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IBC Perspectives

FAITH, HOPE & REVIVAL

from the publisher

Paul D. Mooney

Fitly Framed

"If I may be blunt, I'm concerned that the church we all deeply cherish will be put at risk by our failure to subscribe to the notion of our complex interdependencies."

The church is a body created by the Spirit of God to be a living organism. The Church is fitly framed (Eph. 2:21) together. It is dependent upon both its creator and its several members. It is both dependent and interdependent.

The Church (the body of Christ) is complex. When we examine manmade devices or mechanical contraptions we may say they are complicated but not complex; they don't have interdependencies. For example, your car does not need to start in order for my car to start. If I hit the light switch, I may expect a predictable response without having to worry about electrical grids in India. In simple jargon, mechanical things are not intrinsically interdependent. But living organisms are intensely complex in that they are highly interdependent. Take ecology for example: when societies decide, say, to eliminate a certain animal or species, they risk interrupting the food chain, thus causing severe consequences. They risk interfering with vital and often unknown interdependencies. (comment inspired by "Antifragile" by Nicholas Taleb)

If I may be blunt, I'm concerned that the church we all deeply cherish will be put at risk by our failure to subscribe to the notion of our complex interdependencies. We may lay out agendas and ideas without wisely considering all the interacting parts, such as: Where does the anointing come from? Or where are the true sources of wisdom and how are they accessed? What role do our elders play? Have their true thoughts been explored on any given subject? What is the resiliency of the superstructure within our system of beliefs such as convictions and commitment? How strong is our passion, or we might say our spiritual bones?

In Indianapolis back in the early sixties, I heard the beloved Bishop Karl F. Smith of Columbus, Ohio speak at a gathering. His subject was "Cause and Effect." I was deeply impacted by his remarks on the consequences of our interaction with the body of Christ, as were hundreds of others. Many literally knelt on the floor or fell prostrate as he spoke. He prophesied that if the Church ever forgets were we came from, how we were formed, how we are sustained, how we are 'put together' (fitly framed), how we need each other, how dependent we are on the blood of Christ and so forth... then we will die a sad death. He preached the conference to its knees. I shall never forget the moment and I will never forget the prophecy.

Here I am writing this article as I tearfully recall the sermon that pierced my heart 52 years ago. Can anyone explain how the inspiration of the spoken word works? How is it that the seed of a thought still lives in me decades beyond the speaker's death? What role did he play in the process and development of my thoughts and ideas, my life? When the preacher hit on the issues of interdependence and interconnectedness and interaction and inter-responsibility and inter-accountability... how did it get in me so deep and how does it live still? By what sustaining power does it continue to play a part in my life? What if I had missed that service? Or what if that precious sermon had been belittled by my friends and jerked from me, how different would I be? Would I still be in the church? Who can know these things?

Perhaps we should use caution in tampering with our convictions, and with our propensity to use manipulation to achieve our ambitions. We do not know precisely how to prepare for the future. Jesus' advice was to "take no thought." (Mark 13:11, Luke 12:11, Luke 12:22) The Bible, if nothing else, is a treatise on expecting the unexpected, depending on the supernatural, trusting in the unexplainable. The church is a complex organism, so much so that no one of us can design its God-ordained mission. Nor can human wisdom provide the integral needs of the church for the present or for the future.

It's impossible to chart exactly where our victories come from or every factor of revival. We would first need to ask: Who planted the seed? Whose travailing has prevailed? This is complex indeed. What role does an old Bishop's hand, laid upon a child at a small camp meeting in North Dakota, play in the future of that child's life?

Let mothers in Zion arise and instruct. Let the fathers and the bishops stay strong and speak boldly with conviction until the day they die. Let the children sing. What fire might be kindled through a child's rendition of "Jesus Loves Me?"

Keep generations together. Avoid super-planning. Stop writing formulas for everything. The future is unknown and uncertain. We simply must concede to complexity and interdependence. This is one reason why we need to keep the young and old together, to sing both new songs and old songs, why we need broad participation and simple paths to inclusion of the whole church in ministry. Further, we need sermons that embrace our wholeness and acknowledge our interdependencies. Let us go forward in humility that acknowledges our trust in the non-rational, unfathomable and inexplicable. Little is much, if God is in it.

We are complex... "past finding out"... fitly framed together.

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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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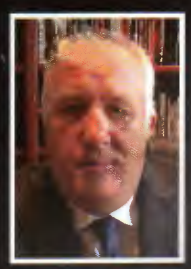

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"Men That Influenced My Life"

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

James Poitras, St. Louis, MO -- Each stage of my life and ministry brings its own man of God into my life. First of all, one must be willing to allow a man of God to speak into his/her life. Finding such a man is something that should be done deliberately and intentionally. Everyone needs a pastor. Everyone needs an encourager. And everyone needs to be involved in mentoring or passing truth to the next generation.

My mentoring of a young man 16 years ago turned into a reverse mentoring process. Even today, that man speaks into my life and is my accountability partner. Age is not the primary consideration for a man of God in your life. I have several in my life who have greatly impacted my ministry; men of God that leave me a better Christian after interaction and meeting together. It is imperative and pivotal to have mentors and heroes of the faith. If we fail to pass Apostolic truth to the next generation, Christianity can become extinct. My personal vision, calling and mandate of II Timothy 2:2 is to educate, equip, empower and encourage the next generation of members, ministers and missionaries.

Andrew T. Urshan, St. Peters, MO -- My late father, Bishop Jonathan Urshan, has had the greatest impact on my life and ministry. Devoted to ministry as he was, he made the importance of his family a high priority. In ministry, he was an example of consistency in his doctrinal beliefs and holiness, regardless of cultural pressures. A student of the Word, he encouraged study of the Word and valued teaching as well as preaching. He emphasized depth alongside passion in preaching.

Privileged to be pastored by Bro. T. L. Craft, I saw passion, vision and faith. Bros. David Reever and Darrell Johns were great examples in youth ministry. Under Pastor Mooney, I saw a tenacious defender of Apostolic precepts. Ministers in my family, including my brother, Pastor Jon Urshan and others, have had an impact on my ministry. The late Bro. N.A. Urshan and Bro. David Bernard have also been honorable examples to me.

Howard Pastorella, Destrehan, LA -- Identifying the most influential man on my personal ministry is a difficult task. A close look at my UPCI ministerial licenses reveals the fingerprints of at least 13 fellow ministers who have been both inspiring and influential to my overall ministry. Two of the most important men are Bro. W.W. Smith of Pinehurst, TX and Tommy S. Parker of Metairie, LA. I have known these two men of God for 31 of the 40 years of my Christian life. They taught me the three most important components of ministry: prayer, praise and people. My admonition to all younger ministers is that they attach themselves to their pastors and become a Joshua or an Elisha to them. Leading always starts from the position of a good follower.

Bradford M. Robinson, Belton, MO -- I would say Bro. W.C. Parkey, my pastor in Kansas City, most influenced my ministry. He led Gateway College in St. Louis, MO while I attended there, and my wife and I assisted him for a period of time. He was a preacher's friend and led by example. Not afraid to voice his stance on matters concerning the church, he believed the message and engraved that in my heart and life. He is by far one of the greatest heroes of the faith. I feel it is of utmost importance for a young man to have a mentor to seek Godly advice and direction.

Jerry L. Burns, Rio Rancho, NM -- Missionary Evangelist Billy Cole took my wife and I under his wing in 1971 after we had been married for only two weeks. We traveled the width and breadth of the USA holding Holy Ghost rallies and saw over 600 receive the Holy Spirit infilling. He poured himself into us, teaching us to pray and imparted things in the Spirit. Mentoring, training and lessons learned have served us well through 42 years of ministry. We followed his example, pouring ourselves into dozens of young men and women around the world. Our church is a mentoring and training center, sending laborers into the "harvest."

Others impacting our ministry include the late Bro. James Burton, Bro. Harry Scism and Bro. Edwin Judd. They took a special interest in developing our missionary ministry. To be successful in ministry, one must submit himself/herself to someone.

Rick Lovall, Sikeston, MO -- The man who most influenced my ministry was my pastor, Bro. Fred Ruff of Apostolic Faith UPC in Mountain Home, AR. He taught me how to feed the sheep through dynamic "treaching." For example: even if the core of the message is directed to a select few, it is the minister's responsibility to make sure everyone learns something.

Another great influence to my ministry is Bro. Ron Patrick, Assistant Pastor at Northside UPC in Ft. Smith, AR, and former Arkansas Youth Committee member. He taught me how to speak "a word in a season" to those who may be struggling. Whether it's mentoring, training or doctrinal instruction, all young ministers need elders speaking into their lives. Show me a man without a voice of wisdom and understanding in his life, and I'll show you a man void of clarity and direction. Sheep were not designed to be self-pastored. Even as shepherds, we cannot forget that we are sheep, too.

Jeff Wells, Bernie, MO -- My dad, Bro. Don Wells, who pastored Nazarene churches for over 35 years, had the most influence in my ministry. Although there are stark differences in our doctrine today, I always admired the diligence and commitment he gave to the congregations he pastored. Other men who made a great impact in my ministry were Bro. Maxwell Lewis, my pastor when I first received the Holy Ghost, and my father-in-law as well. After being raised in a denominal church, his insights into Apostolic ministry were invaluable to me. Another, whose ministerial experience and friendship has been a blessing to me, is Bro. Gary Legg of Hannibal, MO. Mentors are vital to our lives. Having perspective from someone in your life who has "been there and done that" can be helpful in assisting you through the winding road of ministry.

Timothy Lee, Cape Girardeau, MO -- Bro. Ron Lappin, my pastor from Greenville, NC, most influenced my ministry. When I came to church at age 17, with ripped-up blue jeans and no money in my pocket, he loved me and taught me the Word of God, showing me by example how to teach Bible studies and effectively live for God. Bro. Wayne Huntley also greatly impacted my ministry. As a young minister, I looked to his preaching for encouragement and desired his qualities of passion and dedication. It is very important for young ministers to have someone to pattern their lives after.

FAITH, HOPE

By Joseph Floarea

"Without trying to sound oversimplistic ... I think the most important key to having a growing church is to WANT to have a growing church." These are the words of Jimmy Toney, pastor of the recently planted Lexington Tabernacle in Lexington, KY.

"I don't think there is necessarily one area of evangelism that works everywhere... I think you need to find what works for you during this season and then repeat the process until it no longer works. I personally believe that one-on-one evangelism and home Bible studies is that absolute best way to build and grow a church."

According to Pastor Toney, there is a big difference between growing a church and increasing attendance.

"Many times we have done promotional events that would simply get a crowd for one particular Sunday . . . and I'm not saying there is anything wrong with that . . . however, I feel we must be intentional if we are going to grow a church. If we have a promotional Sunday then there needs to be some intentional follow-up from that service.

Jimmy and Renee Toney
Lexington, KY

"We at Lexington Tabernacle distribute door hangers quite a bit, and I think that is a very low-cost and high-effective way to get a message out to a particular neighborhood. It also gets people involved with outreach. I am not a huge proponent of door knocking and mainly because when I am at home, I don't want someone to knock on my door; however, leaving a door hanger is a very non-intrusive form of evangelism."

Philosophy of Ministry

Pastor Toney describes himself as "more of a simplistic and traditional person," so his philosophy is rather simple. "I heard Pastor Philip Harrelson say something similar to this and tweaked it for my use: 'We put a lot of emphasis on four songs and a sermon.'

"Fads come and go . . . gadgets are constantly changing . . . but worship and Word will always be relevant to a lost generation. If we want to reach a lost and dying world we need to reach them with a soul-saving message and not be afraid of this message. We are in the people business and if our ministries are not about 'others' then we will never be able to build an Apostolic church.

"When it comes to preaching, I enjoy preaching on hope, faith and revival. I believe that most people just need a little push to help them get to where God would have them to be. I hope my preaching provides that push."

Current Facility

At this time, Lexington Tabernacle is renting a building (about 2,800 square feet) in more of an industrial area, said Pastor Toney. "We have a Sunday school classroom and a small area for a nursery and a little sanctuary that we can get about 100 chairs in," he said. "We signed a one-year lease on the property and hopefully we will be able to move to a bigger building when the lease is up.

"We are averaging in the mid-60s right now, and our church started weekly services on October 21, 2012. We have baptized four and witnessed one receive the Holy Ghost in the last couple of months."

Personal History

Pastor Toney said his mom and dad were not in church but always determined to allow their children to be raised in the Apostolic faith. When he was 10 years old, he began attending the United Pentecostal Church in Leesville, LA. Bro. David Tipton, the assistant pastor at the time, began to pick him up for church and show him some love and attention.

He received the Holy Ghost when he was 11 years old during a children's revival on September 27, 1985 and was baptized two days later.

"My dad passed away two years later and that obviously shook me to my core and did for several years," said Pastor Toney. "Had it not been for Bro. Tipton and my youth director, Bro. Louis Magee, I have no idea where I would have ended up during that time.

"We were a very poor family with some unique trials and as I look back over my life . . . anything that I am today is a direct result of my past."

Pastor Toney said he is not sure he has ever been "called" to preach. "I cannot put my finger on a date and say I was 'called' on this day," he said. "However, as a small child (five years old) all I have ever wanted to do is preach. It was just something about preaching that caught my attention ever since I was a young boy. I can't tell you how many times I would take a hair brush and pretend it was a microphone and wrap some toilet paper in my hand and pretend it was a handkerchief and then preach in the mirror. I preached some pretty good sermons during those times.

"I preached my first (real) sermon in youth service when I was 12 years old. However, I preached my first revival when I was 17 years old and have never looked back."

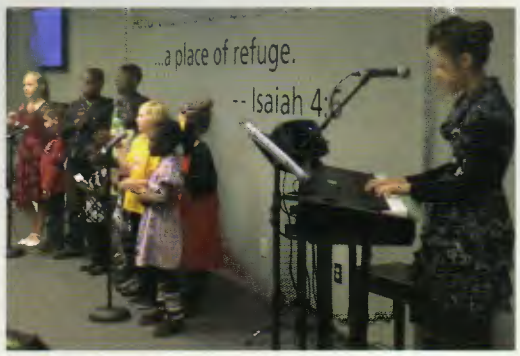
Pastor Toney graduated from high school in 1992 and enrolled in Texas Bible College shortly thereafter. He graduated from Bible school in May 1995. Then he started The Church of Omaha in April of 1999 and pastored there until June 2010. While in Nebraska he was privileged to serve as District Youth President for four years and District Secretary for two years.

"I then assumed the pastorate of Oak Park Church in Richmond, Indiana," he said. "At that time, Bro. Mooney invited me to teach 'Church Planting' at Indiana Bible College. That was the beginning of the end again.

"I would stand in the class and have so much conviction on me about starting another church that I knew it wouldn't be long until I would endeavor to start another church. And then I ran across the city of Lexington and everything just began to fall into place. We have not

...AND REVIVAL

The youth hold up signs to promote their church.



The children perform a song during church.

Pastor Toney prepares a young woman for baptism.

regretted taking that step of faith at all."

Human Interest

"When I was a student in Texas Bible College, I went to camp meeting in Lufkin, Texas and heard this specific man preach for the very first time," explained Pastor Toney. "I immediately fell in love with his passion and his unique ability to look at a common text in a very uncommon way. Since that time until now, Bro. Wayne Huntley has been a huge inspiration in my life, my ministry and even my desire to launch a church."

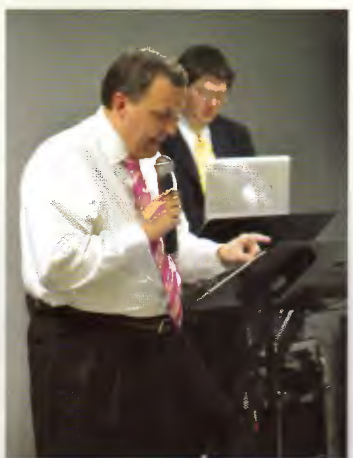
Pastor Toney, along with his wife, Renee, and 14-year-old daughter, Caitlyn, really enjoy getting away by renting a cabin in the mountains somewhere. For personal recreation, he enjoys golfing and fishing.

When he finds time to read, he enjoys reading books authored by David Kupelian and John Ortberg.

"And if I can leave you with a short word, the best advice I have ever received is to just be who you are," he said. "Never be jealous of someone or threatened by anyone. This simple advice has helped me more than probably any other advice in the world."

You can visit Lexington Tabernacle's Facebook page or e-mail Pastor Toney at Jimmytoney@mac.com. He is available for revival services and evangelistic meetings.

An interior view of the sanctuary at Lexington Tabernacle in Lexington, KY



Pastor Jimmy Toney preaches to the congregation.

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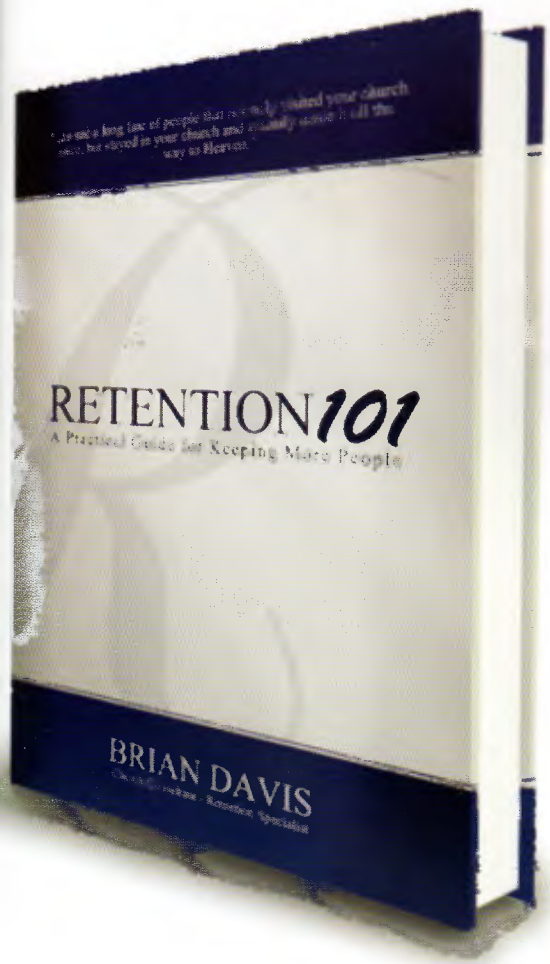

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- Having a baby seven months or more after marriage (versus before marriage) reduces risk of divorce by 24 percent.
- Marrying over 25 years of age (versus under 18) reduces risk of divorce by 24 percent.
- Family of origin intact (versus divorced parents) reduces risk of divorce by 14 percent.
- Religious affiliation (versus none) reduces risk of divorce by 14 percent.
- College (versus high school dropout) reduces risk of divorce by 25 percent.

PURE Religion

by Stephen Judd

tupelo children's mansion

Does Your Will Reflect His Will?

By Stephen Judd, TCM President

Stephen Judd
www.mansionkids.org

While it's true we can't take our treasures with us, we can send treasures on to heaven. The beloved apostle John wrote, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord...their works do follow them" (Revelation 14:13).

Making a will may be a small thing, but it's never a little thing.

Certainly it's not a little thing to God, nor is it a little thing to deserving beneficiaries, who may be immeasurably helped by your thoughtful planning. And certainly it's not a little thing to the one making the will, for it enables prayerful, intelligent distribution of the material possessions provided by God during one's lifetime.

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REVIVAL AT THE ALTAR

Evangelist Brian Norman

Bro. Norman, you have been teaching altar working workshops for some time now, correct?

Yes, that is correct. God has smiled upon us, graciously allowing me to witness Him baptize thousands with the Holy Ghost. Seeing people filled with the Holy Ghost and training others how they too can see this is not all we do but a definite part of it. We have been blessed to train whole churches, districts, Bible colleges and countries how to effectively pray with someone to receive the Holy Ghost.

What practices at the altar worry you?

Our movement does so many things well. And our people's passion to see others filled with the Holy Ghost is second to none. Unfortunately, there are some unhelpful practices amongst us, even rising to the level of false teaching at times.

The most damaging one I have seen is the habit some have of telling people they have received the Holy Ghost. Yes, when the Spirit gives utterance and someone speaks in other tongues they have received the Holy Ghost. Sadly, some seem so eager to "report a big number" they shortchange a real experience with God.

More than one time I have preached a revival or conference in an area after another preacher had come and caused much damage by doing this very thing. Sure, the number they reported on social media sites at the time sounded good, but significant eternal damage was done. This is why we should always ASK if anyone has received the Holy Ghost speaking with other tongues for the first time, NOT tell them they have first. When someone comes in for one service to minister and 20 people reportedly receive the Holy Ghost but none of them return for even a single service, it is fair to say something is up.

There also is a rise in the teaching that encourages people to speak out any words that come into their mind, wrongly believing that this is speaking in tongues. Again, the motive is clearly to "report a big number." This is contrary to the example and teaching of scripture. There is not one place in the Bible where the Apostles or early church did anything remotely similar to this. Never do we find the Apostles encouraging them to speak out whatever words come into their minds.

The wordage in Acts 2:4 of "as the Spirit gave them utterance" runs exactly opposite to that teaching. *Utterance* literally means verbal or vocal inspiration to speak. Other tongues are not just any words, but real tongues or languages that are "other" than what the person already knows, and spoken as the Spirit verbalizes or gives utterance. Anything else is different than the Biblical experience we are promised and exampled.

Another issue I see is encouraging people to praise the Lord out loud and receive the Holy Ghost before they have even been given a chance to repent. Biblically and practically it is clear -- no one receives the Holy Ghost before they repent.

Is it hard to see someone filled with the Holy Ghost?

No, it's not. More people are being baptized with the Holy Ghost today than ever before. Globally the church at large is seeing more people filled with God's Holy Spirit than in the church's beginnings in the Book of Acts. The glory of the latter house is indeed greater than the former (Hag. 2:9).

I have seen people filled with the Holy Ghost in revivals and conferences in America and abroad, even seen several hotel workers receive the Holy Ghost. God promised every person in every generation that they could, and it was His will for them to, receive His Spirit (Acts 2:39). The first outpouring of the Holy Ghost was indeed marked by a promise that God wanted to pour out His Spirit on ALL flesh (Acts 2:17).

What are the keys for someone to receive the Holy Ghost?

They must understand that Jesus died in their place for their sins, was buried and rose to live again. And with that understanding, respond in faith by sincerely repenting of their sins. After having repented they should lift up their hands and praise the Lord out loud. When they praise the Lord with a repented heart there is a Biblical guarantee the Holy Ghost will fall on them, then they just yield to the Spirit and receive it by faith.

Brian Norman travels full-time proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He has been privileged to serve the Kingdom as a Pastor, Church Planter, Global Evangelist and Mentor. Website: www.globalevangelism.org Phone: 636-544-0627

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 canference listed. This page is provided simply as a service to the greater Apastolic community.

apostolic calendar 2013

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SPEAKERS	CONTACT / INFO
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 Dr. 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	Caleb Adams, Martyn Ballestero, Scott Graham, Donald Lance, Sean Libby, Steve Pixler, Darin Sargent	(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 14-16	**The Apostolic Conference - Madison, MS** A conference designed for the North American Missionary and Church Planter.	Parkway Pentecostal Church 1620 Mannsdale Rd. Madison, MS 39110 Host: Jason W. Dillon	Marrell Cornwell, Jason W. Dillon, Raymond Woodward, Chester Wright, Mark Morgan, David Shatwell, Lee Stoneking	For more information: visit www.parkwaychurch.net or call 601-853-2607
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	**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.	To be announced	To be announced	For more information: visit www.winterfire.org or visit Twitter: winterfireconf or Facebook: winterfire

Church Growth: Let's Take a Church Growth Quiz!

Robert L. Rodenbush

Church Today

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Do you see any issues in international law that may affect efforts to evangelize the world with the Gospel?

Yes, we should be concerned about the defamation of religions movement.

Recently, drafts of a proposal espoused by the 56- member countries that form the Organization of the Islamic Conference have emerged. The effort promotes the condemnation of messages that defame religions. Proposal language is being lobbied in committees in hopes that a formal resolution will eventually be brought to a vote in the United Nations General Assembly. The resolution would have the 192 member states of the United Nations agree to protect religions, religious symbols and beliefs from mockery or blasphemy.

On initial review, such bans seem innocuous enough as they seem to be inclusive of all religions and appear to promote tolerance. Certainly, we do not like it when our beliefs are ridiculed or mocked. However, serious concerns regarding First Amendment rights to free speech and religion must be addressed.

In a letter to a committee on an anti-racism treaty, the Islamic Conference stated, "The Islamic Conference 'believes that the attack on sacredly held beliefs and the defamation of religions, religious symbols, personalities and dogmas impinge on the enjoyment of human rights of followers of those religions'" (AP. Nov, 09). Further, Pakistan posits that countries which sign the treaty should, "prohibit by law the uttering of matters that are grossly abusive or insulting in relation to matters held sacred by any religion" (AP).

In presenting the Obama administration's first report on global religious freedom former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton stated, "some claim that the best way to protect the freedom of religion is to implement so-called anti-defamation policies that would restrict freedom of expression and the freedom of religion. I strongly disagree."

Secretary Clinton is correct. A formal resolution passed by the United Nations or language drafted into other semi-related bills should not be used to intimidate, silence or persecute preachers, teachers and evangelists who spread the Gospel and who will inevitably speak out against opposing religious beliefs and doctrines since people of different faiths by definition hold divergent views on religious questions.

If such a resolution is passed by the United Nations the questions still remain: who will decide what speech is "defamatory" and who will decide the punishment for those who violate such standards.

Bobby Killmon

Theology

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How do you deal with someone arguing against consistency in the Bible or Christianity by pointing to "Thou shalt not kill" and then pointing to places in the OT where God tells people to do just that?

There are a couple of things that help us correctly understand the command "Thou shalt not kill." The OT does prescribe capital punishment for extremely heinous crimes (see Ex. 21:12-17; 22:18-20; Lev. 20). This stringent punishment was reserved for things like blasphemy, sorcery, violating Sabbath, instigating others to apostasy, and incorrigible or recalcitrant juvenile delinquency.

This begs the question as to why idolatry was seemingly less tolerated than murder? First, this command is saying you shall not murder, which is the unlawful taking of life. So, what follows then is, are there grounds for a lawful taking of life? The Bible shows death in some instances was more preferred than idolatry. That is because idolatry strikes at God. While a physical life is sacred, the eternal life and destiny of a family, church, movement or people is much more important than the physical life of a person. In these extreme circumstances, God's agenda for "spiritual cancer," which is much more dangerous in its impact on eternity, is as one man said "radical surgery." God loved them enough to remove this eternal threat.

So, the Bible shows clearly not all acts of violence are sin. The Bible shows God says some practices merit death, and when Israel participated in judging Canaan by God's direct commands, these acts were not sinful. Remember God had waited 400 years (Gen. 15:16) but because of both the Canaanites utter wickedness and refusal to repent, He decided to judge them by removing them to ultimately protect and preserve the eternal destiny of the righteous (Deut. 9:5-6). This act of love and concern then prevented the rest of the world from becoming corrupted by their wickedness (Deut. 20:17-18). Remember, often overlooked is that the Canaanites were given every opportunity to surrender and stay (Deut. 20:10-16). So only the most recalcitrant, rebellious and belligerent were left.

War and violence in these passages was used only by God's directive with the intention to defend the eternal health of all people. God gave the Canaanites time to repent and even join to the nation, but ultimately He used judgment for the sake of the whole. The OT people were not less godly, and the God of the OT isn't different than the God of the NT. God is again giving time for the world to repent and join the Church, but ultimately to protect the whole He will use judgment again. This time it will be eternal death. But for God to love, protect and save, the whole "radical surgery" will be used again. Some people insist on sin, and God will not let them wreck heaven. He loves us too much.

T. W. Massengale

Church Growth

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Time for a Growth Quiz

In my church growth seminars, I stress three areas as being essential for successful church growth: Organization, Evangelization and Assimilation. Here's a quick quiz to see how you are doing with these three areas:

Organization and Management: Do you have your church set up in ministries or departments with leaders over each? Do you have equal or more outreach focused departments than inward focused departments? Does each leader have a written job description? Do you hold a planning retreat each year (not just a calendaring session) to brainstorm plans and improvements in each department? Does each department hand in a written one-year plan for their improvements and activities? Do you meet monthly (or at least bi-monthly) with your leaders to implement upcoming plans? Does each leader hand in a simple, short written report? Do you 'tag-in' with your leaders regularly (weekly is best)?

Evangelism and Outreach: Do you put an emphasis on getting first-time visitors out to church? Do you follow-up on these guests with an "on the doorstep" visit to give them a gift and invite them back? Do you visit their home again several more times in a 12-month period? Do you have an active Home Bible Study ministry that sees dozens of Bible studies taught each year by your saints? Have you taught personal evangelism training to your saints within the past 12 months? Do you have an active, ongoing ministry that encourages your saints to witness and invite people to church? Do you knock on doors monthly? Do you have a bus, van or other type of organized transportation ministry? Do you regularly have Sunday school promotions to encourage the attendance growth of your Sunday morning service and classes? Do you have a monthly children's church or other regular evangelism event in which bus/van kids can seek for the Holy Ghost?

Assimilation (New Convert Care): Do you have a New Convert Care Department and leader in your church? Do you have weekly new converts classes? Are all new converts assigned a Care Partner (spiritual parent)? Does each convert receive a new converts booklet, DVD or CD instructing them in how to live for God? Is each convert taught a 12-week home Bible study? Do you have a program to encourage converts to make friends with church members? Do you work aggressively to get converts involved in a ministry of some kind?

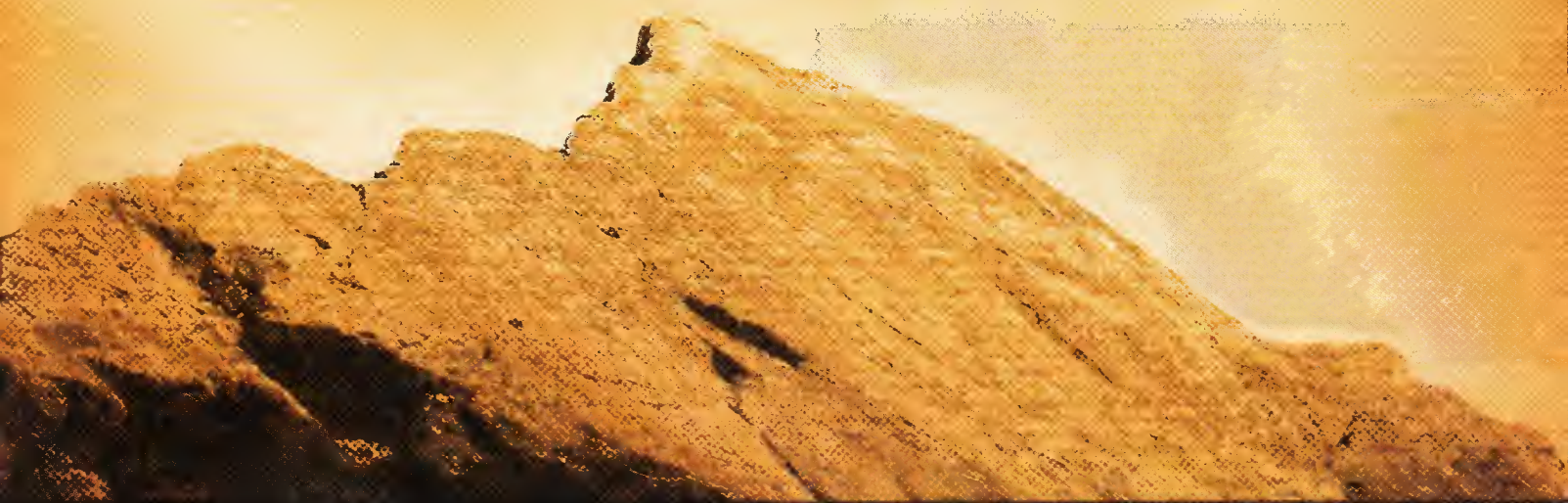
Each question is worth four points. Grade yourself on a standard A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (60-69) scale. Let me know how you do!

Arkansas Campmeeting

ROCK -SOLID- PREACHING

August 3-6, 2013

www.arkansascampmeeting.com



Host Pastors: Joel & Nathan Holmes
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Carol Clemans

Spiritual Growth

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What Does God Require of Us?

Micah 6:8 – "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" We have a three-fold definition of God's standards. We must do what is right, fair and honest. We must show genuine mercy and compassion to others. We must walk humbly, giving God all the glory for our lives and ability.

Many who have been wounded emotionally, physically and spiritually struggle with this three-fold command from God. If their earthly childhood caretakers were dishonest, unmerciful, proud, arrogant and abusive, these wounded people struggle with the 'father-God' concept.

What do you answer when a sexually abused person asks, "Where was God when my father raped me?" Usually rape happens many times through the years in this type of situation. When this person hears that God is her heavenly Father, she recoils impulsively. The word *father* causes a threatening painful response.

As a church, we need to become much better equipped to show mercy and compassion to an abused person in the process of healing. Because Adam/Eve chose to disobey God, their choice brought sin, sickness, disease, spiritual & natural death, thorns, and all evil in the world and hearts of people. Sin (Satan's influence for evil) causes abuse of all types. God came in flesh. He suffered a horrible death to pay the price for our salvation and heal the pain of our sufferings. Jesus came to heal the broken hearted. It's His truth that sets the painful heart free.

To get an understanding and become a healing helper, go to: www.carolclemans.org and order my two teaching CD's: Winning the Battle of the Mind and Abuse Recovery God's Way. Every church should have these tools available.

Carol Clemans is a Certified Pastoral Counselor/Christian Life Coach/anointed Bible 'treacher' for churches/conferences. She provides counseling nationwide by phone & webcam (636) 448-0121 for pastors and others. Go to website, read over 160 articles & view YouTube videos. The Clemans' pastor is Bishop Jerry Dillon, Madison, MS.

Brian Norman

Revival Concepts

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Special Services

". . . and the power of the Lord was present to heal them" - Luke 5:17.

There is something to be said for having special services. By that I do not mean just revivals but rather services with a special focus. As leaders, part of what we do is lead people somewhere; in other words, we bring them to a place they are not. Special services can be a major asset in accomplishing this.

It never ceases to capture my attention how that when a special service is held, things specific to the focus of that church service begin to happen. Let there be a healing service with a focus in song, spirit and preaching along that vein and, sure enough, healings will happen. This is the benefit of having a special service.

Why do special services seem to bring the result focused on? Whether it be healing, deliverance, unity or something else it seems the focus becomes a reality in our midst. Why?

1) Awareness arises about God's ability to meet needs.

2) Individuals focus on a specific result, believing God to do just that.

3) The local body believes together for something. This creates an atmosphere of connection, community and unity.

4) Jesus hears our prayers.

There can be no doubt that God is always able to do ALL things. As the angel stated, "For with God nothing shall be impossible" (Luke 1:37). Yet there is also no denying that God seems to focus or highlight on certain things at times, or during seasons. Case in point would be in the context of Luke 5:17. Jesus had already healed prior to that moment, and as Emmanuel (God with us), He was and is always able to do such. But the fact is at that time not only was He able to, but that was His focus. The Lord was present specifically *to heal.*

Consider holding special services at your church focused on deliverance. Sing about it, preach about it and have several share their testimony of it and . . . watch Jesus do it again.

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

Aubrey Jayroe

Finance

jayroeone@sbcglobal.net

Our church is considering the possibility of adding on to our existing building. We have raised a substantial portion of the money needed for this addition; however, we will have to borrow several hundred thousand dollars to complete the project. I briefly talked to my banker, and he said we would need our financials up-to-date in order for the bank to consider the loan. What did he mean?

Today's financial world is very different from that of prior years. While banks still want to make good loans, because of the watchful eye of government bank auditors, banks are requiring much more information from a church in order to provide the loans needed.

Basically, a church would need to prepare a Statement of Income & Expense with a Cash Flow Statement for three years, including the current year. In addition the church would need a Statement of Financial Position for the current year. These would need to be prepared in the proper order as most lenders would require a minimum of a "reviewed" statement. Should a loan be needed for funds up into the millions of dollars, it would be likely that an "audited" statement would be required. For both a reviewed and audited report, the services of a professional such as a Licensed or Accredited Accountant or Certified Public Accountant would be needed.

In addition, many banks want other demographic information such as current membership rolls, the growth pattern for the prior three years, a history of the pastor and/or board members, a copy of the articles of incorporation, and a copy of the by-laws.

Because of these requirements, it is imperative that a church establish good accounting practices and procedures to ensure that the information is readily available when needed.

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

Timothy Blencowe
IBC Student

Youth Ministry

Guest Columnist

A Fire That Burns Inside

We are running out of time. There is a world looking for something real, but are given artificial. We hear all the time about how shameful the state of our country is in, the state of the world even, and we rack our brains trying to discover a solution. TV shows are filling time slots with explicit material disguised as innocence. Popular music is flooded with anti-God innuendos. Social media sites are advertising for ages 21 and up but viewed by ages 18 and below. What do we expect? How do we help a high school student whose parents are never around when they come home? How do we convince a teenager that viewing those sites will distort his view of women forever, and leave him feeling ashamed? These are questions we have heard one too many times. Young people today don't know what to do. Proverbs 4:19 says that "The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble." So what's the solution? Light! All they've ever known is darkness. They've given up trying. Give them something to fight for. Show them the light!

IBC Instructor Jim Sleeva told our class once, "Young people have a built-in fake detector. They can sense whether or not a person truly cares for them." The best way to inspire your young people to reach out for truth and to live a separated life is by being that example. If you are fired up and passionate about God, it will inspire them to be fired up too. Replace yourself. Give them responsibility. Instead of you preaching, have them preach. Instead of you leading worship, let them lead worship. Let your young people work for the kingdom of God; young people want something to fight for. And if they feel connected to the work of God they will become passionate about it.

Youth today are looking for something real. They want it so bad, yet they stumble in the dark and can't figure out what's tripping them up. Tell them. Expose them to the lies and the tricks media is using. Give them what they are looking for. Give them real! The Holy Ghost is real. Honest love is real. A relationship with the one true God is real. Hebrews 12:29 says, "For our God is a consuming fire."

You'll watch each young person catch a flame that will burn inside them, inspiring them to do something for Christ. If we can get our youth groups to take ownership of this truth again, it will revolutionize the lives of young people everywhere!

THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS

Egyptian Family Gets 15 Years in Prison for Converting to Christianity

A criminal court in Egypt has sentenced a mother and her seven children in Beni-Suef to 15 years in prison for converting to Christianity from Islam. The court also sentenced seven other people involved in the case to five years in prison.

Nadia Mohamed Ali converted to Islam from Christianity 23 years ago when she married Mohamed Abde-Wahhab Mustafa. After he died, she planned to convert back to Christianity, along with her family.

The family attempted to get new identity cards in 2004. Ali and her sons cooperated with seven employees to change their names on their identification cards to Christian names, as well as changing their place of residence.

One of her sons was arrested in the headquarters of the Information Center two years later when police noticed he had changed his name, and he confessed that the documents had been altered illegally.

Human rights advocates say this case is a sign of what's to come under President Mohammed Morsi's new constitution.

According to Fox News, conversions like Nadia's have been common in the past, says Samuel Tadros, a researcher at Hudson Institute's Center for Religious Freedom. But Egypt's new Shariah-based constitution "is a real disaster in terms of religion freedom. The cases will increase in the future," Tadros said. "It will be much harder for people to return to Christianity."

Succeeding the secular reign of Hosni Mubarak, who is now in prison, Morsi was elected last June, and has since pushed the new constitution through.

Secular and liberal groups, as well as Coptic Christians—roughly 10 percent of Egypt's population—oppose the constitution and protested against it at the time it was passed.

"Now that Shariah law has become an integral part of Egypt's new constitution, Christians in that country are at greater risk than ever," said Jordan Sekulow of the American Center for Law and Justice.

Three Big Reasons People Leave Your Church

Why do people leave your church? Why do people leave churches in general? Dan Reiland, a pastor of a growing church in Lawrenceville, GA, observed, "We've read reasons, such as: 'I just didn't get anything out of the messages,' 'The church let me down in my time of need,' 'My kids didn't feel like the student ministry was working for them,' 'The worship music wasn't the style I like, and it was too loud.' Candidly, comments like these come from *churched* people who at some point might consider looking beyond their own desires and begin to invest in the lives of others. Don't get me wrong. Churches do let Christians down, and we need to do our best for those who call our churches home. But people who don't go to church much typically don't make those kinds of comments. People who are far from God or from the church aren't picky. In fact, they want to know what we stand for, and they love bold leadership. They come hungry, or hurting, or hoping.

When it comes to people who are not highly churched, I think three big reasons they leave (or don't come back) are:

- *Apologetic Expressions.* We get many e-mails weekly from people who want to know what we believe, and if they will be accepted. Not everyone will come to our church or yours, but those who come don't want soft answers or apologies. They are looking for people who really believe what they are selling. They want bold leadership.
- *Tentative Impressions.* First impressions are everything. When people drive into your parking lot, meet a greeter or experience an usher, the whole thing may be over already. First impressions should not be allowed to falter, be uncertain, or be timid because of lack of training or passion. Your first impressions need to be sharp, energetic and cause people to feel like they made a good decision to get out of bed that morning.
- *Insincere Connections.* Good first impressions are vital, but they must move quickly from a warm smile and a cheerful welcome to genuine messages about how to connect with new friends. I'm not suggesting that you should be overly aggressive. People need time to find their way. But your leaders need to have their hearts ready to receive new people just as much as you need structures like a newcomers class or small groups for the people to make genuine relational connections.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ On International Women's Day, the United Nations is coming under criticism for a report claiming nations that fail to allow legalized abortion are allowing the "torture and ill treatment" of women. Juan E. Mendez, the UN's Special Rapporteur on Torture, says not allowing women a chance to detect fetal abnormalities before birth, and having a chance to kill their baby in an abortion if such problems are detected, is wrong.

■ Lately, there are rumors of war concerning Iran, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt. This kind of speculation has an ill effect on Israeli tourism. Already for 2013, many Christian tour groups have cancelled. However, there are many local believers involved in the tourism industry and tour companies who want to encourage Christians not to cancel their trips.

BIBLICAL TRENDS

'Most Modern Version' of KJV to be Released Next Year

Charisma House has announced plans for an update of the King James Version (KJV) Bible, to be called the Modern English Version (MEV), and to be released next year.

The MEV is the most modern translation produced of the KJV in 30 years, according to officials for the book group of Charisma Media. The word-for-word translation maintains the beauty of the past, yet provides clarity for a new generation of Bible readers. The MEV also accurately communicates God's Word anew as it capitalizes references of God, "maintaining reverence" for the Scriptures.

"To Bible readers who value biblical truth, the MEV literally translates God's Word in a way that preserves the message but remains readable for today's world," said Tessie DeVore, executive vice president of Charisma House. "And because of this, we anticipate that the MEV will have broad ecumenical and consumer acceptance."

Editors of the MEV translation represent institutions such as the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Harvard University, Oral Roberts University, Westminster Theological Seminary and Yale University.

CULTURAL TRENDS

Being Gay Is No Sin, Most Americans Believe

Americans' acceptance of gays and lesbians is continuing to grow, with a new poll showing that just over a third of Americans view homosexuality as a sin, down from 44 percent a year earlier. The finding from Lifeway Research was released just as the pastor who was to give the inaugural benediction for President Obama had to step aside over an anti-gay sermon he gave 20 years ago.

Louis Giglio withdrew on Jan. 10 after a liberal group discovered a sermon he preached in the mid-90s in which he denounced the gay rights movement and advocated efforts to turn gays straight.

"The culture is clearly shifting on homosexuality and this creates a whole new issue: How will America deal with a minority view, strongly held by Evangelicals, Catholics, Mormons, Muslims and so many others?" said Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay.

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5:00 p.m. Arrival Get-together - Location TBA
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10:00 p.m. Lite Loud Late-night Luncheon - at the Hilton

Tuesday

6:30 a.m. - Breakfast - Hilton
8:00 a.m. Book Hunting, Conversation Areas, In-Store Cafe, Free Doughnuts, Meeting with Richard Baker at Baker Bookstore
4:00 p.m. Wrap-up Dinner at Fine Dining Restaurant

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***Host:* Paul D. Mooney**
E-mail: PDMooney@mac.com Twitter: @pauldmooney
Co-Host: O.C. Marler, Book Devotee

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We will add your name to the Rendezvous message list to receive updates.

Maintaining a Godly Marriage

Transcribed by Gregg Stone

Everyone has ups and downs in their marriage, but the only reason Holy Ghost-filled people get a divorce is that one or both get disconnected from God. The first thing you need to know and understand when you are dealing with marriage issues is that everyone has to work on his or her marriage.

There are three words that are the secret to a happy and Godly marriage. I'm sure most people will automatically think those words are "I love you," but the three words that will help every marriage are, "*Be a Christian.*"

These three little words will not only help your marriage but will also fix any relationship problems you might have -- with in-laws, employers, siblings, parents and children. There is a solution for every relationship problem if you read the word of God and do what it says. Why shouldn't we be Christians in our marriage just as we are in every other facet of our lives? There are men and women who wouldn't think of cheating their employer or speaking disrespectfully to them, who have wonderful reputations at work, but then come in and treat their spousal relationship carelessly and, many times, with cruelty.

I suppose we can chalk some of it up to familiarity. All too often couples stop showing simple courtesy and respect toward each other, and it always begins with the tongue. It's an unruly member and what a great fire it can kindle!

Solomon said it's the little foxes that spoil the vine, and isn't it amazing how the little things can become major things in a marriage? Ninety-five percent of the time, I would say marital problems stem from a mountain of small things that have been allowed to pile up and are not dealt with in a loving and biblical way.

There's a simple formula for dealing with conflict, and it's the verse so often cited when we are talking about marriage, but it is under-utilized because I am not sure people have a true understanding of what the words actually entail. Herein lies the secret to building and maintaining a Godly marriage. Ephesians 5:33: "*Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.*" Why are men commanded to love and women commanded to respect? These are imperatives; they are not optional. Paul knew that this is what it would take to be happily married.

Think about it. Women don't have to be commanded to love, because love comes easily to us; it's as natural as breathing. We love our kids, we love our friends, and we love our clothes. We love everything. We are commanded to respect because it's harder.

Men are not commanded to respect because respect comes easier to them. How many times have you heard a man say, "I can respect that"? Respect is very important to them, but love is not so easy, especially to show love. They like to be rough and tumble and show respect, but they are *commanded* to love.

These are not natural things to us, and that is why the apostle worded it the way he did. It wasn't an accident. They are things we have to work at. The husband is commanded to love his wife even if she does not obey the command to respect, and the wife is to obey the command to respect even if the husband does not obey the command to love.

What makes this whole thing even harder is that we don't speak the same language. We must learn to crack the communication code. There's not just "man speak" and "woman speak," but there's another code embedded in that code - the five love languages: acts of service, words of affirmation, gifts, physical touch, and quality time. The best way to have a loving, happy marriage is to decode your spouse's love language. Think about it, pray about it, ask God to show you what your spouse needs, and then work on providing it.

1 Peter 3:7: "*You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.*"

Note the apostle did not say you have to understand her; he said live with her in an understanding way. You just have to accept that women look at the world in an entirely different way than men, and that is why it is so important to follow the formula listed by the apostles.

I must admit I feel a little bit sorry for men these days. You have heard a lot about women's rights in the last hundred years and rightfully so, because we are to be honored as equals according to Peter, and women in the Bible were very much valued. It's a misrepresentation to say that Christianity subjugates women. The Proverbs 31 woman is strong, smart and capable in business, and with all her dealings. We can still do all those things and be submitted to our husbands.

Our culture has changed. I don't mean this as an attack on men, but men are becoming more and more passive. I think the women's rights movement contributed to that. I know there are many factors contributing to the chaos in our society, and there has always been sin, but it's an undeniable fact if you look at the statistics honestly, the sexual revolution changed American cul-

ture. When women decided to let everything hang out, and that modesty no longer mattered, things began to fall apart.

I don't believe it is a coincidence that as women have become less and less modest, men have become less and less honorable. Women hold the key to good morals in men. I know there are exceptions to every rule, but let's talk about the average, normal man; he will not cross a line a woman will not let him cross.

Modesty is what makes a woman a lady, and honor is what makes a male a man. But we often find in today's culture that women are refusing to follow even if the man wants to lead, because they will not accept the divine order and when women step out of their place in the divine order, their world starts falling apart.

Back to being a Christian, to following the word. Eph. 5:28 – "*So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.*"

A wife longs to be that person Paul describes. I don't know a single wife who does not want to be loved and cherished. She wants to be the princess and wants her husband to be the prince. And that is what the husband is called to be, to give his life for her if need be.

Something in a man longs for his wife to look up to him as he fulfills this role and when she does, it motivates him. He fulfills his role in loving and cherishing her, and she looks up to him for fulfilling the role as her knight and prince, and he loves her more as she shows her respect, and it builds into the kind of relationship that God wants us to have.

Here are some practical tips:

1. She wants you to be close. She wants you to connect. Find a way to connect every single day – and not always sexually. Women don't need big things to feel connected.
2. Open up to her. Many wives feel lonely because their husbands don't talk to them about what's going on in their lives. She feels left out.
3. Your wife is your ally – not your enemy. Wives – keep your husband safe. If he confesses a temptation, keep him close and do not shame him. Men are wired differently than we are and temptation doesn't mean he doesn't love you. He needs your help to overcome.
4. Husbands – don't be bitter. A bitter husband has no hope of openness with his wife. You've got to give up your bitterness because it poisons everything.
5. She needs you to try to understand her. Remember that she is sensitive – she is the weaker vessel and if you want to be in the driver's seat, you have to take the responsibility to address her anxieties.
6. Remember that conflict is not the sign of a bad marriage. Paul said those who marry *will have trouble*. Research has shown that the best marriage relationships have some conflict.
7. Your wife will feel loved when you speak highly of her in front of others, when you give her encouragement or praise, when you notice something different about her hair or dress, and when you are physically affectionate with her in public.
8. LADIES, focus on your husband's positive attributes and tell him you appreciate them. Whether your husband works at McDonald's or the White House, let him know you appreciate his work.
9. Praise his good decisions and be gracious about his bad ones. Disagree with him in private and quietly.
10. Don't expect him to meet your emotional needs if you don't meet his sexual needs.

> *"The best way to have a loving, happy marriage is to decode your spouse's love language. Think about it, pray about it, ask God to show you what your spouse needs, and then work on providing it."*

Ultimately, your marriage relationship has nothing to do with your spouse but everything to do with your relationship with Jesus Christ.

Your spouse doesn't cause the way you are but reveals the way you are. The love and respect connection will work, but it's not a magic pill that you take once and never have to deal with again. It's a lifelong learning process.

Marriage is the relationship that mirrors God's relationship with the church. I don't want to be a miserable Christian, and I don't want to be a miserable spouse. I really don't think you can be aligned with God's will and have an unhappy marriage. I don't want to squander the most important relationship I will have on this earth. As we grow older, it's more important to me than ever to finish strong with God and finish strong with my husband. Here is a poem I wrote to sum it all up:

Sis. Lanette Kinsey
Pensacola, FL

The Front Porch Swing

When upon her hand he placed a ring
They dreamed of children and front porch swings
Of homes and jobs and building a life
While serving God as husband and wife.

They pledged their love in sickness and health
Through joy and storms and absence of wealth
With reckless abandon, straight from the heart
They promised to love until death did them part

But honeymoons end so very soon in a world of greed and loss
Unless our eyes are firmly fixed on Jesus and the cross.
We can't escape the tests of life that come down every lane
Seasons of joy are often followed by unspeakable seasons of pain.

Striving to reach for worldly success can jade our point of view
The only hope we can stand at all is with God as our family glue.
And stand we must so those who follow will know the way to win
And that money nor cars or fancy toys will sustain them in the end

For the treasure built up in heavenly realms is what will prove our worth
It's the legacy that lingers on for those we leave on earth
I'd like nothing better than to reach the end with my companion and my friend
Of a lifetime of memories we'll be able to sing as we dream of heaven
on the front porch swing.

Bio: Lanette Kinsey has been married to the love of her life, Pastor Brian Kinsey, for 36 years and has stood beside him through his years as an evangelist, headquarters official, and pastor. They are the parents of three children, and grandparents of two rambunctious boys and two little divas. Because Lanette is the eldest of seven children, she learned early in life to be a peacemaker and to escape the chaos through books. Her dream was to write a book of her own, which she did in 2006, entitling it *Mostly Martha*.

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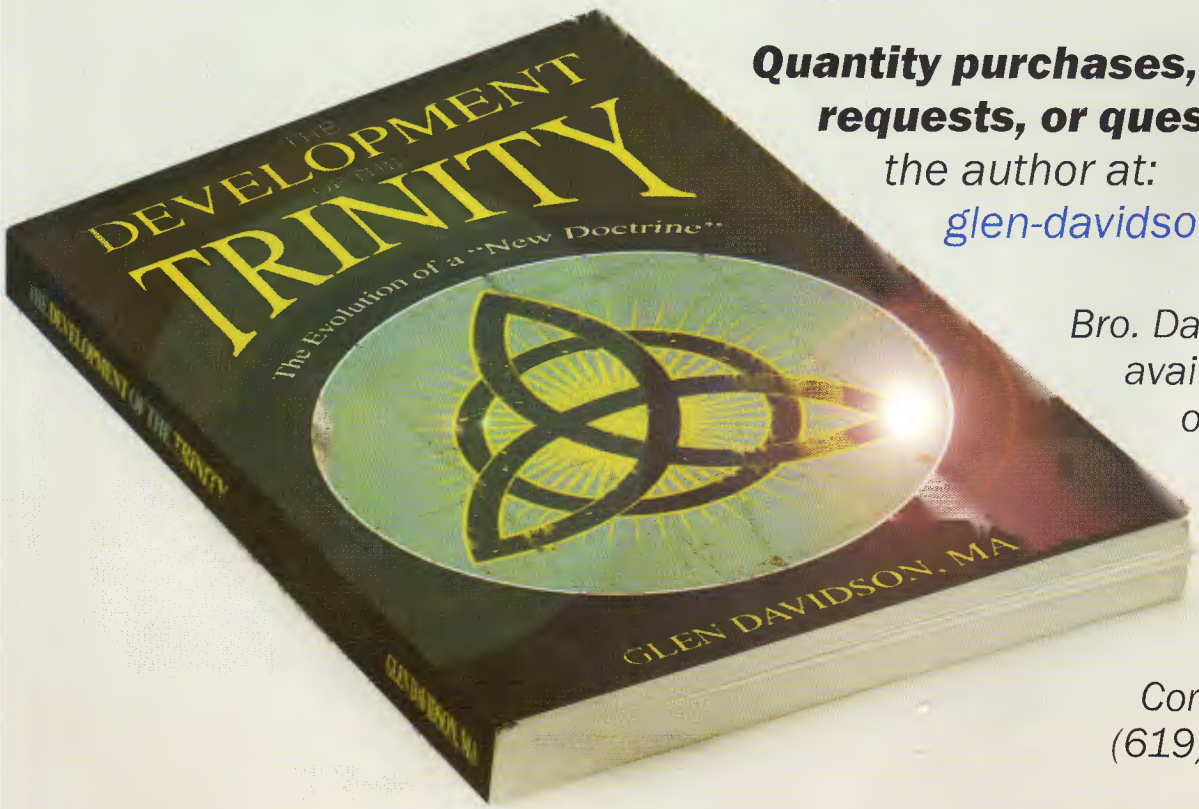

Quantity purchases, seminar requests, or questions? Contact the author at: glen-davidson@bethel.edu.

Bro. Davidson is now available for seminars on this subject, and related subjects such as the history of our Oneness movement. Contact him at: (619) 955-8685.

Atlanta West Pentecostal Choir Wins Again!

Written by Linda Schreckenberg

The anointing always breaks the yoke! It definitely makes the winning difference for Atlanta West Pentecostal Church Choir of Lithia Springs, Georgia. Anyone who sees and hears this powerful choir, directed by Bro. Brandon Frazier, will agree that the Spirit of God is resting upon them. Atlanta West Pentecostal Church, pastored by Bro. Darrell Johns, is very excited that God has used this choir in such a powerful way. Pastor Johns is present at each competition, and the church has seen conversions and many first-time visitors because of these events. Atlanta West Choir has become a favorite of the competitions. God is magnified and exalted by their lively worship, intense praise and apostolic anointing. Their songs are often accompanied by much applause and standing ovations by the audience and judges as well, as the Spirit of God sweeps over them.

The Atlanta West Choir has entered the "How Sweet the Sound" competition, sponsored by Verizon Wireless, three times. The People's Choice Award is given by the audience's choice of the best choir through a text message vote. The judges, however, make the decision on the best choir and who advances to the next level. The national award that all choirs want to win is the title of Best Choir in America. In 2009, Atlanta West won their regional competition and then won the People's Choice Award as well as the title of Best Choir in America at the Joe Louis Arena in Detroit, Michigan. In 2010 and 2011, the choir chose not to enter the competition while they focused on a live recording. Then, in 2012, they re-entered the competition. They won the People's Choice Award and Best Overall Choir at the regional competition held September 10, 2012, where six choirs competed in Atlanta, Georgia. They also recorded a video for a national people's choice award, which will be broadcast on TV One early in 2013. Originally, the venue for the national competition was scheduled for New York City at the brand-new Barclays Center in Brooklyn, but was cancelled due to Hurricane Sandy. Instead of a live competition, videos of the regional winners, in their respective competitions, were shown to a panel of judges. A choir from Chicago, Dexter Walker and Zion Movement, won the title of Best Choir in America in that competition for 2012. The People's Choice Award will be selected by a text message vote when the choirs are televised as mentioned above.

Atlanta West Choir's success captured the attention of Fox 5 News, who came to the church to conduct an interview. The choir also sang on 11 Alive during the Christmas season. "How Sweet the Sound" finalists were also invited to participate in United Healthcare's Walking Challenge. The competition was intended to encourage physical activity and healthier living. Choir members were encouraged to 'walk their way to wellness.' They could walk as a choir or walk on their own. Atlanta West Choir participated and won first place in the competition by taking over 1.1 million steps in one week. Each choir member was given a pedometer to record the number of steps they took, and each had to log in their steps every evening. The church was given a donation of $6,500 for this award.

While the choir waits for the results of the national People's Choice Award, they continue ministering each Sunday and wherever the Lord opens a door of ministry. The last few years have been quite an adventure and an example of what God can do to open doors for His people. The Atlanta West choir has also inspired other UPCI choirs to enter the "How Sweet the Sound" competition in their respective regions.

The choir is featured on the church's website, www.awpc.org.

"10 Doctrines For Kids"

Apostolic Curriculum Designed to Give Kids A Foundation For Beliefs

By Susan Hataway

Do you want a fun, passionate, rock-solid curriculum designed to give Apostolic kids 10 basic doctrines that will serve as a foundation of their belief system? *10 Doctrines for Kids* (*10D4K*) is all that and more!

"We wanted our Apostolic kids to KNOW exactly what they believe and be able to give a defense for it. Too often, our children just have a general idea of their beliefs but *10D4K* firmly establishes exactly what they believe," states Sis. Nan Pamer of Barberton, Ohio. "We have a lot of learning as a culture, but when education is not built upon a foundation of Bible truth, it is 'educated ignorance,'" claims Sis. Pamer. She also adds, "Kids must have the doctrines of the Bible as the foundation of their learning and be able to articulate it! *10 Doctrines for Kids* builds a core of rock-solid truth to build their lives on."

The curriculum is for kindergarten through sixth grades. Sis. Pamer said it is amazing how the kids listen so intently when the issue of their future is addressed and how God wants them to prepare themselves. "Our kids understand how important it is to learn the doctrines of the Bible," she said. "We are seeing Christian maturity at younger ages."

The curriculum has been very successful throughout our Apostolic churches, according to Sis. Pamer. Pentecostal Publishing House began carrying *10D4K* in the fall of 2012 and there has been great growth.

"Our local church, the Apostolic Church of Barberton, teaches *10D4K* every winter on Wednesday nights. We firmly recommend this approach; the year-after-year repetition is the real key to getting it firmly established in the hearts of our kids," proclaims Sis. Pamer.

How does *10D4K* work? The schedule keeps the kids moving so there is no time to be restless or bored. Included is the fun approach and character teaching, along with hard-core serious teaching. There's also the Butcher Paper Wrap-Up where the teacher wraps butcher paper around 8-foot tables and encourages the kids to draw pictures and write about what they have learned.

Sis. Pamer said one component that has been a huge success is the 23:23 Guy. "He's from Proverbs 23:23, 'Buy the truth and sell it not,'" she said. "The most important part of the *10D4K* is a fun exercise of learning the doctrines by name. They repeat by memory the 10 doctrines that are their core beliefs. As long as they live, they will be able to say, 'These are the 10 core beliefs that I have built my life on. I will live by and defend these things as long as I live.'"

What is the cost of this invaluable program for children? It costs $199 and includes an entertaining DVD of all the activities that go with each doctrine, a DVD of Grammy and Pop Wise puppets, a CD of five doctrines put to song by Angela Eller (professionally recorded). Also included is a CD of tests and homework papers. A website is being developed @ 10D4K.com. For more information, call Sis. Pamer at (330)256-3042 ext. 114.

the Apostolic conference

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verb /əˈsend/

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2. To **mount**
3. To **climb**
4. To **go up**
5. To **rise**

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Word To The Wise:

"My wife turned the dishwasher into a snow shoveling device . . . she handed me a shovel."

* * * * * * *

Great Truths That Children Have Learned

~No matter how you try, you can't baptize cats.

~When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.

~If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.

~Never ask your 3-year-old brother to hold a tomato.

~You can't trust dogs to watch your food.

~Never hold a Dustbuster and a cat at the same time.

~You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.

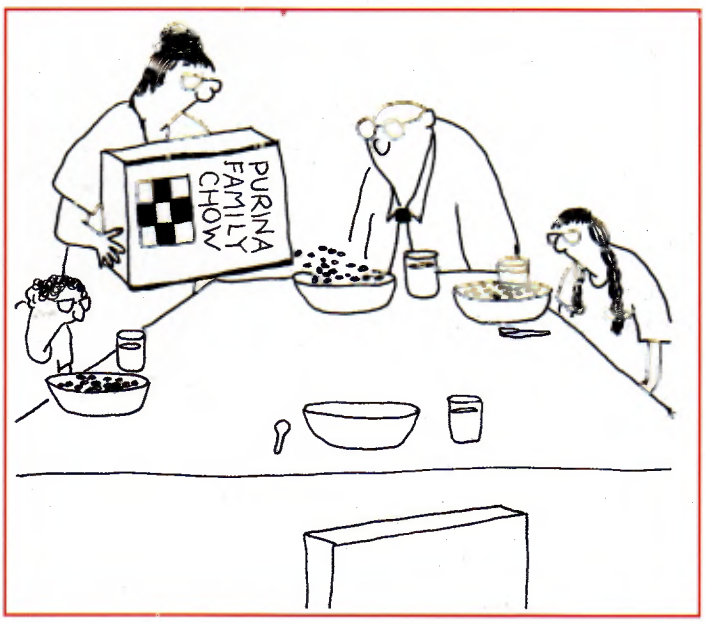
~Don't wear polka-dot underwear under a white skirt.

~The best place to be when you're sad is grandpa's lap.

* * * * * * *

U.S. President Woodrow Wilson's father was a minister. Rather tall and thin, Wilson Sr. made quite a contrast to his horse which was well-built. One day with horse and buggy and young Woodrow along, the minister was asked by a parishioner, "Reverend, how is it that you're so thin and gaunt while your horse is so big and sleek?"

Before he could reply, young Woodrow exclaimed, "Probably because my father feeds the horse, and the congregation feeds my father!"



Dinner time at Pastor Dorfoose's house when the saints forget to pay their tithes.

* * * * * * *

In California, the Suisun-Fairfield Congregational Church bulletin published this item under the auspices of the pastor, the Rev. C.W. Kirkpatrick: "This...is...the...way...the...church...sometimes...looks...to...the...pastor...when...he...goes...into...the...pulpit."

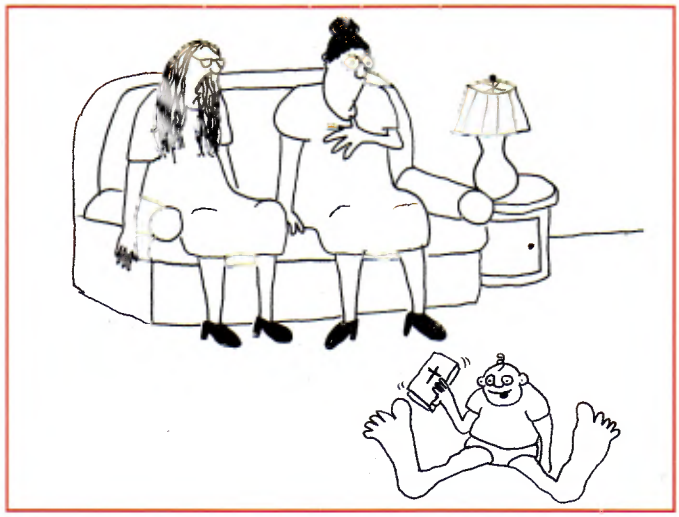
"Wouldlooklikethisifeverybodybroughtsomebodyelsetochurch."

* * * * * * *

A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running to church as fast as she could, trying not to be late for her Bible class.

As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!"

While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! But please don't shove me either!"



"We just keep repeating that verse in Romans, 'How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel...'"

An ironworker calmly walked the narrow beam 15 floors above the city street. Even with the heavy winds blowing and a driving rain falling, he showed no fear and never hesitated. When he came down to ground level a man who had been watching asked, "How did you ever get a job like that?"

"Well," replied the iron worker, "I used to be a youth pastor, but my nerves gave out."

* * * * * * *

Prayers from Children

Dear God, please put another holiday between Christmas and Easter. There is nothing good in there now. -Amanda

Dear God, thank you for the baby brother but what I asked for was a puppy. I never asked for anything before. You can look it up. -Joyce

Dear Mr. God, I wish you would not make it so easy for people to come apart. I had to have three stitches and a shot. -Janet

Dear God, how did you know you were God? Who told you? -Charlene

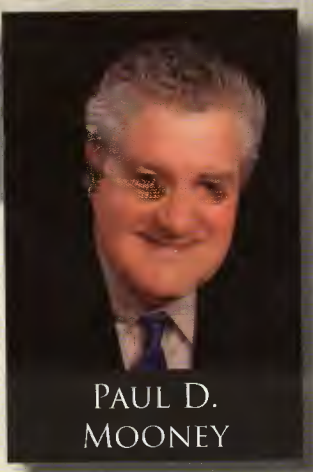
Dear God, I bet it's very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only four people in my family, and I can never do it. -Nancy

Dear God, I like the story about Noah the best of all of them. You really made up some good ones. I like walking on water, too. -Glenn

Dear God, do you draw the lines around the countries? If you don't, who does? -Nathan

"You're a pastor? Seriously? Thank God! We need you to pray over our airplane. Perhaps anoint it with oil? It's not been running too good lately. Would you mind?"

mid-America RENEWAL conference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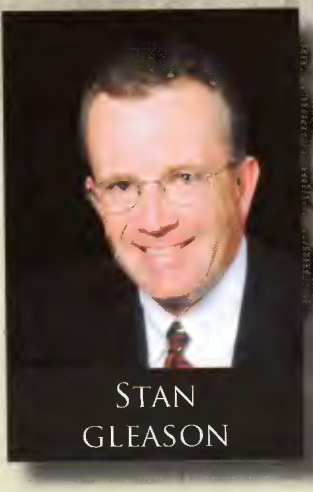
STAN GLEASON

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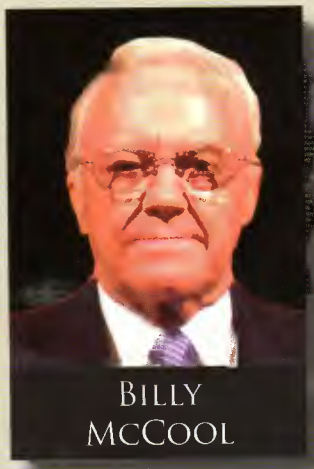
KEN GURLEY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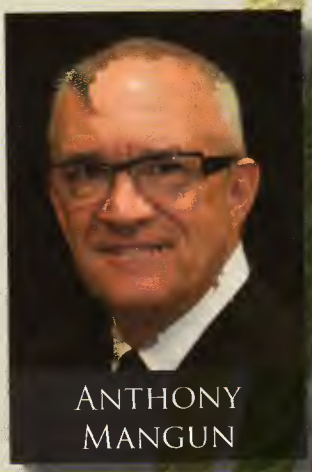
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