inspect books and records of the church, members do not have the right to review specific payments to individuals nor do they have the right to inspect or review contribution data from specific individuals. In other words, members can see the 'total compensation' paid to all staff combined but not specific employee information.

Church members do not have the right to review personnel files that might include specific salary information. There is no legal right for a church member to review individual personnel information.

Church members do not have a right to look at information on employees' health, disciplinary actions or performance appraisals. Only specified leadership and administrative personnel who have been assigned the responsibilities in this area should have access to this highly sensitive and confidential information.

Churches are exempt from filing an annual tax return, Form 990, which would require the disclosure of salaries.

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



David Reynolds

Save Our Families

Talking With Your Teenager

We are not talking enough to our children about our faith - or about anything else. Even when we take trips together we are usually all listening to a stereo system as we are hurled parallel to each other down the road. Then we criticize our teenager who is holding a cell phone glued to his hand - just like us.

We are not talking enough with them when they are children - when they want to talk. Suddenly they are now teenagers, and we are surprised and hurt when they shut us out and do not wish to talk. We as parents are backing away at the very time when they need us the most. Their habits and attitudes repel us - so what conversations we do have with them are very judgmental.

It is up to us, as Christian parents, to bridge the gap. We must first change what we are now doing and then pray that they will react positively to us. Here are a few ideas:

1. *When they make a mess, don't ask why.* Just hand them a rag so they can clean it up! If we are honest, most of our conversations with them go something like this: "Why did you...?", "Why can't you...?", "How come you didn't...?" These are not questions. They are put-downs and criticisms. They need encouragement, not criticism. Stop all sarcasm and put-downs anywhere in your home. Home should be a sanctuary and a criticism-free zone.

2. *When there is a problem, focus and address the behavior; don't defame the character.* With a firm voice you can say, "It makes me feel angry when I find your coat in the living room. I would like you to hang it up when you come home. Next time I find it in the living room I will put it away for two weeks, and you will have to find other ways

to stay warm." When you find it there, put it away without falling for the desire to lecture. Do not argue or defend your action; do not give it back for the two weeks. Surprise! They will not freeze. Celebrate each step in the direction of improvement rather than focusing on the mistakes.

3. *Make sure your body language is also non-judgmental and is saying the same thing as your voice.*

4. *Talk with and to them, not at them.* Take time to talk not just about what they did but rather about how they feel about what they did.

5. *When they share something shocking; do not act shocked.* Thank them for sharing. Wait until they ask you for advice.

6. *Give them your time, rather than your things.* You will never be sorry!

David Reynolds -- author, evangelist and teacher -- has written seven books on the family and education. Contact: apostolicfamilies@gmail.com, web: apostolicfamily.org

THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS**WV High School Told to Remove Bible Verse As Wrestling Team Motto**

Parkerburg South High School had been using Philippians 4:13 for inspiration ("I can do all things



through Christ who strengthens me"), but received a complaint from the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF).

The scripture verse was painted above the doors to the wrestling room in the high school gym, as well as written on t-shirts and the team's website. Patrick Elliot, attorney for the FFRF, said, "We needed to point out the obvious fact that this cannot be a team's motto, that this is unconstitutional for a public school to endorse or advance religion."

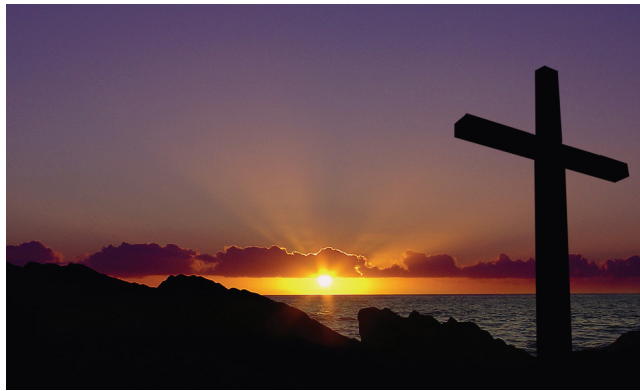
Bill Merriman, a lawyer for the parents of one team member, said, "The process is a person can wear and express themselves in any manner and the speech is protected as long as it isn't a disruption to the educational process."

Despite mixed views, the scripture verse above the doors was painted over and removed from the team website. District Superintendent Pat Law said, "We have to follow the law -- whatever that law might be. We're going to be certain that everyone's rights are being protected."

RELIGIOUS TRENDS**One in Five Americans See Bible as "Fables, Legends and History"**

America could be experiencing a decline of literalism and the rise of secularism, according to one interpretation of a recent Gallup Poll. The poll, which measured Americans' beliefs about the Bible, found that 28 percent of Americans believe the Bible is the literal word of God — close to the lowest point ever found in the survey. About 40 percent of Americans said the same thing in the late 1970s.

Meanwhile, about one in five Americans view the Bible in secular terms, described in the poll as ancient "fables, legends, history, and moral precepts recorded by man." This was up from 10 percent in the late 1970s.

**Survey: Most Americans Believe Religion is Answer to Life's Problems**

According to a recent study, the majority of Americans believe that religion can answer their problems. A Gallup poll asked Americans if religion can solve life's obstacles and 57 percent answered yes.

Christianity Today reports that 30 percent of respondents said religion is "largely old-fashioned or out of date."

While this is a positive response, the statistics are still in decline from previous years. In 2000, 68 percent of Americans affirmed that religion could answer problems; in 1958 an overwhelming majority of 82 percent agreed.

Americans who said that they regularly attend church were more likely to affirm that religion could answer life problems. The poll also determined that seniors, women, conservatives, and people living in the southern region were more likely to attend church and value religion.

"These groups, in turn, are also the most likely to say that a religion can answer most or all of today's problems. Still, across almost all of the demographic and political categories, the percentage saying that religion can answer most or all of our problems is higher than the percentage saying that it is out of date," Gallup reported.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ Last year, the American Bible Society's 4th annual State of the Bible survey found that the U.S. was the world's most charitable nation. The results reveal that those who are most engaged with the Bible—who read it regularly and hold a high view of Scripture—donated an average of \$3,259 per year to nonprofit organizations. Those who demonstrated the most skepticism about the Bible averaged just \$584 in nonprofit donations.

■ The Pew Research and Public Life Project recently published the results of a survey on Americans' feelings toward different religious groups. Jews were viewed more warmly than any other group. They just beat out Catholics and evangelical Christians for the top spot. Some of the data points in the survey are intuitive: Respon-

dents from all groups were most positive about folks who shared their particular religious orientation. Muslims were at the opposite end of the spectrum from Jews. They were viewed less warmly across the board than members of every other group.

■ A new study in *Cognitive Science* claims children who are exposed to religion have more difficulty determining between fact and fiction than children of a secular upbringing. The study on 5 and 6-year-olds tested the children's ability to differentiate between religious, fantastical and realistic stories. In both studies, children exposed to religion were less likely to judge the characters in the fantastical stories as pretend, and they made more appeals to reality and fewer appeals to impossibility than did secular children.

LEGAL TRENDS**Egypt Sentences Man to Six Years in Prison for "Liking" Facebook Page**

Hitting "like" on Facebook has landed a Christian man in Egypt in jail for six years. Kerolos Shawky was sentenced recently to six years in prison and fined the equivalent of \$840 on charges of blasphemy and contempt of Islam for simply "liking" the Facebook page 'Knights of the Cross', according to International Christian Concern.

Rafla Zekry Rafla, who represents Shawky, said it was not his client's intention to insult Islam. Rafla says Shawky didn't have much experience with the Internet and also suffers from poor eyesight. He never had any intention of committing contempt.

Shawky was convicted by the Egyptian court of violating the Egyptian Penal Code, which prohibits "ridiculing or insulting heavenly religions or inciting sectarian strife." Ironically, it was the public accusations against Shawky which actually incited local violence as Christian shops and homes were vandalized and set afire.

YOUTH TRENDS**Study Finds Majority of Kids Are Sexting**

Drexel University just released a new study that finds that the majority of minors engage in sexting. The study, "Youth Sexting: Prevalence Rates, Driving Motivations, and the Deterrent Effect of Legal Consequences," was published online by the journal *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*.

Researchers surveyed undergraduate students about their teenage sexting behaviors, and more than half reported sending or receiving sexually explicit messages via text.

Researchers also found that the students were largely unaware of potential legal consequences of sexting. In some areas, underage sexters can be prosecuted for child pornography or other offenses.

"This is a scary and disturbing combination," said Drexel researcher David DeMatteo in a statement. "Given the harsh legal penalties sometimes associated with youth sexting and the apparent frequency with which youth are engaging in it, the lack of comprehension regarding such penalties presents a serious problem."

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The Century of the Name is written as a memorial to the baptismal event of Ewart Cook on April 15, 1914. In one century, so many have responded to the call and been baptized in Jesus' name. Desiring to write a book showing this growth, I felt overwhelmed by the magnitude of this tremendous revival, to the point that it seemed impossible.

As I was about to give up, I was invited to go to South Africa and teach. As I rehearsed the baptismal event, a Trinitarian Pentecostal pastor heard me teach, and began to study. Subsequently, he came to America, where I baptized him in Jesus' name. He asked me to return to South Africa to teach his congregation.

I began to see a pattern—it seemed this event reflected the growth over a century that was still continuing. Think of the multitudes moving from country to country sharing this truth.

This book was a seminar I gave on the basics of this truth: the name of God and the subject of water baptism. I have attempted to deal with every Scripture concerning baptism starting with Genesis 1:2 through to the crystal sea in Revelation.

—Stanley Wachtstetter, author

IBC TODAY

TRIBUTE TO *Cynthia White*

Cyndy was a brilliant, vivacious missionary to Amman, Jordan, in the Middle East. She was a public school teacher, having graduated from Missouri Baptist College, Gateway College of Evangelism, and Indiana Bible College. She was academically driven, loved singing, was involved in the IBC Chorale, and was interested in studying languages.

While Cyndy had gone on her first missions trip to Africa with the Crumpackers during her studies at IBC, her passion was for the Middle East. She was introduced to the country by her uncle and aunt, Rev. Gary and Linda Reed. She went on seven trips to Amman as an AIM worker and was appointed as a full-time missionary in 2012.

After completing her successful deputation travels, she arrived in Amman in February 2014, and immediately assumed her duties there. However, as a result of pneumonia and other health-related issues, Cyndy went to be with the Lord on May 16, 2014.

Cyndy was ordained into the ministry at her home-going service, which was supposed to take place in Jordan. She is greatly missed by her family and friends and the churches that she toured while on deputation.

"She viewed life as a great source of inspiration. She saw it, she was engaged in it... She was fulfilling the will of God."

**Bro. Jason Gallion, IBC Dean of Students and
relative of Cynthia White**



1973-2014

HER VISION  LIVES ON

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Cynthia and her mother

Cynthia, her father, and her two sisters

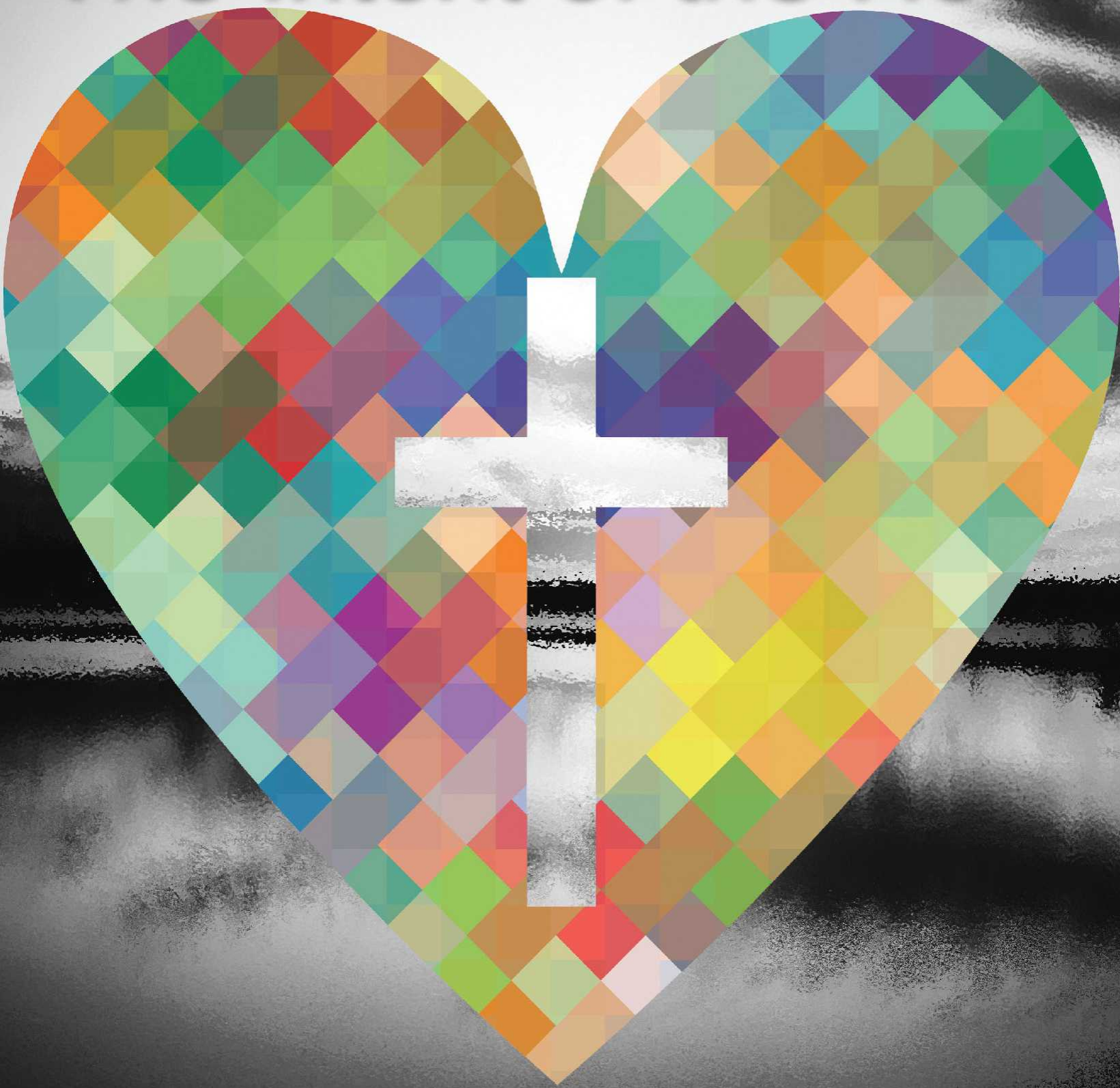


Cynthia speaking at a church while on deputation, telling people of the events in Jordan.

Cynthia had a tremendous influence on the Jordanian people.



The Intent of the Heart



If you are faithful to God, He will bring you through. He is a great God. Psalm 42 is a psalm of instruction you can learn from even if you don't know what the writer is talking about. He is the health of our countenance.

Personal Waterspouts

"Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me." As we look at this passage of scripture, we recognize the good things of God. I try to do three things every day. I try to touch God. I try to touch a project that will outlive me every day -- a song, a poem, a sermon, something that will live on if I die today, something that people can read and enjoy that will help their life. The third thing is touching people every day. Every day of my life, I've had a habit of writing five to 20 letters. I say good things to people that will encourage them, help them and bless their life. I'm a man of God; I'm a child of God. I have a mission in my life, and I enjoy what God has given me to do. But as I look at these things I recognize that man looks on the outside. Everything man looks upon in our life is what he sees from our lives.

Look on the Heart

But God has a unique ability to look upon our heart. I recognize that this is a unique personality that I don't have. I can't see your heart but I can see what goes on on the outside of your life and can draw a pretty good conclusion of what you're all about. How many of us today are used of God and are an instrument of something that will encourage the Lord to move in our lives? How many want to be a starter in the church where we are? Don't wait for someone else to get it started. I look on this and recognize that God is a seeking God. He desires to have this time of fellowship with every one of us. He's a good God; He is concerned about what I do, He's concerned about what you do, He desires to work with us. I've been working with Him a long time. I've known Him since I was a little boy of nine years of age, and I know He's a blessing. We need to get to know God well enough that we are comfortable with His Word. God wants His capacity developed in every one of us. He knows where we're hooked up and what we can receive. Actively, He begins to look deeply in our souls.

The Noise of Thy Waterspout

The scripture makes it very clear. It says deep calleth unto deep at the *noise* of thy waterspouts. He actively begins to look at each one of us to see if there's any activity within us that would invite the presence of God. If there's any intent of our heart that would reveal that we have an interest in Him, it will show somewhere along the line. If we don't have any of those things in our responses toward God, it's very unlikely that He will ever use us very much because we've got to be open to God and ready and willing for Him to work in our lives. As long as I'm alive, if I live to be a hundred years old, I want to be growing in the Lord every day. I want to get more sensitive to God every day. God is looking in every one of our lives, and He's looking for a willingness on our part to see if we will respond as He seeks for us and longs for us.

God wants our presence; He wants to hear our words of love. He actively looks and seeks. The Bible says deep calleth unto deep. Upon the hidden intent of our heart there is something going to be revealed as we seek God. We must show that we are ready to respond. Now if He finds buried deep within us any indication that there's a sincere desire, through prayer or worship, He will then begin to take a singular interest in us. The scripture tells us that the eyes of the Lord are going continually forth every day, and He's seeking someone that He can actually use. The Bible teaches us that the Father seeks such as would worship Him.

In Spirit and In Truth

His eyes run to and fro every day. You have to love people whether you agree with them or not. I love the Lord; I love people. I've fellowshiped with people; I've been in meetings

where we didn't believe exactly the same and they didn't worship God like I did but I still worshipped God. In those early years of my developing ministry I would sometimes sit all night long and listen to the preachers talk, and I would learn things as they talked. I thought many times of how God would use me later on with what I learned from those preachers. But the personal attention that we receive from the Lord can be likened unto a waterspout. I know there are certain songs that we like.

And there are some songs that some people think, "That just doesn't do anything for me at all." It's like dew. We also have people that can believe in the rain because it's something that they can see. It's hard for us to imagine that God can get moisture through to something without rain falling, but He can send the dew. He can send the rain; it can fall equally.



Charles Grisham
Ashland City, TN

A Real Downpouring

We can watch it rain and then we get to those things in our lives and we think, "Boy, I want some real down pouring rain." We want something big enough that we can see. The Lord will send something to get through to everybody. There have been times when I didn't have great joy. I could just bask in the presence of God and it would be like the dew that comes from heaven, just bringing the things to my life that I need at that time, at that point of my life. God saw that individual need. Then there are times when He can just bless us with rainfall that blesses and blesses and causes us to feel the power of God. Then there are times that can bring the powerful move of the rain of God, when just a shower won't do any longer, and He will just send gushing amounts of His Holy Ghost power like rain upon us.

Enjoy your Waterspout

Think about this: He says all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me, deep calleth unto deep. And the Lord singularly becomes active in our lives. At first we may not understand the purpose or understand the direction of all-mighty God for this divine activity, but the Bible teaches us about the *noise* of thy waterspouts. Everyone needs to bring it in, soak it up, enjoy it. If it's dew, enjoy it; if it's a shower, enjoy it. If it's rainfall, enjoy it. But there will be times if you give the Lord particular attention and hold it long enough, God will bring something to you that will supersede all that you have ever experienced from Him, because the Bible says at the noise of thy waterspout, God will bring it right over to where you are. God sees the intent of our heart. If we will lift up the Lord, men will be drawn to the Lord and if we can get the picture of what we need to have in our minds, God can use us to be a drawing power to unsaved people. But there is something we need to recognize here when we read these scriptures.

Desire to be Fed

It's like walking up to a smorgasbord, you can get a little here and a little there and before long you have a plate full. When you look at the scriptures, that's exactly the way it is with God and if our level of spiritual hunger seems to fall short of this deep desire then He can only reluctantly feed us on the level of our desire toward Him. You cannot receive any more from God than you have a desire for. He won't waste His good stuff on you if you don't desire it. You've got to desire it, you've got to want it, and you've got to be longing for it. God has to see a hunger in you that supersedes any hunger you have for anything else. Jesus feeds us on the level of our hunger. God knows exactly where we are, what we need and the intent of our heart. If we walk with Him, He will lead us into the depths of His spirit.

Bro. Grisham is now retired. He pastored for many years in Detroit, MI and was a popular conference and campmeeting speaker. He is also the author of numerous books, booklets and articles.

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Abundant Laughter Children's Ministry

Family Uses Puppets, Songs and Drama to Teach Kids About God

By Linda Schreckenberg



The laughter of children comes easy. Through the children's ministry of Bro. Marlon Miller and his family of Gladewater, Texas, laughter is the key to

teaching children about the Lord. With Sis. Linda Miller as the organizer, puppeteer and decorator, the family works as a team, reaching the hearts and souls of children for the Kingdom of God. "I am usually the speaker/preacher," said Bro. Miller, "And I use a lot of illusion, props and other objects to bring a sermon or teach a lesson."

The Miller family started out teaching in their local assembly Sunday school. Their daughter, Laminda, is a puppeteer,

ventriloquist, clown, action song leader and dramatic painter. She began presenting puppet shows at the age of six years and won second place at North American Youth Congress this past year in the talent search.

"One of the unique things about our ministry is variety," said Bro. Miller. "We were never content to just read from literature, so we looked for various ways to help us reach the kids. In 2005, we were invited to attend a training seminar by Bro. Ron Thompson of the Bethel Bunch Children's Ministry.

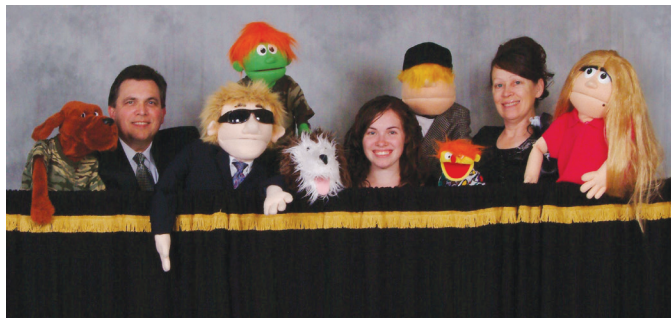


Then Bro. Thompson recommended us to a church, and we have been going ever since.

"The younger we can reach our kids, the more likely they will stay. Children's crusades help the kids realize the Holy Ghost is not just for the older folks, but it is for them as well. Crusades help children understand that they are also important to the Kingdom of God."

Abundant Laughter Children's Ministry has had wonderful results in places that are covered by prayer. "When we go into a place that has been promoting the services and praying and fasting, most of the work is already done," he said. "We have received very positive feedback from most of the places we have been and favorable recommendations to other churches as well."

Those interested in Abundant Laughter Children's Ministry may contact Bro. Miller through their website www.abundantlaughter.yolasite.com or by phone (903) 720-9936 or (903) 720-9935.



A Need for Salvation

Abundant Life Bible Study Brings Understanding and Hope to the Lost

By Linda Schreckenberg



Bro. William Felt, author
Union City, CA

The magnificent beauty of the graphics on the flip chart of the *Abundant Life Bible Study* will certainly draw one's attention toward its glorious purpose. That purpose is to fulfill the commandment of Jesus in Matthew 28:19 -- "Go and teach all nations...."

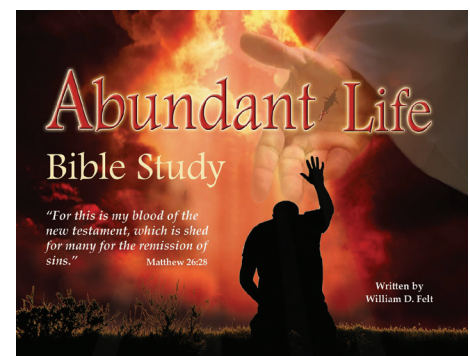
Having knocked on many doors, Bro. William Felt of Union City, California noticed that so many people are desperately struggling. Many, especially of this generation, have no clue as to how or why they should be saved. "First of all, people need to know what it is they must be saved from," said Bro. Felt. He created the *Abundant Life Bible Study*, which helps bring understanding and hope to those in need of salvation. "Jesus came to save the sinner, heal the sick, and bring hope," said Bro. Felt.

The teaching in the *Abundant Life Bible Study* helps the recipient establish just who they are and realize their need for salvation. It explains, by the scripture, their fallen nature from Adam, guides them through repentance to baptism and explains the transition that takes place after being born again. It makes it clear that in order to inherit the promises of what Jesus offered, one must first become a child of God. Bro. Felt noted that people have a lack of knowledge of how to let go and how to receive, or even what to receive.

Abundant Life Bible Study only takes about 30 minutes and is as simple as someone talking. It is completely self-explanatory with full scripture references. Anyone can teach it, and it can be given to the person on the street or used as an introduction for a new convert. The study has had much success. Bro. Felt taught the study in his church and has several people there as a result of this amazing study. His son-in-law and daughter have used it with success in the Philippines, and the study

has been used in Portugal by a missionary friend of a family member.

The *Abundant Life Bible Study* is available as a full-color self-standing 13" x 9" flip chart that sells for \$18 each. Multiple charts are available in bundles of (5) \$79 (10) \$139 and (25) \$295 and are available through Bro. Felt's website www.livingwordbiblestudy.com. He may be contacted at 510.487.5679 Mon-Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST.



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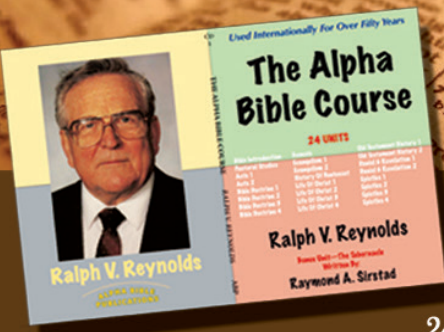
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Word To The Wise:

If you hold your tongue, you can't be misquoted.

* * * * *

A woman went to the doctor's office where she was seen by one of the new doctors, but after about four minutes in the examination room, she burst out, screaming as she ran down the hall.

An older doctor stopped her and asked what the problem was, and she told him her story. After listening, he had her sit down and relax in another room.

The older doctor marched down the hallway to the back where the first doctor was and demanded, "What's the matter with you? Mrs. Terry is 63 years old, she has four grown children and seven grandchildren, and you told her she was pregnant?!"

The new doctor continued to write on his clipboard and without looking up said, "Does she still have the hiccups?"

* * * * *

A man went grocery shopping with his son. They had the cart, they had the list...

Then the father whispered to the child, "You know, if we really mess this up, we'll never have to do this again."



"We've had no church secretary for three months, so there's a bit of catch-up work to do."

When the power mower broke and wouldn't run, I kept hinting to my husband that he ought to get it fixed, but somehow the message never sank in.

Finally I thought of a clever way to make my point.

When my husband arrived home the next day, he found me seated in the tall grass, busily snipping away with a tiny pair of sewing scissors.

He watched silently for a short time and then went into the house. He was gone only a few moments when he came out again. He handed me a toothbrush.

"When you finish cutting the grass," he said, "you might as well sweep the sidewalks."

The doctors say he will probably live, but it will be quite a while before the casts come off.

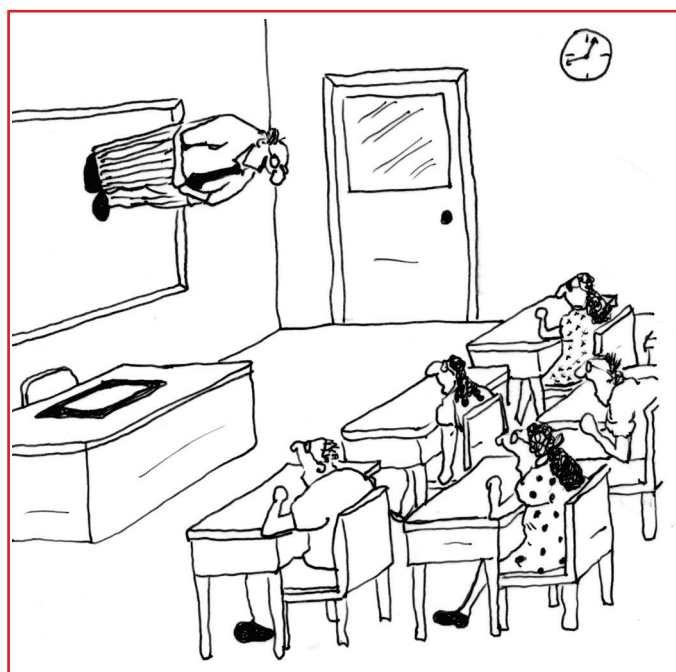
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An archaeologist was digging in the Negev Desert in Israel and came upon a casket containing a mummy. After examining it, he called the curator of a prestigious natural-history museum. "I've just discovered a 3,000-year-old mummy of a man who died of heart failure!" the excited scientist exclaimed.

To which the curator replied, "Bring him in. We'll check it out."

A week later, the amazed curator called the archaeologist. "You were exactly right about the mummy's age and cause of death. How in the world did you know?"

"Easy. There was a piece of paper in his hand that said, '10,000 Shekels on Goliath.'"



"Welcome, class, to 'Signs and Wonders 101.'"

* * * * *

An old man was wondering if his wife had a hearing problem. So one night, he stood behind her while she was sitting in her lounge chair. He spoke softly to her, "Honey, can you hear me?"

There was no response.

He moved a little closer and said again, "Honey, can you hear me?" Still, there was no response.

Finally he moved right behind her and said, "Honey, can you hear me?" She replied, "For the third time, yes!"

* * * * *

Mrs. Baker, a fifth grade teacher, observed a student in her class during a true/false test, flipping a coin and then choosing an answer.

Mrs. Baker thought to herself, "Hah! Norman didn't study again." This answer selection method continued throughout the entire test.

After Norman was obviously finished, Mrs. Baker again watched Norman flipping the coin and continuing through the test a second time. "Norman, what are you doing now?" asked Mrs. Baker.

Norman replied, "I'm doing what you always tell us to do! I'm checking my answers!"



"Are you sure Pastor Tomas said this was okay?"

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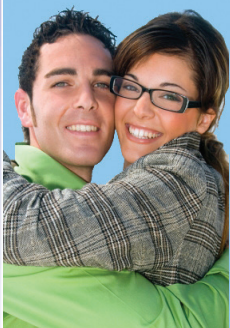
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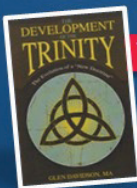
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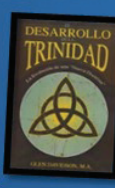
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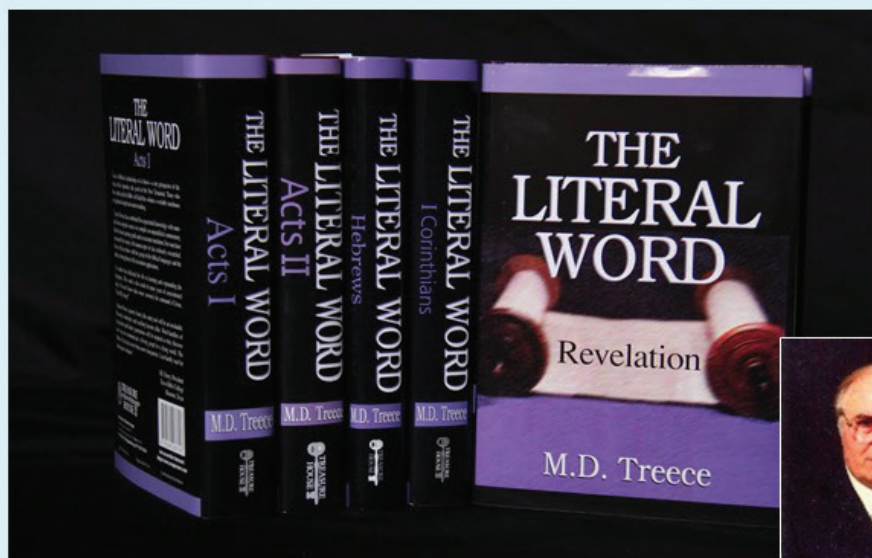
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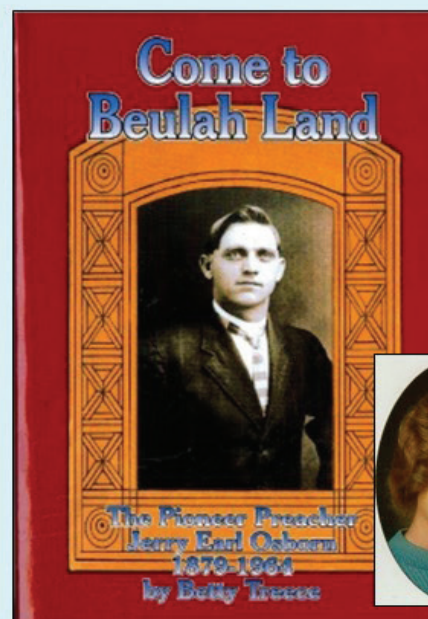
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