VOL.26 NO.9 INDIANA BIBLE COLLEGE

B B B C Perspectives

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INDIANA BIBLE COLLEGE LIVE ON MONUMENT CIRCLE UPCI GENERAL CONFERENCE 2016

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 29 9:30PM Kill the Bugs and Pull the Weeds: The Loss of Discernment

From The Publisher

The ability of this generation to exercise Godly judgment, the discerning of spirits, is the key factor in their responsibility

to "keep the faith."

One could make the argument that the elements needed for revival and new growth are in hand. This generation of Apostolics has exceeded expectations. They are rich in talent, financially comfortable and are fueled with the enthusiasm of possibility. Modern Pentecost as a movement has transcended its primitive roots. Our churches are full of trained, educated laborers, gifted and committed lay leaders. We operate with measurable professional ability and a fresh confidence in an established global network. What once was a fringe network of unorthodox believers has become a mainstream force. Fellowships, organizations and independents combine to represent a global presence. Today, there are seasoned pastors, dynamic and prosperous churches, and a growing, vibrant and motivated number of youth dedicated to taking the Apostolic faith into the great revival of the end time -- all this at a time when we are experiencing unfathomable means of worldwide communication and travel never known in the history of humanity. The future is seemingly very bright and our leaders are rightly calling for us to break up the fallow ground and sow the seed. It is a grand and glorious moment, like no time or age ever upon this earth.

But with great opportunity for success also comes great potential for error. Let us examine the warning John gave the burgeoning church during his time. "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1). This warning demands Godly judgment and discerning of spirits. It was a life and death matter for the Apostles and the early church, and so it is for us today.

I'll skip the temptation to outline a Bible study on the "discerning of spirits" in respect to our knowledgeable readers and hasten to the point. However, consider this clear admonition from Timothy, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron" (1 Timothy 4:1-2).

Wise and observant people today know well that we face a time of strange and powerful spiritual forces. Even secular sociologists and psychologists are trying to address the growing evil, darkness, and loss of civility, manners and social graces that are ravaging our society. It seems that as a culture we've chosen to ignore the deconstruction of our values and morality by modern media and the liberal indoctrination that has replaced traditional Judeo/Christian-centered education systems. Western civilization has turned its children against the religious foundations that built great countries and democracies. This massive social experiment has no assured conclusion, but it is pushed ahead regardless, and I fear chaos looms ahead.

Similarly, the church faces the temptation to experiment with its foundations as well. Comfort, affluence, the desire for change, for results, for numbers, and perhaps an aspiration for a "seat at the table" that we have long been rejected from lures us to a dangerous, climactic moment. Failure isn't always the result of evil intention. Sometimes, it's just simply misdirection, carelessness, preoccupation, neglect or distraction. We must awaken ourselves to be vigilant. We must be mindful to "try the spirits," to "know them which labour among" us, to guard our hearts and our spirits against false doctrines and false teachers. These are significant tasks and to accomplish them will require complete reliance upon the Holy Ghost working through us -- there is no substitute.

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What troubles me deeply is that it seems the discerning of spirits has been lost, or at least severely diminished. We are indeed facing powerful spiritual forces (Ephesians 6:12), but have we become so spiritually dull that we no longer discern good from evil, right from wrong, heavenly from worldly? Do we know what's going on? Can we the sense the seeds of destruction that so easily entwine themselves into our thinking? Can we recognize carnality? Have our spirits been so weakened that we no longer feel the clash of Holy Ghost-filled worship and fleshly offerings? Have we come to believe that the loss of holiness is without consequences?

Imagine for a moment the strain in battling against "doctrines of devils" from Paul's admonition. These doctrines were presented, preached and taught by men whose consciences had been seared, or hardened. They were completely devoid of feeling. Further, consider Jude's warning against "certain men" who creep in and edge themselves in among the righteous unawares. These ungodly men work privately, secretly. Jude describes them as "filthy dreamers" who "defile the flesh, despise dominion and speak evil of dignities."

Such Apostolic admonitions are bold and make clear that this is not a matter for children or the spiritually immature. Jude felt a need to write, "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 1:3).

Jude left no room for misunderstanding. He identified the problem clearly: certain men, forces, ideas, and false doctrines were ordained of old to a certain condemnation. Further, he warned that these ideas and reckless lifestyles left unchecked would destroy the foundational principles of the Apostles' doctrine. He stated that a deep-seated attack was taking place, "ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ" (Jude 1:4). This one point alone speaks to a profound conflict within the church that cannot be underestimated or accommodated.

While working alongside my father in our one and a half acre family garden, he often lectured me. "Paulie," he would say, "there's more to it than just planting and waiting for the crop. We've got to kill the bugs, cultivate the soil, and pull the weeds." Therein lies the vital task for the Church, at which it must not fail.

I used to hear quite often from other ministers and even lay people in the church, "Pastor, that didn't feel right" or "there is something not quite right about this or that." It was not a critical spirit but a discerning of ego, fleshly ideology or false teaching. Today, there is growing tolerance of things that are not of good seed or related to good doctrine. There is a loss of judgment in matters such as the doctrinal violations in many of our worship songs and the overwhelming worldly references in our programs. We wrestle against obsessive interest in sports, movies, rock culture and worldliness in general. And sadly, worldliness is a matter that we scarcely define for our youth at all, as if nothing has spiritual or moral consequences. We must ask the question, "What is worldliness?" It must be something. Because whatever it is, we know that the love of "it" separates us from the love of the Father (1 John 2:4). "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15). This is indeed a great day for revival, but unless we fully submit to the Holy Spirit to help us discern and expose the evil influences in our culture, I fear our relationship with the truth will be destroyed, and God will find someone else to deliver the Apostles' doctrine to this world.

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears" (2 Timothy 4:3).

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FEATURE: YOUR BEACON OF HOPE -DONALD LANCE

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Opinions

STANDING STRONG IN TRIALS

Interviews by Linda Schreckenberg

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



Jeffrey Schmitz, Cedar Rapids, IA - Troubles don't last. God sees us through all sorts of difficulties if we remain faithful with Him. When the heavens seem silent, one should just patiently wait on God. Abraham spent many years in silence, not hearing the voice of God, but he stayed the course. We must have a vibrant prayer life and be immersed in the scriptures. God's Word is Him giving us understanding and direction.

A pastor should always be a mentor in the midst of a saint's trial. We may be having our own trials, but we need to be the shepherd to God's flock at all times and ask God for His strength especially in those trying times. Phil. 4:13 NKJV says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

My greatest trial was when I was to be voted in as pastor. There were saints who were hindering the process, even though I had been assistant pastor there for many years. I was ready to move on, but I didn't feel it was the will of God to do so. In the end I was voted in as pastor and have served as their pastor for 14 years. As for those certain saints, they were the ones that moved on. Most of our trials come from people, not things, but we must discern the will of God for our life and press on or face failure in our ministry.



Joseph Pulaski, Middletown, CT - It is important that we look upon the Lord with increased focus when we are going through a trial. As it was said of Moses in Hebrews 11:27, he had the strength to turn his back on Egypt, was fearless and endured because his eyes were upon "him who is invisible." When we see the fullness of the Lord with clarity, all else comes into true perspective.

We can be deceived by our emotions and misguided by our senses. Just as a pilot is trained to "trust the instruments," we must trust the Word of God and trust the leading

of the Holy Spirit. Storms disorient, but even in the midst of trouble He will give power, love and a sound mind. Don't underestimate the support of your pastor and the encouragement of others who have truly endured many trials with a consistent faith that has stood the test of time.



Paul Ramonett, Idaho Falls, ID - The life of a Christian is not immune to life's trials and tribulations and we often ask how God could allow His children to go through such painful experiences. Many have given up the faith, because of an experience they went through. It is important that your spiritual leader knows what you are going through. Your pastor, as your counselor, will pray for you and give the best advice in times of trial, encouraging you to draw closer to God. My greatest trial was one of illness years ago. Remember, God allows trials so we

can grow and develop our faith in Him through prayer and reading His Word. The lesson learned in our trials is we bring Him the glory as we triumph over the challenges we face. The trial of our faith is more precious than gold, tried in the fire.



Jerry Staten, Washington, DC - During trials, keep your mind on Jesus and stay connected with prayer. Journaling can help greatly in difficult seasons, and scripture memorization strengthens the mind. And, it is important to stay connected to the body of Christ. I have found quiet times in the night with old hymns that opened me up to the healing presence of God and kept me from making dangerous snap decisions. These seasons often deepen one's relationship with God. Prayer and Bible reading

bring fresh revelation, and Psalm 23 keeps the heart sensitive through the valley. Staying connected to and being transparent with those who have a voice in your life can be a key to survival.



Jeremy Damesworth, Steele, MO - When in deep trials, people often feel abandoned by positive mentors. I try to find a positive in their past to build a foundation. This opens a door for them to trust me. In return, I am trusting God to continue to lead me. When the heavens are silent for a saint, I meet with them to get some history as to what brought the trial to this point. I then remind them of the Biblical way to move forward by God's voice through His Word. If people do not pray and read the Bible

during times of great trials, they are telling God, "I don't need you."

My greatest trial was when a minister, close to me, betrayed me and turned others against me. I felt alone, abandoned and worthless. The lesson I learned was that a human did this and not God. It has helped me help others who have gone through the same trial and over a period of time I have healed.



consumed with the trials and with prayers that seem to bounce back, asking God for the proper perspective and grace to endure has brought me the best outcome. When I "feel" that God has taken a vacation or sits on the throne with ear plugs, the only solution is to bring my thoughts, imaginations and feelings under the obedience to His Word. Trials are par for the course in Christianity. They are

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Felder Luma, Stottville, NY - Instead of being

our precious refineries.

Burying four young, close family members in one day, and struggling with infertility after 13 years of marriage was difficult. However, my greatest trial was a season of life when I felt abandoned by God, as though He had removed all hedges of protection and let Satan loose to buffet me. Prior to that, I had always had an answer for people's dilemmas. People called me regarding sickness, marriage problems, demonic oppression and possession. Suddenly, I became fearful, overwhelmed, hypervigilant and in a state of panic. I couldn't sleep at night, and even imagined myself in a mental institution. Demonically oppressed people would tell me a "voice" told them to call me, as if Satan was calling me into the ring. I began to avoid ministry opportunities. Even with a strict discipline of prayer, fasting, praise, worship and meditation, I became so tired I would just lie before the Lord. But I put my trust in Him, and He took me on a journey that made me aware of myself and of Him, eliminating my fears.

DONALD LANCE JACKSON, TN

Steeped in Civil War and musical history, Jackson, Tennessee is located on a section of I-40 between Memphis and Nashville known as Music Road. It's a beautiful city that

has maintained its southern-town feel. In 1978, another important historical event took place.

The Lighthouse Church started with a group of people who had a love for truth and a vision for progress. The first building was purchased and located at 250 Chester Levee Road. The vision continued, the church grew in attendance, and their second building was purchased in 1980 in downtown Jackson.

The church continued to grow and in 1991 land was purchased and, shortly afterward, a beautiful sanctuary and an activity center were built. "My wife, Bridget, and I were elected February 9, 2006," said Pastor Donald Lance. "There were around 150 members when we first came to Jackson. The facilities consisted of a 12,000 square foot church with a seating capacity of 300 and a 10,000 square foot activity center, five classrooms, a full gym, kitchen and upstairs youth room on six acres of land."

Principles of Growth & Revival

There are many different aspects to revival; however, Pastor Lance believes that the most important key to having a growing church is a move of God. "A dead church is not going to grow," he said. "Nothing that is dead grows, so therefore we promote a move of God with prayer, worship, powerful preaching and gifts of the spirit. A fire always attracts people; if there is a fire, people gather. Also, I always try to stay positive in the pulpit (notice the word *try*). I do not bring things to the pulpit that can be handled outside the pulpit. Most issues can be handled outside of the pulpit. The whole church does not need to know that a couple of leaders are fussing with each other and a few families in the church are upset at the way another family corrects their children. When I go to that pulpit, it's time to put everything aside and create an atmosphere for people to believe that God can do anything today. Keeping it positive and creating a party (yes, I said party) atmosphere in the church is essential for church growth. If you have that, then you can add all the programs and organization to it."

The Lighthouse Church implements many events to reach out to the people of the community; it is known as a very friendly church, and when visitors come in, they feel very loved and welcomed. "Our Friends and Family Day is probably our biggest Sunday of the year and we connect with a lot of people," said Bro. Lance. "Also, our Trunk of Treats is a big event; we will have between 1,000 to 1,500 people come through, depending on the weather and when it falls. Our website, however, is probably our biggest outreach. It seems that when people move into the area or start looking for a church online, they easily find ours. We also run vans to pick up children for Wednesday night Glow church and on Sundays as well."

Personal Ministry

The time demands on a pastor in this day and age are great and to remain effective a pastor must make sure his priorities are in the right place. "To me it's a given to prioritize them in the right order, and mine are God, family and then church," explained Bro. Lance. "We are Acts 2:38 believers, but many pastors through the years have not obeyed Acts 2:39: 'the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off.' Save yourself, your children and the world. That's the order of revival. Too many have passed over their children trying to reach for the world." Dealing with situations as well as people is critical, and it is

Dealing with situations as well as people is critical, and it is important to maintain the proper focus or risk losing sight of what is truly important in ministry. "No matter how many problems we deal with in the church, there is always another one waiting," said Bro. Lance. "Even Jesus as He walked the earth did not fix them ALL. It says throughout the gospels that many were healed but not all. There was always someone else in line waiting, yet Jesus would remove Himself for prayer and rest. He set a principle for us as pastors to follow, and that is to lay it all down and take time for ourselves and time for our family. When it comes to the church, my priority is the full and voluntary staff. Jesus invested most of His quality time in the 12 disciples so they would be able to invest quality time into others. We have the wrong concept about investing into people. We have always thought that we must invest into the weak to make them stronger while the whole time we are ignoring the strong. When we do so, the strong become like the weak, and we find ourselves spinning our wheels. If we will invest in the strong, they will in turn strengthen the weak."

Pastor Lance shared five concepts that have helped him grow in his personal ministry. "I have learned to have multiple ministries," he said. "I am not a micro manager. I give our leaders control over their department or ministry and they learn what works and what doesn't because it rises or falls on them. There are other men and women God has given to our church that can do some things a lot better than I can. If I try to do everything, I will suppress not only what I'm good at, but also suppress what they're good at as well.

"The second concept I have learned is that my vision must be greater than my ability. The church I pastor has already out-run my ability but will never out-run my vision. I can't compare myself to the guy across town or in the next state. This is why Paul tells us if we compare ourselves among ourselves, we are not wise. It's not about how equipped I am; it's about how equipped my God is. Many can be more educated than me, out-preach me and out-lead me. But if I

choose, no one can out-love me, out-pray me, or out-faith me, and because of that, God is going to take the church I pastor farther than I could ever do it on my own.

Pastor Donald Lance

"My third concept was a hard one but valuable. I have learned to let people leave. Give them back to God; they are His. We as pastors love the law of giving when it's about finances, but we hate it when it comes to saints. We are good at giving to God as long as it stays within the church we are building. The question is, are we kingdom minded? Let preachers under us grow and let them go. Let saints grow and if God chooses, or they choose to go, let them. The story in 1 Kings 3:16-28 when Solomon had to make a decision for two mothers claiming to be the mother of the same child proves my point. The real mother did not care if she got to hold it, cuddle it, feed it and raise it. She just wanted it to live and grow and be healthy, and she was willing to give it to the other mother even though she did not birth it, just so it could live and grow. And, ultimately, it was given back to her.

"My fourth concept was not to let a year define the church I pastor. A church is defined in 10-year increments, not one-year increments. This is not a sprint; it's a marathon. Peter got wrapped up more in where he was than where he was going; that's why he sank.

'Last, but certainly not least, I have learned that I must have balance. Anyone would try to walk across a 2x4 board lying on the ground. One only needs a little balance for that. But put that same board 20 feet in the air and see how many are willing to try. Why? The higher we go, the more balance we need. And, as a church, the more we grow, the more balance we need. I must not let what others think of me determine my balance, because if they determine my balance, they also determine how high I go."

Organization and Management

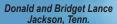
The Lighthouse Church has a variety of ministries, and Bro. Lance believes that teamwork is necessary to keep the organization running smoothly and properly. "I do not promote a one-man show," he said. "We have a team and, as a team, we share the responsibility of the church. Training, planning and meeting are important to a revival church that wants to continue to grow into the future. We have a yearly leadership summit where we meet in another city on Thursday night and stay until Saturday afternoon. We bring in a speaker for our sessions and it's always a time of renewing, fellowship and encouragement for us all. We also send some of our leaders to different conferences that meet the needs of their ministries. I also teach about 10 to 15 minutes at the beginning of our monthly staff meetings and recommend books to them for their leadership growth.³

The staff, as well as volunteers of The Lighthouse Church, meet periodically in order to plan for future events and to decide

the best way in which to execute those plans. "We have a yearly planning session where we serve our leaders a meal and go over the calendar for the upcoming year," said Bro. Lance. "We only set important dates at that time and our planning for the events is in our weekly and monthly staff meetings. A couple of months before the yearly planning session all leaders are to submit the dates for their events through a secure page on our church website. This gives us a head start going into that planning session. We have a meeting once a week for our full-time staff and once a month for all other staff members such as department heads and those who are actively involved in certain tasks of the church. We do not require monthly reports; however, we do receive verbal reports in our monthly staff meetings. We also do not have job descriptions, yet each one knows their primary job in ministry when they are given it. They also know that they must give themselves to serve in whatever capacity they are called for."

Current Facility

In 2006, Bro. Lance



was elected pastor, and in the first two years, Lighthouse Church was able to renovate and even add new parking to accommodate growth. In February 2008, however, an EF4 tornado destroyed the sanctuary at 333 Old Humboldt Road and the church had to look for other options. "Through much prayer and guidance we purchased new property," said Bro. Lance. "We were able to buy 31 acres at 1435 Old Humboldt Road, and we built a new 22,000 square foot sanctuary. It will seat 500 and has seven Sunday school rooms, an administration wing with offices for staff, church workroom, ushers room, multipurpose room for events, children's church room, youth room and a full kitchen. We have seen exceptional progress in all ministries and departments, which has alluded to great growth in attendance so we are making plans now to start our first of five building phases. The first phase will be a new family life center but when we reach our final phase, we will be able to seat and service one thousand to twelve hundred people."

Plans For The Future

Pastor Lance and the Lighthouse Church are excited about the future and the direction of the church, and their vision is to continue to reach, build and give for the sake of revival and harvest not only in their community but around the world. "Of course, it should be the vision of every pastor for every church to grow numeri-cally and to grow spiritually," said Bro. Lance. "So it is our vision to reach our city and surrounding areas with the gospel of Jesus Christ."



(Top left clockwise) Pastor Lance preaches to the congregation; Prayer time in the altar; Exterior of The Lighthouse Church; The choir worships in song.

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Seven Signs You're Too Busy

By Alli Worthington, author of Breaking Busy

Contrary to what many of us in the ministry have been told, we can't handle it all, nor should we. So how do we know when we are reaching our limits? There are signs our body gives us if we're paying attention. For some, the warning signs may be emotional. For others they might be physical, relational, or spiritual. But rest assured, if you are over capacity, you will soon find out — the hard way.

Sign #1: An Inability to Control Emotions. Unable to control our emotions and constantly feeling anxious, irritable, depressed, and overwhelmed are all signs that something isn't right. Out-of-control emotions often reflect the out-of-control demands we put on ourselves.

Sign #2: Lack of Self-Care. People who operate at overcapacity rarely have time for self-care. If we already have a full plate of obligations and crazy commitments, the last thing most of us want to do is spend time planning healthy meals, working out, or taking care of our physical health or appearance. That just sounds like more work. But you can't live the life God created you for, with space to be aware of His leading, if you don't take care of yourself.



Sign #3: Illness. Constant illness can be a sign of many things, and of course you should see your doctor if you're struggling in this area. But illness can also be your body's warning that you need to make changes in your life.

Sign #4: Chronic Lateness. Chronic lateness is often caused by the tendency to say yes to too many activities and too many people. It's a crazy cycle of trying to be all things to all people. In the end, we can't get anywhere on time or accomplish everything we say we will, and we end up disappointing everyone because the weight of it all is too much.

Sign #5: Self-Medicating and Excess. When the demands of life become too much, selfmedicating is a very common response. It might also take the form of obsessive exercise, too many hours on social media, or watching a lot of television instead of getting much-needed sleep. Sometimes we can fool ourselves into thinking self-medicating is actually self-care "I deserve that chocolate bar!" But if we find that our habits are directly related to stressful situations in our lives, we need to recognize those choices as a warning sign of busyness.

Sign #6: Neglecting Important Relationships. Do any of these sound familiar? --"You're always busy. You never have time for us anymore.""Do you have to check your email now? We're out to dinner." "This is the third time you've canceled our date." Do you feel as if you are habitually letting down the people closest to you? It's easy to feel guilty. And once we start feeling just a twinge of guilt, it's all over. The onslaught of pressure and guilt we heap on ourselves outweighs any positive feedback anyone else gives us.

Sign #7: Neglecting God. In the Bible, we often see that Jesus is busy doing the work His Father sent Him to do, living out His calling every day. But despite His busy schedule, Jesus is undeterred from daily reconnecting with God. He leaves cities with people unhealed, prayers unprayed, and work undone all so He can spend time with God. Neglecting God out of our own busyness, combined with any of the other signs lack of self-care, chronic lateness, illness, self-medicating, and neglecting our important relationships — are all symptoms that we are off balance.



By Stephen Judd, TCM President



When you support Tupelo Children's Mansion, you are helping to rescue children like Miriam and Anthony, who were born to a teenage mother who loved the party scene more than she loved her

Stephen Judd www.mansionkids.org

They spent the first few years of their lives in

children.

the drug and alcohol-ridden party rooms that their mother dragged them along to, except for the times she left them—all alone-while she went out to get high.

When they were left with us at the Mansion, they huddled together, tightly gripping one another, their lips quivering, as yet another adult in their life drove



Anthony and Miriam

away, leaving them with yet another set of strangers.

But we are strangers no longer! We are loving them and gently introducing them to what it feels like to be touched with gentle hands that feed and heal, instead of hurt and bruise.

We are placing them in the gentle arms of Jesus, Who is wrapping His love around their minds

and around their souls. If you would to make

a difference in the lives of Miriam and Anthony, please consider becoming a monthly sponsor. You can sponsor online at mansionkids.org or call 662-791-7726. You will not only be changing their lives,

you'll be changing their eternities. Website: <u>www.stephenhjudd.com.</u> Twitter: @StephenHJudd, Facebook Page: StephenHJudd

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WHORME?

There are more than two million Vietnamese in North America.

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NORTH AMERICAN VIETNAMESE COORDINATOR JOHN WOLFRAM johnwolfram@me.com 678-654-1487 globaltracts.com

MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES

UNTHEAN NHOTHSIRI, NASHVILLE,



Machine gun bullets stripped branches from trees above his head as 13-year-old Bunthean Nhothsiri ran for his life with his infant brother on his back. Artillery shells were bursting all around him and other screaming people who were running ahead of him.

Pastor Bunthean Nhothsiri Nashville, Tenn.

Breathless, he did not stop, even in the torrential rain. He dared not stop. His father's

final command to him before his family made their escape was, "Keep your eyes on your older brother. Follow him wherever he goes. Keep running, and stay up with him." Kunning ahead of him, his 14-year-old brother carried their two-year-old brother on his back.

Bunthean and his family were fugitives in their homeland of Cambodia. He knew that if he stopped running he would die, and so would the nine-month-old baby he struggled to keep secure on his back. He saw some of his fellow villagers fall, their bloodied bodies torn by shrapnel, but he kept running.

It was 1975 in war-ravaged Cambodia, and Bunthean and his family were escaping into the night from a resettlement camp they had been forced to move to when their whole village was confiscated by the murderous Khmer Rouge Army. During those nightmare years of 1975-79, approximately 1.7 million of his countrymen lost their lives as the communist Khmer Rouge dictator Pol Pot ruthlessly established control of the nation.

Finally, Bunthean and his brother were able to stop running. Somehow, his whole family of nine had made it to the rendezvous point near the western border of Cambodia. They eventually made their way safely across the border into Thailand, where they would spend the next four years. Bunthean's youngest sister would be born there. During that time, Bunthean began his training as a Buddhist monk. Eventually, when he was 17 years old, a family in the U.S. volunteered to sponsor his entire family to come to America through a Catholic charity organization.

When they arrived in their new home in the small town of Ortonville, Michigan, Bunthean's family was provided a temporary house and living allowance, along with basic classes in how to survive in the totally alien

culture of America. They were grateful for tranquility, overwhelmed by abundance, thankful for their new life, but totally adrift in a sea of unfamiliar language and culture.

At first, only Bunthean was able to speak rudimentary English, and so it was he who answered the door when a neighbor stopped by to invite the family to Sunday church services. Their neighbor was from a newly-started Apostolic church. None of the family had ever been to a Christian church service before, but Bunthean decided for them. They would go. Their family of 10 doubled the size

of the home mission church. The worship Bunthean's family experienced was nothing like the rituals of the Buddhist temples they had known in Cambodia and Thailand. At one point, it was obvious to Bunthean that when the Pentecostal believers prayed, they were speaking in languages other than English. This

was not unnerving, since in his training to become a Buddhist monk, all the monks chanted ancient prayers in a language they did not understand. However, what he could not yet comprehend at the Pentecostal church was that

he heard more than one language other than English being spoken in prayer at the same time.

His whole family continued to attend regularly and they consented to a home Bible study. Pastor David Bowen used Search for *Truth* to teach them about the Bible, and asked the young Bunthean to be his interpreter. It was very difficult, especially trying to understand some of the Old English words in the King James Bible. They did the best they could, but full understanding was coming slowly. Then one day, someone stopped by their house to give them a copy of the Bible in the Cambodian language. Now clarity came as Bunthean read the Bible. In time, he and his entire family repented of their sins, were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, and received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Today, Bunthean is an ordained minister of the United Pentecostal Church International. He and his wife, Jasmine, pastor a church with many Cambodians in their congregation in Nashville, Tennessee. He also serves as the Southeast Asian Ministry Coordinator for the UPCI's Multicultural Ministries.

His testimony is a clear example of why

part of evangelistic outreach of the UPCI. Formerly an arm of North American Missions, as MCM grew it became part of the Church Advancement program which also includes Spanish outreach and Building the Bridge outreach to the urban black community, all of which come under the direct purview of General Superintendent David Bernard.

Multicultural Ministries has developed under the dedicated leadership of Donald Hanscom and his wife, Saundra, former missionaries to Pakistan. They have untiringly proclaimed that the church's first priority is to reach the community around it with the gospel of Jesus Christ. In North America, that community is more often than not a multicultural community. God has brought the world to our doorsteps

we must find ways to reach diverse language and ethnic groups, the church itself has

in outreach to major concentrations of ethnic groups located in their communities. Not only can churches obtain free Bible studies and other Oneness Pentecostal literature in 60 different languages through <u>www.globaltracts.</u> com, but pastors also can obtain outreach assistance for reaching ethnic groups in their communities. Coordinators who are fluent in various major languages and are familiar with diverse cultures are available to assist pastors in reaching these immigrant communities.

Multicultural Ministries provides knowledgeable ministry coordinators for the following: African Immigrants, All Nations Sunday Evangelism, Amish-Mennonite, Burmese, Chinese, Deaf, Filipino, French, Gypsy, Haitian, Korean, Jewish Relations, Middle Eastern, Native American, Portuguese, Refugee and International Students, Slavic (Russian), South Asian, Southeast Asian, Vietnamese, and United Nations Ministry.

Multicultural Ministries is ready to assist any pastor who wants to reach a diverse community. Simply contact <u>mcmupci.com</u>. Often, the first church that befriends and invites these new immigrants and foreign students to church services will become their home church.

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Multicultural Ministries has become a vital For the past 20 years and more

in the United States and Canada, and while

only one culture - a Bible culture.

Many pastors in North America are unaware that an extraordinary resource is available to assist them

MULTICULTURAI

MINISTRIES

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.

apostolicalendar 2016

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SPEAKERS	contact / info
Sept 8-9	Mid-America Renewal Conference (MARC) Indianapolis, Indiana - A Power Packed Preach- ing Conference in the Heart of the Midwest.	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN Host: Paul D. Mooney	Paul Mooney, Josh Carson, Art Hodges, David Trammell, and Brian Kinsey	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
Ост 6-7	Soar 2016 An equipping conference for North American missionaries, church planters, Bible study teachers and church leaders	Holiday Inn Conference Center, 3100 Wellington Place, Janesville, Wi 53546	Marrell Cornwell, Brian Kinsey, Bill Hobson and John Putnam	Contact Dave Punzel, 920- 723-2179, lifechurchwi@ yahoo.com, or www. lifechurchwi.org
Ост 27-28	New England Revival Conference Revival services for everyone. Service begins 7:30 p.m. nightly.	Faith Church 22 Faith Ave. Auburn, MA 01501	Scott Graham and Bruce Johnson	For more info: contact Pastor Cicero (413) 218- 5161 or Pastor Craft (774) 289-9597
Nov 2-5	West Coast Conference - Fresno, CA 33rd Annual Fresno Meeting	Fresno Convention Center, 848 M Street, Fresno, CA	Paul Bertram, Larry Mon- tano, Jess Parker, Sam Ham, O.C. Marler, Homer Looper and David Villegas	For more information call: (559) 225-1622 www.truthtabfresno.org
Nov 3-6	Time of Harvest Conference - Milford, DE	Lighthouse Christian Center, 662 Milford- Harrington Highway Milford, DE 19963	Art Wilson, Stan Gleason, Joel Andrus, Royce Andrus, Lee Stoneking, Ronald Libby and Aaron Soto	For more information call: (302) 841-7777 www.timeofharvest.org
Nov 11-12	Chicagoland Men's Conference	Family Harvest Church 18500 S. 92nd Ave. Tinley Park, IL Host Pastor Miroballi	Jerry Dean, Michael Easter, John Wolfram and Thomas Trimble	For more information call: (708) 330-5252 or (708) 542-2399, www.chicago- landmensconference.com
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 Roden- bush, Lindel Anderson, IBC Choir, IBC Chorale, IBC Praise, others	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
Fев 6-15	Israel Holyland Tour An Apostolic 10-day Biblical tour of Israel. Apos- tolic, Academic, Anointed.	Israel Hosted by: David J. Sagil, Director of Ministry of Jewish Relations	David Bernard and Steve Cannon	For more info: contact David Sagil, 773-617-9550, email djsagil@sbcglobal. net or visit mjr.world
F EB 16-18	WinterFire 2017 - RESTORE 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	Douglas White, Brian Kinsey, David Bernard, Sam Emory, Jimmy Toney, James Hughes, Michael Ensey, Cindy Miller and Theodore Brooks	For more info: visit www.winterfire.org or visit Twitter: winterfire- conf or Facebook/Insta- gram: winterfireconf
Ғев 24	Fresh Oil Youth Conference Power From On High Acts 1:8 7:30 p.m.	New Life of Albany, 1200 Cordele Rd., Albany, GA 31705, Host Pastor: Steve Waldron	Nathan French, Myron Wideman Jr. and musical guests Tiffany Huba, Joy McGarr & Edward Seabrooks	For more info: contact newlifeofalbany.com, freshoilyouth.com 229-439-7242
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 La- Dusta 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
JULY 2017	Mile High Conference 2017 Defending the Apostolic faith, family and future.	Calvary Apostolic Church Of Denver, 5900 E. Yale Ave. Denver, CO 80222	To be announced	(303) 758-5900 www.cacdenver.org DEH2@comcast.net
AUG 17-18	Investing in Futures A conference for those who invest in children. Educating, encouraging and equipping chil- dren's ministry workers.	Apostolic Sanctuary 1501 John Deere Pkwy Silvis, IL 61282 Host: Gary Randol	Richard Gifford, Sam Emory and Aaron Bounds	For more info: visit invest-in-futures.com (309) 792-0414

12

Theology: Making Sense of the Language of Distinction



Church Today

Truth . . . Marching On?

The fight for the hearts and minds of this generation is a battle the enemy has been successful at framing. The battle lines are blurred and the fight more subtle than just getting a once Christian nation to reject God. Satan knows that if he can just get people to question the absoluteness of truth, he has won the

Robert L. Rodenbush

strategic advantage and the battle. The endgame is Truth. The enemy is okay with us teaching, practicing, and holding on to any belief we want to, even an Apostolic one, as long as room is made to accommodate the teaching, practices and beliefs of everyone else.

The pop-psych phrase of the day is, "I'm living my truth." This is a corrupt concept. Truth is verifiable, it is fact, it is reality. It is by definition absolute. So, for you to live "your truth" it must be everyone's truth or it is not truth at all.

In his article, "Why We're Post-Fact," Peter Pomerantsev examines world politics as it pertains to truth. He states, "... it's clear we are living in a 'post-fact' or 'post-truth' world. Not merely a world where politicians and media lie – they have always lied – but one where they don't care whether they tell the truth or not." Why now, when information is ever accessible and facts more easy to check, are we settling for something less than truth?

Culture has immersed itself into "virtual" reality, and embraced "reality" television, knowing that neither of these two things are reality at all. We allow search engine algorithms developed by big companies with big agendas to control information and facts. We blindly accept disinformation and media reports filled with bias and political maneuvering.

Pomerantsev says, "There is some sort of teenage joy in throwing off the weight of facts – those heavy symbols of education and authority, reminders of our place and limitations."

Isaiah warned, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter" (Isaiah 5:20). The church cannot just "throw off the weight " of the Apostolic message. We cannot reject the authority found in scripture. We cannot just be the Apostolic branch of a Christian tree, any more than we can be a Christian branch on a religious tree. To be a part of the same living body, we must agree to the same truth (James 3:11).

Think of the Civil War era anthem, "Glory, glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on." Penned during one of the most divisive times in our national history, the song was a declaration that truth, His truth, mattered to America, it was a valuable, healing, and uniting force. America is again a fractured nation. Her morals and commitment to His truth tossed aside. She can no longer sing that anthem with conviction or fervor. So... it is left to the Church. Will we still stand to protect and defend "His truth?" Will we allow compromise to muddy our message? Or will we contend for the faith, and proclaim, "His truth is marching on."



Theology bobby.killmon@sbcglobal.net

Since Apostolics do not believe in the trinity, what would be the point of three-type language in 2 Cor.13:14?

The clear language of this text is in harmony with Oneness or Apostolic belief. There are several points to consider when interpreting this passage,

Bobby Killmon but I will address just a few due to the constraints of this article. There are over 30 salutations in the NT mentioning the Father and Christ, but tellingly only one salutation mentions the Holy Ghost. This is an important point for Trinitarians to consider.

But the biggest interpretive issue is one of context. The proof is in what the context itself says about the distinction. 2 Cor. 13:4 says, "For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God," showing the context of this passage isn't about "persons" in a triune relationship, but in fact the man Jesus, who like all men was required to obey and serve God in covenant. By doing so and being crucified, the man Jesus provides opportunity for grace to be accessed.

The point is that's why the "grace of our Lord Jesus Christ" is mentioned first! Paul is showing that we get not only the promise of covenant blessing from God, just like they did in the OT, we now also receive the blessings accomplished on the cross through the man Jesus who died for us. That's why Paul says, "For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the *man* Christ Jesus." We have opportunity for fellowship with a holy God because of the sacrifice of His own life as the man Jesus! So, it's clearly the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we need first.

That's why Jesus name baptism is essential to salvation. You must come by way of the only door to salvation. John says, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Now why not the "cometh unto the trinity" here? Again, any distinction is about the way God relates to us in different manifestations or modes. Through this grace provided by the man Jesus, we have and see the depth of the love of God. That's why Paul wrote earlier in 2 Cor. 5:19, "To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself..." (notice it was not themselves).

So, with covenant available to us now through Jesus' work, which is the love of God on display, we now have opportunity for covenant union or "communion of the Holy Ghost." This means communion must happen by the Spirit of God along with Jesus name baptism. It's the same message of being born again of "water and Spirit" in John 3. That's why Paul has already said in 1 Cor. 12:13 to this same Church, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body..." and again in Eph. 2:18, "For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father." Through Christ the man's work (applied in faith by repentance and Jesus name baptism), we have access by the Spirit (born again not just of water but also by the Spirit), unto the Father (fellowship and communion with God)!



tmassengale@apostolic.edu

Church Marketing 101 I encourage every church to consider establishing a Promotions/Public Relations Department. Within this department a number of critical

T. W. Massengale

areas are addressed: Special Event Promo-

tion. Your most successful evangelism tools are church guests. 100% of all new converts come from visitors that come to your church or church activity. Therefore, every church event needs to be promoted well and in a professional manner. This includes flyers, bulletin boards, websites, social media, advertising, church bulletin, PowerPoint announcements, posters, banners, and more. "Getting the word out" must be a priority for every church.

Website Content. Research shows that

80% of all church guests visit your website before visiting your church. If your website looks dated, lacks fresh content, is incomplete or does not provide necessary information, it will be harmful to your image. Websites must be updated weekly or even more often.

Social Media. Churches that fail to utilize key tools like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Pinterest, Google Plus, Tumblr, and others are cutting short key methods of reaching souls. Utilizing these tools takes time and effort. Assembling a team of volunteers and coordinating them with a unified message should be a priority of every church.

Advertising. Advertising is expensive. A church needs to carefully allocate financial resources to get the best return on their investment. But if your community is to know you are there, you must be willing to invest in whatever you can afford: mail-outs, billboards, Google ads, flyers, business cards, etc. Try something new each year. One church has reported great success with bus stop ads, seeing several new guests each week.

Graphic Design. Programs such as Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign are challenging to learn. But the need to project a quality graphic image is critical. Logos, business cards, stationary, and flyer design all require the use of graphic programs. Someone must learn them or you must hire the work done.

Promotional Releases. What your church does is potentially newsworthy. Contacting newspapers, radio stations, TV stations, and other news outlets is still a viable means of promotion. But the information must be packaged properly and quality photos/videos must be provided, along with contact information for possible interviews.

A church need not be lacking in these areas. Start simple; focus on a single area. Then slowly add more volunteers until everything is covered. A fully functioning Promotions Ministry can greatly assist in evangelizing your community.



NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS SERVICE 2016



CHURCH IN A DAY

The Indiana District is building a Church in a Day on Thursday and Friday of General Conference at the corner of Valley Brook Drive & Buck Creek Road in Cumberland, Indiana. Stop by the North American Missions booth to see the live feed. The offering received this year will go to the Church in a Day program. A 1.5 million dollar offering would allow us to fully fund Church in a Day projects and create a self-sustaining program.



NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS SERVICE

UPCI General Conference 2016 7:00PM Thursday, September 29 Indiana Convention Center | Indianapolis, IN Speaker : Art Hodges



northamericanmissions.faith

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FRIDAY	ROOM 123	
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	HAVE YOU CONSIDERED A DAUC	GHTER WORK CARL MCLAUGHLIN
10:40 AM - 11:40 AM	OVERCOMING CHURCH GROWT	H BARRIERS SCOTT SISTRUNK



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Spiritual Growth

God's Word Replaces Toxic Thinking

What is God-based counseling? It is using the Word of God to replace toxic thoughts. Every

Carol Clemans

counselor is different because of his/her knowledge of

God, life experiences and education. In teaching God's Word over 50 years and as a Certified Pastoral Counselor for 24 years, God's Word has the answers to life's brokenness. I have witnessed God's spiritual healing mercies for thousands of people who chose to follow and believe God's truth.

Romans 12:1 & 2 are foundational scriptures for my counseling. Verse one instructs born-again believers to present our bodies as a living sacrifice unto God that is our reasonable worship. True worship is living our life moment by moment reflecting the glory of God. We must be responsible to God for our thoughts, feelings and actions.

Verse two is God's instruction for spiritual, emotional and relational growth. We can be transformed by renewing our minds with God's truth. When we know the truth, the truth shall set us free - free from stinkin'-thinkin'! We are to be renewed in the spirit of our mind!

Science has proven that 75% to 98% of illnesses are due to toxic thinking - Dr. Caroline Leaf. God says as a man thinks in his heart so is he. God says death and life are in the power of the tongue. Science has proven when we think and speak negatively our brain creates blackness. When we think and speak positively, our brain lightens up and produces new connectors. Science is catching up to the wisdom of God. It's God's truth and power that transforms and heals hearts, souls, minds and bodies. Speak God's truth to replace toxic thinking! We must ask, "What is God's truth?"

about any situation. Abuse victims feel they are worthless, helpless, hopeless, unlovable, etc. God's truth is that we are not defined by our past hurt and pain. We are now a *new* creation in God. We were created in His image and likeness and are washed by His blood. *New* is defined as unused without fault. God's truth does replace toxic thoughts!

© Carol Clemans – <u>www.carolclemans.org</u> - 320+ articles, 'about ministry' page is bio of ministry, education, life & ministry references. Teaching products. Book: God's Design for Marriage. Bible conference speaker. Provides nationwide counseling by phone/Skype (636) 448-0121. Ref: Pastor Daniel Batchelor, Dupo, IL.



Creation vs. Evolution moehlenpah@aol.com

Evolution Is Not Scientific

Probably more people have lost their faith in God and the Bible because of the teaching of evolution than Arlo Moehlenpah any other lie. Although it

is being taught in schools as being scientific, evolution is not science in that it is not observable, subject to experimentation, repeatable or verifiable. Questions regarding the origin of the universe or the origin of man cannot be solved by the scientific method because these origins are not observable, subject to experimentation, verifiable and repeatable. The way one answers these origin questions is to ask the One who was there or read writings He inspired. God was the only one there and the Bible is His inspired word.

Evolution also contradicts scientific laws. The law of biogenesis is that life only comes from other life - evolution teaches that life evolved from non-living particles. The law of kinds is that every thing brings forth after its kind - evolution teaches that one kind evolved into another. The second law of thermodynamics shows that systems left to themselves go to a condition of greater disorder - evolution teaches that disordered particles arranged themselves into ordered life.

The evolution of a living cell is a mathematical improbability. The mathematical probability of a single living cell spontaneously coming together in order by chance is 1 in $10^{40,000}$ which is less than a tornado passing through a junkyard and forming a Boeing 747. Without a living God to create life, life could never come into existence at all

Arlo Moehlenpah has a D.Sc. Ch.E. and a degree from Apostolic Bible Institute. He is a professional engineer and taught chemistry at three colleges. His ministry experience includes starting a church in Wisconsin, pastoring in England for two years and teaching for over 40 years at four UPC Bible colleges. He has authored three books including Creation versus Evolution: Scientific and Religious Considerations, available at <u>www.doinggood.org</u>. He is available to speak at churches and other meetings and can be contacted at 619-852-4979 or moehlenpah@aol.com.



Delano Sherley

Accounting & Tax Financial Checkup

Ideally, a church will have an annual budget and will monitor the actual monthly income and expenses compared to the budget to make sure

they are on track. This allows the church to know if it needs to cut back on expenses if there is a shortfall in income, or perhaps allow them to pursue additional ministry opportunities if income is exceeding the budget. Either way, this knowledge allows

the church to make informed decisions in a timely manner.

Even if you don't have a budget, this is still a good time of year to thoroughly review the church finances. Has more money come in than gone out? How do the various income and expense accounts this year compare to the same time period last year? If there are any significant unexplained differences, additional research may be needed.

If the church has a loan and needs to meet certain financial ratios, now is a good time to review if the church is on target to meet the loan requirements for this



Finance

I have been a traveling evangelist for many years. Are there things that I should be doing that will help me reduce my tax liability?

Aubrev Javroe

Yes. First of all, you

should establish a housing allowance. The Code says that the organization in which you are a part of should set up a housing allowance by resolution. This is a simple process but can save you several hundred dollars in taxes.

If you are traveling and have a travel trailer or motor home, you should be paying rent at the location in which you receive your mail. If you can't establish a formal residence and don't incur expenses at that location, the IRS will consider you as an itinerant and then all travel expenses are not deductible.

You should also provide the church where you are ministering with the number of miles you have traveled from the last church. This will help you in your verification of the travel expenses should you receive a notice of an audit. It also gives the church information as to your expenses between churches so they can reimburse you for this travel. It is normal for a church to pay for airfare when traveling using air travel between churches, so paying of mileage expenses should be a normal process and a routine one for the church.

Recordkeeping is a must. You have to verify your expenses. Being a traveling evangelist makes you more vulnerable to an IRS audit. It is a known fact that individuals who use a Schedule C on their tax return have a greater chance of an audit than those who don't. So good recordkeeping is a must.

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

year. Waiting until December or January is too late to fix any shortfall. However, by reviewing now, you will have time to make any adjustments needed to avoid defaulting on the terms of the loan.

Finally, this is also a good time of year to begin working on next year's budgets. This allows you time to complete them before the hectic year-end events and holidays.

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: <u>Delano@dsacpainc.com</u> Website: www.dsacpainc.com

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THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS Faith-Based Colleges, Universities in CA Could Lose Federal Funding

The California legislature is poised to consider legislation that could force numerous faith-based colleges and universities to accept same-sex marriage and other gay issues or lose all federal funding. SB 1146, one of two similar bills



recently introduced in California, would restrict faithbased education only to seminaries that train

pastors and ministers.

If passed as is, this bill would strip California's faith-based colleges and universities of their religious liberty to educate students according to their particular faith's convictions. If they teach homosexuality as sin, that marriage is between a man and a woman only, and other views that the LBGT community consider offensive, they could be stripped of their federal funding and risk losing their tax-exempt status.

RELIGIOUS TRENDS

Veteran Removed From Air Force Ceremony For Mentioning God

An Air Force veteran was forcibly removed from a ceremony where he was giving a speech because his speech mentioned God. According to Breitbart.com, retired Senior Master Sergeant Oscar Rodriguez was asked by Master Sergeant Charles Roberson to give the "flag-folding speech" at Roberson's retirement ceremony.

In 2005, the government changed the flag-folding speech to remove all references to God, but some service members still prefer to use the traditional version which says, "Let us pray that God will reflect with admiration the willingness of one nation in her attempts to rid the world of tyranny, oppression and misery. It is this one nation under God that we call, with honor, the United States of America." It concludes, "God bless our flag. God bless our troops. God bless America."

In a video, viewers can watch Rodriguez giving this speech when four airmen grab him and forcibly escort him from the room. First Liberty Institute is defending Rodriguez and calling for the military to acknowledge that they violated his rights. If the Air Force does not meet these requirements, they will file a lawsuit on Rodriguez's behalf.



Your Unchurched Friends Want to Know About Your Faith

Americans who don't go to church are happy to talk about religion and often think about the meaning of life. They're open to taking part in community service events hosted at a church or going to a church concert. But only about a third say they'd go to a worship service if invited by a friend.

Those are among the findings of a new online survey of 2,000 unchurched Americans from LifeWay Research and the Billy Graham Center for Evangelism. In this survey, "unchurched" means those who have not attended a worship service in the last six months, outside of a holiday or wedding.

More than half of Americans who don't regularly go to church identify as Christians. They are mostly indifferent to organized religion, said LifeWay executive director Scott McConnell. "Unchurched Americans aren't hostile to faith," he said. "They just don't think church is for them."

The study found few of the unchurched are turned off by conversations about faith, said McConnell. Almost half say they discuss religion freely if the topic comes up (47%). A third say they listen without responding (31%), while 11% change the subject.

The fear some Christians have of offending their friends by talking about their faith is unfounded, McConnell said. "Unchurched folks are not being overwhelmed by Christians talking about their faith," he said. "If faith is important to you, then your friends will be interested in hearing about it."

Researchers also asked about the types of church-related activities—outside of worship services—that unchurched Americans would be interested in attending. About two-thirds say they would attend a church meeting about neighborhood safety (62%). About half would take part in a community service event (51%), concert (45%), sports or exercise program (46%), or neighborhood get-together (45%) at a church.

Fewer are interested in an invitation to a worship service (35%), recovery group (25%), or seminar on a spiritual topic (24%). When it comes to church invitations, a personal touch works better than a sales pitch.

Half of unchurched Americans say a personal invitation from a friend or family member would be effective in getting them to visit a church (51%). Other methods, such as a TV commercial (23%), postcard (23%), church member knocking on the door (21%), or Facebook ad (18%) are less effective.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ Christians in Russia won't be allowed to invite their friends to church or to evangelize in their own homes if Russia's newest set of anti-terrorism laws are enacted. The proposed laws place broad limitations on missionary work, including preaching, teaching, and any activity designed to recruit people into a religious group. To share their faith, citizens must secure a government permit through a registered religious organization. ■ A federal judge has struck down a Mississippi bill that allowed county clerks to cite their religious convictions to avoid issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. *CBN News* reports that House Bill 1523, which provided religious freedom for county clerks, was set to become law recently, but U.S. District Judge Carlton Reeves ruled against it. His decision makes it impossible for HB 1523 to be enforced.

LEGAL TRENDS

Judge Rules in Favor of Tax Rebates for Ark Encounter

Recently, a federal judge told Kentucky's tourism board that it can't kick the Answers in Genesis (AiG) Ark Encounter out of a tax rebate program

for tourist attractions because of its Christian focus. The Kentucky



program works like this: Potential tourist attractions are appraised by outside consultants. If the projects qualify, the state agrees to refund part of the sales tax generated by the attraction after its first year of operation. The rebate can last 10 years. AiG's rebate could be more than \$18 million.

However, Kentucky's tourism secretary said the rebate "cannot be used to fund religious indoctrination." In addition, the state objected to AiG's decision to hire only those who can sign its statement of faith.

AiG sued over religious discrimination and U.S. District Judge Gregory Van Tatenhove agreed with the ministry in February. He issued an injunction against Kentucky's tourism board, telling it not to use "religious purpose and message" or "the hiring of its personnel" to exclude the Ark. The state said it had no plans to appeal.

The Ark, which opened on July 7, is set to have an enormous economic impact on the small town of Williamstown where it's located. Set on 500 acres, the Ark is 510 feet long and includes surrounding gardens, a 2,100seat restaurant and a 1,000-seat theater.

POLITICAL TRENDS

James Dobson Labels Trump a 'Baby Christian'

James Dobson, a leading evangelical figure, has said that Republican nominee Donald Trump has recently come to faith in Christ. Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family, said that although Trump has often been criticized for his failure to correctly use biblical terms and his failure to name his favorite Bible verse despite saying the Bible was his favorite book, Dobson says that Trump has made a profession of faith and is "a baby Christian."

"[H]e did accept a relationship with Christ," said Dobson, according to ChristianToday.com. "I know the person who led him to Christ. I don't know when it was, but it has not been long. I believe he really made a commitment, but he's a baby Christian."

Dobson said Christians ought to recognize that Trump didn't grow up in a Christian environment. "He doesn't know our language," said Dobson. "You've got to cut him some slack."

19

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Altar scene (Europe)



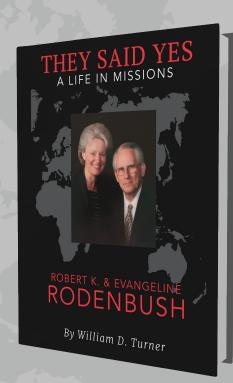
Burial memorial of the Prophet Jonah, located on a hilltop in the east side of old Nineveh. ISIS destroyed this June 7, 2016

Be sure to visit the IBC booth at General Conference to pick up your own copy of

They Said Yes: A LIFE IN MISSIONS

ROBERT K. & EVANGELINE RODENBUSH

By William D. Turner





Street scene in Mosul, Iraq



Altar scene (Europe)

Editor's note: In 2004, Robert Rodenbush, former Regional Director for the Europe/Middle East Region of the United Pentecostal Church International, along with former Regional Military Ministries Coordinator, Arlie Enis, and UPCI Representative to Jordan, Gary Reed, made a perilous trip into northern Iraq to meet Oneness Pentecostal believers in that war-torn nation. In that decade, Gary and Linda Reed had discovered close to 3,000 Iraqi Pentecostals who traced their beginning to the ministry of the late Andrew D. Urshan during his missionary trip to northern Persia (Iran) during World War I. In the 21st century, most of those Iraqi Pentecostals have been forced out of Iraq, or killed in continued warfare and persecution. The following is an excerpt from the newly released book from Voice and Vision, They Said Yes, A Life in Missions — Robert and Evangeline Rodenbush. The book is written by William D. Turner, an instructor in Missiology at Indiana Bible College, where Robert K. Rodenbush is Dean of Missiology. Copies of the newly released biography can be ordered through Voice and Vision.

> An excerpt from **They Said Yes: A Life in Missions** ROBERT K. & EVANGELINE RODENBUSH By William D. Turner

s soon as they made the turn, everyone in the car knew that they were in immediate danger. The street in front of them was impassable, overflowing with moving, shouting, gesticulating, confused, and angry people. Suddenly, they were trapped. Like a dam breaking, the route behind them was filled from both sides with a storm surge of fluid humanity. For a brief moment, the chaotic street scene seemed frozen, like a motion picture suddenly stopped on a single frame. The chaos of sound, of wailing and shouting and distant sirens, also seemed to suddenly stop, as if a sound track were abruptly muted.

All four men in the small, hot, and dusty vehicle instantly turned their heads from side to side, their eyes casting about in search of a way out of their predicament. There was no escape, and now bodies were pushing up against the side of the car, thrown against the vehicle by a shifting wave of the surging crowd.

Just as suddenly, the sound track was turned on again and the din of anxious, high-pitched voices reemerged in their conscious awareness. The frozen newsreel they were caught in began to clatter once more on the projector of their overwhelmed senses and everything around them became frenetic motion. They were submerged in the relative stillness inside the car as the crowd swirled around them. Then, abruptly, people began pushing their faces to the car windows, apparently trying to determine if those inside were friend or foe. It was like driving off of a bridge and plunging beneath a roiling river current, safe in a pocket of air but on your way to drowning unless you could find a way out and back to the surface.

Anwar Matta, an Iraqi pastor, was behind the wheel. Missionary Arlie Enis sat next to him in the front passenger seat. In the back seat was Regional Director Robert Rodenbush. Beside him, on the driver's side, sat Middle East Representative Gary Reed. No one spoke in those chaotic moments, but it was evident with the wailing of ambulance sirens that a car bomb had just exploded in a nearby market place. It was another suicide bomber — the second of two such incidents in the northern city of Irbil since their visit to the Kurdish region of Iraq began. The ancient city of Irbil was a major trading center between Bagdad and Mosul. It was the spring of 2004.

A short time earlier, they had stopped at a Bible bookstore owned by a Kurdish pentecostal believer. "I am not alone. There are 300 other Kurds who believe just like me," the bookstore owner had said. "People who read the Bible are different," he added. "I want to put a Bible in every home in this city." In spite of their eagerness to quickly continue their journey since there had already been a bombing near their hotel, the bookstore owner had delayed them for prayer together. They were all realizing that had they not been delayed, they would likely have been in the direct path of the suicide bomb that day that had taken the lives of 20 innocent bystanders not far from the spot where their car was slowed in the crush of frenzied people.

Suddenly, all four men looked to the front of the vehicle as an armed, Kurdish policeman pushed his way toward them. Operation Desert Storm was over, the regime of Saddam Hussein had been deposed, and a new government had come to power, supported by American and allied forces. Arlie, an Army veteran and coordinator of Military Ministries in the region, could only assume that this policeman would be friendly to Americans. He reacted quickly as the officer approached his window, clearly upset because the car was slowly moving forward in the crowd. Arlie reached into his pocket and pulled out his U.S. passport and pressed it to the window so the policeman could clearly see it. The police officer acknowledged that he had seen the passport by quickly coming to attention and saluting. Arlie returned his salute. The policeman pointed to a side street and motioned Arlie to follow. The officer began shouting and shoving pedestrians out of the way, clearing a path for the car and its four preachers until finally they were in the clear again, driving down a relatively quiet side street. They waved a thank you to the police officer, who once again saluted.

It was not the only close call that day. On the drive back to Mosul, Pastor Matta saw an American military convoy just ahead of them. Thinking the convoy would offer them some protection during the drive into the city, he steered toward the heavily armed military vehicles. Arlie immediately realized the danger as they approached a large armored vehicle with a machine-gun mounted on top. The American gunner had his finger on the trigger and the barrel pointed directly at them. Arlie knew that convoy gunners were under orders to open fire on any unauthorized vehicles driving straight toward them.

"No, no! You don't want to do that, Brother Matta," he nervously told the Iraqi pastor. Too late. They were dangerously close to the convoy. Once again, Arlie saved the day with his American passport, which he was now pressing to the windshield, hoping the American machine gunner would notice. He did, and at the last moment pointed the barrel of his weapon down. "We came very close to being blown away,"Arlie recalled, smiling ruefully about it, nearly 12 years later. "I still get nervous thinking about it."



CHINA adoption program

CHILDREN AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION From China

- Male and female children are available for adoption.
- Children's ages range from one year to 14 years of age.
- of age.Healthy and special needs children are available.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO ADOPT

- Both married couples and single women may adopt from China.
- Applicants must be at least 30 years or older.
- Couples must be married a minimum of two years (if previously married, married 5 years).
 Couples must be in good health.

TRAVEL

• Families should plan to be in China for approximately 10-12 days.

GETTING STARTED

• For more information visit www.NewBeginningsAdoptions.org or contact us at: China@newbeginningsadoptions.org, 662.842.6752 or 662.401.2226.

POLAND adoption program

CHILDREN AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION FROM POLAND

- Children in Poland are Caucasian.
- Male and female children are available for adoption.
- Children may be as young as three years of age, but are most often older, except in sibling group referrals.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO ADOPT

- Both married couples and single women may adopt from Poland.
- Couples who have been married a minimum of five years and are 25 years of age or older, with no more than a 40-year difference between the age of the child and the age of the prospective adoptive parents, but exceptions can be made.

TRAVEL

• Families are required to travel to Poland. The New Beginnings Polish team will coordinate adoption-related activities while in Poland.

GETTING STARTED

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DOMESTIC

CHILDREN AVAILABLE FOR DOMESTIC ADOPTION

- Male and Female Children.
- Caucasian, African American, and mixed race children.
- Mostly newborns occasionally older children.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO ADOPT

- Married couples only and must have been married for at least two years.
- Christian Couples.
- Must be at least 21 years of age and not over the age of 45 in considering an infant adoption (will go by the age of the youngest person).
- Must be in good physical health.
- The use of tobacco products is absolutely prohibited.

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Giving Sight to the Blind

Former Meth Dealer, IBC Alum Helped Develop Braille Code For Biblical Scholars



Bro. Matthew Yeater Elkhart, Ind.

"I got drunk for the first time at age six," explained Bro. Yeater. "I started smoking cigarettes when I was nine, marijuana when I was 11, and I graduated to meth and cocaine when I was 15. My teenage years were full of institutions and foster homes."

orn into a traditional

bro-

Yeater has defied

grace and mercy.

"Every wise leader

knows leadership is

leader employs oth-

ers who are better at

certain tasks than he

is," said Bro. Timothy

Mitchell, senior pastor

of New Testament

Christian Center in

something he cannot

do all by himself. That

Losing his vision when he was 20 while manufacturing methamphetamines, Bro. Yeater almost died and spent several years in prison as a blind man. "The last time I was in jail I was charged with a crime I did not commit," he said. "I was looking at 40 years in prison. This is where I met God. I was filled with the Holy Ghost and instantly set free from every addiction I ever had."

Under the leadership of Pastor Mark Johnson, Bro. Yeater began to preach in the Elkhart County Jail and soon felt a call into the ministry. Following the leading of the Lord, he attended Indiana Bible College where he graduated in 2013 with a 3.89

By Gregg Stone

GPA, two very distinct leadership awards and a Bachelor's degree.

"I continued my education, preparing for a PhD at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, where I graduated with a Master of Divinity and a Minor in Theology," said Bro. Yeater. "As a student in this program the requirement was for me to have a minimum of three semesters in Biblical Greek and the same in Biblical Hebrew. Imagine this for a

sighted student and then imagine this for a blind student without any type of resource available to accomplish this."

Bro. Yeater, along with Sarah LaRose, Ray McAllester, computer genius Brent Graybar, language master Dr. Paul Keim, Dr. Loren Johns, and Ryan Harker developed a braille code,

and partnered with David Holladay and Karen Navey at a braille conversion software company called Duxbury to create a profile for Biblical language scholars. "What that means is that I am able to take a Unicode formatted language grammar, and convert it into a digital braille document and read it almost instantly," said Bro. Yeater. "Because of this project, at this point I can

Matthew Yeater speaks to students at

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary.

Advanced→ Lay

Leadership Training

read ancient Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic and Svriac as a totally blind man and reproduce materials relating to critical Biblical textual criticism. Until now, that has never been achievable for a blind Bible scholar.' Excited about the future, Bro. Yeater

is working with two Jewish scholars at Bar Ilan University in hopes of being accepted to continue his studies in Israel and eventually obtain his PhD. He has

been awarded first place in the Dr. Jacob Bolotin Award. These prestigious awards, granted each year as funds permit, recognize individuals, corporations, organizations or other entities for outstanding work of excellence on behalf of the blind in the United States. Others who have received this award are Ray Kurzweil and even

Apple. "There have been many blind Bible students who have shuddered at the concept that their dream would be shattered because of the lack of access to the language aspect of biblical studies; however, all of that has now been changed," said Bro. Yeater. "Any blind person will now have that access and will be able to pursue their destiny due to the programs we helped to create."

Advanced Leadership Training Apostolic Pastor Created Manual That Offers Thought-Provoking Leadership Tips



Pastor Timothy Mitchell Montgomery, Ala.

Montgomery, Alabama. "Moses learned this lesson from his father-in-law. Everyone is given at least one talent to use for the kingdom, and those who are busy fulfilling their role in the body of Christ make the most contented saints.' Bro. Mitchell's leadership manual, Advanced Leadership Training, shares leadership principles to ensure people can fulfill their Godgiven ministries. He was motivated to write the book because he felt there was a need in our movement for Apostolic-based materials in this area for pastors to use.

Bro. Mitchell believes leadership training is vital in church growth and healthy churches. He explained, "Having others ful-

By Linda Schreckenberg

fill their calling releases spiritual synergy into the organization. Like fertilizer is to a plant, involvement automatically fuels growth, enthusiasm and positive direction. Leaders who do not use the talent they have available lose that part of the body to another organization that will employ them. Busy people, exercis-

ing their gifts, bring fulfillment and contentment personally, and they will heartily support the church, because they are contributing something of value -- they are vested."

Advanced Leadership *Training* covers the following topics: Seminar 1) Weathering the Storm of Being Out Front; Seminar 2) Personal Growthforward but never backward, obeying the word of faith and staying fresh; Seminar 3) First

Impressions-looking at you on the outside, body language and verbal communications; Seminar 4) Church Culture and Pastoral Personality-custom-made leadership, leadership styles, corporate philosophy, and room for your unique personality and Seminar 5)

Teamwork—unity brings the anointing while teamwork multiplies our ability because the things that unite us should be stronger than things that divide us.

The feedback on the book has been very favorable. "People have said it was very informative, helpful and much needed," said

Bro. Mitchell. "They appreciated the product because they didn't have to create it, and it was produced by an ordained UPCI minister with over 40 years of pastoral experience."

This product consists of a binder with printed materials and a CD. The CD includes access to the editable training manual in Microsoft Word that is printable along with 108 PowerPoint slides and viewer, student handout notes for each chapter, and a

completion certificate. Advanced Leadership Training is available through www.knowthetruthministry.org or call 334-320-6858 for more information. The price is \$85 for the hard copy or \$65 for the download of the e-version.

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Bad assets include savings bonds, IRAs and commercial annuities. These IRD (income with respect to the decedent) assets pose an income tax problem to an estate or family. The beneficiary of an IRD asset is responsible for the untaxed income attributable to the asset. In the case of savings bonds, the untaxed income is the savings bonds' accumulated interest income. If a ministry receives a bequest of savings bonds, however, the tax result is quite different. First, a ministry is exempt from income taxes. Therefore, ministry will not have to pay tax on the accumulated interest income when it redeems the savings bonds. Second, a bequest of the savings bonds to a ministry produces a charitable estate tax deduction. Thus, the savings bonds pass to ministry free of any income or estate tax!

For more information, please contact Kent Russell at: krussell@upci.org or 314-373-4363

www.upcstewardship.com

Smiles & Humor

Word To The Wise:

"Live your life so that when you die, the preacher will not have to tell lies at your funeral.'

* * * * * * *

A man phoned the hospital in a state of excitement: "My wife is pregnant! Her contractions are only two minutes apart!"

The doctor asked, "Is this her first child?"

The man quickly responded, "No! -- this is her husband!"

* * * * * * *

Q: How does a homeschooler change a light bulb?

A: First, mom checks out three books at the library on electricity, then the kids make models of light bulbs, read a biography of Thomas Edison and do a skit based on his life. Next, everyone studies the history of lighting methods, wrapping up with dipping their own candles. Next, everyone takes a trip to the store where they compare types of light bulbs as well as prices and figure out how much change they'll get if they buy two bulbs for \$1.99 and pay with a \$5 bill. On the way home, a discussion develops over the history of money and also Abraham Lincoln, as his picture is on the \$5 bill. Finally, after building a homemade ladder out of branches dragged from the woods, the light bulb is installed. And there is light.



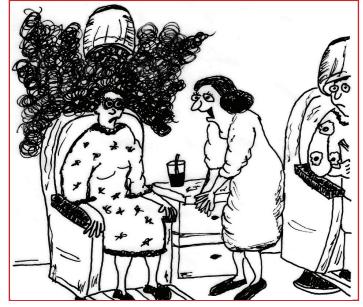
"It didn't strike you as the least bit suspicious? 'Visit Indianapolis by rail. Only \$9.95 each way!' By the time we get to General Conference, it will be over!"

* * * * * * *

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson went on a camping trip. After a good meal, they decided to lie down for the night and went to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes awoke and nudged his faithful friend, "Watson, look at the sky and tell me what you see." Watson replied, "I see millions and millions of stars." "What does that tell you?" Holmes asked. Watson pondered

for a minute. "Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce the time is about a quarter past three. Theologically, I can see that God is all-powerful and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, I suspect we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you?

Holmes was silent for a minute, then spoke, "Someone has stolen our tent!'



"Gosh, Sis. Hurtley, I am SO sorry about the minor malfunction with the hair dryer. But I'm sure we can get it tamed down in time for your General Conference!"

One dark night outside a small town in Minnesota, a fire started inside the local chemical plant, and suddenly it exploded into massive flames. The alarm went out to all the fire departments for miles around.

When the volunteer firefighters appeared on the scene, the chemical company president rushed to the fire chief and said, "All of our secret formulas are in the vault in the center of the plant. They must be saved. I will give \$50,000 to the fire department that brings them out intact." But the roaring flames held the firefighters off.

From the distance, a lone siren was heard as another firetruck came into sight. It was the nearby rural township volunteer fire company composed mainly of Norwegians over the age of 65. To everyone's amaze-ment, the little run-down fire engine passed all the newer engines parked outside the plant and drove straight into the middle of the inferno!

Outside, the other firemen watched as the Norwegian old-timers jumped off and began to fight the fire with a performance and effort never seen before. Within a short time, they had extinguished the fire and saved the secret formulas. The grateful president joyfully announced that for such a superhuman feat he was upping the reward to \$100,000 and walked over to personally thank each of the brave firefighters.

The local TV news reporters rushed in after capturing the event on film and asked, "What are you going to do with all that money?" "Vell," said Olee Larsen, the 70-year-old fire chief, "Da furst ting

vee doo is fix da brakes on dat truck!"



"Hey, I get it. I can't feel anything below my neck. But we just saved \$1,480 in General Conference expenses!"

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Volume I

How to Teach HOLINESS

From the Inside Out



"You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy." Leviticus 19:2

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New from David A. Huston

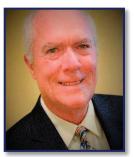
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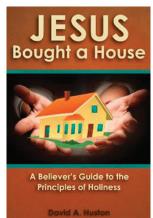
Life

Ne Bef

Bro. Huston is a passionate advocate of biblical holiness. In 1992 he planted an Apostolic church in Carlisle, PA, where he currently resides and pastors. He is the author of many books and articles, and has traveled extensively, teaching on a variety of topics. In 2013 he taught seminars on Apostolic holiness in seven cities in South Africa. His new book called *How to Teach Ho*liness is the fruit of those seminars.



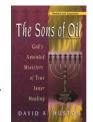
Bro. Huston's book is primarily for pastors and other leaders who are responsible for teaching holiness, but he has also published a shorter book for all believers called *Jesus Bought a House*. A 12-lesson teaching series that follows the chapters in this book is available for use in local churches.



How to Teach Holiness (8½ by 11, 330 pages) \$24.95 Jesus Bought a House (5½ by 8½, 220 pages) \$14.95

Order at RoshPinnah.com Volume discounts available.

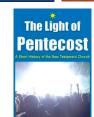
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