

Vol.22 No.11

Indiana Bible College

# Perspectives



## THE KEY TO REVIVAL

*Feature Page 6*

from the publisher

**Paul D. Mooney**

## Deeply Ponder

*"The enemy gains his end as effectually by what is termed 'the religious world' as by any other agency; and hence, when he can succeed in getting a true Christian to accredit the religion of the day, he gains a grand point."*

**I** pulled a small book from my library shelf recently, and I had marked a passage many years ago that I have chosen to share with the readers of *IBC Perspectives* magazine. I submit it without comment, except to say, as does the author, "deeply ponder this."

*As a matter of course, men think it quite right for every one to have a religion, let it be what it may. Provided we are sincere, and do not interfere with our neighbor's creed, it does not matter what shape our religion may happen to wear. Such are the thoughts of men in reference to what they call religion; but it is very obvious that the glory of the name of Jesus finds no place in all this. The demand for separation is that which the enemy will ever oppose, and which the heart of man cannot understand. The heart may crave religiousness, because conscience testifies that all is not right; but it craves the world as well. It would like to "sacrifice to God in the land;" and Satan's object is gained when people accept of a worldly religion, and refuse to "come out and be separate." (2 Cor. vi.) His unvarying purpose from the beginning has been to hinder the testimony to God's name on the earth. Such was the dark tendency of the proposal, "Go ye, sacrifice to your God in the land." (Ex. 8:25) What a complete damper to the testimony, had this proposal been acceded to! God's people in Egypt and God Himself linked with the idols of Egypt! Terrible blasphemy!*

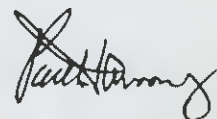
*Reader, we should deeply ponder this. The effort to induce Israel to worship God in Egypt reveals a far deeper principle than we might, at first sight, imagine. The enemy would rejoice, at any time, by any means, or under any circumstances, to get even the semblance of divine sanction for the world's religion. He has no objections to such religion. He gains his end as effectually by what is termed "the religious world" as by any other agency; and hence, when he can succeed in getting a true Christian to accredit the religion of the day, he gains a grand point. As a matter of actual fact, one knows that nothing elicits such intense indignation as the divine principle of separation from this present evil world. You may hold the same opinions, preach the same doctrines, do the same work; but if you only attempt, in ever so feeble a manner, to act upon the divine commands, "From such turn away" (2 Tim. iii. 5.), and "Come out from among them" (2 Cor. vi. 17.), you may*

*reckon assuredly upon the most vigorous opposition. Now how is this to be accounted for? Mainly by the fact that Christians, in separation from this world's hollow religiousness, bear a testimony for Christ which they never can bear while connected with it.*

*There is a very wide difference between human religion and Christ. A poor, benighted Hindoo [sic] might talk to you of his religion, but he knows nothing of Christ. The apostle does not say, If there be any consolation in religion; though, doubtless, the votaries of each kind of religion find what they deem consolation therein. Paul, on the other hand, found his consolation in Christ, having fully proved the worthlessness of religion, and that, too, in its fairest and most imposing form. (Comp. Gal. i. 13, 14; Phil. iii. 4-11.)*

*True, the Spirit of God speaks to us of "pure religion and undefiled;" but the unregenerate man cannot, by any means, participate therein; for how could he possibly take part in aught that is "pure and undefiled"? This religion is from heaven, the source of all that is pure and lovely; it is exclusively before the eye of "God and the Father;" it is for the exercise of the functions of that new nature with which all are endowed who believe on the name of the Son of God. (John i. 12, 13; James i. 18; 1 Peter i. 23; 1 John v. 1.) Finally, it ranges itself under the two comprehensive heads of active benevolence and personal holiness.—"To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." (James i. 27)*

From: "Notes on the Book of Exodus" 1862 C.H.M.  
(Charles Henry Mackintosh)



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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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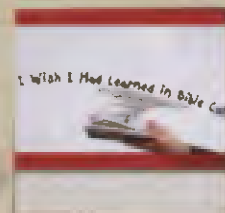
David M. Hudson  
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5.00 Loan for new addition  
Call Bro. Motsinger about  
6.00 Preaching about  
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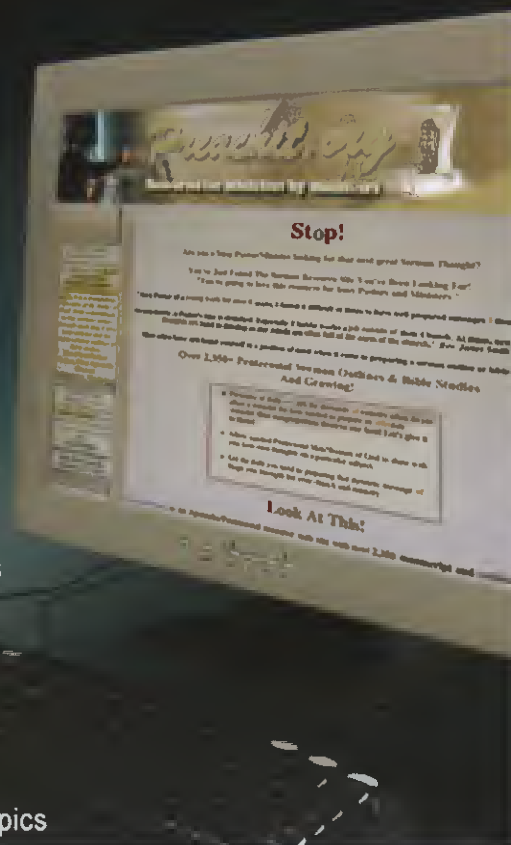
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PreachIt.org is an Apostolic/Pentecostal resource web site with over 4,000 manuscript and outlined sermons of various topics. They can be used as they are, edited or downloaded from the site and printed. With categories like:

- |                          |                    |  |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--|--------------------|
| ✓ The Godhead            | ✓ Bible Prophecy   | ✓ Miracles                               | ✓ Funerals         |
| ✓ Faith                  | ✓ Men's Ministry   | ✓ Doctrine                               | ✓ Baby Dedications |
| ✓ Baptism                | ✓ Prayer           | ✓ Salvation                              | ✓ Creation         |
| ✓ Holidays               | ✓ Women's Ministry | ✓ Christ's Return                        | ✓ The Cross        |
| ✓ Holy Spirit In filling | ✓ The Family       | ✓ Encouragement                          | ✓ And More!        |
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# What I Wish I Had Learned in Bible College

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



**Roger Barcus, Saint Paul, MN** – I attended ABI and TBC, graduating from both in years 1968 and '69. Looking back over my years of ministry, three things I wish had been explained better when I was starting out were: (1) how to be an effective evangelist, (2) how to overcome rejection and teach home Bible studies, and (3) how to hear the voice of God, to be confident of His will and not be redirected by well-meaning people.

The classes or topics I would recommend that our Bible colleges place a greater emphasis upon would be: (a) How to be a good Jonathan – a second man, (b) A Successful Follow-up Ministry, and (c) Accountability Partners for short and longer term goals. I feel the greatest need in the ministry is in the area of retention of the people we win to God. Jesus gave us the 25% principle in good ground but we keep less than that in most of our churches I know of, including the one I get to pastor.



**Don Martin, Tulsa, OK** – I attended Western Apostolic Bible College, Stockton, CA from 1971-1973. I worked and attended Gateway College of Evangelism, St. Louis, MO in 1978 and Apostolic Bible Institute, St. Paul, MN from 1979-1985. Also, I was on the staff of IBC for the second semester of 1988-89 as Music Director.

Looking back over my years in Bible school, I wish financial accountability, real costs for ministers and what is needed for a local church to survive financially would have been taught. Many ministries have come to an end due to financial difficulties. Many older ministers cannot retire due to poor financial planning. This causes a strain on them and is a hindrance on the church they pastor. Another subject I would recommend our Bible colleges place a greater emphasis upon would be doctrine. Apostolic Pentecostals have some "definites" in the Scripture that separate us from other denominations. For the next generation to have great revival, they must have strong doctrinal beliefs. Otherwise, we will join the ranks of the non-committed, weakening religious groups of this country.



**TJ Cox, Steger, IL** – I was blessed to be able to attend IBC 1992-1996. Upon graduation, my wife, Alyssa, and I headed out for a short-term stint as evangelists. While our experience was mostly positive, I now look back wishing we'd had more preparation in handling the duties of an evangelist and being a greater blessing to the churches we were ministering in. More effective teaching on altar working and flowing in the Spiritual gifts would have been helpful. There cannot

be enough emphasis placed upon the teaching of Apostolic doctrine. Other subjects desperately needed today: Prayer and the Operation of the Spiritual Gifts, Theology of Divine Healing, Communicating Apostolic Distinctives within today's cultural setting, relating Apostolic Doctrine to Non-Apostolic Christians, and Christian Apologetics.



**Nik Schexnayder, Woodland, CA** – I attended Jackson College of Ministries 1997-2000. Looking back over my ministry I realize people are going to make mistakes, including the ones you love and have the greatest respect for. So you need to learn to give people as many second chances as you give yourself. I wish JCM had taught on this more. Other subjects I would recommend our Bible colleges place a greater emphasis upon would be in church finances/business and IRS compliance.

I find finances and new convert retention to be the areas of greatest need in the ministry.



**R. Woodward, Fredericton, New Brunswick** – I attended United Pentecostal Bible Institute in Fredericton, New Brunswick 1980-1983. I learned many good things in Bible school, but I wish I had been taught how to: (a) develop leaders, not just to lead; (b) move in the Spirit, not just to preach; (c) plant a church, not just to pastor one; (d) set priorities, not just take opportunities.

Since the majority of our graduates find a place of ministry under another leader, I would like to see our Bible colleges place greater emphasis upon: (a) team ministry, (b) people skills, (c) the role of the "second man," (d) seasons and transitions in ministry. I have to continually grow in my personal spiritual disciplines for my ministry, team and church to continue to grow. The old adage states, "speed of the leader = speed of the team." I agree, but I have learned that "fast" isn't always the right speed. Spiritual growth demands quality and quantity time with God, and that means spiritual leadership develops on *His* timetable, not *mine*.



**William Chapman, Paw Paw, MI** – I attended Apostolic Bible Institute 1984-87. If there was anything I would wish that could have been emphasized greater was to listen more intently to those "hands full of purpose" that were dispensed by the experienced men of ministry who either taught full-time or as guest lecturers.

As an adjunct Bible school instructor, I realize the needs of today's Bible college student are different than when I was in school. Changing times demand it. There is, however, no "shelf life" for wisdom that has been acquired over the years from men of God who are not only teaching but living their lessons. I feel there is a greater need to teach the value of listening. I'm not suggesting a class called "Listening 101" but rather an atmosphere and culture of true deep respect for what they are gleaned from these elder ministers. So teach the students every new issue that arises: the Emergent Church, Post Modernism and the like; however, the basic fundamentals of ministry – humility, service, a love for doctrine and for those who laid a foundation of truth before them – should permeate every class taught.

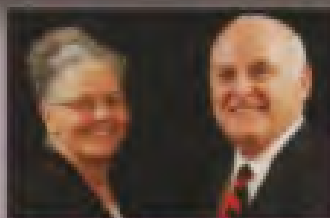


**JR Meyer, Portland, OR** – I attended Christian Life College in Stockton. An area I would want to improve in my education is how to better handle the questions and approaches when trying to reach agnostics and atheists. Also, to have learned how to effectively plant a true Apostolic church would have been wonderful. Other topics I would recommend our Bible colleges place a greater emphasis upon would be Evangelism 101, Practical Teachings and Church Planting, including essentials and tools. Fellowship, training, coaching and discipline are great needs in ministry. But the greatest is what Jesus said: "the Laborers are few." I believe God is *still* truly calling young people, and they're out there. I would say to them, "Go, preach the Gospel!"



**Ted Graves, Portland, OR** – I attended Western Apostolic Bible College 1974-1978. Looking back over my years of ministry, some areas I wish I had been taught better would be: legal procedures and guidelines for churches and schools, how to do fundraisers for building programs, and more knowledge for counseling. Other subjects I recommend our Bible colleges place a greater emphasis upon would be: (1) training on how to teach and retain new converts and discipleship of the saints, (2) how to teach tithing and giving from a Biblical standpoint, and (3) general church growth guidelines.





Bro. and Sis. David M. Hudson  
Morgantown, WV

"Without question prayer is the foundation on which everything rises and falls!" says Pastor David M. Hudson of Riverside Apostolic Church in Morgantown, West Virginia. "When I came to Morgantown 27 years ago I preached a 7-week series based on 2 Chronicles 7:14. This has been the catalyst for my ministry during

this time in Morgantown. Everything we do is bathed in prayer." There are at least five weekly prayer times, two more monthly, with a three-hour Prayer Blaze every quarter.

#### Priorities and Organization

Pastor Hudson believes a revival pastor needs to focus mainly on prayer, organization, oversight and follow through of casting the vision. Various departments at the church include Daughters of Zion, Prayer, Single Adults, Outreach, Care Ministry, Ladies Ministry, Bible Quizzing, Campus Ministry, Financial Peace University, Purpose Institute, Youth, Missions, Music, etc.

Leaders meet weekly with an "annual strategizing exhaustive meeting." Forty percent of the church is involved in some form of ministry with an additional 10 percent directly involved in evangelism. Pastor Hudson uses messages from the pulpit and training to promote or encourage involvement.

"I personally strive for excellence," says Pastor Hudson. "I am somewhat of a perfectionist particularly in my younger years. I expect people to do their best. I delegate. I give people a job, make sure they understand what is expected and then turn them loose. I DO NOT stand over them. I do expect accountability. If they do not do well I attempt to help them and see if they can improve."

Growth ministries and methods that have worked best for increasing attendance are "our Prayer Ministry, our annual Messiah Drama, and one-on-one relationship building." Pastor Hudson considers missions to be the focus of his ministry. His favorite subjects to preach on are "prayer and prophetic end-time messages."

#### History of Riverside Apostolic Church

"In 1931, Rev. W.T. Poling came to Riverside at the invitation of Rev. H.I. Goodin and was elected as pastor," says Pastor

Hudson. "At that time the church was simply known as the Mission." He continues, "A few years later, Bro. Poling and the people were praying for the Lord's direction concerning a new church. One evening as he walked along Monongahela Ave., he came to the corner of Monongahela and Ferry, and the Lord spoke to him saying, 'This is the place!' An investigation followed and the owner of the property was contacted. The ground was purchased, and work began on the new church. Rev. H.C. Weaver was in charge of the building program. Bro. Poling and the men of the church did most of the work.

"On Thanksgiving Day 1937, the Riverside Apostolic Church was dedicated. Bro. Goodin preached the dedicatory sermon. As in the past, God blessed the church with continued growth and something had to be done. The answer was a new addition to the building. Once again, the men and women rallied as the Lord blessed the work with Rev. Paul Walker in charge. With the addition completed, more space was provided for the expected increase in Riverside's spiritual family.

"In December 1961, another chapter in the history of Riverside came to an end. Bro. Poling passed on to a better land leaving the torch in the hands of Rev. Hayward Saffle. Riverside's heritage continued under his direction and as in the past God's hand was on the church.

"With Rev. Saffle's announcement of his retirement on December 31, 1974, another chapter came to a close and a new one began. Rev. E.S. Harper was elected pastor in 1975. In September 1977, 22 acres of land on the Dent's Run Boulevard was purchased for \$100,000. In January 1978, the men of the church went onto the property, with snow up to their knees, to begin clearing the land. In June 1978, construction began on the new Fellowship Hall; it was to be the temporary home of Riverside.

"As in the beginning the men worked on the building and the women cooked and provided food. Construction was completed in September 1979 as a combination Church/Fellowship Hall. The first service was held on Sunday morning, September 19, 1979

— Homecoming Day. With God's blessing, the church experienced tremendous growth.

"On April 2, 1981, just 50 feet from the fellowship hall, the first block was laid for the new church building. Construction was completed in April 1983 with the first service held on Easter 1983."

#### A New Pastor

On August 11, 1985 another chapter came to a close with the



Children enjoy posing on the pirate ship created for Vacation Bible School.

# THE KEY TO REVIVAL

By Christina Li

resignation of Bro. Harper. It was during the week of September 22, 1985, that Rev. David M. Hudson ministered to the congregation of Riverside preaching a message of hope. On October 2, 1985, the congregation felt led to elect Bro. Hudson as their new pastor. On November 22, 1985, he was officially installed as pastor of Riverside by Supt. Mills and Rev. C. M. Becton.

The congregation has continued to grow spiritually as well as in number. During 27 years as pastor at Riverside, Bro. Hudson has led the church administration in seeing the indebtedness of the church mortgage paid in full, four years ahead of schedule. Major capital improvements have been completed under his direction, including the paving of the parking area, new roofs on the existing building, as well as a complete renovation of the interior of the Fellowship Hall and an up-to-date modern kitchen.

"Riverside's growth has steadily continued as some 400 conversions during this time have further strengthened the foundation," he says. "Numerous activities have added to the exciting ministries. Most notable has been the Messiah Drama that has been seen by over 10,000 people. There are presently some 25 ministries operating at Riverside. Currently we have about 400 souls in two services Sunday morning." Also, Riverside has enlarged its ministries internationally as Pastor Hudson has visited and ministered in some 55 countries, taking mission teams for crusades and special meetings. "Many youth have been involved in overseas ministries."

## Pastor Hudson's Call

Pastor Hudson was born and raised in Charleston, West Virginia. "I was raised in the church. I received the Holy Ghost at the age of nine in the local church during regular services. From a very early age I had always felt I would someday be involved in ministry. I always had a deep desire to be involved in ministry. When I was 17, I felt a specific call during a missions service at a neighboring church where Rev. J.C. Cole and Rev. Billy Cole were making a missions presentation prior to Billy Cole's missionary days.

"The men who influenced my ministry the most are my father, Charles Hudson, my pastor, D.W. Durst, and Rev. S.G. Norris, founder of ABI in St. Paul, MN. Rev. Daniel Coleman under whom I served doing an internship beginning a home missions work and Rev. James Simison, Indiana District Superintendent, were also a great influence."

Pastor Hudson began his ministry in Fayetteville, WV at the age of 23. "I preached my first sermon in my home church in Charleston, WV when I was 17."

On October 2, 1985, Pastor Hud-

son took his current church. "I was traveling in India as part of an IYC Missions endeavor with 30 young people. One young person from West Virginia told me the current pastor in Morgantown had resigned. After completing this missions endeavor and returning to Syracuse, IN where I was pastor, the local presbyter from West Virginia called to inform me of the vacancy of the church. Upon inquiring I was granted an opportunity to preach for the Morgantown church. I spent a week ministering, making inquiry, interviewing, and getting a feel for the church and city. During the week the Lord awakened me on a specific occasion and gave me a plan of action for the remainder of the year for the church and for the transition. This was prior to any indication I would have any opportunity to be pastor. My comment to my wife, Brenda, was simply, 'if the Lord opens this door I am ready and prepared to enter.'"

## Closing Comments

Pastor Hudson says, "The most important weapon we have in our arsenal is prayer. Sometimes there is very little that we can do to change things except take the matter to the Lord. That's why I feel that prayer is so vital. The second thing I feel that pastors need to do is to communicate to their people effective ways to reach the lost. The third thing is that pastors need to be involved in their communities. We isolate ourselves in the 'ivory tower' but we need to get our boots on the ground and get involved in a community effort."



Top left clockwise: View of church interior; Pastor Hudson playing saxophone; church exterior; a prayer line of the church.

*Christmas*  
for Christ



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## Dashboard Report on Pastoral Burnout

These pastor burnout statistics come from H.B London's book, *Pastors at Greater Risk*, which could be a tool for Bible schools which hope to build up a generation of men and women who are theologically educated, sanctified and filled with the Holy Spirit, that they may follow the Lord, trust Him in the midst of these trends and spread His Kingdom unto the glory of Jesus.

- 1,500 pastors leave their ministries each month due to burnout, conflict or moral failure.
- Today, the average length of a pastorate as a whole is four committed years.
- 25% don't know where to turn when they have a family or personal conflict.
- 57% would leave the pastorate if they had somewhere else to go or another way to make a living.
- 94% feel under constant pressure to have a perfect family.
- 60% believe that involvement in church ministry has negatively impacted their passion to spread the gospel.
- 45% of pastors' wives say the greatest danger to them and their family is physical, emotional, mental and spiritual burnout. 25% see their husband's work schedule as a source of conflict and detriment to the family.
- 90% work more than 50 hours a week, yet admit that they feel their work is never done and the expectations never end.



**PURE** Religion  
by Stephen Judd



## Did You Miss Mansion Sunday?

By Stephen Judd, TCM President:



Stephen Judd  
www.mansionkids.org

If you are reading this and missed Mansion Sunday on November 4<sup>th</sup>, it is not too late to have your own special Mansion Sunday on the Sunday of your choosing. Mansion Sunday is a day that is set aside to specifically focus on Tupelo Children's

Mansion.

Tupelo Children's Mansion is "pure religion" in action, the fulfillment of James 1:27—becoming the hands of God to the most vulnerable of our society, the fatherless.

It really is amazing how much God cares for orphans. The Lord said to His people in Jeremiah 7:6-7, "If you do not oppress the fatherless...then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your forefathers." God was letting us know that if we want to keep our "Promise Land" privileges, we need to take care of the orphans. Evidently, God took this very seriously.

**mansion  
sunday**

Since this is such a big deal to God, I'm asking you to consider making Mansion Sunday a big deal at your church. On your Mansion Sunday, please do three things: 1) Inspire your congregation with the "pure religion" mission of the Mansion, 2) Pray for the children and the staff, and 3) Receive a special offering to bless the work at TCM.

God's plan for us is to see the need, hear the call and open our arms. That's what Mansion Sunday is all about—taking a designated time to pause in the rush of our lives to help make a difference in the life of a child, that comes from a

hard place.

Please join with pastors across North America and feature a Mansion Sunday at your church. To download a printable flyer and video, go to [www.mansionkids.org](http://www.mansionkids.org)

We invite you to connect with Tupelo Children's Mansion on Facebook and Twitter: @mansionkids @stephenjudd @ermajudd. At [www.mansionkids.org](http://www.mansionkids.org), you can subscribe to our blog: *The Tupelo Insider* and our monthly e-newsletter, *The Mansion Minute*.

# IBC TODAY

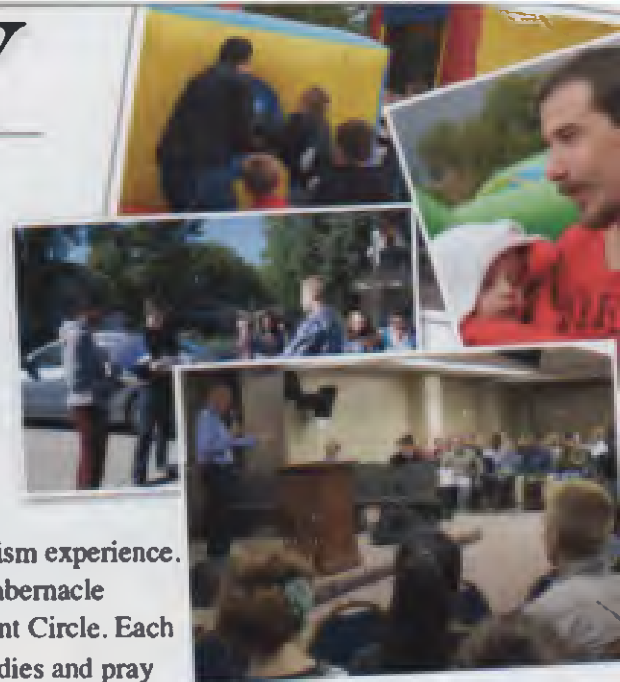
## REALITY

### *Evangelism Training*



**TeLayna  
Henderson**  
Green River,  
WY

IBC REALITY is focused evangelism training that gives students the unique opportunity to move from the classroom into the community and apply the skills that they have learned. During REALITY the students divide into groups to canvas neighborhoods throughout Indianapolis in order to minister this great Gospel and grow through evangelism experience. Accompanied with the outreach is a block party at Calvary Tabernacle followed by a concert in downtown Indianapolis on Monument Circle. Each event provides opportunities for students to arrange Bible studies and pray with the people that they come in contact with through their street outreach.



**Gideon Assefa**  
New York,  
NY

REALITY has given me a heavy burden for souls. In addition to the expected things you see, the broken people of a community or the hopelessness in the eyes of a lost man or woman, we saw something different.

As another student and I walked down a block, we noticed a car parked on the street and we decided to hand the people a flyer. Dan, Chris, Alisha and Shannon exited the car and immediately we knew they had hungry hearts and they were looking for something. We talked to them for about an hour, we told them about God and His goodness. To be honest, they had more testimonies about what God had brought them through, than we did. I didn't even have to try to convince them that God was real, the difficulty they had was understanding that God loved them. They walked away understanding His love in their head but could not feel his love in their heart.

I know this is just one story about four people during a week of outreach but there is a world of hurting people that might know that God loves them but they struggle to feel His love in their hearts. My burden has shifted from, "Let me save the world!" to "Let me show God's redeeming love to all people".



**Tori Bishop**  
New Albany,  
MS

As a group leader for REALITY I must admit, I felt discouraged because we were sent to a less desirable part of Indianapolis and we felt it was going to be very difficult to relate or to make a difference, plus in the beginning we were not getting instant results or any response for that matter.

On Wednesday we went from house to house, knocking door after door with no response — simply nothing. Then, I came to a house, hoping this would be the one, I knocked several times, but no answer. Something told me instead of just rolling the flyer up and putting it in the door to write a personal note inviting this person to come to the events. I left a short note "Have a great week!" then signed my name with a smiley face. After returning to the school we began to hear all the exciting responses everyone received and I had a voice telling me I had failed.

Thursday, it seemed we were making progress as some responded and asked for prayer. We get back to school and a friend comes to me and says "Tori, there was a man that came to church last night looking for you. He had received a flyer with a letter that you wrote." He had attended on Wednesday night all because I didn't give up, but rather put forth a little extra effort.





# Retaining New Converts



By Linda Schreckenberger

**Bro. Davis, tell us a little about yourself and your ministry.**

I live in West Tennessee with my wife, Lisa, and our two sons, Avery (13) and Adam (9), and we attend Beech Bluff UPC in Beech Bluff, Tennessee, pastored by Bro. Curtis Howard. I have a business management background in a multi-million dollar corporation and have launched several successful businesses, including a baptismal robe distributorship in 2005. I have been involved in various areas of church leadership, including pastor, and I am a certified church consultant, traveling on a regular basis, preaching and teaching retention plans in churches. The success of churches has become my focus. Therefore, my goal is to help churches grow and become more effective.

**What, in your opinion, are the key reasons that churches do not grow?**

Leadership is the key to any organization. Whether it is successful or not depends upon the leadership. There are key components, whether for outreach, church services, a plan for discipleship, or a plan for retention. These components have to be developed for that church to grow and become stronger. The leader is the key player in the success or failure of these components. Each church will only be as effective as its leadership. Failure will result when there is a problem with either the person, the passion, or the preparation. That happens when the key leader is not a key leader, the key leader doesn't have a driving passion, or the key leader isn't well-prepared.

**What can a church do to increase the retention rate of their new converts?**

One thing I constantly stress with church leaders is the importance of having solid systems in place. Churches recognize the need for financial systems or outreach systems, but many fail to see the need for a retention system. The steps are somewhat flexible and may vary from church to church, but the need for a well-planned system does not change. Every church in America needs to sit down and design a distinct retention system they will follow week after week.

Retention is a system, not an action. Retention is not accomplished, nor does it fail by one singular action. Therefore, it is important that you have a system made up of several different components. 1) Recognize

that you need a clearly mapped-out system. 2) Get resources and study the most effective methods. 3) Have a session with your core people and get them on board. 4) Design a clear and simple plan. 5) Choose the correct people to execute the plan.

**What role does mentoring play in retention? Should new converts be assigned a mentor?**

One of the most crucial factors for new converts is the importance of relationships. As they make a turn in their life toward God, they also need new friends and new examples in their life. Otherwise, their adventure with Jesus will probably be short-lived. We should give them plenty of real-life opportunities to connect with people in the church, be involved in various church events and learn from different leaders.

Having a mentor is crucial for anyone in life. For new converts, those mentors begin to surface as they develop relationships within the church. Whether it is a home Bible study or a youth group outing, the relationships they develop are critical, because new mentors will come from those new relationships.

**Should new converts be taught a new converts course?**

Every person in the church should be given the opportunity to grow and develop a deeper relationship with God. Discipleship is different from retention, but the two of them are closely related. It is very important for new converts to have the opportunity to learn the basics about God, about the mission of that particular church, and what they should do next. One of the greatest mistakes churches make is not having a plan for spiritual growth.

**How can a church encourage a convert to make friends in the church?**

Typically, we tend to make guests work hard to feel included. New converts need new friends. There are really two keys to this: 1) We must create opportunities for relationships to develop. If new converts don't develop meaningful relationships, statistics show they will leave within four months. We need to plan plenty of connection events; low pressure ways for people to get involved. 2) We must take the initiative. For some churches, new convert retention is as simple as people getting out of their circles and intentionally connecting with someone new. We cannot sit back and wait for new converts to push in. We

have to reach out and pull them in.

**How important is involvement to new convert retention?**

Involvement is a giant factor in retention. Whenever someone says 'our' instead of 'your,' you know they're home. Unless people get involved, they will never feel ownership. Getting people involved in the activities of the church is different from getting people involved in church ministry. Pastors have to decide what the requirements are for involvement in church ministry, and those requirements may vary from church to church. However, we should quickly get guests and new converts involved in the activities of the church. BBQs, game nights, passing out flyers, setting up for block parties are perfect opportunities to get people involved.

**All of this is quite a bit for a pastor to keep track of. How can a pastor ensure the new convert's needs are being met?**

One thing I suggest is to prayerfully choose a Follow-Up Coordinator who can handle all the details of your retention system. Having a coordinator will take the pressure of managing all of the moving parts of the retention plan off of the pastor. The pastor should still be involved in the evaluation of the plan, but someone who has the gift of administration can handle the details and be a huge blessing to the pastor and the church.

**Tell us about your book and why you wrote it.**

*Retention 101: A Practical Guide to Keeping More People* is packed with rock-solid information and step-by-step strategies for retention. The main reason I wrote it was to provide a practical and proven resource for church leaders. A few years ago, God gave me an extreme burden for churches that were reaching people but were not keeping them. I truly believe God wants to do incredible exploits in every city in the world, and I want to help churches prepare for His harvest.

**How can your book be ordered? Contact info?**

The book can be ordered through [www.Retention101.net](http://www.Retention101.net). You may contact me through my e-mail at [tbriandavis@hotmail.com](mailto:tbriandavis@hotmail.com) or on Facebook and Twitter (tbriandavis).



Bro. Brian Davis  
Beech Bluff, TN



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# Church Growth: Top Five Greatest Hindrances To Growth



## ■ Church Today

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### No Laughing Matter

One of the most disturbing things I have recently witnessed came during the Vice Presidential debate on October 11, 2012. Vice President Biden was blatantly disrespectful and condescending in his reactions to Representative Paul Ryan's remarks on many important issues for our country. Ryan's statements including: "It's never too early to speak out for our values" and "We should always stand up for peace, for democracy, for individual rights," as well as his discussion of Iran's quest for nuclear weapons, our relationship with Israel and the terrorist attack which killed four Americans including our Ambassador to Libya were met with smirks, smiles, sighs, rolled eyes and sarcastic laughter from Biden.

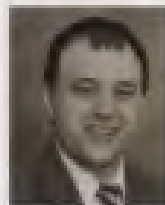
Sadly, Biden's actions are typical of the attitude that permeates our society today. Nothing is serious, nothing sacred, nothing that can't be laughed off. Through these careless attitudes we have taught a generation to embrace the spirit that destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. The live-and-let-live mentality of our young people has left them devoid of any moral compass. Complete sexual freedom has spiraled lives into utter chaos to the point young people are now struggling with confusion about their gender and developing base attractions to inanimate objects and fictional characters. Surely, we cannot deny we are living in the last days (2 Timothy 3).

Yet the men who hold the highest offices in our country have the audacity to laugh it off, as if we are in no danger, as if there are no consequences for nations who sin against God. Isaiah gives great warning to Israel as she turned her back toward God. "Therefore thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will bring evil upon them, which they shall not be able to escape; and though they shall cry unto me, I will not hearken unto them" (Isaiah 11:11).

Without repentance, America, a country founded upon Christian principles and familiar with the blessings of God's favor, is attempting to stand on precarious ground. God's judgment will not always stay restrained and His people are responsible to know His severity as well as His goodness. "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off" (Romans 11:22).

Have we no fear of God? Has our country lost her ability to feel reverence? Is the church standing at a similar impasse? We comfort ourselves with the fact that we have great facilities, successful ministries; that we've moved beyond our blue-collar roots. We provide ourselves and our children with material and educational advantages, but are we getting too close to smirking as we listen to those that stand strong to defend the essentiality of the Holy Ghost? Are we rolling our eyes when the little old lady dances across the front of the church, moved by the power of the Spirit?

Neither as a country nor as a church can we afford to place ourselves in the dangerous position where we take nothing serious, where we ignore God's severity. I pray we do not become as the Apostle Paul describes some who have ceased seeking after God. He states, "There is no fear of God before their eyes" (Romans 3:18). The world is laughing. Are we?



## ■ Theology

[bobby.killmon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bobby.killmon@sbcglobal.net)

As a Bible College instructor what's one major thing you see this generation struggling with?

The battle today is for essentiality. Some feel unkind for pushing denominational friends, and Oneness isn't the only source of tension. Just as divisive are other essentials.

First, Jesus said, "You must be born again of water and Spirit to enter...", or even "see," the Kingdom of God (John 3:5-8). It's not optional. Not a second or third blessing but an absolute necessity from the Church's birth, until now. Anything less makes Jesus a liar. To be a NT Christian, Church, or preacher you're required to say what Christ said, "You must be born again of water and Spirit!"

Secondly, Acts 2:38 shows the only correct baptism is in Jesus name. People who equivocate today claiming other forms of baptism are valid, like in the titles or a combination with the titles, do so against the Bible. We can't validate or invalidate a baptism. We can only say, endorse and practice what the Bible says. Trying to endorse other people who have or do baptize another way undermines Scripture. You must be baptized in Jesus name. After this you'll be filled with the Spirit with the initial evidence of speaking in tongues. This initial evidence is essential (John 3:8; Acts 2:4; 10:46; 19:6). Again, to be a NT Christian, Church, or preacher you must say what Scripture says, "Repent. Be baptized every one in the name of Jesus Christ for remission of sins, and you'll receive the Holy Ghost."

Thirdly, Heb. 12:14 says, "Follow peace with all [men], and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Scripture shows real faith isn't passive or inactive, and without holiness we'll not be saved. Being a NT preacher means being a holiness preacher. "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (2 Pet. 1:4). It's not what we must do, but what we can do! People used to practice our biblical Christian living, but now NT believers are markedly different in dress and conduct. So, to be a NT Christian Church or preacher, you must say what Scripture says about holiness, "Without it you'll not see God."

Prov. 27:5-6 says, "Open rebuke [is] better than secret love. Faithful [are] the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy [are] deceitful." I have to remind some students, and sadly at times some peers, if you really love people you'll find a way to share these essentials because you love them.



## ■ Church Growth

[tmassengale@apostolic.net](mailto:tmassengale@apostolic.net)

We want to grow and seem to be stuck. In your opinion, what is hindering us?

Great question. Here are the five most common hindrances to growth I have observed among Apostolic churches:

1. *Failure to build a team ministry.* Most churches stop growing (plateau) because they have maxed out their current organization. Like trying to pile sand on a table, you get to the point the table will not hold any more sand. To get more sand (members) you must increase the size of the table (your organization). The pastor alone cannot do everything.

To grow churches must set up a comprehensive ministry structure. For the 3½ years of His ministry Jesus built a ministry team.

2. *Failure to manage your ministry team effectively.* Organization is a noun. Management is a verb. If you do not manage your organization it will not function and will eventually collapse. In my opinion, churches need to be doing four management activities: an annual planning retreat, departmental one-year plans, monthly planning councils, and weekly tag-ins.

3. *Failure to utilize faith-based goal setting.* For the church, goals are simply an expression of faith. You need to be setting 5-year and annual goals for attendance, membership, conversions and key evangelism methods. But these must be faith based, not pie-in-the-sky, hope-so kind of goals.

4. *Failure to sow the gospel seed consistently and effectively.* To reap a harvest you must sow seed. Four methods have seen the greatest results: visitors to church services (and good follow-up), home Bible studies, personal witnessing, and Sunday school growth.

5. *Failure to retain your new converts.* Every church has a natural loss rate from deaths, transfers-out and backsliding. To grow, you must exceed this natural loss rate with births, transfers-in, and new converts. You have little control over births and transfers. You have direct control over your new convert retention rate. Many churches keep less than 20% of their converts. You need to get this number up to 50% or greater. New convert care requires a targeted ministry that addresses three keys: instruction, fellowship and involvement.

For more information on how to implement the above five keys of growth, call 1-800-800-0247 and ask for the Total Church Growth package.





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Reaching Denominational Christianity  
With the Truth of Acts

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The Certificates offer competitive fixed rates of interest while enabling the Fund to use investment proceeds to make loans to churches and ministries of the United Pentecostal Church.

Contact the United Pentecostal Church Loan Fund for an Offering Circular or go to our website to download.

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8855 Dunn Rd.  
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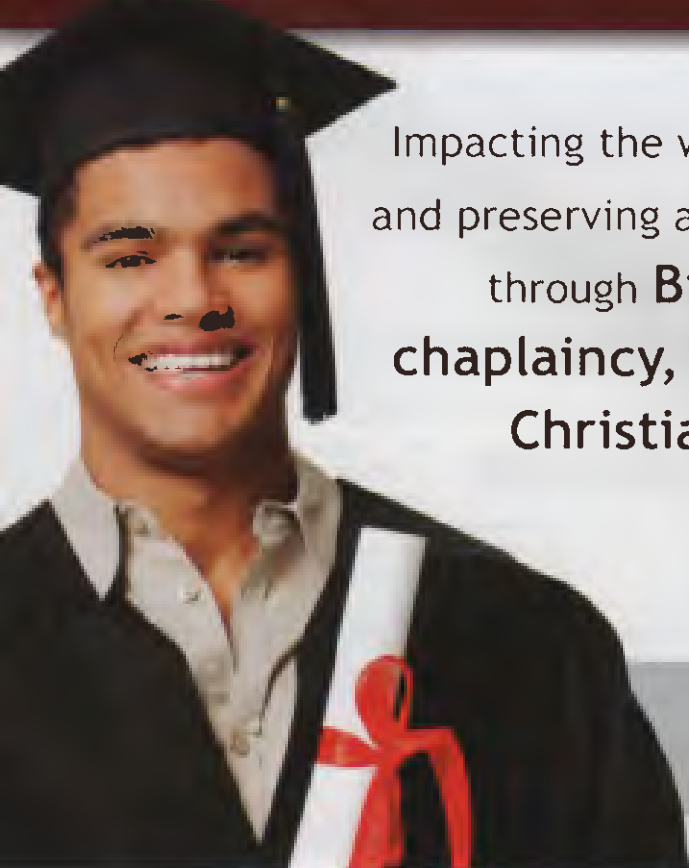
\*Interest rates are published effective as of April 1, 2008, and are subject to change from time to time. Please consult the Offering Circular and current interest rates.

The purchase of a loan certificate is subject to rules described in the Offering Circular. This is not an offer to sell securities. The only way to buy our loan certificates is by using the Offering Circular. We will only offer the Certificate when authorized.

[www.upcloanfund.org](http://www.upcloanfund.org)

### Christian Education Day

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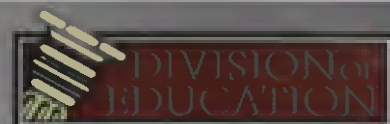
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Winterfire '13  
**FEBRUARY  
7-9 2013**

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He Must Increase,  
But I Must Decrease.  
John 3:30

HE MUST  
**KINGDOM  
INCREASE**  
I MUST

# GUEST SPEAKERS

DAVID BERNARD  
SAM EMORY  
WAYNE HUNTLEY  
MIKE MITCHELL  
MARK MORGAN  
NORMAN PASLAY II  
TERRY SHOCK  
RAYMOND WOODWARD

# ACCOMMODATIONS

The following rates are reserved under the WinterFire Conference. The rooms must be reserved by January 17th to guarantee the rates below.

**Hilton Garden** \$81  
555 Corporate Dr  
Windsor, CT  
860.688.6400  
Distance from conference site: 5 miles

**Courtyard Marriott** \$89  
1 Day Hill Rd  
Windsor, CT  
860.683.0022  
Distance from conference site: 5 miles

**SpringHill Suites** \$89  
225 Ella Grasso Turnpike  
Windsor Locks, CT 06096  
(860) 758-7000  
Distance from conference site: 10 miles  
(closer to airport)

**Hampton Inn & Suites** \$94  
Suites \$104  
1432 Pleasant Valley Road  
Manchester, CT  
860-644-1732  
Distance from conference site: 10 miles  
(closer to Manchester restaurants)

**Candlewood Suites**  
1 bed studio \$99  
2 bed suite \$109  
149 Turnpike Road  
Windsor Locks, CT 06096  
(860) 623-2000  
Distance from conference site: 10 miles  
(closer to airport)

**Hyatt House**  
King Suites \$105  
One Bedroom King Suites \$125  
One Bedroom Queen/Queen Suites \$145  
Two Bedroom Suites \$245  
200 Corporate Drive  
Windsor, CT 06095  
(860) 298-8000  
Distance from conference site: 5 miles

**Marriott Hartford/Windsor** \$112  
200 Corporate Dr  
Windsor, CT  
860.683.0000  
Distance from conference site: 5 miles

**SpringHill Inn** \$110  
1 bed studio  
200 Corporate Drive  
Windsor, CT 06095  
(860) 298-8000  
Distance from conference site: 5 miles

# LOCATION FACILITY



1151 Blue Hills Ave • Bloomfield, CT 06002

WinterFire continues in the blessed comfort of First Cathedral. The ambience and atmosphere create a natural home for the powerful anointing present each year. United worship, loving fellowship and apostolic ministry are wonderfully facilitated by this beautiful campus and sanctuary.







## Spiritual Growth

### Ministry Miracle Move

September brought many challenges to us. We knew we were to move, but we did not know where. From September 10-19, God gave us two major miracles that opened the door for a move to Madison, MS.

Our daughter and son-in-law accepted a ministry position in a church in Ridgeland, MS the last week of August 2012. They have our two grandchildren. We both lived in Loveland, Colorado. Ridgeland is a sister city of Madison. Who but God could arrange a major move for both of our families to minister in churches (both 500+ members) 20 minutes apart and to live in the same city at the same time? ONLY GOD!

On September 10, we talked to Bishop Jerry Dillon, Pastor of Parkway Pentecostal Church in Madison. We shared our ministry heartbeats, and he encouraged us to come to Madison and be a part of his church. We needed some major miracles and God made them happen through the generosity of Bishop Dillon and others. All the details are in a book to be published, Lord willing, in 2013.

I will still be providing counseling nationwide by phone/web cam (636) 448-0121 and teaching seminars scheduled in 2013, etc. As I have shared with pastors across the nation, I will still provide phone counseling for their church members. I will also provide local counseling for churches in the area. I'm sitting up an office in our home to give people privacy and assure confidentiality as I do for all counselees.

Southern hospitality is genuine. The church provided a week's worth of food in my refrigerator even before we arrived. A sweet gal I met on Facebook brought us fresh foods the afternoon we drove in. We are excited to see what God is going to do here in Mississippi. God works His perfect will in our lives through circumstances.

My new mailing address is on my website: [www.carolclemans.org](http://www.carolclemans.org) LIFE ENRICHMENT MINISTRIES, INC., 1888 Main St. Ste. C #269, Madison, MS 39110, (636) 448-0121. Email: [carol@carolclemans.org](mailto:carol@carolclemans.org)

Carol Clemans is a Certified Pastoral Counselor/Christian Life Coach/Inspirational Conference Speaker/Teacher/Author. Go to: [www.carolclemans.org](http://www.carolclemans.org) for teaching CD's, over 140 articles, new book: GOD'S DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE



## Revival Connection

### The Value Of Connection

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit" - 1 Thess. 5:18-19

And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. - Mark 12:31

Church growth polls have been consistent for years in their results. The #1 reason people return to a church they have visited is because the people there were friendly. Does doctrine, preaching and worship matter? Absolutely. But without love they are tinkling cymbals (1 Cor. 13:1).

When Jesus was asked what the first commandment was He did not limit His answer to just stating we should believe God is one and to love Him with all our heart and being. But instead He continued on to say that the second commandment was to, "love thy neighbour as thyself" (Mark 12:31). Why did Jesus do this? Because these two things are connected in a way that cannot be separated. When our vertical relationship with God is right it will affect our horizontal relationship with those around us.

Several years ago a more orthodox denomination did a nationwide survey on the retention of the people who experienced conversions in their churches. No their doctrine and conversion is not the same, but we can learn something from their results. 80% of their converts who had a social connection with someone in the local church, whether family or friend or co-worker, stay in that church. 80% of their converts who did not have a social connection of some kind DID NOT continue on to become a part of that church assembly. This illustrates the value of connection. This illustrates the value of connecting with those around us.

Our neighbour is not just our fellow church members. In fact in context it is likely the last on the list of who Jesus meant when He said those words in that passage. As Apostolics we take pride in the truth, our singing, our worship and our preaching. Rightfully so. Let the day come when we also take as much pride in our love for visitors as those in the circle of our lives.

Brian Norman travels full-time proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Phone: 636-344-0627 Website: [www.briannorman.org](http://www.briannorman.org) & [www.barnetconference.org](http://www.barnetconference.org)



## Finance

Under the new health care laws, what exactly will this do to affect our church and how we report information? Does the new health care law affect churches in any way?

Aubrey Jayroe There are many provisions of this new law that affect most entities, some of which we are noting.

1. Medicare tax will increase on wages (including housing allowance) above \$200,000 for individuals and \$250,000 for married couples filing jointly. This will be effective for the year beginning 01/01/13. The employer will not have to match the amount.

2. In 2013 there will be a 3.8% Medicare tax on investment income. Investment income includes gross income from interest, dividends, annuities, royalties and rents. In some cases this would include gains on the sale of a personal residence. Excluded are tax-exempt bonds interest, distributions from qualified plans, IRA's, 403(b) annuities, etc. Because of this new tax, taxpayers may need to recompute their estimated tax payment in 2013 to allow for the addition in liability.

3. Medical expenses will be subject to a 10% of adjusted gross income threshold, raised from the 7.5% currently in effect. This will be for years after 12/31/12. For taxpayers and spouses who are 65 years or older before the close of this year, the 7.5% will continue through 2016.

4. Starting in 2012 W-2's are required to report the value of employer's health insurance coverage that was sponsored by the employer. However, for 2012, only employers who have more than 250 W-2 forms during 2011 will have to report this information on the 2012 W-2 form.

5. Small businesses with 25 or fewer employees and average annual wages of \$50,000 or less may be eligible for a credit of up to 50% of non-elective contributions the business makes on behalf of their employees for insurance premiums. For 2013 the Health Care Tax Credit is 35% and in 2014 the maximum credit increases to 50%.

These items are a few of the new changes that will affect taxpayers and employers. Please consult your tax professional for additional details that may affect your personal tax liability.

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: [jayroea@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:jayroea@sbcbglobal.net)



## Stewardship

[smdrury@upcl.org](mailto:smdrury@upcl.org)

### Two New Partnerships For Church Financial Consulting and Ministerial Professional Services

The Stewardship Group's goal has always been to provide safe resources for ministers and churches that relate to Church Development Solutions. This month we are happy to announce a new area for Church Development Solutions and two new partners. We welcome Delano Sherley & Associates, Inc. CPA and Jayroe & Company, PA as new partners in the area of church financial consulting and ministerial professional services solutions.

Why would you and/or your church need a Certified Public Account (CPA) or Public Accountant (PA)? Today the church is more than a body of believers meeting to receive spiritual direction. In today's society the church must also

utilize good business management principles. Sometimes that means bringing in a professional that understands Apostolic churches and can provide the answers.

Both of these partners are Apostolic and faithful to the message and cause. Each of these can assist your church with any of the following and more:

- Preparation of financial statements, reviews and compilations
- Ministerial tax returns and quarterly tax reporting
- Create budgets and cash flow forecasts
- Review and develop internal controls
- Set up and train staff with accounting and contribution software
- Develop policies and procedures
- Develop compensation plans, benefit packages and retirement planning
- Provide assistance in preparing presentations for loan requests
- Payroll services

### Debt and Finance advising

If you or your church are not presently using one of these two resources, we encourage you to contact them and develop a working relationship immediately. You can reach them as noted below:

Delano Sherley & Associates, Inc. CPA, Delano Sherley, (513) 737-1314 - Office, (513) 295-3277 - Mobile, [delano@dsacpa.com](mailto:delano@dsacpa.com) - e-mail, [www.dsacpa.com](http://www.dsacpa.com) - web address

Jayroe & Company, PA, Aubrey Jayroe, (870) 633-6045 - Office, (870) 270-8000 - Mobile, [jayroea@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:jayroea@sbcbglobal.net) - e-mail, [www.jayroe.com](http://www.jayroe.com) - web address

For more information regarding The Stewardship Group go to <http://www.upclstewardship.net/documents.asp> and fill out the appropriate form requesting that we contact you.

Stephen Drury is Director of Stewardship, President of the United Pentecostal Foundation, President of the United Pentecostal Loan Fund and Co-Founder of New Beginnings International Children's and Family Services. You may contact him at [smdrury@upcl.org](mailto:smdrury@upcl.org) or 314-837-7304 Ext 309.

**THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS****Shocking Spike in Full Nudity On Broadcast TV**

The Parents Television Council (PTC) recently released results of a research analysis of nudity on prime-time broadcast television—and the results may shock you.

During the 2011-2012 season there were 76 incidents of full nudity on 37 shows compared to 15 incidents in 14 shows the previous year, representing a 407



percent increase in incidents. What's more, almost 70 percent of the scenes

that depicted full nudity during the 2011-2012 period were on shows that aired before 9 p.m. and as early as 7 p.m. In comparison, 50 percent of the full nudity scenes aired after 9 p.m. the previous year.

Out of 76 instances of full nudity during the 2011-2012 study period, only five of those depictions occurred on shows that contained an "S" descriptor alerting parents to the explicit adult content. And relative to full-frontal nudity, one instance occurred during the 2010-2011 study period and by the same time the following year, 64 instances of full-frontal nudity had aired. This represents a 6,300 percent increase in just one year.

In other findings, there was a 2,700 percent increase in the use of blurring or pixilation to cover body parts in 2011-2012 compared to the previous year. And during the 2010-2011 study period, black bars, logos and/or conveniently placed objects in a scene were used to block the view of sexual organs from the viewer 87 percent of the time. In contrast, during the 2011-2012 period, 74 percent of the incidents of full nudity used blurring or pixilation to cover sexual body parts.

PTC President Tim Winter sent a letter to congressional members asking them to urge the Federal Communications Commission to move forward in clearing the backlog of 1.6 million unadjudicated indecency complaints. He said, "We call on you to give the FCC your full support for decency enforcement and to give the FCC the tools it needs to ensure enforcement actions are meaningful and appropriate... because our children are watching."

**Majority of Americans Disagree With Concealed Weapons At Church**

Following the tragic mass shootings in Colorado and Wisconsin, which reignited a dialogue on gun rights, a new national survey finds that Americans overwhelmingly believe that the constitutional right to own and carry a gun is as important as their constitutional right to free speech.

The August PRRI-RNS Religion News Survey, conducted by Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI) in partnership with Religion News Service, found that 68 percent of Americans agree that the constitutional right to own and carry a gun is as important as other constitutional rights, such as freedom of speech or freedom of the press.

There are substantial differences between gun owners (89 percent) and non-gun owners (55 percent), and large differences along racial lines. White Americans (75 percent) are significantly more likely than non-white Americans (56 percent) to agree.

"In spite of recent debates over gun control, a strong majority of Americans believe that the constitutional right to own and carry a gun is as important as the right to free speech," says Dr. Robert P. Jones, PRRI CEO. "Unsurprisingly, this belief is particularly pervasive among gun owners."

The survey also found that roughly three-quarters of Americans believe people should not be allowed to carry concealed guns in a church or place of worship (76 percent), in a government building (73 percent), or on a college campus (77 percent). However, opinion varies somewhat along political and religious lines.

Thirty-two percent of white evangelical Protestants and 27 percent of white mainline Protestants believe that people should be allowed to carry concealed guns to church, compared to 18 percent of religiously unaffiliated Americans and 14 percent of Catholics.

A majority (55 percent) of Americans who identify with Tea Party support allowing people to bring concealed guns to church, compared to 38 percent of Republicans, 17 percent of Independents and 9 percent of Democrats. "White evangelical Protestants and white mainline Protestants are roughly twice as likely as Catholics to believe that people should be allowed to bring concealed weapons to church," says Daniel Cox, PRRI research director.

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

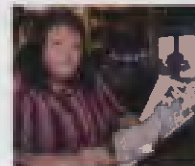
■ A teenage Canadian student was suspended for wearing a yellow t-shirt to school that read "Life is Wasted Without Jesus." William Swinimer, a 19-year-old Nova Scotia resident who attends Forest Heights Community School in Chester Basin, was given multiple in-school suspensions

for wearing the shirt. He was also handed a five day out-of-school suspension. The Centre for Faith and Public Life of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada has sent the school superintendent an open letter denouncing the treatment and offering legal arguments on the student's behalf.

**LEGAL TRENDS****Atheist Files Complaint Over Restaurant Church Promo**

An atheist is turning up the heat on a Pennsylvania restaurant for giving discounts to churchgoers. John Wolff, 80, has filed a complaint against Prudhomme's Lost Cajun Kitchen in Columbia, PA.

The elderly atheist is upset that the restaurant offers a 10% discount to any customer



Sharon Prudhomme

who brings in a church bulletin on Sundays. Wolff is calling the policy discriminatory because he doesn't go to church. "It rubbed me the wrong way because the implication is that they reward churchgoers, and I am not one. So, I am not as good as the next churchgoer. That's not true," he said.

The restaurant has received letters from the Freedom from Religion Foundation demanding it stop the promotion. The business' co-owner, Sharon Prudhomme, said it's simply a promotion to bring more people in the doors. "I live in America. I am an American. I am working hard. I will advertise as I see fit."

Prudhomme told *The Christian Post* that since the controversy reached the public, her restaurant has received a great deal of support, including several offers by attorneys to do pro bono work for the restaurant as they go before the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission.

**RELIGIOUS TRENDS****City Rules Church Not "Charitable" Enough**

A city in Maine has decided to enforce thousands of dollars in property taxes on a congregation because, according to the assessment board, the church doesn't qualify as a charity.

Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Rockland, Maine filed suit in the Knox County Superior Court last month over a legal loophole that allows the city to charge taxes on the church's driveway and parking lot, while exempting other non-profit organizations from the same costs.

The net result is that the church's five acres of parking lot and driveway is being taxed \$2,229 per year. The lawsuit asks the court to declare that the way Rockland is implementing the tax law be found unconstitutional to the extent that it treats churches less favorably than secular organizations, an alleged violation of the 1st and 14th amendments to the U.S. Constitution.





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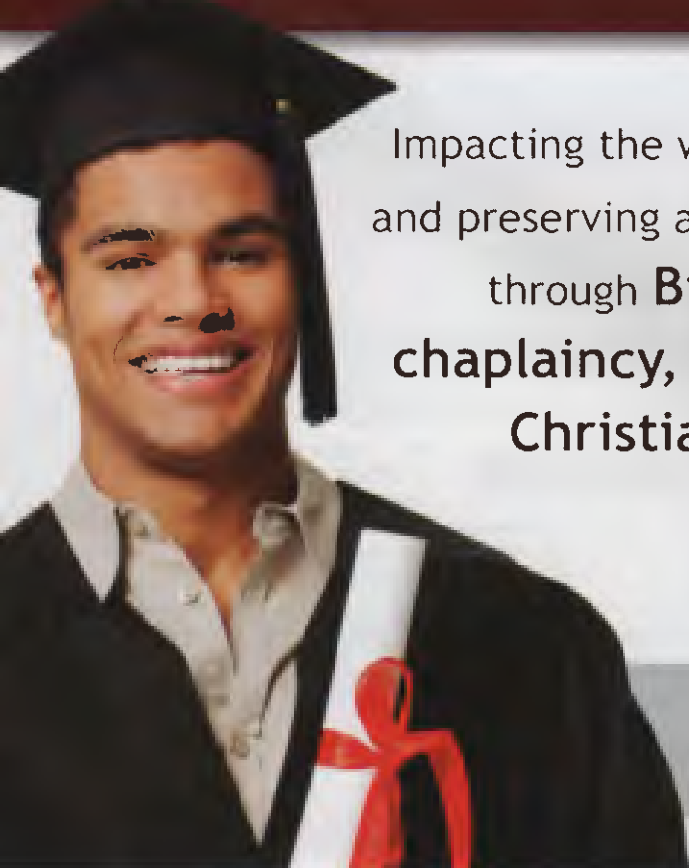
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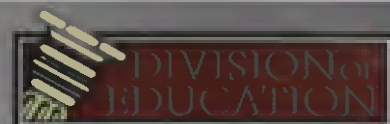
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Army of Leaders





# IBC TODAY

## REALITY

### *Evangelism Training*



**TeLayna  
Henderson**  
Green River,  
WY

IBC REALITY is focused evangelism training that gives students the unique opportunity to move from the classroom into the community and apply the skills that they have learned. During REALITY the students divide into groups to canvas neighborhoods throughout Indianapolis in order to minister this great Gospel and grow through evangelism experience. Accompanied with the outreach is a block party at Calvary Tabernacle followed by a concert in downtown Indianapolis on Monument Circle. Each event provides opportunities for students to arrange Bible studies and pray with the people that they come in contact with through their street outreach.



**Gideon Assefa**  
New York,  
NY

REALITY has given me a heavy burden for souls. In addition to the expected things you see, the broken people of a community or the hopelessness in the eyes of a lost man or woman, we saw something different.

As another student and I walked down a block, we noticed a car parked on the street and we decided to hand the people a flyer. Dan, Chris, Alisha and Shannon exited the car and immediately we knew they had hungry hearts and they were looking for something. We talked to them for about an hour, we told them about God and His goodness. To be honest, they had more testimonies about what God had brought them through, than we did. I didn't even have to try to convince them that God was real, the difficulty they had was understanding that God loved them. They walked away understanding His love in their head but could not feel his love in their heart.

I know this is just one story about four people during a week of outreach but there is a world of hurting people that might know that God loves them but they struggle to feel His love in their hearts. My burden has shifted from, "Let me save the world!" to "Let me show God's redeeming love to all people".



**Tori Bishop**  
New Albany,  
MS

As a group leader for REALITY I must admit, I felt discouraged because we were sent to a less desirable part of Indianapolis and we felt it was going to be very difficult to relate or to make a difference, plus in the beginning we were not getting instant results or any response for that matter.

On Wednesday we went from house to house, knocking door after door with no response — simply nothing. Then, I came to a house, hoping this would be the one, I knocked several times, but no answer. Something told me instead of just rolling the flyer up and putting it in the door to write a personal note inviting this person to come to the events. I left a short note "Have a great week!" then signed my name with a smiley face. After returning to the school we began to hear all the exciting responses everyone received and I had a voice telling me I had failed.

Thursday, it seemed we were making progress as some responded and asked for prayer. We get back to school and a friend comes to me and says "Tori, there was a man that came to church last night looking for you. He had received a flyer with a letter that you wrote." He had attended on Wednesday night all because I didn't give up, but rather put forth a little extra effort.



# To Be Saved, You Must f

The wickedness of man was great in the earth and every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. Humanity had no desire to give God any glory, no desire to discipline themselves to walk with God, and they placed no restraints upon themselves. If something came to their mind, they did it with no regard for God at all.

There were giants in those days. When the sons of God came unto the daughters of men, they bore children to them and those children became men of renown; but they didn't have a mind to follow God. The Bible doesn't say who the sons of God were, but we can safely say that they were a righteous group and the daughters of men were unrighteous and that they were polygamists. The sons of God somehow became corrupted by the wives they took of the daughters of men and they, too, soon took unto themselves wives in other words, more than one wife. The Lord said, "My spirit shall not always strive with man." It repented the Lord that He made man and He said "I will destroy both man and beast..."

In all of humanity, Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. It wasn't because he was perfect in every way, but because he had a desire to please God with the way he was living his life. He still wanted to please God and walk in obedience to God. When no other man gave God reverence, the Lord was still on Noah's mind. God will never judge the righteous with the unrighteous, and the Lord will always make a way for anyone who wants to serve Him. The Lord had a plan to save him, a plan of salvation, if you will.

"Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch," the Lord said to Noah. I don't know what it was about gopher wood and not mahogany, but it was what God wanted. Pine, oak or some other tree might have been closer, but God said gopher wood. And because God said gopher wood, Noah had to get gopher wood. When

God calls for something, you can't substitute it with something else; and there's no need in trying to take shortcuts. In order for the plan of God to work, you have to do exactly what God says.

Further God said, "And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits."

Had Noah changed anything God told him to do, it wouldn't have worked. The Lord said make it 300 cubits long; therefore, He wanted it to be 300 cubits not 299 cubits. The word of God says, "thus did Noah according as God commanded him."

From the time God told Noah to build the ark until the time he went in, something like 120 years transpired. During that time, Noah preached righteousness to the people, but they wouldn't listen because God was telling them He was going to do some things that had never happened. When Noah preached, they mocked him and his message saying, "That's the same message you preached last month, the year before and the year before that. What are you preaching this year?" Still Noah preached, "If you don't repent, judgment is coming. God is going to break up the deep. You've got to work out your soul's salvation with fear and trembling. Get a hammer. Get to work. You're not going to play until it's time to

get on the ark. You've got to work."

It's important to note that God told Noah and only Noah that it was going to rain. Sometimes people say that if God wants them to know something, He has to tell them, but the truth is that God doesn't have to tell them anything. He tells His preachers to tell them.

Finally, after 120 years of Noah preaching the same message, God through the power of His word sent out a call to summon the animal kingdom to start walking toward the ark. Lions walked right behind other animals of different species but had no desire to attack them. Nobody but God could have done something like that.

*"What we see happening today is a sign. It's telling us how far man has strayed away from God, and it's giving us indication that it won't be long before God makes His return. We don't know how long God is going to put up with this mess."*



# Follow the Plan

God commanded Noah to bring one male and one female of every sort into the ark. It wasn't two male giraffes or two female bears, but one male and one female. Finally Noah went into the ark with his wife along with his sons and their wives. Don't tell me that practicing homosexuals are going up in the Rapture with us. Marriage is an institution put in place by God and it involves a male and a female. If God put marriage in place, man doesn't have the right to tamper with it. We can pass any bill we want, but it will not change God's mind. We have to do things God's way if we are going to be saved from the wrath to come.

Finally, after everyone was in the ark, God shut the door and everything Noah preached started coming to pass. Storm clouds they had never seen before started gathering. Rain began to descend as the judgment of God upon ungodly men separated the ground so that water came from beneath as well as from above. It was a storm like no other. Katrina had nothing on it. Then folks were starting to think, "Let's make our way down to Noah's place, that preacher who had the same old message every time he preached." By the time they got there, though, Noah was shut up in the ark. Fear gripped the heart of the same people who made light of what he said.

As the water level began to rise, they were probably looking for logs floating by and trees that had fallen. Out of desperation, they were trying to put something together that would float. If I were there, I would have been tearing up tables.

I can imagine somebody saying, "I've got this baby here. Do you mean to tell me God would destroy everybody but Noah and his family?" Yet in all the world, only eight souls would escape the judgment of God. We tend to look at crowds, and we want to be with the crowd, but God is not about crowds. It doesn't matter what the crowd is doing. God is about obedience.

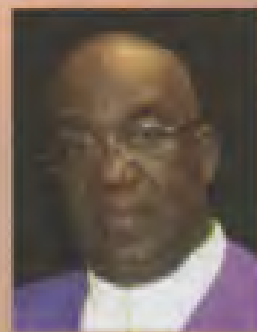
When we were growing up, we had a religious background. We accepted the fact that God was real. Even though I wasn't saved, I had a fear of God. I believed that God would just strike me down if I said and did certain things. But we are living in a day when we have no fear. Man, for the most part, isn't even thinking about God. They do what they do and still get a good night's sleep. People say He's a God of love, and He is. They say God is not a God of judgment, but He is. The Bible says it is appointed unto man to die and after that, the judgment. All of us will have to stand before the

judgment seat of Christ. One thing about His judgment seat: there will be no need in trying to put up an argument, because He knows all about us. Man can only see our actions, but only God knows our hearts.

The Scriptures give us a standard to measure our lives by. There are certain things God is pleased with, and certain things God is not pleased with. There's right and wrong. When we don't consider the law of God and the Word of God, our conscience allows us to do anything we want to do and still feel good about it.

When God spoke to Noah, he preached day after day: it's going to rain. Noah didn't say things like, "If you give me some money, you'll get a Mercedes." It grieves me when I see so many sincere people being deceived. Today's ministers have them concentrating on material things instead of spiritual things. It's widespread. I want everybody to do well and prosper, but we need to get our minds focused on the coming of the Lord. We're in an age when not even the so-called preachers understand how close we are to the coming of the Lord. What we see happening today is a sign. It's telling us how far man has strayed away from God, and it's giving us indication that it won't be long before God makes His return. We don't know how long God is going to put up with this mess. One of these days, God is going to say, "Time is up." We won't have to worry about water this time. It will be judgment by fire.

Here we are today. We have different plans of salvation. Every church has its own plan and its own doctrine of salvation, and they believe their plan is going to work. As it was true in Noah's day, God has a plan. The plan of salvation is not based upon men; it is based upon God. The reason we are called Apostolics is because we are following the plan given to the apostles. The apostles had the responsibility of taking it throughout the world. To be safe, it would seem that we would do everything the way the apostles, men whom Jesus called, did them. It makes no difference what I come up with. What matters is what God said. You must repent in order to be saved. You must be born again.



**Pastor Charles E. Johnson**  
Greater Morning Star Apostolic  
Ministries, Largo, MD



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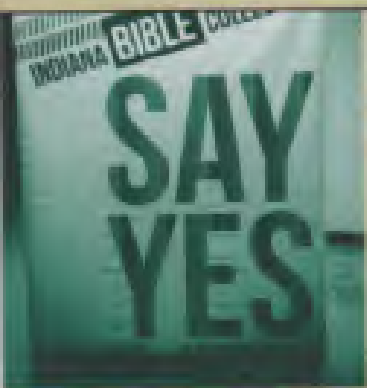
### VIENNA, PRAGUE and Amsterdam

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IBC CONNECT student 2012

# Reaching Gypsies With Truth

By Christophris Li



Bro. and Sis. Skip Christo  
Glenview, IL

"If you want to see Gypsy fortune tellers stop telling fortunes and scam artists stop stealing, find one of these Gypsy ministers struggling to pay the bills and offer him the use of your building rent free," says Pastor Skip Christo, serving

under Pastor Anthony LoCascio at The Life Church of Des Plaines in Glenview, Illinois. "I was born in Chicago, raised there in a very traditional and segregated lifestyle with the Gypsy people. When I turned 18, I decided to leave my culture and move to southern Indiana. At 21, the Lord got ahold of me, and I was baptized and received the Holy Ghost. Almost immediately I started doing what I could to preach the gospel. About nine years later, the Lord gave me a burden to reach the Gypsy people."

According to Bro. Christo, most Gypsies don't really know what their background is, but history and DNA sug-

gests they're Northern Indian, specifically from the Punjabi region. "Gypsies are very segregated and traditional," he says. "They believe in preserving their language and bloodline. Whether they claim to be religious or not, most of them are superstitious. Because of years of being persecuted, lying and taking advantage of others has become a way of life, a defense mechanism. Because of their desire to maintain their segregation, they don't like to put their kids in school, which means the majority of them are illiterate."

Over the years, Bro. Christo has baptized and prayed hundreds of Gypsies through to the Holy Ghost. For non-Gypsies doing outreach, he has this advice: "When trying to reach a Gypsy, preach their need of salvation. Preach against sin, not against their culture. Try and make them Christians, not Americans. It's not a sin to want to marry within only Gypsy culture to preserve the blood line."

Gypsies can be found in any large metro area with a population of 100,000

or more, including New York, Boston, Chicago, and all of the larger cities. "They prefer late church services, after 7 p.m.," says Bro. Christo. "If a non-Gypsy is trying to reach out, it would be easier to get Gypsies into a church than into your home. Gypsies don't usually go to a non-Gypsy home."

He says that successful outreach into the Gypsy community requires the Lord to open the door with personal contacts. But once the door opens, the harvest can be tremendous. Because Gypsies move around quite a bit, discipleship is imperative.

In closing, Bro. Christo says, "Be patient. They don't know proper church etiquette. Their kids will walk or run around

during service. They'll be consistently late for service until they learn not to be. It's not good to get into their faces about this. The best thing that a non-Gypsy pastor can do is to find an Apostolic Gypsy (who may or may not be affiliated with the UPC but preaches the truth) and help him in any



A modern Gypsy is  
photographed for a magazine

## Dominion Bible Study For Men

Designed to Promote Personal Evangelism and Soul Winning

By Gregg Stone



(l-r) Bro. Steve Nattin and  
Pastor Jerry Dean

What if you felt in control on the job, in your home, and over your addictions? What if your spiritual life was vibrant and temptations no longer held their power over you? It is possible, and even promised in the Word of God. You were designed for dominion.

Now take it.

The *Dominion Bible Study for Men* is a four-part series, designed for personal use or group study, which contains powerful truths of God's Word along with challenging questions and exercises that will help you apply it to your own life. In this series, powerful ministers of the Gospel share the good news: it is possible to take dominion over yourself, Satan, circumstance, and sin. The Bible study is the "brainchild" of Mike Williams, the president of Apostolic Man.

Convinced that it was time for our Apostolic men to have a vehicle of evangelism with which they could reach and teach these timeless truths to other men, God planted a seed in someone's soul and from that burden was born the *Dominion Bible Study for Men*.

"Confident that the framework for this

Dominion study was inspired by God, it is our hope to help put every man possible on the same page with regard to understanding and exercising the authority we have in Christ over our adversary's ability," said Bro. Williams. "These truths can be embraced by men from a cross-section of socio-economic strata, as well as spiritual development. While novice believers should find the information challenging, more mature believers will discover intriguing insights worthy of further study."

The lessons, written by Bro. Williams, David Norris, Marvin Walker and David Bernard, are meant to be taught in approximately 30 to 45 minutes, depending on how extensively one wishes to pursue the various scriptural passages to be considered. "Each lesson is insightful, inspiring, and instructive," explained Bro. Williams. "Each lesson is creatively presented with great graphics, bold colorful layouts, additional resources on each topic, blurb boxes with thoughtful sayings, places to record one's reflections, and each scripture referenced is written out in full at the end of the lesson."

According to Bro. Williams, the results of this Bible study have been fantastic. "Pastor Jerry Dean taught this to a gentleman named Steve Nattin. He came into the church and is now an usher, teaches the ACTS program in

prison, and has taught Dominion to several other men. He witnessed to his mom, and she is now in the church. His father has also attended church with him. He taught the Dominion study to two of his employees, and they were baptized.

"Our goal is to put a Dominion study in the hands of every Pentecostal man and put those men face to face with a friend," said Bro. Williams. "We believe that this study is the tool God is going to use to deploy this incredibly capable and committed constituency of men into personal evangelism and soul winning on an unprecedented scale throughout our fellowship."

The *Dominion Bible Study for Men* is available at [www.dominionbiblestudy.com](http://www.dominionbiblestudy.com). You can also access the site at [www.apostolicmen.com](http://www.apostolicmen.com). The Bible study can be ordered via Pentecostal Publishing House at a cost of \$10 each. There are also fill-in-the-blank handouts that can be ordered by contacting [jdean@phc.cc](mailto:jdean@phc.cc).



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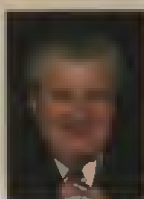
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**Word To The Wise:**

"Holding a grudge is letting someone live rent-free in your head."

\*\*\*\*\*

When the Jones family moved into their new house, a visiting relative asked five-year-old Sammy how he liked the new place.

"It's terrific," he said. "I have my own room, Mike has his own room, and Jamie has her own room."

"But pray for Mom — she is still in with Dad."

\*\*\*\*\*

A pastor was visiting his son and daughter-in-law and asked if he could borrow their newspaper.

"This is the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Dad," the son said. "We don't waste money on newspapers. Here, you can borrow my iPhone."

Ten minutes later, the pastor gave it back. "Thanks, Son, and I can tell you, that fly never knew what hit it!"

\*\*\*\*\*

A tired mom opened the front door of her home to find a young minister from the neighborhood who said, "I'm collecting donations for the new children's home we're building. I hope you'll give what you can."

"To be sure," said the beleaguered woman, "I'll give you two boys, two girls, OR one of each."



"I'm sorry you didn't like my sermon Sunday, but I really didn't care for your snoring either!"

One Sunday a pastor found several letters awaiting him. He opened one and found it contained the single word, "Fool." Quietly and with seriousness he shared the letter with the congregation and announced: "I have known many an instance of a person writing a letter and forgetting to sign his name, but this is the only instance I have ever known of someone signing his name and forgetting to write the letter."

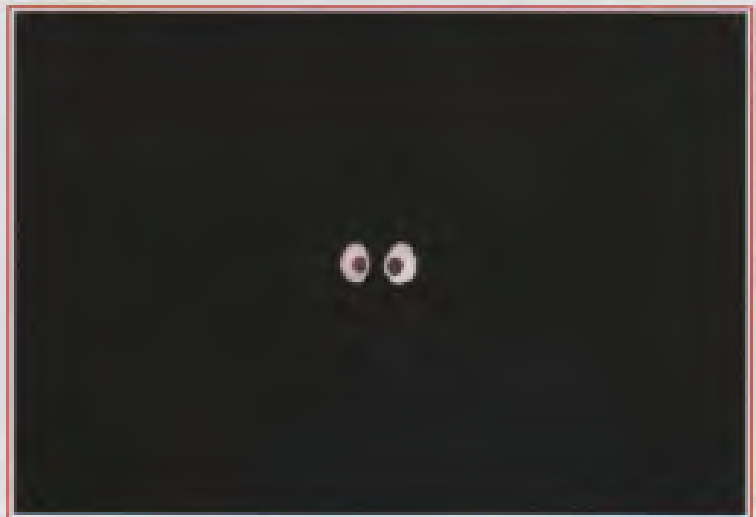
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**THE COWBOY'S TEN COMMANDMENTS**

- 1) Just one God.
- 2) Honor yer Ma & Pa.
- 3) No telling tales or gossipin'.
- 4) Git yourself to Sunday meeting.
- 5) Put nothin' before God.
- 6) No foolin' around with another fellow's gal.
- 7) No killin'.
- 8) Watch yer mouth.
- 9) Don't take what ain't yers.
- 10) Don't be hankerin' for yer buddy's stuff.

\*\*\*\*\*

A Sunday school teacher asked her little children, as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."



"The church board would like to report that we are still a bit short of our fund raising goal for new sanctuary lighting."

**True story**

A lady died this past January, and her credit card company billed her for February and March for their annual service charges on her credit card, and then added late fees and interest on the monthly charge. The balance had been \$0, now it's somewhere around \$60.

A family member placed a call to the bank card company.

Family Member: "I'm calling to tell you that she died in January."

Bank: "The account was never closed and the late fees still apply."

Family Member: "Maybe you should turn it over to collections."

Bank: "Since it is two months past due, it already has been."

Family Member: "So what will they do when they find out she is dead?"

Bank: "Either report her account to the frauds division or report her to the credit bureau; maybe both!"

Family Member: "Do you think God will be mad at her?"

Bank: "Excuse me?"

Family Member: "Did you just get what I was telling you — the part about her being dead?"

Bank: "Sir, you'll have to speak to my supervisor."

Supervisor gets on the phone.

Family Member: "I'm calling to tell you she died in January."

Bank: "The account was never closed and the late fees and charges still apply."

Family Member: "Would you like her new billing address?"

Bank: "That might help."

Family Member: "Memorial Cemetery, Highway 129, Plot 69."

Bank: "Sir, that's a cemetery!"

Family Member: "So what do you do with dead people on your planet?"

Bank: ...dial tone...



"Now, Pastor, about our vows. Could you leave out the 'until death do us part'? I would rather she not know that was an option..."

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Joy McGarr  
If We Wait



## CD 1

1. Helen Anderson - You Must Be Born Again
2. Helen Anderson - I'm Top Heavy My Heavenly Home
3. Bible-Alex Quinter - I Don't Know What I'd Do
4. Bible-Alex Quinter - Found a Better Way
5. Jerry & Beth Burns - Walking in the Light
6. Calvary Bros. - I Saw the Light
7. Calvary Four - Lighthouse
8. Calvary Four - Just to Walk with Him
9. Christmas for Choir Group - I'll Fly Away
10. Christmas for Choir Group - Impassioned Medley
11. The Doug Davis Trio - Giving My Life
12. The Doug Davis Trio - Above All Else
13. Muriel Ewing - Beyond the Sounds of Bells
14. Muriel Ewing - Long Ago Medley
15. Muriel & Joan Ewing - I Was Born to Serve the Lord
16. Orlan Gelsion-Spiced Soul - His Eyes On the Sparrow
17. Nancy Grandwell - A Good Life with Jesus
18. Nancy & Grandwell - When He Gave His Life
19. Barbara Kaler - My God's Good to Me
20. Pam & James Hatch - Acres of Diamonds
21. Rev. & Mrs. Fred Krebs - James Hatch
22. Clarence Condon - It's Different Now
23. The Liberty Trio - Climbing Higher
24. The Living Wonders - My Heart is Him

## CD 2

1. Mickey Mangum - Song & Winding Road
2. Mickey Mangum - My Way
3. Mickey Mangum - After All
4. The McCoshs - Good Morning, Neighbor
5. The McCoshs - One More River
6. Carol McGroder-Singer - I Lean on You, Lord
7. Minister's Quorum - Way Down Deep in My Soul
8. Ruth Murray - By What Name
9. Helen Lee Quinter - The Lovely Home of Jesus
10. Tim Padgett - Because He Loves Us
11. Tim Padgett - Blessed, Blessed, & Glorious
12. Harmon & Mary Padgett - I've Found a Hidden Place
13. Hugh & Rita Rose - Given Praise His Glory
14. Hugh & Rita Rose - It's in My Heart
15. Barbara Anderson - The Rock
16. Barbara Anderson - The Rock
17. Barbara Anderson - The Rock
18. Barbara Anderson - The Rock
19. Barbara Anderson - The Rock
20. Barbara Anderson - The Rock
21. Barbara Anderson - The Rock
22. Barbara Anderson - The Rock
23. Barbara Anderson - The Rock

This collection of songs was compiled by the Indiana Bible College Music Department. Proceeds from the sales will be used to fund music scholarships for music students attending IBC. We want to express gratitude to these anointed Pentecostal recording artists who influenced the worship of the Apostolic Movement. We sincerely thank them for investing in the lives of the youth of this generation.

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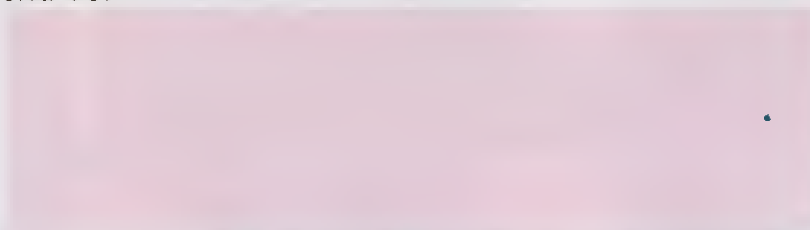
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