

VOL. 26 NO. 1  
INDIANA BIBLE COLLEGE



# IBC Perspectives

A large, stylized number '5' in a light cream color is centered on a dark maroon square. This square is set within a larger, light green pentagon. The entire design is framed by a complex geometric pattern of overlapping squares and lines in maroon, orange, and white, creating a star-like or mandala effect. The background of the cover is a teal color with various geometric shapes and lines in shades of green, maroon, and orange.

## RESTORATIONS FROM GOD

JACK CUNNINGHAM

From The Publisher

## Where Once Lived An Old Lady

Paul D. Mooney



At first the small, empty old house fell into disrepair, and then the fire left it a pile of rubble. The determined cause was cited as a spark from a train.

Trains carrying trash and strange toxic waste from industries passed by the house a few times a week. The railroad tracks were close to the house, only about two hundred yards away, and the fields were dry from a long, hot summer. So the conclusion was that sparks from the train caused the blaze. Some said it was arson. But no one, it appeared, wanted to make an issue of it, and so the case was closed.

I knew the old lady who once lived there. My first visit came when I saw her out in the yard. I stopped and chatted a while. She seemed pleased that I had stopped. She was, I think, relieved that I had identified myself as a pastor, which probably waylaid any fear she might have possessed about entertaining a stranger.

Over the next year or so, I stopped and visited her a few times. I learned she was headstrong and determined to live there alone in spite of the family's insistence that she should accept some arrangement of assisted living. Her life, as she described to me, was typical of simple country living. She and her deceased husband were small-time farmers and held other jobs at times to supplement their meager farming income. She was a church-going lady. She had very strong opinions, especially about folks leaving her alone, but was nevertheless sweet about everything.

Then one day when I stopped to see her, she was not there. The doors were locked, and through the windows you could see there were just a few things left inside. The old shed had been emptied. But the old lady was gone. A neighbor down the road told me the kids had finally gotten her into a nursing home and she died there soon after. I'm sure they did the right thing, but I couldn't help remembering the conversation we had when she told me without hesitation that she wanted to die in her own house. She was serious about it.

I never forgot her. I always felt she had so much more to say about her life than I could get her to disclose during our short visits. Her belongings were interesting, artful, classy, always dusted, and well displayed. They revealed her intellect and depth. I remember thinking how vulnerable she was to theft.

Time passed. The house burned. Weeds grew. Storms uprooted several old trees. Farmers plowed ever closer to where the old house had stood. Today passersby would never know there had ever been a house there at all. But, if one knew where to look, he could see the remains of a small flower garden, where ancient flowers still battle for the sun's rays, pushing through the dark shadows of bull thistle and dandelion. But the old lady...she is no longer there.

I don't have the courage to share the whole poem I wrote about my "new" old friend. However, my poetic lament included this line, "Where once stood an old house, where once lived an old lady." To me, this lament expresses the panged realization of how fully she is gone – unremembered, mostly unknown.

Dear reader, forgive me this rambling to make what I fear is an obvious point. In a moment, history and its heroes are forgotten, the sacrifices of past generations are dismissed; and worse, they are judged as passé or insignificant. How shocking and disconcerting it is when foundations are undefended or torn down, removed with malice and little forethought. How quickly weeds grow. How quickly fires burn. How quickly it all fades away.

Much is revealed about our own moment in history, if we dare ponder the deep significant meaning of an ancient, dramatic, historical, political and spiritual shift recounted to us in Jeremiah. This shift is similar to what we

are facing in our world today. Jeremiah was the prophet, a chosen voice, an advocate for moral consciousness and spiritual truth in a corrupt culture called Babylon. His assignment was to awaken the convictions and passions of God's people. To do this, he needed to reverse negative trends and godless intentions so that the righteous would once again "ask the way to Zion" (Jeremiah 50:5).

Like today, it was a time of political and spiritual revolution. The Babylonian world and its power structures were being challenged. Invasion loomed. There was no compromise for God's people. Judah and Israel needed to come together and escape. They needed to identify and reject all allegiances with the enemy. Jeremiah was commanded to stand against Babylon, to declare, to publish "among the nations" that Babylon is taken, confounded, the idols are broken in pieces. It was demanded that Jeremiah speak! Publish it! Tell it! Any allegiance with Babylon was worthless. Jeremiah's sermon was clear. Israel and Judah must come together, weeping, "Come, and let us join ourselves to the Lord in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten" (50:5).

After Jeremiah exposed the destruction of Babylon, he was commanded further to deliver the shocking clarification to the people of where the failures had originated. The poignant message he spoke is a warning to every generation. The sheep were lost, not of their own folly, but because they lacked shepherding. "My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their resting place" (50:6).

False teachers had turned them from right paths, allowed them to drift from mountains to hills in acts of idolatry and sin. Their spiritual condition and their doctrinal interpretations of justice and hope were so skewed that their enemies no longer saw them as a threat. Even the enemy knew they had sinned against God, and spoke as if by "devouring them" they had done God some sort of favor. A people, once great, once mighty, were now outside the habitation of God, and therefore defenseless. (50:7)

The only solution to avoid destruction was God alone. The people must remember that the price of sin would ultimately be demanded of them. Only God would be their pardon and escape (50:20). Jeremiah's great task was to alert the people until they were fully aware that only through repentance and obedience would they be saved. They could not compromise with Babylon and still expect God to keep them from destruction.

Forgetting God, forgetting the "resting place," forgetting the foundational truths, allowing false pastors to lead us away from the old paths so that we wander from the mountain to this or that hill is what makes the church in any generation vulnerable. We must not forget that God's own desired victory for His Church is the key. It is not we, by our might, influence, or talents who will bring deliverance. It is our Redeemer, mighty and strong, who will provide the righteous pardon. He will confound the enemy of our souls.

"And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish" (Deuteronomy 8:19).

Sweet, anointed people, and glorious Holy Ghost filled churches can be led astray. They can be turned from the mountain to the hill. They can be taken from victory to failure. They can be led from righteousness to sin. Good shepherds are the key to avoiding such a fate: shepherds willing to hear the voice of God, shepherds willing to take a stand for holiness and the right paths. Alliances with worldliness and false teaching are alluring, but let us not be deceived. Let it never be said of us:

"Ahhh...Here is the mountain -- Where once stood a great church, where once worshiped a great people."

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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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## GUEST PULPIT: 5 RESTORATIONS FROM GOD

(JACK CUNNINGHAM)

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# CHALLENGES OF CHURCH GROWTH

Interviews by Brooke Robinson

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



**Aaron Dunn, Broken Arrow, OK** - There is nothing magical about growing a church; it takes prayer and sacrifice. Vision is a vital part of revival, for without it the faith of the church will wane. Therefore, when vision for God being well able is lost, the church will often become stagnant. Factors that contribute to growth are prayer, fasting and a genuine loving welcome. I fully believe that God-called leaders, regardless of personality type, can and will see revival as long they obediently and faithfully follow the leading of the Holy Ghost. Anointing is the most important aspect of leadership, for without it a church can only be led by "sight." Anointing must be present for leadership to see the Kingdom established.



**Ercel Clark Jr., Alexandria, LA** - Church growth only comes when there is clear leadership and direction. A flawless strategy for revival can be found when combining II Chronicles 7:14 with these key ingredients. I believe that churches become stagnant when there is a lack of passion and no sense of direction. There are many factors that affect growth such as outreach and visitor follow up. However, every program is only as strong as its leader. A church with a forward, thriving vision will see growth if it remains steadfast on a truth-based, Acts 2:38 foundation. Revival is not limited to certain personality types; no matter an individual's personality, he or she may see revival if they truly desire it. Therefore, with much prayer and fasting comes anointing, which brings clear focus and direction resulting in revival.



**Billy Trusley, Pearl River, LA** - Church growth is the heartbeat of Jesus; therefore, it should be top priority to His church. An ongoing revival is a must, whether that is winning the lost or strengthening discouraged saints. If revival is lacking, it is most likely because there is no burden to reach the lost. I believe that the biggest factor that affects growth is simply the mindset of expectation. We must first have faith in church growth, then work hard to have it. Vision is also fundamental to growth, which is evident in Proverbs 29:18. I feel that leadership is important for revival; however, as long as God is exalted and His personality shines through, then revival will not be limited to anyone. Nevertheless, anointing is essential in every leader.



**Dennis Nance, Pryor, OK** - Growing the church is a collective effort, starting with the pastor, church leaders and congregation. I believe that typically we accomplish what we plan for and what we put into action. Therefore, there is a strategy for revival. Vision is key to the growth of church. Although there are many factors that may advance or hinder the growth of a church, I do not feel that personality types within leadership are such a cause. Throughout the Bible, numerous examples can be found where God used different character traits to complete works. Above all, leaders must be anointed. With anointing, God will use them regardless of their personalities.



**Leslie Cotton, Urbana, IL** - Revival begins by evangelizing the community while educating the body to grow in grace and knowledge. I feel that a focus to cast a multicultural vision is essential. There must be a clear vision and mission set that the church buys into; the church must connect with the community on a personal level. A lack of balance between discipleship and evangelism will result in a stagnant church. Other factors such as disunity will also affect the church in a negative way. If there is no vision to obtain growth, it is as an arrow being shot without a target. I feel that revival can happen with anyone, because it is God who gives the increase. When there is anointing, yokes are broken. Therefore, it is essential that the leadership be anointed so that it might flow down to the church.



**Scott Grant, Trois-Rivieres, Canada** - The Lord grows His church (Psalm 127:1). We need to follow the lead of His Word and Spirit. I believe that each city has its own unique challenges, but prayer is the starting point for revival. Many churches have become stagnant simply because of an inward focus. Factors such as leadership, prayer, commitment, and compassion affect the growth of the church. However, vision is key; you go and grow where you are looking. Revival is connected to mindset and obedience, not personality. Loving God, loving people is our mantra. Whatever your personality, love is the key. Anointing flows downward from the leadership to the congregation. Therefore, as leaders we have to renew our vision and spirit to be effective.



**David Beecham, Lexington, TN** - My mindset for growing the church is that it is God's will that the church grows and anything in His favor, He will bless. Therefore, if we desire and work for it, it will come to pass. Strategy for revival is basic; as our Bishop stated 30 years ago: it's preaching, praying, praising! A clear vision is also vital for growth; a lack of vision and failure to be outward-reaching will most likely result in a stagnant church. Vision and church growth correlate simply because if the vision is right and followed, growth will result. I feel that personality type has an effect on revival in the sense that if a leader is not positive, the church growth will not be. However, anointing and the call of God can supersede a personality type.



**Mark Fontenot, Bay Minette, AL** - Revival begins with projecting growth, Bible studies, and everyday witnessing. The church must be prepared through diligent prayer and fasting as well as establishing a belief in the continual outpouring of God's Spirit. Churches become stagnant because of a lack of prayer and worship in the fellowship of God; freshness in the Lord means everything. Faith, love, vision and great leadership are main factors that produce revival. Vision, above all, is crucial to growth according to Proverbs 28:19. I feel personality types have little effect on growth; each is meant for a different time and season in the Spirit. Revival is directly connected with leadership that is proven through the impact of the anointing. Anointing is key.

# CHANGING the POINT

Rick Pavlu

It was January of 1980 when the Pavlu family moved to Church Point, Louisiana to pastor the 13-member congregation in a little white, wood-framed building on the north end of town. "I had always told friends that I would never pastor in a Catholic community in south Louisiana, but God thought differently," said Bro. Rick Pavlu.

## The Starting Point

Church Point is a small Catholic community located in south Louisiana, a surrounding which Bro. Pavlu was very accustomed to. He was raised in Jennings, Louisiana, a predominately Catholic community in the south. Perhaps this helped him to better understand the people when taking the church in 1980. "You see, I was not born into Pentecost," he said. "I was Catholic, but from an early age I knew that God had placed a calling on my life; I just wasn't quite sure what it was. I debated joining the priesthood but had second thoughts during my senior year of high school. Little did I know the plans God had in store for me."

While at Louisiana Tech University, Bro. Pavlu made a friend by the name of David Rains, who would eventually show him the path to truth. "One night we began to discuss religion. David said that he was not in church but if I wanted truth I needed to go to a Pentecostal church; then he quoted Acts 2:38. I did not believe that scripture was in my Bible at first, but God used a backslider to bring me to truth." As the saying goes, the rest is history.

## Targeting the Point

As a new pastor, Bro. Pavlu began to teach home Bible studies in hopes of growing the church. He said, "I taught 30 Bible studies and did not reach one soul. I remember very vividly the discussion God and I had on a humid Louisiana day while I was mowing my lawn. God simply told me to focus on the type of person I was teaching; I realized everyone I was pursuing was older and settled. I then decided that I would not teach another Bible study until I found someone young."

God had the exact person in mind. Within a short period of time, a Bible study was set up with a young couple. The young lady began attending services, received the Holy Ghost and was baptized only a few weeks after the Bible study. "She continues to come to church along with her now grown children," said Pastor Pavlu. "I knew this was the age group I would reach." The targeted group of

Church Point Pentecostals was then set: young married couples.

Once he realized that young married couples were the group that needed to be the focus for outreach in Church Point, Bro. Pavlu met and counseled with the members of the church. "I met with the elders and after a few hours they agreed to allow me to change the church to be geared mainly to attract the ages of young married couples," he said. "We changed the music to high energy, and people began to come. Within the last 30 years, we have made about five major changes concerning things such as music to best fit the generation we are reaching for."

By maintaining the focus of reaching young married couples first and foremost, the church has grown by about 100 members in the last three years. Bro. Pavlu states, "In 2014, we had about 40 or 50 converts. Not all of them committed; however, we have already reached those same numbers in 2015 and the year is not over yet!"

## Developing the Point

Growing the church has caused many departments to develop that have enhanced Church Point as a whole, including young marrieds, student, children's, men's, women's, community, care, Spanish, music, outreach and CPP Life ministries. Pastor Pavlu said, "CPP Life is our version of a new converts course that evolves around a specialized program known as the 7 Pillars. Our main goal is to reach, retain and establish."

While establishing various departments to get people involved is awesome, it requires a great leadership team. "As Church Point grew, we established four executive pastors that each oversee about three departments," he explained. "Each pastor meets with the departments weekly, then each is discussed during a monthly executive committee meeting which I, as the senior pastor, am a part of."

Developing numerous church departments has proven effective. According to the pastor, about 70 percent of the church body is involved during special events such as vacation Bible school and about 40 percent is involved on a regular basis. "At Church Point Pentecostals we also focus on creating future leaders and ministers," he said. "This is done through monthly training sessions that focus on building leadership, application to ministry and how to handle one's calling. We use various materials and books to assist in the training of our ministers. Currently CPP has a group of about 23 men. The majority of them are licensed ministers, known as 'Iron Men' that are undergoing training." It is apparent that the church has grown because of its passion to reach the lost and desire to further evangelism.

## Purpose of the Point

Church Point has not only witnessed growth within the congregation but miracles as well. When asked about signs and wonders witnessed in the church, Pastor Pavlu replied, "We have had numer-

ous miracles take place at Church Point Pentecostals throughout the years. There are two in particular that stand out as the greatest in my mind." He is the father of three, and as a father, he was able to witness a miracle occur in the life of one of his own. He said, "The first miracle is a bit personal. My oldest daughter, Corrie, was a typical college student pursuing a degree in the medical field. During this time, she had to have surgery because her jaw was not growing correctly. She received tainted blood and contracted Hepatitis B during the procedure. Within that instance, her life began to spin off course. We were told that she would not be able to work in the medical field or have children. The church began to pray continuously and the hospital decided that she should receive some type of financial reimbursement. Later, tests were run again to monitor the status of her condition, and no antibodies could be found. The doctor was puzzled and multiple tests were run, but all results returned negative. We even went as far as going back to the original location to run the last set of tests at the request of her doctor. However, the tests still revealed that she no longer had Hepatitis B, which medically an individual cannot be cured of. The doctors could not make sense of the situation, but we knew that the great physician, Jesus, had showed up and showed out."

Pastor Pavlu recounted another miracle that happened in the life of one of the church's bus children. "A 12-year-old boy that attended Sunday school on a regular basis was hit by oncoming traffic when crossing the street one day. He was considered brain dead, and the family was encouraged to unplug the machines. The family called the church for prayer even though they had never joined us in service before. The child remained brain dead for 11 days and the family had to make a decision of whether or not to keep him on life support on the 12th day. I can still remember vividly the Wednesday that eight ministers and I joined together in prayer after service. What we prayed was nothing extravagant; we only asked that God would do something NOW. Within 15 minutes of leaving the church, I received a phone call saying that the boy had opened his eyes and was responding. He continued to improve and was in church with us three months later. He still continues to visit at Church Point Pentecostals. What a mighty God we serve!"

### Growth in the Point

It is evident that God has blessed the church tremendously throughout the years. "We started in a small building that consisted of a Sunday school room and a small office," said Pastor Pavlu. "At the time we were running about 20 members. Numbers increased so we built phase one, a 40 X 100 building, on the other end of town. However, as we continued to grow we decided to build for the future. A 450-seat, hexagon-shaped sanctuary was built in 1985 that included Sunday school rooms. This is our current build-

ing, which has just gone through major remodeling such as doubling all classrooms in size and transforming the sanctuary. From the time of the original construction, we have built a family life center as well as recently added new portable buildings for more Sunday school rooms and additional parking."

The most recent change to the church has come through an interim growth plan. The pastor explained, "We have switched to two morning services in order to accommodate our growth with hopes of doubling our congregation. Once outgrowing our current plan we expect to build a new facility on the 11 acres we own located behind our family life center."

With expectations high, the future is bright and limitless for Church Point. The church is truly stretching to fulfill the perfect will of God.

### The Closing Point

Pastor Pavlu is a district board member and was recently honored with the title of senior board member for the Louisiana district for his numerous years of service. He is also presbyter of Section 3 and has been for the past 29 years. He said, "I guess God likes that I never enjoyed the limelight. Most people would probably be surprised that I never had a desire to be a minister even though I felt called of God. It is ironic because He has placed me in many leadership positions even though I lacked desire. I never really enjoyed large crowds either, and now I am a pastor of a church of over 400 members."

With the mentality of "do everything with excellence and always look for the positives in people," Church Point Pentecostals continues to change and grow for the glory of God.



Bro. and Sis. Rick Pavlu  
Church Point, La.



Left clockwise: Pastor Pavlu ministers to the congregation; exterior of Church Point Pentecostals; a baptism; the church body worships at the front of the sanctuary.



# TRANSFORMED

February 18-20, 2016

[www.winterfire.org](http://www.winterfire.org)

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Metamorphoo may be Greek to me and you,  
Language of old, says transform with a telling clue,  
What can be, will never be seen or felt,  
Until what was and what is, exit stage left,  
Transform is a season not a moment,  
In the darkroom of our development,  
Traits are learned, character is formed,  
Waiting, change comes, strength is forged,  
A new day dawns, His image is then revealed,  
The work is done, when in a cocoon concealed.  
The veil taken away, blinded by His glory,  
Transformed, the title of our eternal story.

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## 8 Reasons Guests Don't Come Back

If you attend a church regularly, you've probably noticed the phenomenon. A guest shows up for a worship service, but he or she never returns. It is, unfortunately, a common issue in many churches. A Twitter poll conducted by Thom S. Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources, revealed the top eight responses in order of frequency:

1. *Having a "stand up and greet one another" time in the worship service.* I was surprised how truly uncomfortable guests are during this time.

2. *Unfriendly church members.* This response was anticipated. But the surprise was the number of respondents who included non-genuine friendliness in their answers. In other words, the guests perceived that some of the church members were faking it.

3. *Unsafe and unclean children's area.* This response generated the greatest emotional reactions. If your church does not give a high priority to children, don't expect young families to attend.

4. *No place to get information.* If your church does not have a clear and obvious place to get information, you probably have lowered the chances of a return visit by half. There should also be someone to greet and assist guests at that information center as well.

5. *Bad church website.* Most of the church guests went to the church website before they attended a worship service. Even if they attended the service after visiting a bad website, they attended with a prejudicial perspective. The two indispensable items guests want on a website are address and times of service.

6. *Poor signage.* If you have been attending a church for a few weeks, you forget all about the signage. You don't need it any more. But guests do. And they are frustrated when it's not there.

7. *Insider church language.* Most of the respondents were not referring to theological language as much as language that only the members know. My favorite example was: "The WMU will meet in the CLC in the room where the GAs usually meet."

8. *Boring or bad service.* My surprise was not the presence of this item. The surprise was that it was not ranked higher.



## A Mother's Testimony

By Stephen Judd, TCM President



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

I received a letter this week from the mother of one of the young ladies in our Haven of Hope Girls' Home. She included a written testimony that she had just shared during a Thanksgiving service at her church. With her permission, I am passing it along to you.

*"I'm very thankful for Tupelo Children's Mansion and the Haven of Hope program. I believe that TCM has forever changed my daughter's life!"*

*"I am thankful for the dedication of the Judds and the many other staff members and counselors who are making a difference in the lives of so many children, including my Abbey!"*

*"I also want to share how grateful I am for how the Lord is working in Abbey's life. I pray that next year she will be standing here sharing with you her beautiful testimony of how God has transformed her life."*

*"Yes, there have been days when I wanted to go to Tupelo and bring my baby girl back home, because I could no longer bear the pain of missing her one more day. But then a close friend reminded me that I shouldn't pull the fruit from the vine before it is ready."*

*"I never imagined that we would be on this path, but I know that this is how God chose to do a work in our lives. As difficult and painful as it is, I would rather miss having Abbey with me at this time,*

*knowing that she is where she needs to be, than for her to be lost out there in the world somewhere."*

*"I am very thankful for the miraculous way that God opened doors and gave my daughter this amazing opportunity to receive the help that she so desperately needed! I'm also very grateful for the work that the Holy Spirit is doing in my life and the lives of my other two children. God is so good. Even in the middle of the storm, I am so appreciative of all of His blessings!"*

The Haven of Hope Girls' Home, that was started several years ago, is a 12-month behavior modification and support program for teenage girls between 13 and 16 years of age. The home is truly a "haven of hope," providing a safe and structured environment where these young ladies receive direction and guidance. For most of them, it has been a life-changing experience.

Please pray for Abbey that she will continue to thrive in the Haven of Hope program and soon be reunited with her wonderful mother.

And pray for all of our children who are currently at the Mansion, that good things will continue to happen in their lives and that they will have a bright and wonderful future.

Please know that your support is making a difference in the lives of many precious children.

(As a matter of confidentiality, Abbey is not the young lady's real name.)

Website: [www.stephenjudd.com](http://www.stephenjudd.com), Twitter: @StephenHJudd, Facebook Page: StephenHJudd

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

Pentecostals of Pensacola  
6500 North W Street // Pensacola, FL // 32505  
phone 850.477.1100 // fax 850.474.1243

## Wednesday

Evening Service with Rev. Anthony Mangun

## Thursday

Sessions with Rev. Daniel Stroebe // Bro. Gentry Mangun

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

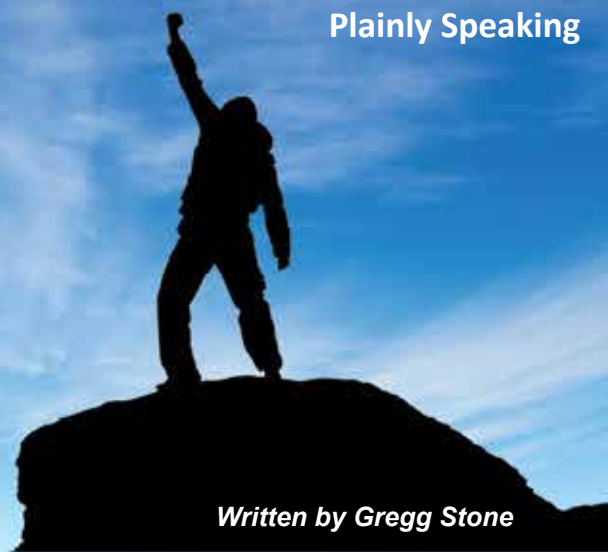
Acts 26:16

# Purpose

Registration opens April 18.

# MADE FOR MORE

-BRIAN KINSEY



Written by Gregg Stone



Brian Kinsey  
Pensacola, FL

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

I have been in full-time ministry since graduating high school, having received a call on my life at the age of 11. I started out as an evangelist and traveled for 10 years before accepting a pastorate in

Provencal, Louisiana. During the five years I served in Provencal, I became involved in youth ministry and eventually became youth president of the Louisiana district. By then I had felt the call back to evangelism and had been traveling for three years, basing my family in Alexandria, Louisiana. In 1994, I was elected general youth secretary of the UPCI, and we relocated to St. Louis, Missouri. The following year I became youth president of the UPCI and served for one term before joining the Home Missions Department as home missions secretary. In 2000, my wife and I accepted the invitation to become pastor of First Pentecostal Church in Pensacola, Florida, and in 2007, I became senior pastor of this great church.

**What prompted you to write this book?**

At an early age, God directed me to begin a discipline of “going back to the King’s gate,” as Mordecai did after being honored by the King. I have come to call these disciplines my Rule of Five, and time has proven the power of taking simple, consistent steps to discover your purpose and achieve your potential. We all instinctively understand that God has a plan for us, yet many never are able to identify their potential or implement strategies to help them reach it. That is why I wrote *Made for More*, laying out seven spiritual principles that will help others open their eyes to weaknesses in their life, make them aware of the *more* that God has for everyone, and ensure that our relationship with Him remains intimate, vibrant and strong. Once these strategies are implemented, the reader will have a clearer

picture of what his or her life could be, and will have identified practical action steps for moving in that direction. I believe the reader will be energized, equipped and motivated to set out on the greatest adventure of life—reaching our full potential in Christ.

**What does it mean to accept personal responsibility and how does it work for you?**

Spiritual transformation does not result from adding more religious practices to your life, such as church attendance, tithing and Bible reading. All these things support growth, and they certainly result from it; but alone will not make you a better person. I accept personal responsibility to grow in God by taking the time to understand, identify and remove the barriers to a deeper relationship with God. We grow by our connection to Him; therefore, it is essential to understand the things that will enhance that relationship and the things that detract from it. No one else can do it for me. I am responsible for my own growth and only I can do the work that is required to achieve it. To implement the strategy of accepting personal responsibility in your life, you must discipline yourself to faithfully do all the things you must do and to avoid doing the things you should not. Responsibility depends on self-discipline.

**How can we practice spiritual authority and what impact has this had in your life?**

Spiritual authority is exercised when we realize that we are in a war. The first great battlefield is our minds, the voice within us, so we have to take dominion over ourselves, and lead ourselves to be more than we are now. Circumstances definitely assail us, along with the voice of others who misunderstand our motives and try to defeat us to keep us from our destiny. The only remedy to such attacks is the power with God in spiritual authority that gives us the ability to “walk above the tree tops.” We all know that we have

an enemy, Satan, who seeks to kill, to steal and to destroy. However, God has given us power over all the power of the enemy. You do this by sticking to your Rule of Five. Don’t ever forsake your daily sacrifice. It will be the deciding factor in lifting you above the crisis in your life and help you fulfill your destiny and realize your full potential.

**How does learning from our pain help us grow?**

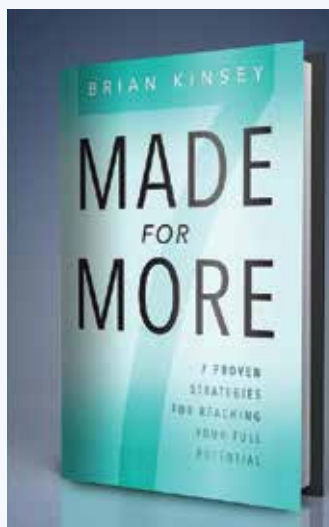
Pain helps us to grow by motivating us to change. Physical pain drives us to a physician to seek treatment. Hunger drives us to seek the nourishment we need to grow strong. Financial pain forces us to deal with debt and drives us to earn and save money. The spiritual pain of guilt, shame and conviction brought by the Holy Spirit are what lead us to listen to the voice of God and accept His offer of salvation. We would make very little progress in this world or in our lives if we never felt discomfort. We grow through pain if we allow it to drive us to self-examination and change.

**Describe the principle of strategic thinking and how it works in your life.**

Strategic thinking simply put means you must have a plan. We do well to recognize that prayer is our default starting point for any spiritual endeavor; however, we must also engage in critical thinking, planning and action to accomplish our goals. Good intentions are worthless in the absence of a practical strategy, and strategy ultimately determines outcome. How you choose to accomplish your goal—and not the goal itself—will determine whether you are successful.

**Where can your book be purchased?**

*Made For More* can be purchased online at Amazon as a hard copy or Kindle edition. It is also available at my website: [www.briankinsey.com](http://www.briankinsey.com), our church website: [www.firstpent.org](http://www.firstpent.org), or by calling the church office at 850.477.1100.



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 2016

| DATE               | EVENT  | LOCATION  | SPEAKERS   | CONTACT / INFO  |
|--------------------|--|---|--|---|
| <b>JAN 29</b>      | <b>Indiana Bible College LIVE RECORDING</b><br>Under the direction of Lindel M. Anderson, Dean of Music  | Calvary Tabernacle<br>902 Fletcher Ave.<br>Indianapolis, IN<br>Host: Paul D. Mooney           | Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, Lindel Anderson, IBC Choir, IBC Chorale, IBC Praise, others                                | <a href="mailto:ibc@apostolic.edu">ibc@apostolic.edu</a><br><a href="http://www.go2ibc.com">www.go2ibc.com</a><br>or call (317) 262-4030<br>or (317) 554-8069   |
| <b>FEB 18-20</b>   | <b>WinterFire 2016</b><br>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<br>1151 Blue Hills Ave.<br>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 <a href="http://www.winterfire.org">www.winterfire.org</a> or visit Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/winterfireconf">winterfireconf</a> or Facebook/Instagram: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/winterfireconf">winterfireconf</a> |
| <b>FEB 19-20</b>   | <b>Systems &amp; Strategies Conference</b><br>A conference for pastors and leaders examining systems and strategies to help Apostolic churches prepare for the harvest.  | Church of Pentecost<br>8709 Hogan Rd.<br>Jacksonville, FL<br>Host Pastors: Rick & Alexa Olson | Wayne Huntley  | For more info: visit <a href="http://www.systemsandstrategies.com">www.systemsandstrategies.com</a> , <a href="http://www.churchofpentecost.org">www.churchofpentecost.org</a> or call (904) 645-0153   |
| <b>FEB 25-27</b>   | <b>Indiana Bible College CONNECT 2016</b><br>Your chance to visit the IBC campus and see what Bible college is all about!  | Indiana Bible College<br>1502 Sumner Ave<br>Indianapolis, IN 46227<br>Host: Paul D. Mooney    | Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, Jason Gallion, Bobby Killmon, Lindel Anderson, others.                                     | <a href="mailto:ibc@apostolic.edu">ibc@apostolic.edu</a><br><a href="http://www.go2ibc.com">www.go2ibc.com</a><br>or call (317) 262-4030<br>or (317) 554-8069   |
| <b>MARCH 3-4</b>   | <b>Passing the Mantle 2016</b><br>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<br>270 E. Schick Road<br>Bartlett, IL 60103                | Eli Hernandez, Harold Hoffman, Allan Shalm, Jack Cunningham, James Booker and Tom Trimble                              | For more info: visit <a href="http://www.passingthementle.org">www.passingthementle.org</a> or call 630-837-9800  |
| <b>APRIL 6-8</b>   | <b>Indiana Bible College MUSIC FEST 2016</b><br>Under the direction of Lindel M. Anderson, Dean of Music   | Calvary Tabernacle<br>902 Fletcher Ave.<br>Indianapolis, IN<br>Host: Paul D. Mooney           | Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, Lindel Anderson, IBC Choir, IBC Chorale, IBC Praise, others                                | <a href="mailto:ibc@apostolic.edu">ibc@apostolic.edu</a><br><a href="http://www.go2ibc.com">www.go2ibc.com</a><br>or call (317) 262-4030<br>or (317) 554-8069   |
| <b>APRIL 28-30</b> | <b>Eagles Summit Conference - Stockton, CA</b><br>Eagles Summit is committed to birthing, empowering and equipping Apostolic leaders to build the Kingdom of God.  | Lighthouse of The Valley<br>4368 N. Sutter Street<br>Stockton, CA 95204                       | John Arcovio, Stan Gleason, Brian Lane   | For more info: visit <a href="http://www.eaglessummit.net">www.eaglessummit.net</a>   |
| <b>MAY 9-10</b>    | <b>Ministers Only Book Rendezvous - Grand Rapids, MI</b><br>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 <a href="mailto:labwn@aol.com">labwn@aol.com</a> or 317-262-4030  |
| <b>JUNE 8-10</b>   | <b>Power Conference 2016</b><br>Services begin at 7:30 p.m. nightly. Day sessions at 10 a.m. Thursday and Friday morning.  | Crossroads Arena<br>2800 S. Harper Rd.<br>Corinth, MS<br>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><br>Revival of Prayer, Praise and Evangelism   | Calvary Apostolic Church Of Denver, 5900 E. Yale Ave. Denver, CO 80222                        | To be announced  | (303) 758-5900<br><a href="http://www.cacdenver.org">www.cacdenver.org</a><br><a href="mailto:DEH2@comcast.net">DEH2@comcast.net</a>  |
| <b>AUG 18-19</b>   | <b>Investing in Futures</b><br>A conference for those who invest in children. Educating, encouraging and equipping children's ministry workers.  | Apostolic Sanctuary<br>1501 John Deere Pkwy<br>Silvis, IL 61282<br>Host: Gary Randol          | Donnie Sheerin, Brian Kinsey, Tim Gaddy  | For more info: visit <a href="http://invest-in-futures.com">invest-in-futures.com</a> (309) 792-0414  |
| <b>SEPT. 10-11</b> | <b>Mid-America Renewal Conference (MARC)</b><br>Indianapolis, Indiana - A Power Packed Preaching Conference in the Heart of the Midwest.   | Calvary Tabernacle<br>902 Fletcher Ave.<br>Indianapolis, IN<br>Host: Paul D. Mooney           | To be announced  | <a href="mailto:ibc@apostolic.edu">ibc@apostolic.edu</a><br><a href="http://www.go2ibc.com">www.go2ibc.com</a><br>or call (317) 262-4030<br>or (317) 554-8069   |
| <b>SEPT 27-30</b>  | <b>92nd Annual UPCI General Conference</b><br>Don't miss it!   | Indiana Convention Ctr.<br>100 S. Capitol Ave.<br>Indianapolis, IN 46225                      | To be announced  | Online registration, hotel reservations and exhibit registration available at <a href="http://www.upcigc.com">www.upcigc.com</a>  |
| <b>OCT 2016</b>    | <b>Apostolic Doctrine Conference</b><br>Strengthening Our Doctrinal Foundation   | New Life Fellowship<br>7849 Wabash Avenue<br>Terre Haute, IN 47803                            | To be announced  | For more info: <a href="http://www.newliferrehaute.com">www.newliferrehaute.com</a> or 812-877-9348   |
| <b>NOV 2-5</b>     | <b>West Coast Conference - Fresno, CA</b><br>33rd Annual Fresno Meeting  | Fresno Convention Center, 848 M Street, Fresno, CA  | Paul Bertram, Larry Montano, Jess Parker, Sam Ham, O.C. Marler, Homer Looper and David Villegas                        | For more information call: (559) 225-1622<br><a href="http://www.truthtabfresno.org">www.truthtabfresno.org</a>   |

# Church Growth: Breaking Through Growth Barriers



Tim Pedigo

## Worship Today

[timpedigo@me.com](mailto:timpedigo@me.com)

### Worship: In Wisdom and Understanding!

A conversation about worship will always include an interesting variety of questions and comments. Which style of music is the legitimate form for worship? Is a praise and worship team more effective than a choir? How do we get more people involved?

The two words that keep coming to mind when I think of worship are attitude and understanding. A right attitude or spirit in worship rises up to heaven as a sweet smelling perfume (Exodus 30:34-36). Understanding whom we worship and why we worship Him is the vehicle of worship.

Colossians 3:16: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly *in all wisdom*; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, *singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*"

This passage of scripture calls for a variety of musical forms and allows for a breadth of spiritual expression that cannot be captured in only one of them. We are all uniquely and wonderfully made; which shows, once again, how diverse God is and how variety is a part of all creation. Worship should be no different. Altering the style of music employed in worship is a healthy thing that will enhance any service.

That being said, I do think that there should be a definite distinction between what we accept in our church worship services and what even the secular Christian music world might say is acceptable. If we are not careful, we will simply plunge into the abyss of mass marketing and follow the next great wave that the music world says is "cool" and "current." I'm not so sure that God cares for either. God is less concerned with style, with cool, and with current as He is with "condition." He is not nearly as interested in the forms of our worship as He is with the condition of our hearts and the extent of our understanding when we worship.

Worship, by definition, is "honor paid to a superior being; to respect and give adoration, praise, and glory to a deity." In spiritual terms, it is simply to humble ourselves before God in thanksgiving and love; giving honor and respect to God. When and wherever we worship the Lord, our entire focus and energy is to be given to Him. Our attitudes, our lives, our possessions, and yes, even our talents become secondary.

Every second of a worship service belongs to God. Our talent is not enough. Style is not enough. There has to be substance. We must worship God with spirit, with truth, with anointing, and with a correct attitude and understanding that it is truly all about Him.



Bobby Killmon

## Theology

[bobby.killmon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bobby.killmon@sbcglobal.net)

### How would you answer someone saying you cannot quote books, such as Deuteronomy, to establish doctrine or standards of holiness because the law of Moses was for Israel?

Well, the space of this article does not permit me to go into detail to evaluate all the proposed approaches to explaining the role of the OT law in the life of the NT Christian. However, there are basic things we could point out to show the fallacy of the above statement.

The major reason the above is dismissed is because we are Apostolic. That may sound trite or dismissive at first, but consider the following. Being Apostolic is more than a way to define ourselves against people holding other theological views, such as Trinitarians, Calvinists, Catholics, etc. It means we read Scripture in a way that is faithful to how Jesus and the Apostles did. Anything less is not Apostolic. Or to be more pointed, anything less is not biblical.

If the above claim was truly biblical, then it matches the methods and practices of Jesus and all NT writers. So baptism, the oneness of God, essentiality of water and Spirit baptism, tongues as the initial evidence, holiness as a life of faith, etc. all point out that we seek to be biblical in all things. However, after these essential basics we should go further by showing all we practice and teach is in THE model... the Bible. If it's not in the pattern God gave, we do not need it. These boundaries clearly show all Christians should believe, teach and practice.

So how does this refute the claim above about the law? It's simple. The Apostles did not believe that view of the OT law. Paul in 1 Cor. 9:8-10 addresses paying ministers. He says they should pay them but not simply on his word as an Apostle. The OT law teaches this as well (1 Cor. 9:8). Then Paul proceeds to point to an obscure OT law to make his case.

In 1 Cor. 9:9 Paul says, "For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn." He's quoting Deut. 25:4 which he will use again in 1 Tim. 5:18. Paul then gives a staggering disclosure that it was not for the OT people but, "For our sakes, no doubt, this is written..." (1 Cor. 9:10).

This is the test for every hermeneutical theory or theological understanding of the OT. Do they read the OT in a way that Jesus and the Apostles did? If not, they must admit they are not NT, or not Apostolic, or more simply... not biblical. The question then is, are they comfortable admitting that?



T. W. Massengale

## Church Growth

[tmassengale@apostolic.edu](mailto:tmassengale@apostolic.edu)

### Breaking Through Growth Barriers

Church growth is more than numbers. Spiritual growth is every bit as important as numerical growth. But after a church has failed to see numerical

growth for three consecutive years, it is normally considered to be in a state of plateau. Plateaus most often occur at 75, 125, 200, 500, 900 and 1,500 in average attendance for your largest attended service. Within Apostolic churches, almost 70% of our churches are in a plateaued condition, with most at around 70-100 in attendance.

Attendance plateaus are often broken quickly. Once a pastor addresses and removes the barriers that have kept the church stagnant, it tends to grow rather quickly, usually within three years, to the next plateau.

Barriers to growth are many and differ from church to church. The more common barriers are: (1) Lack of emphasis upon

prayer, (2) Lack of emphasis upon new convert care and discipleship, (3) Lack of emphasis upon evangelism and seed-sowing ministries, (4) Lack of organization and leaders to support that organization, (5) Lack of an effective management system to inspire ministry leadership, (6) Failure to address with spiritual authority a Jezebel spirit that hinders growth either by subverting pastoral authority, gossip or hyper-spiritualism, (7) Failure to teach God's plan for financing the church through tithing and sacrificial offerings.

But beyond solving growth restricting barriers, a church must also take proactive measures to press forward to the next level. These include: (1) Expand your vision.

Growing churches intend to grow. Know to where you wish to grow and within what time frame. Most churches can double their current average attendance within 3-5 years by implementing a solid church growth plan. Use a "5-Year Numerical Growth Worksheet" to set your goals for attendance, church membership and new converts, (2) Expand your knowledge. The lead pastor must educate himself or herself on how to grow. Select a dozen books – those that have been proven to be the most

helpful – and read/study them. Develop a detailed implementation plan for growth, (3) Expand your evangelism. Every church should have a successful strategy for increasing church visitors, following up on those visitors, teaching home Bible studies, encouraging saints to consistently witness, and increasing Sunday school attendance, (4) Expand your staff, both volunteer and paid. Developing a ministry team is a must. Ten to 12 major department leaders should meet monthly with the pastor to implement the growth strategy they developed during their Annual Planning Retreat. Each department should have a written plan for seeing its ministry grow, solve problems and reach souls, (5) Expand your facilities. Churches rarely grow beyond 80% of their seating capacity. If you are already there, it has become a hindrance. If you are anywhere close, you need a solid plan to address this before you reach it, (6) Train future leaders. As a church grows, its organization must grow. Enlarged organization requires more staff. You must begin training today the leaders you will need in 3-5 years.

Much of this is addressed in *Total Church Growth*. To order call: 1-800-800-0247.

SAVE THE DATE  
**JUNE 1-3 2016**



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HOST PASTOR



JAMES **CARNEY**  
BISHOP



Carol Clemans

## Spiritual Growth

[carol@carolclemans.org](mailto:carol@carolclemans.org)

### Porn Addiction Is In the Church!

Porn addiction is a hidden sin in the church! In my 23 years as a Certified Pastoral Counselor, many people (men & women) have come to me for porn addiction recovery. It is the most destructive addiction, stronger than alcohol, prescription drugs or street drugs. The person who uses porn satisfies himself or herself sexually and produces a sensational chemical jolt in the brain that does not happen with God's design for sexual intimacy within marriage. It is a self-induced chemical addiction in the brain.

One 20-minute exposure to porn can easily create an addiction. The latest statistic from the *American Family Journal* is that 56% of pastors and 50% of men in churches have viewed porn. Porn destroys the relationship with God, self and others. This creates a "lonely self" in all areas of life. Life is centered on the addiction need. The church needs to become equipped to help the addicted person. I teach seminars on this subject.

The porn addiction must be exposed and confessed. The use of all internet/phone devices must be stopped or totally monitored with [www.covenanteyes.com](http://www.covenanteyes.com). Please never tell a wife to give her husband more physical intimacy – it is *not* a cure. It will also make a wife feel like an object instead of a woman created by God to be a helper like God = azar (from my marriage seminars).

Qualified educated counseling is needed. There needs to be an accountable person that is God-centered. The sin of porn is from the root word of *fornication* = (Gk. *porneia* – immoral sexual conduct – it includes taking pleasure in pornographic pictures, films or writing). This addiction leads to sexual abuse, voyeurism, flashing, adultery, homosexuality, etc. It destroys ministries and marriages.

Porn addiction is totally consuming to heart, soul and mind. Healing and transformation can happen by genuine repentance and a lot of hard work in rewiring the brain to godliness, but the temptation will always be there because we live in a sexualized world. God makes a way of escape by our choice!

I counsel nationwide by phone/Skype (636) 448-0121. I also teach for churches/conferences nationwide. Visit [www.carolclemans.org](http://www.carolclemans.org) - Life Enrichment Ministries, Inc. (501c3) – bio, 215+ articles, teaching, CD's & DVD's, book: *God's Design for Marriage* – order through website or [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) as eBook.



Brian Norman

## Revival Concepts

[evangelistnorman@gmail.com](mailto:evangelistnorman@gmail.com)

### Operating in Faith

*"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?" – Romans 8:31*

Attitude can affect a person's altitude. So it is with faith. The level of faith we operate with greatly influences the results we see. There is a necessity, need and impetus for us to operate in faith. This is a universal truth for the ministry. It matters not whether we are beginning a new work in the bushes of Africa, starting a church in North America or leading a church that has existed for 70 years. *We must look on the fields with faith.*

There are three keys areas to operate in faith for the preacher:

#### 1) Minister to Individuals with Faith.

Remember God can and does still radically save! That individual is the one Christ died for, and God's ability to transform the hearts, minds and lives of men has not diminished. Minister to individuals with knowledge and faith in God's ability to do just that.

#### 2) Minister to the Body with Faith.

There may only be 30 people in front of you, or a church full of struggles and troubles. Regardless, God is absolutely able to transform that local body into a revival-minded, thriving and growing church. God is able! Preach the Word with the full assurance of God's ability and will.

3) *Make Decisions with Faith.* Certainly we should use wisdom when making decisions. But the same can be said of faith. God's Kingdom operates on the economy of faith. We must be led of the Spirit. We must step out and *operate* and *act* . . . in faith.

In a world full of darkness and despair, we must boldly step into it with faith, bringing God's Kingdom of light right into places of darkness. This only happens when we operate in faith.

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)



Aubrey Jayroe

## Finance

[jayroeone@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jayroeone@sbcglobal.net)

**Every year we provide bonuses and gifts to our employees at Christmas time. Is there any way to give these and not include the amounts on the employee's W-2 forms as taxable income to them?**

According to the current regulations, any bonus paid to an employee is considered as normal income and must be included on the employee's W-2 form. These bonuses are to be treated as normal income just as the salary or wages. They should be reported on the quarterly (or annual) payroll tax report and put on the W-2 form.

In general, gifts to employees are also to be treated as taxable income. According to the current regulations, the value of a turkey, ham or other nominally valued item distributed to an employee on holidays is not to be considered as taxable income. However, the distribution of cash, a gift certificate, a gift card, or a similar item of value readily convertible to cash must be included in the employee's income and put on the employee's W-2 form.

Gifts at Christmas to the minister must also be considered as taxable income to him/her if the funds are paid by the church out of one of the church's banking accounts. These amounts must be included as taxable income on the W-2 form.

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)



Delano Sherley

## Accounting & Tax

### Housing Allowance

Ministers can reduce their taxable income by having the church board (or compensation committee) designate a portion of their salary as a housing allowance. A minister cannot designate his own housing allowance.

Since the IRS does not allow an allowance to be made retroactively, it should be made prior to the beginning of the year, or as soon as possible in January. We recom-

mend the resolution include the following language: "This housing allowance shall apply to calendar year 2016 and all future years unless otherwise provided." This allows the allowance to only need to be updated if the amount changes.

The allowance should also be slightly more than the minister thinks he will need, to cover any unforeseen expenses. However, when the minister's tax return is prepared, the amount of the allowance cannot exceed his actual expenses or the fair market rental value of the home, including utilities and furnishings. Any excess allowance is treated as regular income.

While the allowance is not subject to federal or state income taxes, it is subject to self-employment taxes, unless the minister has filed for exemption from social security.

Lastly, we strongly recommend that the housing allowance be paid directly to the minister, who then pays his own housing expenses, rather than the church paying for the housing expenses on behalf of the minister.

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@dsacpains.com](mailto:Delano@dsacpains.com) Website: [www.dsacpains.com](http://www.dsacpains.com)

**THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS****American Girl Magazine Features Photo of Family With Two Dads**

American Girl magazine, which is beloved by many young girls, recently came under fire for including a picture of a family with two dads.

The Christian Examiner reports



that One Million Moms (OMM), a group which is part of the

American Family Association, is boycotting American Girl because of its decision to include the photo in the magazine.

"American Girl is attempting to desensitize our youth by featuring a family with two dads," OMM asserts. "If your child has not seen this yet, then be careful she is not exposed and can avoid a premature conversation she is far too young to understand."

The photo is part of an article called "Forever Family" in the Nov./Dec. issue of the magazine. It shows an 11-year-old girl who is pictured along with her three siblings and "Daddy" and "Dada." The two gay men in the photo adopted the four children.

OMM director Monica Cole is calling for the magazine to return to its previous position of neutrality toward homosexuality.

**RELIGIOUS TRENDS****Christian Choir Ordered to Stop Singing and Called a "Nuisance"**

A church choir in Oakland, Calif. has been accused of being a "public nuisance" and the church has been threatened with a \$3,500 fine if the choir does not practice more quietly.

The Christian Examiner reports that the letter to Pleasant Grove Baptist Church from the city stated, "This activity may constitute a public nuisance due to its impact to the use and quiet enjoyment of the surrounding community's property."

The letter said the city may impose a fine on the church if the choir does not comply with the demands for quieter practice, with an additional fee of \$500 per day.

"Kind of hard to believe because we've been here about 65 years in the community and all of a sudden we get some concerns about the noise," said Thomas A. Harris III, pastor of Pleasant Grove.

**Survey Finds Most Americans, Religious or Not, Believe In a Creator**

You don't have to believe in God or identify with any religion to see a creator's hand in human life and morality, suggests a new survey. LifeWay Research's overall finding — that most Americans believe there is a creator who designed the universe and defines human morality — is not surprising. After all, 3 in 4 U.S. adults identify with a religious denomination.

The surprise is that so many people who don't identify with a religion — so-called nones — agree.

The survey of 1,000 U.S. adults found that most Americans — 72 percent overall and 46 percent of nones — agree that: "Since the universe has organization, I think there is a creator who designed it." This view is most strongly held by evangelicals and by older adults.

And most Americans — 79 percent overall and 43 percent of nones — say they agree that: "The fact that we exist means someone created us."

But when people were asked about how ideas of right and wrong were established, the numbers slid somewhat: 66 percent overall and 33 percent of nones, agree that: "Since people have morality, I think there is a creator who defines morality."

"The moral argument has less sway here, perhaps because of our changing views on what is and is not moral," said Ed Stetzer, executive director of LifeWay Research.

However, he said, overall the case for a creator appears strong: "People of faith have always thought that there were hints of the divine all around us, thinking that 'all hearts have a God-shaped hole in them.'"

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

■ Advocacy groups for homeschooling have blocked attempts to require home-schooled students to complete annual academic and medical tests. New Jersey Senate Majority Leader Loretta Weinburg had introduced a bill that would have required parents to notify the state if they were homeschooling their children. The bill also required annual academic and medical testing.

■ The government should jail scientists and others who don't support man-made global warming theories, according to 20 climate scientists from several universities and research centers. The group recently sent a letter to the White House, urging President Barack Obama to use the Racketeer Influenced and Cor-

rupt Organizations Act (RICO) to investigate, "corporations and other organizations that have knowingly deceived the American people about the risks of climate change."

■ A federal ban on Christmas trees and Christmas carols recently sparked outrage in Virginia. *Christian Today* reports the Salem Veterans Affairs Medical Center received an email saying that it could not display Christmas decorations or play Christmas music because doing so would promote Christianity.

The VA has now come up with a compromise that will allow Christmas decoration and music at the hospital, as long as Hanukkah and Kwanzaa decorations are also displayed.

**POLITICAL TRENDS****Christian Voting Guide Gives Huckabee an "A," Trump an "F"**

The conservative group American Christian Voting Guide has ranked

many of the current presidential candidates according to their supposed biblical qualifications, and graded former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee an "A," while

Donald Trump was given an "F."

The list, put together by Rev. Steven Andrew, pastor of USA Christian Church, claimed that only four of the candidates would be biblically qualified to serve as president.

Ranking the candidates on criteria such as truthfulness, hating covetousness, protecting "God-given rights," fearing God and protecting Christian religious liberty, the guide gave Ted Cruz, Ben Carson, and Rand Paul B grades, and only Huckabee scored an 'A.'

Trump, Carly Fiorina, Marco Rubio, Jeb Bush, Chris Christie, Hillary Clinton, Joe Biden, and Bernie Sanders, on the other hand, were all given 'F' grades.

For Trump, the guide claims that he doesn't fear God because he has included transgender participants in his Miss USA beauty pageants; he has said that gay marriage is the law of the land; and failed to name his favorite Bible verses and ask God for forgiveness.

**EDUCATION TRENDS****Homeschool Family Sues NJ for \$60 Million**

A family who homeschools their son is suing the state of New Jersey for \$60 million for sending a social worker to search their home without a warrant.

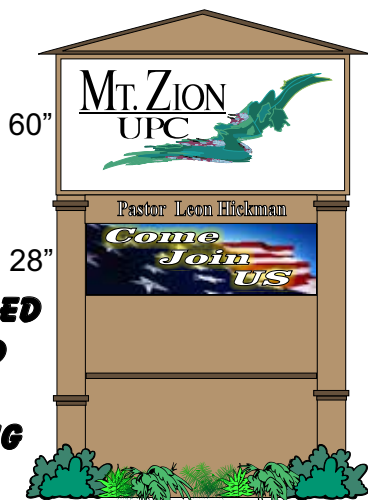
MY9NJ.com reports that Chris and Nicole Zimmer homeschool their 15-year-old son. Last January, a social worker knocked on their door and demanded to be let in to question them and search their house.

Chris Zimmer says at first he refused, but then conceded for fear of having his son taken away. "I wouldn't let her in the house, but then she told me I had ten minutes or else," Zimmer said. The social worker did not show any badge or warrant. She then proceeded to meticulously question the Zimmers on the education of their son and what kind of curriculum they used.

The social worker also questioned the Zimmers about the guns the family owned. She asked to see the guns in their safe, and then broke into the safe to see how easy it would be for the Zimmer's son to get the guns out.

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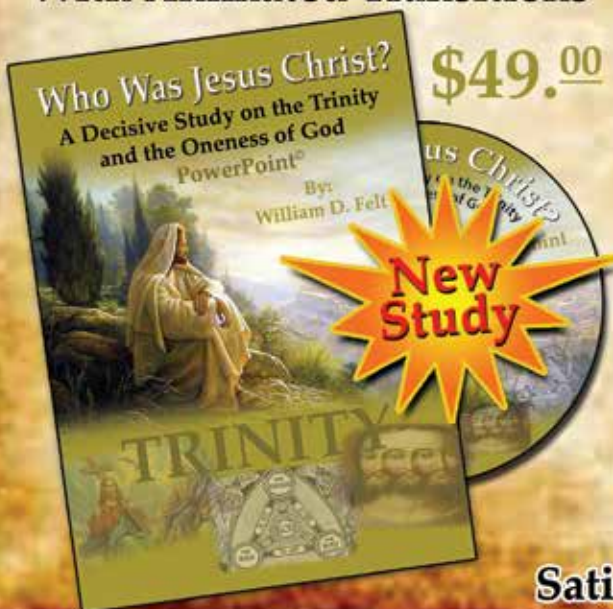
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# 5 RESTORATIONS FROM GOD

JACK CUNNINGHAM

*Transcribed by Gregg Stone*

Each year in October or November, I try to spend the better part of a week with the Lord, away from the church, away from family, away from everybody, and generally in that time frame I am seeking God about the coming year. In early November 2014, God spoke to me that He would send five powerful restorations in 2015: a restoration of personal relationship, a restoration of the Word of God, a restoration of prodigals, a restoration of family, and a restoration of Apostolic power and authority.

## **PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP**

Personal restoration is vital to us as Apostolics because it precedes every great advancement in the Kingdom of God that takes place in our lives. Restoration of personal relationship precedes times of refreshing, greater anointing, advancement, revelation, spiritual authority, and favor and blessing. That's why personal restoration is so vital among us.

Pastors and ministers tend to be among the busiest people on the face of the earth. However, hear me, performing tasks, setting and reaching goals, ministry success, singing, soul winning, preaching, teaching and position will never take the place of your personal relationship with God. The minister's relationship with God is more important to God than any position, any responsibility or any function of ministry. Not only

is relationship more important to God than anything else that you do, relationship with God needs to be more important to YOU and ME than position, responsibility or any function of ministry that we have in the kingdom.

## **FAITH IN THE WORD OF GOD**

The second restoration is faith in the Word of God. We know that today the Word of God has many enemies and is being challenged on every hand. The Apostle Paul wrote, Let God be true, but every man a liar, and Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away." The Word of God is the final authority in your life. You can trust and believe in the Word of God.

J. Todd Nichols, preaching to our Virginia district youth, said this, "If you are going to survive what is coming next in this world, you better get it settled as to what you believe." What a true statement for all believers. The very faith of the faithful is under attack. Just recently a very popular CNN commentator said, "Both the constitution and the Bible needs to be amended." The Apostolic church needs a restoration of faith in the Word of God. God's Word is true -- everything and everyone who challenges the Word of God is wrong. Period. The Word of God never changes; what was true in the Word a thousand years ago is true today. Period.

## **PRODIGALS**

The third restoration is that of prodigals. God promised me that in 2015, prodigals are going to come back home. We had great church where I pastor in 2014, and we grew to 714 active members. We had 588 first-time guests, 214 were added to our roll, 141 were baptized in Jesus name, and 394 people received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. During 49 out of 52 Sundays we had someone get baptized and receive the Holy Ghost; however, the statistic that I am happier about is that in 2014, 31 prodigals came home. I'm thankful for all the good numbers our church posted in 2014, but I am especially thankful to God for the prodigals who made their way back.

Almost every family has at least one prodigal in their family. We all have friends who have fallen away. Many have children who are not living for God, but I'm telling you under the anointing of the Holy Ghost, in the name of Jesus, your prodigal is coming home in 2015.

God promised, "I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west, say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Keep not back, bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth."

## FAMILY

The fourth restoration is family. If you don't understand how much family means to God, you haven't read your Bible! Most of the Old Testament is written to and about families. You think the church, as an institution, is more important to God than family? Think about this: God dealt exclusively with and through families for 4,000 years before He established a local church!

I am concerned when we look at the scripture and we don't understand the importance of saving our own families. In the Old Testament, 37 times it says *the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob* and every time it mentions these names, it is saying *the God of granddad, son, and grandson*. Every time the Bible talks about the 12 tribes of Israel, it's talking about 12 brothers who led 12 families. All the "begats" in the scripture that we sometimes want to skip over are referencing the family, and that's God letting you and I know how important it is that what we have is passed down to our children.

Christians are facing unprecedented spiritual battles. God, truth, righteousness, and the very Word of God are ferociously challenged in the arenas of education, government, courts and family. Though every battlefield is significant, the battle for the family is the one we MUST WIN.

## RESTORATION OF APOSTOLIC POWER AND AUTHORITY

The fifth and final restoration is the restoration of Apostolic power and authority. This is where we're all trying to get to. God told me that the fifth restoration will follow the first four restorations; the first four have to take place before the fifth one can take place. God cannot give us Apostolic power and authority until our relationship with Him is right. God will not give us Apostolic power and authority if we've allowed our faith in the Word of God to be weakened.

I've said this in every meeting I've preached in the last six months: "It is impossible to have Apostolic power and authority without Apostolic doctrine! It is impossible to build an Apostolic church without Apostolic doctrine! It is impossible for you or I to have an Apostolic ministry without Apostolic doctrine!"

A genuine Apostolic church believes in Apostolic doctrine and Apostolic demonstration. A church that has Apostolic doctrine but not Apostolic demonstration is not a genuine Apostolic church. On the other hand, a church that has Apostolic demonstration but not Apostolic doctrine is also not a genuine Apostolic church. The end time Apostolic church MUST make an equal commitment to Apostolic doctrine and Apostolic demonstration!

The foundational stone of Apostolic doctrine is ONE GOD; "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD." Apostolic doctrine is, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Apostolic doctrine is, "Holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." "Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."

Holiness and separation are just as much a part of Apostolic doctrine as one God and Acts 2:38! We Apostolics believe Jesus is coming soon. We believe in end time Apostolic revival. We believe the glory of the latter house shall be greater than the glory of the former house. We believe in the evening time there shall be light.

We believe in the last days, saith God, "I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh." We believe He is sending the former rain

and the latter rain.

We're seeing the beginning of end time outpouring now. Global Missions reported 123,860 received the Holy Ghost in 2014. In North America, according to Superintendent David Bernard, there were an estimated 60,000 filled with the Holy Ghost. That is about 183,860 people filled with the baptism of the Holy Ghost in 2014. That is an average of 501 per day. That is a day of Pentecost revival every six days.

The end time Apostolic church will be God's greatest and most powerful church. It is TIME for every Apostolic to prepare and qualify your life for service. It's time to recommitt to God, His Word, and righteousness. Stand and be counted. Find and fill your place in the kingdom.



Bro. Jack Cunningham  
Bible World Church  
Chesapeake, VA

## EMBRACE YOUR APOSTOLIC DESTINY

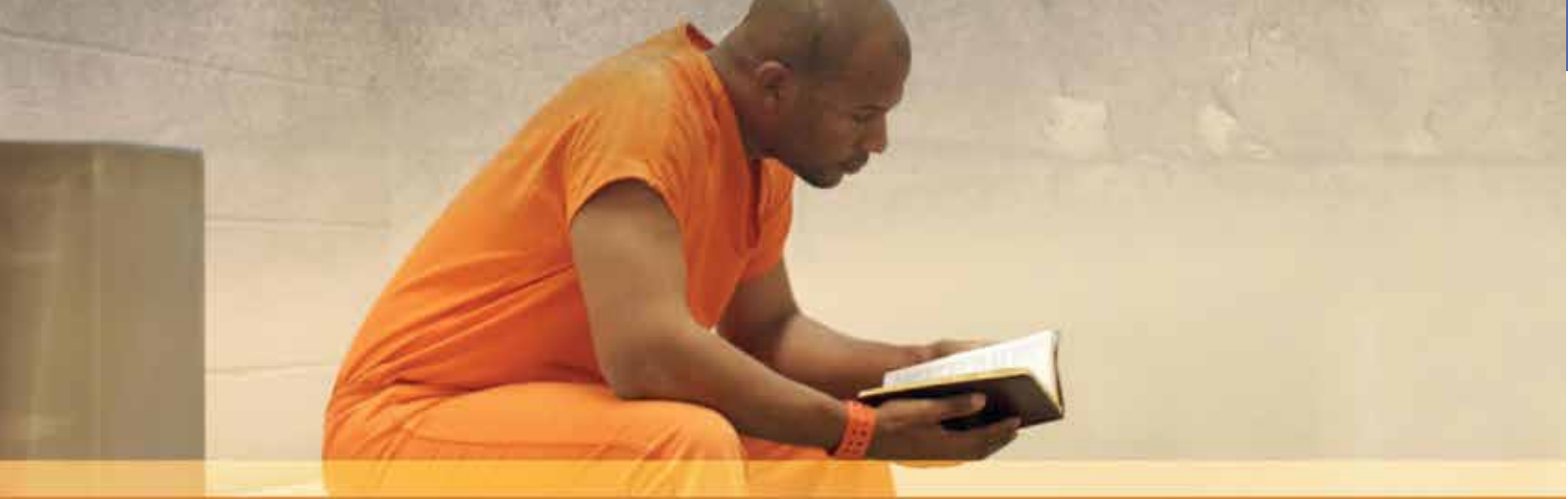
John wrote, "I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it." God has opened the door and NO MAN or no devil can shut it. There's not a devil in hell that can stop the revival God has in store for your ministry and your church. I'm prophesying to you that revival is coming to your ministry, your church, and your city!

Bro. Orozco in Los Angeles, Calif. has 25 daughter churches, and when they come together on Sundays, they have to rent a 5,000-seat city auditorium. I'm watching God bring in entire denominations to the Apostles' doctrine. I've had the privilege of baptizing three denominational pastors in Jesus name. I was asked to speak at a United Methodist Church and as a result, 66 were filled with Holy Ghost.

Luke 10 is a powerful chapter. Jesus appointed and sent 70 out 2 by 2. He sent them into every city and place whither He himself would come, and He said, "Into whatsoever city ye enter, heal the sick that are therein, and if they ask how or why, say to them, the Kingdom of God is come unto you!" The 70 returned again with joy, saying, "Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name." God is sending you to a city where He himself is going to show up. He's sending you with power to heal; He's sending you out with power over every devil you encounter.

"Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." Remember, the devil fights the hardest where he fears the most. Some of you have been to Hell and back ... some are still there. What you are going through is due to the devil's FEAR of you. Satan senses what God is going to do for you and through you ... so he throws everything he has at you. YOU have power over the devil! Why don't you use what you have?

The Bible says, "Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." You can and will take authority over every demon spirit that has come against your church, your ministry, and your family. There's not a devil in Hell that is a match for a man or woman with Apostolic power and authority!



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# Visual Truth Kids' Ministry

## Evangelists Provide Fun Entertainment While Teaching Biblical Principles

By Susan Thomas



Bro. and Sis. Eddie Gorden  
Bastrop, La.

Evangelist Eddie Gorden of Visual Truth Ministries knows what it takes to grab children's attention. "We use puppets, up front games, illusions, and illustrated sermons to teach biblical truths," he said. "Our ministry is based out of the Bastrop United Pentecostal Church in Bastrop, Louisiana, pastored by Dwight Fulton and Bishop A.J. Fulton."

Bro. Gorden and his wife started out teaching in the Sunday School Department at their home church over 20 years ago. As time passed, they moved from teaching to assisting in the leadership of the Sunday School Department. "About eight years ago, my wife, our youngest daughter and I started going out once in a while to minister in area churches," he explained. "God has opened many doors and now

we are scheduled to be involved in Save Our Children crusades, home missions crusades, and youth camps in 2016." He added, "I think the greatest influence in our ministry is our Bishop A. J. Fulton. He has always infused our youth and children. Youth Quake at Bastrop United Pentecostal Church has been one of the biggest influences in our life and ministry."

"Our ministry is unique in the way we use the tools God has blessed us with in providing something fun and exciting while teaching biblical truths and principles. Many children know us by the six-foot balloon we use. We have had up to 15 at one time inside a six-foot balloon. It is something they never forget."

As a children's evangelist, Bro. Gorden has many stories and memories he will hold on to for a very long time. "I guess the one that stands out the most is of one little boy in Florida," he said. "I was

asked to come down and pray for him. As I asked him his name and what he was praying for, his reply was one I have heard many times over: 'I want the Holy Ghost.' I told him that Jesus wanted him to have just what he was wanting, and as I prayed with him, God so graciously filled him."

The reason this is my favorite is because he was the child that God used to direct me into this wonderful ministry."

So, what does it take to be a successful children's evangelist? "I feel that you must love children and have the burden to see them receive the greatest gift any one could ever receive," said

Bro. Gorden. "I know that sounds pretty simple, but Jesus never meant for it to be difficult. Children truly are the greatest!"

For more information on their children's ministry, contact the Gordens via e-mail at [ed.gorden@yahoo.com](mailto:ed.gorden@yahoo.com) or by phone at 318-547-5491 (cell) or 318-281-7795 (home).



# Bible Study Uses Technology to Reach Lost

By Charlotte L. Pound



Bro. Arlo Moehlenpah  
Poway, Calif.

Modern technology can be used for good or evil, but the church can utilize it to further the Gospel. Bro. Arlo Moehlenpah of Poway, Calif. has created a new home Bible study that does just that. Titled after his website, the new *Doing Good Home Bible Study* is taught via PowerPoint slides.

In most homes, all that is needed to teach this Bible study is a laptop computer. "The lessons utilize PowerPoint," explained Bro. Moehlenpah. "There are over 400 slides, most of which use a limited number of words per slide, good visuals, and animation and just one thought per slide. In the notes sections, there are comments as well as the related scriptures. At the end of each lesson there is an audience response quiz."

Because Jesus is our example of going about doing good, we should do likewise, according to Bro. Moehlenpah. "The apostles were very successful even though they had no church buildings," he said. "Much of the time they went from house to house. Home Bible studies are still one of the best means to win people to Jesus Christ and to teach them."

"Using charts is effective in that people learn more by seeing and hearing than just hearing alone. The disadvantage

of charts is that they are expensive to produce and each extra chart adds to the cost. As a result, many of the home Bible studies series were 60 to 70 pages and often way too much was crowded into each chart. Many images and ideas on one page can be distracting."

The new *Doing Good Home Bible Study* is simple and easy to use. Bro. Moehlenpah was motivated to design the new study this spring at the Christian Service Training Institute in San Diego. "Samuel Gutierrez greatly inspired me when he taught a course called 'The Home Bible Study.' Sadly, none of us knew that he would pass away just six days after finishing the course."

In the *Doing Good Home Bible Study*, there are seven lessons which cover overviews of the entire Bible, Books of Law (Pentateuch), Historical Books, New Testament, The Gospels, The Book of Acts, and the Second Coming of Christ.

"There has been positive feedback on the study," said Bro. Moehlenpah. "Over 100 people have requested a copy. Some comments I have received are: 'I just finished going through every slide in the Bible study. I know how much time and effort you must have put into this

project.' Also: 'I have been sitting here going through the lessons and am excited to utilize them with the four people that got baptized Sunday night from my initial gospel Bible study ... I'm also sharing these with our orientation and new convert teachers. Thank you!'"

Since Bro. Moehlenpah made this study available via his newsletter just last month, it is too early to tell what the success and impact will be. However, the following testimony verifies the mobility and ease in which the *Doing Good Home Bible Study* can be used in any situation or venue. "My first time teaching this was on a cruise ship in a room used for Bible studies," he said. "After getting off the ship, I taught Lesson 7 to a small church in Washington and two came to the altar for the first time. The next week I taught three lessons to a man sitting next to me on a plane. Currently, I am teaching this to a lady and her brother that my wife and I met walking in a park near us."

To obtain a copy, you may e-mail Bro. Moehlenpah at [Moehlenpah@aol.com](mailto:Moehlenpah@aol.com), who will then enable you to download it from Dropbox. The *Doing Good Home Bible Study* is free of charge; however, any donation to Doing Good Ministries would be greatly appreciated.



Bro. Moehlenpah teaches his  
new home Bible study.

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**Word To The Wise:**

"Research has determined that the shelf life of fruitcake is longer than the shelf."

\* \* \* \* \*

Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Little Johnny received his plate, he started eating right away.

"Johnny! Please wait until we say our prayer," said his mother. "I don't need to," the boy replied.

"Of course, you do," his mother insisted. "We always say a prayer before eating at our house."

"That's at our house," Johnny explained. "But this is Grandma's house, and she knows how to cook."

\* \* \* \* \*

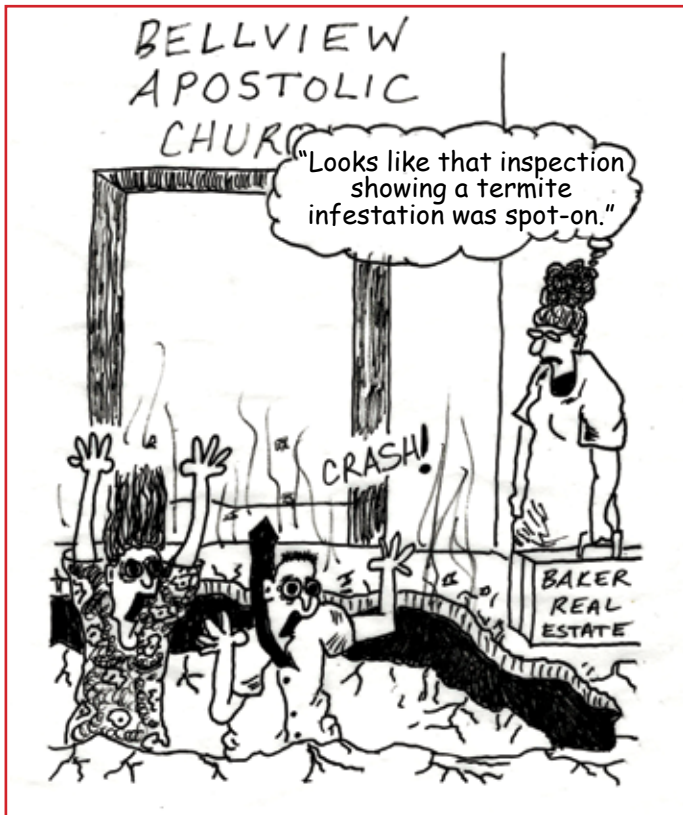
The Theological Seminary's dean of admissions was interviewing a prospective student.

"Why have you chosen a career in ministry?" he asked.

"I dream of having a great church with five thousand members, like my father," the student replied.

"Your father pastored a church with five thousand members?" echoed the dean, much impressed.

"No," replied the applicant. "But he always dreamed of it."



\* \* \* \* \*

A small town had three churches -- and all three were virtually overrun with pesky squirrels.

The first church called a meeting to decide what to do about the squirrels. After much prayer and consideration they determined that God must have wanted the squirrels there, and the church shouldn't interfere with God's divine will.

The second church decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creations, so they humanely trapped the squirrels and set them free a few miles outside of town. Three days later, the squirrels were back.

The third church came up with the best and most effective solution: they baptized the squirrels and registered them as members of the church. Now they only see them on Christmas and Easter.



Memo to youth leader: "Please inform the youth that bungee jumping from the church steeple is no longer permitted."

\* \* \* \* \*

A guy goes ice fishing. He finds a good spot on the lake, near some other ice fishermen (to be sociable) but not close enough to be annoying. He sets up his gear, cuts a hole in the ice, and drops his line into the water.

After a few hours he hasn't gotten a single bite, yet he notices that a kid nearby has caught dozens of fish. He walks over to the kid and asks: "Hey, what's your secret?"

The kid says: "Mmu motta meep ba mmrms mmmr."

The guy asks: "What did you say?"

The kid answers: "Mmu motta meep ba mmrms mmmr."

The guy again asks: "What?!"

The kid spits into his hand and says, "You gotta keep the worms warm!"

\* \* \* \* \*

Officers at a military installation were being lectured about a new computer. The training officer said the computer was able to withstand nuclear and chemical attacks.

Suddenly, he saw that one of the officers had a cup of coffee and yelled, "There will be no eating or drinking in this room! You'll have to get rid of that coffee."

The officer said meekly, "Sure, but why?"

"Because a coffee spill could short out the computer."



"Told you we should have prayed first . . ."

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## 2016

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