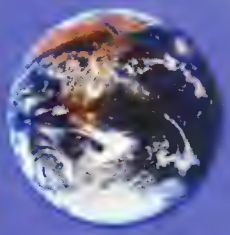
Vol.16/No.12

Indiana Bible College

Perspectives



Russia in the Winter

Bro. Talmadge French, Page 6

Dealing With Dead Reindeer

Let's put the dead reindeer on the table and deal with it right away because it sure is stinking up the room.

America is, as some of our enemies have announced, a sinking nation. I could not help but notice the visual displayed on the *Drudge Report* on November 13 showing a symbol of America that had fallen through an hour glass and was broken. Behind that was the symbol of Israel dropping and headed for the same unavoidable crash. The hourglass image made clear the idea that the clock was ticking and that it was just a matter of time until the U.S. and Israel and all of western civilization were headed for destruction.

Many Americans know that indeed our country is in trouble. But it is not for a lack of resources, armies, powers, economic strength or talent; it is a lack of conviction and desire. We are spiritually weak. We need a revival of ideals and identity. Our enemies, of course, see this also and are counting on that weakness and lack of resolve to bring down this country.

While many Americans see the problem, others don't. Some don't care, and others are over-confident. It is so easy to find people everywhere who have "no clue" what is happening in the world; no clue as to the consequences of their behavior or their choices at the voting booth. America's veneer is wearing thin. The years of MTV and endless entertainment are taking their toll. The cost of dumbing down everything from education to church has become a wild fire charring the minds of the masses, blackening America's soul and her morals. This is the dead reindeer on the table: our country's inability to think and to acknowledge its spiritual weakness.

Politicians ignore the laws, buy the votes of illegal immigrants, commit themselves to a 'globalistic' economy that trashes our national sovereignty, while they shower their friends with vulgar wealth. A vast number of nations, including the U.S., close their hearts and their eyes to the genocide sweeping across Africa at the hands of blood-thirsty Islamics. Private empires that define themselves as socialistic cannibalize Central America and parts of South America. And there is no hope in sight for real change.

And why should the politicians be concerned? They can see that Americans are mindlessly glued to reality TV and Oprah, and are making international multimillionaire celebrities out of the likes of Ellen Degeneres, Rosie O'Donnell and Elton John, who recently declared that all religion should be outlawed. When will we exact punishment on those who are advocating the destruction of our country, our religious foundations, and our morals?

Worse yet, the church lacks discernment. We are near a total state of complete disconnect from spiritual wisdom. If anything will kill the church it will be a lack of divine understanding. It is downright amazing, to me, how drunk some church people have become, hoping that they will be accepted by the world or that they will make a big splash in the markets (so to speak). While the world is being swamped with Anti-Christian hatred, most of "Christian TV" deals with miracle seed offerings and impossibly silly programming. But who cares? Who understands the consequences of such things?

This Christmas, massive international retail operations will seduce billions and billions of dollars from shoppers while refusing even to acknowledge that we are celebrating Christmas. How dumb are we to tolerate this?

Personally, I think we must reconnect with our identity in Christ. Know who you are and what your purpose is. We must exalt Christ, fight the fight of faith, preach the Word, live the life, and be Christians 24 hours a day. I longed to see the day when "MERRY CHRISTMAS' is spoken with respect and love; but I fear this will never be in this country -- at least not until we wake up and deal with the dead reindeer of denial that is smelling up the room.

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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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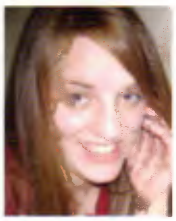
WINTERFIRE

The DANGERS of the Dating Game

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

Six Indiana Bible College students share their thoughts on the current world of dating among Apostolic Youth.



Leigha May
Age 20
Gibson City, IL

Since the eventual goal of dating is to find someone you will marry, and obviously marriage won't be happening in the early teen years, dating at those ages becomes just a recreational event. If a young person is wise enough to recognize this, then I think they will be more focused on other things such as their relationship with God, education, etc.

I don't believe the concept of "courtship" (dating only with adult chaperones) works much today. Not many teens would go along with the idea; they would feel as if they could not be trusted. I think this would produce more rebellion, and cause teens to date "behind your back."

There is no doubt that many dangers can arise when teenagers begin to date. A lot of peer pressure can take place – pressure to experiment, pressure for sex. I believe for this reason, it is important for parents to talk to their younger teens about dating before they begin to date. As they become older, it is important to keep the lines of communication open. This does not mean grilling them with questions...that will turn a teen off quicker than anything else. Simply letting them know you're there for them if they have any questions and staying informed (without being too intrusive) of what's going on. Sharing personal stories of the parent's own dating experiences also seem to help. It lets the teen realize that their parents were teens too and makes them a little more comfortable in talking to their parent about dating. If I have teenagers, I will set the dating age to 16 for double or group dates, and 17 for single dates. I'll always allow them to have boyfriends/girlfriends over to the house. I would rather them be in my home and know what is going on than off somewhere alone.

Mitch Wellman
Age 21
Chicago, IL

Some choose not to date, and I think it's wise at some levels and unwise at others. When you are looking to find a person that God wants you to be with, you need to be really sure of exactly what you are looking for. If you pray about it and seek God's blessing in your relationships, He will supply the person to meet those needs. At the same time, dating allows you to narrow the things you are looking for in the person you want to marry. I don't think you could get to know a person well enough in the adult chaperoned settings to really see who the person is. In that circumstance, you would need an adult that both persons are entirely comfortable with. You need alone time to understand who that person is and get to the heart of their convictions and see how they interact with people and society. The first danger of dating we're seeing among Apostolic young people is a lack of instruction and education on dating and the right ways to treat people when you're dating. There are Apostolic young people who haven't built their own convictions, and Apostolic youth are losing their virginity at an alarming rate. Also, relational problems are staggering. Young men don't know how to treat a lady. Young ladies present themselves in ways to draw attention of men. Girls have a lack of respect for themselves, and young men have lack of respect for girls. Personally, at 16 I would allow group/double dating for my kids. At 17, I would allow my teenagers to go on one-on-one dates but I will need to know where they're going, what time the date is starting, etc. If they're going to dinner and are gone for five hours, obviously other things happened. Some account would be made of how that time was spent.

Ryan Oberhellman, 21, Midland, MI - I was one of those kids that decided not to date, and ironically it was even before I was in church. I had always recognized the purpose of dating as a search for the potential wife / husband, and I knew that at age 13 I wasn't getting married any time soon. I also saw all my friends that were in a new relationship every week and most of the time, they would hook up with someone merely for the purpose of hiding the heartbreak from the past breakup, and then the "supporting relationship" would result in a breakup. It just seemed like a downward spiral of rejection and heartbreak for those who date with no intention of looking for a potential spouse. I think courtship with adult chaperones depends on the personality and maturity level of the teens you minister to. Personally, I would rather not date than have someone looking over my shoulder all the time. I think it sends a message to our young people that ... *(Continued on page 17)*

Aaron Fridley, Age 30, Indianapolis, IN - I started dating maybe at 11 years old. Now that I'm a Christian I would say no one should date unless that person has marriage potential. Teens that decide not to date until they are adults, that's fine, but if they have no interest at all, I think they may have a complex or low self-esteem. It's normal for kids to want to date; it's a good discipline to wait, but to not have a desire is a little weird. I think there are a lot of pros to adult chaperoned dating; overall, the only con is something that ... *(Continued on page 17)*

Beki Evensen, 24, Hackensack, NJ - I don't remember when I started dating. My parents told us that at age fourteen it was okay for us to date as a group. For those who choose not to date, I think it's a good thing if they feel God is telling them to abstain from dating to focus on their ministry, but in general, I guess it's just up to the individual person. Adult chaperones are good for group dating. The adult keeps the balance of doing right rather than wrong. For double dating and single dating they should be capable of going out on their own. A chaperone would be awkward on a single date; not that it would be wrong, but by then, a person old enough to single date should be mature enough to make the right decisions and choices. *(Continued on page 17)*

Brandy Gearhart, 20, Greensburg, IN - I was allowed to date at the age of 16 years old ... but I never actually did until I was 18 years old. I believe that when one is a young teen choosing not to date is an excellent idea. I believe there is a certain point where one should begin to date. But, watching someone you have interest in and becoming good friends with them is a great idea. I've always heard that your mate will be your best friend, so in essence dating should be after you know them and realize your commonalities and differences. Regarding the "courtship" idea, I suppose if your parents say it, you are to do it. I have always heard that 'courtship' is the biblical point of view; although I have never had it enforced neither have I found biblical reference for it. *(Continued on page 17)*

RUSSIA IN

"Oneness of God" Seminars Across the Nation of Belarussia!

By Talmadge French

Once again, Indiana Bible College has been blessed to extend its impact worldwide. What a thrill it is to take the Word of God via the classroom to the mission field. That's what IBC has always been about, and that commitment to ministry worldwide continues unabated. But, even more, what a blessing it is to participate in these amazing days of revival and the revelation of the Name of Jesus all over this world! "In the last days, saith God, I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh" (Joel 2:28).

Recently, we were privileged to work with the Russian speaking leaders and missionaries to impact the nation of Belarus. Apostolics know, with absolute certitude, that the Spirit leads and guides into all truth! Therefore, when religious leaders begin to ask for information concerning Biblical baptism, and seek a deeper understanding of the Word of God, we know that an effectual door is opening. Such is the case in Belarus. And, of all the peoples of the world, how exciting it is to see this revelation breaking forth anew among the Russian speaking people.

The "Oneness of God" Seminars, which began in earnest this October, are being conducted for, and at the request of, interested Trinitarian pastors and leaders. Several groupings of ministers initially expressed interest in learning more about Biblical baptism and the Godhead. This, in fact, prompted their leadership to call meetings to offset the impact of the joint study. But God is at work revealing truth, a reality which can be stopped by neither tradition nor opposition. And it is hardly surprising that sincere preachers, as they begin examining the Word of God on this

Belarus house church with pastor Pavel, some church members, Bro. French and Missionaries Bro. Turner and Bro. Shutes.

vital topic, and in spite of traditional backgrounds, would begin to see the importance of baptism in Jesus' Name and the full Deity of Jesus!

Of course, the Apostolic work throughout the region, and certainly in Belarus, has produced some of the finest of saints. The church is vibrant and alive with the power of the Spirit! The services were filled with the presence of God. And, in the Book of Acts pattern, they are not content to harbor truth only among themselves. They are determined to see revival fires and truth spread. They have been praying for a sweeping revelation in the hearts of hungry Russian speaking peoples and it is beginning to take place in a marvelous way.

Even as we prepared to participate in the meetings, God spoke to us that He would open the doors. Miraculous things, then, happened even to make it possible to enter the country. Then the Spirit's work continued in the miraculous as the declaration of truth opened further doors of truth. And it brought together in a spirit of unity brethren of like precious faith laboring for the cause of the Apostle's doctrine. After one of the final session, a Trinitarian pastor expressed in his own way the deep joy of responding to the truth of the Word of God. He exclaimed: "I see it! And I believe it! I'll never baptize any other way than Jesus' Name again!"

His expression and rejoicing reminded me of the days when I first was rebaptized, after realizing that I needed to obey Acts 2:38, regardless of what anyone else thought about it! That's why I think this is so exciting, as we watch hungry men and women take a stand for the Name of Jesus. But be sure of this, ample detractors will surface to attempt to thwart the move toward rebaptism among these churches. But tradition cannot hold back the awesome power of truth! And the missionaries, especially Bro. Shutes and Bro. Turner, have been working with many of the ones who are longing to better understand the Word on these matters. And they are planning other "Oneness of God" seminars to facilitate their study! That's the Apostolic way!

THE WINTER

Several miracles made it possible of us to participate in the "Oneness of God" Seminars, not the least is the IBC vision and commitment to the propagation of the truth. Also, the technical problems with my visa situation were not resolved when I left for the meeting, and even as I arrived at the border. But God allowed everything to work out satisfactorily right there! For my part, the Lord, in His providence, was demonstrating that He would ultimately be the One to open the doors. And so He did! God provided the opportunity for a special link with the worldwide Jesus' Name revival—this time the Russian speaking church. What a wonder to see that the passion which we all have toward the message is met and exceeded by such worthy saints and leadership.

No doubt the camaraderie and the passion for the Word evident at this first Seminar has set the pace for the continued series of "Oneness of God" Seminars. These seeds which have been sown will produce their harvest. Let us pray and believe for an awesome anticipated harvest of souls, not unlike that initiated by Andrew Urshan, almost a century ago now! We've only just begun! Hungry souls are ready to hear the Word, and the Church is responding. "Neither is there salvation in any other! For there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved!" (Acts 4:12).

Bro. French at another house church in Minsk, Belarus

Bro. French with Missionaries Bro. Shutes (right) and Bro. Turner (left) at the hotel in Minsk, Belarus.

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THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS

Bishop Doubts Jesus Is the Only Way

Bishop Katherine Jefferts-Schori, the first female presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church doesn't consider Jesus Christ as the only way to God, reports the Associated Press. "If we insist that we know the one way to God, we've put God in a very small box," said Jefferts-Schori. The Bible declares that "in Christ, all the fullness of the Deity lives in the bodily form" and Schori doesn't believe that "one person can have the fullness of truth in him or herself." Instead, she says "Truth is, like God, more than any one person can encompass."

Eight Episcopal dioceses have asked Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, who heads the world Anglican Communion, to put them under a leader other than Bishop Jefferts-Schori.

SOCIAL TRENDS

His-Her Bathrooms

A lawsuit filed by Helena Stone- formerly Henry McGuinnes- caused officials with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to agree that transgender people have the right to use the bathroom of their choice in New York's subway system, reports USA Today. Stone says she is thrilled with the decision, as "that's the only bathroom I use." She added, "I'm a 24-hour woman. I just feel like a woman and I like to wear women's clothes."

One concern is that sexual predators can now dress as women, and lurk in women's restrooms.

Explicit Sex Ed

In Toronto (Canada), a sexually-explicit guide written in a way that condemns traditional North American values and promotes homosexuality and abortion to young girls learning about sex is strongly being considered for use in public schools, and leaders of various family-values organizations there are horrified.

What Americans Want To Do Most

Would you believe seven out of ten adults look forward "a lot" to having a refreshing snooze? A newly released nationwide survey of 1005 adults conducted by the Barna Group (www.barna.org) identified 17 categories to respondents about activities they look forward to the most. Other top selections were spending time with friends (55%), listening to music (54%), attending church services (40%), and reading the Bible (31%), as opposed to a novel for pleasure (25%). The least appealing activities were: completing tax forms, having a physical exam by a doctor and going shopping for clothing.

*Mosaics (age 18-22) look forward mostly to movies and music. They were also more interested than were others in spending time with friends, shopping for clothing, eating at restaurants, engaging in sports or exercise and discussing religion with friends.

*Baby Busters (23-41) want to visit far away places, cook meals and are the least likely to discuss religious matters with others.

*Baby Boomers (42-60) were among those who most cherished time working on their yard.

*Over Sixties were by far the most attracted to church services (60%, compared to the national average of 40% who looked forward to attending); reading the Bible (45% versus the national norm of 31%); watching television; and having a physical exam by a doctor. The fact that one out of every five senior citizens look forward to a physical exam "a lot" may be the clearest demonstration of how people's priorities change with age.

Evangelicals were most likely to look forward to attending church, reading the Bible, discussing their faith, spending time with their friends, eating in a restaurant and participating in sports or exercise. They were also least likely to look forward to cooking at home, working on the yard, being examined by a doctor and watching movies. George Barna noted, "Among the most common complaints people have are the struggle to cope with the busyness of their lives, the pressure of family and job responsibilities, and their seemingly unquenchable thirst for being entertained." He also commented, "We voluntarily exhaust ourselves and then wonder why life doesn't seem satisfying. This is one reason why God instituted a day of rest, rather than a day for catching up or gorging on pleasurable activities."

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ According to a 2004 study recently published in American Sociological Review, one in four Americans has no close friends in whom to confide matters of personal importance.

■ "Life takes VISA," claim the company's advertisements, and soon, so might playing Monopoly. Instead of paper money, a new edition of the popular board game - soon to be released in Great Britain - uses fake Visa debit and credit cards and a card reader to adjust the card's balance. Who says the cashless society is still years off?

RELIGIOUS TRENDS

Speaking in Tongues Banned at Texas Seminary

Trustees at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary have banned, in writing, speaking in tongues on their campus.

The 36-1 vote Tuesday came nearly two months after the Rev. Dwight McKissic of Arlington said during a chapel service at the seminary that he sometimes uses "a private prayer language."

The lone dissenting vote was by the new trustee, McKissic. The resolution states: "Southwestern will not knowingly endorse in any way, advertise, or commend the conclusions of the contemporary charismatic movement including private prayer language. Neither will Southwestern knowingly employ professors or administrators who promote such practices."

Day of Prayer for Thanks

The city council in Lubbock has called another "Day of Prayer," but this time it's not to seek God's blessing- it's to say thank you.

The council had declared a day of prayer and fasting on July 30th to seek God's gift of rain for the region, which had just received 5.71 inches since January 1st, according to a report in the *Avalanche-Journal*.

Since then, 6.55 inches of rain has fallen, even triggering some flooding. And now the council has declared a day of prayer and thanksgiving.

Christians Can Share Their Faith at the Texas State Fair

Last week, a federal court in Texas ruled that Christians are allowed to share their faith on the grounds of the South Texas State Fair, but if they want to hand out tracts, they must pay the required fee and confine their activities to the allotted exhibit space.

U.S. District Judge Jane Boyle signed the ruling that confirms Darrell Rundus and his Great News Network are "free to spread the gospel and distribute religious tracts on the public sidewalks outside Fair Park.

Moreover, within Fair Park, he may continue to orally share his beliefs with fairgoers.

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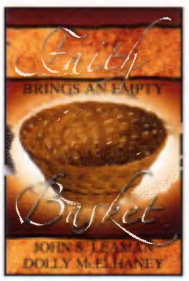

Faith Brings an Empty Basket—John Leaman and Dolly McElhaney

Financial miracles aren't of the past, but of today. The authors share dozens of inspiring true stories from believers who gave sacrificially to foreign missions and found out God returns even more—sometimes in money, sometimes in house furnaces, and sometimes in new jobs. If you want your spiritual vision expanded then don't miss "Tales of Six Saints," "God's Kind of Swap Meet," as well as missions givers receiving unexpected checks from credit card companies and insurance brokerages!

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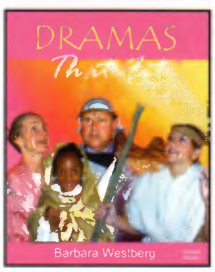

Dramas That Fit

Barbara Westberg

Barbara Westberg is back with thirteen new dramas! She offers fresh takes for Easter, Mother's Day, Pentecost Sunday, Christmas, and even for a building program promotion! Includes tips on tailoring the dramas to your church building (be it mega or mite-sized), production tips for each script, quick synopses, and instructions on how to use the CD, this is an essential resource. (The Accompanying CD includes PowerPoint slide for one play and background slides for several others.) Perfect for your dream of ministering through drama!

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Why People Leave The Church

The top two reasons why adults stop coming to church are that they "simply got too busy to attend" and "family responsibilities prevented church attendance," according to a survey conducted by LifeWay Research. These and other "changes in life situations" accounted for 59 percent of the responses given by the 469 adults who were questioned this summer. Those who had to move for a new job or were divorced were also part of this 59 percent.

The second most common category of response was "disenchantment with pastor/church," accounting for 37 percent. This group felt disenchanted for three basic reasons: church members seemed hypocritical, church members were judgmental of each other, and the church was run by a clique and, therefore, discouraged involvement. While many former church-goers reported that they left, some indicated that the church did not care or even notice that they left.

"We've done a poor job of grounding people in their faith and making sure that their own understanding of Scripture and their own commitment to the church is where it needs to be," said Brad Waggoner, director of LifeWay Research.

The study also revealed that more than two-thirds of those who left the church were open to the idea of returning. The average time away from church of those who took part in the research was 14 years. The most common reasons given for wanting to return were to be closer to God and to build relationships with other Christians.

"The openness of the majority of the formerly churched to rejoin the flock is reason enough for the church to seek them out," said Waggoner. "That means having an effective outreach strategy for identifying, praying for and contacting formerly churched adults to shepherd them back to the fold."

Further details about the study can be found at www.lifeway.com/research

Owen Taylor, Esq.
omt1@juno.com

Religious Land Use Law is Powerful Tool – Church Wins in Georgia

Capping a nearly two-year-old battle, a Georgia trial court has ruled that Douglas County officials acted in violation of the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA) when they refused to issue a special land use permit to the Victory Family Life Church. Officials denied the church's permit application because it did not meet the county's three-acre requirement for houses of worship.

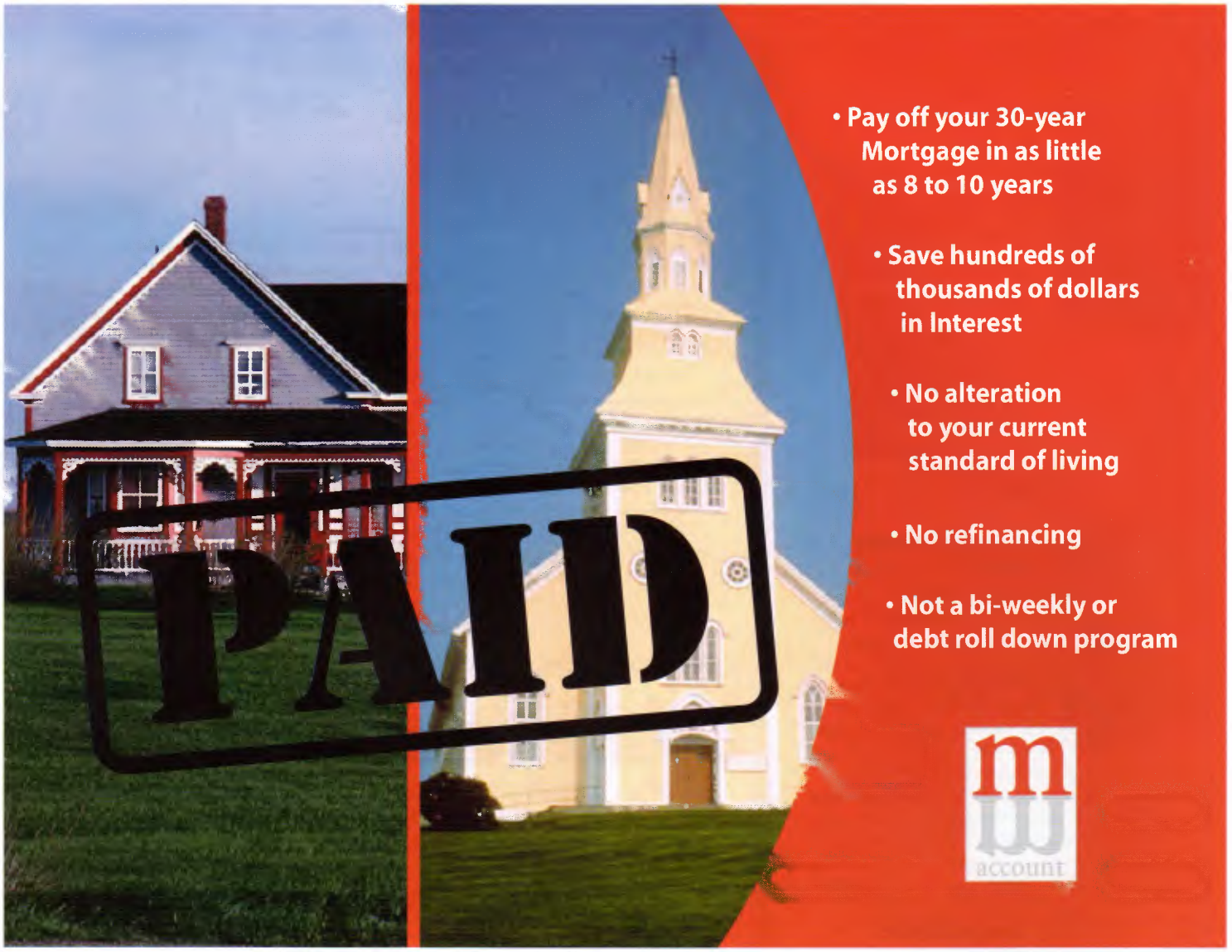
"This is a tremendous victory for churches in Douglas County," said the church attorney. "The three-acre minimum requirement was arbitrary and did not apply to any other organization or assembly. It was a burden applied only against churches."

In accordance with local zoning laws requiring houses of worship anywhere in the county to obtain a special land use permit prior to building or expanding, Victory Family Life Church submitted their initial application June 16, 2003.

The County Planning Staff and the Douglas County Planning and Zoning Commission voted to deny the church's application, although both groups earlier recommended approval. The Board of Commissioners voted twice to deny the permit, saying the church did not contain the necessary three acres for a place of worship and that the board had concerns about encroachment into a surrounding community.

"It was particularly ludicrous because the church owns 2.8 acres," the attorney said. "The illegal ordinance only served to restrict churches and did not further any legitimate county interest." RLUIPA is an extremely important law that was enacted to provide protection for churches in buying and developing land for religious use. The Act provides that before a local government can restrict the use of property for church/religious purposes the government must first show that the proposed restriction is a furtherance of a "compelling" state interest. Further, if the state can establish that the proposed restriction is "compelling" then the state must demonstrate that it has used the least restrictive means possible to achieve the objective.

The burden upon the state to establish that it has a compelling interest and then to use the least restrictive means possible to enforce it is very heavy. Any church that is experiencing difficulties with restrictive and unreasonable conditions upon the use or development of its land should contact the Christian Freedom Foundation for advice and assistance. If successful, RLUIPA provides for the award of attorney's fees and costs to the church.



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Church Growth — Seven Keys To A Revival Church

Steve Waldron

Theology

s.steve@insightbb.com

Do you think preaching and teaching on doctrine like the Oneness of God is still effective in the apostolic pulpit of the 21st century?

The answer is yes. I believe preaching doctrine is still effective, and essential, in the 21st century. Oneness still matters. It is a life changing revelation of the essential character and nature of God. We must understand as Apostolics, that God has made truth both time and culture proof. Truth is effective in all cultures and in all time periods. God built into His revelation that it would be the most relevant thing on earth at all times. It answers the questions to man's most basic needs, such as, "Why am I here?", "Where do I go when I die?" etc. As such, doctrine, including the Oneness message of the Mighty God in Christ, is insulated from ever being marginalized or out of date.

Asking about Oneness specifically, I believe an understanding of God is an exciting thing. It can be preached with power and enthusiasm, and God certainly puts His anointing upon it. Mankind does not have to be worldly in order to be relevant. The church simply needs to proclaim God's truth with courage and conviction, be obedient to His Spirit, and God will build His church.

Most people don't realize that, "To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself..." II Cor. 5:19. Or, "For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." (Col. 2:9). Or, "...God was manifest in the flesh..." (I Tim. 3:16), and the countless other Oneness Scriptures in the Bible. Reading Luke 1:16, 17 about Jesus being God still thrills the soul. Luke 1:68 still makes people breathless about the great God who came to save us in His Son Jesus Christ. Luke 7:16,17 still inspires wonder. Luke 17:15,16 still provokes awe.

Yes, doctrinal preaching and teaching, including Oneness, can still be effectively presented, and indeed must be presented in our Apostolic pulpits. Truth not proclaimed is truth lost. If we lose our distinctives, we are as salt which has lost its saltiness. If the apostolic pulpit does not proclaim these vital, life transforming truths, who will? A world awaits to be set free by God's awesome truth, so let us proclaim it in this time without fear or favor. God's richest blessings will be upon us, I believe.

O. C. Marler

Church Today

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Are You Sure You Are Where You Are?

Thomas Friedman wrote in the Indianapolis Star, an article entitled "TOO CONNECTED TO CONNECT." In his article there was a quote that said "technology can un-unite us. Technology can make the far feel near, but it can also make the near feel very far." We love our cell phones, computers, and palm pilots, but do we love them more than we love our family and our friends? There was a time where different members of the family complained that the television separated them because of such things as soap operas and ball games. Now, however, it seems that television is just one item in a long list of thieves out to destroy closeness. Linda Stone said, "We're so accessible, we're inaccessible. We can't find the off switch on our devices or on ourselves...We want to wear an iPod as much to listen to our own playlists as to block out the rest of the world and protect ourselves from all that noise. We are everywhere-except where we actually are physically."

So what I'm seeing out there in my mind's eye is eight and thirteen year old boys saying "Daddy, when are we going to go fishing?" I am seeing a mom driving with her children to the shopping center talking to someone else all the way there and between looking at dresses, talking on the phone, then talking to someone else all the way home. Once home, she then says, "Kids, did you enjoy the shopping?" So what I'm saying is that there is probably not a lot of difference in not taking your kids fishing than taking them somewhere and not recognizing that they are even there.

I had a friend that made everything a party by merely saying the words "Let's have a party". My kids loved being around him because we didn't just serve a little ice cream at the hot time of the day, we had an "Ice cream party". If we waded in the creek, we didn't just wade; it was a "Wading party". One time during the hot summer in Texas, they wanted to see the fireplace burn, so he turned down the air as low as it would go and lit them a fire. They had a "Fire party"

Our families and our friends are more valuable than our houses, more valuable than our cars, and more valuable than our cell phones. We all know that, but we have to be reminded sometimes about our many distractions. Or at least I do.

T. W. Massengale

Church Growth

sysop@apostolic.edu

What are some of the more important keys to church growth and keeping an ongoing spirit of revival?

While there are many I could mention, the following seven, I think, are among the best:

1. Keep a revival spirit in every service. This requires placing a strong emphasis on prayer, worship, preaching, and altar service. View every church service as if it were your last. While you may not run the aisles every service, you can and should have a move of God in every service.

2. Find the outreach methods that work for you and work them. Every church and city is different. What works for one may not work for another. But something *will* work for you. Don't be afraid to try new outreach methods. Evaluate each year what methods have brought in the greatest number of contacts and souls and then place your emphasis (time, money, people) into these areas.

3. Involve everyone, somewhere, doing something. Growing churches have a high degree of involvement. On a regular basis provide a way for people to volunteer for evangelism and ministry. Personally ask those who are idle to assist in areas of greatest need. Preach and teach on the importance of working for God (i.e. parable of the talents).

4. Make personal soul winning dwarf everything else. Model personal soul winning. Teach people how to be a witness. Highlight your soul winners. Brag on them. Provide many opportunities for people to invite family, friends and associates to church.

5. Don't wear out your people doing too many other things. People only have so much free time. If all this time is taken up in fund raising and other church social activities they will not have time to teach home Bible studies and knock on doors.

6. Your leaders should be an example in personal soul winning. Make involvement in evangelism a requirement for most leadership positions. Challenge them, encourage them, and train them to be soul winners. Help them understand that they cannot lead people to do what they are not willing to do themselves.

7. Plan your work and work your plan. Gather your leaders together every year for a planning retreat. As a group, brainstorm outreach plans for every department. Then meet together monthly to go over the next months plans and help them stay on track.

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THE PRICE... ...OF BLOOD

Bro. Steve Waldron
Indiana Bible College
Theology Instructor
Indianapolis, IN

It is appointed unto man once to die, and after this, the judgment. Death comes to all, the only exceptions evidently being Enoch, Elijah, (neither who have died yet) and the raptured saved. And it is a fact that some throughout history have had the honor of dying for the cause of Jesus Christ. We all want to be witnesses for Jesus (Acts 1:8). It is interesting that the Greek word for witness in this passage is "martus", from which our English word martyr is derived. There is the possibility, even in the West in the 21st Century that some will be called upon to lay down their lives for Jesus once again, or at the very least suffer different types of widespread persecution.

The church through the ages has literally been bathed in blood. Even people who were not Apostolic have still been willing to die for the testimony of Jesus which they held. Foxes' Book of Martyrs records many of these people. Most of the people in Foxes' Book of Martyrs were not Apostolic, but still died rather than recant even the portion of Jesus they knew. The original Foxes Book of Martyrs (known as Acts and Monuments) is some 6,000 small print pages of detailed dedication to Jesus Christ. Another martyrology is "Martyrs Mirror" by Van Braaght, detailing others dying for Jesus. Some of these seem to have had various apostolic distinctives. There are also other Christian martyrologies available as well.

In the mid 17th century, the Quakers had formed as a religious group. According to Thomas Weisser, almost every Quaker before the beginning of the 18th century would have been Oneness. In New England, these Oneness believers were branded, flogged unmercifully, had ears cut off, tongues cut out, sold as slaves and expelled from their homelands. And 4 were actually hung for their belief in Oneness between 1659 and 1661, including Mary Dyer. She is the only woman to be put to death in America for her beliefs by the Puritans. These Oneness believers paid the ultimate sacrifice for their beliefs – would we?

Suffering has always been part of the Apostolic message. Early pioneers of the Apostolic message lost family and friends for this precious truth. Beatings, rotten eggs and tomatoes thrown at them, and name calling were part of the repertoire for the Jesus' name pioneers of the early 20th century. Jeers and tears seemed to be their lot in this life. In McDonough Georgia, Brother Montgomery, who later through great sacrifice founded Tupelo Children's Mansion, was whipped down by the river with a razor strap by several deacons of a local denominal church. He testified how God took the pain away, so he could bear it. And after the beating, he like Stephen and Jesus before him, forgave his assailants. I think we need to remember the sacrifices of our forefathers!!! And Brother Montgomery, like Paul in Lystra, marched back into McDonough and refused to leave. He said he had some baptizing to do! Revival broke out and many souls were won to the Kingdom of God. This story was similarly repeated numerous times in the early days of Pentecost right here in America.

Thoro Harris and G.T. Haywood were threatened with the rights to their songs being taken away. No matter, because the songwriter lived in their hearts! These men prayed, fasted, and wept through every obstacle and trial until victory came. Can we do less?

The climate in America is volatile. Almost 50% of Americans are not sure it there is a God or not according to a recent poll. Hate crime legislation threatens to curtail free speech and liberty in the name of tolerance and political correctness. Militant atheists such as Richard Dawkins and Sam Harris are bestselling authors in the U.S. now. These people, like Voltaire before them, think of Christianity as a mental illness. And both authors spend weeks and even months atop the bestseller lists. Recently, the bestselling music CD in the U.S. for many weeks was "Antichrist Superstar" by Marilyn Manson. Satanic bibles are passed out at his sold out concerts. A total of some 50 million abortions have occurred legally since 1973, killing the most innocent and vulnerable in our society. Now we have a Social Security crisis, and an immigration debacle because of it. Some estimate that 43% of all women 15-45 have had an abortion. In this cultural climate, could the days come, if the Lord tarries, that preaching truth could be considered a crime in the U.S.? Don't doubt that possibility. And if it does happen, will we be ready? We must obviously be careful to thank God for His blessings. But let us not allow His blessings to soften us where we would compromise in the face of persecution. If persecution comes, so be it. We cannot change truth for fear of man or public opinion. It is not our truth, and we did not die to purchase it. It is Gods truth, and we are called to be faithful stewards. But we must be willing to suffer and even die to defend it. It is time for the people of God to be people of courage and conviction. Will you? The power of God is with us. His anointing is upon us. Let us look upon persecution as a badge of honor, not disgrace. Let us fearlessly face the future, instill in our youth a sense of purpose and destiny for this hour, and meet the challenges of this time head. This is our finest hour!

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15 Saved on IBC Chorale Tour

Article and Photos By Ryan Oberhellman

What happens when you take a 55 passenger bus full of IBC's most talented musicians and singers on the road to minister with the gift of music? This is what IBC Chorale tour is all about – young musicians and singers anointed of God with the gift of music ministering to the hearts and souls of saints all across the country.

Jason Pearcy testifies on Sunday morning.

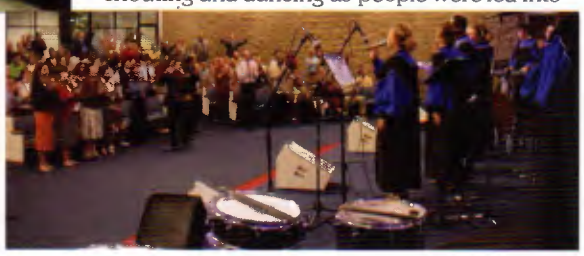
This fall IBC Chorale toured the state of Ohio and northern Indiana for a weekend, and the power of God was manifest in a mighty way. On a Friday evening, the first night of the tour, IBC Chorale created an atmosphere of intense praise and worship for "Consecration 2006," a Youth Conference in Cincinnati, OH. The night was one of the finest displays of the true purpose of music ministry as Chorale prepared the hearts of those young people to receive the word of God from the passionate heart of Bro. Mark Johnston.

Before the night was over many young hearts, as well as many of the Chorale members, came to an altar of repentance and consecration. Sunday morning, Chorale ministered the entire service through music.

Though there was no preaching, the music created the perfect atmosphere for Jason Pearcy to make an offer to those that wanted to come to an altar of repentance.

Many came to the altar as IBC students left the platform to pray with people young and old. At the end of service, one lady recognized her need to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Sunday night, Chorale ministered in Fort Wayne, IN. The sanctuary erupted with shouting and dancing as people were led into the presence of God.



D. A. Daves prays in the altar with a child.

The evening came to a climax as Bro. Greg Godwin preached an unrestricted message of truth and 15 people received the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

IBC Chorale Tour is more than just a concert with fancy orchestration and entertainment.

It is real ministry, and this is what the IBC Music Department is all about.

One was baptized in Toledo, OH.

The Dangers of the Dating Game - Continued From Page 5

Ryan Oberhellman – ...'you can't be trusted.' At the high-school age, reputation is everything. "What everyone else thinks about me" is the absolute most important thing to them. Even the ones that say "I don't care what anyone thinks so I'll dye my hair purple and wear chains in my nose" are actually doing those things because they want the attention of others. Therefore I would say the pressure from public opinion of what is "cool" is a big danger. For a high-school guy at least, it was very "uncool" for him to still be a virgin by the time he graduates, and the more partners he has the cooler he is in the eyes of the other guys. And with MTV and VH1 and everything else propagating teen sex like never before, it's even harder to convince young people that abstinence and marriage are the REAL cool methods of dating in the eyes of God. The bottom line is that a lot of teens don't realize that you absolutely CANNOT trust your flesh.

Aaron Fridley – ...would appeal to your flesh – when would you make out, etc. With chaperones you can still have private conversations and be in eye-view. The only reason you'd want to be alone is to do things you're not supposed to do. Thinking you're mature enough to handle your sexuality. People jump into relationships without setting up standards or rules you expect each other to follow. People dive in without thinking of any of that stuff.

I don't think you can stop someone from dating. Around 14 or 15 I would start working with them on the dating idea – having crushes. I wouldn't allow a one-on-one date; I would veer them away from that as much I could. I would tell a 15-year-old she could date with a chaperone, either me and my wife or someone we would approve of as a chaperone. You have to allow some freedoms because each kid is different; you can't use a cookie cutter.

Beki Evensen – When a person dates in high school, it seems easier for a young person to fall into the trap of doing things you're not supposed to do, with so much of the world surrounding you – media, entertainment, your peers. It becomes awkward, you become unsure, and you do things you're not supposed to.

Dating outside the church can be a danger, depending on the size of the church. There may not be any young men or women in the church to choose from.

I don't remember my pastor preaching a lot about dating other than being equally yoked and knowing right from wrong.

For my kids, I would recommend for groups – starting around 14 or 15; for single or double dating, about 17. And I would have to know who the guy is, what church he goes to, what his family is like. I would want to know their plans for the evening and want them to be back home at a reasonable hour.

Brandy Gearhart – To be completely honest, in high school you seem to think that the whole world revolves around you. So, therefore, you are going to think everything is love and that it will last forever, when it's most likely just lust. Most teenagers that I know think with their heart instead of their head. There are a lot of other factors needed to build a relationship, and love will not keep your boat always above water. I didn't grow up in church, so I'm not really knowledgeable about my pastor's dating restrictions. However, I do know that dating outside of church was definitely out of the question. When I have teenagers, I would allow them to go out in groups with that 'significant other,' but as far as allowing them to date one-on-one under the age of 18...that's tough. Teenagers have changed so much over time and the motives today are different. I would really have to approve of the person that my child would date.

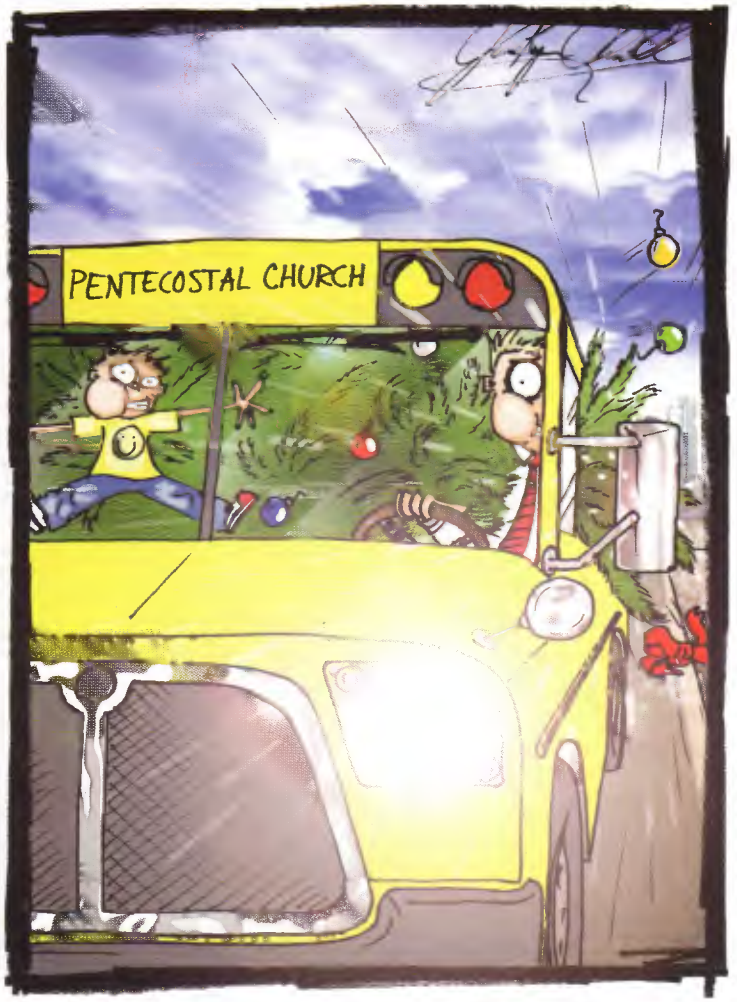
For information about these events, call the event coordinator. If you would like your event on this list, call (800) 8000-AIS. IBC Perspectives does not endorse any seminar or conference listed. This page is provided simply as a service to the greater Apostolic community.

apostolic calendar 2006-2007

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SPEAKERS	CONTACT / INFO
Dec. 28-31	**Times of Refreshing- Odessa, TX** Additional conferences will be held throughout the nation in 2007. Check our web site for dates and locations. www.gordonpoe.com/TOR	Life Challenge UPC Pastor Dan Smelser 4500 N. Grandview Ave. Odessa, TX (432) 363-5433	Greg Godwin, Gordon Poe, Dannie Hood, Johnny James Childrens Ministry: Lloyd Squires	Hotel reservations: Comfort Suites (432) 362-1500 Visit our web site at: www.gordonpoe.com/TOR Contact: Frank Loera
February 15-17	**Winterfire 2007** A conference for your entire leadership/ ministry team offers a time of renewal & refreshing in the heart of New England.	Co-hosted by Faith Tabernacle, Pastor Kent Elliott & The Pentecostals, Pastor John Petoskey	Kenneth Haney, Darrell Johns, Jerry Jones, Michael Mitchell, Chester Mitchell, Jonathan Suber	More information: (860) 649-9848 (860) 528-9834 www.winterfire.com
March 1-2	**Passing The Mantle 2007** A Meeting of Impartation for Ministers and Spouses	Location: Bartlett United Pentecostal Church 270 East Schick Road Sr. Pastor: J. E. Yonts. Pastor: Robert Boettcher	Lee Stoneking, J. T. Pugh, Harold Hoffman, J. E. Yonts	For more information and registration call: (630) 837-9800 Or visit us at: www.UPCBartlett.org
April 11-13	**IBC Music Festival** - In Pursuit of Excellence... For His Glory - A Music Conference created to inspire and challege your Music Ministry. Under the direction of Lindel M Anderson, Dean of Music.	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46203 Host pastor: Paul D Mooney	IBC Choir, Praise, others.	For more information: ibc-musicoffice@aol.com www.ibcmusicfest.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
April 11-14	**12th Annual F.I.R.E. Conference 2007** Faith, inspiration, Renewal, Edification	The Pentecostals Of Henderson, 638 White Ave. Henderson, TN 38340 Host Pastor Chris L. Tharp	Jonathan Suber, T. F. Tenney, Tim Spell	For more information: www.pentecostalsofhenderson.org or call (731) 989-7142
May 10-12	**Eagle's Summit Apostolic Conference** A confetence designed for leadership, staff, and saints. You will stretch your wings and be drawn to new heights, finding rest in the Spirit.	The Pentecostals Of St. Joseph, 3822 Cook Road St. Joseph, MO 64505 Host Pastor: John Arcovio	Lee Stoneking, Stan Gleason, T. F. Tenney, Tony Bailey, Jeff Arnold	For more information: www.tpsj.com\eaglessummit or call (816) 279-5866
July 24-26	**Mile High Conference- 2007** Rocky Mountain Region Meeting designed to strengthen the cause of Oneness, holiness-minded preachers, churches and families.	Calvary Apostolic Church 5900 E. Yale Ave Denver, CO 80222 Host Pastor: D.E. Haymon	To Be Announced	(303) 758-5900 www.milehighconference.org DEH2@comcast.net
July 2007	**IMPACT Family Conference 2007** Day sessions for the whole family; Men's, Ladies, GAP kids, Youth, and Couples.	Woodlawn UPC Columbia, MS Host Pastor: James Carney	To Be Announced	Church: (601) 736-5128 Info: www.woodlawnupc.org Email: brandy@woodlawn.org Coordinator: Brandy
Aug 21-24	**Week of Anointing** Focused learning tracks for young ministers, evangelists, youth workers, and music ministers.	The Pentecostals 1255 Glenwood Dr. West Monroe, LA Host Pastor: Mark Foster	To Be Announced	For more information, call (318) 322-1467 or visit www.weekofanointing.com
Aug 2007	**P.A.T.H. Conference** Preserving Apostolic Truth and Holiness. A preaching conference that promotes an unfettered pulpit.	Faith Tabernacle 745 N. H St., Madera, CA Host Pastor: Dennis Garza	Tony Moody, Robert Davis, Philip White, Don Hyler, Chad Craig	For Information: (559) 673-3233
Sept 6-7	**Rushing Mighty Wind Preaching Conference** Power-packed preaching in the heart of the Mid-West.	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN. Host Pastor: Paul Mooney	To Be Announced	For more info call: (317) 262-4030 www.calvarytabindy.org info@calvarytabindy.org
Sept 26-30	**82nd Annual General Conference UPCI** Official Conference of the United Pentecostal Church International. Don't miss it!	Tampa, Fl	To Be Announced	For more info visit the UPCI website at www.upci.org
Oct 25-25	**Steadfast Conference** Indianapolis, IN. Two days of great teaching on the importance of Apostolic doctrine in our time.	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN. Host Pastor: Paul D. Mooney.	To Be Announced	For more info call: (317) 262-4030 or visit our web site at: www.calvarytabindy.org
Nov 2007	**East Coast Conference** On Revival and Evangelism	Durham UPC, 2008 Carver St., Durham, NC Host: Johnny Godair	Larry Booker, Crawford Coon, Floyd Odom, Tim Spell	For more info call: (919) 477-6555 gingle@upcdurham.org
Nov 2007	**West Coast Conference** A Meeting Place for the Whole Family. Hispanic Conference to also be held.	Fresno CA Host Pastor: Vaughn Morton	To Be Announced	For more information call: (559) 225-1622.
Nov 2007	**AQUA- Apostolic Quartet United Association** A wonderful, exciting conference devoted to Apostolic gospel quartets.	Goodlettsville UPC 1004 Dickerson Pike Nashville, TN 37070 Host Pastor: Tim Zuniga	To Be Announced	For more info call: (619) 264-1166 or visit our web site at: www.aquamusic.org

Word For The Wise:

"Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's grace. And your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God's grace."



Bro. Hooper, church bus captain, found out the hard way that decorating the bus with a Christmas tree was not the best idea.

It was the day after Christmas at a church in San Francisco. The pastor of the church was looking over the cradle when he noticed that the baby Jesus was missing from among the figures of the nativity set. Immediately he turned and went outside and saw a little boy with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus. So he walked up to the boy and said, "Well, where did you get him, my fine friend?"

The little boy replied, "I got him from the church."

"And why did you take him?"

The boy said, "Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to the little Lord Jesus and I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas I would give him a ride around the block in it."

****

Pastor Chris came home from the church and found his new bride Cheryl sobbing convulsively. "I feel terrible," she told him. "I was pressing your suit and burned a big hole in the seat of the trousers." "Oh just forget it," consoled her husband. "Remember that I've got an extra pair of pants for that suit." "Yes, I know. And it's lucky you have!" Said his wife, drying her eyes. "I was able to use a piece from them to patch the hole!"

Most people place their gifts under a tree...
God hung His gift on a tree.

The top ten ways the Bible would have been different if it had been written by Bible college students:

10. The Last Supper would have been eaten the next morning... cold.

9. The Ten Commandments are actually only five, double spaced, and written in a large font.

8. New edition every two years in order to limit reselling.

7. Forbidden fruit would have been eaten sooner because it wasn't cafeteria food.

6. Paul's letter to the Romans becomes Paul's e-mail to abuse@romans.gov.

5. Reason Cain killed Abel: They were roommates.

4. The place where the end of the world occcurs: Finals, not Armageddon.

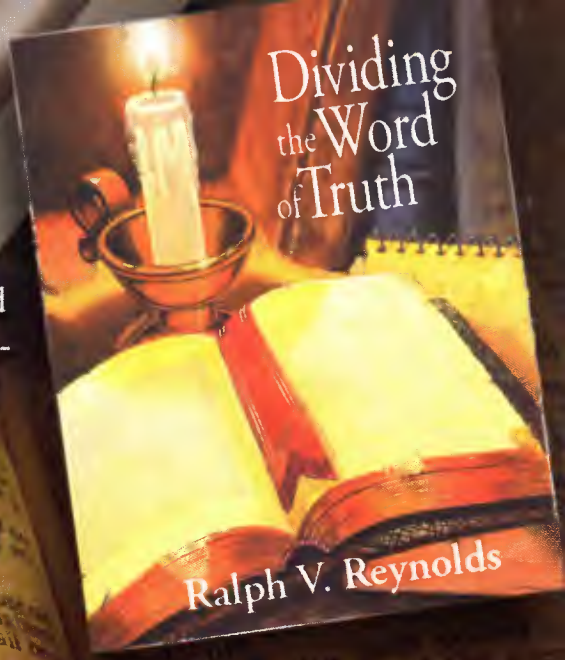
3. Out go the mules, in come the mountain bikes.

2. Reason why Moses and followers walked in the desert for 40 years: They didn't want to ask directions and look like freshmen.

1. Instead of God creating the world in six days and resting on the seventh, He would have put it off until the night before it was due and then pulled an all-nighter.

"Santa didn't come through this year, so I'm converting my Christmas list to my prayer request list."

"Dividing the Word of Truth" by Ralph V. Reynolds



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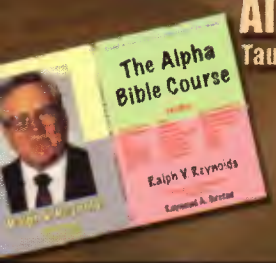

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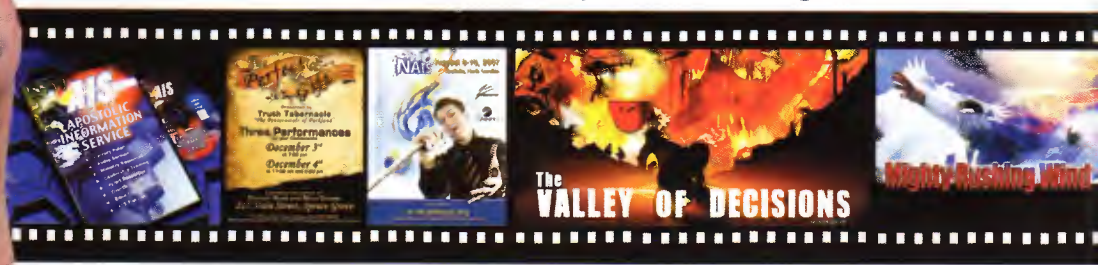

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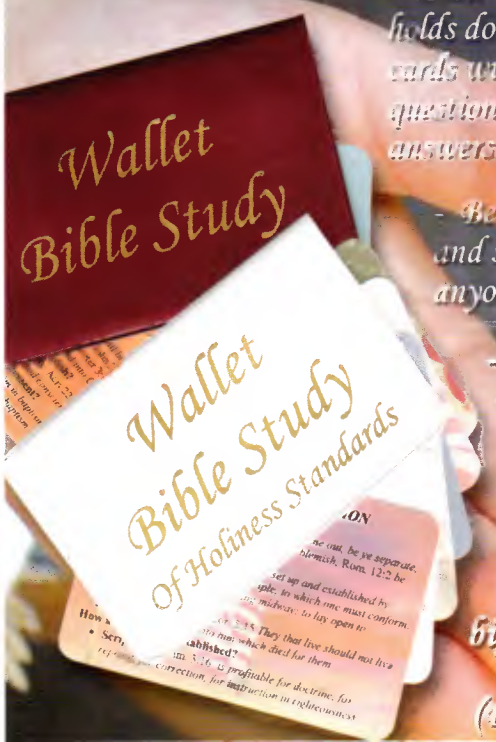

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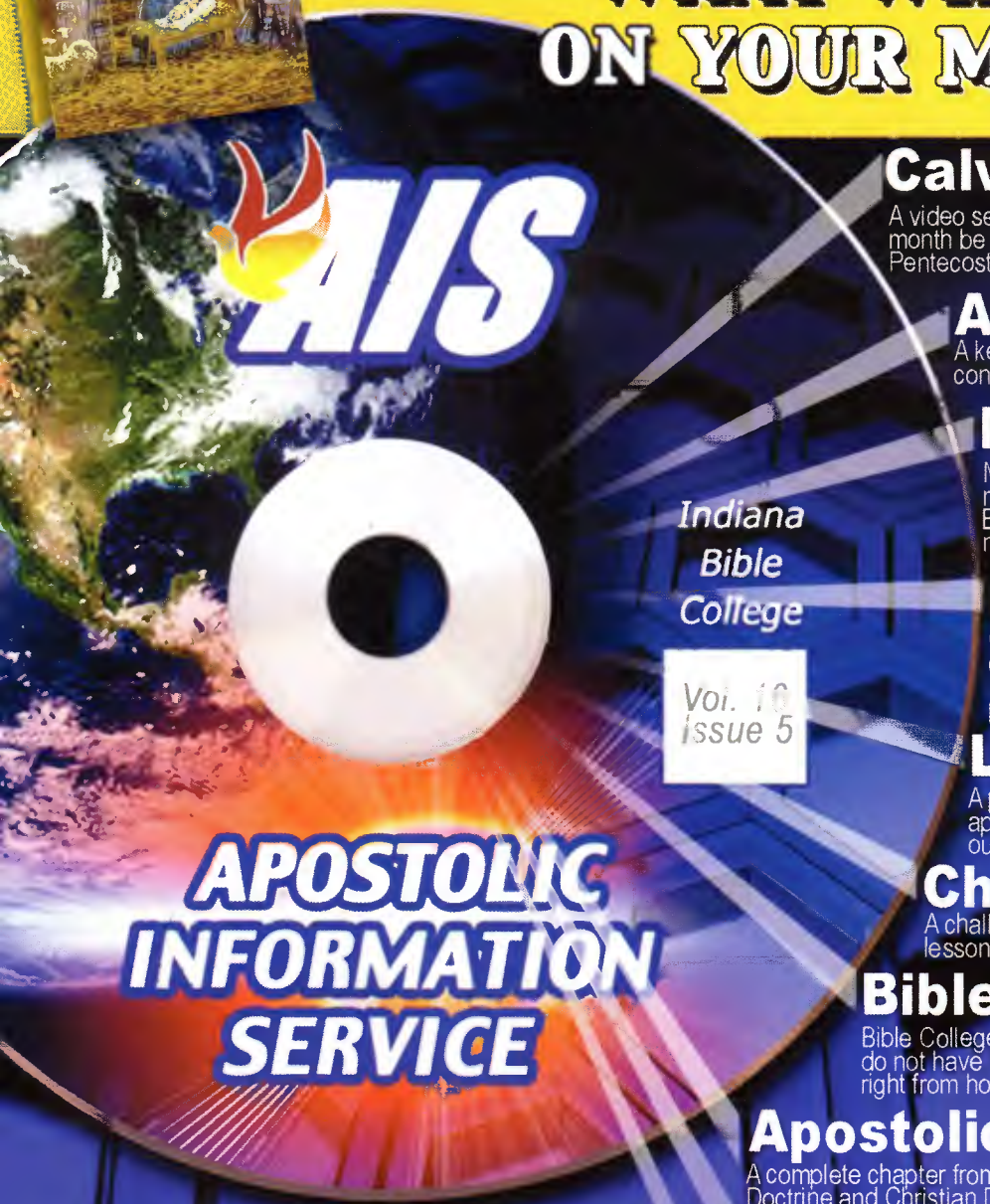

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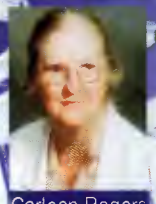
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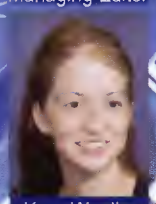
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