



INSEPARABLE



**PRESIDENT
JOSHUA B. CARSON**

“David, the shepherd, selected rocks for the public that he knew would work in the battle of a private pasture. Are you a stone that’s usable by your shepherd?”



A Pocket of Rocks

“And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, ...” (1 Sam 17:40).

Consider the scene of the stream. Feel the cool of the earth on your knees as you bend down to stabilize yourself and begin looking for usable rocks. Imagine the cold water soaking your wrist and drenching the hairs of your arm as you reach in. There, feeling around carefully under the flow of the current, you find and select the stones for the terrifying task waiting only a meadow removed. David knew that the stones selected at this moment would factor into the difference between life and death, victory and defeat, a God-honoring, or a God-defying outcome.

Now, over the years, many have heard how and why David selected five stones. The far reach of reasoning has been presented in a multitude of ways. These stones have become the most speculative rocks to ever exist. With allowance for textural integrity and honoring the humanity of David, the fairest assumption for the selection of five stones was simply... in case he missed. However, David didn’t miss his mark. David’s voice pierced the air before the rock ever did, declaring victory. You can almost see the steam of his breath in the still-cool morning, and if you listen closely enough you can hear the sound of his sling in circulation while David yells “... I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied” (1 Sam 17:45). One stone, one sword, and one song by the ladies later, and things are different forever.



So what about the four rocks still in his pocket (shepherd’s bag)? Only one stone got to take a public flight. Only one stone gets to be heralded forever as the giant-tumbler. Only one stone would be mentioned in millions of messages, from students to seasoned seniors. Only one stone would be the topic of books and the punchline of illustrations. But four rocks, all pulled from the same flow, all having the same potential, their rough edges made smooth, were simply carried home in the darkness of a pocket. While I’m thankful for the one he used that day, I’m equally thankful for the ones he carried home. The potential of those stones was as powerful as the one that felled the giant. David, the shepherd, selected rocks for the public that he knew would work in the battle of a private pasture.

Are you a stone that’s usable by your shepherd? Sure, some days the fight is against a giant in public, but most often your shepherd will fight battles in the privacy of the local church and city. In those moments, they will need another rock from the pocket. It might be the lion of a wayward tongue in the local church that needs to be withstood, or it may be the bear of exhaustion sent to destroy the shepherd in your life that needs to be prayed to defeat. At that moment, could your shepherd count on you? Can you keep your attitude right and trust that they will seek God and select you when the time and the opportunity are right?

For my fellow pastors, we must ask ourselves: are we sending or simply releasing? David could have gone through the entire scenario, but if at the critical moment he had simply released the rock, it would have fallen at his feet. Instead, David chose to intentionally send the rock with powerful momentum in the name of the Lord.

While personally knowing the sting of sending solid rocks away into another meadow, I’m reminded that God can send me home with more than I send out. May God continue to grace our services with a flow of His Spirit, that smooth stones for future battles might be developed.

Joshua B. Carson

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

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

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

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Their loan closed in November 2020 and they are planning to hold their first service in their new building in early 2021.

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APOSTOLIC POWER:

Has it Diminished in Modern Times?

Written By Linda Schreckenberg

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



Sam Emory, Merced, CA - God cannot change, so we must examine ourselves to see if we believe God like the early Pentecostal movement did. Just because we aren't seeing the miraculous in America, it's still happening on foreign soil where people are poor, and all they have is God.

Faith and passion require discipline, prayer, consecration, and dedication. If we're not passionate about the things of God, we are spending our desires on something else. When

our passion and desire to obey and submit to God equals or exceeds that of our forefathers, we will witness the glory of God as they did!

I'm looking for a fresh new source of the power that will overcome what we are facing in 2021 that our forefathers never faced. When we follow hard after God, signs, healing, and miracles will follow!

Holiness comes from God and is the result of our loving relationship with him. And, holiness always produces moderation in every area of our life.



Matthew Tuttle, Vidor, TX - Born in 1981, I can't speak from personal experience of the early era of Pentecost. Based on the reports and my personal experience, we are witnessing supernatural miracles like never before. The church has grown numerically, in Spirit, and power. We're seeing the night darken, but this has put the church into a position for growth in all areas.

We are called to sanctification, inwardly and outwardly. Pentecost is the answer for our world, and we reject the lie that compromising any part of the message will increase numbers and maintain the power. The main missing ingredient in the North American church today is fervent prayer. In Acts 3, Peter and John; the preacher and the worshipper, were united on their way to pray. This combination of preaching, praise, and prayer unlocked the supernatural at the Gate Beautiful.

This generation is passionate about separation, but they want to understand why. Our pulpits should reaffirm our lifestyle, and teaching on identity should not be relegated to the backroom new convert's class. Our conferences, camps, Bible schools, and services should make it a message we preach boldly and consistently. What we fail to preach, we will lose.



Clarence Henry, Ozone Park, NY - I do see a difference in Apostolic power, Spirit, and miracles of today in America, compared to early Pentecost. We have become a nation of entitlement and self-sufficiency. This can cause the church to miss out. We have become more earthly-focused, trying to make this world a better place, when we should be focused on reaching people for Christ.

We foster a greater degree of faith and passion in our churches by holding ourselves, especially preachers, accountable to live what we teach before the congregation. People don't just want to hear what we say... they are watching what we are doing.

We have lost some of our distinction of holiness. Perhaps the feeling is that we are too strict and the times require more compromise. But the congregation is looking for more exemplified leadership even in this area. In 2 Corinthians 6:17, the Lord told us, "Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."



Ron Macey, Houston, TX - I feel there is a difference in Apostolic power, Spirit, and miracles, especially in America, compared to early Pentecost. I believe the reason for this is distraction and the frenetic pace we bring on ourselves. The church in the early 1900s had simpler lives and worked hard, but nothing came before the Lord and his work.

God has not changed, but people have. The Apostolic church has changed by allowing other things to take the place of their pursuit of God and his Kingdom. The power, faith, and passion can be restored, but we must spend time with the source, Jesus Christ. Matthew 5:6 says; "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

We have lost some Apostolic distinction that teaches us to live a holy life unto the Lord. We can't just have the right hairstyle. We must have the Apostolic lifestyle.



Kevin Blake, Bay City, TX - God's power to perform has not diminished. What I think has diminished is a true hunger for the miraculous. Pentecostals of today are more affluent than we were a generation or two ago. We look to our 401K instead of heaven for provision. Walmart and Walgreens are ready to meet our needs. If we are to see a restoration of living by faith, it has to come through Godly leadership. Separation and righteous living must be believed, exemplified, and taught from the pulpit before they can be grasped in the pew. If we want to see Apostolic power activated in our

churches and ministries, we must seek a true Apostolic anointing without looking for shortcuts. Divine healing, miraculous provision, and deliverance from sin and addiction are still happening today!



Carl McLaughlin, Euless, TX - I can only surmise, due to not being present in past eras. However, from reports, provided by our organization, we are experiencing tremendous growth with recorded miracles and people being filled with the Holy Ghost.

There seems to be less sustained passion in America though, versus that of the foreign fields. Passion and power come through strong leadership that will maintain an Apostolic environment by willingly and lovingly confronting sin and the carnal nature seeking to hijack Apostolic identity. Drifting does not start with a church; drifting begins with the leader. As a leader drifts, the church follows the drift into carnal substitutes.

Lines of distinction regarding holiness have slowly moved. When ministry becomes entertainment-driven more than prayerfully led and focuses on performance and production, more than anointing and distinction, there is a loss of spiritual power. The lack of understanding of that distinction comes from a lack of teaching sound doctrine and holiness that are fundamental doctrines of the Bible (2 Tim 4:3; Titus 1:9).



Theo Heartsill, Walnut Springs, TX - I believe the present-day church in America doesn't experience the quantity and quality of miracles like past eras for many reasons: Time with God has dwindled. Culture has infiltrated the church. Logic and reason have displaced faith. Compromise has replaced holiness. Gifts and talents have replaced the Gifts of the Spirit, and fear of man has replaced the fear of God.

The main problem I see with the modern-day church is that people want Apostolic signs, wonders, and miracles without the Apostolic lifestyle that brought it.

Things we can do: Believe what God said. Pray faith-filled prayers. Read God-breathed scripture. Sing Holy Ghost-inspired songs. Walk in the anointing. Manifest his Kingdom, and preach and teach the truth of God's life-changing Word. Be the church!

Vision, MISSION, Action

Rev. Don Haymon II / Denver, CO

Written By Linda Schreckenberger



Pastor and First Lady Haymon

"The mission field, reaching and transforming the people of the world, is the focus of my ministry," said Pastor Don Haymon II. Along with his lovely wife, LaRonda, he serves as Senior Pastor of Calvary Apostolic Church in Denver, Colorado. Their oldest son, Don III, is the Administrative Pastor of Calvary. Pastor Haymon presently serves as the Colorado North American Missions Director and served in the past as the state Launch Your Ministry Coordinator.

Principles of Growth & Revival

Pastor Haymon believes the keys to a growing church are having an others-oriented "theme-ology," an others-oriented theology, and an others-oriented paradigm that defies the tendency to circle the wagons and get settled in for the long haul.

When asked about his priorities as Pastor, he said, "I want to be faithful over a few things. On that day, I hope Jesus can run down this quick list of a few things: I was a faithful Christian, spouse, parent, friend, and worker, all in cascading order."

He explained Calvary's growth methods by these words: "At Calvary, engaging and involving newcomers as soon as they are willing is very important. First of all, it is important to make them feel like they belong before expecting them to become. Uplift creates in-draw. When we're lifting up the Lord Jesus, we're going to have an in-draw without a huge effort for outreach. Uplift/in-draw creates a vacuum for outreach. When we're doing that publicly, especially online with no holds barred, pulling out the stops, and having worship broadcasts, it really is powerful. We have people coming from all walks of life. They are seeing the world around them spiraling out of control like never before, and they're looking for a safe place, a place of stability, and a place for their kids to have a future. These are the finest days for the Apostolic church."

Organization & Management

The departments at Calvary include the Calvary Kids Club, Chaplaincy, Small Groups, Calvary Young Adults, Calvary Student Ministry, and Elements of New Life, based on the new convert curriculum *Elements* by Dr. David Bernard, and available through PPH. Pastor Haymon

highly recommends it, saying, "There are twenty-four powerful lessons, leading from the very elementary to the more detailed and advanced. The course, including leaders' guides and videos, is excellent and takes around two to three months to complete." Elements of New Life, along with other Calvary ministries, all have their own leadership. Next Steps Ministry has a leader who is involved with helping everyone, regardless of level, to find their next ministry step. He explained, "This is very important in a multi-generational church, because people do tend to become entrenched and fail to proceed in their development as leaders. They can become burned-out and discouraged, and end up in no ministry by becoming bitter. Our purpose is to keep people moving forward toward their goal to find what ministry fits them best." Other departments include Worship Experience (all music, including adult and children's choirs), Calvary Productions (all media), and Calvary Academy (K-12).

Pastor Haymon meets with the core administration weekly and meets with the greater core of ministries leadership once a month. They do have job descriptions and monthly updates. Leaders attend an annual Vision Summit where they pull the core team in and have an onsite planning retreat. Calvary ministry leaders also attend the Motion Conference held at First Church in Pearland, Texas (Pastor Ken Gurley). Bro. Haymon described the conference, saying, "This is an extremely motivating modern methodology of loving and caring for new souls. We've done that for several years in a row, and it's a really great training ground."

Before COVID, about sixty percent of the members of Calvary were involved in some form of ministry. They are rebuilding since COVID, and that percentage is now nearly the same. At least fifty percent are involved in evangelism. Pastor Haymon doesn't want any members just sitting on pews. He wants them to be involved, and he promotes and encourages involvement by preaching about it and leading by example. He teaches about five or six Bible studies per week to people who are not in church, and he keeps that going so he continually has a new base of those he is reaching for. It has been successful not only by asking the saints to do it, but also by showing them how it's done.



A Sanctuary Filled With Hungry Hearts for God



A Convert is Baptized

Special Miracles

The highest level of miracles for Calvary would be God's miraculous provision. Pastor Haymon said, "We're currently worshipping in our fourth sanctuary. They've all been expanded, and never have we had a mortgage! God has helped us pay for every building literally before we moved into them. We have had multiple cancer patients become completely healed, from salivary gland cancer to leukemia, and others. And, it's been so

beautiful to see some of those people become chaplains in the very hospitals where they started their journeys toward healing. Prayer is a main focus at Calvary, and the entire congregation is going through *The Book On Prayer* by Pastor Ken Gurley. We have broken it down into just the right number of lessons to be teachable at our campus small groups on a weekly basis. We also have all-church prayer two nights later. We learn, and then we do. At the end of April, we plan to have Bro. Gurley come and preach a three-night seminar. Post-pandemic, this has revived our church's burden and reinforced our understanding of the need for prayer. We also created our own study guide with an outline form for teachers to teach on his book."

Personal Ministry

His philosophy of ministry is a chain reaction of events that must happen beginning with a defining moment, called a primary spiritual event. He said, "Everybody has one, and everybody can have one if they have not yet. It's the point of the beginning of spiritual formation where Christ begins to be formed in us. At that moment there needs to be a deep pursuit of God's vision for us individually, and the vision has a chain reaction of the mission being formed out of that vision. The mission being properly anchored in the vision and the resulting spiritual formation will lead to the right process and action. Action is the eventual pursuit, but it cannot be first. It must be last. The thing we want to do first must wait until we



Pastor Haymon Preaching

have received the spiritual formation, anchoring us in the Holy Ghost, giving us true vision and mission to accomplish, and then the process of "mission before action." Pastor enjoys preaching on personal development. Asked what the focus of his ministry is, he answered, "A mission field, called the world, who comes through the doors of Calvary."

Current Facility

The current facility has 21,000 square feet of space with a shared facility for Calvary's Christian school, as well as the worship center with a seating capacity for about 300 people. They are out of space and are looking for a new place. Pastor Haymon said, "God will provide that in His time. One wing of our facility is a student chapel that seats about eighty people, and we have around ten classrooms, plus a Kid's Center. We're the only Apostolic church within walking distance of the city's light-rail system. You can actually see our church steeple from the station. The unique story behind our facility is synonymous with our previous facility. God sent along financiers who, in faith, made a contribution to pay for every facility entirely and to provide the worship centers we're in now. We have never had to have a mortgage! As for expansion, we would like to buy homes in the area of our property when God opens the door."

Personal History

Bro. Haymon grew up in Denver, Colorado, and was raised in the church. He received the Holy Ghost at age nine while praying between his mother and father. He always felt a call from God that was unspoken but very present. He began his ministry at age seventeen and preached his first sermon at Calvary. His educational background includes church, school, University of Denver, and Hope International University. He holds an undergraduate degree in Communication and a graduate degree in Christian Leadership.

His father, Rev. Donald Haymon I, influenced his ministry the most. Along with his father and father-in-law, Rev. Wayne Ellard's influence on his ministry, Elder Timothy Spell and Rev. Martyn Ballestero have been very influential in his ministry and life.

His father started a four-year pastoral apprenticeship with him when he was seventeen. They worked closely together until Pastor

Haymon was ordained at age twenty-one in 1986. At that time, he became Assistant Pastor until 1996. Then, he became the Associate Pastor from 1996-2000 and became Senior Pastor in 2000. Pastor Haymon said, "My father always had a deep appreciation for my calling and worked with me from a young age to begin a transition. I was a pliable and honorable son to my father and have maintained a deep appreciation of the course he set from 1956 when he founded the church. I refused to be someone who would seek his own personal way. There was a point where I became individuated and began my own ministry with his support rather than side-by-side. I have endeavored to be an example for transitional leadership for churches, especially for those with a father-to-son transition. Numerous churches have called upon us for assistance in helping them get through the growing pains, pitfalls, and mindsets of pastoral transitions from father-to-son, especially in places where the father remained present. I followed my father carefully for twenty-five years, so I have a track record of being a follower; that is so very important. My father presented this transition process to the church some thirty years in advance to make it as smooth as possible."

Church History

The former location of the church was about ten minutes closer to the city center. In 1956 his father and grandmother were in Denver to help with another church. They prayed for the will of God, and the door opened. The first services of the church, then called South Denver United Pentecostal Church, were held in a small storefront. Expansion and revival were present from their first days.

When Bro. Haymon II began pastoral ministry, door-knocking and Sunday School bus ministry were the staple outreach methods. He said, "My father advertised on television in the 1980s, before Pentecost got ahold of that understanding, and that spoke clearly to me of the need for utilizing all forms of media usage."

Human Interest

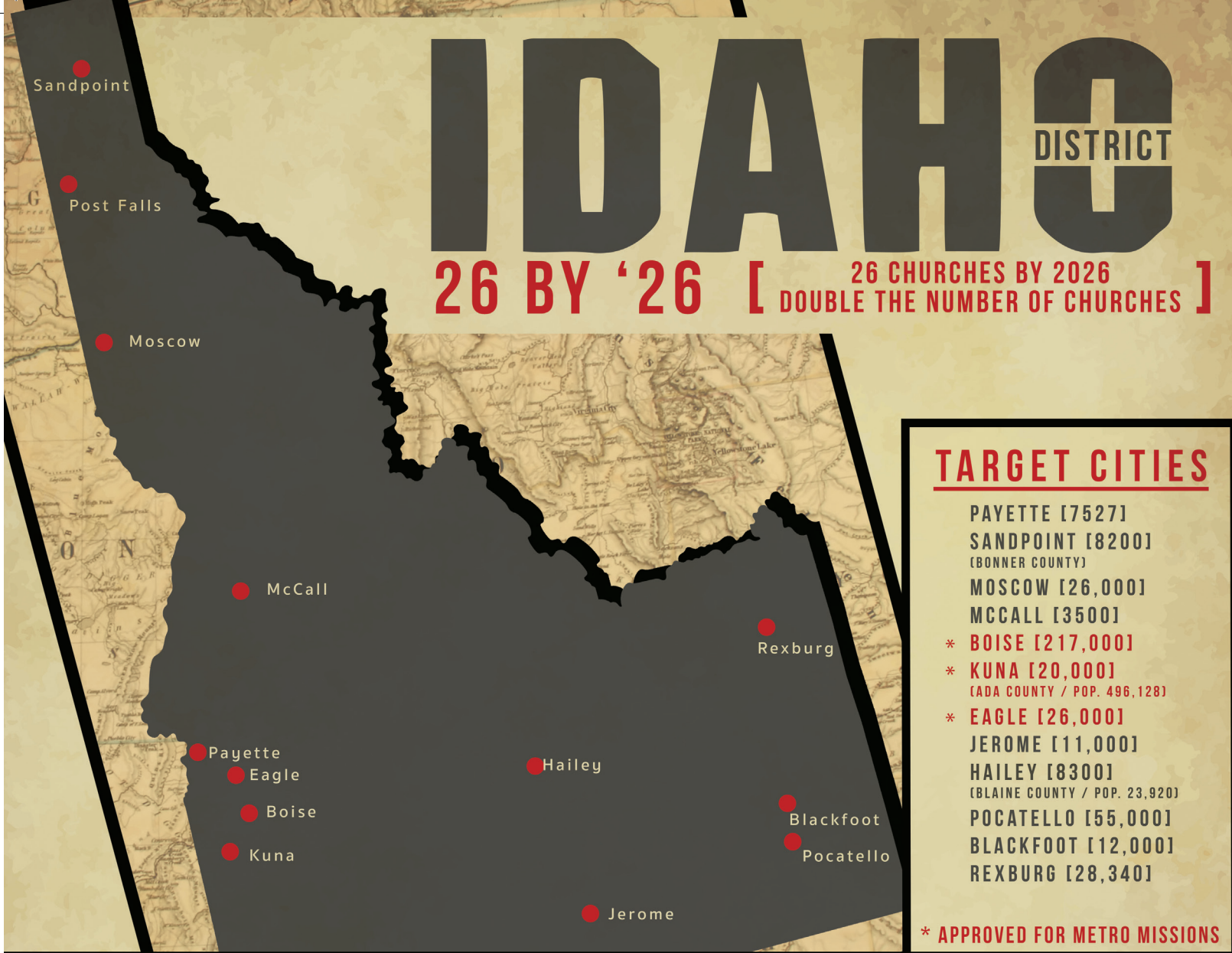
Bro. Haymon said, "My favorite leisure time activity has been thirty years of dating my wife." He's a certified SCUBA diver and bow hunter, has killed large game, and enjoys snow sports. The family time activity he enjoys most is boating. They have a Bernedoodle named Monet and a Maltese named Jazz.

Pastor Haymon said people would probably be surprised to learn that he is an audiophile and has taken college classes on audio reproduction. And, he is a coffee junkie. In fact, he has quite a coffee bar in his home. He also collects elk buglers, the sets of teeth on bulls, referred to as buglers, that help them make bugle noises.

His favorite preacher is Rev. Raymond Woodward, and his favorite author is Eugene H. Peterson, translator of *The Message Bible*. One of his favorite books by Peterson is a book about the life of David, titled *Leap Over A Wall*.



Church Exterior



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



Let Me Run



Chad A. Parker
Executive Vice President

The children at Tupelo Children's Mansion know all too well the struggles that life can bring. Many of the children come to us with deep-rooted pain; pain that many have tried to help them overcome, but with little success. Their race in this life has started out with great

difficulty. Some, tragically, have even thought of giving up. The rejection and disappointment has been too painful. Like runners in a race for which they've not had the proper training or support, these children come to TCM feeling that failure is imminent. Are they too broken? Are they unloveable?

On the campus of TCM, our children find staff who are dedicated to teaching them, supporting them, and training them to run this race called life. The Apostle Paul said in Hebrews 12:1, "Run with endurance the race that God has put before you." Endurance requires both patience and hope. Patience to navigate the process. Hope for a better tomorrow. It's not an easy race, but as the Psalmist said, "There may be pain in the night but joy comes in the morning (Psalm 30:5)." Morning comes each time they encounter the overwhelming love of a Savior. With hands lifted and tears flowing, love begins to work a transformation that can only come from God.

With new life, like a second wind, these children see that they can make it. The race isn't over; rather, it has just begun. For sixty-eight years, TCM has made it possible for children to get their second wind, and we want you to be a part of what is happening.

Once again, we invite you to sponsor this life-changing, hope-restoring ministry by giving to our 13th Annual Mansion Fun Run. Our goal is \$68,000 - one thousand dollars for every year this ministry has existed. You can help us change lives with a donation. By sponsoring this year's Fun Run, you are investing in a child's future.

I am reminded of the Biblical account in II Samuel 18 of Ahimaaz who wanted desperately to run to King David to deliver the news of God's deliverance. Joab denied his request, telling him that delivering the news of Absalom's death may not be received well. However, Ahimaaz wanted to celebrate the great work of God and responded, "Whatever happens, let me run!" Like Ahimaaz, we are ecstatic about the blessings of God that have rained down upon this ministry and our Mansion kids. In the last year, we have seen dozens of children encounter His presence and have watched in awe as He has performed miracles in their lives.

And like Ahimaaz, I want to run! Run to celebrate His great blessings! I know that you can't run with us in person, but you can run with us through your generosity. Every gift is important, regardless of the amount, and will make a difference in the life of a child in need. To sponsor, you can give online at mansionkids.org/run. Thank you for helping us help our Mansion kids!

Rev. Nathanael Turner - Missionary to Estonia

Interviewed By Samantha Braden



Nathanael Turner & Family

Nathanael Turner is a 2001 graduate of Indiana Bible College (IBC). He also holds a B.A. from Indiana University. During a summer break from IBC, he traveled to Europe to visit his missionary parents, and went with them to attend a regional conference in the Netherlands. He met his Norwegian-born wife, Ingunn, during that conference. He and Ingunn were married in Norway in 2004. They served as Associates in Missions (AIM) missionaries in Lithuania before their appointment as missionaries to Estonia in 2007. They have two sons, Christopher, who will be 15 in May, and Michael, who will be 13 in June, both of whom are involved in the Tallinn church.

"I was first recruited to serve on AIM in Estonia by Missionary Mark Shutes in the summer of 2002," Bro. Turner said. He previously served on AIM in Russia and Norway.

Bro. Turner grew up as an MK in South Korea and Russia. He interrupted his studies at Indiana University in Bloomington to attend Indiana Bible College for three semesters and AIM'ed in Norway his final semester.

Preparation from Bible College

Bro. Turner strongly believes attending IBC helped to prepare him for the foreign field. He knew he was called to preach but had not had much experience before transferring to IBC. While taking O. C. Marler's *Preaching I and II* classes, when it was his turn to preach to his classmates, Bro. Turner's throat "closed up from nervousness and [he] could hardly force the words out." He credits his Bloomington pastor, Tracy Noel, and the youth group there, along with IBC, for helping him overcome a lot of his shyness. Because of the classes he took at IBC, he continued his education at Urshan Graduate School of Theology where he earned his master's degree. He is extremely grateful for "IBC classmates and instructors who have enriched my life and helped me in the work that the Lord has called me to."

Life in Estonia

While acknowledging that nobody is ever truly qualified to face every challenge that being a missionary will bring, Bro. Turner points out some very critical qualifications to life on the field: "Doctrinal confidence, a love for people, a passion for the purpose of missions, experience in ministry, and a willingness and determination to stick it out and adapt to changing or adverse conditions." However, he is quick to point out that missions work is ultimately a spiritual work that cannot be done with human strength and ability, so one must lean on the Spirit of God.

Ministry in Estonia has its particular challenges, he said. A Gallup poll revealed Estonia is the least religious nation in the European Union, although it still has a strong spiritual influence of paganism. A 2003 survey, Bro. Turner said, showed that "only 18% of Estonians believe there is a God." The culture has also been shaped by communism, so people are not "accustomed to praying aloud at the same time... or to demonstrative worship." On the positive side, "The fact that practically no one is already a Christian means that there is less that has to be unlearned from false doctrine and traditions."

The Miraculous in Estonia

While ministering in Estonia, the Turner family has witnessed the miraculous hand of God at work in the nation. Bro. Turner notes that "during these years, God has filled... all ages [with the Holy Ghost] in all kinds of places." They have witnessed several miraculous healings, including one healed during baptism, and a woman they prayed for who had a health problem that was supposed to keep her from having children. She later gave birth to a healthy child.

They saw God heal a man waiting for a heart transplant. "I asked him if he wanted us to pray for a new heart, or for God to heal the heart that he had. I'll never forget it. He looked up at me with faith in his eyes and said, 'I want a new heart... but I don't want a different one.' We prayed with faith in Jesus' name and felt the peace of God fill that room. His daughter later told us that the doctors had run some new tests and told him that his heart seemed young, and that he should go home and live his life." During the pandemic, Bro. Turner is teaching the man and his wife an online Bible study.

Besides ministering weekly in Tallinn, they also provide leadership for a Russian-speaking church in Narva and a more recent group in Tartu with Estonians and international university students, where several have been baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost.



MARK 4:35-41

BEYOND BEYOND BEYOND

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2021
GLOBAL MISSIONS SERVICE
10.06.21



The Key to EFFECTIVE and IMPACTFUL Youth Events

Interviewed By Drew Mains



Aaron Arrowood
Seymour, IN

Bro. Aaron Arrowood currently serves as the Assistant Pastor at The Tabernacle in Seymour, Indiana. He also pastors a daughter work of The Tabernacle in Westport, Indiana. He and his wife, Misty, met at Indiana Bible College and have been married for twenty-five years. They have a twenty-one-year-old son, Matthew,

and an eleven-year-old daughter, Audrey. Bro. Arrowood also faithfully served as a youth pastor for eighteen years at The Tabernacle. During that time, Bro. Arrowood gained valuable insight that he continues to pass on to current and future youth leaders.

What do you consider a youth event to be?

A "youth event" is not a youth service. It is simply a time to be together having fun. It doesn't have to necessarily be spiritual. The goal is to connect with your youth in a relaxed setting. As you connect with students in relaxed settings, they learn to respect and trust you. This leads to spiritual discipleship which is the ultimate goal of youth pastoring.

As youth pastor, I planned a weekly Friday night event. I made sure that the youth could count on there being an event every week. I wanted to make sure the kids had something fun to look forward to. I knew I was competing with sports events, non-church friends, entertainment, etc. It took a lot of time and creativity to plan a weekly event but the results were well worth the effort.

A couple of things the youth seemed to like the best were:

- Various forms of scavenger hunts. Sometimes we would hide \$50 in \$1 bills. The clues were hidden all over the building. The clues were Scriptures. For instance, if a Scripture was about baptism, the clue would lead them to the baptistry area.

- In the summer we would have a giant water balloon fight. We divided a field in half. The youth built their own forts and hung a flag in each fort. At the end, whichever side had the driest flag won.

What do you think makes a youth event effective and impactful?

The main thing is to have fun. Kids should have so much fun that there is no longer a need for a program. You know you were successful when they are disappointed when it's time to leave. If they are having fun, they will come back. Their guard will come down. This leads to a relationship with youth leaders.

You make disciples overtly in Bible studies, classes, and youth services. At youth events, you have a chance to make disciples covertly. Discussions come up randomly and defenses are down while kids are having fun. In the middle of having fun, you can interject words of caution and advice in a non threatening way. Kids will be more open to what you have to say. Ultimately, youth events should be so much fun that the youth leader has a way to covertly speak into their lives.

But remember to be safe and always keep moral safety a priority. Don't let boys and girls sit next to each other in a van. Have enough chaperones to protect their moral safety. Don't plan activities where kids will be out of sight if you don't have enough chaperones to help. I also learned that you have to strategically place kids and chaperones in hotel rooms when traveling.

What are some things you've seen work really well?

The most successful events were when we gave kids an opportunity to serve others. One example is making and delivering gift baskets to shut-ins. We learned that if you are constantly catering to the kids, they can become selfish and self-centered. Giving kids opportunities to serve creates confidence and can extend into future burdens for ministry.

My best advice is to overplan but be flexible. Have a time frame/outline for the event. Account for every moment going in but if kids start engaging and having fun with a particular activity then adjust the schedule and be flexible. Go with what works in the moment. Allow for creativity.

What are some things you've seen not go well?

The times I didn't make a schedule were when I felt frustrated. I also learned not to be too rigid. Don't let the kids feel your stress. The things I found that worked well were actually born from my mistakes. When I only focused on a set schedule, I couldn't enjoy the moment with my kids. I learned from them. You have to set and keep boundaries while still allowing opportunities for creativity and laughter.

Do you have any interesting stories or testimonies you'd like to share?

Astounding conversations happened on van rides. I learned the most about my kids in conversations had while picking kids up and taking them home. I will never forget playing the game "Never have I ever." A young girl said, "Never have I ever talked to my dad." I had no idea prior to that moment.

Our greatest moments were when prayer meetings happened spontaneously. Those moments when fun events suddenly become an open door to a spiritual conversation, tough topics, or Bible study are what drive youth pastors.

What are some of the most important things youth leaders should be doing today?

Be consistent. You have to let the kids know they can depend on you to keep your word. Their world is full of uncertainty and people who don't keep their word. Be someone the kids can talk to. Be real! You have to love them all, even the trouble makers. Pray for them by name every day. Look at the kids with confidence about who they are going to be. Look at them as future missionaries, pastors, preachers and leaders in the church.

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.

apostolic calendar 2021

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SPEAKERS / NOTES	CONTACT / INFO
MAY 6	Indiana Bible College Graduation Banquet Honoring the graduating class of 2021.	Event location will be announced closer to the event date.	The banquet speaker 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.
MAY 8-18	Indiana Bible College Chorale Tour The IBC Chorale embarks on an extensive tour of anointed praise and worship.	Destinations will be announced closer to the event date.	Join the IBC Chorale in what will surely be a wonderful time of worship and singing to the Lord.	Visit www.indianabiblecollege.org for more details.
JUNE 4-8	Arkansas International Campmeeting A conference where Apostolic doctrine is not only preached but embraced. The message of Acts 2:38 remains the same!	Registration will be opening soon; location to be announced at that time.	Jesse Galindo, Wesley Jackson, Joel McCoy, Nathaniel Urshan, Joel Holmes, Matt Tuttle	Visit https://www.fpcnlr.com/aricm for more information.
JULY 23-27	North American Bible Quizzing Tournament PCI Youth Ministries will submit the list of BQE-qualifying teams to the hotel (an initial maximum of 4 rooms/team). The host hotel will contact teams for specific rooming and payment information.	Indianapolis, IN Host hotel will be announced at a later date.	Speakers for devotions and services will be announced closer to the event date.	Visit www.seniorbiblequizzing.com for more information.
JULY 28-30	North American Youth Congress The world's largest apostolic youth event, filled with dynamic preaching, singing, and fellowship.	Lucas Oil Stadium	Speakers for this conference will be announced closer to the event date.	For more information: www.northamericanyouthcongress.com
AUG 29	Move the Mission Offering Due Date Formerly Sheaves for Christ, Move the Mission is the fundraising ministry of the Youth Ministries of the United Pentecostal Church International. Since its inception in 1953, over \$134 million has been raised to fund missions and ministries around the world.	This event will be promoted at churches nationwide.	When you invest in Move the Mission you intentionally share the gospel around the world!	Visit www.movethemission.com for more information.
SEPT 9-10	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 1	CMI - Awakening Registration Available The Virtual Conference for Apostolic Campus Ministers	This event will be held online.	Aaron Soto, Lindsy Walker, Mike McGurk, Kaleb Saucer	Visit www.upciyouth.com/events for more information.000
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.
NOV 1	AYC Online Applications Available Apostolic Youth Corps is a branch of UPCI Youth Ministries that facilitates the pairing of ministry-minded Pentecostal students with North American and international sites which need and desire evangelism assistance.	Destinations will be announced closer to the event date.	AYC North American trips are open to applicants 15-35 years of age. If an applicant is 14 and turning 15 during the same calendar year as the trip, they also qualify.	Visit www.apostolicyouthcorps.com for more information.
NOV 12-13	Chicagoland Men's Conference Our goal is to continue to be a meeting men can gather from all over our fellowship to be strengthened, renewed, inspired, blessed, and be better men and stronger men.	Family Harvest Church 18500 92nd Ave. Tinley Park, IL 60487	Speakers for this conference will be announced closer to the event date.	Visit www.chicagolandmensconference.com for 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.christmasforchrist.faith for more information.

CANCELLED

Church Growth: His Masterpiece



Jason Gallion

Church Today

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God Turns the Willing into Warriors

There are times in our lives when God begins to call us to things that we absolutely feel unqualified to do. In those circumstances, one of the best things we can do is to stop listening to the enemy, as well as our flesh, and say, "Whatever God calls me to do, I can do it - no, I *will* do it."

You see, Gideon was like that. He was a man that was just average, and ordinary. He even makes the statement with his own lips, "I'm the least in my father's house."

You know the story. Gideon is supposed to be threshing wheat up in the hills, where the wind would blow from the Sea of Galilee. That was wheat that would allow them to feed their families to sustain themselves, even to plant for the next year's harvest.

But Gideon was not up in the hills for fear of the Midianites, the Amalekites, and all the children of the East. The Bible describes them as grasshoppers because they would come into an area and consume everything, leaving nothing for life to be sustained.

There was no one who was going to stand up and challenge this magnificent army, 135,000 strong men who were going to march down from the hills and take whatever they wanted. Gideon was no different than everyone else, because he'd snuck around, gathered his wheat, and gone down to the wine press.

He's in the wrong place at the wrong time. He's separating by hand what the wind should have done for him. Here he is, hiding in the wine press, and yet the angel goes on and proclaims, "Thou mighty man of valor..." a coward that's hiding from the enemy!

But is that really a coward? One man against 135,000? Maybe he's just playing it safe. Maybe he's just smart. Maybe he's a rational guy that says, "Well, I'll do this and my family can eat for a couple of days, at least. No sense in putting myself out there. I mean, who am I against all of them?"

But you see, God had a different idea. Because God doesn't need what you think He needs. Do you want to know what God needs and wants? God wants somebody that's willing to do whatever He has asked him to do. It doesn't matter if you feel unqualified. God just needs one person to stand up and say, "I'll do the will of God. It doesn't matter what the enemy comes against me with. It doesn't matter how big the enemy's army is. It doesn't matter how many grasshoppers there seem to be."

All God really needs is for you to stand up and say, "I believe God is able." Gideon was not a warrior nor was he a fighter. But he was a man that was willing to do the will of God. All we need is the Spirit of God. Revival is not contingent on what we can do. Revival is contingent on what we allow God to do through us. Because that's all God needs.



Bobby Killmon

Theology

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How do I deal with claims that phrases like "God of gods" and "Lord of lords" in Deut. 10:17 show ancient Israel didn't believe in absolute monotheism?

To interpret this passage correctly, it must be viewed against what all of Scripture speaks of God. Correlation, or letting Scripture interpret Scripture, is critical because we believe there is One real Author of Scripture, God Himself. The Bible unequivocally teaches absolute monotheism from Genesis to Revelation. So, how do we make sense of passages like these?

The point of passages like these is simple: God is supreme over anything else called "god." Scripture doesn't teach the existence of other lesser "gods" anywhere. God says in Is. 46:9, "for I am God, and there is none else," and in Is. 44:8b, "Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any," and in Is. 45:6, "That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else." In Deut. 6:4 Moses writes by the Spirit of God, "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD." It's not one substance (yesh - יש). You cannot argue for a plurality of persons in one substance, nor can you argue for one higher deity among many lesser.

Further, in Is. 41:24 Scripture says that all idols "are of nothing" (לֵאמֹר). The primitive root of the Hebrew word means "to be nothing" or "not exist." So Israel was taught that idols are "nothing" or things that "do not exist." This is affirmed by God in the NT in 1 Cor. 8:4 when Paul is inspired to write "...we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one." This is the biblical, or apostolic, position. We affirm the OT view of God as the absolutely one and only God in existence.

The notion of an evolving "absolute monotheism" in OT Israelite history is based on views popularized in the 1800s by critics of the Bible. Rooted in ideas of an "evolutionary view of human religions," skeptics like August Comte suggested "stages of development in religious history," moving from animism to polytheism, then polytheism to monotheism, and finally from monotheism to "the most brilliant of man's intellectual history," atheism. If evolution were true in nature, why shouldn't it be true regarding humanity's religious thought? No historical or archeological proof was asserted; just assertions as "proof."

Instead of seeing passages like Deut. 10:17; Ex. 12:12; 15:11; Judg. 2:3; 1 Kings 11:4; 1 Chron. 16:25; Ps. 29:1; 86:8; 89:6; 95; 97:7; 136:2 as normal OT ways of speaking of idols that are nothing, human rulers, or even angels, they postulate something foreign to the Bible's total witness of Itself. From Adam and Eve till today, Scripture's revelation of absolute monotheism is what God has prescribed as true worship. Aren't you glad to be oneness?



T. W. Massengale

Church Growth

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Home Bible Study Success

Is the Home Bible Study (HBS) ministry still a viable evangelism method? Most would respond yes. It has been highly successful since its inception and continues to be a powerful method for winning souls. Why? Because a HBS is simply teaching the Word of God. So whether you use a chart or a printed study guide, sharing biblical truth in a clear and easily understood format works. If your church is not involved in HBS, it should be.

So how do you launch a HBS ministry

within the local church? My recommendation would be to bring in someone that has had considerable success with winning souls with the HBS ministry and have them present this method to your church. Schedule them for your largest service. The principle is so powerful and the stories so moving, you will have a fantastic altar call - and you will also have a list of people who would like to be taught a study. If this special speaker is on fire about winning the lost via HBS, it will stir the saint and sinner alike and provide a platform to launch the ministry in your local church.

This service should be immediately followed up with a good three-to-four-hour HBS training seminar. Here you share the nuts and bolts of how to teach a HBS. Your guest speaker can teach this as well, or you may teach it yourself. But here is my key

point: for HBS to be successful you need people willing, ready, and trained to teach. People need to know how to get a study, how to teach a study, and how to win their study to the Lord. But teaching a HBS is not difficult. It should be taught in a relaxed, informal way, conversational, and interactive with the student.

Churches should not have trouble getting studies. New converts, visitor follow-up, bus ministry, door-knocking, and more can provide you with more studies than you can teach. The challenge is getting teachers and the way to get teachers is to regularly promote the ministry and teach a HBS training seminar two-three times each year. If you would like a packet for HBS success, or would like a PowerPoint HBS training seminar, call (317) 781-7712. The cost is just \$5.00.

CHRISTMASFORCHRIST.FAITH



CHRISTMAS
FOR CHRIST

THIS YEAR'S OFFERING DATE
DECEMBER 19, 2021

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

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

For your convenience, **offering online giving.**



Visit **christmasforchrist.faith** or Contact North American Missions
or your district NAM director for more information.



THANK YOU

FOR YOUR 2020 RECORD-BREAKING OFFERING OF

\$6,026,726.03

BECAUSE YOU GAVE, ALL APPROVED CFC
APPLICATIONS ARE BEING FUNDED!

TOP 20 DISTRICTS

Alaska-Yukon	\$416,940.38
Louisiana	\$388,013.38
Florida	\$325,397.21
Indiana	\$316,561.16
Arkansas	\$235,003.52
Mississippi	\$230,215.95
British Columbia	\$226,232.70
Ohio	\$200,073.58
Wisconsin	\$192,826.84
Missouri	\$190,260.31
Illinois	\$185,029.73
Michigan	\$180,896.06
Western	\$179,507.72
Ontario	\$173,058.40
Georgia	\$158,490.00
Texas	\$151,413.50
Oregon	\$146,321.61
Pennsylvania	\$134,376.63
North Carolina	\$133,696.00
Tennessee	\$125,500.00

TOP 20 CHURCHES

Life Church Anchorage, AK Jim Blackshear	\$195,000.00
Greater Faith Church New Albany, IN J. Todd Nichols	\$91,476.55
United Pentecostal Church Gainesville, FL Jimmy Toney	\$88,000.00
The Pentecostals of Bossier City Bossier City, LA Jerry Dean	\$58,322.06
The Pentecostals of Fort St. John Fort St. John, BC Jason McLaughlin	\$57,000.00
Pentecostals of Alexandria Alexandria, LA Anthony & Gentry Mangun, Andrew Cox	\$55,000.00
First Pentecostal Church Whitehorse, YT Craig Colvin	\$49,700.05
Apostolic Pentecostal Church St. Louis, MO Steve Willeford	\$46,222.07
Vancouver West Church Vancouver, BC Anthony Ens	\$45,500.00
Atlanta West Pentecostal Church Lithia Springs, GA Darrell Johns	\$45,100.00
Apostolic Truth Church Appleton, WI Aaron Soto	\$45,000.00
Turnpointe Church of Conway Conway, AR Bryan Shock	\$42,021.00
Theocracy Apostolic Fellowship North York, ON Calmer Rosal	\$34,000.00
Bethel United Pentecostal Church Bethel, AK Lorin Bradbury	\$33,651.97
First United Pentecostal Church Odessa, TX Terry Pugh	\$31,000.00
Christ Temple UPC Tiverton, RI Jay Stirnemann	\$30,000.00
Bethel United Pentecostal Church Old Westbury, NY D. D. Davis, Sr., Doug Davis, Jr.	\$30,000.00
Eastwind Pentecostal Church Palm Bay, FL David Myers	\$26,500.00
New Life Fellowship Terre Haute, IN Jeffrey Harpole	\$26,500.00
The Sanctuary UPC Hazelwood, MO Mitchell Bland, Paul Marion	\$25,838.33

THE
9TH YEAR
— FOR A —
RECORD-BREAKING
OFFERING



Carol Clemans

Spiritual Growth

carol@carolclemans.org

Confidential Counseling for Pastor/Family!

Families in ministry are just as human as the people sitting on the church pews. In my twenty-eight years of counseling, pastors and wives have called me to help with their personal marriage and family issues. When my Hubby went to the Lord in July 2020, we had been married fifty years. Rev. Harold Clemans (a graduate of Conqueror's Bible College) had been an ordained minister for sixty years. Throughout our fifty years, between the two of us, we have fulfilled almost every position in a church, from pastor, platform ministry, Sunday school, pastoral counseling, music, custodial, and lawn maintenance, etc.

Ministry couples tell me they do not know who they can trust with their problems in life. All of my counseling is in strict confidentiality. I've counseled with ministry couples on anger issues, porn addiction recovery, parenting, communication skills, emotional healing – pain from the past or present, etc.

Isaiah 61 shares about the good news that was coming (salvation), healing the broken in heart and setting the captives free (from toxic thinking). The devil delights in trying to destroy each of us no matter our position in the body of Christ. If he destroys a pastor and family, he will destroy others who watch it happen.

Go to www.carolclemans.org. Read the 'about' ministry page for my history in God and family. God's Word has the answers for hurting hearts. All of us must be willing to humble ourselves before God and have integrity with God. When we individually surrender to God as husband and wife, we can work through any problem, being transformed by renewing our mind/heart with God's truth – Romans 12:1-2.

I want to challenge pastors and wives to surrender to God who will bring healing to your hearts that will reach your children and the congregation that God has placed in your hands. A healthy family talks and shares feelings so they can build trust. An unhealthy family refuses to talk and share feelings; therefore, they do not build trust. Spiritually healthy leaders will produce healthy children and a healthy church!

www.carolclemans.org – Bible teacher 60 yrs. Cert. Pastoral Counselor 28 yrs. Holy Ghost 66 yrs. Nationwide counseling (636) 448-0121. Join: www.patreon.com/carolclemans. Mins. Ref: Pastor Daniel Batchelor, Duplo, IL.



Vickie Hodges

Identity and Scripture

VickieHodgesSharingLife@gmail.com

LIFE-Living In Freedom EVERYDAY (Part 3)

We have arrived at the halfway point of our emotional healing journey. The first two steps of this journey had unique characteristics (circumstances) that caused our emotions to become damaged and our memories to remain unhealed. It is within this third step that we a) make a conscientious decision; b) understand what forgiveness is and what forgiveness is not; and finally c) accept responsibility for our emotions and behaviors.

First, it is not always easy to make the right choice. But when we have been so spent and there is nothing left within ourselves to hold ourselves together, just remember that it is within our weakest moments that God's amazing strength prevails. It's time we trade information about God for a relationship with God. The psalmist said we must not lean to our own understanding, but fully trust in the Lord. Yes, trust has been a major issue in our lives due to life's hurt, pain, trauma, and oftentimes abuse. But remember, Christ is the One who gave His life for us that we might live that victorious overcoming life.

Next, and after we have made the conscientious decision to allow God to take control of our lives, we begin to understand what forgiveness is and what it is not. When someone has done us wrong, it seems like the right response would be not to forgive them because we feel they should pay for the offense. Forgiveness does not mean that we minimize the offense. Forgiveness is not reconciliation. Finally, forgiveness is not forgetting what happened. When we forgive an offense, we set a prisoner free, only to discover that we were that prisoner.

Last, we must accept responsibility for our emotions and behaviors. Looking back, we can see how our emotions affected our behaviors. It affected us in such a way that we were unrecognizable to our own selves. We now realize that we need forgiveness just as much as the offender. Not only do we need God's forgiveness, but we also need to forgive ourselves. This is what accepting responsibility for our emotions and behaviors is all about. It all leads back to forgiveness.

Now that you have conquered these obstacles in part three of this journey, you will begin experiencing a transformation (renewing) of your mind. Continue toward LIFE-Living In Freedom EVERYDAY!

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.

children under age 17).

Many are unaware that you do not need to wait until you file your 2021 tax return to get part of this year's tax credit. Starting in July, the IRS will begin mailing monthly checks of \$300 for each child under the age of six and \$250 for each child under the age of eighteen. These payments will be mailed monthly until December, resulting in half of the tax credit for 2021 being received during the last half of the year. You will get the remaining half of the credits when you file your 2021 tax return.

Eligibility is determined from your last



Daniel Sirstad

Relationships 201

www.dsministries.com

To Be Known by God

We live in a world exploding with information. People trip over themselves to gain knowledge, whether it is accurate or not. But knowing does not guarantee us anything. Knowledge alone does not satisfy the soul. What does satisfy is being known.

Curt Thompson, MD, says, "The process of being known is the vessel in which our lives are kneaded and molded, lanced and sutured, confronted and comforted, bringing God's new creation closer to its fullness in preparation for the return of the King."

If we are not careful, though, we can get caught up in only pursuing knowing God. We tend to prefer knowing rather than being known because it gives us a false sense of security and control. The more we think we are in "control," the less we have to trust God since we "need" Him less.

Our "need" to control can lead us to depression, anxiety, substance abuse, or other addictive behaviors developing in our lives.

The problem with allowing ourselves to be known by God is that it places us in a highly vulnerable position. To be known, you have to trust someone else with yourself. That is scary, even with God. When we allow ourselves to be known by God, He is then able to determine our worth.

The truth is He already has. His shed blood made us worthy from the day of our conception. This truth is hard for many to believe. What matters is what we do with that worthiness.

To be known is to be pursued. To be known is to be loved. To be known means you allow your shame and guilt to be exposed in order to be healed.

God wants to be known by us. We should want to be known by Him. The extent to which you know God is directly reflected in your experience of being known by Him. And the degree you are known by Him will be reflected in how other people know you.

Be known by God. Be known by people. Know and be known.

Let me know how I can help.

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

filed tax return. The credit begins to be phased out for individuals with a modified adjusted income over \$75,000 (\$150,000 for a couple).

The IRS is supposed to create a portal to be used to update information (ie: for those having a new baby) or to opt-out of the monthly payments for those that want to wait to claim the credit when they file their return.

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



Delano Sherley

Accounting & Tax

Here Come the Stimulus Checks

Last month the latest COVID relief package was signed into law. For those that qualified, most have already received the stimulus check by now (\$1,400 per person). The bill also increased the child tax credit to \$3,600 for children under the age of six and \$3,000 for children age 6-17 (prior to this the child tax credit was \$2,000 for

THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS**Congressional Rep. Proclaims God's Will of "No Concern" During Equality Act Debate**

During a recent House Debate over the Equality Act, Democratic Rep. Jerry Nadler of New York asserted that "God's will is no concern of this Congress," after a fellow Congressman opposed the measure by pointing to God and the Bible.



According to The Christian Post, Rep. Greg Stuebe (R-FL), asserted during his remarks on the House floor that the Equality Act, which the House later passed, is contradictory to the Bible.

Stuebe noted that "the gender confusion that exists in our culture today is a clear rejection of God's good design."

"Whenever a nation's laws no longer reflect the standards of God, that nation is in rebellion against Him and will inevitably bear the consequences," he asserted.

Stuebe added that "it's not clothing or personal style that offends God, but rather, the use of one's appearance to act out or take on a sexual identity different from the one biologically assigned by God at birth."

In response to Stuebe's comments, Nadler, who is Jewish, told the Florida Congressman: "Mr. Steube, what any religious tradition ascribes as God's will is no concern of this Congress." Nadler's comments were later criticized by leaders of the Coalition for Jewish Values.

Court of Appeals Denies Fired Football Coach's Right to Pray After Games

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled against a high school football coach who was fired for praying after football games.

According to CBN News, the three judges published a unanimous opinion stating that Joseph Kennedy's practice of praying after games on the 50-yard-line was a violation of the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

"Kennedy's attempts to draw nationwide attention to his challenge to the district showed that he was not engaging in private prayer," Judge Milan Smith wrote. "Instead, he was engaging in public speech of an overtly religious nature while performing his job duties." Americans United for Separation of Church and State celebrated the ruling.

**Planned Parenthood Employee Warns Trans-Identifying Kids are Being Claimed as "Cash Cows"**

A Planned Parenthood employee is speaking out against the organization's practices of dispensing cross-sex hormones to trans-identifying teenagers, particularly distressed girls.

The staffer, who spoke on condition of anonymity, recounted in an interview with journalist Abigail Shrier how she felt morally conflicted about the volume of young people coming into the clinic claiming a transgender identity and yet showed signs of emotional and mental health issues. She also expressed great concern over the speed at which they were being prescribed cross-sex hormones, such as testosterone.

The young clients were prescribed hormones with almost no examination of their underlying problems, and medical oversight was practically nonexistent, the staffer alleged.

The Planned Parenthood employee, who said she's fully supportive of abortion rights, noted that abortions were the "bread and butter" for clinics. But now, she said, "trans-identifying kids are cash cows, and they are kept on the hook for the foreseeable future in terms of follow-up appointments, bloodwork, meetings, etc., whereas abortions are (hopefully) a one-and-done situation."

"The culture of death's chief proponent, Planned Parenthood, has no problem putting profits over people," said Mary Szocho, director of the Center for Human Dignity at the Family Research Council, in an email to the Christian Post.

"For years, they have exploited women and killed unborn babies for the sake of making money. They have denied the scientific fact that abortion takes the life of an unborn child. And so, it shouldn't shock anyone that once again, Planned Parenthood is willing to put profits over people."

"Planned Parenthood began as a eugenic, profits-driven organization that exploited the vulnerable. Their current status as one of the largest providers of cross-sex hormones to females seeking medical gender transition is simply proof that their mission to spread the culture of death hasn't changed," she reiterated.

When asked if the clinic staff ever expressed reservations about the manner in which hormones were being prescribed to girls and whether it was the best course of treatment for their issues, the Planned Parenthood staffer replied: "Yeah. Every day."

Under Planned Parenthood's informed consent model, all that is required for patients who come into their locations is for them to sign a document saying that they understand the risks. Planned Parenthood is thus not considered legally liable for any harmful and lasting effects. With one exception, she reported never seeing anyone being denied access to cross-sex hormones.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ A new California bill, AB 655, that's intended to prohibit hate group members from becoming police officers also would prevent conservative Christians and pro-lifers from serving in law enforcement. The bill would require background investigations to be conducted to determine if police officer candidates have "engaged in membership in a hate group," or made public expressions of hate.

■ The man alleged to have murdered ten people at a grocery store in Boulder, Colorado, was an anti-Trump Muslim immigrant, but Twitter has stated that tweets calling the suspect white and possibly Christian do not violate its misinformation policy. "The Tweets referenced are not in violation of the Twitter Rules," a Twitter spokesperson was quoted as saying.

SOCIAL TRENDS**Supreme Court Sides with Christian Student Barred from Preaching on GA College Campus**

A former student at a Georgia college prohibited from preaching on campus can seek compensation, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled recently.



In an eight-to-one decision in *Uzuegbunam v. Preczewski*, the high court concluded that Chihe Uzuegbunam is permitted to seek nominal damages from Georgia Gwinnett College.

The opinion reversed a decision from the 11th U.S. Court of Appeals and remanded the case for additional proceedings following the Supreme Court opinion's reasoning.

Justice Clarence Thomas authored the majority opinion and Justices Samuel Alito, Stephen Breyer, Amy Coney Barrett, Neil Gorsuch, Elena Kagan, Brett Kavanaugh and Sonia Sotomayor also sided with the majority.

"For purposes of this appeal, it is undisputed that Uzuegbunam experienced a completed violation of his constitutional rights when respondents enforced their speech policies against him," concluded Thomas.

"Because 'every violation [of a right] imports damage' ... nominal damages can redress Uzuegbunam's injury even if he cannot or chooses not to quantify that harm in economic terms." The Christian student was restricted in 2016 by school officials from preaching and handing out literature at an outdoor plaza.

LEGAL TRENDS**AR Governor Claims He Signed Abortion Ban as a Direct Challenge to Roe v. Wade**

Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson told CNN he signed a bill banning most abortions with the goal of seeing *Roe v. Wade* overturned.

The bill, the Unborn Child Protection Act (SB6), passed the state House 76-19 and the Senate 27-7 before Hutchinson signed it. It will go into effect in August, although pro-abortion groups say they will challenge it in court. It includes an exception for the life of the mother.

"That was the whole design of the law," Hutchinson told CNN. "It is not constitutional under Supreme Court cases right now ... I signed it because it is a direct challenge to *Roe vs. Wade* - that was the intent of it." Hutchinson's comments mirror the language of the bill: "...to redress and correct the grave injustice being perpetuated by its decisions in *Roe v. Wade*..."



In June of 2015, the MA/RI District launched the 20/20/20 Vision Growth Initiative. The goal was to plant 20 new churches by the year 2020. With God's help, we have achieved that goal!

Now, the MA/RI District has launched a new growth initiative. Our vision is to double the number of churches and ministers in our district by the year 2030. We call it Decade to Double.

We are excited to announce a strategic partnership with the Louisiana District UPCI. We want to thank them for their pledge to send church planters and workers into the MA/RI District to help make this vision a reality.

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INSIGHTS ON APOSTOLIC LEADERSHIP

REV. JASON GALLION
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT



Jason Gallion
Executive Vice President

Rev. Jason Gallion served as the Dean of Students/Campus Pastor from August of 2010 to 2021. In the Fall of 2020, he accepted the role of Executive Vice President under the leadership of Rev. Joshua B. Carson.

Having served in many different leadership capacities for several years in both church and academic settings, can you speak to the relationship between leadership and mentoring in the church today?

When it comes to leadership, I've always felt that everyone brings three very unique things to the table. Firstly, as a leader, you bring your education. Second, you bring your personality. And thirdly, you bring your experience. These three elements are in combination together. They are so unique to each individual.

I believe that great leaders are not born; they are grown and developed, particularly by mentorship. Mentorship can sometimes be tricky, because it does not necessarily require one-on-one time.

Before joining the staff at Indiana Bible College, Bro. Mooney was my mentor for years, and yet I had not spoken with him much in person. I watched and listened to Calvary Tabernacle's services online and attended his sessions at conferences that I happened to be at. We had interacted abstractly, but it seemed that there was always something bringing us together.

When we were asked to come to Indiana Bible College, a lot of it made sense. I remember a particular staff meeting that took place after we had already been there for a couple of years. Bro. Mooney was speaking. He turned and pointed at me and said, "Bro. Gallion, you and I have never talked about this, but you and I both know why you're here. The Holy Ghost has brought you here because you see a vision. You have a burden. You and I are trying to accomplish through these students what God has called us to do."

What he was saying is that there was a connection in the Spirit that brought us together. We were pouring ourselves into these students, so that they would pour themselves

into the ministry, and be willing to lay down their lives for what God has called them to do.

It was the first time in my life that I realized, all these years, I had somehow connected to his vision for this. I believe that as a leader, people are connected to your vision, and you may not even realize the "how's," "why's," and "who's" until that moment that God's Spirit speaks to you and gives you that confirmation.

What is the most important aspect of apostolic leadership?

Although we bring uniqueness to the table as individuals, we can never rule out the necessity of the anointing of the Holy Ghost. To be a great leader, you have to be anointed. You have to follow the leading of the Holy Ghost.

When we consider leaders who were so pivotal in our movement and organizations, we have to understand that some of them did not have a high school education. But they were writers. They were preachers. And they were profoundly anointed. I hope that our generation grasps that our education does not ever take the place of the anointing.

There are, of course, secular men who have done great things, but what's done in the church and through the power of the Holy Ghost is so much more eternal. It is more eternal than any genius in any structure or idea that man can formulate and put together.

Can you expound upon that subject and speak to the stability that the anointing provides for the leader?

When we get to a place of leadership where we feel like we are in over our heads, that can often be an extremely beneficial thing. It forces us to come to grips with the reality that there are some things we cannot do in our flesh. When we come to a place where we look at a leadership role and think, "Oh, I don't think I could do that," that's usually the best place to be.

In contrast, when our reaction is, "I've been preparing my whole life for this," or, "Everything I have done is bringing me to this moment," that is the most dangerous

place to be. When we allow pride into our hearts, I believe that God allows us to operate in our humanity.

I believe that is where most problems arise when it comes to leadership - when men and women begin to operate in their flesh, in their own ingenuity, and in their own abilities.

Rather, it is when we start to operate in the idea that "I cannot do this without the help of God," and, "I cannot walk down this path without Him leading me," that true success begins. I think that is what true ministry is all about.

What is a consistent principle that you have seen applied in great leadership?

Great leaders, in my mind, have always significantly stood for servanthood. It seems as if they are indebted to the people that are around them, because they're constantly trying to help, to push, to nurture, and to speak into their lives.

They do not operate in this capacity because they are trying to say that they are wise, but they feel this obligation to help people achieve, grow, and be the best that they can be for Christ.

What are the criteria that you personally look for when prayerfully selecting leaders?

It all comes down to character. There are, of course, natural talents and human aspects that leaders bring to the table. I can take a chance on one's specific level of talent, but I cannot take a chance on character.

If there is a young person or couple that have great personalities, they dress the right way and say all the right things, but they do not have character - they don't have a strong work ethic, they're not spiritual or godly people, and they don't know what submission to spiritual authority looks like - I cannot take chances on that.

Show me someone that may not necessarily have all of those attributes, but they are spiritually deep and consistent, their word is their bond, and they submit to spiritual authority, and I can use that person.

We have to be careful to promote a mindset of humility - that we are ultimately here to build the Kingdom of God, and not our own.

INSEPARABLE

Michael Lagle / Glenview, IL

Transcribed by Charles Li

Romans 8 – 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

There are some things in life that ideally would remain inseparable. For example, under most circumstances, you do not want your steering wheel separated from your car. And of course, in a perfect world, you'd like to keep your head inseparable from the rest of you. Paul gives us a pretty extensive list to prove his point that NOTHING can separate us from the love of God. However, there is one thing that is missing from his list: Us.

The Stronghold of Egypt's Influence

The Israelites were God's people – they were blessed. Balak, king of Moab, was afraid of them mainly because there were so many of them and they settled in the neighboring land. He feared that they would wipe out all of the resources around him, so he hired the prophet Balaam to curse the Israelites. Long story short, Balaam could only do what the Lord told him to do, which was to bless the Israelites. Eventually, the Israelites were seduced by the worldly practices of the Moabites, and in doing this they brought a curse upon themselves. The Israelites separated themselves from God.

When the Israelites crossed the Red Sea and their Egyptian oppressors were washed away, that should've been the end of Egyptian influence in their lives. However, it wasn't long before the Israelites began to worship idols and make sacrifices to false gods. They were immersed for over 400 years in this pagan culture that ascribed a god to anything and everything that represented life or death. The Israelites would find themselves in some sort of trouble off-and-on for centuries. We get to the book of Judges and for another 400-plus years, they would fall into idolatry and pagan practices, fall into the hands of oppressors, repent, and God would raise up a judge (military leader) to deliver them. Then they would fall back into idolatry and pagan practices, fall into the hands of oppressors, repent, and God would raise up a judge (military leader) to deliver them. "Rinse and repeat" another ten or eleven times over the next few centuries.

Gideon was one of those judges. He was approached by the angel of the Lord while hiding from the Midianites (the Israelite oppressors at the time) and was tasked with leading the Israelites to victory against the Midianites. He was to amass an army, and he gathered 32,000 men. Not bad, except they were outnumbered about four-to-one. God said 32,000 is too many because He didn't want Gideon's army taking the credit for the victory, so anyone who was afraid was to leave. 22,000 men left, leaving 10,000. God said that's still too many. To reduce Gideon's forces even more, God instructed Gideon to take his men to the water to drink. Whoever cupped water in their hands and drank would stay, and whoever put their face directly to the water should leave. Only 300 cupped water in their hands, and so, including Gideon, there were 301 men to take on 120,000. They went from being outnumbered 4-to-1 down to 400-to-1! By God's instruction, Gideon and his 300 men used clay pots, torches, horns, and the element of surprise to trick the Midianite army into thinking they were surrounded by massive forces and sent them into such a panic that they started killing each other, and the rest ran away.

But focusing on the second test God put Gideon's men through: drinking water. Doesn't seem like a big deal. Why did it matter how someone drank water? I submit two reasons. One – it mattered strategically. If you're drinking with your face to the water, it's more difficult to be aware of your surroundings if you're in the midst of battle. If you're drinking from your hands, you can still maintain situational awareness. Two – it mattered spiritually. Putting their faces to the water is how the Egyptians worshipped the Nile River. I believe that to God, this was a sign that there were some remnants of the Egyptian culture still with those who drank with their faces to the water, whether they realized it or not.

Even though the Israelites were entirely out of Egypt, Egypt was not entirely out of them. They may have escaped physical bondage, physical slavery, but spiritually they were still bound. Their physical taskmasters had been washed away in the Red Sea, but the whip of idolatry still stung their hearts. From the golden calf at the base of Mount Sinai, to the counsel of Balaam, to Gideon's father's altar of Baal which was torn down by Gideon, and everything in between and everything that came after, the Israelites were not entirely free of the influence of Egypt.

But it was not Egypt in and of itself that consistently drove a wedge between God and His people. It was their choice to turn away and be separated from God to pursue the influence of Egypt despite everything God had done for them.

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

God will not force you to turn to Him, but He will be ready and waiting when you do decide to turn to Him.

Gaslighting: A Tactic of The Enemy

The year 1938 marked the release of a play called *Gas Light* which was twice later adapted to film, once in 1940 and again in 1944. The movie revolves around an abusive husband who psychologically manipulates his wife into thinking she's going insane. The title *Gas Light* is based on the gas lights in the house which dim whenever the husband secretly turns on the gas lights in the attic to search for hidden jewels. The wife accurately notices the dimming lights, but the husband insists she just imagined a change in the level of illumination. It is one of a series of unexplained incidents that lead the wife to suspect that she may be slowly going mad. This is the origin of the term "gaslighting" – convincing someone that something they are sure is true is really just their imagination. It is

an abusive tactic that is used to manipulate someone into thinking a certain way.

The devil uses this very tactic in an attempt to get you to separate yourself from the love of God. You know that you are a child of God, but the devil will bring up stuff from your past and sell you the lie that you are defined by your past; your past sins, your past hurts, your past offenses, your past mistakes. He will try to convince you that you're so far gone that there's no way God would ever want you back. He will try to manipulate you out of your blessing. Out of your spiritual heritage. Out of your spiritual inheritance.

God's Love Proven in Three Parables

When confronted by Pharisees and other religious leaders for sitting and eating with sinful people, Jesus responded with three parables: The Lost Sheep, The Lost Coin, and the Prodigal Son.

A shepherd has a flock of one hundred sheep, and one becomes lost. The shepherd will leave the ninety-nine that are safe to find the one missing sheep. When he returns with the lost sheep, he will call his friends and neighbors together to celebrate the return of the lost sheep.

A woman has a set of ten silver coins and loses one. She will light a lamp, clean up the house, and search carefully until she finds it, and when she does she will call her friends and neighbors to celebrate finding the lost coin.

A man has two sons, the younger of which wanted his inheritance before he was supposed to have it. His father obliged and the son moved far away and wasted all his money on a wild lifestyle. Then came a great famine, and this young man was now starving. He got a local farmer to hire him, and when he went to feed the pigs, was so hungry that their food looked good. He lamented that all of his father's servants were so well taken care of, and here he was about to starve to death. He planned to go back, regretful, repentant; not as a son to a father, but as a servant looking for work. When his father saw him in the distance, he ran to him and embraced him, cleaned him up, and held a feast in his honor.

The parable continues with the older brother who stayed home, challenging his father on why he never threw him a feast. The father told him that he could've had anything he wanted, but today was a day to celebrate his brother. In Jesus'

parable, the older brother represented the Pharisees challenging him for eating with sinners. The focus was not to be on the Pharisees, but the people with whom Jesus sat.

Hope for the Lost

The devil would have you think once lost, always lost. No hope. No chance for redemption. But when that lost sheep is found, Jesus said there is more joy in Heaven when one lost soul comes home than for the ninety-nine righteous who were already saved! When that lost coin is found, Jesus said there is joy in the presence of the angels when someone repents. And when a prodigal (wasteful, extravagant) son returns home, the Father comes running with arms wide open.

Only we can separate ourselves from Him. In Matthew 7:22, Jesus says that on Judgement Day, many will cry out to him, "Lord, Lord! We prophesied in your name, cast out devils in your name, and performed miracles in your name!" And He would reply, "Depart from me you workers of iniquity, I never knew you." That is not a result of Him not loving us. The cross is proof positive that He loves us.

Paul was persuaded there was no outside force, circumstance, or influence that could separate us from the love of God. This is the same man who was once persuaded that it was acceptable to kill Christians. What a testimony of the love of God, and the rejoicing that surely took place among the angels in Heaven upon Paul's conversion. If we can fulfill the Lord's call in 2 Corinthians 6:17 to come out from among and be separate from the things of this world, we will find it so much easier to remain inseparable from Him.

Bro. Lagle was born and raised in the church and grew up in Chicagoland, spending the majority of his life on the north side of Chicago. In March of 2014, he was set up on a blind date with a young lady named Becca, and just eleven months later they were married. Since January 2016, they have served as Youth Pastors of Generate Student Ministries at The Life Church of Glenview, Illinois.



Michael Lagle
Glenview, IL



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A Heart for Boston

By Susan Thomas



Bro. and Sis. Baumann
Boston, MA

Todd and Anne Baumann pastored in Southern Minnesota for seventeen years. About four years ago the family took a trip to the east coast. They flew into Boston since it was a city Sis. Baumann remembered visiting as a teenager. "Our family fell in love with the city, and for the next three years we would visit every Spring," explains Bro. Baumann. "The third year that we went to Boston, the entire vacation I could feel something different in my spirit. The whole time I was deeply disturbed by the lack of churches of any kind in the area. Here I was, pastoring in a small town of 13,000 that had a thriving church of 200, and yet this area that had millions of people felt so desolate of any real spiritual presence. We would ride the subway, walk through the parks, visit the historical monuments, yet all the while I was aware of the need for churches."

Boston is important to revival in America. It is a port city and the devil has fought for years in this city. But just because he occupies an area, doesn't mean he owns it! God is still the king of Boston. Every important historical trend has begun in Boston. "We believe it is time for a new trend in America, and that it will start in Boston. It is time to close the doorway to the enemy and turn the tide in America." Bro. Baumann adds, "It won't be easy! Boston is a city of intellect; it is among the most post-Christian and unchurched cities in North America, almost to the point of being considered an unreached people group."

Bro. Baumann added, "We believe that with the prayers and financial partnership of the people across the UPCI, God is going to help us start a revolution that will birth a revival like Boston has never seen. We have begun to assemble a Launch Team who will be helping us, some of which have already relocated and are working and living in the Boston area. We have begun days of prayer and fasting. We have made personal contact

with many in the city and are beginning community connections to begin to meet the needs of people in the city. Our cities need truth. Boston needs truth! We need prayer partners. We need men and women who will make it a priority to pray every day for Boston! Pray for the Launch Team that God would protect them. Pray that He would lead them. We need people who will intercede for the city of Boston.

"Everything was progressing, and then there was a pandemic. Four months passed. Finally, in July we were told we could start contacting districts to see what we could get for services. We must travel to raise monthly financial partners to help us start churches in metropolitan areas. But, COVID has delayed this by at least six months."

Financial Partners are needed. "If we could raise sixty partners we would be able to make up the time that we lost during quarantine," states Bro Baumann. "If you feel led to partner with us, you can go to www.metro-missions.faith/partners, and follow the link for Todd & Anne Baumann to sign up today."

The Blessed Prayer of a Child

By Susan Thomas



Bro. and Sis. Merriman
Lake Charles, LA

"My moment of calling to children's ministry was very special to me," states Bro. Kevin Merriman. "I was one of the staff ministers at our church, Eastwood Pentecostal Church in Lake Charles, Louisiana, under then Pastor Murrell Ewing. One day, Pastor Ewing told me he wanted to talk to me. I met with him the following Tuesday morning, and he explained that he wanted to talk to me about the special anointing he saw on me for children. He explained that he had been in prayer and was certain that God had an anointing on me to minister to children." Rev. Merriman also adds, "I trusted him and accepted his pastoral direction. I began evangelizing in 2005 and have been privileged to see God touch the hearts of kids all around the United States as well as overseas in multiple countries. My wife, Kathy, and I have had a front-row seat to watch Jesus fill thousands of kids with the Holy Ghost." Merriman has been involved in children's ministry for more than forty years and started teaching Sunday school at twelve years of age.

"One day I received a call from a crying mother. After the morning service, her kids were outside playing and a neighbor child had thrown a baseball, striking her son in the face, breaking his nose. Mom heard the

cries of horror, ran out, and saw her son with a dark face that was quickly swelling, and a bleeding nose. As she was giving instructions for everyone to get in the car so they could rush to the hospital, one of her daughters said, "Wait, Mom! Pastor Kevin said that we can lay hands on the sick. Let's just pray!" Mom confessed she agreed to just placate her daughter so they could move on. The young girl and her sister who were both in that service laid their hands on their brother and prayed for him. Mom then watched as Jesus answered her daughters' prayer. The swelling immediately went away, her son's color returned to normal, and the bleeding stopped! As these two sisters related their experience in the next several services, it brought an explosion of faith in the hearts and minds of all the kids in our local ministry," states Merriman.

Bro. Merriman currently ministers under the direction of his pastor, Bro. Aaron



Lopez. "We minister in primarily two different methods: through dramatized messages using scripts that I write and costumes and backdrops that Kathy makes, or we minister through "Character Preaching." By having two different methods, it lends variety for our time at a church or camp. This dual method allows us to do multiple services in a day that are still interesting for the kids, using drama in one service and preaching in the other. This can provide training as well as give a boost of excitement and energy for continuing in ministering to the children. We make sure that whichever method is used to minister, the plan of salvation is taught in every single service. We only have minutes of time with our kids compared to hours that the world has access to them.

You may contact Bro. Merriman by calling or texting him at (337)-842-5609. You can also email him at kkmerr@yahoo.com. Visit his website at www.TheMerryMan.com.

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Word To The Wise:

"The secret to getting ahead is getting started." - Mark Twain

A shipwrecked sailor spent several years on a deserted island. One morning he was thrilled to see a ship offshore and a small boat pulling out toward him!

When the boat arrived, its occupant handed the marooned sailor a bundle of newspapers and said: "With the captain's compliments. He said to read through these and let us know if you still want to be rescued."

* * * * *

A sixth grade teacher posed the following problem to one of her arithmetic classes:

"A wealthy man dies and leaves ten million dollars. One-fifth is to go to his wife, one-fifth is to go to his son, one-sixth to his butler, and the rest to charity. Now, what does each get?"

After a very long silence in the classroom, one little boy raised his hand and with complete sincerity in his voice, answered, "A lawyer!"



"We're from the police department explosives unit. We received an anonymous tip that your Sunday sermon will bomb."

* * * * *

"Look, Charlie," the coach said, "you know the principles of good sportsmanship. You know that the Little League doesn't allow temper tantrums, shouting at the umpire, or abusive language."

"Yes sir, I understand."

"Good, Charlie. Now, would you please explain that to your father?"

* * * * *

My boss said, "I find it highly suspicious that you are only sick on weekdays."

I said, "It must be my weekend immune system."



"I'd like to think they contribute because it's the right thing to do, but I'm not above a short sermon on tax deductibility."

* * * * *

I was officiating at a wedding and during the preparations the bride and groom wanted to have two turtledoves on the altar as a symbol of their forever love. I politely said, "No birds or animals, please."

They hid the birds in a back room, anyway. Immediately after the service they went outside, each of them with a bird in its cage. They opened the cages in unison. One bird flew out and made a hard right turn. The other flew out and made a hard left turn.

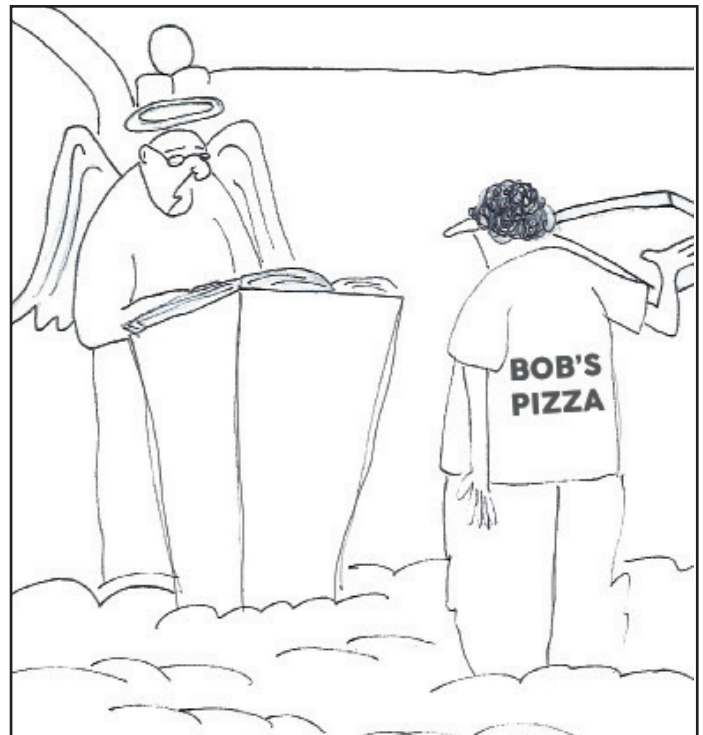
We all stood there watching the symbols of their forever love fly off in total opposite directions.

* * * * *

A couple is watching the news. They hear that a beautiful actress is marrying an athlete who's famous for his lack of IQ and common sense.

Husband: "I'll never understand why the biggest jerks get the most attractive wives!"

Wife: "Why thank you, dear!"



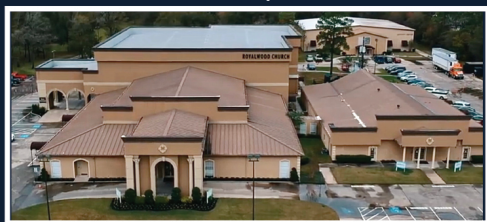
"Didn't expect to be here today, eh? Hey, life's full of surprises. I mean, I didn't expect to wake up this morning with an overwhelming craving for sausage and mushrooms, but there you go."



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Professionally pre-plan and launch the construction management journey

Avoid the most common mistakes in church construction

Learn more about the ins and outs of congregational involvement

Assess and recommend professional services and contractors

MARK 4:35-41

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