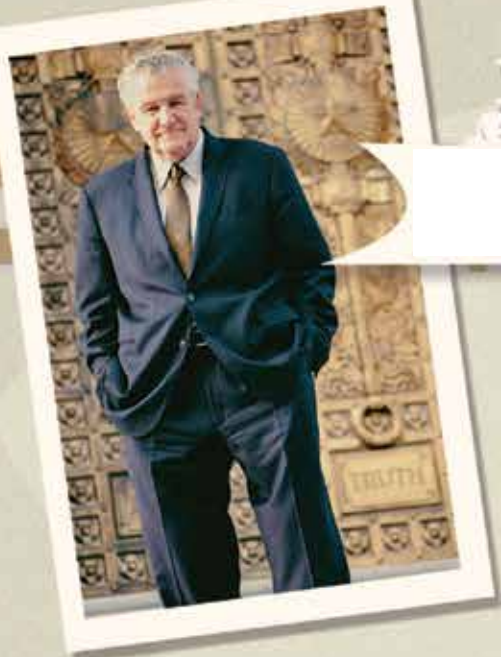




IBC Perspectives

5 GOALS

FOR DYNAMIC REVIVAL



From The Publisher

Little Foxes

Paul D. Mooney

“The church, our fellowship cannot be based on professionalism, money or some sort of personal stepladder to success. It just won’t work. It’s not God’s intention for us.”

Little things matter! A small infraction in manners or ethics can shut down a potential business deal. A rude greeting or even a minor improper remark can incite a negative reaction that never is forgotten.

More likely than not, we all suffer from the memory of some huge mistake or even a small unintentional transgression that destroyed a relationship or prevented a promising friendship from developing. Sadly, do-overs rarely happen.

Recently, I’ve been involved in several discussions about ministerial ethics and brotherhood. By request and in my classes at Indiana Bible College I have addressed these subjects some in my teaching.

Let me start by asking the following question, “Can bad manners and unethical behavior hinder churches, organizations from prospering?” The answer, as we know, is of course it can. In fact, success depends a great deal upon someone taking in hand the matter of -- small things. As the Song of Solomon puts it, “Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines” (2:15). The little foxes had to be dealt with or else the vines would be stripped of their grapes.

This kind of illustrative instruction is expressed in different ways throughout scripture: such as dealing with the “dead flies in the ointment” (Ecclesiastes 10:1) or the “little leaven that leaveneth the whole lump” (I Corinthians 5:6).

While this is not a detailed study, allow me to share with you a short list of “little foxes” that must be addressed.

1. Professionalism overriding brotherhood

“I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named” (Ephesians 3:14-15).

The church, our fellowship cannot be based on professionalism, money or some sort of personal stepladder to success. It just won’t work. It’s not God’s intention for us. Our togetherness must be about mutual comprehension of God’s will. It’s a spiritual thing, not a professional thing. It is a divine calling, not an earthly pursuit. It is an eternal hope, in Christ, “to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man” (Ephesians 3:16).

Thinking of the Church in a professional sense demonstrates a loss of understanding. Our talents belong to Christ. Our life is not our life. Professionalism destroys this concept and by its practice we end up destroying one another.

2. Competition becomes an anathema to cooperation

I will leave the reader to examine 1 Corinthians 16. The theme of this chapter is the idea of cooperation. The command here is to remain corporately focused upon the needs of God’s scattered people. Once God’s people begin to compete, at any level for any reason, for money, fame or ego, the hope of reaching the world is lost. I fully understand we all struggle, at times to meet our own needs, but the path of provision is through charity and self-sacrifice. Teamwork is the only means of advancing the cause of Christ.

Competition is an anathema to cooperation. It breeds jealousy and envy.

3. Opportunism blocks the possibility of bearing one another’s burdens

What exactly is opportunism? A simple *Dictionary.com* definition should suffice: “the taking of opportunities, regardless of principle.” There is no need to retell the story of Judas, but remember his deed. We imagine that in today’s church culture, nothing that serious ever happens. That may be true in a sense, but the fact is there is a good amount of self-exaltation, self-promotion and politicking taking place among us. It is ugly behavior. Spreading negative rumors about others to strengthen one’s opportunity for the high seat, lobbying for positions, jockeying for the solo, soliciting members from the neighboring congregations using clever self-justification hinders the fellowship. It separates the body of Christ. It’s all wrong, and causes us to miss the opportunity to minister to one another.

4. Organization must not trump fellowship

Please try to grasp my intent (it’s positive). We don’t go to church to have church, so to speak. We are a church, called out, to glorify God, to worship Him and to be trained by His Spirit. It is not a business or a theater. It is a fellowship of believers. Church is led by appointed shepherds – pastors. But it all belongs to God, “which he hath purchased with His own blood” (Acts 20:28). Once one grasps that central thought he will know that the church is ‘fellowship divine,’ as the poet said. It’s a fellowship within a designated relationship, created through divine redemption.

The first level of our spiritual existence, our brotherhood, our love, our destiny is within the body of Christ - not an organization. One can be in an organization and not enjoy good fellowship, but each of us has a responsibility to ourselves not to let that happen. We have to stay in touch, go to the conferences, create opportunities to be together and to strengthen one another.

For any organization to survive it must have a shared purpose, a challenge we accept together. We don’t gather just to gather. We don’t assemble merely to raise money or produce commerce. We have only one reason for existence; we gather to glorify His name. The responsibility of an Apostolic organization is to serve the fellowship by acknowledging that the fellowship centers in Christ. Together we strengthen the calling of each church, overseer and ministry. We are a fellowship defending the truth, the Apostle’s doctrine.

We cannot overlook the admonition given to us: “Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God” (Romans 15:7). We must receive one another, receive all, avoid isolating ourselves, avoid creating cliques that exclude and divide us. Paul states, “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching” (Hebrews 10:24-25). That is a high purpose. That is what *church* is about -- fellowship with one another.

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♦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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FEATURE: THREE GOALS FOR DYNAMIC REVIVAL -MARK FOGARTY

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COMMON PITFALLS

Young Ministers Should Avoid

Interviews by Gregg Stone

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



Carlton L. Coon Sr., Springfield, MO - The number one error that I often see young ministers make is being in a hurry for "success" without establishing discipline and structure for their personal and spiritual life. To avoid pitfalls this is exactly what I tell young preachers: 1. Don't marry an idiot. 2. Stay out of debt. 3. Don't try to be something you are not. 4. Live within your means. 5. Walk through doors of opportunity that have no gaudy neon signs. This means serving in places and preaching

in places other more talented or connected people look at with disdain.

My current book recommendations for young ministers would be: John Maxwell - *Developing the Leader Within You*; Jim Kouzes and Barry Posner - *The Leadership Challenge*; Eugene Peterson's trilogy of books for preachers; and my book, *Master-FULL Preaching*, which addresses the lost art of preaching to sinners on a weekly basis.



Martyn Ballestero, Albion, MI - Most young ministers are striving to do everything right, and I commend them. Yet there are some who have great gifts and God-given abilities that seem to be ministering with only a minimal consecration. Shallowness has a way of exposing itself. It always does. Don't make room for your gift; it will make room for you. That was the rule of thumb old-timers lived by and taught us as young ministers. A couple of things that a young minister can do to avoid mistakes is listen to

your pastor, watch his conduct and his life, submit to your pastor, and be willing to serve him in any church capacity.



Daniel Stroebe, Pensacola, FL -- The number one error that I often see young ministers make is lack of submission to the spiritual authority that God has placed in their life. If you will submit to your pastor and support him, you will eliminate a majority of mistakes most young ministers make. Very early in the ministry I was overly concerned about what others thought about me and wanted to make everyone like me. I found out very

quickly that I had absolutely no control in either one of these areas. So I turned my attention to His Word and worked to apply His teachings in my life and did not get caught up in the areas I could not control.



Sonny Schambeau, Dallas, TX - One of the dangers that has sabotaged the life of many ministers is to be so preoccupied with reaching out to others that we fail to reach into ourselves in introspection. We must bring our bodies into subjection: "lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." One of the biggest pitfalls in ministry is the lack of accountability. Regardless of ministerial experience, one cannot expect to have authority or be influential in the lives of others

without first being subjected to authority themselves.

Probably the saddest of downfalls is moral failure. It is imperative for a minister to guard against any appearance of indiscretion. The temporary gratification of a moral indiscretion is not worth a lifetime of disgrace and the distrust of those with confidence in us as ministers.



Marshall Clack, Acworth, GA -- The number one error I see young ministers make is an attempt to circumvent "the process." Just as there is a physical maturation process, there is also a ministerial maturation process. A few more pitfalls that young ministers should strive to avoid include not thinking more highly of themselves than they should. In other words, carry yourself as a servant and not a superstar. Another pitfall to avoid is the idea that ministry is easy. Ministry is anything but easy!

Ministry offers its own distinct challenge that you will not find anywhere else in any other organization. I think one of my earlier mistakes was being too hard on people. As an older minister who has experience now, I look back and realize I probably pushed more than I lifted. Be patient and understanding of the people you are ministering to. Appreciate their faithfulness and their unselfish service to the Kingdom. Young minister, do more lifting and less pushing.



Myron Powell, Omaha, NE - A lack of self-control is the number one mistake I see many young ministers make. Other common mistakes are slothfulness, arrogance, impatience, and lack of studying the Word (many seem to be content to hear "good preaching" rather than dig it out for themselves). Books that I would highly recommend for young ministers are *Emotional Intelligence 2.0*, *Remarkable*, *Building God's Wall*, *Realign*, and a subscription to *Expositor*.



John Carroll, Skiatook, OK - We are blessed today with access to a plethora of information. With the convenience of the internet, we can draw from almost unlimited resources when it comes to building sermons. This is a wonderful thing, and we are wise to take advantage of the wealth of material that is available. But this blessing can become a crutch that we lean on, and we can become little more than public speakers who deal with spiritual topics.

Exhaustive research is commendable up to a point, but what God wants us to do is deliver His Word. A word from God comes through prayer and being sensitive to the Spirit. When I asked my very old-school pastor how I should get a message after he asked me to preach my first sermon, he looked at me sternly and said, "Pray and study your Bible."



Rick Wyser, Addison, IL -- The ministry is really like any other job or profession in that time needs to be dedicated to it. If people working on a job have to work eight hours a day, then a minister should spend at least that much time in prayer, study and ministering to the needs of their people.

The number one error I see among young ministers is that in many instances they try to imitate high profile ministers rather than being themselves. God calls a person because He wants to use their unique personality. The most common mistake that leads to errors in ministry is not seeing ourselves as a servant. If we view the ministry as service, things will fall into place.

3 GOALS

FOR DYNAMIC REVIVAL

MARK FOGARTY - WARNER ROBINS, GA

"I have had three goals as a pastor and that is to have a praying church, a giving church and a church that loves preaching/teaching," said Bro. Mark Fogarty, pastor of The Apostolics of Warner Robins, located in Warner Robins, Georgia. "I feel that growth is a by-product of those three things. The church grows in three areas: spiritually, numerically and financially. Usually that growth is in those stages and in that order. But the church does not grow in those three areas at once."

Growth Principles

Time demands on every pastor are great. Bro. Fogarty has always placed his priorities in building the team that leads the church. "I always want to deepen the bench of leaders," he said. "Building the base larger will allow for a larger percentage of growth in the church, and more people trained to take care of the new converts that God places in our care. Training and teaching are my priority!" He added, "We have an incredible outreach team that encourages many different avenues of personal evangelism. We go into a different neighborhood on a monthly basis and place door hangers on every door in that neighborhood to give our church exposure. We also have an evangelism tool that we call Market Place Evangelism. Our ladies go out weekly to various stores and shops with one goal in mind and that is to introduce our church to people. Almost every time, they obtain the names and phone numbers of the people they meet so that they can follow up with them about attending the services that weekend. We currently have four teams, and they have made over 600 contacts in the past nine months."

Once a year in the fall, the church has a planning retreat. "Some years we go out of town and other years we meet in a hotel conference room or at our own church conference room," said Bro. Fogarty. "The event is usually a two-day event. On Friday night, we discuss the pastor's vision and review the new job descriptions and monthly reports. Saturday, we begin our planning. The entire day is filled with brainstorming ideas. Our goal is to validate and improve every department. Each leader develops their own plan as to how they will implement the ideas shared. This is a one-year plan, and every department has one. Our mission as a church is very

simple – to get folks saved and to keep folks saved. Any ministry or department that is not assisting us in that mission has to go. We cannot afford to spend time, money and energy on any so-called ministry or department that is not helping us to fulfill our mission. Every department/ministry is evaluated with that mission in mind at every planning retreat."

According to Pastor Fogarty, 80 percent of the members are actively involved in some identifiable ministry of the church. "We have used many training vehicles through the years," he explained. "We currently have training sessions prior to the staff meetings. The sessions are usually video sessions that we share in the conference room. All department and ministry leaders are required to attend. We also open this up for others that desire to develop leadership skills, which deepens the bench of leaders, also."



Pastor Fogarty performs a baptism.

Inspiring Evangelism Involvement

On the mid-week Bible study night, Pastor Fogarty usually deals with involvement and their purpose as a church. He said about 50% of the teaching is directed to encouraging people to be actively involved in the church ministry. "Personal evangelism is celebrated," he said. "When someone wins a person to God we celebrate the new person, and I always have the person that won them to pray over them when we baptize them. This helps to promote more involvement and recognition of those that are involved. Many of the books that I have written contain lessons about the personal involvement of saints in reaching the lost (*Fishers of Men*, *Pentecost Promise*, *Christian Living I & II*).

"We have a service every year where we promote home Bible studies. A strong convicting message is preached about being a productive Christian. The response is always overwhelming when people are genuinely convicted. Commitment cards are used, and we pray for a harvest of souls. At least once a quarter we will prepare our church invitation cards in packs of 10, and I will appeal for everyone that will commit to giving out 10 cards during the next week. They are always taken and distributed. About 10,000 of these cards have been given out in the past nine months. I have people share their own personal testimonies of doors that God has opened for them personally to talk with people about the church and truth."

God is Moving Miraculously

In 2014, a man was diagnosed with inoperable cancer and was given four months to live. "Prayer was made for him," said Pastor Fogarty. "Fourteen months later he is still living and has been declared cancer-free. There was no surgery."

Other miracles have taken place at The Apostolics of Warner Robins. "We have had three ladies that received negative reports from their mammograms within the past 12 months," he said. "After prayer, none of these ladies had any further negative reports and were miraculously healed by God. One of the ladies was scheduled for a mastectomy, and on the day of the surgery she pleaded with the doctor for one more test. He consented, and there was no sign of the tumor. He reviewed the results of both tests and stated, 'I am not sure what happened, but what we saw the first time is not there now.' Praise God!"

A Touching Philosophy

"My philosophy of ministry as a minister was defined when I heard Bro. Charles Grisham make the statement, 'I want to touch God every day, touch people every day and touch something that will outlive me every day.' That has been my philosophy of ministry



Members of Sunshine Station Kidz Choir perform a song.



Saints and visitors worship together in the sanctuary.



Exterior of The Apostolics of Warner Robins, Georgia

from a very young man," proclaims Bro. Fogarty.

"My default message to preach is faith and always endeavor to be evangelistic. God can and will do anything that we can believe Him for. I want to make sure that I reach guests that come to church by giving them hope in their present situation. God is bigger, stronger and mightier than anything that they are facing at that moment."



Mark and Karen Fogarty
Warner Robins, Ga.

A Theatre Repurposed

The church facility was a former theatre with six cinemas, 26,000 square feet under one roof, and 400 parking places on four acres on one of the main thoroughfares in Warner Robins. "We have seating capacity for 300 with room for future expansion to 500 in the next phase," said Pastor Fogarty. "Our educational facility consists of a kids' church and youth room, as well as a conference room that seats 25 people boardroom-style."

"The office area consists of three main offices and an additional office where each of the 10 department leaders have a cubicle space. The nursery is designed to be very spacious with a children's slide and many other interesting items for the nursery children ages six months to three years old. The Holy Grounds Coffee Shop is equipped with seating for 25 people and is available prior to and after every service for those that desire to just hang around and fellowship. This area is complete with a full-service snack bar including theatre-type popcorn."

The Beginning of Revival

Pastor Fogarty said 2014 started just like the past seven years had begun -- with the annual prayer revival. "However, this year I asked the church to specifically pray that God would make a way for us to purchase property, relocate and/or build during the year of 2014," he said. "We also had 30 days of focused prayer preceding the month of February. I felt strongly that this would be the year for change for our church."

"The second week of February, Sis. Fogarty and I were driving down Russell Parkway and I noticed for the first time this building known as Parkway Cinemas. I know that I had seen this building many times with no real attraction toward it. However, on this day, I pointed it out and told Sis. Fogarty, 'That would make a great church location.' Not giving it much thought, we drove on. On Sunday, February 23, we started revival with Bro. and Sis. Bernardini. Outreach began on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. We had great results from the revival and our Pentecost Sunday efforts for 2014." The first 10 months of 2015 the results were amazing: 327 first-time guests, 22 water baptized and 50 were filled with the Holy Ghost. "I am looking forward to what the Lord has in store for us as we move forward in His will throughout the coming years."

In Closing

So what does this busy revival pastor do in his leisure time? "Spend time with family, go fishing, and travel with my wife at my side."

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The Unique Ministry of a Pastor's Wife

By Tricia Reyes, women's speaker and co-founder of The New Church of Joy in Waukegan, Ill.

This is not a feel-sorry-for-us article, but it is written to bring to the church's attention a very important member who frequently sacrifices a lot but may be overlooked. Every church needs a healthy pastor's wife. I have had the privilege of being a pastor's wife for 20 years. Honestly, I did not have a clue how to do it or what my job description was, but I continued to learn over the years. It is the responsibility of women of God who are older in the faith or more experienced to help younger women coming into full-time ministry or who are married to pastors. Here are eight challenges pastors' wives face:

1. They give their husband over to the ministry and the congregation.
2. Their personal time, vacations and holidays can be interrupted at any time due to a congregational crisis.
3. They don't always get recognized or shown appreciation for how they support or help their husband.
4. They are the usually the pastor's counselor and confidant, and can carry the weight of their husband's burdens.
5. They usually do not have close friends or someone they can confide in, so they hold a lot in and can feel alone or isolated.
6. The pastor's wife usually doesn't get invited to other women's outings from the congregation because of who she is and who she is married to.
7. When she has a problem or needs prayer, she doesn't want to burden her husband and cannot go to anyone in the congregation.
8. When she has marriage issues or is upset with her husband, she cannot go to her pastor because her pastor is her husband.

Pastor's wife, you are precious to the Lord. He has a plan and purpose for your life and you are very significant to the Lord, to your husband and your church congregation. Know that you can do all this through Him who gives you strength (Phil. 4:13).



"I'm Not Staying"

By Stephen Judd, TCM President



Stephen Judd

www.mansionkids.org

It was chilly the day Jeremy arrived. The boy (whom I will call Jeremy) was wedged in the backseat of his aunt's car surrounded by all his belongings. He looked so little and scared.

When the door of the car was opened, Jeremy refused to look at anyone or move. He just kept saying, with his lip quivering and his eyes on his shoes, "I'm not staying."

After several minutes of coaxing, Jeremy agreed to tour the campus with his aunt. Throughout the tour, he kept repeating, "I'm not staying."

Most kids find it hard not to show a little interest in things like the in-ground swimming pool, the activity center or the basketball court. Jeremy refused to look directly at any of them or let himself ask one question.

Even though the car in which Jeremy arrived held a fishing rod, and his aunt said he loved to fish, he made no comment about the stocked fishing pond he saw on the campus.

Jeremy's only comment under his breath was, "She'll never come back." This wasn't his first time to have to go somewhere new and start over. And if history proved true, no one would be back.

As soon as the tour was over, Jeremy

darted to the car, and before he could be stopped, he locked himself inside. As his aunt would open the back door, he'd climb across the seat to the front, and then when she'd get the front door open he'd dart back over to the rear seat, all the while repeating, "I'm not staying." This continued for a while until the aunt slumped to the ground by the car and began crying.

Jeremy's aunt wasn't a terrible person. She was just overwhelmed by a seemingly impossible position. She had taken him when she discovered he was being mis-

treated in a foster home. He couldn't live with his mother due to drug abuse.

Silent tears began to run down the child's face. He violently rubbed his eyes with his fists. He then looked at me and stated, "I'll stay a week," and climbed out of the car.

As the week progressed, Jeremy decided that he would stay for one month; however, over the last few months, TCM has slowly begun to be his new home. He has made friends, tolerates school, and loves going fishing and playing outdoors with his peers. He never talks of leaving anymore.

If you would like to help us make a difference in Jeremy's life, please consider a donation to Tupelo Children's Mansion. You can donate online at mansionkids.org.

Website: www.stephenjudd.com, Twitter: @StephenHJudd, Facebook Page: StephenHJudd



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Church Rx

Carlton L. Coon Sr.

Written by Susan Thomas



Bro. Carlton L. Coon Sr.
Springfield, Mo.

Bro. Coon, tell us a little about your ministry and background.

For the past 11 years I've served as General Director of North American Missions for the United Pentecostal Church, Int., a position which ended on December 31, 2015. I've made the members of the UPCI

aware that I'm not available to be considered for re-election to the office. The official directory of the UPCI indicates this to have been an era of significant growth in the number of churches in the UPC. Our focus has been on the process for Apostolic growth, which I credit to Pastor Phil DePriest (Murfreesboro, TN). The Apostolic progression for planting churches is this: in a geographic area teach a home Bible study, then that home Bible study becomes a small group. The small group evolves into a preaching point having a structured worship service at least one time each month. The preaching point grows into a daughter church with weekly worship services in the area and then the daughter church becomes self-governing. The crowning glory is for both the new church and the mother church to "do it again."

My wife and I have had a varied and exciting ministry. Decades of pastoring preceded the current season. Seven years of evangelizing followed by over 20 years of pastoring – growing two different churches. The focus was on developing saints to "do the work of ministry." Seeing people mature into strong, godly Christians has been a highlight. My own heritage is of parents and grandparents who were godly. Both grandfathers were church planters. I've written 18 books, preached at numerous district events and invested into developing preachers.

Recently you set up a page on Facebook entitled "Church Planters UPCI" and invited church planters to share their experiences. What was the response? Tell us the story.

The Facebook page was the result of a conversation regarding the UPCI Church Planters U – Online training program. Information about that training program can be gained at MinistryCentral.com. The consensus among the group: interaction among those planting churches would provide a resource no

training could provide. Later that afternoon, the group was started. Within hours we had over 100 members in the group. More important than the size of the group has been the relevant interaction among missionaries. The most surprising insight I gleaned from the responses was the solutions the missionaries had for common challenges, whether the issue was how to have music when there are no musicians, managing church finances, the best pew/chair options, or outreach and disciple-making principles. There seems to be no issue a new church planter has that some other church planter has not already worked their way through. The Church Planters UPC Facebook group has been the healthiest sharing of ideas, concerns, challenges and accomplishments I've ever seen.

What do church planters need the most from neighboring pastors or their brothers and sisters in Christ nationwide?

Beyond the spiritual efforts of prayer on their behalf, we would do well to do a better job validating the significance of our church planters. Every church, whether Calvary Tabernacle or the Pentecostals of Alexandria, began in a storefront or someone's living room. Great churches of future decades are being started now. To validate the significance of these small beginnings is important. Unfortunately, such validation has not always happened.

Second, a church plant can be seen as a "baby church" consisting of mostly immature saints. A "baby church" can be as unkempt and messy as a human baby. To have the same expectations in regard to holiness or maturity that is expected of a church 50 years old is a mistake. Give those who are raising "baby churches" time to develop their congregation. Do so without judging either the missionary or the people he or she has won and is developing.

Third, we need to realize that a missionary to a North American community is often carrying a greater challenge financially than those to other continents. On occasion, we have missionaries to North America, like Indiana Bible College graduate Mark Brown (planting a church in Watertown, South Dakota) or Jesse Fortaleza (Edmonton, Alberta – now District Superintendent), make difficult decisions about whether to "eat or pay the church bills." Those are decisions I'm not comfortable with our church planters having to make. In my lifetime, I'm unaware of any missionary to any other continent who has been required to make similar decisions. With

a recent offering of \$3.6 million for Christmas for Christ and annual support of over \$1 million for those planting churches in metro areas we have made some progress in the level of financial support for North America's church planters. This is far from adequate. The ratio of support for missionaries to other continents is \$1 invested in North America for every \$7 invested in a missionary to some other continent. It would seem that a ratio of \$1 to \$4 would be more effective.

Fourth, we help the cause of North American missionaries as we celebrate that these baby churches are actually the largest givers to the overall missionary cause. The dollar figure won't compare with a church 50 years old, but the amount per capita is often far more than churches much older. Almost every new church plant immediately begins giving to causes beyond themselves – most of them immediately become partners in missions.

What are some of the common "myths" of church planting that people often have wrong?

(1) Unrealistic expectations – gathering and disciplining takes time. Some examples: few church planters are able to be a full-time pastor in a few months; most converts do not suddenly become financial contributors; having four-color mail pieces means little when you are having church in a meeting room at the YMCA. (2) A church plant can be effective by doing the same things an older church does, just maybe a little differently. A new church is a baby church. As an infant does things a bit different, someone planting a new church must expect to do business significantly different than an older church.

What will the reader come away with after reading this book?

My most recent book is *Healthy Church – Start Here*. It addresses 16 specific things that cause a church, whether a "baby church" or an older church, to be at risk. The solutions found in each chapter are practical and relevant. Chapters like "Unrealistic Expectations," "Premature Birth" and "Not Asking for Money" not only focus on the issue but give direction to correct the problem. These are real issues and problems facing churches today.

How can they get a copy of this book?

Healthy Church – Start Here is a direct link to a site to order. The book is also available from the Pentecostal Publishing House or for the Amazon Kindle.

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
MAY 4-8	Impartation Conference Day and evening services are open for everyone; these services are full of powerful worship including singing and inspired preaching from anointed men of God.	Praise Tabernacle 2121 13th Avenue South Great Falls, MT 59405	Marrell Cornwell, Dr. James Hughes and Lee Stoneking	For more info: visit www.praisetabernaclegtf.com or email: praisetabernaclegtf@yahoo.com (406) 268-1780
MAY 6	Indiana Bible College GRADUATION 2016 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.	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
MAY 9-10	Ministers Only Book Rendezvous - Grand Rapids, MI No pre-registration required. Just show up! Enjoy the newly expanded Baker Book House. No business, no agenda. Just books, sharing and fellowship.	Grand Rapids, MI	Hosts: Paul D. Mooney and O.C. Marler	For more info: contact LaDusta Brown at labwn@aol.com or 317-262-4030
JUNE 8-10	Power Conference 2016 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
JULY 27-29	Mile High Conference 2016 Defending the Apostolic faith, family and future.	Calvary Apostolic Church Of Denver, 5900 E. Yale Ave. Denver, CO 80222	J.H. Osborne, Joel McCoy, Marney Turpin and Sean Libby	(303) 758-5900 www.cacdenver.org DEH2@comcast.net
AUG 17-19	The Apostolic Conference A conference designed for the North American Missionary and Church Planter.	Parkway Pentecostal Church, 601 Reunion Parkway, Madison, MS 39110. Host Pastors: Jerry and Jason Dillon	J.W. Dillon, Art Wilson, David Shatwell, Chester Wright, Raymond Woodward and Mark Morgan	(601) 853-2607 www.parkwaychurch.net ParkwayChurch.net/NAMRegistration
AUG 18-19	Investing in Futures A conference for those who invest in children. Educating, encouraging and equipping children's ministry workers.	Apostolic Sanctuary 1501 John Deere Pkwy Silvis, IL 61282 Host: Gary Randol	Donnie Sheerin, Brian Kinsey, Tim Gaddy	For more info: visit invest-in-futures.com (309) 792-0414
SEPT. 10-11	Mid-America Renewal Conference (MARC) Indianapolis, Indiana - A Power Packed Preaching Conference in the Heart of the Midwest.	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN Host: Paul D. Mooney	To be announced	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
SEPT 27-30	92nd Annual UPCI General Conference Don't miss it!	Indiana Convention Ctr. 100 S. Capitol Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46225	To be announced	Online registration, hotel reservations and exhibit registration available at www.upcigc.com
OCT 2016	Apostolic Doctrine Conference Strengthening Our Doctrinal Foundation	New Life Fellowship 7849 Wabash Avenue Terre Haute, IN 47803	To be announced	For more info: www.newliferrehaute.com or 812-877-9348
NOV 2-5	West Coast Conference - Fresno, CA 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 www.truthtabfresno.org
JAN 2017	Indiana Bible College LIVE RECORDING Under the direction of Lindel M. Anderson, Dean of Music	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN Host: Paul D. Mooney	Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, Lindel Anderson, IBC Choir, IBC Chorale, IBC Praise, others	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
FEB 2017	WinterFire 2017 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	To be announced	For more info: visit www.winterfire.org or visit Twitter: winterfireconf or Facebook/Instagram: winterfireconf
MARCH 2017	Passing the Mantle 2017 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	To be announced	For more info: visit www.passingthementle.org or call 630-837-9800
APRIL 2017	Indiana Bible College MUSIC FEST 2017 Under the direction of Lindel M. Anderson, Dean of Music	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN Host: Paul D. Mooney	Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, Lindel Anderson, IBC Choir, IBC Chorale, IBC Praise, others	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069

Church Today: No Shame In Waiting



Robert L. Rodenbush

Church Today

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No Shame In Waiting

We all know that hardship and trial are a part of our Christian walk. We realize that God has things under control, but waiting on His timing, His deliverance can be a challenge. Often during these times of waiting, deceitfully the enemy will try to make us feel as if the trial or the suffering is in some way our fault. While sometimes our choices and decisions do take us in the wrong direction, there are just some things God chooses for us to endure. King David states it this way:

"I am weary of my crying; my throat is dried: mine eyes fail while I wait for my God. They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, being mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: then I restored that which I took not away. O God, thou knowest my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from thee. Let not them that wait on thee, O Lord God of hosts, be ashamed for my sake: let not those that seek thee be confounded for my sake, O God of Israel" (Psalms 69:3-6).

The fact that David was experiencing pain and hardship was not something he needed to be confused or ashamed by. He was simply in God's waiting room so to speak. It can be frustrating, embarrassing and very discouraging to learn to wait on God. We ask, "Why is this happening? Why is it taking so long to overcome? Why do we have to WAIT?" But we must remember, there is no shame in waiting. Waiting on your miracle, your ministry to come to fruition, your deliverance may be difficult, but when we accept God's plan for our lives we must also accept His timing. The devil may tempt us into bitterness, anger and frustration, but we have to remind ourselves - there is NO SHAME in waiting! Sometimes we just have to wait it out. The answer will come. He will provide. He does know our need.

G. Campbell Morgan, pastor of Westminster Chapel in the 1900s, penned these words about waiting upon the Lord:

"Waiting for God is not laziness. Waiting for God is not going to sleep. Waiting for God is not the abandonment of effort. Waiting for God means, first, activity under command; second, readiness for any new command that may come; third, the ability to do nothing until the command is given."



Steve Waldron

Theology

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NKJV Affects Doctrine

There are several enormous doctrinal deficiencies in the NKJV. Let us examine some of them.

First, it is a truism of education that "repetition is the mother of learning." God created us to learn in that way. So it is not just that a word is mentioned in the Bible, but that the frequency with which it is used will affect how deeply it penetrates our lives.

This being the case, it is indeed a doctrinal deficiency when the word *Lord* is deleted 66 times in the NKJV. Or the word *God* appears 51 fewer times than in the KJV. Other words removed with the frequency of omission cited include *heaven* 50 times, *repent* 44 times, *blood* 23 times, *hell* 22 times; the word *JEHOVAH* is omitted entirely, as is *new testament*, *damnation*, and *devils*.

It does not matter that some of these terms are not completely omitted, or that some of the doctrines are found in other passages. It matters that the repetition that God desires for a word or a doctrine to be presented in His Word is tampered with. With the grievous warnings for adding to or taking away from the Word of God mentioned in the Bible (Rev. 22:18,19; Deut. 4:2; Proverbs 30:5,6), I would say that this constitutes serious doctrinal deficiencies in the NKJV.

For example, the removal of the word *damnation* from the epistles is a very serious doctrinal error. Hence, every place a believer is shown with the capacity for damnation (Romans 13:2; *damned* in Romans 14:23; I Cor. 11:29; I Timothy 5:12; *damnable* (II Peter 2:1), it is replaced in the NKJV with *condemnation* or *destructive*. This leads to the unscriptural doctrine of unconditional eternal security. In the KJV, however, this doctrine is easily refuted.

In numerous other places, the NKJV affects doctrine as well: Acts 2:38 is significantly weakened in the NKJV with the insertion of the word *let* and the change of word order, with *every one* being placed before the word *baptism*, so the force of command is altered. Acts 2:38 goes from being a forceful, un-optional commandment to an option.

I Cor. 7:9 inserts the words *with passion* after the verse, in deference to the doctrine of unconditional eternal security. The command to *study* the Bible is changed to *be diligent* from II Timothy 2:15, thereby removing the Bible's only admonition to study.

The admonition to *abstain from all appearance of evil* is changed in I Thessalonians 5:22 to *abstain from every form of evil*, thereby eliminating a wall in the doctrine of separation from the world.

These are just a few of the examples showing how the New King James Version of the Bible contains glaring and alarming inadequacies that are cause for great concern. It weakens, changes, or deletes certain doctrines of the Church concerning God, the incarnation, the deity of Jesus Christ, the plan of salvation, heaven, hell, separation, study, the Christian life, sexual immorality, and many more.



T. W. Massengale

Church Growth

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Keep HBS Teachers Teaching

Home Bible Study (HBS) works. Without a doubt, it has and continues to be the most successful evangelism tool within Apostolic churches. But it doesn't work if you don't teach. So the key to a successful local church HBS ministry is to keep your trained HBS teachers teaching. How do you keep them busy? Consider the following:

HBS Teachers Must Ask. Continually encourage your trained HBS teachers to get studies from their family, friends, co-workers and acquaintances. Regularly challenge them! Teach them how to ask for a study. Remind them that most studies are obtained only after asking a person 3-4 times. Prayer and

persistence pays off.

Visitor Follow-up. VFU is a 'must' for any church desiring to grow. 100% of your new converts will come from your visitors. Few visitors receive the Spirit the first time they come. So we must get them back. VFU is the *best* way to do this. If they visited us, we must be willing to visit them. Each time we visit (4 times a year is best) we give them a small gift, invite them back, and ask for a HBS (*Have you thought any more about that HBS I told you about?*). It really does work!

Open Your Home to a HBS. Push for *everyone* to be involved (a simple team contest works great here). You open your home, invite your family, friends, neighbors, provide the food, and the church provides the HBS teacher.

Five Souls. Pass out a sheet of paper that boldly states at the top, "Five Souls That I Am Believing To Get A HBS With." Provide five blanks for five names. Ask all to pray

and allow the Spirit to impress them with the names of five people the Lord knows are ready for salvation. The entire church then commits to pray and fast for their five names for a full week. After a week of prayer, call all to the front, anoint them, pray over them and commission them to ask all five for a HBS. Have lots of teachers ready to teach!

Quest Survey. This door-to-door survey has seen excellent results through the years. Send a trained team out on Saturday morning with clip-boards. Go door-to-door giving the survey including 10 easy questions and a HBS request at the conclusion. Knock on 100 doors, come back with 3-4 or more HBS's.

If you would like to have more information on the above, plus how to make HBS ministry a success in your church, call 1-800-800-0247. \$5.00 (includes postage).

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 11

5:00pm **Registration Opens**

7:30pm **Main Service**

Art Wilson & Lee Stoneking

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12

9:00am **General Session** *Brocc Chavis*

9:45am -10:30am **Breakout Session I:**
French, Filipino, Deaf, Chinese & South Asian

10:45am-11:30am **Breakout Session II:**
R.A.I.N, Slavic, Jewish, Amish, & Youth

11:45am-12:30pm **Breakout Session III:**
*N.A.M.E, Southeast Asian, Vietnamese, Korean
& Youth*

12:45pm **Ministers & Spouses Banquet**

7:30pm **Evening Session**

Vani Marshall & Anthony Mangun

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13

9:00am **General Session** *David K. Bernard*

10:00am -11:30am **Ministry Tracks:**
*Building the Bridge, Spanish, Ladies, Youth, &
R.I.S.E.N.*

11:45am **General Session** *Tom Foster*

Hosted at:



DALLAS FIRST
CHURCH

5606 W. Illinois Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75211



Carol Clemans

Spiritual Growth

carol@carolclemans.org

We Need the Sword of the Spirit!

The Word of God is the sword of the Spirit! My challenge to everyone I minister to through teaching, counseling or writing is that we must "live" in the Word of God daily. "How can a young man/woman stay pure? By obeying the Word of God" (Psalm 119:9). If we feed on the Word of God daily and pray in the Holy Ghost, we will have the strength to be holy as He is holy!

Many will say, "It's so much harder for our young people today to remain sexually pure." I totally disagree with this statement. The Holy Ghost in us is the same yesterday, today and forever! The problem is choice. What we choose to feed – the flesh or the Spirit – is what will control us. When we are full of His Spirit, we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Our environment can influence us only if we allow it. When we realize how special we are to God, we will not sin. We will allow God to rule and reign in our hearts. The basis for sin is our selfishness that is from Satan. Get the youth of your church into Bible study. A survey was taken across America a few years ago that proved the youth groups that were growing were the ones that made Bible study the center of their activities. Youth are seeking truth. They are sick of hypocrisy!

Go to www.carolclemans.org - read "about me," read over 280 articles based on the Word of God. My heartbeat is sharing God's truth in teaching, counseling and writing to help others grow and heal spiritually, emotionally and relationally.

Carol Clemans is a Certified Pastoral Counselor providing nationwide counseling by phone/Skype (636) 448-0121. She speaks for churches and conferences being a Bible teacher for 50 years. Refs: Pastor Daniel Batchelor, Duplo, IL & Supt. David Tipton Jr., Raymond, MS.



Kenny Noble

Devotional

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Wounds That Won't Heal

Long before Andrew Jackson became the seventh U.S. president, he was involved in a near-death gun battle. While campaigning for Tennessee's Superior Court Judge, his opponent, Charles Dickenson, called Jackson's wife a bigamist. It was true. Rachel's first husband had failed to complete their divorce paperwork, and without her knowing it, she was married to two men simultaneously.

Determined to avenge his wife's honor, Jackson challenged Dickenson to a duel. Dickenson accepted, and the two met at the Red River in Logan, Kentucky. Here, Jackson shot and killed Dickenson, but not before taking a bullet in his chest. The doctor insisted on immediately operating, but Jackson refused, choosing to deal with the wound himself. Surprisingly, he not only survived, but he also lived 38 more years with that lead bullet lodged near his heart.

Sadly, the wound caused him daily pain the rest of his life, and many believe the lead poisoning contributed to his death. His refusal of medical attention not only brought him years of discomfort, but it possibly shortened his life.

Similar to Jackson's experience, Christians tend to carry emotional wounds deep inside their hearts. These wounds aren't from guns and knives, but from the words and deeds of friends and family. No one hurts us as deeply as our loved ones.

Left unattended, these wounds will never heal, because the only remedy is forgiveness. Like Jackson, we too may choose to deal with wounds on our own, but it's futile. Only the Great Physician can help us forgive.

Even so, we must do more than seek God's help. We must also stop reliving the incident. When we talk about our injustice, we relieve it in our mind, which is like probing an open wound. It will never heal.

Another step toward forgiveness is to announce our forgiveness—in prayer, or at least audibly. When we speak the words, *I forgive*, it's as if we're giving our heart direction. It's uncomfortable at first, but saying I forgive helps release our bitterness.

Forgiving is not condoning someone's actions. Forgiveness is between you and God alone.

Kenny Noble holds a Master's Degree in English. He also holds a Bachelor's Degree in Education with a minor in Computer Education, and is a licensed teacher by the state of Indiana. Bro. Noble is Dean of Distance Learning and yearbook advisor at IBC.



Aubrey Jayroe

Finance

jayroeone@sbcglobal.net

It is time to do my taxes as a minister. What do I need to do to ensure I utilize my efforts with my tax preparer so as to have the least possible tax liability?

First, you need to consult with your tax preparer ahead of time to be certain you know what to have ready at tax time. Asking questions about your particular situation is vital so that you and the tax preparer are "on the same page."

Then gather and organize your records in a neat and readable format. Many tax preparer offices send out a tax organizer to assist in the recording of the tax information. Use this if you have one and ask your preparer questions about the organizer if you don't understand it. Don't take a paper bag full of receipts and documents and drop them off at your tax preparer's desk and expect a quick response on your tax return. The more organized you are, the better your preparer can handle your tax matters.

Be sure you and your preparer understand the "housing allowance" benefit. This, for ministers, is one of the best tax benefits available today. You only have to pay self-employment taxes on the housing but no income taxes. This must be designated by the church or board prior to utilizing it, so be sure this is in order and provide that information to your preparer, separate from your salary, etc.

Have your W-2 from the church ready ahead of time. Many ministers let the tax preparer do the W-2 when they file their taxes; however, for 2016, there are new penalties if these W-2 forms are not prepared and submitted by the January 31 deadline. In the future, don't wait until you file your tax return to have the W-2 prepared.

In summary, two things need to be done to ensure the best possible tax results. One, communicate with your tax preparer. Even call or e-mail prior to tax season and ask questions. Communication is vital. Secondly, be organized. Make sure you have everything ready and organized when you get your taxes done. The better organized you are, the better your preparer can complete your return efficiently and more productively.

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



Delano Sherley

Accounting & Tax

How Do You Measure Up? Part 2

Continuing our discussion from last month, the following are some financial metrics and reports to consider using for your church:

Tithes and offerings per average attendee. This is best done on an annual basis. The national average is \$1,500-\$1,600, but our observation is that Pentecostal churches generally are in the

\$2,200-\$2,600 range. If the church has one or two large contributors, this number may be inflated. It may be useful to calculate with and without them.

Offerings as a percent of tithes. Divide all offerings (including building fund and missions) by tithe. If they are less than 20%, we generally find that there is little emphasis placed on giving. Churches where offerings are near or greater than 50% have a culture of giving. Obviously, a recent capital campaign may inflate the numbers.

If you have a budget (which we highly recommend), a report showing the year-to-

date actual to budget numbers should be reviewed monthly. Any significant variances should be further reviewed.

A report showing the year-to-date income and expenses compared to the prior year should also be reviewed each month.

A monthly report showing the income, expenses and balance of any donor-restricted funds is also important.

If you would like help in these areas, please contact us.

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@dsacpainsc.com Website: www.dsacpainsc.com

THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS**British Evangelicals Fear Government Restrictions of Religion**

The Evangelical Alliance United Kingdom is asking the government to cancel requirements from the prime minister that force religious groups to register children's activities.

According to *Christianity Today*, British Prime Minister David Cameron included the requirements



David Cameron
British Prime Minister

in his five-year plan to fight Islamic extremism. Under the rules, all religious group activities—not just Islamic—for children are

subject to inspection.

"There's a very real problem with violent extremism and radicalization that the government is trying to address, and we support strong safeguarding measures," said Simon McCrossan, the EAUUK's head of public policy.

"But these proposals will fail to tackle the problems and instead stifle the work that churches and faith-based organizations do with children and young people across the UK."

The proposal from Prime Minister Cameron has been called confusing and vague, stating that "churches, youth groups, holiday clubs, church camps, Christian festivals, Bible-reading groups, homeschooling events or training courses for those under 19, lasting six hours or more per week, would be subject to registration and inspection."

Thousands of British Christians are complaining about the proposal, arguing that the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills would become the regulator of religion.

The policies stem from British government investigations that found radical Muslims had allegedly tried to take over the Birmingham public school system. In a policy following that investigation, the government announced that all education curriculums would include values of "democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs."

**Survey: Among All Faith Groups, Christians Happiest**

Statistics from Britain's national happiness index have suggested that Christians are among the happiest people in the nation, while those who don't identify with any particular religion generally scored the lowest life satisfaction numbers.

The Office for National Statistics posted numbers pertaining to several happiness and life satisfaction questions measured between April 2012 and March 2015. The study found that Christians, with all denominations grouped together, reported an average mean of life satisfaction at 7.60. This was the highest mean in the table, alongside Hindus, who also posted the same number. The groups with the lowest average score were the non-religious at 7.41, and the "any other religion" group at 7.31.

When it came to the question of whether life is worthwhile, Jews and Christians were on an average most likely to answer yes. The non-religious were at the lowest end of the scale. The statistics showed that the 65 to 79 age group was the happiest of all, while those aged 45 to 59 reported the lowest levels of life satisfaction.

As for the religious group results, Dr. Paul McLaren, a consultant psychiatrist at the Priory Hospitals, said that faith can indeed be a protective factor for many people.

"With it usually comes strong social support which is a recognized protective factor against psychological trauma," McLaren said, according to *The Telegraph*.

Other studies in the past, such as a December 2014 release by the Austin Institute for the Study of Family and Culture, have also found that there is a strong link between happiness and religion.

The results found that 45 percent of those who attend church weekly would describe themselves as "very happy," while only 28 percent of those who never attend said the same.

On the other end of the scale, 4 percent of those who never attend church said they were "very unhappy," compared to 2 percent of those that attend weekly.

"Greater levels of church attendance predict higher life satisfaction even when we account for how important religious faith is in people's lives," the study said.

"This result offers tentative evidence that actual integration into a religious support network through attendance at religious services may in part be responsible for the increased happiness observed among religious people."

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ A recent report from Syria warns that two-thirds of all Christians in the war-torn country have fled or been slain since the conflict began in March 2011, which means close to a million believers have left the country. There were an estimated 1.5 million Christians in Syria in 2011, but five years later only around 500,000 remain.

■ Under the view that what happens in Europe often mi-

grates to the U.S., a frightening new Scottish law that was approved in 2014 will now go into effect in August. The law assigns a guardian, such as a teacher or nurse, to monitor the wellbeing of every child until they turn 18. That guardian is also able to access school and medical and legal documents. Supporters say the law will help streamline the process for child welfare, while critics say the policy violates human rights.

LEGAL TRENDS**Giant Texas Cross Sparks Atheist Lawsuit**

Lifelong atheist Patrick Greene has a huge problem with a giant cross under construction alongside Interstate 37 in Corpus Christi, Texas – a city whose name literally means "Body of Christ."

Greene said the cross is a safety hazard and should not be seen from the highway. The 230-foot tall cross

is being erected on property owned by Abundant Life Fellowship – paid for by donations. Pastor Rick Milby said it will be the largest cross in the Western Hemisphere. So tall, in fact, that the church was required to install a lighted beacon on the top.

Green, who reportedly was angry because the mayor and other city leaders attended a groundbreaking ceremony for the cross, filed a lawsuit. "When I saw the mayor in her official position and the council in their official positions were attending a groundbreaking ceremony for a Christian symbol – that smacked right in the face of the Constitution of the state of Texas," he said. And he also sued Preacher Milby.

"It's ridiculous," the pastor said. "He's attacking my rights and the rights of the mayor. The groundbreaking was on a Sunday and these are Christians and they have a right to their faith."

Milby has since been dropped from the lawsuit. But the mayor and council members are still facing litigation.

**SOCIAL TRENDS****Growing Number of Americans View Christianity as Extremist**

Most Bible-believing Christians would never think of themselves as being similar to radical jihadists in the Middle East, but that is precisely how many of their fellow Americans view them. The Barna Group has just released a shocking new study which found that 45 percent of all "non-religious" Americans believe that "Christianity is extremist."

Almost as troubling is the fact that only 14 percent of atheists and agnostics strongly disagree that Christianity is extremist. The remaining four in ten (41%) disagree only somewhat. So even non-Christians who are reluctant to fully label Christianity as extremist still harbor some hesitations and negative perceptions toward the religion.

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IN MEMORY OF

Ashley McCullough

May 29, 1996 - March 15, 2016



Ashley's time at Indiana Bible College was short, but she fulfilled her dream and imprinted her passion for souls and her kind spirit upon each of our hearts.

Attending IBC was a miracle for Ashley. She suffered from a severe heart condition and doctors had told her she would not live past the age of 15. However, she was a member of the IBC Choir, worked in IBC outreach ministries through the Urban Missions Club and the Ministerial Student Association, and was serving on a mission's trip with fellow students to the Navajo Nation in New Mexico when she passed.

She was an inspiration to all who knew her and she will be deeply missed.

Please remember her family, friends, and the IBC faculty, staff and students in your prayers at this time. An IBC Memorial Service was held in celebration of Ashley's life on Tuesday, March 22, 2016 in the Indiana Bible College Chapel. At the service Ashley was posthumously awarded the first degree in Missiology, the newest of three degree track programs at Indiana Bible College.

THE CALL FOR THE 21ST CENTURY CHURCH

Matthew Martin • Dewar, OK

“And the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak, for thy servant heareth” (I Samuel 3:10).

Spiritual Apostasy

Spiritual decline always marches to a slow drumbeat, but it eventually leads to the dead end of spiritual apostasy. It does not happen overnight; rather the process of backsliding generally follows a slow methodical progression. Spiritual apostasy usually begins with the compromise of spiritual leaders and then like a flood it quickly washes away the spirituality of the masses.

Spiritual Leadership in Compromise

This was the case in the early chapters of the book of I Samuel. Eli was the High Priest and his two sons Hophni and Phinehas were priests of the Lord. Our first glimpse of Eli was not flattering to him spiritually. He encounters Hannah in the temple as she poured out her heart to the Lord. She desired a son more than anything in the world. Eli the priest did not recognize her deep prayer; rather he accused

her of being drunk. His spiritual perception certainly left a lot to be desired. His sons were wicked and committed sinful acts and the passage insinuates that he was not even aware of it. He admitted, “I hear that you make the Lord’s people to transgress” (I Samuel 2:24). First Samuel chapter three states that his sons made themselves vile or accursed and he restrained them not (I Samuel 3:13).

The two sons of Eli were certainly following in the footsteps of their father. They were spiritually clueless and led the people of Israel even deeper into spiritual apostasy. They are referred to in scripture as “sons of Belial.” This description meant that they were spiritually worthless and lawless. This is the term often used to describe the devil himself. They had no respect for the laws regarding sacrifices. Instead of burning the fat, boiling the meat, striking the three-pronged fork into the kettle and taking what came up for themselves as the law commanded, they demanded that those bringing the sacrifice give them the portion of the meat they desired raw so they could cook it as they wished. As is normal with spiritual decline, self-satisfaction rules the day.

Hophni and Phinehas also adopted the fertility rituals of

the heathen nations around them and committed unspeakable immorality at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. If the priesthood found itself in this shape spiritually one can only imagine the depth of depravity that prevailed among the masses. The first verse of I Samuel chapter three seems to sum up the prevailing spiritual condition of the day: "And the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open vision." In other words, there was not much of the Word of the Lord being spoken, and God was not speaking through the priesthood.

No Open Vision

Sadly, the spiritual condition of Israel in I Samuel seems to be a lot like where we find ourselves in the 21st century. Spiritual leaders don't seem to be leading spiritually, fewer and fewer people seem to truly know the Lord, and biblical truths are being sacrificed on the altar of selfish desires. Gatherings of people may be larger, yet there seems to be less of the pure Word of God being preached. The Word of the Lord is precious! I realize I am painting with a broad brush, but the phrase "there was no open vision" seems to be more painfully accurate as the days go by. To add to the demise, those who stand for truth are labeled and maligned as fanatics, arrogant and exclusive.

The Call

It was into this very condition that the Lord called a young man by the name of Samuel. Through the din and clatter of spiritual apostasy God raised up a clear voice to call people back to Him. Samuel, although an unlikely source, was used by the Lord to lead a spiritual revival that we marvel at several thousand years later.

Without a doubt, God has called the Apostolic Church to be the voice to bring about a spiritual revival in this 21st century. We are the Samuel of our day. God is calling this last day church to be strong and speak loud in the midst of spiritual chaos. It is my opinion that we can make a difference in these last days. As we give voice to truth, we link up with the eternal. The Apostolic Church must rise to the occasion and be the voice calling our world back to Jesus Christ.

It is interesting to consider the correlation between Samuel and the 21st century church. Why did the Lord call Samuel to change the spiritual dynamic of his world? Why has the Lord called you and me to be that agent of change in the 21st century? I am not certain that I have all of the answers to these questions but consider four possible reasons.

Possible Reasons

The first possible reason why the Lord called Samuel to bring revival to his world is because he had a supernatural birth. He was on the planet by divine intention. I would submit to you that the Lord will use the Apostolic Church to change the spiritual environment of the world. The church is the entity that has experienced the supernatural new birth. The church has been given the message of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:17-20).

The second reason the Lord possibly used Samuel is because he was a Nazarite. The word Nazarite comes from the Hebrew word nazir meaning "consecrated" or "separated." Hannah promised the Lord that if He gave her a son he would live a life of separation. The Nazarite vow required abstinence from the fruit of the vine, forbid the cutting of the hair, and prohibited contact with a dead body.

No doubt another reason the Lord has called the 21st century

Apostolic Church to change the world is because of her life of separation from sin (touching a dead body), her submission (hair), and her willingness to be led by the Spirit (fruit of the vine). Paul reminded the Ephesians: "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18).

Another reason the Lord used Samuel to shift the spiritual condition of his day is because he was willing to leave the warm, comfortable surroundings of his room to receive and obey the voice of the Lord. Each time he heard the voice he climbed from his comfortable surroundings and made himself available for his work. His willingness to serve Eli was indicative of his future willingness to make a difference in his nation. Being used of God to help change our generation will require us to be pushed from the warm, comfortable confines of our comfort zones. The 21st century church is up to the challenge. This is why God is calling us to speak and make a difference in these last days.

Finally, God used Samuel because he was willing to speak the Word of the Lord even when it was not easy and comfortable. First Samuel chapter three reveals that young Samuel told Eli "... every whit, and hid nothing from him." Can you imagine the moment? What a difficult assignment, but young Samuel spoke for the Lord. God has called this 21st century church to speak for Him. He will use us to change our world because we are willing to stand up in the face of popular opinion and speak the words of truth and life. Our message may not always be comfortable, but it will always be the message of salvation. By the way, we must speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15).

Our Response

Being used of the Lord to change the spiritual dynamic in the 21st century seems like a daunting task. May I remind you, the Lord will help us. We are doing His work. Don't ever forget that He took a rag-tag group of fishermen, and they turned the world upside down (Acts 17:6). Certainly, He can use this 21st century church. If our response is the same as the response of Samuel, "Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth" (I Samuel 3:9), then by the grace of God the result will be the same. "And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground" (I Samuel 3:19).

Bio: Matthew P. Martin has been a licensed minister with the UPCI for 33 years. He has served the United Pentecostal Church in Dewar, Oklahoma as pastor since January 1990. He is currently the Oklahoma District Superintendent and serves as the secretary of the UGST/UC Board of Trustees and the secretary of the TCM Board of Directors.



Pastor Matthew Martin
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By Christina Li



Bro. Dennis Witkus
Spooner, Wis.

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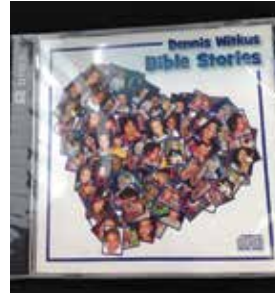
"I try to use stories that bring conviction and a desire to seek God and receive an experience from the Lord," says Children's Evangelist Dennis Witkus, a 40-plus year ministry veteran. "The stories I tell are some of the most notable ones found in the Bible; stories that bring a spiritual truth to the listener." Bro. Witkus' stories include Naboth's Vineyard, Jonah and the Whale, Elijah on Mt. Carmel, The Christmas Story, etc. "They've been used for puppet skits and dramas extensively," he said. "The Christmas Story (from the viewpoint of the animals) has been especially useful for dramas."

The target ages are about nine through 12, but these stories hold appeal for all ages. "We've had kids as young as five receive

the Holy Ghost. And we've actually had a lady in her eighties receive the Holy Ghost in a Canadian children's revival. There really isn't any age limit on receiving and being impacted by the spoken word through storytelling."

Bro. Witkus does all the voice animations for his stories. "I began in 1968 quite by accident, evidence of how God can take anything and use it. It was a modest beginning, but it grew so fast that before I knew it, I was going to district youth camps. One I remember in particular was in North Carolina. This was their first attempt at conducting a junior camp program. When we arrived, we found that 51 children needed the Holy Ghost. By the time it ended, 50 had received it!"

Bro. Witkus also writes his own scripts. "There are four things I try to accomplish when telling a story," he said. "Number one, the story has to be appealing and entertaining. If it doesn't have entertainment value, the listeners won't pay attention and receive what the Lord has for them.



Number two, the story has to be effective. It has to bring a response on their part; to do something about their condition. It should create a desire to go to the altar. Number three, it has to be fun for me. If I didn't enjoy telling the stories, I wouldn't do it for very

long. Number four, it has to be scripturally accurate. Even though I read between the lines, adding humor and role-playing the characters, all of my stories are biblically based and true to the Word of God.

"Everything that's negative in the world goes after our children at the earliest of ages. Unless we are able to counteract that with the truth of God's Word, we're going to fight an

uphill battle. We can't wait until they're teenagers or later to do this. This is what drives me -- a burden for the kids."

To get your copy of *Bible Stories*, e-mail at dennisdwitkus@gmail.com, call 715-520-7062 or write to Dennis Witkus, 426 Bay Ave, Spooner, Wis. 54801. MP3 download available through <http://www.ministrymentorship.com/product/dennis-witkus-bible-stories/>. Cost is \$15.

Many Souls Won Through Salvation Bible Study

By Gregg Stone



Leeann and Shad McIntosh
Red Rock, Texas

Are you ready to reach your city and win souls? Evangelist Shad McIntosh of Red Rock, Texas is ready to help you take your church to the next level using the *Water and Spirit Bible Study*. The study is a culmination

of years of studying how people process information and what scriptures really pack a punch when it comes to the necessity of Jesus' name baptism and the infilling of the Holy Ghost as evidenced by speaking in tongues.

Born with a burden to reach the lost, Shad and Leeann McIntosh began using this method several times a week and baptized every person they taught with the exception of one. "Sis. McIntosh and I have been using this as our first line study for two years now," explains Bro. McIntosh. "We never teach any other salvation Bible study until we have taught this one first. The simplicity and brevity helps the teacher connect with the student and increases the chances of future studies."

Partnering with the Water & Spirit Team as associates to spread this tool to as many as possible has led to tremendous results. "We baptized more in 2014 than have been baptized in many years combined in the history of the church," said Bro. McIntosh. "And in 2015 we baptized even more than in 2014. Apostolics across the globe use this study, and everyone that I have come in contact with who follows the instructions has had wonderful results."

The *Water and Spirit Bible Study* only covers basic salvation and the infilling of the Holy Ghost. It is repetitious and prompts the student to share the reading so that the student develops an understanding of what the Word says that a person must do to be saved. "This study is scripted and takes about 90 minutes to teach," said Bro. McIntosh. "Remember not to deviate from the script, no matter how many great salvation

scriptures you personally know. It works if you let it. It is always amazing to watch the light come on in their eyes when they finally 'get it' and see the need! It is our sincere desire to see as many people as possible baptized in Jesus name, receive the wonderful gift of the Holy Ghost and begin a daily walk with Jesus!"



The *Water and Spirit Bible Study* is very reasonably priced with basic packages starting at only \$20 and larger packages ranging up to \$60. Visit the Water and Spirit Facebook page or the website at <https://waterandspirit.com> for ordering information or to see which package will best meet you or your church's specific

needs.

Churches may also contact Bro. Shad McIntosh if they would like to schedule a "Teach the Teacher Water and Spirit Session" or a Soul Winning clinic. Or e-mail Bro. McIntosh at acts238streetministry@yahoo.com or visit their evangelism website: www.a238sm.com.

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TOP 20 CHURCHES

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Word To The Wise:

"The difference between 'gossip' and 'news' is whether you hear it or tell it."

* * * * *

A pastor went to his church office on Monday morning and discovered a dead mule in the church yard. He telephoned the police. Since there did not appear to be any foul play, the police referred the pastor to the Health Department.

They explained, "Since there was no health threat, you'll need to call the Sanitation Department."

When the pastor called the Sanitation Department, the manager said, "I can't pick up that dead mule without authorization from the mayor."

The pastor was not at all eager to call the mayor, who possessed a very bad temper and was always extremely unpleasant and hard to deal with, but eventually the pastor called him.

The mayor immediately began to rant and rave. After his continued rant at the pastor, the mayor finally said, "Why did you call me anyway? Isn't it your job to bury the dead?"

The pastor paused for a brief prayer and asked the Lord to direct his response. The Lord led the pastor to the words he was seeking, "Yes, Mayor, it IS my job to bury the dead, BUT I always like to notify the next of kin first!"

* * * * *



"No, no . . . I'm just here for your mic battery."

* * * * *

Leaving Miami for Ft. Lauderdale, I decided to stop at one of those rest areas on the side of the road. I go into the bathroom. The first stall is taken, so I go into the second stall. I had just sat down when I hear a voice from the other stall. "Hi there, how is it going?"

Okay, I am not the type to strike up conversations with strangers in washrooms on the side of the road. I didn't know what to say, so finally I said, "Not bad . . ."

Then the voice says, "So, what are you doing?"

I am starting to find this a bit weird, but I say, "Well, I'm going to Ft. Lauderdale . . ."

Then I hear the person, flustered, say, "Look, I'll call you back. Every time I ask you a question, this weirdo in the next stall keeps answering me!"

* * * * *

While walking in the park one day, I was taking in the beautiful lake, blooming flowers, and enjoying the oversized path to walk on.

As I was coming down a hill, I saw an older woman coming toward me, pushing a stroller with two toddlers in it. "We're coming to a hill," the grandmother said to the children, "so you'll have to help me. Are you ready?"

I wondered how those little toddlers would be of any assistance, but as I passed them, I heard them earnestly repeating: "I think I can, I think I can..."

* * * * *



"Once again, I just want to stress that the sermon illustration I just used is purely fictional and is not based upon anyone here in the congregation."

* * * * *

Overheard in the sanctuary: "The congregation's a bit thin this morning," said the pastor. "Did you tell them I was preaching?"

"No, honey, I did not," said the pastor's wife, "but you know how things get out."

* * * * *

Signs Your Pastor Is a Cowboy

- ~ At the end of the service, he replaces altar call with "roundup."
- ~ Refers to the deacons' meetings as "a campfire chat."
- ~ Walks into the pulpit with a hearty, "Hi-Yo Silver!"
- ~ Occasionally refers to his Bible as "my trusty six-shooter."
- ~ Wants the ushers to pass around 10-gallon cowboy hats instead of offering plates.
- ~ When performing a wedding, he begins the ceremony with, "Howdy Pardners."
- ~ Constantly threatens to preach well past "high noon."
- ~ Wants to be called "Pastor Tex."
- ~ Refers to the next church fellowship dinner as "gathering around the ol' chuck wagon."
- ~ His new three-week sermon series: "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly."





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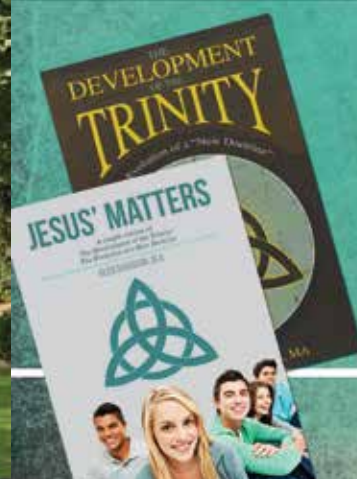
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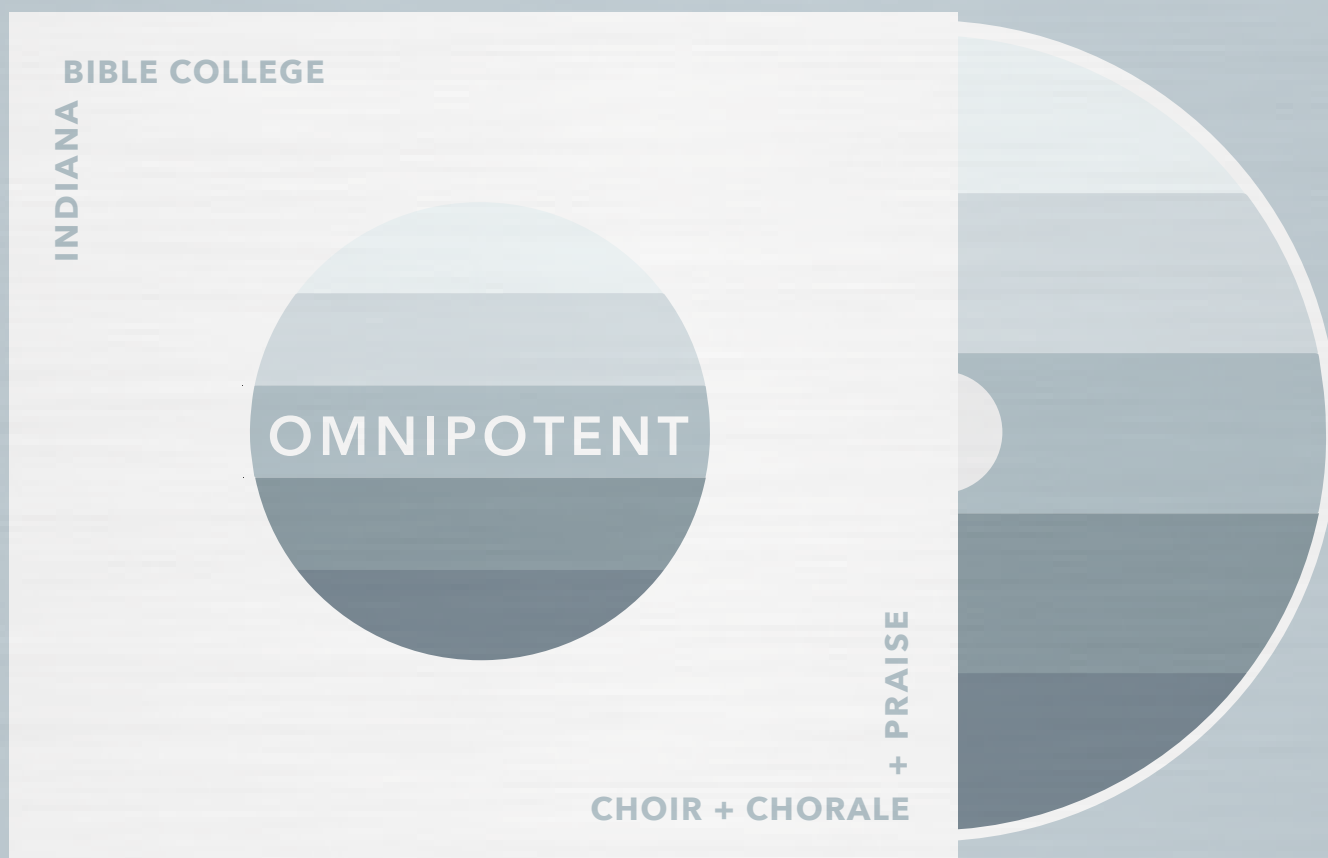
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