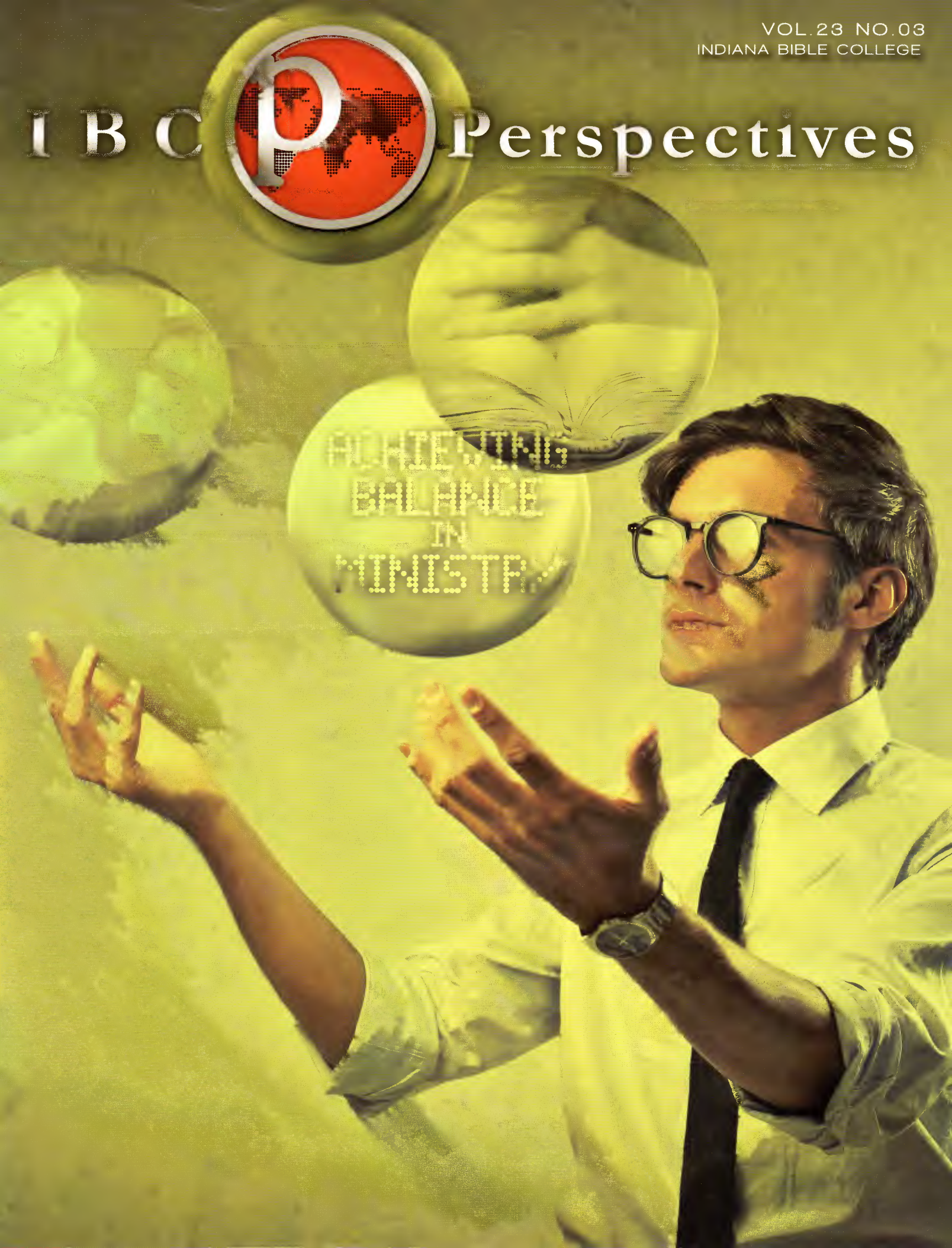
VOL.23 NO.03
INDIANA BIBLE COLLEGE

IBC Perspectives



from the publisher

Paul D. Mooney

The Seeds of First Thoughts

"The final hours demand that we recognize our adversaries, those who oppose our core beliefs. We must not be seduced by every new wind of doctrine. We cannot forget nor forgo the principles by which we became who we are in Christ."

No one wants enemies. However, as Lee Harris points out in his book, *Civilization and Its Enemies: The Next Stage of History*, even if you do not want to think that you have enemies . . . *you do*. He states, "*It is the enemy who define us as his enemy, and in making this definition he changes us, and changes us whether we like it or not. We can not be the same, after we have been defined as the enemy, as we were before.*"

A current trend among us is extreme positive thinking, wherein we deceive ourselves into imagining that there is no enemy; or if there is an enemy, he has no ill intent. This is foolishness. Christ gives clear warning as to the enemy's intent - a point that we cannot ignore. "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

Three decades ago, many of us were arguing with what seemed like doomsdayers who were prophesying that Oneness Pentecostals would one day forsake holiness. We believed and countered that because holiness was such a clear stream of Bible teaching and it was the fundamental component of our Apostolic DNA that we would remain unmovable (1 Peter 3:14-16). If we had been more insightful we would have noted that perhaps there was something to the warnings. That what some old-time preachers had detected in their Spirits were the seeds of deconstructionism. What we were starting to hear were the first thoughts of those whose intention it was to transform, and in my view, to gain power and prestige for themselves.

As we are now keenly aware, these first thoughts had consequences. Consequences that have left the Church with new adversaries: enemies who have declared themselves as opposers of the Truth when they reject the practice of a holiness lifestyle. Most such enemies have a good read on what some people really want, which is not the definition of right or wrong or what is true or false, but what matches their ambitions and desires concerning this present world. False teachers have one objective -- to attract unto themselves, for gain, those who desire a false experience with Christ. They desire a prophet to tickle their ears, ease their conscience, and lead them into worldly indulgences. In this sense, the false teacher and false seeker are mutually essential to each other.

Historically, churches and nations come to a dead end when they fail to fully "buy in" to the core philosophies. Certain principles, doctrines, and their ideals, values and mission slowly drop off or die out altogether. This happens in most cases because the small things, the individual principles themselves, become thought of as insignificant to the future and are no longer adopted or generally practiced. The teachings are coveted only in a way that one might covet an old volume of writings on the library shelf, but they are not part of what one sees as relative to the present, the truth by which to live.

Renowned Middle East commentator Bernard Lewis said, "Forgetfulness overcomes every successful civilization." Forgetfulness is clearly pointed out as the reason for Israel's failure of faith. "They remembered not his hand, not the day when he delivered them from the enemy" (Psalms 78:42). When we forget that he delivered us from evil, from sin, from lifestyles that do not properly reflect who and what we are to be, in Christ, then at that point we have lost our way.

Among Hindus, a common response to Christianity is three-fold: First is "It isn't true." The second, "It isn't new." The third charge is, "It isn't you." Because they see that many Christians don't live up to their own standards, therefore they do not measure up.

The final hours demand that we recognize our adversaries, those who oppose our core beliefs. We must not be seduced by every new wind of doctrine. We cannot forget nor forgo the principles by which we became who we are in Christ. We must live Apostolic doctrine, we must defend Apostolic doctrine. Otherwise, we fail in our quest to measure up to the Word.

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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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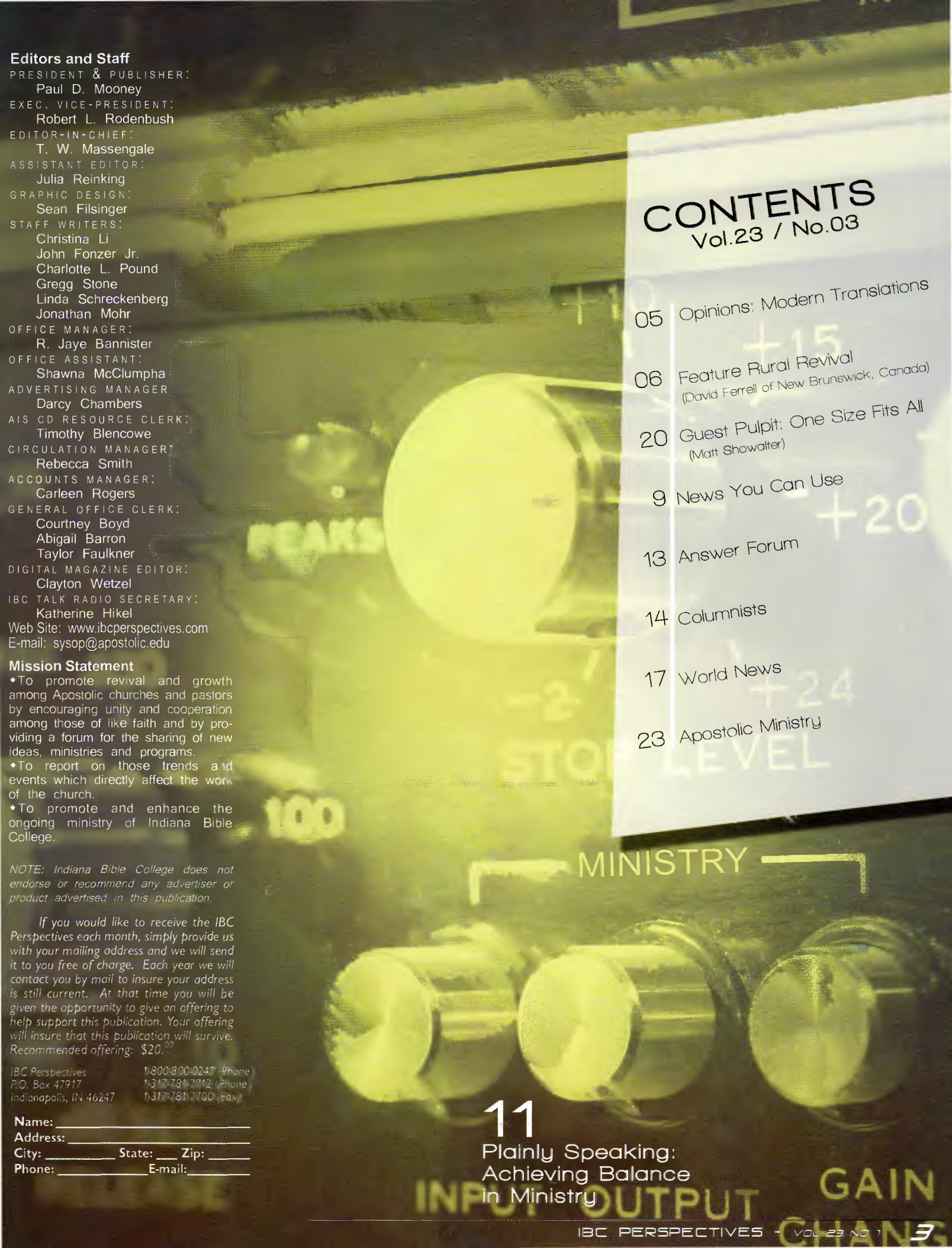

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Plainly Speaking:
Achieving Balance
in Ministry

MIDAMERICA YOUTH CONFERENCE

TURN YOUR WORLD UPSIDEDOWN

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

J.R. Ensey, Conroe, TX - Most Pentecostal ministers use modern versions in writing, preaching, and even as commentaries. Many of our laypeople use other versions because they are easier to read and simpler to understand. Many use the 1984 New International Version, New American Standard Bible, and the English Standard Version. A few like the New Living Translation, and still others prefer the New King James Version (which I personally do not recommend) or the Amplified Bible. I have not personally endorsed a particular version of the Bible.

Apostolic practices and doctrines are clearer in the first three versions mentioned above than in the KJV. The basic differences are not that words or verses have been removed from the Bible by newer versions but that words and verses have been added over the centuries to the manuscripts from which the KJV was translated. Pros and cons would have to be considered in an organization endorsing any translation. However, study and research by committees would allay the fears that a newer translation might undermine Apostolic beliefs. I usually try to use the KJV when preaching for commonality, but I frequently call on other translations to make a verse clearer to the hearers.

Jason Pearcy, Parsons, TN - Regarding modern Bible translations, I feel that we should use them cautiously. I personally use the New King James, Amplified, The Message, and New Living Translation for study purposes. However, the dangers of incorporating modern translations include the erosion of truth in Biblical doctrines and principles. An easy test to determine if the translation is biased is to check if 'remission' is replaced with 'forgiveness' in Acts 2:38. While I use modern versions in surface study, to illustrate certain passages and for daily devotional reading with my wife, the KJV in my opinion is the most accurate transcription available. However, I would say that the NKJV's lack of old English influence is one advantage it has over the KJV.

Micah Wisdom, Wagoner, OK - We should use certain modern translations of the Bible as companions to the KJV. I have found the NLT, NKJV, and Amplified to be beneficial. Some modern versions change the context of the passage. There is a huge difference from updating language to altering the context of the verses. KJV is the result of decades of work by careful teams of Bible scholars. The KJV is the purest translation in the English language. I use the NLT as a companion to the KJV, but I normally study, preach and teach from the NLT. Modern translations can be helpful with the updated vocabulary, due to some words in the KJV that are no longer used or differ from now.

George Szabolcsi, Belleville, IL - I use certain translations for comparison and do reference and quote them from the pulpit to provide more understanding. These include the NIV, the Life Application Bible, the Holman Christian Standard Bible, The Message, and the Apologetics Bible. Each modern translation may have a hidden bias which may veil the intended meaning of a verse of Scripture. We must be cautious, for we cannot afford to be ignorant of what the Word of the Lord REALLY SAYS! It is my contention that NO modern translation of the Bible enjoys ANY advantage over the KJV Bible!

Bobby Killmon, Indianapolis, IN - We must not use modern versions uncritically. Some translations, such as paraphrases, interpret passages by expanding and even amplifying the text. These are okay to read as commentaries mostly and are beneficial in that sense. The critical issue is we must ultimately give our people a Bible they can trust to simply read and believe. Pointing out missing verses or mistranslation in some translations will cause most saints to put their Bibles down because they don't know what to believe and not believe.

Because of accuracy in text stream and translation, I prefer the KJV. If translation simply updates the language without letting interpretive bias change correct translation, then yes, endorse it. If not, then no.

I do not really use modern versions. If I sharpen language it's always from the original. Modern versions' readability has benefits, but makes critical sacrifices to get there. You can find readability in something like the Updated KJV and not sacrifice textual or translation accuracy.

Steve Waldron, Albany, GA - On occasion we can use modern translations as 'commentaries' on difficult passages. You have to look at the translating methodology. Is it a paraphrase like the Living Bible? A free translation like The Message Bible? An expanded translation like the Amplified? Does it represent ideological biases like the NKJV (with its adherence to 'once saved always saved')? There can be a danger with no authoritative voice over the platform, with a dozen different translations in the pew; the veracity of the absolute Word of God is watered down. It can only lead to confusion, disharmony and, eventually, discord in our churches. And it can lead to liberalism over time. Modern versions have no advantage over the KJV. If more people would let the Bible criticize them, rather than criticizing the Bible, we would be a much more Christian people.

Andrew King, Bloomington, IN - Some modern translations we can use. For study and accuracy, the ESV is worth owning. At the 6th grade level, the NLT makes a great choice for daily reading for the purpose of comprehension. The inability to be able to quote the Scriptures can be a danger. When we use various translations, we do not hear from the same versions week after week. The solution is to simply adopt one version of the Bible for personal memorization and stick with it. My primary research Bibles are the KJV, ESV, Amplified, NLT, and NASB. The increased understanding of the original languages has given some modern translations an advantage over the KJV.

Jason Cox, Steger, IL - I recommend the KJV or the NKJV. In preaching, I predominantly use the KJV and will draw from other translations if they seem to help clarify the subject. For personal devotional reading alongside my KJV, I have enjoyed reading the English Standard Version most. The New International Version, while easily readable, has been charged with making some critical omissions in its translation. The NIV also incorporates a 'dynamic equivalence' philosophy, also known as a 'thought-for-thought' correspondence. This translation method allows for the personal opinion of the translators to be included with the original text.

By Gregg Stone

David and Roma Ferrell
New Brunswick, Canada

Located in Perth-Andover, New Brunswick, Canada, which is nestled along the majestic and beautiful Saint John River, Calvary Tabernacle is an active and growing church with a vision for missions. Situated in a rural area, the church has a strong historical consistency of being involved in the community. "We are not like an urban corporate church. The people have more accessibility to the rural pastor," said Bro. David Ferrell, pastor of Calvary Tabernacle. "We are so intertwined with family and friends that our approach has to be more integrated."

PERSONAL MINISTRY

Growing up in Uhrichsville, Ohio, Bro. Ferrell was raised in the church, received the Holy Ghost at the age of eight and preached his first revival at the age of 17. Bro. Ferrell is a graduate of Apostolic Bible Institute, the University of Maine, and Laurentian University, and has been a vital part of the Atlantic District, serving in various capacities and holding many different offices with them.

Bro. Ferrell met his wife, Roma, at ABI in St. Paul, Minnesota. Married in 1998, they have two children, Anthony and Christiana.

Bro. Ferrell enjoys ministering on "real life" issues and the impact of those on our spiritual condition, and the answers that we find through the gospel in dealing with those issues. "I keep a piece of paper in my Bible that has my pastoral principles on it that I've gleaned from over the past 25 years," said Bro. Ferrell. "I believe an important aspect of ministry is to know and understand God's will, to do God's will, and to combine that with your personality and abilities. Many times your priorities are set for you, but God does make up the difference. Many of the priorities that we have to maintain are ones that we inherited, versus a pastor who starts a church and can set his own priorities. In my church, I inherited a list of priorities that I must incorporate into what my personal priorities are. I took over a church that had been pastored by the same man for 40 years. My job has been to guide this church through that transitional time.

A group pic of the Sunday school kids and their leaders

PRINCIPLES OF GROWTH & REVIVAL

Calvary Tabernacle is an active and growing church with a missions vision that has seen many workers go out into the Harvest Field. "Looking back over the past 90 years, and how we grew from a small, struggling church to what we are today, we have much for which to thank God for," said Bro. Ferrell. "Some have planted, some have watered, but God has given the increase. This church has had a huge impact on world missions in the men and women it has produced; for example, this is the home church of missionary Bennie Demerchant, as well as Wayne Goodine, Gerald Grant, the Corcorans, and the Hanscombs. Our church has such a rich heritage."

While Calvary Tabernacle's current attendance is 230, Bro. Ferrell says that their growth is transitional. "We grow, then because of our rural situation, we'll graduate kids and they'll leave and move to bigger cities with more opportunities. However, our sanctuary is full, a dynamic that amazes me."

Calvary Tabernacle uses many different methods to increase attendance, which include an annual youth week, an end-of-school blast, an annual Labor Day convention, monthly widow's dinner, and two outdoor outreach services per year. Also, Search for Truth home Bible studies have brought several new members into the church as well.

"There are keys to success and business growth principles that are incorporated into a church setting, things like seeker-friendly and advertising, etc., that work in an urban setting with population," said Bro. Ferrell. "In a rural setting, I don't need to advertise; everyone knows we are here, most people are related to someone in the church. In fact, my biggest challenge in getting people through the doors is that they know what it means to be Pentecostal before they really experience God. Therefore, in other words, they know how they are supposed to look and act before they have experienced the transforming power of God that makes the lifestyle possible.

"In our situation, the key to growing and maintaining a good church along with all the basic ministries and outreach that every church does, is consistency. Just being there when something happens in a person's life is essential because they know whom to call when they are in need. Being involved in community events, both good and bad (tragedy, etc...) gives me more opportunities to minister. Funerals, for example, are one of our biggest venues for touching the lost."

ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT

Rural pastoring is different and requires a different skill set, according to the pastor. "You have to work at knowing the mindset of the people," he explained. "Maintaining a rural church comes from subtle changes. It is essential to know your church and the area, ministering in a way that they can hear and receive; literally translating new trends into a language the congregation gets and can digest.

"My focus, and I have communicated this to the church, from here on is Sunday school and outreach. I have maintained and transitioned and honored; now is the time for the business of souls. Our first step in this process has been the renovating of our Sunday School Department. I had to let some old systems and ideologies die a natural death, and now we are ready to structure again with the team in place. We adjusted our Sunday morning service to accommodate our Sunday school plans, so we move a step at a time, in God's time.

"Now the next step for me is structuring a system of outreach that includes follow-up and Christian development. Again, our people have not had to focus on outreach, but the future depends on it now as older saints are dying off."

CURRENT FACILITY

Calvary Tabernacle's current facility is a brick structured church that seats 800 people. It consists of 10 classrooms, a kitchen, a large fellowship hall, five offices, a reception area as well as a large sound/media room. The first church was constructed and then as renovation was needed, another church was built over the top of the old one. When the new sanctuary was completed, the old one was torn down and carried out the front door.

"As far as buildings and construction goes, we have spent close to, if not over, $200,000, debt-free, in renovations, outbuildings and land purchases in the past three years," Bro. Ferrell said. "So at this point we are not looking at any building projects soon, unless God brings a mighty influx in growth and if that happens we would gladly build."

THE FUTURE

For the last five years, Calvary Tabernacle has been in a transition mode. "The previous pastor had pastored there for 40 years," said Bro. Ferrell, "so my entire focus for the last five years has been the transition process. I inherited both things that work for me and things that didn't, and we are now just getting to the place where we can begin to focus on building and growing in a way that works for me.

"What I see in the future for our church is conflicted. We live in a retirement community with a shrinking population, so when I look at that I don't see much future, but we have this incredible facility, foundation, people, etc. Therefore, I know that God put it all here for a reason and my heart fills with the sounds of revival and new souls. All it would take would be one factory or industry to establish here, and it could turn things around as far as the community goes. One of my daily prayers is, 'Lord, heal our land and make our community vibrant and flourishing.' As far as revival, it can happen at any time, with any type of circumstances. So daily I pastor with one foot on the gas and the other on the brake. I go forward when I have traction, but I brake if things get squirrely so we don't lose any ground. I carry a can of gas in one hand to fuel revival fire, and a bucket of water in the other hand to put out little fires that can creep up in a close rural church family. It is a fine balancing act.

"Ultimately, and I do not say this in a canned way, I seek to do God's will. Only He sees the future of this church and knows the time frame, and my job is to arrive at His appointed times and seasons. On that journey, I have to be diligent to do the basic things of growth and leadership that every pastor must do -- to teach, to train, to pray, to preach, to love, to do spiritual warfare, and to develop."

An aerial view of Calvary Tabernacle, Perth-Andover, New Brunswick, Canada

Prayer during altar service

Pastor Ferrell preaches to the congregation.

Interior view of Calvary Tabernacle

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Ten Most Popular Bible Verses of 2012 Announced

From the Bible-reading website of King James Bible Online, 6,956,633 website visits were tracked in 2012, and these ten verses were found to be the most popular.

#1 Psalms 23:4 – "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

#2 Philippians 4:13 – "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

#3 John 3:16 – "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

#4 Genesis 1:1 – "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

#5 1 Corinthians 13:11 – "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things."

#6 2 Chronicles 7:14 – "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

#7 Jeremiah 29:11 – "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

#8 Ephesians 6:12 – "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

#9 2 Timothy 1:7 – "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

#10 Genesis 1:2 – "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."

PURE Religion by Stephen Judd — tupelo children's mansion

Mansion Leaders Celebrate 60th Anniversary!

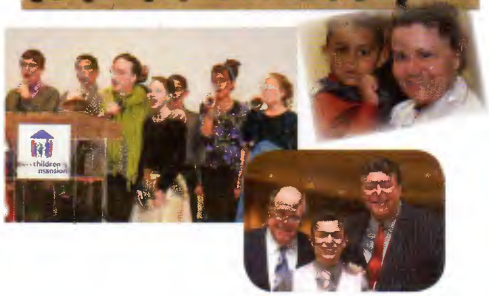
By Stephen Judd, TCM President

Stephen Judd
www.mansionkids.org

The TCM Board of Directors and wonderful supporters gathered in Tupelo, MS on February 5-6 to conduct business and celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Tupelo Children's Mansion ... six decades of showing love and bringing hope!

The Mansion board is made up of the District Superintendents and Secretaries of 34 "partnering districts" of the UPCI, eight Directors At Large, Honorary Directors, as well as the UPCI Ladies Ministries President and General Youth President.

Those serving on the Executive Board are: Kevin Cox (Chairman), Aubrey Jayroe (Vice-Chairman), Matthew Martin (Secretary), David Tipton, Jr., Ron Brown, James Carney, Gerald Vittitow and Mark Johnson. The Directors at Large include: Gary Keller, Robert Martin, Mickey Mangun, Larry Sims, William Chapman, Robert Myre, Coy Hill and Cheryl Becton.



For more information on how you can support Tupelo Children's Mansion, go to http://www.mansionkids.org. Follow us on Facebook, Google+, LinkedIn and Twitter: @stephenjudd @ ermajudd @mansionkids

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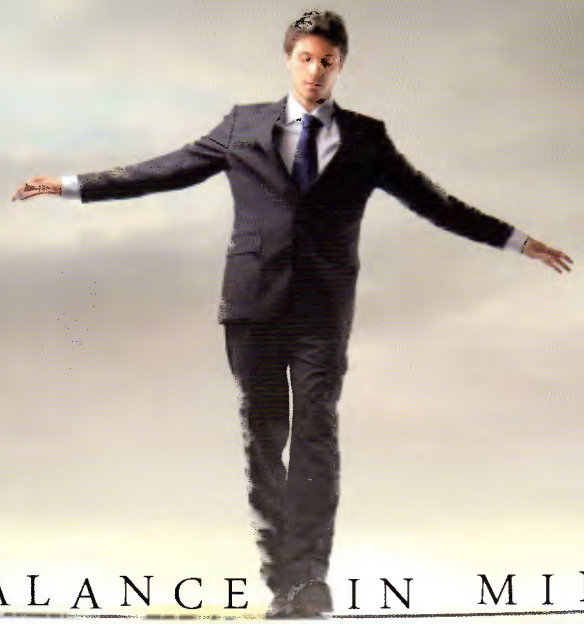

ACHIEVING BALANCE IN MINISTRY

Interview by Andrew Herbst

Shay Mann, General Youth President, UPCI

What advice could you give to those struggling with time management?

The first thing I'd recommend is to recruit someone to help identify problem areas, and then ask them to hold you accountable. Once that person is identified and is clear on what is needed, empower them to speak into your life when they notice abnormalities or heightened stress. Another thing that I recommend for those who are married is to give your spouse "veto power" over your schedule. If you aren't willing to say "no" for the sake of your personal health, marriage and family, then someone else needs to! Finally, they need to understand that working to achieve balance, while it can get easier, will require constant recalibration. It's not something that you address once and it is remedied for the rest of your life.

How do you obtain a balance or split percentage throughout your ministry and family?

First of all, I don't think that there is a magical percentage to achieve balance in life and ministry that is universal for every minister. Many factors have to be considered, and the variables are different for each person. Achieving balance in ministry and life has more to do with considering the needs of one's family, personal health and ministry priorities. If you are actively considering those three factors, then balance can be achieved. However, balance is similar to priorities in that it is easy to disrupt and requires constant monitoring to keep it intact.

How do you maximize ministerial duties?

The way that I feel one's ministry can be maximized is by focusing on what only you can do in any given environment. Outside of your ministry "sweet spot," look for others who can complement you and may have the time, expertise or desire who can be empowered and delegated to. Delegation is a significant component of achieving balance.

How do you maximize percentage of personal and family time?

I tend to take personal time during periods where my children and wife are unavailable to spend time with me anyway -- in other words, when the kids are in school, when my wife is shopping with a friend, etc. Personal time is important, but if you are taking it during the optimal time that you could be spending with your family, it can become an issue.

When do you say "no" to opportunities?

When they do not fit into your gifting or priority. "No" is the most important word in your vocabulary if balance is ever going to become a near reality. What you have to remember is that you are not saying "no" to a person, ministry or opportunity but rather by saying "no" to something outside of your ministry zone, you are saying "yes" to something of greater significance. Andy Stanley's book, *Choose to Cheat*, is a great read on this subject.

How do you stay plugged into full-time ministry and still invest in family and marriage?

It's never easy! Structure is indispensable in this area. My mentor, Darrell Johns, says that as ministers we must "constantly force order into the disorder of our lives." Basically, you have to create a plan in advance – *in advance* are the operative words - so that ministry doesn't overtake your greatest responsibility, which is ministering to your family. Use your calendar to schedule family time, just as you would to schedule meetings and lunch appointments. If you put it on the calendar, you can assess the investment that you are making at a glance and then adjust accordingly.

What do you do to avoid burnout?

I stick with my plan and try to live according to my priorities which are: 1) relationship with God, 2) relationship with my wife, 3) relationship with my children, 4) personal ministry. I currently have a busy travel schedule, but my plan is to travel two weekends and then be home one. Something as simple as this has guided my calendaring and protected my family. To this point, I haven't reached "burnout" level over the nine years I've spent at the General Youth Division.

How do you recharge?

Spending time with my family is the greatest therapy for me. Fortunately, this really helps me strive for that elusive balance I'm trying to strike, because after my relationship with God, they are the most important things in my life.

Any final thoughts on the subject?

Yes. A minister whose life is out of balance has the potential to harm as much as they help. Calm cannot flow from chaos. As James 3:10-11 says, "Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?" So strive for balance in your life, not only for your sanity, but for the sake of others!

Bro. Mann joined the General Youth Division team in January of 2004 and has served in all three executive capacities—Director of Promotion, General Youth Secretary, and currently as General Youth President. He is a student ministry veteran and had the time of his life while filling the role of Youth Pastor for congregations in Texas City, TX and Atlanta, GA. Shay is helplessly in love with his wife, Bridgette. The Manns are the adoring parents of two beautiful daughters, Breleigh and Blair.

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apostolic calendar 2013

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SPEAKERS	CONTACT / INFO
March 7-10	**Times of Refreshing Conference - Tulare, CA** You don't want to miss these special services for the entire family. Bring the lost, the hurting, the desperate, the sick and the broken, and watch God do another miracle.	Living Christ Church 2516 N. M St. Tulare, CA 93274	Greg Godwin, Doug White, Gordon Poe, and Bill Davis	For more information: visit www.gordonpoe.com/TOR/conference. (717) 755-7202
April 10-12	**Indiana Bible College Music Fest 2013** Under the direction of Lindel M. Anderson, Dean of Music	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46203 Host: P. 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 18-19	**Eagle's Summit Apostolic Conference - Rohnert Park, CA** A conference for saints, staff and leadership alike which focuses on equipping the minister and believer for Apostolic ministry.	Rohnert Park Community Center, 5401 Snyder Lane Rohnert Park, CA 94928	T.F. Tinney, Dr. James Hughes and John Arcovio	For more information: (888) 776-0797 www.spiritled.org
April 18-20	**Times of Refreshing Conference - Harlingen, TX** We invite you to join us as we unite together in a mass effort to create an atmosphere for the miraculous in this city. Bring the lost, the hurting, the blind, the depressed, the oppressed, the wounded and the diseased.	Spirit of Praise Church 25674 Lewis Lane Harlingen, TX 78552	Bill Davis, Eli Hernandez, Gordon Poe and Lloyd Squires	For more information: visit www.gordonpoe.com/TOR/conference. (717) 755-7202
April 18-20	**Mid America Youth Conference - N. Little Rock, AR** Calling together youth from across America to help us "Turn Your World Upside Down" (Acts 17:6).	First Pentecostal Church of North Little Rock, 1401 Calvary Road N. Little Rock, AR 72116	Jonathan Shoemake, Brandon Wilmoth and Gary Robinson	For more information: visit www.mid-americayouth.com
April 25-27	**Impartation 2013 - Great Falls, MT** Central Assembly: April 25 - 7:30pm Apr. 26 - 11:00 am & 7:30 pm Praise Tabernacle: April 27 - 11:00 am & 5:00 pm	Central Assembly 2001 Central Ave., Praise Tabernacle, 2121 13th St. South, Great Falls, MT 59405	Lee Stoneking and Ricardo Gonzalez	For more information: call 406-268-1780 or www.praisetabernaclegtf.com
June 12-14	**Power Conference 2013 - Corinth, MS** A conference to empower saints and strengthen the ministry with power-packed preaching. Also a special ministers-only session midday.	Historic Coliseum Civic Center, 404 Taylor St., Corinth, MS 38834 Host Pastor: Josh Hodum	Marrell Cornwell and Jerry Dillon	For more information (662) 872-9999
July 2013	**Mile High Conference: 2013** 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 Pastor: D.E. Haymon	To be announced	(303) 758-5900 www.cacdenver.org DEH2@comcast.net
July 25-27	**Eagle's Summit Apostolic Conference - Bristol, CT** A conference for saints, staff and leadership alike which focuses on equipping the minister and believer for Apostolic ministry.	Heritage UPC 48 Lewis St. Bristol, CT 06010	Raymond Woodward, Dr. James Hughes and John Arcovio	For more information: (888) 776-0797 www.spiritled.org
July 30-Aug 1	**IMPACT Family Conference 2013** Day sessions to meet the needs of your entire family unit (Married, Single, Parents, Teens & Children) and your church leadership.	Woodlawn Church Hwy 98 - Columbia, MS Host Pastor: James Carney	To be announced	For detailed schedule, visit www.woodlawnchurch.cc (601) 736-5128
Aug 3-6	**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!	First Pentecostal Church of North Little Rock, 1401 Calvary Road, North Little Rock, AR 72116	To be announced	For more information: visit www.arkansascampmeeting.com
Aug 22-23	**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 61282 Host pastor: Gary Randol	Steve Willeford and Aaron Soto	For more information: visit invest-in-futures.com
Sept 2013	**Mid-America Renewal Conference (MARC)** Indianapolis, IN. A power packed preaching conference in the heart of the Midwest.	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN Host: Paul D. Mooney	To be announced	For more info call: (317) 262-4030 or visit our web site at: www.calvarytabindy.org
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
Feb 2014	**Indiana Bible College LIVE RECORDING 2014** Under the direction of Lindel M. Anderson, Dean of Music	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46203 Host: P. 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

Theology: The Value of an Apostolic Bible College Education

Robert L. Rodenbush

Church Today

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Safeguarding Our Churches

Our children are the future of our church. Satan is determined to do everything he can to destroy them and our witness in our community. Imagine the devastating effects to your church and more importantly to a child should a child be physically abused or sexually molested in your church. And if the spiritual, physical and emotional damage to the child and family are not bad enough, incidents of child sexual abuse in the church are not only costly financially (with legal fees and jury verdicts in the millions of dollars), but the church and ministry also face nearly irreparable harm to their reputation.

Prevention is the only real solution. We have a legal and, more importantly, a moral obligation to prevent the possibility of abuse or molestation from ever occurring in our churches. It is my experience as an attorney and a minister that it is almost impossible to cure a problem that involves an allegation of child sexual abuse. Once the incident occurs or the allegation is made – it is too late. The damage has already been done to the child, the church and the ministry. An actual occurrence of abuse or molestation is not required. A false allegation with the ensuing cost of defense, negative media coverage and emotional outrage can be almost as devastating as an actual incident. Prevention of both incidents and false allegations is the only real solution.

Heightened risk for churches. Churches and ministers are at risk because the public and legal community is becoming more aware of the potential for bringing claims and lawsuits against churches due to an unprecedented increase in the magnitude of allegations, lawsuits and awards of damages. Personal injury attorneys often view churches as an untapped source of revenue in this arena. Further, churches and ministers are highly susceptible to actual occurrences as well as false accusations of child sexual abuse due to (1) the trusting and unsuspecting environment surrounding churches, (2) the easy access by adults to children in a church setting, and (3) the church's lack of awareness and lack of preventative measures to reduce the risk of actual occurrences and false allegations.

Preventative measures. Churches can implement preventative measures that will (1) significantly, and most importantly, reduce the chance of an actual incident of abuse or molestation from ever occurring, and (2) discourage false accusations and make unmerited claims very difficult to prove. No preventative plan can reduce all risk; however, failure to implement any plan creates a very serious risk that leaves the church and ministry extremely vulnerable to actual occurrences, false or malicious accusations, and legal liability. Preventative plans need to focus on at least three main areas: (1) adequate screening, (2) adequate supervision and (3) adequate reporting.

In a future article we will look at these three areas in more detail and provide some tips and resources to hopefully help prevent such a tragedy from ever occurring in your church.

Bobby Killmon

Theology

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What's the value of someone called to ministry going to an Apostolic Bible college?

The two most precious commodities in life are time and energy. They're given in exchange for income, assets, and also education. We commit to give time and energy to receive something worth literally our life. So why, with other secular opportunities, should a minister give their two greatest assets in life to an Apostolic Bible college? Bluntly, if it doesn't earn you a better income, increase technical learning, or allow you to work in a job you prefer, secular college is a waste of time or is even, more poignantly, at times, detrimental.

Why would I as an educator say this? Statistics show 75-90% of students attending secular college abandon faith by graduation. Woodrow Wilson shockingly said, "I have often said that the use of a university is to make young gentlemen as unlike their fathers as possible." The "re-education" system in American college institutions including some "Christian" or Bible colleges is real.

If we are to have effective spirit-empowered ministers in this hour they must be equipped with the specific truths they will not get at other institutions. One seminary professor lamenting the decline of truth and growing influence of secular thought on his campus said, "Aristotle is walking through the halls of this institution. Beware, for I hear his footsteps more clearly than those of the apostle Paul, and the team of inspired men who were with him, and even the Lord Jesus Christ Himself." Apostolic training protects the next generation from falling prey to false ideas and gives primacy to the voices of the Apostles and Christ.

Is it wise to turn over our young people to secularized and worldly institutions when they say they have a call to ministry on their lives? Should we not acknowledge that these other institutions will not teach the oneness of God, essentiality of new birth and holiness? Will their teaching cause our young ministers to preach and teach with clarity and compassion these powerful revolutionary truths? Or will a denominal Bible college cause worship leaders to write songs that become a rallying cry for a generation, such as Thoro Harris who penned that great work "Baptized in Jesus' Name"? No. Our young people need exposure to powerful Apostolic preaching, and also clear and persuasive Apostolic teaching, so these essential truths will survive in the next generation.

What is the value of an Apostolic Bible college? Jesus said, "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it." Training for success in real Apostolic ministry is worth spending your life.

T. W. Massengale

Church Growth

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Our Job vs. God's Job

"God wants your church to have revival even more than you do." I shared this simple thought with a pastor who nodded in agreement, but then wanted to know why God was taking so long to send him one.

"God is waiting on you," I replied.

"Excuse me?" He responded.

"He's waiting on you to do your job so then He can do His job," I replied.

"Okay, but what exactly is my job?"

"Sowing the Gospel seed."

"We do that," He replied. "We knocked on doors just this past week."

"That's good! Door knocking certainly has it's place. But understand, not all evangelism methods are created equal. You can cut down a tree with a pocket knife or a chain saw. Both do the job. One just does it faster and more effectively than the other."

"And door knocking?"

"Pocket knife or maybe even a hatchet or ax, depending on how it's done."

"What methods do you suggest?"

"Four methods have won more souls in our churches than any other. The number one most successful method is bringing visitors to the house of God. More have been saved by this method than any other. But since only about 5-7% receive the Holy Ghost the first time they come, we must work diligently to encourage them to return. So you also need an effective guest follow-up program. Visitor follow-up is the best way to encourage them to return.

"The second most successful method has been home Bible studies. You need to train your saints in how to teach a home Bible study and then help them to stay busy teaching. One lesson or ten lesson studies - both have been effective and have won tens of thousands of souls.

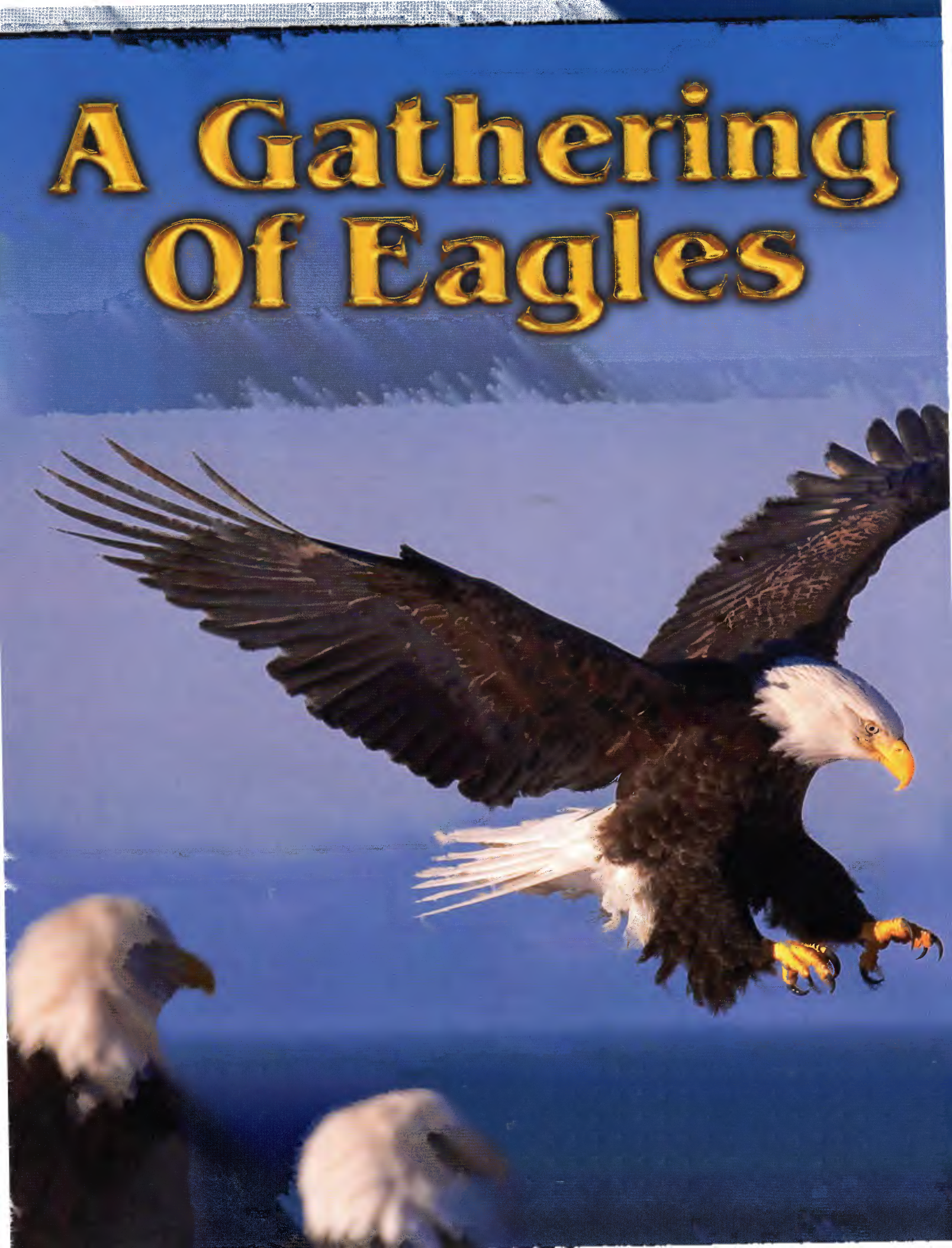
"The third most successful method is personal witnessing. You need to teach your church the nuts and bolts of personal evangelism and then challenge and inspire them to be a witness to those they meet. This is where your visitors and home Bible studies will come from.

"The final method is growing your Sunday school. Special days, contests, programs, block parties, all help increase attendance and growth."

The pastor nodded his head slowly. "Okay, I can see that. Now, what is God's job?"

"Redemption."

A Gathering Of Eagles



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Curtis Young | Myles Young
Keith Clark | Tres Clark
Johnny King | Mark King
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Carol Clemans

Spiritual Growth

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God Wants To Change the Way We Think!

God's Word says that we are 'transformed by renewing our mind' – Romans 12:2. We can be stuck in our 'stinkin' thinkin' from the pain of our past. Salvation removes our sins, but it does not change our memories or our emotions.

My website: www.carolclemans.org has over 150 articles plus YouTube postings. All is based on the Word of God regarding life. I have several seminar teaching CD's: *Winning the Battle of the Mind, Abuse Recovery God's Way, God's Design for Marriage, True Submission* (submitting one to another in the fear of the Lord), *Sexual Purity for all Ages* (2 pk CD's), book: *God's Design for Marriage.* All of these are tools that help people grow and heal in the Lord.

I've been a certified pastoral counselor for 20 years. I counsel locally (home office) and nationwide by phone/web cam. Healing comes by knowing God's truth. Painful abusive experiences usually create negative self-talk: "I'm worthless – I'm unlovable – I can't be used by God – I'm fearful," etc. These are the lies the devil wants everyone to believe to paralyze their potential in life. God's truth has the power to change the way we think – His truth sets us free.

It's also God's Word that gives strength in the Holy Ghost to resist the temptations of the devil. No matter how long we have known the Lord, we must choose daily to resist the devil, and he will flee from us. God's Word is our blueprint for life – being Holy Ghost-controlled. Galatians 5 teaches about the Fruit of the Spirit. If we want love, joy and peace, we must be patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle and have self-control. I love teaching for churches/conferences making God's truth come alive for everyday living. God's truth transforms our lives when we take ownership of His truth and change the way we think.

Carol Clemans' heartbeat is helping others to grow spiritually, emotionally and relationally. Call (636) 448-0121 to schedule counseling or speaking. Order products: www.carolclemans.org. Bishop Jerry Dillon is the Clemans' pastor in Madison, MS.

Brian Norman

Revival Concepts

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Utilizing People

"And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to US the ministry of reconciliation" - 2 Corinthians 5:18

Us? That word contrasts with our current culture and human nature at its core. For we live in a society set on *me.* As some would say, "It's all about me." But when it comes to bearing Kingdom fruit, this kind of thinking falls far behind.

Leaders lead others. That is the most simplistic and accurate description of what leadership is. Several things can be extracted from this basic understanding, insights every leader should remind himself of: 1) Leaders must have direction, i.e. vision and a plan. 2) We are not leading if no one is following. 3) For us to be a leader others must be involved in the plan.

When God inspired Paul to pen 2 Corinthians 5:18 it was in the context of the radical change every believer had experienced "in Christ" (2 Cor. 5:17). And Paul revealed one of the reasons for that change was for each believer to be involved in the Kingdom work. This is in fact the purpose of the whole five-fold ministry, to get every believer to a place of maturity *which includes* being involved in the work of the ministry (Eph. 4: 11-12).

If we are to believe Christ's sacrifice has reconciled all believers to God then we have to believe all believers are called to ministry (2 Cor. 5:18). In the process of starting eight new works, mentoring some pastors and being a voice to others, a consistent concept I have used and encourage others to is ... utilize people. Until a corn seed is sown into the ground it will never produce. There are so many promises made to believers, not just pulpit or licensed preachers. But none of them are valid and active unless the believer is involved in the work of the ministry. As leaders we must utilize people. We must get them involved. Certainly there are qualifications for some things. But there are some things everyone is qualified to do.

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

Aubrey Jayroe

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I understand that there are many changes in the coming months regarding increased taxes, the health care act, along with other items. What can I do to better understand and be prepared for these multiple changes?

Yes, there are many changes that have already been approved and others are expected in light of the tough economic situation that our country is facing.

The best way to better understand what is happening and be prepared is first of all to read everything possible about these changes. It is often difficult to find the material needed, but there are websites that provide basic information regarding tax issues, etc. One is our own website which is updated monthly -- www.jayroeone.com.

Secondly, you need to discuss these changes with your tax preparer. Your tax preparer should not be a person you meet with one time each year. A few minutes throughout the year could save valuable time and much money. Call, make an appointment, but otherwise visit with your tax preparer to gain information as to the latest changes. Many of these may affect you and being informed early when you can do something about those changes will be of great benefit.

Then finally, when you understand the changes and know what needs to be done, act upon those items. If your tax preparer provides advice about making changes in your business or management or tax matters, then be prepared to act immediately. Ask your preparer for a time line in which to act so that you will not miss any deadlines, etc. Be prepared to act and do not put off what needs to be done.

Failure to act prudently and timely could cost you dearly. When you know what to do, do it. If you don't know or understand, then ask questions and get clear information.

These many changes will affect most taxpayers. Tax increases, health care changes, reduction in tax credits will all be the priority for every taxpayer. Don't wait until the end of the year to know what to do, but do it now while you have the time to act upon those changes in a positive manner.

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

Stephen M. Drury

Stewardship

smdrury@upci.org

What Legacy Will You Leave?

We all desire significance - It is my belief God intended for us to lead happy and fulfilled lives and to be surrounded by family and friends. And for many of us, the search for significance and desire to plan for the future leads many to ponder their legacy. What kind of legacy will you leave? A bequest is perhaps the easiest and most tangible way to have a lasting impact on the United Pentecostal Church ministries that mean the most to you.

The Benefits of a Charitable Bequest - A charitable bequest is a gift written in a will or trust that directs a gift to be made to a qualified exempt UPCI ministry when you pass away. One benefit of a charitable bequest is that it enables you to further the good work of a ministry you have a passion for with support long after you are gone. A bequest is one of the easiest gifts to make. With the help of an advisor or attorney, you can specify in your will or trust, a gift to be made to a United Pentecostal ministry as part of your estate plan.

A Variety of Options - A bequest may be made in several ways: 1) Gift of a percentage of your estate, 2) Gift of a specific asset, 3) Gift of the residue of your estate and 4) Gift of a specific dollar amount. Certain types of property pass outside of a will or trust. These assets require that you name a beneficiary by completing a beneficiary designation form. To make a bequest of these assets, you should contact the company or entity from which you purchased the asset. Here are a couple of examples:

Bequest of an IRA - A retirement asset, such as an IRA account, makes an excellent bequest to ministry. By designating a ministry as the beneficiary of part or all of your IRA, the full value of the gift is transferred tax-free at your death. Contact your IRA or retirement account custodian to obtain a beneficiary designation form and make a bequest from your IRA.

Bequest of Insurance Policy - An insurance policy makes a great bequest to a UPC ministry. Contact your insurance company to obtain a beneficiary designation form. Consider making your gift a forever gift - If you want your gift to give an annual gift until the Lord returns, we recommend you include in your bequest language that your gift is to go into the permanent endowment of the ministry(ies) included in your estate planning through the United Pentecostal Foundation.

Request Further Information - You may contact Stephen Drury at smdrury@upci.org or go to www.upfoundation.org. All inquiries are treated with confidentiality. You may also call 314-837-7304 ext. 309 or 1-877-UPF-8850 toll free.

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

THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS

Incestual Relationships Receiving More Public Endorsement

In several countries, incest laws are being challenged. Hollywood director Nick Cassavetes is reportedly the latest to say "Why not?" While promoting his new movie *Yellow*, which features an adult incestuous relationship, he said, "We had heard a few stories where brothers and sisters were completely, absolutely in love with one another. You know what? This whole movie is about judgment, and lack of it, and doing what you want. If it's your brother or sister it's super-weird, but if you look at it, you're not hurting anybody."

Based on recent events, it appears that the public endorsement (or at least acceptance) of consensual, adult, incestuous relationships is inevitable. Consider the following:

- In December 2010, when Columbia University professor David Epstein was charged with one count of incest because of his three-year, consensual affair with his adult daughter, his attorney Matthew Galuzzo remarked, "It's OK for homosexuals to do whatever they want in their own home. How is this so different? We have to figure out why some behavior is tolerated and some is not."
- In May 2010, *Salon.com* ran an article on "Gay Porn's Most Shocking Taboo," namely "Twincest." As expressed by one of the twins, "My brother is my boyfriend, and I am his boyfriend." One commenter wrote, "I have total moral and legal integrity here: No sexual act that results from the consent of both parties should be illegal or immoral. These boys apparently consented to do this. There is no possibility of deformed or retarded children: Therefore it is not a crime or your business."
- Even more shocking news was reported in May 2010. A 72-year-old woman and her long-estranged grandson in England were going to have a child together through a surrogate mother. Said the grandson Phil: "You can't help who you fall for." Said his grandmother Pearl: "Phil's going to be a great dad. I never in a million years thought at 72 I'd be 'pregnant' and in love with my grandson. I make no apologies, and I believe God has given me a second chance."

50 Million Baby Boomers Considered Unchurched

During the baby boom that followed World War II, more than 76 million live births were recorded in the U.S. At the time the Baby Boomers (born between 1946 and 1964) were the largest generation in history. But studies suggest a harsh reality about this generation, according to Thom S. Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources. He estimates that only about one-third of Baby Boomers are Christians. That means that 50 million adult Americans in this generation are unchurched and have yet to be reached with the gospel of Christ. Here are a few facts about the Baby Boomers and churches:

Most churches, if they have an intentional outreach ministry, gear it toward the younger generations. That is understandable. But relatively few church leaders are asking the question, "What can we do prayerfully and strategically to reach the Baby Boomers?"

Most of the unchurched Boomers do not have an anti-church mentality. They are more receptive than most imagine.

Most of the unchurched Boomers would not be caught up in worship wars. They have a wide tolerance and even fondness for many musical and stylistic approaches. A church's worship style would most likely not be a hindrance to reaching a Boomer.

Though Boomers are growing older, they will not appreciate many churches' approach to senior adult ministry today. They want to make a difference, not simply be entertained and take trips. You may very well reach many Boomers by demonstrating how the Christian life is the only true life of meaning, and how they can make a difference as a believer.

Boomers are becoming increasingly introspective. They are asking life questions that really matter. Their receptivity to matters of eternal import could be great right now.

This generation largely doesn't want to talk about retirement. They speak more in terms of career shift or new vocational opportunities. They are not ready, and probably never will be, for traditional approaches to retirement.

The Boomers are thinking about relationships now more than any point in their lives. A simple but powerful way to reach the unchurched in this generation is to get Christian Boomers to connect with them. Many Boomer Christians haven't invited someone to church in years. Now is the opportune time.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ Canada officials say that Catholic schools can't teach pro-life views to their students. Dalton McGuinty, Education Minister, reportedly told Ontario media that Catholic schools should not be teaching that abortion is wrong because it is a violation of the government's newly-enacted anti-bullying bill.

■ Church-related parents' day out or preschool programs have until next summer to become licensed child-care centers or to limit their services to no more than two days a week. The deadline comes after the Dept. of Human Services Office re-examined the child-care center law and asked the state attorney general for an opinion. Now, church child program leaders must weigh the cost of pursuing the licensing requirements or whether to cut back on programs.

LEGAL TRENDS

Pentecostal Woman Fired For Wearing Skirt Collects $25K From BK

A Burger King franchise in Texas will pay $25,000 to a Pentecostal woman who was fired for wearing a skirt to work in August 2010 and refusing to change her clothes.

"For 2013 and 2014, defendant agrees to conduct an annual training session for all district managers and general managers for defendant's Texas Burger King restaurants, advising them of the requirements and prohibitions of the federal anti-discrimination laws with a special emphasis on religious discrimination," the nine-page consent decree states. "The training will also inform these individuals of the necessity of attempting to accommodate the religious beliefs of applicants and employees."

Ashanti McShan was 17 when the fast food restaurant let her go after she showed up to work in a skirt. According to the lawsuit filed in August in federal district court in Dallas, McShan was assured she could wear a skirt to work instead of the restaurant's uniform pants.

Burger King will now have to pay McShan $25,000; $5,000 will be paid for back wages, while the remaining $20,000 will be paid for mental anguish and non-wage demands.

ANCIENT TRENDS

Scientists Strive To Save Dying Language of Jesus

British scientists are attempting to preserve the Aramaic language spoken by Jesus and tied to Hebrew and Arabic. Professor of Linguistics at the University of Cambridge, Geoffrey Khan, has begun a quest to record the ancient language that's been around for 3,000 years before it finally disappears.

Khan decided to record the language after speaking to a Jew from Erbil in Iraq. "It completely blew my mind," Khan told Smithsonian.com. "To discover a living language through the lips of a living person, it was just incredibly exhilarating." Aramaic, which belongs to the Semitic family of languages, is known for its use in large sections of the biblical books of Daniel and Ezra. Parts of the ancient Dead Sea scrolls were written in Aramaic. The language was used in Israel from 539 BC to 70 AD. According to linguists, it was most likely spoken by Jesus.

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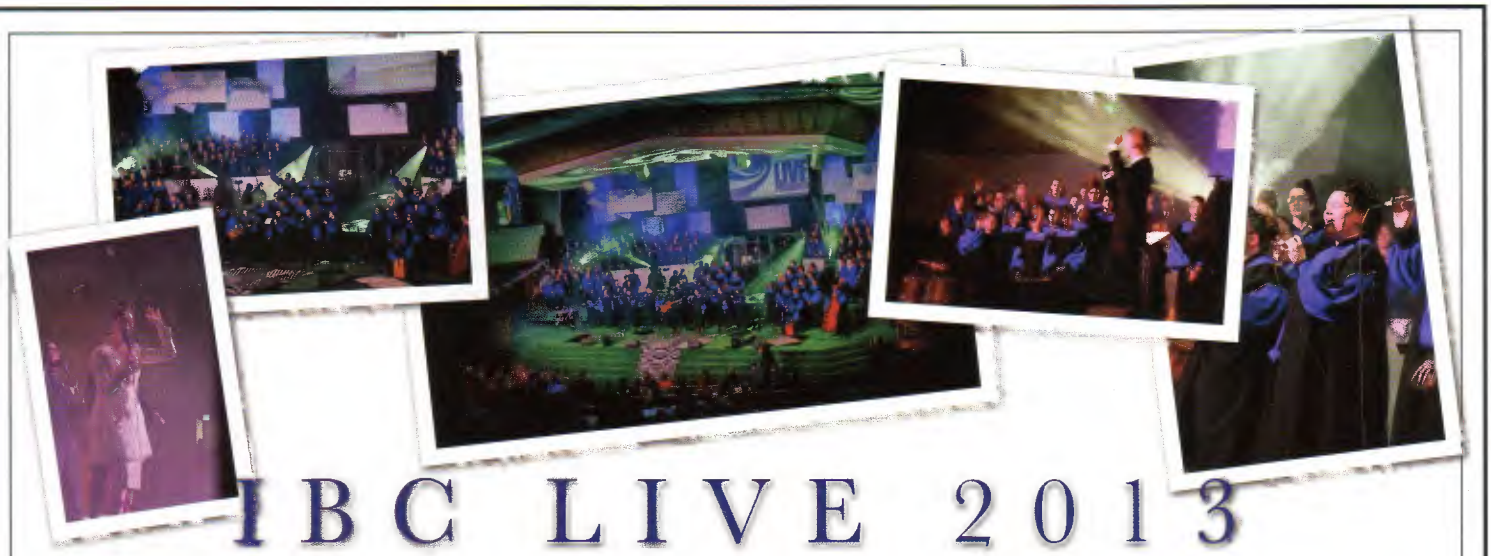

IBC LIVE 2013

P E R S U A D E D

Indiana Bible College hosted a record-breaking crowd for its annual Live Recording on February 1, 2013. Pastors, parents, youth groups and friends packed into Calvary Tabernacle Church and were met with a great presence of the Almighty as the new project was created. At the core of the Worship Studies department at Indiana Bible College is the mission of training students to be not merely performance-driven but to be worshipers. During the weeks leading up to the event, IBC students and faculty had dedicated time to prayer and fasting, believing that God would take their efforts and use this recording to touch hearts and lives around the globe. You could feel this heartbeat of the students as their worship erupted during the evening and culminated with a great time of prayer and commitment.

The few days before the recording were quite challenging for IBC. The Dean of Worship Studies Lindel M. Anderson was hospitalized unexpectedly for a serious medical condition. Other faculty members, including Matt Gordon and Jessica DiGiovanni, stepped in to assist in the production and it was decided that the recording would take place as scheduled. The student body and Calvary Tabernacle church went into intercession. God miraculously touched Bro. Anderson and he was released the day before the recording and was able to direct a few of the songs.

The student-driven project of 14 songs includes three written by IBC Faculty. Campus Pastor's wife and music instructor Stephanie Gallion wrote the song entitled, "Be Still and Know" and music instructor Jessica DiGiovanni authored the title track, "Persuaded," as well as "My Adonai."

"The theme for the IBC 2013 school year has been 'Persuaded.' I wanted to write a song that would connect the theme to the heart of the students. When they began to learn the song I truly felt that they connected to the theme and the message of being completely Persuaded to their calling," said Sis. DiGiovanni. Students are encouraged each year to submit songs for possible use on the recording. This year IBC Junior Erin Yancy's song, "All Glory" and her arrangement of "All in Him" were both chosen and will be on the CD. IBC Students were involved in every aspect of the project from transcribing the music, arranging vocals, directing, set design and much more.

IBC Persuaded will be available for purchase at IBC Music Fest 2013 in April. It can also be pre-ordered at **voicevision.com.**

ONE SIZE FITS ALL

Edited by Christina Li

The kingdom of God is an upside down kingdom according to the world's standards. The first is last, and the last is first. If I get puffed up all of a sudden, I become smaller in the kingdom of God. If you want greatness as one of God's people, you must humble yourself and become a servant! It's all about the unity of the body of Christ.

Matthew 23:11: "But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant."

There's something to be said about saying, "My brother or my sister is great in the kingdom of God. If I could just help them achieve that..." If you want to step up and do great things in the kingdom of God, it will only happen through unity, loving your brother, encouraging your sister, and lifting them up in the body of Christ. Pray for them, help them, and believe in one another because it is together that we make up the body of Christ.

In the kingdom, the size of the man becomes measured by a different standard. Suddenly how great you are is measured by how much you pray and do for others, how much you do for the body of Christ, and how much you are willing to believe in the body of Christ.

Heb. 11:1: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." How much faith do you have - how much do you believe in your brother or sister? It's not always what you see on the outside that counts or that determines how great they are.

Eph. 4:1-4: "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling."

It's "one size fits all." It's "one body."

Eph. 4:13-16: "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we hence-forth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined to-

gether and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."

If we are going to grow into the fullness of the stature of Christ, we must edify the body in love. How tall was Jesus? How big is God? If you've seen Jesus, you've seen God (John 14:9). You can't fit the eternal God into the finite man; though Jesus was all of God in quality he did not contain all the quantity of God in his body. God is bigger. We alone can't contain all He is; we must do it collectively. The body of Christ has a lot to aspire to. Oh! How we need one another!

"From whom the body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth . . ." (Eph. 4:16). That's what allows the body to grow. It's through giving into the body of Christ. Believe, pray for the body of Christ, have faith, real faith to use my brother and see great things for him. Look at our brothers and sisters and see Jesus.

When God looks at the body of Christ, He just sees the blood. He doesn't see as we see. He doesn't measure and analyze who is better or worse, who's rich, who's poor. God looks on the heart of the individual. When He looks at His body, He sees something altogether different from what we see. He looks with the eyes of the Shepherd upon His sheep.

Galatians talks about the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control (Gal. 5:22-23). How we need this fruit in the body! We need to look with compassion upon each and every one, looking through His eyes, seeing as He sees. If we will do this, great things can happen in 2013. God's love fits all sizes. His boundless mercy fits all sizes. Praise God for this faith! We've got to get in sync with God and have faith in His people and love His people. This is essential to where God wants to take us.

God has a great revival in store for His church. Greater things are yet to be done, and it is through the unity of being one body that it will be accomplished.

Numbers 13:32-33: "And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight."

When we look through our own eyes, big dreams begin to die. When Moses and Aaron sent spies into the Promised Land, there were only two spies that came back with a positive report. They believed in God and in each other. The other ten came back with a negative report. These men looked at each other and didn't see that they were strong enough. In their thinking, there weren't enough weapons. They didn't believe in themselves, or in one another or in God.

Our victory as the body is through not ceasing to pray, to love one another and to remember that God shed His blood on Calvary, that His mercy is boundless. It is His mercy and provision that motivate us to do whatever He wants us to do.

Joshua had his heart set on the Promised Land, and it didn't matter that it took 40 years to get there. He kept his focus.

David had it in his heart to build the house of the Lord and said that his heart was fixed. He decided to sing and give praise and keep his focus on the Lord. He decided to praise the Lord and sing about the people of God because His power was within them. He understood that it would be through the people working together that God would accomplish the task.

Mt. Horeb means desolation or wilderness. It was the place of consecration and separation unto the Lord -- in other words, a place of "holiness" unto the LORD. If you get your heart and mind fixed on holiness, which means separation unto God for His use, God will put you in a place of ministering. You will be trustworthy in God's sight. The greatest thing you can do for God is get your focus on holiness and let it be your treasure.

The Showalter family
Nashville, TN

John said, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30). We must decrease ourselves and increase the Lord and each other. God will make great men and women of us. It is through unity. "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (Heb. 12:14). If they are to see Him it is through our holiness, and we can't be holy until we first follow peace with all men.

There is power beyond what we know when we are unified in the body of Christ. Jesus prayed for this. Jesus wanted us joined in unity. He said to Philip, "If you've seen me, you've seen the Father." The greatness of God and the fullness of God are all in Jesus. The more unity, the closer we are to the fullness of Christ.

God's divine plan for the church is unity. It's exemplified in the marriage relationship. Jesus often sent out his disciples in pairs, in unity.

Satan tries to isolate us and make us feel alone. Once Satan has isolated you and separated you from others, he can destroy you. This is the tactic of all predators that prey on herd and flocks. This also is the Elijah syndrome. He was scared and felt isolated and thought he was the only one right with God. God had to tell him that there were 7,000 in Israel who had not bowed their knee to Baal. He was afraid of how Jezebel had threatened his life and was confused as a result of his fear. He was asking God to kill him while he was running away from the answer to that prayer!

Just like Elijah, we are sometimes tempted to retreat into a cave. He was depressed, confused and without hope. God showed him His plan for the rest of his ministry and told Elijah to get up and get out. If you find yourself in this same situation, you need to get out of your cave, forgive and love one another, worship and serve the Lord in one mind and one accord.

Paul said to be of one mind. Jesus can't be the Prince of Peace without unity and peace in the body. It is God's design and plan for His body that we grow together as "one man." It's only through unity that we can do the great things that God wants to do through His body.

Philippians 2:1-3: "If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."

> *"We need to look with compassion upon each and every one, looking through His eyes, seeing as He sees. If we will do this, great things can happen in 2013. God's love fits all sizes. His boundless mercy fits all sizes."*

***Bio:** Monte Matthew Showalter is the son of Missionaries Monte and Dianne Showalter and raised in Latin America after the age of nine. He served 10 years in the U.S. Marine Corps, and then medically retired in 2005. It was while in the Marines, serving in Germany, that he realized his call into the ministry and upon returning stateside to Jacksonville, NC, he and his wife served as youth ministers under Pastor Arden Bustard. He then assisted Pastor David Brown, Kirksville, MO; served as Spanish Pastor under David Billingsley, St Joseph, MO; and Assistant to Pastor Victor Melendez, Charleston, SC. He currently is evangelizing out of the Nashville, TN area where he lives with his wife, Melodie, and their five beautiful children.*

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Water and Spirit: The Soul Winner's Bible Study

Written by Linda Schreckenberg

Bro. J.A. Burris
Evangelist, Missionary

Learn a *revolutionary* Bible study technique that produces *revelationary* results. Throughout North America and overseas, Evangelist and Missionary J.A. Burris from Houston, Texas has helped thousands receive the Holy Ghost. He noted, "The principles of revival are universal and need to be imparted to every church: intercessory prayer, personal soul winning, Bible studies, and altar working. I try to live by this fact: not all fruit is ripe, but there is always ripe fruit.

"The Water and Spirit Bible Study, developed over a course of years of teaching, combines a pattern of scriptures with a distinct teaching method, making this study highly effective. It opens up the revelation of 'You must be born again of the water and of the Spirit' to the student. By presenting the plan of salvation in a *revolutionary* way, this study produces *revelationary* results."

He explained, "Every person has built-in fight or flight defense mechanisms. Sometimes, in teaching the plan of salvation, we trigger these mechanisms. We must avoid these triggers and present the gospel in a manner that brings a revelation. The Lord has provided a roadmap that never triggers any mines, a path where they never have to defend a deceased grandmother, religion X pastor, or the church they have been a lifelong member of. Ninety-five percent of these studies end in an immediate decision to be born again of the water and Spirit.

"After teaching lesson one of a 12-week study, someone discouraged my student regarding Apostolic truth, ending the study. I realized they didn't need to know there were 66 books in the Bible. They were hungry and should have received the Holy Ghost after the first lesson. It was a life-changing experience for me. Messages taught in the Bible got same day results. I needed a study that would produce same day results. The Lord told me one day that the main reason most people don't attend our churches is they just haven't heard they need to be born again of the water and Spirit and the correct method of doing so."

In the last 4 1/2 years, out of Bro. Burris' 200 personal studies, only three people were not baptized. He noted, "The revelation of water and Spirit distinguishes us from all denominational churches."

Bro. Burris shared the Water and Spirit Bible Study with Pastor Greg Steele [North American Missions Director for the south Texas District] and his church. Nearly everyone Bro. Steele has taught has been baptized, including the head deacon of another denomination, as well as others he has known for many years but was unable to reach until now. All south Texas District home mission pastors are receiving the Water and Spirit Bible Study, so they can experience the same kind of results.

A successful method of approaching someone about the subject of the Holy Ghost, thereby securing a Water and Spirit Bible study, can be found at www.Highwaytoheaven.org. The Water and Spirit Bible Study DVD is available through www.WaterandSpiritBibleStudy.com for $20. The Water and Spirit Bible Study Teachers Manual is available for $10.00. This is the complete transcript, word for word, for optimal results. Water and Spirit DVD is also available through the Pentecostal Publishing House. Bro. Burris may be reached by e-mail at Revburris@gmail.com or by phone 832.584.4515.

"Monday Miracles!"

Innovative Ways to Follow Up With and Reach Out To Visitors

By Charlotte L. Pound

Bro. and Sis. Roger Barcus
St. Paul, MN

"After years of hit and miss visitation and prayer, while attending the outreach sessions at the General Conference in Louisville, KY, I was stirred, more than ever, about visitor retention in our local church," said Bro. Roger Barcus, pastor of St. Paul Apostolic Tabernacle in St. Paul, MN.

"Back home, after the conference, I met with our leaders to come up with a workable plan for outreach. We couldn't seem to get it together, although we were already on top of what to give our visitors/guests – a nice guest folder with our church name and card on the outside and brochures (written by our people) inside. Also, we provide a guest/visitor card asking for contact information to be filled out during the service and picked up the greeter who then brings it to the platform.

"I had visited a friend of mine, Pastor Drew Baldridge, after his foot operation and had taken him a gift. He returned the favor and ordered a book to be mailed to me entitled *Circle Makers* by Mark Batterson, a denominal pastor in [Washington] D.C. When I thanked him for the book, I shared with him an idea that the book had inspired."

Pastor Barcus said that in the book, the author recounted a story of when, at age 13, he and his family visited a new church. The next night, a team from the church visited them unannounced. Along with welcoming them to the church, the team offered to pray for any needs the family might have. The author's parents acknowledged that Mark suffered with asthma and would like prayer for him. The team prayed for Mark who woke up the next morning with the same asthma but *without* the many warts he'd had on his feet – and for which they had been too embarrassed to request prayer.

"When reading this part, it hit me – 'Monday Miracles!' said Pastor Barcus. "So before Easter this year, I shared this story and my idea to our leaders who were overjoyed with such a simple plan and adding something new to the mix. The next day, a team of three members from the church [men and women combined] would go unannounced to visit our guests. On Mondays people are still 'impressed' with our service and haven't had time for the devil and others to talk them out of what they experienced, even if they hadn't outwardly responded to the altar call or a move of God.

"Next, a letter is sent to them that is personalized by what we know about them, and then I, the pastor, call and visit them. We have follow-up that consists of one or more of the team members making an effort to be friends with the guests, to see them *outside* of church and, if possible, sit with them in church. And it's working!"

Bro. Barcus shared some success stories. "Roy and Maria and their boys have been coming since Easter. They are in a weekly Bible study and have all repented, been baptized and filled with the Holy Ghost. Some others – Jaryl, Kory, Neng, Adam and Anna – are coming too. They are making progress in God, some having been baptized and filled with the Spirit," he said.

"We have people in the church today who have benefited from 'Monday Miracles!' How can any church lose by being friendly to people who show up in their services? It's a win-win possibility in God."

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Word To The Wise:

"No man goes before his time -- unless the boss leaves early."

* * * * * * *

You know you're a missionary kid when . . .

- You can't answer the question, "Where are you from?"
- You have a passport but no driver's license.
- You watch National Geographic specials and recognize someone.
- You have a time zone map next to your telephone.
- You have friends from or in 29 different countries.
- You do your devotions in another language.
- You are grateful for the speed and efficiency of any postal service.
- You wince when people mispronounce foreign words.
- You realize what a small world it is, after all.
- After a couple of years in one spot, you're ready to move again.
- You are afraid to ask what you're eating, but munch away with a smile on your face.

* * * * * * *

A Holy Camera

While watching a lightning storm with her mother, a little girl asked, "Is that God taking pictures?"

"Step back, Sis. Pickledorf. We both know this computer virus must end here!"

* * * * * * *

In church one Sunday morning, a preacher said, "Anyone with 'special needs' who wants to be prayed over, please come forward to the front by the altar."

With that, Bill got in line and when it was his turn, the preacher asked, "Bill, what do you want me to pray about for you?"

Bill replied, "Preacher, I need you to pray for help with my hearing."

The preacher put one finger of one hand in Bill's ear, placed his other hand on top of Bill's head and then prayed and prayed, and the whole congregation joined in with great enthusiasm.

After a few minutes, the preacher removed his hands, stood back and asked, "Bill, how is your hearing now?"

Bill answered, "I don't know. It ain't 'til Thursday."

* * * * * * *

A little old lady was mailing a large Bible to her family. The postal clerk asked, "Is there anything breakable in this package, ma'am?" "Only the Ten Commandments," she replied.

"Please be on time, Sis. Frooley. This is the last time I will try to teach your Junior Girls class."

The Barn

A Congressman and two friends – a rabbi and a Hindu holy man – had car trouble in the countryside and asked to spend the night with a farmer.

The farmer said, "There might be a problem; you see, I only have room for two to sleep, so one of you must sleep in the barn."

"No problem," said the rabbi. "My people wandered in the desert for 40 years. I am humble enough to sleep in the barn for an evening."

With that, he departed to the barn, and the others bedded down for the night.

Moments later, a knock was heard at the door, and the farmer opened it. There stood the rabbi.

"What's wrong?" asked the farmer.

The rabbi replied, "I'm grateful to you, but I can't sleep in the barn. There is a pig in the barn, and my faith believes that is an unclean animal."

His Hindu friend agreed to swap places with him. But a few minutes later, the same scene recurred. There was a knock on the door.

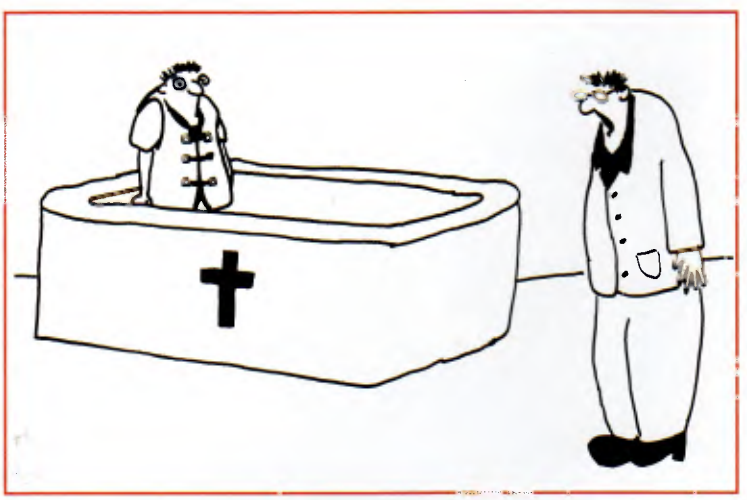
"What's wrong now?" the farmer asked.

The Hindu holy man replied, "I too am grateful for you helping us out, but there is a cow in the barn, and in my country cows are considered sacred. I can't sleep on holy ground!"

Well, that left only the Congressman to make the change. He grumbled and complained, but he went out to the barn.

Moments later, there was another knock on the farmer's door.

Frustrated and tired, the farmer opened the door, and there stood . . . the pig and the cow.



"I'm so sorry, but our insurance company now requires that we use life jackets with all baptisms."

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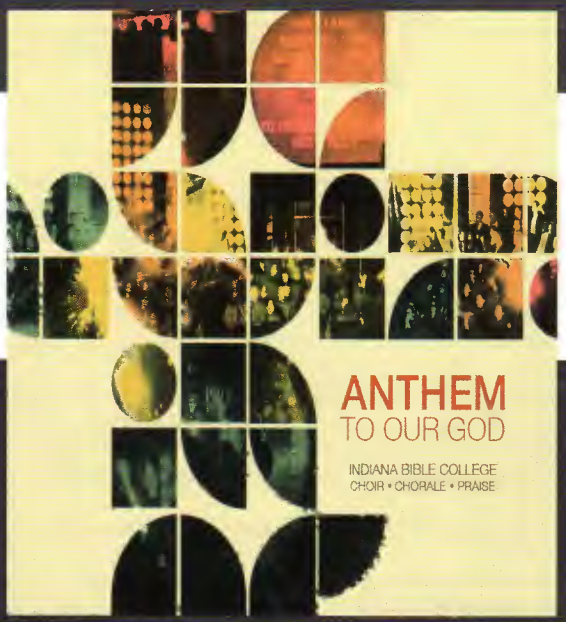


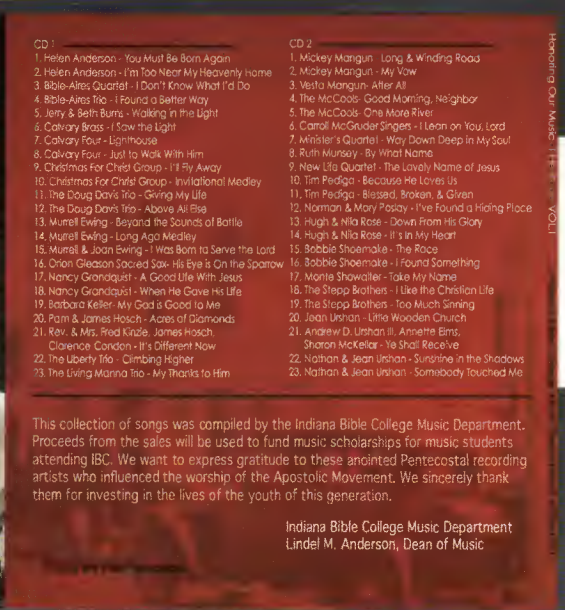
IBC Choir, Chorale & PRAISE

Anthem To Our God

IBC Live 2012

Joy McGarr

If We Wait



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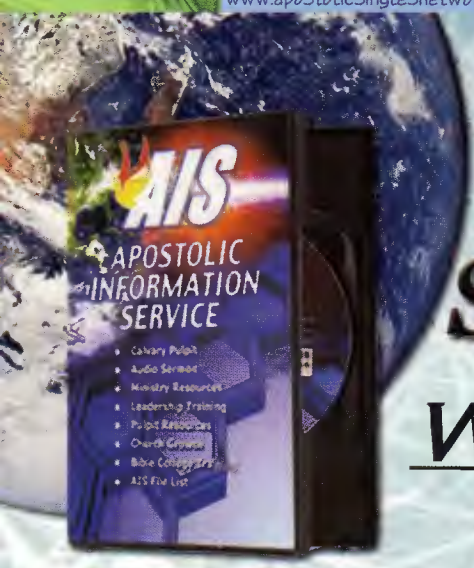

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