



Perspectives

SET
for
Harvest



From The Publisher

The Value of a Thing

Paul D. Mooney

“Instead of realigning ourselves with the truth and taking a stand at all costs, we say little and do even less for fear of being labeled as ‘too negative,’ ‘too old-school,’ or ‘too reactionary.’”

A short time ago, coming out of Yellowstone Park going east, I drove along a spectacular stretch of highway accented by breathtaking valleys, mountains, beautiful woods, rushing streams and waterfalls. After a distance of about 30 miles or so, the scene leveled out. I pulled over and stopped and then looked back. What had I just seen? It had all been so beautiful. The rapturous emotions I had experienced were fading, and I desperately wanted to feel it again, to relive it. So...I turned around, drove back and repeated the drive. This time, I drove slower. I stopped often. I took a walk through a stream. I found a rock and used it for an altar.

The value of a *thing*, the understanding of a *thing*, in some cases only becomes clear when we realize that it has vanished, or is vanishing. As I stood looking back on the edge of that scenic area just outside Yellowstone, it was clear to me that what I had just seen and experienced was something wonderful. And the contrast between that and the common road I was now facing created something of great value. It was real – almost tangible. It moved me.

When churches drift away from the “Upper Room,” which is to say the commandment of the Apostle Peter (Acts 2:38), it is a serious situation. We are not built to be complete within ourselves. We are complete in Christ. “And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power” (Colossians 2:10). The only real church is a church in relationship with God having been born again. No philosopher, theologian or system of self-discipline can change this. We “must be born again” (John 3:7).

The decline of morals and the principles of holiness in our culture and, sadly, in many churches is clear. We cannot ignore it. However, instead of looking at the problem and taking responsibility for the weaknesses we have allowed to cripple us, it seems we idly watch as our country, our pulpits and our families crumble all around us. Instead of realigning ourselves with the truth and taking a stand at all costs, we say little and do even less for fear of being labeled as “too negative,” “too old-school,” or “too reactionary.”

Think of it this way, suppose your child was at the zoo and an escaped tiger was approaching your baby in an aggressive manner. Wouldn't we react, if at all possible? Wouldn't we at least *TRY* to fight off the tiger? Wouldn't we do our best to grab the child and take him to safety? Discussing the problem with your wife first, calling a committee meeting, or trying to intelligently debate with the tiger about whether or not he is hungry enough to eat your child is utter foolishness. The moment, the crisis, the situation requires immediate, swift response. You see... resisting is not a negative reaction.

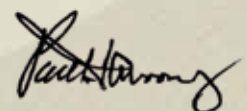
The revolution in global politics is here. The revolution in Christianity is here. The revolution in science is here. The revolution in communication is here. The moral revolution is here. And the revolution requires us to be prepared to respond. We don't have time to come up with some new path; we don't have time to rewrite history, change our core doctrines. We must recognize that we are complete in Christ – ready with His Word to be revealed at this precise moment (1 Peter 1:5).

May the forces of darkness and deviant political systems and false doctrines that are being unleashed upon this world meet a fired-up Apostolic preacher. May they be met with an army of believers who will not succumb to the enormous powers and alluring deceptions of the Antichrist. Let us, through the discernment of the Holy Ghost be fully and profoundly aware of the present dangers of our times. Let us not mistake worldliness as an adventure into some new, improved path. Let us not see holiness as a stigma of the uneducated or unenlightened.

May the preacher for these times be one who understands that without Christ things regress; therefore, he will preach in season and out of season, he will stand on absolutes, and he will never doubt that progress will cost his time and perhaps his life.

When we borrow or import carnal ideology, false doctrines and worldly methodology, we should not think we are finding solutions. Men reach for the world when they have lost the true ethos or anointing of their lives. The Holy Ghost is our power, life, hope, strength and salvation. Without it, we lose our authority, our gifting, our transcendence, our “blessed assurance.”

There comes a moment - a moment where the miraculous is experienced - a moment where the rush of God's power and anointing is alive and felt so deeply - and sometimes, for whatever reason, that moment wanes. It is passed through. Suddenly things change and we come to realize that we've lost something great. The glory is gone. The foundation is shaken. It is this moment that calls for reaction. It is this moment that calls for resistance. This moment calls to the individual heart to turn back, to look again at the vanishing grandeur of His presence, His calling, and His anointing. It calls us to do more than simply remember how sweet it all once was! Will we accept the ordinary or will we go back and reach for the pure Pentecostal experience?



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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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06

FEATURE: SET FOR HARVEST
-K.L. BORDERS


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CHURCH AND COMMUNITY Involvement

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.



James W. Dillon, Salem, OR -- Along with other area churches, we have been involved in a local food and clothing program. We all donate food and goods where everything goes into a huge warehouse. Those who are in need can go there and shop for food and clothing to outfit their family. In turn, they must volunteer several hours per month in the facility.

Home for Good in Oregon is a program that facilitates former inmates getting back into the mainstream of society. Since it is state-funded, it doesn't afford us much of an opportunity to minister to them, just to serve them. A member of our church is the appointed director for our area.

The ROM House is our transitional house. Those who have an attitude to succeed and are willing to take a hand up, we offer a place in our house. They pay monthly dues and must submit themselves to the program requirements, one of which is to attend our Sunday morning service. We have leaders that teach job skills, Bible studies and other life skills. Several people have become a part of our church as a result of this outreach.

One of our head ushers came through the ROM House ministry. Now he is being invited to speak at the prison facility he was once incarcerated in. As a result of the Lord's work in his life, he is one of the most welcoming people on our staff. We minister to about 120 people a week. Last year, we baptized about 60 and about 12 received the Holy Ghost through these ministries.



Jason Huckaby, Blue Springs, MO -- In the Greater Kansas City area, there is a pastor in charge of the feeding program. They call the church, and we send people to work. Benevolence is probably one of the things that has contributed to the success of our bus route. I feel we are under the mandate to give to the poor. One special service a year, we present salvation. At the end of it, we give out school supplies. About 5-10 new families have shown up just from our school supply drive.

We have helped out in our neighborhood as well. A little girl down the street was in need so we bought her clothes. Then she wanted to be baptized. Her father was visibly moved, and 24 of her family members showed up to watch her get baptized. While I was baptizing her, I talked about baptism. Nine of her family members got baptized. One came out of the water speaking in tongues.



Paul Springer, Diberville, MS -- As a congregation, we spend \$30,000 to \$40,000 every year and buy gifts for kids who are less fortunate in our community. On Thursdays we feed about 100 families. We also have a homeless ministry.

A man was lying out on the sands of the Biloxi beach in open air asleep. One brother in our church walked over to him, kicked him on the foot, woke him up and brought him some pizza and something to drink. Little did the brother from our church know that the homeless man had just prayed before he went to sleep, "Lord, send me an angel to get me out of this mess." They told him about the church. He came and got baptized. Today he's going to our church and ushering.



Jeroen Van Gorp, Belgium -- We have different outreaches where we prepare food bags to bless the homeless. Our bags have hygiene items, i.e. soap, toothbrushes, razor blades, along with warm jackets, clothes and scarves. The Lord impressed upon me a question: why are you doing this? A voice in me answered, "Well, I want people to come to church." I felt the Lord saying to me, "Don't do this to get people to church. Do this to bring Me to them: into their sphere, their world."

Don't use a food bag as a bait to get people to church." The homeless and the poor can really discern if you are genuinely compassionate about them. The greatest impact it has had on our church is the people themselves. The perspective of "What can I get God to do for me?" changed to "What can I do for others?"

At one outreach we went to the train station. A man named Joseph was there. He had cut the tip out of his shoes. He always wore shoes that were too small. We took him a couple pairs of shoes. He said, "I prayed this morning that God would send somebody to give me new shoes." I wish I could tell you he came to church, but just the tears in his eyes, the smile on his face and the impact we had on his life made that day worth it all.



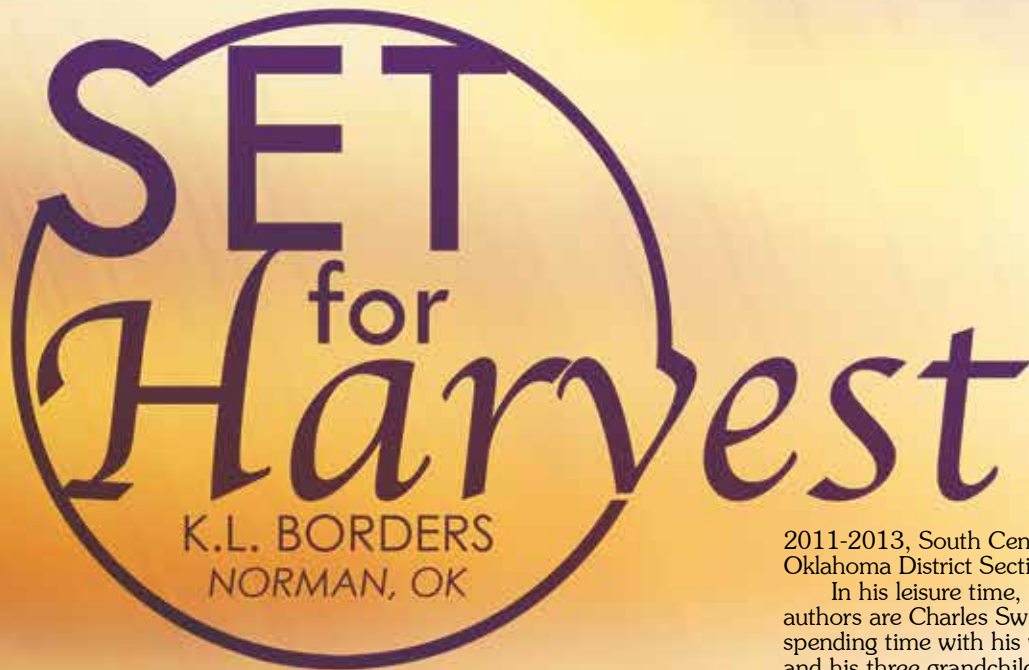
Jon Petoskey, East Hartford, CT -- We've partnered with our mayor for an annual community spring cleaning day. We've also supported a Christmas celebration for Greater Hartford families which is a really tremendous event the city and business community coordinate. Annually, we have a Festival of Thanks, essentially an Appreciation Sunday, where we give thanks for all the public servants in our community. We also hold a Concert of Praise on the Town Green followed by a special

Back to School service and backpack giveaway. We are intentional in not letting service projects trump our primary mission of bringing the gospel to our community. However, we recognize they are practical demonstrations of the love of God. And we've found that when we are faithful in sowing we can count on the harvest coming in.



Juanita Suggs, New Castle, IN -- Our hot meal program is the largest and oldest program in the city. Within a two-hour period, between 350 and 400 people are fed through our hot meal program on Tuesdays. We fed about 2,000 at our Thanksgiving meal, and 800 were served at our Christmas meal. In December, we gave away 130 Christmas baskets and served 200 children through our Dress a Child program and toy giveaway.

We have a clothing room, and our food pantry serves around 45 families a week. Once a month, we have vendors come in that offer services to veterans. We also make monthly visits to senior citizen complexes. Last year, our Christian Love Shelter House provided 1,700 night stays. One couple who came through our shelter now serves on our ministerial staff. Some need medical attention, mental health assistance, spiritual and nutritional counseling. There is also support to help them get the funds they need. Another company comes in and offers rent and utility assistance. Other people attend our services as well; one who came through the shelter had recently gotten out of jail.



Welcome to Norman, Oklahoma, a place alive with the big city atmosphere but with the comfort of the small-town feel. Ranked as the sixth best small city in the United States in which to live, Norman is a great place to raise a family.

Located in this historical city is a church with a great history of its own. Established in 1962 by Bro. Bill Harden, Apostolic Worship Center, pastored by Bro. K. L. Borders, is a church set for harvest. Exuberant worship coupled with Bible-based preaching and teaching makes AWC a place where a person can grow into spiritual maturity. "We are a community church made up of people from all walks of life with one goal: to worship God," said Bro. Borders.

Apostolic Worship Center is a place where people can grow at their own pace. There is always a friendly staff to greet each individual that enters the doors, worship is led with excitement along with a congregation that joyfully enters into the worship experience, and every worshiper leaves from the sanctuary with a renewed mind to serve the Lord on a daily basis. "Our main goal is to help people develop a relationship with the Lord," said Bro. Borders.

Personal History

Raised in church and receiving the Holy Ghost at eight years of age, Bro. Borders always felt that God wanted him to preach. However, it was only after going to New Zealand that the calling of God became very definite in his life. "I remember," said Bro. Borders, "sitting in a little converted butcher shop that was being used for a church in Auckland, New Zealand during a strong move of God. I told God if He would help me I would preach for Him."

Bro. Borders began preaching when he was 14 and began evangelizing at 17 years of age. "I evangelized for one year while single and then for one more year after my wife Denise and I married," he said. "In 1982, I assisted my dad in Union City, Tenn. for about nine months, helping him during some health issues he was having. In November of 1982, I was elected pastor of the United Pentecostal Church in Sullivan, Ill., a position I held until March of 1985. From March of 1985 until December of 1997, I evangelized again until being elected pastor of Apostolic Worship Center."

Bro. Borders served as Oklahoma District Foreign Missions Director from 1999-2009, Oklahoma District Prayer Coordinator



2011-2013, South Central Executive Presbyterian 2014-2015, and Oklahoma District Section Six Presbyterian 2013-current.

In his leisure time, Bro. Borders loves to read. His favorite authors are Charles Swindoll and Warren Wiersbe, and he enjoys spending time with his wife, his two sons, Derek and Brandon, and his three grandchildren: Bryce, Cayden, and Logan. Bro. and Sis. Borders are excited about two more grandchildren who are on the way, as well as the fact that their youngest son has just been appointed as a missionary to New Zealand and is currently on deputation.

Personal Ministry

Bro. Borders has always felt that Jesus impacted those in His ministry through preaching and teaching, and it has been his philosophy that preaching and teaching is the way to impact the lives of those that God has given you to lead. "One can never give up on the effectiveness of preaching," explained Bro. Borders. "There are many different strategies that can be utilized in the church but none as effective as the preaching of the Word of God. There is nothing in a business manual that can be as successful as declaring the Word of God. It will bring dry bones together and put flesh upon them and life in them. A pastor should place his greatest energy into preaching, teaching and mentoring. Delegating all other functions of the church so that he can focus his time into these three areas is a must."

Bro. Borders points to his upbringing as part of the success and growth of his ministry. "Growing up in a preacher's home had a great impact on my life," he said. "Not only was I exposed to various ministers that came by our home but I was able to see first-hand the burden that a minister lives with in the life of my parents. I was thrust early in my teens into various ministries on the mission field, from Sunday school to teaching in the Bible school at the age of 17. My dad taught not just by words but by his life. He taught me that ministry had to be esteemed so high that it causes everything else to be placed somewhere below it. Dad taught that preaching was not just part of your life, it was your life."



The anointed choir sings during service.

Principles of Growth and Revival

Apostolic Worship Center is a growing church, and Bro. Borders believes that prayer is vital to a growing church. "Prayer keeps the vision of Jesus before us," he explained. "Prayer intensifies the need to carry out the vision of reaching the lost. Anything else only becomes mechanical, with the latest fads having to be employed to keep pace. Prayer causes a congregation to coalesce around the vision of the church, instead of contending for differing individual views. Prayer always provides the answer to effectively growing a church." Our mission statement at AWC is "S.E.T. for Harvest to be A Spiritual Church, An Evangelizing Church, and A Teaching Church."

Organization and Management

With a host of ministries and departments, organization and leadership training is crucial in any revival church. Bro. Borders does his best to implement programs to keep his church and leaders on the cutting edge. "We have had monthly as well as quarterly leadership training," he said. "This training consists of learning how to work together as a team, developing methods for greater effectiveness as well as enlarging their vision. We promote that our leaders do their ministry with excellence rather than just get by." All department heads have "ministry descriptions. We feel that they do not have jobs but rather have ministries. We have an annual planning session, which is a time for us to honor our leaders with a catered meal and gifts to show appreciation for their investment in the church. During this time, each department head is required to give goals for their department for the coming year. Also, I cast vision, share statistics of our church as well as encourage the leaders in the ministry that they are involved in."

With 75 percent of AWC's members involved in some form of ministry and 30 percent involved in evangelism, it's critical to always continue to promote and encourage involvement. "Through preaching and teaching as well as training sessions, we promote that each individual is responsible to be a part of the process in the Kingdom," said Bro. Borders. "Also, we offer to those that don't always stand out in the crowd opportunities to serve in various functions, activities and programs."

Current Facility

Apostolic Worship Center's current facility is partly due to a blessing in disguise. "When I took the church, only one room of the second story of the educational building was finished; the upstairs (present apartment and evangelistic quarters) of the sanctuary did not exist nor did the church office space," explained Bro. Borders. "The main building, while being only 15 years old, had severe water leakage that after thousands of dollars being spent had not been corrected. In December of 2000, an ice storm caused the roof to drop 12 inches and the suspended ceiling to buckle, causing further water damage to the building. After having the damage looked at, it was determined that there was inadequate foundation under the building. Seventy-five feet of the building would have to be torn down and new footers put in and a new building erected. As a result of this storm, the insurance company paid out over \$300,000 to rebuild. Because of many building code updates that were paid for by our insurance we were able to put in updated restrooms and new pews. By doing some of the work ourselves, we were able to finish the other areas of the building requiring us to borrow very little money to finish the facility. The storm was indeed a blessing in disguise."

AWC's main structure is a metal building with a brick front containing a 220-seat sanctuary with the capability of being configured to seat upward of 300. This building also contains a two-bedroom apartment used by the Connections pastor, an evangelistic quarters, and church office space. Sitting alongside the main building is a two-story educational building housing the fellowship hall, four classrooms, children's church, and the youth sanctuary. "For the last 10 years we have had a consistent 2-3% growth each year," said Bro. Borders, "and we are currently out of Sunday school and fellowship hall space. We are currently putting together a budget and looking to build a new event center that will house a gym and additional Sunday school space."

Arrival at Apostolic Worship Center

Bro. Borders spent a total of 15 years on the evangelistic

field when he began to feel a shift in his ministry. He loved evangelizing and God had to really work on him to get him to settle down, but Bro. Borders knew God was changing his ministry.

"In December of 1997, I was holding a revival in Lawton, Oklahoma when I heard of the opening of the church in Norman," he explained. "I called Bro. Whalen and asked him about the church, and he told me he already had three names to try out, but if I wanted to come the next Sunday morning and preach I could. I told him the revival I was in had been scheduled for over a year, and I could not just walk away. He said, 'Well, if something changes give me a call.' When I told my wife of the conversation she said if it was God's will the pastor we were with would cancel the next week of revival. I said he wouldn't do that; he has had the revival scheduled for over a year. When I walked into the church the next service, the pastor called me aside and said he had never had to do this before but he had a lot of public school teachers in the church and the date for the school Christmas programs had been changed to the coming week, and he was not going to have good attendance and wondered since I had several hundred miles to go to my next revival if he could just pay me for the week and let me go on to my next revival. That left the following Sunday open. After having contacted Bro. Whalen, I preached December 14, 1997 for the church in Norman. It was just the morning service and there were other matters of business being taken care of that morning so no one talked to me about the church. After getting back to our trailer my wife asked me what I thought and I said, 'That's where we are supposed to be.' She said, 'How do you know?' I said, 'I just know.' It was a feeling deep inside of me that this is where God wanted us. The first weekend we were there we had one filled with the Holy Ghost. To me that was a confirmation that God indeed had His hand in the move we had just made."

Future plans

Bro. Borders is excited about the future of Apostolic Worship Center and has implemented plans to fulfill his vision for the future. "We have a vision of starting a daughter work on the west side of Norman," he said. "We have just recently brought in a young couple to help facilitate guest follow-up, Bible studies and new convert care. Part of his ministry description is to start home fellowship groups. It is our plan to use these home fellowship groups to eventually start a daughter work on the west side of the city. We believe that Norman one day will have a church on both the west and east side, and we would like to see this happen within the next three to five years."



Denise and Kevin Borders
Norman, Okla.



The saints respond with worship inside the sanctuary.



Top: Pastor Borders preaches; Bottom: Exterior of Apostolic Worship Center

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Why Pastoring Is More Difficult Than Running a Successful Business

It's much easier to start or run a successful business than to plant or pastor a successful church. So, why is pastoring harder than running a business? Here are six reasons:

1. *The Church Is a Family, Not a Business.* There are many business principles involved in pastoring. And most pastors need to be better at them. Running a church like a business is similar to running a family like a business. It's not possible. That's why the biblical requirements for pastors, bishops, overseers and other church leaders are drawn from family life, not business life.

2. *Working with Volunteers Is Very Different than Working with Employees.* It's hard to hire, train and manage employees. Imagine doing all of that without the incentive of a pay check. That's what pastors have to do with volunteers. Some people can literally attend a church for decades, receive everything the church has to offer and never give anything back – either monetarily or in volunteerism. It's inconceivable that any business could run that way. But that's how churches do it.

3. *Churches are Much More Complex than Businesses.* There are a lot of moving parts to a healthy business. There are infinitely more to a healthy church. Even the most narrowly-focused church touches every aspect of people's lives at the best and worst times of their lives -- spiritually, emotionally, financially and socially. We're there from the joy of birth to the sorrow of death. Pastors are expected to master it all. No wonder so many quit in frustration.

4. *Pastoring Requires a Call, Not Just Skill.* There are skills and gifts that are needed to be a good pastor of a good church. But all the skill in the world means nothing if you're not called by God to do it.

5. *We Make It Harder Than It Should Be.* We tell pastors of healthy churches that if the church isn't hitting certain numerical growth goals, they're doing it wrong. It's like telling the parents of healthy, happy children that their family is a failure because they didn't have more kids or aren't making enough money. Yet we do it all the time with pastors and churches.

6. *We're Not Running the Church.* Jesus said He'd build His church. He runs it, not us. We make pastoring harder than it should be when we try to do the job that belongs to Jesus alone.



Keep It Going - 63!

By Stephen Judd, TCM President



Stephen Judd
www.mansionkids.org

Please join with Erma and me as a sponsor, as we run in the 8th Annual Mansion Fun Run in a few weeks. We will be running with the Mansion kids and staff members in an effort to raise \$63,000 for Tupelo Children's Mansion...a thousand dollars for each year of TCM's existence!

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Written by Brooke Robinson



Sis. Kendra Shock
Alexandria, La.

Sis. Shock, tell us about yourself and your ministry.

I am serving as the coordinator over our junior high ministry at my local church, to which I brag with pride to all of our saints that it's "the best ministry on campus." They may argue that it's the most emotional, which I laugh and have to agree; but

it's definitely never boring. The timing of my involvement with junior high ministry came as a surprise, but the burden for youth ministry did not. I became drawn to youth ministry when I was in junior high myself, so I know the potential in our youth groups and make it a personal mission to combat the mentality that youth services serve as glorified babysitting. The jump from junior high to college/career age is quite a leap to say the least, but I wouldn't have it any other way due to also serving as the coordinator of our CMI division in Louisiana District Youth Ministries, and the Hyphen director. Personally, I think the most attractive element of college/career ministry is the minimal needs; and those primary needs being simplicity and authenticity. I firmly believe that the Hyphen generation of the UPCI has the potential to be the vehicle to usher in a book of Acts revival during our last days on Earth.

With so many prior programs to win adults from the ages of 18-30, what makes Hyphen different?

The mission of Hyphen is that the ministry seeks to connect 18 to 30-year-olds to service, with purpose, through resources, for a mission. This mission goes beyond the initial salvation experience and creates avenues for effective corporate discipleship. While there are so many other great programs and ministries in our organization, I think that Hyphen has capitalized on making a place for 18 to 30-year-olds to belong and feel empowered through unity.

What are the impacts that Louisiana has seen since the newly established program?

It is hard to explain specific impacts that Louisiana has seen in the short tenure of Hyphen thus far. Stories from individual Hyphens are circulating through their pastors back to our team, which opens huge doors for conversations with pastors about what Hyphen is. Every pastor we have talked to has expressed how important they feel the 18-30 age group is to revival, and they are recently encouraged with how their young adults are plugging in as a result of our district events. We have seen more success in our district events of backslidden Hyphens returning than we have new converts. This does not currently discourage me, as Hyphen Louisiana is not about numbers or meeting quotas. In the big picture, this is very encouraging because these Hyphens that have returned to the Lord now have new circles of friends they are connected with, that they can immediately reach out to. Several backslidden Hyphens have contacted me about the people they once used to party with whom they are now teaching Bible studies to. The new converts are coming... through re-established Hyphens with a renewed fire for the Gospel!

How can the local church implement Hyphen?

The beautiful thing about the local church is that every church is perfectly unique, with a shepherd appointed by God with a burden and a vision. The best way the local church can implement Hyphen is to have the desired leader of the Hyphen ministry sit down with his or her pastor, and ask how Hyphen can assist his vision to be the vehicle for revival in their city. Several Hyphens I have spoken with that addressed their pastor about this have told me that it was the most effective conversation they have had to date, and it has brought an unprecedented unity to the Hyphen group, along with full support from their pastor.

Do you feel that Hyphen will ultimately fill that void of not belonging that so many young adults fall into and then backslide?

I feel that if local leaders adopt the true mission and vision of Hyphen and execute it accordingly; then yes, Hyphen has tremendous potential to fill the void that young adults

are feeling. A factor we cannot forget in the big picture of working with young adults is that they, by demographic, are huge fans of options; the more, the better. We, as Hyphen, are not in the business of making Jesus appear to be the best option; we are about magnifying Him as the only answer and source of our being. When this mentality is the consistent focal point of our efforts, I believe we will begin to see a shift in statistics of our young adults falling away.

What is the vision for Louisiana Hyphen?

Individually, we encourage Hyphens to be the physical extension of their local pastor's vision for their church and city. As a reflection of this, we seek to be an extension of the national vision of Hyphen, seeking to connect 18 to 30-year-olds to service, with purpose, through resources, for a mission. When the Hyphen Louisiana team met in a living room, brainstorming and casting vision for this massive undertaking for our state, we all agreed that we wanted every Hyphen event to be "the place where God speaks." We felt this phrase was a good motto and vision, and every element of this ministry is redirected with the question, "But will this piece hinder or foster a move of God?" Our district events are driven for Hyphens to experience God in a new way they have never experienced Him, and our programs that we unveiled in January 2016 are driven for Hyphens to continue and build upon that experience through discipleship, missions opportunities, and teaming up with Campus Ministry International chapters.

Many Hyphens are college age; is there a possibility of linking college ministries such as Lions for the Lamb with Hyphen?

Absolutely! Hyphen Louisiana is in the current process of unveiling new missions opportunities, with CMI chapters being the primary vehicle for Hyphens to get involved immediately. There are several times after our Hyphen services where Hyphens feel a burden to get started in a ministry immediately, and we push CMI chapters as the perfect way to do this.

Contact information: Kendra Shock, kshock@thepentecostals.org, @kshock (twitter)

For information about these events, call the event coordinator. If you would like your event on this list, call (800) 8000-AIS. IBC Perspectives does not endorse any seminar or conference listed. This page is provided simply as a service to the greater Apostolic community.

apostolic alendar 2016

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SPEAKERS	CONTACT / INFO
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, Sean Libby and Calvin Jean	(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.newlifeterrehaute.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.passingthemanntle.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
MAY 2017	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	To be announced	For more info: visit www.praisetabernaclegtf.com or email: praisetabernaclegtf@yahoo.com (406) 268-1780
MAY 2017	Indiana Bible College GRADUATION 2017 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 2017	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

Theology: Questions About the Book of Enoch



Robert L. Rodenbush

Church Today

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Fighting the Allure of Darkness

Growing up in Africa left me with an exposure to evil spirits and the workings of witchcraft that I would not have had if I had grown up in the U.S. In West Africa, evil spirits would present themselves in church services on a fairly regular basis and witnessing demon possession, the practice of voodoo, witch doctors and the like was not unusual.

Here at IBC I often tell students that the more Western cultures open themselves up to dark entertainment through evil video games, books, movies and music, the more we as the Church will have to deal with the fallout of this involvement.

In December of 2015, the city of Lansing became the first state capital to sanction a Satanic ceremony. The event, led by Detroit's Satanic Temple chapter, gathered on the steps of Michigan's capital for a public demonstration ending with the crowd loudly chanting "Hail Satan." A quick Internet search pulls up the disturbing video of this event.

There is no doubt a certain curiosity today among Western youth regarding the occult. In a recent article entitled, "Out of the Shadows: Wicca Grows in Austin and Beyond," writer Qiling Wang reports the growing number of people who are following Wicca and Paganism as a religion. Wang states, "Because Wicca is a highly decentralized religion with no central authority, it's hard to get a tally of its members. The American Religious Identification Survey, which periodically surveys 50,000 Americans, said the number of self-identified Wiccans increased to 342,000 in 2008, up from 134,000 in 2001." Current stats are not available, but there is no reason to suspect that the numbers are decreasing.

It is often our assumption that youth raised in the Church will have a natural hesitation toward evil and darkness. We get lulled into believing that the temptation to turn toward these religious practices or these forms of entertainment will not be as great. I fear, however, that we cannot make that assumption, especially when the enemy has the ability through modern technology to come directly into our homes.

We may think we have isolated and protected our youth from the evil that is in the world, but we can't afford to be naïve either. We can't afford to avoid tough conversations. We cannot afford to compromise our stand against dark entertainment. It has become common and mainstream to allow even very young children to watch movies and play video games that glorify occult darkness. It will take effort to educate ourselves and our children about the reasons why we refrain from such activity. I do believe as the end times approach we will see more overt expressions of demonic activity among us. If we aren't careful, the allure of darkness will call to our own children.



Bobby Killmon

Theology

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Is part of the Book of Enoch inspired, or all of it, since Jude quotes from it in his Epistle in the NT?

Clearly, 1 Enoch 1:9 is very similar to Jude 1:14-15. That said, what is not clear is why? Did Jude quote the Books of Enoch and if he did, does that imply the Books of Enoch are equal to Scripture? Or were the Books of Enoch and Jude both quoting from an earlier text such as the actual account of Enoch? We do know the Books of Enoch are actually a composite work of several authors including partial material dating from two centuries before Christ but also with references from the time of the NT. So that begs another question, did the "compilers" of the Books of Enoch intentionally quote from Jude to make their book look more credible? What we do know is the biblical Enoch did not write the book, and the similar language to the NT times shows the compiler was someone who lived much closer to the time of Christ.

The problem theologically is the doctrinal differences. 1 Enoch 13:5-6 claims fallen angels cannot speak or even lift their heads up toward God. But this clearly conflicts with direct statements in the book of Job. 1 Enoch 14 has conflicting ideas of heaven, one of which is not even angels can approach God on the throne in heaven (see 1 Enoch 14:20). For these and other reasons, the Book of Enoch is viewed with considerable disfavor by most today and is classified as "pseudepigrapha" or "false writing" because of its clear false claim of authorship.

The major point to remember is nothing shows any quotation in the NT is directly from the Books of Enoch. It is more likely the similar quotation in Jude and the Books of Enoch is from an earlier ancient tradition that described events in the Patriarchal period. What you see is the inspired book of Jude and the pseudepigraphal "Books of Enoch" simply quoting the same good source.

Is it wrong to say Jude quoted from the Book of Enoch? Well, not in the sense of dangerous unless one starts to make claims from the rest of the book's content. We do know that Paul quoted various Greek writers, Aratus (Acts 17:28), Menander (1 Cor. 15:33) and Epimenides (Titus 1:12), yet in no way does this mean Paul expected us to see anything else in their writings as Scripture. We can get caught up in non-biblical sources if we are not careful. As the Apostle in 1 Tim. 1:3-4 admonishes, "...that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine, Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do."



T. W. Massengale

Church Growth

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I strongly emphasize four key evangelism ministries: (1) bringing guests to church and combining that with a comprehensive visitor follow-up ministry, (2) a thriving Home Bible Study ministry,

(3) training and promoting saints for personal witnessing (which includes utilizing the CCC ministry), and (4) dynamic Sunday school growth. These four have resulted in more converts in Apostolic churches than any other.

This month I want to focus upon Sunday school growth. Statistics tell us that most kids make the decision to serve God during childhood (Prov. 22:16). So for Sunday school evangelism success, consider the following:

First, parents care about their children. They want them to have a great Bible education experience when they place them in your

classes. So teachers should be well-trained and classrooms need to be engaging and child-friendly. Unique, exciting teaching methods (puppets, dramatic songs, role playing, etc.) should be the norm rather than the exception.

Second, bus, van and car ministries should be utilized. The unsaved bus children can be brought to salvation and the parents can be befriended by a loving, caring bus/van worker that reaches for their soul as well. A ministry called "Parentreach" has seen excellent results.

Third, unsaved parents should be encouraged to attend by offering a number of "special days" during the year that encourages attendance. Easter, Pentecost Sunday, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Friend Day, Trunk-or-Treat, Thanksgiving Sunday, Christmas programs – the list could go on. Provide many reasons for unsaved parents to attend.

Fourth, children whose parents do not attend should have regular opportunities to receive the Holy Ghost: Children's Church, Super Church, and Monthly Holy Ghost

Sunday are all variations on the same theme – have a youth-oriented service at least monthly that is aimed at allowing the bus/van children to pray. Sunday school kids who are saved become Apostolic youth and later young married Apostolic couples. Ensure that bus kids transition into your youth group and attend regular services.

Fifth, ensure that all bus/van kids have the opportunity and means to attend your district's summer youth camps. Take up offerings, solicit local businesses, have fundraisers – do whatever it takes to make this financially possible. There is no better place for kids to be saved than at summer youth camp.

Finally, have an annual children's crusade with a reputable children's evangelist. Run the buses and push all the bus parents to come. Put the time and energy into making this annual event the very best it can be.

For even more growth insights, request the Sunday School Growth file from AIS. \$5 plus postage. 1-800-800-0247.



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tongue, and people on the earth.
on 14:6





Spiritual Growth

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Holy Hearts Produce Holy Conduct

In my ministry of teaching and counseling nationwide, people contact me that are hurting emotionally, spiritually and relationally because of current or past painful events in their lives. This heartfelt brokenness is the result of grief issues, sexual abuse, abandonment, divorce, porn addiction, anxiety, depression and the list goes on.

Why do bad things happen to innocent or good people? Sinful conduct comes from an unholy heart. Our words and actions reveal our hearts. What comes out of our heart defiles us. People who speak evil will do evil. Sin entered the heart of man from the choice to sin against God in the Garden of Eden.

If people fill their eye-gate and ear-gate with unholy content, their heart, words and actions will be unholy. This unholiness bleeds into every relationship beginning with God. This is why God commanded us to love Him with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength. God said, "Be holy for I AM holy!" We are to purify ourselves even as He is pure. The Holy Ghost does not force us to be holy. Our words and conduct are by our own choice.

If you are in a marriage that has continual conflict, each person must search his/her own heart. Don't blame your partner. Ask yourself, "God, are my actions holy? Is my heart clean before you? Am I setting evil, wicked or worthless things before my eyes?" You must take ownership of your own conduct.

A person who is a porn user is filling his/her heart with the lust of the eye and flesh. This creates a tortured soul because of the broken relationship with God. Harmful anger and friction will flow to others because of this unholy heart.

My book, *God's Design for Marriage* (soft cover on website or eBook: amazon.com) addresses holy living. A holy heart must be in total surrender to God. Put off sin and put on a holy heart through God's Word and Spirit!

Carol Clemans provides nationwide teaching for churches plus counseling by phone/Skype (636) 448-0121. Go to: www.carolclemans.org for detailed bio, 295+ articles, marriage book and teaching products - carol@carolclemans.org. Ref: Pastor Daniel Batchelor, Duplo, IL



Accounting & Tax

Church Balance Sheet

When we are engaged to work with a church, it is often to help prepare the financials to present to a bank for a loan request. One area that usually needs attention is the fixed asset section. While the guidelines could fill a book, let's review in summary what is needed.

Under GAAP (generally accepted accounting principles), assets should be listed on the balance sheet at their acqui-



Kenny Noble

Devotional

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Fighting Our Way Through Fears

Armed with only a whip and a chair, the lion trainer stepped onto the stage where he locked himself inside a cage with several restless Bengal tigers. The audience watched quietly as he shouted commands and forced the irritable tigers to jump through hoops and perform tricks. His discipline over the tigers was entertaining, but midway through his act a power failure left everyone in darkness.

The audience seemed to hold their breath as the trainer's cracking whip and shouts to the tigers punctuated the auditorium darkness. Finally, the power returned and the lights lit up the stage. The trainer quickly exited the cage to safety. During an interview, he admitted he'd been afraid while trapped in the dark with the tigers. Yet, he went on to explain, "I just kept cracking my whip and talking to them until the lights came on. And they never knew I could not see them as well as they could see me." ¹ The lion trainer's confidence was not only admirable, but more importantly, pretending everything was under control during the darkness likely saved his life.

Christians also experience situations when life's path grows dark and obscure. During these times, we usually don't understand what is taking place around us. Our fear escalates because, like a roaring lion, Satan attempts to intimidate us. Dark periods challenge our faith, and may cause us to wonder if God is even aware of our difficulties.

Although we may not understand the reason God allows the darkness, our best strategy is to follow the lion trainer's example and continue working as if nothing is wrong. To fret and worry creates confusion, but confidence and faith increases clarity. We can't always control our situations, but we can control our response, and that is important to God. At the proper time, He'll shine His light on our problem and guide us to safety. When He does, we'll be grateful we responded with faith and confidence. Remember, we're more interested in what God can do for us during dark times, but He's more interested in what He can do within us.

¹ Page 205 Illustrations Unlimited, Editor, James S. Hewett Tyndale House, Publishers, Inc. Wheaton, Illinois Copyright 1988

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

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Who is directly responsible for the financial and legal obligations of the church? Is it a joint responsibility or individual responsibility?

This is a multi-faceted question. First of all, it depends on the various aspects of the church operation to determine who is responsible. Remember, the Board of Directors (which normally always includes the pastor) becomes ultimately responsible for all areas of concern. There is that cliché that says, "the buck stops here," so the top of the organization is where the final responsibility lies, and usually this is the pastor who is the chairman of the board and president of the corporation.

Other officers also are to be held responsible depending on the job description and the statements in the church's bylaws. For this reason, the bylaws should be reviewed at least every three years and kept current.

When it comes to the areas of payroll and payroll taxes, the responsibility lies in the hands of the person who handles the payroll, usually a secretary or payroll clerk. This is the person that the IRS will consider as the responsible party.

It is the board's responsibility to approve and maintain the various policies and resolutions necessary to ensure compliance and safety of all church organization.

Legal responsibility is usually determined by the state laws for non-profit organizations. This can vary from state to state but usually is similar in each state. Consulting your attorney in this area is important.

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

sition (original) cost. This is sometimes referred to as the "book value." Almost all loan documents require the financials be submitted in accordance to GAAP.

Often, we find that the church has incorrectly adjusted the assets to their current estimated market value. This is little more than a guess as to the current value of the assets. While market value is often more than book value (especially on a building), the banks are aware of this difference, which is why they hire a qualified appraiser to arrive at a correct market value.

The assets are usually separated into the following categories: 1) Land 2) Build-

ing and Improvements 3) Furniture and Equipment and 4) Vehicles. While there is some flexibility in what is considered an asset, a common threshold for furniture and equipment is anything with a cost over \$500 and a useful life over two years.

Keeping the asset section of the balance sheet updated each year will help comply with the loan documents and make compiling the financial statements a much smoother process.

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THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS**Two Ohio Homeschool Families Face Charges**

Parents of two homeschooling families in Ohio could face fines and possible jail time for failing to file paperwork on time. *Christianity Today* reports that the parents of the two families have been charged with "contributing to the delinquency of a minor" which is a first-degree mis-



demeanor with a penalty of up to \$1,000 and a possible six-month jail sentence.

The parents were charged after they misunderstood Ohio's requirements for homeschooling and failed to file paperwork on time. One family filed an intent to homeschool last year but was unaware that the notice needed to be re-filed this year. The other family filed the annual notice, but failed to also submit an educational assessment with it because they were mistakenly told by their school district that the assessment did not have a strict deadline.

The Homeschool Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) said the families' errors were not intentional and the school did not notify them immediately when the paperwork was not filed. "As soon as both families realized their errors, they took action to comply with their districts' demands," HSLDA stated. However, criminal charges were still filed.

SOCIAL TRENDS**Obama Wants to Stop Funding For School Abstinence Programs**

President Barack Obama has proposed the elimination of funding for abstinence-only education programs run by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and increasing funding for other programs. These changes are proposed by Obama in his fiscal year 2017 budget, according to a *Vox* report. The funding comes in the form of an annual \$10 million grant.

One abstinence-only program, Heritage Keepers Abstinence Education run by Heritage Community Services, prides itself on being effective, saying it is recognized by the HHS as "a proven effective, evidenced-based intervention that reduces sexual initiation among teens as well as other positive research findings that impact the health and well-being of youth."

**Why Are So Many Christians Biblically Illiterate?**

The Bible has become a moving target. One can strip it down, twist it, misread it, add to it, supplement it, and even overrule it, and, unfortunately, 95 percent of the congregation will not realize it. Most Christians know enough about the Bible to be dangerous.

Why? Because Americans no longer know the Bible. The evidence is overpowering that contemporary Christianity is Bible-ish, at best, and at worst, in some cases, Bible-less. The Bible in America is a massive industry (\$2.5 billion) yet it is the best seller few read and fewer understand. The American Bible Society releases an annual State of the Bible report and their research is persuasive in understanding the declining influence of the Bible in America.

Everyone has an opinion about the Bible. Politicians attempt to use the Bible, Grammy-award winners quote it and Hollywood has portrayed it on the big screen. Yet one problem remains: most are oblivious to the Bible's basic content, meaning, and message. Across the pond, the results are even more dramatic: one-third of British parents thought Harry Potter was a thematic plotline derived from the Bible.

The Bible is not held in the esteem it once was. Over the last 150 years, America has drifted from its Biblical focus. In an election season, it is remarkable to recall that, though he was not a member of any church, the Bible was valued as an authority in America so much so that Abraham Lincoln quoted from it four strategic times in his second inaugural address on March 4, 1865. President Lincoln used words ascribed to Jesus in Matthew 18:7 and – using the Bible – pronounced God's judgment on our nation for her moral bankruptcy of slavery.

The unwillingness of many Americans to dig deeper into the Scriptures is not related to a lack of options. The Gideons give away a Bible every second. One publisher sells more than 60 different editions of the Bible. Clearly, the challenge of biblical illiteracy in America is not because of a shortage of Bibles, but rather knowledge of the Bible's message.

A tremendously exciting new initiative is underway to re-introduce the world to the Bible. In 2017 the six-floor 430,000-square-foot Museum of the Bible will open only two blocks from the National Mall in Washington D.C. The Museum of the Bible invites all people – those with faith and those without – to engage with the Bible in an immersive experience with its unique history, narrative and influence.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ Christians are reportedly now a minority in the U. K. Church of England. Attendance has dropped to less than one million per week. This means that only 1.4 percent of the population is attending Anglican services. Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said, "In England, our numbers have been falling at about one percent every year since World War II."

■ The University of Oxford in England, the oldest such insti-

tution in the English-speaking world dating back to 1096, will no longer require its undergraduate theology students to enroll in a course tackling Christianity after their first year. This development signals the end of a tradition that lasted for over eight centuries. Instead of requiring the study of Christianity, the educational institution will allow students to take courses tackling feminism, Buddhism, Islam and even mysticism.

RELIGIOUS TRENDS**Pastor Offers Free Prayer at Coffee Houses**

Coffee is not exactly Thomas Rusert's cup of tea. Nevertheless, every Thursday morning, Associate Pastor Thomas of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Doylestown, Pa. indulges in a steaming cup of java at local coffee houses. It does seem a bit unusual; but it turns out the pastor's weekly coffee klatch is all about prayer. Yes, prayer.



He puts on a clergy collar and sets out a little sign in a local coffee shop that reads, "Free Prayer," and then waits to see who God sends his way. "I'm humbled all the time by the way that the Spirit works," the pastor said. "God is working to give people the courage to say, 'All right – I'm going to take this pastor up on this offer.'"

And they have – by the hundreds. The "Free Prayer" program started last summer when Pastor Thomas was inspired by a word of advice from another member of the clergy: a pastor is doing the job well when at least half of his time is spent outside the office.

EDUCATION TRENDS**College Student Expelled For Quoting Bible**

A Christian student at a university in England has reportedly been expelled for quoting Scripture about homosexuality on his personal Facebook page. *Christian Today* reports the University of Sheffield dismissed the student, Felix Ngole, who was pursuing his Master's degree in social work.

Ngole quoted Scripture in support of Kim Davis, the Kentucky clerk who was jailed after she refused to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

The Facebook post was brought to the attention of Sheffield administration, which led to Ngole's dismissal from the social work program. The student was told that he was "no longer recognized as a University student" because others might have been offended by his words. The administration further decided that Ngole's beliefs about homosexuality affected his "ability to carry out a role as a social worker."

The student plans to appeal the decision to continue his studies at the university. Ngole said, "My beliefs about marriage and sexual ethics reflect mainstream, biblical understanding, shared by millions around the world. Simply expressing that understanding on my Facebook page cannot be allowed to become a bar to helping others in a professional capacity as a social worker."

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The Trouble with Tumbleweed

MATTHEW JOHNSON - ST. LOUIS

II Chronicles 26

1 Then all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in the room of his father Amaziah.

4 And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD THAT HIS FATHER AMAZIAH DID.

5 And he sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God: and as long as he sought the LORD, GOD MADE HIM TO PROSPER.

15 AND HE MADE IN JERUSALEM ENGINES, INVENTED BY CUNNING MEN, TO BE ON THE TOWERS AND UPON THE BULWARKS, TO SHOOT ARROWS AND GREAT STONES WITHAL. AND HIS NAME SPREAD FAR ABROAD; FOR HE WAS MARVELOUSLY HELPED, TILL HE WAS STRONG.

16 But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the LORD HIS GOD, AND WENT INTO THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD TO BURN INCENSE UPON THE ALTAR OF INCENSE.

19 Then Uzziah was wroth, and had a censer in his hand to burn incense: and while he was wroth with the priests, the leprosy even rose up in his forehead before the priests in the house of the LORD, from beside the incense altar.

21 And Uzziah the king was a leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a several house, being a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the LORD: and Jotham his son was over the king's house, judging the people of the land.

Ephesians 4:14

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

What is tumbleweed?

When contemplating the Wild West, oftentimes we think of cowboys, Indians, guns, fighting and so forth. Many may think of a dreary place that consists of dusty towns that lack extra amenities like running water, air conditioning or Starbucks. The tumbleweed has been an iconic image of the Wild West; its appearance alone makes you think of deserted cities, parched land and hallowing winds. It is a plant that serves little purpose, simply a bundle of dead branches drifting to and fro. But, truly, what is tumbleweed? It adds little value to anything other than a Wild West scene. However, surprisingly, the tumbleweed starts its journey looking very vibrant with flowers. Its original name is

the Russian thistle. Tumbleweed can withstand harsh heat and extended dry periods. The plant grows to be about three feet tall. It produces a beautiful flower and provides feed to cattle and prairie dogs. However, when tumbleweed reaches maturity it begins to detach itself from the roots that provide nutrition for it. Slowly the flowers fade and the branches wilt until the Russian thistle is completely dead. Then, with the next strong gust of wind the plant drifts abroad the plains without any sense of direction; it is guided by the direction of the wind. Ultimately, it becomes a nuisance; the once beautiful Russian thistle has become tumbleweed because it detached itself from its life support.

Beware of the Enemy

There is an immense amount of potential in today's youth: future doctors, missionaries, preachers, worship leaders, lawyers. The list is endless. The enemy, however, is aware of your potential and seeks to destroy. I Peter 5:8 tells us, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." It does not matter where you are in life; he is seeking to devour you and all your potential. You might be in Bible college, but do not be deceived that you are safe from the attacks of the devil. Ephesians 6:12, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." We are fighting a world of darkness, and we must understand the corruptness that we face.

For there is nothing that the devil wants more than to take passionate, Holy Ghost-filled Apostolics and turn them into a tumbleweed, tossed about with every doctrine and belief; not even understanding what they know, simply going along with what everyone else says. We must stay connected to our roots and our strength. The Holy Ghost is available, and we need it everyday.

Tumbleweeds in the Church

Without a strong root system, they are unable to sustain themselves. That being said, remember that if the enemy is coming against you, call on a mighty God who will come to your rescue. If you just call on the name of Jesus, you will have more power than all of the demons in hell. The devil may tempt you to stray, but if you just call the name of Jesus He will secure you to His roots; we are anchored in Him. Therefore, we must

take a stand, and tell the enemy we refuse to bow down, we refuse to compromise. Regardless of what the world is doing, stay connected to the roots!

Starting to Tumble

In scripture, we read of Uzziah, a smart young guy who was connected to his power source. He was Godly and successful; in all honesty, he was probably someone that most of us would like to be. There is nothing wrong with being successful and educated. We should be blessed! Matthew 6:33 says, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." The question is what will you do once you have success, education and wealth? Is it to build your own kingdom? Can you handle a blessing from the almighty God? You see, Uzziah had everything going for him, but pride began to eat away at him like a cancer. He turned his focus away from God to himself. He had put pride on the throne of his heart.

Proverbs 16:18 says it best, "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." The Bible even pins him as being popular. In today's society, Uzziah would have had countless followers on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter; he would have been collecting hearts and likes. Uzziah's every move would probably be documented on Periscope. Once he received favor from the Lord, he thought he was something special. You must never get the mentality that you are someone great just because a couple of people received the Holy Ghost when you preached at a service or you sang with anointing at a rally. The only reason great things like the infilling of the Spirit and anointing happen is because of God; we are simply the instrument. None of it can be done without Him and all glory should go to Him.

We are undeserving, but there was a cross of Calvary where Jesus sacrificed for us. Uzziah got to the point where he would not even take instruction from his spiritual shepherd; we must be sure to have that guidance to tell us no when necessary. Then it happened, a small dot appeared on his forehead in the temple. It began to grow and leprosy started to cover his body. I wonder why it started on his head? Perhaps the disease started on his forehead because it was the birthplace of his pride. We have to stay in check that we do not develop an ego. We are on dangerous ground when we think we are higher than others. We must stay on our knees constantly to be in the grace of God. Near the end of the passage, Uzziah is consumed by leprosy; he went from being blessed to overwhelmed by pride. He disconnected himself from the roots. The trouble with tumbleweed is that it wanders and disconnects from the very thing that gives it strength. We must connect to our power today!

One Decision Away

Countless stories can be told of those who failed to remain connected. They became a tumbleweed. You are only one decision away from becoming uprooted. If there has ever been a day that we need to connect, it is NOW! Do you remember when you were discouraged and He saw you? Can you remember when He pulled you out of the miry clay? Mark 8:36 says, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" While you are out building your castle, you must stay connected. Do not forget the basics of what we believe. No matter what others are doing, I refuse to be a tumbleweed! I will stay connected to my strength.

A Russian thistle becomes tumbleweed when it reaches maturity. Are we, as Apostolics, reaching "maturity" and think we no longer need to be committed to the basic disciplines? Have we heard it so many times that we just think we understand it? Has worship become mechanical and routine? If that is the case we need to desperately reach back for our root system and connect

with His power. We need to be connected to the point where we have praise illuminating from us. We must bind down and commit to certain things. We must not give up doctrine and truth. Stay connected and go deeper!

Unexpected Winds

When the wind comes and fire rises, the depth of our roots will keep us. Psalm 1:3 says, "And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." Your season is coming if you will only stay rooted in Him.

Backsliding is not something that just happens overnight. Someone does not wake up one morning and say, "Oh, this is a perfect day to backslide." It's something that gradually takes place; perhaps a lack of personal devotion time starts the decline and slowly you slide into a pit that is void of God. When you look at tumbleweed, it has a false appearance of life. Many of us today find ourselves in the same state; we sing in the choir and put on a false appearance of truth and life. Beware of the tumbleweed! We need to lay aside our own agendas. We cannot do life on our own. Go deep. Stay connected!

Bio: Matthew Johnson lives in St. Louis, Missouri with his wife, Becca, and two children, Abriah and Jace. He currently holds the office of General Youth Secretary for the United Pentecostal Church International.



*The Johnson family
St. Louis, Mo.*

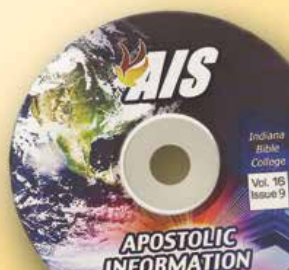


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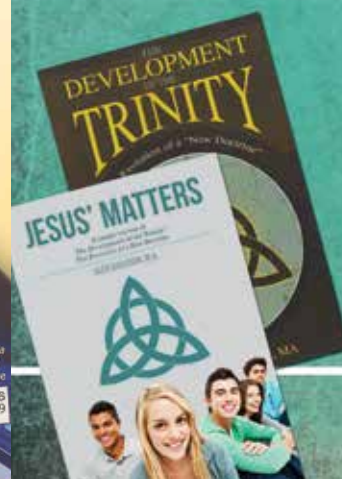


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Escaping Bitterness

Apostolic Film Features Teen Wrestling With Feelings of Resentment, Malice

By Susan Thomas

Heath Dotson of Blairsville, Georgia had a dream: to write, direct and produce a fictional film, using live actors, for the purpose of inspiration and evangelism – and it had to be 100% Apostolic.

"It took many months to develop the story of *Escaping Bitterness*," stated Bro. Dotson, writer/director of the film. "I feel like God has called me to do this."

Bro. Dotson added, "Honestly, I have felt God moving me to do film-making for a while. It's something that has never been done on this large of a scale in the Apostolic movement."

He says that many people were involved with the process and making of this heart-gripping film. "If I started calling names I might get in trouble by forgetting to mention someone, so I'm just going to say there were a lot of minds and hands involved in its making. It took many months to develop the story into what it is today. We went through a lot of editing and many script changes until I was finally happy with what we had."

The basic story line is very interesting and enlightening. It's about 19-year-old Jared Gray; his world is rocking along just

great until out of nowhere a storm moves in to shake him to the core. Using thematic elements from the Biblical book of Job, Bro. Dotson tackles the binding power of bitterness, a force which holds far too many in its grasp. We follow Jared as he wrestles to break free, desperately trying to be the man that his dad has always known he can be.

The response to the film has been very encouraging. "We held a premiere here in our small town of Blairsville," he said. "Using a limited marketing budget, over 300 people showed up and most were not a part of our faith."

Others are using the film for various purposes. "We have heard that people are playing this short film in classroom settings; again the response is

very encouraging," Bro. Dotson said. "The film is very much considered at our church as an icebreaker to get involved in people's lives. With that said, I'm very happy to say we have had a lady that went to the premiere coming very consistently to our church for the past few months, and she has just gotten the Holy Ghost and was baptized in Jesus name."

The inspirational film, *Escaping Bitterness*, is meant for everyone. "We want everyone to see the film; it's something we feel very passionate about. New media is grabbing our youth's attention every day. We believe and hope that more Apostolic short films and full-length feature films will continue to come out from The Rock of Blairsville and other Apostolic churches."

The film is currently available at Escapingbitternessthefilm.com but will soon be available for

purchase from the Pentecostal Publishing House.



Pentecostal Heritage Society Obtains Museum Facility

By Linda Schreckenber



Bro. Robin Johnston
Director of CSOP

The Pentecostal Heritage Society (PHS) is a nonprofit entity whose chief mission is to preserve and promote the history of the United Pentecostal Church International and other Oneness organizations, independent churches, and

Oneness believers. The PHS Board is the governing board for the Center for the Study of Oneness Pentecostalism (CSOP) and annually nominates inductees for the Order of the Faith. During the General Superintendents' banquet at General Conference each year, 4-6 elder ministers of the UPCI are inducted into the Order of the Faith in recognition of their contribution to the church. The CSOP is the official archive of the UPCI. In addition, CSOP collects archives and artifacts related to the wider Oneness movement. While a select few historical artifacts are on display at CSOP, future plans include a museum which tells our story. David Fauss, pastor of Bethel Tabernacle in Houston, Texas is the chairman of PHS, and Robin Johnston is the

Director of CSOP.

Originally, the artifacts were housed at WEC, in a room behind the gift shop. They are now in the process of being relocated to the lower level of the library building on the Urshan campus. The Urshan Library is housed in the White Stone building on the campus. Built in the 1840s from limestone quarried on the property, much of the decorative wood came from walnut harvested on the property. The White Stone building is on the National Registry of Historic Buildings. CSOP will have space dedicated to our archives, a research room, office space, and space for a future museum.

The primary task at present is the digitization of the archives so they will be accessible to researchers around the globe. The beginning stages of this massive project can be seen at <http://csoponline.pastperfectonline.com>.

Some of the artifacts include a violin played at Azusa Street, Howard Goss's diaries, Andrew Urshan's pulpit, and John Schaepe's Bible (of Arroyo Seco campmeeting fame). Documents include every issue of the *Pentecostal Herald*, and most issues of earlier periodicals such as the *Pentecostal Outlook* and the *Apostolic Herald*. We have every manual and directory of the UPCI as well as many from earlier organizations. We have original letters written from Charles Parham, Howard Goss, and letters written by George Farrow to his fiancé in Los Angeles at the time of the revelation of Jesus' name baptism. We also have a large collection of sermon notes of George Glass Sr. In all, there are over 40 filing cabinets filled with archival material, including thousands of photographs. One photograph is of a 1917 campmeeting held in Minnesota.

Renovations are complete, and the center is open most afternoons. Researchers may request additional time in the archive, and if staff is available, those requests will be granted. At this time, the museum is not completed. We are always looking for collections of periodicals, letters, and photographs relating to the early Pentecostal movement, and we are open to select artifacts.



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Word To The Wise:

"The road to success is always under construction."

One man was from England, one from France and one from Canada. They got acquainted and started talking about their wives. The guy from England began by saying: "I told my wife in no uncertain terms that from now on she would have to do her own cooking. Well, the first day after I told her, I saw nothing. The second day I saw nothing. But on the third day when I came home from work, the table was set, a wonderful dinner was prepared... and even dessert."

Then the man from France spoke up: "I sat my wife down and told her that from now on she would have to do her own shopping, and also do the cleaning. The first day I saw nothing. The second day I saw nothing. But on the third day when I came home, the whole house was spotless, and in the pantry the shelves were filled with groceries."

The fellow from Canada was married to an enlightened woman from the prairies... He sat up straight, pushed out his chest and said: "I gave my wife a stern look and told her that from now on she would have to do the cooking, shopping and housecleaning. Well, the first day I saw nothing. The second day I still saw nothing. But on the third day I could see a little bit out of my left eye."

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Phillip heard a rumor that his father, grandfather and great-grandfather had all walked on water on their 21st birthdays. So, on his 21st birthday, Phillip and his good friend Brian headed out to the lake.

"If they did it, I can too!" he insisted.

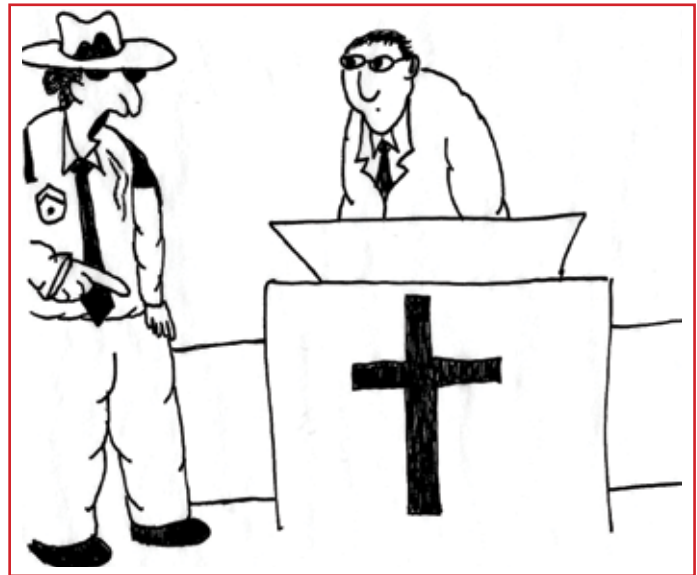
When Phillip and Brian arrived at the lake, they rented a boat and began paddling. When they got to the middle of the lake, Phillip stepped off of the side of the boat ... and nearly drowned. Furious and somewhat shamed, he and Brian headed for home. When Phillip arrived back at the family farm, he asked his grandmother for an explanation.

"Grandma, why can I not walk on water like my father, and his father, and his father before him?"

The feeble old grandmother took Phillip by the hands, looked into his eyes and explained, "That's because your father, grandfather and great-grandfather were born in January... you were born in July, dear."

If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow that . . . electricians could be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, and dry cleaners depressed?

Likewise, bedmakers might be debunked, baseball players de-based, bulldozer operators degraded, organ donors delivered, software engineers detested, and underwear manufacturers debriefed. And won't all composers one day decompose? On a more positive note, perhaps we can hope politicians will someday be devoted.



"You were preaching a 45-minute sermon in a 25-minute zone, Pastor. I need to see your license and ordination."

Farmer Joe decided his injuries from the accident were serious enough to take the trucking company responsible for the accident to court. "Didn't you say at the scene of the accident that you were fine?" asked the fancy lawyer.

Farmer Joe responded, "Well, I'll tell you what happened. I had just loaded my favorite mule Bessie into the..."

"I didn't ask for any details," the lawyer interrupted. "Just answer the question. Did you not say at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine!'?"

Farmer Joe said, "Well, I had just got Bessie into the trailer and I was driving down the road..." The lawyer interrupted again and said, "Judge, I am trying to establish the fact that, at the scene of the accident this man told the highway patrolman on the scene that he was fine. Now several weeks after the accident he is trying to sue my client. I believe he is a fraud. Please tell him to simply answer the question."

By this time the judge was fairly interested in Farmer Joe's answer and said to the lawyer, "I'd like to hear what he has to say."

Joe thanked the judge and proceeded, "Well, as I was saying, I had just loaded Bessie into the trailer and was driving her down the highway when this huge semi-truck ran the stop sign and smacked my truck. I was thrown into one ditch and Bessie was thrown into the other. I could hear ol' Bessie moaning and groaning. Shortly after the accident a highway patrolman came on the scene. He could hear Bessie moaning and groaning so he went over to her. After he looked at her, he took out his gun and shot her between the eyes. Then the patrolman came across the road with his gun in his hand and looked at me." He said, "Your mule was in such bad shape I had to shoot her. How are you feeling?"



"I felt like you were preaching right at me this morning . . . especially after you pointed and said my name the third time."

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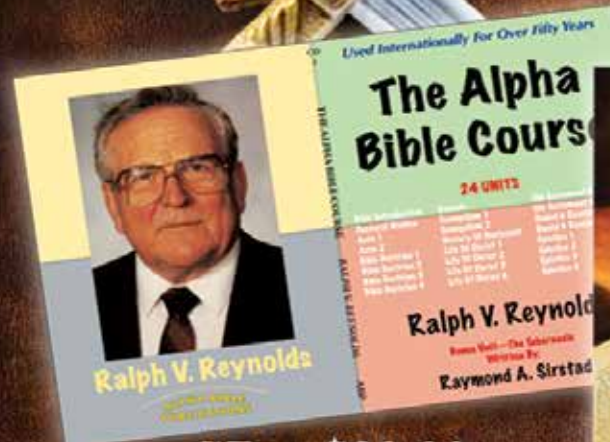
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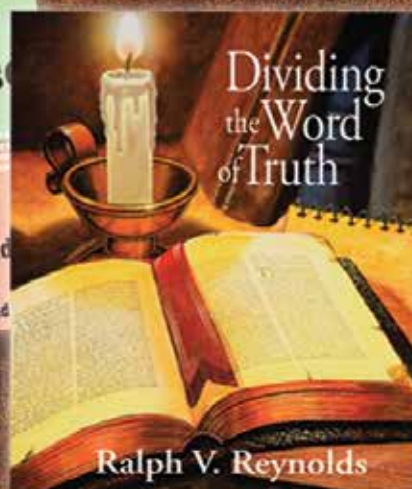
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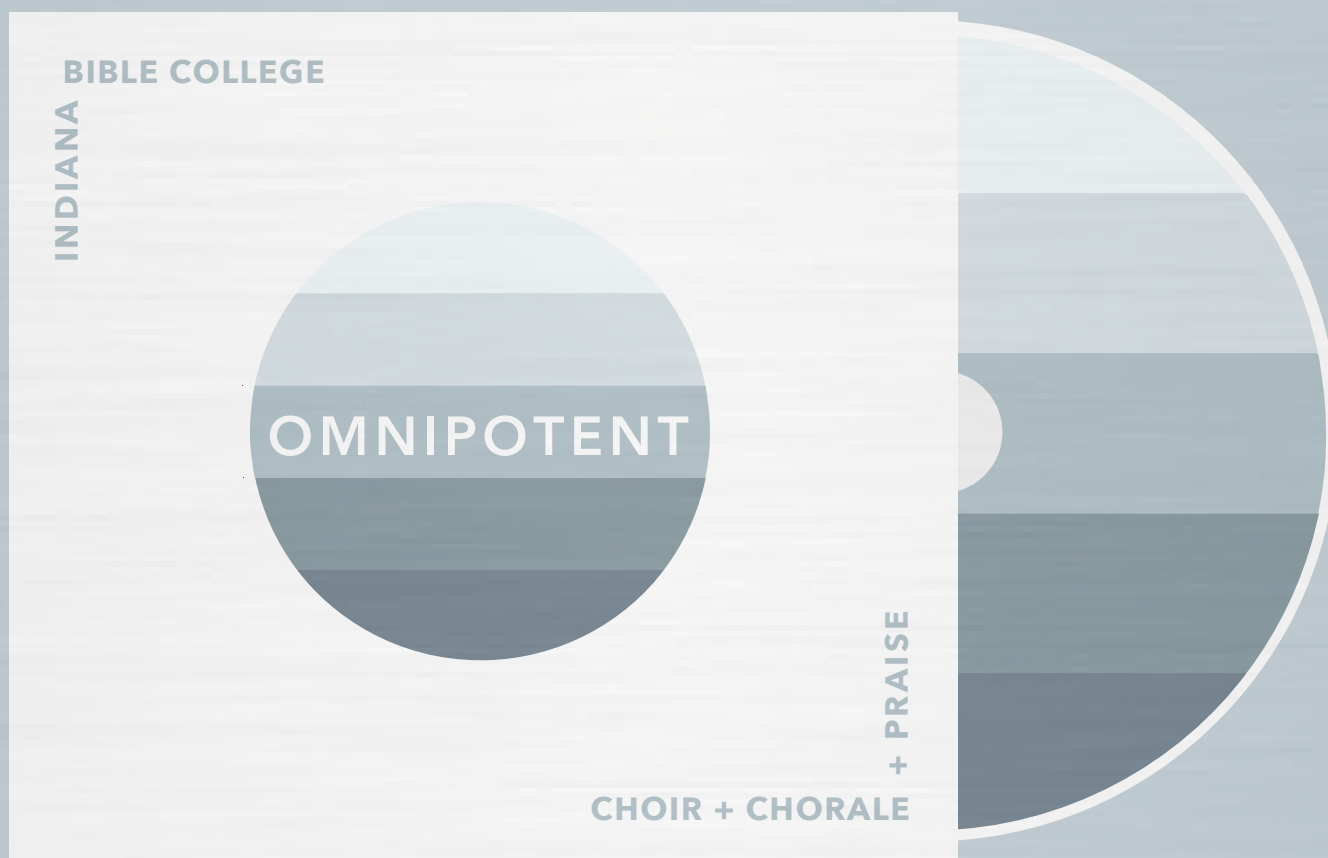
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