

VOL. 25 NO. 11
INDIANA BIBLE COLLEGE



IBC Perspectives



Apostolics in Politics

ANAP

When the Sure Becomes Unsure

Paul D. Mooney

“Without moral foundations, holiness lifestyles and the clear preaching of the Apostles’ doctrine, believers will become weak, indifferent, and worldly.”

The battle rages on. The attempt to redefine the message of Acts 2:38 as non-essential has become the central front on which the war against the Apostolic movement is being waged. If we ever lose hold of this bulwark of our faith - baptism in Jesus’ name and the infilling of the Holy Spirit - if we separate that experience away from its biblically declared purpose as an essential universal spiritual path to Christ, and to salvation, we render it meaningless.

Shared meaning in a culture is vital. What can be re-defined from one generation to the next or on the whim of personal opinion is of little importance. Agreeing on the definitions, agreeing on what’s important to us, agreeing on our core beliefs is everything. We must be “settled” (Colossians 1:23). For example, take the issue of same-sex marriage and how it has blurred the foundational lines of our culture.

“We have come to a place of semantic insanity -- where you can have male wives, female husbands, male mothers, and female fathers. Do people really think you can just turn the world upside down without having any adverse effects?” (Dr. Michael L. Brown, columnist).

Quite frankly, it appears that there are some who believe they can indeed turn the world upside down without consequences. We are seeing it everywhere, not only in America, but in most Christian nations. The definitions are changing. They are blurred into incomprehensibility. What was once thought of as secularization of Christianity has evolved into an openly declared de-Christianization of most of Western culture. This is no small matter. And, unfortunately, what makes it worse is that the last enemy of the Church is the church itself.

The Apostle Peter warned the saints that the “unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.” That little word *wrest* means to “forcibly pull something from a person’s grasp” (Dictionary.com). Peter knew that the truth could be pulled from the hands of even a steadfast believer. His admonition was to beware, because the very objective of the wicked is to lead the faithful astray. In other words, don’t permit what you have been taught to be ripped from your hearts with the error of the wicked. Rather we must maintain our “own steadfastness” (2 Peter 3:16-18).

So if it is our duty to guard ourselves from deception and error, let us apply Dr. Brown’s question to our modern church. Can we just turn our positions on doctrine and holiness upside down on semantic technicalities and not expect any adverse effects? Can we afford to indulge weakness in the areas of separation and our Apostolic distinctions from the world and still think we will be the same church? Do we believe we can turn the Apostles doctrine upside down and still have a hope of reaching the world? Note Paul’s resolve along these lines:

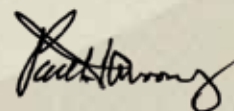
“If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister; Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:23, 26, 27).

Paul’s declarative statement “Christ in you the hope of glory” should be clear to us all, especially those who have received the Holy Ghost. His words describe the Pentecostal outpouring — the defining revelation, the glorious shared experience of each member of God’s Church — the hope of which is to be “preached to every creature under heaven.”

Reaching a state of meaninglessness is possible. One can define, redefine, question, challenge and, in the name of progressive thought or wise rhetoric, can build skepticism and confusion until that which was once sure become unsure. Skepticism like a tsunami pounds itself onto the shores of hearts and minds, and the original issue is lost in the discussion itself. Such was the prideful work of the ancient Greek sophists, who in their specious arguments intended to confound and mislead. Specious arguments are designed to be by definition “superficially plausible, but actually wrong” (Oxford). They are generally the work of those persons “wise in their own conceits” who intend to be misleading and deceptive. I fear there are some in these last days who have shown themselves willing to walk this path in opposition of the Apostles’ doctrine; who are willing to turn the world upside down regardless of the consequences — an expression of rebellion itself.

The great Pentecostal revival sweeping the world is impossible without the Pentecostal experience. Without moral foundations, holiness lifestyles and the clear preaching of the Apostles’ doctrine, believers will become weak, indifferent, and worldly; and those once partnered with us in growth and revival will become members of the deconstruction team, who, if left unchallenged, will forcibly pull the truth from our grasp, ripping from our hands and hearts the revolutionary message of the New Birth.

Don’t permit it.



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♦To promote revival and growth among Apostolic churches and pastors by encouraging unity and cooperation among those of like faith and by providing a forum for the sharing of new ideas, ministries and programs.

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

♦To promote and enhance the ongoing ministry of Indiana Bible College.

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FEATURE: "NOW IS THE TIME, THIS IS THE PLACE, YOU ARE THE ONE"

(J.B. SIMS)

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VOTE

CHRISTIANS, VOTING,
AND POLITICS

Interviews by John Fonzer Jr.

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



Thomas Davis, Kent, WA -- The Word of God gives us directives as to what our rights and mandates are. It is important that we have a voice and be able to declare what is right and also what is wrong; and to do it in a way that God is glorified. I try not to involve the church because you get into a lot of problems. I don't even share it from the pulpit. I step out of the pulpit to talk about politics and encourage people to vote.



Rick Lovall, Sikeston, MO -- I strongly encourage our people to vote their convictions, but I don't tell anybody who to vote for, not even my wife. We need to represent our faith and our values and make sure that we don't compromise. I never support one party over another. I only vote for the person that lines up with my convictions. I believe it is wrong to enable sin, so I believe it is wrong to vote for someone who I know is going

to function in capacities I believe are sinful.



Tim Massengale, Indianapolis, IN -- The Word of God clearly calls for every Christian to stand for righteousness. If the church does not lift up a standard for moral truth, then evil prevails. When a Christian casts their vote for individuals that support the murder of unborn children via abortion or the destruction of family and moral values via the gay agenda, they are clearly supporting those who support evil. Pastors should educate their members about these issues and strongly condemn

those candidates who endorse abortion and gay marriage. We must not be intimidated by those who would like to silence the church. Pulpit Freedom Sunday (www.adflegal.org) gives support to Pastors that wish to provide a clear voice from the pulpit for truth and righteousness.



Sherwood Bradford, Moss Point, MS -- Holiness churches make a great mistake by not being involved. We learned a great lesson here on the Gulf Coast when Hurricane Katrina hit. Because we hadn't been involved, we missed out on a lot of things for our people because the other denominations that were politically involved had the connections.

Paul always went to the council. Jesus was a great politician. Isaiah said the government would be on His shoulders. Jesus was the only person who could convince that many folks to follow Him. I mention voting every Sunday. Voting is Biblical. Faith without works is dead. We should be more vocal, and we should educate our people because most of them are going to vote. The question is, do you want them voting ignorantly or with knowledge? It would be a sin to support a candidate who supports anti-Christian values. If you put your hand to the plow with that man, you are a partaker of his sins.

Getting involved with the IRS and the 501's might have been a bad road to take. Now they can threaten you with that. But if you are preaching the Gospel, you can preach without it. If they take it, you were a church before you acquired 501 status. If anybody controls your pulpit, you have sold out to them.



Richard A. Gifford, Waycross, GA -- I have had some candidates come in and speak if they share the same core values we do. I would not necessarily say it was sin to vote for someone who didn't share the same values, though.

In a private conversation, I think that it's wise for a pastor to endorse a candidate; but it's unwise to do it from the pulpit. As a pastor, you have to identify the people in your church who have influence and then privately influence them.

Without you saying anything, they in turn influence others.



Ira Combs, Jackson, MI -- Our church participates in voter education. Saints are obligated to be involved if the candidates running are worthy of their votes. If a saint has knowledge that he or she is supporting a candidate whose policies are contrary to the scriptures and an affront to God, that person is in violation of the Word of God.

John the Baptist was very vocal against Herod. It left an indelible record in history, that if indeed we are to be servants of Christ we are to take a position -- even if it costs us our lives.



Ben Smith, Richmond, IN -- The church needs a voice. If we are going to lay claim to being the moral compass of society, we need to bring our voice to the table. Voting lets us have somewhat of a voice. The closest I could come to saying it is sin to support a candidate whose views are contrary to scripture is "to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin." Still, I cannot in good conscience say that how a person votes is a sin. Sin is a heavy word.



Roger Roth, Gig Harbor, WA -- I try to research which candidates are doing what, but one thing I'm finding out is that they are all the same. I cannot even vote straight Republican anymore. I don't think party line is worth twenty cents anymore. If Republicans stood for what they say they stand for, then President Obama would not be able to do what he has done. They sat back and allowed him to make statements like, "I have a phone, and I have a pen."

I think it would be a sin to support candidates who support same-sex marriage or abortion, but if you try to vote based on the candidate, you're still going to find that there's something in the candidate's record you're against as a Christian. A lot of that has to do with us not having term limits. All they're trying to do is spend the first two years of the term trying to find out what they are supposed to do and the next two years trying to get re-elected. Not that I'm afraid of it, but I don't know that I would endorse a candidate from the pulpit. For me, it's not really about IRS or federal authority; it's more about what the sanctuary is really for. I'd rather preach with anointing and let the Holy Ghost work on the Christians in the congregation. I would then tell them, "When you vote, vote with knowledge. Use some intelligence. It doesn't take that long. Vote responsibly."

“Now is the Time, This is the Place, You are the One”

J. B. Sims

ministering service for the saints,” said Bro. Sims. “God moved in a special way as we ministered to hurting hearts and wounded spirits. The message I preached was, ‘What Time Is It Really?’ Both my wife and I felt an instant connection to the people, and we left that service knowing God had done something very special.”

In addition to pastoring Faith Tabernacle, Bro. Sims is very involved in the District of Alabama. He was elected District Home Missions Secretary in 2002 and in 2004 was elected as District Apostolic Man Director.

With having to wear many different hats, Bro.

Sims is thankful to have the support and help of his family. “My son Jason and his wife Jenika serve as associate pastor, and my daughter Andrea and her husband Ian serve as music director,” said Bro. Sims. “In addition, my wife JoAnn has been my friend, counselor, traveling partner, encourager, sounding board and one thousand other things, all while being the mother of our children. My family, including our ten grandchildren, loves the city of Foley and we are honored to serve Faith Tabernacle as well as our community.”

Bro. Sims loves teaching and preaching Apostolic doctrine and firmly believes that to be effective you must preach the truth in love. “Every person that sits under my preaching has a right to hear truth, and I believe it is my duty as a servant of God to give them truth; however, it doesn’t give me the right to be rude or mean-spirited in my delivery,” said Bro. Sims. “I extend the same courtesy toward them as I would wish for myself or my family members if they were attending this church. I am there to serve them, and I want to make myself approachable to assist them in their Christian journey.”

Principles of Growth and Revival

The Pentecostals of Foley have maintained consistent growth throughout Bro. Sims’ tenure. When the Sims first arrived in Foley, there was an average of 32 people in attendance; today they average 175-180. Bro. Sims contributes this success to a few key principles. “We were small in size, but we didn’t have small thinking,” said Bro. Sims. “Our first move after becoming pastor was to start Tuesday Focused Prayer. The success of this service determined the success of all other services. One of the most important things that we did was

to have church when we came to church. We were determined that Satan would not stop us, low attendance would not stop us, or lack of worship would not stop us. We then became a giving church. A giving church is intentional about the business of God.”

While the demands

Welcome to Faith Tabernacle, a church where southern charm meets passionate worship and dynamic preaching. Located in South Alabama, the coastal community of Foley -- alive with friendly people, historical sites, beautiful beaches and many other attractions -- is home to the Pentecostals of Foley, a church that is committed to its community. Pastor J.B. Sims and Faith Tabernacle are fulfilling their vision to be the body of Christ to our world, providing faith, hope and love to all.

Personal Ministry

Bro. Sims was raised in an Apostolic home and spent his childhood years in Florida where he received the Holy Ghost and was baptized at the age of 14. “I first felt God dealing with me about the ministry in April of 1981,” said Bro. Sims. “My wife and I lived in Gainesville, Georgia. Rev. C.R. Duke was our pastor and we were in revival with Rev. Sammy Bozeman. I preached my first message that year in November. My scripture text was Matthew 8:19-22. My sermon title was, ‘How Far Will You Go?’” It was the beginning of the journey for Bro. Sims, and today he can look back and see just how far he has come.

After receiving his call to the ministry in 1981, Bro. Sims made himself available to serve in any capacity that he could. “I served in the bus ministry from 1981-1985,” explains Bro. Sims, “then we moved to Tallahassee where I served as youth pastor until 1988. Rev. Larry Sims, who is my brother, invited us to serve as his assistant pastor in 1988, and for the next ten years, he made the greatest sacrifice and investment into our ministry.

We are truly grateful and indebted to him and his wife Pam.”

Bro. Sims preached his first sermon at Faith Tabernacle on October 26, 1997, and on January 13, 1998, he was elected as pastor. “Our first service was a



Exterior view of Faith Tabernacle of Foley, South Alabama

on his personal time are great, due to district events, pastoring and spending time with his family, Bro. Sims has personal priorities he consistently maintains to help better serve his church, his family and his community. "My main focus is my own personal daily prayer, devotion and study," said Bro. Sims. "This helps me to feed, protect and serve the church body. I also love to invest in future leaders while training present leaders, and to help other pastors or missionaries with their burden."

Growth Ministries and Methods

A church is able to achieve growth in a variety of ways; however, sustained growth is intentional, not accidental, and to accomplish this you must have a growth plan. "Our greatest outreach tool has been our school and daycare that was started by my wife 14 years ago," said Bro. Sims. "If you take care of people's children, they won't soon forget you. We have tried different outreach methods but the best results come from having the power and demonstration of the Holy Ghost moving in our church service. One of the most important things to accomplish is to have church when you come to church. Prayer is another important key. When we pray, we don't pray weak prayers; we pray with authority. The preaching is anointed because we have anointed praying. Last, but not least, everyone in our church makes visitors feel welcome; this is not left up to the greeters and ushering staff alone. It's hard to walk away when you've been treated so nicely."

Organization and Management

Faith Tabernacle has a variety of ministries, with about 50 percent of its members involved in some form of ministry. Sis. Sims creates a monthly calendar, which keeps everyone busy yet focused. In turn, each department is responsible for turning in dates and events for the calendar throughout the year. Organization is key, according to Bro. Sims. "I meet with all ministers weekly, and I meet with all department leaders monthly, where we have a meal together and discuss necessary business," he said. "Everyone has a job description and is required to turn in a monthly report as well. To help in these areas we take advantage of seminars and conferences, purchase material and books, as well as use our own training methods."

Bro. Sims promotes involvement to everyone in his church, and has implemented a program to encourage and give people the opportunity to do just that. "The first Sunday of every month is Mission Sunday," he said. "There is no evening service. All members are encouraged to visit guests/elders who can no longer attend services due to health issues, etc. and minister to them. Our motto is 'It's Mission Sunday, What Is Your Mission?'"

Current Facility

As their membership has grown, Faith Tabernacle's facilities have grown as well. The first church building was 40x60. This included an auditorium, two classrooms and two bathrooms with a very small foyer. It sat on 5.38 acres of prime property. Today, they are in a building program on that same land that Bro. Sims says was handpicked by God. "Our current facility is a metal structure," he explained. "The square footage is 10,250 and the seating capacity is 200. We have five bathrooms, one office, six classrooms, two foyers, and an auditorium and fellowship hall in this building. We have a 4,000 square foot administration building with more classrooms and evangelists' quarters, and we are currently in the early construction stages of building an 11,250 square foot Family Life Center. Plans are underway to remodel our present auditorium as soon as this building project is completed."

Conclusion

The Sims family and the Pentecostals of Foley are excited about what God has done and the revival they are experiencing. However, they feel that the best is

yet to come. "To date, many wonderful and exciting things have happened," said Bro. Sims, "and we praise God for each and every one; but, having said that, let me tell you that God has just begun this marvelous work, and there are many miracles yet unclaimed and many more lost souls who will find salvation at the altar. There are many broken families that will be restored because of the sacrifices made by the wonderful men and women of Faith Tabernacle."



Pastor J.B. and JoAnn Sims, Associate Pastor Jason and Jenika Sims Foley, Alabama



Top left clockwise: Pastor Sims preaches to the congregation; altar service; a baptism; the praise team leads worship.



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WINTERFIRE

"The Oneness Apostolic Motorcycle Ministry of Jesus Christ"

Our newest "Honorary Members" of Azusa StreetRiders, Dr. and Sis. David K. Bernard, UPCI General Superintendent, with "Honorary Members" from last year, Rev. and Sis. Kenneth Carpenter ALJC General Superintendent at the 2015 Azusa StreetRiders National Rally; 7/30-8/1 in Maryville, Tennessee. They are pictured here with some of the Chapter Presidents of Azusa StreetRiders from the US and Canada.



Azusa StreetRiders, the world's only Oneness Apostolic Motorcycle Ministry met in Maryville, TN at First Apostolic Church (Pastor Kenneth Carpenter) and 74 members from 18 states, Canada and Africa were in attendance.



Thursday night, July 30, 2015, Rev. Jerry Richardson, the UPCI Regional Director to Africa, preached our "Motorcycles for Missionaries" service and reception was tremendous. He helped explain how the motorcycle gifts assist missionaries on the foreign fields. And on Friday night, July 31, 2015, Dr. David K. Bernard, the UPCI General Superintendent, preached "God is Able." Services were open to the public and both nights were very well attended. Following the Friday night service, we were honored to baptize two ladies in the wonderful Name of Jesus!



As always, the Smokey Mountains offer excellent motorcycle riding areas and Azusa StreetRiders took advantage them and great the weather! We had an awesome time of fellowship and renewal.

At the business meeting, two new officers were elected; Rev. Anthony Storey (President—Eminence, KY) and Rev. Jim Curley (Vice President—Ashland, KY). Bro. Robert Thompson (Maryville, TN) was retained as Secretary and Sis. Lydia Diaz (Mays Landing, NJ) remains Treasurer.

The Azusa StreetRiders are not about motorcycles or riding. We're about souls—Working for the Lord!

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS!



www.AzusaStreetRiders.com info@AzusaStreetRiders.com

Bad Habits Leaders Should Avoid

By Artie Davis, pastor of Cornerstone Community Church in Orangeburg, South Carolina

What habits are keeping you from getting your work done? Here are 10 habits that leaders must break to be more productive:

- 1. Overloading.** Have you ever been in the middle of one task and then started another, only later to realize that you didn't finish either? Multitasking seems like a good idea at the time, but often leads to nothing. Concentrate on the important task until it is finished, before starting something else.
- 2. Making Excuses.** We have become desensitized to accountability. When something doesn't get it done, we immediately look for something or someone else to blame. As the cliché goes, "Life isn't always fair." Get it done anyway.
- 3. Email Obsession.** How many times do you check email in a day? 10, 20, 50, 100? Stop checking your email. Instead, do your work.
- 4. Focusing on the negative.** The news is best consumed in small doses. If you read the news these days there is simply too much. Too much negativity. Too much inaccuracy. Too much wasted time. Don't endlessly surf the news websites.
- 5. Being Unorganized.** You may be telling yourself (and others) that you know exactly where everything is on your desk. However, a messy desk impedes your ability to efficiently do work. Piles are not organization, so clean them up today.
- 6. Complaining.** Don't be one of those people who goes through life complaining. If you aren't happy about something, then do something about it. You can leave your job. You can start new relationships. You can even change things about yourself if you try hard enough.
- 7. Unhealthy Eating.** Eating junk food on a regular basis is a sure road trip to an unhealthy lifestyle. However, it is also responsible for derailing your energy level in the afternoon. Instead of being a post-lunch zombie, eat a healthy meal that will fuel your body.
- 8. Skipping Exercise.** When things get hectic, one of the first things to go is exercise. But don't underestimate exercise's ability to power your motivation and energy level.
- 9. Being Chained to your Phone.** Who is in charge, you or your smartphone? Don't answer it just because it rings. Don't jump at every beep, chirp, and vibration. Remember, it is there for your convenience, not the other way around.
- 10. Doing Just Good Enough.** When you don't give something your all, you end up with a half-done job. Always bring your A-game; do it right the first time and with class.



Positioning For Growth - Houseparents Needed, Short and Longer Term Opportunities

By Stephen Judd, TCM President



Stephen Judd www.mansionkids.org

One of the most fulfilling roles at Tupelo Children's Mansion is to serve as a houseparent. Yes, it's challenging, but so rewarding!

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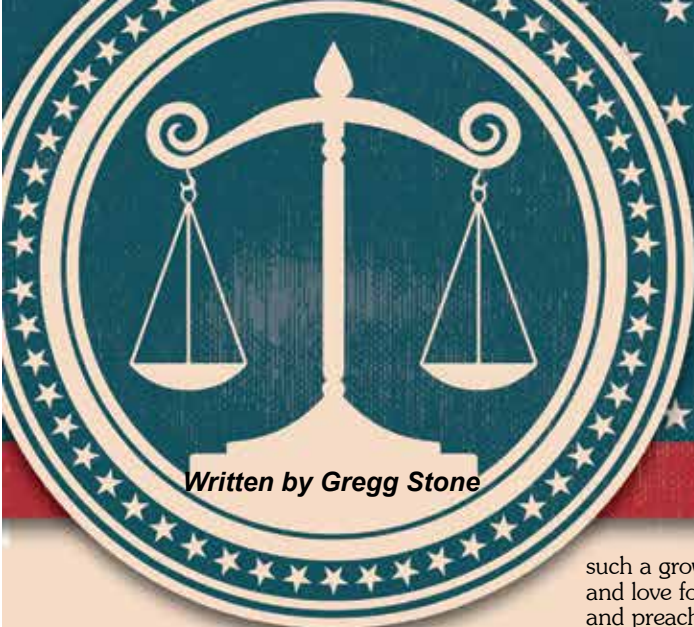


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Written by Gregg Stone

Apostolics in Politics

INTERVIEW WITH NEW MISSISSIPPI SENATOR JENIFER BRANNING

Sis. Branning, tell us a little about yourself, your background and your church involvement.

I am an honors graduate of Leake Academy and Mississippi State University with a Bachelor in Business Administration. I also attended the MBA program prior to entering law school. I graduated from Mississippi College School of Law in 2004, and had the privilege of serving as a staff attorney for the Mississippi Secretary of State's office upon graduation. In 2006, my family and I moved back to our home town of Philadelphia, Mississippi and opened Branning Law Firm, PA, which specializes in business and real estate transactions.

I am an Apostolic Christian, wife of 17 years to Chancy, mother to Ethan, Ellis and Evan, practicing attorney and now a Senator-elect for the state of Mississippi. I, along with my husband and sons, are active members of Pine Grove Pentecostal Church (PGPC) in Sebastopol, Mississippi. At PGPC, I have taught Sunday school and business leadership classes, and have served as co-chair of the PGPC Ladies Department for several years. Additionally, I am honored to serve as a founding board member for Hope's House (a subsidiary of PGPC), which is a children's foster home in the beginning stages.

Chancy is a licensed real estate agent and heads the land title division of Branning Law Firm, and he also serves on the music staff of PGPC as a percussionist. Our boys all attend Pine Grove Christian Academy and are involved in PGPC Bible quizzing and Standout Youth.

Tell us a little about Pine Grove Pentecostal Church and Pastor Mark Copeland.

Pastor Copeland is the most aggressive visionary that I know. He and his wife, Sis. Melanie Copeland, truly lead by example. When the Copeland's began pastoring PGPC in 1998, the church had approximately 40 members. Today, PGPC has over 400 active members in a town with a population of less than 200. People drive from all over the central Mississippi area to attend PGPC, because of the dynamic worship, outstanding music program, and most importantly, the love for outreach and souls. From Pine Grove Christian Academy, to Hope's House, to the PGPC bus/outreach ministry, to PGPC Bible quizzing and to various "daughter works," Pastor Copeland is leading the way to revival in the last days, and is attempting to reach every single soul in the process. It is a privilege for my family to attend

such a growing congregation that is full of hope and love for souls. The solid Biblical teaching and preaching over the years by Pastor Copeland, coupled with the wonderful example of his wife, has prepared me for the political path I am now walking.

Did you hold elective office before this? Why did you decide to run for state senate? What's the story behind it and your motivation?

While I have served as a special prosecutor for Neshoba County, I have never held an elective office. In 2011, I ran (unsuccessfully) for the Neshoba County Justice Court Judge position, while expecting child number three.

I had been considering a legislative position for some time. I believe that "to whom much is given, much is required" applies to all facets of life. I have been fortunate to have obtained a law degree and now run a successful law practice. My desire to see various improvements in my community and state, coupled with my education and experience, led to my decision to seek the state senate seat. With my husband and pastor's blessing, I filed qualifying papers to run as a Republican for Mississippi State Senate District 18 in January of this year.

Was it a difficult race? What was your most difficult moment?

We, as a family, dedicated a tremendous amount of time and energy toward the campaign from February to August 2015, while maintaining our work responsibilities, family responsibilities and volunteer commitments at church. Almost every week, we had any number of political rallies, fundraisers or forums to attend, in addition to grassroots direct voter contact through knocking doors and making phone calls. In addition, the boys accompanied us to almost every single event. Therefore, from a time and energy perspective, the race was extremely difficult on our family. However, at the same time, we enjoyed the time together and the boys learned a great deal about the political process and the inner-workings of a grassroots campaign.

There were four candidates in the race, including me. I was the youngest, the only female, the only attorney and the only Apostolic Christian. In Mississippi, a candidate must receive a simple majority of total votes cast in order to win without a runoff. Not every state has this rule. In the primary, I won 43% of the overall vote, and the other candidates received 24%, 22% and 11% respectively. While this was an impressive lead, I had to face the second place candidate in the run-off election,



The Branning family
Philadelphia, Mississippi

which was held three weeks after the primary.

My most difficult moment was the realization that my opponent in the run-off made the decision to attack me personally and publicly for being a wife and working mother seeking public office. I strive to put God and my family ahead of anything else in life, so this attack was brutal. I had been attacked for being "another attorney," but that was expected and did not affect me. However, we did not respond one time to any negativity during the campaign. We stayed on message and remained positive, and we prevailed in the end with 67% to the opposition's 37%. We could not have possibly achieved the level of results realized without the help and support of the volunteers and interns who participated in the campaign.

Did your opponent or the news services attack your faith or church affiliation? Was your being Apostolic ever an issue?

I have never viewed being Apostolic as a hindrance, as living this way is a choice. I do not recall an attack during the campaign for this reason. In fact, most people seemed to respect this lifestyle, and the public seemed pleasantly surprised by the quality of interns that assisted with the campaign.

What would you like to influence most in Mississippi as a state senator?

One goal I have is to implement various business tax cuts to grow our existing business and to create jobs. At the same time, we must continue to strive for an improved system of education for our children. An educated workforce is always a motivating factor for the recruitment of new industry, and another goal is to recruit and maintain large industry for job creation and economic stabilization. My general motivation is to improve the quality of life for Mississippians through aggressive tax cuts and lessening of government regulation, all while working to protect our Second Amendment rights, right to life and traditional marriage.

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 2015

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SPEAKERS	CONTACT / INFO
OCT 16-18	Apostolic Doctrine Conference Strengthening Our Doctrinal Foundation	New Life Fellowship 7849 Wabash Avenue Terre Haute, IN 47803	Raymond Woodward and James Hughes	For more info: www.newliferrehaute.com or 812-877-9348
NOV 3-6	West Coast Conference - Fresno, CA 32nd Annual Fresno Meeting	Fresno Convention Center, 848 M Street, Fresno, CA	Nathan Morton, PJ White, Paul Bertram, Ron Garrett, Matt Davies, Jess Parker, and Vaughn Morton	For more information call: (559) 225-1622 www.truthtabfresno.org
NOV 12-14	Times of Refreshing -- Lewisville, TX Service times are Thursday and Friday 7:30 p.m., Saturday 6 p.m. Children's church nightly with David Moore -- ages 5-11	Pentecostals of Lewisville 331 E. Church St. Lewisville, TX 75057 Host Pastor: Rob McKee	Raymond Woodward, Cort Chavis and Gordon Poe	For more info: visit www.gordonpoe.com/ TOR/conference . (717) 755-7202
NOV 19-21	INAAP Regional Training Center Empowering and equipping Apostolic leaders to build the Kingdom of God. Our vision is to align the Apostles and Prophets for the purpose of affirmation, awakening, aligning and activation.	Courtyard Marriott 3712 SW 38th Ave. Ocala, FL 34474 Host: Stephen Antoine	John Arcovio	For more info: visit www.spiritled.net , e-mail spiritledm@gmail.com , or call 888-776-0797
FEB 18-20	WinterFire 2016 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 1151 Blue Hills Ave. Bloomfield, CT 06002	Paul Mooney, Sam Emory, T.F. Tenney, Jerald Staten, David Bernard and Rashidi Collins, Tim Greene and Janice Sjostrand	For more info: visit www.winterfire.org or visit Twitter: winterfire- conf or Facebook/Insta- gram: winterfireconf
FEB 19-20	Systems & Strategies Conference A conference for pastors and leaders examin- ing systems and strategies to help Apostolic churches prepare for the harvest.	Church of Pentecost 8709 Hogan Rd. Jacksonville, FL Host Pastors: Rick & Alexa Olson	Wayne Huntley	For more info: visit www.systemsandstrate- gies , www.churchofpentecost.org or call (904) 645-0153
MARCH 3-4	Passing the Mantle 2016 PTM exists to equip ministers and ministry teams with spiritual tools to better reach their communities for the Lord. Our goal is to make each attendee more effective in their place of ministry.	Bartlett United Pentecostal Church 270 E. Schick Road Bartlett, IL 60103	Eli Hernandez, Harold Hoffman, Allan Shalm, Jack Cunningham, James Booker and Tom Trimble	For more info: visit www.passingthemantle. org or call 630-837-9800
APRIL 6-8	Indiana Bible College MUSIC FEST 2016 Under the direction of Lindel M. Anderson, Dean of Music	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN Host: Paul D. Mooney	Paul Mooney, Rob Roden- bush, Lindel Anderson, IBC Choir, IBC Chorale, IBC Praise, others	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
APRIL 28-30	Eagles Summit Conference - Stockton, CA Eagles Summit is committed to birthing, em- powering and equipping Apostolic leaders to build the Kingdom of God.	Stockton, CA	John Arcovio	For more info: visit www.eaglessummit.net
JUNE 8-10	Power Conference 2016 Services begin at 7:30 p.m. nightly. Day sessions at 10 a.m. Thursday and Friday morning.	Crossroads Arena 2800 S. Harper Rd. Corinth, MS Host: John Hodum	Mark Morgan, Wayne Huntley	For more info: contact Josh Hodum @ 662-872- 9999 or John Hodum @ 931-332-3926
JULY 2016	Mile High Conference 2016 Revival of Prayer, Praise and Evangelism	Calvary Apostolic Church Of Denver, 5900 E. Yale Ave. Denver, CO 80222	To be announced	(303) 758-5900 www.cacdenver.org DEH2@comcast.net
AUG 2016	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: Joel Holmes	To be announced	For more info visit <a href="http://www.arkansascampmeet-
ing.com">www.arkansascampmeet- ing.com
AUG 18-19	Investing in Futures A conference for those who invest in children. Educating, encouraging and equipping chil- dren's ministry workers.	Apostolic Sanctuary 1501 John Deere Pky. Silvis, IL 61282 Host: Gary Randol	Donnie Sheerin, Brian Kinsey, Vickie Oliver, Tim Gaddy	For more info: visit invest-in-futures.com (309) 792-0414
SEPT. 10-11	Mid-America Renewal Conference (MARC) Indianapolis, Indiana - A Power Packed Preach- ing 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 27-30	92nd Annual UPCI General Conference Don't miss it!	Indiana Convention Ctr. 100 S. Capitol Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46225	To be announced	Online registration, hotel reservations and exhibit registration available at www.upcigc.com

Church Today: A Strategy of Intimidation



Robert L. Rodenbush

Church Today

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A Strategy of Intimidation

A large portion of the enemy's strategy in today's cultural war is intimidation. Satan does not need to take away our freedom if he can get us to cave under the weight of intimidation. Americans still have great religious liberty and freedom, but it is the agenda of many to intimidate us into not exercising these freedoms.

We were talking with friends the other day and their son who attends public school was told by a teacher to put away a Bible he was reading during his free time. Their son complied, but the act was one of intimidation, he was not in violation of any legal precept. A public school teacher in our local church was being required to teach yoga and meditation as a part of her elementary physical education curriculum. This practice, deeply rooted in Eastern religious philosophy, violates basic Christian principles. While she can and did decline participation, she does so at great risk of repercussion.

Peer pressure among teens today goes far beyond what we could have imagined just a few years ago. A newly released study from the Boston University School of Public Health detailed at MedicalDaily.com found that "one in every 13 teenage girls, ages 14 to 20, reported having a group-sex experience." Of those who had engaged in this behavior repeatedly, more than half reported that they were pressured to do so.

What we see demonstrated in our societal decay is not merely individuals giving in to sin for the sake of the sin itself, but rather individuals yielding to the intimidation of the world. And we witness the same within the church. While touting objections to worldliness and carnality too many fall victim to the pressure of intimidation and the fear of repercussion. So, we accommodate and change definitions. Holiness softly redefined is no longer associated with separation from the world. Essentiality softens to suggestion when discussing Jesus' name baptism and the infilling of the Holy Ghost.

We have great liberty in Christ, but are we failing to exercise that liberty? Are we failing to operate in the strength and boldness given to us by the Holy Ghost? Are we choosing rather to bow to the weapon of intimidation? In the cultural war as in the spiritual war it will be through boldness that the Gospel is made known (Eph. 6:19-20). We must teach boldness to our children and encourage Americans as well as the saints of God to operate within the fullness of their liberty. If we resist the devil, he will flee from us. But, we must boldly resist!



Bobby Killmon

Theology

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Is the name of Jesus actually Yeshua?

Some claim *Yeshua* is the Jewish name Jesus was called by and the name *Jesus* is wrong, even going so far as to say the name *Jesus* is pagan in origin! They argue *Jesus* is derived from *Zeus* and really means "hail Zeus." How do we show the real answer to what the Messiah's name was? It is found in the Apostles' writings.

It's true Jesus was known in His time as *Yeshua*. That name means "Jehovah is salvation." The English spelling of *Yeshua* would be *Joshua*. However, when translated from Hebrew into Greek, the name *Yeshua* becomes *Iesous*. The English spelling for *Iesous* is *Jesus*. Simple, right?

Well, the problem gets more complex because some suggest there were no Gospels in Greek at the time of the Apostles, only Hebrew. They claim later in the 4th century people corrupted the name of *Yeshua* by transliterating it from the Hebrew into Greek. They even suggest we can't trust our KJV because the English is corrupt because it wasn't translated from these "Hebrew Gospels."

First, there's no manuscript or historical record of any Hebrew Gospels predating the Greek NT. Since all we do have are the Greek manuscripts, we must only use them to find out what the Apostles wrote about Jesus. To say it more pointedly, we must make a case out of the evidence we do have -- not use conjecture about things we don't.

This gets much simpler, though. We have some bits of manuscript called the "Magdalen" papyrus. This early NT manuscript contains eight verses from Matthew. In 1994, a German biblical scholar and papyrologist Dr. Carsten Thiede painstakingly redated these pieces of manuscript showing they were not from 180-200 AD as previously thought. Instead they were from 66 AD. This is the only verified manuscript we have from the time of the Apostles! This proves the Apostles wrote in Greek. Further, using an epifluorescent confocal laser scanning microscope, Dr. Thiede found the reading of Mt. 26:22 agrees with the Greek Textus Receptus (source of the KJV) not the Critical Greek Text (all modern translations from the Westcott and Hort Critical Greek Text).

Also, the "Magdalen" papyrus has the name of *Yeshua* transliterated into Greek as *Iesous*. So the Apostles were inspired to transfer the Hebrew *Yeshua* into another language! People arguing we can only use *Yeshua* are saying we must choose between their ideas and the ideas of the Apostles. There really is no choice here! The name of Jesus isn't a magic name tied to its pronunciation. It's a legal name that can go from Hebrew to Greek. And Greek to English or Spanish or Portuguese, etc. One must accept the evidence of the Apostles! It is shown in this earliest Greek witness verifying the KJV. Or one must admit he or she is not following the Apostles' doctrine.



T. W. Massengale

Church Growth

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Prayer and Church Growth

One of the often overlooked aspects of church growth is prayer. Without a strong prayer ministry in the local church, we fail to invoke the most powerful and effective tool

of revival in our arsenal. For this reason, I encourage every church to have a department devoted to promoting prayer.

The Prayer Department will be responsible for encouraging, by a wide variety of methods, early morning prayer, regularly scheduled prayer services, and pre-service prayer. The director tracks attendance and alerts the pastor when participation begins to drop. They also promote regular family devotions by highlighting materials and tools to make family prayer time a part of every church family.

Extremely successful is the Annual Prayer

Revival in which a special speaker is scheduled to preach and teach on prayer and fasting for a series of nights, and the church then practices what they preach for an extended time following every service.

Other annual prayer events like Watch Night service, starting the year with 40-Days of Prayer and Fasting, Quarterly Prayer and Fasting Week, and the Fall 24-hour Prayer and Fasting Chain. The annual Children's Prayer Revival has also become a powerful tool to promote prayer among the youth.

The director also oversees special prayer ministries such as the Prayer Hotline, the Intercessors Prayer Teams, Prayer Walks, and Prayer Partners - all of which encourage more people to be active in a dynamic prayer ministry.

Some churches launch and maintain a Prayer Library in which books, articles, CD's, DVD's, and other resources are kept that allows members to borrow tools for developing an active prayer life.

Evangelism events should always be supported by prayer. When the church

gathers for outreach, it is always helpful to have a prayer team back at the church interceding for their success. Home Bible Studies can also be supported by a prayer partner so that while the lesson is being taught each week, someone is praying at the same time for that study to change the heart of the one being taught.

The "Intercessors Prayer Teams" have revolutionized some churches. These prayer teams pray and intercede for whomever is preaching while the Word is going forth. The teams are rotated so a team is not missing more than one service per month - but in truth they are participating in the Word by supporting it with prayer so it accomplishes its intended purpose.

Strongly consider launching a Prayer Department in your local church. Appoint a prayer ministry leader, give them a job description, and make prayer a priority in your church. The long term effect will bring growth - both numerical and spiritual - for your church. If you would like a job description for this ministry call 1-800-800-0247.

Christmas for Christ

Assisting Church Planters in North America

Christmas for Christ is an annual offering for North American Missions.

This special offering is received during the Christmas season and is used to enlist, train, and financially support missionaries who work to establish churches in un-evangelized and under-evangelized areas in North America.



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Offering Date

December 20, 2015



Discover how Christmas for Christ made a difference for these church planters

namupci.com



Carol Clemans

Spiritual Growth
carol@carolclemans.org

Healthy Marriages Are the Heart of the Church

In the beginning, God created marriage. God made Adam from the dust of the earth. He made Eve from Adam's rib. God said, "The husband is to leave his father and mother and cleave (be glued together) to his wife." Adam was given authority. Eve was given influence. Who had the most power? In their marriage, under Eve's power of influence, Adam abdicated his authority and chose to disobey God with Eve. This first marriage set the dysfunctional pattern of marriages down through the ages.

Paul, writing to the Ephesus church, laid out God's perfect design for marriage, comparing earthly marriage to the relationship between Christ and the church. Christ is the head of the husband. The husband is the head of the wife/family. Wife is to arrange herself under her own husband for protection, provision and guidance as she does to Christ. Husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church and sacrificially gave Himself for her.

The simple truth of Ephesians 5:21 is submitting one to another in the fear of the Lord. Husband is to love as Christ loves – gentle, patient, kind, good, faithful with self-control. This produces love, joy and peace in a marriage. When the wife is loved with Christ's love by her husband, she will happily be drawn to him to fulfill all of his needs.

My book, *God's Design for Marriage*, was birthed from many years of teaching marriage seminars/parenting issues and counseling. I was blessed to be raised in an Ephesians 5 Holy Ghost-centered marriage/home. I thought all husbands were Holy Ghost-controlled as I witnessed my father's love to my mother and us children. God's unconditional love permeated throughout our home.

My marriage book is good for pre-marital counseling, to heal a broken marriage or make a good marriage a radiant marriage – order through my website: www.carolclemans.org.

Note: Baptized in the Holy Ghost 60 years, teaching Bible 50 years, Certified Pastoral Counselor for 23 years, married to Rev. Harold Clemans 45 years. Pastor Daniel Batchelor is on Bd. of Dir. of Life Enrichment Ministries, Inc. (501c3). Call (636) 448-0121 to schedule speaking or counseling nationwide by phone/Skype.



Brian Norman

Revival Concepts
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Given to Prayer

"... whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word" - Acts 6:3-4.

As leaders, it can be easy to become preoccupied with so many necessary things that have to be done. And they need to be done right. The question is, are they the most important things? Are they things that we as leaders *have to do ourselves*?

Acts 6 finds the Apostles becoming overwhelmed with all the *ministry duties* they have. These were needful and necessary things, but they were not the most important things. After re-calibrating themselves spiritually they saw the error of their ways and made two things their top priority – *prayer and the ministry of the word*. The second is more effective when the first is properly in place.

As leaders, there are few things we must do ourselves. But the one undeniable one is prayer. When leaders give themselves to prayer it transmits spiritually into their every decision, every action and every person they come into contact with. The sermons become richer, the spirit more powerful, the counsel wiser and, almost by osmosis, this mantle of prayer and seeking the face of God transmits unto the congregation. It is immeasurable how effective a leader given to prayer is.

Acts 6:4 finds the Apostles saying, "We will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word." Like the original Apostles, leaders today can do no less. When we make prayer a priority, every aspect of our ministry becomes sharper, more powerful and more effective. Recently, Bro. Paul Mooney challenged us at General Conference by saying, "If talent overrides character, we may have lost the church!" I submit unto you we have heard enough fancy sermons and clichés of wisdom. What we need are leaders in every aspect of ministry given to prayer.

Want revival? Want a move of God to radically overwhelm your church? The key may not be in changing exactly what you do *but* to do it covered in more prayer.

Brian Norman has been in the ministry for 23 years, serving as a Pastor, Church Planter and now as a full-time Evangelist. Phone: 636-544-0627 Website: GlobalEvangelism.org



Aubrey Jayroe

Finance
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I have been pastoring for about eight years and as of yet have not set up any type of retirement plan for myself. I understand that the church can fund certain type plans or I can wait until

I retire and the church can set up some type of self-funded retirement plan. Do you have any suggestions?

First of all, *don't put off what you need to do today*. It is my experience that the self-funded retirement plans are not adequate and usually do not last. When a church sets up this type plan, there are no guarantees it will continue through retirement. In fact, with what I have seen, these type plans usually last only about 36 months, and then the retired pastor is left with nothing for the remainder of his retired future.

My recommendation is to get started now in a qualified retirement plan that can be funded by the church with no tax consequences when the money is put into the fund. While there are many type plans available, for ministers the best is to establish a 403(b) plan. Under this qualified plan, the money is set aside for the minister by the church. The money will grow tax deferred and at retirement it will be available for the minister to utilize. The retired minister will not have to worry about his financial future if he has set up the plan properly and invests it wisely.

There are great benefits when receiving the funds at retirement. In most cases, at retirement, the minister can draw out his retirement funds as a qualified housing allowance and no taxes will be paid on the amount taken as housing. I call this a full tax-free plan . . . no taxes when the money is contributed by the church, and no taxes when the money is received as housing at retirement age.

My recommendation is simply to contact someone about a 403(b) plan (such as the Ministerial Retirement Plan offered by the United Pentecostal Church Intl.) and get started immediately. The continual growth of the funds will amaze you, and you will be blessed with a worry-free future concerning your finances.

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



Delano Sherley

Accounting & Tax
Internal Controls Part 3

Many churches require dual signatures on all checks as a part of their internal control procedures. This is a valid policy to help strengthen internal controls; however, we find that most churches do not follow the policy as intended and as a result we suggest that they require only one signature.

Most of the time, we find that in

order to have both signatures, one signor signs blank checks in advance, and leaves them somewhere in the church office. When asked, both signors rarely, if ever, review the check to verify the payment is for a valid and approved church expense. This defeats the purpose of requiring two signatures, and creates more of a security risk than simply requiring one signature. We do suggest that checks over a certain dollar amount still require two signatures.

We also strongly recommend against using a signature stamp to sign checks. Anyone who gains access to the stamp

would have the ability to sign a check. I have seen where the signature stamp was left out in the open and blank checks were in an unlocked drawer, both in a common area where everyone has access to both. If you trust someone enough to give them access to a signature stamp to sign a check, then let them be a signor on the account.

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@dsacpains.com Website: www.dsacpains.com

THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS**Atheist Minister Remains Ordained in United Church of Canada**

A minister in the United Church of Canada who is an admitted atheist vows to fight to keep her clergy credentials as a regional body investigates the effectiveness of her ministry.



Gretta Vosper

Gretta Vosper came out as an atheist in 2001. She has called the UCC “probably the most progressive Christian denomination in

the world” and wants it to be more welcoming of atheism.

“After I spontaneously preached a sermon in which I completely deconstructed the idea of a god named God, rather than fire me, the congregation chose to keep me as their minister.”

The United Church of Canada, the second largest church organization in Canada, is a merger of four Protestant denominations: Presbyterian, Methodist, Congregational and Local Union.

**Polls Show Trump Not Leading With Devoutly Religious Republicans**

Despite reports that Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has support among evangelical Republicans, a Gallup poll showed that “highly religious” voters do not back Trump in high numbers.

Frank Newport, editor-in-chief of Gallup, writes in a column for *The Christian Post* that “a better view of Trump’s image among this group comes from our Gallup data in which Republicans are asked about their views of each candidate individually.”

According to the data, Trump does not have high levels of support from highly religious Republicans. Among the 17 GOP candidates, Ben Carson leads with the most support among the highly religious group. Trump ranks 12th on the list.

“Note that Ben Carson’s 56-point net favorable among the highly religious Republicans is over two and a half times higher than Trump’s,” Newport said.

“In fact, four candidates in all — Carson, Mike Huckabee, Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz — have more than double the net favorable rating among highly religious Republicans that Trump does.”

Gallup also measured how much support candidates have among Republican Protestants and Republican Catholics. Six of the candidates are Catholic: Jeb Bush, Chris Christie, Bobby Jindal, Rubio, Rick Santorum and George Pataki.

Newport said, “Bush, Christie and Pataki are the three candidates who get the biggest ‘bumps’ from Catholic Republicans compared with Protestant Republicans — nine points for Bush, 11 points for Christie, and nine points for Pataki.”

Russell Moore, the head of the Ethics and Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, said that he was frustrated with evangelicals who support Trump.

“Most illogical is [Trump’s] support from evangelicals and other social conservatives,” Moore wrote in the *New York Times*. “To back Mr. Trump, these voters must repudiate everything they believe.”

Moore wrote in the column that Trump has little humility, low respect for women and a lack of sexual purity.

“We should ... ask about [Trump’s] personal character and fitness for office,” Moore writes. “His personal morality is clear, not because of tabloid exposés but because of his own boasts. His attitude toward women is that of a Bronze Age warlord. He tells us in one of his books that he revels in the fact that he gets to sleep with some of the ‘top women in the world.’ He has divorced two wives (so far) for other women.”

Trump is Presbyterian and says the Bible is his favorite book, but in past interviews he has not been able to recall specific Bible verses. He also said he doesn’t need to repent because he is “not making mistakes.”

“Jesus taught his disciples to ‘count the cost’ of following him,” Moore wrote. “We should know, Jesus said, where we’re going and what we’re leaving behind. We ought to listen, to get past the boisterous confidence and the television lights and the waving arms and hear just whose speech we’re applauding.”

LEGAL TRENDS**Court Rules to Keep Jesus Statue on Montana Mountain**

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has upheld a previous ruling to allow a statue of Jesus to remain on a Montana mountain.



The statue, known by locals as “Big Mountain Jesus,” was erected by the Knights of Columbus in 1954 as a memorial to their fallen World War II comrades and as a remembrance of religious shrines they saw while deployed in Europe.

The statue has stood on the top of Big Mountain for 60 years.

In 2012, the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) attempted to get the statue removed. However, the Forest Service, which originally issued the Knights of Columbus a permit to erect the statue, renewed the permit, allowing the statue to remain.

The FFRF then sued the Forest Service and lost, but appealed the court’s decision. In 2013, the FFRF lost the appealed case, and now they have lost their case again, but they say they will once again appeal the court’s decision. For now, however, “Big Mountain Jesus” is safe.

RELIGIOUS TRENDS**Report: One Christian Martyred Every 5 Minutes**

A report found that every five minutes, one Christian is martyred for his or her faith somewhere in the world.

According to *Relevant*, Christian Freedom International released a video that details the startling facts of Christian persecution worldwide. The video was released in preparation for the International Day of Prayer on November 8.

Relevant reports that more Christians have been martyred for their faith in the 20th and 21st centuries than in the previous 19 centuries combined. More than 200 million Christians face persecution worldwide in 105 countries around the world.

Open Doors has released a global map, detailing the countries in which Christians face the most persecution. Number one on the list is North Korea, followed by Somalia and Iraq. Nearly all of the 50 countries listed are either in the Middle East or in Africa.

Christian Freedom International asks that Christians remember to pray for their persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ.

EDUCATIONAL TRENDS**Schools Now Pushing “Soft Porn” For Tweens**

This new school year under expansive Common Core curriculum, when it comes to “sex education” minors are taught the benefits of nontraditional sex, beginning in the fifth grade, to the normalcy of their own “sexual fluidity” in the seventh grade and higher. Additionally, the U.S. Dept. of Education no longer defines parents as mothers or fathers, but as Parent 1, Parent 2 on student aid forms.

In New York City, teens (via a tax-funded smartphone app) can locate free condoms within walking distance and free clinics where they can receive prescriptions and medication, and abortions and IUD implants—without parental consent. The Plan B pill is also distributed at public schools, again without parental knowledge.

Parents are protesting school board policies requiring heterosexual children to share a bathroom or locker room to accommodate another child’s experimentation with “gender fluidity.”

Incredibly disturbing is a book on the fourth grade reading list, *It’s Perfectly Normal*, which illustrates in words and pictures soft porn to 10-year-olds. Parents are not told which books are on the reading list and are not given an option to reject this literature being introduced.

NEW DEGREE PLAN

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN

MISSIOLOGY

The Missiology degree is designed to provide training for missionaries and others who serve or plan to serve in intercultural ministry and church multiplication positions. This area of study at IBC is pointed toward those that have a call or passion for missions. Students in the Missiology program are exposed to a core set of courses and practicums which will enable them to gain critical theological training and be able to make practical application in real ministry contexts.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will be able to demonstrate a growing, Christlike character and a sense of God's calling to Apostolic ministry.
- Students will be able to understand the Christian worldview and have a global vision for missionizing the world.
- Students will be able to demonstrate significant knowledge of the Bible, interpret Scripture's original meaning, and apply Scripture to contemporary situations.
- Students will be able to integrate systematic and exegetical theology into a correct biblical framework.
- Students will be able to demonstrate competent leadership in cross-cultural ministry and effective missionary impact.

PRACTICUMS

Students meet in smaller groups for outreach and other practical missions activities such as outreach ministry, jail ministry, local prison, and neighborhood outreach. Each weekend, two outreach teams of students prepare and go out into an outreach setting to win and disciple the lost.

While you are at Indiana Bible College, you will have the opportunity to find out about long-term missions and meet leaders from various missionary settings both in Global missions and North American missions. This will afford the student time with seasoned missionaries and staff to ask questions, get to know them, allow them to know you and to prayerfully consider long-term service in missions.

VOCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

- Church planter
- Cross-cultural evangelist
- Evangelist
- Global missionary
- North American missionary
- Urban missionary



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INDIANA BIBLE COLLEGE PASTORS' DAY 2015



Each year, Indiana Bible College invites the pastors of current students to join us on campus to honor the God-ordained role they play in their students' lives. Pastors are encouraged to attend classes, chapel and a banquet with the students. This year marked our 10th Annual Pastors' Day and was held on October 13, 2015 with 48 guests in attendance, many who had traveled a great distance to be on campus.

We were able to catch up with Bro. Anthony Cox of Harvey, Illinois and ask him what he thought about Pastors' Day. He expressed, "I would highly recommend Pastors' Day to every pastor who has a student at IBC. Each time I attend this event, I leave feeling very encouraged by the tremendous job that Pastor Mooney and the staff at Indiana Bible College are doing to train and equip the next generation of ministers and leaders." Bro. Jim Julien, a local pastor, shared his sentiment, "Pastors' Day is a great opportunity to see IBC in action and also to reconnect with your student. Whether it's going to a class, chapel service, or the banquet, Pastors' Day is a highlight every time I go!" When asked to say a few words about her pastor at the banquet, Holly Saylor, IBC student body secretary, remarked, "I believe that God knew exactly what He was doing. For it does not take perfect people or perfect moments, but it takes moments handcrafted by a perfect God. Tonight I am honored to celebrate the God-ordained leaders in my life. It is to them I simply say thank you."

Indiana Bible College is grateful to be able to partner with pastors all over the world and help train the men and women who will play key roles in end-time revival.



“PROMISES TO KEEP... MILES TO GO BEFORE I SLEEP

Written by Christina Li

—Vesta Mangun

There are more than 900 promises in the Bible just waiting to be claimed and applied. I wish we believed that. We could take this world by storm. Jesus said, “Not one jot or tittle shall pass from the law until all be fulfilled.” I can’t imagine a day without the Word and a prayer and a spiritual hymn. I’m “singing as I go, pointing souls to Calvary through the crimson flow.”

Someday, God knows where or when, the wheels will all stand still, and I’m going to stand on Zion’s hill. I’m not through yet. I’ve still got good sense. My heart will go on singing. With joy, I’m going to carry on, until the day He calls me home. So, get out of my way. I’m headed to the field. I know who I am. I know who He is. I’m one of God’s earth partners. He signed His name in blood. I signed mine right under it. I’ve got doors to knock on. I’m not home yet. I’m still believing for the greatest victories we’ve ever had.

Kneeling by my bed in prayer one night, suddenly I was blinded by a brilliant light. It was like a huge spotlight shining down on me. I was startled and all I could do was weep. Then I said, “Lord?” And I heard Him say, “You just follow the light. I’ll shine through you and around you. Wherever you go, that light will go with you.” I lifted my hands, and I began to sing with tears flowing down my cheeks. I said, “Yes, Lord, this little light of mine, I’m going to let it shine.”

So a guitar, an accordion, a door hanger, a little tract called “The Apostles Doctrine,” a Sunday school quarterly, a prayer blanket, an old bus, an old typewriter, my Bible, a few other books and a special songbook represent the pieces, the articles and the tools of my life’s ministry. These are just ordinary things given to God that He used. And the ordinary, when unreservedly dedicated to God for His purpose and His service becomes sacred, set apart, unassailable, of high value, and very, very

important.

Thousands have been delivered from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of light. In one of Proverbs’ earliest chapters it says, “Wisdom is the principle thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting, get understanding.” Because even with a revelation or a dream you can’t get an understanding without God giving you that understanding. You will never be the same if you get an understanding.

Almost a century ago, Robert Frost wrote a poem. He’s one of my favorites because he’s real. One of his poems is “Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening.” It’s beautiful, heartwarming and challenging. President John F. Kennedy quoted him often and said it applied to himself. The last four lines are, “The woods are lovely, dark and deep, But I have promises to keep, And miles to go before I sleep, And miles to go before I sleep.”

At the funeral of former Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau on Oct. 3, 2000, his elder son rephrased these lines: “The woods are lovely, dark and deep, but my father has kept his promises and earned his sleep.”

Frost wrote another poem “The Less Traveled Road” or “The Road Not Taken.” My life of 89 years has been wonderfully blessed. Two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the one less traveled. That has made all the difference in the world. Jesus said, “Strive, agonize, with great difficulty, to enter in at the straight gate. For many would I say unto you would seek to enter in and shall not be able.” It’s the royal highway to heaven. No vulture’s eye has seen the path. No motor traffic travels there. Travelers must walk by faith and not by sight. Those who walk by faith will walk with God. Whatever He decides, that’s the way you walk. I made up my mind a long time ago that I’m going to walk with the King, the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

Looking back over my blessed life, I’m thankful I chose the less traveled road. But I’m not finished. The woods are lovely, dark and deep, and I might be tempted to sit down and drink it all in, but I’ve got miles to go before I sleep.

Retire? Robert G. Lee, the famous expositor and pastor and distinguished leader of his organization, was asked, "When you turn 80, are you going to retire?" He said, "Retire, with lost souls around me yet unreached, and I'm yet alive?"

So I say to you today, "Retire?" With a thousand million souls screaming, "Somebody throw me a life jacket! I need somebody to love me. I need somebody with compassion and mercy and grace. I'm crying. I'm lost!" I see them every day. So again I ask myself, "Could a fireman sit and let men burn and give no hand? Can I sit at ease in Zion with a world around me damned?"

Three times, Jesus says, "Where the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched." I'm not taking a chance to let anybody go beyond my reach that I can do something about it without being obtrusive or overbearing. The greatest work that you and I can do is win souls to Jesus Christ. As soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

There is an eternity without Christ that is hell. There are people going there unless we carry out this mission. It's costly for that Kingdom to come. Unless we carry out His mission, that Kingdom has not come. Until you get the understanding that you are here to win souls and get them ready for heaven, I'm sorry for you. You've never had the Kingdom to come. When that gets in you, it goes everywhere with you looking for souls to try to get them out of hell.

That drives me and robs me of sleep at night. It bends me in agonizing prayer and fasting. But I can't just depend on prayer and fasting. I have to go the next step. If that Kingdom gets in me, I go into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in.

There's an interim between when He left and when He's coming back. This church is to be a house of prayer. The Kingdom has got to come in this church and in my heart.

When we arrived 65 years ago, I didn't want to get up and speak unless I could say it just right. The Lord said, "They're already lost. Can you make them any worse?"

Recognize that the single pursuit of Jesus and His Kingdom should be first. Jesus bankrupted heaven and bought the world.

"Thy Kingdom come" man is able to look as God looks, even if it humbles him to the point of pain. He would rather be useful than famous. He is indifferent to his number of years here below, but is careful of the kind of life he lives during those years. He travels through the woods but keeps going.

Jesus said, "The son, the flesh, the incarnate flesh can do nothing by Himself." John not only had a revelation of the mighty God in Christ, but he also had a revelation of the inner life of Jesus. Jesus said, "I do not accept the praise of men. These words you hear are not my own." Jesus became nothing so that God could be all. He resigned Himself to the Father's will and power that He might work through Him. He said, "I am nothing." In this state of mind, in the Spirit, the Spirit of Christ is to bring us to the same disposition that we are partakers of Christ. This is the true self-denial that Jesus is calling us to.

We're just the bulb in the lightbulb. We're not the light. We're not the Spirit that can flow out of us.

God made this world from nothing and as long as I am nothing, He can make something out of me!

Why don't we preach more of the Kingdom? Humility is the greatest virtue in the Kingdom. It's the secret of redemption, the hidden root. If you're looking for an example of humility, look at the cross and become obedient. The humility of heaven was brought down by the incarnate Lamb of God. Jesus humbled Himself; therefore God exalted Him to the highest place in the universe.

"If my people, which are called by my name, will humble themselves..." That's more than just getting down on your knees. Before you pray, humble yourself. Strip yourself, abase yourself and seek His face. Maybe that's why we don't get prayers answered because we don't know how to humble ourselves.

Pride is the worst sin of the Kingdom. That's what got Lucifer kicked out of heaven. Pride is a terrible thing. Get your mind made up and be a Kingdom person.

The last lap on this less-traveled road requires more stamina. I'd like to stop, but I've got promises to keep before I sleep.

Let us lock the door to whatever keeps us from giving ourselves unreservedly to Jesus and His Kingdom. Love your Lord and His Kingdom better than you love anything. He is first, more than any amusement, more than any pleasure. Sell out, buy the field, get the treasure. Give it all you've got!

You can't scare me with death. I've seen too many prophets die. Death couldn't touch my father. "Out of your innermost being flows living water." What you have on the inside is the most powerful power on earth. It has no competitor.

God said, "The gates of hell can't bring it down." I'm going to pray, win souls, love people, disciple, restore and help them, and God will do the rest. I've read where they were crucified and pierced through with a sword and beheaded. I'm here to pray, "Thy Kingdom come." I'm here to bring the message of this Kingdom to this world. The woods are lovely, dark and deep, but I can't sit down and watch the snow.

"There's a voice calling me, From an old rugged tree, And it whispers draw closer to Me. Leave this world far behind, there are new heights to climb. And a new place in Me you will find."



Sis. Vesta Mangun
Alexandria, Louisiana

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Thursday

Sessions with Rev. Daniel Stroebel // Bro. Gentry Mangun

General Session with Rev. Bryan Parkey

Evening Service with Rev. Anthony Mangun

food and fellowship to follow General Session and Evening Service

Friday

Sessions with Rev. Bryan Parkey // Rev. Jeremy Stafford

General Session with Bro. Gentry Mangun

wild game/seafood luncheon to follow

Acts 26:16

Purpose

Registration opens April 18.

Efforts Increase to Reach Vietnamese Community

By Laurissa Wolfram-Hvass



Debi and John Wolfram
McDonough, Georgia

As the number of Vietnamese who are living and working in the United States continues to grow, so does the need for Christians willing to witness and conduct Bible studies with the Vietnamese people. As Apostolics continue to reach out,

a growing number of Vietnamese people are attending Oneness churches. Bro. John Wolfram, who serves as the North American Vietnamese Ministry Coordinator, desires to see a breakthrough among the two million Vietnamese who live in the United States and Canada.

Bro. Wolfram is certainly qualified to be the coordinator of that ministry. His Vietnam experiences are multifaceted. He was deployed twice during the war while serving with the Navy SEALs and Underwater Demolition Teams between 1968 and 1970. A Purple Heart recipient, Bro. Wolfram witnessed a very sobering side of the war while recuperating in several Army hospitals. There he met dozens of other young soldiers who escaped death. Eight of his friends and 58,000 others weren't as

fortunate. The Vietnam War did, however, bring Bro. Wolfram to a spiritual awakening, which eventually led him to salvation before his discharge from the Navy in 1971. At that time no one would have guessed that God would later call Bro. Wolfram to return to Vietnam as a missionary, to bring the salvation message of Jesus Christ to many of those he once called the enemy.

God has gifted Bro. Wolfram with the ability to make friends with key Trinitarian leaders and convert them to the Apostolic message by his amiable Bible study approach. He has helped more than 800 Trinitarian leaders of multiple denominations embrace vital Oneness truths by conducting dozens of seminars since his first trip in 1992. The Apostolic message has even penetrated heavily policed remote areas of Vietnam where foreigners aren't allowed to go —through several tribal converts Bro. Wolfram trained in the Philippines. A complete Bible school curriculum has been translated and thousands of doctrinal books have been printed and given away.



Bro. Wolfram still makes four to five trips to Vietnam each year, conducting seminars for interested Trinitarian pastors and leaders.

Bro. Wolfram is encouraged by several reports from friends and pastors in the United States and Canada who are reaching out to the Vietnamese in their cities. Some of the best places to witness to the Vietnamese people are in Asian markets, Vietnamese restaurants, and Vietnamese-owned nail salons. One UPC evangelist in Southern California recently visited a Vietnamese church on an off night. He quickly made a friend and has been sharing Apostolic doctrine as a guest speaker.

If you have Vietnamese attending your services and would like for them to be added to a growing list of Vietnamese attending

Oneness churches for moral support, please contact Bro. Wolfram. Vietnamese soul winning tools are available at <http://globaltracts.com>.

Please join us in prayer for God to raise up Christian workers who feel a burden to reach out to the Vietnamese in their cities. Bro. Wolfram can be reached at johnwolfram@me.com or 678-654-1486.

Revival By Design: Systematic Training for Evangelism

By Alexis Sims



Bro. and Sis. Douglas Elkins
Bloomington, Indiana

We all want revival in our churches! Bro. Douglas Elkins, based out of Bloomington, Indiana, helped to develop Revival by Design North

America (RBDNA), a God-given Biblical pattern for continual revival. The program teaches on spiritual warfare and how to dismantle Satan's kingdom/structure.

"God has a biblical pattern for systematic growth and revival," explained Bro. Elkins. "So Revival By Design was developed to follow that pattern which will help the average Apostolic Christian to excel in the gifts of the Spirit and also to grow in leadership skills, stewardship, ministry management and more."

Bro. Elkins, a fifth generation Apostolic, brings a wide array of experience to his current responsibility as Regional Coordinator for Revival by Design in North America. He has over 20 years of pulpit ministry experience, including serving as assistant pastor, senior pastor, evangelist and missionary. He also served the Missouri District as Foreign Missions Director. It was during his time as an Associate in Missions to the Baltic States that he was privileged

to be able to work with Missionary Mark Shutes, and they began to put together the structure and framework for Revival by Design.

"RBDNA is not just an evangelism strategy," said Bro. Elkins. "Our goal is to provide systematic training in the Scripture that continually compels the student forward into their communities for evangelism. They will be trained in academic achievement and also in fruitfulness as a soul winner."

The pattern of Revival by Design is based on the Old Testament structure that Moses implemented in conquering and establishing God's kingdom/structure. The plan shows the importance of spiritual warfare and how to use it. The student will learn how to divide and conquer their God-called territory.

Bro. Elkins said, "The goal of our curriculum is not simply to educate and offer head knowledge, but to take what has been taught in the classroom and successfully apply it in real-life situations."

There are seven levels taught in the material. With each level building on the previous level, it helps the student grow in knowledge and in their area of ministry responsibilities. These lessons have been developed for the student who has no prior Bible training but still challenges the student who has prior Bible training. RBDNA can easily be implemented in a new work or in

an established church. "God will only give us what we are prepared to receive," he explained. "RBDNA prepares us to receive and care for new people. Otherwise, we will lose them."

According to Bro. Elkins, several churches have been set up as active training centers across North America. Many are seeing great spiritual impact as they move into the RBDNA process. Pastor Greg Davis of DeKalb, Illinois is an example of the success. Pastor Davis said, "We've had 15% growth in our Sunday morning attendance in five weeks. We went from 10 in study to 35 during the same period. We've had miracles, and best of all the church has become connected to soul winning. Don't wait. Get involved."

For more information about Revival by Design North America, go to www.rbdna.org or contact Bro. Elkins at douglas.elkins@rbdna.org.





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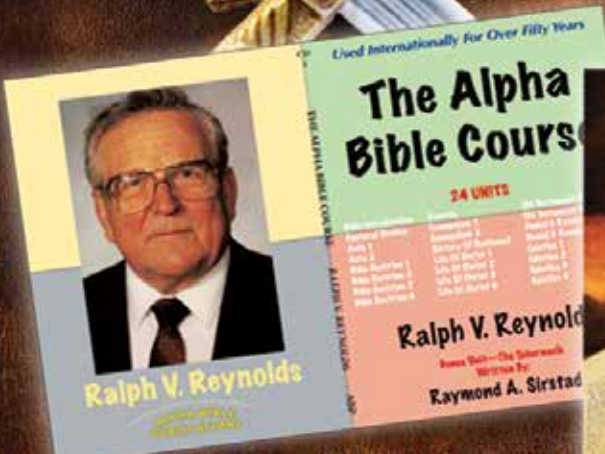
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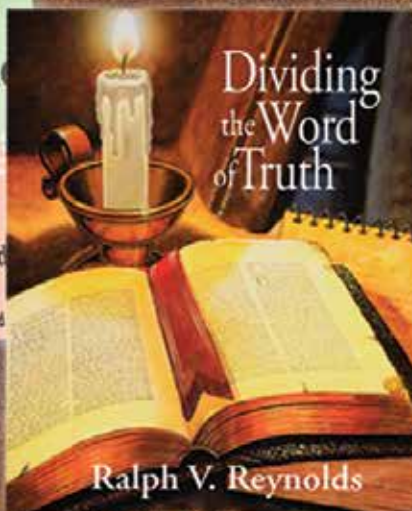
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Word To The Wise:

"The greatest of all faults is to imagine you have none."

* * * * *

One day four pastors swapped their suits for polos and khakis and went to a golf course. After several horrible shots, their caddy asked, "Are you guys preachers?"

"Actually, yes," one cleric replied. "Why?"

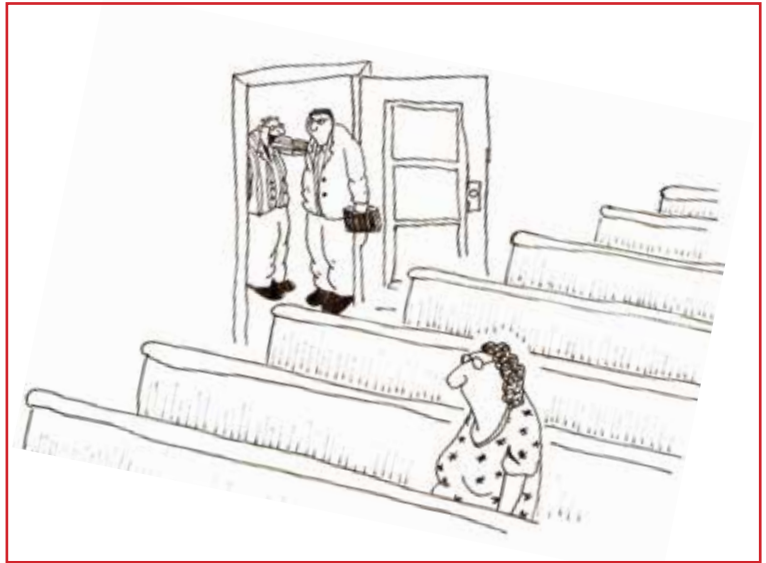
"Because," said the caddy, "I've never seen such bad golf and such clean language."

* * * * *

Every night I would tuck my 4-year-old son into bed, and then tell him a nightly Bible story.

This night it was the story of the prodigal son. We discussed how he had taken his inheritance early, left and spent it all on living it up and partying until he had no money left and had to work on a pig farm where he couldn't even afford to eat what the pigs ate! He remembered his father and went back home to ask for a job and forgiveness. His father welcomed him home with much joy.

After we finished the story I asked my son what he learned and he immediately said, "Never leave home without your credit card!"



"Look on the bright side -- at least you've solved the parking problem."

A young boy called the pastor of a local church and asked him to come by to pray for his mother, who was very ill with the flu. The pastor knew the family and was aware they were members of another church down the road. So the pastor asked, "Shouldn't you be asking Bro. Simon at your church to come by to pray with your mom?"

The young boy replied, "Yeah, but we didn't want to take the chance that he might catch whatever it is that Mom has."

* * * * *

An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers.

In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service she wrote, "They wouldn't take me out while I was alive; I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead."

* * * * *

Father: "Son, you need to be more industrious. After all, when Abraham Lincoln was your age he was out splitting rails."

Son: "I know, Dad. And when he was your age, he was President."



"Consider the lilies of the field: they Google not, neither do they Twitter."

* * * * *

A man keeps having horrible paranoid feelings that someone is hiding under his bed. He finally goes to a psychiatrist. He tells the doctor that he just knows there is someone hiding under his bed at night. He says that whenever he gets the courage to look under the bed, he doesn't see anyone, but feels the person has probably climbed on top of the bed. So, while he's never seen the person, he knows he is there.

The psychiatrist says, "This sounds like a very deep-seated problem. It'll probably take some intense therapeutic sessions, at least once or twice a week for a year or two to resolve the matter."

The man said, "How much will this cost?"

The doc says, "\$150 per session."

The man gulps and says, "Doc, let me think about it."

A couple of weeks later the man bumps into the doctor on the sidewalk and says, "Hey, doc, good news! I'm cured, and it only cost me \$10."

The psychiatrist was stunned and said, "That's amazing. How is that possible?"

The man says, "I was telling my pastor about my problem and he said, 'Why don't you just cut the legs off the bed!'"



"We're all set, Pastor. All we need is that list of backsliders."

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Christian School Music Educator
...or a bachelor's degree to prepare for graduate studies