



BATTLEFIELD *DRESS*





**PRESIDENT
JOSHUA B. CARSON**

“We need the wisdom, experience, and spirituality of the elder connected to the desire, strength, and vitality of the younger generation.”



“Alas Master! For it was Borrowed”

“But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water: and he cried, and said, Alas, master! for it was borrowed. And the man of God said, Where fell it? And he shewed him the place. And he cut down a stick, and cast it in thither; and the iron did swim. Therefore said he, Take it up to thee. And he put out his hand, and took it” - (2 Kings 6:1-7).

When Matt Wilson returned home from vacation in the early 2000’s, he decided he would build a target in his backyard to recreate what he and his friends had come up with during their trip. Matt invited some friends over to find out how therapeutic it was to throw an axe at a wooden target. Since nothing says “unneighborly” like an axe crashing unexpectedly through a window, thankfully he installed a large wooden backdrop for safety. According to the Backyard Axe Throwing League website, “A point system was created, and soon enough a group of eight friends would meet every week and engage in some friendly competition. Those eight friends quickly grew and before he knew it, Matt was hosting two full leagues of a total of 60+ per night in his backyard, not including all the spectators that would stop by to catch a glimpse of our exciting new sport.” Amazingly, axe throwing leagues now involve millions of people around the world.



Long before an axe was used as a game piece, it was used as a tool. Developed over the centuries, axes carved out of rock yielded to axes fashioned of iron and eventually became attached to a wooden handle where potential energy would become kinetic energy. While this may sound silly to some, there is a proper and an improper way to hold an axe when using it. While the swing and the result will quickly reveal whether an individual is skilled with an axe, simply the way they handle an axe is already telling the story. For any real woodsman, watching a rookie trying to chop wood without proper handling and technique is an emotional concoction of fear, nervousness, and humor. Someone seasoned in using the tool automatically places their offhand near the bottom of the handle with their dominant

hand nearer the iron at the top. With their footing and their surroundings considered, in a fluid motion they will swing the axe overhead with their dominant hand sliding seamlessly down the handle and coming to rest in harmony with their offhand near the base. Both their footing and the distance to the target are calculated as to make proper contact safely and efficiently. After all, what good is a tool or a weapon that is not under control?

The story narrated in II Kings chapter six is one that most of us have read and heard spoken of many times before. Typically, the miraculous moment that rounds out the story gives it a platform, whether by pen or podium. When iron swims, people not only notice, they remember. Miracles automatically earn memory and always deserve sharing for the glory of God. But now throw your reader in reverse and contemplate the start of this chapter. Elisha is listening to the lamenting of a student who is not overly impressed with his cramped living conditions. This student belonged to a special group, known as the sons of the prophets. Student enrollment grew while vacancy shrank, all due to the miracles accompanying Elisha’s ministry. When dead sons are coming back to life and a leader’s leprosy is drying up, it has a tendency to draw a crowd.

These crowded conditions are the reasoning behind the young man’s request to build an addition. It seems a dichotomy for the words “prophet” and “comfort” to work in harmony, yet Elisha relents and grants the request... and even agrees to accompany them. When given the choice between proximity to the prophet and comfort around the corner, why would any student in training choose the latter? Their livelihood as students was most likely meager, and there is soon an action that causes concern. Frantically a young man calls out to the prophet Elisha because he has lost the iron of an axe into the water. Automatically, anyone skilled with an axe reasons that one of two things happened. Either he swung improperly, hitting the wood and breaking off the head, or his inexperience kept him from assessing that the iron was already loose. His expression was telling the story before his mouth ever caught up saying, “Alas Master! For it was borrowed” (vs 5).

Who borrows an axe to build his addition? What a dangerous decision it was to begin building, chopping in zeal without owning up to lacking the proper training to handle an axe. Yes, I’m glad that it set up the miraculous moment for the prophet to throw in the branch and the sons of the prophets to witness the iron swim. However, what if that iron would have missed the water and hit a peer in the head or the heart? While I honor his desire to work, I’m troubled by his impatience and possible arrogance that is on display. As a whole, the church desperately needs a multi-generational revival. Yet, this cannot occur without multi-generational training. We need the wisdom, experience, and spirituality of the elder connected to the desire, strength, and vitality of the younger generation. May our elders be willing to train physically and spiritually for our future. In response, may our younger generation invest the time and resources to own and properly utilize the tools rather than immaturely break what was only borrowed and never purchased.

Joshua B. Carson

Editors and Staff

PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER:

Joshua B. Carson

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:

T. W. Massengale

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Zack Ross

GRAPHIC DESIGN:

Zack Ross

STAFF WRITERS:

Christina Li

John Fonzer Jr.

Charlotte L. Pound

Gregg Stone

Linda Schreckenber

Susan Thomas

Maranatha Gannon

Angela Repetto

OFFICE MANAGER:

R. Jaye Bannister

ADVERTISING MANAGER:

Justin Wilkins

WEBSITE MANAGER:

Justin Wilkins

DIGITAL EDITOR:

Elise Julien

MINISTRY RESOURCE CLERK:

Jocelyn Anaya

Web Site: www.ibcperspectives.com

E-mail: tmassengale@apostolic.edu

Address Correction: www.ibcperspectives.com



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PLAINLY SPEAKING: Battlefield Dress: Using the Full Armor of God - Rev. Jerry Hutchison

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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IBC Perspectives 1-317-781-7712 (Phone)
P.O. Box 47917 1-317-781-7700 (Fax)
Indianapolis, IN 46247

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

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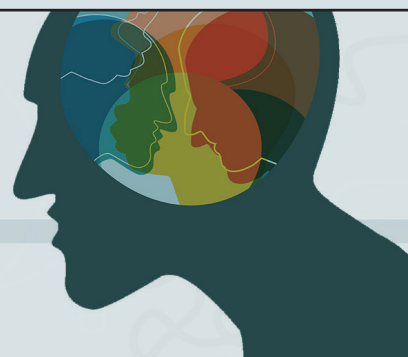
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DEALING WITH ANXIETY AND STRESS

Written By Linda Schreckenber



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



Ryan Wardwell, Carmel, IN - We're not experiencing an escalated sense of anxiety in these times. Fear and anxiety seem to work hand in hand, and fear is typically rooted in having no vision. God's people perish because they have no vision. I immediately brought a vision to our church during the pandemic and began having "Monday Miracle Night" prayer meetings. We've seen miracles and have set a great direction/vision for our church.

The altar and Biblical counseling conquer mild to moderate mental health issues. Jesus Christ conquered the battle of the mind on the Cross, the "place of the skull," so it's no surprise we must fight on the battlefield of the mind. I'm very hesitant about using mind-altering medications. Most men and women who have fought in wars have dealt with PTSD, but research has proven that if a war was an absolute win, less of them deal with it. Many may be struggling mentally solely because of a war they've lost in their minds.

Non-Christian-based specialists incorporate non-biblical therapeutics and cause more confusion than help. Thankfully, there's a growing ministry of Apostolic counselors, although I've not had that need in our church thus far.



Timothy Blackwell, Rolla, MO - There's an escalated "fear factor" on every level in the church. Those who I least expected to cave under pressure have done so. Others who appeared unstable have "risen to the top" with courage and determination in these times.

"In the multitude of counselors, there is safety." (Prov. 11:14) However, anything non-biblically based is only a temporary fix, not a solution. I've recommended Apostolic counseling in the past with positive results. If I'm able to speak into the life of someone, I will attempt to counsel them.

I've never recommended medication for anxiety, because "God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (2 Tim. 1:7) As a pastor, it is my job to love them back to health, and for some, it may take more time than others.



Brad Robinson, Raymore, MO - I'm finding that with everything going on in today's world, there is more news-driven anxiety and stress in the church than ever before.

In today's society, I wouldn't hesitate to direct someone to a qualified Christian counselor. I would also recommend Christian counseling to those with various anxiety and stress-related issues. However, many of our current issues are because of a lack of spending time in prayer and in the Word of God. Also, faithfulness to the house of God is of paramount importance to maintain your emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being.



Miguel Hernandez, Stockton, CA - There's a heightened sense of anxiety in the church amidst the pandemic, but people are hungry to come back to church. There is a strong message of trusting the science, though. We still see people outside or driving with masks. Our church greets one another and shows the enemy we're stronger than before. We prospered during COVID and even renovated without financing it.

Jesus is the answer for every situation in counseling mental health issues. If people need professional help, we refer them only to faith-based professional Christian counselors. California's homeless issue is huge, but people who were once in that situation themselves are great counselors for them.

We recommend faith-based counseling to everyone getting married now. People that are waiting longer to get married are like thickly molded branches; they are molded in their own ways. We were like twigs when we got married in years past. Pastor just called you to his office, and the situation was resolved.



Roger Parrett, Platte City, MO - There's an escalated sense of anxiety in the church today. Some within the body of Christ think of politicians, etc. as leaders, but God is in charge, and our kingdom is not of this world. During the pandemic, my congregation had the option to watch the live feeds or come to church. Our District Superintendent went around our state and prayed over every county

for churches to reopen. Early one morning, at 3:00 a.m., our county had an emergency meeting and decided that churches could reopen.

We have a pastor in our section that is a licensed therapist/counselor. I encourage Apostolic counseling if I can't help people, using Biblical references with love. I would never go to someone who doesn't know God, to answer life's questions. Psychiatrists sometimes medicate without going to the root of the problem. I don't like mental or mood medications, and I have a negative opinion of the mental health industry. If we let God take control, He will take control of everything. I do get involved in multi-session marriage counseling. The idea of "I've got this!" in couples doesn't just make issues go away, but counseling sessions do bring good results.



Ryan Thomas, Terre Haute, IN - There's an escalated sense of anxiety in the church today with all that is going on. We have a good counseling staff, and we're connected to outside mental resources, like Mental Health for America. Non-Apostolic, as well as Apostolic counseling, can be effective.

Prayer can overcome mental health issues, but sometimes a person needs professional help to get their lives back in balance. Medications are over-prescribed, but conditions are massively undertreated. These people have so many needs, but most of all, they need church. When someone coming to our food pantry feels they need several boxes of cereal to feel good, we don't restrict them. Who knows what they've gone through?

I do premarital and post-marital counseling with a minimum of twelve sessions. However, there are times when counseling is inappropriate in a marriage and can bring up old feelings until the couple is ready to move forward and heal.



Charles Hurst, Bangor, ME - There's an escalated sense of anxiety in the church today because the Bible says men's hearts will fail them for fear in the last days. People are fearful that the vaccine will lead to the mark of the beast.

A man in our church with a master's degree worked at the Bangor Mental Health Institute. We worked together in counseling, using the Bible. He said this to me; "Pastor, I know every psychiatrist in this town, and you're the best counselor I've ever listened to." Some issues like bipolar disorder may require medication, but I encourage people to use natural things that will help them, rather than mind-changing drugs. I have no confidence in counselors who don't know God. The Word says, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he..." (Prov. 23:7a)

My marriage counseling involves multi-sessions, and I prefer to do it before marriage. One couple who said that they didn't have time for premarital counseling couldn't get along after marriage and came back for counseling. Marriage is about learning how to compromise. My wife and I have implemented this, and our great marriage has lasted fifty-eight years.

SERVING GOD BY SERVING OTHERS

REV. MICHAEL ENSEY / HEATH, OH



Written By Charlotte L. Pound

"It's the people!" That's the most common description of Heath, Ohio. A small town with caring citizens and a family-friendly place where volunteerism is the heart of the community. "Our world begins in Heath, Ohio," said Bro. Michael Ensey, Pastor of Christian Life Center. "Jesus told His followers to make disciples throughout all the world, and we want to help as many people as possible within our community come to know Jesus Christ through His Word and through His Spirit."



Pastor and First Lady Ensey

Christian Education Shaping the Pastor

Born in Grand Prairie, Texas, Bro. Ensey has been in the church since he was one year old and received the Holy Ghost at the age of five. He lived nine years of his childhood on the Texas Bible College campus in Houston, Texas. He attended private schools from kindergarten through high school and graduated as Valedictorian. He then attended Texas Bible College, graduating with his bachelor's degree in theology, and also graduated from Urshan Graduate School of Theology with a master's degree in theology.

The first twenty years of his ministry were primarily focused on teenagers and young adults, and while he still has a strong burden for that age group, as a pastor, Bro. Ensey certainly feels called to minister to every age group. "A strong focus of our pastoral ministry has been on marriage and family," explains Bro. Ensey. "We have been privileged to speak at several marriage and family conferences in the past few years. I believe this is such a critical ministry for the church today. So many families and so many marriages are in grave spiritual danger. We must equip our couples and our parents to be more effective. Spirituality must originate in the home, and then flow into the church and ultimately into the community. If the church is the source of spirituality for our homes (the opposite direction), then the church will never reach its full potential for community impact."

There were a lot of things that impacted Bro. Ensey's ministry from a young age that has helped to shape him into the man he is today. "The most important factor was my father starting a home missions church," said Bro. Ensey. "It gave me incredible exposure to ministry and gave me ministry opportunities at a young age. Another very critical factor was Bible quizzing. I quizzed for twelve years, learning over 5,000 verses. This gave me a firm foundation in the Word of God and helped me create a daily discipline of Bible study. I felt my call into the ministry when I was sixteen years old. It was at a Bible quizzing award banquet while a young man was singing 'Draw Me Nearer.'"

Bro. Ensey has served in many capacities since that time. "I served as a ministry intern at Christian Lighthouse Church (Mt. Clemens, Michigan – Pastor Gerald Hall) from 1996-1997," said Bro. Ensey. "From 1997-2000, I attended/graduated from Texas

Bible College. I served on the ministry team at Eastview UPC (Lufkin, Texas – Pastor Leon Wallace) from 1998-1999. On July 17, 1999, I married Rebecca Lyman from Seattle, Washington. I was the Youth Pastor/Assistant Pastor at Living Way Church (Conroe, Texas – Pastor Randy Ensey) from 2000-2009. From 2003-2010, I served as the Texas District Youth President, and from 2010-2017, I was an executive with the UPCI Youth Ministries. I was then elected pastor at Christian Life Center in 2017."

Christian Life Center has a tremendous legacy of Apostolic ministry and leadership, and Bro. Ensey considers it a miracle that his family is there. "The church suffered a horrific tragedy in October of 2016 when Pastor James Kirk passed away suddenly in a tragic accident," explains Bro. Ensey. "We did not know a single member of the church and had never been to this part of Ohio before visiting to preach in June of 2017. After preaching one time at the church, the Lord woke me up the next morning and asked me the question, 'Will you go?' I began to pray the prayer of Moses from Exodus 33: 'If Your presence will go with us, we will go.' We preached again in July, and then one more time in August. We were elected pastor on August 6th, 2017."

Creating a Culture of Revival

A culture is a group of people's ways of life—the behaviors, beliefs, values, and symbols that they accept. According to Bro. Ensey, a church's culture is everything. "A healthy church culture will produce growth," explains Bro. Ensey. "That healthy culture is produced by visionary leadership (communication), servant leadership (empowering others), and disciple-makers (intentional relationships). Culture is what you say and do over and over. Celebration is the currency of cultivation—what you celebrate cultivates culture."

"The first priority must always be prayer, fasting, and the study/teaching/preaching of the Word. A pastor must be a spiritual leader. Secondly, the pastor must develop spiritual leaders who can develop other spiritual leaders. One man can only do so much. Anything of any significance that is accomplished in the kingdom, or any secular organization, is only the result of collaboration and teamwork. It takes a lot of people fulfilling their responsibilities at a very high level with excellence in order to successfully fulfill our purpose."

Christian Life Center is a multigenerational ministry (they have something for every individual, no matter their family dynamics, and for every age group). "We have two services in a duplicate format on Sunday mornings (9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.)," says Bro. Ensey. "We have dynamic worship



A Convert is Baptized

and are blessed with amazing music and media ministry teams. We have new member classes as well as an effective youth and children's ministry (these attract young families). Online marketing, social media, our website, apps, and live-streaming of services are also a few other ways that help to increase our growth. Community outreach events are also a huge success. We have Vacation Bible School, Trunk or Treat, a Good Friday community worship service, an "Eggstravaganza" event [the Saturday of Easter weekend], holiday church picnics, outdoor concerts, monthly meals for those in need, home Bible studies, and we also have weekly outreach at a local skate park. In accordance with these, we have a Connection Team/Guest Experience ministry, which coordinates guest connections and follow-ups, both of which are crucial to church growth."

Meetings, Retreats, Vision and Focus

With close to 50% of their committed members involved in some form of ministry and approximately 25% involved in some form of evangelism, organization and management are crucial to keep everyone on the same page and to keep things running like a well-oiled machine. "I have a weekly meeting with our church staff and weekly tag-in meetings (before Sunday and Wednesday services) with our ministry team," explains Bro. Ensey. "I also have weekly meetings with my production team on Sunday morning. The first of these takes place at 7:00 a.m. (in-person) to review the Sunday production schedule, and the second meeting happens at 9:30 p.m. (via Zoom) to debrief our Sunday services. Other meetings include our weekly guest relations meeting, our monthly executive leadership meeting, and our quarterly ministry director meeting. We also have an annual planning retreat with our executive leadership team.



Worship in the Sanctuary

Investing in leadership training is a great way to refresh and reset the mindset of your leaders. "Our annual planning retreat includes an emphasis on training," said Bro. Ensey. "We also do a book club with our leaders twice each year, using material that will help them develop into more effective leaders. We have brought in several apostolic leaders to provide specific ministry training as well."

A History of God's Providence

In January of 1947, John O'Riley planted a church in the home of Goldie Haas in Newark, Ohio, chartered as Oneness Apostolic Church. This was the beginning of Christian Life Center (CLC). "The church then relocated to a property that was purchased on the corner of North and Everette Street in Newark," explains Bro. Ensey. "The fledgling church began a journey of growth as Pastor O'Riley led the church for eight years. He passed away in 1955 due to poor health. On November 23, 1955, Charles B. Smith became the second pastor of Oneness Apostolic Church as the church continued to grow. In 1980, the property on Linnville Road in Heath was purchased, and a name change took place as the church became Christian Life Center and Academy. CLC spent thirty-one years at the Newark location. In 1985, the church broke ground to build a new sanctuary; the building where the upper-level lobby is now located. In 1986, the building was completed as the church continued on its journey of growth. Pastor Smith retired after thirty-three years of service. In June of 1988, Travis Kirk and his family came to Heath as he became the third pastor of Christian Life Center. CLC continued to grow spiritually and numerically as it increased its impact in the cities of Heath and Newark. CLC purchased more land, and in 1993, built a much-needed shelter house for outside activities. CLC continued to see souls saved and lives changed.

"As CLC outgrew its facility, plans were drawn up in 1997 to build a new worship center. The new sanctuary and classroom facility



Pastor Ensey Preaching

was completed in 1999, with the first service being held on January 1, 2000. In 2000, James Kirk was elected as the fourth pastor of CLC, and in 2006, he directed the building of the beautiful Family Life Center. In 2009, Travis Kirk became the bishop of CLC, and James Kirk became the Senior Pastor. On October 10, 2016, tragedy struck as Pastor James Kirk died in a tragic fall. The congregation, though

shattered by the tragedy, began to pray their way through the pain to seek God for His direction. By the strength and grace of God, CLC grew closer to each other through this tragedy, and in the spring of 2017, began an extensive remodel and expansion of the current sanctuary. On August 6, 2017, another chapter to the storied history of Christian Life Center began. I was elected as the fifth Senior Pastor in the history of CLC. In the spring of 2018, the remodel of the current sanctuary was completed. CLC continues to increase numerically and spiritually and is already making plans for what God has next in store for this growing congregation."

An Ever-Growing Facility


Christian Life Center currently sits on 9.5 acres and can seat 500 in their sanctuary. "We have been at this location since 1986," Bro. Ensey said. "An expansion and remodel of our sanctuary was completed in March of 2018. We had services in our Family Life Center during the remodel for the first seven months that we were pastor. Our current sanctuary was completed in January of 2000. We have a youth chapel, a kid's chapel, four classrooms, and a full kitchen in our main building. We also have a Family Life Center with a gymnasium, full commercial kitchen, classroom, and youth fellowship space. We have a shelter house (pavilion) and a softball field for outdoor events as well. We do not have room to expand at our current location, so we have two Sunday morning services in order to increase our capacity and provide space for our church family and guests."

Being a "Sending" Church

What is the plan for the future of CLC? Growth! "We plan to grow," exclaimed Bro. Ensey. "We plan to make a greater impact in our community. We are working on acquiring 42 acres in the heart of our city so that we can increase our capacity and expand our reach. We plan to build a sanctuary, office complex, education facility, family life center, community center with a café, daycare, K-12 school, and ministry training center (maybe a Bible college). We plan to start more daughter works (we will launch a Spanish daughter work later this year and more are in the works). We want to have a "sending" church—sending out evangelists, church planters, and missionaries."



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// I would think it would be difficult for someone who believes that
God sees us when we are in the womb (Psalm 139:13-16)
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Tony Dungy

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Mansion Sunday is Coming!



Chad A. Parker
Executive Vice President

Each year since 2011, Mansion Sunday is celebrated by the United Pentecostal Church International (UPCI) on the first Sunday of November. This year, on Sunday, November 7th, churches across the nation will share the heartbeat of Tupelo Children's Mansion (TCM) by

doing three things:

1. Inspiring their congregation with the mission of TCM.
2. Praying for the children and the staff.
3. Receiving a sacrificial offering to bless the children at TCM.

As the oldest endorsed ministry of the UPCI, TCM has impacted the lives of almost 4,000 children. Founded in 1953, TCM is the largest children's home in Mississippi and the only Apostolic children's home of its kind. In recent months, TCM has seen a record number of applications; the need for this ministry has never been greater!

For 2021, TCM would like to designate the Mansion Sunday offering to renovate one of our largest residence halls. For almost 40 years, this building has consistently been a home to our precious children, allowing opportunities for only a few minor updates. It is now time to breathe new life into this home and provide the very best environment for the children we serve.

In Isaiah 32:18, God declares, "My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places." I can't think of a more appropriate fulfillment of that scripture than Tupelo Children's Mansion. What a calling! What a responsibility!

However, we cannot do it alone! We need you! Would you consider how you can get involved in Mansion Sunday? Would you give to this offering to help us provide an adequate and comfortable home to children in need?

We thank you in advance for your prayers and financial support! Together, we are making a difference! Remember, anyone can give to TCM, at any time, by visiting mansionkids.org/give.



Rev. Joe Cooney - Missionary to Ireland, Part II

Interviewed By William Turner



Joe Cooney and Family

In the increasingly politically sensitive world of Northern Ireland, UPCI missionaries Joe (American) and Fanny (French) Cooney have found that their 13-year-old son, Jaylon, has a distinct advantage. Fluent in French and English like his mother, with some knowledge of Spanish, Jaylon has pursued his education in the public schools of Northern Ireland. His advantage — a Northern Ireland accent.

The key to acceptance in both the predominately Protestant Northern Ireland and the independent Republic of Ireland in the south, Bro. Cooney said, is a necessary key of missionary work that applies anywhere: "longevity."

The Cooneys have found that "longevity, consistency, and making memories with people builds trust with them. Since our son has been raised going to school in Northern Ireland, he is more accepted by them. He speaks with a nice Northern Irish accent, too, which helps."

Joe Cooney is a first-generation Apostolic from Ohio, and son of a single parent, an Irish-Catholic immigrant mother who later became a dedicated Apostolic. Fanny is a fourth-generation French Apostolic. Her father, Erick Nowacki, pastored a United Pentecostal Church in France, and her great uncle, John Nowacki, is superintendent of the church in Troyes, France. Whether American or French, both are considered foreigners in a nation divided by mistrust, especially of outsiders. Bro. Cooney has noted the difference in the political atmosphere from the days almost twenty years ago when he first arrived as an Associate in Missions (AIM) missionary working with the Terry McFarland missionary family. In the days before Facebook and social media, Americans were generally received much more favorably.

He served as an AIMer for three and a half years in Northern Ireland. After marrying Fanny in 2007, they moved to London where they worked under the leadership of Leroy Francis, superintendent of the UPC of Great Britain & Ireland. During their time in London, their ministry included "helping to begin a new converts' ministry and outreach program, working with the youth group, beginning a homeless ministry, teaching countless Bible studies, and helping by ministering in each of the five daughter works of London's Life Tabernacle." By the time their ministry there ended, two additional daughter works had been added.

"We also began evangelizing a couple of weekends a month around the U.K. and Europe, seeing many filled with the Holy Ghost during our travels." Two other highlights of those years of ministry were the birth of Jaylon in London and a year spent as furlough replacements in Vienna, Austria.

Brother Cooney returned with his family to Northern Ireland in 2014. It was a different atmosphere than when he had first arrived as an AIMer in Northern Ireland. As fully appointed missionaries, they were beginning a very different ministry.

After centuries-long political divisions in Northern Ireland between Protestant Scotch-Irish and the indigenous Catholic Irish, coupled with foreigners who had at times taken advantage of the kindness of locals, Bro. Cooney said, "People in Northern Ireland have become very suspicious of everyone."

"It's not rainbows, leprechauns, pots of gold, and shamrocks as many Americans believe," Bro. Cooney said. "The Emerald Island actually consists of two countries: Northern Ireland, which is controlled by the United Kingdom, and the Republic of Ireland, which is controlled by the Irish government. The Republic (Southern Ireland) consists mostly of Irish citizens and in the last twenty to twenty-five years has seen much growth, with many immigrants coming from other nations to reside in it. This has to do with it being part of the European Union."

Bro. and Sis. Cooney pastor two churches in Northern Ireland, while training new leaders to open works in unreached cities. He serves as a presbyter for the Northern District of the UPC of Great Britain and Ireland, an area including Scotland, along with Northern and Southern Ireland.

"Being very traditional and inclusive," Northern Ireland "was a lot more challenging than in other European countries," he said. "The Republic of Ireland is a lot more liberal than Northern Ireland, but both North and South have their challenges. In the last four or five years, they've begun to lose the rich church traditionalism that's been there for centuries, and it seems the door has swung to the opposite end of the spectrum. Humanism, negativity, and unbelief are the main spirits we battle."

In recent years, their focus has been to purchase church property and obtain legal status for the work in Northern Ireland while seeking new avenues of evangelism, including media outreach.

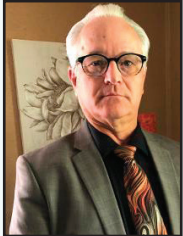
"I thank God all the time, and it still amazes me," he said. "I actually get paid for doing what I love to do. What a calling, what a gift, what a blessing, and what a great God we serve!"



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Jerry Hutchison
Evangeline, LA

Bro. Hutchison, tell us a little about yourself and your background. Share your personal testimony and tell us about your ministry.

I was raised in a small, north-central Mississippi town and was taken by my parents to a mainline denominational church. It was not until my late teens, and after attending a type of Pentecostal church, that God began to deal with me about living for Him. During this time of my life, I was a soldier in the Mississippi Army National Guard for four years but was released to go on active duty in the U.S. Army. I served four years in the 82nd Airborne Division and four years in the 101st Airborne Division. While in the 101st, I served seven months of deployment to the Middle East in the Persian Gulf during Desert Shield/Storm. It was during my time in the 82nd Airborne Division that I attended my first UPC church in Fayetteville, North Carolina, pastored then by Jesse Williams. This was when I received the truth. I was called to preach a few years later. I have pastored twice, but the bulk of my ministry has been as a full-time evangelist under Pastor Thomas Patterson in Evangeline, Louisiana, which has spanned the last twenty-three years of my life.

What motivated you to write this book entitled, "Battlefield Dress"?

This book was born out of a Sunday school lesson I was asked to teach based on my experiences while in the military. Soon after I taught that lesson, I started preaching it, whereupon a particular pastor encouraged me to write a book on this message. Almost twenty years later, the seed that the pastor planted began to germinate, so I called an author I knew for his opinion. This author very enthusiastically encouraged me to write the book, but I put it off again. At the AYC in 2019, I was working the PPH booth, and a person approached me to purchase their books. Suddenly, this total stranger told me that I should write a book; that there was a book in me, and that it would change a lot of lives. I was so blown away by this, that I never got that person's name, but I realized then that I had better write this book, and so I did.

What does the Bible mean by, "having your loins girt about with truth?"

"To gird" means to encircle or fasten. Loins have to do with procreative power, which means to produce offspring. 1 Peter 1:13 instructs us to gird up the loins of our minds. We, as Apostolics, will not be able to create offspring or converts without having truth encircled within our minds. One must not only believe that he or she has the truth; one must also believe that it is the only way for souls to be brought out of bondage and into freedom from sin. So again, we must have truth encircling our very being, and have it fastened upon the loins of our minds.

Describe what the "breastplate of righteousness" means for us today?

Just as armor in wartime protected a soldier's vital organs, so does the breastplate of righteousness. It is the nature of our flesh to go the way of least resistance; thus, the breastplate of righteousness will keep us pointed in the right direction if we put it on.

Regarding footwear, how should our feet be shod, and what does this mean?

The enemy of our soul is busy laying spiritual traps for us, and thus, we may become a casualty on the battlefield. We should prepare ourselves to wear the boots of a peacemaker. Ephesians 5:15 instructs us to walk cautiously, which challenges us to watch where and how we walk spiritually speaking. Proverbs 6:18 speaks of "feet that be swift in running to mischief." This is one of the seven things that are an abomination to the Lord. Will the areas our feet tread upon cause peace to enter into a situation, or will it cause a church split or someone to lose their soul because of bitterness or hatred being sown? Is it any wonder that Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God"? (Matt. 5:9)

Please explain the "shield of faith." What should this say to us today?

One of the definitions of the word, "quench" means to terminate or destroy. In simplistic terms, the shield of faith can conquer anything the enemy assails us with. With this powerful weapon, there is no reason for doubt, fear, worry, uncertainty, discouragement, and whatever else may cause us to lose the war for our

souls. It will not be easy, but with the shield of faith, victory can be achieved.

Why did Paul list the "helmet of salvation" as a key part of our armor?

Without salvation, we cannot be delivered from our past, nor can we be delivered in our future. Just as the natural helmet protects one's head, so does the spiritual helmet of salvation protect one's mind, which is why Paul instructs us in Romans 12:2 to be renewed in our minds.

What role does the "sword of the Spirit" play in our battlefield readiness?

The first statement in Hosea 4:6 says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge..." When tempted in the wilderness by Satan, the Lord Jesus used the Word to defeat the devil. So many people are bound today simply because they do not know the Word, and because of that lack of knowledge, they do not know how to "fire" the Word at the enemy. As powerful as a rifle is, it cannot prove its power until the trigger is pulled. Only when one applies the Word to an attack from the enemy will the power of the written Word of God be proved.

Please explain, "enduring hardness" and being "battlefield ready."

The word "endure" means to remain firm or hold up under pain, pressure, or fatigue. Fighting our enemy is not a bed of roses, but it will require a willingness to go forward despite the opposition. Jesus said in Matthew 24:13, "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." To be "battlefield ready" means to be the best one can be and use the weapons and instructions given in Scripture. It cannot be just "another" church service or Sunday school lesson, as there could be some instruction given that could bring deliverance; not only then, but also in the future. It also means that one takes the enemy seriously because this business of escaping the flames and torture of a Godless eternity is not a game by any means.

How may we contact you for questions, what is the price of the book, and how can we purchase it?

The book may be ordered through PPH, Amazon, or directly from myself. The cost is \$14.00. I can be reached through email, Facebook, or phone. My email address is jlhutch2003@yahoo.com. My phone number is 337-309-1373.

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
OCT 1	CMI - Awakening Registration Available The Virtual Conference for Apostolic Campus Ministers	This event will be held online.	Aaron Soto, Linds Walker, Mike McGurk, Kaleb Saucer	Visit www.upciyouth.com/events for more information.
OCT 5-8	UPCI General Conference 2021 Don't miss this incredible gathering of apostolic ministers and acquaintances worldwide.	Indiana Convention Ctr 100 S Capitol Ave Indianapolis, IN 46225	Speakers for this conference will be announced closer to the event date.	Visit www.upcigc.net for more information.
VISIT THE  BOOTH AT GENERAL CONFERENCE!				
OCT 20-23	Winds Conference A conference with a powerful apostolic atmosphere to empower and equip young ministers and millennials.	East Wind Pentecostal Church 1021 Emerson Dr. NE Palm Bay, FL 32907	Jerry Jones, Victor Jackson, Josh Carson, Aaron Bounds, Mark Brown, Joel Urshan, and many more.	Visit www.WindsConference.com for more information.
OCT 29-30	STX UPCI Men's Conference Come for a time of refreshing worship and the Word at the South Texas United Pentecostal Church Men's Conference	Bethel Tabernacle 1020 FM 1960 Houston, TX 77073	Speakers for this conference will be announced closer to the event date.	Visit www.stxupci.com for more information.
NOV 1	AYC Online Applications Available Apostolic Youth Corps is a branch of UPCI Youth Ministries.	Destinations will be announced closer to the event date.	AYC North American trips are open to applicants 15-35 years of age.	Visit www.apostolicyouthcorps.com for more information.
NOV 12	IBC Application Deadline - Spring 2022 Don't forget to submit your application early!	1502 E. Sumner Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46227	Come anticipating an exciting semester at Indiana Bible College!	Visit www.indianabiblecollege.org for more information.
NOV 12-13	Chicagoland Men's Conference Our goal is to continue to be a meeting that men can gather from all over our fellowship to be strengthened, renewed, inspired and blessed to become better godly men, husbands and fathers.	Steeple Hill Christian Life Center 9000 W 87th St. Hickory Hills, IL 60464	Nathaniel Haney, Tim Gaddy, Oscar Borrero and Music by Thomas Trimble	Pastor Bob Miroballi 708-330-5252 Visit www.chicagoland-mensconference.com for further information
NOV 12-13	RUSH Student Conference RUSH Student Conference is a two-day conference for students and student leaders. Included in your ticket cost: access to all services, day sessions & after party (meal included).	New Life Christian Ctr. 2642 Columbus-Lancaster Road Northwest Lancaster, OH 43130	Joshua B. Carson, Rema Duncan, and more!	Visit "RUSH Students" on Facebook for links to registration and more information.
DEC 19	Christmas for Christ Offering Christmas for Christ is an annual offering received during the Christmas season that supports church planters in North America. Our goal is to raise \$6 million dollars.	Churches nationwide will participate in this offering.	Every church should set a special day to bring their best offering to Jesus. The official date is December 20, 2020, but can be altered according to the local need.	Visit www.christmas-forchrist.faith for more information.
FEB 24-26 2022	Winterfire Conference 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 2022 to be challenged, encouraged, and instructed by the Word of God.	First Cathedral 1151 Blue Hills Avenue Bloomfield, CT 06002	Speakers for this conference will be announced closer to the event date.	Visit www.winterfire.org for more information.
MAR 30 - APR 1	Indiana Bible College Music Fest IBC Music Fest is designed to challenge and inspire those involved in church music and worship arts ministries. The teaching staff includes some of the most outstanding music ministers, directors, musicians, songwriters, recording artists, etc. in the Apostolic movement.	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46225	Speakers and workshops for this conference will be announced closer to the event date.	Visit www.indianabiblecollege.org for more information.

Theology: Longer vs. Shorter Reading of Matt. 28:19



Jason Gallion

Church Today

jgallion@go2ibc.com

The Danger of Corrupting the Word

In the Garden of Eden, Eve was tempted two times. Once, she added to the Word of God. She stated that she and her husband were commanded not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, "neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die." She then yielded to the serpent's subtraction from the Word of God; "Yea, hath God said?" That may not seem significant, but it is. When one starts meddling with the Word of God, whether that be in addition or subtraction to it, something consequential has been done. One has disregarded the very sword that is going to give them the ability to overcome the temptation of the enemy.

Eve began to mess with the very thing that was her victory. She said, "I'll add to this, and I'll take away from this Word." Truthfully, the Bible is the only weapon to come against the attack of the enemy. One may be able to guard and buffer against him with that armor and shield, but there is no way that one can conquer the vices of the enemy until they learn this Word. We as Apostolics must remember that we cannot take away from this Word, and we cannot add to it.

In the Word of God, there is power. There is strength. There is ability. There is guidance. There is anointing in the Word. It is not just pages and script. It has not just been casually translated and stitched together. I don't believe there was any man's opinion that clouded the will of God when He gave His inspired Word. If I am willing to dissect the Word and say it is inaccurate, that it is errant, that it is fallible, then I am displacing God's power and His authority. I am saying that He does not have the ability to preserve His inspired Word.

If God cannot get it right with His Word, how can God get it right in my life? If I cannot stand on this Bible, then what do I have to stand upon? If I do not believe the doctrine of the Word of God - what the Word says about itself - then why am I pouring out so much of my life to live it and preach it? If I do not trust what it says, then I need to go do something else with my life. But I am not dismayed, because I believe that there are apostolic ministers around this movement that are standing upon this Word.

Apostolics have to be people who know His Word. It is the sword of the Spirit. Hebrews 4:12 declares that the Word of God is quick and powerful, dividing to the asunder of the soul and spirit, joints and marrow. I need to let it get into my consciousness and reshape my entire thinking.

I need the Word to fight the good fight of faith because I know that the enemy of my soul specializes in twisting it. But I cannot afford for it to be twisted or corrupted in my thinking and understanding of it, because the Word of God is ultimately the only thing that will destroy the yoke of bondage.



Bobby Killmon

Theology

bkillmon@go2ibc.com

Is the longer reading of Matt. 28:19 a trinitarian insertion? Should the text read "in my name" instead of "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost"?

This is an important question that I will take a couple of columns to answer due to space restrictions. The position that the phrase "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" is not what was first in Matt. 28:19 is the position of very, very few scholars, even of those outside our Apostolic ranks. Those holding this position typically quote Eusebius in his writing *Demonstratio* 3.6. He replaces "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" with "my name." The argument states that Eusebius is using a direct quote from his copy of Matthew, so the longer version of Matt. 28:19 had to be added later by a trinitarian. Further, one must argue the shorter original reading was purposefully suppressed. The problem is the "short reading" fails the test of being original to Scripture, both by the number of manuscripts/witnesses and common sense. I will deal in this column with manuscript witnesses and next month with an argument from common sense.

Textual Proof: There is not a single manuscript of Matthew that has the so-called "short form" of Matt. 28:19. That can't be understated. There's simply no manuscript in existence of Matthew with a shorter reading of Matt. 28:19. Even the critical Greek text of modern versions (NA-27 text) does not list even one variant reading of Matt. 28:19. Further, if we look outside the Greek copies of the NT, every single ancient translation we have of Matt. 28:19 is just like our Bible (including the Latin, Syriac, Coptic, etcetera).

You could argue for the short reading from a Hebrew translation (Shem Tob), but it cannot be used because of several issues. It doesn't have either the long or short version of Matt. 28:19. It simply reads, "Go and teach them to carry out all the things which I have commanded you forever." Further, it was created in the medieval period (late 1300s), which is far too late to see what was original.

Even Bart Ehrman (a liberal, agnostic textual critic) notes that Eusebius' shorter version is the only text evidence for a shorter reading. He points out Eusebius commonly abbreviates other verses as a standard practice (see Phil. 2:9). He also summarized instead of directly quoting. So even the greatest liberal critics admit Eusebius is doing this same thing in Matt. 28:19.

The Early Church Fathers: Lastly, we not only have the Bible in Greek and a myriad of other languages; we also have quotations of preachers and teachers in church history. Every single sermon or writing on Matt. 28:19 always has the longer phrase, not the shorter. These can be found in Didache 7:1; Tertullian On Baptism, paragraph 13; Tertullian Against Praxeas, chapter 2; Gregory Thaumaturgus (205-265 AD) in A Sectional Confession of Faith, XIII; Hippolytus (170-236 AD) says in Fragments: Part II.-- Dogmatical and Historical.-- Against the Heresy of One Noetus; Cyprian (200-258 AD) in The Seventh Council of Carthage Under Cyprian; and many others.

In the writings prior to the Council of Nicea (325 AD), where people claim the longer ending was inserted, there are 24 quotations of Matt. 28:19, all using the longer formula. There is not a single quote in any of them with the short version. Next month, I will wrap up with an inclusion of explaining why Matt. 28:19 is in Scripture and what it reveals. We do not need to stretch the facts to the point of breaking or sacrificing our Bible's preservation, to defend any part of truth.



T. W. Massengale

Church Growth

tmassengale@apostolic.edu

What is the most effective evangelism method that a small church can use to obtain maximum growth on a limited budget? Do you have to spend thousands on advertising to grow?

The most effective way to reach your community is not by spending thousands on advertising. Advertising will increase your name recognition and community awareness profile, but real growth comes only from reaching your church's oikos (family, friends, and acquaintances) with the gospel. In most

churches, 90% of all visitors attend because of the invitation of a church member.

There are two important statistics to keep in mind. First, research shows that over 90% of all who receive the Holy Ghost do so within a church service of some kind. Secondly, almost 93% of those who have received the Spirit have done so after attending church three or more times. The bottom line is this: to grow, you must increase the number of oikos visitors that attend your church, and secondly, they must come more than once.

There is no single evangelism method that effectively accomplishes both requirements. What has proven effective in bringing oikos visitors are events such as revivals, special services, church socials, attendance promotions, and similar activities. What has proven most effective

in encouraging those visitors to return is a full-featured visitor follow-up ministry. In my opinion, a good follow-up program is the most important evangelism ministry a church can have because if your visitors don't return, very few will ever receive the Holy Ghost.

Allow me to conclude by saying that no organized program can substitute for power-packed, Spirit-filled services. Such services will not only attract visitors but will keep them coming back until God can convict their hearts.

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THAT I MAY PREACH THERE ALSO." MARK 1:38



Carol Clemans

Spiritual Growth

carol@carmclemans.org

Are You Ready for the Coming of the Lord?

The Bible teaches we must be born again of water and spirit – John 3 & Acts 2. The Bible also teaches we must be living a holy, separated life. We are to be holy as God is holy. We are to be Holy-Ghost-controlled. Holiness of the heart is about allowing God to control our thoughts that create our feelings; then, we are to act “God-like” in all situations. This defines being Holy-Ghost-controlled.

To simplify, living for God is to filter all our thoughts, words, and actions through God. Would God be pleased with my thoughts, words, and actions? In my nationwide counseling, many people who have received the Acts 2: 38 salvation, have not had Holy-Ghost-controlled examples. Unfortunately, they do not know how to live every waking hour being accountable to God.

The great commandment in Mark 12 tells us to love God with our whole (all) heart, soul, mind, and strength. What does this mean? Simply, it means to be Holy-Ghost-controlled continually – in all situations of life! We must filter our actions through this question: “God, would You be pleased with this?”

Nothing is secret from God (read Ps. 139). We must make God an intimate part of our daily thoughts, feelings, and actions. What are you listening to and watching? Many people who claim salvation spend many hours every day on the Internet in ungodly pursuits.

I recently unpacked a ceramic depiction of the three monkeys – “monkey no see, monkey no hear, monkey no say.” What are we watching? What are we listening to? What are we saying? If we are not passing our thoughts, feelings, and actions through God first, we are in trouble! God’s truth says we will give an account to God for every idle word spoken!

Palms 19:14 – “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.” I need every thought, word, and deed to be acceptable to God! “Come quickly, Lord Jesus!”

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Delano Sherley

Accounting & Tax

Now is the Time

This is a great time of year to spend some extra time on church finances. Things are slowing down after all the camp meetings, and the busy holiday season is still one month away. The year is also far enough along to be able to project how it may end. If you have bank covenants to meet, you should review



Vickie Hodges

Identity and Scripture

VickieHodgesSharingLife@gmail.com

Nothing New Under The Sun

We’ve all heard the old adage, “there is nothing new under the sun.” As old as this saying is, it is still full of truth. There is nothing new under the sun. Our God is still fighting battles, and victories are still being won.

But what do our senses and desires gravitate toward while living “under the sun?” Do we seek out the things of the flesh or the things of God? Just like back in the days of old, God healed the blinded eyes, deaf ears, dumb tongues, crippled hands and feet, arms and legs... He is still healing our spiritual senses today. How do we know this? Well, let’s stop a moment and take a reality check.

What do our senses and desires gravitate to? Do they seek out the things of the flesh or the things of God? What do we smell in our environment? Do we seek or smell for drama, contention, strife, manipulation, control, egocentrism, narcissism? Or do we seek for the life-giving attributes and characteristics of God... love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, and faith?

There is still nothing new under the sun. Human nature is still human nature and the Spirit of God is still miraculous and supernatural! The only thing we can change under the sun is how we live under the sun. Do we live a senses-driven life, or do we live a life ignited by the supernatural power of the Holy Ghost? Thank God for giving us choices... for giving us a will. He never forces Himself upon us. He has already chosen us. He says we are fearfully and wonderfully made! He is just waiting for us to get over ourselves!

When does a person begin believing what God’s Word says about him? Most likely, we first must become so exhausted in living a life that is confined and limited in the humanistic dimension. It is not until then that we are able to make the choice of letting impossibilities become realities and devastations become deliverances. So remember, there is nothing new under the sun. The only thing that can change under the sun is how we live under the sun!

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.

to see if you will meet them by year-end. If not, what expenses can be reduced now to close the gap?

It is also a good time to begin working on the 2021 budget. As the reality of a world post-COVID settles in, churches are getting used to doing things much differently than they used to. While some in-person events are still smaller, more resources are being used in areas such as live-streaming, including higher costs for internet bandwidth, etc.

Other questions to consider: Do you have any significant capital improvements that you need to plan for next year? If so,



Daniel Sirstad

Relationships 201

www.dsministries.com

Get Wisdom—Get Understanding!

People recognize the value of pursuing wisdom. Some propagate the benefit of receiving a degree from a college, university, or seminary. Others prefer obtaining a specialized certification from a trade school. Some refer to themselves as self-taught, spending countless hours pouring over information designed to help them hone their craft or interest.

However, without being accompanied by understanding, wisdom itself is minimized. Solomon understood this. Proverbs 4:7 says, “Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.” I cannot stress the value of being able to understand. In relationships, people often struggle to understand themselves, their spouse, children, co-workers, preacher, etc.

The word “understand,” is a derivative of a root word meaning “to discern,” referring to the proper application of knowledge. On the surface, you may know yourself, your spouse, or your children reasonably well. However, during a conflict, the impulsive reaction, many times, is lacking in understanding. Generally, the initial response is one of defensive posturing. Wisdom is static and is present at the onset of any situation. But understanding requires taking time. The implementation of patience is the furthest thing from many minds in the heat of the moment. And yet, it is accessing patience that allows us to maintain or protect our soul (Luke 21:19).

How can we increase our understanding? Good question! A significant way to increase our understanding is by actively listening. Rather than listen, many humans tend to formulate what they will say while the other person is talking. It’s hard to hear when you are not listening.

Another way to increase understanding is to reflect deeply on what just happened. There are a few instances that demand immediate attention. However, most situations allow us to take some time and consider not just our perspective but also the other persons. Understanding can be a gift from God, as in Daniel’s case. But it can also be sought for and learned.

Do you want to understand yourself better? Or, your spouse? I can help you do that. Contact me at dsirstad@dsministries.com.

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

will you need to make any special appeals for donations, or are the funds already available?

Time spent now will provide a clearer picture of where you stand and what adjustments, if any, are needed, rather than experiencing an unpleasant surprise after December 31st.

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@dsacpainsc.com Website: www.dsacpainsc.com

THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS**Biden DOJ Sues Texas Over Abortion Law, Says "Cardiac Activity" Over "Heartbeat"**

The Biden Department of Justice filed a federal lawsuit against the state of Texas over its newly enacted heartbeat abortion ban, alleging it deprives "women in Texas of their constitutional rights" and conflicts with federal law.



The law requires doctors to determine if a heartbeat is present, and it prohibits an abortion if one is detected. That typically occurs around six weeks of pregnancy. Because the new law hands enforcement to citizens – and allows them to sue abortion doctors – opponents have found it difficult to challenge in court.

"The Act is clearly unconstitutional under longstanding Supreme Court precedent," said Attorney General Merrick Garland. "The United States has the authority and responsibility to ensure that no state can deprive individuals of their constitutional rights through a legislative scheme specifically designed to prevent the vindication of those rights."

The lawsuit contends that the law "unlawfully prohibits women from exercising the constitutional right to a pre-viability abortion." Further, the Texas law "exposes federal personnel" to "liability for carrying out their federal obligations," the lawsuit says.

62 Percent of Self-Identified Christians Do Not Believe the Holy Spirit Is Real

A new study from the Cultural Research Center of Arizona Christian University found that of about 176 million self-identified Christians, more than half of them do not believe that the Holy Spirit exists.

The study from the Arizona college was recently released as part of the American Worldview Inventory, an annual survey that looks at the worldview of U.S. adults. According to the study, a majority of America's self-identified Christians, including those who identify as evangelicals, believe that God is the all-powerful, all-knowing Creator of the universe.

However, more than half of that do not believe in some notable biblical teachings, such as the existence of the Holy Spirit, and only about 6 percent hold a biblical worldview.

**Court Asks: Why Is Animal Cruelty Banned, But Abortion Is Legal?**

A federal appeals court that upheld a Texas abortion restriction last week also dabbled in pro-life apologetics by raising an ethical question: Why is it illegal to dismember an animal, but permissible to tear apart an unborn baby?

The case involved a Texas law (SB8) that bans a second-trimester abortion procedure known as "dilation and evacuation" (D&E), which involves dismembering an unborn baby, limb by limb, in the womb to prevent a live birth. The pro-life community calls it "dismemberment" abortion.

Although a lower court judge struck down the law, the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, in a 9-5 ruling, upheld it.

A group of abortion clinics and doctors had sued the State, seeking to have the law overturned.

Judges Jennifer Walker Elrod and Don R. Willett, who co-wrote the majority decision, noted: "It is ... illegal to dismember living animals. ... The State urges that SB8 would simply extend the same protection to fetuses."

Judge Priscilla Owens, who voted with the majority in the judgment, made a similar argument in a concurring judicial opinion.

"The State has expressed its interest in prohibiting the dismemberment of a living fetus," Owens wrote. "This is congruent with the widely accepted principle that dismemberment of living mammals should be prohibited. For example, unwanted dogs, cats, puppies and kittens in shelters must be humanely euthanized under Texas law."

Owens then quoted Texas law, which says dogs and cats in the custody of an animal shelter must be euthanized by sodium pentobarbital.

A D&E abortion, Owens said, is "abhorrent."

The majority opinion had argued that pregnant women who receive D&E abortions "are not being told what is going to happen to the fetus." For example, a typical form does not tell the patient that "'the pregnancy tissue will be removed during the procedure' and does not explain that the fetus's body parts – arms, legs, ribs, skull, and everything else – will be ripped apart and pulled out piece by piece," the majority argued in their opinion.

Owens and Elrod were nominated by President George W. Bush. Willett was nominated by President Donald Trump.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ The Taliban are killing Christians who have Bibles on their phones, according to Dr. Rex Rogers, North American President of the Middle East media ministry SAT-7. Rogers adds: "It's incredibly dangerous right now for Afghans to have anything Christian on their phones. The Taliban have spies and informants everywhere." Open Doors ranked Afghanistan as the second-most dangerous country in the world for Christians even before the Taliban took control. Now a pastor who built churches in Afghanistan is warning that the Taliban will "exterminate" the church there.

■ According to Census data, 11.1 percent of U.S. households with school-aged children reported homeschooling by the fall of the 2020-2021 school year. In May of last spring, that rate was 5.4 percent, demonstrating a 5.6 percent increase and a doubling in the number of homeschooling families by the start of the 2020-2021 school year. The Bellwether Education Partners, reported similar findings in its August 2021 overlook, noting that close to 2.6 million children have transitioned from public schooling to homeschooling since the start of the pandemic.

SOCIAL TRENDS**School Votes Down Transgender Policy, Defying State: It "Imposes a Set of Beliefs on Everyone"**

A Virginia school board defied a new state requirement and voted down a proposal that would have forced schools to allow students to use the restroom and locker room they wish. The Newport News School Board opposed the proposal in a 5-1 vote after hearing from both sides, according to the Daily Press newspaper.



"When the law violates the Constitution, then it's a bad law," said School Board Chairman Douglas Brown. "... This law violates the Constitution." The proposal, he added, infringes on the "rights of parents."

The new LGBT-centric law, passed by the legislature in 2020, requires that all public school districts adopt a policy permitting students who identify as transgender to use the restroom and locker room that matches their gender identity. Such a policy, for example, would allow a student who is biologically male to use a girl's restroom if the student identifies as female.

Under the new law, school districts also must adopt a policy mandating that staff and students use the preferred pronoun and names of students who identify as transgender. Such pronouns, according to the Virginia Department of Education, could be gender-neutral: "they/them/their and ze/hir/hirs," according to the state's model policy.

LEGAL TRENDS**"Without God, We Have Nothing" Trump Religious Advisors Launch New Faith Advisory Board**

Former President Donald Trump and his evangelical advisors have launched a National Faith Advisory Board coalition aimed at growing evangelical support for Trump.

"A lot of things have happened, and a lot of things have happened with respect to faith and religion and they're not good things. They are not good, they're not good at all," Trump can be heard saying in the clip.

The new initiative will be led by televangelist Paula White, who served as Trump's spiritual advisor during his time in office.

When asked about his faith, Trump concluded, "It's all based around God – it's so important. God is so important to the success of what we're doing. Because without God, we have nothing."



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"LONG AGO I TOLD YOU WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN. THEN **SUDDENLY** I TOOK ACTION, AND ALL MY PREDICTIONS CAME TRUE," ISAIAH 48:3

NAAMAN'S DIRT

REV. JASON HEFNER / NASHVILLE, IN

Transcribed By Maranatha Wright

"And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant."

"But he said, As the LORD liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take it; but he refused."

"And Na'a-man said, Shall there not then, I pray thee, be given to thy servant two mules' burden of earth? For thy servant will henceforth offer neither burnt offering nor sacrifice unto other gods, but unto the LORD."

"In this thing the LORD pardon thy servant, that when my master goeth into the house of Rim'mon to worship there, and he leaneth on my hand, and I bow myself in the house of Rim'mon: when I bow down myself in the house of Rim'mon, the LORD pardon thy servant in this thing." - II Kings 5:15-18

A People Dispersed

To properly understand Na'a-man's story, we need to recognize how the Israelites and other ancient nations viewed the territory of gods. Na'a-man believed that his nation had a specific god that they were to serve in a certain geographical location. He would have also believed the same for the nation of Israel.

After the tower of Babel, God became angry with the people. God determined that if the people were not going to be obedient to Him, He was not interested in being their God. Thus, the story of Babel is the inception of many nations as the people were dispersed according to language and territory.

Just as in the days of Noah, God's anger had brought a monumental change in human trajectory, and yet His mercy advocated for the choosing of one just man. After Babel, a man named Abraham became the vessel through which God would bless all nations. In Deuteronomy 32, Moses writes of when God divides the nations.

This song of Moses references the giving up of the nations according to their inheritance. Because of a rebellious people who had refused to worship, their God gave them over to other gods. In place of the true God, author Michael Heiser notes that God released them to serve other powers and authorities. In contrast to this, however, God's blessings would multiply through the family of Abraham. Through this one man, all the nations would be blessed. We see this worldview throughout Scripture.

Geographical Worship

In I Samuel 26:19 we read, "Now therefore, I pray thee, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If the LORD have stirred thee up against me, let him accept an offering: but if they be the children of men, cursed be they before the LORD; for they have driven me out this day from abiding in the inheritance of the LORD, saying, Go, serve other gods." David, during this time in life, had been running from king Saul and had been forced out of the territory of Israel at times.

David pleads with Saul because being driven outside of

Israel communicated that he was to serve other gods. Being outside of that territory placed him outside of the geographical territory to worship Yahweh.

In I Kings 20:28, a man of God comes to king Ahab and speaks of the Syrians. Within the text, the Syrians are predicted to be defeated as they had claimed that Israel's God was, "...God of the hills, but he is not God of the valleys..." The Syrians believed the God of Israel was territorial and tied to geography. He might have power in the mountains, but surely not the valleys, sea, or other nations.

Reflecting back to Na'a-man and his worldview of geography-tied gods, we find him as a commander of the Syrian army. He is also a man with leprosy. The Syrians had raided Israel and taken slaves back to Syria. Na'a-man had acquired an Israelite maiden, and she, knowing of his leprosy, was able to get word to him that a prophet in Israel could cure him.

A Miraculous Healing

With this knowledge, Na'a-man traveled to the home of the prophet, Elisha. Upon his arrival, Elisha did not come to the door, but sent a message for Na'a-man to go and dip seven times in the River Jordan. A travel-worn Na'a-man became frustrated, as he was not even greeted in person, and then was asked to go dip in a dirty river.

A wise servant encouraged him to perform the simple task as Na'a-man had nothing to lose. This act of obedience restored Na'a-man's skin to that of a child. This experience transformed the Syrian commander, and his thankfulness revealed that he was never going to forget what had transpired in this foreign nation of Israel.

Na'a-man responded to this miracle by offering payment to the experienced prophet. Elisha politely refused, as acceptance of payment would take the glory away from Yahweh who had performed the miracle. Upon Elisha's refusal, Na'a-man had one more request to make.

Bags of Dirt

II Kings 5:17 identifies his request of two mule-loads of earth, because from now on, he would no longer be offering or sacrificing to any other god but Yahweh. Na'a-man's life-changing and supernatural encounter with the God of Israel resulted in his taking with him a couple of bags of dirt.

Na'a-man was going back to Syria and its god, named Rim'mon, who he previously assumed had complete authority. Na'a-man's encounter with the true God, however, had changed his heart, and upon his return, he refused to serve any other god than the God of Israel. He would never forget what this God had done for him while he was in Israel. If he couldn't worship this God in Israel, he resolved to take Israel with him.

We do not know exactly what Na'a-man did with

those bags of dirt, but many believe he took it back to Syria and made an altar. Perhaps he spread it out in an area where he would pray and sacrifice. Regardless, we do know he took some dirt from his experience and said, "I remember what God did for me when I walked on this ground. I remember what Yahweh did for me when I was standing in Israel, so my home is going to be a place where I can experience that same God."

A God Beyond Geography

Na'a-man took his encounter to his foreign land and invited the presence of God into his own home, and to his own family. He wanted to experience Israel there. Sometimes the only time we encounter God is when we are in Israel, per-say. The only time we have an experience with God is when we are at an altar in church. This is not the way things have to be or should be.

It is time we have an encounter with God, and then take it home with us. We need to take a couple of "bags of dirt" to our home, because church should not be the only place we experience God, feel His presence, or worship Him. We should never leave church empty-handed or the same way we entered. Our homes need to be a place where Jesus has authority and is going to be worshipped.

Na'a-man's actions were a memorial so that he would remember what had happened to him while in Israel on that holy ground. His memorial was a living statement that declared Jesus was served in that home.

Geographic worship was no longer an obstacle, for Na'a-man had resolved that the God of Israel would be served regardless of geographic territories. His home belonged to Israel and the true God. Rim'mon would no longer be the god of his home and he had no authority.

We often battle going to church and worshipping the God of Israel and then returning to a home where other gods reign and have authority. Gods of addiction, money, sickness, violence, disunity, and depression consume our homes. It is time we decide to evict these gods. Our homes may be in the world, but they do not have to be under the authority of the gods of this world.

A Higher Authority

We find later in the text that Na'a-man extended his request beyond the dirt. He knew that he would be expected to assist the feeble king as he entered the temple of Rim'mon for worship. He asked Elisha for grace in this situation as he would have to enter and bow his head to assist the king, but would no longer participate in this worship in his heart. He would only worship the God of Israel, but there would be times he would have to step out of his home.

Ephesians 6:12 relays that, "...we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Most of the

"gods" mentioned in Bible times still exist, just not in carved images. Paul in I Corinthians 8:4-6 does not deny the existence of other so-called "gods." He acknowledges that other gods are worshipped, but they are not significant when compared to the God of Israel. They have no power as there is one God that has power, authority, and control overall. Na'a-man thought Rim'mon had power in his home, and so he did have influence. If you know that God supercedes all other gods, then the idea of other gods becomes of little consequence.

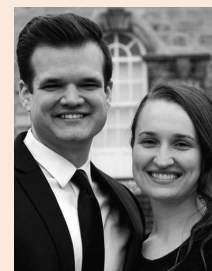
We as the church will have to leave our homes to go to work or complete tasks, but His grace must be in our lives. We do not have to fall prey to the gods of addiction, depression, or pornography any longer. Everywhere we go we can take His spirit and His authority with us. He reigns omniscient and unrivaled. His redemption is worldwide.

Unrivaled Territory

Once you walk inside your home you should step into the authority of Jesus and a place where Jesus is worshipped. Just as Na'a-man's memorial stood as a beacon in a territory of other gods, so our homes should stand as memorials to the God of Israel in this world.

We have returned home too many times empty-handed. We must come home with a couple of "bags of dirt" after church. We need to remember that our restoring experiences are not reserved for the altar alone. They can occur within our own homes as well. Jesus must have control in our homes and have all authority.

Reverend Jason Hefner currently serves as the Purpose Institute administrator at the Pentecostals of Nashville in Nashville, IN. He and his beautiful wife Alyssa, have welcomed baby Deacon to their family and are Associate Missionaries preparing to return to Slovakia in 2022.



Jason Hefner
Nashville, IN



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In Loving Memory



Lighthouse Ranch for Boys

By Susan Thomas



Danny Smith
Loranger, LA

Bro. Danny Smith, originally from Southeast Texas and a graduate of Texas Bible College, came to Louisiana in the seventies and has been there since. His background includes working as a Christian School Administrator, fundraising, lobbyist at the Louisiana Legislature, and pastoring. These experiences helped to prepare him to take the helm at the Lighthouse Ranch for Boys in 2010. "Working with youth as a high school principal, learning the skills of raising substantial funds from across the nation, meeting a payroll in business, and pastoring a wonderful congregation, gave me the background to hit the ground running."

Lighthouse Ranch for Boys in Loranger, Louisiana was founded in 1979 as a non-profit charity and accepts troubled teenage boys ages 12-18 for residential rehabilitative and behavioral correction. The 40-acre boys' ranch is a working ranch featuring livestock and agricultural projects. After a rigorous application procedure, boys who are accepted live full-time at the ranch, attend the on-site

school (Lighthouse Christian Academy), learn to work, do assigned chores, and work on getting rid of their self-destructive personal habits. The Boys' Ranch has turned out over 1,000 boys from across the U.S.

"By the time I was seventeen, I was a drug addict, thief, gang member, and an alcoholic. I was running out of time and I was running out of hope. I finally found what I needed when I came to Lighthouse Ranch for Boys. It's more than just some institution to send "bad boys." The Ranch was a place where I could separate myself from a bad environment and find structure again. I was taught to be proactive and not reactive, how to work through my emotions and respect others, and more importantly, how to have a true relationship with God," shares a former student of Lighthouse Ranch.

Are you feeling a tug at your heart? Are you wanting to help and be a part of this important ministry? You can support the Boys' Ranch ministry by praying for them and becoming a supporter. Find out more about the Ranch online at www.lighthouse ranch.com. You can give periodically or become a monthly Ranch Partner. You can also support and attend the annual

Ranch Day celebration on the fourth Saturday weekend in October. "On that day we invite all Ranch alumni, friends, and supporters to come and celebrate with us. We will have a lot of free food, a petting zoo, horseback rides, gospel music, and much more," states Bro. Smith. Lighthouse Ranch For Boys is located at: Boys' Ranch, 51453 Hwy 443, Loranger, LA 70446. You may contact them at: Boys' Ranch, P. O. Box 238, Loranger, LA 70446. Also, call 985-878-6560 or visit www.lighthouse ranch.com.

"All boys must go through the rigid application process before being accepted. As we normally keep a full population of boys, we maintain a waiting list for new applicants. When a slot comes open for another boy, we give priority to the next in line." For further information, contact Danny Smith at the Boys Ranch: Phone - (225)-505-9009 Email - dsmith@lighthouse ranch.com.



Why Holiness?

By Linda Schreckenberger



Timothy Mitchell
Montgomery, AL

Rev. Timothy C. Mitchell has been an ordained minister with the UPCI for over 50 years. He is the founder of New Testament Christian Center in Montgomery, Alabama.

His book *Why Holiness* began as a Bible study and expanded

into seven years of extensive research. He explained, "My book is based on Biblical doctrine and confirmed by secular documentation while maintaining a flow of spiritual understanding. In years gone by, the elders spoke, and we believed and obeyed. Today, we have an enlightened generation whose knowledge is rapidly increasing, and their questions demand convincing answers. My book is a scholarly attempt in Christian apologetics to defend a necessary doctrine many Apostolics are discarding. As we approach the Lord's return, many are questioning the need for teaching and practicing holiness, yet we must understand that without holiness no one will see God (Hebrews 12:14)."

The intended audience for *Why Holiness* includes: 1) Pastors who have allowed holiness to go by the wayside in an attempt to grow faster and build a larger church. Bro. Mitchell noted the words of Rev. Jerry Dillon's sermon, *The Power of Impartation*, preached at the Alabama District Camp

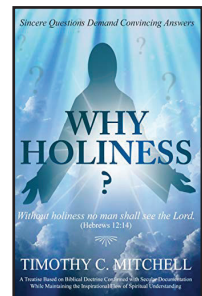
Meeting, June 15, 2011; "When you lose separation, you lose the power. You gain the crowd, but it was the crowd that crucified Jesus. That is when churches become monuments instead of movements." 2) Third-generation Apostolics, born in the church, who weren't there when the fences were built. While inheriting the blessings of preceding generations, some are abandoning the old paths for slippery slopes. These need to understand why the guardrails were placed there by their forefathers to begin with. Holiness keeps people in the church. A lack of holiness allows the rot of worldliness inside. 3) The younger generation, born in the Information Age, is now compelling the elders to prove what is acceptable unto the Lord. This group needs to be convinced by the knowledge of teaching. Not motivated by emotional pleas, they want truth with understanding proof. 4) New converts coming in need to be taught boundaries between the world and the church; the difference between being a child of the devil and the bride of Christ. 5) Those who have loved, obeyed and endured the pursuit of holiness need to be encouraged and their long-held convictions bolstered."

"This is not your ordinary holiness book based on personal opinion," said Bro. Mitchell. "It presents biblical precepts and backs them up with real-world examples. Jesus actually used the word *methe* as a sign of the end-times. It literally took an act of

congress for a certain woman to wear pants after the Civil War. Elvis Presley and his parents received the Holy Ghost and were baptized in Jesus' Name!" Scholastically written with over 600 biblical references and 500+ footnotes, *Why Holiness* covers every aspect of holiness.

Feedback on the book is very positive. Recently, Bro. Mitchell felt impressed to give a copy to a lady who obviously didn't reflect holiness. Her pastor later told him she had asked to speak privately with him. She said, "You didn't know it, but I was a compulsive gambler. That book straightened me out. And, I was a backslider, hurt years ago by hard, loveless holiness preaching. Now, I understand holiness, and I won't be wearing pants again, either." Bro. Mitchell said, "When a person is having a problem in an area of holiness, if I can get them to read that section of the book, the problem is over. The book does the work for me without confrontation."

Why Holiness is available on Amazon in paperback (\$20) or eBook (\$9.99.) Bro. Mitchell can be contacted at www.knowthetruthministry.org, email tcmsm@bellsouth.net or at (334) 320-6858.





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Word To The Wise:

"Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man." - Proverbs 3:3-4

A tour guide was showing a tourist around Washington, D.C. The guide pointed out the place where George Washington supposedly threw a dollar across the Potomac River.

"That's impossible," said the tourist. "No one could throw a coin that far!"

"You have to remember," answered the guide. "A dollar went a lot farther in those days."

* * * * *

Mother: Now, Little Johnny, eat your spinach. It's good for growing children.

Little Johnny: Who wants to grow children?



"It's hate mail. All you have to do is preach on tithing, and you can cut your heat bill in half."

* * * * *

A young woman decided to redecorate her bedroom. She wasn't sure how many rolls of wallpaper she would need, but she knew that her friend next door had recently done the same job and the two rooms were identical in size.

"Amanda," she said, "how many rolls of wallpaper did you buy for your bedroom?"

"Ten," said Amanda.

So the girl bought the ten rolls of paper and did the job, but she had 2 rolls leftover.

"Amanda," she said. "I bought ten rolls of wallpaper for the bedroom, but I've got 2 leftover!"

"Yeah!" said Amanda. "So did I."

* * * * *

"**Did you tell her** that the information you gave was in strict confidence?"

"No, I didn't want her to think it was important enough to repeat it."



"Look on the bright side. We have 150 new converts!"

* * * * *

A man suffered a heart attack while shopping in a store. The store manager called 9-1-1 when they saw him collapse to the floor. The paramedics rushed the man to the nearest emergency room, where he had immediate open-heart bypass surgery.

He awakened from the surgery to find himself in the care of nuns at the Catholic Hospital. A nun was seated next to his bed holding a clipboard, a pen, and a collection of forms. She asked him how he was going to pay for his medical treatment.

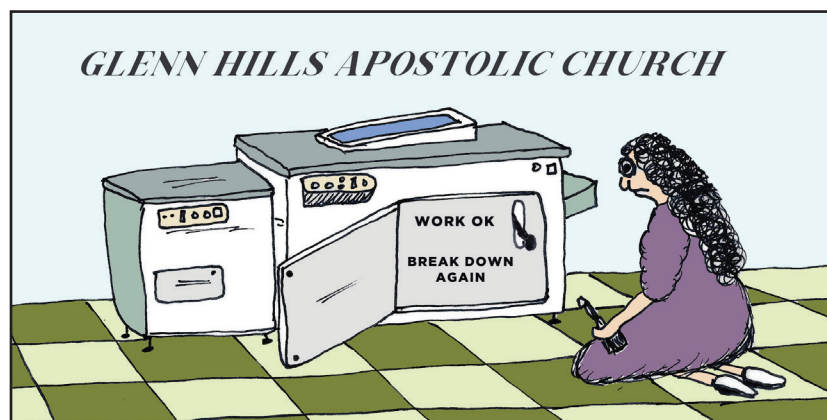
She asked, "Do you have health insurance?" He replied in a weak, raspy voice, "No health insurance."

The nun asked, "Do you have money in the bank?" He replied, "No money in the bank."

The irritated nun continued, "Do you have a relative who could help you with the payments?" He replied, "I have only a spinster sister and she is a nun."

The nun became agitated and announced, "Nuns are not spinsters! Nuns are married to God!"

The patient replied, "Perfect. Send the bill to my brother-in-law."



After watching the copier repairman from a distance, Sis. Jean makes a startling discovery.



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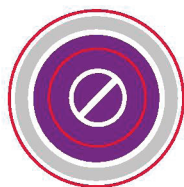
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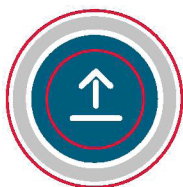
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