VOL.23 NO.05
INDIANA BIBLE COLLEGE

# IBC Perspectives

# KEEP A SOUL CONSCIOUSNESS

P.06

from the publisher

## Paul D. Mooney

# The Issue Is Information

*"True Apostolics have not merely taken on religious tradition, they do not casually address religious doctrine or heedlessly enter religious discourse. True Apostolics have received spiritual revelation through the Spirit and that changes everything!"*

Several years ago, my interest was piqued by a discussion on Chicago's WGN Radio about a conference of several top European and American theologians and scientists who were convening in Strasbourg, France to talk about the future of Christianity. On a lark, and in spite of the costly registration fee, I decided to go. I had 48 hours to get there. After calming my wife's concerns, I caught a plane and arrived on time.

One of the lectures by Dr. Werner Gitt, author of *In the Beginning was Information*, was especially inspiring. Gitt's central point was that "Information, which is a fundamental entity, (is) on equal footing with matter and energy." Simply put, we cannot fulfill the will of God without the truth—the right information. All things within the will of God require information that originates from God. As Jesus expressed in his prayer for the apostles, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17). Right information, as Gitt points out, is what makes a spider a "versatile genius, a chemist who can synthesize silk employing a computer controlled manufacturing process, and then use the silk for spinning." This is possible only because of the information. The spider processes the creative information given for a fixed purpose, within the spider's kingdom.

This principle has amazing application! We preach the apostle's doctrine because it is God's will to create a spiritual person, one who is newly born, redeemed and transformed. And it is God's word, or as the Apostle describes it, "that form of doctrine which was delivered you" (Romans 6:17). Such doctrine, or truth, gives us the specific information needed to accomplish this spiritual transformation. The rejecting of this information is a serious matter. Anything short of obedience to the command given to us in Acts 2:38 is misinformation, and will not accomplish God's intended purpose as it pertains to the creation of a "spiritual man."

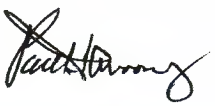
The born-again man is God's fixed purpose, and is accomplished by information and obedience to commandments that are from God. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28:19). The question tendered by the hearers of the Apostle Peter's message was appropriate. "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37). In other words, give us the right information. The apostles had no permission or authority to interject personal opinions.

True Apostolics have not merely taken on religious tradition, they do not casually address religious doctrine, or heedlessly enter religious discourse. True Apostolics have received spiritual revelation through the Spirit and that changes everything! We have died out to the world, and we cannot walk with those who are not in spiritual agreement. A group of ministers recently faced a situation where their peers began to state that Acts 2:38 is not essential to the new birth. They walked away from their association with these men because they were no longer working with the same information. If they could so casually dismiss what actually happened and what was actually said in the first assembly of the disciples after the ascension of Christ, then how could they be in agreement over who we are and who we ought to be? Acts 2:38 has a fixed purpose; obedience to that one verse defines the greatest force in Christianity today: Pentecostalism. (May be verified by many sources).

Without the Bible everything would be unknown. But, we were given the word of God; it is not some unknown entity, and we are subject to its authority. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1). The word is the basis for our spiritual information—the right information matters. This is why the translation battle, the battle for the language of the Bible is so important. We cannot in our own hubris begin to enfeeble the information source by opening it up for selective interpretation, allowing just any translation or elucidation to be as valid as another.

If we receive Colossians 1:16: "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities or powers: all things were created by him and for him," then we must acknowledge that all things are purposeful and planned. Thus the right information, the word of the Creator, is essential.

The word of God is our foundation. It is the source of our hope. Bible preachers are word preachers, and the will and purposes of God are executed through the declaration of God's word when anointed of the Holy Spirit. Such preaching sparks a flame of transforming revelation within the heart of men. This holy information, even if not always fully understood by human intellect, is yet understood through the Holy Spirit—therefore, we can say as the Apostle Paul, "Nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" (2 Timothy 1:12).



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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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# CHURCH WEBSITES

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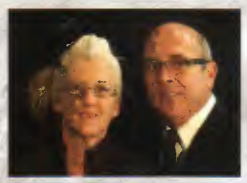
***Robert Martin, Baton Rouge, LA*** -- Our website is very important to our ministry. At one time, it was geared primarily to our members, but it is more of an outreach tool now. It is also used by shut-ins and by members who may not be able to attend a service for whatever reason.

We live stream all our services through our website, and then the services are archived and can be watched at any time. Many of our visitors find us on the Internet. A few years back, most of our visitors found us in the Yellow Pages, but now the Internet is our major contact point. One advantage to people watching before they come is that they see what to expect and feel a little more comfortable when attending. After they visit, we follow up with them and try to schedule a home Bible study.

I understand that some churches don't own websites, because they do not understand or have the ability to launch a site. It is to their advantage to hire someone to create a site for them. There is an initial investment to get the site up and going, but after that the cost is minimal. If a church does not have a web presence, it is missing out on a whole segment of possibilities.



***David L. Rogers, Urbana, IL*** -- Some ministries tend to avoid the Internet because they don't understand the value of it. Church websites are very important, especially in regard to those moving into the area or those who are simply "church shopping." It is the means through which a prospective guest will "check you out" before visiting the church. We have had guests to come who had visited our site.

A church volunteer built our site using the interface on "mychurchwebsite.net." My administrative assistants and I maintain the site. Well-maintained websites are helpful to members, are great advertisement, and should be considered a necessary tool for evangelism.

***Steve Smith, Ossining, NY*** -- It is our experience that most first-time guests who are not already connected with someone in our church have been to our website before visiting. Websites have replaced the traditional Yellow Page ads of the past. In effect, our website is the front door of our church.

I believe it is important for each church to have a website. It is affordable and doable. I built our website through www.sitecube.com and currently make all the changes. It is easy to set up and edit. Having a website should be a priority for every church!

***Steven Thompson, Indianapolis IN*** -- Our website is probably more important to non-churchgoers than it is to our members.

Not every church should have a website, because not every church understands technology. If a church or pastor is much older and not into blogging, live streaming, etc, and if the pastor is not aware of the benefits, they won't keep a website updated. It won't be cost effective.

Some of us don't get into technology because our forefathers didn't. We are not trying to adapt. We want young people to adapt to our culture.

***Art Wilson, Wayne, MI*** -- We have a great Biblical position for having a church website. The Lord was extremely aggressive when it came to evangelism. He went to the people. We need to put our voice wherever we can. Our church is extremely aggressive, and we are going to become even more aggressive with Internet and web advertising—and we are just starting.

We get all kinds of visitors—and we get all kinds of people who are cautious. With the Internet, they can visit us before they visit us. We make sure that they know our service times; they can see our staff and leadership and know our vision. Any kid is equipped to run your website. We use a very easy interface. Everything is streamed. Our archives go back one year. People love it! If somebody is sick, they can go to the website and be at service by watching every aspect of it on Ustream.

We get stuck in a rut whenever we are against everything. Maintaining a site requires effort, and we tend to be on autopilot. Communicate with other pastors that have it—and get on board. Every church should have a website; nobody is exempt. We are using what is called Google AdWords, and we're getting 40,000 hits every six months.

***Pastor J.D. McGee, Virden, IL*** -- We have reached 42 countries through our website and webcast. We use Google Analytics (GA) to track that data. About 80% of the traffic is going from the main page into our webcast.

Older pastors grew up in a time when outreach was knocking on doors. With a website, we can reach locally and around the world. Someone in GA sent me a message that they would not be watching anymore because they found a UPC church. Others have found churches as a result of visiting our site.

***Paul K. Shindoll, Hurst, TX*** -- We have had a lot of traffic on our website. In fact, a new couple that attends our church found us on the Internet. I contacted them from their e-mail inquiry, and they were in the very next service and have not missed a service since. Many people are under the impression that a website is too complicated, too expensive, and too hard to maintain. However, numerous sites are easy enough for anyone to build.

Without a website, churches are missing out on an amazing opportunity to reach people.

***Jarrid W. Younkin, Lake Havasu City, AZ*** -- Apostolics who do not use websites are behind the curve; it may be a generational thing. In modern 21st century North America, having a website is far more important than being in the phone book or the local newspaper. The first place people go to is the web when they look for a church or ministry, especially unchurched people aged 40 and under. Dollars spent are well worth it.

Two UPCI brothers built our site. The minor updates are left to us. We are discussing posting our audio sermons later in the year. If you don't exist on the Internet, you don't exist.

By Christina Li

"I think the most important thing is to keep a constant soul consciousness in the church," says Bro. Robert Martin, pastor of Voice of Pentecost Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and General Superintendent of Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ (ALJC). "Everyone is a witness, everyday. It's not an activity; it's a lifestyle."

Pastor Martin believes a pastor's priorities "should be placed in developing like-minded leaders. As they develop they will be an extension of you and your philosophy in every department and ministry of the church. Having regular meetings with church leaders is of primary importance in order to ensure unity of purpose and to measure successes and failures."

*The Martin family - Baton Rouge, LA*

### Encourage Increase

"To increase church attendance we encourage the teaching of home Bible studies. We have many people involved in this ministry. Also, our young people are actively involved in Bible studies - several teach Bible studies in their public schools, and our students have started student ministry at LSU (Louisiana State University) and participate in group meetings at other universities. Everyone we reach may not attend our church because of distances, preferences, etc., but we teach a kingdom concept -- the kingdom is larger than any local assembly. If any church is having revival, we are all having revival."

Pastor Martin continues. "We also encourage our people to constantly invite friends and family members to church. Every month we will have at least one 'special' activity tailor-made for guests. Any guest that comes will be inundated with handshakes and greetings. We are known for our friendliness. Everyone is someone special here."

### Encourage Involvement

Pastor Martin believes simple encouragement is necessary for increasing involvement. "Constantly speak of Bible studies being taught, visitors that come because of them, and so on. Speak of the blessings of involvement. We tend to have more that want to be involved for the positions available. So we encourage Bible studies as a threshold of involvement. Everyone can witness and teach a Bible study."

Voice of Pentecost Church has several ministries such as "Student Ministry (local church youth ministry, but also including high school and college organizations), KidzQuest Ministry, Women's Esprit Ministry, Menistry (men's ministry), PrimeTimers (50+), Overcomers (divorced and widowed; those facing great difficulties), Tender Touch (follow-up ministry), Outreach (Bible studies, etc.), Married Life (especially for young marrieds), NEXT (college and career), Hispanic Ministry (they have their own services), and World Missions Ministry (constant support for missions, with visits by missionaries on a regular basis)."

Pastor Martin meets monthly with his ministry leaders. They all have specific job descriptions. During the meetings, "we discuss our goals, successes and failures. We do a monthly overview. I allow them to make plans, and we discuss those plans. I try to give them trust and allow them to be engaged in their ministry without micromanaging." For training, "I provide materials and encourage each leader to attend conferences that are tailored to their respective ministries." Forty percent of his members are involved in some form of ministry with 25 percent involved specifically in evangelism.

Pastor Martin includes in his list of miracles from the Lord, "rapid development of Hispanic ministry; multitudes of restorations, including scores of preachers; many healings, including a doctor that has been healed of cancer; and a true multicultural church that is open and inviting to everyone. We have about 250 members – 25 percent black, 15 percent Hispanic."

### Encourage Ministry

Pastor Martin's philosophy of ministry is to simply "love people. It's His church, not mine. The person is more important than the performance. If we err, err on side of mercy, not judgment. Give people the benefit of the doubt. Life is already tough; church shouldn't compound the problems. We are a refuge. We need one another. People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. Don't neglect your family - if you win the whole world and lose your family, you lose! These are things constantly stated in our meetings and church services."

Pastor Martin enjoys preaching mercy and grace the most. "Encourage people that they can and will make it! I have preached and preach many sermons based on the Prodigal Son. We are a true restoration church. Hurting people come all the time, and they are our continual focus. At one point we had four backslidden preachers attending. All were restored and have moved on to other areas of ministry. They don't all stay here, but they know they will be loved and restored here. And again, the kingdom is bigger than one location. We understand that. We do our part. If they stay, great. If they go elsewhere, as long as they are in the truth we are satisfied."

Pastor Martin has seen "a constant, continual, incremental growth from 30 to 250 over 20 years. I don't recall any particular one time of great growth. Although the last year has seen a growth of about 50."

### History of Voice of Pentecost

"Our founding pastor, Ken Mayo, started the church in someone's living room in 1989. They moved to a storefront/warehouse. He began construction of our original metal building in 1991. The foundation was poured and the metal frame was up, and he was killed in a solo plane crash (at the age of 33). Construction was put on hold. The storefront lease was broken. The few people were scattered and those who remained were renting another church on Sunday afternoons. I was evangelizing and had preached for Bro. Mayo previously. I was asked to preach a time or two after the accident. I had no desire to pastor. But when they voted and did not select any of the 'candidates', they asked of my interest. I began to develop feeling for the pain and hurt they were going through. I said if no one else gets it, introduce my

*Exterior of Voice of Pentecost Church in Baton Rouge, LA*

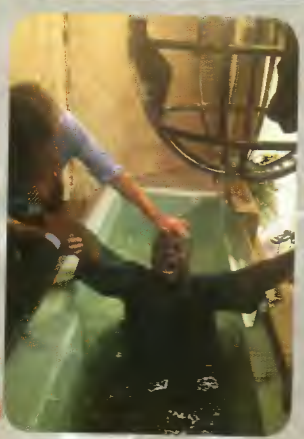
name. I was elected. I was 27 years old and single. (I married my wife five years later). There were about 30 people when I came. God has blessed us with gradual growth up to about 250 over the last 20 years. I feel that our church's background and all that we have experienced together has developed a keen sense of mercy and grace and compassion among us. It has made us a church of restoration. Mercy, grace and restoration are in our DNA."

### *Future Plans*

The Voice of Pentecost has recently purchased property off a brand-new interstate connection, and plans are underway to begin construction of a new 700-seat sanctuary. Pastor Martin said, "We want to expand our vision and help reach and restore as many people as possible. We are excited about our future."

### *Closing Comments*

"We are all simply shepherds. We need to get our hands dirty and help people. Don't be a castle builder, but build God's kingdom. And remember that the kingdom is much bigger than any of us and of any organization. An organization is man made, but kingdom is a God thing. Don't think too much of yourself; but don't think too little of God's abilities. Love people. Love people. Love people! And always love your family. Don't neglect them. If you win the whole world and lose your family, you lose."



*Top clockwise: Pastor Martin and the praise team worship during service; the children pray at the altar; a man is blessed during his baptism. Far right: a view from the balcony of the interior of the sanctuary.*

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# Study: Homeschoolers Get More Beneficial Sleep

Researchers have determined teens who are homeschooled benefit from healthier sleep habits than those who go to most private and public schools. The findings provide additional evidence of teens' altered biological clocks and support an argument for starting traditional high school later in the morning.

"We have a school system that is set up so that the youngest children, who are awake very early in the morning, start school latest, and our adolescents, who need sleep the most, are being asked to wake up and go to school at a time when their brains should physiologically be asleep," said Lisa Meltzer, PhD, a sleep psychologist at National Jewish Health in Denver. "Adolescents need nine hours of sleep a night and if they're only getting seven hours, on average, by the end of the week they are a full ten hours of sleep behind schedule, and that impacts every aspect of functioning."

Meltzer and her colleagues charted the sleep patterns of 2,612 students, including nearly 500 who are homeschooled. They found that adolescent homeschooled students slept an average of 90 minutes more per night than public and private school students, who were in class an average of 18 minutes before homeschooled children even awoke.

If your teenager needs more sleep, why not just send them to bed earlier? "It's not that simple," said Meltzer. Melatonin, the hormone that helps regulate our sleep, shifts by about two hours during puberty. So, even if they wanted to get to sleep earlier, teenagers are battling biological changes in their bodies that are nearly impossible to overcome. Meltzer offers this advice:

- Get all electronics out of the bedroom. TVs, computers, video games and phones are major distractions for teens and often delay sleep.
- Don't look at any screens 30-60 minutes before bed time. Though turning off media is as simple as flipping a switch, the human brain does not work the same way. Being stimulated by media just before bed can make the brain too active to sleep.
- Set up family charging stations, where mom, dad and the kids plug in their phones at night so they are out of reach.
- Most importantly, set a consistent routine. Go to bed and get up at the same time every day, even on weekends. This can help regulate your body's internal clock.

## PURE Religion

by Stephen Judd

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*By Stephen Judd, TCM President*

Stephen Judd
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3. To **climb**
4. To **go up**
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Rev. Lee Stoneking

**Friday**
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Interview by Gregg Stone

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***What is FAITHWORKS Image Consulting? How can it help a church?***

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As a senior pastor, I realize the importance of creating a culture to meet today's challenges. FAITHWORKS can relate to pastors who are passionate about carrying out God's purpose for their life, ministry and work. This is the very reason a team was created that is closely connected with ministry. Together, we will help create, design and communicate to the targeted audience that God has called you to reach.

***Tell us a little about yourself, and why you started FAITHWORKS.***

For 12 years, I was bi-vocational and worked for one of the top 10 banks in the U.S. My final years, I served as a project manager in marketing which targeted small business owners with annual revenues between three and 10 million dollars in sales. In 2005, I saw a great gap within our churches in the area of marketing and design. This led me to take my love for marketing and launch FAITHWORKS Image Consulting. Like any small business, we started very small. Today, we have a total of three employees, including one full-time lead designer, one part-time designer, and myself as lead consultant. Together we have over 20 years of combined experience of ministry, marketing and design.

Our passion is to help churches and pastors around the globe to reach their community. Although I understand marketing alone is not going to save a soul, it can draw them to walk through the front door where they can experience the gospel. As a senior pastor, I understand the heartbeat of the local church and pastor. I often say, 'FAITHWORKS was not created because I needed another job, but was created with a passion to help churches reach their world!'

***Why is this ministry needed?***

Many pastors are not equipped with the gifting of design and marketing. They are called and chosen to do a great work in their city but lack the ability in this area. This is why I like to use the word *partner*. When we are contracted to help a local ministry, it is not about our vision but about their vision. I believe this ministry is needed for the reason most secular design companies cannot relate to us as pastors and leaders when we try to explain to them how God has spoken to us for our local ministry. FAITHWORKS fills this void.

***What do you see as the greatest needs of churches in the area of marketing and image?***

I feel that there are many great needs in this area for churches because as I mentioned before, this is not an area of expertise for most pastors. If I could target one item, it would be the lack of a consistent image and brand both within the church and in the community. Many times, I see churches giving out business cards, invite cards, or even promoting a website, and then when guests arrive at the church, they feel like they entered the wrong building, because everything that they received outside the church looks totally different when they walk in the building. This is where having a partner helps. We help manage the image and brand so it stays consistent with the vision.

***You usually work with a "package" approach. What exactly is this?***

The package approach makes it easy for a new client to get started. Again, because most pastors are not sure where to begin, we want to make it easy for them to choose a starting point. These four packages we have created are the foundational pieces to help begin a consistent image and brand.

***Tell us about your DVD services. How can this help my church?***

If a local church wanted to do a promotional video to be distributed by direct mail, on social media sites, a website, or to be an item handed out as an evangelism tool, we can help. You can visit our website (faithworks.us) and see the samples we have done through our partner and/or also visit our Facebook page @faithworksimage.

***What other services do you offer churches?***

FAITHWORKS is more than just a logo design company; we are a full-service marketing and design group. As I have mentioned, we see ourselves as partners in ministry. Because of that, we do not look at each client as a short-term project.

In our initial consultation, our client will fill out an extensive questionnaire, which then will be followed up with a conference call. At that point, we will identify stages of design for the church. It is impossible to do everything at once; therefore, we will lay out a plan and suggest priorities for the different phases of marketing and design. Our team brings a great strength of diversity in understanding pastoral ministry and the professional side of design. We combine these two strengths to help each church we partner with. There is no way to list everything we do for churches specifically in this one interview, but if I summarized everything into one sentence, it would be like this: we help develop the God-given vision in the local church, through creating a sustainable image that can be well-branded in your community.

***How important is a good website? What should be on a church website?***

This is such a vital area. Most first-time guests will have visited your website and will have made a decision whether or not to visit your church based on what they see. I encourage any church to not scale back on investing in a great site. This is a huge tool of evangelism. One major failure on most church websites is stale, dated events. This is an immediate turn-off when someone sees events from months prior or even years. When you choose a web provider, choose one that is easy to update yourself and where graphics can be easily updated.

***What type of results have you seen, as far as churches, after they have used FAITHWORKS?***

Marketing or creating a brand is not about getting instant results overnight. It is through a process of time, having a consistent presence of marketing, which will build a strong brand in your community. This is why it is important to know your investment in this area cannot be a one-time investment. Just as you invest in having special speakers come to strengthen your congregation year after year, it is the same way with marketing. There should be a yearly budget for marketing.

If you are looking for specific testimonies, you will find a few on our website. Upon request, we would be happy to give you names of different pastors and churches we have helped across the U.S.

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

# apostolic calendar 2013

| DATE | EVENT | LOCATION | SPEAKERS | CONTACT / INFO |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| June 12-14 | **Power Conference 2013 - Corinth, MS**<br>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<br>Host Pastor: Josh Hodum | Marrell Cornwell and Jerry Dillon | For more information<br>(662) 872-9999 |
| July 2013 | **Mile High Conference: 2013**<br>Rocky Mountain Region Meeting designed to strengthen the cause of Oneness, holiness-minded preachers, churches and families. | Calvary Apostolic Church<br>5900 E. Yale Ave.<br>Denver, CO 80222<br>Host Pastor: D.E. Haymon | Caleb Adams, Martyn Ballestero, Scott Graham, Donald Lance, Sean Libby, Steve Pixler, Darin Sargent | (303) 758-5900<br>www.cacdenver.org<br>DEH2@comcast.net |
| July 12-13 | **The Well Ladies Conference: Times of Refreshing - Weslaco, TX**<br>Today's woman is bombarded everyday with messages that bring question and concern to their wellbeing. The Well is a place where lives can be refreshed and hope can be restored for the journey ahead. | Pentecostals of Weslaco<br>502 Sugar Cane<br>Weslaco, Texas 78596 | Lia Matthews, Annette Elms and Gordon Poe | For more information: visit www.gordonpoe.com/TOR/conference.<br>(717) 755-7202 |
| July 30-Aug 1 | **IMPACT Family Conference 2013**<br>Day sessions to meet the needs of your entire family unit (Married, Single, Parents, Teens & Children) and your church leadership. | Woodlawn Church<br>Hwy 98 - Columbia, MS<br>Host Pastor: James Carney | To be announced | For detailed schedule, visit www.woodlawnchurch.cc<br>(601) 736-5128 |
| Aug 3-6 | **Arkansas Campmeeting - North Little Rock, AR**<br>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**<br>A conference designed for the North American Missionary and Church Planter. | Parkway Pentecostal Church<br>1620 Mannsdale Rd.<br>Madison, MS 39110<br>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 17-18 | **Men's Conference: Times of Refreshing - San Benito, TX**<br>Today's man is bombarded everyday with messages that bring question and concern to their well-being. The Men's Conference is a place where men can be revived, equipped and empowered. | The Pentecostal Church of San Benito, TX<br>873 Zillock Rd., San Benito, TX 78586 | Ron Wofford, Gordon Poe and others | For more information: visit www.gordonpoe.com/TOR/conference.<br>(717) 755-7202 |
| Aug 22-23 | **Investing in Futures**<br>A conference for those who invest in children. Educating, encouraging and equipping children's ministry workers. | The Apostolic Sanctuary<br>1501 John Deere Parkway<br>Silvis, IL 61282<br>Host pastor: Gary Randol | Steve Willeford and Aaron Soto | For more information: visit invest-in-futures.com |
| Sept 2013 | **Mid-America Renewal Conference (MARC)**<br>Indianapolis, IN. A power packed preaching conference in the heart of the Midwest. | Calvary Tabernacle<br>902 Fletcher Ave.<br>Indianapolis, IN<br>Host: Paul D. Mooney | To be announced | For more info call:<br>(317) 262-4030<br>or visit our web site at:<br>www.calvarytabindy.org |
| Sept 26-28 | **Eagle's Summit Apostolic Conference New Whiteland, IN**<br>A conference for saints, staff and leadership alike which focuses on equipping the minister and believer for Apostolic ministry. | Liberty Tabernacle<br>6177 N. 75 W., New Whiteland, IN 46184<br>Pastor Brian Lane | Fred Childs, Dr. James Hughes and John Arcovio | For more information:<br>(888) 776-0797<br>www.eaglessummit.net |
| Oct 11-12 | **Oklahoma District Women's Esprit Conference - Yukon, OK**<br>Early Registration: $35/$40. Deadline for early registration: September 30, 2013 | First Pentecostal Church,<br>1100 South Cornwell Dr.<br>Yukon, OK 73099 | Karen Rhinehart, Judith St. Clair and Nita Hodges | For more information:<br>(405) 354-3388<br>wepresident@yahoo.com |
| Oct 17-20 | **Impartation 2013 - Great Falls, MT**<br>Holiday Inn: Oct. 17-19<br>Praise Tabernacle: Oct. 20 | Holiday Inn<br>400 10th Ave. S.<br>Praise Tabernacle,<br>2121 13th St. South,<br>Great Falls, MT 59405 | Lee Stoneking | For more information:<br>call 406-268-1780 or www.praisetabernaclegtf.com |
| Nov 6-8 | **West Coast Conference - Fresno, CA**<br>30th Annual Fresno Meeting | Fresno Convention Center<br>848 M St., Fresno, CA<br>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:<br>(559) 225-1622<br>www.truthtabfresno.org |
| Feb 2014 | **WinterFire 2014**<br>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 |
| April 10-12 | **Eagle's Summit Apostolic Conference Santa Rosa, CA**<br>A conference for saints, staff and leadership alike which focuses on equipping the minister and believer for Apostolic ministry. | Santa Rosa, CA | Stan Gleason, Raymond Woodward, Dr. James Hughes and John Arcovio | For more information:<br>(888) 776-0797<br>www.eaglessummit.net |

# Church Today: As The World Goes, So Goes The Church?

Robert L. Rodenbush

## Church Today

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***As the world goes -- so goes the church?***

In reaction to the Supreme Court debate on same-sex marriage, the cover of the April 8, 2013 issue of *Time* magazine reads, "GAY MARRIAGE ALREADY WON. The Supreme Court hasn't made up its mind—but America has." The bold yellow headline sits beside a photo of two men in a passionate kiss. The corresponding article is entitled, "How Gay Marriage Won" written by David Von Drehle. In a telling opening line he states, "The gay and lesbian community has gone from stonewall to the altar in two generations."

Von Drehle's article explores the rapid advances of the gay-rights movement in America and makes the bold claim that indeed the great tipping point has been reached. "...No matter what the Justices decide after withdrawing behind their velvet curtain, the courtroom debate—and the period leading up to it—made clear that we have all been eyewitnesses to history. In recent days, weeks and months, the verdict on same-sex marriage has been rendered by rapidly shifting public opinion and by the spectacle of swing-vote politicians scrambling to keep up with it."

Unfortunately, I fear they are right. The will of America to fight for traditional Judeo-Christian values has been usurped in apathy. She waived the white flag, and the enemy was prepared to set up residence. America surrendered her morals for materialism and her ethics for entertainment. She clearly was willing to cower her head in deference to political correctness while the gay lesbian bi-sexual and transgender (GLBT) community infiltrated every area of society. America became tolerant of their influence in the education system. America ignored their voices and laughed along as they subtly wove their message into sitcoms, television programs, movies and even kids cartoons.

So today the American church acts surprised. Surprised that the war is over? Surprised that we lost? The battle is in the heart. It doesn't matter what the laws say, how the rules come down. America doesn't want to be governed by morality. But, what about the church? A recent survey by the Public Religion Research Institute found that nearly half, 44% of young evangelicals between the ages of 18 to 29, favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry. This is no longer just the world's problem. Apostolic young people are increasingly, and unnecessarily, confused by this issue, unable to define sexual sin, and unwilling to stand for biblical morality.

Yes, the Bible is clear that homosexuality is a sin. But, if we cannot win the battle of the heart the rules, our manuals, our laws, even the Bible won't matter. We must be more than mere "swing-vote" preachers and Christians who chase public favor and opinion. America has lost the war on same-sex marriage—What about the church?

Bobby Killmon

## Theology

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***What is the place of counseling in the Church? Is it profitable to use Psychology or Psychotherapy?***

One of the buzz words in counseling making its way often uncritically into our movement is *integration*, which says take the Bible and integrate it with secular counseling methods. Let me say any tools which help without compromising the truth about us, our world or others are fine. However, there's inherent dangers in secular approaches.

Here's the starting point. How does a minister, counselor or therapist purpose to know what they know? It's a question regarding our source of authority and touches our theory of knowledge or epistemology. There are basically four approaches to knowledge regarding counseling strategies I'll discuss here. First is intuition, or what feels right. Scripture shows our feelings often lead us astray. The second approach uses reason as the basis of knowledge or "what do I think about it"? You'll hear phrases like, "It makes sense to me...." The problem is we are fallen and what makes "sense" to us is often merely self-justification (Prov. 14:12). Thirdly, some use empiricism or what tests/data show us ("research shows..."). The problem using only this is though you collect data there's still no "interpretive grid" or way to make value judgments on the data. The last approach is based on special revelation. What does God say? (see Rom. 3:4). So at the beginning we must say as Christians that God's word is the key starting point.

How does starting with Scripture help us reject what's bad in secular approaches to counseling? It gives us keys to addressing human reality instead of wasting our time using faulty starting points resulting from trying to "integrate" wrong ideas. Some grounding questions every counselor must answer show if "integration" has compromised them at some level on key issues. These are a test by which any minister can evaluate "approaches" and/or counselors as profitable to use. What is mankind's makeup? Someone has said behind every secular psychology is an unbiblical anthropology. Why? Because they claim people are basically good. The Bible says exactly the opposite. We are fallen or basically selfish. Next, what is wrong? Is the problem the person or is it always some outside force? Are most problems rooted in our own pride, desires and sins? Or do most problems come from what has happened to us from people or events? Next, what is the solution? How are we "fixed"? What standard should be used to evaluate this and why? Are we to be conformed to the image of Christ or become comfortable with our desires (Freud's Id) and dismiss authority structures which try to define morality (Freud's Super-ego)?

These key issues are ways to look at approaches and evaluate them as useful or something that must be discarded if we are to truly help people. We must have access to real answers. That's only in revelation.

T. W. Massengale

## Church Growth

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***We are a small church and wanting to put our focus on outreach methods that really work. What methods do you suggest?***

Not all evangelism methods are created equal. The fact that you can cut down a tree with a pocket knife or a chainsaw illustrates that not all 'tools' are created equal. But growth only comes by sowing gospel seed (see Ps. 126:6). So the more seed you sow, the more harvest you will have. That being said, here is a quick list of my favorite methods of evangelism: (1) Bringing guests to church services (100% of your new converts come from your guests). (2) A comprehensive guest follow-up program to encourage guests to return (only 7% receive the Holy Spirit the first time they come). (3) A vibrant Home Bible Study Ministry. (4) The 'Constant Contact Consciousness' ministry. (4) A bus or van ministry to bring children, youth and adults. (5) The 'Parentreach' method to win bus children's parents. (6) A car ministry to encourage a guest rider in every car now coming. (7) Saturday Door-Knocking (very effective when done right). (8) Neighborhood Bible Studies. (9) An annual 'Open Your Home to a Home Bible Study' promotion. (10) Prospect Evangelism. (11) Going door-to-door with the Quest International Research Survey. (12) An annual 'Soul-Winner Training' course taught on Bible study night (13) A Monthly Holy Ghost Sunday. (14) The Complete New Convert Care System.

Our harvest is directly proportional to the amount of seed we sow. If we sow sparingly, we reap sparingly, but if abundantly, we reap abundantly. If a church wants to see more souls saved each year, they must sow more seed. While not everyone will get involved in the harvest, strive to use those that will. Pray, plan, and go out with boldness, and God will bring the increase.

If you are unfamiliar with any of these methods, please call 1-800-800-0247 and we will send you a detailed explanation of each. Cost is $5.00 which includes postage. Or e-mail me at tmassengale@apostolic.edu.

August 22-23, 2013

# INVESTING IN FUTURES

## A Conference for Those Who Invest in Children

Educating, Encouraging, and Equipping Children's Ministry Workers

Thursday

Steve Willeford

Friday

Aaron Soto

**Host Church**
**Gary L. Randol**
**The Apostolic Sanctuary**
**1501 John Deere Parkway Silvis, IL 61282**
**Phone: (309) 792-0414**

**Day Clinicians:** Brandon Buford, Steve Cannon, Debbi Cantu, Marrell Cornwell, Matthew Johnson, Vickie Oliver, Lloyd Squires, Pat Wehlage, and WAP staff!

**Endorsed by:**

sundayschool

Register @ invest-in-futures.com
Pre-Registration - $45 (Group of 5 or more from church - $40 each)
August 1 - $55 (Group of 5 or more from church - $50 each)

Arkansas Campmeeting

# ROCK -SOLID- PREACHING

## August 3-6, 2013

www.arkansascampmeeting.com

Host Pastors: Joel & Nathan Holmes
First Pentecostal Church of North Little Rock

Carol Clemans

## Spiritual Growth

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### Jesus, The Healer of Our Brokenness

We have recorded the first DVD that will be produced by Life Enrichment Ministries, Inc. The subject is "Jesus, the Healer of Our Brokenness." It lays the foundation for equipping the church to become healing helpers. In this world we have hurting multitudes. When we bring them to the cross, then we have saved hurting multitudes. We need to know how to help the hurting (from the pain in their past) to be healed by knowing and applying God's truth. When we *know* the truth, we can be set free.

When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, Lazarus was bound up in his grave clothes even though he was alive. Jesus said to those around Lazarus, "Loose him and let him go." The church must learn how to help "loose the grave clothes" of the stinkin' thinkin' of the hurting.

We plan to record additional DVDs on all the subjects that I counsel. It's cognitive behavioral therapy through the Word of God. Cognitive equals our thinking processes. Behavior equals our actions. The therapy is the Word of God. We can be transformed by renewing our minds with God's Word.

As soon as the DVD is produced, it will be posted on my website: www.carolclemans.org. I've been counseling for 21 years. It thrills my heart to see how God's Word changes people's lives. I provide confidential counseling nationwide by phone/webcam for pastors and others. I provide local counseling from my home office in Madison, MS. I love teaching for churches/conferences, sharing the healing truth that only comes from God. For speaking or counseling call: (636) 448-0121.

***Carol Clemans is a Certified Pastoral Counselor, Christian Life Coach & anointed 'treacher' of God's Word. Rev. Harold & Carol Clemans are part of Parkway Church with pastor, Bishop Jerry Dillon in Madison, MS. Order teaching CD's and book: God's Design for Marriage @ www.carolclemans.org***

Brian Norman

## Revival Concepts

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### Receiving Grace For Growth

*"But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men . . . And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers."* - Ephesians 4:7-11

It would be the rare person that does not like or would not want a gift. I certainly know I like gifts. And almost any, if not every Christian loves and would like more of the grace of God in their life. But did you know these two things are tied together?

You see, the scripture plainly states in Ephesians 4:7 that "every one of us is given *grace* ACCORDING to the MEASURE of the *gift* of Christ." The level of grace flowing into our lives is tied to what measure we are receiving Christ's gift(s). Interestingly, the scriptural passage continues on to talk about Christ giving "gifts unto men" and then identifies some of the main gifts i.e. apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. The fivefold ministry is a gift from God to His bride, the Church!

In the process of starting new works and working with pastors and leaders in my travels, I have noticed an undeniable, identifiable trait of churches with great, maintained attendance growth. They allow the fivefold to work in a Biblically balanced and intended way. If we are to have genuine Apostolic revival we must be Apostolic in action or operation as well as in doctrine and name. This is a recipe for revival and certain to bring growth.

The key is being Spirit-led and Biblical-based. These two things DO NOT ever contradict each other. After all, the Bible is the *sword of the Spirit.* So do you want growth? Do you truly want an Apostolic church that is experiencing genuine Apostolic revival and growth? Then let greater grace flow into your local body by receiving the fivefold ministry, operating in a proper and Biblically balanced way.

***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

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### I just received a letter from the IRS stating they were examining my tax return for the prior year. What do I do?

Unfortunately, this is a part of the American way of life that we don't like or look forward to. However, it is something that all of us have to be prepared to go through.

As a minister, you will be examined first on your income. How did you receive funds from the church? Are you self-employed or an employee for tax purposes? This is critical as pastors have been designated as employees for tax purposes. If you received a W-2 from the church, then your audit will be much smoother. You should have the documentation to prove the income on the W-2 and your housing allowance.

Regarding expenses claimed on the tax return, you must provide documentation that will verify the deduction. If you claimed charitable donations, then you will need your statement from the church showing how much you gave. You will also want this statement to be in compliance with the current regulations concerning per day donations.

If you claimed other expenses such as Schedule C or for Form 2106, you must verify the expenditures with receipts and/or other forms of documentation. Unless specified by the auditor, you will need to verify everything that has been reported on your tax return.

In addition, one of the best things you can do as soon as you get the letter from the IRS is to contact your tax preparer. He or she can assist you in gathering the necessary information needed. In fact, if your tax preparer is a CPS, attorney or Enroll/Registered Agent, the preparer can handle the audit for you without you having to be at the examination. This certainly would be to your advantage. Don't panic. Just contact your tax preparer and let him or her handle the matter for you.

***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

### Smiles That Save

"I'm going to walk to the bridge. If one person smiles at me on the way, I will not jump." This was written in a suicide note found on the San Francisco Golden Gate Bridge. You are telling me that not one person on that long walk to the Golden Gate Bridge smiled at this man? Did anyone smile at him before then? He was so desperate to feel cared for, even to see a stranger just show the smallest of gestures. My stomach churns when I think about how many other people feel this way too. People that long to feel cared for and valued. Many don't even know what it feels like to be truly cared for anymore.

When out with my youth group the common question we hear when we go somewhere is, "Who are you guys?" So I began to wonder why people kept asking that. On a missions trip to Tohatchi, New Mexico this spring break, the teller at a gas station near the church asked this same question, "Who are you guys?" She asked, "You all seem so happy or something." I told her we were from the church right up the street. A month later, my buddy Javier was hanging out in a park with some other IBC students. They met a lady and her kids who were having a picnic and she asked them, "Who are you guys?" They told her where they were from and then she went on to say, "I haven't met people that act like you all in a long time; you're so happy, it's good to see some upstanding youth still today." All in all, she was impressed by something she felt from them. It dawned on me that that feeling was the joy of the Lord!

Your youth group is a powerful soul-winning tool, and they need to know this. I can remember plenty of times after a great youth service that we would be out eating somewhere, and I could see people watching our youth group wondering what's different about them. Smiles, laughter, and the Holy Ghost. The first two they see, the last one they don't, but they feel it and don't understand. We need to teach our youth that their everyday activities are a great testimony to others and a powerful tool to reach the lost. When they are at school, their friends feel it too. So we need to inform them that what they have is beyond words. They should look for opportunities to talk about why they are so happy. How many people are looking for a smile today in this glum world? How powerful would it be if they got that smile from a teenager in your youth group?

## THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS

### Couple Offers Surrogate $10,000 to Kill Baby

The drama started when doctors discovered the baby Crystal Kelley was carrying had a cleft lip and palate, a cyst in her brain and serious heart defects. When Kelley agreed to a surrogate pregnancy for a couple who wanted a fourth child, she never dreamed it would end with a bribe and legal maneuvers to force an abortion.

At 21 weeks pregnant, CNN reports Kelley was "absolutely terrified" about the next ultrasound and the parents' reaction. But Kelley couldn't have imagined what came next. The parents no longer wanted the baby—and they didn't want her to carry the little girl to term. The parents wanted their surrogate to have an abortion. But Kelley adamantly opposed terminating the baby's life.

"I told them that they had chosen me to carry and protect this child, and that was exactly what I was going to do," Kelley told CNN. "I told them it wasn't their decision to play God."

But the child's biological mother wasn't about to give up so easy. CNN reports that she contacted the Hartford Hospital the next day to ask about different types of abortion. When Kelley failed to follow through on terminating the pregnancy, the parents offered to pay her $10,000 to end the pre-born baby's life. And when Kelley refused the money, the parents hired a lawyer.

"You are obligated to terminate this pregnancy immediately. You have squandered precious time," wrote Douglas Fishman, an attorney in West Hartford, CT, CNN reports. Time was of the essence because Kelley was 22 weeks pregnant. At 24 weeks it would no longer be legal to abort the baby.

The lawyer threatened her with breach of contract because she had agreed to abort in the case of a "severe fetus abnormality," but Kelley still refused to kill the life developing inside her.

Although she was born with heterotaxy, multiple congenital heart defects, diabetes insipidus, syndromic lobar holoprosencephaly, she was carried—and loved—by a surrogate mother and adopted after birth by a loving family. Despite her infirmities, Kelley reports that Baby S, as she is called for privacy reasons, is a "lively, thriving little girl."

## Eight Terrible Church Visits

*By Thom S. Rainer*

When I led a church consultation company, one of the more common facets of my consultation was an on-site visit to a worship service. The person I hired to conduct the visit could know nothing about the church. I requested the "mystery guest" evaluate different areas of the visit. They submitted a score of one to seven. The lowest score meant the visit was terrible, and they would not return under any circumstances. Let me share events in eight different "terrible" church visits.

1. "I was asked to introduce myself in the worship service. There were probably 150 or so present, so all the members knew I was a guest. I had no choice but to speak up and tell them something about me. I felt so uncomfortable standing up and speaking to everyone present."
2. "I had to walk 50 yards in the rain. There was no guest parking. No one offered me an umbrella. Apparently the members got there early to get the best parking spaces."
3. "The preschool area was dirty and not secure. I took my two-year-old with me, but I would not leave her in the church's preschool area. You could tell they didn't care about the cleanliness and the safety needs of little children. So I took my child to the worship service. That proved to be another headache."
4. "Everyone talked in code. I had no idea what the preacher was talking about. What in the world is a WMU? What is a time of intercessory prayer? I figured out the responsive reading thing when I saw people reading from their hymnals."
5. "Someone told me I was sitting where their family sits. That really aggravated me. I didn't see a reserved sign there. If I was not getting paid to do this, I would have said a few words to them and walked out before the service ever began."
6. "No one spoke to me. They certainly spoke to people they apparently knew, but I was not a part of their cliques. I felt badly just being there. I wanted to leave on the spot."
7. "The preacher screamed the whole time. He had one tone and one volume: loud! Why do these preachers think their voices and their decibels have to change when they begin preaching? It seems so inauthentic. To top it off, I had a terrible headache after enduring 45 minutes of his screaming."
8. "They had a business meeting during the worship service. Now that was awkward. I really got uncomfortable when some of the members began disagreeing. It was tense. I will never, ever, ever go back there again."

In each of these cases, the mystery church guests assured me that the visit was so bad they would never return. Could some of these experiences happen at your church?

## NEWS IN BRIEF

■ A new analysis of data about children of divorce reveals that kids raised in happy, intact marriages are twice as likely to worship later in life than children whose parents divorce amicably. Researchers hope the statistics will awaken pastors to a common oversight contributing to the decline in mainline Christian denominations and religious affiliation in general.

■ The Senate Budget Committee reports that in fiscal year 2011, between food stamps, housing support, child care, Medicaid and other benefits, the average U.S. household below the poverty line received $168 a day in government support. The median household income in America is just over $50,000, which averages out to $137.13 a day. Simply put, being on welfare now pays the equivalent of $30 an hour for a 40-hour week, while the average job pays $25 an hour.

## LEGAL TRENDS

### Christian Group Sues Over Fee Demand For Afterschool Program

A Pennsylvania Christian group has filed a federal lawsuit to try to void the Harrisburg School District's demand that it pay a rental fee to hold a Bible-based, after-school program at Foose Elementary School.

The nonprofit Child Evangelism Fellowship of Dauphin County Inc. claims in its U.S. Middle District Court complaint that the $1,200 annual fee it would have to fork over to continue the Good News Club at the Harrisburg school is not only excessive, but discriminatory.

Other nonprofits, including the Boy Scouts, the Boys and Girls Clubs and the American Legion, aren't charged for using district facilities, the fellowship contends.

The group conducted a Good News Club at Foose for five years, but the fee dispute has prevented it from holding the program there this year, said Fellowship Director Brooke A. Morrison. "Our heart is just on getting back to the children," Morrison said of the decision to sue.

The fellowship claims that its constitutional rights to free speech, exercise of religion and equal protection under the law have been violated. It is asking Judge Christopher C. Conner to order the district to designate it as fee-exempt and to pay the legal fees.

## MEDIA TRENDS

### Study Shows Correlation Between Kids' TV Habits and Criminal Behavior

According to a major study by a New Zealand university over a period of more than 20 years, "children who watch excessive amounts of television are more likely to have criminal convictions and show aggressive personality traits as adults." The study, which was just published in the journal *Pediatrics*, "found a strong correlation between childhood exposure to television and antisocial behavior in young adults."

Carried out by the University of Otago, the study tracked the viewing habits of about 1,000 children born in the early 1970s from when they were aged five to 15, then followed up when the subjects were 26 years old, to assess potential impacts. According to Bob Hancox, co-author of the study, "The risk of having a criminal conviction by early adulthood increased by about 30 percent with every hour that children spent watching television on an average weeknight."

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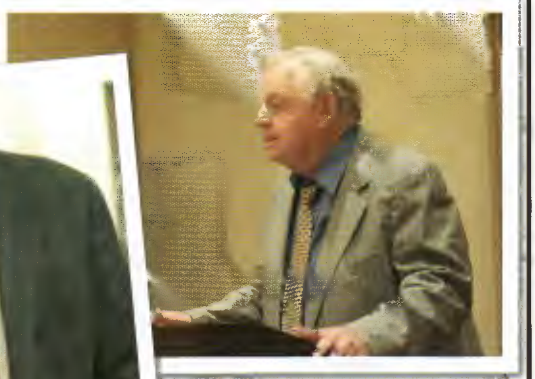
# IBC TODAY

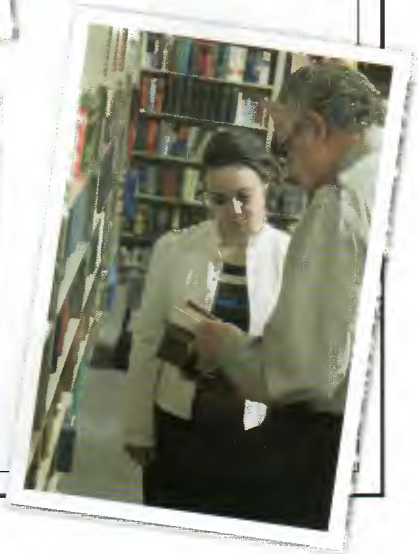
## Book Trip 2013

Each year upperclass Theology students at Indiana Bible College are offered a great opportunity to attend what has been termed, "Book Trip." The IBC Book Trip is a tradition that began out of the burden of President Paul D. Mooney, former faculty member Rev. O.C. Marler, and the late Rev. Earnest Jolly. It was their passion to help students develop a love of books and to teach them how to begin building a ministerial library. The two-day trip is sponsored by the college and funded through donations and is offered at no cost to the students.

This year students boarded the bus early on a Monday morning and were driven to Grand Rapids, MI. That evening, after they arrived, Bro. Mooney conducted a book seminar taught by Rev. O.C. Marler, other faculty and guests. Each speaker gave their book recommendations and offered their secrets to finding and purchasing used sermons and other theological books. On Tuesday morning the group was hosted by Baker Book House, a 70-year-old Christian book publishing firm with an extensive collection of the latest Christian books and 100,000 used and remainder books. The day was spent with faculty searching the shelves, talking about the importance of reading, study and devotion to successful ministry.

This year, Bro. Mooney and Bro. Marler will be hosting a similar trip for ministers on May 13-14.
For more information contact labwn@aol.com or call 317-262-4030.





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# PASSING THE MANTLE

*Written by Christina Li*

The most crucial part of a relay race is in the transfer of the baton. The fate of the team is contingent upon the success of this point of "passing." It is at this moment of transition that the baton is most likely to be dropped. No matter how successful the previous runners were, if the baton is dropped, the whole team loses.

There are many facets of this "passing." Both team members are running in the same direction. The recipient accelerates and tries to match the speed of his predecessor. Significantly, the former does not stop immediately; he takes many steps before completing his role in the race. Similarly, the next runner in line must absolutely be ready to receive the baton and assume full responsibility for the next portion of the race. Although the act of passing the baton happens in a moment, it is enabled by the hours of training and practice that the team members have shared over time.

There can be fear and hesitation in elders to address the process of the succession of their leadership. Perhaps the elder feels that the younger is unable to lead the church and/or is interested only in reaping the fruits of the elder's labor. However, if no successor has been put in place, and if he has not received adequate training, the elder's fears will most certainly come to pass. Without an equipped successor who has gleaned as much as possible from the elder's leadership, the church will undoubtedly suffer. In fact, the baton of the success of the next generation of leaders rests in the hands of the elders. It is their job to ensure that the next runner in line is prepared for the moment of "passing."

The Word of God provides us with examples of the transfer process. "And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room." 1 Kings 19:16

"So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him . . . and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him. And he [Elisha] returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen . . . Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him." 1 Kings 19:19,21

Elisha was a successful farmer who understood hard work -- God does not choose deadbeats! Instead, Elisha was already laboring in the field, using the "talents" that God had given him. After receiving his call from Elijah, however, Elisha was not afraid to leave it all behind. His priorities were right; he regarded the divine calling on his life to be of uttermost importance, proving that personal circumstances do not dictate the will of God. Consequently, Elisha, in killing his oxen, returned to farming only to burn his bridges.

*"The baton of the success of the next generation of leaders rests in the hands of the elders. It is their job to ensure that the next runner in line is prepared for the moment of 'passing.'"*

Significantly, Elijah cast his mantle upon Elisha up front at his calling. He did not wait until the day when he would be taken from Elisha. In the same regard, the elder should not feel threatened if God directs the transition of leadership and spiritual authority. On the contrary, he should invest himself into the transition process.

Moses was also instructed to "put some of thine honour upon him [Joshua], that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient" Numbers 27:20. It is integral to the success of the aspiring leader that he is given responsibility along with the authority to carry out that responsibility effectively. Joshua needed to learn to handle authority, responsibility and position before he could be trusted with the leadership of Israel. Joshua could not learn everything he needed to know at Moses' funeral.

However, both Joshua and Elisha did not seize the mantle, they received it. The closer you get to your leader, the easier it becomes to hurt him. Perhaps this is a reason that leaders sometimes keep others at arm's length. It is right that our leaders wait to transfer authority until the recipient is tested. However, once the test is passed, the leader should not hesitate to continue the process. We need to learn to use authority under the careful coaching of our leader. "And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him. Wherefore when Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him." 1 Samuel 18:14-15

It was Saul's carnality that caused him to fear God's plan. He tried to protect his position rather than his anointing. David, on the other hand, did not want to do anything that would cause God's anointing to be lifted from him. He had opportunities to hurt Saul, but he refused to touch God's anointed. Once he passed this test, however, he ascended to the throne. Nothing could stop him. Saul did not deserve David's respect, but David ministered to Saul in spite of this. Whether your leader deserves it or not, you must minister to him.

*Pastor Robert Boettcher*
*UPC of Bartlett, IL*

Elisha ministered unto Elijah out of genuine love and respect. He did not attempt to force the succession. Elisha wouldn't even comment on Elijah's departure. Elisha wanted to glean everything he possibly could from Elijah, and he knew he would have to remain at his side in order to do it.

There needs to be a few things that only the two of you do together. The two of them were alone when Elijah asked Elisha about his deepest desire or need. Don't be afraid to engage in personal and emotional conversations with one another. You may be pleasantly surprised! Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit.

Significantly, Elisha's request would only be granted if he was close enough to see Elijah when he was taken from him. The 50 sons of the prophets went to view Elijah's dramatic ascent from afar. The actual moment of "passing" was personal; it didn't happen in a crowd. Keep your eyes on your leader and walk by his side.

Elisha picked up the Mantle. The final anointing did not fall on him but close to him. The successful "Passing of the Mantle" is not automatic. The recipient must be close enough to see it fall. The closer it gets to the point of succession, the closer the successor needs to stay. Be faithful to the end.

The day Elijah first put his mantle upon Elisha was definitely not Elijah's last upon this earth. He dealt with Ahab concerning his evil ways (*transgression*), he visited the Sons of the Prophets in order to deepen their understanding (*teaching*), involved Elisha in the supernatural by demonstrating the miraculous (*transmission*), and talked privately with Elisha regarding succession (*transition*). Although Elijah had cast his mantle upon Elisha, his ministry was not over . . . it was just changing!

It is vital that we allow our elders to feel and fulfill this change. We must be aware that it is not about us. Our job is to help them get their promotion. We must remember the price the elders have paid. Elisha was not there when Elijah stopped the rain and challenged 450 Prophets of Baal.

*Elijah* means "My God is the Lord." *Elisha* means "My God is salvation." Notice that the first parts of their names are the same. Elisha was to keep some things the same; his ministry was inextricably linked to that of Elijah's. Their names ended differently. Elisha's ministry would bring him into places that Elijah did not go.

To his last breath here on earth, Elijah kept teaching Elisha. Elders, please do not keep what you have learned in your ministry to yourself. Give it away. Prepare the next generation. Too many of our elders pass on with great treasures of the kingdom hidden deep in their hearts, while the next generation stands unprepared. If we do not act, the Church heads for failure -- the very thing the elder feared. Such disaster can be avoided.

The last miracle performed by Elijah was the parting of the water. The first miracle performed by Elisha was the same. Elisha did not have to start over. He started where Elijah left off. If we can convince our leaders that we are sincere, through behaving ourselves "wisely in all (our) ways," we can start where they left off. We can complete the next part of the relay race.

The Lord found Elijah talking with Elisha. He was encouraging and directing him in his work. What should the Lord find us doing at our ascent? There can be no better posture or state for the Lord to find us, than in a diligent pursuance of our calling: pouring out our vessel into the next generation. This current generation of lost souls cry out for a deliverer. We must respond to their cry. Today's Elishas and Joshuas must be equipped to receive the Mantle. Moses and Elijah, are you willing to let your Mantle fall?

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*The author, Glen Davidson, is a converted Jew, a Pentecostal minister, and a Bible College professor of Church History.*

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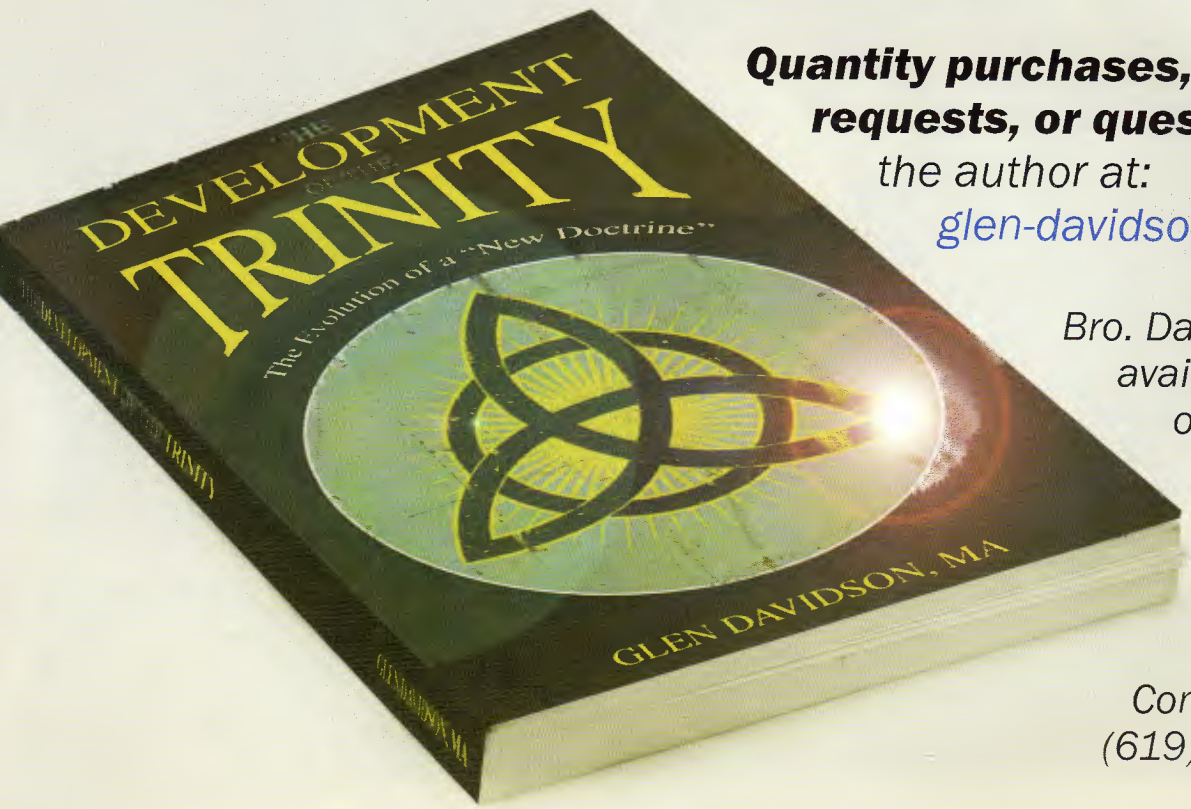



***Quantity purchases, seminar requests, or questions?*** *Contact the author at:* glen-davidson@bethel.edu.

*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.*

# Apostolic Revival Among Native Americans

## Navajo Nation Hungry For God

By Andrew Coffield

If you were told there was a nation within a nation hungry for the gospel but wasn't getting enough truth to feast on, would you believe it? Well, in the states of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah covering more than 27,000 miles of unparalleled beauty where the land is dry and mesas outline the terrain, the Navajo Native American nation is desperate for Apostolic revival, and it's time that we finally took notice.

Over the past 15 years, Bro. Jim Sleeva and several Indiana Bible College students have traveled to Tohatchi, New Mexico and the surrounding area to minister to the Navajo nation -- a nation that had been without an Apostolic church until the Eastridge family ventured to the land 60 years ago. Since the late 1950s, the Eastridge family has broken through the language and spiritual barriers to evangelize much of the Navajo land where they have built three churches. After 42 years of pastoring the church in Tohatchi, founders Jerry and Nancy Eastridge have now passed their church on to their children, Marty and Cyndi Eastridge.

"The nation for several years has been one of the poorest stricken areas of the United States," said Pastor Marty Eastridge. "It's a place where unemployment rates are up over 40 percent and the average life expectancy is years less than other Americans. With most communities being remote and containing limited resources, adequate housing is still a problem. As far as education goes, only 56 percent graduate from high school and 7 percent from college. In a nation that is larger than 10 of the 50 states and contains over 300,000 residents, it's time that we started a search and save mission here."

With a vision for revival in place, Pastor Eastridge describes what's ahead. "These people are children of God just as we are, no matter the physical differences we may have," he said. "They are so open to this Apostolic message and desperate for something of substance in their life. The job now is to give them truth by going wherever and doing whatever we have to do. Our goal is to train the Navajo people to reach the lost, spread the gospel and build churches in the 108 chapters of the Navajo land. Along with that, we hope to build a Bible training center and youth center that will serve as a safe haven for the young people of this community."

This past summer, that vision started to become a reality. With potential missions trips in the works, an annual Vacation Bible School program up and running, and tent revivals happening all the time, God is doing big things in the Navajo nation!

"Over the past few months, I have been asked to preach that Holy Ghost message to a local Baptist church, and we are looking to plant a church in the city of Crownpoint," says Pastor Eastridge. "The people are as hungry as ever for revival, and we've got the responsibility to bring it to them. This truly is just a portion of all God is doing in the Navajo nation out west. Apostolic revival from a nation within a nation is happening today, and it's picking up momentum. Now this is where the reader of this article can get involved in this work and help pour fuel on the fire of this revival."

Pastor Eastridge said there are several needs for the church in Tohatchi, NM: a new church building, youth center, Bible training center, church van and a church building in Crownpoint, NM.

If you are interested in supporting the Navajo nation revival financially or in person, either call or e-mail Pastor Marty Eastridge, 505-879-2128 or eastmartcynd930@yahoo.com.

# New Search For Truth Study Bible Available

## Designed For A Oneness Pentecostal Audience

By Charlotte L. Pound

For over 25 years, Bible study students have been using Search For Truth home Bible study tools to direct their research and study of God's Word. "Our goal has been to become more proactive in creating more derivative works, study tools and publishing our own Bibles," said a PPH spokesman.

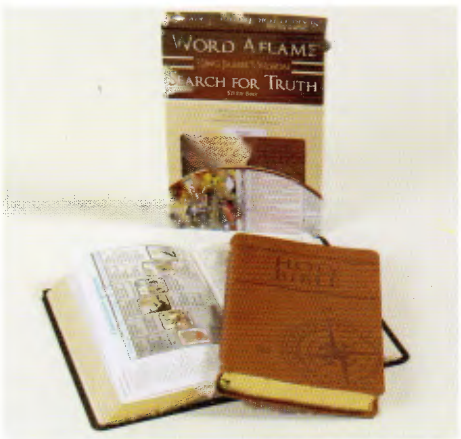
"Pentecostal Publishing House has renewed our commitment to producing Bibles designed for a Oneness Pentecostal audience. The *Search For Truth Study Bible* is the first; but this year we have also released a Word Aflame *Spanish Bible* with doctrinal materials and a *BREAD One Year Bible* with Apostolic devotional thoughts," he said.

Search For Truth is one of the bestselling and longest enduring Bible studies in the Apostolic movement. "It was only logical for us to embed its contents in the Bible, making it a convenient, on-the-go tool for personal and group study," he added.

Word Aflame introduces the new *Search for Truth Study Bible*. This Bible contains the entire set of Search for Truth 2 charts, along with the lesson introductions and outlines, embedded within a *King James Bible*. As the charts are followed, the reader discovers a chronicle of God's ongoing quest for relationship with mankind from creation to present, and God's future plan for humanity.

The new Word Aflame *Search for Truth Study Bible* merges the King James Version text with the 80 full-color Search for Truth charts, 12 lesson introductions, and outlines of Search for Truth 2 to create an effective evangelistic and discipleship resource.

A teacher's manual and digital resources are also offered for those wanting to start a home Bible study group. The *Study Bible* was introduced at this year's General Conference. It comes in a choice of beautiful leather soft colors, black or brown, and sells for $29.95. It can be ordered from Pentecostal Publishing House.



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***Word To The Wise:***

"How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it."

* * * * * * *

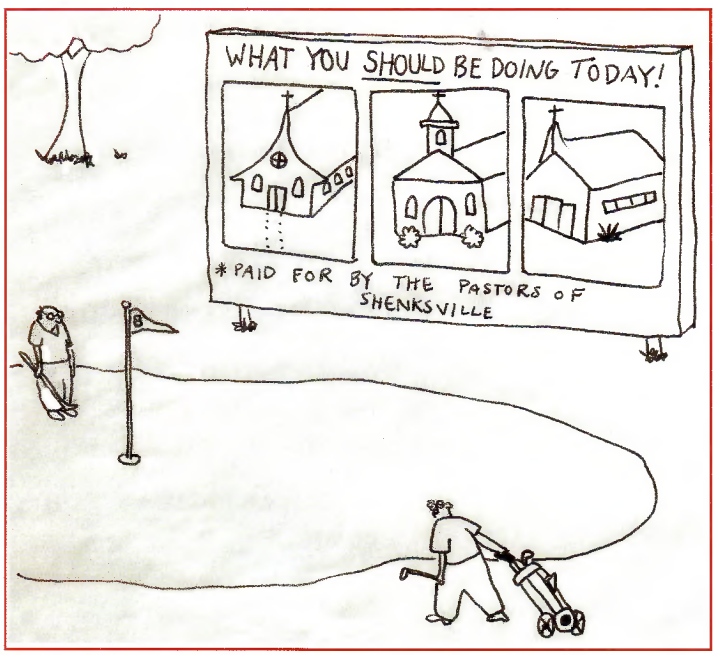
***One Shot***

A church couple was celebrating their golden wedding anniversary. Their domestic tranquility had long been the talk of the church. At their reception, the pastor was inquiring as to the secret of their long and happy marriage. "Well, it dates back to our honeymoon," explained the man. "We visited the Grand Canyon and took a trip down to the bottom of the canyon by pack mule. We hadn't gone too far when my wife's mule stumbled. My wife quietly said, 'That's once.' We proceeded a little farther, and the mule stumbled again. Once more my wife quietly said, 'That's twice.' We hadn't gone a half mile when the mule stumbled the third time. My wife quietly removed a revolver from her pocket and shot the mule dead. "I started to protest over her treatment of the mule when she looked at me and quietly said, 'That's once.'"

* * * * * * *

A little boy looking for his mother at church family camp wandered into the ladies shower area. When he was spotted, the room filled with shrieks, with ladies grabbing towels and running for cover.

The little boy watched in amazement and then asked, "What's the matter, haven't you ever seen a little boy before?"




Sunday morning on the local golf course.

* * * * * * *

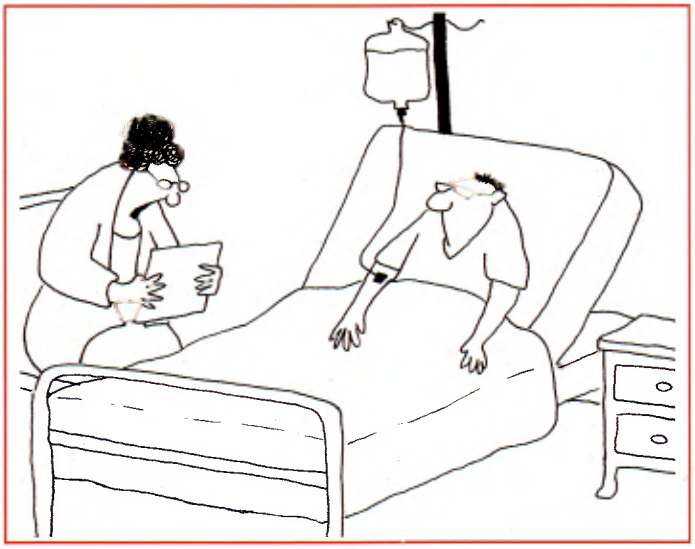
A cat died and went to heaven. God met her at the gates and said, "You have been a good cat all these years. Anything you want is yours for the asking."

The cat thought for a minute and then said, "All my life I lived on a farm and slept on hard wooden floors. I would like a real fluffy pillow to sleep on." God replied, "Say no more." Instantly the cat had a huge fluffy pillow.

A few days later, six mice were killed in an accident, and they all went to heaven together. God met the mice at the gates with the same offer that He made to the cat. The mice said, "Well, we have had to run all of our lives: from cats, dogs and even people with brooms! If we could just have some little roller skates, we would not have to run again." God answered, "It is done." All the mice had beautiful little roller skates.

Soon, God decided to check on the cat. He found her sound asleep on her fluffy pillow. God gently awakened the cat and asked, "Is everything okay? How have you been doing? Are you happy?"

The cat replied, "Oh, it is WONDERFUL! The Meals on Wheels you have been sending over are delicious!"



"You better get well quick, Pastor. It's a letter signed by the whole choir. They are threatening to change membership if you let Assistant Pastor Pookem preach one more time."

I was sitting in church with my boys, four and two. I was just pleased that they were not making noise and never thought they were actually paying attention.

The scripture reading was from Matthew 5 and when the speaker said, "If you hate your brother, you are guilty of murder."

I then heard my four-year-old say, "Uh-oh."

* * * * * * *

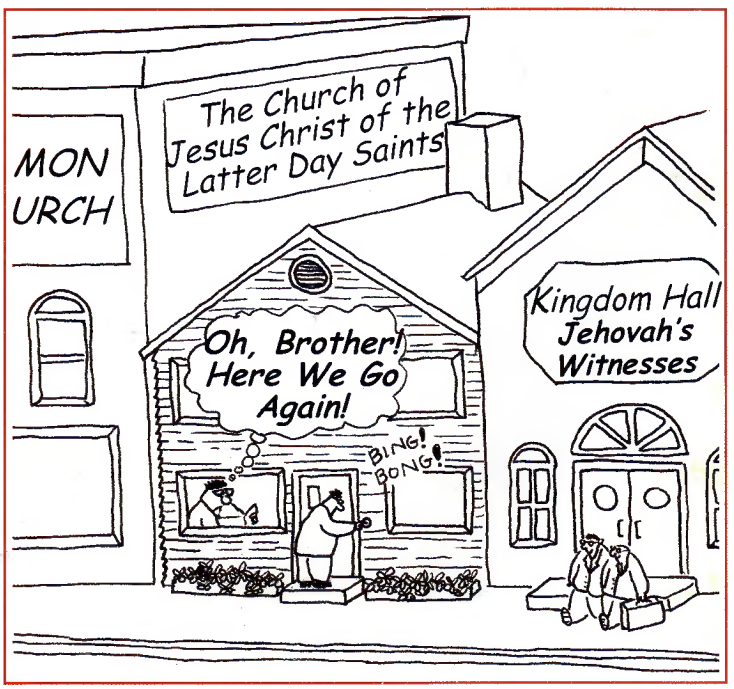
***Great Truths That Adults Have Learned***

- Raising teenagers is like nailing Jell-O to a tree.
- Wrinkles don't hurt.
- Families are like fudge . . . mostly sweet, with a few nuts.
- Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.
- Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.
- Middle age is choosing your cereal for the fiber, not the toy.

* * * * * * *

A teenager was always asking his father if he could borrow the family car. Pushed to the limit, the father asked his son why he thought God had given him two feet.

Without hesitation, the son replied, "That's easy, one for the clutch and one for the accelerator."



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## Schedule

### *Monday*

5:00 p.m. Arrival Get-together - Location TBA
7:00 p.m. Dynamic Discourses about books and reading, Fellowship, Sharing - at the Hilton Conference Room
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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**Co-Host: O.C. Marler, Book Devotee**

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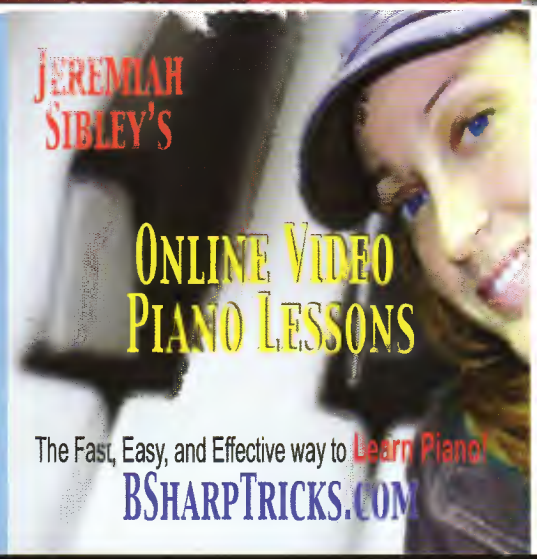


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# SUMMER TOURS

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### PRAISE
~ ~ TOUR ~ ~

| | |
|---|---|
| JUNE 7TH | SOLID ROCK APOSTOLIC CHURCH, OAK HILL, WV |
| JUNE 8TH | THE PENTECOSTALS OF FUQUAY, VARINA, NC |
| JUNE 9TH | AM TEMPLE OF PENTECOST, RALEIGH, NC |
| JUNE 9TH | PM LANDMARK UPC, LEXINGTON, NC |
| JUNE 10TH | NORTH CAROLINA (TBA) |
| JUNE 11TH | SOUTH CAROLINA (TBA) |
| JUNE 12TH | SOUTH CAROLINA (TBA) |
| JUNE 13TH | GEORGIA (TBA) |
| JUNE 14TH | APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF TALLAHASSEE, FL |
| JUNE 15TH | FLORIDA (TBA) |
| JUNE 16TH | FLORIDA (TBA) |

### CHORALE
~ ~ TOUR ~ ~

| | |
|---|---|
| MAY 11TH | IRONWOOD UPC, SOUTH BEND, IN |
| MAY 12TH | AM LIFE TABERNACLE CHURCH, ELKHART, IN |
| MAY 12TH | PM UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH, WARSAW, IN |
| MAY 13TH | DAY OFF |
| MAY 14TH | CHRISTIAN LIFE ASSEMBLY, SYRACUSE, NY |
| MAY 15TH | TRUTH TABERNACLE UPC, PROVIDENCE, RI |
| MAY 16TH | THE PENTECOSTALS OF EAST HARTFORD, CT |
| MAY 17TH | NEW LIFE WORSHIP CENTER OF WESTFIELD, MA |
| MAY 18TH | ALL NATIONS APOSTOLIC CHURCH, JAMAICA, NY |
| MAY 19TH | AM BETHEL UPC - OLD WESTBURY, NY |
| MAY 19TH | PM NEW LIFE TABERNACLE UPC, BROOKLYN, NY |