VOL. 2 - NO. 10
INDIANA BIBLE COLLEGE

IBC Perspectives

ARISE AND BUILD

From The Publisher

Conceding the Future to Darkness

Paul D. Mooney

"What is our spiritual response to the rising tide of political oppression, or the invasion of hell's filth endlessly sent through technical devices that we provide to our innocent children?"

"These that have turned the world upside down." The Apostles didn't turn just any world upside down, but the world of the Greeks and Romans: the Classic world of human intellect, wisdom, political power; an unmatched world of art and architecture. It was also a world of darkness, corruption and immoral behavior.

So, what of today's world? Is it possible that once again the preaching of Christ could have a sweeping spiritual influence on the souls of nations? Or do we conclude that the bad is so bad, the grip of criminals so locked, that it cannot be overcome? Is that the analysis? And therefore, is the ugly final solution to ignore the problem?

There are certain neighborhoods referred to in Indianapolis as the "killing zone." This area is defined as such due to the unspeakable number of murders and violent acts that take place. It is a part of the city that was once filled with thriving businesses, clean streets, public parks and beautiful churches, including my father and mother's little gospel chapel. Today it looks like the bombed city of Dresden during World War II. It resembles a miniature Detroit. Driving through this area recently, I felt great despair. I wondered if it is possible to overcome and conquer the darkness and fear that has gripped the families living in that part of town. I've sat on several committees with sociologists, business leaders, congresspersons, mayors, police, university professors, psychologists and pastors. I have yet to hear a real solution discussed that brought any assurances to the room. The most common response of such committees is to throw money into backing this or that idea, a new gym, a new center for the children or free lunches. After putting forth these suggestions, the best and the brightest entertain a motion to adjourn and handshake their way out of the meeting, return to their limousines and head for the airport.

Is wickedness, sin and crime irreversible? Do we merely let it run its course? Many good people I know are trying hard to find a solution. They are spending lots of money and investing in every conceivable method. They enjoy some successes, but they are not turning the tide. And many social programs are being reexamined, because the interests, values and beliefs (political, social and spiritual) of the so-called helpers are themselves part of the problem. As an example, I have been on committees where the homosexual agenda conflicts with the Christians' beliefs, and therefore what they each bring to the table as solutions are totally different; and because of political correctness the discussions stalemate. Or if a discussion comes up about the influence of violence displayed in movies, television, music or vulgar presentations on stages (such as the recent conduct of Ms. Cyrus on national television), no one addresses the matter because they "don't really believe it matters all that much." Such politically correct responses ignore or block the solutions. And the kids continue to kill one another, and neighborhoods cry and die.

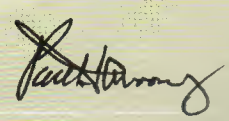
In other words, when society responds to evil in ways that are passive, guarded, uncertain and lacking nerve then this becomes part of the problem.

The same, in certain cases, might be said of the church's responses to the nation's sins. I'm speaking about our church. About us as Apostolics. Careful analysis is needed. Our real core beliefs, those everyday beliefs we live by ... what are they? Do our personal agendas put us in conflict with one another? Should we rise from the table, shake hands, agree to disagree, and walk away conceding the future to darkness?

Do we really believe that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is essential, evidenced by speaking in tongues? If we do not, then it is likely that we will not see that as a solution to the spiritual condition of our world, or as the anointing and power essential to evangelism. Is the holiness lifestyle our own true practiced belief? If not, we certainly will not preach it. What is our spiritual response to the rising tide of political oppression, or the invasion of hell's filth endlessly sent through technical devices that we provide to our innocent children? Or what about our response to false religions, false doctrine, and compromising pulpits?

And what about there being almost no response at all concerning the robbers who snatch years of labor and sacrifice from generations of faithful Oneness Apostolic people who built beautiful edifices and blessed and financially supported preachers and their families ... only to see it all, by deceit and treachery, placed under the flag of old denominational doctrines wrapped in clever deceptive language, and presented as the new way to reach the modern world? This they do while holiness and the Apostles' doctrine is mocked. And shockingly, in some cases, by the same people who originally led the same flock in the paths of righteousness. Why does this happen? Could it be because we don't really believe it matters all that much? Maybe we tolerate the ruse because we believe we'll be better off when all the holiness people are out of the picture. And then we can really reach the world without all those old bonds upon our necks and in our minds.

I would describe as weak, timid and inappropriate the common response to the deteriorating holiness in our churches. I'm concerned, and I think you should be, about the fearful and anxious attitude many Pentecostals have in broaching the subject of the harmful influences of worldliness. Failure to do so adds to the problem and contributes to the decline of commitment to Apostolic doctrine. When we no longer believe it, we will no longer preach it. And why don't we believe it? God has not changed. What has changed in us? And where do we end up without it?



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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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Feature:
Arise & Build
(Fredrick Olson)

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SOCIAL NETWORKING

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

Rob and Shara McKee, Katy, TX -- We post links to our website that offer live stream; we use it to promote our App -- Revival Radio. Our music department has a closed group that we communicate all schedules, song lists and group topics. We have a closed ladies' group, youth group and men's group; we post pictures, testimonies, announcements and encouraging words to one another. We also have a prayer page where people can post their prayer requests. This is an excellent way to stay informed and know who needs prayer and attention. Countless people have found our church and sent people to our church through Facebook. Others have watched live or archived services, even YouTube videos (through FB links) and have sent testimonies of them praying through at their computer. More churches should use this free marketing tool to their advantage.

Seth Simmons, Hutto, TX -- We use Facebook as an extension of community life, so we post testimonials, events, photos, etc. in an effort to display what is happening in our church, community and city. We receive a lot of positive feedback and would encourage other churches to use this media form. We are in a digital culture, and in my opinion, it would be foolish not to have a presence in social media. (For instance, we reach on average 1,780 people a week with our FB page.) For some reason, Twitter is not as effective for our church community. I have a personal account that I use to connect, but we do not have a church Twitter account as of yet. For me, it seemed to allow me to connect more to peers in ministry around the country. As far as guidelines are concerned, social media is basically self-expression, so it challenges us to truly be Christians of character.

Denee Richardson, Belleview, FL -- We have an official group that we promote in new members' class, and sometimes in regular services. However, it's information that is most definitely geared toward established members, so it's not an "outreach" effort but an "in-reach" strengthener. We post everything from prayer requests to testimonies to volunteer needs. Our feedback is exactly what we want: interaction with each other, interaction with the office. We get more things done. Here are a few guidelines to remember when using social media. Don't post anything you wouldn't say face-to-face. Don't post pictures you would be ashamed of your pastor seeing. We also encourage people to clean out their photo albums of pre-God pictures. Don't spend too much time on it. Don't post your problems, and if it is offensive, public arguments help nothing; simply log off.

Matthew Johnson, Pensacola, FL -- Social media is really sharing media. If you have a church or ministry website, it is important to make it easy for visitors to share your content. You can make sharing easy through social media sharing buttons. These buttons display the logos of sites like Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest, Google+ and LinkedIn. When a reader clicks a sharing button on your site a link to your content posts on the reader's social media page. It's a digital way for people to tell friends, "go here and read this." These buttons also count how many times your content has been shared by readers. The more your content is shared, the more your "social credibility" grows. Visit Shareaholic.com, Sharethis.com, or Addthis.com to get started.

Gary Randol, Moline, IL -- We utilize Facebook on a regular basis; we have a church page and various ministries in our church have a page specifically for their group as well. We regularly use this means to promote events and special services throughout our community. Instead of uploading pictures/videos to our church website, visitors to that site are directed to our church Facebook, where we have several albums for them to peruse. I would encourage churches to take advantage of the opportunity to reach beyond their four walls in an inexpensive way. I teach our saints the potential of evil and danger on all social media. I ask them to guide themselves by the following three principles: Character — What you are when no one else is around. Integrity — Does what you do determine your morals, or do your morals govern what you will do? Moderation — Understand that too much of a good thing is still a bad thing.

Jacob Tapia, Belleville, IL -- Our church does have a Facebook page. I would encourage other churches to use social media because it is an inexpensive, easy way to connect with their community and church members. I use Facebook/Twitter for my own personal ministry and also for my mentorship ministry (www.ministrymentorship.com). Some of the recommendations I have for Facebook and Twitter are: 1. Keep posts short. 2. Include a call to action. Ask, "What do I want the reader to do?" 3. Post pictures. Photos generate attention and interaction. 4. Tag people. When people are tagged in a post, they will be more inclined to like/comment. 5. Post consistently: weekly, if not daily. 6. Use the promotional options with Facebook in order to reach more people. 7. Revisit (repost, like, comment on, etc.) popular posts. Use this to generate activity on something that connected with people.

Brian Allard, Delano, CA -- Currently, our church maintains a Facebook page where posts are made of advertisements of special services, quotes from sermons preached at our church, prayer requests, photos and videos of services, baptisms, etc. This page is seen by thousands each week and is an effective outreach tool. In today's economy, churches would do well to maintain a Facebook page because it is free advertisement. With the increase of technology comes an increased risk, which requires a broader area of instruction pastors must teach. Whether we are face-to-face or using social media, we must be accountable to the Word (Philippians 4:8).

Gregg Stone, Pensacola, FL -- Social media is a great way to inform congregants as well as the community of upcoming services and special events. It is also a means to encourage and uplift people with inspirational posts, quotes and scriptures. Our feedback has been positive from our Facebook page as well as our Twitter account. I would definitely encourage pastors and churches to use social media as a way to connect with people, to bless others, share Bible verses, affirmative quotes, things that can brighten another's day and/or spread the gospel. Here's a good rule of thumb: whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, TWEET these things.

ARISE AND BUI

By Christina Li

"A revival pastor must put his priorities on growing people to care for the lost," says Pastor Fredrick W. Olson of Church of Pentecost in Jacksonville, Florida. "Our tag line is 'Where Lives are Changed.' If people's lives are changed, then you will have a growing church."

Principles of Growth

Pastor Olson believes there are three core principles of growth: "First, I must be growing; second, the leaders must be growing; third, you must be reaching for growth. You will never have more than you can care for, so there must be a system for caring.

"My passion is growing people. Training, mentoring and personal growth plans are a big part of our growth."

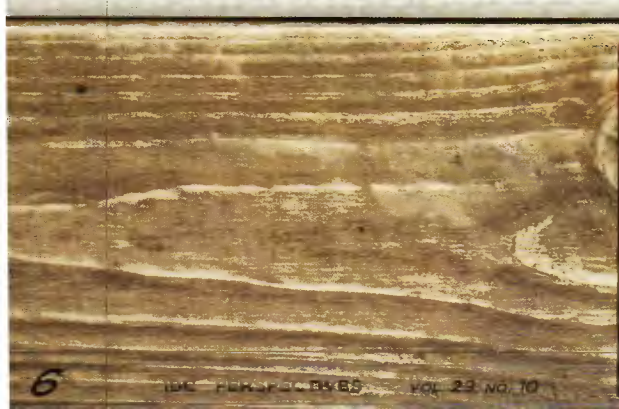
As part of that, Pastor Olson has incorporated a ministry called iCare. "iCare is a group of leaders, new friends, and saints that meet once a month to discuss ways to incorporate our new people into the fold. Out of this group, leaders have been developed to lead Small Focus Groups: Parents of Teenagers, Gardening, Men, WOW – Women of Wisdom (ladies aged 50+), Mature Marrieds, Photography, Singles, and New Moms."

Organizing for Growth

In the early years, outreach efforts included flyers, telephone calls, yellow pages and home Bible studies. Now, Church of Pentecost has several departments and ministries which incorporate these efforts. Included are PAT (Pastoral Administration Team), Board of Directors, Shepherds Team – Established Leaders, Music – Youth Choir/Chorale/Sanctuary Choir, New Friends, Guest Reception, Youth, College and Career, Young Marrieds, Bus Ministry, Nursery, Sunday School, Kids ROCK – Children's Ministry, Hands of Praise Sign Team, Keepers of the Temple, Bible Quizzing, and Audio/Visual Ministry.

Pastor Olson meets with ministry leaders (Audio/Visual, Music, Greeters, New Friends and Ushers) weekly, and once a month with other departments. "If it's a weekly ministry, reports are emailed to me and each department has a job description."

The pastor also holds a yearly planning meeting for main events. "Our Pastoral Administration Team meets monthly to plan and promote



excellence for our month-to-month events. I encourage attendance to any and all conferences that will benefit their ministry. Also, once or twice a year I bring in a guest minister to speak to the leaders and offer training."

He estimates that 70 percent of Church of Pentecost members are involved in some form of ministry with 20 percent involved in evangelism.

Build

Pastor Olson and his wife, Alexa, founded Church of Pentecost at 7301 Beach Boulevard, and their first service was March 25, 1984. "It was a small white building 23 x 35 on Beach Blvd," the pastor explained. "The sanctuary seated 100 people. There were no classrooms. Sunday school was held outside and the nursery was in the 10-foot kitchen. There were ten people in the first service."

Five years later, they were able to purchase property and built what is now the Fred Olson Center. They were in this building for 21 years, and grew from 70 to over 200 members.

In 1999, God spoke to Pastor Olson to begin raising money to build a new worship center, "as we were fast outgrowing the current facilities. He told me to challenge 100 families to each give ten thousand dollars. Over the next five years, the Lord used over 70 families to raise 1.5 million dollars for the building program. The majority did not give out of their abundance, but through miraculous circumstances. People on disability, divorcees received settlements, and single income families -- all were vessels God used to bring about this miracle!"

According to Pastor Olson, their current building, The Worship Center, completed April 2010, has 550 seats with the potential of seating over 700. "My wife, Alexa, took very careful steps in decorating each and every space," he said. "We have 20 classrooms and 14 restrooms. We have a thriving coffee shop/bookstore called Java Jireh and a welcoming guest reception area stocked full of treats every Sunday morning to welcome our guests. Our office area has five administrative offices and a beautiful conference room. Our original building next door, called the Fred Olson Center (named after my father – who helped design and build it), is now our fellowship hall which has a full kitchen, five classrooms and two offices. We have shared many meals and celebrations together in this building – it has been such a blessing to have both spaces."

Currently, Church of Pentecost runs 300 to 400 people. "In 2012, we baptized 66 and had 41 receive the Holy Ghost. Six families were converted and became active members of our church. So far in 2013, we have baptized 14 and had eight receive the Holy Ghost. We are in need of extra parking so we are looking into obtaining land surrounding our building."

Personal Ministry

"I believe there are two things that are needed for a well-grounded church: teaching of the Word and the moving of the Spirit," said Pastor Olson. "One cannot replace the other and you need them both on a regular basis.

"You can't lead people in areas you are weak. You can't give understanding in areas you have no wisdom."

The Olson family
Jacksonville, Florida

Closing Comments

"If God has called you, He called you for what you have. It will not be exactly like someone else's, but it will be uniquely your own.

"Seek to bring balance into your life. Utmost, seek to know what God wants out of your life. Nehemiah 2:20: 'The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build: ...'"

Pastor Olson and his wife, Alexa, minister to the congregation.

Interior view of the sanctuary

Left to right: The Church of Pentecost Sanctuary Choir ministers in song; An exterior view of the Church of Pentecost of Jacksonville, FL; Members of the Next Level Youth Group pose for a group picture.

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Poll: Many Pastors Desire More Time For Sermon Preparation

Most church members give little thought to the amount of time it takes a pastor to prepare each sermon. In reality, sermon preparation is a large portion of a pastor's workweek. A recent Twitter poll conducted by Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources, revealed how much time pastors spend in sermon preparation.

It was found that the preparation time for one sermon is: 1 to 3 hours -- 1%; 4 to 6 hours -- 9%; 7 to 9 hours -- 15%; 10 to 12 hours -- 22%; 13 to 15 hours -- 24%; 16 to 18 hours -- 23%; 19 to 21 hours -- 2%; 25 to 27 hours -- 1%; 28 to 30 hours -- 2%; 31 to 33 hours -- 1%. Here are some key points found in the study:

- 70 percent of pastors' sermon preparation time is the narrow range of 10 to 18 hours per sermon.
- Keep in mind that these numbers represent sermon preparation time for just one sermon. Many pastors spend 30 or more hours in preparing messages each week.
- The median time for sermon preparation in this study is 13 hours.
- Most of the respondents who gave a response under 12 hours indicated they were bi-vocational pastors.
- If the sermon was part of a series, the pastors indicated they spent even more upfront time to develop the theme and preliminary issues for the sermons to be preached.
- Many of the pastors are frustrated that they don't have more time for sermon preparation.
- A number of the pastors indicated that finding consistent and uninterrupted sermon preparation time was difficult.

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PURE Religion by Stephen Judd

tupelo children's mansion

Mansion Sunday -- Nov. 3

By Stephen Judd, TCM President

Stephen Judd
www.mansionkids.org

Mansion Sunday, November 3, will be a special day set aside in conjunction with "National Orphan Sunday," that specifically focuses on Tupelo Children's Mansion.

Please join with Apostolics across North America and feature Mansion Sunday on November 3 by doing 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.

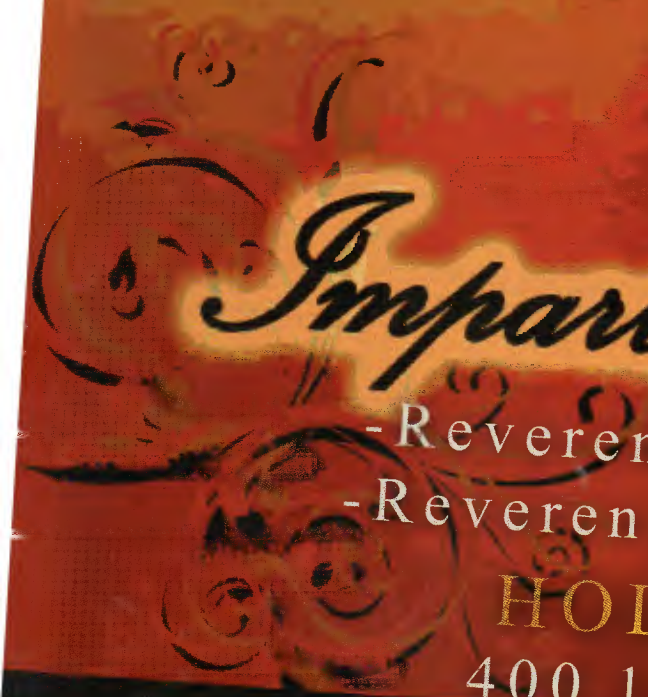
Thank you for becoming the hands of God to the most vulnerable of our society, the fatherless.

For more information about Tupelo Children's Mansion, go to www.mansionkids.org.

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

Praise Tabernacle

presents



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By Charlotte L. Pound

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY DEVOTIONS

Bro. Daniel L. Koren
Living Springs, MO

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

Almost a couple decades before writing *Devotions with Dad: Home-Made Disciples*, God called me to write as a teen. I have been published in the Vision, Pentecostal Herald, IBC Perspectives, and Thriving Families by Focus on the Family. I have self-published two novels, and this new book was published by Word Aflame. I have served the Lord as a father for 15 years and as a pastor for the past nine. My wife and I have been married for 17 years and enjoy homeschooling and discipling our six children together. No ministry beats parenting.

Why are family devotions important in an Apostolic home? What are the benefits?

Most children leave the faith once they are grown. Some studies show that only 10 percent of our children will still be in the church by their first year in college. On the other hand, research has shown that fathers who spiritually lead their homes retain 90 percent of our young people.

God designed the home as the primary place of training His covenant people. He called Abram to Himself and then told him He expected this father (who did not even have a child yet) to pass this message on to the following generations. God told parents to speak about the things of the kingdom when they travelled together, when they sat down together as a family, when they got up, and at bedtime (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). He calls men to nurture their families in the faith and warn them from God's Word (Ephesians 6:4).

How does your book help fathers directly?

Each week, I have included a word of encouragement to fathers called "For Dad Only." Rather than browbeat and wheedle the active father, I come alongside him from the perspective of another dad in the trenches. Too many men's books and speakers intimidate and belittle the men who are really trying. I feel men just need equipping, not another voice telling them how they fall short. More encouragement comes in the guest devotionals by Roger Koren (my dad), Paul Howe, Dave Huston, Richard Davis and Stan Gleason.

What can a pastor do to encourage family devotions in his church?

Too many church programs become substitutes for parents: Sunday school, children's church, youth group, and so on. Dads might become lax in their responsibility if they think it is the church's job. A pastor can teach and model godly leadership. The pastor can lead fathers to be the source of biblical teaching, spiritual growth, and scripture memorization in the home. A pastor should recommend resources (like my book) to help dads accomplish this mission which they may have never thought about.

When and how should a father lead family devotions?

Every family has different strengths, schedules and personalities. Some families do longer devotions on Saturday mornings. Others do better on a Monday night. A father can test it out and see what works best for his family. This will require restructuring the schedule. Using the *Devotions with Dad* stories, we have done the whole setting at once or spread it out over four nights of the week. Dad can read the story one night, lead a discussion from the study the next night with the memory verse, read the Bible story on the third night, and discuss and apply the biblical principles on the fourth night.

I believe we can do no less than take time in the Bible and in prayer with our children every day. This trains them for adulthood. They will need to have a foundation of daily prayer and time in the Scriptures every day to survive in our evil world. Our relationship with God should pull the whole family together. Dad, mom, the baby, and even college kids who are still at home should get together to make the Lord Jesus the anchor of their day. At times in our lives, the kids had to get up pretty early so I could have spiritual time with them before leaving for the day. They will only value spiritual disciplines if they see we put Him before anything else.

How long do family devotions usually take?

The devotions in *Devotions with Dad* may take about 30 minutes. The children's story and Bible story are on the same theme. The discussion questions can take as long as you like. I like to present role-play scenarios and a thought-provoking theme to the children to help them consider the concepts in real life. When leading the family, a father should think most about how to apply what they are reading. It is not so much about being an expert on Bible names and places as in living the message of God's Word.

Why did you write Devotions with Dad?

I had been telling the "Rusty stories" to my children for a while when one day I realized many other dads would disciple their children if they had something similar. I have had many fathers express how this series helped them connect with their children. I have had many mothers thank me for helping their husbands step into a role they were unfamiliar with and take the family to a new level.

What ages is this targeted for?

My book *Devotions with Dad: Home-Made Disciples* targets elementary age children. Patient teens will be good participants, but to meet their needs better I recommend using the daily devotionals at life2o.org which are Apostolic, fill-in-the-blank studies through the New Testament. You could do these together as a family or allow your older family members to study on their own and have a discussion later. You want your children to grow up and learn to study the Scriptures on their own. Another thing we do for our older children is read through Pentecostal books about pioneers in our movement or missionaries. These give them good role models and are great discussion starters.

Getting young children started early thinking about and discussing the principles of God's Word creates a foundation that will carry through the teen years and into adulthood. Too many people try to fix problems once they arise in the older years rather than training up a child in the way he or she should go.

How can a person order this book?

Devotions with Dad: Home-Made Disciples retails for a low $13.99. A person can order it at pentecostalpublishing.com or by calling 866-819-7667, and from my website: www.devotionswithdad.com.

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

apostolic calendar 2013

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SPEAKERS	CONTACT / INFO
SEPT 26-28	**Eagle's Summit Apostolic Conference New Whiteland, IN** A conference for saints, staff and leadership alike which focuses on equipping the minister and believer for Apostolic ministry.	Liberty Tabernacle 6177 N. 75 W., New Whiteland, IN 46184 Pastor Brian Lane	Fred Childs, Dr. James Hughes and John Arcovio	For more information: (888) 776-0797 www.eaglessummit.net
OCT 11-12	**Oklahoma District Women's Esprit Conference - Yukon, OK** Early Registration: $35/$40. Deadline for early registration: September 30, 2013	First Pentecostal Church, 1100 South Cornwell Dr. Yukon, OK 73099 Host Pastor: Curt Green	Karen Rhinehart, Judith St. Clair and Nita Hodges	For more information: (405) 354-3388 wepresident@yahoo.com
OCT 17-20	**Impartation 2013 - Great Falls, MT** Holiday Inn: Oct. 17-19 Praise Tabernacle: Oct. 20	Holiday Inn, 400 10th Ave. S. and Praise Tabernacle, 2121 13th St. South, Great Falls, MT 59405	Lee Stoneking and David Shatwell	For more information: call 406-268-1780 or www.praisetabernaclegtf.com
OCT 20	**All Nations Sunday** A global harvest -- it's right next door. Multicultural ministries.	Any participating church in North America		For more information: AllNationsSunday.com
OCT 25	**The Storm Times of Refreshing Youth Conference - Pasadena, TX**	Apostolic Temple 2630 Allen Gena Rd. Pasadena, TX 77502 Pastor Orlain and Bishop Wayne McClain	To be announced	For more info: visit www.gordonpoe.com/TOR/conference. (717) 755-7202
NOV 6-8	**West Coast Conference - Fresno, CA** 30th Annual Fresno Meeting	Fresno Convention Center 848 M St., Fresno, CA Host Pastor: Vaughn Morton	Ben Weeks, Brian Jones, M.J. Blakely Sr., John John Lambeth, James Townley, Joel Booker, Jonathon Dudley Jr. & Leonel Rocha	For more information call: (559) 225-1622 www.truthtabfresno.org
NOV 8	**The Storm Times of Refreshing Youth Conference - Weslaco, TX**	Pentecostals of Weslaco 502 W. Sugar Cane Dr. Weslaco, TX 78596 Host Pastor: Tony Ybarra	To be announced	For more info: visit www.gordonpoe.com/TOR/conference. (717) 755-7202
JAN 24 2014	**Indiana Bible College LIVE RECORDING 2014** Under the direction of Lindel M. Anderson, Dean of Music	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN Host: Paul D. Mooney	Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, Lindel Anderson, IBC Choir, IBC Chorale, IBC Praise, others	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
FEB 6-8 2014	**WinterFire 2014** WinterFire's focus is ministering to those in ministry. Our objective is that every member of your team will leave renewed and refreshed.	First Cathedral Bloomfield, CT	David Bernard, Morton Bustard, Sam Emory, Anthony Mangun, Mark Morgan, Terry Shock, Mike Williams, Raymond Woodward	For more info: visit www.winterfire.org or visit Twitter: winterfireconf or Facebook: winterfire
FEB 27-28 2014	**Indiana Bible College CONNECT 2014** Your chance to visit the IBC campus and see what Bible college is all about!	Indiana Bible College 1502 Sumner Ave Indianapolis, IN 46227 Host: Paul D. Mooney	Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, Jason Gallion, Bobby Killmon, Lindel Anderson, others.	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
APRIL 2-4	**Indiana Bible College MUSIC FEST 2014** Under the direction of Lindel M. Anderson, Dean of Music	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN Host: Paul D. Mooney	Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, Lindel Anderson, IBC Choir, IBC Chorale, IBC Praise, others	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
APRIL 10-12	**Eagle's Summit Apostolic Conference Santa Rosa, CA** A conference for saints, staff and leadership alike which focuses on equipping the minister and believer for Apostolic ministry.	Santa Rosa, CA	Stan Gleason, Raymond Woodward, Dr. James Hughes and John Arcovio	For more information: (888) 776-0797 www.eaglessummit.net
JULY 2014	**Mile High Conference: 2014** Rocky Mountain Region Meeting designed to strengthen the cause of Oneness, holiness-minded preachers, churches and families.	Calvary Apostolic Church 5900 E. Yale Ave. Denver, CO 80222 Host: D. E. Haymon	To be announced	(303) 758-5900 www.cacdenver.org DEH2@comcast.net
AUG 2014	**Arkansas Campmeeting - North Little Rock, AR** A conference where Apostolic doctrine is not only preached but embraced. The message of Acts 2:38 remains the same!	To be announced	To be announced	For more info visit www.arkansascampmeeting.com
AUG 2014	**The Apostolic Conference - Madison, MS** A conference designed for the North American Missionary and Church Planter.	To be announced	To be announced	For more info: visit www.parkwaychurch.net or call 601-853-2607
AUG 21-22	**Investing in Futures** A conference for those who invest in children. Educating, encouraging and equipping children's ministry workers.	The Apostolic Sanctuary, 1501 John Deere Parkway, Silvis, IL 61239 Host Pastor: Gary Randol	Marrell Cornwell, Steve Cannon, Brent Colthorp, Jerry Jones and Wayne Huntley	For more info: visit invest-in-futures.com

Theology: Understanding Jesus' Baptism

Robert L. Rodenbush

Church Today

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Casualties of Decadence

In an article entitled "On Decadence" published in *American Interest Magazine*, Charles Hill cites example after example of how America's "national self-indulgence" and moral decay are precursors to the demise of our great country. Knowing that history has shown that losing the battle against decadence ultimately leads to the destruction of great civilizations, Hill describes how the Puritans and our founding fathers feared decadence and did what they could to root out the seeds of this destructive force.

In summarizing the theme of George Washington's Farewell Address, Hill states that Washington was keenly aware that a free society must be made up of virtuous, self-disciplined citizens. Although the speech is, "commonly interpreted as a warning to avoid foreign entanglements, [Washington] was more concerned with maintaining the character of the nation amid the temptations of freedom. As the world's first-ever free people, the individual virtue vital to successful popular government could only be upheld, Washington believed, by respect for religion."

Sadly, it seems that America has become lost in her material progress and has disregarded the warnings of history and the admonition of moral voices among society. Hill describes a societal transformation that he calls "The Great Virtue Shift" that has caused Americans to abandon their morals and value systems in favor of entertainment, self-absorption and vulgar behavior. The things that were once considered among the majority of Americans to be unacceptable are now the norm. What is more frightening however is his assertion that this tendency to gravitate toward decadence is not just a battle that individual Americans have lost in their heart, but one that has been deceptively marketed to them in order to entice them into behaviors that lead to social decay, ultimately causing dependence upon ever increasing government programs. People who are dependent are more easily controlled. "Throughout most of American history people were preoccupied with how to prevent government from becoming corrupt. In our time, governments have discovered how to corrupt the people. It then follows that the more corrupted the people become, the more numerous the laws must be, thus further aggrandizing government's indispensability."

This past decade we have witnessed Apostolic watchmen taking positions on the wall. They have done their part to warn the next generation that decadence will destroy our true liberty in Christ. Yet, the enemy continues his work on the heart of the church. If he can manipulate Apostolics into decadence, self-reliance, dependency and worldly behavior – if he can keep us focused on indulging fleshly lusts, desires and habits – if he can minimize the value of sound doctrine and holiness living – if he can dull our sensitivity to the Spirit and lull us into a state of apathy – then he has us in his control and we too become casualties of decadence.

Bobby Killmon

Theology

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How do we as oneness people best explain what is going on at Jesus' baptism?

That is a great question. Due to the scope of this question I will take the next couple of articles to answer this a bit more in depth. This is one event in the life of Christ that I've seen give oneness people some hesitation. I cannot think of another that is equally as challenging. This, however, is not due to the text itself but at times both an unfamiliarity with the OT and the invention of the trinity that clouds this issue. Without getting into the historical development of the trinity, because much has been written and said on this, let me treat the first part.

As oneness people, we claim the correct way to approach the Bible is to use the OT as an interpretive "lens" to correctly understand the NT. The oneness of God is clearly taught and to attempt to "read a trinity" into the OT lends itself to what one author called "tortured exegesis." The point is we must not read our meaning or theology into the text (eisegesis) but draw the intended meaning out of the text (exegesis). That said, how do we approach the NT event of Jesus' baptism?

Some of our trinitarian friends will claim this is an endorsement of God the Father of the second person of the trinity's ministry (God the Son). We as oneness people would say that this has to do with Jesus as a man starting His public ministry and this had to be announced and initiated the right way. So, who is right?

Ministers often say this act was merely for our example in an attempt to make sense of it, and we know Christ was our example. However, we must let the context and what Christ specifically said Himself inform our answer. Jesus was sinless so we know baptism was not for sins He needed remitted. So why was it necessary? Jesus said it was to "fulfill all righteousness." Here Jesus as a man, in order to fulfill His necessary role as savior, had to obey the Law. So, what were the requirements He was meeting? Scripture shows both His baptism, and symbolic sign of anointing, was to start His public ministry and declare Him to Israel.

Even trinitarian scholars are acknowledging now that this event is not about a revelation of a triune god but the starting of Jesus' public ministry as Messiah. For example, V. Philips Long says about the proclamation at the baptism of Christ those around would have "...heard Old Testament echoes of royalty and suffering that we often do not hear because we are not so familiar with the Old Testament." This "hearing" is often lost to us because of our unfamiliarity with the OT and we can struggle with what Jewish people at Jesus' time would not. I will continue this discussion in the next article.

T. W. Massengale

Church Growth

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I've heard you say that there are several key principles that you assume that all believe concerning church growth. What are these "key principles?"

In my opinion, there are three indispensable principles upon which growing churches are built. All of the church growth seminars, books, articles and curricula will be useless unless you first believe these three assumptions:

(1) *God wants your church to grow.* This must be our starting point, our central reason for seeking growth. Since it is His will to grow, He will empower us with the ability to grow both spiritually closer to Him and physically in church attendance.

(2) *The pastor has the key role in growth.* Unless the pastor fulfills his place and purpose within the church, it will often not grow as it should. One of the important purposes of the pastoral ministry is to equip the saints for ministry unto Jesus Christ. The pastor must first show how the work is done by example. He must then equip others with the necessary skills to accomplish the work themselves. As a pastor (or shepherd) he nurtures and feeds the flock. As a bishop, he oversees the work and labor. As an elder, he is an example and influence to the believers. When the pastor fails to fulfill these critical roles, the church often struggles.

(3) *God has gifted the saints for ministry.* Every member has a specific place and calling within the body of Christ. Every saint may not win a soul, but every saint should have a part in the process of soul-winning. Indeed, it's much like an army. Everyone has a place in God's army. There must be generals, majors, captains, sergeants and privates. There must be areas of specialization such as riflemen, cannon men, radio men, medics, and supply personnel. All are helping in the battle. All are trained for active duty. Anyone sitting down is "AWOL." It is only as we are acting together as active participants in God's army that we will win this war!

From this foundation a church needs to focus upon three areas: organization, evangelization and assimilation. If you would like to learn more about these principles of church growth, call 1-800-800-0247 and ask for the Total Church Growth materials.

SPEAKERS

david **Bernard**
morton **Bustard**
josh **Combs**
sam **Emory**
anthony **Mangun**
mark **Morgan**
terry **Shock**
mike **Williams**
raymond **Woodward**

...YOU are complete in HIM...

Colossians 2:10

February 6-8, 2014

First Cathedral
1151 Blue Hills Ave
Bloomfield, CT 06002

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

Bloomfield, CT

winterfire.org

winterfireconf

ONLINE REGISTRATION*

Early Bird Registration

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$55

BONUS: Receive coupon for $10 off a Media Drop Card

Registration

November-January

$65

Late Registration

February 1 - 8

$75

Children's Registration

For ages 7 - 11

$25

winterfire.org

For more information contact

Seth@faithtabernacle.com

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** Registration fees are replacing conference offerings.*

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

We will have a special program for children ages 7-11 during the evening services. Josh Combs, a children's evangelist from Maryland, will be leading the children's services Thursday and Friday nights. There is a separate registration for this age group at a **reduced rate of $25.**

VERY IMPORTANT: There is limited space for this venue and all children must be registered.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The following rates are reserved under the WinterFire Conference. The rooms must be reserved by January 6, 2014 to guarantee the rates below.

Hilton Garden Inn
Single or King w/Sofa Sleeper $85
860.688.6400
555 Corporate Dr • Windsor, CT
Distance from conference site: 5 miles

Courtyard Marriott
Queen/King **$94**
860.683.0022
1 Day Hill Rd • Windsor, CT
Distance from conference site: 5 miles

Hampton Inn & Suites
Queen/King **$99**
Suites **$109**
860.644.1732
1432 Pleasant Valley Road • Manchester, CT
Distance from conference site: 10 miles
(closer to Manchester restaurants)

Hyatt House
King Suites **$ 105**
One Bedroom King Suites **$ 125**
One Bedroom Queen Suites **$ 145**
Two Bedroom Suites **$ 245**
860.298.8000
200 Corporate Drive • Windsor, CT
Distance from conference site: 5 miles

Marriott Hartford/Windsor
Single **$112**
860.688.7500
28 Day Hill Rd • Windsor, CT
Distance from conference site: 5 miles

Residence Inn
1 Studio Suites **$119**
860.688.7474
100 Dunfey Lane • Windsor, CT
Distance from conference site: 3 miles

Carol Clemans

Spiritual Growth

carol@carolclemans.org

Pastors: 'Off Campus' Counseling Ministry Available

When Pastor Kenneth Haney brought me to his staff at Christian Life Center in 1992, he told me that if most ministers would admit it, they are not skilled in helping people with emotional or relational issues. For the 10 years that I provided a counseling ministry for CLC, including a one-year practicum, Bro. Haney would tell me, "I'm not sure what you do, but I know it is good because I see it in the people." As a certified pastoral counselor, my therapy is the Word of God.

Now with my ministry being nationwide teaching for churches/conferences and nationwide counseling by phone/webcam, I can be an 'off campus' support counseling ministry to your church. I counsel pastors, for pastors and lay people in confidence. I co-counsel with pastors through Skype – face-to-face with pastor and his saints. (Can also teach seminars through Skype for churches).

The majority of my counseling is with men/women who were abused in their past. They are now saved but hurting. This paralyzes their relationships with God, self and others. They fight the damaging emotions of low self-worth - feeling they are worthless, helpless, hopeless, and unlovable even though they have the Holy Ghost.

God's inner healing comes through His Word: Romans 12: 1&2 – "we are transformed by renewing our mind" through God's truth. In Christ, we are His Special Treasure! We are His royal priesthood and a holy nation. In Christ, there is now no condemnation. Hurting people feel a sense of guilt – it's a false guilt that is fed by the lies of Satan. Emotional healing is a process of changing the way a person thinks by God's Word. People must make the choice of not defining self by the past, but defining self now by God's truth!

Pastor Daniel Batchelor (UPCI, Ed. Div.) of Dupo, Illinois is on my board of directors and fully believes in my ministry. Pastors, call me (636) 448-0121, I will send you my teaching DVD: Jesus, the Healer of Our Brokenness. Go to my website: www.carolclemans.org for bio, products: book – *God's Design for Marriage.*

Carol Clemans is a Certified Pastoral Counselor, anointed Bible teacher. Rev. Harold & Carol Clemans' pastor is Pastor Jerry Dillon, Madison, MS. MS Supt. David Tipton refers Carol's counseling ministry in the MS district.

Brian Norman

Revival Concepts

evangelistnorman@gmail.com

Numbers and Information

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" - Acts 2:41.

Numbers are not everything. In fact, churches and ministries that base what they do solely or primarily on numbers face great peril. Why? Reaching a certain "number" at any cost threatens to trump doctrinal purity and true purpose, whether the numbers tracked are those receiving the Holy Ghost, healing or Sunday morning attendance. Yet this does not mean numbers do not have any value. Nor that we should not keep this information. Quite the opposite.

Numbers are a gold mine. By this I mean the importance of a church keeping track of information. Imagine being able to push a couple of buttons on your computer and have the name and phone number of every visitor to your church the last 10 years. Then imagine uploading that list to a "one call" system online, recording a message and blasting out a phone call promoting a special event or service. If you had 1,000 visitors the last 10 years, that would be 1,000 people reached. And it could easily result in an extra 50+ visitors to your special event -- people who have had an interest in your church before. And all of this can be done -- get this -- in less than 15 minutes. But that's ONLY if you track numbers.

Every church should track the following information on their visitors, keeping it filed in their computers: name, phone number, e-mail, address, date of birth, how they heard about the church, whether they were offered and/or taught a Bible study.

There are several programs out there designed for this, and Excel can easily be set up for it. Whatever the computer program, if you are not keeping tracking of these numbers, you are definitely overlooking a gold mine.

Brian Norman travels full-time preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ.. Phone: 636-544-0627 Website: www.globalevangelism.org

Aubrey Jayroe

Finance

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With all the discussion today about the new health care laws, is there any type of credits available for those who are having problems paying for health insurance?

Yes. Americans who currently buy their own insurance through the individual market would receive tax credits averaging nearly $2,700 next year for coverage purchased through new insurance marketplaces under the Affordable Care Act.

It is predicted that the tax credits or subsidies would cover 32% of the premiums on average. Tax subsidies are an essential part of the equation for many people who buy insurance through the new marketplace next year. The equation as we know becomes available to subsidize premiums for people who buy their insurance in the new marketplaces, do not have access to other affordable coverage, and have incomes between 100% and 400% of the federal poverty level (between about $11,500 and $46,000 for a single person and $24,000 and $94,000 for a family of four).

It is estimated that 48% of people who currently have individual market coverage will be eligible for tax credits. Tax credits among those eligible will average $5,548 per family, and subsidies will average $2,672 across all families now purchasing their own insurance.

Many people who are now uninsured will also become eligible for subsidies once the new marketplaces are set up.

This is a very brief explanation to a very complex system. Everyone will be required to have insurance next year or face possible penalties. Please take the time to consult with a professional who is knowledgeable as the enrollment date begins on October 31, 2013.

Aubrey L. Jayroe is an Accredited Tax Advisor, Accredited Tax Preparer and Enrolled Agent by the IRS, as well as an Apostolic pastor. Contact him at: (870) 633-6045. Jayroe & Company, P.O. Box 1217, Forrest City, AR 72336. Email: jayroeone@sbcglobal.net

Eric K. Hall

Investments

eric.hall@lpl.com

Financial Planning Conference

It is our strong desire that every person experience the spiritual, emotional and relational freedom that results from practicing Biblically-based financial stewardship.

You might be asking yourself, what could I gain from learning in-depth faith-based financial principles or why should the church invest time into a financial-based conference or seminar?

The financial and emotional results of poor money management are well-known – debt, anxiety, guilt, shame, broken relationships. Often overlooked are the spiritual ramifications such as decreased giving due to debt, the breakdown of the family, and the lost harvest. With more than 2,000 scriptures devoted to the subject of money and possessions, the Bible is clear that our relationship to money and material possessions is extremely important. As Jesus taught, an improper relationship to money can:

- Keep us from serving God (Matthew 6:24)
- Steal our hearts from God (Matthew 6:21)
- Choke out the Word of God in our lives and make it unfruitful (Matthew 13:22)
- Keep us from the blessings God wants to bestow upon us (Matthew 25:11-30)

One way the Church as a whole can combat this is by providing not only hope but practical help and Biblical teaching that meets people at their points of need. We have developed a Financial Planning Seminar that reaches deep into the financial needs of the Apostolic community. This one-day, three-session seminar is designed to increase giving, decrease debt, grow wealth, and leave a legacy to the local church. We cover Giving, Debt Management, Investment and Retirement Planning, Trust and Estate Planning, Insurance Planning and much more. Whether you're an individual, pastor or church, we are committed to providing you the tools necessary to apply Biblical financial principles to every area of your life or organization. We provide the materials, the time and the expertise. In order to accomplish this we use several financial tools: Education, Consulting, Planning, and Management. We want to make an investment into the financial future of your church and provide you with expert, one-on-one financial advice from an Apostolic perspective. Call me today to discuss hosting a Financial Planning Conference at your church. We also specialize in personal, one-on-one financial advice. Initial consultation is always free.

Eric K. Hall is an Independent Financial Advisor with LPL Financial and the Senior Pastor of Greater Life Church in Greentown, IN. Contact him at (765) 860-9335, eric.hall@lpl.com. Member FINRA/SPIC

THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS

Polyamorists Battle For Legal Recognition in Canada

Canada, which redefined marriage in 2005, is now seeing the results of that decision. Most recently, a group of polyamorists reportedly has demanded the same legal status as other relationships, following the group's first national convention in Canada.

Polyamory involves intimate relationships between three or more people at the same time.

This comes after a decision was made in a major legal case involving polygamy in 2011. The Canadian Polyamory Advocacy Association intervened in the case and now says it wants to see polyamorous relationships treated on the same legal footing as others.

The association's director, Zoe Duff, says she would like to see "households where our spouses are equal under the law, and moving forward in terms of pensions, and inheritances and property division." The group defines *polyamory* as having "more than one intimate relationship at a time with the knowledge and consent of everyone involved." The group says they "live all gender combinations" and are "queer-friendly."

In October last year in Canada, a poster that promoted polygamy caused controversy when it appeared in schools. The poster declares "Love has no gender" and shows a variety of relationships, including an image of one man and two women, and two men and one woman. At the time, the Toronto School Board faced criticism for using the image.

Writer Daphne Bramham says, "The Toronto School Board appears to be promoting a practice that leads almost invariably not only to the sexual exploitation of girls, the expulsion of boys, but poor educational and health outcomes. At very least it needs to recall all of the posters and stickers that have been distributed and take it off its own website."

A spokesman from the board says it "does not support polygamy" and adds, "The images in question were meant to support an individual's right to choose whom they love, regardless of gender."

Study: Religious Schools Perform Better Than Public, Charter Schools

Private religious schools perform better than public schools, and public charter schools performed no better than regular public schools, according to a new study by William Jeynes, professor of education at California State University at Long Beach. Jeynes found that religious, mostly Christian, school students were a full year ahead of students who attend public and charter schools.

The results of his research were recently published in the Peabody Journal of Education in an article titled, "A Meta-Analysis on the Effects and Contributions of Public, Public Charter, and Religious Schools on Student Outcomes." The research used four different models to show how the outcomes might change using different control variables. Some might argue, for instance, that students at religious schools do better because their parents are more involved in their education, not because the schools are better. Jeynes, therefore, controlled for this "selection effect." Religious schools still perform better, though, even when controlling for parental involvement. Jeynes controlled for other variables as well, such as socioeconomic status, gender and race. When all the control variables are factored in, the study found that students at religious schools still have a seven to eight month advantage over students at public and charter schools.

Jeynes found there were several reasons that religious schools do better. At religious schools, the students are encouraged to take difficult courses much more frequently and they have a "can do attitude," Jeynes explained. Religious schools place higher expectations upon their students and send the message that they have the ability to go to college.

Jeynes also found a greater reduction in the class and race based "achievement gaps." Poor students and black and Latino students perform worse, on average, than students from middle-income or higher families, and white and Asian students. This achievement gap is lower in religious schools.

Some other factors that are more difficult to measure may also be at work, Jeynes added. Some argue, for instance, that the "school culture" or "social capital" at religious schools contribute to their better performance. There is respect shown for teachers and fellow students, and more racial harmony. Also, Jeynes found students at religious schools were less likely to get suspended, get into fights, do drugs, and get involved in bullying. These students also showed more respect for teachers.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ A Sonoma State University student was ordered to remove a cross necklace by a supervisor who thought other students might find it offensive. Audrey Jarvis, 19, a liberal arts major at the northern California university, said she had no choice but to seek a "religious accommodation" in order to wear the cross. University spokeswoman Susan Kashack confirmed to Fox News that the incident occurred and expressed extreme regret.

■ A Bible signed by Albert Einstein has sold for $68,500 at an auction in New York City. The Bible was part of a fine books and manuscripts auction at Bonhams recently. The German-born, Nobel Prize-winning physicist and his wife signed it in 1932 and gave it to a friend in the United States, Harriett Hamilton.

EDUCATION TRENDS

Teacher Refuses to Label Gay Marriage Opponents as "Homophobes"

A Christian teacher from London is under investigation because she refused to give a lesson telling children that all opponents of gay marriage are homophobes. The unnamed teacher didn't think it was a "fair characterization of the debate," she says, but is now under investigation at her school. A colleague is demanding to know whether it impacts her job.

The case was raised in the House of Lords during a debate about the government's controversial same-sex marriage bill. The teacher reportedly explained, "I am a teacher at a girls' school in South London. I have been employed by the school for 17 years. I was instructed to deliver a presentation, which included material stating, in effect, that any disagreement with same-sex marriage was de facto homophobia. I felt this was not a fair characterization of the debate and it was one that conflicted with my own deeply held religious beliefs. I raised my concerns with the teacher in charge.'"

She reportedly was allowed her position and not forced to teach the lesson. However, another colleague, who is also a union rep, has formally raised additional concerns about the teacher's Christian beliefs and whether it had any negative impact on her job as a teacher. An investigation is currently underway.

SCIENTIFIC TRENDS

Scientist Fired For Believing Jesus Heals

Fernando Pauwels was fired from the Catholic University of Leuven because he believes that God can heal, according to CBN News. Pauwels worked as a scientist at the University's Research Institute for Work and Society for 11 years without a negative review when he suddenly lost his job.

Catholic University, the oldest and largest in Belgium, reportedly was not in favor of Pauwels' ministry website, Powerthroughlove.be, that included testimonies of people healed through the power of God. Pauwels said, "The University saw some of these movie clips of people being healed and giving their testimonies, and called them 'unscientific.'" The university told CBN News in a statement that "when a researcher working on matters of a scientific or medical nature allows religion to take the place of science, he compromises the scientific reputation of the university."

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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.

LOANS for CHURCHES

Starting January 2013 the United Pentecostal Church Loan Fund is now making loans up to $500,000 directly to churches, agencies and organizations affiliated with The United Pentecostal Church International. Larger loans are also available through our primary lending partner America's Christian Credit Union.

Loans will be to finance the acquisition of properties, refinancing of existing loans on real property or secured by real property, and provide construction funding for expansion or renovation of ministry related facilities, remodeling, repair and maintenance of existing facilities and refinancing of existing debt.

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Color Me Pagan

By: Jaye M. Rodenbush

Jaye serves as Dean of Administration, Instructor and leads the Women's Ministries department at IBC. Follow her blog at www.jayerodenbush.com. (Article originally written for students of the Women's Leadership Class.)

A few months ago some of my Facebook friends posted pictures of themselves running in one of those new 5K events with all the color powder sprayed on them at the end. I got a weird vibe, but I thought I must be getting old. I decided the feeling I had was probably just my disappointed at how many feel that because it's an athletic event that our modesty and standard issues don't really apply. Yet, the feeling kept nagging at me. I did a little research trying to figure out what the colors meant and didn't really see anything and I gave it up. However, for some reason it still bothered me.

Later I did some more homework. Come to find out, color runs are derived from a tradition of the Hindu religion. There are several mythic stories that the celebrations came from but I will share with you the main one. Hindu tradition states that a very jealous king made a decree that all his subjects should worship him. However, he had a son who chose

instead to worship a Hindu god named Vishnu. The king's demoness sister, Holika, was ordered to kill the son and she had the gift of walking through fire. Holika picked up the child and walked through the fire, but because the child called on the name of the Hindu god he was saved and Holika was killed. To remember this legend, a Hindu festival is celebrated in many places in the world, called Holi. People will walk through colored powder representing the fire and the greatness and protection of the Hindu god Vishnu. Holi is a time when the social norms are put aside, people become intoxicated and most any behavior (including sexual) is accepted.

Can you see how clever Satan is? He now has people all throughout America, even some Apostolics, participating mindlessly in an act of pagan worship. We must not be ignorant of his devices. We must be on guard and not just accept every fad, trend or wind of doctrine that is thrown at us. The Bible in Corinthians warns us against ignorance. There is a difference between being virtuous and stupidly naive. We can't just pretend like we live in an Apostolic bubble that insulates us from our responsibility to know what goes on around us in the world.

1. Be sensitive to things you feel in the Spirit.

You may not always be able to give scripture and verse for everything that you feel to avoid. But, if you feel pricked in your heart, be sensitive. You will eventually receive your confirmation. You have the Holy Ghost! If you are sensitive God will direct you and lead you as you lead others.

2. Don't mindlessly adopt worldly (non-Apostolic) ideas and concepts.

There are trends that come and go. Some things seem so innocent in their beginnings. But Satan's goal is to distract you and to deceive you. You must guard your heart and your mind. Do your homework. When you feel a hesitation toward something, then research it. Try to understand why your spirit is resisting a fad or an idea. You may be receiving a spiritual warning that if heeded will keep you from falling into a trap of the enemy. And, as leaders, the things you accept will likely be accepted by those following you. It's your responsibility to be vigilant.

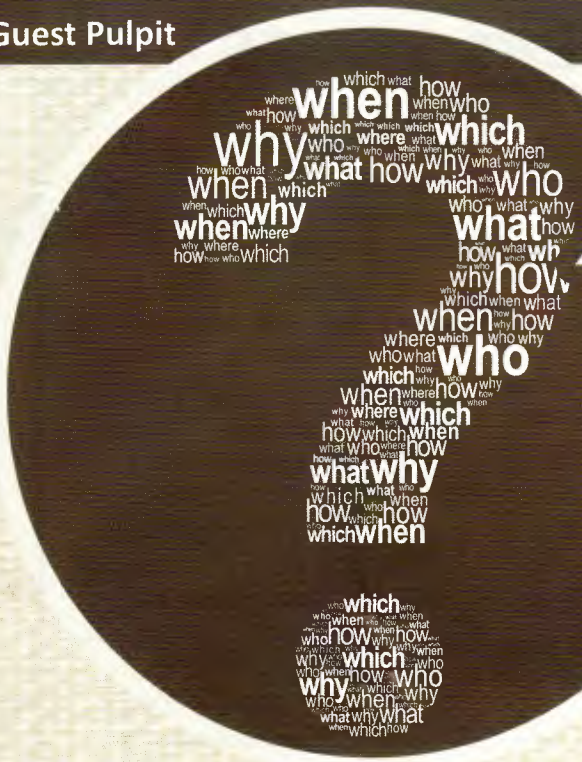
3. Be confident.

I truly believe we are seeing an unprecedented number of women being called into ministry. What He asks you to do, He will give you the ability to do. You ARE able — Through Christ! But, it will take boldness to confront the world in the last days. We can't CONFRONT the world if we have already CONFORMED to the world. We won't change the world if we allow the world to change us.

4. Be courageous.

Finally, once you know, once you've received confirmation that what you felt in the Spirit was truly of God, it is your responsibility to have the courage, the boldness to share that with others. Sometimes it's not easy to lead others away from the misdirection of the pack. But, you weren't designed for the easy road. You were designed for greatness!

Transcribed by Jana Snyder



THE POINT OF UNDERSTANDIN

Let's take a look at the story of Joseph and that last dramatic moment when he is revealing himself to his brothers. Genesis 45:4-5: *"And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life."*

They were frightened to be standing in Pharaoh's court alone. They did not know he was going to tell them that he was going to feed and take care of them. Here is where he reached *the point of understanding*, and there is plenty of evidence that there were times in Joseph's life when he did not get it, he didn't have that understanding. If you just look at the names of his own sons, their names express the tragedy his heart was feeling when he was not with his father. Of course he had some success but it wasn't in his homeland. It wasn't until this very point that Joseph finally has it figured out.

My point is, you and I need to be careful that we don't get lost somewhere in the journey. We can't forget that God has a reason for all things, and all things work together for good in your life, my life, the church, in our nation, and in the world. All of us need to come to a point of understanding; otherwise, we are going to get bitter and ugly. We will end up losing sight of what our lives are all about, why God filled us with the Holy Ghost. Joseph told his brothers that it was not their fault but God had sent him before them to preserve them. In verse 8 it says, *"So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God."* He didn't always feel this way but now he's got a point of understanding. He said to his brothers, "Don't blame yourselves." In other words, he said even though you sold me into slavery, God had His hand on me and on you.

You may not have reached your point of understanding yet, but it will come someday. You need to get your spiritual eyes open; you need to get rid of the negativity and get rid of the doubt and get rid of the fear because God loves you. He knows all about your trouble and your fears, and He will work it out. What a mighty God we serve.

You need to reach a point where you can figure things out. That's the objective. However, it is possible that along a journey of dark and difficult times we try to overcome trouble and sorrows. We don't have clear direction, and then a wonderful thing happens. It seems like you have been in a fog and then all of a sudden there is a moment where something just speaks to you.

I believe that sometimes even in our human spirit we need to reach a point when we just break out of the negativity of the ugliness. One psychologist put it like this: there is a "*life lie*"-- the big lie of life. It's where we're blaming everyone else for our problems. It is the most consistent attitude among discouraged people. Pascoe says one of the reasons people reject God is because they know if they get close to God that they're going to have to take responsibility. The Holy Ghost is not always just pushing us to the top of every experience. The Holy Ghost sometimes sends us, like in Joseph's life, down into Egypt, down into periods and times in our thoughts and ideas to make us work things out. It's not always pleasant. But we can still be in the will of God.

Here is the story of a man who got to the place that he could say to his brother, "It wasn't even really about you anyway, don't even feel bad, don't even think about it. Because I am now at a place where I can explain it to you, it's not even what you think it is. This is all about the will of God." Joseph did not really know in the beginning that he was going to be part of a great deliverance. Just like I don't think that most Pentecostal believers see themselves as the answer to the spiritual problems of the world. When you receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost, you are not just a church member; you're a Holy Ghost-baptized born-again believer. You've got a mission! It's not where you are right now, it's where you're supposed to be. You've got to get from where you are to where you need to be.

It's just like a quarterback when he is throwing the ball. He's not throwing it where the receiver was, he is throwing it to where he and the receiver agreed that the receiver is going to be. The receiver has a responsibility to get where he needs to be, no matter what he has to push through. You've got to wake up and realize it's not where you are right now; it's where you're supposed to be. You have to get through your trials and your tests so you can get where you need to be.

You need to come to a point of understanding! You need to push yourself into a place where you can receive something from God, where you can open up your mind and your heart and let God talk to you. We need men that can build churches. Even if you don't have any money in your pocket. Even if you don't have anybody to support you. Just get wherever God wants you to be. There is no telling what God can do!

There is a true story of two boys that attended a conference where a man said that he believed one day men will fly. But their father who was Bishop Wright quickly shot down this man's dream and said, "If God wanted men to fly he would have given us wings." When the two boys got home they said to each other, "Let's fly." These boys had great success but it was hard to get their big idea across to people that had never seen anybody fly. The world reached their point of understanding when the boys took off and went 56 seconds in the air under power-guided flight.

There has never been such a unique setting as this moment in the United States of America. Now we need to quit being little amateur politicians and put this thing in the hands of God. Because I believe I read somewhere that He puts kings up and brings kings down. I believe God has a purpose in everything that He does, and I do know this about the Apostolic Church; He does want us to fly. He does want us to overcome our negativity. He does want us to get back on the path of holiness and righteousness. He does want us to recommit ourselves to the idea that there is one Lord and one faith and one baptism. God does want us to preach with fervency one more time to this sin-ridden generation that they need to repent of their sins and "be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost!"

There is not one person in this country involved in media, politics, education or preaching that is not aware that this country is on the path to socialism. You can trace it in generations going back to the turn of the century. Breaking us away from the Constitution and individual rights. Taking us away from the thoughts and dreams that we might have as Americans or individuals, and we have been pushed into communitarianism to the point where we are starting to lose the idea that maybe we could be the exception to the rule. Maybe we could have a country where men are free, maybe we can break the backs of all oppressions. Yes, we have ugly history but the question is, can we rise above the ugly history? This nation has historically risen above ugly history, forged new beginnings, pushed into new frontiers, positioned itself to be able to feed and clothe and take care of its people on a level unheard of in the history of humanity. It is breathtaking to realize the wealth of this country. But we may be coming to the end of an age where we are able to dream dreams and think great thoughts because we have allowed ourselves to become oppressed. I wish as a nation we could get a fresh point of understanding. So we could remember again and somehow renew our commitment. I'm not so concerned about that as I am the church. More than anything I believe God wants to take the church, in any moment, any situation, any predicament, any feelings, any disheartening spirit and give a fresh point of understanding.

You need to know that God wants you to suffer through. To be faithful, hold fast and keep the faith because there's a revival coming your way. There's an answer coming your way. There's a spiritual chlorination coming your way, and you will reach a point of understanding. You'll look back and say God was in every situation and in every trial, every fight and every decision. It was God that gave me the impetus to believe, the impetus to fly, the courage to keep on keeping on. We must never let go of that trust in Jesus Christ. He's going to take care of us.

Paul D. Mooney
Indianapolis, IN

"All of us need to come to a point of understanding; otherwise, we are going to get bitter and ugly."

Bio: Bro. Paul Mooney of Indianapolis, IN is the president of Indiana Bible College and Pastor of Calvary Tabernacle, IBC's supporting church. A sought after speaker throughout the U.S. and abroad, former Superintendent of both the UPCI Indiana and Michigan districts, as well as former member of the UPCI Foreign Missions Board, he has been a uniquely gifted visionary in establishing IBC as one of Pentecost's finest educational institutions.

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Hyphen -- The New Young Adult Ministry of UPCI

By Charlotte L. Pound

Bro. Nathaniel Binion
Austin, TX

Hyphen Youth Ministry, headed by Bro. Nathaniel Binion of Austin, Texas, seeks to connect 18-to 30-year-olds to "Service...With Purpose... Through Resources...For a Mission."

The Hyphen ministry began out of a meeting chaired by the General Youth Department in late 2008 to answer the question, "How can we build a ministry that connects, equips and empowers the 20-something demographic of the UPCI?" Bro. Binion was approached to structure, recruit a team, and institute a brand that would become the groundwork for a ministry focusing on young adults.

Bro. Binion explained, "First, the role of the national GYD ministry is to equip and connect grass roots efforts of individuals, churches and districts to each other and to resources to help them become 'hyphens' to their world. We looked at the first two years of the ministry (2009-2011) as the launch and structure phase, the next few years as an expansion year (2012-2014), and then a releasing phase where we hope all districts are participating in the Hyphen ministry."

According to Bro. Binion, some current objectives are: first, allowing the website to be a repository of grass roots resources for our movement; second, using social networking presence on Twitter and Facebook to network individuals; and third, seeking to challenge and equip districts to facilitate young adult events and ministry.

"We are funded through the GYD, and the General Youth Secretary is our direct report," he said. "Our national team consists of all volunteers who are incredibly competent people. We meet via a conference call the third Monday night of every month. We meet in St. Louis once a year, and our team has volunteered time and finances at numerous events across the country."

A group sings at the Hyphen 8 event under the Clark Memorial Bridge on Thursday night of National Youth Congress 2013.

Bro. Binion explained the structure: "Each director has a job description with key questions that quantifies what he or she should be doing specifically each month as related to the Hyphen vision. Hyphen is a decentralized structure that trusts each district to build its own structure with the knowledge of its own challenges and opportunities, so our national structure is important. I am proud to report that almost every district in the UPCI has a functioning Hyphen presence," he said.

He shared the accomplishments of Hyphen. "We are proud that we have built a brand that is present in most districts. We have a sound structure, a website and free resources, and have produced a Starter Pack available to purchase on the GYD website. We have seen two Hyphen tours completed, restructured Youth Congress day sessions, and have hosted two "8" events for young adults at Youth Congress.

"I see the national brand and national teams of Hyphen striving to be experts in the discipleship model to equip the 18-30 demographic. That way each individual, leader and district can build a Hyphen ministry with proven methods while acknowledging the unique opportunities and challenges of their local situation. Our national team is here to assist in any way that we can."

More information is available at www.hyphenonline.org.

"95 Theses" Posters Available From Apostolic Activist

By Linda Schreckenberg

Maurice R. Gordon
Aurora, CO

Bro. Maurice Gordon, 83, has taken free advertising and his stand for truth to an extremely high level. "Good advertising doesn't cost, it pays," says Bro. Gordon. Known for his expert maneuvering of the media, Bro. Gordon is a delightful witty pastor, evangelist, writer and author. He co-pastors with his daughter, Sis. Karla Trevino, at Pentecostals of Aurora, Colorado, formerly Lovingway Pentecostal Church.

His unusual but very effective crusades for truth and against evil have been noised abroad in this nation and to a great extent of the known world, through the media's own nickel. Thousands of dollars worth of free advertising was provided by journalists who never knew what his next escapade would be. Out of curiosity and invitation as well, they always showed up, and faithful Bro. Gordon never disappointed them.

Bro. Gordon has always felt his mission was to tell the whole world about Jesus, that He is God. One particular and quite interesting Herculean adventure, as he calls it, was concocted in the early '80s and had a worldwide impact. Using Martin Luther's model, he created what looked like an ancient scroll with the title *An Expose' and Comprehensive Refutation of the Most Diabolical Religious Hoax and Scandal in History*. Bro. Gordon simply called it The Ninety-Five Theses' and had 5,000 of them printed in black with red reprints of medieval art illustrating the Trinity. The 30" x 24" poster contained 95 statements of scripture about the one true God. Bro. Gordon explained, "Together with my Truth Squad team of twenty-four, we worked an entire Saturday night to 'nail' (with transparent tape) the Ninety-Five Theses' to the doors of almost 900 houses of worship in the metro Denver area. My friend, Virginia Culver, the religion editor of the *Denver Post* at that time, obtained a picture of me 'nailing' the poster to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception door. The newspaper published an article titled, "Trinity Attacked in Dead of Night by Lovingway Theses.'"

Asked if there were debates from the 'nailing' of the Theses,' Bro. Gordon replied, "What was there to debate? It is the truth." Pleased with responses to the posters from scholars, students of the Bible and history, he decided to distribute one million tracts on his "primitive" Christianity. He feels any church will benefit from the public relations impact the 95 Theses' posters will have on their city.

Although it is impossible to know how many have been saved through his bold advertising endeavors, three of his son-in-laws are included in the numbers. From the interesting story of his encounter and ultimate cause of the fleeing of the Hare Krishnas at Stapleton International Airport in Denver to his radio broadcast from the "dump," Bro. Gordon was quite an Apostolic activist. He was interviewed by Harry Reasoner of 60 Minutes and appeared on a program with Dr. James Dobson and Dr. James Kennedy.

Bro. Gordon's book, *Confessions of a Happy Heretick*, is filled with interesting and extremely funny stories of outreach escapades that capture the attention of the reader. He never cowers from a confrontation, even to posting an ad inviting atheist Madeline O'Hare to be baptized in the name of Jesus at Lovingway church. Bro. Gordon gives honor to his wife, Doris, and his former secretary and friend of theirs, Sis. Margie Shearer, for critiquing and editing this unique book.

Bro. Gordon may be contacted through his e-mail: mrgacts238@msn.com or phone 303.695.4444. *Confessions of a Happy Heretick* is available through PPH.com and the EBook edition is available through PPH.com and Amazon.com. The 95 Theses' posters are available through IBC.

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Word To The Wise:

Before you marry a person, you should make them use an old computer with slow internet to see who they truly are.

* * * * * * *

A Simple Answer

Kindly pastor to Sunday school child: "How old are you, little man?"

Shy child: (silently holds up four fingers)

Kindly pastor: "Four years old! And when will you be five?"

Shy child: "When I hold up the other finger."

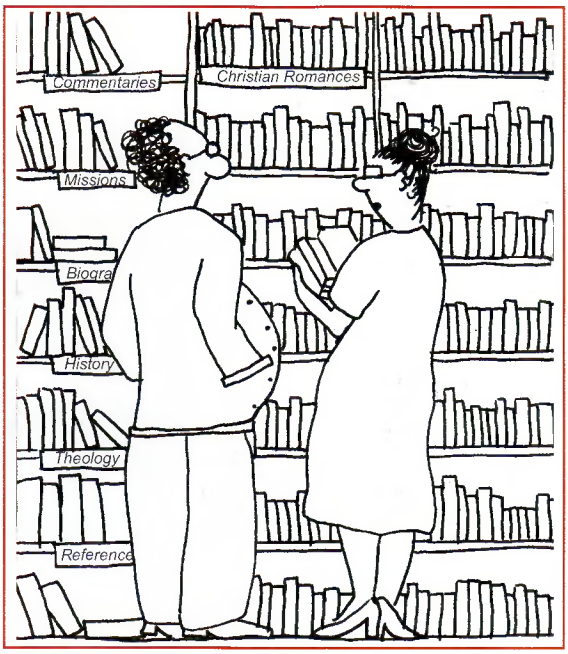
* * * * * * *

First-time expectant mom: "My childbirth instructor says it's not pain I'll feel during labor but pressure. Is she right?"

Experienced mom: "Yes, in the same way that a tornado might be called an air current."

* * * * * * *

A Sunday school teacher asked her class if anyone could quote the entire 23rd Psalm. A golden-haired, 5-year-old girl was among those who raised their hands. The little girl came to the front of the room, faced the class, made a perky little bow and simply said, "The Lord is my shepherd, that's all I want."



"The church library just hasn't turned out the way we had hoped."

An old farmer went to the city and attended a big city church. He came home and his wife asked him how it was. "Well," said the farmer, "it was good. They did something different, however. They sang praise choruses instead of hymns."

"Praise choruses?" said his wife. "What are those?"

"Oh, they're okay. They're sort of like hymns, only different."

"Well, what's the difference?" asked the wife.

The farmer said, "Well, it's like this. If I were to say to you, 'Martha, the cows are in the corn.' Well, that would be a hymn. If on the other hand, I was to say to you, 'Martha, Martha, Martha, Oh Martha, MARTHA, MARTHA, the cows, the big cows, the brown cows, the white cows, the black and white cows, the COWS, COWS, COWS are in the corn, are in the corn, are in the corn.' Well, that would be a praise chorus."

* * * * * * *

The Sunday school teacher asked a little boy: "How old are you?" The little chap said, "Seven. And how old are you?" She replied, "I'm 70." Amazed, the little darling said, "Whoa, you're almost dead!"

Ice picks were standard equipment at all Eskimo baptisms.

The Church Chain of Command

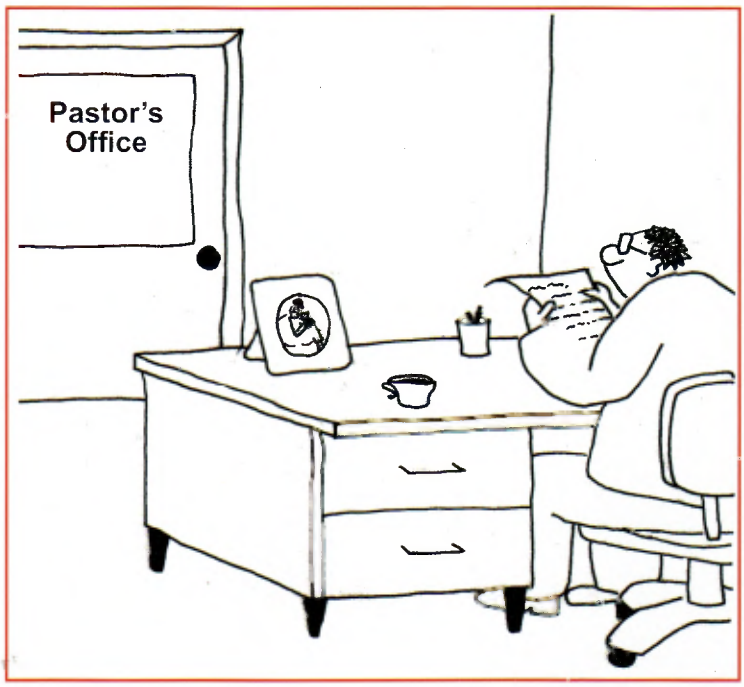
The Senior Pastor – He is faster than a speeding bullet, stronger than a locomotive, able to leap tall buildings in a single bound, can walk on water and talks to God.

The Associate Pastor – He is almost as fast as a speeding bullet, is stronger than a switch engine, able to leap short buildings in a single bound, can walk on water (though his ankles get wet) and sometimes talks to God.

The Music Minister – He is faster than a speeding BB, is stronger than a Lionel (model) train, able to leap short buildings with a long running start, can walk on water (as long as it's frozen) and talks to God but often wonders if He hears.

The Youth Pastor – He is slower than a snail, trips over railroad tracks, walks into buildings, almost drowns in the bathtub and mumbles to himself.

The Church Secretary – Catches speeding bullets in her teeth, chews them up and uses them for staples, could stare a locomotive off its tracks, if a building gets in her way, she just knocks it off its foundation, parts the water to walk through on dry ground and when God calls she asks who is calling and puts Him on hold.



"Dear Pastor: Visiting your church service was a moving experience. Three people asked us to move because we were sitting in their seats."

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