



*Jesus*  
FOUND ME  
*where the Devil*  
LEFT ME





**PRESIDENT  
JOSHUA B. CARSON**

**“While your plight was probably not leprosy, it was sin that caused division from the community of Christ. This is a wonderful month to lift our voices and give praise to the One who has ‘called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light’ (1 Peter 2:9).”**



## Called From the Fringe

*“And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee” (Luke 17:11).*

Nameless and homeless, their debut on the stage of Luke’s writing was contingent upon their most highly disdained attribute: leprosy. “Alone” was the term used in Leviticus thirteen to describe how they were meant to spend an indefinite amount of time after diagnosis. Ten men, each individually forced from homes and communities, were ushered to the edge of society. What a ragtag group of outcasts they must have been. A group of guys who might never associate until unified by isolation when they were forced from familiarity to the fringe.

Consider the inception of their personal plight. None of these men would have volunteered to bear such a debilitating disease. What issue or exposure made them vulnerable to this sickness? Readers are left to consider the fearful expressions of family members left unwritten between the lines of the text. Can you picture the bloodshot eyes of a wearied wife looking back and forth from the apprehension in the eyes of her husband to the white spots on his arm? Listen closely and you can hear the frantic cries of a young boy. His voice pierces the air, begging his dad not to go away... but there is no other choice. Heading into an uncharted future, the father is forced away, unable to protect his family for fear he may infect them. Echoing through the community upon their exodus, folks could hear the dreaded words reverberating through the still air as each leper lamented, “unclean, unclean.” Dignity was left behind, as the distance grew between both home and hope.

However, Christ, the healer of the hopeless, makes an intentional trip to the fringe, passing through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. Although diseased, the debilitated band of lepers were even more determined. Those sentenced to be alone found not only company, but unity. As a result, not just one, but together “they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us” (Luke 17:13). Initially, it seems so underwhelming that you almost miss the lepers’ role in the healing. Staying directly in line with His Word, Christ simply sends them to the priest for examination. “And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed” (Luke 17:14). For a mixed bag of men, Christ’s simple instruction was enough for them to change the direction of their walk. When they chose to trust His word enough to walk toward the priest, their healing came. One man, a Samaritan no less, helps us all with an eternally etched example by turning back and glorifying God in Christ for the cleansing. From that time until now, we have shared the story of a leper that went from healed to whole by glorifying God in Jesus Christ.

As we know, November is recognized as a month of thankfulness. While stopping to give thanks for the blessings of God should not be relegated to a particular month, I’m thankful for the existence of the tradition and the focus it brings. We, God’s children, have much to be thankful for. Some reading this article associate more with the lepers from the story than others. While your plight was probably not leprosy, it was sin that caused division from the community of Christ. This is a wonderful month to lift our voices and give praise to the One who has “called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9). May we all continue to allow Him to direct our steps, and may we never fail to bring glory to the Lord Jesus Christ for what He has done.

Maybe this Thanksgiving would be a great time to recognize someone who’s been living on the fringe and invite them to dinner. Yours might be the voice that helps them change their direction.



*Joshua B. Carson*



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## GUEST PULPIT:

### Jesus Found Me Where the Devil Left Me - Rev. Jason Staten

## Mission Statement

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

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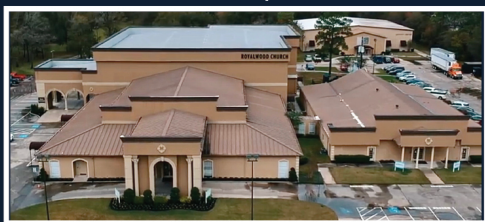




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# Counseling PORNOGRAPHY Addiction

Written By John L. Fonzer

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



**Douglas White, Silsbee, TX** - It's such a massive problem that it's one of the key maladies – both in and out of God's Church – tearing away at the moral fabric of our society.

Pornography addiction is probably more difficult to break than many other vices. Among the reasons is that God, in His wisdom, put a desire for intimacy and sensuality in humanity. When that desire, given by God for the confines of marriage, is distorted by your soul's adversary,

the result is trying to overcome something that God Himself put in your world. If it was demonic (and, yes, some can get to that point), it could be cast out. However, you can't "cast out" what God put in you. You have to "control" that natural desire and confine it to godly parameters.

Among the most important instructions that I can give someone battling pornography is accountability. In every case, either I or someone I designate must have complete access to them – with the ability to ask any pertinent questions – to help them maintain a righteous direction and let them know they aren't fighting that battle alone.

Secondly, my advice to them is that, if they cannot handle Internet access, they should consider getting rid of it. However, various programs are available to monitor your internet usage and, in turn, send records of where you've browsed to various individuals of your choice.

Every parent should realize that the argument, "I have to respect my child's privacy," is a dangerous lie. Pornography won't respect their privacy. Ultimately, such reasoning only serves to take your hand off your child, allowing every other sinful vice in life to mold and direct them. Never be afraid to open their phone, tablet, or computer and see what kind of texts they have received, sites they have visited, or pictures that they have downloaded.

Among the most heartbreaking things I've dealt with while leading a congregation has been when parents acquired devices with full internet access for their offspring who were too young to handle unrestricted access to everything the Internet has to offer them. Horribly painful prices have been paid by parents who would openly argue with any spiritual authority, declaring, "My child is mature enough to handle it," only to find out later that they had opened the door for their child's destruction.



**Jon Petoskey, East Hartford, CT** - This sin clearly can be the infidelity that destroys a marriage and can hinder or prevent healthy sexual relations within a marriage. I have understood it to affect anywhere from 30-60 percent for men.

The counsel I give for those coming asking for help with this addiction is to express affirmation for the courage to come and ask for help; acknowledge with them that it is a sin; try to walk alongside them in studying/reading gaining knowledge about this addiction; pray with them for deliverance from it; encourage the use of software to help filter all technology they use and establish an accountability partner; continue to ensure their systems of accountability are working. I definitely recommend using software like Covenant Eyes and having a strong accountability partner. If they need to do life without a smartphone, I've encouraged them it's better to cut that out of your life and make it to heaven, than to keep it and not.

Breaking the addiction is extremely hard for both men and women who have come and asked for help, as powerful an addiction as any other. But we know and have seen the power of sin become broken.



**James Williams, American Canyon, CA** -

In counseling, my questions and recommendations are: 1) Are you willing to do the hard work? 2) Are you willing to fully submit to the process of healing? 3) Are you willing to be extreme to overcome and have victory no matter how trivial it may seem?

4) These are non-negotiable; you need a "let's go!" attitude. 5) You must be honest because, without it, nothing works. 6) Recommend "EveryManMinistries.com;" whatever you take away, something must replace. 7) Conversation, check-ins, provide continual support, prayer, fasting, whatever else is necessary.

Parents, please don't be afraid to have healthy conversations about sex. Do not wait. Introduce it to them in a biblically healthy way so that the world does not shape their paradigm. The biggest problem in the church is the lack of healthy conversations on sex in the home. As a result, our children look to others outside the faith to set their sexual standards and address their questions, and then we are "playing catch-up" to do damage control and correct the narrative.

Marriages affected by pornography can't be healthy until there is a conversation, compassion, empathy, and unconditional love from the spouse. Until there is honesty, transparency, and willingness on behalf of the one wanting to change, "healthy" is out the window.



**Jonathan Vazquez, Potts Camp, MS** -

The issue of pornography is rampant. It removes love as the center of sexuality and replaces it with carnal gratification. It objectifies women, demeans them, and makes them objects of pleasure rather than beings created in the image of God. Young men and women in our society are being

programmed by pornography to have a distorted, unnatural, and unrealistic view of sexuality, that will cause them to have great difficulty finding normalcy in marriage.

In counseling someone dealing with these issues, I first try to illuminate Scriptural understanding on the issue. Secondly, I provide resources to help equip them for the battle. One such resource for men is the book Every Man's Battle. I also have two to three Apostolic counselors that I refer people to as an additional resource. I suggest that every man's wife has all of his passwords, as well as access to his devices.

Not everyone has an issue with drugs, alcohol, or homosexuality; but everyone has lust as part of his or her nature. Obviously, it is a serious issue, but more so because of the availability of the Internet.

Protect your child. Don't assume that they are not vulnerable. Be vigilant. Keep control of their devices. Guard your child as if a killer was coming after them... because he most certainly is.





Written By Linda Schreckenberger



Pastor and First Lady Perry

“We’re a soul-winning, soul-centered church,” said Pastor Rick Perry of New Haven, Connecticut. “Come experience hope is the motto of Haven of Hope.”

He and his wife Stacey have two children, Alex and Alyssa Perry-Garcia. The Perrys are growing a thriving church through discipleship and empowering the younger generation, engaging children, teens, and young adults into the work of God. “We protect our platform,” said Pastor Perry, “But rather than waiting for

years for a new convert to qualify to be used, we try to place them as greeters, etc. in the church.”

Pastor Perry serves as the vice-chair of the Winterfire Conference each year and has served as North American Missions Secretary as well as Assistant Superintendent of the United Pentecostal Church of Botswana. He also serves as Pastor of the Haven of Hope church his father founded in Bedford, Ohio. His father, Rev. H. E. Perry, has modeled transition, serving as Pastor Emeritus there, and is fully retired. His mother, Sis. Beverly Perry, passed away in 2020.

### Increasing by Prioritizing

“We’re church planters here in Connecticut,” said Bro. Perry, “So the priorities depend upon where the church is in growth. We had just moved from Africa, bought furniture, got a grill, and began meeting people and inviting them over to eat. My wife and I went to the same coffee shops, restaurants, etc. She volunteered at the Veterans hospital, and I served at the Small Business Council to establish relationships. Along with time in prayer and the Word, our early days here were spent discipling people. In the early days of growing a church, the pastor has to offload responsibilities, such as teaching and training, and be okay with delegating responsibilities if growth is to continue.”

“We started the church in Connecticut through the Metro Missions program. We’ve had quite a few people that found us online, but the majority of our growth has come through personal relationships people had with others. We use Zoom and were online during COVID. We had sold a building and were using a school’s auditorium, classrooms, and gymnasium. We also had the use of the pool for baptisms. Then COVID hit and we spent the better part of 2020 literally homeless as a church.”

Haven of Hope held services in people’s yards and did online services for people who weren’t comfortable with attending in person. The church had an increase, considering the online presence, and they had a considerable increase through their Big Connect Zoom services. Every few weeks, they would all come back together, and Pastor Perry would teach the entire church. Then, they went back into small groups. “We had many more

during the midweek service than we did before COVID,” said Pastor Perry. “We’re back in-person and don’t do online services, but people can still connect through Zoom. We have a portable church in a twenty-four-foot trailer, pulled by a truck, set up with a sound system for children’s ministry, etc. We’re looking for a larger space, but due to COVID, the city still isn’t giving permits for public gatherings. Right now, we’re renting an Assembly of God church building in the community through the pastor who is a friend.”

### The Four Funnels of Vision

The church uses what they refer to as Four Funnels, funneling everything through them. 1) Sunday Morning Celebration is the Sunday worship service. 2) CAM (Community Action Ministries) includes working with the Ronald McDonald House, and the Special Olympics, where their people go in and prepare meals, etc. At the Christian-based 180 Center, they can help with food without financing it since the church doesn’t have a food pantry. The goal is to help the poor and needy but also to be involved in the community and build relationships with those who are already giving. Pastor Perry said, “I’ve found those people in that arena feel better about themselves by helping, and we have what they are looking for to fill that void.” 3) Connect Groups - They can be held in a home, coffee shop, or any place. These groups are not just social groups but are structured with a Bible study. Motorcycle Ministry - The Azusa Street Riders is a Connect Group that reaches into the motorcycle community. Pastor Perry serves as the Regional Chaplain and Coordinator of the local chapter of the Azusa Street Riders. 4) Discipleship - Four modules of discipleship classes are offered, and personal Bible studies are taught and tracked as best as possible.

Departments of the church include the Worship Team, Children’s Ministry, and the Prayer Team led by a Prayer Coordinator. Pastor Perry meets with his leadership team as a group once monthly but stays in communication with them throughout the month. He said, “We do our best to involve people, and we work with the culture we have. We have a time of ministry to the ministry and devotion during that time. It has broken out into a prayer meeting at times.”

They have a leadership retreat every year that is held two to three hours away, where Pastor Perry casts the vision for the church. They give a little toward the cost, and the church picks up the rest. The church calendar is set within a short period of time from that retreat.

As for training, there is a website page for those who want to get involved in ministry. There are three different modules they go through with requirements for reading and resources.



A Convert is Baptized



Pastor uses many of the same books that Ministry Central uses, and if the people go on to become ministers, they do have to go through Ministry Central. He uses the Ministry Flight Plan, a self-study plan with three different levels, and they let him know



*Haven of Hope Sanctuary*

when they complete each level. There are various ministry leadership questions and books for them to read as well.

Pastor Perry is adamant about Bible studies and usually begins with Exploring God's Word or Search for Truth. Their structured discipleship course, Discovery, has sixteen classes of one-and-a-half hours each. The people are encouraged to go through a Bible study and on to the Discovery course. Then they go into the Ministry Flight Plan to be part of ministry at some level. Their Growth Track, where people are encouraged to go through four sessions, has been placed on hold through COVID.

About forty percent of the people at Haven of Hope are involved in some form of ministry, and he promotes involvement by teaching and preaching about it.

### **Miraculous Healings of Cancer**

The church has seen several healings of cancer, including a woman healed of breast cancer and another woman healed of cancer in her lymph nodes. A few weeks ago, a call came from a 92-year-old gentleman with lung cancer. After being prayed for, he went back to the hospital for tests. The doctors said, "We don't understand, but there is no sign of cancer!"

### **Combatting Stagnation with Strength and Stability**

Pastor Perry said, "When it comes to pastoring, I pastor from the pulpit to the pew. I don't expel my emotional currency or energy by chasing people in their personal lives. I preach the Word, but I'm not involved in every aspect of people's lives. My job is not to hold their hands through everything in their lives. That type of leadership stagnates growth. I'm a pastor that is 100% okay with not being at the church on a Sunday and letting the church be the church. I need the break, and they need the break."

Pastor Perry enjoys preaching on the Oneness of God, the Almighty God in Christ, the most. Regarding any focus on any certain ethnicity of people, he said, "Our personal ministry outreach is involvement with a local refugee center. My wife speaks Swahili, and we take on high-risk families, most of whom don't speak English. We teach them how to ride the bus, use their cards, etc. We have had over twenty-five refugees at one time in our church, but many end up leaving and moving to other churches in other states."

### **Through COVID and Beyond**

Haven of Hope in New Haven, Connecticut, is presently engaged in trying to purchase a property that includes six acres with a church building and a parsonage. Their rate of growth pre-COVID grew by about eleven people per year, with about fifteen conversions per year. During COVID, they lost people who never returned. The congregation is still at about fifty percent attendance post-COVID.

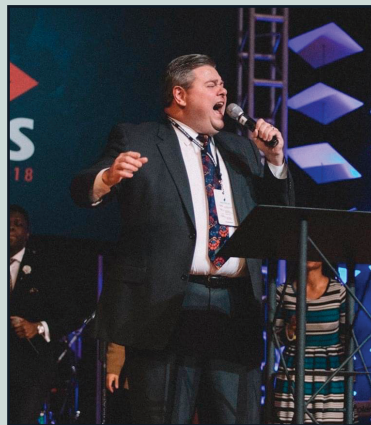
Due to unique circumstances, the Ohio church has become a campus of Haven of Hope in Connecticut that falls underneath Bro. Perry's leadership. About 60-70% of the people there have returned after COVID. That property is debt-free and has a sanctuary with a full basement, kitchen, and classrooms and sits on over an acre of land.

### **Receiving the Vision and Accepting the Call**

Bro. Perry grew up in Bedford, Ohio, and was raised in a church planter's home. He wanted nothing to do with ministry in his early years, but at age seventeen, he made a promise to a gentleman to go to Bible college. That gentleman was killed two days later. Bro. Perry attended Indiana Bible College for two years and came back to Ohio, where he served as Youth Pastor. He went back to school and was accepted into a radiology program, specializing in nuclear medicine. A fellow Bible college student told him about missionaries starting a school in Botswana, so he volunteered for three months. He came back sixteen years later.

He received the Holy Ghost at age thirteen at Buckeye Lake Campground in Ohio and felt a call to ministry. He also experienced a powerful vision at age thirteen. In the vision, he was on a stage and looked out at a multitude of people of every color, in their traditional clothes. Shaken by the vision, he asked his father about it. His father told him that one day the reason he had seen that would be clear.

Although Bro. Perry attended church and was the church drummer, he was running from God during those years. Years later, in Botswana, he was in love and about to propose. Their church members in Botswana were attending a multi-racial conference in South Africa, and he looked out and saw exactly what he had seen in the vision as a young boy. That's when he embraced his calling. He was married within a year and was licensed



*Pastor Perry Preaching*

through Foreign Missions.

After attending IBC, he attended Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland, Ohio. He studied there through distance learning and received a bachelor's degree in Religious Studies with a minor in Psychology through Great Lakes University.

His father, Rev. H. E. Perry, and father-in-law, Rev. Tim Simoneaux, have influenced his ministry the most.

### **Motorcycles, Cabins, and Woods**

Bro. Perry and his wife enjoy riding motorcycles. He enjoys spending time with his family along with their poodle, Max, in the woods with a cabin, as well as adventuring in small towns, hiking, and exploring. He noted with a laugh that people might be surprised to learn that he was very shy as a child. He said his favorite preachers are just too many to mention, and his favorite author is Dr. David Bernard.



*Bedford, Ohio Church Exterior*



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## Pro-Life?



Angela Parker  
Executive Assistant

Recently, Texas passed a groundbreaking Heartbeat Law, which prohibits abortions after an ultrasound can detect a heartbeat (as early as six weeks into the pregnancy). As a native Texan and adamant pro-lifer, my sentiments are this... "Don't mess with Texas!" We know

how to get things done!

However, while I support this law and the fact that it will drastically decrease the number of abortions performed, this thought is what keeps going over and over in my head: What about the babies?

What happens to these unwanted babies after they are born? If the mother would have chosen to terminate her pregnancy because of poverty, inconvenience, abuse, rape, a health concern (hers or the baby's) or any other of a hundred reasons...and now she can't...what happens next?

As a parent who fostered and then adopted through the state system, I can tell you that the system is overwhelmed and even broken, in many cases. Our local and state agencies simply can't handle a huge influx of additional children needing placement.

So this is my question to my fellow Christians and pro-lifers: What are WE going to do to support the pro-life movement in our everyday lives? This is a LOT bigger than sharing your feelings on social media. This is bigger than good thoughts and prayers. These are real women having real babies in sometimes really difficult situations. These are women who are not prepared or able to have a child. Women who don't want a child. Women who feel they cannot raise a child. Women who have no support systems. No money. Whatever the situation... none of it is good.

I definitely don't have all of the answers, but I can tell you a few things that I know we can do. We can foster. We can adopt. We can mentor. We can throw baby showers. We can welcome at-risk moms into our homes, our families, our circles, our churches. We can be a support system for people in our lives who need help. And maybe most dear to my heart... we can support organizations that are literally boots-on-the-ground.

I am privileged to work at Tupelo Children's Mansion, which is a refuge for at-risk children and young people. The "unwanted" and "unloved" children who come to call TCM home learn quickly just how valuable they really are. They learn that their life has a beautiful purpose and that they are created by a Heavenly Father who loves them extravagantly and beyond imagination. And the staff at TCM literally get to be the hands and feet of Jesus to these precious children. What an opportunity!

If you are interested in actively supporting life - all life - I encourage you to visit our website at [www.mansionkids.org](http://www.mansionkids.org) to learn more about our program, to give or to view employment opportunities.

"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." I John 3:18  
Let's get to work, friends. There's a lot to do.

## Rev. Jared Driggers - Missionary to Spain

*Interviewed By William Turner*



Bro. and Sis. Driggers

Jared Driggers, UPCI missionary to Spain and a 2012 graduate of Indiana Bible College (IBC), has the distinction of being the first teaching assistant of Dean of Missiology Robert K. Rodenbush, and Missions Club president. Both he and Bro. Rodenbush began their tenure at IBC in 2010.

### **Training and Preparation for the Mission Field**

It was under the guidance of Bro. Rodenbush and his late wife, Evangeline, that Jared Driggers and his wife, Jeanna, later focused on Spain for an Associate in Missions (AIM) assignment in 2017 under the leadership of missionaries Nathan and Tanya Harrod. The Driggers received their full missionary appointment to Spain in 2020. That close bond with Robert Rodenbush as mentor and friend has continued since that close association began at IBC.

"I do not know how to adequately express the lessons I learned from Brother Rodenbush while at IBC," Bro. Driggers said. "Many things were taught, and perhaps more was even caught. I can hear him say, 'Always do the right thing, the right way, because it's the right thing to do.' Simple advice really, but that's the man he is. He practices what he preaches, and it inspires everyone who has been blessed enough to work with him. I often have told people that I have never worked near someone who, from just being around him, makes me want to be a better Christian, both in lifestyle and service, like he did."

Undoubtedly more than a coincidence, Bro. Driggers and his future wife, Jeanna, first met as teenagers on an Indiana District missions trip to Trinidad and Tobago. "I look back now and can't deny the hand of God on us meeting on the field, where the Lord began to deepen that burden for missions for both of us," he said. "Years later we would both begin college at IUPUI. I would eventually finish my degree at IBC and she would go to nursing school. She came to visit the school on more than one occasion while I was there, and the one class she visited was one of Bro. Rodenbush's missions classes. I don't remember which one, but he did give everyone an AIM application in that class. We still had that application six years later when it was time to answer the call to go to the field."

By then, IBC had established its Missiology program with Robert K. Rodenbush as dean. It was only natural for the Driggers to sit down with Robert and Evangeline Rodenbush for some guidance on that AIM application that they had saved.

"While we felt a burden for Spanish speaking nations, we did not feel a burden for a specific country. We sought direction from Bro. and Sis. Rodenbush because of their knowledge of global missions and the needs of specific areas," he said. "Together in sharing our thoughts and burden and gleaning from their insight and advice, we felt comfortable with the three choices for our AIM application. The Lord seemed to shut down two of the options rather quickly, but the door was opened to us in Spain. We immediately felt peace with continuing to Spain. It was not long after we arrived that we knew the Lord had guided us to the specific field in which He desired us to labor."

### **Life in Spain - Los Pentecostales de El Prat**

Under the leadership of the Harrods, the Driggers' time in Spain has been both productive and personally fulfilling as his summary of their ministry in and near Barcelona reveals.

"We arrived in Spain June 1st of 2017. Combined with our time as AIMers and Associate Missionaries, we served on the short term missions program for nearly three years." The Harrods, he said, "are tremendous leaders. Both allowed and encouraged us to dive in and serve in any capacity we could. We got to see and be a part of what seemed like the entire process" from conversions to discipleship training at various levels. Sis. Driggers helped by handling church finances. Her husband taught in the Bible school while also teaching home Bible studies. Eventually they were instrumental in opening a new church in the city of El Prat not far from Barcelona. The church now leases a building in downtown El Prat.

"If you take the bus through the city, you will pass Los Pentecostales de El Prat," Bro. Driggers said. "Locally and nationally we simply served in whatever way we could and in whatever way the Lord directed."

### **Advice for The Next Generation**

His advice to others who feel a call to global missions? "Pray. Submit yourself to the authority God has placed in your life. Service and submission will place you in position to hear the voice of God. God honors motive. Faithfulness in small things opens doors to greater things. Then follow Him each step through open doors."



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



### Contact information

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# Reaching Behind PRISON BARS and Beyond

Interviewed By Linda Schreckenberg



Nicholes Robbins  
Saltillo, MS

**Bro. Nicholes Robbins, tell us a little about yourself, your ministry background, and where you are located.**

I am forty-one years old. My wife Amelia and I have been married for fourteen years and have one daughter, Kaitlyn. We live in Saltillo, Mississippi, where I'm a church planter, Pastor of Life Point UPC, and own two businesses. I've been involved in many ministries, and along with pastoring, I serve as the Mississippi NAM Director and the CPM (Christian Prison Ministry) General Chaplain for the UPCI.

**Briefly share your testimony and how you became involved in prison ministry.**

I wasn't raised in the church. When I was eight years old, my dad, Duwayne Robbins, was sent to prison for drug possession and selling drugs. The first time I visited a prison at eight years old, I was going to see him. Before he went to prison, he came to church, repented, and was baptized in the name of Jesus, filled with the Holy Ghost, and completely delivered of drugs and alcohol. While in prison, he taught Bible studies and won people to God. He is a pastor and church planter in Prentiss, Mississippi and has been doing prison ministry for twenty years. I've now been involved in prison/jail ministry for twenty-five years. I started jail ministry when I was sixteen years old and prison ministry at the age of eighteen.

**What are the differences between jail ministry and prison ministry, and should churches consider being involved in both?**

Jail ministry is ministering to those behind bars in the county jails, while prison ministry is ministering to those in regional and state prisons. If a church can be involved in both, it will be an incredible blessing. Many in prison are there for a lengthier time, while in jail, they are mostly there for a shorter amount of time.

**Why should churches be involved in prison ministry? Is there a biblical mandate? How does this help the local church?**

First of all, they should be involved because of souls. Everything about prison ministry is about souls. There are 7.4 million adults currently behind bars, or on probation

or parole in North America. CPM's mission is to reach every soul behind bars who is not able to come to church. Some say they're just getting "jail-house religion," and yes, some are. But for many, this is the first time they've been sober enough to really allow God to draw and speak to them, and they're ready for their lives to be delivered and changed. Matthew 25 teaches us that we need to go to prisons and jails. We have a mandate to take the gospel to every creature. In verses 35-36, Jesus said, "For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me." We must work while it is day. This helps the church be obedient to the Word of God, and it gives training ground and ministry opportunities for young and new ministers. It also allows those you reach to learn of you and your ministry and visit when they get out of a correctional facility. I've never seen any church not grow that was involved in jail ministry or prison ministry.

**If someone wanted to start a prison ministry in their church, how should they go about it?**

First of all, I would encourage all to go through our CPM training online and become certified. This allows valuable information and tools needed to be effective. Our website [www.prisonministry.faith](http://www.prisonministry.faith) has all of the information on training and certification. Once that is completed, you get access to a members' resource page that gives plenty of tools and helps. One of those explains how to start a jail ministry or prison ministry. We also have district and regional chaplains to assist in any way.

**Are there any dangers or risks involved? Pros and cons? Are prisons still struggling with COVID?**

There are risks involved in prison ministry and jail ministry, but in over twenty-five years of being involved, I've never seen one person get hurt. The main thing is to be trained and follow the rules in place. This ministry is one of the most rewarding ministries there is. Prisons are still struggling with COVID, but more and more are opening back up for ministry.

**What gifts or skills are needed to be successful in prison ministry? Do you have to be called into the ministry?**

The most important thing is being faithful and willing. But, with that, all that are involved must have a strong prayer life. This is vital for this ministry and the individual going. Yes, you do need to be called to this ministry, but most of the time you will not know you're called to this ministry until you go at least once.

**Share with us some success stories if you can. What churches, in your opinion, have a successful prison ministry?**

We currently have UPCI ministers and pastors that were won to God in a prison or jail. One vicious prisoner was destined for the electric chair in Louisiana's Angola prison, nicknamed the "Alcatraz of the South." He is now a licensed evangelist and does prison ministry in Angola. You never know who you are ministering to. Some churches have seen 450 baptized and over 500 receive the Holy Ghost in one year along with many miracles, signs, and wonders. Churches such as Cedar Grove UPC (Saltillo, Mississippi), South Flint Tabernacle (Flint, Michigan), Christian World Fellowship (Salem, Oregon), New Life (Austin, Texas), The Pentecostals of Madisonville, Texas, and Dallas First Church (Dallas, Texas), among others, have successful prison ministries.

**What does a weekly visit or service look like? What happens typically in prison ministry?**

As far as structure, the worship services there are just like our services in church, including welcoming the prisoners, singing, worship, preaching, altar service, and baptisms. We also teach drug and alcohol classes at many prisons and jails because we want to meet the needs of each particular prison or jail.

**Who is best to contact if interested in getting involved? Can people contact you if they have questions? Is there a website?**

For more information, visit our website, [www.prisonministry.faith](http://www.prisonministry.faith). And, along with our regional and district chaplains, I am also available to assist. My direct email is [nrobbins@upci.org](mailto:nrobbins@upci.org).



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

# apostolicalendar 2021

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SPEAKERS / NOTES	CONTACT / INFO
<b>Nov 1</b>	<b>AYC Online Applications Available</b> Apostolic Youth Corps is a branch of UPCI Youth Ministries.	Destinations will be announced closer to the event date.	AYC North American trips are open to applicants 15-35 years of age.	Visit <a href="http://www.apostolicyouthcorps.com">www.apostolicyouthcorps.com</a> for more information.
<b>Nov 12</b>	<b>IBC Application Deadline - Spring 2022</b> Don't forget to submit your application early!	Indiana Bible College 1502 E. Sumner Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46227	Come anticipating an exciting semester at Indiana Bible College!	Visit <a href="http://www.indianabiblecollege.org">www.indianabiblecollege.org</a> for more information.
<b>Nov 12-13</b>	<b>Chicagoland Men's Conference</b> Our goal is to continue to be a meeting that men can gather from all over our fellowship to be strengthened, renewed, inspired and blessed to become better godly men, husbands and fathers.	Steeple Hill Christian Life Center 9000 W 87th St. Hickory Hills, IL 60464	Nathaniel Haney, Tim Gaddy, Oscar Borrero and Music by Thomas Trimble	Pastor Bob Miroballi 708-330-5252 Visit <a href="http://www.chicagoland-mensconference.com">www.chicagoland-mensconference.com</a> for further information
<b>Nov 12-13</b>	<b>RUSH Student Conference</b> RUSH Student Conference is a two-day conference for students and student leaders. Included in your ticket cost: access to all services, day sessions & after party (meal included).	New Life Christian Ctr. 2642 Columbus-Lancaster Road Northwest Lancaster, OH 43130	Joshua B. Carson, Rema Duncan, and more.	Visit "RUSH Students" on Facebook for links to registration and more information.
<b>DEC 19</b>	<b>Christmas for Christ Offering</b> 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 <a href="http://www.christmas-forchrist.faith">www.christmas-forchrist.faith</a> for more information.
<b>JAN 8-10 2022</b>	<b>Indiana Bible College Welcome Weekend</b> New and returning students arrive to begin our 2022 Spring Semester.	Indiana Bible College 1502 E. Sumner Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46227	Join us on Facebook Live for our first chapel service of the year with IBC President, Rev. Joshua B. Carson, the following Tuesday.	Visit <a href="http://www.indianabiblecollege.org">www.indianabiblecollege.org</a> for more information
<b>JAN 28 2022</b>	<b>IBC LIVE 2022</b> Join Indiana Bible College Choir, Chorale, and PRAISE for our annual live recording of anointed praise and worship music.	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46203	Hosted by Indiana Bible College President, Rev. Joshua B. Carson, and Dean of Worship Studies, Dr. Lindel M. Anderson	Visit <a href="http://www.indianabiblecollege.org">www.indianabiblecollege.org</a> for event information and registration.
<b>FEB 24-26 2022</b>	<b>Winterfire Conference</b> WinterFire is where action is birthed from revelation. Every leadership team will leave renewed and empowered! It is the place where those who pour out every week in ministry are poured into. Be a part of WinterFire 2022 to be challenged, encouraged, and instructed by the Word of God.	First Cathedral 1151 Blue Hills Avenue Bloomfield, CT 06002	Speakers for this conference will be announced closer to the event date.	Visit <a href="http://www.winterfire.org">www.winterfire.org</a> for more information.
<b>FEB 24-26 2022</b>	<b>IBC CONNECT 2022</b> Designed for high school juniors and seniors who feel a call to ministry. Students will be a part of an in-depth look at what it means to be called into ministry and how Indiana Bible College can help educate, train, and instruct those who are called.	Indiana Bible College 1502 E. Sumner Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46227	Join us on Facebook Live for a special CONNECT chapel service with IBC President, Rev. Joshua B. Carson.	Visit <a href="http://www.indianabiblecollege.org">www.indianabiblecollege.org</a> for event information and registration.
<b>MAR 30 - APR 1</b>	<b>Indiana Bible College Music Fest</b> IBC Music Fest is designed to challenge and inspire those involved in church music and worship arts ministries. The teaching staff includes some of the most outstanding music ministers, directors, musicians, songwriters, recording artists, etc. in the Apostolic movement.	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46225	Speakers and workshops for this conference will be announced closer to the event date.	Visit <a href="http://www.indianabiblecollege.org">www.indianabiblecollege.org</a> for more information.



## Church Growth: The Successful Pastor



Jason Gallion

### Church Today

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#### A Tale of Two Churches

In his book, *Sticky Teams: Keeping Your Leadership Team and Staff on the Same Page*, author Larry Osborne warns leaders against focusing too heavily on what is “not there.” What does he mean by that? As pastors and leaders, we tend to exhaust all of our efforts and energy on what we don’t have “in the room.”

Osborne tells of one church in California that had become very successful, with several young families and young adults in attendance. However, the church leadership thought that their greatest hindrance to growth was from not having a permanent location. They formed a committee and started a building fund. For the next ten years, the church put all its emphasis on finding a permanent place, but to no avail. During this time, people became frustrated, and with several families leaving over time, that church has become a shell of its former self.

Across town, Osborne notes, another, separate startup church was formed. However, this church did not focus on what they didn’t have; rather, these leaders began to focus on what they did have. They began to develop teams, ministries, and people. And they built leaders. Within ten years, that startup church has now become a megachurch in California.

This illustration may remind us of the parable of the talents in Matthew 25. The servants who were rewarded and prosperous were those who invested what they were given at their master’s command. The servant who buried his talent in the ground was afraid to invest because of his focus on what he did not have. Rather than investing what he was given, this “wicked and slothful servant” (verse 26) guarded it and did nothing with it.

Rather than being intimidated by what the “church across town” has that our churches don’t have, getting our perspective to line up with God’s is the better answer. We can’t afford to become people who say, for example, “I could never preach like that person, so there is no way God can use me to convert people or build a church.” We must preach with what God has given us and in the way that He has developed us, and rely upon the anointing of the Holy Ghost.

If we put much emphasis on what we don’t have, won’t we take the credit for what we do have, rather than giving it to God? We all have narcissistic tendencies that must be crucified. Because when we elevate human potential over the Spirit of God, we position ourselves to become a carnal people; a carnal church. Like Adam and Eve in the Garden, we all battle the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. They could not walk in covenant with God due to these, and neither can we. We must focus on what God has given us to invest, and let His power be what accomplishes all He wants to accomplish through us.



Bobby Killmon

### Theology

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

This is a continuation of the answer to this great question. As a reminder, the position in question is that the phrase “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost” is not what was first in Mt. 28:19. We have already shown that all copies of Matthew in Greek, as well as the various translations, have this passage included. We also saw that Eusebius commonly abbreviated his quotations of passages in Scripture. Let’s wrap up with what I will call an argument from common sense.

#### Common Sense

The argument that some faction of the Church wanted to create a passage with a triune baptism, who then altered manuscripts, then destroyed all manuscripts with a shorter ending, and also altered all of the Early Church Father’s sermons is incredible to suggest. That would involve altering around 6,000 Greek manuscripts, along with over 40,000 early translations, and literally tens of thousands of quotes in the Early Church Fathers. They would have to never show their ink work in the margins and never get caught!

Further, if you’re going to change the baptismal formula in Matthew, why change it only in this passage? Why wouldn’t they also alter Lk. 24:47; Acts 2:38; 8:12, 8:16; 10:48; and 19:5 too? These passages all refer to Jesus’ name baptism or being baptized in Jesus’ name. But wait; you would also have to go into the epistles and change the affirmations of Jesus’ name baptism in Rom. 6:3-4; I Cor. 1:13, 6:11; Gal. 3:27; Col. 2:12; and Jam. 2:7. None of these passages have textual variants of an inserted trinitarian formula.

#### Conclusion

All due respect to ministers who try to teach a truth (baptism in Jesus’ name) by casting doubt on the text of Scripture (Mt. 28:19; 1 Jn. 5:7; and others), the evidence above is clear. Mt. 28:19 is a soteriological statement alluding to baptism in Jesus’ name. It declares Father in intention, Son in redemption, and Holy Ghost in application. This is a beautiful christological confession of faith that is affirmed by Jesus’ name baptism. What we are afforded by the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ is applied to our lives by faith, when we identify with each aspect of the salvation process. So Mt. 28:19 shows what was purposed by God (as our Father), must be won and accomplished in existence by the Son (the man God became; Phil. 2:5-11), and then applied to our life in salvation (through the regeneration of the Spirit). If we start to dismantle the Bible, do we still have one?

Ps. 12:6-7 holds a beautiful promise for us. “The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.” God inspired an inerrant text, but also promised to preserve it for His people in all generations. Not just the Word in general, but His “words.” All of them. Praise God!



T. W. Massengale

### Church Growth

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#### The Successful Pastor

The growth of a church will rise or fall upon its leadership. A growing church has a growing pastor. No church rises above its leadership.

If one will fast, pray, and feed his or her mind with what he desires to become, the Holy Ghost will do the rest.

*The growing pastor is an individual of humility.* In the Word of God, great people knew that they were nothing in themselves, and were great only through God. Paul said, “For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle.”

*The growing pastor is an individual of personal discipline.* Growing pastors are disciplined in prayer, study, soulwinning, and managing their time. They neither burn out nor coast along and have achieved balance in their lives.

*The growing pastor is an individual of vision.* They are possessed with a dream, not of their own making, but given to them by God. Like Abraham, they are willing to step into the unknown and be led by the Spirit. They know that “without a vision, the people perish.”

*The growing pastor is an individual of confidence.* They are confident that the path they walk is God’s will, and they are confident in Him as well as their people.

*The growing pastor is an individual of zeal.* They have an “inner fire,” burning with spiritual passion. They get angry, but angry at the right things - like sin and the

many devices of Satan.

*The growing pastor is an individual of integrity.* Their word can be counted on. Regardless of how they are treated, they treat others as they wish to be treated. They have high ministerial ethics and will always follow the guidelines agreed upon by their brethren.

*The growing pastor is an individual of courage.* Willing to take measured risks, they will step out in faith, knowing that God’s promise to Joshua applies to them as well: “Be strong and of good courage... I will not fail you nor forsake you.”

How about you? Are you willing to follow the Spirit’s leading, even in the face of ridicule? Are you willing to preach the truth and stand for holiness in spite of people’s opinions? If so, this is courage. It is this quality that separates the great pastor from simply the average.



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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.



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# **THE** **NEXT** **TOWN**

**WHERE IS YOUR NEXT TOWN?**

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JESUS SAID UNTO THEM,  
“LET US GO INTO **THE NEXT TOWNS**,  
THAT I MAY PREACH THERE ALSO.” MARK 1:38



## Spiritual Growth

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### What Makes an Emotionally/Spiritually Healthy Family or Church?

One of the first powerful truths that I learned in my Bible-based counseling college education is the definition of being a healthy family or healthy church.

Read this closely: A healthy family or church lives by this truth: We talk and share how we feel freely; therefore, we build deep trust. An unhealthy family or church does not talk. They do not share their feelings; therefore, they do not build trust.

In my twenty-nine years of being a Certified Pastoral Counselor, one of many issues that I counsel is helping people, who were deeply hurt in childhood and were threatened to not talk about their pain, to be able to vent their painful emotions in a safe atmosphere. Through Acts 2:38 salvation, sins are gone, but a person may have deep emotional wounds.

Salvation does wash away our sins, but it does not remove our life experiences or painful emotional memories. Therefore, we can be fully saved, but deeply emotionally wounded.

The church should be a safe place to talk, share and love each other unconditionally.

If someone tells you not to talk about painful issues, that is not of God.

Proverbs 12:25 – “Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, but a good word makes it glad.” How can we share a ‘good word’ if we are told not to talk to each other? To be emotionally and spiritually healthy, we must find a safe person to talk to about the pain in our lives. I always ask the question, “What is God’s truth about your situation?”

When we read Isaiah 61, God shares that we would have the ‘good news,’ which is the gospel, and continued to say that He would heal the broken in heart and set captives free of their prison (of toxic thinking) – etc. God has impressed on my heart that the emotional healing from toxic experiences, that produce toxic thoughts, would happen after salvation. (If I’m wrong – please correct me).

Please, never tell someone not to talk. God knows what we will say before we say it – See Psalm 139:4.

[www.carolclemans.org](http://www.carolclemans.org) – Bible teaching @ [www.youtube.com/c/carolclemans](https://www.youtube.com/c/carolclemans) & join [www.patreon.com/carolclemans](https://www.patreon.com/carolclemans). There is healing for the saved hurting heart! Nationwide counseling: (636) 448-0121.



## Identity and Scripture

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### Desperate for the Whole Armor of God

Is there a particular stage or season in our lives when we begin to realize the extreme importance of wearing the whole armor of God? Are we familiar with the armor pieces only from a Sunday School story’s perspective or from suiting up and using these pieces all throughout our daily living? In order to live a successful, overcoming, victorious life in Christ, we must become very familiar with each armor piece and know when and how to use them strategically. In this article, we will exam three armor pieces...the belt (of truth), the breastplate (of righteousness), and the gospel (of peace).

Ephesians 6:14-17 gives a list of the full armor of God, with the first armor piece being the belt of truth buckled around our waist. This belt encircles our entire body, making sure we are fully encompassed with truth. Truth needs no justification because the nature of truth is a defense within itself.

Next, we see the breastplate of righteousness. This breastplate has two types of righteousness for us to use...the righteousness of God that He Himself has given us (2 Corinthians 5:21), and the second, the righteousness God carries out through us like ‘the righteous acts of the saints’ (Revelation 19:8). In daily spiritual battle, both of these varieties of righteousness protect our hearts.

And third, we have the gospel (of peace). Our feet are fitted with this readiness that comes with the gospel of peace. The gospel of peace is the Good News of forgiveness of sins and access to oneness with God. This oneness with God produces peace...speaking peace, spreading peace, living peace, everywhere our feet tread.

Next month we will look at the shield (of faith), helmet (of salvation), and the sword (of the Spirit). We will become desperate for the whole armor of God when we find ourselves in a place of total confusion. Let’s be thankful for these times of confusion and desperation, because these times cause us to fully trust in God and take on His armor for complete protection, mentally, physically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually.

Selah! Now take a praise break!

*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](mailto:VickieHodgesSharingLife@gmail.com) or (281) 489-0055.*



## Relationships 201

[www.dsministries.com](http://www.dsministries.com)

### What is Porn Addiction?

There is some difference of opinion on what addiction is, including pornography addiction. The determining factor is often whether you are the primary figure in the addiction or if it is someone else under consideration.

It is a whole lot easier to diagnose addiction in others than in ourselves. Anything that controls us is unhealthy. When we find ourselves not wanting to do what we end up doing, we are not in control of ourselves or our circumstances. Even the Holy Ghost does not control us as much as guides us. We decide when and if to follow.

With addiction, we, in part, lose the ability to decide, so the addiction chooses for us. When this happens, addiction is controlling us.

The church is no stranger to helping those who are addicted. Many churches have support groups for alcohol and narcotic recovery etc., for a good reason. Although some churches have sexual addiction recovery groups, the number of them is significantly fewer.

We need moral purity groups to reach the church, not just the community.

Some questions to ask in regards to pornography addiction:

1. How long have you been looking at porn?
2. How many times have you quit?
3. Is your porn usage hurting anybody?

Many apostolics access porn to the level of their addiction. It may be once a week, while for others, it may be once every 3-4 months. We must look at both of these as addictions. Neither is healthy. Both are destructive.

Apostolic Moral Purity ([apostolicmoralpurity.com](http://apostolicmoralpurity.com)), a DayStar Ministries ministry, focuses on helping apostolics find victory over pornography and sexual impurity. Go to the website to find out how to access live events in November, December, and beyond.

If you wish to help those currently addicted or you are presently accessing porn yourself, AMP is a safe place to find help. Please join us in these upcoming live events. You may access these events anonymously.

We want to help. Feel free to contact me ([dsirstad@dsministries.com](mailto:dsirstad@dsministries.com)). You may rest assured that confidentiality is a primary concern. You are not alone!

*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](mailto:dsirstad@dsministries.com)*



## Accounting & Tax

### Employee Retention Credit

Delano Sherley

Initially, the AICPA was not sure if churches qualified for the ERC; thus, we waited until further guidance was released before recommending that churches apply. If you experienced a significant decline in gross receipts (more than 50%, per quarter) or fully or partially suspended any significant

part of operations due to a government mandate (including capacity limitations) during any calendar quarter since the pandemic began, you may be eligible for the ERC (even if you also received a PPP loan, but not on the same wages if the loan was forgiven).

The credit can be claimed on payroll paid between March 13, 2020 through December 31, 2021. The credit is claimed against certain 941 payroll taxes. Note: If you do not withhold FICA taxes on ministerial wages, these wages are not eligible for the ERC.

If you feel you may qualify, you have up to three years to amend Form 941 to claim the credit and receive a refund. Due to the complexity of the qualifications, we recommend that you contact your church attorney and accountant to verify you qualify and to file the amended returns. Note that further guidance is expected from the IRS which may change this recommendation.

*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](mailto:Delano@dsacpains.com) Website: [www.dsacpains.com](http://www.dsacpains.com)*



**THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS****VA Parents Demand Answers: Two Daughters Report Sexual Assault By Transgender Students**

A Virginia school district says it properly followed procedures after two students reported being sexually assaulted, adding that the school district was not trying to cover up a scandal.

These allegations came after the school board approved a policy that allowed trans-identified students to use bathrooms that corresponded with their gender identity instead of their biological sex. According to The Daily Wire, a 15-year-old girl at Loudoun County's Stone Bridge High School was sexually assaulted in a girls' bathroom by a biological boy who identified as a girl.

The victim's father, Scott Smith, said he also received a call from another parent who claimed there had been another assault by the biological boy. The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office says the teenager has been charged with sexual battery and abduction of a fellow Broad Run High School student.

Parents said at a school board meeting that the board was not being held "accountable."

"There is something seriously wrong with a system that prioritizes reporting a rape internally to the superintendent so that they can control the narrative instead of calling the police," a parent said.

The school claims police were contacted to investigate the claims.

**New Superman Will Come Out as Bisexual in Upcoming Comic**

In the upcoming DC Comics Superman release, the son of Superman and current heir to the mantle will identify as bisexual.

In July, DC Comics published the new series, *Superman: Son of Kal-el*, in which Jon Kent, the son of Daily Planet reporter Lois Lane and Clark Kent, the original Superman, becomes the Man of Steel.

According to DC Comics, Jon Kent will identify as bisexual in the fifth release of the comic and will become romantically involved with a male reporter, Jay Nakamura, after initially striking up a friendship.

The long-standing comic book publisher also shared a photo of the two young males sharing a kiss.

Kent's coming out as bisexual adds to DC Comics' growing list of LGBTQ characters.

**Is America Headed for a National Split?**

*The following has been adapted from an article by Richard D. Land, Christian Post Executive Editor.*

Are ominous signs revealing deep divisions in American society serving as harbingers or warning alarms that the nation's continuing unity is truly imperiled?

There are certainly multiple reasons for deep concern. The University of Virginia's Center for Politics has published a survey revealing that 41% of President Biden's voters believe that the nation is so hopelessly divided that they think the nation needs to be divided into "blue" nation and "red" nation. Sadly, 51% of President Trump's voters agree with them.

When you expound on the survey, the results are even more ominous. If you add 41% of Biden's voters (38 million) with 52% of Trump's voters (38 million), we are confronted with the fact that 71 million Americans who actually voted in the 2020 presidential election are ready to give up on the American experiment. A disdain and hostility toward fellow countrymen, and a lack of tolerance of differing convictions, have now reached the point of advocating national divorce.

We have seen the signs of this extreme division surfacing with increasing regularity. On the eve of the 2016 election, polls showed that if Trump won, approximately 60% of the citizens of our most populous state, California, were willing to secede from the Union. Just as ominously, approximately 60% of the residents of the nation's second-most populous state, Texas, said they were willing to secede if Mrs. Clinton won. Many would argue that Donald Trump's candidacy and presidential tenure were more a manifestation of America's deep divisions rather than being causative.

In Washington, D.C., the Congress also increasingly mirrors these deep fissures in the nation's body politics. As The Wall Street Journal's Gerald Seib has observed, "Increasingly, Americans have sorted themselves into red enclaves and blue enclaves where they live with people who share their cultural and ideological mindset."

However, while there are many contributing factors to this serious national crisis, the main underlying factor which dwarfs all other causes is the baneful influence of social media.

The recent revelations of the Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen have revealed the malignant influence of social media in breeding and feeding divisions in our society.

Let us pray that this dangerous drift is reversed while there is still an America left to save. May God give us the grace, courage, and wisdom to prevail in this struggle and to bequeath to our children and our children's children the great inheritance passed on to us by our ancestors—the great privilege and responsibility of being an "American."

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

■ A new study found that more than 60 percent of born-again Christians in America between 18 and 39 years of age believe that people can receive salvation through Buddha, Muhammad and Jesus. The "Religious Views & Practices Survey" from Probe Ministries said there is a "striking decline" in evangelical beliefs and practices over the last decade. Meanwhile, the number of those who claim to be believers has jumped by nearly 25 percent.

■ The Biden administration has handed the pro-abortion community a major victory by reversing a Trump-era policy that prevents certain federal funds from going to groups such as Planned Parenthood that promote or perform abortions. The Trump rule prevented Title X money from going to family-planning clinics that performed, promoted, referred for, or supported "abortion as a method of family planning."

**SOCIAL TRENDS****"Facebook Knows" That Instagram Is Toxic for Teenagers, Whistleblower Tells Senators**

Facebook executives are hiding research that shows Instagram is toxic for young people and especially for teen girls, a former Facebook employee told a Senate committee.

Frances Haugen, a former data scientist at Facebook, quit the company and became a whistleblower this year by releasing thousands of pages of insider documents she says shows the company knows that its products – primarily Facebook and Instagram – are bad for society as currently constructed.

The papers leaked by Haugen show that in one study of U.K. teen girls, 13.5 percent said suicidal thoughts became more frequent after using Instagram. In another study that was leaked, 17 percent of teen girls said their eating disorders became worse due to Instagram.

A Facebook study of teens in the U.S. and U.K. found that more than 40 percent of Instagram users "who reported feeling 'unattractive' said the feeling began on the app," The Wall Street Journal reported.

Facebook, she said, chooses profit over what is best for children and society at large. Following Haugen's testimony, the National Center on Sexual Exploitation urged Congress to take action.

**LEGAL TRENDS****Supreme Court to Consider: Can Boston Prohibit the Christian Flag while Flying 284 Others?**

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear a major religious liberty case involving the city of Boston's refusal to fly an organization's Christian flag while approving the flags of nearly 300 other groups.

The case, *Shurtleff v. Boston*, began in 2017 when the Christian civic organization Camp Constitution requested that the Christian flag be allowed to fly on a city hall flagpole that is open to the public. The city, though, denied Camp Constitution's request because of the flag's religious symbol.

"The city cannot deny the Christian flag because it is 'Christian' and allow every other flag to fly on its flagpoles," said Mat Staver, founder and chairman of Liberty Counsel, which is representing Camp Constitution. He claims that the city's action violated the First Amendment.





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



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Transcribed By Zack Ross

*1 Samuel 30:9-13 – “So David went, he and the six hundred men that [were] with him, and came to the brook Besor, where those that were left behind stayed.*

*But David pursued, he and four hundred men: for two hundred abode behind, which were so faint that they could not go over the brook Besor.*

*And they found an Egyptian in the field, and brought him to David, and gave him bread, and he did eat; and they made him drink water;*

*And they gave him a piece of a cake of figs, and two clusters of raisins: and when he had eaten, his spirit came again to him: for he had eaten no bread, nor drunk [any] water, three days and three nights.*

*And David said unto him, To whom [belongest] thou? and whence [art] thou? And he said, I [am] a young man of Egypt, servant to an Amalekite; and my master left me, because three days ago I fell sick.”*

#### **One Man's Trash is Another Man's Treasure**

Once each year, my wife will announce to me that it is time for a deep cleaning of our house. This means that it's time to go through our closets, gather old suits, shirts that are weathered, pants that no longer fit, etc. We will then toss said items into the back of our truck, and take them to a thrift store or sell them at a yard sale.

It's often said of these types of selling points that “one man's trash is another man's treasure.” In fact, some find this statement to be truer than others. Take Rikki McEvoy, for example, who purchased what seemed like a tattered old sweater for fifty-eight cents, only to find that it had been owned and worn by Vince Lombardi himself, the 1960s head coach of the Green Bay Packers. The sweater sold at auction for over forty-eight thousand dollars.

Stories such as this illustrate three important points: firstly, one must take a closer look before dropping something off at the thrift store. Secondly, why do these things never happen to me? Lastly, they illustrate a mindset – someone said of an item, “This no longer has value,” but someone else came along and recognized the value within.

Can I encourage someone with this thought? When the devil looked at my life and said, “There's nothing worth saving,” Jesus said, “It's worth my blood.” Jesus found me where the devil left me!

#### **The Nature of an Amalekite**

In this passage of Scripture, the Amalekite nomads have invaded Ziklag where David and his men are engaged in battle. They looted the city, burned it with fire, and took the women and children captive.

With God's permission, David and his men pursued these invaders. But in the field, they find an Egyptian servant. He is weak, malnourished, and has been left to die. The first question that comes to mind is, what kind of master leaves his servant to die in a field? He has no bread to eat, no water to

drink, and the temperature was unbearable, no doubt. This servant had been abandoned with absolutely no hope of survival.

Scripture gives clear evidence that this servant was not so “sick” that it should have merited his abandonment. After just a few hours of care and provision from David and his men, strength returns to him, and he is made whole. Additionally, it was not as if the Amalekites were scarce on supplies; a strain of resources did not cause the servant's condition. In verse 16, the same master is eating, drinking, and dancing with the other invaders. This is exactly the nature of the devil; he will use you while you have something to offer and discard you when you have nothing left to give.

The Amalekites were descendants of Esau, who despised his birthright. This essence had been passed down through the generations; the Amalekites hated everything good and godly. Historically, they attacked the Israelites, God's people, when they were at their weakest (see Deut. 25:17-18). This is the nature of our adversary as well. The devil doesn't attack us on Sunday mornings when we sit on the pew, but on Monday, Tuesday, etc., when temptation is all around and we have the potential to grow weary.

Don't forget how the enemy used to wear you out. Don't forget how the enemy has done everything he can to bring about your destruction. Remember wicked Haman, who was himself an Amalekite; he hated anything righteous and sought to destroy God's people. I don't ever want to forget that there were gallows assembled for my destruction, but that Jesus found me where the devil left me!

#### **Sin is a Calloused Taskmaster**

The Amalekites attacked this city when David and his men were gone. They had no fear of God, and they had no courage to attack when the men were home. They smote the feeble, struck the weak, and spoiled the city when the men were gone off to war.

These were the same people who left a starving servant to die in the wilderness. The adversary and the nature of sin are the same. Sin is a hard, calloused taskmaster. Centuries before, the Israelites had forgotten the nature of their Egyptian taskmasters and longed to return to Egypt. This can happen to those in the church as well. Remember, there is nothing in this world worth going back to. Don't start getting nostalgic at what Jesus brought you out of. The best thing that ever happened to you was an apostolic altar.

As long as you're profitable, you can be a part of Satan's agenda. But the moment you're no longer appealing, having nothing left to offer, he is finished with you. Where was Delilah when Samson was between the pillars? She was with him in the middle of the night to



get the secret of his strength, but left him when he was in captivity and no longer profitable for her. The same is true of the devil: once you are no longer profitable to him, he will leave you in the field to die. We would do well to remember Hebrews 11:25, as it refers to “the pleasures of sin for a season.”

### **The Condition, The King, and The Covenant**

The truth is that it wouldn't have taken much for this Amalekite master to revive his young servant. After a little water, bread, and moments of rest, he was well. This is what people need to find what they come into our churches: bread, water, and a place of rest. People need a safe place, a place where they can grow and be nourished. They need a place where the message is loudly proclaimed, “The devil said it's over for you, but Jesus is saying it's just getting started.” We have what guests are looking for!

In the exact same field where this servant had been abandoned, David fed him. The same condition that caused the Amalekite master to say, “I have no use for you,” was the same condition that caused the righteous king to break the edge off of a cake made with figs. In the same place that the ambassador of hell abandoned him, the king of Israel made a covenant with him.

David did not choose him for his credentials; his administrative giftings; anything in the flesh. This young servant's condition had not improved during the three days since his abandonment. In fact, he had less to offer than he did three days earlier. But the king wasn't waiting on him to get better, because the king himself was the maker of this covenant. None of us deserve God's mercy; He is not waiting on people to get “better” before He can help them. When He finds us, it's not like God gets a “special deal.” We have nothing of personal value to offer Him, and yet He comes to us with a covenant purchased with His own blood to wash away our sins.

### **The Cry of the Covenant**

A covenant is a binding agreement between two parties. The attitude of a covenant is, “if you do this, then I will do that.” The devil can whisper in people's ears and tell them that if he's done using them, then God can't use them either. But just as David offered this servant a covenant in the midst of his condition, Jesus can do the same for us.

The servant had two requests for the king: 1) “Don't kill me,” and 2) “Don't ever let me go back to what I came from.” If we ever get so entitled in our walk with God, that these are not the cries of our heart... we will fail. The mercy and the grace of God are still needed. Any position that I can attain in my flesh does not negate my need for the Lord's mercy. As Lamentations 3:22 reminds us, “[It is of] the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.”

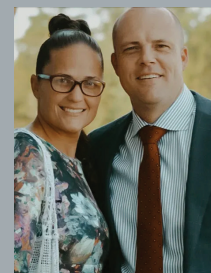
Think back to when Jesus first found you – when the devil had discarded you and threw you into the waste pile. You were a one-dollar-find, but Jesus found you and said, “I see some value in you.” He told us Himself, “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have [it] more abundantly.” (John 10:10)

This must be the cry of every heart. The devil knows that if we can just rely on our talents and abilities, or the excellence of our presentation – this will keep us from getting away from the wonder-working power of the blood of Jesus, which is the blood of the new covenant. Nobody has ever been freed by fleshly success, but when Jesus finds you where the devil left you, and you agree to walk in covenant with Him, you can declare that you are never going back.

### **The King's Covenant Gives Us Purpose**

David, the righteous king, had conditions for this covenant that he made with the servant. These conditions were simply this: get up and walk with me. David promised that they would find the adversary that left him to die and that they would destroy the armies of the enemy.

When Jesus found me where the devil left me, He didn't just give me grace and mercy, although they are so important and should be received with thanksgiving. When Jesus found me, He also gave me a purpose – to join Him in covenant living, to serve in His armies, and to work with Him to destroy the armies of hell.



**Jason Staten**  
Great Mills, MD

**Pastor Staten is an ordained minister with the United Pentecostal Church International. He served as the Maryland/DC District Youth President from 2004 to 2012. His ministerial background includes over fifteen years in youth and family ministry. He is in high demand as a conference and youth speaker. Pastor Staten serves as the Living Hope Senior Pastor. He and his wife Valerie ensure that Living Hope is consistent in equipping and empowering Living Hope leaders both now and for the future. He communicates a clear Biblical vision for church growth. His dynamic ministry style includes a distinct practical application of Biblical truths and principles. He and his wife, Valerie, have four beautiful daughters: Brooke, Camryn, Riley, and Dakota.**

**This sermon was preached as part of a three-night Revival Series at Calvary Tabernacle in Indianapolis, IN. To watch this sermon, visit [www.CalvaryTabIndy.org](http://www.CalvaryTabIndy.org) or download the Boxcast app. This sermon can also be listened to on the Calvary Tabernacle podcast, available on most major podcast platforms.**

# Books

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# READING

## Humilitas - John Dickson

Without humility, many people fail to develop their true leadership potential and miss out on genuine fulfillment in their lives and their relationships.

## Prayer: The Secret of High Impact Leaders - Dave Early

The common denominator of great spiritual leaders throughout the ages involves a focus on prayer. Prayer is the determining factor for maximum spiritual impact.

## Grasping God's Word - J. Scott Duvall

*Grasping God's Word* has proven itself in classrooms across the country as an invaluable help to students who want to learn how to read, interpret, and apply the Bible for themselves.



"A daily habit of reading quality books to expand your knowledge of ministry, leadership, and scripture will transform you into a better person. A workman need not be ashamed if they are continually seeking to improve themselves by understanding God's Word in a more intimate way." -

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# A.M.E.N. Ministry: Reaching the Amish and Mennonite Community

By Cynthia West



Jacob Hostetler  
Washington, PA

How do you witness to a group of individuals who believe it is a sin to convert? This question is one of the biggest challenges the Amish-Mennonite Evangelism Network (A.M.E.N.) faces. The A.M.E.N. program is part of the UPCI Multicultural Ministries and focuses on equipping and educating Apostolic men and women with all the information that they need to effectively reach the Amish and Mennonite people with the Acts 2:38 message. Their vision is to see hundreds of Amish and Mennonite churches baptized in Jesus' name and filled the Holy Ghost. This same vision has grasped the hearts of the Hostetler family.

Jacob Hostetler, pastor of the Jesus Church of Washington in Washington, Pennsylvania, was born and raised Amish. After getting married, he started reading the Bible and decided it was time to know what the Bible said for himself. He started reading

in the book of Matthew, and by the time he got through the sermon on the mount, his world was completely turned around. He began to explain that what he felt when reading, he didn't feel at the Amish church. So he started to ask the big question: why? However, the only answer he received was that it was "just tradition." This is what got their journey started. And today, the Hostetler family has been baptized in Jesus' name, is filled with the Holy Ghost, and has a mission to reach the Amish and Mennonite people with the Gospel message.

When trying to minister to the Amish or Mennonite community, one of the biggest factors to take into consideration is their background and dealing with the culture. According to Bro. Hostetler, one of the top challenges when presenting the gospel to them, is that what you say and what they hear you say are two different things because of their belief system. The Amish do not try to reach out to people because they believe it is a sin to convert from the church one is raised in. If someone is raised in a

particular faith or church, he or she should remain there. However, if one is not raised in a church, and he or she decides to join, much respect is gained from their community.

One might wonder, what are some effective ways to minister to the Amish and Mennonite community? Bro. Hostetler encourages people to become Amish taxi drivers. He states that they are very influential in Amish communities, and will allow you to gain their trust. He suggests steering clear of handing out church tracts because they are geared to converting them as they read. However, he suggests having books and magazines that are centered around truth in your taxi for them to see and read. "They love to read, and will read it without thinking you are trying to convert them." Bro. Hostetler states. The A.M.E.N. program has seen a lot of success in doing this.

To read more about the A.M.E.N. ministry, visit the Multicultural Ministries website at [www.multiculturalministries.org/project/amish](http://www.multiculturalministries.org/project/amish).

## Reaching Souls Through Video Ministry

By Linda Schreckenberger



Theo Heartsill  
Walnut Springs, TX

The word "passion" doesn't really begin to describe the burden Rev. Theo Heartsill has to reach lost souls. He has been in ministry for over twenty years, was licensed with the UPCI in 2012, and has pastored Pentecostals of Walnut Springs in

Walnut Springs, Texas for two years. He's a bi-vocational pastor, working between forty to seventy hours per week. He began his video teaching ministry in 2019 and spends up to forty hours of prayerful study and research in preparation for each video. He also keeps a spiritual journal of his dreams, revelations, and spiritual topics that God is dealing with him about.

His videos, done in a casual setting, definitely hold the attention of the viewer as he expounds the Greek and Hebrew meanings of the Scriptures to help bring understanding. He said, "I'm very passionate because I believe people are really confused about some things in the Bible, and all of the misinformation and false doctrine out there only makes it worse. I want to share biblical truth while making it understandable and practical so people can use it in everyday life."

"I believe these videos are perfect for Bible study, small group settings, or displaying in a church service," said Bro. Heartsill. "In fact, I've already had churches and other denominations reach out to me, telling me they are using them for small group settings, and even presenting them over the main screens of their auditoriums. Then, after the video is over, the pastor or group leader takes over from there, answers questions, and leads them into further discussion. I've also had people from around the world reach out to me to let me know they received the Holy Ghost while watching my videos in their homes, and many people have been re-baptized into Jesus' name."

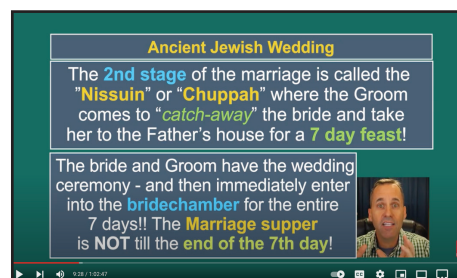
Recently, a woman who was raised as a Muslim and became New Age moved to Barcelona, Spain. After viewing Bro. Heartsill's video on baptism in Jesus' name, she called the UPC church there, was baptized, and came out of the water speaking in tongues.

He said, "Others have reached out to me, thanking me for making the videos because they're not comfortable leading a Bible study themselves or may not have time to witness to someone, but they can let them know about the videos."

Topics of his videos include baptism in Jesus' name, how to receive the Holy Ghost, how to hear God's voice, how to find

the will of God, the rapture, faith, how to find the ministry God has called you to, and much more. His video, The Ancient Jewish Wedding, explains the parallel of the Jewish wedding to the Bride of Christ and Jesus as the Bridegroom.

If interested, you can find the videos on YouTube by searching for "Theo Heartsill" or viewing them on his Facebook page. Bro. Heartsill can be contacted through his email, [theoheartsill@hotmail.com](mailto:theoheartsill@hotmail.com).





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**Word To The Wise:**

"Do not judge by appearances; a rich heart may be under a poor coat." - Unknown

**My son is the manager** of a glass and window company and advertised in the paper for experienced glaziers.

Since a good glass man is hard to find, he was pleased when a man who called about the job said he had over 20 years of experience.

"Where have you worked as a glazier?" my son asked. The man replied, "Dunkin' Donuts."

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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

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



Regina reacts to pastor Morton's comment that her daughter has difficulty handling criticism.

\*\*\*\*\*

**I went to the Walmart today**, and I was inside the store for literally five minutes.

When I came out there was a state trooper writing a parking ticket for being in a handicap spot.

So I went up to him and said, "Come on, buddy, how about giving a guy a break?"

He ignored me and continued writing the ticket. So I called him a pencil-necked cop. He glared at me and started writing another ticket for worn tires!

So I then asked him if his psychiatrist makes him lie face down on the couch cause he's so ugly.

He finished the second ticket and put it on the windshield with the first. Then he started writing a third ticket!

This went on until he had placed five tickets on the windshield... the more I insulted him, the more tickets he wrote. I didn't care. My car was parked around the corner.

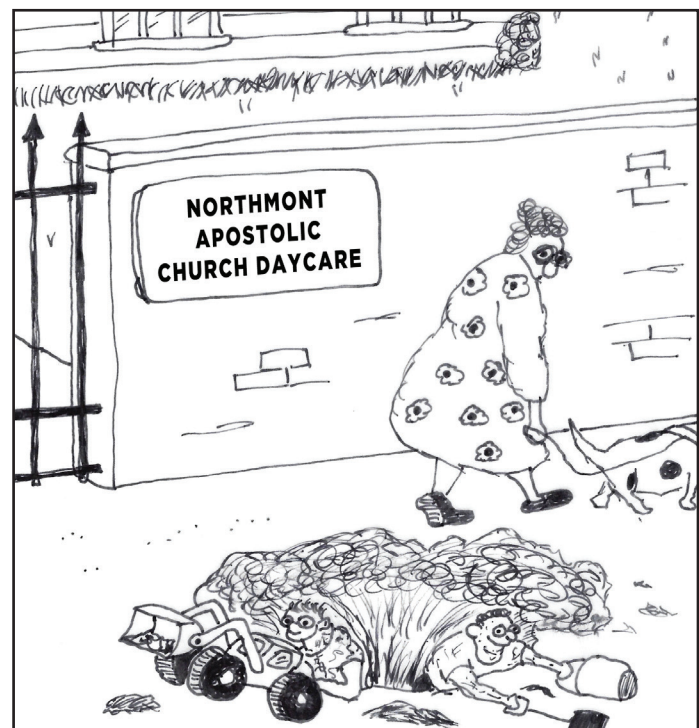


"I TOLD you that sermon you preached on increased fasting was a risky move!"

\*\*\*\*\*

**As a new missionary** to Ecuador, my Spanish was struggling when I went to the hospital to pray for people. One afternoon, I took a translator with me to visit a lady's aging mother. At the end of the visit I prayed that God would comfort her and give her much-needed sleep. After the visit, the translator told me that I had textually asked for the aged mother to "rest in peace." Later, we heard that the mother had passed away shortly after our visit.

The story soon spread about what had happened, and how I had prayed for this lady. In the thirty years we have been here, no one has complained if the missionary does not visit the sick. To the contrary, some have said to me that it may be best if I *don't* visit them when they're sick.



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