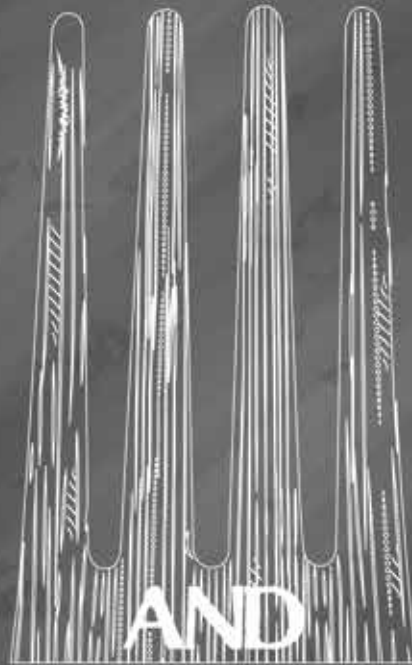


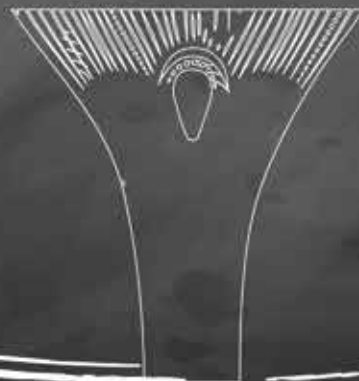



# Perspectives

KEEP CALM



AND  
EAT ON





From The Publisher

## Transcendancy Factor

Paul D. Mooney

**“Any contrivance apart from the anointing, in preaching or in worship, is a failure. Human talent and education will never be enough to cause hearts to take up the cross and follow Jesus.”**

While in church services lately, I sometimes become aware of a difference from, say, thirty or forty years ago. But what is this difference?

Church services today, and the professional efforts of church work, are, of course, better in many ways than the ones I remember from years ago – especially if one frames the measurements by the higher levels of musical signification, oratory, management, staff and congregational training, better organized outreach, marketing, technology and an overall better-educated and qualified ministry. And, not to be overlooked, professional performance and presentation skills.

Quite often, what one may experience in some cases, in some meetings (not all, of course) is, in fact, the talent, ability, training and performance skills that attempt to recreate or mimic the memories and perceptions of a true Holy Spirit-anointed service. This is in contrast to a gathering of believers in which the Holy Spirit truly and actually becomes involved in the worship and the preaching and the praying and the giving and the emotion... interacting with and empowering the church. These two scenarios can get seriously mixed up in peoples' minds.

Allow me, dear reader, to ask respectfully: Who has not seen examples of “sincere souls” trying hard to create a church service that is anointed, moving, uplifting and that generates emotional response and dynamic worship – but who utterly fail to guide the worshippers beyond their own shallow human effort? And even worse is the leader who relentlessly, with grueling unending beat or worship commands, finally wears down body and soul until all meaning is lost in the mindless compliance to dictates.

There is a vital and desperate need (and, I believe, a fresh hunger) for the Holy Spirit to fall upon us. Human methods and techniques fall short, no matter how skillfully conceived and executed, no matter how sincere, and despite any mesmerizing influence they may have upon one's appreciation for human talent. They ultimately come to naught. Leaning on our own understanding is a failure (Proverbs 3:5).

Not seeking God's presence and direction is an utter failure. First of all, there is no substitution for the true power of the Holy Ghost. None. Any contrivance apart from the anointing, in preaching or in worship, is a failure. Human talent and education will never be enough to cause hearts to take up the cross and follow Jesus.

Playing church merely creates bad actors. Unless the real anointing of the Holy Spirit provides it, the good and eternal power of God will not take root in the hearts of the next generation. If we are depending on the flesh, we will lose. No one is talented enough to convert the world without the Spirit undergirding and directing his or her efforts.

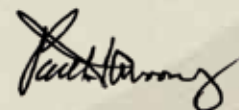
We live in a complex and increasingly secular world. Without the empowerment of the Holy Ghost, we will be defeated. Not only will we lose the youth, but the older ones among us will lose the stamina and the heart to continue the fight against worldliness. This is, in fact, already happening.

Waiting on God, seeking His presence in prayer and even moaning in the Spirit was common among Pentecostals a few decades ago. This is what I sense is being lost in our services; this is the difference, I believe, in what I am feeling. The searching after God, the waiting on Him – the “feeling after Him” as Paul instructed the Athenians. The seeking after God is an essential need.

I recall many church services that started over the roar of the prayer room. Many voices continued in prayer as others began to sing. It felt real. It WAS real. It moved souls. Sinners paid attention. It empowered the preaching. The dependency on talent was limited.

We've lost that, to some degree. I am among those who are to blame. But I know enough to know that what was significant about it all was that there was a hunger for that which could provide a transcendancy against the world, against the darkness, fear, and the evil of hell... and that's the point. We need that transcendancy. It pulled us up. It led to holiness. It provided the power to go into all the world. It verified that there is a higher power.

You and I cannot undo the world's secular agenda; but we can overcome it.



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### Mission Statement

♦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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# 20



## GUEST PULPIT: KEEP CALM AND EAT ON

(TIM ZUNIGA)

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# SUMMIT 2016

# *Doxa*

GREEK: GLORY, PRIMARILY SIGNIFIES AN OPINION, ESTIMATE, AND HENCE, THE RESULTING HONOR

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Ken Bow  
Paul Elder  
Wesley Jackson  
Ari Prado  
Nathaniel Urshan  
Myles Young

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# DO REVIVALS STILL WORK?

Interviews by John Fonzer Jr.

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



**Art Wilson, Romulus, MI** -- In the last 10 years, we have baptized over 1,200. We're probably having more revivals now because we want to keep that momentum, and we want to reach more souls. We try to have a major revival service every quarter. It is imperative for every church that's interested in church growth, even though they are having great church. A church

has to tap into the prophetic realm to keep the people fresh. You have to have those times when you bring a complete awareness to the newness through an extended service meeting.

The purpose for a revival service is so that the fivefold ministry is activated in the church. The church already has a constant flow of pastoral and teaching ministry from its pastor, so I bring in a speaker who will bless our church in the fivefold ministry office: someone who can operate in the ministry anointing of the apostle, prophet and evangelist. That has proven to be incredibly beneficial for us.

We keep the vision before the people so they know what God wants to do. You should have a lot of upshift where the people are fasting and praying, and there should be a lot of marketing information and vision casting as to where God is taking people in the revival. Then, when the revival happens, it has an explosive effect.



**Mark Moore, Atlanta, GA** -- Revivals are a great opportunity for harvest, but revivals only work if you work them. You have to work leading up to the revival. I try to make certain the meeting has been publicized, that the people have been motivated. We also have giveaways as one more incentive for the people to bring guests.

We have a prayer team that prays two hours a day during that revival week, and the saints pray and do extra fasting. You have to provide a spiritual climate. If you have a move of God, that excitement will carry people.



**Alvin Ray, Memphis, TN** -- We only have two or three-day revivals. When evangelists come, we tell them what we are looking for. I tell them, "I have heard you somewhere else. This is what our people need." We advertise before revivals, and we tell people why they are coming. If it is a healing revival, we tell people that.

We have a fasting team. Somebody here fasts every day. We also have a team that prays 24 hours. One time we had a revival, and 30 people got the Holy Ghost. God is a result God.



**Paul S. Lyon, S. Burlington, VT** -- I know revival works, if we pray, participate and praise. We have more revivals than we used to have: about a half dozen revivals a year. I feel very strongly that if we are going to bring evangelists in, they are to be compensated. If a revival doesn't cost us something, we don't really experience the value of what is brought in by an evangelist. It is important that our people hear another voice. I look for an evangelist who has integrity, passion

and a good report.



**Ron Guidroz, Galveston, TX** -- In Acts 7, Stephen's preaching demanded a response. His conviction preaching about the OT law was irresistible. They stoned Stephen. Verse 51 says they resisted, but they had to make a decision. One of the greatest conviction preachers of our time, the late Orlin Rae Sauss stated: "Whenever I read my text, my altar call begins." Conviction preaching still works.

A revival is most effective and a time of reaping is most certain when the church has prepared the soil, planted the seed, taught home Bible studies, and the prospects are ready for Holy Ghost transformation. Churches may become paralyzed over the years when seemingly nothing supernatural is happening.

When an evangelist comes in to the right setting, there is a marvelous potential for miraculous things to happen. A church can get off a dead center in one weekend. Lives are changed. Homes are changed. People's finances are changed. People receive the Holy Ghost. Signs and wonders are common with revival. There's transformation in people's lives when the evangelist confirms what the pastor has been preaching. I'm not afraid to ask a pastor what he needs me to preach. If he tells me the area of need, it never fails to work. He's commander-in-chief of the battle, and he knows.



**Jeff Jacob, New Castle, IN** -- I try to bring an evangelist in at least four times a year, and it is usually a Sunday service because our Wednesdays are so directed at teaching. The giants of our faith were tremendous teachers.

A healthy church is going to have a healthy flow of guests. When an evangelist comes here, there will be plenty of people to preach to, people who are at all stages coming to God.

If we are going to ask evangelists to come and reap a harvest, there ought to be corn in the field.



**Willie Clemmons, Canton, MS** -- We have about four revivals a year. Some do us good. Some stir up emotions. A preacher who tickles the emotion is usually only good for that service. Then the people are right back where they were before.

In a lot of churches, there's a team of people who come up to sing songs. Many times God doesn't even bless the services. Deut. 16:11 says God wants us to rejoice in the place [He] has chosen to place His name in. But the people are putting the praise on the song leaders.



**Robert Coffey III, Portsmouth, OH** -- Usually Sunday to Wednesday works best for us. People don't rally out like they once did, but our attendance is good. People seem to be busier than before. This year we've had three revivals. I consider a revival successful when I see people that have been cold and indifferent responding and smiling. It is so uplifting to see people with praise on their lips, showing signs of improvement. If I can get my church motivated to go into the harvest and work, I feel good about the time we spent in revival.



# REACH HEAL SERVE

mark copeland

was never a question in my mind, and I knew that I would never do anything else. Three uncles who were preachers had the greatest influence on my ministry. They were Steve McMullen, who now pastors in Evadale, Texas; Wayne Cardwell, who pastored in DeQuincy, Louisiana; and Tim Copeland, who pastors in Buford, Georgia."

## Balancing Growth

Balance is defined as "a state in which different things have an equal or proper amount of importance," and Bro. Copeland believes that the greatest key to having a growing church is balance. "God blesses order," he said. "When something is out of order . . . it can hinder God from blessing the whole. Man is made up of spirit, soul and body, and these three areas must be kept equally sanctified. An example of this is that a church that is strong in outreach must also be strong in prayer and in holiness. Consequently, if a church focuses too much on the aspects of outreach, to the neglect of relationship with God or separation from the world, there will be a loss of anointing on the whole. Their outreach becomes just busy work without

God's endorsement. I teach our church that a balanced life brings the validation of God to empower and to make all that we do most effective. We do Bible studies, bus ministry and door knocking. Really, we do all of it. But balance is the key to getting God to bless what we do."

PGPC utilizes a variety of outreach ministries and methods, but the one that has worked best, according to Bro. Copeland, has been casting a vision for personal evangelism. "While we have used and will continue to use probably every evangelism technique that Pentecost has to offer," said Bro. Copeland, "the most effective tool for getting people on the pews still remains personal one-on-one evangelism."

## A Place for Ministry

Around 80 percent of the PGPC congregation is actively involved in some form of ministry and has caught the vision of Bro. Copeland. "Our congregation has a revelation that the joy and fulfillment in their living for God, as well as their blessings, come from actively working in the Kingdom of God," he said. "We are able to do so much and have been able to expand quickly, because a corporate revelation of giving has taken root in our church. Not in finances only but also giving of their time and energy. This synergy creates an exciting atmosphere that is very creative and extremely productive."

Organization is important at PGPC and helps everyone to operate in a productive manner. "We have annual planning meetings at the first of the year with our leaders," said Bro. Copeland, "and our department heads meet with their departments pretty much on a monthly basis. The volunteer staff members have verbal job descriptions, and all full-time

Located deep in the heart of Mississippi is a quaint little town with an estimated population of 288 people, almost no crime, and where people never lock their doors. Welcome to Sebastopol, a great little town in which to raise a family. Nestled away in Sebastopol is Pine Grove Pentecostal Church, where you will find people just like you who have gathered to seek God's will and purpose in their lives. "The world is shaking, but there is a sure and a safe place," said Bro. Mark Copeland, pastor of Pine Grove Pentecostal Church. "Jesus is the rock that can take the shock."

Pine Grove Pentecostal Church and its members offer an exciting and multi-cultural experience for all ages, races and life status. "Our church harbors an Apostolic environment where lives are changed forever," said Bro. Copeland. "Sis. Copeland and I, along with the church family of Pine Grove Pentecostal Church, invite you to come and experience the power of God in your life. You will be blessed by inspirational sermons, powerful praise, and unconditional love from our congregation. Our church offers a vast number of ministries, groups and activities that will surely fit your family and allow God to fill your life with purpose."

## A Ministerial Heritage

Bro. Copeland was installed as pastor of PGPC in May of 1998. Prior to taking the church in Sebastopol, he evangelized for approximately eight years. For the last 16 years, along with his wife, Melanie, and children, Savannah and Olivia, Bro. Copeland has led Pine Grove Pentecostal Church into unprecedented, groundbreaking revival. Looking back, he said he is living the life he envisioned as a young man. He grew up in Vidor, Texas, where he was raised in the church and received the Holy Ghost at nine years of age. "I started feeling my call to preach at around 12 years old," said Bro. Copeland. "Actually, I always knew that I would be a preacher. Some of my earliest thoughts, as just a toddler, were about preaching. There



The choir ministers to the congregation.





**Top: Exterior of Pine Grove Pentecostal Church; bottom: a baptism**

paid staff members have written job descriptions." With a variety of ministries and departments, there is a place for everyone to plug in and become a part of this wonderful congregation.

### **Mighty Move of God**

Pine Grove Pentecostal Church has had numerous miracles take place, according to the pastor. "We have a book in our foyer where people can record their personal miracles as well as a place where framed doctors' reports are displayed that state that people were diagnosed and then the diagnosis had to be reversed," said Bro. Copeland. "Some of these miracles include healings from lupus, hepatitis C, sugar diabetes, thyroid cancer, Lymphoma cancer, epilepsy, a brain tumor and a host of other situations and ailments.

"Bro. Allan Graham, who received the Holy Ghost in our church after around 40 years of being a drug addict, was instantly delivered of numerous addictions. It was found out later that prior to receiving the Holy Ghost he had contacted hepatitis C from a dirty needle. His liver was already very sick. The church prayed for him, and he was miraculously healed! He went back for further tests. They could not find hepatitis C. We have a doctor's report in our foyer where the doctor states that Allan Graham did in fact have hepatitis C and now there is no trace of it in his body.

"Then there is Gail Goss who was diagnosed with thyroid cancer on two occasions. On the second occasion, she told the doctor that she had been prayed for and was healed. The doctor became indignant and told her that she absolutely had cancer of the thyroid, and it was going to have to be removed. After further testing, he had to admit to her that there was no sign of cancer in her thyroid.

"And there is a man in our church named John (J.T.) Herrington who had epileptic seizures for many years. He could not work or drive. The seizures, at times, came every few minutes. He had become totally disabled. We prayed for him, and he was instantly healed. He has never had a seizure since and is now owner and operator of Herrington Construction Incorporated."

### **A Look Back and Forward**

Pine Grove Pentecostal Church was started in 1923 on the front porch of a farmhouse. It was on that front porch of the

Davidson home that the oneness of God was first preached in that rural area. "This one God message sparked a revival that moved to a brush arbor in the front yard," explained Bro. Copeland. "Bro. Massey, a man from California, came preaching Jesus' name



**The Copeland family  
Sebastopol, Miss.**

baptism, one God, and the evidence of speaking in other tongues as a result of receiving the Holy Ghost. Soon, the land was donated that is still the location of the current facilities. And, in the '30s, an old white shiplap building was taken down by the members and moved to the current location and rebuilt."

In 1974, a brick building was erected that would accommodate 100 worshipers and also included Sunday school classes and a small evangelist quarters. In 1996, a small gym and fellowship hall were erected. "Our first service at Pine Grove Pentecostal Church was May 3, 1998," said Bro. Copeland. "There were approximately 30 people in attendance on that first Sunday. We outgrew the brick building in 2001 and began having church in the gym. The old brick building became a school. In 2003, we built a 400-seat auditorium that we quickly outgrew, and in 2008 began constructing our current facility -- a 1,000-seat auditorium -- which was completed in 2011. Our 400-seat auditorium was converted to a commercial kitchen and dining hall, and we are now completing a new gym. Our future plans are for a children's home called Hope's House, and we are in the beginning stages of this effort now."

Pine Grove Pentecostal Church began with about 30 people in attendance in 1998, and now, with daughter works included, is running around 500. "Something unique about our situation," said the pastor, "is that all of this growth is taking place in a town with a population of less than 300 people."

### **A Lighthouse of Truth**

Because the world can "beat people up," all that are reached must be healed, said Bro. Copeland. God uses the church to facilitate that healing process, and the saints must serve one another as they serve Christ. "Pine Grove Pentecostal Church is able to meet the needs of you and your family," said Bro. Copeland. "It is our desire that our church will be a lighthouse to the world, a service to the community, and a life-changing experience for everyone."



# GREAT INVESTMENT RATES

Maturity	Minimum Investment	Fixed Interest Rate	Yield to Maturity
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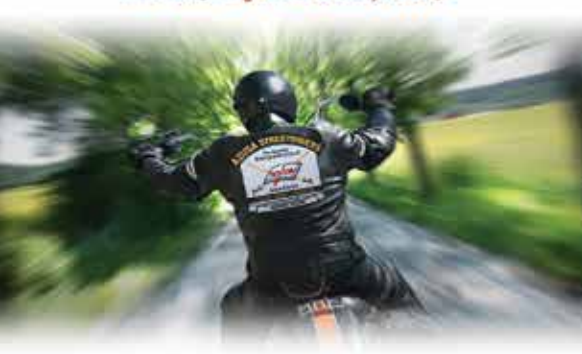


Attendees were from Wisconsin, Ohio, Florida, Texas, the Carolinas, Mississippi, Kentucky, Tennessee and of course Louisiana.



Look for more "open-to-the-public" A&E conferences in the future and be sure to register.

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# Avoid Being a Bottleneck Leader

By Ron Edmondson

Leaders should aim to never be a bottleneck in the process of building a healthy and growing organization. When this happens, progress stalls, growth is limited and people are frustrated. Here are seven characteristics of a bottleneck leader:

1. *Every decision ultimately goes through the leader.* People are annoyed because they feel devalued—like their ability to make a good decision is in question. When everyone has to wait for the leader to make a decision, valuable time is wasted. Productivity slows. Frustration rises.

2. *New ideas or opinions are discouraged.* People want to be a part of something bigger than them — and they want to play a part in helping it become a reality. When their input isn't welcomed, they feel stifled, unfulfilled and unnecessary.

3. *The leader is change-resistant.* Leadership in its very definition involves change. Leaders are taking people somewhere new. You can't get to new without change. The leader should be among the least afraid of change on the team.

4. *There is no clear vision, or information isn't readily available.* People flounder because they don't know what to do next. This bottleneck encourages laziness in some and discouragement in others. Leaders who spur movement in an organization are quick with information. They are transparent and continually share what they see as the future.

5. *The leader never delegates.* When people feel empowered they think like "owners." When the leader takes on unnecessary assignments, the leader is overburdened and the team is underutilized. Both suffer in the long term.

6. *Potential leaders aren't recruited—they are controlled.* Leaders are built through a recruit, invest and release process. When people are controlled, they never develop. And they learn to resent the leader.

7. *Only the leader can launch a new initiative.* The best leaders I know encourage people to take a risk. They create a "go for it" environment. When only the leader is allowed to "pull the trigger," the organization faces a huge opportunity cost.



## Providing the Skin of Jesus' Comfort

By Stephen Judd, TCM President



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

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy" (Proverbs 31:8-9 NIV). When I think of this verse, I can't think of any group in the world that this verse defines better than orphans. They have no voice. They are powerless and helpless.

Through the scriptures, God expressly says that He cares about orphans. "If you do not oppress the alien, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place, if you do not follow other gods...then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your forefathers for ever and ever" (Jeremiah 7:6-7).

Notice that one of the conditions for the Israelites to live in the promise land was...You'd better take care of orphans! The Lord was saying to His people, "If you don't do that you're going to lose your right to the privilege of the promise land." God takes it just that seriously.

On a stormy night, a scared little boy ran from his bed into his parent's room and jumped right in the middle of their bed. The storm passed and the mother said, "Son, you can go back to your room now. Jesus is with you." He replied, "I know, but right

now I need someone with skin on!"

Jesus said in John 14:18, "I will not leave you comfortless" (from the Greek word orphanos, meaning "fatherless").

For 63 years, Tupelo Children's Mansion has embodied this promise of Jesus. TCM has been there to provide the "skin" of Jesus' comfort for over 2,000 scared and troubled children who, through no fault of their own, have been deprived of the love and nurture that every child longs for and deserves.

While not all of our children at the Mansion are true orphans in the strictest sense of the term, most all of our residents are "social orphans" in that their parents have stepped out of their lives and abdicated their role as a mother and a father.

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, "To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world"" (James 1:27).

You can help support Tupelo Children's Mansion by becoming a Mansion Kid Sponsor. You will receive a welcome packet upon enrollment. Each quarter, an update will be sent to you with information about how your child is doing, along with a new photo, and ways that that you can make a difference in your child's life.

For more information on how you can support Tupelo Children's Mansion, go to <http://www.mansionkids.org>.



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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.



# WHEN CHILDREN PRAY

JERRY BARLAR



Written by Linda Schreckenberg



Jerry and Allison Barlar  
Nashville, Tenn.

**Bro. Jerry Barlar, tell us a little about yourself and your ministry involvement.**

I have attended the First United Pentecostal Church, pastored by Bro. Ron Becton in Nashville,

Tenn., for almost 20 years. I serve as a board member, help with Men's Ministry, and my wife, Allison, and I teach a Sunday school class of 8 to 9-year-olds. We have two children, Jaden (14) and Sophie (11). I speak on the prayer ministry at Sunday school seminars and recently spoke at the Children's Prayer Conference at WEC. I felt a calling in this type of ministry (spiritual gifts). I just never imagined I would witness it through kids. It is exciting to see these children pray over needs and for the service on Sunday morning.

**How did the When Children Pray ministry get started? What's the story behind it?**

While waiting at a red light one day, the Lord spoke to me about a children's prayer cloth ministry. I went straight to Walmart and bought several handkerchiefs and anointed them with oil. On Sunday, I explained to my Sunday school class that we were starting a children's prayer cloth ministry and asked them to pray over them. I shared with the congregation, and a man requested one for his sick wife, who hadn't come to church for a few months. The woman wore the prayer cloth pinned to her skirt all week and was in church the next Sunday, with no pain, worshipping God.

The requests for the prayer cloths began to come in by the twenties into the hundreds. Our son, 14, had a dream about not having enough prayer cloths. Since handkerchiefs were heavy and expensive, we found a company that makes lightweight prayer cloths. One business owner had asked for prayer cloths and prayer before he started his business. He insists on paying for all future prayer cloths for the ministry.

The Tennessee District Sunday School magazine, *The Voice*, did an article and pictures on the ministry with permission from Pastor Becton. We felt led to rubber cement a prayer cloth into each magazine going out,

which was between 2,500 to 2,700 copies. We formed an assembly line to do this project on a Sunday morning. The congregation gave \$1,500 toward the project, and we designed our brochures from that article. We felt led to have a booth at General Conference, so to help with costs, we put on Facebook that we were believing for \$200 and received \$2,500. We ordered 6,000 brochures and prayer cloths for our booth and did an assembly line on Saturday. Our booth was out of the main flow of traffic, so to make sure people got them, we sent out kids to give the brochures and prayer cloths to those among the crowd.

**When did this ministry start?**

This ministry began around July of 2010, and those who were in that class then are prayer warriors at 14 and 15. They are in the altar without any coaxing, praying with people, because they have faith that God can do anything.

**How many adults and how many children are involved in the ministry?**

There are four adults and 15 to 20 kids. It varies each year. There have been 40 to 50 kids who have been involved over the past five years doing this.

**What kind of success have you had?**

There are literally hundreds of testimonies from all over the world. The class calls out prayer request names, writes prayer requests in red on a dry erase board and answered prayers in blue. The colors rotate from time to time. An Asian pastor took several hundred prayer cloths to Thailand, and sent a message that a person came out of a wheelchair. The response has been astounding. We have sent out more than 5,000 prayer cloths, and requests just keep coming.

**Can you share some testimonies of answered prayer?**

Anyone who goes to the website to read the testimonies will not only be astounded at the number of them but the magnitude of God's answers to the prayers of these children. Alayna, in our church, was only three months old when her family noticed something was wrong. Testing showed she was developmentally delayed. She was unable

to walk and had to wear braces on her feet because of very low muscle tone in her body. She had anxiety, which made therapy difficult. We had just begun the ministry when her sister, Amber, in our class, asked the kids to pray for Alayna, then three years old. The children prayed over the cloth, and it was placed under Alayna's mattress. The kids just knew she would walk again. A few weeks later, Sis. Barlar came running into the classroom, weeping. Alayna was running around in the church. Since that day, Alayna dances every time music starts, without any braces or walkers.

One man was dying, and his gravesite was being prepared. Taps were played in his hospital room. The children prayed, and two weeks later, he was in church, worshipping God. An inmate in prison had throat cancer. His brother asked that the children pray for

him. The inmate came off dialysis and no cancer was found. An eight-year-old boy with Class 4 brain cancer was healed after receiving a prayer cloth. A woman with a tumor on her eye came to the class for prayer. When she had surgery, the doctor was astonished. Her vision was 20/20. A saint's granddaughter was told her child would be severely deformed. After the class

prayed, the baby was born perfectly healthy.

A man named Gordon gave this testimony: "The impact you have upon your children's Bible class will have lasting values for eternity. Thanks for leading the children to pray for needs of others. I have been fortunate over the past couple of years to have shared requests via this medium knowing that you, along with the children, would pray and God has always answered according to His will and way. God bless as He continues to use you to shape and mold many a young life for His glory."

**How can others support your ministry and how do they contact you?**

Our main request for support is for people to pray for the kids, our class and the ministry. Any donations to help with the costs of mailing and other expenses will be greatly appreciated. Prayer requests or requests for prayer cloths may be submitted on the website [www.whenchildrenpray.com](http://www.whenchildrenpray.com). I may be contacted by email [whenchildrenpray@yahoo.com](mailto:whenchildrenpray@yahoo.com) or by phone 615-202-8054.



For information about these events, call the event coordinator. If you would like your event on this list, call (800) 800-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>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 <a href="http://www.winterfire.org">www.winterfire.org</a> 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 <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> 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.	<a href="mailto:ibc@apostolic.edu">ibc@apostolic.edu</a> <a href="http://www.go2ibc.com">www.go2ibc.com</a> 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 <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> 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	<a href="mailto:ibc@apostolic.edu">ibc@apostolic.edu</a> <a href="http://www.go2ibc.com">www.go2ibc.com</a> or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
<b>MAY 6</b>	<b>Indiana Bible College GRADUATION 2016</b> Paul D. Mooney and Robert L. Rodenbush All are welcome. 7 p.m.	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN Host: Paul D. Mooney	Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, and others.	<a href="mailto:ibc@apostolic.edu">ibc@apostolic.edu</a> <a href="http://www.go2ibc.com">www.go2ibc.com</a> or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
<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 <a href="mailto:labwn@aol.com">labwn@aol.com</a> 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 <a href="http://www.cacdenver.org">www.cacdenver.org</a> <a href="mailto:DEH2@comcast.net">DEH2@comcast.net</a>
<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 <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> 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	<a href="mailto:ibc@apostolic.edu">ibc@apostolic.edu</a> <a href="http://www.go2ibc.com">www.go2ibc.com</a> 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 <a href="http://www.upcigc.com">www.upcigc.com</a>
<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: <a href="http://www.newliferethaute.com">www.newliferethaute.com</a> or 812-877-9348
<b>NOV 2-5</b>	<b>West Coast Conference - Fresno, CA</b> 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 <a href="http://www.truthtabfresno.org">www.truthtabfresno.org</a>
<b>JAN 2017</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	<a href="mailto:ibc@apostolic.edu">ibc@apostolic.edu</a> <a href="http://www.go2ibc.com">www.go2ibc.com</a> or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069



# Church Today: Freedom of Religion But Not Regulation



Robert L. Rodenbush

## Church Today

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### Freedom of Religion But Not Regulation

I'm often asked where I see the battle lines being drawn as it pertains to the American government's persecution of churches and religious institutions. It has been my view that churches and ministers would be allowed (albeit reluctantly) to speak biblical truths and continue to be protected under the First Amendment, but that ultimately this type of speech would be labeled "harmful" or "hateful" in some way and lead to the withdrawal of the tax exempt status of those religious institutions or ministries that refuse to curtail their religious "rhetoric" to align with a politically correct standard. I still see this as the battleground issue in the future. However, at present I am very concerned with the IRS targeting of non-profit institutions through its regulatory framework. There are new proposed contribution regulations for non-profits that are worrisome to say the least.

A recent *Fox News* article by Jay Sekulow, Chief Counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice, outlines three reasons this should be on our radar. First, the IRS is requesting that in some cases non-profits provide the social security numbers of their donors to the government, specifically donors who give more than \$250. This reduces the security of the donor's identity and is a violation of the donor's privacy.

Second, this increased reporting is likely to have a negative influence upon a donor's willingness to give. Many people choose to give anonymously, and this would probably lead some to opt out of giving altogether or to give only less than the \$250 amount to protect their privacy.

Finally, Sekulow points out that identity theft is a serious problem. Giving your social security number has always been something one does only when absolutely necessary. Small non-profits, churches and other institutions may not have the security in place to protect a donor's private information, thus reducing the likelihood that donors would give.

As Christians, I believe it is our responsibility to watch for these things and to look for politicians and leaders who are willing to stand up for the rights of churches and non-profit institutions. This nation has long valued the positive role that the church plays in our communities: helping the less fortunate, helping reform criminals, reaching out to the addicted and infirm. Without tax exemption, many schools, churches and other institutions that provide such services would be forced to close their doors.

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2015/12/18/three-reasons-irs-should-reject-new-regulation-targeting-non-profits.html>



Bobby Killmon

## Theology

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### Did Israel possess all the promised land given to Abraham and Moses? There seems to be a contradiction in the Joshua and Judges account of this.

This question involves the integrity of God, some hermeneutics and eschatology. I will answer this question in two separate columns due to space. The big issue of whether this promise was fulfilled centers around the text which shows the end of the book of Joshua and the start of Judges, which can initially seem to be in conflict. Joshua seems to say they possess the land promised to the Fathers. But Judges seems to say they did not drive out the enemy and have the victory God intended. So who's right? Does it matter? It's a big deal because the land, if the promise of God hasn't been fulfilled, would include future Israel possessing it all. Hence, the tense situation of Christian support of Israel.

I'll say the root of most interpretations hinges not on the text, I think that's clear, but on hermeneutics. Most post-tribulationists and Reformed people embrace "replacement theology" which claims due to their unfaithfulness Israel was replaced by the Church. This view suggests the promises made to Israel were conditional. Because Israel broke covenants, they were replaced. The issue with that, other than the textual interpretation below, is that Paul shows there is a future for Israel.

He says, in Rom. 11:25, don't be too puffed up because Israel as a whole is not accepting Christ like the Gentiles. There will come a time when the fullness of the Gentiles will be over. I am okay with calling this a "dispensation." Some prefer other terms.

Then in Rom. 11:26-27 he states, "And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins." When will all of Israel be saved after the Gentile time is fulfilled? If they are replaced, then Paul shouldn't be saying this. He goes on further in Rom. 11:28, "As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes."

Here's his point: they are elected for the promises made to the patriarchs. Here is where the promises will be finally fulfilled that God made to Abraham. This is clear, for Paul goes on to say in Rom. 11:29: "For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance." This means God is not a liar. He will accomplish what He said He would for the Father's (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) sake. God is a God of integrity.



T. W. Massengale

## Church Growth

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### Using Small Groups For Growth

In my opinion, every church that desires to grow needs to focus upon "small groups." This term has been around for quite some time in the denominational world but has not seen much emphasis among Apostolics.

Small groups can be defined as "a unified group of 3-15 like-minded Christians that meet regularly for fellowship and spiritual growth." This is the dynamic that was seen in early chapters of Acts. Here you find early Christians (1) gathering for instruction from the Apostles, (2) spending time in group fellowship (Greek: *koinonia*), (3) eating together (breaking bread), (4) praying with and for one another, and (5) meeting one another's needs by the sharing of resources.

Practical application in today's local church includes ladies groups, youth groups,

men's groups, singles, seniors, cell ministry groups, kids clubs, and more. Leaders of these small groups should have a well-written job description that keeps their focus upon three things: helping their group to grow spiritually, assimilating new converts that join their group, and organizing their group for evangelism by inviting unsaved outsiders to join their group activities or planning group evangelism activities that reach out to the community. An added benefit of small groups is a training ground for developing future leaders of the church.

Small groups that want to grow need to mirror the same key elements that cause churches to grow: organization, evangelization and assimilation. Pastors should work with the small group leaders and train them in the skills needed to see their groups grow both spiritually and numerically.

Small groups often reach a plateaued state after five years in which they cease to grow. The most successful method for overcoming this plateaued condition is to divide the group and appoint a new leader

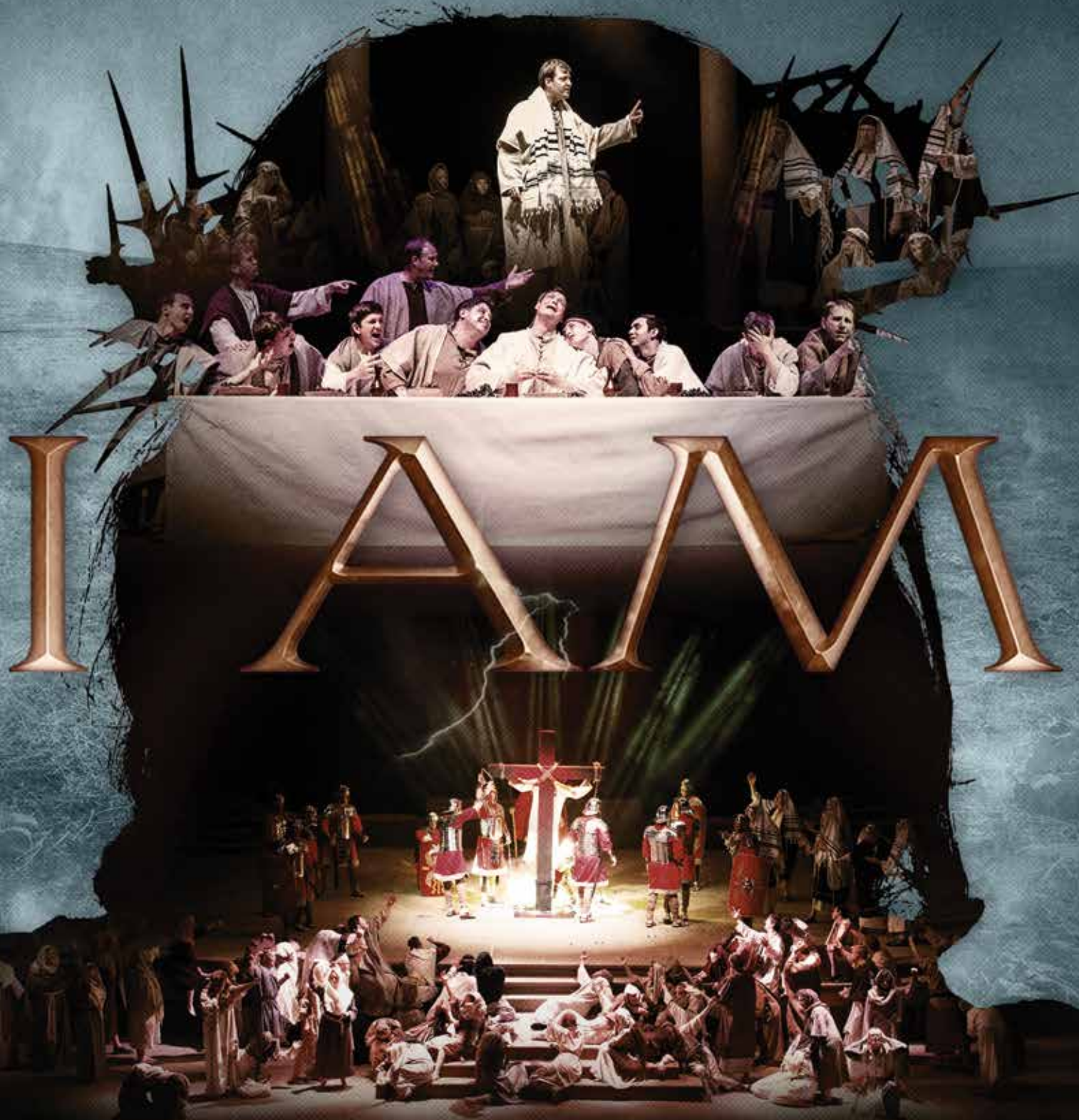
over the new group. This often allows both the mother and daughter group to once again start growing at a steady rate. New groups tend to grow faster than existing groups, so a church should continually be starting new small groups each year.

The one area that is often lacking among Apostolic churches is the use of small-group Bible studies. It is common among growing churches to have dozens of small groups meeting every week for Bible study and fellowship. This kind of small-group ministry can often bring about a renewal of growth, both numerically and spiritually, for a stagnant church.

An excellent resource for starting small group Bible studies is the *Small Group USB* – a USB stick packed with resources to help the local church launch an effective small-group ministry. Produced by Parkway Church in Oak Creek, WI (Anthony Tamel, pastor) the material will help you launch small groups to achieve a renewed focus in growth and revival. To order call: (414) 571-2680 or visit their web site: [www.theoakcreekchurch.com](http://www.theoakcreekchurch.com).



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## Spiritual Growth

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### God's Protection For Marriage

The devil attempts to destroy marriages in devious ways. Any man who may be a leader (pastor, doctor, dentist, chiropractor, counselor, instructor, CEO, boss, etc.) is vulnerable to an emotional, needy woman who personalizes the natural concern a man may show in fulfilling his profession to a personal concern.

Let's set the scenario: The woman comes to the professional man for help, direction or assistance. The man from his professional view provides help to the woman and then she responds emotionally. It begins slowly. If the woman starts giving compliments to the man and he begins to enjoy them, that's the warning that subtly there is an attraction. This can happen to any two people (male to female) who start sharing emotionally with each other outside of the individual marriage relationship. It becomes emotional adultery that can lead to physical adultery.

If this begins to happen, it shows that neither the man nor the woman is God-centered or they would immediately recognize it as a danger zone relationally. I counseled a pastor who was meeting regularly with a female co-worker for lunch. He developed a love for her and was telling his wife there was nothing wrong with the lunch dates. But he was not intimate emotionally, spiritually or physically with his wife. This leads to disaster for a marriage.

In my marriage book, *God's Design for Marriage*, I share how to set up a hedge of protection around your marriage for emotional and sexual purity. It can be purchased through my website: [www.carolclemans.org](http://www.carolclemans.org) - soft copy or as an eBook: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). A healthy marriage is work, work and more work! Couples must be intimate spiritually, emotionally and physically as God designed and not allow the devil to kill, steal and destroy.

As a Certified Pastoral Counselor, Carol Clemans provides nationwide counseling by phone/Skype (636) 448-0121. She also teaches marriage seminars/Bible for growth and healing. (Holy Ghost 60 yrs., teaching Bible 50 yrs., married 46 yrs., counselor 23 yrs.) Pastor D. Batchelor - Duplo, IL - Bd. of Dir. FB: Life Enrichment Ministries, Inc. (501c3), Twitter, Periscope, LinkedIn, Google+.



## Revival Concepts

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### Preaching Truth

"... the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." - 1 Timothy 3:15

Preaching is powerful. When God set in motion a revival for Israel in Ezekiel 37, did He ask Ezekiel to put together a plan or get the latest community survey results? No. He told him to prophesy to the bones and that they would live again.

Several years ago, Norman Wagner, former PAW presiding bishop, asked me, "How do you see so many receive the Holy Ghost under your ministry?" My response: "because I preach about it." Truth is a powerful thing. In fact, the Church of the living God exists solely to be the propagator of truth. For Jesus saves, and He makes free by truth. But truth untold is useless.

*The greatest advantage the Apostolic movement has is truth!* Yet when left on the sidelines, it matters not how good or powerful it is... it helps us not. Amazingly, when truth is preached in the right spirit, powerful things happen! Why? God confirms His Word - the truth!

Several years ago, I was ministering in Mexico. And a young couple brought their baby to the meeting, a baby born blind. They were of another faith but came because they had heard that miracles happen in Apostolic services. As they shared with me the baby's problem, God spoke to me and told me He would heal the baby. So I told them as a witness of the power of the name of Jesus, and the truth of it being the name of God, I would pray and God would open the eyes of the baby. I did pray. More importantly, God did answer. The baby's eyes were immediately opened, and Jesus got all the glory!

Ask yourself: when was the last time you fervently preached about Jesus name baptism, the Holy Ghost, one God, righteousness, separation and eternal judgment?

These are great Biblical truths. And when preached, God gives great confirmation of that. Let us never forget, the message is much bigger than the messenger.

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



## Finance

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

**I am a full-time evangelist and drive from church to church for services. Can an evangelist have a housing allowance and if so, how is this established?**

Aubrey Jayroe

Yes to your question.

First of all, however, you need to be sure you have an established residence. For example, if you live in a travel trailer all year and do not pay for any rent, etc. for a home, then the IRS will consider you as an itinerant minister. In this case, you will lose your travel expenses as a deduction.

Be sure to have a place you call home. This should be where you get mail; where you stay when not working; where you pay regular rent or make a house payment. Then you will have a place of residence and would qualify for a housing allowance.

A housing allowance is not deemed to be taxable to income taxes but only to self-employment tax. In order to qualify for a housing allowance, as an evangelist there are requirements: According to Code Section 1.107-1(b) of the tax regulations, *the term housing allowance means an amount paid to a minister to rent or otherwise provide a home if such amount is designated as a housing allowance pursuant to official action taken in advance of the payment of such amount by "the employing church OR other qualified organization."*

In discussing this with IRS agents and having handled evangelist audits with the IRS, the IRS will accept a designation from each church ministered in or it will accept a designation from the organization where the minister is licensed or ordained.

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)



## Accounting & Tax

### Identity Theft and the IRS

You have probably read about or know someone who has experienced identity theft. Often, someone's social security number is used to file a fraudulent tax return. Then when the victim files his/her return, it is denied until they can prove that they are who they claim to be, which can take several months.

If you've been a victim in the past, the

IRS will send you an "Identity Protection Personal ID Number," which is used when you file your tax return in subsequent years. (Ironically, just this month, an IRS employee who helped people who were victims to this type of fraud was arrested for being in charge of an identity theft ring.)

So what can you do to protect yourself? First, do not provide your social security number at the doctor's office, hospital, etc. You are not required to use it for identification purposes. Second, file your tax return as soon as possible each year. Finally, do not simply email or fax

your tax documents to your tax preparer. He or she should either email you a link that allows you to send the documents in a secure, encrypted email, or provide you with a secure portal to transmit sensitive documents back and forth.

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****Texas Teacher Asks Student to Acknowledge God Is Not Real**

An assignment at a Texas middle school that required students to affirm that the statement "There is a God" is an opinion rather than a fact left one student "shocked."

The *Blaze* reports that Katy Independent School District student



Jordan Wooley addresses the Katy school board.

Jordan Wooley was in her reading class when her teacher handed out an assignment with a number of different

statements and told the students to classify the statements as factual claims, as commonplace assertions, or as opinions.

When she came to the statement "There is a God," "I said it was fact or opinion," Jordan says.

However, Jordan's teacher said her answers were wrong and demanded that Jordan acknowledge that God isn't real. "It was really confusing to me at first because I didn't really know what to do, so the first thing I did was tell my mom," Jordan said. Jordan's mother, Chantel Wooley, was also upset about the assignment.

Katy Independent School District has issued a statement saying the teacher should not be criticized for the assignment because it was meant to evoke critical thinking.

"Still this does not excuse the fact that this ungraded activity was ill-conceived and because of that, its intent had been misconstrued," the District's statement continued. The Wooley family disagrees, however, asserting that the assignment was a graded assignment.

"I love reading so for me personally to have to fail reading because of what my beliefs are shocked me," Jordan said.

**RELIGIOUS TRENDS****Canada Won't Allow Christian Group to Publicly Sing Name of Jesus**

A Christian group has been denied a permit to hold its annual music festival in a downtown square by the city of Toronto. Reportedly, city officials declared that singing the name of Jesus in a public venue constitutes proselytizing.

**Study: More Americans Are Concerned About Religious Freedom Rights**

A recent study revealed that more Americans, and particularly Christians, believe their religious freedom rights are in far greater danger today than in the past.

Religious freedom rights are commonly defined as "the right of individuals to embrace their religious beliefs and to carry out religious practices in accordance with those beliefs without fear of harm or prosecution."

A recently published Barna Group study found that 41 percent of Americans believe that the state of religious freedom in the U.S. is worse today than it was a decade ago. This is up from 33 percent who agreed with that statement when a study was conducted in 2012. In addition to this, Christians were found to be even more concerned with religious freedom and its restriction. In fact, evangelicals were found to be more concerned with religious freedom than any other group.

Seventy-seven percent of evangelicals who are defined as "self-identified Christians who have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ" believe that religious freedom is more restricted today than it was 10 years ago.

The heightened concern over religious freedom is in large part due to high profile cases such as that of county clerk Kim Davis who refused to issue same-sex marriage licenses based on her faith. "When the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in June 2015 that same-sex marriage must be made legal in all 50 states, millions of Americans were eager to know the potential impacts of the decision on religious liberty," the Barna study said.

The study also found that there was an increase in concern over religious freedom among the different generations; even among millennials who, three years ago, seemed relatively unconcerned with religious freedom. The current study found that 34 percent of millennials are now concerned with religious freedom.

The study concluded that over the next few years, America will likely see more individuals like Davis standing up publicly for their faith and religious freedom, since a greater majority of individuals have expressed their concern for this right.

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

■ Christianity in Iraq is at risk of dying out in as little as five years, according to a report from UK charity Aid to the Church in Need. Christians lived peacefully in Iraq since the inception of the religion, but when ISIS terrorists invaded the territory in 2014, tens of thousands of Christians were forced to flee. About 1.4 million Christians lived in Iraq during Saddam Hussein's reign; now 260,000 remain in the area.

■ Faith Driven Consumer recently revealed the top seven companies most in tune with Christians and most effectively marketing to them. More than 300 major brands were ranked in terms of their commitment to the Christian demographic. The top seven companies on that list are: Chick-fil-a, Hobby Lobby, Interstate Batteries, Tyson Foods, Cracker Barrel, Walmart, and Thrivent Financial.

**BIBLE TRENDS****Bible App Releases List of World's Most Popular Bible Verses**

YouVersion Bible App just released its most popular verses from around the world. *Christianity Today* reports the app was launched by Life.Church in 2008 and has been installed over 200 million times.

According to YouVersion, the most

popular verse in the United States and Brazil was Romans 12:2. "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will" (NIV).

Mexico, the United Kingdom and South Korea preferred Isaiah 41:10. "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (NIV).

Nigeria, South Africa and the Philippines chose Jeremiah 29:11. "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'" (NIV).

**EDUCATION TRENDS****Some Public Schools Now Teaching Islam**

A report from the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) says that U.S. students in public schools are being forced to learn how to convert to Islam.

Brandee Porterfield, a parent, said her seventh grade daughter is learning about Islam as part of her world history class in Maury County, Tenn. "They did this assignment where they wrote out the Five Pillars of Islam, including having the children learn and write the Shahada, which is the Islamic conversion creed," she said.

Porterfield asked school officials if there would be lessons on Judaism and Christianity, but the lessons only included Hinduism and Buddhism.

Maury County school officials say the schools have not violated the constitution and that the schools have just "covered some sensitive topics."

School officials did say Christianity would be covered in 8th grade. Tennessee isn't the only state teaching Islam culture. In Wisconsin, students were given an assignment to "pretend you are Muslim." In Florida, students were asked to recite the Five Pillars of Islam.



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### VOCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

- Church planter
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- Evangelist
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- Urban missionary



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# Keep Calm and



Transcribed by Linda Schreckenberg

# Eat On

TIM ZUNIGA

*"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: . . ." Psalm 23:5*

On the eve of WWII, the British government printed two and a half million posters that simply read, "Keep calm and carry on." This five-word statement was to convey a message of reassurance to the citizens of the country for the hours ahead. However, "keep calm and carry on" never made it out of the printing. Fifty-five years later, a copy of it was discovered in northern England in a box of books. It became the rebirth of the "keep calm and carry on" message that is now pop culture. You probably have shirts or something on your phone that illustrates this message: "keep calm and carry on." I've seen "keep calm and drink coffee" and "keep calm, but first, let me take a selfie." I just want to add one more to the keep calm mantra. I want to preach to you to "keep calm and eat on."

The psalmist wrote, "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies." God doesn't just throw stuff together for us. He actually prepares things. John 14:2,3 says, "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." I Corinthians 2:9 says, "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

"God, why you chose a table is beyond me." I could think of guns, people and angels helping out, but the psalmist said He prepares a table before you in the presence of your enemies. Why

a table? I can't wrap my brain around a table in the presence of my enemies. I've prayed and researched and even asked a guy with a PhD in Old Testament Studies from Vanderbilt University to figure it out. The best he came up with is that by nature, sheep will not eat if they are troubled, scared, worried, discouraged or intimidated. Fear is to your enemy what faith is to God. The enemy uses fear, but one of the greatest promises of scripture is to fear not!

Whatever your problem, whatever enemy is surrounding you, don't be afraid. I began to think of some of your realities and the torment that you have come from. There are young people here wrestling with their identity and sexuality. There are some that are afraid their parents will divorce soon. Some of you are afraid of death, worried that you won't make it out of your teenage years. There are some worried about being accepted, having friendships and belonging. Many are afraid of failing: "I'm not going to try and then embarrass myself. I'm not going to step out, because I'm too afraid to fail." But I have a word for you. II Corinthians 4:8 says, "We are troubled on every side . . ." Look at your neighbor and say "on every side." We are surrounded by trouble, yet not in distress. I'm not stressing. Keep calm and eat on.

Chester Puller, the highest decorated general of generals, was surrounded by 22 enemy divisions numbering around 360,000 men. They were absolutely out-manned and out-gunned. A reporter later asked General Puller, "How did you deal with that?" He replied, "I looked at our men and said, 'We are surrounded by our enemy, but we have them right where we want them!'" What a perspective! Those of you who are surrounded by your



enemies, you've got them right where you want them. Don't back up, don't surrender, and don't quit. Keep calm and eat on!

The phrase "Hakuna matata" was used by Pumbaa and Timon in *The Lion King*. Old Simba was running from and freaked out by the problems surrounding his life and runs into these guys, and they say, "Hakuna matata." Old Simba shakes his head and says, "I ain't never heard that before. What are you talking about?" But "Hakuna matata" is no passing craze. It means "no worries for the rest of my days." It's the problem-free philosophy. Give your neighbor a high five and say, "Hakuna matata!"

God uses real life challenges to develop our ability to trust Him. A book I read said this, "We are not given an option of an enemy-free existence or to be in a bubble without interference from the enemy." Your world will never be problem-free, but you're not going to be tiptoeing through the tulips like it's easy. The enemy's surrounding you. Your home life is falling apart. You messed up. You aren't perfect, and your mama's not perfect. You have so much junk in your family tree they might as well burn it down. This is the hour for this group to understand, "Thou preparest a table before me!" Devil, watch me sit at the Master's table and eat. The world is going crazy. ISIS seems to be taking over. The devil is messing with my mind, but the Lord has prepared a table for me. It's not in a banquet hall, but it's in the presence of my enemies. I know I messed up last week, but all of a sudden, a table shot up. "Devil, watch me get anointed, watch me break out, watch me get delivered. I'm going to find myself a table wherever I can find it."

I once thought, "Technology will advance society, but it will destroy the individual." We're faster than we've ever been in humankind, but technology is killing young men and young ladies. You'll walk from the presence of God and let your phone woo you back, and you'll begin to share and look at things that can destroy you. As others begin to sex text, etc., make up your mind and say, "This is not going to take me down! God will feed me in the midst of my enemies."

God prepares a table before you because He believes this is not the fight that's going to take you out. The secret of living for God is that you're going to have to learn to eat in the presence of your enemies. We don't mind eating while things are good, but let discouragement come, or someone talk about us a little bit, and we want to be like a two-year old boy, "I ain't eatin' nothin!" I'm going to sit here and pout with a frowny face. No, you've got to say, "Devil, I don't feel like praising, but I'm going to learn to eat in the presence of my enemies! The sky doesn't have to be blue and birds chirping for me to taste and see that the Lord is good. I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall continually be in my mouth." One young lady said, "Pastor, when I see my mom on drugs, it tears at me and tempts me." When they showed their mama a video of her in a drugged condition, she said, "That's my reality, my world." That young lady is learning how to eat in the presence of her enemies.

We can only control what we do, and from this convention on, you need to "keep calm and eat on." Learn how to feast at the table of the King. Learn to say, "Devil, you thought I would go back to my old lifestyle, but watch me. I am a new creature in Christ Jesus. Old things are passed away. He has prepared a table for me!" Your enemy is greatly discouraged when you take a bite of what God has prepared. I speak an anointing over you to eat at the table of the Lord!

The devil hates it when you don't lose your mind or your manners. He'll say, "You prayed back through but will go back to your old ways. You know you'll never break up with that boy or give up on those friends." It's different this time. You've got

a word from the Lord. I thought tables were in banquet rooms and kings' palaces, but God flips it around and does what normal thinking doesn't do. He drags a table out into the middle of a battlefield and says, "Come on, devil. I want you to watch. Have you ever observed my servant Job?" Why don't we bless God and live and turn it around?

Jesus said, "Behold, I send you forth like sheep among wolves." Too many young people have battled failures and have scars in their lives they can't get over. They've experienced things that have damaged their spirit and warped their thinking. Some can't relate to this message because of their failures. But there has to be somebody that says, "Devil, there's a table prepared for me tonight, and I'm going to get what I need. I'm going to receive my answer and find my healing and deliverance. I'm going to receive my calling and feel the hand of God on my life!"

I had observed a young man during powerful services for a couple of years. He showed no visible response. He later told me, "Bro. Zuniga, years ago I was setting up music for an event, and I saw this gay priest preparing to sing. When he sang, I felt the anointing, and I knew that wasn't right. I've never been able to let that go. How someone who is living in sin could sing like that has taunted me." The gifts and callings of God are without repentance, but the devil will use any trick he can to paralyze you and mess with your thinking and your heart. Sin is still sin, regardless of how you dress it up or how talented or gifted you are.

The enemy is surrounding this generation, but it was on the battlefield that David began to be wooed by God. While Goliath was belching out, "Send me a man," God began to prepare a table for a young man to get his anointing. You've disqualified yourself because your daddy's not a preacher or he is a backslidden preacher. Your momma's out of church or your grandfather molested you. There are stories after stories in this building, but there's a future with God waiting for every one of you who says, "I'm done. I'm sick of no power, no supernatural, no miraculous!" We want to be delivered from our enemies, not eat in front of them. We want God to remove the problem. The Holy Ghost is saying tonight, "You'd better learn to eat in front of your enemies." There are some of you that have messed up together. Some may have slept together. There are some in here that have sinned together, gotten drunk together, and you think, "If I go to the altar, I know they're watching me, and they know my story." You'll never get victory, and you'll never get strong until you learn to eat at the table in the midst of your enemies. "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies." Keep calm and eat on!



**Tim and Julie Zuniga**  
Goodlettsville Pentecostal Church  
Goodlettsville, Tenn.

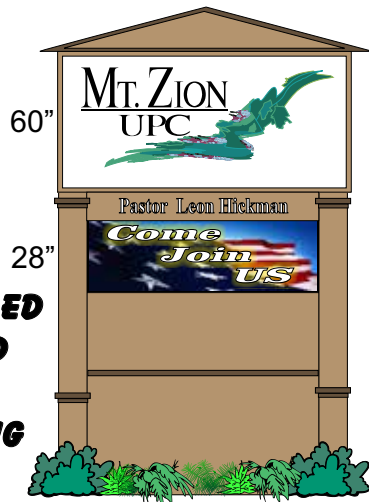
**Bio: Rev. Tim Zuniga pastors Goodlettsville Pentecostal Church in Goodlettsville, Tenn. Married to Julie for over 20 years, they have three sons: Trenton, Tanner and Thacher. In the past 10 years, the Goodlettsville Pentecostal Church has grown into a multi-campus church in the Nashville, Tennessee area.**



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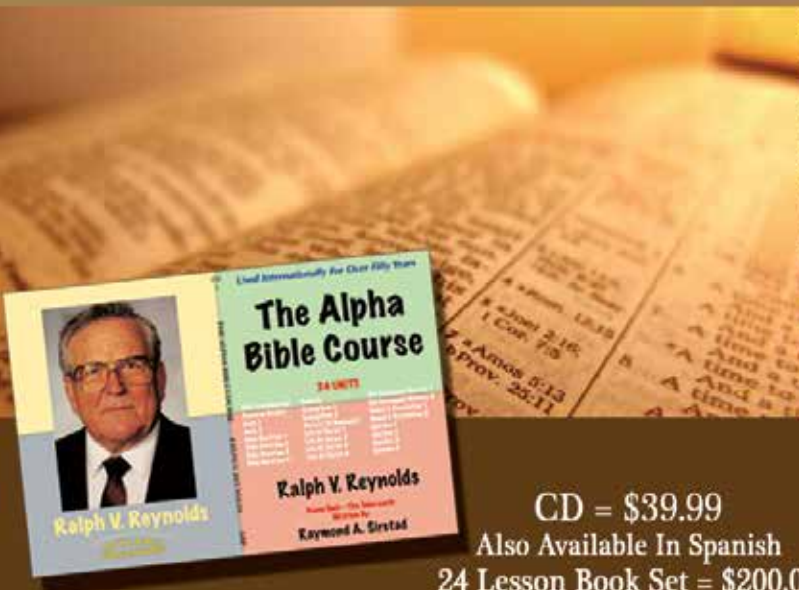


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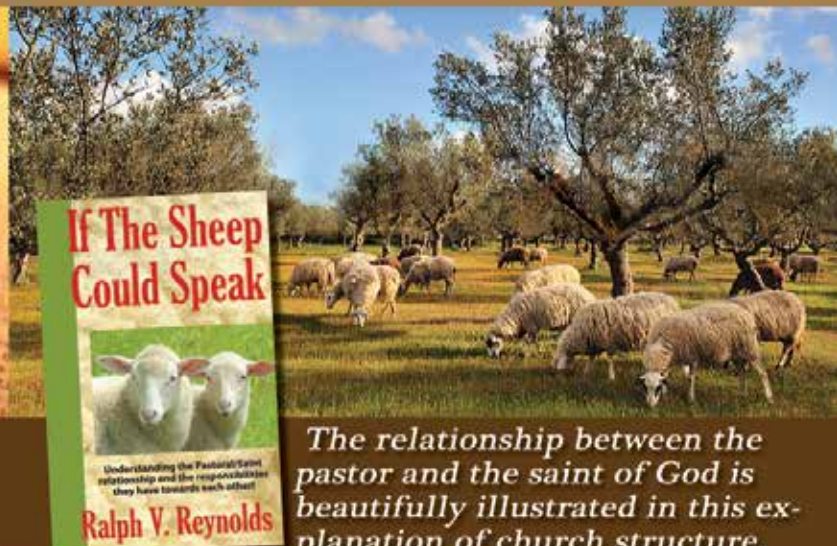


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# God Quest -- The Elliott Chronicles

## Youth Novel Entertains Readers, Teaches Apostolic Doctrine to Kids

By Charlotte L. Pound



Bro. Jonathan George  
Alvin, Tex.

Through an exciting adventure, author Jonathan George of Alvin, Texas takes young readers on a quest to find the truths and revelations of God's Word. His Apostolic youth novel, entitled *God Quest*, is designed to explain the oneness of God to

children and adolescents.

Bro. George, who has four children of his own, is currently the South Texas District UPCI Junior Bible Quizzing Coordinator. He's been involved with junior Bible quizzing since 2000 -- as coach, assistant coordinator and now as coordinator. During this time, he began to develop his love of writing for kids.

"My first project was in 2006 when I wrote quizzing study guides called Coach-in-a-Box," explained Bro. George. "These guides divide the material into 100 days of memorization with each day providing age-appropriate devotions. I now write these guides for junior and senior quizzing divisions. From this, I've branched into fictional novels. I've published three thus far with more to come. My intention with the books is the same as with the study guides: to

expound God's Word for kids."

The purpose of *God Quest* is to help kids understand the oneness of God. Bro. George was approached by the book editor of the Pentecostal Publishing House to translate Bro. David Bernard's book, *The Oneness of God*, into a novel that kids would enjoy reading.

"We agreed that a fictional book that addressed some of the major points of Reverend Bernard's book would be a perfect fit for the younger reader," he said. "My target audience is kids 8 to 14, but I've heard from adults that also have enjoyed the book."

Bro. George uses Old Testament accounts to illustrate the revelation of the one God of Israel. "The main characters in the story, Brianna and Seth Elliott, witness the wonders of God through the harrowing journeys through the Old Testament," he explained. "All of these stories are woven together to paint a picture of the one God who left His heavenly estate to become man so that He could atone for man's sins. Ultimately, this is meant to lead them to a personal encounter with the King of the Jews."

In 2010, he began writing pre-teen mysteries based on the Pauline epistles. "These books are based on a character named Ariel

Hartman who is equivalent to seventh grader Nancy Drew," said Bro. George. "These books include *The Diary Dilemma* based on Galatians and *The Mystery at Peabody Manor* based on Ephesians. There is a third book in the works based on Colossians that I hope to have released by the end of 2017."

Bro. George is enjoying positive feedback from those who have read *God Quest*. "Sales are high which indicates that people are hungry for books that teach kids foundational truths in our Apostolic message," he said. "It serves as a great companion for independent Bible study for kids of all ages. Its application extends to Christian schools and homeschools as well."

New books are on the way. "Pentecostal Publishing House and I have agreed in principle to a trilogy with the same characters," he said. "The next book in the series will explore the new birth experience. I've already started writing it and hope for an early 2017 release."

His books are available through Pentecostal Publishing House. The print versions of the mysteries are \$9.99 each and *God Quest* is \$11.99. E-books are also available. For more information, contact Bro. George at [jonathang@kingkidsmedia.com](mailto:jonathang@kingkidsmedia.com).



## Apostolic Tracts Teach About Validity of KJV



Bro. Stephen Smart  
Pineville, La.

The debate continues to rage as to which translation of the Bible is acceptable for Christians to read and follow. After thoroughly exploring the controversial subject, two Apostolic writers have published six tracts concerning the validity of the King James Version (KJV). These are available free of charge to pastors, evangelists and church members.



Bro. Steve Waldron  
Leesburg, Ga.

The first two tracts, written by Pastor Steve Waldron of Leesburg, Ga., are *Apostolics and the KJV* and *Apostolic Position on Bible Versions*. The latter is an

in-depth history of English Bibles and why the UPCI prefers the KJV as superior and officially rejects other versions.

The other four tracts were authored by Bro. Steven Smart, who attends Pentecostals of Alexandria, La. Those include: *Is the Bible in a Battle?*, *Why Use the King James Bible?*, *Which Version Should I Read?* and *Comparing Bible Versions*, which charts over 200 changes and omissions in modern

versions which veer from the KJV and how these differences affect Bible doctrine.

According to Bro. Smart, the tracts have been a natural outgrowth of their teaching ministry on the validity of the King James Version. "The spreading of the positive information and scantily taught but plentiful history behind the KJV, along with exposure to the many problems with modern English versions, gives the student a much wider knowledge and understanding of Bible history."

Bro. Smart said they plan to produce more tracts in the future. "They are in various stages, some of which are incubating in our thoughts, trusting the Lord is leading." Some of the topics include: helps to understand the KJV, answering questions and common misrepresentations of and misinformation on the KJV, how modern versions adversely affect essential doctrine (contrary to modern claims), exposing the weaknesses and problems of Modern Textual Criticism, questioning recommended methods of interpretation, biblical methods of bible teaching as opposed to the filtering method via secular themes and unbiblical characters, problems with the claim of inerrancy only in the original autographs, and other related topics.

"Since modern Bible versions often say different things, and in a number of cases

the exact opposite of what the KJV says, we ought not to be guilty of not speaking the same things, not being of the same mind and of the same judgment and, in turn, have division among us," said Bro. Smart. "We must have unity at all costs, for the very words of God are going to judge us (John 12:48) and we are commanded not to add or take away from His Word" (Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:5,6; Jeremiah 26:2 and Revelation 22:18,19).

According to Bro. Smart, the response to the tracts has been overwhelmingly positive wherever they are taught. They are being used primarily to educate church members and pastors. "Positive comments and requests for duplicate tracts are an encouraging sign there is a hunger among the church body and that these tracts are fulfilling a great educational void and desire for knowledge."

Bro. Smart said that at this time there are no plans to charge for the tracts. "Depending on the demand, we hope to be able to just offer free samples from which the customer would then produce their own copies," he said. "The objective is to get the message out to all who are interested in looking a little deeper into what is going on with the Word of God in these last days."

For more information, contact Bro. Smart at [kjbapostolics@gmail.com](mailto:kjbapostolics@gmail.com)



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**Word To The Wise:**

"If Islam is a religion of peace, shouldn't Islamic extremists be extremely peaceful?"

\* \* \* \* \*

There was a man who worked for the Post Office, whose job it was to process all the mail that had illegible addresses. One day, a letter came to his desk addressed in shaky handwriting to God. He thought he should open it to see what it was about.

He opened it and read: "Dear God, I am a 93-year-old widow, living on a very small pension. Yesterday someone stole my purse. It had \$100 in it, which was all the money I had until my next pension check. Next Sunday is Christmas, and I had invited two of my friends over for dinner. Without that money, I have nothing to buy food with. Can you please help me?" Sincerely, Edna

The postal worker was touched. He showed the letter to his fellow workers. Each of them dug into their wallets and came up with a few dollars. By the time he made the rounds, he had collected \$96, which they put into an envelope and sent to the woman.

The rest of the day, all of the workers felt a warm glow for the kind thing they had done. Christmas came and went. A few days later another letter came from the old lady to God. All of the workers gathered around while the letter was opened.

It read: "Dear God, how can I ever thank you enough for what you did for me? Because of your gift of love, I was able to fix a glorious dinner for my friends. By the way, there was \$4 missing. I think it must have been those thieves at the Post Office." Love, Edna

\* \* \* \* \*



"You have any good ideas on how to get bubble bath out of the church baptistry?"

**KIDS SAY THE CRAZIEST THINGS...TO GOD**

~ In Sunday school they told us what you do. Who does it when you are on vacation? Jane

~ I read the Bible. What does begat mean? Nobody will tell me. Love, Alison

~ Thank you for the baby brother, but what I prayed for was a puppy. Joyce

Did you mean for the giraffe to look like that or was it an accident? Norma

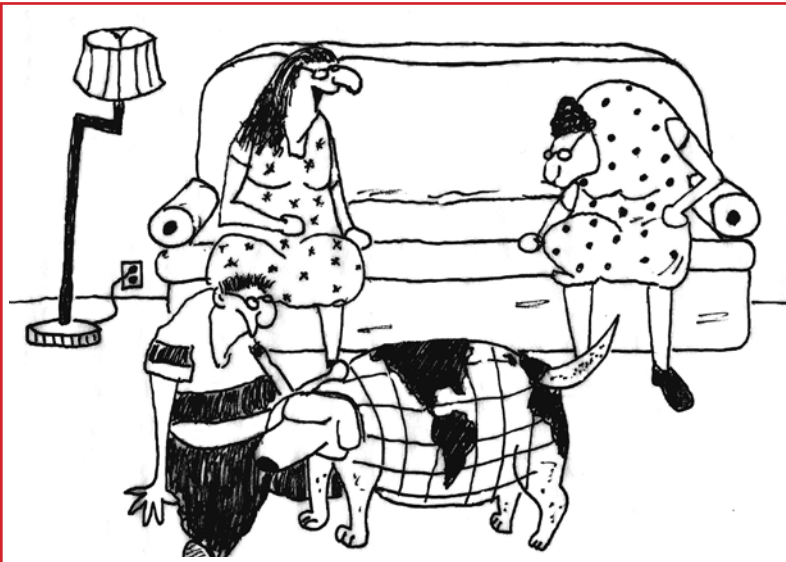
~ Instead of letting people die and having to make new ones, why don't you just keep the ones you got now? Jane

~ Who draws the lines around the countries? Nan

~ I went to this wedding and they kissed right in church. Is that okay? Neil

~ Did you really mean do unto others as they do unto you, because if you did then I'm going to fix my brother. Darla

~ Why is Sunday school on Sunday? I thought it was supposed to be our day of rest. Tom L.



"He's a rare 'global retriever.' We're taking care of him for a missionary couple while they're on deputation."

**110 YEARS AGO IN THE USA...**

~ The American flag had 45 stars. Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii and Alaska hadn't been admitted to the Union yet.

~ Drive-by shootings were an ongoing problem in Denver and other cities in the West. It was when teenage boys galloped down the street on horses and started randomly shooting at houses, carriages, or anything else that caught their fancy.

~ The population of Las Vegas was 30. The remote desert community was inhabited by only a handful of ranchers and their families.

Plutonium, insulin, and antibiotics hadn't been discovered yet. Scotch tape, crossword puzzles, canned beer and iced tea hadn't been invented.

~ There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.

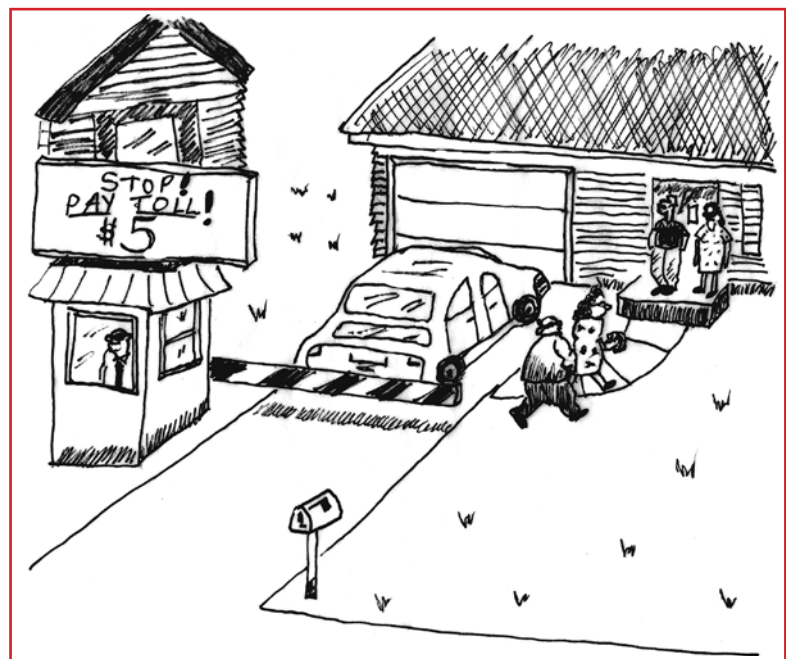
~ One in ten U.S. adults couldn't read or write. Only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.

~ Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at corner drugstores.

~ Coca-Cola contained cocaine instead of caffeine.

~ Eighteen percent of households in the United States had at least one full-time servant.

~ There were about 230 reported murders in the U.S. annually.



"Sorry about this, Pastor, but it's only until we raise our building fund pledge."



# Indiana District Deaf Workshop

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