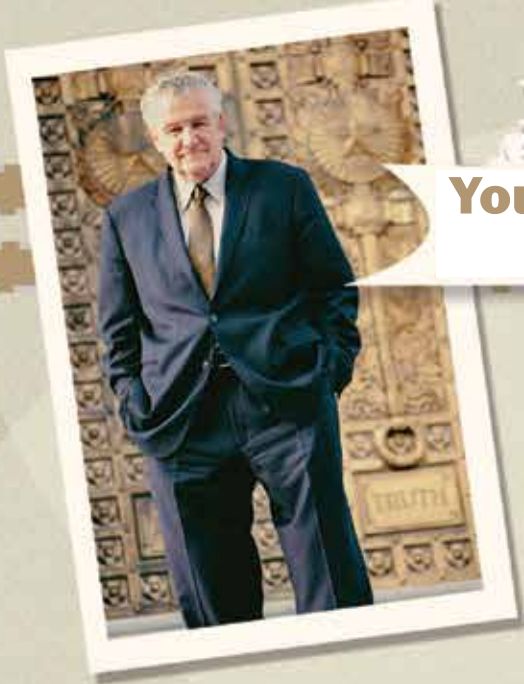




IBC Perspectives

The REFUGE



From The Publisher

You Can't Build Up and Tear Down At the Same Time

Paul D. Mooney

"Would-be, modern enemies of an Apostolic church are not so much trying to eliminate the gift of the Holy Ghost, but they love to characterize it as inefficient, old school, or simply not essential."

It is impossible to live a life detached from the nation in which we live. Our nation's politics, spiritual beliefs, traditions, ideas, laws and competing religions are in action every day shaping and determining the future, everyone's future. We live within systems in most areas of our lives.

The preamble to our country's Constitution of the United States was intended to: "establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity." This, in theory, provides the framework for the laws we create and live by. Even the church I pastor has bylaws and articles of faith, all of which are written out to state our shared values and beliefs. However, it does not always follow that those statements of belief are constituted into the hearts of every one of our church's members. It is possible that what we call the truth, or foundational beliefs, may be buried under a mass of opinions, superstitions or lifestyles that destroy the effectiveness of their intent.

The foundations matter. They set the guidelines for building as a whole. And we all know that building up and tearing down are two different things. It's impossible to make any real progress to move anything forward if the foundations aren't established, valued and shared.

Paul's letters in general and perhaps those written expressly to the Corinthian Church were all about the reaffirmation or intent of Christ to establish a church, a called-out people who are separate from the world, a people born again by the Holy Spirit. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" (1 Corinthians 3:16). "Ye are God's building" (3:9). Paul's concern was that carnality, the exaltation of personalities, envying, strife and division was destroying the building up of the Church. He was forced to speak to them as "unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ" (3:1).

The intent of the gospel of Christ is to provide the guidelines for an overcoming life, as it pertains to the world, to build His foundation for all of us to follow. Paul noted that the seal of his apostleship was the victorious church *in* Christ. He stated, "for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord" (9:2). The Apostle Paul understood that what he was doing was building a Church for Christ, not a church or disciples for himself. Had it been for his own glory he would not have been an apostle of Christ at all. He clarifies this with these words: "Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase" (3:5-6).

Not only did the Apostle Paul know that the church was not his but Christ's, he also knew that ignoring this principle and other

false motives would in time destroy the church. This cannot be ignored, because no man can build up and tear down at the same time. One cannot have it both ways. If the objective of Christ is a holy church, no church is a church at all unless it is a holy church. "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are" (3:17).

The issues emphasized in Paul's admonitions were not about the church growing or succeeding in some sense, say politically or institutionally, but rather his deep concern was whether or not it would retain anything spiritual. "The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God," he extolled. One cannot build a spiritual church upon the wisdom of the world. The wisdom of the great philosophers, for example, never envisioned the baptism of the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost was God's supernatural, unexplainable gift to the church (Colossians 1:27).

Would-be, modern enemies of an Apostolic church are not so much trying to eliminate the gift of the Holy Ghost, but they love to characterize it as inefficient, old school, or simply not essential. They themselves boast in their associations with the world, talent and education, their good deeds and worldly attainments. In so doing, they tear down the very structure the early church was founded upon, often overlooking a meaningful admonition, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6).

Without the Spirit we are weak. Choosing to ignore the power of the Spirit by opting to work without it, tears at the structure of the church itself, leaving it impotent to deal with the issues of the day. The devil is spewing out all sorts of heresy and evil, some of which is unimaginable, unexpected. A new mutual hatred of holiness, morals, piety, and spiritual authority has come upon the world, creating a mass of opposition toward godliness and Christianity. The foundation has been shaken, and the church should be standing at the ready, filled with the Spirit, to stand in complete opposition to the darkness that is encroaching.

We must continue to build up the next generation, preach like never before, teach like never before, love like never before and not allow those who would tear away at His church to work among us. Let us take courage and strength from God's word to Paul: "Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace. For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city" (Acts 18:9-10).

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Brandon Graham

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Web Site: www.ibcperspectives.com

E-mail: tmassengale@apostolic.edu

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♦To promote revival and growth among Apostolic churches and pastors by encouraging unity and cooperation among those of like faith and by providing a forum for the sharing of new ideas, ministries and programs.

♦To report on those trends and events which directly affect the work of the church.

♦To promote and enhance the ongoing ministry of Indiana Bible College.

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DOCTRINAL PURITY IN APOSTOLIC MUSIC

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

Interviews by Maranatha Gannon



Brent Edwards, Memphis, TN - We do borrow the vast majority of our songs from a wide variety of artists such as Planetshakers, Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir and Eddie James. We do know that not every group believes the same Apostolic doctrine, so sometimes we have to change terminology to fit Oneness. Songs must be biblically accurate and have the ability to connect

and minister to the congregation.



Anne Reece, Moose Lake, MN - We do use original song compositions as well as songs from Chris Tomlin, Kim Walker, Israel Houghton and others. We incorporate a mix of newer and older songs as well. Doctrinal purity is important when bringing in new music. We stand in the gap between God and man in our worship services so we must continue to be careful and prayerful in

our song choices.



Tim Pedigo, Indianapolis, IN - I encourage those who want to write songs to write on a daily basis. Songwriting is a craft where skills need to be learned and enhanced. Apostolic writers draw from a deeper experience and speak through lyrics with a stronger meaning in their original songs. This is because there is an unprecedented depth of understanding that accompanies the baptism of the Holy Ghost.



Jeremy Guzman, Bentonville, AR - There are three criteria for songs that I choose, and it needs to have at least one of the following: Does it glorify God? Is it sanctified, meaning will it bring about pure motives in worship? Lastly, does it edify, meaning does it strengthen the church and build faith?



Sarah Perez, Miami, FL - As a Spanish church we like to bring in original songs to incorporate multiple styles. Once a month, we come together as a group to write original music by doing a "jam session" at home. When using other songs, always make sure they are doctrinally sound and reflect a pure relationship with God.



Sarah Bledsoe, Champaign, IL - When borrowing songs, one may have to change formats and adapt the song to your worship team and church. When considering and writing original songs, it is important to get opinions from others. As a musician, I enjoy incorporating the instrumental aspects of new songs. Finally, a song must be sung with the anointing of the Holy Ghost in order for it to fulfill the role of true worship.



Melissa Abarca, Elgin, IL - Anyone in music ministry needs encouragement! We inspire original songs by having writing sessions where musicians and singers work together in a group setting on a set of worship song topics. We then record these songs. Music written by Apostolic individuals has the ability to be more anointed, powerful and truthful because it reveals a deeper meaning than perhaps some contemporary worship groups.



Mitch McCann, Denver, CO - I've been weary of some "Christian" artists' lifestyles, since their public life does not reflect the words they sing. You want to make sure that the songs come from a true place of worship. If you desire to write, listen to the words your pastor preaches. Capture the vision, take those moments when you feel no song fits perfectly and turn those thoughts into lyrics.

The REFUGE

David Brown Rock Island, IL



Top: Original location of church -- yellow two-story house on 6th Avenue; Bottom: Current location of The Refuge church in Rock Island, Ill.

"That sounds like a pretty good opportunity; you may want to give that some more thought." This statement rang in the ears of a 21-year-old who was not sure what to do with a request to help begin a church in Rock Island, Illinois. This prompting led Pastor David Brown down an unexplored path which turned into an incredible journey. Little did he know that God would expand and establish a vibrant church that began in a yellow two-story house filled with children and youth at its inception.

Personal History

"I primarily grew up in the south suburbs of Chicago where my family attended the United Pentecostal Church of Harvey, Illinois," said Pastor Brown. "I received the Holy Ghost and was baptized at the age of six in a storefront church in Desert Hot Springs, California. The call to ministry began at the age of 14, and by 16 I had surrendered my life to this call. My first taste of ministry was experienced a year later when I helped teach a junior high boys' Sunday school class. At 18, I began attending Indiana Bible College (IBC) in Indianapolis, Indiana.

"During my time at IBC, I became heavily involved with reaching out to the lower-income urban community where I taught my first Bible study, held my first tent revival, and baptized my first soul. Bro. Jim Sleevea was an integral leader and spiritual mentor during and

after my years at IBC. While in college, we started a ministry called "Bread Runs." In this ministry, we obtained day-old bread from a local grocery store and would pass it out in neighborhoods once or twice a week. This ministry changed my life forever.

"In 2003, I was asked about helping start a daughter work in Rock Island. After some wise counsel from my pastor, Bro. Terry Cox, I decided to visit the Quad Cities. I can take you to the very spot on 9th Street in Rock Island where I was while visiting the area that I felt the Lord tell me that this is exactly where I was supposed to be. Attempting to plant a church at 21 was not in my thought process, but I just trusted in God and tried not to think of all the obstacles. It was in this same year that I accepted the challenge of starting a work, as well as marry my beautiful and amazing wife, Mandy."

Pastor Brown currently serves as Illinois Youth President. This office was preceded by his position as Sectional Youth Director in 2009 and Illinois Youth Secretary in 2011. He and his wife are also enjoying the beautiful responsibility of parenting their two children, Jonathan (9) and Sophia (7). Much has changed since Pastor Brown first entered the yellow two-story house in Rock Island.

Establishing the Foundation

The "Jesus Church" of the Quad Cities, now known as The Apostolic Sanctuary pastored by Gary Randol, decided to open up a Sunday school outreach ministry in a rented home in a low-income area of Rock Island in the fall of 2002. Sunday school teachers made the trip every Sunday to teach in the makeshift classrooms throughout the house. Drivers came down every Sunday to drive two church vans through the Rock Island neighborhoods to pick up children and adults. Pastor Brown said a great debt is owed to those wonderful people from the mother church who have given so much to see a church planted in Rock Island.

"In May of 2003, I officially became part of this ministry," he said. "The first refuge and place of worship on 6th Avenue had four bedrooms which had been transformed into classrooms. The dining room was the sanctuary which held about 12 chairs, a keyboard and small pulpit. Dozens of children were attending. For outreach, we would walk the neighborhoods with a cooler on wheels passing out freezer pops, cold water bottles and church invitations at least once a week. We would visit the homeless shelters and a men's addiction recovery center and invite people."

The church moved to a storefront in July of 2003 and moved again in 2005 and 2010. Because of city construction plans, the church attempted to purchase property in 2013 but also needed to acquire temporary facilities that could house the congregation for the interim. "The search became frustrating and discouraging," said Pastor Brown. "On my second attempt to meet the pastor of the Nazarene Church, we connected. He was very open to the possibility of us sharing facilities. After speaking with his church board, they agreed to let us rent the facilities for three months on Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons for a flat \$750/month.

"We were absolutely astounded at this amazing offer. Today, 34 months later, we use the building more than the Nazarene Church does. They have allowed us to use the facilities for church dinners, sectional rallies, ladies' meetings, men's Bible studies, leadership training, Addictions Recovery classes, funerals and weddings. Our agreement now is that we take care of the church cleaning and pay \$1,000/month for unlimited use of the building as long as it's available, and we can get out of the lease at any time with 30 days' notice."

The daughter work, now known as The Refuge, became a self-

supporting North American Missions Church Plant in November of 2010. In 2011, Pastor Brown was able to leave his road construction employment and focus fully on The Refuge. The life and work of a pastor is one of enduring love toward people and the community.

Enduring Love

A place of refuge must include one who cares, according to Pastor Brown. "As a shepherd and pastor, one of my greatest obstacles in ministry has been the temptation to stop caring," he said. "In order to genuinely love and care for the flock, a pastor must be willing to become vulnerable. This often leads to rejection, pain and loss when those in which he has invested walk away. I will never forget the day in an IBC class with Talmadge French as we studied I Thessalonians 2:3-8; tears began to fall from my face as the Lord dealt with me from this passage about the Apostle Paul's 'philosophy of ministry.' Love those for whom Christ died and be willing to not only share with them the gospel but also your own soul. I strongly believe that it is impossible to be effective in ministry if one does not genuinely love people. This, of course, allows one to be vulnerable to hurt. Although one often feels the crushing pain of rejection, this pain is restored by the joy that is experienced when lives are transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ. When I am tempted to give up and cease from caring, I am reminded of my task as a shepherd and receive a clearer understanding of the essentiality in having an ever-deepening walk with God. As a pastor I must, 'Love God, Love People and Stay Faithful.'"

Becoming a Refuge to the Lost

"First of all, one cannot reach others before loving and caring for their own family and home," said Pastor Brown. "A pastor who neglects the home will experience absolute catastrophe with far-reaching, irreparable damage that will have eternal consequences. When one has ministered to the home base, the priority in regard to reaching the lost is to find and develop relationships with people in the community. This is accomplished through Bible studies, teaching new converts, training potential leaders, and developing ministries within the church as well as venues which will draw people into the church.

"Not every strategy for church growth will work in every church, but the following methods have been effective for The Refuge. Home Bible studies have been the key. We prefer teaching *Exploring God's Word* or something similar. Door knocking and passing out invite flyers have also shown great return.

"Our church began with Sunday school. A living testament to this ministry is a young lady who sings with our worship team. She first came on a church van as an 11-year-old. Our youth group is growing and maturing today because we have invested in children since they were five or six years old. It is imperative that as children move into their teen years they feel a sense of belonging within the church. We encourage this by spending time with them outside the church setting, as well as attending sectional and district youth events. Another growth tactic we have established is the tent revival.

"The tent revival has been an annual event for the past 11 years. While this event has been an extraordinary way to reach and impact our community, another benefit is the unity and excitement that it generates within the church members. This event is prefaced with passing out about 10,000 flyers, mailing 300 invite letters, a parade appearance, and local paper and Christian radio advertising. The event consists of a 40' x 80' tent, three worship services, a clothing giveaway, bounce houses and community cookout. This has drawn crowds of 650 to 850."

Discipleship within the Refuge

Pastor Brown encourages all members and requires everyone who is involved in ministry to go through the church's Life Development classes. "The course was passed onto us and is a combination of several different resources," he explained. "The curriculum is split up into five modules: Developing Community, Developing Commitment, Developing Mission, Developing Ministry, and Developing Maturity. We have seen positive results using this curriculum, and I am certain others

would benefit and be able to teach it even more effectively. I would be more than willing to share this resource with others who are seeking material on discipleship. It is important for church members and those who want to work within the church to know and understand what the church endorses, believes and practices."

The Future

"We are trying to fill the space that we have been blessed with at present," said Pastor Brown. "Sunday church attendance has remained around 115 in 2014-2015, but there has been a 26 percent increase in our midweek attendance. While I was concerned about our lack of numerical growth on Sunday services, I was encouraged to see the growth in our midweek attendance and financial contributions. We believe that 2015 was a year that the congregation grew spiritually stronger. We believe God is preparing us for another wave of revival and numerical growth. In 2015, we witnessed 18 water baptisms and eight filled with the Holy Ghost. This year we have baptized two and have seen four filled with the Holy Ghost. Through a series of miraculous events, a fund for a new church has been growing, so we are just waiting for God to open the door concerning property." The continued goal of The Refuge remains as constant as the beam of an island lighthouse. Love God, Love People and Stay Faithful. For more information, please contact Pastor Brown at DBrown3671@att.net




David and Mandy Brown
Rock Island, Ill.





Top: Baptism inside the sanctuary, baptism at the tent revival;
Bottom: Church volunteers involved in the Labor Day Parade
2015 leaving up to the tent revival

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Top Five Productivity Tools For Pastors

"Must be nice to work only one day a week, eh Pastor?" If you lead a church, this comment will elicit a weak smile at best. You know the truth: pastors are busy all week. It's not just the amount of work; it's the diversity of tasks you're required to do. The tools below won't make your ministry a breeze, but they should make it a little easier for you to breathe.

1. [Evernote](#) You're listening to the radio and hear the perfect sermon illustration.

You're browsing the web and stumble upon an article you want to share with your staff. Each of these incidents illustrate why you need Evernote. It enables you to record and categorize content you come across or dream up. Quite simply the best note-taking app out there.

2. [A Whiteboard](#) No, I'm not talking about some new, cool app named "Whiteboard." I'm talking about a literal whiteboard. The kind with a stand and dry-erase makers. But don't let the low-tech fool you. A whiteboard is still one of the best weapons in your arsenal. Whether you use it to outline a sermon, work through an idea, or explain one to others, few tools are handier.

3. [Sermon Writing Toolkit](#) Avoid the Saturday night sermon scramble. Or—heaven forbid—the super early Sunday morning one. This tool breaks down sermon prep into discrete steps ("Choose Passage/Text ... Formulate the Big Idea ... Write Illustrations") and spreads them evenly over the seven days of the week. You have to give Ministry Pass your email to get it and then suffer through some in-product ads, but it's well worth it.

4. [Self Control App](#) Tackle the biggest obstacle to productivity: you. If you're putting off important work to scan Facebook or play Tetris, this app is for you. It cuts you off from the Internet. Completely. No email, no news, no social media, no birds with anger issues. And not even shutting off your computer or deleting the app will give you access until the timer expires. Extreme measures, sure, but a sure way to help you focus.

5. [Planning Center](#) A productivity tool for your whole church. Planning Center includes software to help manage volunteers, giving, membership, small groups, and worship services. Starter plans are free, and then go up in price depending on the size of your congregation.



Saving Ashley

By Stephen Judd, TCM President



Stephen Judd
www.mansionkids.org

Ashley spent the first few years of her life living in the home of a single mother who had a serious problem with drug addiction. After reports of severe neglect and physical abuse, Ashley was removed by the state from her mother's care and placed with grandparents until last year.

For years, Ashley held out hope that her mother would rehabilitate. But then her mother suffered a major stroke due to a massive overdose. The brain damage left mom unable to care for herself. In fact, she has the mental capacity of a child and lives in a nursing home where she requires round-the-clock care.

Ashley's grandparents were not in good health and lived a very minimal lifestyle. Once they took Ashley in, the state never checked on her again. Therefore, her living conditions were unknown until recently when both grandparents passed away within months of each other, leaving Ashley homeless.

When the state stepped in and took custody of Ashley, it was discovered that she had never been in school. Last year, at age 12, Ashley went to school for the first time in her life. It seems that Ashley never left her grandparents' house in the deep woods where she lived. She had very little possessions and none of the creature comforts that we take for granted. She spent her younger years caring for her grandparents and helping around the home.

Since the death of her grandparents, Ashley has struggled to overcome the grief of losing the two people she saw as parents, while at the same time trying to adjust to a whole new world. After living an isolated life, she was suddenly thrown into a world full of noise and change, including the pressures of school.

The state placed Ashley in a state-affiliated children's home. She did not function well there. She was required to attend public school and the structure was very laid back at the home. She became depressed and withdrawn, and began threatening to kill herself. She was then taken from the home and placed in an inpatient facility for treatment of her mental instability.

The children's home where she had been would not allow Ashley back due to the suicide threats, but we were asked to intervene and agreed to receive her into our care. After prayerful consideration and discernment, we saw Ashley as a very wounded and overwhelmed child who could possibly flourish with a lot of patience and love.

I am happy to report Ashley is doing very well at the Mansion. Of course, she has her sad days, as she works through the grief process of losing both of her parental figures, but there have been no suicide threats. After just one year of schooling, Ashley is already functioning at a 3rd grade level. She is making friends at TCM and beginning to behave like a typical 13-year-old child.

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

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TRAINING HOME BIBLE STUDY TEACHERS

Jason Varnum

Written by Christina Li

Pastor Jason Varnum, briefly tell us about yourself. What is “iGo” and the story behind it?

I grew up in a pastor’s home and my dad taught me by example to teach home Bible studies (HBS). Jesus said “go ye,” and so I answered “iGo.” It started out as a binder I put together over the years for our church because I could not find any books that laid out HBS from A to Z. As I gathered information, I found that the reason people don’t teach HBS is because of fear.

My idea was to make it simple. It worked. I started getting reports like this: “At age 60, I just began teaching my first group *Search for Truth Bible Study*. I want to tell you that I don’t think that I could have done it without your help. Your outlines are phenomenal! They helped me get over the jitters of standing before a group...thank you!”

What approach do you recommend for training home Bible study teachers?

Our HBS Director Daniel Autrey and I do seminars, videos, websites and more. Our focus is to try to show people how simple getting and teaching HBS can be.

In the Apostolic movement, there are so many great home Bible studies. The problem is they’re just sitting on the shelf because people don’t know how to use them or they are afraid. We break it down through concepts like How to Live 3-D, Dare to Step Out, Develop a Friendship, and Discern the Next Step. Also included is Training in the Best People (your circle of influence), the Best Places (the church), and the Best Thing to Say. It is all very simple.

What kind of success have you had with this training?

Bro Autrey: We’ve been very successful. We started out as a small HBS team going over the iGo material Pastor Varnum put together. As we started having success, we got excited, caught some momentum, and more people wanted to join. Now, we have 30-40 people teaching regularly. Last year, as a church we taught 1,200 home Bible studies. This year, we’ve done over 4,000. How we count is per person, per study. If I teach the same two people once a week for a month, that counts as eight studies.

How do you recommend keeping HBS teachers motivated, excited and involved in teaching HBS’s?

Bro Autrey: We’ve tried to create a team mentality. We have monthly meetings, and we also use technology. Every Tuesday, I make contact with each teacher. I’ll send out a text with two objectives: to motivate and to collect data. We motivate by letting them know the total taught so far that month. People get excited about those numbers. For collecting data in the text is a link, using free Google forms. This makes it simple for them to give their reports and for us to collect them.

Share some methods or techniques of how a teacher gets a HBS to teach.

Pastor Varnum: Connect. Our HBS teachers are not allowed to have their own seat at church. Their seat is wherever a new person is. They start with 3-D Living, but when it comes to setting up the HBS, they say, “What would be better for you, earlier in the week or later in the week?” Start broad, then narrow it down. If they say, “earlier,” say, “Monday or Tuesday?” If they say, “Tuesday,” ask, “6:30 or 7:30?” If you give them two options, they will pick one.

Bro Autrey: We tell our HBS teachers once a quarter to revisit their circle of influence. We say, “Think of five people right now.” We’ll say a quick prayer and right then contact them on Facebook or a text. In the message, we say, “I want you to know, you came to my mind today and I prayed for you.” Then, we wait to see how they respond. We’ve gotten lots of home Bible studies from these.

What is your opinion of the longer studies (SFT/EGW) versus the one-lesson studies?

Pastor Varnum: I think every HBS teacher should have multiple studies they teach. You need to be able to do the one-time HBS because sometimes that’s all you have. You also need to have relationship home Bible studies, teaching week after week to the same person. It’s not about the HBS; it’s about that person you need to build a relationship with.



Pastor Jason Varnum
Summerfield, FL



HBS Director Daniel Autrey and family
Bellevue, FL

Studies like *Search for Truth* help you build that relationship. Jesus taught us by example. Before He was the sinner’s savior, He was their friend.

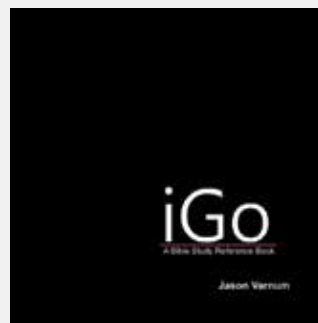
Tell us about your website and what’s on it.

Pastor Varnum: iGoBibleStudy.com is broken up into three sections: the Training Center, the Synergy Center and the Resource Center. The Training Center has a series of 10-minute videos that takes you step-by-step through how to become an effective HBS

teacher. Some churches use these videos in small-group settings to train their HBS teachers. In the Synergy Center, we give ideas and strategies on creating a HBS program in your church and keeping it going. In the Resource Center, there are several FREE Bible studies you can download, PDFs, audio files, handouts, etc.

How to order “iGo” and cost involved.

Pastor Varnum: The book is \$20 and available through Pentecostal Publishing House. Some of the feedback we’ve received from pastors about this book include, “This book is nothing short of awesome. I am so very impressed with your material. I wish I would have had this when I started teaching Bible studies some 35 years ago.” It’s a huge resource with a wealth of information. Some HBS directors use it for training in their monthly meetings. If you want to buy in bulk for a bookstore, contact me directly.



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
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. 8-9	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	Ashley Leppo, Tes Stewart, Bruce Howell, Aaron Bounds, Art Hodges, Jerry Jones, Chad Douglas & David Bernard	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 27	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: winterfire-conf 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
MARCH 10	Indiana Bible College All Night Worship Event 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
JUNE 2017	Power Conference 2017 Services begin at 7:30 p.m. nightly. Day sessions at 10 a.m. Thursday and Friday morning.	To be announced	To be announced	For more info: contact Josh Hodum @ 662-872-9999 or John Hodum @ 931-332-3926

Church Growth: Making a Strong First Impression



Robert L. Rodenbush

■ Church Today

rrodenbush@earthlink.net

Transgender Issue: What's Really At Stake?

Satan is busy and his attacks flood against culture and traditional values. While we have grown accustomed to seeing the homosexual agenda played out in society and have watched as it has impacted our youth and our families, the threshold of tolerance is being pushed even further. The transgender issue has been thrust into our purview. Like the homosexuals before, the motto is, "If they can't turn off the shower, they'll get used to being wet." It's the new theme for television shows, the talk of talk shows, and it is quickly becoming the "trendy" counterculture among teens and even children.

There are a growing number of parents who are raising their children to be neither boys nor girls. They are raised "gender neutral" or "gender fluid" and will be allowed to choose their gender as they grow older or switch back and forth. We've seen the chaos as Americans are being "re-trained" in how to deal with these situations that affect restrooms, locker-room facilities and sports. The devastation of political correctness leaves this generation with no reference to go against the current. Transgendered homecoming queens, transgendered children, transgendered parents are all now mainstreaming into most every community.

The cover feature of the June 9, 2014 *Time* magazine was entitled, "The Transgender Tipping Point: America's next civil rights frontier." Writer Katy Steinmetz begins the article with this statement, "Nearly a year after the Supreme Court ruled that Americans were free to marry the person they loved, no matter their sex, another civil rights movement is poised to challenge long-held cultural norms and beliefs. Transgender people...are emerging from the margins to fight for an equal place in society." Now, two years later, *Time* again features this issue with the cover story reading, "Battle of the Bathroom: From schools to statehouses, what's really at stake."

I believe what is really at stake is the hearts and minds of a whole generation. The enemy was poised and ready to push this "new" affront on traditional values right to the core of our culture. Is the church ready to respond? Do we know how we are going to deal with transgender young people who visit our youth services? Wars are best won through confusion and disorientation. Satan has entrapped these souls into a physical and spiritual war in which their deceived minds betray their own bodies. While they have been deceived, we must not allow young people and our churches to become trapped in unnecessary confusion concerning issues of sexuality. We must embrace absolutes and the true authority that is found in scripture. In the end, this will not push people away from the church, but in the middle of chaos and confusion, the church will emerge as a beacon of hope and real answers.



Bobby Killmon

■ Theology

bobby.killmon@sbcglobal.net

Do Apostolics believe in predestination?

Well, that could be answered both yes and no. Do we believe in the biblical concept of predestination? Yes. Do we believe in the Reformed or Calvinist corruption of this biblical term? Absolutely not. Further, any hybrid of these two is fundamentally impossible.

What we deny as Apostolics is not predestination but "unconditional predestination" but would instead embrace the biblical view of predestination which is based on God's foreknowledge of those who will freely respond positively to God's free gift of grace through the prevenient enablement to do so. That means God has provided both the means (capacity to choose God) and the opportunity (Christ's atonement as man) to be saved, and the human component is to accept what is freely offered. So we believe in "conditional predestination" because Scripture shows God freely limited Himself by giving humanity the true ability to choose Him or not. What's at stake here is misdefining the term predestination which has led people to create theological systems that defame the character of God. We as Apostolics reject unconditional damnation. Because we deny this on biblical grounds, we must then also deny unconditional salvation or election. These are inexorably connected.

With the rise of post-fundamentalist Reformed evangelicalism, we as Apostolics (as well as others who classically call themselves Arminians) have been under intensifying scrutiny and often withering caricatures and misrepresentations of our biblical beliefs. We have been increasingly dismissed in evangelical circles by these mostly uninformed misrepresentations of our views instead of being directly quoted ourselves. This has made some Apostolics respond in an almost knee-jerk reaction by dismissing theological terms for our biblical position. It's fascinating to see Apostolics distancing themselves from classical theological and biblical definitions that have always been part of our beliefs such as: Arminian, predestination, fundamentalist, dispensationalist, etc. This is, in the author's opinion, from pressure to conform to the prevailing theological sentiment for inclusion and respectability. We shouldn't cave in to "theological peer pressure" and give up these scriptural terms and concepts but demonstrate how these biblical terms are correctly defined.

Some have suggested our view started with Joseph Arminius, and this "new" invention of Arminianism shows Church history is against us because it came after Calvinism. But the simple fact is all of the Greek Church Fathers in the first couple of centuries, even many medieval Catholic theologians, as well as many reformers before Arminius (such as Philip Melancthon) held this view. So our view is biblical first of all, and second it was the prevailing view right after the Apostles and continued even when Reformed theological ideas moved away from these biblical definitions.

Apostolics must make sure we do not let people misdefine our beliefs and by this misconstrual strip away the terms we use to define ourselves. The reach of Reformed theology and its prominence in evangelical circles have made some desire to make Apostolic beliefs more palatable or compatible with Reformed approaches. We need to understand that is fundamentally impossible. One approach is biblical. The other defames the very character of God.



T. W. Massengale

■ Church Growth

tmassengale@apostolic.edu

The other day I went to a restaurant that had great food, but the service was so terrible that it made me not want to go back. As we left, I could not help but wonder how popular the restaurant would be if they only had put as much effort into the wait staff as they did in the kitchen.

But could this also be true of a church? Without question, Apostolic churches have wonderful saints, vibrant and exciting worship, and Spirit-filled preaching. But we too can be guilty of serving a great meal, only to have the experience overshadowed by poor presentation. By this I mean:

Curb Appeal: What do people think when they see your church from the road outside? Is your sign clean, clear and well-lighted? Are yards and flower beds well-maintained? Is the exterior painted, repaired, and attractive? Is the parking lot free of potholes? Is the exterior and parking lot well-lighted at night? Will the average person know this is a church with one quick glance?

Guest Reception: Do you have door keepers at the front door? If you do not have a portico for dropping people off, is there an umbrella brigade that runs umbrellas out as each person arrives? Hostesses to greet all guests? Is there a guest packet? Do you get a guest card on each guest? Are there ushers on hand to greet guests and seat them on the main aisle about halfway down?

Friendliness: Are guests greeted at least five times before they are seated? Do your

saints turn and greet people without being asked to? Does the entire church respond at altar call, inviting guests to go with them? Do your saints engage guests in conversation after service and invite guests to fellowship with them at a local eatery?

Worship: Is the service well-planned and free of "dead space?" Is the music as good as possible, well-practiced and not too loud? Are the songs and choruses projected so all can participate?

Nursery: Is your nursery clean, well-stocked and well-staffed? Are the sound and/or video of the service available in the nursery? Is it easy to find?

100% of your new converts come from your first-time guests. You only get one chance to make a good first impression. Serve up a great meal, and do it with style that reflects the greatness of our God!



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& MICHELLE TUTTLE





Carol Clemans

Spiritual Growth

Pretentiousness Creates Spiritual Chaos!

Many people that call me nationwide for counseling by phone/Skype are hurting because of pretentiousness and hypocrisy. Being pretentious is attempting to impress by greater importance. There are two types of individuals that attend church. The first is genuine. The second is pretentious.

The genuine person is authentic. They do not "put on a front." Wherever they are, they are the same in spirit, grace and attitude. A genuine person is sincere and without hypocrisy. They live a godly life glorifying Him in body and spirit. There is a consistency in their walk with God in every aspect of their life.

The pretentious person wears a mask for a smile. They pretend godliness. They know in their heart that they have many issues that need to be healed to be healthy spiritually, emotionally and relationally, but they learn how to be hypocritical to impress others. The pretentious person hurts those they are close to – mainly family.

If a child is raised by pretentious parents, he/she sees a double life. At home, strife and trouble reign. As the family is headed to church, there are threats that everyone must be on their best behavior. This can even be from a pastor's home. This causes spiritual and emotional problems that carry into adulthood. It creates a distorted God concept because parents' actions are the first teachers about God. Children need to see true godliness by righteous conduct in the home.

Man does look on the outward appearance. But what is most important, God looks on the heart! My prayer is Psalms 139:23-24 (MSG), "Investigate my life, O God, find out everything about me; Cross-examine and test me, get a clear picture of what I'm about; See for yourself whether I've done anything wrong – then guide me on the road to eternal life."

If you are struggling because of pretentiousness, there is help through God's truth. When we know and practice God's truth, we can be set free. I love teaching God's anointed Word for churches and conferences. Call (636) 448-0121 for nationwide counseling by phone/Skype. Go to www.carolclemans.org to read 'About Ministry' - complete bio of life, ministry and education - Holy Ghost-filled for 61 yrs.

© Carol Clemans - www.carolclemans.org - 300+ articles, teaching CD's & DVD's, book: *God's Design for Marriage* soft cover or eBook: amazon.com. Ministry refs: Pastor Daniel Batchelor, Duplo, IL & UPCI MS Supt. David Tipton, Jr., Raymond, MS.



Kenny Noble

Devotional

Don't Let the Baby Die

The young mother became hysterical when she found her five-year-old collapsed in the back yard of their rural Wisconsin home. Her husband quickly mounted his horse and summoned the doctor. However, medical knowledge in 1865 was limited, and by day's end the doctor pronounced little Max Hoffman dead. With the neighbors' help, the grieving couple buried their only child that same summer evening.

Late in the night, Mrs. Hoffman awakened her husband and frantically explained her recurring nightmares. "Max is still alive," she said. He tried to pray with her, but she would not be comforted. At her insistence, he put aside his own grief and asked the neighbors to help open the grave.¹ By lantern light, they unearthed the wooden casket and removed the lid. Max had moved. The doctor came, and after much effort revived the child. A week later, Max was playing in the backyard once again.

Max lived 80 more years and spent his last days in Clinton, Ohio where he'd sit on the town park bench, show the little coffin handles, and explain how he'd once died, but because of his mother's dream, he received a second chance.

God often gives each of us a dream before He provides the real thing. It's up to us to nurture that dream and keep it alive. Negativism and disbelief from others may bury your dream, but do whatever it takes to resurrect it. Use your shovel of prayer and faith to scrape off negativism from your lost hope.

Make no mistake; doubt kills more dreams than failure. Don't let someone else live your dream and refuse to allow naysayers, who gave up on their dream, talk you out of yours. Keeping your dream alive may seem difficult, but all things are possible with God. Focus on Him with hope in your heart as you cling to that dream with all the passion you can muster. Keep your dream bigger than your fear and your faith stronger than your discouragement. Hold on to your dream and leave the rest up to God.

¹ *Incredible Facts* by Richard B. Manchester 1985 Hart Associates published in 1986 by Galahad books 166 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10010 ISBN 0-671-08257-4

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

I'm a new pastor. How do I go about establishing my compensation package in order to take advantage of all the tax breaks for ministers?

First of all, you have to know what the church's bylaws state concerning the compensation of the minister. Some bylaws instruct the Board of Directors to establish the compensation structure for the pastor while other bylaws provide percentages or fixed amounts for the pastor's pay. After the method has been established, then the pastor should have a meeting to determine the amount. Remember, the pastor cannot establish his own compensation nor set up a housing allowance by himself. In addition, the reasonable compensation rule must be met and adhered to.

The compensation package should be prepared in writing. There are documents available to assist the pastor and/or board in this area. A housing allowance should be established according to Internal Revenue Code Section 107. A Qualified Accountable Reimbursement Plan should be implemented to pay for the qualified business expenses.

Certain benefits can be established, but the pastor and board should be certain these benefits are appropriate and properly set up. If the church is going to pay the pastor's medical insurance premiums, it should consult an insurance agent to help ensure compliance is met.

If there are any questions regarding compensation, benefits, etc., those involved should consult professional help to get the proper method and ensure that the compensation complies with current regulations.

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

Teach Your Children to Give

Statistically, younger generations do not give to churches like their parents and grandparents. However, a recent study by the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy on how giving is cultivated within families issued a report, *A Tradition of Giving*, which shows that the older members of a family influence charitable giving and volunteering behaviors of younger family members. The parents and

grandparents' donations and volunteering to churches and other non-profits instill these values in children.

In part, the research shows that children give similarly to their parents to non-profit and religious organizations and the parents' decisions to volunteer with charitable organizations has a positive influence on their children's decisions to volunteer and give.

The study also showed that the giving behavior of children and parents tend to match more closely if the parents are still married and if the parents spend time in any way with their children.

Finally, the report showed a stronger influence on children's religious giving by parents in male-headed households and that children of parents who regularly attend worship services and give to religious organizations are more likely to give to religious causes.

In summary, the study confirms Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

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

THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS**NCAA Urged to Punish Christian Schools Who "Discriminate" Against LGBT Students**

A number of lesbian, gay and transgender groups have sent a letter to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), urging them to disassociate with all colleges that have gotten, or are in the process of getting, exceptions to Title IX.



InsideHigherEd.com reports that the letter was sent by more than 80 LGBT organizations, and urged the NCAA to "divest from all religious based institutions" that specifically discriminate against transgender students.

Title IX, as put into effect in 1972, prohibits gender discrimination on college campuses. In 2014, the U.S. Department of Education extended Title IX to also include transgender students.

According to the group Campus Pride, more than 50 religious colleges have requested or received exceptions, allowing them to expel or refuse to admit transgender students.

"As people of faith or spirit we call upon the NCAA to act on its stated values as an LGBTQ-inclusive organization and divest from these schools who are willfully creating unsafe environments for LGBTQ students," stated Jordyn Sun with Soulforce, a gay rights group focused on religious colleges.

SOCIAL TRENDS**Preschooler Kicked Out; Parents Protested Same-Sex Class Lesson**

A 4-year-old student was reportedly kicked out of a preschool in Colorado after her parents questioned books about homosexuality that were read in class. *Christian Today* reports the child attended Montview Community Preschool and Kindergarten in Denver, but was dismissed when her parents requested that she be kept out of class discussions on homosexuality.

The preschoolers had been reading aloud books on homosexuality as part of an anti-bias initiative. The student's mother, R.B. Sinclair, argued the children were too young to understand bias at four years old. Sinclair met with the school's principal. Two days later, she received a letter stating her daughter was "not a good fit" for the preschool.

**Churchgoers Live Longer**

Many Americans say they attend church because it helps them stay grounded and gives them spiritual guidance. A new study suggests regular attendance may also help increase lifespan.

Researchers looked at data on nearly 75,000 middle-age female nurses in the U.S. as part of the Nurses' Health Study. The participants discussed whether they attended religious services regularly between 1992 and 2012, and about other aspects of their lives over the years. The researchers found that women who went to church more than once a week had a 33% lower risk of dying during the study period compared with those who said they never went. Less-frequent attendance was also associated with a lower risk of death, as women who attended once a week or less than weekly had 26% and 13% lower risk of death, respectively.

Women who regularly attended religious services also had higher rates of social support and optimism, lower rates of depression and were less likely to smoke. Going to church could have a number of additional benefits that could, in turn, improve longevity, but the researchers were not able to examine them with the available data. Attendance could promote self-discipline and a sense of meaning and purpose in life, or it could provide an experience of the transcendent, said Tyler J. VanderWeele, professor of epidemiology at Harvard.

"Our study suggests that for health, the benefits outweigh potentially negative effects," such as guilt, anxiety or intolerance, VanderWeele said. Most of the women in the study were Protestant or Catholic, so it's not clear whether a similar association would be found for people of other religions. The study also did not explore the association in men. Previous research suggests that male churchgoers also benefit, though their decrease in death rate is not as large as among women, VanderWeele said.

"There have been literally thousands of studies" looking at whether religion is good for your health, said Dr. Dan German Blazer II, professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Duke University Medical Center. The findings have been mixed about whether aspects of religious devotion such as prayer and spirituality — such as reading the Bible or other religious literature — improve longevity. "The one (aspect) that is significantly more predictive of good health is about religious service attendance," said Blazer. This attitude about the place of religion in medical care is becoming more common among health care professionals, according to Blazer, and has been introduced into the curriculum of many medical schools.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ The latest book to be added to the American Library Association "challenged" list of books: *The Holy Bible*. Citing concerns of sex, violence and legal issues, it is sixth on the top-ten list that includes works that depict explicit sex, homosexuality, transgender and extreme language issues. The association defines a challenge as a "formal, written complaint filed with a library or school requesting that materials be

removed because of content or appropriateness."

■ The primary U.S. government agency on global religious freedom issued its annual report recently. It says "religious freedom abroad has been under serious and sustained assault" during the past year, and says America should add seven countries to its list of worst offenders: Central African Republic, Egypt, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, Syria and Vietnam.

SCIENTIFIC TRENDS**Scientific Paper Retracted After Attributing Design of Human Hand to a Creator**

A scientific paper that attributed the design of the human hand to a Creator received considerable attention, both positive and negative.



The paper, published in the PLOS ONE journal, detailed the movement of the human hand and explored the mechanics of how humans grasp things.

The paper was written by three Chinese researchers and one American researcher from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts. They wrote that hand coordination "should indicate the mystery of the Creator's invention" and that the mechanical architecture of the hand is due to "proper design by the Creator."

These assertions have put the researchers and the paper under fire from many in the scientific community. The vocal criticism grew so great the journal was forced to retract the paper.

MEDICAL TRENDS**Women Are Dying From Abortion, But Lack of Data Hides Facts, Says OB/GYN**

Women are being "victimized" and in some cases killed as a result of abortion procedures, yet lack of accurate data is keeping Americans in the dark about the issue, a prominent obstetrician-gynecologist with over 40 years experience explained recently.

At the 2016 Evangelicals for Life conference, Dr. Freda Bush, a clinical instructor at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and an American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists board member, questioned whether Planned Parenthood and other abortion clinics are explaining the real health risks of abortion to young women looking for a way out of their crisis pregnancies.

"Having an abortion is not just a walk in the park," she said. "Women need to be protected when it comes to their health rather than be victimized." She explained that medical and surgical abortions can cause severe bleeding, infections and other serious injuries, and asserted that abortion clinics often do not have the specialty doctors needed to handle complications.

"We don't know how many people are dying of abortions because the numbers are not being kept," Bush stated. "The CDC says that only 45 of the 50 states in the U.S. actually keep abortion records."

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STEVE WALDRON
HOST PASTOR

"And I sought for a man among them, that should make up
the hedge, and stand in the gap for me before the land!"

Ezekiel 22:30

"What on EARTH am I doing?"

TIM GADDY - CABOT, AR



Matthew 6:7-10, "But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. After this manner therefore pray ye: Our father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."

When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He made this very emphatic declaration: "Pray Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven." This entire prayer starts with where we are placing Him, His name and His mission today. It starts with the placement of the Great Commission in our lives.

The kingdom can simply be defined as "the domain of the king." This kingdom is about His name, His will, His plan, His directive. We must then ask ourselves, "What am I intentionally doing to expand the kingdom of God? What am I doing to communicate the plan of God on earth, as it is in heaven?"

We can't go in a corner or stand on the sidelines and wait for the revival that we believe that God has promised the Apostolic church. We must shift our thinking. Instead of just praying that God would send us hungry souls, we must believe that every soul that we encounter is a candidate for God's grace and mercy.

There are many important roles of New Testament ministers, but there is none more important than coming into union with Jesus' declared purpose to seek and to save that which is lost. We must intentionally get out to where lost people are, and get in the business of seeking and saving that which is lost. There is no greater job!

God's kingdom and will is already accomplished in heaven. Everybody in heaven will have been confronted with God's saving will. We must desire for that to be accomplished on earth which is already accomplished in heaven.

As saints of the living God, we are all looking forward to going up yonder, but we must not go alone. If our destination is heaven, we must give everything that we have to reach somebody, teach a Bible study, and seek and save that which is lost. That's our mandate and our commission from the Lord!

Martin Luther said, "I was born to fight devils and factions. It is my business to remove obstructions, to cut down thorns, to fill up quagmires, and to open and make strait paths. But, if I must have some failing, let me rather speak the truth with too great sovereignty than to once act the hypocrite and conceal the truth."

People need Jesus! Without Jesus, people are dying and going to hell. We need that to ring in our spirit. We must personally and intentionally get into the harvest field. If we don't do our best to reach the lost, we will cease to exist.

Reaching the lost was more than a side activity of the New Testament church; the future of the church depended on it. If we don't do our best to reach lost people, we might exist in name. We might exist in building. We might exist in reputation, but the glorious and intended future that God has for His church will not exist!

If there's a promised revival, let's get in on it. Let's get in the middle of it. There's going to be a great outpouring in 2015. Let's be a part of it!

Acts 2:17 says, "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy..." We need to say, "I want that!"

Don't be guilty of simply praying for the harvest, while not being actively and intentionally in the harvest. We must take a personal responsibility to reach out to a lost and dying world.

The McIntosh group, led by Gary McIntosh, did a survey of 109 growing churches in America. Among these churches, what were the common denominators of their successful growth? One of the various contributing factors was the great percentage of members involved in ministry. Another factor was that evangelism was the strongest goal of the senior pastor.

There is strong influence on a church toward soul winning when the pastor wins souls.

All over the world, Apostolic churches are praying, "Lord, send us revival," and I hear the cry of the Savior saying, "Go!"

Jesus said in John 4:35, "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

We need a multicultural revival. Go!

Jesus said in Mark 16:15, "... Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Go!

When Christ's purpose becomes our passion, look out. End-time revival will take place at the crossroads of God's purpose and man's passion. Leonard Ravenhill said, "We should live with eternity's values always in view."

God is giving the Apostolic church "geographically significant people." There are people that we can reach that can open up entire neighborhoods, culture groups and families. Reaching one person can open up a door, giving us access to more souls.

God put you on your street to do more than just live there. He put you there to make a difference for the kingdom of God. He put you there to make a kingdom connection.

Acts 18:24-26 states, "And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly."

God is giving to the Apostolic church a revival of people that are open for more. There are men and women in our communities that love God with all of their heart, but when they go to bed at night there is a gnawing in their spirit for more.

When Priscilla and Aquila came to Apollos, he was a man mighty in the scriptures. They didn't discredit his experience with God, but in love they expounded unto him more truth. With that type of loving approach, God opened up a man that gave great strength to the early church.

God wants to put in our path believers that are ready for something more, something greater than they have ever experienced. He wants His church to have influential conversions and geographically significant people. We are called to a personal evangelism revival. You can witness to that coworker. You can give a Bible study!

We must all ask ourselves, "What on earth am I doing?"



**The Gaddy family
Cabot, Ark.**

Bio: Tim Gaddy was born and raised in metropolitan Chicago, Illinois. He received a call into ministry at the age of 18 at a youth camp and then attended Christian Life College in Stockton, California from 1988-1992. Arkansas has been home since the fall of 1992. Tim served as youth pastor at Word of Life Fellowship in Little Rock for seven years and planted New Life Church in Cabot in the summer of 1999. Tim met his wife, Stacy, during college and they married in December of 1993. The Gaddys are blessed with two great kids, Maddie and Landon. They live in Cabot where Bro. Gaddy enjoys hunting, spending time with family and an occasional round of golf. While pastoring New Life Church, he maintains an active speaking schedule at various camps, conferences and meetings across North America and abroad. Please go to www.timgaddy.com for ministry information, resources and ideas. You'll also find helpful links and downloads from New Life Church leaders.

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Real Talk For Real People

Apostolic Book Teaches Teens Biblically How to Build a Relationship With God

By Gregg Stone



Ray, Analia and Amberlin Salas
Greenville, Ala.

In a world that has blurred the lines and has succeeded at spreading confusion with double standards and double talk, there is a need to keep it real. *Real Talk*,

written by Amberlin Salas, speaks to the day-to-day needs of the readers and helps them succeed in living for God. It's real talk for real people. "My own need for simple and clear material inspired me to write this book," said Sis. Salas. "I personally worked out and applied everything in the book for myself first and when I realized how effective the principles were, I felt it would be a benefit for others."

She is married to Ray Salas, a licensed UPCI minister, and they have one daughter, Analia. Bro. Salas serves as the Alabama Youth Secretary, and they are the student pastors of Lighthouse Pentecostal Church in Greenville, Alabama where Sis. Salas also serves as the church's minister of music. "Ray and I have been married 5 1/2 years

and have been serving in ministry together since marriage," she said. "We love spending time together as a family and love the fact that our lives are centered around the kingdom of God."

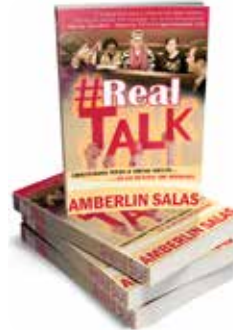
Real Talk is geared toward teens and young adults but could work for anyone. "There is so much in our society that attempts to distract people," the author explained. "I know because it has happened to me more than once. I felt that if teens could learn the correct and Biblical way to approach God and build a relationship with Him, they would be more apt to serve Him out of love and be able to withstand any distraction or weight. The book covers every basic aspect of life as it relates to God's plan. It includes our purpose, doctrine, identity in Him, learning who He is, and daily steps to reach the desired level of relationship in Him. These steps include prayer, devotion, praise and a desire to be extraordinary."

Sis. Salas said the book can be used to teach from or can be used by individual

students for personal devotion. "Currently in the making is a teacher's guide and outline," she explained, "as well as a personal journal that will connect with both the book and the teacher's guide. This journal will contain chapter by chapter questions for students to fill in as well as blank pages for personal thoughts and reflection and can be used for Sunday school or youth services."

Real Talk has received rave reviews, and the results have been encouraging. "I have had several individuals, both young and old alike, read the book and relay to me that a renewed sense of purpose came to them," said Sis. Salas. "Personally, I have given the book to unsaved relatives, friends and new students in our youth group. Because of its simple nature, the fact that it covers the entire plan of salvation, and because it gives daily steps for success makes it a great resource for everyone regardless of their age or years they have been serving God."

The book is \$14 plus shipping and can be purchased at www.amberlinsalas.com/realtalk. Discounts are available for orders over 10 books.



A Pioneer of Pentecost to the Russian People

Apostolic Historian Publishes Book About Remarkable Ministry of Bro. A.D. Urshan

By Charlotte L. Pound



Bro. Stan Wachtstetter
Arlington, TX

The book, *Andrew David Urshan and the Russian Pentecostal Church*, written by Pastor Stan Wachtstetter of Arlington, Texas, is the history of one of our premier pioneers of Pentecost, Bro. A.D. Urshan.

"Bro. Urshan was an Apostolic Pentecostal pioneer with great influence in Iran, Europe and America," explained Bro. Wachtstetter. "I use all of that as a backdrop but emphasize his short but powerful work in Russia. He ministered in Imperial Russia, not the Soviet Union. This book is part of an overall book I am writing about Russia in general and the Apostolic Church there. This is one brief period during the early days of the 20th century Pentecostal revival."

Born in a rural village in Iran, Andrew Urshan came to the U.S. at age 18 with almost no English skills. He became an American citizen. He came into the Pentecostal experience as a well-respected early missionary of the Assemblies of God. Progressively, he received more enlightenment as he moved into more Biblically-centered churches and started ministering. Not wanting to reject

truth nor divide the body of Christ, he dealt carefully with the doctrinal controversy.

"The book covers his childhood in Iran to his coming to the USA," said Bro. Wachtstetter. "It details his religious pilgrimage from high church to the Pentecostal movement. The reader will travel with him on trains and ships, see him return to Iran to experience great revival and be present at the Assyrian massacre, as Islam tried to commit genocide on the Armenians and Assyrians, especially Christians. He saw many of his loved ones die and his village wiped out."

"The Russian Army pushed back the Islamists and rescued Urshan and others. They carried this American with an emergency passport up to Russia. He was invited to Northern Russia. It is a thrilling account of his travels as he pioneers the Pentecostal movement in Russia and his return to America."

While in the north, close to St. Petersburg, Russia, Bro. Urshan began to preach the message of Oneness and baptism in Jesus name. He founded the Apostolic movement in Russia, which dominated for several years.

"In the Petrograd region, God really started dealing with him and others about the need to be baptized in Jesus name," explained Bro. Wachtstetter. "Further, he realized the importance of an organized effort.



He set the organization in order and laid hands on Nikolai Smorodin and anointed him head of this new church organization. This is the first organized Pentecostal church society in Russia and later USSR. One year later, the communist revolution took place and immediately this group files papers and was approved by Lenin. No details about the Siberian Seven are in this book; however, I am presently completing a book that includes them. Anyone that is interested in the Apostolic message, in Russian history, the Urshans, and Iran will enjoy this book."

Bro. Wachtstetter grew up at Calvary Tabernacle in Indianapolis and has been preaching over 50 years. He was privileged to represent the Apostolics to the White House starting with President Ronald Reagan. He has completed over 60 trips into the Old Soviet Union with the most recent being this year. He presently pastors Life Apostolic Church in Arlington, Texas. His book is available on Amazon Press for \$19.95 or Kindle \$9.90. Free on Kindle Unlimited. For more information, please contact Bro. Wachtstetter by cell phone (601) 826-5072 or e-mail: wachtstetter1@aol.com

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Word To The Wise:

“Love your enemies. It’ll drive them nuts.”

* * * * *

A pastor was crossing a road one day when a frog called out to him and said, "If you kiss me, I'll turn into a beautiful princess." He bent over, picked up the frog and put it in his pocket.

The frog spoke up again and said, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a beautiful princess, I will do all your housework."

The pastor took the frog out of his pocket, smiled at it and returned it to his pocket.

The frog then cried out, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a princess, I'll do all your house work and cook your meals."

Again the pastor took the frog out, smiled at it and put it back into his pocket.

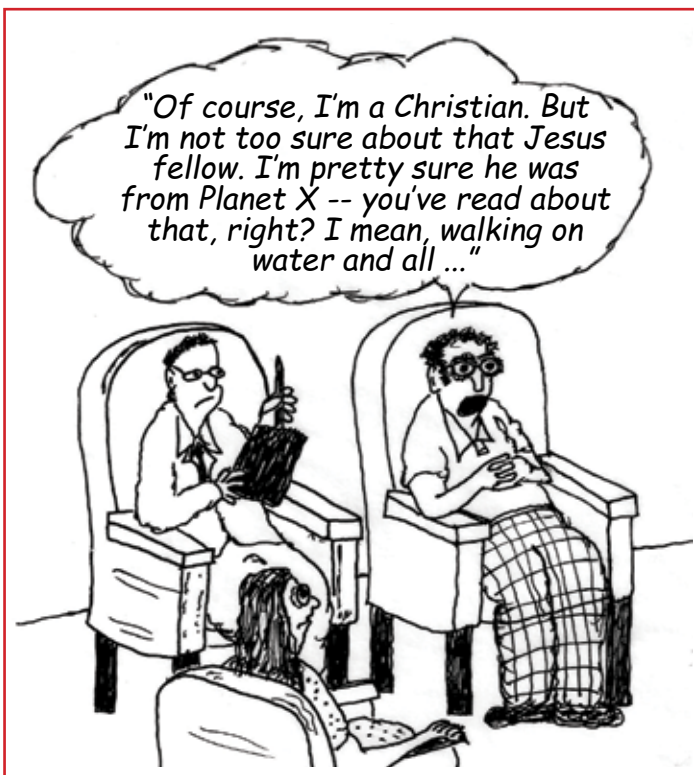
Finally, the frog asked, "What is the matter? I've told you I'm a beautiful princess, that I'll clean your house and cook all your meals. Why won't you kiss me?"

The pastor said, "Look, I'm a pastor. I already have a wife, but a talking frog, now that's cool!"

* * * * *

The Sunday school teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt.

Little Johnny interrupted, "My dad looked back once while he was driving," he announced triumphantly, "and he turned into a telephone pole!"



Before going out on a date, Karla required each guy to meet her pastor.

* * * * *

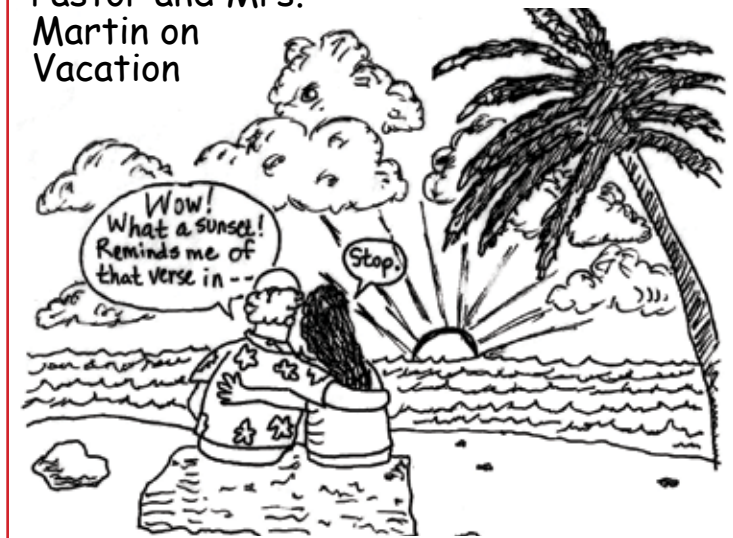
A party of Methodist ministers was attending an annual conference at a private countryside resort. Several of them set off to explore the area, and presently they came upon an old bridge that crossed a quiet pond.

Unfortunately, they didn't notice a sign declaring the bridge to be unsafe. As they crossed it, the caretaker came running after them. "Hey! You there! Get off that bridge!" he protested.

"It's all right," declared one of the ministers, "we are in this resort with permission. We're Methodists from the conference."

"I'm not worried about THAT," replied the caretaker. "But if you don't get off that bridge, you'll all be BAPTISTS!"

Pastor and Mrs.
Martin on
Vacation



In September 2005, a schoolteacher from Arkansas did something not to be forgotten. On the first day of school, with permission from the principal, she took all of the desks out of the classroom. The kids walked into first period. They looked around and said, "Where's our desks?" The teacher said, "You can't have a desk until you tell me how you earn them."

They thought, "Well, maybe it's our grades." "No," she said.

"Maybe it's our behavior," the kids said.

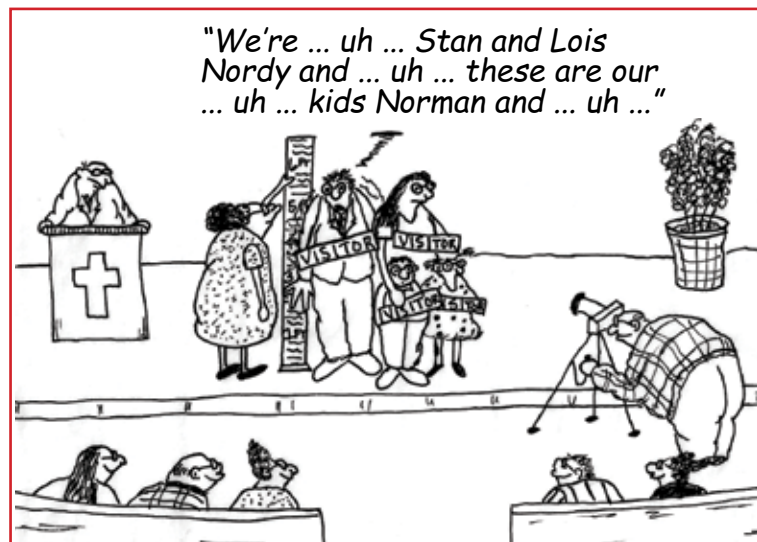
She told them, "No, it's not even your behavior."

Second period, still no desks in the classroom. Third period, same thing. By early afternoon television news crews had gathered in the class to find out about this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of the classroom. The last period of the day, the instructor gathered her students together. They were sitting on the floor around the sides of the room.

She said, "Throughout the day no one has really understood how you earn the desks that sit in this classroom ordinarily. Now I'm going to tell you."

She went over to the door of her classroom and opened it. As she did, 27 U.S. veterans, wearing their uniforms, walked into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk. And they placed those school desks in rows, and then they stood along the wall. By the time they had finished placing the desks, those kids for the first time understood how they earned those desks.

Their teacher said, "You don't have to earn those desks. These guys did it for you. They put them out there for you, but it's up to you to sit here responsibly, to learn, to be good students and good citizens, because they paid a price for you to have that desk, and don't ever forget it."



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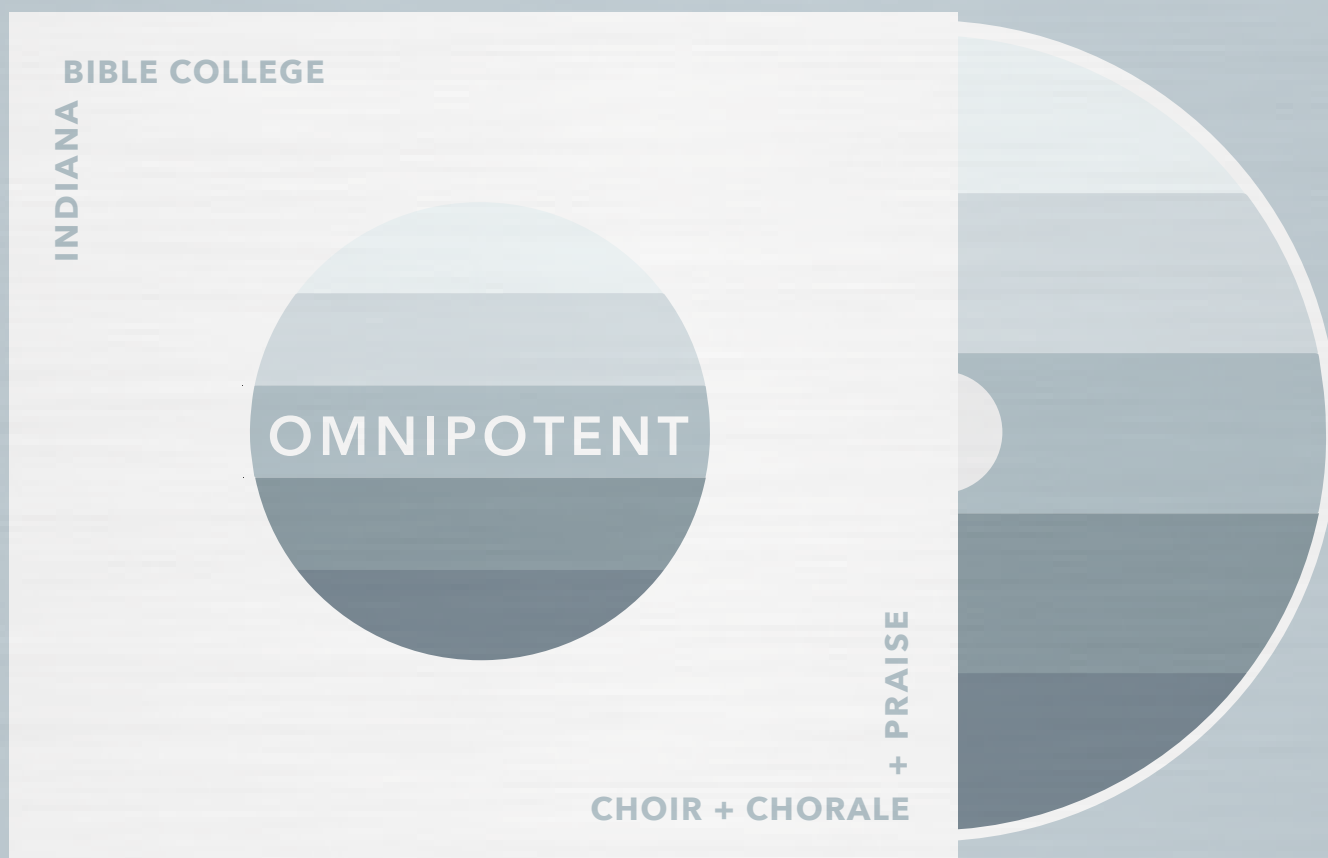
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