

VOL.25 NO.12  
INDIANA BIBLE COLLEGE



# IBC Perspectives





From The Publisher

## The Enemy Hates Us For a Reason

Paul D. Mooney



**“Those who lead our children away from the clear message of the Upper Room, who use their various talents to deceive and deconstruct the Apostle’s doctrine and moral standards -- they intend to kill, to steal and to destroy them.”**

“Our first task is therefore to try to grasp what the concept of the enemy really means. The enemy is someone who is willing to die in order to kill you. And while it is true that the enemy always hates us for a reason, it is his reason, and not ours.” These are the opening words from Lee Harris’ book, *Civilization and Its Enemies*. This notion should be deeply pondered and applied not only to the current war between the civilized world and the terrorists who want to take over, but also to the battle raging against the fundamental doctrines and values of Christianity.

Harris stresses the realities of our present political and moral situation. His book published a couple of years ago is still worth reading. I gifted it to several friends on its release, and they agreed that Harris drives home the reality stated in his opening paragraph, “*The enemy has a cause, he hates us for his own reasons. His cause, and objective is not ours.*” Jesus warned us that “[t]he thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy” (Jn. 10:10). Unfathomable, you may think. Why? you may ask. But the thief is of another way (Jn.10:1). He has another agenda. Harris is teaching along these same lines, in essence. Come on America, wake up! Figure it out. Face reality.

Humanity’s most unspeakable crime is genocide. Recent modern history, not ancient history, reeks with this unspeakable horror. We have experienced it in our lifetimes: the Nazi genocide against the Jews, Armenian genocide, Cambodian genocide, Liberian genocide, the Sudan, the Congo and Bosnia. These and others represent millions of people. Millions! It is mind-boggling. Interestingly, and instructively, this is the reason I reference these horrors; it is a widely held belief that the kind of hatred that evolves into genocide is not a spontaneous reaction but flows out of one mind. A Hitler, for example, or a Pol Pot (Cambodia). It is intentionally conceived, precisely planned and deliberately executed.

Haris Silajdzic, former President of Bosnia, in a recent accounting on the subject of the genocide (in general, and specifically about the Bosnia killings, over 100,000), stated that “genocide is a design as any genocide must be because it is not possible to kill a big number of people without prior preparation, mental preparation, military preparation. Mass sophisticated methods are needed . . . but the will, not the way -- that’s the critical part.”

Jesus, in speaking of those who rejected Him, had to tell his disciples one thing before he could tell them something else. In other words, in certain cases, one must know something about one thing before he can understand what is following. For example, Jesus said, My sheep hear me, but those who do not accept me as the “door” or the way do not hear me. And, furthermore, when they come to you they come to destroy.

They are not shepherds of truth. They are not shepherds of the way. They come to kill. They are the enemy. The sheep and the shepherd have the same objective: life. Jesus tells us, “I am the good shepherd” (Jn. 10:14). A moment later, He speaks a great truth, “I and my Father are one” (Jn.10.30). And, at this revelation, the Jews took up stones again to kill him (Jn. 10:31).

Christ herein defines the motives of the Antichrist. There is no wiggle room. He clarifies what the enemy intends to do.

I see it this way: those who lead our children away from the clear message of the Upper Room, who use their various talents to deceive and deconstruct the Apostle’s doctrine and moral standards -- they intend to kill, to steal and to destroy them. What the Apostles preached on that Pentecostal morning was Christ-given. They had all just received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. The Upper Room was without contrary opinion. The historical record is clear; they baptized in Jesus name because it was the single name given. They knew they had seen the Father manifested in the flesh. It was revealed to them, by the very God who stood before them as a man. They had no concept of a trinity. “O sweet wonder,” to quote G.T. Haywood.

It is imperative that the church see the enemy of the church for who he is, “the son of perdition,” and of what spirit are those who follow him. “Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders” (2 Th. 2:9). “And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved” (2 Th. 2:10).

As President Silajdzic pointed out, the evil of all evils is genocide (a deliberate extermination of a particular group). Historically, such a concept has come out of one mind, and that mind “taps into the beliefs that are already there” (in the minds of the people). It boils it down to saying what people desire to hear, ignoring the necessity of truth, spirit and revelation. And the passion that dominates men to live by their own will and opinion leads them to killing what they once loved.

I assume we see the bold process and methods being employed to devalue the Bible and synchronize Christianity with other spiritual disciplines. Conservative views are being crushed throughout the mainstream Christian denominations. The genocide of doctrine has long been in vogue. And the false teachers know how to count numbers. “The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?” (Jer. 5:31).



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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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# Why TITHING is Important

Interviews by Gregg Stone

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



**Shine Doughty, Mattoon, IL** - I believe in tithing because it is a part of God's giving program. It has blessed us because it allows for the ministry and ministries of the church. We ask our congregation to give a 3% offering, missions offering once a month of their own choosing, and a once-a-year sacrificial offering for mortgages or upkeep/care of the buildings.

What do you want to be blessed on, net or gross? I believe in paying tithes on the gross income.



**David Moore, Jackson, MS** - Tithing is part of God's moral law and a Bible principle. Tithing has always been God's way of financing His ministers both in the Old and New Testaments. In my past experience, I've witnessed those that backslid, first became lax in their tithing. According to 1 Corinthians 6:10, thieves will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

Tithe on all your increase (gross), not after other things have been deducted. Consistency in tithing is a faith builder. It's the "prove me" factor to live by. Blessings are not always financial. Blessings can be of health, family, relationships, etc. I have been blessed in every facet of my life. Tithing has opened the windows of heaven for me in many blessings of all types in my 54-year journey of living for God.



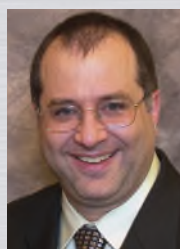
**Monte Albalos, Monterey, CA** -- If we are truly Apostolic Christians, then we will believe, trust and follow God's Word. Malachi 3:8 asks, "Will a man rob God?" If a person is a Christian, why would he want to rob his Creator? Why would we not want to receive a promotion, a promise and a guarantee that if we bring tithes into His house, that He will open the windows of heaven? I personally have been paying tithes since I was a child, and I have never been unemployed. We have had new converts

receive jobs they did not apply for, people have had cars purchased for them, people who have been unemployed for years have been given employment, and some who were homeless now have housing. Paying tithes will position us for greatness for a more-than-enough experience.



**Philip Flowers, Marion, AR** - Tithing is an act of faith. It precedes the Law of Moses, since Melchizedek received tithes from Abraham. Melchizedek is the first or one of the first "ministers" found in Scripture. It may not be coincidence that the first mention of tithes is found here. In Matthew 23:23, Jesus condoned tithing. If we are children of faithful father Abraham, we should be tithing, as he did. I belong to God first, and I'm an American secondly. My tithes should reflect that.

On the subject of offerings, they are given in addition to the tithe. What should a faithful Christian consider giving for offerings? II Corinthians 9:7 indicates that the amount will vary by each giver. Some have been blessed abundantly and give more of finances. Others give more of their time. Both are valuable. All giving should be done cheerfully.



**Doug Joseph, Clarksburg, WV** - The Bible is clear that believers are to dedicate every aspect of their lives to the Lord. From my youth up, I have always been as faithful as possible regarding tithing. God has honored His promise and has blessed my family and me abundantly. I am a genuine "testimonial" advertisement for the success that comes when adhering to a biblical model from God's Word for submitting the financial aspect of my life to Him.

The most common error by those who are against tithing is to mistake New Testament passages about "emergency relief effort-type giving" as how all giving should be done by Christians, yet that type of giving is but one layer in a biblically-modeled approach. Based on Romans 14, I grant fellow believers liberty in how they decide such matters, but I tithe on my gross and God has blessed us for it.



**Danny Robbins, Tupelo, MS** -- Before I received the Holy Ghost, I started a construction company and committed to pay tithes. The company prospered and 15 months later, I received the Holy Ghost. The blessings from paying tithes are more than monetary blessings. I've watched my entire life be blessed. Tithing is important because it's being obedient to God's Word, and it's how we support the ministry of the Kingdom of God. People that do not pay tithes reveal a lack of faith and have a disobedient heart. If a person doesn't

repent and correct this disobedience, it could result in a lost soul.



**Greg Downs, Fayetteville, AR** -- There is no doubt that tithing has created a blessing in my life. It has established that financial contract with God, and I have been taken care of by God. Not too long ago, I started teaching our church on giving and we began practicing it. It was amazing getting all of the reports of people getting new jobs, raises on their jobs, financial miracles with debt, etc. Giving unlocks the blessings of heaven!

According to scripture, the tithe is never ours. If it was ours, then we could not be guilty of robbing God. The only way you can rob someone is if you take what is already theirs. Tithing is our side of a financial contract with God. It is an exercise in futility to pray for God's blessings if we are not faithful in tithing.



**R. Jay Teague, Batesville, MS** - It's hard for me to improve on the words of David. Psalm 37:25, "I have been young, and [now] am old(er); yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." I'm not rich, far from it, but I am blessed beyond my resources, and I know it's a direct result of faithful giving. Besides the Biblical command to do so, our spiritual health depends on us being faithful in our giving. The Word is pretty clear on how God feels about those that neglect paying tithes, declaring they

rob Him in tithes and offerings.

Gross is truly the first fruits. It's not about how low I can get the amount down to; it's about how much God has blessed me and how much I want to show Him that I'm thankful. I have practiced 5% minimum of my gross income in giving of offerings.



# GOODNESS AND MERCY

IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

"The essence behind the reason people dwell in the house of the Lord is because they find goodness and mercy there," said Pastor Charles Shearer of the Pentecostals of Saraland in Saraland, Alabama. "Psalm 23:6 says, 'Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.'"

Pastor Shearer and his wife, Judy, have a daughter, son, daughter-in-law, grandson, and a granddaughter on the way. The Shearers oversee a thriving, growing church with a lifestyle of prayer, praise, worship and connecting.

## Principles of Growth & Revival

Pastor Shearer believes the key to a growing church is to be guest-friendly. He also promotes team ministry as an important key to growth. "Having teams within departments presents opportunities for everyone to be involved in some way," he said. "I believe in mentoring leaders to work in and with the harvest, ministering from the rear of the flock."

According to Pastor Shearer, the children's ministry at Pentecostals of Saraland is key to their outreach efforts. "Whether it is Vacation Bible School in the summer, Kidz Klub during mid-week service, or children's church on Sunday, we focus on times when family members will be

interested and drawn. Connect Pointe is still an evolving ministry for us. We have been working to keep the connection with guests and new members through fellowship events, phone calls, e-mails, etc. to make them feel a part." Pastor Shearer noted that everyone is a team player and has an integral role in what is happening at the church.

## Organization & Management

Pentecostals of Saraland is a church with a variety of additional ministries, including College & Career (18-30), Elders Care Ministry, Funeral Team, Hospitality Team, Ladies' Ministry, Men's Ministry, Global Missions, Music Ministry, Sound/Multi-Media, Ushers/Greeters and Youth Ministry.

Pastor Shearer said, "I meet with department and ministry leaders once each quarter for additional brainstorming sessions for new ideas. My department leaders e-mail communications as needed, and job descriptions are in place but tend to evolve as the needs of the church change. We also have a software database that helps with member information, scheduling and giving, etc."

He explained, "Most of our planning consists of quarterly calendar meetings, and focused meetings are held for particular upcoming events or projects. I am highly in favor of committees for events, versus individuals."

Pastor Shearer utilizes basic leadership training classes, and 70 percent of church members are involved in some form of ministry. Every department analyzes various outreach efforts in order to have a positive effect. "All of our departments are team-rotation based," he said. "This prevents burn-out and gets everyone involved. When someone wants to join a department, they can easily be added to a team and inserted into the rotation schedule."

## Personal Ministry

The pastor said the guiding principles that give his ministry direction and purpose are the gifts of the Spirit, working in the five-fold ministry and experiencing the supernatural. And the topics he enjoys preaching about the most are prayer, praise and worship.

## Current Facility

"Our current facility was originally built in the early '80s," said Pastor Shearer. "An addition which now serves as the sanctuary was added in the early '90s. There are many classrooms and many additional rooms used for storage, meetings, offices, etc., and we have a full kitchen and large multi-purpose room."

The church owns 22-plus acres nearby for any future growth



plans. "We plan to build an entire new campus on our acreage with the goal of being debt-free," he said.

The church has seen a consistent number of baptisms in recent years. When Pastor Shearer arrived in 2001, the average attendance was 60. It has now grown to 250-plus in average attendance.

### Personal History

Pastor Shearer holds a Bachelor of Science degree and is a licensed funeral director and embalmer. He first felt his call to the ministry at a Texas camp meeting with Bro. O. R. Fauss preaching and began his ministry at age 22. He preached his first sermon at Apostolic Lighthouse Church in Dayton, Ohio in 1980. He explained, "I am a third generation Pentecostal. My grandfather, Harvey Shearer, was one of the original ministers in the United States to establish the Jesus' name belief in the early 1900s. He baptized the first 300 preachers in Jesus' name right before becoming the first chairman of the Louisiana camp over 100 years ago. My father, Huss Shearer, preached for over 40 years and pastored churches in Texas and Ohio where he was district superintendent." Bro. Shearer served as youth pastor and principal of Lighthouse Christian School in Dayton, Ohio in 1978. He became assistant pastor there in 1986 and served as Ohio District Youth Secretary from 1986-1992. He served as director of After Easter Feast Conference from 1993-2000 and has served as a sectional presbyter in Alabama for 10 years.

### Church History

Bro. Shearer became pastor of Pentecostals of Saraland in February of 2001. He explained, "The church's history began with a group meeting in their homes for prayer and Bible study with Sis. Mamie Hicks. The church was then started in 1946 in Prichard, Alabama under Rev. D. J. Whitten who served as pastor until 1951. Rev. L. H. Benson then served as pastor until 1953, and Rev. Oscar Vouga served as pastor until he left to become Director of Foreign Missions in 1962. The following pastors included Rev. W. R. Pardue, Rev. C. E. Calk, Rev. Mark Calk and then myself in 2001 until the present time." He remembers his first service at Pentecostals of Saraland. "It was a Sunday morning service. Three received the Holy Ghost, but there was no water

in the baptismal, so we baptized them in the evening service. In our early years, we hung door hangers on every door in Saraland, handed out Hope books and changed the name of our church from First United Pentecostal Church to Pentecostals of Saraland."

### Conclusion

Bro. Shearer's favorite leisure time activities are golfing and fishing, and he feels that living on the Gulf Coast has been a beautiful blessing to his family.



Judy and Charles Shearer  
Saraland, Ala.



Left clockwise: Exterior of Pentecostals of Saraland; children sing at Vacation Bible School; Pastor Shearer preaches a sermon and performs a baptism; the congregation worships inside the sanctuary.



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Attendees were from Wisconsin, Ohio, Florida, Texas, the Carolinas, Mississippi, Kentucky, Tennessee and of course Louisiana.

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## 4 Internal Barriers to Church Growth

By Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources

There is rarely a simple explanation for the decline of a church. It is often a complex mix of cultural, theological, attitudinal and internal issues. Here are four common internal barriers in churches:

1. **Facility barriers.** The two most common are poor signage and inadequate parking. Other common barriers include dirty and cluttered facilities, inadequate worship space, inadequate children's space, and poor sound and lighting in the worship space.

2. **Staffing barriers.** Churches often staff the way they've always done it. But times change and needs change. Staffing alignment and job descriptions of the 1990s may be inadequate today. Sometimes the job descriptions can be fine, but the wrong people are in those positions. If a church leader is not in a position that matches his or her abilities and passions, the church has a structural growth barrier.

3. **Cultural barriers.** These barriers refer largely to attitudes and practices of the leadership and membership as perceived by guests. They could include a general unfriendly spirit in the church, acrimonious business meetings, perceived lengthy services and worship times that are not convenient for guests.

4. **Church calendar.** Many churches are notorious for being activity-driven. The church is so busy doing good things that it neglects the best things. Typically, the most often neglected ministries in busy churches are evangelism and ministry beyond the walls of the church. Most busy churches are not Great Commission churches.



## PURE Religion

by Stephen Judd



## Got Milk?

By Stephen Judd, TCM President



Stephen Judd  
[www.mansionkids.org](http://www.mansionkids.org)

"It's wonderful to always have food to eat," Emma stated as several girls were sitting around the table enjoying breakfast before getting ready for the TCM Sunday service.

As the table talk ensued, Olivia spoke up and said, "You're right about that. When I first came to the Mansion, it took me some time to get used to finding milk in the fridge every time I opened the door."

Emma then continued to share her story about how when she and her siblings were living with their grandmother, basic food items, like milk, were always in short supply.

"To make things stretch," Emma said, "Grandma would have her older brother save a little milk from his bowl of cereal, and then her sister would pour cereal into the same bowl, using the leftover milk. Finally it was my turn. Every morning, grandma and all three of us kids would share one bowl of milk with our cereal. Usually there wasn't enough milk to go around."

As they sat around the table finishing up their breakfast, other girls joined in the conversation sharing their similar experiences. Some talked about how they never had enough food at home, so they would go around during lunch at school asking their classmates for any food they didn't want. They would place the food in their backpacks and take it home for their siblings and other family members. One girl spoke about how the weekends were especially hard because they didn't have the food from their friends at school and would often get very hungry.

My heart was broken when the housemother shared this story with me. I just couldn't imagine that these children, with

their full stomachs and happy faces, had experienced such dire need, being deprived of the care that every child longs for and deserves.

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# joshua project<sup>2016</sup> june 1-3

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## Thursday

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General Session with Rev. Bryan Parkey

Evening Service with Rev. Anthony Mangun

food and fellowship to follow General Session and Evening Service

## Friday

Sessions with Rev. Bryan Parkey // Rev. Jeremy Stafford

General Session with Bro. Gentry Mangun

wild game/seafood luncheon to follow

Acts 26:16

# Purpose

Registration opens April 18.





# CAROLINA CRUSADES

- WAYNE HUNTLEY

Written by Gregg Stone



Wayne Huntley  
Garner, NC

**Bro. Huntley, tell us about the Carolina Crusades. What took place and where?**

Carolina Crusades is a church-planting campaign of the North Carolina District of the UPCL. It is said that familiarity breeds contempt. However, in this development,

familiarity bred concern, compassion and a call of God. Traveling the same repeated route year after year, season after season, to our hunting lease in northeast North Carolina brought us through the center of the small town of Enfield. It almost became traditional that as I viewed the poverty -- both financially and spiritually -- of the impoverished area that I would remark to my wife, "Something needs to be done here, somebody needs to do something about this. These people need help!" One day as these words fell from my mouth, they seemed to have fallen on the ears of God and I heard Him say, "Why don't you?" I said, "I will!"

I came into Enfield one day shortly after that experience to get a flat tire repaired on a four-wheeler. While the gentleman was patching the tire, another old gentleman stood by, just watching. I said, "Excuse me, sir, who runs this town?" He said, "I guess that would be the mayor." As soon as possible, I contacted her. I told her who I was and how I had passed through her city time after time and how God had given me a burden for her town and her people and a desire to bless them. Her unedited response was, "Lord God, Reverend, we need a blessing." I told her my plan was to come into her city and erect our tent on the county fairground property, which was a high visibility location for a tent crusade. We would give away many gifts and provide free food. This would be the preliminaries for a fabulous crusade. Our outreach team canvassed the area and we had a booth at their local festival advertising the upcoming crusade. Mayor Barbara Simmons welcomed us and pledged her full support, which she did give, way beyond our expectation. She provided our every need without any charges including a complete police force for security.

We connected the Enfield crusade with

our annual world missions conference. Our precious church responded in both finances and attendance. The expectation and anticipation was sky high. Attendance was probably between five and six hundred. When we began to worship, you could feel not only our excitement but also God's excitement. Bro. David Smith was our evangelist, and he did a masterful job. Tears gushed from my eyes as I saw the most wonderful thing I have ever experienced. Men, women, young and old were desperately reaching out to God. It was then I heard God speak to me, "This is where I want my church. I have been waiting for you to get here."

**What kind of results did you have?**

The end result was 88 filled with the Holy Ghost, including the mayor and the chief of police! We now have an active preaching point with locals attending in a free building provided by Mayor Simmons. She and the chief of police have both driven to Raleigh and visited the Temple Of Pentecost. At the conclusion of the crusade, again I heard God whisper, "Pay close attention to what has just happened; I have plans for this to be repeated and multiplied in the future."

In 2014, we hosted 10 simultaneous crusades in counties with no church, launching preaching points in each of them in one day. We also had Spanish pastors in place at each crusade, extending the possibility to 20 preaching points in one day.

Final results, 1,500-plus registered guests, 502 filled with the Holy Ghost, 87 baptized in Jesus name, 40-plus healings, and 10-plus churches launched, all in one day!

**Any unique stories or miracles you can share?**

The mother of Chester McGlockton, former defensive tackle for the Baltimore Ravens, was in attendance at the Whiteville Crusade. She was bound to a wheelchair and was brought to the front for prayer. It was then that she testifies that she felt tingling in her legs. A few moments later, she stood and walked in worship!

Another awesome miracle took place at our Tarboro Crusade. Just like the "loaves and the fishes" miracle in the New Testament, our food staff had only prepared enough food for 250-300 people. That Saturday they served 750 people full servings and never ran out of food!

**Is this something that might be able to be duplicated in other districts?**

Yes, and we can help. It would be our pleasure to support and share all information and the Carolina Crusade Model.

**Will you do this kind of district-wide crusade again?**

Yes. The Carolina Crusade campaign motto is "Reaching 59 Counties With The Gospel." The state of North Carolina has 100 counties, of which 59 had no United Pentecostal Church. After our ten 2014 Crusades, there are now 49 counties without a United Pentecostal Church. Our mission is to hold crusades in 10 new counties per year until all counties have a preaching point! We have already launched our 2015 crusades, 10 more counties, 10 plus more churches launched on October 17, 2015.

Due to the thrust of church planting, the state of North Carolina does have need for home missionaries. Some of these new preaching points launched in 2014 need permanent pastors. The district will entertain inquiries regarding these new churches. If you have any interest, please contact the NC North American Missions Director Floyd Morris at 910-791-8996.

**Can others contact you for more information and if so, how to best contact you?**

Absolutely. Contact Jeff Cecil, [cecil.carolinacrusades@gmail.com](mailto:cecil.carolinacrusades@gmail.com), 919.524.8127. Also, feel free to visit our social media sites for more info, pictures and videos. [www.carolinacrusades.com](http://www.carolinacrusades.com)

2014 Carolina Crusade results video: YouTube: <https://youtu.be/dmox7OM9soU>

2014 Pre Carolina Crusades Promo: YouTube: <https://youtu.be/FBsxNPO5j4o>

Carolina Crusades Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/CarolinaCrusades](https://www.facebook.com/CarolinaCrusades)





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.

# apostolic alendar 2015

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SPEAKERS	CONTACT / INFO
<b>JAN 29</b>	<b>Indiana Bible College LIVE RECORDING</b> 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
<b>FEB 18-20</b>	<b>WinterFire 2016</b> 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 1151 Blue Hills Ave. Bloomfield, CT 06002	Paul Mooney, Sam Emory, T.F. Tenney, Jerald Staten, David Bernard and Rashidi Collins, Tim Greene and Janice Sjostrand	For more info: visit www.winterfire.org or visit Twitter: winterfire-conf or Facebook/Instagram: winterfireconf
<b>FEB 19-20</b>	<b>Systems &amp; Strategies Conference</b> A conference for pastors and leaders examining systems and strategies to help Apostolic churches prepare for the harvest.	Church of Pentecost 8709 Hogan Rd. Jacksonville, FL Host Pastors: Rick & Alexa Olson	Wayne Huntley	For more info: visit www.systemsandstrategies, www.churchofpentecost.org or call (904) 645-0153
<b>FEB 25-27</b>	<b>Indiana Bible College CONNECT 2016</b> 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
<b>MARCH 3-4</b>	<b>Passing the Mantle 2016</b> PTM exists to equip ministers and ministry teams with spiritual tools to better reach their communities for the Lord. Our goal is to make each attendee more effective in their place of ministry.	Bartlett United Pentecostal Church 270 E. Schick Road Bartlett, IL 60103	Eli Hernandez, Harold Hoffman, Allan Shalm, Jack Cunningham, James Booker and Tom Trimble	For more info: visit www.passingthementle.org or call 630-837-9800
<b>APRIL 6-8</b>	<b>Indiana Bible College MUSIC FEST 2016</b> 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
<b>APRIL 28-30</b>	<b>Eagles Summit Conference - Stockton, CA</b> Eagles Summit is committed to birthing, empowering and equipping Apostolic leaders to build the Kingdom of God.	Stockton, CA	John Arcovio	For more info: visit www.eaglessummit.net
<b>MAY 9-10</b>	<b>Ministers Only Book Rendezvous - Grand Rapids, MI</b> No pre-registration required. Just show up! Enjoy the newly expanded Baker Book House. No business, no agenda. Just books, sharing and fellowship.	Grand Rapids, MI	Hosts: Paul D. Mooney and O.C. Marler	For more info: contact LaDusta Brown at labwn@aol.com or 317-262-4030
<b>JUNE 8-10</b>	<b>Power Conference 2016</b> Services begin at 7:30 p.m. nightly. Day sessions at 10 a.m. Thursday and Friday morning.	Crossroads Arena 2800 S. Harper Rd. Corinth, MS Host: John Hodum	Mark Morgan, Wayne Huntley	For more info: contact Josh Hodum @ 662-872-9999 or John Hodum @ 931-332-3926
<b>JULY 2016</b>	<b>Mile High Conference 2016</b> Revival of Prayer, Praise and Evangelism	Calvary Apostolic Church Of Denver, 5900 E. Yale Ave. Denver, CO 80222	To be announced	(303) 758-5900 www.cacdenver.org DEH2@comcast.net
<b>AUG 18-19</b>	<b>Investing in Futures</b> A conference for those who invest in children. Educating, encouraging and equipping children's ministry workers.	Apostolic Sanctuary 1501 John Deere Pkwy Silvis, IL 61282 Host: Gary Randol	Donnie Sheerin, Brian Kinsey, Tim Gaddy	For more info: visit invest-in-futures.com (309) 792-0414
<b>SEPT. 10-11</b>	<b>Mid-America Renewal Conference (MARC)</b> Indianapolis, Indiana - A Power Packed Preaching Conference in the Heart of the Midwest.	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN Host: Paul D. Mooney	To be announced	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
<b>SEPT 27-30</b>	<b>92nd Annual UPCI General Conference</b> Don't miss it!	Indiana Convention Ctr. 100 S. Capitol Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46225	To be announced	Online registration, hotel reservations and exhibit registration available at www.upcigc.com
<b>OCT 2016</b>	<b>Apostolic Doctrine Conference</b> Strengthening Our Doctrinal Foundation	New Life Fellowship 7849 Wabash Avenue Terre Haute, IN 47803	To be announced	For more info: www.newliferrehaute.com or 812-877-9348
<b>NOV 2016</b>	<b>Times of Refreshing -- Lewisville, TX</b> Service times are Thursday and Friday 7:30 p.m., Saturday 6 p.m. Children's church nightly with David Moore -- ages 5-11	Pentecostals of Lewisville 331 E. Church St. Lewisville, TX 75057 Host Pastor: Rob McKee	To be announced	For more info: visit www.gordonpoe.com/TOR/conference. (717) 755-7202



# Theology: Is Mary the “Biological Mother” of Jesus?



Robert L. Rodenbush

## Church Today

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### Your Nest Is Not About You!

Long before birds can lay eggs, they begin to build a nest. It's fascinating to think that birds do not build their nests with the idea of housing, as only a few species will stay in the same nest for a lifetime. Nests are built specifically with the idea of nurturing and protecting their young. If we truly want revival, it is my thought that we must focus on building our ministry “nests,” not with the idea of what is comfortable for us, or what might make us content, but with our concentration upon souls.

Just like God directs birds to a proper location, I believe He can direct us to specific locations where we are to build our MINISTRY nest - in order to help see souls saved and revival accomplished in our churches. God puts us in the position to serve our pastor and/or serve a church body. We are placed by the hand of God; therefore, we must guard against the spirit of discontentment. The bird cannot begin to make one nest one day and then move off to build somewhere else the next.

*“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation”* (Hebrews 13:5-7).

Building a ministry and preparing a church for revival takes continuous and thoughtful action. A single swallow may make more than 1,200 trips back and forth with materials and supplies to prepare his nest. The work is deliberate and takes much care. We cannot resent the position or the ministry “nest” God has asked us to build. It may not make sense, it may not be glamorous, but stay focused on the fact that this is NOT about YOU! It is about providing a place where a new soul can be birthed into the body of Christ. And, the work merely begins once someone comes through the doors. Once a baby bird is hatched, some require food 4-12 times per hour. It's continual service to make sure the new life is ready for its own flight.

The spirit of discontentment is most difficult to avoid in seasons where one is not seeing the expected or desired results. Think on this, an American Robin may nest up to three times a year, but only 40% of those nests will produce young. The bird doesn't stop building or preparing just because it wasn't successful every time. God will give the increase in His timing. Just keep building your “nest.”



Bobby Killmon

## Theology

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### Is Mary the “biological mother” of Jesus, or was she simply an incubator of sorts?

This subject touches many issues regarding not just Christology (the doctrine of Christ - godhead) but also Soteriology (the doctrine of salvation). Not long ago, our UPCI organization agonized over and prayerfully dealt with this doctrine in a particular form known by most as the “Divine Flesh” doctrine. While space limits prevent me from going into the history of that crisis, suffice it to say one cannot be a licensed minister in fellowship with the UPCI and believe this particular heresy. Our organization holds this issue in high regard because it touches critical doctrines including the incarnation as well as the doctrine of atonement.

Jesus was predetermined to be born as a man in order to be the Messiah as shown in Romans 8:29. This was so as a man in covenant, we could be like Him in covenant. We know that 1 Tim. 2:5 says, “For [there is] one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,” which shows God had to become man to bring about salvation.

But further, Christ had to be LIKE US to be our SUBSTITUTE and High Priest. Heb. 4:15 shows this saying He, “...was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.” The point is He was tempted in ALL points exactly LIKE we are! Further, Heb. 2:17 says, “Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest...” This shows He was made LIKE us in ALL THINGS so He could qualify as our High Priest.

More particularly, Gen. 3:15 says, “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed...” Notice here it's even clearer that it's “the seed of the WOMAN.” This closes the door on any possibility of Jesus having “another flesh” or Mary being a mere “incubator” for Jesus. This is affirmed as well in Matthew 1 where he spends time tracing Jesus' lineage through Mary to Abraham showing the fulfilled promise both to the forefathers or patriarchs (Abraham) and to David the King. Again, this shows the genetic connection is critical. In the Gospels, Jesus is said to be the “son of David” 15 times which can only be if He was truly from the lineage of David through Mary's genes.

The point is Jesus had to be a human being just like us, with the specific genetic and lineage connection, in order to be our Messiah. Without that we would have no mediator (1 Tim. 2:5).



T. W. Massengale

## Church Growth

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### The Welcome Mat

Ask the average pastor if his church is friendly and you will get an almost 100% affirmative response. Everyone thinks their church is friendly - and it is to them. But to the typical stranger

who walks through our doors, we might be shocked at how un-welcome they perceive our church. Here are some ideas to consider if you want your church to be more welcoming.

*Make it extremely easy to find your church - especially online.* Yellow page books are almost museum pieces. While I still encourage churches to make sure their listing in the local phone book or yellow pages is accurate and up-to-date (have you checked yours lately?), most use an online search engine such as Google, Bing, Yahoo, AOL or Ask. You should check your listing in the top ten. Your website should be current with directions, phone numbers, email addresses,

service times, and more. Make sure your answering service is working and includes addresses and phone numbers. Your church sign should be clean, well-lighted and include service times, also.

*Make sure guests feel welcome as soon as they arrive.* If parking is limited, use trained lot attendants. Have “reserved for guests” spots close to the front. Door keepers are important and hostesses are essential. Guests should be greeted as soon as they walk in, given a guest packet and helped in completing a guest card. They should be informed of washroom locations, nursery rooms if needed, Sunday school classes on Sunday morning and other unique needs. They are then introduced to an usher who will make sure they are seated on a main aisle, about half way down. This makes their response at altar call easy.

*Make it easy for guests to know what you offer.* Your guest packet should include information about upcoming special activities and that you offer home Bible studies. Guest packets should also include contact information, a description of ministries, and how to contact the pastor if needed.

*Make contact within 24 hours.* A simple phone call works. Simply say, “Hi, this is Debbie from First Apostolic Church. Pastor Johnson asked me to call and let you know how much he appreciated you being with us in service this past Sunday and we would love to have you visit us again.” This call will go a long way in letting them know you love them and are there to help. A personal letter from the pastor should arrive a few days later.

*Make a home visit within seven days.* Trained follow-up workers should knock on their door before the next Sunday and leave a nice gift (a small tin of cookies works great!). They should be invited back with a nice color flyer and asked if they have heard about your home Bible study program.

Remember that 100% of your new converts come from your church guests. Very few get the Holy Ghost the first time they come. So encouraging their return is the best evangelism ministry you can have. Don't let anyone tell you this kind of effort doesn't work. Studies show that churches making these kinds of efforts see *double* the converts per year over those who don't.



# Christmas for Christ

Assisting Church Planters in North America

*Christmas for Christ is an annual offering for North American Missions.*

This special offering is received during the Christmas season and is used to enlist, train, and financially support missionaries who work to establish churches in un-evangelized and under-evangelized areas in North America.



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# *Giving Our Best Gift.*

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**December 20, 2015**



Discover how Christmas for Christ made  
a difference for these church planters

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Carol Clemans

## Spiritual Growth

### Our Home Life Reveals Our Heart!

What we are in the home reveals our heart. Many people live two different lifestyles. When in public, some people are respectful, kind and considerate to others. But in the home, those same people are selfish, verbally abusive, demeaning and demanding. This is true of some who call themselves believers in God.

The Word of God shares that a "double minded man is unstable in all of his ways." Another definition of this behavior is hypocrisy. When a person claims a belief in God with morals, standards and God's love and yet his/her actions do not conform to the claim, it is hypocrisy. *Nothing* is hidden from God. We cannot pretend to be godly at church and then abusive or demeaning in any way to our spouse or family in the home.

*The Counselor* says that life and death are in the power of the tongue. When the tongue is used as a negative weapon, it will destroy. We *all* will give an account to God for every idle (painful, useless) word that we speak. God looks in our hearts – our tongue/attitude reveal what is in our heart.

I counsel nationwide by phone/Skype helping people to heal from and stop abuse. *How we treat others is how we are treating God.* Jesus said, "What you do to the least of these my brethren, you have done unto me." Whatever we do, we are to do all to the glory of God. Verbal, emotional or physical abuse does not glorify God.

Jesus Christ came to serve, and we are to follow His example starting in marriage and the home. The husband is to be the servant/leader loving as Jesus Christ! When sacrificial love is bestowed on a wife, she cannot resist that kind of loving man. That's God's design!

Carol Clemans: [www.carolclemans.org](http://www.carolclemans.org) - bio, 215+ articles, teaching CD's & DVD's, book: GOD'S DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE. To schedule speaking or counseling nationwide by phone/Skype call: (636) 448-0121. Pastor Daniel Batchelor of Duplo, IL is on Bd. of Dir. for Life Enrichment Ministries, Inc. (501c3).



Delano Sherley

## Accounting & Tax

### Internal Controls and Budgets

We find that most churches do not prepare an annual budget. While it does take some time to properly set one up, there are many benefits to doing so.

The process of budgeting for each income and expense line item forces the church to look at expenses in detail. This allows more scrutiny of each expense, and many times areas for cost savings are



Brian Norman

## Revival Concepts

### Keep Sowing

"A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed . . ." - Luke 8:5

In Luke chapter 8, Jesus gives a great parable regarding the harvest He has in our world and local communities. Jesus talks about the sowing of seed and how that sometimes it produces greater results for the Kingdom than others. Usually when we hear this passage preached or taught there is a focus on the "ground" or the "harvest" instead of the process which brings about that harvest. The passage actually offers several significant key insights that can help produce a great harvest:

1) *Sow Seed Everywhere.* Notice how the sower went out and sowed seed on every kind of soil. There was no pre-qualification of the soil, its potential or likability. It can become easy to prejudice soil – that is not our job! God alone gives the increase. He alone is in charge of the harvest. We are just called to SOW EVERYWHERE. God and time will determine the quality of the soil and harvest.

2) *Breakthrough Is Coming!* Verse 8 of Luke 8 says, "and bare fruit an hundredfold." NOTICE – this "hundredfold" fruit bearing did not come at first. This was the last soil Jesus spoke about. This illustrates that we are promised greater and greater breakthrough as we continue faithfully to sow. Indeed the glory of the latter house is greater than the former (Hag. 2:9). So keep believing and sowing in faith.

3) *Identify.* Notice that this parable begins in verse 5 by saying, "A sower went out. . ." There was an immediate identification that this individual was a sower. Recognizing that we are not called to give increase or harvest but rather *faithfully* sow is important for us as believers and as the Church. This is who we are, this is what we do. And as we do so *faithfully* we can be assured breakthrough is coming, hundredfold fruit is coming. God will give us the harvest and increase.

Brian Norman has been in the ministry for 23 years, serving as a Pastor, Church Planter and now as a full-time Evangelist. Phone: 636-544-0627 Website: [GlobalEvangelism.org](http://GlobalEvangelism.org)

identified through this process.

A budget also provides the needed data to make informed purchasing decisions. For example, when resources are scarce, a budget can help you decide where you can cut expenses to provide the needed cash for a higher priority, or for an unforeseen expense.

Often, a budget is also used to make sure the church meets its bank loan covenants (i.e. debt service coverage ratio).

An often overlooked benefit of having a budget is it can help identify misuse of church funds. By comparing the actual expenses each month to the budget,



Aubrey Jayroe

## Finance

### Recently, I received a phone call from a person stating they were with the Internal Revenue Service. The individual stated that I owed back taxes and that the IRS was about to sue me for the payment of those taxes. Is this legitimate or just a scam?

First of all, the employees of the IRS do not make unsolicited phone calls to taxpayers unless the taxpayer has already been in contact with the IRS regarding any issues pending. A call from someone who states they are with the IRS and that the IRS is suing for the payment of back taxes is just a scam.

The IRS never sues anyone for the payment of back taxes owed. You may be levied or some other form of collection taken; however, you will always get correspondence that is certified mail prior to that happening. If you owe back taxes, the best thing to do is make the overture to call the IRS (before they call you) and get help or contact your professional tax preparer to give assistance.

There have been many taxpayers in recent weeks that have received such calls from people claiming to be with the IRS. They may even leave a voice mail on your phone with a return call number. DO NOT call them back. DO NOT talk to these individuals. It is a scam to get your private banking and social security information. There have been several new reports recently warning people to be aware of such a scam.

If the IRS has a problem with your tax matters, the company will always write an official letter from the U.S. Treasury, Internal Revenue Service. Should you be dealing with the IRS and it requires a phone conversation, the IRS representative will provide you with an identification number. Write that number down, along with the name of the person calling, for future reference. You will never get a call from the IRS unless you have previously been dealing with them through correspondence.

You may also wish to contact your professional tax preparer upon receiving any IRS call. He or she can always communicate for you and will know which calls are legitimate and which are not.

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](mailto:jayroeone@sbcglobal.net)

expense categories that are over budget should be reviewed to determine the cause. This exercise only takes a few minutes each month but can help identify theft or fraud.

Reviewing the actual expenses versus the budget is made easy by most accounting softwares. If you need help setting up your budgets for 2016, please give us a call.

Delano Sherley is a CPA and president of Delano Sherley & Associates, Inc. He can be reached at 513-737-1314. Delano Sherley & Associates, Inc., 3189 Princeton Road, Suite 228, Hamilton, OH 45011. Email: [Delano@dsacpa.com](mailto:Delano@dsacpa.com) Website: [www.dsacpa.com](http://www.dsacpa.com)



**THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS****Good Families Are Unfair?**

*Equality* is one of the watchwords of our time. It's invoked in nearly every political, ethical, and social discussion. And lately, it's gone completely off the rails. Two philosophers recently profiled by



Australia's ABC network have taken this already runaway definition of equality

to a whole new level.

Professors Adam Swift of the University of Warwick and Harry Brighthouse of the University of Wisconsin, Madison think they've found the root source of inequality in society: the family.

Social scientists have long known that loving families with two parents confer an enormous advantage on children. Evidence shows these kids are more likely to attend college, less likely to suffer or perpetrate abuse, less likely to do drugs or cross the law, and have a higher likelihood of passing on these advantages to their own children. You would think this would make us want good families in our society. But Swift and Brighthouse don't think that's fair.

"If the family is this source of unfairness in society," says Swift, "then it looks plausible to think that if we abolished the family there would be a more level playing field."

Now happily, Swift and Brighthouse recognize that abolishing the family altogether would be going overboard. So their alternative is to hobble intact families—especially those with means—by prohibiting private school, inheritance, summer camp, and other "purely economic means" of conferring advantage on children. And since bedtime stories also give kids a leg-up in life, they think you should "occasionally" feel bad about reading to your kids, too.

While most sane people would look at healthy families and think, "every kid should live like this," these philosophers say, "no kid should live like this."

Who would expect this type of thinking from tenured scholars? Our response to the God-orchestrated advantages that loving, intact families give their kids should be to rebuild a family-centered culture, and that's what the church has done throughout history: proposed the good of family to the world, and helped restore lives broken by broken homes.

**Thousands Turn From Islam to Embrace Christianity**

As the Islamic State tries to overrun Syria and Iraq, thousands are reportedly turning away from their extremist values and finding Jesus.

"I was a devout Muslim and often preached, but there was something missing," said Iraqi Barazan Azezi to *The Christian Post*. "There was something empty about Allah and the Quran. Jesus appeared to me in a dream and opened my eyes . . . what has been missing was His love and peace."

Azezi said he started to read the Bible. "I used to be a violent person internally and I was always afraid of Allah," he said. "I kept following instructions to satisfy him; however, as I read the Bible I began to love the one true God and see His truth."

The community typically marks Muslims who convert to Christianity as outsiders; others are killed for their faith.

"In the beginning, my family thought I was joking and claimed that I was going mad. After months of debates, they started to threaten to kill me . . . it was God's grace that helped me overcome the fear," Azezi said.

Reportedly, some Islamic State fighters are also telling stories of meeting a man who healed them. They then come to accept Jesus.

"A decade ago, we would all hear when even one Muslim came to Christ in Lebanon or Syria. Now there are so many we cannot keep count," a humanitarian worker told *The Christian Post*.

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

■ In comments likely to enhance his progressive reputation, Pope Francis has written a long, open letter to the founder of *La Repubblica* newspaper, Eugenio Scalfari, stating that non-believers would be forgiven by God as long as they followed their consciences.

Responding to a list of questions published in the paper by Scalfari, who is not a Roman Catholic, Francis wrote: "You ask me if the God of the Christians forgives those who don't believe and who don't seek the faith. I start by saying – and this is the fundamental thing – that God's mercy has no limits if you go to him with a sincere and contrite heart. The issue for those who do not believe in God is to obey their conscience. Sin, even for those who have no faith, only

exists when people disobey their conscience."

■ Archaeologists in a Palestinian city in Israel have uncovered the ruins of a city that was once home to Goliath the giant. The archaeologists have unearthed a huge gate and a fortified wall in the modern-day city of Tell es-Safi. They believe the gate and wall to be part of "the lower city of Gath," a Philistine metropolis of the ancient world.

The Philistine city is described in the Bible as being the home of Goliath, the giant who threatened the nation of Israel and was felled by a stone from future king of Israel, David's sling. The archaeologists uncovered the city of Gath's wall and massive gate while they were digging trenches to unearth the city's fortifications.

**CONSUMER TRENDS****Frito-Lay Introduces Rainbow Doritos**

Taste the rainbow? Doritos is taking a page from Skittles' book. The brand, owned by Frito-Lay, is offering rainbow-colored Doritos for those who donate to the "It Gets Better Project," a nonprofit that assists LGBT youth.



At minimum, you must donate \$10 at [www.ItGetsBetter.org/DoritosRainbows](http://www.ItGetsBetter.org/DoritosRainbows) to be mailed a bag of limited edition Doritos Rainbows chips, which come in the Cool Ranch flavor.

"Doritos supports the bold lives our fans lead—all of them," the company wrote on the It Gets Better site. One reader commented: "I think I will avoid purchasing Frito-Lay products from now on. They can choose who they want to support, but so can I."

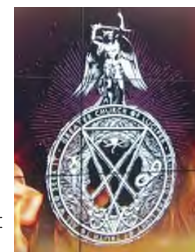
**RELIGIOUS TRENDS****Greater Church of Lucifer to Open Doors In Texas**

A recent church plant in Texas is stirring controversy across the country, as the Greater Church of Lucifer prepares to open its doors.

"The Greater Church of Lucifer is a foundation for the unique individual who dares to illuminate the inner-light of the Black Flame," according to their website. "As individuals, we seek to express our insight towards attaining apotheosis, Lords of our spiritual and carnal world. As a foundation, GCOL seeks to inspire the few in the masses towards self-excellence and change."

GCOL Co-President Michael Ford tells a local news outlet, though, that the Lucifer practitioners are misunderstood and that they are not worshipping the devil.

GCOL founder "Jacob No" says services are not what most might connote with a church-going experience. "We do not have a preacher," he says. "We do not have somebody saying, 'This is the way it has to be, you have to live this way.' We're giving a platform for people to explore themselves with ultimate freedom."







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# MIDYEAR ENROLLMENT



Enrolling in January allowed me to immediately experience all of the events I heard so much about but could never attend. It was such an exhilarating feeling to jump right in to the work of God taking place at IBC.

Kelsey Wilson  
IBC student



Coming in January was a great experience for me. IBC is a very welcoming place. Teachers and peers helped me adapt to coming in January. By taking a few extra credits each semester, I will be able to graduate with the class that came the previous semester.

Kyle Bowden  
IBC student

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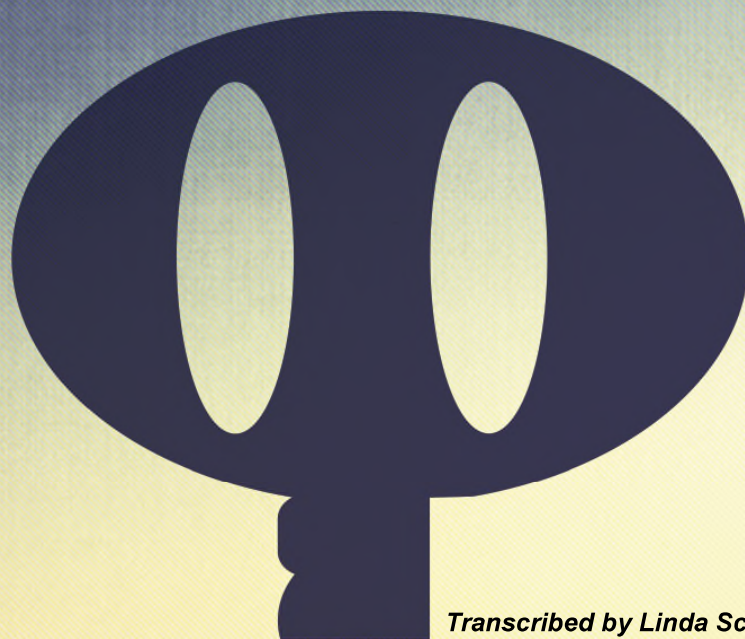
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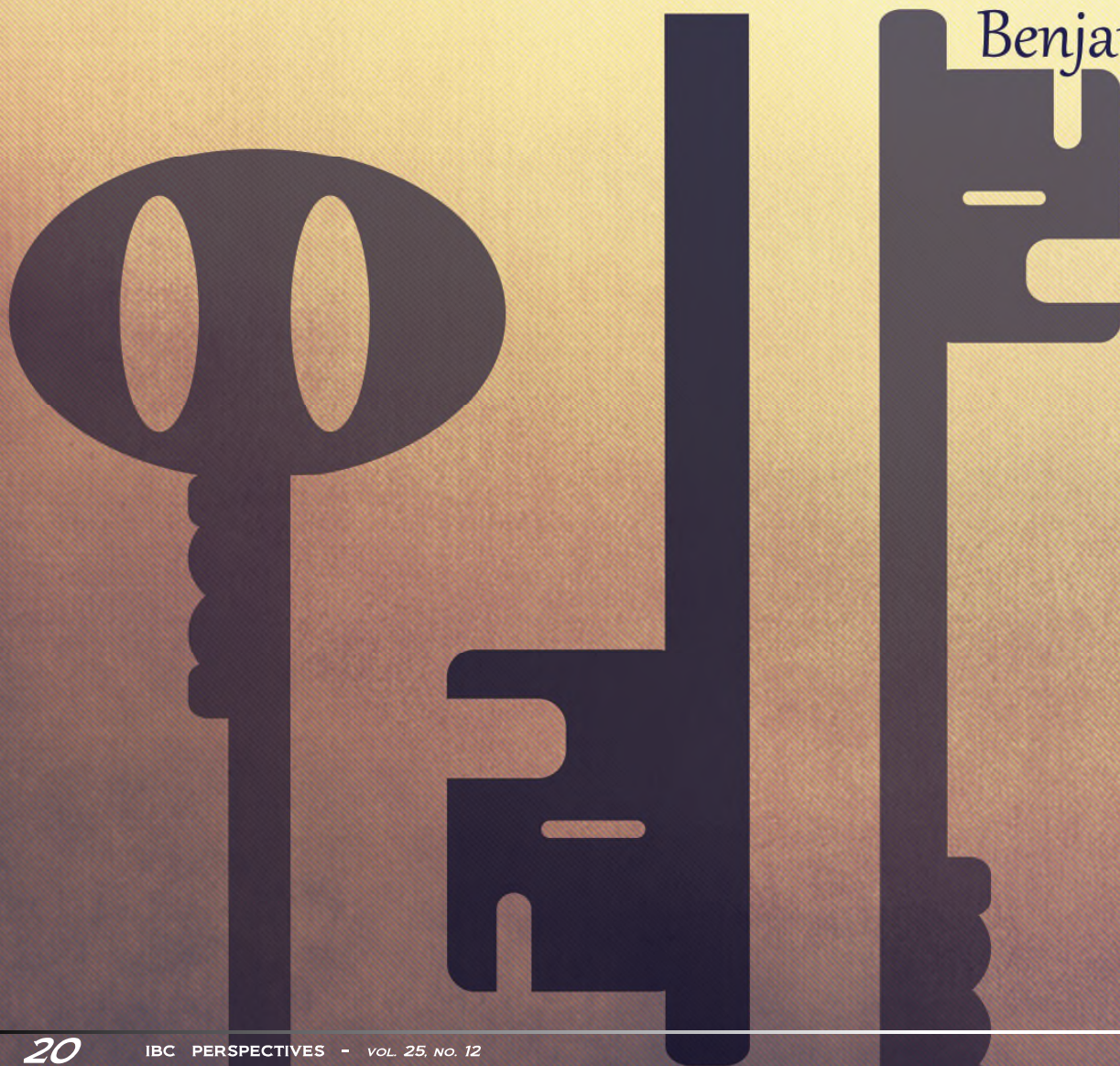




*Transcribed by Linda Schreckenberg*

# KEYS TO UNCLICKING THE SUPERNATURAL

Benjamin Arazu





The supernatural has to do with beyond what is natural. It is that which you cannot explain by natural laws or understand by the ideals of man. God is the only one that can perform the supernatural. There are a lot of principles in the kingdom that the Lord has released unto the church that the church is not tapping into. There are keys that will unlock the supernatural.

A woman in Nigeria was having problems in her marriage. As we began to pray about the situation, she had one challenge after another. She came back to me and said, "Pastor, it looks like the more I pray, the more I have problems." I began to seek the face of God and asked Him what I should do. There are points in our lives when we have tried everything we know to try, yet nothing is working. We need to ask Him for the next step. The Lord said, "Tell her to come to the church and sweep the dirty places in the church." So I told her to come to the church and sweep and clean, and she did. Before the week was up, God had corrected everything in her marriage, and her joy and peace were restored. How did it happen? It was the supernatural!

Service to the Lord is one of the keys to the supernatural. Your commitment to the work of God can release the supernatural to work on your behalf. Your unconditional passion for the things of God can cause the angels to take notice and cause God to help you out.

Luke chapter 1 relates the story of Zacharias. It says a *certain priest* named Zacharias and his wife, Elizabeth, were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. They loved the Lord and did everything right, but the scripture tells us they had no child. In Israel, no matter how rich or influential you were, if you didn't have a child, it was a problem to the family. Although Abraham had received blessings from God, he and his wife still didn't have a child and needed the supernatural. Zacharias and his wife didn't have a child, but they could not allow their problem to affect their service to God. Sometimes when you have problems, you use the excuse that you can't come to church or do anything in the church because you have trouble. Luke 1:8-11 tells us that as Zacharias executed the priest's office before God and burned incense, an angel appeared to tell him that they were going to have a child. What if Zacharias had awakened that morning and said, "I am tired. I have served the Lord all of my life. I have paid tithes. I have done everything I could, but today I have made up my mind I am not going to the temple to burn incense." He would have missed the angel. You never know when God is going to remember you. That is why you need to serve Him, worship Him and give Him praise at all times, even in times of trouble and sickness. Your service will release the supernatural!

A pastor's wife in Nigeria had been sick for two years. She had gone to hospitals, but they couldn't recognize the problem. God spoke to her to clean up the dirty places in the church. As she was doing that, she felt as though someone laid hands upon her, and immediately the sickness disappeared. It was the supernatural! The functions of the supernatural things of God are supposed to be happening in our midst. However, in this day, people aren't ready to sacrifice their time. Your service is like a bridge to link you to the supernatural. God has given to you, and you give back to Him.

In II Kings 20, Hezekiah was sick unto death. The prophet Isaiah came to him and said unto him, "Thus saith the Lord, set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live." You wouldn't be very happy if your pastor walked into your house and told you to get your house in order, because you are going to die. There was no remedy for Hezekiah, no doctor that could help him. The Bible says, "Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the Lord, saying, I beseech thee, O Lord, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight..." He was saying, "Remember my service, Lord. I have loved you and I have done that which is right." Why should Hezekiah remind God of all he had done? God already knew those things. Hezekiah was saying, "Before you kill me, I want to tell you I have done something for you. You can have mercy and help me." Before

Isaiah was gone out into the middle court, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "Turn again and tell Hezekiah, the captain of my people, thus saith the Lord, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the Lord." There is always a day of remembrance, and what you are doing right now is being recorded. God is looking for people that will do service for Him.



Bro. and Sis. Benjamin Arazu  
Rome, NY

Acts 9:36-37 says, "Now there was at Joppa, a *certain* disciple named Tabitha or Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and almsdeeds. She became sick and died, and they laid her in an upper chamber." Somebody is dead, and they have refused to bury her because they saw that this woman was a servant to God. She had served God and had been a blessing in the church. When Peter got there from Lydda, the widows stood by him weeping, shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them. They were telling what services she had done for God. Verse 40 says, "But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up." Your service for God will work for you even when you can't pray. Dorcas did not pray. It was not her prayer that woke her up, but it was her service. God remembered her service.

If you have been serving the Lord, don't give up. And, if you have not been serving the Lord, start doing it right now. I don't know about you, but I have made up my mind that every drop of blood in me is going to serve and worship God. Everything about me is going to praise Him. Lift up your hands and tell Him, "God, I'm going to serve you. I'm going to give everything to you." Your service is a key to unlocking the supernatural.

**Bio: Bro. Benjamin David Arazu, born into a witch doctor's family, left home at 16 in search of the true God. Missionaries Gerald McLean and his wife picked him up from the streets. He graduated from the UPCI college in Nigeria in 2000. He and his wife, Vivian, have 3 children: Victorian, Wendy and Gerald. He planted four churches in Nigeria, lectured at the Bible college and is president of the Royal Seed Child Support Foundation.**

**A former presbyter of the western states of Nigeria UPCI, Bro. Arazu is a speaker at ministers' conferences and has travelled internationally. He founded River of Life Christian Church in Rome, N.Y. in November 2014. River of Life is a daughter work of the UPC of Utica, pastored by Bro. Alan Bessiter.**



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# Children Use Finger Puppets to Pray for MKs

By Susan Thomas



Cylinda Nickel  
Cabot, Ark.

"I want to pray for the missionary kids," Emily states excitedly to her mom as she says her nightly prayers. Emily's mom gets the prayer puppets out of the basket on the dresser. Emily places them on six of her little fingers and begins to pray. "Lord, please help

all the children in Africa to get the Holy Ghost, just like I did." MK Prayer Puppets, sponsored by MK Ministries, are used as a fun and interactive tool for children to encourage prayer for our missionary kids in the six regions of the world.

"The six puppets come with a card that gives three prayer points that the missionaries in each area have asked for prayer coverage over their kids," states Sis. Cylinda Nickel. "For example, after you place the European finger puppet on your finger you look for the picture on the card that looks like that puppet and pray what the card says for those missionary kids."

Sis. Nickel is passionate about missions work. At the age of five, she moved to St. Croix, Virgin Islands, where her parents were appointed missionaries. As an adult, she served in several countries under short-

term missions appointments. Currently, she and her husband, John, serve as children's pastors for New Life Church in Cabot, Ark.

Sis. Nickel explains why she likes to promote the finger puppets. "A lot of times people want to pray but are not sure what to pray for each area," she said. "Since the puppets are a hands-on tool, kids love to use them. They also allow them to learn how to pray for others."

According to Sis. Nickel, MK Ministries launched this product to get tools into the hands of children. Any tool or visual aid tends to lend itself automatically to kids wanting to be a part of prayer. "Our goal is to have as much prayer coverage as possible over our MK's," she said.

"Some children live in nations where they are undercover Christians and they rely on prayer coverage for wisdom, safety and God's daily direction."

How are the puppets used? Their primary purpose is to encourage children to put them on their fingers and pray for the missionary kids. "Some classes use a globe and match the finger puppet to the area," explained Sis. Nickel. "The student can point to the area on the globe that he or

she is praying for while holding the finger puppet in the other hand. Six children are given a chance to pray for MKs at once and then they pass the prayer puppets along to the next set of six.

"One church made a cake that had six layers in different colors. They decorated the cake with the prayer puppets on top of the cake. As the kids ate each color layer they prayed for the MKs in that region."

You can order the prayer puppets at: <http://www.upwithmks.com/resources2.html>. The cost is \$12 including shipping. The puppets and prayer key come in a "kids around the world" box that allows for easy storage.

Sis. Nickel added, "Missionary kids are not kids of missionaries; they are missionaries who happen to be kids. We know that God does not call just parents; He calls families. It is our honor to help them in every way possible to complete the mission that God has called their family to."

You can connect to them at: Facebook/Instagram/Twitter/Pinterest @ MK Ministries [www.upwithmks.com](http://www.upwithmks.com) and [Cylindanickel@gmail.com](mailto:Cylindanickel@gmail.com). The phone number is: 501-628-8404.



## "Who Was Jesus Christ?"

### A Decisive Bible Study on the Trinity and the Oneness of God

By Linda Schreckenberg



Bro. William Felt  
Bloomington, Indiana

"This is the way the Word is meant to be taught: simple, clear and Word-defined," said Pastor R. J. Hall of the Pentecostals of Hayward in Hayward, Calif. "This is one of the finest and most effective Bible studies on the oneness of God I have ever seen," said Bro. Roger Evans of

First Pentecostal Church of the West Bank, Marrero, La. "I came from a Trinitarian background and believed God actually existed simultaneously in three distinct persons. Bro. Felt's in-depth study is enlightening, yet very easy to understand."

These kind words were directed to Bro. William Felt, who developed the study *Who Was Jesus Christ?* Bro. Felt, who serves as Sunday school director at The Pentecostals of Hayward, came from a Trinitarian background. After someone

approached him about the oneness of God, he began to look into what he believed. It wasn't easy for him to make a change. He needed proof that God was a singular being and not a Triune being. That proof came through various studies, including the *Wheel of Prophecy* study by Bro. C. P. Kilgore.

"If there ever was a time we need to know and understand who and what Jesus was, it is now," said Bro. Felt. He noted two specific reasons for the development of his study: 1) God said, "My people perish for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6), and 2) The Apostle Paul said, "If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost" (II Cor. 4:3). One third generation preacher, after viewing the PowerPoint study, said, "I didn't know they believe this," referring to the teaching of the Trinity! That teaching, accepted by so many, is one of the largest stumbling blocks to those that "believe in Christ."

*Who Was Jesus Christ?* Bible study was completed in August 2015. It is of

excellent quality with outstanding colorful graphics and charts which clearly define the powerful truth of the oneness of God, versus the man-made doctrine of the Trinity. It is designed to be taught by pastors, teachers, and as a home Bible study to any size group. The study is only available at this time in PowerPoint format. PPT is now available for iPads, so the study can be taught on an iPad at a coffee shop or anywhere. It works on Macs and PCs, so it will work on any device that runs Microsoft Office 365. The presentation is more than just slides; it interacts with the teacher with PPT built-in animation features. There will not be a video format of the study. Bro. Felt feels it is a one-on-one study and must be presented live. The study is available in English and Spanish, and you can order the Bible study by contacting Bro. Felt toll free at 1-866-921-5679 or emailing him at [soulwinning@gods covenant.biz](mailto:soulwinning@gods covenant.biz). The study can be ordered online at [www.LivingWordBibleStudy.com](http://www.LivingWordBibleStudy.com). Cost is \$49.



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**Word To The Wise:**

"The road to success is always under construction."

\* \* \* \* \*

A minister tells of his first Sunday in a new parish and of presenting the children's message. It seems the sanctuary in the new church had some magnificent stained glass windows, so his message centered on how each of us are called to help make up the whole picture of life (the family of God). Like the pictures in the windows, it takes many little panels of glass to make the whole picture.

And then he said, "You see each one of you is a little pane."

And then pointing to each child, "You're a little pane. And you're a little pane. And you're a little pane. And..."

It took a few moments before he realized why everyone was laughing so hard.

\* \* \* \* \*

Child at dinner table: "Are caterpillars good to eat?"

Parent: "No. Why would you ask a question like that?"

Child: "Well, there was one in your salad, but it's gone now."

\* \* \* \* \*



"Raptured!"

\* \* \* \* \*

A priest was invited to attend a house party. Naturally, he was properly dressed and wearing his priest's collar.

A little boy kept staring at him the entire evening. Finally, the priest asked the little boy what he was staring at. The little boy pointed to the priest's neck.

When the priest finally realized what the boy was pointing at, he asked him, "Do you know why I am wearing that?"

The boy nodded his head yes, and replied, "It kills fleas and ticks for up to three months."

\* \* \* \* \*

A grandfather walking past his young granddaughter's room one night saw her kneeling beside her bed, with head bowed and hands folded, repeating the alphabet.

"What are you doing?" he asked her.

She explained, "I'm saying my prayers, but I couldn't think just what to pray for. So I'm just saying all the letters of the alphabet, and God can put them together however He thinks best."

\* \* \* \* \*



"Who said pastoring a church is stressful? I'm 42 and feeling great!"

\* \* \* \* \*

A police officer radioed back to the station with the following report: "We have an unusual situation here. An old lady just shot her husband for walking on the wet floor that she had just mopped."

"Did you arrest her?"

"Not yet. We decided to wait until the floor dries."

\* \* \* \* \*

The Sunday school teacher asked her preschool class, "How many of you would like to go to Heaven?"

All the children raised their hands except Tommy. The teacher asked Tommy why he wouldn't like to go to Heaven.

Tommy answered, "I'm sorry, but I can't. My mother told me to come right home after Sunday school."



Pastor Doobie quickly realized that cancelling the annual Sunday school picnic was not such a good idea.



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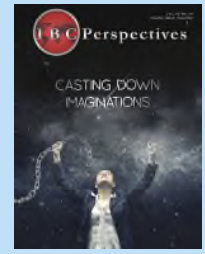


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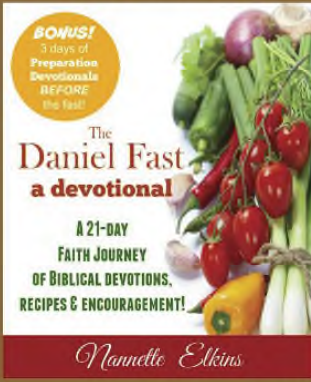
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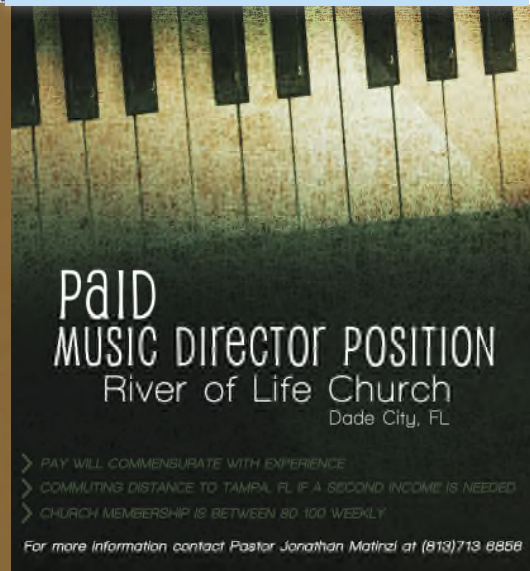
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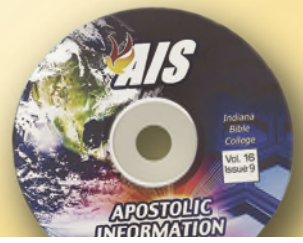
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