



Perspectives

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From The Publisher

The End of Preaching

Paul D. Mooney



“Modern Christians are becoming so locked into their own feelings, beliefs and opinions that it is difficult to awaken them to biblical imperatives at all.”

We are at war! There, I said it.

In President Obama's address to the nation on September 10, 2014, there was a glaring omission in his talking points. Citizens and pundits alike came alive concerning his reluctance to concede or state the fact that America is at war with the radical elements of Islam. America's position matters, and the President's refusal to make a declaration of his position on the matter is significant. Obviously, no one wants war, violence or killings. This is not the point. What is noteworthy and distressing is the President's overall ambiguity. Some would argue that his clever use of wordplay and outright denial is a strategy in and of itself. Any way you look at it, it certainly does not appear that America is taking a position of strength on the issue. The President's approach to the quagmire in the Middle East is weak, and has been interpreted by much of the world to be dangerously political at the very least and, at the very worst, intentionally distractive of some unknown, obfuscated agenda. At the end of the day, America and her allies must delineate with clarity their position when it comes to terrorism, and the despicable acts being perpetrated by rogue groups that are infiltrating our countries. We must take a definitive position. We must make a commitment. That is the point.

The biblical parallel of the Laodicean church comes to mind here. Their weakness had nothing to do with outside forces. Their fragility was in their lukewarmness. They were not really in danger from the outside. The enemy was within their own hearts. Their inability to remain vigilant and their willingness to ease into the tepid waters of compromise left them vulnerable and ripe for attack.

“Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked” (Revelation 3:17).

They had lost their vision and their ability to see the big picture. They were at the point that they needed a balm, an eye salve to bring them back to visual health. On their own and with their own rationale, they could not see or perceive their deteriorating spiritual condition. So comes the Spirit, pushing them, encouraging them to “overcome” (Revelation 3:21). They had an obligation to fight the battle, engage the enemy, and to address the issue of their own blindness. The Spirit called for repentance, demanding that the arrogance cease ... in essence, calling for the question, do you not realize that you are “wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked?”

In all honesty, we know our beloved America is in trouble. Morality is widely rejected, our babies are casually aborted, drug use is out of control. We daily face the societal implications of rampant homosexuality. The nation is obsessed with pleasure, addicted to sports, entertainment and drunkenness. We send our children into a public educational system that has been strategically transformed into a political indoctrination factory that denigrates basic morals and Christianity. Draconian laws are destroying our liberties and freedoms. We can no longer claim that we are a Christian nation. And even of those who are still wearing the label, too many have lost the heart and conviction that being Christian demands. The denominational world is adrift, and the Pentecostal movement is rife with worldly churches, compromised pulpits, and confused, uncommitted members. Sadly, we must confess that even among us there has been a falling away.

Personally, I feel we are rapidly approaching an irreversible

crossroads. When God established His New Testament church, He chose to use men to carry the Gospel to deliver His message. And, He chose a most unconventional method: preaching (1 Cor. 1:21). However, my grave concern is that, in our arrogance and human wisdom, in our lukewarmness, we come to the end of preaching – the place where preaching has no effect. The end of preaching... a condition not so much brought upon us by the enemy as by our own selves – our indifference, our callousness, our laziness, our unwillingness to commit; our unwillingness to declare war upon the enemy of our soul. *“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables” (2 Tim. 4:3-4).*

Modern Christians are becoming so locked into their own feelings, beliefs and opinions that it is difficult to awaken them to biblical imperatives at all. Their minds are seduced with a smooth elixir of worldly philosophy, false religion and personalized prophecies rendered to them by the self-appointed prophets whom they seek out for guidance and authority. They have been allured into complacency, ease and doctrinal ambiguity. They cling to false teaching and false ideas as if they have a right to their own imaginations without consequence. Their vision of truth and sound doctrine, “the faith once delivered to the saints,” is dimming (Jude 1:3).

What of the call to righteousness? What of preaching? Preachers must preach, but when preaching falls on deaf ears, when it falls on hardened hearts, is it of any use? To what end do we preach if not to bring men into a right relationship with God? There is a point in the human soul where there is an end of preaching, a point at which there is not really an interest in the Word. Sure, the ear may hear and respectfully listen, but if the hearer has deceived himself into becoming a hearer only, not a doer, then the incongruity cannot stand (James 1:22). The true preaching stops – it becomes theater, entertainment, a mere human art without the eternal objective of reconciliation. True preaching cannot force itself upon the resistant heart or upon the arrogant mind. It must be received.

The Apostle Paul warned the Galatians that in rejecting the Spirit and keeping themselves under the law, that “Christ is become of no effect unto you” (Galatians 5: 4). The purpose of Christ is to reconcile the world unto himself. “To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:19).

We are in a war of reconciliation. That is the purpose of preaching and teaching. When preaching does not call for reconciliation with Christ, or for souls to become Christlike, we cease to be ministers of Christ; as warriors in His army we have come to the end of our weaponry. We have nothing else *but* preaching. Being reconciled to God is the end game. Those who choose not to reconcile themselves shall *not* inherit the Kingdom of God (Galatians 5). We are at war. Righteousness will always oppose evil. The Revelation of Revelations *“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war” (Rev.19:11).*

“And make war.” We are at war against all that is evil and false, against all that is anti-Christ, and all that is unholy. Fight the good fight in your life, your church, in your associations, in your family, and in your own heart and spirit.

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♦To report on those trends and events which directly affect the work of the church.

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06 Feature: (Scott Marshall)



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GUEST RECEPTION:

WELCOME, WANTED, AND (HOPEFULLY) COMING BACK

Compiled by Gregg Stone



Myron Wideman Jr., Stone Mountain, GA - We make sure our guests feel welcome, wanted and eager to return by simply putting them first. We do use hostesses to greet guests as they enter the foyer. Our hostesses are there as friendly guides to help them feel welcome and secure in the decision they made to visit our church.

We give a red gift bag to every first-time visitor. We chose the color red so it would stick out to our members that this individual is a first-time visitor and needs diligent attention. The red gift bag is stuffed with tissue paper, a \$5 gift card, a letter signed by the Senior Pastor and Associate Pastor, and literature about our church.

Our guest follow-up ministry entails a second letter and a phone call going out that very next day to every visitor that came to our church. We also take that time to ask them if they enjoyed the service and if they had any questions regarding the service or the church. Finally, we connect them with a seasoned member or family that is compatible with them. Through that connection, relationships are built, Bible studies are taught, and new members are added to the church daily such as should be saved.



Michael Hanks, Ceres, CA - We are starting a Pastors VIP Breakfast in which each first-time visitor from the previous week enjoys a Sunday morning breakfast with my wife and me. With that, I'll be sending out a personal video invitation on Monday, a follow-up letter will be mailed Tuesday, a phone call will be placed Thursday to make sure they can make it to the breakfast, and then a final call Saturday to get a head count and name of each guest that will be attending.

We use doorkeepers to open doors for guests and members because I want each guest and member to be greeted with a warm handshake and a smile. Also, they make sure guests receive a Welcome Packet, which includes a small gift and a letter from me. We have a special room called the VIP Room, and between our morning services, we serve snacks to make our guests feel welcome.

Most importantly, we have created a culture within our church that each and every saint understands; it's his or her responsibility to make each guest feel appreciated. Our church motto is Belong, Believe, Become. Before anything else, we want them to feel like they belong here.



Chad Farris, Advance, MO - My advice is, do not start big, start small and then add things as you grow. Remember that a genuine smile, warm handshake and kind words cost nothing, but are more beneficial than any amount of money spent on reaching people!

To make sure our guests feel welcome when they visit, we greet them as they come in, introduce ourselves, help them fill out a visitor's welcome card, and give them a nice tri-fold brochure explaining about our church, offering free home Bible studies, etc. We use the information in our card to mail out a "thank you for visiting" card, and we send out "praying for you" cards once a month. We also utilize their birthday/anniversary information to send out cards.

Our follow-up is as follows: (1st week) Send a letter or card thanking them for visiting, (2nd week) A personal visit to their home for prayer and to ask them if they are interested in a free home Bible study, (3rd week) Banana bread is delivered to their home, (A full year) We send out birthday cards, anniversary cards, along with revival or special service invites.



Terry Long, Indianapolis, IN - We do our best to have friendly greeters and ushers at the door early. Nothing is less inviting than an empty hall and no one to direct you to where you should go. We have small gifts that we give guests, send follow-ups, and guests are addressed from the pulpit by name. We encourage our saints to introduce themselves to guests, sit by them and be friendly. Also, we have guest packets; every guest obviously gets a church bulletin. We ask them to take a moment and fill out our survey. We give our guests a small honey pot and a key chain. The honey pot is a cute little gift that easily would be used in their kitchen, hopefully on the kitchen table. It has a catchy little slogan tied around the lid that says, "It was good for you to be with us today." Our hope is that when they use the honey, or see the pot, they remember us.

We use a software/iPad app called FaithMetrics for our visitor information, and visitor information retention. FaithMetrics immediately sends an e-mail that we developed. As soon as the information is filled out, the guest gets an email. Also, we send out a letter from the pastor greeting them and thanking them for coming. That is mailed out Monday. Saturday, our outreach director also makes a personal phone call inviting them back the next day for service.



Thomas Crutchfield, Hinesville, GA - As the pastor, I take a few minutes to greet everyone I can. As a team, our church is very welcoming. We have an usher at the front doors welcoming everyone. We feel our hostesses and ushers are the face of Life UPC. We want to make our best impression to our guests by having a trained team member greet them and open the door for them. It shows that we respect and honor our guests.

The hostesses are responsible for getting a guest card filled out. They also give out a tri-fold guest pack with pictures of our leaders and a small introduction to some of the ministries that we offer. Guests are invited to "Meet the Team" directly after service in my office. Guests are given coffee, water and baked goods. The leaders welcome them and answer any questions they may have.

We started a ministry entitled C.I.A. [Caring In Action]. Our CIA ministry team contacts via phone all first-time guests and lets them know they have a gift basket awaiting them when they return for their second visit. We also send out a welcome e-mail and a welcome letter.

We also have a quarterly luncheon for all of the guests who seem to, or have made Life UPC their church. We do a short power point introduction and welcome them to Life UPC. This has shown great retention. If we get them to the luncheon, they stay!



John Burnett, Houston, TX - We have two hosts in the foyer to welcome all of our guests and to have them fill out an information card with their address and phone number. Our guest packet includes a welcome letter, the Acts 2:38-salvation tract, our church schedule and my business card.

Our ushers try to seat all visitors in a location where they feel comfortable. We will call each visitor's name during service to recognize them and greet them, and church members will welcome them as we allow five minutes for all members to greet visitors and to greet one another. When possible, I will stand at the exit door at the end of service and will ask them to please continue visiting us. Our plan is to give a follow-up call and visit to all first-time visitors at their homes.

A VISION OF LOVING



*Scott and Angela Marshall
Russellville, KY*

Breakfast with the pastor in the Pastor's Cafe is more than just a meal at the United Pentecostal Church of Russellville, Kentucky. This buffet breakfast is a special time for new guests to enjoy a one-on-one fellowship with Pastor Scott D. Marshall and his wife, Angela. Loving, serving and caring for people is the priority of not only Pastor Marshall but the entire body of the United

Pentecostal Church of Russellville. That ministry concept is what makes the UPC of Russellville so exciting and fruitful!

Pastor Marshall and his wife have three daughters: Rachel (23) married to Eric Edwards, Anna (20) and Rose (15). Bro. Marshall served as Youth Secretary from 1990-1998, Youth President from 1998-2001, Presbyter from 2001-2005, and served as District Superintendent of Kentucky from 2005 until the present time.

Principles of Growth & Revival

One distinct characteristic of Bro. Marshall is that he truly loves people. "Loving, serving and caring for each and every one equally is the vision of our church," he said. "Our mission is to see them baptized, filled with the Holy Ghost and become engaged in the vision of the church."

As a pastor with various time demands on his ministry, Bro. Marshall said, "Balance is very important, and I must maintain my relationship with the Lord and with my family."

Organization & Management

"We have several ministries within our church," said Pastor Marshall. "We have our Children's Ministry, Student Ministry (Anthem), Hyphen Class (18-25 yrs.), Nursing Home Ministry, Music Ministry, Men's & Ladies' Ministries and Jail Ministry in which we baptized 98 inmates last year."

Pastor Marshall meets with his ministry department leaders on a monthly basis, and each department has job descriptions. "We have annual vision planning in which we fellowship on Friday

evening and hold our meeting on Saturday. We then review our calendar on a monthly basis," said the pastor. "We have enrolled in Kineo Resources, a church consulting firm that works with us on church growth and organization. About 50% of our members are involved in ministry and in evangelism as well. I present various opportunities to our members to encourage involvement. We have participated in various outreach endeavors, including block parties and are presently in a project to place a door hanger on every door in our town of 8,000."

Special Miracles

Bro. Marshall recalls a very special miracle that happened in the church, "An older gentleman's wife attended church, but he had never come to church," he said. "He became very ill and was hospitalized with kidney failure, and his eyesight was failing. When I saw him, it certainly didn't look promising. However, prayers were answered, he miraculously recovered, his eyesight was restored, he was saved, and is now involved in our parking lot team as a porch greeter."

Personal Ministry

"I believe my philosophy of ministry consists of honesty and treating all people and ministry equally and fair," said Bro. Marshall. "One of the areas I focus on is uplifting pastors, and

my two favorite subjects to preach on are encouragement and victory."

Current Facility

The church facility is a brick building, erected in 1975 and has a seating capacity of around 250. The church plans to begin remodeling the sanctuary this fall with hopes to expand seating capacity. Bro. Marshall explained, "We renovated our upper level to accommodate a youth sanctuary that seats 40. We have a 120-seat fellowship hall and five classrooms. Church attendance



The members of the church ensemble worship in song.

, SERVING, GROWING



By Linda Schreckenberger

averaged 160 in 2013, and that year we saw 19 filled with the Holy Ghost and seven baptized."

Personal History

"I grew up in Nineveh, Indiana, a few miles south of Indianapolis," said Pastor Marshall. "I attended a United Pentecostal Church occasionally as a child, until my mother began attending and invited me to a revival. I received the Holy Ghost in 1977 at age 15 and felt God begin to call me to the ministry over the next few years. At 18 years old, I preached my first sermon in Rapid City, South Dakota in 1980. Graduating from Indian Creek High School in Trafalgar, Indiana, I attended Indiana Central University in Indianapolis, centering my studies on banking. I then worked in banking for seven years, was actually being promoted, but then came to a point where I felt led to pursue my calling in ministry." He and his wife, Angela, evangelized in Indiana and Kentucky in 1988. His first pastorate was in Harrodsburg, Kentucky, and he has held the pastorate at UPC of Russellville from June '95 until this present time.

Pastor Marshall especially noted Pastor Grover Myers, Pastor Mark Myers, Bro. Robert Clark and Bro. Mark Brewer as men who greatly influenced his life.

Church History

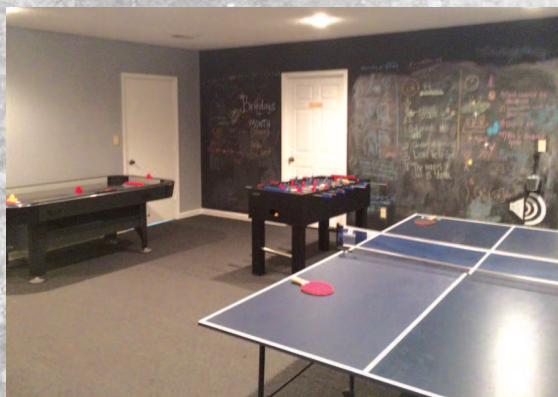
The church has been led by five pastors before Bro. Marshall, all at the same location. They are Pastor Adrian Williams (1946-1949), Pastor T.F. Moore (1949-1960), Pastor C.P. Baskerville (1960-1980), Pastor Charles Clanton (1980-1987), and Pastor James E. O'Neal (Bro. Marshall's uncle) (1987-1995).

Human Interest

Pastor Marshall's leisure time is spent with family and playing an occasional round of golf with friends. He mostly enjoys family vacations and supper time with his family and Lacey, the family's Morkie dog. "One thing people would be surprised to learn about me is that I'm naturally a quiet individual and not very outgoing," says Bro. Marshall. His favorite preachers are Bro. Jerry Jones and Bro. Paul Mooney, and his favorite author for leisure reading is John Grisham.



Top clockwise: Exterior view of the United Pentecostal Church of Russellville; Pastor Marshall leads the congregation in prayer at the altar; Guest reception sign welcomes newcomers to the building; youth room set up for recreation and enjoyment.



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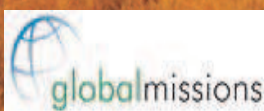
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Why Team Ministry Is Better Than a One-Man Show

Teamwork is an essential part of God's plan for ministry. In both the Old and New Testaments, we see teams of people working side-by-side to further His kingdom. Here are five clear reasons that teamwork is a better approach:

1. Teamwork accomplishes more. Anybody who has ever chopped down a tree with an axe or painted a house knows the job gets done quicker and easier when more people are working. Ecclesiastes 4:9 says: "Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor." Ministry leaders are compared to oxen in the Bible, and Jesus said He would place a "yoke" on us when we are called to ministry. You will not achieve as much if you insist on doing everything yourself.

2. Teamwork unlocks people's potential. In a one-man show, a leader performs the up-front job, a few overworked people help in the background, and the crowd watches. Religious spectators are trained to sit—as if they have nothing useful to contribute. Yet the New Testament tells us the Holy Spirit gives every believer certain gifts, and we all are to use these gifts for the common good (1 Cor. 12:7, 11). The best leaders know how to involve lots of people to reach God's goal.

3. Teamwork encourages healthy relationships. It's easier to do ministry alone. But you will never grow if you do a solo act. When you are part of a team you must deal with competitive attitudes, jealousy, pride, complaints and hurt feelings. This is exactly why Jesus wants us to work together! You will never confront the flaws in your character unless you work with others. They will expose your selfishness, and you will expose theirs.

4. Teamwork prevents scandals. Leaders with a one-man-show mentality are in danger of doing incredibly stupid things because they lack accountability. Team ministry encourages transparency, and senior leaders recognize the value of getting honest feedback from their colleagues. You will fail as a leader if you don't have wise counselors who have access to you.

5. Teamwork keeps us from idolizing men. Aren't we guilty of foolishness when we put leaders on pedestals and idolize their preaching style? The one-man show may have worked in the past, but the emerging generation has zero tolerance for religious phoniness. People today want healthy leaders who know how to share power instead of grabbing or abusing it.



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by Stephen Judd



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FROM PRISON TO PULPIT

THE KELLY CAYWOOD TESTIMONY

Interviewed By John Fonzer Jr.



Bro. and Sis. Kelly Caywood
Alliance, OH

Pastor Kelly Caywood, tell us a little about yourself.

I pastor a home missions church, and God is blessing. We evangelized for 4 1/2 years and while doing that, we also helped with other home missionaries.

God used us in a different way. We didn't even do outreach for a week or so after we got there because teaching and training was so necessary beforehand. However, many churches we went to would double or triple within a year.

Share with us your testimony.

At 11 years old, my dad called me into the house and told me that he and Mom were not my real parents and that I had been kidnapped when I was 18 months old. They had adopted me when I was two years old. I said, "If you're not my dad, then you can't tell me what to do," then I left and went to a party. A 17-year-old guy came in and said, "If you really want to get high, stick your arm out. It's just going to be a little prick." He gave me a shot of meth. That was the beginning of my 30-year meth addiction.

Up to that time I had attended church with my adopted mom. She raised me in the truth in Baytown, Texas, under Pastor Ford. But when I found out that I was adopted, I stopped going to church.

I was arrested many times for various reasons – drug trafficking, drug possession and other drug-related convictions. My third time in prison I did six calendar years. I was going to prison for the fourth time when the judge said, "Mr. Caywood, you are a menace to society. I would give you a life sentence today, but because of the laws of Texas, I have to give you a court-appointed attorney; but when you come back here in three weeks, I'm going to give you that life sentence."

I walked into the holding cell. It had about 60 men. There was a Bible on the ground. I picked it up, walked over to the bunk and knelt down and said, "God, I know

you're real. I just don't know how to get to you. I can't beat the dope, the alcohol, the cigarettes. If you'll help me this one last time, I'll always tell somebody what you did for me." God immediately filled me with the Holy Ghost, and I never smoked another cigarette from that day forward.

While in jail they called me to do a job. The deputy said, "You're fixing to go to jail for a very long time. So I need a classification worker. It's going to be easy. Five hundred to 600 inmates are going to come off the jail main floor, and you're going to put them into a holding cell. Easy."

I asked God what He wanted me to do with 500 men. He said, "Speak to them one at a time." The first time I walked into the holding area and asked if anyone wanted to say a prayer, 66 men stood up. After that my jail Bible study group went from 66 to 1,700 men a week. The deputy came and pulled me into a holding cell and said, "Caywood, you've been coming in here all your life. But you're not the same person now. Tell me about this baptism in Jesus name." I ended up teaching Bible studies to 22 different deputies.

I got an attorney and went from a life sentence to one year in the county jail with time served, but I was placed on a 14-year parole. The people who were supposed to let me go ended up keeping me on an old parole violation and sent me to another facility. I was there for seven days.

I then ended up in another facility across from the Texas District campgrounds. I was there for a year and a half, and they moved me to a facility for first and second-time offenders, even though I was a four-time offender. One in 47,000 men gets the opportunity to do that.

I was only there for 2½ months before they asked me to be in a group that teaches the drug program to 60 men for eight hours a day, five days a week. One in 147,000 men gets that opportunity.

I was only supposed to be there for nine months. At 11½ months, I stood up in chapel service and put the Word of God on the ground, stood on top of it and said, "If anybody will stand with me, I believe I will be in church Sunday with my mom." Twenty-four hours later they knocked on my door and said, "Caywood, I don't know what's

going on. They're sending you to Huntsville, Texas."

When I went to Huntsville, they told me I had a 10-day detainer for a bad check I'd written years before. Two days later they came and got me. They had decided that if Tyler, Texas authorities didn't come to get me by 2 o'clock they would release me.

At 1:30 they called my name. I said, "Hallelujah," but when I got outside there was a deputy waiting for me from Tyler. He handcuffed me. In the course of the drive, he turned and said, "What's your story, inmate?" I said, "I'm glad you asked. I was a 4-time loser but a lifetime winner in Jesus Christ. I'm not 'once an addict, always an addict.' I'm not a recovering addict. I'm an addict delivered by the blood of Jesus Christ!" He said, "I've never met anybody like you. But I've got bad news for you. Your judge is on vacation for the next seven days."

When we got to Tyler, he came back to me and said, "I told the judge your story. The judge said he would come up here on his day off if you will agree to stay one more night in this jail and go from cell to cell and tell everybody what God has done for you." I got out the next day and went to church with my mom.

In 2008, for the first time in my life since I was 11 years old, I got off parole. As a result of my receiving the Holy Ghost, 23 members of my family have come to know Jesus Christ. My 89-year-old Baptist grandfather and 77-year-old grandmother came and got baptized in Jesus name and received the Holy Ghost. It has been a remarkable journey.

What do you want people to take away from your testimony?

God is in the business of taking nobodies and making them into somebodies. If you have a relative on drugs, don't give up on them. The key is loving people into the Kingdom of God.

How can you be contacted?

For more information and to purchase a copy of my testimonial book *From Prison to Pulpit* or a copy of the testimony DVD, visit Extreme-ministries.com

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

apostolic alendar 2014

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SPEAKERS	CONTACT / INFO
SEPT. 30- OCT. 3	90th Annual UPCI General Conference Official conference of the UPCI. Don't miss it!	St. Louis, MO	To be announced	For more information visit the UPCI website at: www.upci.org
NOV 5-7	West Coast Conference - Fresno, CA 31st Annual Fresno Meeting	Fresno Convention Center, 848 M Street, Fresno, CA	James Townley, Jimmy Johnson, Rocky Dunlap, Wesley Jackson, Tommy Jackson, Ron Garrett and Jesse Galindo	For more information call: (559) 225-1622 www.truthtabfresno.org
JAN 1-4	Times of Refreshing - Odessa, TX TOR will be hosting a fellowship dinner Friday and Saturday for pastors, full-time evangelists, assistant pastors, missionaries and retired pastors.	Life Challenge Church Odessa, TX Host Pastor: Dan Smelser	To be announced	For more info: visit www.gordonpoe.com/TOR/conference . (717) 755-7202
JAN 30	Indiana Bible College LIVE RECORDING Under the direction of Lindel M. Anderson, Dean of Music	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN Host: Paul D. Mooney	Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, Lindel Anderson, IBC Choir, IBC Chorale, IBC Praise, others	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
FEB 19-21	WinterFire 2015 WinterFire's focus is ministering to those in ministry. Our objective is that every member of your team will leave renewed and refreshed.	First Cathedral Bloomfield, CT	Sam Emory, Jelaine Lumpkin, Elias Limones, Mark Morgan, Theodore Brooks, Jerry Jones, David Bernard, David Hudson and I.J. Cunningham	For more info: visit www.winterfire.org or visit Twitter: winterfireconf or Facebook: winterfire
FEB 26-28	Indiana Bible College CONNECT 2015 Your chance to visit the IBC campus and see what Bible college is all about!	Indiana Bible College 1502 Sumner Ave Indianapolis, IN 46227 Host: Paul D. Mooney	Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, Jason Gallion, Bobby Killmon, Lindel Anderson, others.	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
MARCH 19-21	Times of Refreshing - Tulare, CA Services times are Thursday and Friday at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday at 6:30 p.m.	Living Christ Church Tulare, CA Host Pastors: James McPhail, Don Demyan, Brian Allard and Arthur Law	Jeff Arnold, Doug White and Gordon Poe	For more info: visit www.gordonpoe.com/TOR/conference . (717) 755-7202
APRIL 15-17	Indiana Bible College MUSIC FEST 2015 Under the direction of Lindel M. Anderson, Dean of Music	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN Host: Paul D. Mooney	Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, Lindel Anderson, IBC Choir, IBC Chorale, IBC Praise, others	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
JULY 22-24	Mile High Conference 2015 Revival of Prayer, Praise and Evangelism	To be announced	To be announced	(303) 758-5900 www.cacdenver.org DEH2@comcast.net
JULY 2015	IMPACT Family Conference 2015 Day sessions to meet the needs of your entire family unit (Married, Single, Parents, Teens & Children) and your church leadership.	To be announced	To be announced	For detailed schedule, visit www.woodlawn-church.cc (601) 736-5128
AUG 2015	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 Dr., North Little Rock, AR Host Pastor: Joel Holmes	To be announced	For more info visit www.arkansascampmeeting.com
AUG 2015	Indiana Bible College Fall Semester Begins Register for Fall classes today!	Indiana Bible College 1502 Sumner Ave. Indianapolis, IN President Paul Mooney	Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, Lindel Anderson, Dave Brown, Bobby Killmon, Jim Sleeve, others.	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
AUG 2015	Investing in Futures A conference for those who invest in children. Educating, encouraging and equipping children's ministry workers.	The Apostolic Sanctuary, 1501 John Deere Parkway, Silvis, IL 61239 Host Pastor: Gary Randol	To be announced	For more info: visit invest-in-futures.com
SEPT 2015	Mid-America Renewal Conference (MARC) Indianapolis, Indiana - 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	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
SEPT 2015	Apostolic Doctrine Conference Strengthening Our Doctrinal Foundation	To be announced	To be announced	For more info: www.newliferrehaute.com or 812-877-9348

Theology: Water Baptism References



Robert L. Rodenbush

■ Church Today

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Nero, Evil or Good?

The September 2014 issue of *National Geographic Magazine* stopped me in my tracks. The cover read "Rome's Bad Boy: Nero rises from the ashes." The carefully chosen photo was of a regal, toga-draped Nero with his arm raised holding a match. Intrigued, I opened the magazine to read author Robert Draper's article entitled, "Rethinking Nero." I was struck by phrases such as, "He wasn't all bad," "Nero was a populist with a fondness for spectacle," and "...today he would be avant-garde, ahead of his time." Sure there were references to his murderous behavior. Nero biographer Roberto Gervaso states, "He was a monster. But that's not all he was. And those who came after him were no better. The true monsters, like Hitler and Stalin, lacked [Nero's] imagination...I wrote my book 35 years ago because I wanted to rehabilitate him."

I was disturbed in my spirit with the callousness of these academics, who feel that it is their job to rewrite history, to somehow 'honor' the achievements of one of history's most vile men. They flippantly describe the writings of those who documented his atrocities as "melodramatic condemnations." I stagger to imagine how easily the author twists history, admitting that Nero was responsible for the deaths of two wives, his mother and possibly his stepbrother. But how does Draper deal with the accounts of Nero blaming the first Christians for the arson of Rome, for beheading, crucifying and murdering countless followers of Christ because they refused to worship Roman gods? How does he handle the fact that during this persecution the Apostle Peter was crucified and the Apostle Paul was beheaded? How does he justify the bodies of the early martyrs who were dipped in wax and set on fire to serve as candlesticks? He simply states, "The case against Nero as evil incarnate would appear to be open and shut. And yet..." With a three-period ellipses he leaves his phrase open-ended, indicating that perhaps the writers of old were "melodramatic." Or, perhaps, he was "demonized." Perhaps history ignored his "complexity."

What does this say about us as humans? Can we really be so reticent to call evil - evil, as if it doesn't matter so much because his death toll didn't reach as high as other dictators? Are we willing to overlook evil because he was a "people" person? Because he made contributions to architecture? Because he "cherished the masses?" As long, of course, as the "masses" weren't Christians.

The article ends with an interview from the current mayor of Nero's native town. His words are troubling. "As Children, we were taught that he [Nero] was evil—among the worst emperors of all. Doing a little research, I came to conclude that it's not true. I consider Nero to be a good, even great emperor, and maybe the most beloved of the entire empire. He was a great reformer...Some people said, 'But Mayor, he killed lots of Christians.' I told them, 'Only a few—nothing like the thousands of Christians who were killed later in the empire.'"

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isaiah 5:20).



Bobby Killmon

■ Theology

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I have been challenged by someone close to me that John 3 does not refer to water baptism. Is there conclusive proof that it refers to baptism?

Some are rejecting the truth in this message for alternate interpretations, and I even have someone I love dearly in the throes of this struggle. There are only three serious views in my opinion which are as follows:

1. They're only a symbol for the work of God from above.
2. Water is physical birth and other is spiritual.
3. Christian water baptism and Spirit baptism.

Interpretation 1 suggests "water and spirit" are restatements of the same thing which is simply saying salvation is from above. They claim water and wind (not the Spirit) are both elements of this earth that are blessings from above (i.e. wind and rain). Zane Hodges argues for this, saying, "...the association of 'water and wind' as elements in the physical world is one that is both readily and frequently made." The problem with this interpretation is that there's a clear word for just wind, *nemos*, if that's all Jesus meant to communicate, while *pneuma* can mean both "wind" or "spirit." The double association is evident in Greek. So this position fails.

Some suggest interpretation 2, based on Nicodemus bringing up physical birth (3:4), to which Jesus responds (3:6), but this view is also not allowable. These are conditional conjunctives in the Greek. That means "of water and Spirit" are two parts of the one experience of being born again. Further, "except" is a conditional particle tied to these two conjunctives showing both of these are conditions NOT yet met. So, physical birth cannot be what Jesus has in mind here. Nicodemus has already been naturally born.

Scripture as a whole backs up view 3 as well as the context and language of John 3. Some dissent claiming it depends on later NT teaching being "read back" into the passage; however, this ignores the fact that it's exactly a future event Jesus is pointing to, the birth of the Church. Also, this is the only view that meets the conditional statement of Christ's words. He is saying, "Here is two parts of one conditional thing, Nicodemus, you have not met yet." It cannot be physical birth because the language disallows it.

While some are wrestling with things like essentiality, it's not due to the clarity of the language. Sometimes it's because they're impressed with views of people with degrees. But degrees do not change truth. Others use these things as "reasons" to leave Apostolic doctrine even though there's no linguistic or theological weight to the arguments. My suggestions are kindly, patiently and prayerfully share this truth. James 5:20 says, "Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins." Perhaps God will use you as the voice that in love pulls them back to truth.



T. W. Massengale

■ Church Growth

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I pastor a church that averages about 150 each week in attendance. In your opinion, where should I put my time priorities?

Gordon MacDonald,

in his best selling book, *Ordering Your Private World*,

relates that there are four types of people in churches: VIP's (Very Important People) who are your current leaders - ministry leaders and staff. Next are VTP's (Very Teachable People) who are your future leaders. These need to be trained and developed for your future growth. Third are the VNP's (Very Nice People) which are your solid, dependable workers. Last are

your VDP's (Very Draining People) which are individuals that are forever in trouble, continually seeking your time and attention, and need constant encouragement and help.

He pointed out that some pastors spend a tremendous amount of their time with the VDP's. So much so that they have little time left for the other three.

When we examine the ministry of Jesus we see a different picture. He spent a lot of His time with the twelve - His VIP's. He also spent considerable time with the 70 - His VTP's. He also taught and encouraged the VNP's, the faithful masses who came out to hear Him. These He challenged to involvement in productive ministry. Did He minister to the VDP's? Yes, but not to the neglect of the other three. He ministered to the sick,

gave to the poor and encouraged the needy. But He spent the bulk of His time developing and training those who would carry on the work of the Church.

A pastor must place a priority upon those things he cannot delegate to others - prayer time, study of the Word, and soulwinning. He should also devote considerable time to training and managing his current leadership. His future growth will, in a large part, depend upon his development of his future leaders.

Both current and future leaders should be met with regularly and trained for ministry success. The solid saints of your church must also be taught, inspired and motivated to active ministry. The VDP's? Be careful that they do not monopolize all your time and energy.



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Spiritual Growth

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Love Deeply, Grieve Deeply

I'm writing this article today for me, the counselor. On Sunday, August 24, 2014, my beloved brother, Rev. David R. Theobald, left his earthly home to go to his heavenly home. He was always my "big brother," being eleven years my senior. From a young man he loved God, and he loved people. In the middle '70s, David was Foreign Missions Promotional Director under the leadership of Tom Fred Tenney for the UPCI. He traveled nationwide promoting the PIM program that he had introduced to the missions division. Because of his efforts, thousands of souls found salvation through the years. David took a missionary trip around the world with Billy Cole and others years ago and shared so many wonderful (some humorous) stories upon his return.

In my 22 years as a certified pastoral counselor, I've counseled many people who were grieving. Through the experiences of close friends and my parents' deaths, I know first-hand deep sadness. When we love deeply we grieve deeply because of the physical loss of our loved one. Just one breath is between life and death. There is a time to weep. The Bible says, "Weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice." Jesus wept at Lazarus's death. God is touched by the feelings of our infirmities – sorrows. But, PRAISE GOD, we have a hope in the resurrection unto eternal life because Jesus paid the price for our sins on the cross.

Grieving is a lifelong process. Talking about the one you love to family and close friends is comforting. Journaling prayers and thoughts in the grieving process is a way to release the ache of the heart to God. Celebrating their special days to make new memories with family/friends is a comfort. The God of all comfort promised to comfort us and we can comfort others – 2 Corinthians 1: 3-5. Even as the tears flow, God promises, "Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted!"

Carol Clemans is a Certified Pastoral Counselor/ointed Bible teacher for churches & conferences. She provides confidential nationwide counseling by phone/Skype (636) 448-0121. Revs. Harold & Carol Clemans' pastor is Jerry Dillon, Madison, MS. Go to: www.carolclemans.org for bio, 80+ articles, teaching CD's, DVD's, book: GOD'S DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE.



Revival Concepts

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What is Your Church's Climate?

True Apostolic churches are marked by Apostolic doctrine, Apostolic action (evangelism) and great confirmation. Yet the exceptional Apostolic church is marked by something else also: presence.

The word *presence* means for something to be present, to be in the vicinity. When I speak of presence, I mean specific tangible things so strongly present they are obvious to all. This presence, these things, serve as a *drawing* and *keeping* power to new people. Here they are:

1) *Love* – I have never met a church that loved too much. When the presence of pure love is in a church, a church loving like how Christ who died for our sins did, unreal things happen. For love does not hold grudges, bitterness or unforgiveness. Love does not become judge and jury. Love just loves people in spite of any and all their mistakes and misdeeds. It simply sees a soul Jesus died for. Oh, to love like Jesus did!

2) *Forgiveness* – Our movement rightfully emphasizes the working of the Spirit, sometimes to the de-emphasis of forgiveness power. A spirit of forgiveness can grip a church, changing the whole atmosphere, spurring visitor flow and greatly increasing retention. I have witnessed powerful breakouts in the Spirit when a few key people got over themselves and practiced true Christianity – forgiving one another.

3) *Friendliness* – When love and forgiveness are present, people become more friendly. People start to smile, say hello and shake hands. Surveys consistently show the #1 reason people return to a church they have visited is not due to the preaching, singing or the building. It is because the people there were friendly.

The above things are indeed all intertwined to some degree. Let forgiveness get ahold of a congregation, and you will see a move of God and an infusion of love in a local church. Of course this results in everyone genuinely being more friendly. Let it be said of every Jesus name church that we loved too much, forgave too much and were too friendly. That will be the day we *reap* and *keep* the greatest Apostolic harvest this world has ever known.

Brian Norman travels full-time globally ministering. His past experience includes Pastoring and Church Planting. www.GlobalEvangelism.org Phone: 636-544-0627



Finance

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I was visiting with a neighboring pastor recently who told me there were some possible credits for health insurance paid by the church. Is there such a credit available and is it refundable?

Yes. The Affordable Health Care Act provided for a refundable tax credit for all employers (including churches) who pay for health care premiums for employees. This tax credit is a refundable credit and can be claimed and refunded to a church even though the church does not pay any income taxes.

The refundable credit is currently available for years 2011, 2012 and 2013. The church would have to complete Form 8941, Form 3800, and a 990-T to claim the credit for each of the years. There are certain criteria to meet concerning the credit such as the wages (W-2 Wages) cannot exceed an average of \$50,000 in the year claiming the credit. The church would have to list the total wages for each employee and show the amounts paid for health care premiums for each employee. You also have to list the number of hours the employee worked during the year.

If, after the computations are done, there is a credit available, the Internal Revenue Service will issue a refund check to the church for the refundable credit. This can be up to 25% of the amounts paid for the health care premiums. No church is too large or too small to file for the credit and receive their refund. Even a church with one employee would qualify.

The only way to determine if the church qualifies and if a credit is available is to complete all the forms and follow the computations required. In many cases, professional assistance would be needed due to the complication of the calculations and completing of the forms.

At present, we have seen many churches receive the credit. Contact your church's accountant or contact our office for assistance in getting your portion of the health care tax credit.

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



Investments

Reimbursing Expenses

It is common for a company or church to reimburse employees for business expenses they have personally paid. However, there are specific rules which must be followed when reimbursing these business expenses. In order for the reimbursement to fall under an approved Accountable Reimbursement Plan:

- They must be business related
- The employee must substantiate the expenses incurred (with sufficient detail

for each expense)

- Any excess amount (of an advance) must be returned in a reasonable amount of time

While a common practice, paying an employee an "expense allowance," "gas allowance," "auto allowance" etc. does not qualify under the accountable reimbursement rules.

The same guidelines above must be followed when an employee uses a church debit or credit card. The employee can write the detail on the receipt (and turn it in), credit card statement, or an expense report. There are also apps available to help track business expenses.

Failure to follow these IRS guidelines

will make the reimbursements fall under a "non-accountable" plan and by default make them taxable to the employee. IRS Publication 1828 provides additional detail.

If you would like a sample Accountable Reimbursement Plan to adopt, please email me, and I will send one to you. Next month, I will discuss other issues regarding reimbursing expenses.

Delano Sherley is a CPA and president of Delano Sherley & Associates, Inc. He can be reached at 513-737-1314. Delano Sherley & Associates, Inc., 3189 Princeton Road, Suite 228, Hamilton, OH 45011. Email: Delano@dsacpainsc.com Website: www.dsacpainsc.com

THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS**Burger King Recently Sold "Gay Pride" Whopper**

Earlier this month, one Burger King restaurant along the parade route of San Francisco's annual gay pride event sold a specially packaged, limited-edition "Proud Whopper" with a rainbow wrap-



per. American Family Association says unless concerned consumers contact the fast food chain, the promotion could go nationwide

next time.

"Even though this promotion was at just one location, as a chain, Burger King is promoting homosexual behavior as healthy and something to have pride in," said AFA President Tim Wildmon.

Fernando Machado, Burger King's senior vice president of Global Brand Management, defended the promotion, saying the sandwich "shows how we, as a brand, believe in self-expression."

LEGAL TRENDS**Scientist Sues University For Firing Him After His Dinosaur Discovery Supported Creationism**

A scientist has filed a lawsuit against the California State University in Northridge saying he was terminated from his job due to his religious views after he discovered soft tissue on a triceratops fossil which supported his creationist view. Mark Armitage, a former scientist at CSUN in LA, was terminated after he discovered supposedly the largest triceratops horn ever unearthed at the Hell Creek Formation excavation site in Montana, according to attorney Brad Dacus of Pacific Justice Institute.

"Since some creationists, like [Armitage], believe the triceratops bones are only 4,000 years old at most, [Armitage's] work vindicated his view that these dinosaurs roamed the planet relatively recently," states the complaint.

The scientist's findings, which indicate that dinosaurs roamed the earth only thousands of years in the past rather than going extinct 60 million years ago, were published in July 2013 in a peer-reviewed scientific journal. "Terminating an employee because of their religious views is completely inappropriate and illegal," Dacus said in a statement.

**Pizza Parlor Will Continue Church Bulletin Discount In Spite of Pressure, Bomb Threat**

A Christian-owned pizza parlor in Arkansas has recently captured national attention for offering a discount for diners who brought in a church bulletin on Sundays.

Bailey's Pizza, which only opened recently, has now been harassed by the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) and even received a bomb threat; still, owner Steven Rose says that he will not stop offering churchgoers the 10 percent discount.

Rose had made it clear that Bailey's is a Christian business. His restaurant features a "scripture wall" with a plaque that reads, "God is the center of our lives, so our scripture wall is at the center of Bailey's Pizza!" Customers are encouraged to read the scripture written on the wall or ask a server for a marker to write their own.

Rose's way of running business caused the FFRF to send a threatening letter, accusing the bulletin discount of excluding atheists. "The law requires places of public accommodation to offer their services to customers without regard to race, color, religion or national origin," FFRF attorney Elizabeth Cavell said.

The restaurant also received a bomb threat through its Facebook page. One unidentified individual said that Bailey's Pizza "better get the bomb squad out" and "stand fast and get blown up quicker." The police were notified of the threat.

Still, Rose says he has no plans of removing the discount. According to Christian legal group Advocates for Faith and Freedom, Rose is not violating anti-discrimination laws because Bailey's Pizza will provide services to anyone.

"Short of [a judge's ruling] there's nothing that they're going to say to me that makes me waver on what I believe," Rose said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ Pope Francis became the first pope to make an official visit to a Pentecostal church, after he flew recently to speak at the Evangelical Church of Reconciliation in the southern city of Caserta, Italy. The pontiff apologized for persecution of Pentecostals the Roman Catholic Church was involved with in the past, and reached out with friendship to evangelicals.

■ Parents in Fremont, CA are pushing their school district to remove a health book with sections about oral sex, bondage

and drug use from local high schools, saying there is no way the publishers can adapt the adult content featured in the book. The Fremont Unified School District purchased the textbook, *Your Health Today*, over the summer to be taught in its six high schools.

After overwhelming response from parents, Superintendent Jim Morris offered to have the books amended. However concerned parents want the books pulled from shelves because of its adult subject matter.

POLITICAL TRENDS**Israel to Expropriate West Bank Land Around Bethlehem**

Israel announced recently it will expropriate 400 hectares (988 acres) of Palestinian land in the occupied West Bank, angering the Palestinians and alarming Israeli peace campaigners. The move to seize the land, in the Bethlehem area in the south of the territory, is the biggest of its kind in three decades.

"On the instructions of the political echelon... 4,000 dunams at Gevaot (settlement) is declared as state land," said the army department charged with administering civil affairs in occupied territory, laying down a 45-day period for any appeal.

It said the move stemmed from political decisions taken after the June killing of three Israeli teenagers snatched from a roadside in the same area, known to Israelis as the Gush Etzion settlement bloc. Israel has named three Palestinians from the West Bank city of Hebron as being behind the murders. The Etzion settlements council welcomed the recent announcement and said it was the prelude to the expansion of the current Gevaot settlement.

**RELIGIOUS TRENDS****Church Group Under Attack For Child Evangelism**

Christian group Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) has set its sights on bringing the children of Portland to Christianity and works with local churches in this effort. CEF's *Good News Club* reaches out to kids at typical summer locations such as pools and parks to join the group. This ministry effort has drawn harsh criticism.

Oregon is known as the least religious state in the nation from Gallup polls in 2008 and 2012 which is why CEF chose the location for its outreach. And as the current law stands, the Good News Club does not need parent consent forms to approach children in public spaces, as they do for schools.

According to the AP, some Portland residents have joined together to protest the CEF's tactics. Protect Portland Children organizer Kay Schmitt said, "They pretend to be a mainstream Christian Bible study when they're a very old school fundamentalist sect."

But CEF vice president Moises Esteves says that Protect Portland Children just wants to ban Christian outreach. "We don't use any of the schemes and high-pressure tactics that we're accused of. Nothing could be farther from the truth," he said.

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+BLUE TIGERS



Robert L. & Jaye M. Rodenbush
IBC Executive Vice-President
Associate Pastor Calvary Tabernacle

G.K. Chesterton in an illustration describes a man of incomparable vision, a reformer: a man who desired a specific type of world in which everything was the color blue. The man labored throughout his life with paint and brush. He didn't despise the time it took as he altered each blade of grass to reflect his favorite hue. He did not complain about the seemingly endless and daunting task he had taken on. Methodically, he took on the mission of making his world a "better" bluer place. But

then Chesterton, in his biting English wit, turns the story on end as he asks the reader to imagine what would happen if the great visionary had changed his favorite color each day? Would he still manage to be progressive? Could he still see his vision of the blue world enacted?

"But if he altered his favourite colour everyday, he would not get on at all. If after reading a fresh philosopher, he started to paint everything red or yellow, his work would be thrown away: there would be nothing to show except a few blue tigers walking about, specimens of his early bad manner." G.K. Chesterton, "Orthodoxy," 1908).

Let us imagine for a moment that the reformer in Chesterton's story is today's Apostolic preacher. Let's agree that the vision he was given to paint the world blue is his heritage, the message of his forefathers, the Apostle's

doctrine. Let us assume that his motive is not evil. He wants to see the world changed and he wants revival. He has committed to "painting the world blue." But, let us also account for modernism and current societal pressures put on the preacher – the color blue is passé, even offensive in many circles. He is under pressure to make adjustments, modify the color to make it friendly to outsiders. The color blue is ridiculed, associated with the Pentecostal movement's unschooled, blue collar past. It begins to appear that others who have moved on from the absolutism and dogmatism of the Apostles' doctrine have been successful, their ministries have grown.

It is my great fear that in the name of progress, in the name of revolution, that we may cast aside the vision passed down to us by our elders, and sacrifice our steadfastness to the Apostolic message. It is a new era. There are new methods, new technology, new ways to reach the lost and dying of this world – that is not where the contention lies. The issue of the day is whether we will stay committed to the vision regardless of methodology.

I believe we should strive for excellence in all we do, but dying and hungry souls aren't really interested in our hyped-up programs, our cool staging, our cutting-edge productions. Those aren't the things that really draw hungry people. The Spirit of a praying church, an on-fire church, a blood-bought church will win the hearts of the lost. Yet, perhaps because we crave innovation, or because we begin to compete among ourselves, or because we don't want to appear out of touch we are at risk for temptation to make changes that we ought not to make. Perhaps it's because we haven't really decided what we want the modern Apostolic church to look like? Perhaps we aren't sure that we are really committed to making sure the old paths are still recognizable?

An article in *Harvard Business Review* online states "Some 70% of family-owned businesses fail or are sold before the second generation gets a chance to take over. Just 10% remain active, privately held companies for the third generation to lead" (hbr.org/2012/01). We all know stories of great men with great businesses, great homes, great retirements, but they turn it all over to someone who was



unprepared for the commitment to run the business with the same quality and standards that the customers were used to; they squander the profits, destroy the retirement funds. The doors close and the dreams are gone.

We are the second and third generation of the modern Pentecostal movement and we have grave decisions that need to be made. Will we throw aside the commission we have been handed? Will we cast aside the color of true holiness and separation from the world, the essentiality of water baptism in Jesus' name and try painting things a different color for a while? Will we pick up the seemingly more appealing color of ecumenism? Will we try a little of the seemingly harmless hue of worldliness? All the while, consoling ourselves with the notion that our motive is revival and these are the trade-offs that must be made to see it happen? I do not believe that the answer to church growth lies in compromise. I do not believe that we have to water down the color of this great gospel in order to fill our pews. We can't take an easier road. We can't look around following every new philosophy or idea and hope that our kids and our grandkids will stay saved. Loosening the reins, letting things slip, letting the banner fall will not lead to our success, it will not profit us, it will not lead to true Spirit-led revival.

There can be no change in our hearts. We must stay fixed, unmovable and unshakeable against the attack of the enemy. We must know in whom we have believed. We must know that we have completely sold out to God's will and purpose for our lives, for our ministry and for our churches.

"Hath a nation changed their gods, which are yet no gods? but my people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit" (Jeremiah 2:11).

This is not an easy time. Endtime revival has been promised, but we were not given this promise with an addendum that says it will come to us without trial or test. In fact, we were warned that the last days would be perilous (2 Timothy 3). There is great evil, chaos and confusion in the world. We feel the heaviness of dealing with the implications of modern technology and the unsettling effects it is having on young people's ability to communicate. We witness the devastating effects of pornography and live with the fear that with one slip or misstep our children will be exposed and their minds forever and irreparably scarred. There is so much at stake, so much to lose, so much to give up. Are we really ready for the colors of sin to be added to our children's lives? We can't live our children's lives for them, and they make their own choices,

but are we really going to send them into this chaotic world without a compass? Are we to give them no directions?

Are we willing to risk telling them it doesn't really matter, to go ahead and make up their own color scheme?

The Old Testament prophet Daniel was in

mourning and fasting, seemingly waiting on God. After many days he saw a vision. However, when the vision came to Daniel he was not alone. Daniel states that there were other men with him, but when the vision began to come, the others started to quake and ran to hide themselves and Daniel was left alone and saw a great vision from the Lord. This day is not an easy day; we will be forced like Daniel to wait on the Lord for His direction, His vision and His purpose. But, when the answer comes, not everyone may be ready to receive it. The prophet Daniel stood alone. He was ready for the challenge. Having faced the hand of a wicked king, having stood face to face with lions in a pit -- Daniel knew in whom he had believed and there was no change in him. God honored Daniel, and let him know that heaven had heard his prayer because he had committed himself and chastened himself before God.

"And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves. Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength. Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground. And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands. And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling. Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words" (Daniel 10:7-12).

We cannot fear what God has for us in this last day (Psalm 91). This message will be preached. God will have a people, a church, His messengers. It will be our choice as ministers of this generation to decide whether we walk among them or whether we walk away. We know that in the last days young men will see visions (Joel 2:28), but will some like those with Daniel run away? Will some turn and hide themselves in fear? Will some fail to prepare themselves to hear the voice of the Lord?

Will we just be left with our elders standing as just a few blue tigers, roaming around as a painful reminder of the old, worn-out traditions that we once held? Or, will we truly embrace what God has for His church, preach without fear (Galatians 1), preach with passion and conviction the mighty God in Christ? There is a committed army, they are chastening themselves before God, and God is hearing their cry. I have the privilege of watching the great students of Indiana Bible College as they lay before God, as they study, as they prepare their hearts and I know they are not alone. God is raising up Daniels throughout the world, and I believe He will honor them, anoint them and make them ready for the great work of revival that is to come.

"To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:4-7).



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Man Up Adventures

Guiding Men Into Authentic Biblical Manhood in a Wilderness Setting

By Christina Li



Bro. and Sis. Nate Thompson
Albert Lea, MN

"Man Up Adventures is a wild place where men are encouraged, God is exalted, and lives experience true change," says Pastor Nate Thompson, co-founder with his father, Pastor Galen Thompson.

"It's an adventure that's conducted by leaders who have one singular passion: to guide men into the fulfillment of authentic biblical manhood through community, experiential learning, and adventure in a wilderness setting."

The first deep seeds were planted when Bro. Nate Thompson left his small home church and went to Bible college. "I had a certain naivete to me in that I thought that every Apostolic young person came from a solid family unit similar to mine. I was aware that many of my unchurched classmates from public school came from fractured families or had experienced a divorce in their lifetime, but my first year at Bible college I realized how blessed I was. I had a dad involved in my life and a mom that loved me and parents that prayed. From that realization, I felt a burden for people without a dad in the home.

"In 2007, I had a good job, but I was struggling spiritually. I had a bunch of vacation time so I called my dad, and we went snowshoeing for four days. Combined with that earlier burden and this experience, God unlocked a dream and vision in me."

The mission statement of Man Up Adventures is "to guide men into the fulfillment of authentic Biblical manhood." This involves "changing our culture one man at a time. We want to equip men to be the men that God requires and created them to be. A man changed equals a family changed. We will never have sustainable revival without men."

There has been a lot of positive feedback, according to Bro. Nate Thompson. In May 2013, during the Pentecost Sunday campsite service, two men received the Holy Ghost and another was baptized in French Creek. This year, two more were baptized in French Creek.

One man wrote of his Man Up Adventure, "That afternoon during the teaching...God began speaking to my heart. I found a place to pray, repent, and forgive. When God was done, it was like 40 years of shame was taken off and left there."

Locations are chosen because of the wilderness aspect. "We look

for a place where a man is swallowed up, where it's challenging and adventurous, and conducive to excellent outdoor classrooms," said Bro. Thompson.

"Man Up Adventures is not just about getting outside. It's about God moments and anointing. Not only are people getting baptized, filled with the Holy Ghost, and coming to Christ, but pastors and ministers are being encouraged. Once an adventure is engaged, all titles and statuses evaporate; men are just men, and all are equally transparent."

People can sign up at www.man-up-adventures.com. Cost is based on Adventure location and activities offered. The age limit is 16, "but we've had men as old as 72 participate."



"The Pagan Woman"

Apostolic Missionary Writes Series Designed to Answer Key Questions

By Linda Schreckenberg



Sis. Linda Reed, author
Missionary to Jordan

Women all over the world can benefit greatly from a series of three booklets, *The Pagan Woman*, by missionary Linda Reed. The series includes Subconscious Sexual Signals, The Pagan Woman and The Bridal Gown.

The Pagan Woman series differs from Sis. Reed's *The Glory* series, which answers questions of the Spirit and deals with who we are and who God is. *The Pagan Woman* series answers questions of the mind.

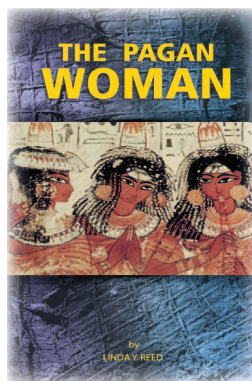
"Much of the research for *The Pagan Woman* series came from my own struggle with our holiness standards," said Sis. Reed. "Answers in the booklets are from history, psychology and the Bible."

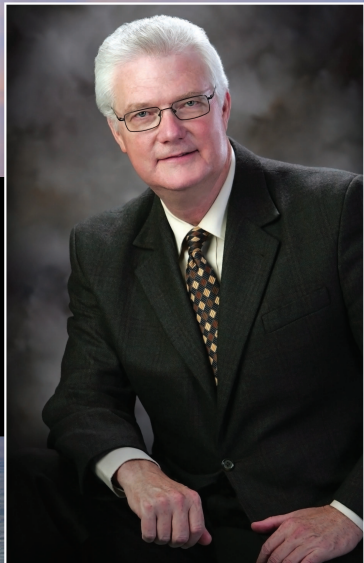
Asked the reason for writing this series, she replied, "I had invitations to speak at women's seminars on this series, but I had to decline to return overseas. Sis. Rodenbush suggested I tape these sessions and make them available. Eventually, I decided to write booklets to make more information available."

Sis. Reed said the intended audience for this series is 21st century UPCI young women, whose minds have been trained in secular education and need answers. "The Bible is a relevant book for the twenty-first century," she said. "Any precepts of its teachings are logical and relevant to our day." She continued to explain, "I hope my readers will be enlightened and learn much

about themselves and their own carnal instincts."

The Reeds have been missionaries for 35 years. She is the District Secretary of the UPCIJ, ordained minister and Senior Pastor of five churches, two which are in Jordan. Sis. Reed has written nine books, which are available in DVD and CD formats. *The Pagan Woman* Series booklets are inexpensive and are filled with Biblical and historical material. They are only \$5 each. Orders may be made through PPH or contact Mrs. Judy Williams at 314-965-0028, and she will send the booklets or DVDs without tax and shipping charges. Orders may also be made through Sis. Reed. Her e-mail address is reedjordan@aol.com.





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James Townley
Jennings, LA



Rocky Dunlap
Tacoma, WA



Tommy Jackson
Highlands, TX



James Johnson
Natchez, MS



Ron Garrett
Glendale, AZ

Wednesday November 5

7:00 pm Evening Service
Wesley Jackson

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Rocky Dunlap

7:00 pm Evening Service
Tommy Jackson

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There will be a complimentary
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Friday November 7

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James Johnson
7:00 pm Evening Service
Ron Garrett

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Word To The Wise:

"You wouldn't be worried about what people think of you if you knew how seldom they actually do."

You know you're a missionary kid (MK) when . . .

- ~ You're an expert on the quality of airline travel.
- ~ You speak two languages but can't spell either.
- ~ You have a time zone map in your room.
- ~ You have friends from or in 29 different countries.
- ~ Your life story uses the phrase "Then we went to . . ." five or more times.
- ~ You never take anything for granted.
- ~ Your family sends you peanut butter and Kool-Aid for Christmas.
- ~ You watch National Geographic specials and recognize someone.
- ~ You see a documentary set in a foreign country, and you know what the nationals are really saying into the camera.
- ~ You realize what a small world it is, after all.

Golfer 1: "Why are you so late?"

Golfer 2: "I prayed and told God 'heads I go to church, tails I play golf.' It took 25 tosses before God finally let me come."



Sis. Hornswaggle was the perfect Jr. High Sunday School class teacher.

"Teacher," announced little Joey, "there's somethin' I can't figger out."

"What's that Joey?" asked the Sunday school teacher.

"Well accordin' to the Bible, the Children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, right?"

"Right."

"An' the Children of Israel beat up the Philistines, right?"

"Er-right."

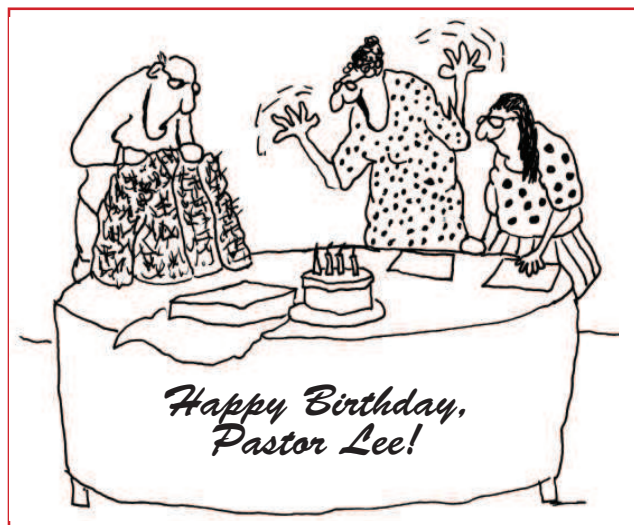
"An' the Children of Israel built the Temple, right?"

"Again, you're right."

"An' the Children of Israel fought the 'gyptians, an' the Children of Israel fought the Romans, an' the Children of Israel wuz always doin' somethin' important, right?"

"All that is right, too," agreed the teacher. "So what's your question?"

"What I wanna know is," demanded Joey, "what wuz all the grown-ups doin'?"



"What a wonderful gift idea, Sissy! A dress shirt made entirely out of bread wrapper twist ties! You can wear it to preach in this Sunday, dear!"

A pastor was doing his children's sermon with all the youngsters down front to hear the lesson. He was discussing the story of Jonah. He quoted the scriptures from Jonah 1 and 2: "And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish, saying 'I called to the Lord out of my distress and He answered me' ... and the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land."

When the pastor finished the quotation, he started trying to solicit input from the youngsters to help him complete his mini-sermon. He asked thoughtfully, "What does the fish vomiting Jonah out on dry land indicate to us today?"

One of the youngsters spoke with great enthusiasm for the entire congregation to hear, "It proves that even a fish can't stomach a bad preacher!"

Smith climbs to the top of Mt. Sinai to get close enough to talk to God. He asks the Lord, "God, what does a million years mean to you?"

The Lord replies, "A minute."

Smith asks, "And what does a million dollars mean to you?"

The Lord replies, "A penny."

Smith asks, "Can I have a penny?"

The Lord replies, "In a minute."



Notice to parents: Pastors hate being used to frighten little kids.

BRAND NEW RELEASE

From the best-selling author of *Our God Is One*, Talmadge L. French

This in-depth study, adapted from French's PhD research at the University of Birmingham (UK), sheds amazing new light on the emergence of the Oneness movement and its flagship organization, the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World. While detailing the lives of its earliest primary architects, as well as its least researched key leaders, such as G.T. Haywood, J.J. Frazee, E.W. Doak, and R.C. Lawson, this one-of-a-kind history views Pentecostalism through the lens of the Jesus' Name movement and its tenacious, counter-cultural interracial vision, interlinking the significance of Charles Parham, William Seymour, the Azusa Street revival, the AG, COGIC, and dozens of the earliest Oneness organizational bodies. It is the fascinating story of the phenomenal growth of Oneness Pentecostalism up to 1930, via the development of its epicenters in the U.S. and its missionary and autochthonous church expansion worldwide.

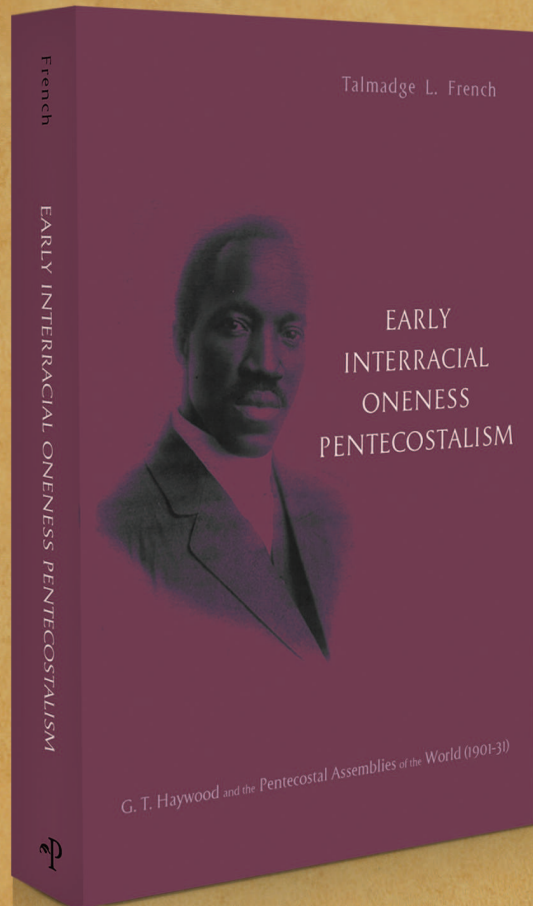


Talmadge French is a graduate of Wheaton College and Wheaton College Graduate School and has a PhD from the University of Birmingham, UK. He is the author of *Our God Is One: The Story of the Oneness Pentecostals* (1999). He is the pastor of Apostolic Tabernacle, Jonesboro, Georgia.

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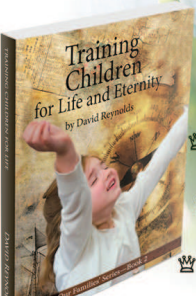
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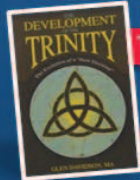

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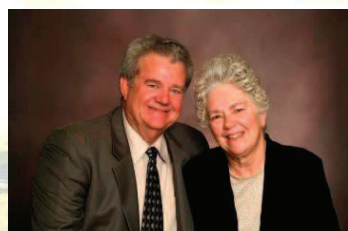
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