



the
CROSSROADS
a PLACE *to* BELONG





**PRESIDENT
JOSHUA B. CARSON**

**“God’s
unwavering
goodness and
our resolute
duty must not be
predicated upon
the opinions of
men, changes in
world philosophy,
or even concern
over a global
pandemic.”**



We Must Choose Revival

“Remember ye, not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert” (Isaiah 43:18-19).

The commemoration of the new headquarters of The New York Times was coupled with the first-ever celebration of New Year’s Eve in Times Square; the year was 1904. Alfred Ochs had successfully lobbied the city to rename Long Acre Square in honor of his famous publication. Times Tower was an impressive sight, shooting upward on a tiny land triangle at 7th Avenue, Broadway, and 42nd Street. Ochs spent extravagantly, ensuring a party for the ages. There was an all-day street festival, and that night fireworks exploded from the tower. While the outside was a flurry of activities, the building focused on the unprecedented New Year’s Eve celebration. At midnight the joyful sound of cheering, rattles, and noisemakers from the more than 200,000 attendees could be heard miles away.¹ Now, with the help of satellite technology, a worldwide audience estimated at over one billion people tune in for the Times Square ball-lowering ceremony each year. Times Square’s lowering of the ball has become the world’s symbolic welcome to the New Year.² Between then and now, the crowd has grown to an estimated 2,000,000 attendees packed into the area and approximately a billion people tuning in online.

However, December 31, 2020, will not allow a gathering of the masses for the first time in 114 years due to the COVID pandemic. Tim Tompkins, president of the Times Square Alliance, said, “One thing that will never change is the ticking of time and the arrival of a New Year at midnight on the year’s last day.”³ Regardless of the unique season in which our world finds itself, time will not stop moving us forward toward eternity.

Dear Believer, let us remember that God’s ability in 2021 will remain unshakable. God’s unwavering goodness and our resolute duty must not be predicated upon the opinions of men, changes in world philosophy, or even concern over a global pandemic. Before us is the potential of fresh harvest and city-reaching restoration. Rather than focusing on the negativity of the media-saturated world, let us remember that God can still “make a way in the wilderness and bring rivers in the desert.” While the masses may not gather until restrictions lift, those masses still exist and represent souls. Our commission as the Church remains despite restrictions, and we must choose revival in 2021.

¹ <https://tinyurl.com/y3jm4faf>

² <https://www.timessquarenyc.org/times-square-new-years-eve/nye->

³ <https://tinyurl.com/y28cway7>

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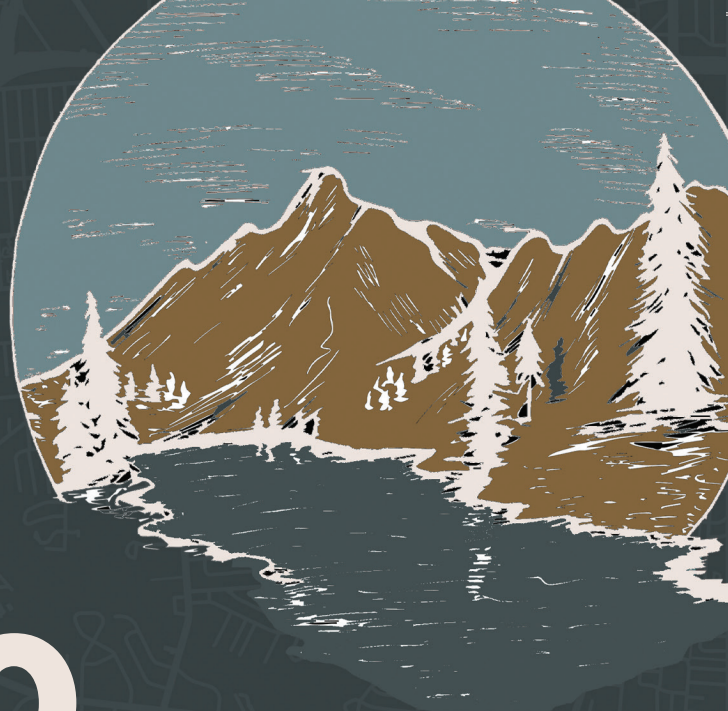
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APOSTOLIC MINISTRY: What Does “Go” Look Like?

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Mission Statement

♦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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COVID-19

MINOR PROBLEM OR MAJOR END-TIME SIGN?

Written By John L. Fonzer

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



Reginald Reece, Mobile, AL - If the world's people continue to be propagandized by the news media who terrify them to shut down society, the marketplace and the churches, the economy will collapse.

COVID-19 contains a major Antichrist-mark-666 component. The U.S. Government is planning mandatory vaccinations. Those who refuse the vaccination will experience what Revelation 13:17 says that "no man might buy or sell," except he that had "the mark," 666. Therefore, if no vaccine is issued, no

buying or selling will be permitted in the marketplace.

To a small degree, I find that some people are under strong conviction to draw closer to the Lord Jesus Christ. However, to a large degree, most people are responding to the gospel by acting like those in Noah's day and Lot's day: Business as usual. Sin and ungodliness as usual.



Jeff Moses, LaFollette, TN - If this were only a local or state or even national issue, then I would not be alarmed. But when it's a global issue, then it should really get our attention. The New Testament epistles were written to individual or regional churches. But the Book of the Revelation was Jesus' last word to His global church.

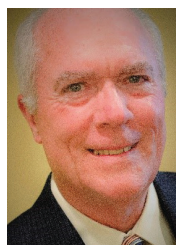
I agree with 95-98% of all Christian denominations that the church is raptured in Revelation chapter four (before the tribulation begins), and the church is not mentioned again until we return back to this earth with the Lord to set up His kingdom.

God shut down everything to get the attention of the church. In a few short weeks, we went from the greatest job market in American history, with the strongest economy in American history, to a sudden "unplugging" of everything, from bars to churches, destroying 40 million American jobs.

The stage for the anti-Christ is now set. Israel has released plans for a third temple, and will be ready to offer a red heifer soon.

The mark of the beast is a very real possibility in the very near future since the COVID-19 vaccine will have an optional implantable micro-chip in it for contact tracing, and yet the rapture of the church happens before this mark is given, so it must be very close. There has never been a global wake-up call like this one!

Pastors and preachers all over the country from other denominations who are watching our online services are now seeing the need to be baptized in Jesus' name and are receiving the Holy Ghost.



David Huston, Carlisle, PA - We have had a record number of first-time guests recently, not so much because of COVID-19, but because we are holding in-person services and a lot of churches in our area are still not open. We definitely see Jesus using this situation to build His church!

So much of what we see in the world tells me that we are living in the last days and the coming of the Lord is near. Exactly how near is difficult to say. The Bible states that Jesus will come "immediately after the tribulation of those days." I believe there are still some signs that must appear, such as the rise of a worldwide empire led by the Antichrist.

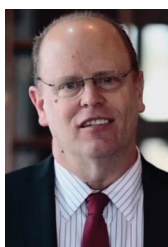


Rudy Trejo, Anaheim, CA - While this disease can lead to the death of thousands, it also can insert instability into our nation. Through all of this, I believe the Lord is trying to awaken this world.

Many are being alarmed. Yet at the same time, many are not being affected, and are blinded to what truly is happening spiritually.

Many tribulation signs are happening now. Any end-time sign is one step closer to the Lord coming back for His church, and therefore resulting in the appearance of the Antichrist. The church is to be removed from this world prior to that taking place.

Any church service could be our last, but the evangelism of any church should remain moving forward into reaching the souls of men.



Wylie Rhinehart, Dayton, OH - We are living in the last days, of the last days. One just has to look around and see, as it was in the days of Noah and Lot, so shall it be also be in the coming of the son of man. 2,700 years ago, Isaiah prophesied that "...judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter."

Anything is possible in the current political climate. The deficit is at heretofore unknown levels.

Something has to give. The ninth chapter of Revelation speaks of a war that will see a third of the earth's population die. If anything would give rise to the Antichrist, this event could. This event could give rise to each person receiving the mark of the beast as well. We have yet to see how COVID-19 will play out. God is still in control.

I adhere to the "when-you-die" tribulation view. So many of our great elders and bishops of our own generation have gone on to their reward. What did they believe? Pre-trib? Post-trib? For those who have passed on, it didn't matter. When we die and meet the Lord, that is the most important event of our lives, surpassing even what we believe regarding the timing of the rapture of the church.

Since many churches have had to cancel and have their services online, I believe there is a delay of the great revival which I believe is coming to all of our churches. I sincerely believe that COVID-19 will be the impetus for yet another great time of revival. Trouble leads many people to God, and that is a great thing.



John Wolfram, Powder Springs, GA - There are no lack of voices immediately following every catastrophic event pointing it to the end time. I was taught to live like the Lord was coming today and plan like He was coming 50 years from now. Unfortunately, the coronavirus or similar mutants may be around for a long time. The U.N. and global health agencies claim 700,000 people die each year due to drug-resistant diseases.

This is a great time for churches to re-evaluate their activities and ministries. More people who have mostly "gone" to church are suddenly realizing they "are" the Church. Perhaps it's time to let some things go that are more traditional, but not effective. A hard reset may be uncomfortable, but necessary.

the CROSSROADS

Pastor Dieter Skowron + Johnstown, CO

Written By Gregg Stone



Pastor & First Lady Skowron

Located in the heart of the Northern Front Range, Johnstown, Colorado, rests in a scenic farm valley. It's been referred to as a well-kept secret, and it's also been rated as one of the safest places to live in the country. Located at the crossroads just outside of Johnstown, Abundant Life Tabernacle, pastored by Rev. Dieter and Kimberly Skowron, is a church whose vision is to be a light and sanctuary at the crossroads of society.

"We hope to serve people at whatever stage of life they are currently in when they come to Abundant Life Tabernacle," said Bro. Skowron. "We try to be the kind of church described in the Bible – with practical teaching, heartfelt worship, authentic friendships, meaningful prayer, and genuine care for those in need. We want to be the church!"

Principles of Growth and Revival

Abundant Life has become a place where people can come for healing and to experience the mercy that only comes from God. All that are weary and heavy-laden are welcome. Pastor Dieter said, "If it were my church, I could decide who is welcome and who is not. But it is not my church. It's God's church and He has sent people from the North, South, East, and West to this small community in Johnstown. I learned quickly that I couldn't really pastor people until I had been 'through the fire' with them; until I buried their dead, prayed for them when they were sick and married off their babies. So that's exactly what I did. I ministered to anyone that I could. I believe we need to follow the example of the apostles and preach Jesus. I'm convinced that you have to love people and show them the love of Jesus. Don't get ahead of them. Love them through it. My 'philosophy of ministry' is to love God, love people and love truth. I love family and I strive to encourage healing in relationships, I feel like God has gifted me in that area. That's a key component of revival and growth, when people know that you truly care."

Organization and Management

With a variety of ministries at Abundant Life, Bro. Skowron feels that organization and proper management is key to having a healthy, thriving church. "I pray for each ministry," said Bro. Skowron. "I try to use each individual within their skill and gifting. I personally ask each new member what their passion is, talk to them as they mature, and tie them in accordingly through connecting them to ministries throughout the church."

"As far as staff and ministry departments, I meet with them as needed," said Bro. Skowron. "I meet with the Pastoral Advisory Board weekly as well as the Sound and Video team. Other departments I meet with on a monthly and a three-month basis. Every leader has a job description so they know what is expected of them and we have



A Convert is Baptized

quarterly planning with our leaders to help us to grow and excel in all that we do."

Current Facility

Abundant Life was birthed in the spring of 1993 in a 40-by-60 feet tent on a piece of ground purchased by the Skowrons. "There were 20-30 people when we kicked off," said Bro. Skowron. "Eventually I designed a building that was approximately 6,000 square feet that served as our home and our church. We are now in a 15,000-square-foot facility that I designed and built myself. It's a uniquely 'Colorado' church; you definitely wouldn't see this in most of the country. It has heavy timbers with a lodge feel, and in our entryway, we have a large fireplace that is always burning during our winter months."

Abundant Life has added some new ministries along with their new facility, explains Bro. Skowron. "Our new facility includes children and youth ministries. We have classes and activities designed specifically for varying age groups led by people with a passion to serve. As they grow in community, our goal is to teach young people and children more about the Bible and to bring them into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. We also offer specialized groups and classes. We hope to serve people at whatever stage of life they are currently in when they come to Abundant Life Tabernacle.



Young Hearts Seeking God

Whether they are seeking something specifically for men, women, marriage counseling, singles ministry, divorce recovery, emotional or physical healing, or anything else, our desire is to help them. Last but certainly not least is Cafe 5450. Our soon-coming coffee shop will feature high-quality coffee that can be obtained at our donations-only on-site coffee counter. If you choose to stay awhile, we will have a cozy, inviting seating area to foster a sense of community and relaxation. It's a place to pray, talk, study, and counsel."

The current building is a miracle in itself and happened in a very unique way. "We were growing tremendously and outgrowing our current facility, so I was praying about a new facility," explains Bro. Skowron. "Our church was not on the market, but Bro. Scott Guinn, a visiting minister relayed a story of a church that sold their building when it wasn't even listed. So I prayed, 'Lord, we've been here for twenty years and no one has ever said, 'Sell me your building,' so if You will send a buyer without it being on the market, I will know it is Your will.' Monday morning my dad called and asked if I had listed the church because we had an offer on the building. From there, I stepped out on faith, sold the building, and started having church in a theatre in a high school. Within a week, I found the land the Lord had shown me in a dream five years earlier. You see, I had been looking for land off-and-on for the past five years. However, there was no land 'zoned' correctly for a church anywhere in our area. But one day I started to drive around praying, and under the leadership of the Holy Ghost, I drove along the highway and found a piece of land priced at \$986,000. This was well above our budget, but I called the owner anyway. He met me and said, 'We are looking for a flagship building for this area.' I made an offer of \$300,000. He called back and said, 'I will accept your offer if you build what you described. Otherwise, I will not take your offer.' I bought the land and at the same time, I needed additional funding, because every bank turned us down. Right about that time, my phone rang and a wealthy friend of mine that I hadn't seen in a while called asking me to build him a house. While we were going over the

details of his home, he asked about the church, and I told him what they were requiring. He asked me if I had my drawings and my budget. I immediately ran to the truck and grabbed everything, brought it in, and he flipped through to the last page and said, 'Go build your church.' He lent me 1.5 million dollars on a handshake. There are other countless miracles during construction that space will not allow to tell, but the Scripture has been fulfilled that says, 'Except the Lord build the house...' because He definitely built this one. It's completely above my pay grade."

Personal History

Pastor Dieter and his family grew up in Northern Colorado. It was at a home in Loveland that fourteen-year-old Dieter's father, Gus Skowron, was filled with the Holy Spirit, and their lives changed forever. In 1993, the Lord called Pastor Dieter back to Colorado after he had evangelized and started a small church in Chicago. Both of those experiences prepared and trained him to come back to the state he loved so much to begin a work. However, the bulk of his training came from what God had to teach him through life experience.

"I have been preaching the Word of God since I was a young man," said Bro. Skowron. "In the beginning of my ministry I was an evangelist, preaching at various churches in states from Illinois to Colorado. I became a pastor in the late 1980's. Preaching, teaching and leading people to God has been a passion of mine for many years. It all began when I was twenty-one years old. As a young man in a service one evening, a prophet called me out declaring my sinful condition. I was an arrogant young man and instead of humbling myself in the presence of a miracle, I left church with a very bitter, rebellious attitude. As I left the church I remember grabbing my jaw as a pain hit me. What I thought at the time was an abscess tooth turned out to be cancer. Here I was, twenty-one years old, with my own construction business, and a beautiful girlfriend, Kimberly Ann, whom I wanted to marry! I had dreams and plans and so much of life ahead of me, and suddenly God was taking that from me. I was angry, bitter, and overcome. My parents, Gus and Brigitte Skowron, did everything in their power to help defeat the cancer. They tried different treatments and going to different doctors and hospitals, but nothing worked! My journey led me to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. As I was walking through a park next to the hospital, God finally broke my will. I realized that God was trying to get my attention. I fell under a tree and repented before God, weeping for all of the things I had done. When I got back to my hospital room, I called all the people I thought I may have wronged and apologized to them.

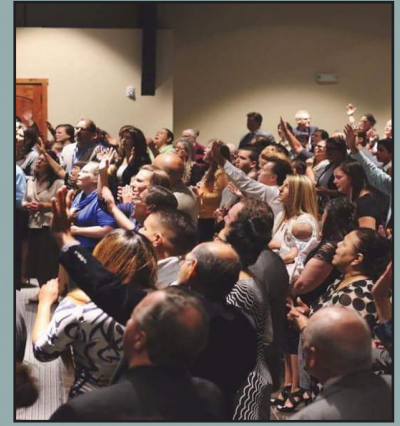


Pastor Skowron Preaching

The night before I was to undergo a major surgery on my jaw, my father stayed in the room with me all night, praying over me. The next morning, the doctors took one final X-Ray before going through with the treatment, but when the results came back, it was not what they were expecting. "I can't believe this," a doctor exclaimed as he burst into my room. "The cancer is dying! The tumor is shrinking! I've heard of this phenomenon before but I have never seen it! It's a miracle!" The Lord had completely healed me! Other doctors were skeptical. They thought they had better go through with the radiation therapy, just in case, to make sure all the cancer died. They went through with the radiation and, through some kind of error, the radiation destroyed part of the tissue in my jaw. As a

result, I can only open my mouth a quarter of an inch, which often causes people to stare when I am eating in restaurants. Miraculously though, the Lord spared me from any speech impediment. When I preach, I cannot completely open my mouth, but to hear me, you would never know it. I came through the experience a very different person, changed and hungry for God."

Along with his wife, Kim, he began to walk through the doors the Lord was opening for him. He traveled around the country evangelizing as God opened the doors for him to speak. He felt led to start a missions work in Chicago, and moved his growing family there. During these years, he and his wife had three children, Philip, Alisha, and Jeremy. After four years in the "Windy City," the Lord spoke to him and told him to move back to his home state of Colorado, where he started Abundant Life Tabernacle and also has served as the Colorado Men's Director for the past five years.



A Crowded Altar

Future Vision

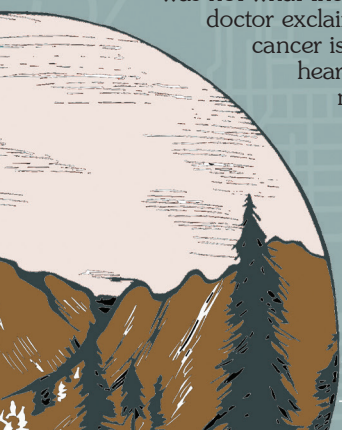
Abundant Life is very excited about what God is doing and their vision for the future. "We want to BE the church," said Bro. Skowron. "Our goal as a church is to be a place of healing, growing, and new birth, visible on the crossroads of the Front Range of Colorado, shining as examples, reaching people with the Gospel, walking in the Spirit and demonstrating the power of God through the Holy Ghost."

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The Calling



Chad A. Parker
Executive Vice President

There are so many scriptures that underscore the work done at Tupelo Children's Mansion. Matthew 25:40 says, "...Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." The Psalmist wrote, "Defend the poor and fatherless..." Pure religion, according to James 1:27, is helping the fatherless and widows in their trouble. There are many more, but the point is simple; the Word is clear concerning the calling of true believers. Matthew 22 sums it up best when Jesus says, "...Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

I think the reason some struggle to find "God's will" or to "answer the call" is directly connected to the errant expectation that answering the call means a simplified path. One thing I've learned throughout my life and in watching those who sacrifice on a daily basis to live a life of pure religion is that the calling is not necessarily easy. Yes, God will make a way. Yes, God will provide. Yes, God will give you strength. None of that, however, dismisses the challenges that may come our way.

Our wonderful houseparents are often in my thoughts and on my heart. These precious couples and single ladies are true heroes. They inspire me every day. One of our housemothers, Melody Brown, wrote this:

"I think more often than not, He calls us to do things that take us far beyond our comfort zone. Houseparenting will pull you and stretch you in ways that you never imagined; however, if yielding to that call positively impacts even one child for the Kingdom of God...that's what we are here for.

It's not to say houseparenting is without challenge. This life is an emotional roller coaster. The kids are hurt and angry many times, wondering why the adults in their lives can't be the adults they need. We've all heard that 'hurt people hurt people.' There is so much pain in the lives of our kids.

Then there's the beauty of seeing your kids in the altar seeking God, the breakthrough of a child you've spent hours talking to about forgiveness finally letting go of the hate in his heart, the kids that come as agnostic or atheist asking deep questions about God...that's what it's about.

Every one of them takes a tiny piece of my heart. So far, 44 pieces of my heart have been given away in three years, and I wouldn't trade it for the world."

No, the calling isn't always easy, but the outcomes are eternal. If you feel that God has been dealing with you about living a life of pure religion, giving yourself to those who are hurting, then please reach out to us! We are always accepting applications for qualified and called houseparents! We would love to discuss these opportunities with you! Simply email ermajudd@mansionkids.org with your resume and letter of interest.

4 Helpful Reminders to Combat Discouragement in Troubling Times

By Greg Denham

Life is like riding a bike. You need to keep peddling. Endurance is essential. But what do you do when you don't feel like peddling, when you're demoralized and lack strength?

1. *Allow the heroes of the faith to encourage you.* Hebrews 12:1 reads, "Since we're surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses..." What does this mean? The "cloud of witnesses" in this verse is speaking of the heroes of the faith identified earlier in Hebrews 11 — heroes who have gone before us and whom God has purposed to speak into our lives to encourage us even today! Faith doesn't mean you won't have problems and disappointments in life. Faith is not saying to yourself "I'm not in pain" when you are in pain. Nor is it saying "I don't hurt" when you do hurt. Faith is seeing your problems through the lens of the truth of God's Word. It is putting your trust in the One who knows all things, and loves you! It is trusting in His perfect timing. It is trusting in His unfolding plan in Christ in your life.

2. *See your life as a long endurance run rather than a sprint.* Hebrews 12:1 says "...and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us..." By nature, a long endurance run does not always feel good. It is painful. At times it requires just pure grit. This then brings an important distinction: If we base the "race of life" on our feelings, not only will it give us an inaccurate picture of the reality of God in our life, but we will be tempted to quit.

3. *Be aware of the weight of sin in your life that saps energy, pulls you down and demoralizes you!* Hebrews 12:2 says "...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us ..." By removing the small compromises in your life that act like foot-holds, which can then lead to self-defeating strongholds, you will increase your strength and glorify God in your life.

4. *Keep your eyes on Jesus.* This is the main point in context! A paraphrase of Hebrews 12:2 reads, "...When you find yourselves dragging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!" (Hebrews 12:1-3) What story are we to go over and over again to be encouraged? The story of how Jesus endured the ultimate endurance run by giving His life on the cross on Passover as the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, and who resurrected from the dead, ascended to heaven and is coming back to reign on Earth.

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BLACKFOOT [12,000]

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* APPROVED FOR METRO MISSIONS

DO YOU FEEL A BURDEN TO PLANT A CHURCH,
BUT HAVE NOT YET NAMED YOUR PLACE OR CALLING?



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keys to crafting an effective SERMON

Interviewed By Jordan Blake



Bro. and Sis. Huntley
Raleigh, NC

Tell us a little about how you got into ministry.

Back in my day, people always used to ask little boys what they wanted to be when they grew up. Their answer today is that they just want to grow up. My mother told me that I would always say I was either going to be a preacher or a professional

baseball player. My father was a preacher, but he backslid before I knew him as such. I only knew him as an alcoholic almost all of my life. Evidently, there was some DNA about ministry in me that I did not know about. When I was about seventeen, God miraculously called me to preach in a way I could never doubt. Then I went to Texas Bible College in 1968 on a Sheaves for Christ scholarship, and I started preaching whenever I could.

Who were some of the preachers that have inspired the way you preach?

Wayne McClain was the greatest source of inspiration in my life. He became our pastor right before we got out of Bible college. I also enjoyed the ministry of T.F. Tenney. I studied his one-liners and alliteration. Marvin Hicks was a great debater and camp meeting preacher. I studied his debating because I had the only Apostolic church in the city, and I knew the Assemblies of God and Baptists were going to attack me. Back in the day, they would debate you, and I had to be prepared to defend the truth. Marvin Cole was a man of God that I preached revivals for that influenced me. I was an assistant to O.R. Fauss for many months, and he taught me how to give an altar call. He said the altar call starts right when I step to the pulpit. Also, R.E. Johnson was a great camp meeting preacher, and he taught me to not put my best illustration first.

What do you think are the keys to a great sermon?

First of all, the conviction of the speaker. You are only as powerful as you personally believe. Some men are quoting what they have heard and learned, but it is not something they have "down deep." Second, the greatest sermon is a message. What is the difference between a sermon and a message? The sermon carries a message. The message

is what God is saying right then to that specific audience. It is a *rhema*, a relative word for right now. The right word at the wrong time is a failure. You need the right word at the right time.

And finally, illustrations that move people. You have to appeal a little bit to the head, but a whole lot to the heart.

How do you begin to craft a sermon?

It depends on the type of message. You do not always get to eat steak; sometimes you just get some beans and potatoes to get you through the week. Ask yourself: "What are they asking me to do? What am I called upon to do?" You are trying to tailor that message to the goal that you have. To me, the most important parts of the message are the beginning and the ending. When you assume the pulpit, you have the anointing, but you also have five minutes for the congregation to decide to give you their anointing or not. You have to find a balance in the intro to win the favor of the congregation. I spend most of my time on the beginning and ending.

What is your routine for studying?

You would be surprised at how many sermons I get sitting in a deer stand. I am not good at sitting down and putting a message together, it comes by inspiration. I study 24/7. I have a lot of the Bible memorized in my mind, and with a cell phone, I can study wherever I am. Whatever I am doing, whoever I am with, I let people speak to me. One of the best ways to get a message is to listen to the sheep. If a shepherd listens to the sheep, they will tell him where they are hurting. Another thing I learned from an elder is, "He who has prayed well has studied well." When you spend time with God, you have really studied. You have to learn to wait on God and learn to hear from and discern the Spirit.

What do your sermon notes look like?

Sometimes it is a mixture of an outline and a manuscript, but basically, you could probably take my sermons and preach them. I usually have a strong outline. I am different than some folks, and I believe God can anoint you to write an outline. My pastor taught me this: the written-down

notes are like a diving board in a pool; they spring me into the message. I flow into what the service wants me to do, but the notes get me into that.

Do you have any tips for young preachers?

(1) Know God. Learn to discern God. There are three types of spirits in the world: the Holy Spirit, evil spirits, and human spirits, and you need to know the spirit world. You need to know the difference between the devil and the flesh, and the difference between the flesh and God. (2) Know truth. Study truth. Learn how to preach the truth. (3) Know people. You have to learn how to understand human flesh; how they are thinking, what they are thinking, where they are hurting. (4) Have a spirit of true humility. True humility is not getting in a pulpit and calling yourself a "big dummy." No one wants to hear that. The definition of humility is not thinking less of self; rather, it is *not* thinking of self. (5) Finally, if you make God's business your business, He will make your business His business.

For information about these events, call the event coordinator. If you would like your event on this list, call (317)-781-7712 IBC Perspectives does not endorse any seminar or conference listed. This page is provided simply as a service to the greater Apostolic community.

apostolicalendar 2021

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SPEAKERS / NOTES	CONTACT / INFO
JAN 29	Indiana Bible College LIVE RECORDING A night of worship with Indiana Bible College under the direction of Dr. Lindel M. Anderson.	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46203	Lindel Anderson, IBC Choir, IBC Chorale, IBC Praise, others	For more information: www.indianabiblecollege.org/ibclive or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
FEB 12-13	Systems & Strategies Conference A conference for pastors, volunteer leaders & staff examining systems & strategies for apostolic churches to help prepare us for the harvest.	Church of Pentecost 8709 Hogan Rd Jacksonville, FL 32216	Speakers for this event will be announced closer to the event date.	Visit www.churchofpentecost.org for more information.
FEB 8-9	Indiana Bible College Book Trip IBC students, staff, and guests travel to Baker Book House in Grand Rapids, MI to shop for books, converse, and fellowship.	2768 E Paris Ave S E Grand Rapids, MI 49546	Many IBC staff members will have the opportunity to address the students.	Visit www.indianabiblecollege.org for more details.
FEB 25-27	Winterfire Conference 2021 WinterFire is where action is birthed from revelation. Every leadership team will leave renewed and empowered! It is the place where those who pour out every week in ministry are poured into. Be a part of WinterFire 2020 to be challenged, encouraged, and instructed by the Word of God.	The First Cathedral 1151 Blue Hills Avenue Bloomfield, CT 06002	Jerry Jones, J.H. Osborne, Indira Petoskey, Victor Jackson, D.K. Bernard, Josh Carson, Sammy Stewart, Mark Morgan	Visit www.winterfire.org for more information, or call (860) 528-9834.
FEB 25-27	Indiana Bible College CONNECT Designed for high school juniors and seniors who feel a call to ministry. Students will be a part of an in-depth look at what it means to be called into ministry and how Indiana Bible College can help educate, train and instruct those called.	Indiana Bible College 1502 E Sumner Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46227	Many IBC staff members will have the opportunity to address the prospective students.	Visit https://indianabiblecollege.org/connect/ for more information.
MAR 5-6	Chase Marshall Memorial Bible Quizzing Tournament Bible quizzers gather for a power-packed tournament and fellowship.	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46203	Speakers for this event will be announced closer to the event date.	Visit www.indianabiblecollege.org for more details.
MAR 24-26	Launch Church Planting Solutions The best experts and experienced church planters guide participants in completing a comprehensive plan for a successful apostolic church launch.	Reneassaince Airport Hotel 5445 Forbes Pl Orlando, FL 32812	Speakers for this event will be announced closer to the event date.	Visit www.launchachurch.faith for more details.
MAR 30	Indiana Bible College Pastor's Day Honoring the special role that pastors play in the lives of IBC students. The pastor and spouses of all students are encouraged to attend classes and chapel service with their students. In the evening they are also invited to participate in the Pastors' Day Banquet.	Indiana Bible College 1502 E Sumner Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46227	The speaker for this event will be announced closer to the event date.	Visit www.indianabiblecollege.org/pastors-day for more information.
APR 6-8	Indiana Bible College Theology Conference The students of the Theology Club host a powerful conference with guest speakers, night sessions, and more.	Indiana Bible College 1502 E Sumner Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46227	Speakers for this conference will be announced closer to the event date.	Visit www.indianabiblecollege.org for more details.
MAY 7	Indiana Bible College Commencement Exercises Honoring the graduating class of 2021.	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46203	The commencement speaker will be announced closer to the event date.	Visit www.indianabiblecollege.org for more details.
JULY 28-30	North American Youth Congress The world's largest apostolic youth event, filled with dynamic preaching, singing, and fellowship.	Lucas Oil Stadium 500 S Capitol Ave Indianapolis, IN 46225	Speakers for this conference will be announced closer to the event date.	For more information: www.northamericanyouthcongress.com
SEPT 2021	Mid-America Renewal Conference (MARC) Indianapolis, Indiana - A power-packed preaching conference in the heart of the Midwest.	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46203	Speakers for this conference will be announced closer to the event date.	ibc@apostolic.edu indianabiblecollege.org or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 514-8069
OCT 5-8	UPCI General Conference 2021 Don't miss this incredible gathering of apostolic ministers and acquaintances worldwide.	Indianapolis, IN	Speakers for this conference will be announced closer to the event date.	Visit www.upcigc.net for more information.
OCT 2021	The Apostolic North Conference A conference designed for the North American missionary and church planter.	To be announced	Speakers for this conference will be announced closer to the event date.	Online registration: www.parkwaychurch.net (601) 853-2607

Church Today: The Need of the Hour



Jason Gallion

Church Today

jasongallion@gmail.com

The Need of the Hour

In reflecting on what I have seen in 2020 among young people from across the nation, a clear theme emerges: a battle with fear and anxiety like I've never seen before. We can blame the pandemic, the isolation, even the fear of future shutdowns. But whatever the cause, I believe that in whatever we face, faith in operation is the key element we need to survive and thrive.

The phone call from Pastor Mooney inviting me to Indiana Bible College was both unexpected and life-changing. I loved pastoring. It is what I ultimately felt called to do. I wasn't sure that I wanted to leave Alaska and the church where things were finally going well after years of struggling in many areas.

It was a long road to where we had come. Taking the church and moving my family to Eagle River, Alaska, was one of the greatest trials of our lives. Had we known what we were getting into, we may not have done it. We had a paid-for building and an existing congregation. What we did not know was the amount of emotional pain that existed, or the onslaught of spiritual opposition my family and I would face.

There were days I simply could not have made it without a word from God. At times I walked into the sanctuary of the church alone. No man or woman was there to give me a word, but God began to lead me to the Scripture that I needed at that time. It sustained us. If God gives a word, it doesn't matter what the circumstances are around you. The Word of God introduces the element of faith, and you cannot live for God without the principle of faith in operation. We must operate in the dynamic of faith, and faith always comes by the Word.

Although I wasn't interested in leaving Eagle River, nevertheless I began to pray. Soon after, a member of our church asked me if I was leaving. He said God was speaking with him the night before and felt that we were leaving. He then said something that arrested me, he said he wasn't sure he could live for God if we left. God impressed on me in that moment that I needed to decrease, so that He could increase. Some there at that time had a stronger relationship with our family than with our Savior.

Soon after, I traveled to a youth event and engaged in conversation with a friend. We were having a casual conversation when he abruptly stopped and said, "God just spoke to me to tell you that you must decrease so that He can increase, because God is preparing you for transition." I dismissed myself to go back to my room and pray. I knew that God was dealing with me, but that clear word from my friend confirmed what I was already feeling. I knew it was God. It helped us make the difficult decision. What has kept us through the difficult times and lead us into new seasons has always been guided by the clear word and will of God.

What we need as we approach 2021 is not to return to a simpler world. The fact is, 2019 is never coming back. What we need is not easier circumstances or smaller challenges. The great need of the hour is a word from God. We need a word that builds faith and assures us that we are in His hands. If you have a word from God, you can withstand any outward circumstance and overcome every internal obstacle.



Bobby Killmon

Theology

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How can I show someone that Calvinism isn't in the Scripture? (Part 2)

This is part two of a three-part article. The basic answer has been as follows: we simply need to prayerfully show the basic tenants of Calvinistic teaching is not biblical. Then our choice becomes, simply, do we follow Scripture or the teaching of Calvinistic tenants?

For another example, Calvinism teaches God selects those who are to be saved without any condition or anything they do, but the Bible teaches that there is one condition to salvation: faith. Paul states this clearly by simply saying in Eph. 2:8 that we are all "saved through faith".

Calvinism further teaches Christ died only for the elect, but the Bible refutes this, showing our Lord died for all humanity. The reason not all are saved is that some fail to repent, not lack of provision or power of Christ's sacrifice.

The prophet Isaiah declares God laid on the Messiah the "iniquity of us all" (Is. 53:6), not just some. 1 Tim. 4:10 speaks of God as the "Saviour of all men" but emphasizes our personal choice by adding, "specially of those that believe." The apostle John says that Jesus is "the propitiation for our sins" but is also available for "the sins of the whole world." (1 Jn. 2:2) Heb. 2:9 says Jesus was incarnate to "taste death for every man," not just the elect. God's Word states in 1 Tim. 2:4 that God "will have all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth," yet some are not saved. Why? This is man's failure, not God's. We do not choose Him. His blood is universally available, but it must be accessed by our faith.

Calvinism teaches God's grace for salvation cannot be resisted by humanity, but God's Word clearly says His grace can be resisted. Mt. 23:37, clearly shows that Jesus wanted to gather Israel. The reason God's will was thwarted was according to Christ Himself: "ye would not," not ye could not. Inability is not the issue. The choice to reject or resist God's desire to save is the issue. In Jn. 5:39-40, Jesus again states to the people of His day to seek the Scriptures, but they miss saving faith in Christ because "ye will not come," and so they do not receive life. Their choice to reject God's will stopped their salvation. That's not a weakness in God's power to save, but a weakness in man's will to accept God's free gift.

Stephen emphatically rebukes people who "do always resist the Holy Ghost" just "as your fathers did" in Acts 7:51. That's not inability, but again the fact that they did resist God. Proverbs states "I have called and ye refused." (Prov. 1:24-26) And again, even though God "oft reproved," if the result was hardening "his neck" that one would be destroyed without remedy. (Prov. 29:1) God extends salvation, but the problem is we human beings can reject or resist. I'll wrap this up in our next article.



T. W. Massengale

Church Growth

tmassengale@apostolic.edu

Pastors occasionally ask me what, in my opinion, is the number one secret to church growth. Most are expecting me to suggest an evangelism program or some unique outreach idea. While evangelism

is essential, it comes in a distant second to developing a great ministry team. Those who are involved in wealth management will tell you it's not the great stock pick that builds wealth. It's the steady investment in a proven investment portfolio, and then allowing time to make compound interest work for you.

Church growth is the same. Great outreach programs are good, but in the long run, it's the steady day-to-day witnessing done

by your church members that builds churches. I like to focus on the basics: inviting and following-up on visitors, teaching home Bible studies, training and encouraging saints to witness, and developing a solid Sunday school program that reaches both children and adults. These work today as good as ever. But if you fail in ministry organization, your outreach programs will fail also.

By ministry organization, I mean putting together a ministry team that covers all the aspects of a great church. Twelve solid departments that minister inward to strengthen the church and outward to win the lost. Inward typically are Ladies Ministry, Men's Ministry, New Convert Care, Music, Youth and Prayer/Missions. Outward usually are Sunday School, Home Bible Study, Visitor Follow-up, Outreach, Promotions/Multi-Media, and Bus Ministry. But once you select your ministry team, you must then manage them. However, because

they were not professionally trained for their position, the need for hands-on management is essential. I urge pastors to adopt four key management principles.

These are: (1) Annual Planning Retreat – a group weekend spent brainstorming plans for the coming year. (2) Written One-Year Plan – each leader hands in written plans and goals of what they intend to do each month for the coming year. (3) Monthly Planning Council – the pastor has a group leadership meeting each month to review and implement the plans and goals detailed in the one-year plans. (4) Weekly Tag-In – the pastor tags-in briefly with his team on a regular service night to encourage, solve problems, and bring accountability to plans and assignments.

Without a good support organization, people will come in the front door and, after a few months, slip out the back. Sadly, they grow, but then lose in equal numbers.



Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt: **but I wholly followed the LORD my God.**

And Moses sware on that day, saying, Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's for ever, **because thou hast wholly followed the LORD my God.**

JOSHUA 14:8-9

WINTERFIRE2021



**FEB
25-27
2021**

REGISTRATION

Registration for WinterFire 2021 goes live January 9th and is limited to 1,500 seats due to anticipated COVID-19 restrictions. Visit the WinterFire website for the most current registration information.

SPEAKERS

Jerry Jones
J. H. Osborne
Indira Petoskey
Victor Jackson
D. K. Bernard
Josh Carson
Sammy Stewart
Mark Morgan

CONTACT

Visit the WinterFire website and social media pages for more information.



@winterfireconf
winterfire.org



LOCATION

First Cathedral
1151 Blue Hills Ave.
Bloomfield, CT



Spiritual Growth

carol@carolclemans.org

Will We Survive the Impact of 2020?

We were in a health crisis before COVID-19 hit America. My hubby, Rev. Harold Clemans (60-year licensed minister), went to the Lord on July 18, 2020, in our 50th year of marriage. He had survived two major surgeries in two years, but never regained his strength – he was 83.

Sometimes I thought I would not survive being his sole 24/7 caregiver for nine months. At times, I was so weak, the tears would flow. When hubby took his last breath (we were alone), he was instantly in the presence of the Lord! What a wonderful hope and comfort!

The grief of my spouse going to the Lord has touched me at a deep level. It has created an aloneness that I've never experienced before with the death of my parents or brother.

So thankful that God lives inside me through His Spirit. God promised to never leave or forsake me. That is God's truth no matter my emotions. God lives in me 'the hope of glory!'

COVID-19 not only caused death to thousands, but thousands of others lost jobs and businesses. Divorces, separations, domestic violence, suicides, and drug/alcohol intake greatly increased. It is not over yet. Believers in God must choose Him and His Word plus much prayer to survive!

It's a daily choice to believe Psalm 37: 3 – 5 AMP, "Trust (lean on, rely on, and be confident) in the Lord and do good; so shall you dwell in the land and feed surely on His faithfulness, and truly you shall be fed. Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He will give you the desires and secret petitions of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord (roll and repose each care of your load on Him); trust (lean on, rely on, and be confident) also in Him and He will bring it to pass."

Trust God one day at a time! We will survive the impact of 2020! God will give us strength through all losses. "Looking unto Jesus who is the author and finisher of our faith..." – Hebrews 12:2. I am choosing to trust God for my uncertain tomorrows!

Carol Clemans provides nationwide God-based counseling & life coaching by phone (636) 448-0121, teaching God's Word through Skype – www.carolclemans.org – read 'about page' for details. Join www.patreon.com/carolclemans. Subscribe to www.youtube.com/c/carolclemans. Ministry ref: Pastor Daniel Batchelor, Duplo, IL.



Delano Sherley

Accounting & Tax

Summary of Tax Changes for 2021:

- The standard deduction for married filing jointly will be \$25,100; single & married filing separately (MFJ) = \$12,550, head of household = \$18,800.
- The lowest rate is 10% for single individuals with income \$9,950 or less (\$19,900 for MFJ). 12 percent for income over \$9,950 (\$19,900 for MFJ). 22 percent for income over \$40,525 (\$81,050 MFJ); 24 percent for income over \$86,375 (\$172,750 MFJ); 32 percent for income over \$164,925 (\$329,850 MFJ); 35 percent, for income



Vickie Hodges

Identity and Scripture

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Self-Sufficiency: Is It Worth It?

The definition of self-sufficiency is: needing no outside help in satisfying one's basic needs; emotionally and intellectually independent. Let's examine more closely to determine if self-sufficiency is all that it is hyped up to be and if it is really worth it.

We all are self-sufficient to a certain degree. But what happens when we allow ourselves to become self-sufficient in everything we do and in who we are? Self-sufficiency relies on "self." After the fall of Adam, limitations were placed on all humanity.

This means we are limited within our own humanistic abilities. These limitations leave our spirit, soul, and body constantly longing for more. We become trapped within the confines of our own limited, humanistic self-sufficiency. We become so blinded by our own "self" that we do not realize that the root cause of self-sufficiency stems from the sin of "the pride of life." OUCH!

Psalm 23:1 reads "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." So, it is the Lord of Lords, the Creator of the Universe, the King of Kings, the one and only true living God, who is our very own personal Shepherd. He is the Lord who has no limits, no constraints, no restrictions on supplying our every need. The word "is" means present tense. The Scripture does not read that the Lord "was" (past), or "is going to be" (future). It reads that He "is." He is right now, in the present, right where we are at, in this very moment. The Lord is here right now in our life's joys as well as our disappointments. And when we choose to allow the Lord to be our Shepherd, then we lack for nothing. We shall not want for anything!

Self-sufficiency carries a high price tag. Are we going to continue to live a life trapped within the confines of our own limited, humanistic, self-centered ways? Or are we going to be totally dependent upon the Lord as our Shepherd and want for nothing? Self-sufficiency: it is most definitely NOT worth it!

Vickie Hodges is a UPCI licensed minister with 35 years experience in Early Childhood Education and Brain Development Research. She is the author of LIFE (Living In Freedom EVERYDAY) Recovery Series. Vickie is a trainer and a speaker at seminars, retreats, conferences and universities. She can be reached at VickieHodgesSharingLife@gmail.com or (281) 489-0055.



Daniel Sirstad

Relationships 201

www.dsministries.com

Perfect Peace

At the beginning of this new year, my wish is for perfect peace to saturate every home. The Apostle Paul, in his epistle to the Philippians, refers to a peace that passeth all understanding (4:7). An incomprehensible peace.

Isaiah refers to such peace. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on thee: Because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3).

Some would ask if perfect anything is possible on this earth. One reason is people tend to look through the lens of their own eyes rather than through the eyes of God.

I contend that when the Bible says something is perfect, then it is perfect. When God tells us to be perfect, then we can be perfect. Again, the difference is through whose lens we are looking.

This perfect peace is possible when we keep our mind upon Jesus. This understanding is congruent with praying always. We may not be on our knees 24/7, but our mindset can be such that we are in communication with God around the clock.

Why would we keep our minds on the Lord? Because we trust in Him! Solomon penned some phenomenal words regarding trust (Proverbs 3:5-6).

At the beginning of this year, I encourage each of you to examine your trust barometer. Do you trust in the Lord with all your heart, or are you leaning on your understanding? Are you acknowledging God in all your ways, thereby allowing Him to direct your path?

If you and others in your home will develop a trust for God, then you and others in the family will have your minds upon Jesus throughout the morning, day, and night. You will find yourselves seeking the kingdom of God and His righteousness first. As this pattern falls into place, the promise is you will be kept in the perfect peace of God.

There are so many things encroaching upon our thoughts. Take an inventory. Clean up your mind and adjust your priorities. It is a whole lot easier dealing with conflict when the peace of God reigns in your hearts and homes.

You may contact me at dsirstad@dsministries.com or 503-481-2934 (pacific).

Dr. Daniel Sirstad is a UPCI ordained minister and has a PhD in Clinical Pastoral Counseling. As the Executive Director of DayStar Ministries, Dr. Sirstad travels extensively teaching and preaching on relational subjects. He counsels for many congregations throughout North America using HIPAA-compliant video technology. dsirstad@dsministries.com

over \$209,425 (\$418,850 MFJ); 37 percent for individual single taxpayers with income greater than \$523,600 (\$628,300 for MFJ).

- The personal exemption for tax year 2021 remains at 0.

- There is no limitation on itemized deductions.

- The max Earned Income Tax Credit is \$6,728 for taxpayers with three + qualifying children.

- The limitation for flexible spending arrangements remains \$2,750. For cafeteria plans the maximum carryover is \$550.

- Self-only coverage in a Medical Savings Account: the minimum plan deductible must be no less than \$2,400; no more than \$3,600. For

self-only coverage, the maximum out-of-pocket is \$4,800. The family coverage floor for the annual deductible is \$4,800, no more than \$7,150 and the out-of-pocket expense limit is \$8,750.

- The foreign earned income exclusion is \$108,700.

- The annual exclusion for gifts is unchanged at \$15,000.

- The penalty for failure to file a tax return within 60 days of the due date is \$435 or 100% of the tax due, whichever is less.

Delano Sherley is a CPA and president of Delano Sherley & Associates, Inc. He can be reached at 513-737-1314. Delano Sherley & Associates, Inc., 8366 Princeton-Glendale Rd., Suite B5, West Chester, OH 45069. Email: Delano@dsacpains.com Website: www.dsacpains.com

THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS**Doctor on Biden's Task Force Claims Living Past Age 75 Has Little Value, Robs Society**

One of Joe Biden's selections for his own coronavirus advisory board is a doctor who has questioned the value of living past the age of 75 and who has implied society's resources would better be used for those who are younger.

Ezekiel Emanuel, the chair of the Department of Medical Ethics and Health Policy at the University of Pennsylvania and a former Obama administration official, wrote in a 2014 issue of *The Atlantic* that "living too long" has a negative impact on society and an individual's family. He stood by his controversial comments during a 2019 interview. Emanuel, an oncologist and bioethicist, wants to live to 75, he wrote in *The Atlantic*.

"Doubtless, death is a loss. It deprives us of experiences and milestones, of time spent with our spouse and children. In short, it deprives us of all the things we value," he wrote. "But here is a simple truth that many of us seem to resist: living too long is also a loss. It renders many of us, if not disabled, then faltering and declining, a state that may not be worse than death but is nonetheless deprived. It robs us of our creativity and ability to contribute to work, society, the world. It transforms how people experience us, relate to us, and, most important, remember us. We are no longer remembered as vibrant and engaged but as feeble, ineffectual, even pathetic."

Further, there is the "very real and oppressive financial and caregiving burdens that many, if not most" middle-age adults are "now experiencing, caught between the care of children and parents." Emanuel said in the same story he opposes "legalizing euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide." But he said Americans' desire to live long lives is unwise.

San Diego Judge Allows Strip Clubs to Remain Open, But Not Churches

While churches and schools in San Diego are being met with intensified restrictions on in-person meetings, a California judge has ordered that San Diego strip clubs can reopen.

According to *The Christian Post*, a decision from San Diego Superior Court Judge Joel R. Wohlfeil said that the state must end any actions prohibiting the strip clubs from "being allowed to provide live adult entertainment."

This decision comes after two strip club owners filed a lawsuit in October. Last month, two San Diego strip club owners contended that the county's public health orders violated their constitutional rights of due process and equal protection under the law, the *Los Angeles Times* reports.

Last week, San Diego returned to the state's purple tier lockdown procedures amid increased COVID-19 cases. The order requires restaurants, gyms and churches to move to outdoor-only services and places capacity restrictions on retail businesses and in-person school classes.

Many California churches have faced legal battles with local and state officials over restrictions on holding indoor services.

**Supreme Court Sides With Churches, Ends Restriction Enforcements**

The U.S. Supreme Court recently delivered a major victory to religious liberty advocates, preventing New York Governor Andrew Cuomo from enforcing a restriction that limits houses of worship to 10 and 25 persons during the coronavirus pandemic, no matter the size of the building.

It was the first time the nation's highest court had sided with churches or synagogues during the pandemic. It also underscored the significance one justice – Trump nominee Amy Coney Barrett – can make. She replaced the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who had voted against houses of worship in a similar case earlier this year. That earlier decision was a 5-4 loss for religious liberty advocates. This one was a 5-4 victory. The order, issued on the eve of Thanksgiving, was unsigned.

"Even in a pandemic, the Constitution cannot be put away and forgotten," the majority opinion ruled. "The restrictions at issue here, by effectively barring many from attending religious services, strike at the very heart of the First Amendment's guarantee of religious liberty." At issue are restrictions by Cuomo that limit churches and synagogues to 10 persons in so-called "red zones" and 25 persons in orange zones. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn and Agudath Israel of America brought the suit.

The majority issued an injunction against Cuomo, saying the churches and synagogues in question likely will succeed in their lawsuit. The regulations, the court ruled, "single out houses of worship for especially harsh treatment."

"In a red zone, while a synagogue or church may not admit more than 10 persons, businesses categorized as 'essential' may admit as many people as they wish," the court ruled. "And the list of 'essential' businesses includes things such as acupuncture facilities, campgrounds, garages, as well as many whose services are not limited to those that can be regarded as essential, such as all plants manufacturing chemicals and microelectronics and all transportation facilities. ... The disparate treatment is even more striking in an orange zone. While attendance at houses of worship is limited to 25 persons, even non-essential businesses may decide for themselves how many persons to admit."

But in a separate action, the court indicated that some restrictions on churches are constitutional. As Christian Headlines previously reported, the court declined to get involved in the case of Louisiana pastor Tony Spell, who faces criminal charges for defying restrictions on mass gatherings in the early weeks of the pandemic. Spell held services with no social distancing. Samuel Alito, a member of the court's conservative bloc who is assigned emergency requests from Louisiana and the Fifth Circuit, rejected Spell's request.

Both the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn and Agudath Israel of America say their houses of worship have followed public health guidance and "operated at 25 percent or 33 percent capacity for months without a single outbreak," the court ruled in its Wednesday decision.

The New York houses of worship that brought the lawsuit can seat between 400 and 1,000 individuals. "It is hard to believe that admitting more than 10 people to a 1,000-seat church or 400-seat synagogue would create a more serious health risk than the many other activities that the State allows," the majority ruled.

Barrett was joined in the majority opinion by Alito and Justices Brett Kavanaugh, Clarence Thomas and Neil Gorsuch.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ According to a UK-based watchdog organization, Pastor John Williamson simply wrote, "Wonderful news!" on Facebook in response to a news article that stated that the Cornwall Pride Parade was canceled. The parade organizers caught wind of Williamson's post, took a screenshot of it, and posted it together with anti-LGBT comments by online users. One group member's proposal to burn down his church was met with support, with one saying, "LET'S BURN A CHURCH!"

■ For the sixth straight year, Chick-fil-A is America's favorite fast-food restaurant in a major consumer survey. The 2020 American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI), based on interviews with 23,312 customers, placed Chick-fil-A number one in customer satisfaction among fast-food restaurants. Chick-fil-A's mission statement, in part, is to "glorify God by being a faithful steward of all that is entrusted to us," according to its website. Its restaurants are closed on Sundays.

LEGAL TRENDS**"In God We Trust" Flag Approved By Mississippi Voters by 78-22 Percent**

Mississippians approved a new state flag Tuesday with the phrase "In God We Trust," and in doing so capped a contentious cultural debate over its old flag, which had incorporated the Confederate battle flag since 1894.

With nearly all of the vote counted, approval of the new flag led, 78-22 percent. The ballot included a depiction of the flag, which shows a magnolia blossom set against a dark blue background with gold stripes and red bars on both sides. The phrase "In God We Trust," in all capital letters, rests underneath the blossom.

The Confederate-themed flag had been the center of controversy in the past, but the push to change the flag gained momentum this summer in the midst of protests over racial injustice. The Republican-led legislature approved and GOP Gov. Tate Reeves signed a bill requiring a new flag design.

The new law set up a commission to recommend a flag to voters that included "In God We Trust." Reeves said his Christian faith led him to want to change the flag.



"There are people on either side of the flag debate who may never understand the other," he said in June. "We as a family must show empathy. We must understand that all who want change are not attempting to erase history. And all who want the status quo are not mean-spirited or hateful. God tells us in 1 Corinthians 13:13 that the three great virtues are 'faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.' I believe that all of us have to strive to reflect God's love for us."

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board also referenced Scripture in urging government officials to change the flag.

SOCIAL TRENDS**Case of Juror Dismissed for Praying for Guidance on Verdict Revived**

The full 11th Circuit Court of Appeals agreed Thursday to hear a case involving a former Congresswoman's conviction on fraud and a juror who was dismissed for saying he had prayed to God for guidance on determining the verdict.

First Liberty Institute, a religious freedom legal organization, applauded the full 11th Circuit for taking the case.

"Dismissing a deliberating juror for believing prayer is effective denies the noble and civic duty to serve as a juror to hundreds of millions of Americans who seek divine guidance through prayer," said Lea Patterson, counsel for First Liberty.

"How is it possible that we demand a juror take an oath invoking God's aid in rendering a verdict but then dismiss that same juror for taking that oath seriously? If this decision stands millions of Americans are disqualified from fulfilling their civic duty as jurors simply because they believe that God answers prayer."

A juror praying to receive divine guidance "is not misconduct," Judge William Pryor added in his dissent. He was nominated by President George W. Bush.

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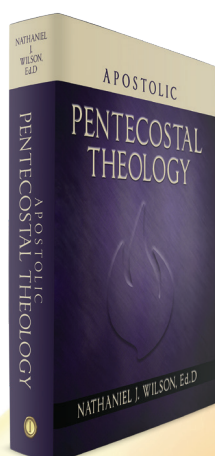
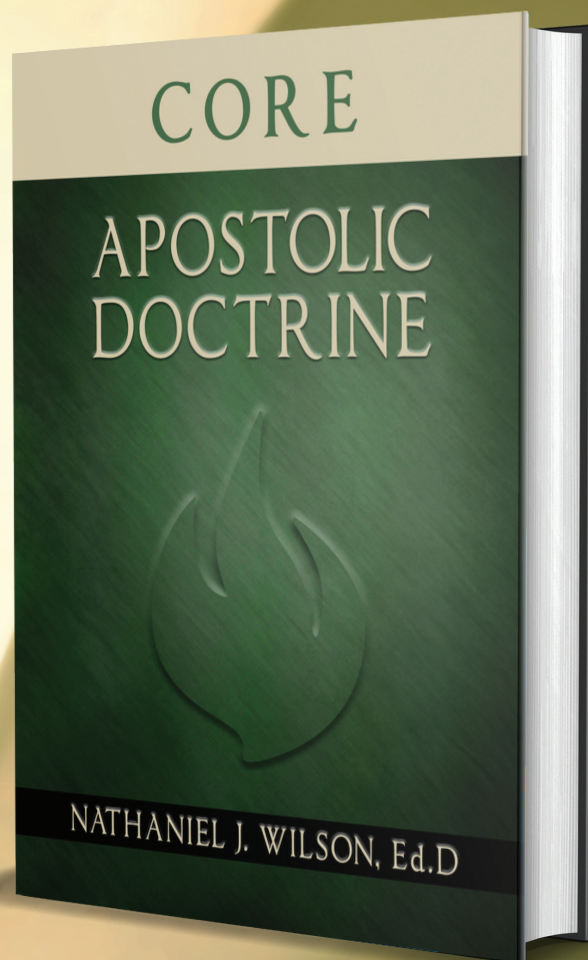
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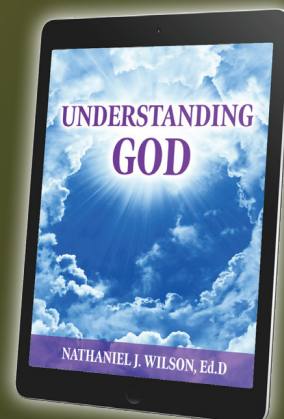
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What Does GO LOOK LIKE

Written By Linda Schreckenberg



Bro. and Sis. McLeod with Bro. and Sis. Tipton

"There are 8 billion people in the world that need to hear the Acts 2 salvation message and the truth of the identity of Jesus Christ," said Bro. William McLeod, pastor of Christian Life Church in Raymond, Mississippi. Through The Acts Network, the whole gospel is going out to the whole world.

"Catholics and other denominal churches had all of the representation on television and in the digital world. There was no authentic Apostolic representation at all, so seven years ago, we began to consider the television avenue." Then, when COVID-19 hit, there wasn't any avenue that Apostolics controlled, due to the censorship of Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. Apostolics had been invited to Daystar, TBN, and other ministries controlled by Trinitarians, but Apostolics needed a platform where they could preach the oneness of God and the Acts 2 message of salvation."

Bro. McLeod, brought up in a very conservative Apostolic home, had always taught and preached firmly against having a television, so the concept of an Apostolic television network was very difficult for him. With God knowing his stance on this, he still questioned God as to why He would ask him to do this, and God's answer to him was powerful.

The Acts Network is an Apostolic television/radio broadcast ministry. All of the content is Apostolic and is completely controlled by Apostolics. The Acts Network has a Board of Directors that monitor the content of the network and makes decisions concerning the finances and business arrangements, etc. Bro. McLeod is the Chairman of the Board. Other board members are Bishop Jerry Dillon, a Mississippi District Presbyterian, Bishop David Tipton, Jr. (the current Mississippi District Superintendent), Bishop Mike Dobbs (a District Presbyterian) Bishop Terry Ballard (a District Presbyterian) and Pastor Elliott Rutland.

"We offer preaching, teaching, praise singing, conferences, documentaries and anything that is Apostolic in nature on The Acts Network," said Bro. McLeod. The website www.TheActsNetwork.com contains all of the information to get the

network on iPad, iPhone, Android, and the Roku channel, etc. All network content is absolutely free to viewers.

They are a non-profit ministry, so they depend upon external support. People support them through private donations on a monthly basis, whether it be \$5, \$10, \$20, etc. Broadcasters buy time on the network to broadcast their ministry around the world, and there are packages that are affordable for anyone. Those interested can email them at info@TheActsNetwork.com, call the Dallas, Texas office 24/7 at (214) 560-2525 or Bro. McLeod at (601) 455-1979 for details regarding pricing.

The Acts Network doesn't have an official endorsement from the UPCI headquarters, and there's a reason for that. The network is a broadcast ministry that represents all Apostolic ministries of like precious faith, so they don't endorse any Apostolic organization in particular, nor seek any endorsement. "We did receive a unanimous endorsement from the Mississippi District of the UPCI," said Bro. McLeod, "And several districts are wanting to meet with us and endorse us on a state level. We have spoken with Bro. David Bernard and others in leadership at headquarters, and they all support it unofficially."

"Our philosophy behind the network is this," said Bro. McLeod. "The network was not established to entertain Apostolics. Entertainment is not our purpose. The reason The Acts Network was established is because there are eight billion people in the world that need to hear the truth. We're not endorsing a television program. Traditionally, our movement has steered away from television, because of the dangers of television programming. However, we are living in the twenty-first century, and everywhere you go, video is being broadcast, whether on iPads, cell phones or computers. Of the billions of people who are watching television, it is estimated that 2 billion on any given year gravitate to Christian broadcasting. That's a substantial amount of people.



The Acts Network Logo

Our target audience is not Apostolic. Our target audience consists of people already watching Christian broadcasting such as Daystar, Trinity Broadcasting, CBN, 700 Club, etc. We want them to at least have the opportunity to hear the truth. That's the reason we launched this endeavor."

In the first of March, in a vision, the Lord showed Bro. McLeod a big long table for feasting. It was like a table you would see in a palatial palace. At one end of the table, there were men like T.D. Jakes, men who had left the Apostolic movement, Joel Osteen and other television personalities. They were laughing, joking and patting each other on the back. At the other end of the table were people eating as if they were extremely hungry, but the food they were eating were rich foods like cakes, candy and pastries, etc. Bro. McLeod thought, "This food is not the type of food you would see at a table like this." Then the Lord spoke to him,

"The people you see eating at this table are hungry for me. Hungry people don't care about the nutritional value of what they're eating. They're eating because they are hungry, and they're eating what has been set before them." This really struck Bro. McLeod's heart! Then the Lord said, "For years you have mocked these people and made fun of these people. You have joked about these people, but these people are hungry for me!" Then the Lord asked him this question; "Will you prepare a new table for my people to eat?" Bro. McLeod asked, "Lord, what are you saying to me?" The Lord answered, "These people are hungry for truth, and the only thing they have to eat are what these men have prepared for them. Will you prepare a new table for these people to eat?"

He called Bishop Jerry Dillon and Bishop David Tipton, Jr., who are leadership in his life and shared the vision with them. A few weeks later Bishop Tipton called him. The district wanted to meet with him regarding The Acts Network. Bro. McLeod understood their concern about going to television. He woke at 4:55 a.m. the morning of that board meeting. The Lord spoke these words to him; "What does 'go' look like?" He thought the Lord was asking him to go somewhere. Then the Lord spoke these words, "What does 'go' look like? I told you to go and make disciples! What does 'go' look like in a gated community? What does 'go' look like in a society where people are scared to answer their door? What does 'go' look like in a society plagued with a pandemic where people don't want anyone to come within six feet of them?" Then the Lord said, "These men will question your motives. They will question your integrity, and they will question you about what you are about to do. So, I want you to ask these men just one question, 'What does 'go' look like in the twenty-first century?' When Bro. McLeod had answered all of the questions the board asked him, he looked at them and said, "Gentlemen, the Lord told me to ask you just one question: what does 'go' look like in 2020?" Tears began to roll down the men's faces. For the first time, those men took the time to consider the Lord's words, "What does 'go' look like?"

"Go' means using every means we have to go wherever the hungry are," said Bro. McLeod. "We've allowed the Trinitarians and false doctrine to control the airwaves. We have been exclusive instead of inclusive. The truth is, if anyone should be on television or radio, it should be Apostolics. We lack unity, and the reason for the success of Trinitarians is they are unified. As Apostolics, we must unify, regardless of the organization we represent. There is only one kingdom. We are all licensed UPCI ministers at the network, but our arms are open to all Apostolic organizations. The network has set aside half a million dollars to broadcast to the world on airwaves that we own."

Success stories are many. The Mississippi District asked the network to broadcast their first virtual camp



Mississippi District Board Meeting (2)

meeting ever. They average 3,000 people in attendance and 10,000 viewers on social media. The virtual camp meeting in July had 150,000 viewers on television and social media, of which around 75% of those were non-Apostolics. Many backsliders watching emailed the network that they were coming home and reunited with Apostolic churches. One backslider who had been offended for thirty-five years was changed after watching Bro. Dillon preach "The Power of God's Passion."

"This is an eternal work," said Bro. McLeod. "The devil is making his way into people's homes. For the first time in history, we have the opportunity to get into people's homes through technology. We believe it took COVID-19 to wake us up. As the world shut down, people were confined to their homes, churches shut down, and overnight Apostolic pastors and preachers became televangelists! This is just the beginning of sorrows with more to come, and if God be for us, who can be against us? There is now no nation the Apostolic voice cannot touch with the truth."



In our previous issue, we mistakenly named the wrong transcriber for the Guest Pulpit article, I Want My Inheritance and My Heritage, as Gregg Stone. The correct transcriber was Charlotte L. Pound, to whom we send our deepest apologies for this error.



Mississippi District Board Meeting (1)

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"Micah 7:7 Intentional Prayers" Prayer Drive

By Linda Schreckenberg



Bro. and Sis. Jones
Parsons, TN

"I will defend and save this city for My sake." - Isaiah 37:35

Sis. Darla Jones and a team from Parsons, Tennessee discovered a way to put prayer at the forefront of their community. She and her husband, Randy, have four children and attend The River United Pentecostal Church in Parsons, Tennessee, pastored by Bro. Ron Wofford.

Sis. Jones and a private Facebook prayer group (Micah 7:7 Intentional Prayers) went through a book study on Bro. Ken Gurley's *The Book on Prayer* in June. A portion of the book was about unified prayer. One morning, she opened to Isaiah 37:35: "I will defend and save this city for My sake," and felt that God was directing her to challenge the prayer group to organize prayer walks in their community. As this began to unfold, COVID struck their small community and made prayer-walking much more complicated. As Sis Darla began driving through her town and praying, the Lord impressed upon her to turn the prayer walk into a Prayer Drive. Anyone can participate, whether quarantined, recovering, healthy, or have a compromised immune system - it

doesn't matter! All can drive and pray in the comfort of their own vehicle, with their family or alone.

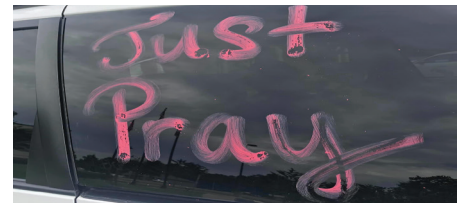
Sis. Darla spoke with her team and all were excited as the plans began to unfold! The Lord opened every door and with the support of local churches, both Apostolic and denominational, their local newspaper, local radio and city police department, Decatur County's very first Prayer Drive became a reality!

On Monday night, July 20th at 7pm, an estimated 80-100 vehicles (300-400 people) lined up at their local high school with police escorts. The team passed out Prayer Guides to every vehicle and a local business handed out bottled water as a gesture of kindness. A team was provided to write Prayer Works, Try Prayer and verses of scripture on the windows of vehicles with red and white chalk markers for those who wanted them to. When the Prayer Drive began, Sis. Darla and her team led the entire event via their local country music radio station (Q97.3) over the air! Everyone tuned into this little country station to, "Praise the Lord, Decatur County!" Bro. John Mark Parrish and Sis. Crystal Rickenbacker joined her and tag-teamed in prayer for strategic prayer over specific locations; hospitals, county government, nursing homes, schools, churches, local businesses, etc. Sis. Jones said, "The presence

of God was so strong in that tiny preacher's room at the station that even our mayor joined us to pray." They found that their community embraced this opportunity to invite Jesus and His presence into their cities.

"It was beautiful to observe the unity of Decatur County," remarked Sis. Jones. "We may not agree on everything, but we all agree that prayer changes things and that God hears us when we pray. Our goal isn't a one-time prayer event, but to create a culture of prayer in this county."

This team has formed a public Facebook group (Decatur County Community Prayer) to reach out to their county with further events to bring everyone together through prayer. She is sure that what God has done for their area he will do in any city or town in any state across America. Her prayer is that it will spread, and God will hear and heal our land. She may be contacted at rjdrummerman@tds.net or through messenger at Randy N Darla Jones on Facebook.



More Than a Song: Wednesday Night Live

By Linda Schreckenberg



The Chandlers
Greenfield, TN

"We wanted our Wednesday Night Live program to be a ministry to draw people into our churches," said Bro. Tim Chandler, of the singing group known as

The Chandlers. He, his wife Lana and their two daughters, Tiffany and Lyndsey, travel and sing in churches throughout the United States and worldwide.

Lana's family, the Jellisons from Indiana, traveled and evangelized for 25 years. Bro. Tim Chandler grew up in a pastor's home in Manchester, New Hampshire, so singing and ministering is all he's ever known. He and Lana met at camp meeting for the UPCI Central New England District in 1991. They have traveled full-time for most of their marriage of 28 years. They attend First United Pentecostal Church in Greenfield, Tennessee, pastored by Sis. Chandler's father, Rev. Wendell Jellison.

"We're active in the Southern Gospel Industry that we merge with our evangelistic life," said Bro. Chandler. This will be their fifth year at the National Quartet Convention in Pigeon Forge, TN where crowds run from

10,000-12,000. They regularly sing at several other major concert events throughout the country and participate in the annual Praise at Sea Apostolic cruise each February. A highlight of last year's schedule was ministering in Slovakia at a conference celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Jesus name message.

Bro. Tim Chandler was nominated for the Anthony Burger Instrumentalist of the Year Award by SGN Magazine last year and again this year, which was presented to him at the Creekside Gospel Music Festival Pigeon Forge in November.

The Chandlers have six projects, and Bro. Chandler has two piano instrumental projects available at TheChandlersMusic.com, and downloadable on digital sites as well. Their latest project is titled *Seasons*. He, Lana and Tiffany are excellent songwriters. Their most requested song is *He Will Come Through* from their first project.

Wednesday Night Live is a weekly broadcast at 10:30 p.m. Central Time that can be viewed on Facebook and YouTube. They minister in song, pray for requests, and have had miracles and the conversion of souls to the truth. The program has been viewed by people all over the world, each week for over two and a half years.

One viewer of the program was battling

suicide. Bro. Chandler made contact with her later and through connections to a pastor in Abilene, Texas, she was baptized and filled with the Holy Ghost.

William Lester, known as a Catholic Evangelist, began watching the program a couple of years ago. As an airline steward, he travels all over the world. He has over 500,000 Catholic followers on his Facebook page. He received the Holy Ghost in Africa several years ago. He comments to his followers on Wednesday Night Live, saying, "Catholics, raise your hands and receive the Holy Ghost!" Bro. Chandler baptized him in Jesus' name, live on Facebook and his baptism has been viewed almost 300,000 times. He's doing Bible studies, preaching, baptizing and has seen some of his Catholic friends get baptized in Jesus' name.

For bookings, information, and for Lana's clothing business, Lana's Sweet "Buy and Buy," contact the Chandlers at (800) 214-6509, www.thechandlersmusic.com, and email: thechandlersmusic@gmail.com. The Chandlers, Wednesday Night Live and Lana's Sweet "Buy and Buy" are on Facebook.



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Word To The Wise:

We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called *Opportunity* and its first chapter is New Year's Day.

The man's wife had been slipping in and out of a coma for several months, yet he stayed by her bedside every single day.

One day, when she came to, she motioned him to come closer. As he sat by her, she whispered, eyes full of tears, "You know what? You have been with me all through the bad times. When I got fired, you were there to support me. When my business failed, you were there. After my car accident, you were by my side. When we lost the house, you stayed right here. When my health started failing, you were still by my side. You know what?"

"What dear?" he asked, gently smiling as his heart began to fill with warmth.

"I think you're bad luck."



"I love his eye contact, but I wish he hadn't glanced at *me* while talking about gluttony."

The elevator in our building malfunctioned one day, leaving several of us stranded. Seeing a sign that listed two emergency phone numbers, I dialed the first and explained our situation.

After what seemed to be a very long silence, the voice on the other end said, "I don't know what you expect me to do for you. I'm a psychologist."

"A psychologist?" I replied. "Your phone is listed here as an emergency number. Can't you help us?"

"Well," he finally responded in a measured tone. "How do you feel about being stuck in an elevator?"

Blanche: **Herb,** if you don't stop snoring, I'm going to toss you out on your ear!

Herb: Does it upset you that much?

Blanche: Not just me, the entire congregation.



Roofus and Herbert leave Bible College without finding wives.

Two local pastors stood by the side of the road holding up a sign that said, "The End is Near! Turn yourself around now before it's too late!" They planned to hold up the sign to each passing car.

"Leave us alone, you religious nuts!" yelled the first driver as he sped by.

From around the curve they heard a big splash.

"Do you think," said one pastor to the other, "we should just put up a sign that says 'bridge out' instead?"

A retiring pastor was saying farewell to his congregation at the church doors for the last time. He shook the hand of an elderly lady as she walked out. She said, "Your successor won't be as good as you."

"Nonsense," said the pastor, in a flattered tone.

"No, really," said the old lady, "I've been here under five different ministers, and each one has been worse than the last."



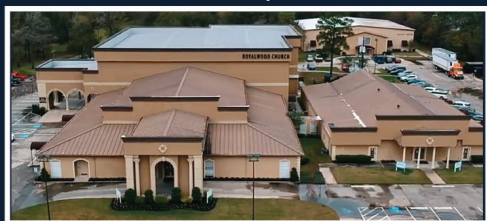
"Remember us? Wedding in '58, baby dedications in '61 and '64..."



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