



B C Perspectives

FINDING TRUTH INTHE MAZE OF TRADITION



The First Sip

From The Publisher

"The moment is real. The war against unrighteousness is real. But that doesn't necessarily mean that Christians are preparing for it, or that they are taking it seriously."

A photo freezes the moment. A certain photo, viewed after many years, may provide a rush of memories, emotion or nostalgia. Recently, one such photo struck me hard. It was a snapshot of two of my grandchildren, and it pulled me back in time. For an emotional moment my heart longed to go back and relive that day, but quickly I was awakened to reality. We cannot freeze time. We cannot return to yesterdays. Time moves forward.

It's a brutal truth that civilization is moving through a matrix into a future that provides little if any guidance. A nostalgic longing for the past is not an acceptable strategy for anyone or any enterprise. This is especially true for the Church, in light of at least three major things. First, we are facing the ubiquitous push for world governance led mostly by powerful men and institutions that discredit religion all together and threaten its survival. Second, we are confronting the pervasive reach of technology which has become addictive, and threatens to change the very way our brains function. And, society has been slow to acknowledge technology's dark side. Third, we are struggling against the loss of authority and absolutes that have deep impact on the presentation of Gospel.

The moment is real. The war against unrighteousness is real. But that doesn't necessarily mean that Christians are preparing for it, or that they are taking it seriously. One cannot escape the future, nor avoid the consequences of decisions made. Frankly speaking, how could we not see the dangers that the trends of worldliness imply? The wise man made it plain: "As righteousness tendeth to life: so he that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death" (Proverbs 11:19).

The Church cannot afford to mishandle this moment by casually approaching the decisions that modernity imposes upon us. "This present world" is indeed our "world." It's our challenge. We cannot choose another time, another world or another destiny. The Apostle admonished us, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:11-12).

History is defined and can be traced by following individual decisions, changes and compromises. The ideas and choices made all have consequences and shape history. It is said that the beginning of World War II could be traced to the Munich Agreement, at which time the British Prime

Minister Chamberlain signed an agreement that he said meant, "peace for our time." However, peace did not come, and that agreement is now considered by most historians as an appeasement toward the ambitions of Hitler. Winston Churchill defined it for what it was in his speech to the House of Commons:

"We have suffered a total and unmitigated defeat ... you will find that in a period of time which may be measured by years, but may be measured by months, Czechoslovakia will be engulfed in the Nazi régime. We are in the presence of a disaster of the first magnitude ... we have sustained a defeat without a war, the consequences of which will travel far with us along our road ... we have passed an awful milestone in our history, when the whole equilibrium of Europe has been deranged, and that the terrible words have for the time being been pronounced against the Western democracies: "Thou art weighed in the balance and found wanting". And do not suppose that this is the end. This is only the beginning of the reckoning. This is only the first sip, the first foretaste of a bitter cup which will be proffered to us year by year unless by a supreme recovery of moral health and martial vigor, we arise again and take our stand for freedom as in the olden time."

We must ask ourselves, will some look back to this moment of societal revolution when the whole of civilization shifted in the face of "perilous times," and ask the question, "how did the Church fail to understand the consequences of compromise?" How could they not preach righteousness in a time of great confusion? How could they substitute worldliness for holiness - "the first foretaste of a bitter cup." On what grounds could the Pentecostals begin to take this first sip of forsaking the Apostle's Doctrine? As Churchill so eloquently stated: "Do not suppose that this is the end. This is only the beginning of the reckoning."



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FINDING TRUTH IN THE MAZE OF TRADITION

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JULY 25-54 "Oh, that we might know the LORD! Let us press on to know him." - Hosea 6:3 (NLT)



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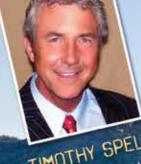
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Burrell Crabtree, Benton, AR - I have been involved and watched as family members helped their parents navigate their later years. I've listened as adult children unburdened their hearts about people trying to take advantage of their parents and their struggles to caution their parents. There are kind, honest caregivers. However, I've seen situations where younger housekeepers or caregivers prey on a kind and generous elderly person to eventually marry them and have control of the elder's assets. Thankfully, in

these situations, the children took legal measures to restructure those assets and protect their parent. For those in this situation, I strongly advise seeking good legal counsel, especially in finances. There are tax laws and guidelines on navigating the state's legal standards for elder care that must be considered.

We must not forget that many elders have lost spouses and are vulnerable because of their loneliness. Plus, due to poor health and limited freedom, the elderly often suffer depression and other ailments. Feeling disconnected from their church can also lead to bitterness and anger. We can't neglect them during this time of their lives. When our elderly parents need care, we must remember they sacrificed for us. There will come a time when we need to care for them. Even if someone's parents may have not provided them with a healthy environment, we must remember to forgive and do as Jesus said, honor our father and mother.



Terry Pugh, Odessa, TX - We were involved in elder care with my father and mother. They passed away within a day of each other. My father was in good health until he developed congestive heart failure. My mother had Parkinson's and died the day after my father's death. They lived a couple houses away from us, so they were close, but we also hired women in the church to be their caregivers. It's difficult as the roles of parent and child are reversed, and you are forced to become

their authority after all the years they were your authority. We honored my parents' dignity by giving them space to do what they could as long as they could. Mom was the one who bumped heads with being cared for, but after a stroke, she realized she needed help.

There isn't a clear path in caring for elderly family members. Different personalities are involved, and elder care can be very stressful and time consuming. Caregiving requires so much energy, and I have seen caregivers neglect going to church and their own relationship with God during this time.

Pastors should be hands-on in encouraging saints involved in caregiving. I try to visit as much as possible as the end draws near for their loved one. Families usually take care of family members, where elder care is concerned.



Jerry L. Burns Sr., Rio Rancho, NM - We are currently caring for my mother-in-law, and she is much happier with us rather than an assisted living facility. My father (88) gave me the gift of coming to live with us years ago. Due to our service to foreign missions, his final months were nearby in our daughter's home.

If home-based care is not possible, caregivers should evaluate an option that is best for all. However, frequent visits to the care

facility are extremely important. The danger of home-based elderly care is to the primary caregiver. Support and periodic time away from the patient is vital. I've seen primary caregivers deteriorate to a condition worse than the elder parent.

A pastor's role in elder care depends upon his/her personality and/or work load. If this care is delegated to another, the pastor must take great care to see that the caregiver and the parent are not neglected. Those in elder care often feel that no one cares. A church can provide church services via DVD or CD, and Nursing Home Ministry services. Flowers or gifts and phone calls for the parent and the caregiver can be vital to keep them uplifted.



Michael Parmley, Batesville, AR - Sis. Parmley was responsible for getting her parents into long-term nursing care. Her father passed away, so she moved her mother to an assisted living apartment. She is the caregiver, as well, for her elderly aunt.

Few are prepared for these particular life decisions that may come suddenly. We have financial and emotional issues and mountains of paperwork. If possible, make financial and care decisions with your loved one ahead of

time. Make your decisions based on what is best for your loved one and let go of any guilt. The dangers of caregiving include spending yourself beyond physical endurance. They may not understand this transition in their life and hold you responsible. Just reassure them of your unfailing love and support. This is a golden opportunity for the church to reach out to the elderly in ministry by singing, reading the Bible, etc. Every saint is qualified for elder care ministry by taking the time to smile, hug, listen to them and respond.



Donald Bryan, Slidell, LA - Sis. Bryan and I were the primary caregivers for my mother for several years after she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. We desired to have her in an assisted living facility but didn't have the finances. She qualified for a VA widow's pension because of my dad's military service, so we placed her in the assisted living facility, which she thoroughly enjoyed. Pastors can help by becoming familiar with various elder care options available so they can counsel their members in this area. Churches can also provide support groups as part of

their ministries. The most significant danger of elder care is burnout and becoming calloused because of the elder's constant need of assistance. Elderly abuse has become a significant risk in elder care. Those who are extensively involved in elder care need break times, and church members could offer to sit with or care for the elder for a period.

FINDING TRUTH IN THE MAZE OF TRADITION

By Charlotte L. Pound

"Our aim is to enlighten the thousands of perplexed and bewildered souls who are earnestly seeking, amid the maze of men's traditions, to find the true doctrine of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our commitment is to continue to reach out to our city with the soul saving, life changing message of Acts 2:38" -- Marty Johnson.

Bro. Johnson, his wife, Dellona, and two sons, Kevin and Kyle, came to Camden, Tennessee in 1985. For the past 30 years, under the leadership of Pastor Johnson, the church has experienced continual growth. The future only looks bright for the First United Pentecostal Church of Camden!

Principles of Growth and Revival

The most important keys to having a growing church, in Pastor Johnson's opinion, are prayer, fasting, outreach, personal evangelism, follow up and good teamwork. "I personally place evangelism as a top priority," he said. "God never intended the Church to just maintain what we have, but I feel that God wants us to grow spiritually and numerically. We should consistently be doing our best to reach as many people as we possibly can. Reaching the lost and looking for an opportunity to be the witness God wants us to be should be our top priority each and every day."

Pastors and churches have various methods for increasing attendance. "For our particular area, I have found that the most effective tools have been one-on-one personal evangelism, knocking doors and Bible Studies. Following up on visitors is a must," he

Some evangelism methods the Camden church currently uses are Bus and Jail Ministries, Saturday visitation and door knocking, Children's Ministry, youth and college/career activities, Christian school, and a weekly radio program. The church also has annual evangelism events and activities that have brought good results. "Our Fall Festival has created a lot of interest," said Pastor Johnson. "We involve ourselves in community projects such as Relay for Life - a cancer research drive where our choir sings, our youth do sign songs, and our church sells food. We also host a Day in the Park (singing, children's activities, prizes and a free cookout) almost every year."

Organization and Management

The departments and ministries of the church include Sunday School, Power Hour, Impact Youth, College/Career, Keenagers, Silver Eagles, Jail Ministry, Saturday outreach teams, Bryon's Path, and Camden United Christian Academy. "I probably don't meet with our department and ministry leaders often enough, but we try to have quarterly meetings and meet whenever a new idea or project needs to be discussed," he said. "We are fortunate to have

been blessed with some great people who get along, work well together and are dedicated to doing what they have been asked. I don't ask for monthly reports and most job descriptions are verbally discussed. In November or early December, we meet with our team leaders to plan the calendar for the coming year."

Training and Involvement

According to Pastor Johnson, 35 percent of the members of the First United Pentecostal Church of Camden are involved in some form of ministry. About 20 percent are involved in evangelism. "I try to encourage involvement through preaching and teaching and by keeping in front of them the examples of the successes and the blessings that we as a church and individuals are enjoying because of involvement," he said. "We want people to know that we want them to be involved and that there is a job for everyone, such as greeting and following up on visitors, knocking doors, driving or helping with the bus ministry, decorating, setting up for church functions, or helping to clean up, etc. It may not be a pulpit ministry, but it is ministry and it's important. We have a Sunday School staff training annually and try to send our leaders to all district and national training sessions."

Philosophy of Ministry

Most pastors have deep guiding principles that give direction and purpose to their ministry. Bro. Johnson shared his: "I have found too many people who are result-driven or blessing-driven instead of ministry-driven, which I feel is one of the main reasons why people become discouraged, disgruntled and burned out. My personal philosophy and what I preach and promote to our church is that we don't involve ourselves in ministry just to see results or even to be blessed by God, but we involve ourselves in the work of God because it's the right thing to do; it's our driving force. If we will just do the right thing, we will see results and we will be blessed by God. And instead of being discouraged, disgruntled, frustrated and burned out when we don't see or get what we were expecting, we can be encouraged in knowing that we are doing what's right and what God wants us to do. That's all He requires of us, and He will bless us for it if we will not become weary in well doing."

God's desire and power to save and change us and to meet our needs are Bro. Johnson's favorite subjects to preach on. "Our target groups, and what I consider the focus of my ministry are the lost and those who are hurting, but I also want to be sensitive to whatever needs might be in any particular service—from reaching a new soul to opening the door for a backslider to come back home," he said.

Current Facility

The number of conversions last year in Camden was 25, this year thus far it is 10. The average attendance for several years has ranged from 206 to 209. Thus far this year the church is averaging 214.

"We presently have a nice gym and fellowship hall, but we have plans drawn up for a new auditorium and we are also looking into the possibility of purchasing a nice building (a former home health clinic) along with an acre of ground which connects to our property. The plans would be to have an evangelist quarters, remodel the main floor for children's activities, and the downstairs for our youth. I'm believing -- if it's God's will -- that this will be finalized by the time this article is printed," he said.

Personal History

Along with pastoring, Bro. Johnson has held many positions through the years including Sectional Youth Leader, TN District Youth Secretary, TN District Youth Director, TN District Home Missions Secretary, National Jr. Bible Quiz Director, UPCI Executive Board member, and presently serving as TN District Presbyter/Board member. In leisure time, the Johnsons love cruises work the with four grandchildren. "My wife and I enjoy spending time with our grandchildren," he said. "We strive to do what we can to instill in them a love for God, His Word and church."

Bro. Johnson was raised in church in Chicago, Illinois with Pastor Derold Doughty. He received the Holy Ghost in 1967 at the age of 15. He felt a call into the ministry in 1968 at 16. In 1973, he married and moved to Finley, Tennessee, where the church was pastored by Bill Worrell. Bro. Johnson recalled the unique aspects that influenced his ministry. "My parents' love and faithfulness to God, to the ministry and to the church were a big factor. Also, the time that my pastor and his wife invested in me personally, mentoring me and involving me in various areas of ministry, developed a love and a desire to be used of God," he said.

Bro. Johnson recalled the milestones of his ministry and listed the men that influenced him the most: Bro. Doughty, Bro. Worrell,

Bro. Harry Snider and Bro. Wayne Chester.

"I preached my first sermon away from home in 1970 for Bro. Billy Coltharp in Sandwich, Illinois," he said. "I began by doing devotions in our local youth services. From there I preached when asked in my home church in Villa Park, Illinois. In 1970, I moved to Tennessee to help Bro. Snider in his church and to go to school for engineering. During that time, I preached, helped lead services and

assisted the pastor in any way he needed me.

"In 1973, I moved to Finley and assisted Bro. Worrell, by leading services, working with the youth, teaching Sunday school, coaching a Bible quiz team, and preaching on numerous occasions. Bro. Worrell was also my presbyter, so when churches were in between pastors, he would ask me to go fill in. That's what I was doing in 1977 for the Quincy UPC, outside of Alamo, Tennessee, when they asked me if I would be their pastor. With my pastor's blessings and permission, I was voted in as pastor on June 1, 1977.

"We pastored there from 1977 until January 1, 1985. We were blessed to see the church grow from the low 30s to a consistent average of around 80. A fellowship hall was also built and paid for while we were there. In November 1984, we were voted in as pastor of the Camden First UPC and moved there on January 1, 1985. And we are still here today. We just celebrated our 30th

anniversary.

'The circumstances that led to our taking this church were that our District Secretary, who was a previous pastor in Camden, was filling in as interim and he asked me if I would come preach for him one weekend. My wife and I had no intentions of leaving where we were. I had a great job that allowed me to be off whenever I wanted. Our church was growing. We owned a home with some land out in the country (a perfect place to raise our two young boys). We expressed our desire to stay where we were to Bro. Chester and to my District Superintendent (Bro. L.H. Benson) but God quickly changed my mind by performing several miracles that clearly let us know that it was His will for us to go to Camden.'

Church History

The present church in Camden was started in 1941 by Bro. C.M. Goff, and it was located on Natchez Trace Drive, which at that time was one of the busiest areas of Camden. Former pastors have included: Bro. Goff, Bro. W.F. Hyatt, Bro. D.L. Jones, Sis. Berthal Crossno, Bro. J.E. Ross, Bro. E.J. Douglas, Bro. J.A. Jones, Bro. Teddy Ross, Bro. Bruce Grisham, Bro. James Brock, Bro. George White (former missionary to Indonesia), Bro. C.M. Austin, Bro. J.D. Stallard, Bro. Paul Sanders, and Bro. Wayne Chester.

In 1970, under the leadership of Pastor Chester, the church purchased some prime property in the heart of Camden and built a beautiful new sanctuary and parsonage," explained Bro. Johnson. "The church is still at the same location today. However, several additions and changes have been made since our arrival in 1985. Some of these additions and changes include a new fellowship hall and gymnasium, which was

built in 1989 "In 1993, this fellowship hall was remodeled and enlarged, and the gym was completely renovated to meet state codes, so that we could start a Christian school. It has been a tremendous success and has now been in existence for more than 20 years. In 1997, a new gym was built on land bordering our church property that was given to us by a local doctor. In all, this doctor has deeded and given to our church more than two acres of land. Plus, the city deeded and gave us an acre of land in the mid '90s, that we presently use for parking

"In 2000, the auditorium was remodeled and an entire new

front, that included a large vestibule and large bathrooms, was added to the church. Over the vears, several of our Sunday school classes have had to be enlarged to help accommodate the growth and provide a place for Power Hour for our children (we presently have 50+ kids under the age of 12 on Sundays and Wednesdays). We also have a growing youth



The Johnson family

group (we presently have 25-30 between the ages of 13-18). When we started, we ran in the mid-70s; today we average 214. Our church is completely debt-free and we give God all the glory.

In describing that first service, Bro. Johnson recalled, "God moved in a marvelous way and at the close of my sermon, a backslider, who 'just happened' to come that day, received the Holy Ghost while still in his pew, and several others were blessed and refilled." The outreach methods used in those early years were door-to-door visitation and personal outreach.









Top clockwise: The kids' choir performs at church; Pastor Johnson preaches to the congregation; the exterior of First United Pentecostal Church of Camden; the pastor baptizes a small child.

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5 Reasons a Church Stops Growing

By Ron Edmondso

I was talking with a church recently that had explosive growth, but things have slowed. They wanted to know why they were not growing any longer.

Obviously, God is ultimately in charge of a church's growth. There are times when God is giving a season of rest and preparation for a church for something to come. In some situations, God may have even taken His hand from the church. God is into church growth, however. I'm convinced He likes it when a church grows.

It's our mission as believers to produce disciples, and our model example of the first-century church was a growing church, so outside the God factor, there are usually reasons for stagnation in a church. Because the church is an organization made up of people, these reasons are often similar to those you may find true as to why growth stalls in the life of an organization also.

In my experience, there are some common variables when growth stalls. Here are five of them:

- 1. You get comfortable. It's okay to be comfortable, but when you hang out there too long, it can be dangerous because you stop trying new things to spur growth and excitement.
- **2. You quit dreaming.** Dreams inspire, challenge and grow people and organizations. What could the church accomplish to reach its community? You'll never dream bigger than the dreams God has for you or your church.
- **3. You stop taking risks.** You can't succeed at anything without a measure of risk. Playing it safe never grows anything. The call of God always involves risk-taking.
- **4. You start maintaining.** When you fall into the mode of protecting what you have, you'll be less likely to encourage growth for fear of losing ground.
- **5. You fail to walk by faith.** Especially for the church—we are a faith-based organization. If you aren't walking by faith in what you are doing, it is impossible to please God.

Obviously, there is so much more to this issue and to each one of these answers. These are general responses, and there are specific issues with every church or organization. Hopefully thinking through each of these as a paradigm for brainstorming may help trigger thoughts toward actions that can spur future growth.

But I've also learned that activity leads to activity. Maybe just having the discussions will begin to stir new momentum. Pray hard and ask God to stir big.

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By Stephen Judd, TCM President



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Stephen Judd <u>www.mansionkids.org</u>

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Vicki and Scott Leonardson Madison, WI

Sis. Vicki Leonardson, tell us a little about yourself and your ministry.

I have served as full-time Music Minister for 14 years at Calvary Gospel Church in Madison, Wisconsin, pastored by Bro. Roy Grant. My husband, Scott,

and I have been married for 34 years. He serves as Worship Leader at Calvary. We have one daughter, Scotia, and one son, Dayn.

Scott and I are part of a team that has been ministering to a struggling community for about three years. Once a week we have Family Night in the community room. Our worship services include demonstrating the steps of worship (important for folks not accustomed to Pentecostal worship), prayer, Bible classes for children and adults and fellowship afterward. We are witnessing healings, deliverances, and people being filled with the Holy Ghost.

Please share your testimony of how God brought you out of depression.

I thought I knew God before. Raised in a pastor's home by wonderful parents, I was taught by example how to pray by them and my grandmothers. However, somewhere along the path of my life, I listened to the lies of the enemy and began to suffer tormenting depression.

The symptoms began with three months of complete sleeplessness. Sleeping pills didn't help. I felt like there was a huge boulder on my chest at all times, making it difficult for me to breathe. I shuffled when I walked because of no energy and thought I might have cancer or heart problems. I suffered with Agoraphobia, avoiding everyone. One person was one too many. I cried often, lost 35 pounds, couldn't make decisions, and had extreme anxiety. Trying to figure out what to wear to work brought a flood of tears. Anxiety pill-induced sleep was my happy place. I was disappointed when the morning sunshine filtered through my bedroom curtains, because every second of every day was agony. Prayer helped very little, because I would cry and feel worse. I was never able to escape the extreme anxiety to focus on

a book or anything to escape my sadness.

I visited two medical doctors and two psychiatrists. I pleaded with my doctor for another drug because the two prescriptions I was taking were no longer working. I devoured any information I could find on mental illness and studied scriptures concerning fear and torment. I spent hours in prayer seeking answers, only to feel more confusion.

On April 12, 2008, God delivered me!

That day, Satan was tormenting me with feelings of hopelessness and despair. I called a friend who had experienced panic attacks years earlier, and as she shared her story of deliverance, I felt faith rising in my spirit. Our Associate Pastor had advised her to spend her sleepless nights in prayer. When Peggy said her panic attacks left and have never returned, I started doing a victory dance. I hung up the phone and started worshipping and praising God for complete deliverance. Since that day, I've been praying and studying the Word like never before. When Satan brings negative thoughts, I remind him of the scripture in Revelation 20:10, "The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."

How common is depression in the U.S.?

Depression is an epidemic all over the world. I read online recently that depression is the number one cause of disability in the world. Children, teens and adults are all vulnerable to depression.

What are the primary causes of depression, and how are they normally treated?

In most cases, depression doesn't have a single cause. It can be genetic or can be triggered by a combination of things, including past or current circumstances, trauma or grief, emotional abuse, health problems and stressful events such as the death of a family member. Women can suffer depression due to hormonal changes, and are twice as likely as men to become depressed. Elderly people are also at a higher risk of depression, and certain medications can cause depression as well.

Depression is most often treated with medications or therapy. Although both may help some or help temporarily, the best treatment for depression was the one I found complete deliverance through, the Lord Jesus Christ!

When someone shares about struggling with depression, how do you advise them?

Praise and worship God daily, thanking

Him for every blessing in your life and for dying on the cross for you! Speaking in tongues (Acts 2:38) every day is crucial. Satan is the accuser of the brethren. Rebuke him with a loud voice of Revelation 20:10, and he will flee! Repeat this as many times a day for as many times as it takes for complete deliverance. And remember, feelings of discouragement are from Satan 100% of the time. God NEVER condemns us, but encourages us to put every care at the foot of the cross. We must leave relationship challenges at the foot of the cross! Avoid pity parties, because they lead back to depression. All confusion and negative thoughts must be placed at the foot of the cross. Avoid negative people! You may need to make entirely new friends. Get involved in outreach, witnessing and sharing your personal testimony of healing and deliverance.

What should pastors and churches do to help people struggling with depression?

At Calvary we have Life Support Ministries and staff that are available for counseling. I also facilitate a weekly inner healing book club. We are currently going through *Healing for Damaged Emotions* by David Seamands, and I highly recommend this book.

What are some of the common misconceptions people have about depression?

Well-meaning Christians make comments like "Just rebuke Satan, and your symptoms will leave" or "Study God's Word, and you will feel better." I was in such a deep pit of depression that this counsel was not working for me. The very best support you can give to a depressed loved one is prayer, fasting and loving them unconditionally the way that Jesus loves us.

Do you give seminars? Contact information?

I love to share my story of God's delivering power and have spoken at Calvary, other churches and events. I have a blog, revivalridge.blogspot.com, and have written hundreds of posts, based on my daily Bible study. My email is vleonardson@calvarygospelchurch.org.

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.

aposto i Calendar 2015

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SPEAKERS	CONTACT / INFO
JUNE 25-27	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.	New Life Center 840 Rouse St. Houston, TX 77020	Apostle John Arcovio, Apostle Amador Valensuela, and Prophet Mike East	For more info: visit www.spiritled.net, e-mail spiritledm@gmail.com, or call 888-776-0797
JULY 10-11	The Well Ladies Conference - Tyler, TX Women excelling in life and the Lord. Times of Refreshing Ladies Conference.	First Church of Tyler 107 Barbee Dr. Tyler, TX Host: Judy and Larry Gandy	Dedie Cooley, James Hughes and Gordon Poe	For more info: visit www.gordonpoe.com/ TOR/conference. (717) 755-7202
JULY 22-24	Mile High Conference 2015 Revival of Prayer, Praise and Evangelism	Calvary Apostolic Church of Denver, 5900 E. Yale Ave., Denver, CO 80222	Floyd Odom, J.L. Osborn, Donald Lance, Sean Libby and Martyn Ballestero	(303) 758-5900 www.cacdenver.org DEH2@comcast.net
JULY 28-30	IMPACT Family Conference 2015 The Impact Conference at Woodlawn Church in Columbia, MS has been cancelled due to building restoration from recent tornado damage.	Cancelled	Cancelled	For detailed schedule, visit www.woodlawn- church.cc (601) 736-5128
AUG 1-4	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 20-21	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 Park- way, Silvis, IL 61239 Host Pastor: Gary Randol	Brent Coltharp, Steve Cannon, Tom Foster, Raymond Woodward, Melanie Claborn, Lee Ann Alexander, Bart & Tracy Loyd, Eric McDougal, Josh Carson, Vickie Oliver, Ron Hendricks, Pat Grossell, John & Bonnie Chance	For more info: visit invest-in-futures.com
SEPT. 22-25	91st Annual UPCI General Conference The theme is "Send." Early registration is \$50 per person ages 18 and older. Don't miss it!	Music City Center Nashville, TN	Tim Zuniga, Anthony Ens, Jerry Dean, Tim Gaddy, Paul Mooney, Sammy Sherrill and David Bernard	Online registration, hotel reservations and exhibit registration available at www.upcigc.com
Ост 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. newlifeterrehaute.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
JAN 2016	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 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
FEB 2016	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.	To be announced	To be announced	For more info: visit www.winterfire.org or visit Twitter: winterfire- conf or Facebook: win- terfire
FEB 2016	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.	To be announced	To be announced	For more info: visit www.spiritled.net, e-mail spiritledm@gmail.com, or call 888-776-0797
APRIL 2016	Eagles Summit Conference - Stockton, CA Eagles Summit is committed to birthing, empowering and equipping Apostolic leaders to build the Kingdom of God.	To be announced	To be announced	For more info: visit www.eaglessummit.net
JUNE 2016	Power Conference 2016 Services begin at 7:30 p.m. nightly. Day sessions at 10 a.m. Thursday and Friday morning.	To be announced	To be announced	For more info: contact Josh Hodum @ 662-872- 9999 or John Hodum @ 931-332-3926

Theology: Misinterpretations of Blood Infusions/Organ Transplants

you pick up on Sunday morning. By utilizing

main purpose of your Saturday visit is to talk

to little Tommy's parents. Get to know them.

Find out their hobbies and interests. Develop a

relationship. Once you win their friendship, you

can begin to reach for their soul." Parent Reach

van kids receive the Holy Ghost. Every church

should have an evangelistic children's church at

least once a month. The purpose of this service

is to give an altar call at the end and pray with

have a monthly "Holy Ghost Sunday" in which

all the children's classes have a rally and they see

children to receive the Spirit. Many churches

Thirdly, it provides a way to see those bus/

a concept called "Parent Reach," churches

win entire families to God every year. The



Church Today rlrodenbush@earthlink.net

Casualties of Decadence

In an article entitled "On Decadence" published in American Interest Magazine, Charles Hill cites example after example of how America's "national self-indulgence" and moral decay are precursors to the demise of our great country. Knowing that history has shown that losing the battle against decadence ultimately

leads to the destruction of great civilizations, Hill describes how the Puritans and our founding fathers feared decadence and did what they could to root out the seeds of this destructive force.

In summarizing the theme of George Washington's Farewell Address, Hill states that Washington was keenly aware that a free society must be made up of virtuous, self-disciplined citizens. Although the speech is, "commonly interpreted as a warning to avoid foreign entanglements, [Washington] was more concerned with maintaining the character of the nation amid the temptations of freedom. As the world's first-ever free people, the individual virtue vital to successful popular government could only be upheld, Washington believed, by respect for religion.'

Sadly, it seems that America has become lost in her material progress and has disregarded the warnings of history and the admonition of moral voices among society. Hill describes a societal transformation that he calls "The Great Virtue Shift" that has caused Americans to abandon their morals and value systems in favor of entertainment, self-absorption and vulgar behavior. The things that were once considered among the majority of Americans to be unacceptable are now the norm. What is more frightening however is his assertion that this tendency to gravitate toward decadence is not just a battle that individual Americans have lost in their heart, but one that has been deceptively marketed to them in order to entice them into behaviors that lead to social decay, ultimately causing dependence upon ever increasing government programs. People who are dependent are more easily controlled. "Throughout most of American history people were preoccupied with how to prevent government from becoming corrupt. In our time, governments have discovered how to corrupt the people. It then follows that the more corrupted the people become, the more numerous the laws must be, thus further aggrandizing government's indispensability.

This past decade we have witnessed Apostolic watchmen taking positions on the wall. They have done their part to warn the next generation that decadence will destroy our true liberty in Christ. Yet, the enemy continues his work on the heart of the church. If he can manipulate Apostolics into decadence, self-reliance, dependency and worldly behavior – if he can keep us focused on indulging fleshly lusts, desires and habits – if he can minimize the value of sound doctrine and holiness living if he can dull our sensitivity to the Spirit and lull us into a state of apathy - then he has us in his control and we too become casualties of decadence.



T. W. Massengale

Church Growth

We are thinking of eliminating our Sunday school. Your thoughts?

In my opinion, this would be a terrible mistake. Here's why. First, it provides a tool to reach children in your community whose parents do

not attend church. By utilizing a bus, van or car ministry, you can pick up children weekly and teach them Apostolic truth. Drop S.S. and you lose this unique opportunity.

Second, it gives you a reason to knock on the door every Saturday of the children



Bobby Killmon

Theology

My father, a Jehovah's Witness, told me the Bible does not promote any sort of blood infusion or organ transplant of another person. If you could offer any help it would be greatly appreciated.

I'd be happy to help. Gen. 9:4; Lev. 17:11-14; and Acts 15:19-21, 28 are the usual places

Jehovah's Witnesses point to for this. Below are the best proofs to reject the Jehovah's Witnesses misinterpretation

of these passages:

1. Some biblical arguments: It is clear the context of these instructions were against eating/drinking blood, not blood transfusions. Blood transfusions did not exist in OT or NT times, so this cannot refer to blood transfusions or the commands would make no sense to Israel or the NT Christians. There were however, in both the OT and NT, many pagan practices involving eating and drinking blood along with the practice of strangling an animal to keep more of its blood in its meat. These pagan practices are what Scripture speaks against, not blood transfusions. Further, Lev. 17:13 shows how the Bible defines "eating blood." It's referring to eating animal blood. "...which hunteth and catcheth any beast or fowl that may be eaten; he shall even pour out the blood thereof, and cover it with dust." The Society outlaws transfusions based on a misread of these passages, but then allow followers to consume animal fat, which was also forbidden the Israelites. Even the Jewish people, who rigorously and consistently follow kosher eating laws, have never interpreted these passages to mean transfusions.

. A medical argument: One should also consider the fact that there are only four blood types in the world, even with all the billions of people in history. This is a strong scientific argument that God made us for modern medicine to be possible in terms of transfusions. While not conclusive, it is another strong point

especially when coupled with the above.

3. A scientific argument: There's a vast difference physiologically in consuming blood orally and accepting a transfusion. Food is "eaten," and digested to provide the body with necessary nutrients only found OUTSIDE the body. However, blood transfusions replenish the essential substance normally already INSIDE the body. Because of these vastly different physiological processes involved, their position can be easily seen incorrect.

4. A historical argument: Finally the most persuasive proof might be, at least to JW's themselves, the changes the Society has made regarding this issue over time. You will need to explicitly point to actual quotes demonstrating their previous stance regarding receiving "fractions of primary blood components" and what they practice now. This will show Jehovah's Witnesses in their own words, not yours, that their teaching has changed. It also shows that the Society is being dishonest in claiming its teachings and practices have remained unchanged. Below is a link with sources demonstrating this. http://www.watchman.org/ articles/jehovahs-witnesses/new-watchtower-blood-transfusionpolicy/

children saved every month.

Fourth, it provides opportunities for special Sunday programs that bring out large numbers of visitors: Easter dramas, Pentecost Sunday services, Sunday school picnics, Vacation Bible School, Friend Sunday, block parties, Fall Thrust, Christmas pageants, and more. Lose the Sunday school, and you lose a key method of highattendance Sundays.

Every Sunday school should have an annual Children's Crusade with a good children's evangelist. The entire church is blessed by these talented individuals and many children are saved who only attend church on Sunday mornings. Why would Apostolics want to abandon such a productive method of evangelism?



NATHANIEL URSHAN SATURDAY 7PM



JIMMY SHOEMAKE SUNDAY 10:30AM



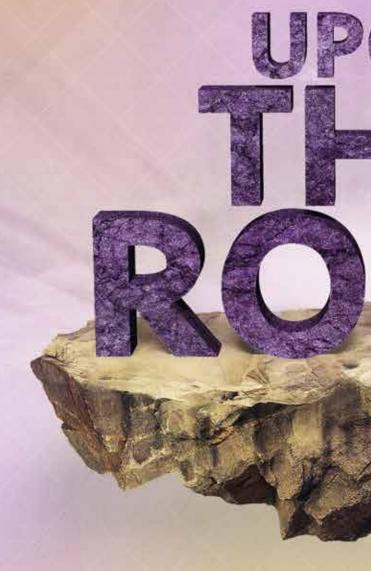
RICK MAYO SUNDAY 7PM



MIKE & BEVERLY BLAKLEY MONDAY 10:30AM



GARY STREEVAL &
JULIE HAIR
MONDAY 11:30AM



AUGUST ARKANSASCAM

FIRST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF

MINISTRY DINING & FELLOWSHIP

Complimentary meals will be served to all ministers and their families after each evening service, the Sunday morning service, and the 11:30AM ministry sessions.

SPECIAL

Christian Life Tabernacle Ensemble Memphis, TN • Pastor Caleb Adams First Apostolic Church Choir Moss Bluff, LA • Pastor Jon Hair First Apostolic Church Choir Tulsa, OK • Pastor Jeff Dykes

Along with Other Specia



JONATHAN ALVEAR MONDAY 2PM



MATTHEW TUTTLE MONDAY 7PM



JIMMY & BOBBIE SHOEMAKE TUESDAY 10:30AM



TIM & KATHY COPELAND TUESDAY 11:30AM



LARRY BOOKER TUESDAY 2PM



MYLES YOUNG TUESDAY 7PM



1-4, 2015 PMEETING.COM

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

MUSIC

First Church Youth Ensemble
San Jose, CA • Pastor Jonathan Shoemake
Landmark Pentecostal Church Choir
Texarkana, TX • Pastor Jason Calhoun
New Bethel Church Choir
Jayess, MS • Pastor Gary Robinson
I Guest Singers & Groups

MINISTRY SESSIONS

There will be ministry sessions for ministers and ministers' wives on Monday and Tuesday, starting at 10:30AM.



Carol Clemans

Spiritual Growth

Self-Mutilation - Why?

Why would selfmutilation ever occur with a believer? Because salvation removes our sins but does not remove our experiences, emotions or memories. Harming self

physically by cutting, hitting, scratching, banging head on wall, etc. or emotionally through negative self-talk happens because of deep unresolved pain in the heart/soul of the believer.

As Lazarus was raised from the dead by Jesus, he was still bound up in his grave wrappings that were tightly wound around his body after death. God's power raised him out of the tomb. He was alive, but he could not walk, move or talk because he was bound up. Jesus said to those around him, "Loose him and let him go." It took people around him that could move to unwrap his grave wrappings.

unwrap his grave wrappings.

A person can be saved but completely wrapped up in the 'grave clothes' of stinkin' thinkin'. It can be the result of all types of abuse, self-blame, self-hate, unresolved anger, false guilt, unforgiveness of self and others, allowing the past to define self at present, etc. Salvation removed their sins but not their distorted

God-concept of His truth.

The fact of being a new creation in Christ has to be taught to the hurting person. A person can be transformed by renewing his/her mind with God's truth. Because of their deep emotional pain, many need someone to come alongside them with God's truth, encouraging and showing how they must replace the devil's lies with God's truth that sets free. This describes what I do in God-based counseling and also through teaching.

The church must become a spiritual hospital for the saved that are walking wounded in spirit/soul. We must not condemn the hurting person, but use God's wisdom in applying His truth as a healing balm to their soul. A counselee told me this week, "You get me. Finally someone understands why I feel like I do." God's Word has the answers for the wounded soul. We all need to be healing helpers and show God's unconditional love!

Carol Clemans is a Certified Pastoral Counselor, anointed Bible teacher and Christian Life Coach. She provides nationwide confidential counseling by phone/Skype (636) 448-0121. Carol teaches for churches/conferences. Go to: www.carolclemans.org - bio, 150+articles, teaching CD's, DVD's, book: God's Design for Marriage. Revs. Harold & Carol Clemans' pastor is Jerry Dillon, Madison, MS.



Revival Concepts
evangelistnorman@gmail.com
Creating a Climate For My
Revival

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10).

Brian Norman In David's prayer we see modeled humility, the

beginning of all true worship and the recipe for revival in our own personal lives and local churches. Revival is not going to come due to an email or phone call from St. Louis, or anywhere else for that matter. Revival is still paramount upon proper Biblical relationship with God. And this is something that begins and ends with humility and personal repentance.

The place where we cannot cry out unto God in humility, asking for forgiveness and pleading for His true holiness is a place far from God. God saves by truth, but truth is not an empty badge to wear, void of any feeling and real relationship. Jesus taught otherwise, saying, "true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth' (John 4:23). Our spirits must be right. No wonder Jesus warned us about coming to the altar when others have ought against us, or asking for our trespasses to be forgiven when we ourselves have not forgiven others of the same. God dwells with those who recognize they themselves have no holiness but cry out to God for His. Can the prophet proclaim it any clearer? "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I DWELL in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones" (Isa. 57:15).

The personal and church-wide atmosphere most conducive to revival is one where men fall to their knees saying, "woe is me" to God, petitioning for His help and His salvation. Knowing within them dwells no good thing but rather they must have God's forgiveness, God's goodness and God's holiness. The key to great, Biblical church growth still begins with one believer at a time getting a vision of an old rugged cross, dying out to themselves and letting old man die. A key that can never be overlooked in true biblical, Apostolic church growth is creating a climate where the aforementioned happens. Let us never lose our altars.

Brian Norman is a full-time International Evangelist. His experience includes pastoring and planting churches in America and overseas. www.GlobalEvangelism.org Ph: (636)544-0627



Aubrey Jayroe

Finance

What are the current regulations concerning health insurance being paid for by the Church?

Small employers/ churches may need to change healthcare policy to

avoid excise tax. Notice 2015-17 gave small employers (less than 50 employees) an extension to comply with the requirements of the Affordable Care Act; however, that extension is about to expire. Employers need to begin taking steps to be in compliance with the new requirements.

Effective June 30, 2015, small employers (less than 50 employees) will be subject to a \$100 per day per employee penalty if they pay or reimburse individual health insurance premiums. To avoid the penalty, employers must stop paying or reimbursing individual health care payments or reimbursement arrangements.

Small employers have a few options if they would like to provide health care coverage. They can offer a bona fide group health plan with an employer payment plan.

Alternatively, they can simply increase the employee's salary as long as the employee is not required to use the increase solely for healthcare insurance.

Employers with only one employee are exempt from these requirements and may continue reimbursing health care premiums on a pretax basis. Also, small employers are not mandated (less than 50 employees) to provide healthcare coverage, so another option is to simply not provide insurance or reimbursements.

You need to contact your health insurance administrator or tax preparer to ensure you are meeting these new regulations.

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

Electronic Giving

You have likely read the statistics: only 10-25 percent of church members actually tithe and the average Christian only gives 2.5 percent. I recently read that if all

Christians increased their minimum giving to 10 percent, the church would collect an additional \$165 billion/year.

One thing that churches can do to increase giving is to adopt newer technology (online giving, kiosks, phone apps, etc).

There is a correlation between the use of this newer technology and church giving, since the number of members who carry cash or a checkbook is declining. Churches that embrace the change make it easier for this generation to give.

The ability to create recurring giving also helps to reduce the "summer giving slump," as funds are transferred automatically each week, regardless if a member is on vacation, out of town, etc.

Any electronic giving should include mobile technology. However, 85 percent of mobile givers will give up if the process takes more than 30 seconds – so make sure whatever system you adopt, it is easy to use.

Finally, don't forget the back end – make sure that however people give, the church staff doesn't have to re-enter the same data into a contribution software; it should update automatically.

Giving is still more of a heart issue than a money issue. Churches that are intentional on teaching on it one or two times each year also see better giving trends.

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@dsacpainc.com Website: Website: Website: Webs

THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS

NY Assembly Passes Bill Which Would Allow Third Trimester Abortions

The New York State Assembly voted a resounding 94-49 recently to approve a bill that would allow third trimester abortions using procedures such as a shot of poison to the baby's heart by medical professionals who won't necessarily be doctors.

National Right to Life highlighted the approval of the bill, AB 6221. Protections relating



to human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual harassment in the Women's Equality Act had been

stymied by abortion advocates pushing the expansion of third trimester abortions.

The bill, sponsored by
Assemblywoman Deborah Glick,
would expand New York State law,
which now only allows abortion
in the third trimester when the
mother's life is in danger, to permit
abortion up to nine months of
pregnancy. The bill also seeks to
make it legal for a woman to have
an abortion for any reason "relevant
to the well-being of the patient."
This reason could be physical,
emotional or psychological.
Lori Kehoe, NY State Right to

Lori Kehoe, NY State Right to Life director, decried the passage of the bill. "Expanding cruel and brutal third trimester abortions has long been a goal of the anti-life lobby who never met an abortion they didn't like," she said. "With no regard for the fully developed unborn baby who is violently dismembered, or otherwise killed, the New York State Assembly once again put the abortion lobby above New York women and their children.

"We now look once again to the Senate to hold the line in defense of the children which happens to also be in accordance with the will of the rest of the people. It is ridiculous that in 2015, with all the technology at our disposal, we are still arguing whether or not an eight-monthold baby in the womb deserves protection. It is doubtful that our descendants will look kindly upon this period in our history, when we fought for the right to dismember babies weeks, days and even minutes before birth."

The New York State Right to Life will be discussing the bill and other abortion-related issues at their Lobby for Life Day at the Legislative Office Building in Albany, NY.



Gay Rights Group Promotes Day of Silence at Schools

Recently, the American Family Association (AFA) issued an action alert to parents about the "Day of Silence" on April 17. On that day, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) urged teen students to practice homosexual activism in the public school classroom.

In the action alert to its 1 million friends and supporters, the AFA noted that thousands of public high schools and an increasing number of middle schools planned to allow students to remain silent throughout the entire day—even during instructional time—to promote GLSEN's socio-political goals.

"Parents must actively oppose this hijacking of the classroom for political purposes," said AFA President Tim Wildmon. "We urge friends of AFA to join the national effort to restore to public education a proper understanding of the role of government-subsidized schools by helping to depoliticize the learning environment by keeping children out of school—if your local school allows students to remain silent during instructional time—on the Day of Silence.

"If students will be permitted to remain silent, parents can express their opposition most effectively by keeping their children out of school on the Day of Silence and sending letters of explanation to their administrators, their children's teachers and all school board members. One reason this is effective is that most school districts lose money for each student absence.

"School administrators err when they allow the classroom to be disrupted and politicized by granting students permission to remain silent throughout an entire day," Wildmon added.

On the Day of Silence, parents were urged by the AFA to call their local schools and ask whether they permit students or teachers to remain silent in the classroom on the Day of Silence. However, he admonished parents not to ask any administrator, school board member or teacher if the school sponsors, endorses or supports the Day of Silence. Schools do not technically sponsor the Day of Silence; students spearhead the observation. Many administrators will say the school does not sponsor the Day of Silence, when, in fact, they do permit students and sometimes even teachers to remain silent during instructional time. Also, parents were told to ask administrators whether they permit teachers to create lesson plans to accommodate student silence.

Also, parents were asked to learn when the event is planned for their school. The national date in 2015 was April 17, but some schools observe the Day of Silence on a different date.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ A report released recently found that America's largest abortion provider, Planned Parenthood, received at least \$1.5 billion in state and federal funding in a three-year span from 2010-2012.

Although Planned
Parenthood gets about \$500
million in taxpayer dollars
every year and offers other
services, abortions accounted
for 94% of the company's
pregnancy services in 2013.

■ In Russia, a 30-year-old man has volunteered to become the world's first head transplant. Valery Spiridonov has a rare genetic disorder called Werdnig-Hoffman disease, which is a severe form of spinal muscular dystrophy. Italian surgeon Dr. Sergio Canavero plans to conduct the operation, which is considered highly controversial. Dr. Canavero believes he can cut off Spiridonov's head and attach it to a healthy body.

SOCIAL TRENDS

Medical Studies Affirm Healing Power of Prayer

A belief in God may make people healthier and happier. "Studies have shown prayer can prevent people from getting sick—and when they do get sick, prayer can help them get better

faster," according to Duke University's Harold G. Koenig, M.D.

The analysis of more than 1,500 medical studies



showed that "people who are more religious and pray more have better mental and physical health," Koenig said. "And out of 125 studies that looked at the link between health and regular worship, 85 showed regular churchgoers live longer."

Researcher Tom Knox, an atheist who became a Christian after studying faith and medicine, agreed. "What I discovered astonished me," Knox said. "Over the past 30 years a growing and largely unnoticed body of scientific work shows religious belief is medically, socially, and psychologically beneficial."

In 2006, a study from the University of Texas found that the more often you attend church, the longer you live. "There is a seven-year difference in life expectancy between those who never attend church and those who attend weekly," Knox said.

RELIGIOUS TRENDS

Employee Suspended For Inviting Muslim Co-Worker to Church

In early April, the Employment Appeals Tribunal ruled against a London woman, claiming that it was inappropriate for her to pray with her colleague and invite her to church.

Victoria Wasteney, a senior occupational therapist, was told that she had "bullied" a Muslim colleague by praying with her. She is being represented by the Christian Legal Centre, which accuses her employer of "marginalization."

Wasteney reportedly had discussions about Christianity and Islam with a junior colleague, Enya Nawaz, and offered to pray with her when she became upset about health problems. She also invited her to church and gave her a book called I Dared to Call Him Father about a Muslim woman who converted to Christianity.

However, Nawaz accused her of trying to convert her to Christianity and made a formal complaint. Wasteney was suspended for nine months while the East London NHS Foundation Trust investigated.



LEVEL X the

August 19-21, 2015

A conference designed for the North American Missionary and Church Planter



Jerry W. **Dillon**Host Pastor



Jason W. **Dillon**Host Pastor



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One World

One Mission

One Message

SCHEDULE

Wednesday

9:30 AM NAM Split Sessions

7:00 PM Rev. J.W. **Dillon** Rev. Tom **Foster**

Thursday

9:30 AM

Rev. David **Shatwell** Rev. Chester **Wright**

7:00 PM Rev. Raymond **Woodward**

Friday

9:30 AM

Rev. Chester Wright Rev. David Shatwell

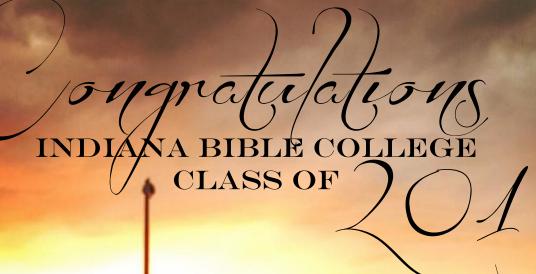
7:00 PM Dedication of New Campus Rev. Mark **Morgan**



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The Graduates

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Stephen G. Campeau
D. Isaac Cowden
Xavier A. Crooks
Bethann M. Duly
Taylor L. Faulkner
Joshuapal S. Gothra

Te'Layna L. Henderson
Austin R. Hicks
Cody W. Marshburn
Cameron S. Noel
Gretta Odegarrd
Marcus A. Patterson
Lauren R. Priddy
Tori Lee Reece
James Tyler Reid

Esther J. Schenkel
Gentry K. Sharp
Alexis M. Sims
Heidi L. Sims
Douglas A. Sparks
Nataniel I. Velasquez
Draylin M. Young
Janelle R. Zielke

A Pea Patch Pensp

am reading today from 2 Samuel 23: 11-12, "And after him was Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. And the Philistines were gathered together into a troop, where was a piece of ground full of lentils: and the people fled from the Philistines. But he, (Shammah) took his stand in the midst of the plot, defended it and struck the Philistines; and the Lord brought about a great victory." I come to the pulpit primarily with our young ministers in mind, and I feel that every one of them needs to consider what I shall preach today. In our text, the lentils were nothing more than peas; it was just a patch of peas, so I preach today on a "Pea Patch Perspective."

I stand today to declare that Apostolic ministry needs a divine impartation, divine saturation of the spirit of Shammah. In a spiritual climate of compliance, compromise and cowardice, my burden of this moment is for a fresh baptism of conviction, courage and boldness. The result of the prayer of the early apostles in the book of Acts 4:31 was this. "... And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and

began to speak the word of God with boldness."

I am going to preach today that before we leave this afternoon, we're going to pray again for a baptism of boldness, and a saturation of Apostolic authority that will send us out of here strong in the Lord! I'm talking about a baptism of boldness to stand against sin and declare salvation; to stand against doubt and declare faith, to stand against death and declare life, to stand against worldliness and declare righteousness, to stand against sickness and declare wholeness, and to stand with a great boldness and speak of things that are not as though they were already!

We need men of God that will go to their pulpits without fear and declare, "This is the word of God, this is the will of God, and this is the way of God!" We need a baptism of boldness! In an hour when many had rather switch than fight, the spirit of Shammah is, "I'd rather fight than switch." So let me rehearse the admonition of the apostle Paul, who was a great warrior, in Ephesians 6 and verse 10, "Finally, my brethren, be strong..." when it comes to the end he said, "Be strong" and he ends verse 13 with this, "... and having done all, stand."

We often say, "Don't just stand there, do something," but Paul said, "Don't just do something, but stand there!" There is a time when we have to just plant our feet, and let the devil and the world know, and let doubt know that we are going to stand.

Our text declares that when Shammah stood, when he defended, the Bible says that the Lord wrought a great victory. The Bibles reminds us that there is a time and a place to stand, and to defend our positions, our spiritual possessions, and the prize of other people's sacrifices. I'm just going to go ahead and say it, I see way too much running and not enough standing. Luke chapter 12, verse 39 says this, ".... that if the good-man of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken up."

On the authority of that verse I declare that we are not

evil, we are not mean, nor do we have a bad spirit when we rise to defend what is ours and what God has given us. I reject the idea that anybody who takes a stand is a bad guy or has a bad spirit. The Bible says that he was a *good* man; a good man will not allow his house to be broken up. And just let me point you to another good *Man* who turned over the tables of the money changers and said, "You're not doing that in My house!" We need a re-visitation of the Apostolic ministry that's not afraid to stand and say, "Not in my house." There comes a point if you are going to have a revival, if you're going to see a move of God, you're going to have to take a stand whether you like it or not.

I know what it is to be spiritually assaulted. I know what it is to take punches, slugs to the stomach, verbal beatings. One time, in particular, this was happening, when I felt my knees beginning to wobble and I was about to go down; then I felt hands come to my back that lifted me back to my feet, shoved me back into the arena, and gave me the victory. I looked around to see who it was, and no one was there. It was the angel of the Lord that had come to assist me and empower me.

We do not fight this battle alone.

While I was praying and fasting and seeking the Lord about this service, in my spirit I saw some of you bruised and battered, convictions almost gone...courage almost gone... boldness almost gone. But I saw that same Spirit come into this auditorium to lift men and women back to their feet, to renew their boldness and courage and to renew their convictions. You don't need to be afraid of the devil or the world, and you don't need to be afraid of saints. I repeat, you don't have to be afraid of saints! I am not going to let the devil take over the church I pastor. I'm not going to let sin take over. I'm not going to let compromise take over; I'm asking God to give me a baptism of courage and a baptism of conviction. If I will stand, God will bring the victory!

I want to rehearse that when Shammah stood, the Lord brought the victory. All Shammah had to do was stand. Sometimes a great victory is summed up by just taking a stand.

If you will stand for Jesus, He will stand for you.

I Corinthians 15:58, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding . . ." I preach to you today that it is possible, on the authority of the Word of God, to be steadfast, unmovable and yet be abounding. You don't have

to compromise to grow!

There are some things we are steadfast about. There are some things we are unmovable about. And at the same time we can be abounding. You can be conservative in your positions and still be radical in your revival and your evangelism. They are not opposing each other, they are not adversaries; it is not one or the other. You can have both of them and be blessed by God. The Lord told me to tell you. Vacillating, wishy-washy, spineless leadership will never produce real Apostolic results. Am I preaching what you believe or not? Am I out of touch with the Spirit or is God telling this Apostolic church to take a stand?

There are a lot of folks that claim that they are growing because they have no standards. That is a misnomer. Everybody



has standards—the most liberal church you know has a standard. Outback Steakhouse has a slogan, "No rules...just right." But nothing can be right without rules. Can we still say the word *standard* without folks passing out? Can we say *holiness* without someone getting mad? Can we say we need to defend what God has given us? Can we be revival-minded and still have growth? I say we all are going to have to stand sometime, somewhere and defend something. I choose to stand here and now and for this truth!

Folks are always qualifying what is worth defending, until eventually they defend nothing. In other words they would have said to Shammah. "Are you *really* going to make an issue out of that little pea patch?" But while everyone else was running, Shammah was standing, and he said to himself, "Why are the Philistines so interested in my pea patch? This seemingly insignificant field of peas must have more value than folks perceive or the enemy would not want to take it from me. I

choose to draw the line right here."

In a game of sports if you want to know where your strength is, study the defense strategies of your opponents. They attack weakness but they *defend against* strength. So if there is nothing so great about our standards, our separation from the world, our Acts 2:38 message, our revelation of the mighty God in Christ, why does the devil attack it? Somebody needs to take a stand. It was a good *man* that defended his house. It is not wrong to take a stand.

Shammah said, "My little pea patch may not seem like much, but it is my harvest." The United Pentecostal Church is right now standing in the middle of our end time harvest! Long time and some even life-time prayers are being answered right now. Dreams are becoming realities right now. People are coming you never thought would come, are being baptized that you never thought would. Miracles and healing are taking place all over the world in this end-time harvest.

The devil must not be allowed to drive you out of your dream harvest. You've got to take a stand and say, "This harvest is about to break loose, our churches are going to bust open with growth," and we need to tell the devil, "You're not going to drive me out." It's time to take a stand. If you're thinking about quitting and throwing in the towel, take a stand. If you're

thinking about compromising, take a stand.

Jeremiah 36:23, "And it came to pass, that when Jehudi had read three or four leaves, he *cut it* with the penknife, and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the roll was consumed....." Here is the meaning to that thought: once you start cutting on it, you won't stop until it is all gone. Once you start cutting on it, you can't put the brakes on it. One compromise leads to another. If one family threatens to leave over something, if you don't take a stand, 10 more families will leave.

The religious world is already cutting; once they get past John 3:16 and Psalm 23 they're pretty much finished. What are some things that are being cut, how about scriptures about the Virgin birth? Oh, that is not necessary, we don't need that. Or the Deity of Christ, that's too restricting to other religions,

cut it. The Resurrection of Jesus, that is a joke, cut it out. Hell and damnation? Nobody wants to hear about that today. The Rapture...can't prove it... cut it. Acts 2:38? That was for the early church only. Miracles, signs and wonders? That doesn't happen anymore. When you finish cutting you have only an empty cover. But the Bible says that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God and "all Scripture" is given under the inspiration of God.



Wayne Huntley Asheboro, NC

We have gathered here to take a stand and say, it's still in there. And if it is still in there, we will believe it, and we will preach it, and we will defend it! Don't ever be deceived, the greatest weapon for Apostolic revival is preaching the Word. "And they went everywhere preaching the Word and the Lord worked with them." Preach miracles and you'll have miracles, preach holiness and you'll have it. Here is something I learned in Bible school and we all need to hear it, "The Spirit may draw people to your church but only doctrine will hold them!" We are not interested in just getting them there, but we want them to stay. Don't lose your courage to preach the doctrine, we need more than positive thinking, we need to preach "thus sayeth the Lord." Take a stand!

Another perspective of Shammah's was this, and I believe it too. If I give them my peas, they are going to be back for my corn. And if I give them my corn, they'll be back for my okra, and then they'll be back for my tomatoes and that's really when we are going to have a fight. There is no way that you can ever satisfy the hunger of a detestable devil who wants to destroy you. Shammah said, "All the rest of Israel can run, but this is my pea patch and I am going to defend it." And when he stood to defend it, God brought a great victory.

We must take a stand because the enemy will come for your prayer life, then he'll come for your praise, then he'll come for your worship and then he'll come for your gifts, he'll come for your faith, then he'll come for your trust, character, integrity, commitment, faithfulness, and after a while your God will be small.

Some of you are battered and bruised but the devil's worst nightmare is about to happen. If the apostles prayed and got the answer, then we can pray and get what they got. The place was shaken, and they were filled with the Holy Ghost. We've got to get a baptism of boldness. Too many of us are lions in the pulpit but mice in the streets. We are going to pray, and God is going to answer. Apostolic ministers of the United Pentecostal Church, it is time to regain our ground and it is time to TAKE A STAND!

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R.I.S.E.N. Ministry

Offering Evangelism, Support to Refugees and International Students

By Linda Schreckenberg



Marshall and Vani Xavier Alexandria, LA

A lmost 98,000 foreign immigrants sought refuge in North America in 2012. Legal immigrants running away from other nations, because of persecution, seek refuge in

Europe, parts of Asia, and especially in America.

Refugee International Student Evangelism Network (R.I.S.E.N.) is a multicultural ministry. Bro. Marshall Xavier and his wife, Vani, founded the ministry and serve as UPCI National Coordinators. They attend the Pentecostals of Alexandria in Alexandria, Louisiana, pastored by Bro. Anthony Mangun. "I am the Prayer Coordinator and Professional Counselor at the Pentecostals of Alexandria," said Sis. Xavier. "I'm also actively involved in the teaching/discipleship ministries of the church. I travel extensively as a conference speaker and have a Master's degree in Christian Counseling, providing counseling services inside and

outside the church." Before they migrated to America 16 years ago, the Xaviers pastored and planted multicultural churches in Asia and the Pacific region. Their continued burden for refugees led them to create the R.I.S.E.N. Ministry by visiting areas of Alexandria where multicultural people might live.

Sis. Xavier explained, "Being Asian, I speak five different languages, and each year America receives thousands of displaced immigrants. America has Refugee Resettlement Agencies all over the nation that help resettle refugees in various cities from the north, south, east and west. However, in America we don't have churches in every area working with these Resettlement Agencies. Our seminars train

pastors how to connect with these agencies and the refugees coming through them. We work closely with the agency in Louisiana to help refugees settle and connect with UPC churches. In the past two years, we have baptized over 200 Asians in our church, and most have received the Holy Ghost. In the past few years, we have baptized over

65 Burmese refugees in Alexandria. We are presently helping a Muslim refugee family from Iraq to settle in our city. They want to give their lives to God and desire to be filled with the Holy Ghost."

Sis. Xavier noted this about the seminars: "Our training instructs pastors regard-

ing ESL (English as a Second Language) classes for free, and how to help with school placements, doctor visits, counseling, filling out Social Security and other forms, and counseling in immigration issues. We show them how to find clothing, school supplies, etc. for refugees. We show how to form teams to help train and give intensive Bible studies (Search for Truth) as well. Every effort in training is to encourage churches to

reach out to these refugees."

Those desiring to donate to the R.I.S.E.N. Ministry should contact Sis. Xavier by e-mail at vanimarshall@aol.com or phone 318-787-7438 for a form to go through their PIM account with UPCI. Information on the R.I.S.E.N. Ministry is available through www.risenmcm.com.



"Tell Me The Truth"

Pastor Creates Simple Evangelism Handbook Explaining Gospel

By Gregg Stone



Art and Bethany Wilson Wayne, MI

If you have questions, they have the answers. Tell Me The Truth, written by Bro. Art Wilson, was born to meet the great challenge in Metro Detroit where the young people

in his church were facing daily opposition. At every turn, they were under attack regarding their faith. "One day I was made aware of the daily issues our youth were facing concerning our faith so we began to look for a resource that they could use to explain what we believe in a simple word-only format," explains Bro. Wilson. "To our surprise, we couldn't locate one that answered the questions the community was asking. Tell Me The Truth was designed to be used by young people in Bible study settings, and as a resource to answer direct

questions that they are confronted with on a daily basis."

Tell Me The Truth consists of four simple chapters covering the bare basics

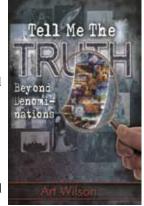
of the Apostolic message: one God, the baptism of the Holy Ghost, the baptism in Jesus name and holy living. "I created this simple handbook that any youth could understand and even memorize to assist them," said Bro. Wilson. "I made sure it was the size that could fit in a purse, pocket or backpack without any trouble. Within a few months, we have had hundreds of requests, from not just youth in church but also their friends in school and their workplaces as well."

Bro. Wilson serves as Senior Pastor of The International Church of Metro Detroit, with his wife, Bethany, and their three daughters, Alora, Moriah and Mikayla. Since planting this church in November 2000, they have baptized over 1,000, and have three daughter works. He also serves the United Pentecostal Church International

as Multicultural Ministries
Ambassador, and Building the
Bridge Secretary. Being a church
planter, Bro. Wilson's greatest
burden is reaching people with
the wonderful gospel of Jesus
Christ.

Introduced a few years ago, *Tell Me The Truth* is already in its fifth printing. "It is mostly desired by the people in the community and visitors to churches that want to know more about our truth on a very basic level," said Bro. Wilson. "The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive."

Tell Me The Truth can be ordered from Pentecostal Publishing House or from Bro. Wilson's website, <u>ArtWilson.</u> com.



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REACHING THE GLOBAL HARVEST AT HOME





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Timothy & Andrea Whiseant Haitian Evangelism Ministry Coordinator

Word To The Wise:

"One nice thing about being over the hill is that you begin to pick up speed." $\,$

* * * * * * *

As long as there have been farmers, there has been the dilemma of whether to be in church on Sunday or to make hay while the sun shines.

Like the farmer who spent Sunday morning trying to get hay in ahead of the rain. As he came down the road with a full load, he met the preacher, who looked at him reproachfully.

"Reverend," the farmer explained, "It's better to be sitting on this hay thinking about God than sitting in church thinking about hay."

* * * * * * *

It was one of those weird coincidences that occur maybe once in a thousand years. That afternoon there converged on the neighborhood grocery store some 28 husbands, each of whom had been sent out by their wives with very specific instructions as to what they should buy.

In a further stretch of the laws of probability, each of those men had assured their mates that they were perfectly capable of remembering the items needed without the childish crutch of written instructions.

Picture the scene: more than two dozen adult males wandering the store aisles with glazed-over eyes. The atmosphere in the grocery store was, well, there is only one word for it - *listless*.



"That's what I said. I downloaded them from the cloud."

* * * * * * *

A mother asked her small son what he would like for his birthday. "I'd like a little brother," the boy said.

"Oh my, that's such a big wish," said the mother. "Why do you want a little brother?"

"Well," said the boy, "there's only so much I can blame on the dog."

* * * * * * *

A man was playing Trivial Pursuit one night.

It was his turn.

He rolled the dice and he landed on Science & Nature.

His question was, "If you are in a vacuum and someone calls your name, can you hear it?"

He thought for a time and then asked, "Is the vacuum on or off?"



"Rover, your gift test indicates you'd do best at fetching and sitting at my feet, but our family needs someone to sit on the branches and sing. Do you think you could handle that?"

* * * * * * *

Paddy was driving down the street in a sweat because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking space. Looking up to heaven, he said, "Lord, take pity on me. If you find me a parking space, I will go to Mass every Sunday for the rest of me life and give up me Irish whiskey!"

Miraculously, a parking space suddenly appeared.

Paddy looked up again and said, "Never mind, Lord. I found one."

* * * * * * *

A visitor to Israel attended a recital and concert at the Moscovitz Auditorium.

He was quite impressed with the architecture and the acoustics. He inquired of the tour guide, "Is this magnificent auditorium named after Chaim Moscovitz, the famous Talmudic scholar?"

"No," replied the guide. "It is named after Sam Moscovitz, the writer."

"Never heard of him," said the visitor. "What did he write?"

"A check," replied the guide.

* * * * * * *

An English teacher rolled through a stop sign and was pulled over by a police officer -- a former student!

"Ms. Brown," he said, "those stop signs are periods, not commas."



"It says on your resume that you were created in God's image. Very impressive."

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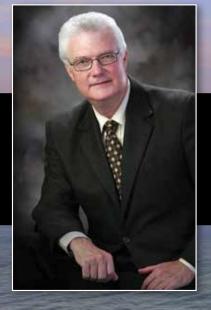
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