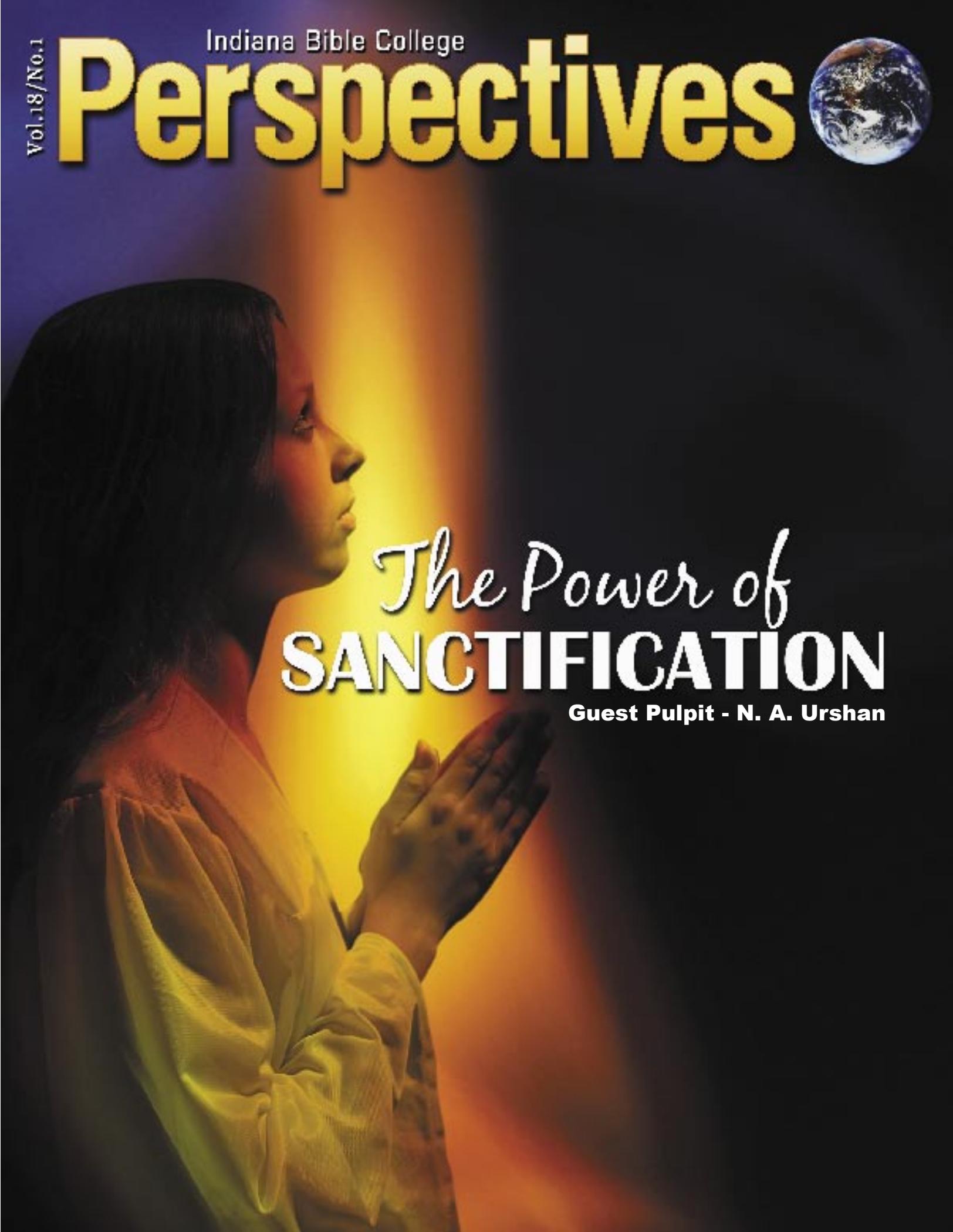


Vol. 18/No. 1

Indiana Bible College

Perspectives

A woman with long dark hair is shown in profile from the chest up, wearing a white, long-sleeved garment. Her hands are clasped together in a prayerful gesture. The background is a soft, glowing gradient of yellow and orange, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall mood is contemplative and spiritual.

The Power of
SANCTIFICATION

Guest Pulpit - N. A. Urshan



The Experience Machine Fallacy

“Have we substituted an “experience machine” for the real Christian life? Are we by our theatrical, emotional, hyped-up, “come and get a blessing right now,” “give and get a blessing right now,” shout, scream, crank-it-up, jump, “pass-the-body-surfer,” creating a kind of churchy spiritual experience machine?”

Suppose there was an experience machine that would give you any experience you desired. Super duper neuro-psychologists could stimulate your brain so that you would think and feel you were writing a great novel, or making a friend, or reading an interesting book. All the time you would be floating in a tank with electrodes attached to your brain. Should you plug into this machine for life, preprogramming your life's desires? Of course, while in the tank you wouldn't know that you're there; you would think it's all actually happening. Would you plug in? What else can matter to us, other than how our lives feel from the inside?

Robert Norzick, the famous American philosopher, posits the idea of the “experience machine” in his book, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, from which this quote is drawn. The question, “Would you plug in?” has become a standard discussion topic in ethics and philosophy classes worldwide. Mr. Norzick concludes from his own interactions with people that most would not “plug in.” Ben Dupre, (*50 Philosophy Ideas*) notes that: “from this, Norzick infers that there are other things, apart from pleasure, that we consider intrinsically valuable.”

There is much here that we modern day church folks need to think about. Have we substituted an “experience machine” for the real Christian life? Are we by our theatrical, emotional, hyped-up, “come and get a blessing right now,” “give and get a blessing right now,” shout, scream, crank-it-up, jump, “pass-the-body-surfer,” creating a kind of churchy spiritual experience machine? Don't leave me here; this is not criticism of true worship or even contemporary worship. I am trying in this short space to make a point.

Do we want our churches to be mere experience machines - all emotionalism unconnected to repentance and redemption? Norzick imagined that his machine might be done in salt water tanks where, as Dupre put it, one could have “unalloyed pleasure.” In other words, the pleasure of a thing is detached or unalloyed to any real live struggle that might be demanded in order to achieve the pleasure that would be associated with an accomplishment. Today we might call this “virtual reality.”

Consider all this from a spiritual point of view. A church, for example, could easily get caught up in creating an experience machine, offering attendees an opportunity to “plug in” to the moment, get with it, “fake it till you make it” sort of thing. Add some mood lights, numb the brain with beat and volume and you can feel like an overcoming Holy Ghost Christian without actually being one. Other examples: a ministry without commitment, an anointing without a sacrifice, a crown without a cross, a good feeling without a good life, a revolution without struggle, a crop without a planting, praise driven by the beat of the music and not a joy springing up from a transformed heart -- you get the idea. And my point here is that, as in Norzick's surveys, most people rejected the idea of an experience machine that gives one the induced (unalloyed) pleasure without the process. So should we.

Jesus challenged us to follow Him. That meant to live the life and fight the fight of faith. It meant that being a Christian was not about watching miracles being performed. Jesus pointed this out to those who followed Him for the loaves and the fish.

He clearly intended for our lives to be a journey. Take up the cross (Mark 10:21), it's an adventure of faith (Heb. 11). What missionary would trade the struggles, the adventures, the nights, or even the “scars” for some induced pleasure or pretense? What is satisfying about a preacher's license and no ministry? The journey *is* the joy. The Cross of Christ *is* our story. It is our testimony. The walk and the talk go together.

Creating an experience machine for our generation is not enough. What are we thinking? The real deal is to instead participate in the greatest struggle ever in the history of the human race: the “last days.” May we forego the experience machine for the real experience of living a righteous life.

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♦ 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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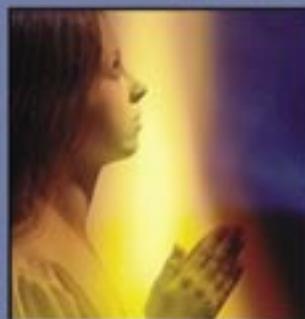
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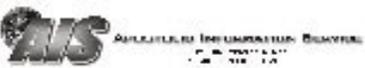
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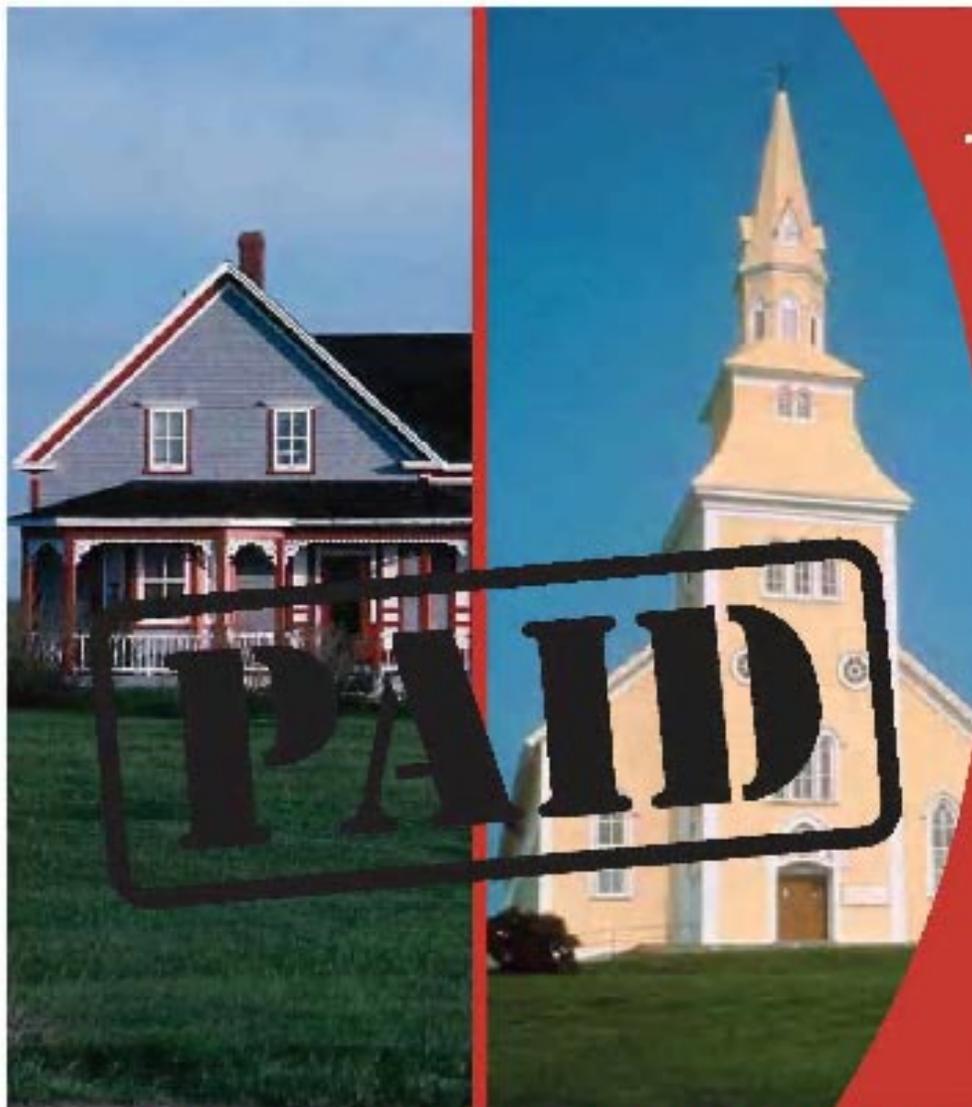
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Reaching the **BLACK** Community

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



Bobby D. McKenzie
Pastor
Montgomery, AL

There is still a great delegation of blacks that have an affinity for white leadership. Some black people are used to a white person being in charge. People of that mentality prefer to be under white leadership.

Some black people are beginning to say that until whites can ride the ship when the captain is black, they refuse to ride on the ship with a white captain. It hasn't always been like that. In the '80s, black people did not really have a problem going to white churches. That has only changed somewhat recently.

Many black Apostolics came from Methodist churches or Baptist traditions and then came in touch with the truth. But they still remember in the United Methodist Church that blacks were made to take communion at the back of the church. Also, black people were permitted to preach but not serve sacraments or perform marriages. You will find some not willing to sit under white ministers until things begin to equal out. They still remember the prejudices of many decades ago and some believe that those prejudices are being revisited.

Therefore, find a way to make your present church multi-cultural. Make sure there are some real dimensions of black leadership represented in your church, not just in the music department. Black America perceives that whites don't have a problem with us entertaining them while leaving us out of prominent roles. Develop black leadership. Make certain that blacks are represented on your board of elders and deacons.



Don Tyler, Tulsa, OK - Generally speaking, whites don't have as difficult a time developing diversity as we do. Some white Apostolics find developing diversity a challenge, though, because they are not truly looking to fellowship openly with other African-American Apostolic congregations.

Make your own church multi-cultural. To do that, you must have a strong music department. Structure your ministry so that African-Americans feel warm and welcome.

You can't treat blacks like second-class citizens or like you are doing us a favor. Include everyone. Be aware that certain words can't be used when you have a mixed congregation.



Vincent Gray, Gary, IN - White churches that plant black churches only help to further the differences we already have. If you are really seeking to change the lives of people, it doesn't matter if you connect with them through a black pastor or not.

People need to unlearn things they have heard about the culture of black people, particularly what they have heard about black people in the larger cities. They need to know that if they reach out, they will see the glory of God in people who are different from them.



Roland Booker, St. Louis, MO - Black people do not know color and will not look at the fact that a minister is white. If they come and listen to you preach the full Word of God, they will return. They are often more susceptible to being pastored by Caucasians ministers than Caucasians are to being pastored by black ministers.

In times past, black churches have been opened up as daughter works by white churches as a way to prevent intermarriage. That sends a bad signal. Make your church multi-cultural. I recommend buying time on a local black radio station. Advertisement often times can be very effective.

We have to learn to stop being so cultural, expecting people to talk the way we talk or behave the way we behave or respond to the same type of music. Everybody is not the same. So, we need to become more eclectic and do things that will appeal across the board. Find out what people like and build a worship service around those things that appeal to everybody.

Either making one's church multicultural or planting a daughter work with a black pastor will work. I have found that a black person will follow a white leader, but it is rare that you will get the same loyalty when the role is reversed.

When black people feel that they can aspire to rise to leadership, it will make a difference. A white pastor must not have the church to himself. He cannot have the attitude that somebody who is black cannot rise in leadership. Elevation and position have to be based on God's gifts and callings and not color.

White people must see black people as no different from themselves. Being black is not less valuable and that the black person does not really want to be white. Think of black people as you would think of another white person. Don't put them in another category.

Black people are so creative and entrepreneurial. They love the Lord. They can be great assets in your church whether it is led by a black leader or a white leader.



Yvonne Brooks
Pastor
Birmingham, England



Michael Wyche, Prince George, VA - Biases and prejudices have to be torn down to have a true cultural mix. To do that, assess the needs of the black community so that you can develop a plan to address them. Address them with dignity and understanding. Then you will likely get a positive response from them.

If you can come into a relationship with a black minister, work it and let it become an example of the cultural mix in your leadership rather than to plant a church with a black minister. You will have a greater impact.



Rudy Santiago, Tobyhanna, PA - Preach the Word of God. The message has to be pro-God, not pro-black or pro-white or pro-Puerto Rican. Be sensitive to the culture and the people around you, but do not exalt one group of people over the other. Even though we are different on the outside, the Spirit is the same.

Make your current church multi-cultural. Put people of different cultures in leadership as the Lord leads. When people see your integrity and character, they will go beyond your color. People know whether you are genuine or a racist.



Denise Millben, Grand Rapids, MI - Predominantly white ministries often don't understand our culture, so they try to make black people fit into what we might consider a foreign culture instead of offering some level of diversity. The black community is very rich in heritage and has a legacy of survival and strength. The white community needs to acknowledge this.

Provide a community service, if that's your heart. Establish relationships. When people see that you are concerned about what they are concerned about, they will jump on the bandwagon. Make your present church multi-cultural. It is reflective of the Kingdom of God.

The Sanctuary

The Gateway to Safety

By Randol Easton



Bro. & Sis. Tim Dugas
Co-Pastor
Hazelwood, MO

We've tried very hard to create a community feeling, where folks feel safe here, which is part of the reason for the choice of our name, The Sanctuary," says Scott Graham, co-pastor of The Sanctuary, Hazelwood, MO.

When asked what priorities the church should have to become a growing church, Pastor Graham shares, "I would say caring about people; both those who are part of the body and those who are perhaps seeking to become such. When folks come in the door for the first time or the thousandth time we try to create an atmosphere where they feel loved."

Pastors Scott Graham and Tim Dugas are creating an atmosphere where people from every walk of life can enter the doors of The Sanctuary and find a family.

The Birth of The Sanctuary

While miracles have been a common experience in their 45-year history, beginning with the founding of the church by Bro. Dewalin Sanders, no miracle has been more visible than the birth of The Sanctuary. Formerly Florissant Valley Apostolic Church, the congregation has recently moved into their new 44,000 square feet building, located on Anglum Rd. in Hazelwood, MO. What was a warehouse and office building has seen the office section renovated and completely rehabbed to house the congregation known today as The Sanctuary. While the saints gather in their new auditorium that will seat an estimated 750, the warehouse, consisting of 58,000 square feet, is being leased out until it's needed for expansion, giving them a total of 102,000 square feet.

Their former building, located on Shackelford Road in Florissant, MO, was home for approximately 26 years. Although it had served the congregation and the city well these many years, the time to consider relocating was inevitable. Sitting six miles and 26 stop lights off of the interstate made it a daunting task when reaching the city. Pastor Graham explains, "The property we had was very narrow and very deep. The first building was built near the road and the only place to build was to keep going backwards. We were desperate - completely out of classroom space. "We looked at what a 20-minute footprint would do from our existing location and then we looked at what a 20-minute footprint would do if we could ever get located down on the interstate." Their findings were "just unbelievable."

Their new home had been empty for 10 years. When it finally did come up for sale, Pastor Graham recalls "to be perfectly honest, I didn't dream we could afford it." Simply put, "The asking price was much less than I had anticipated and they took much less than they asked."

The miracle of this move did not end there, as they then needed a buyer for their existing building.



As miracles happen, they had an immediate purchaser who, in turn, allowed them to continue using the church facilities, sound system, etc. until they were ready to move into their new building. Pastor Graham summed it up candidly, "There were challenges, but we were never homeless." Their first service in The Sanctuary was held on January 7 and the dedication was March 9, both in 2007.

"We're blessed with 13 classrooms, and a choir room that is set up with instruments so the choir can practice without having to use the auditorium," he said. "We also enjoy a full-sized regulation gymnasium, a racquetball court, a commercial kitchen, and a small fellowship hall, in addition to office space for youth ministries, children's ministries, the assistant pastor, the church secretaries, Pastor Dugas, and myself."

The Sanctuary's Approach

The past three years has been a time of sustained growth - before and after their relocation, but it has been greatly enhanced since their move. "We have a greater visitor flow because of the visibility that we have in our new facilities than anything we ever had to work with previously. We've done the mass marketing: mail-outs to zip codes, advertising packets, etc. But beyond the visibility factor we have, we have found that nothing works independent of one-on-one contacts from members of this church who talk to individuals about our church."

The staff has tried to make The Sanctuary familiar to everyone in our area, including notices in the newspaper and on the radio advertising special services. "We've done all those things," he adds. "I think they are valuable, but I think the value in them is raising your church's profile in the community so that when a member of this church is dining out and talks to an individual about our church, they say, 'I've heard of that church, you had the ad in the paper or I heard your spot on the radio.' I don't know if they come because of the spot, but I do know that it breeds name recognition." He says, "I still maintain, there is no cheap shortcut to one-on-one personal evangelism among the members of the church."

The Sanctuary's Priorities

A priority of The Sanctuary's ministry team is developing people. Pastor Graham states, "As the church has grown, it becomes impossible for those who have a business card that says "Pastor" to do every-

thing. We must invest in people and develop them for ministry."

Bro. Dugas and Bro. Graham's focus is on the purpose of the five-fold ministry mentioned in Ephesians 4:11: "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers."

"We feel like where we have to invest our time is investing in people who can do the work of the ministry



Bro. & Sis. Scott Graham
Co-Pastor
Hazelwood, MO

on a broader scale than we could possibly do by ourselves,” explains Bro. Graham. “The paradigm we come from is to remember that He gave us the five-fold ministry for a specific purpose, ‘For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry.’ We are to equip people to do ministry!”

While it’s not the five-fold ministry, The Sanctuary has five broad departments of ministry working in the church. “We have outreach, music, children’s ministries, youth ministries and what we would broadly call support ministries that catches everything else,” explains Bro. Graham. “That would consist of ushers, greeters, church maintenance, food pantry, hospital visitation, home maintenance for shut-ins and widows, etc.”

Ministry Fair

With a growing church and a wide variety of ministries involved, the church has an annual Ministry Fair. “We take a Sunday late in the year and have a vision casting service,” explains Pastor Graham. “I will usually preach whatever theme we’re going to utilize for the coming year...I’ll vision cast and plant the seed.

“When service is over, we have set up in the gym and hallways a display booth for every ministry including ministry responsibility and descriptions. Each ministry leader is at his/her booth to answer questions, and all the members of the church flow through,” explains Pastor Graham. “Each individual carries with them a ministry interest sheet for them to check off those areas with which they would like to be involved. When they turn those cards in, we compile the data and give a list of potential volunteers to all ministry leaders. That list is the pool to draw from to recruit additional people into their ministries for the coming year. Obviously, you have to screen those who may not be at a point of spiritual maturity for certain ministry positions. To keep the interest level high during the ministry fair, we have refreshments, games, prizes and giveaways.”

This successful endeavor has worked well for Pastors Graham and Dugas, giving them the needed workers to fulfill the many ministry positions. Pastor Graham maintains, “For years we’ve taught that everyone in the body is a minister. As a result of that teaching and the Ministry Fair, we’ve never had a shortage of volunteers. It’s been huge for us.”

The Early Years

Pastor Graham grew up in Grayville, IL, a small southern town on the banks of the Wabash river. He attended the First Apostolic Church where Ernest Easton was his pastor. Filled with the Holy Ghost at the age of 7 and baptized in a horse trough, his walk with the Lord had begun. He has spent his entire adult life in the ministry. Called to preach at the age of 17, he attended the University of Illinois for one year before turning west towards the Gateway Arch of St. Louis where he attended Gateway College of Evangelism, graduating in 1986.

After graduation, he began his full-time ministry as youth pastor in Dupou, IL, where his pastor was Bro. Dan Batchelor, remaining there

four years. He then accepted the role of Christian school principle in Vandalia, IL, for two years under Bro. Ed Lucas. After evangelizing for a year, he moved into the role of associate pastor for Bro. Tim Dugas in Florissant, MO. Then, in 1995, he was appointed Director of Promotions for the General Youth Division. After two years in this capacity, he was elected General Youth Secretary, a position he held for two additional years before being elected General Youth President in 1999. During his tenure, he and his family continued to attend the Florissant Valley Apostolic Church. Upon leaving the youth division, Bro. Graham, his wife Michelle, and their two children, Jeremy and Jessica, remained in St. Louis, accepting the position of co-pastor alongside Pastor and Sis. Tim Dugas. Today, The Sanctuary has experienced positive growth, with an average Sunday morning attendance of 325.

The ministry team at The Sanctuary has been a case study in successful trans-generational leadership. Pastor Dugas and Pastor Graham have shared a relationship built on trust and mutual respect which has allowed the congregation to comfortably refer to each as Pastor. Pastor Graham comments, “While we all know that some transitions have been less than harmonious, this one has demonstrated that if two men are willing to both place their egos on the shelf and to work simply toward building people and the Kingdom, God’s church can progress unimpeded by transitional challenges.” Asked for his keys to such a smooth working relationship, Pastor Graham quickly responds, “Complete trust and open communication! Pastor and Sis. Dugas have invested 25 years into this church, and we would be nowhere near where we are without their sacrifices. A man would be a fool to step into my role and to forget that for even a moment! I honor him for where he’s brought us, and he honors me for where we’re going. Together we’re working for a common goal!”

The Future

When looking to the future, Pastor Graham states, “I am reminding myself more and more of the necessity that there be less of me and more of Him. I’ve had two governing verses that I’ve tried to live by. One is ‘Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer’ (Psalm 19:14). I’ve prayed that prayer daily for the last 20 years as well as a daily prayer that I would, like Daniel, have an excellent spirit. (See Daniel 5:12). I have been adding to that prayer in the past couple of years the cry of John that I’ve got to decrease and He’s got to increase.”

While The Sanctuary is easily visible from I-270, it is not the most visible structure along the Mississippi River. But it does have the message of hope and salvation. When the Gateway Arch was completed in 1965, commemorating Thomas Jefferson and the westward expansion of the United States, the message was a reminder of hope – hope for those who traveled west in search of a new start. The Sanctuary has opened its doors, welcoming those who are in search of a new start – not necessarily for a trip out west, but for one that turns upward.

When they enter the doors of The Sanctuary, they find hope and safety. ■





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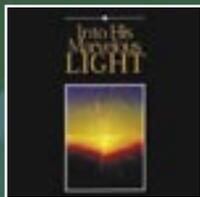
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Decline in Leisure Activities: Reading and Spending Time With Family, Friends

A recent study by The Harris Poll reveals that Americans' leisure-time activities have remained the same, yet the percentages have changed.

Topping the list of favorite activities – in the three years since the poll last asked Americans – were reading, TV watching, and spending time with family and friends. While these are the same top three as in 2004, what has changed is the percentage of people who cite these as their favorites. In all three cases, the numbers have dropped: over one-third (35%) cited reading in 2004 and this year that is down to 29 percent. TV watching has dropped from 25 percent to 18 percent. Spending time with friends and family has dropped from 20 percent to 14 percent. These drops were considered significant.

The telephone poll of 1,053 U.S. adults also showed that computer activities (9%) and going to the movies (7%) round out the top five.

The largest increases were in watching of sporting events (up 4%) and exercising (up 3%), and doing crafts (up 3%). The biggest declines were in TV watching (down 7%), sewing/crocheting (down 5%), entertaining (down 4%) and swimming (down 4%).

Church leaders often use this poll to help determine church social and evangelism activities for youth and adults.



Owen Taylor, Esq.
omt1@juno.com

Should The Church Litigate or Arbitrate?

When a church faces a lawsuit, it has a variety of ways to handle it. A Scriptural approach is through arbitration. It is a good method to avoid the court system and settle matters quietly and peacefully.

A recent case in Illinois involved a dispute between an associate pastor and a church. After resigning from his position, the pastor sued the church for defamation and breaching of his contract with them. The church asked that the court dismiss the case because of church bylaws, which demanded that such personal matters be arbitrated, and the court agreed. The pastor appealed, this time under the grounds of arbitrator bias. He said that the arbitration procedure was flawed, because the arbitrators were members of the church by which he had been employed, and therefore would be prejudiced against him. The court disagreed, because “the purpose of the dispute resolution procedure is to resolve disputes within the church” and the fear presented by the pastor had no basis and was just a generalized fear. The court ruled that because the pastor had agreed to arbitration when he signed the contract for employment to the church, he was bound to it.

1 Corinthians 6 asks the church, “Does any one of you who has a case against an-

other dare to be judged before the unrighteous and not before the saints?” This passage goes on to command the church to settle disagreements, accusations, and controversy by relying on the church's approach of reconciliation. The church is meant to be the final answer to all conflicts that arise in the church. This can include matters such as 1) disputes concerning property rights (real estate agreements, mortgages, frauds, or embezzlement) and 2) disputes arising under contractual arrangements of all kinds (contracts for goods, services, or employment benefits).

Employment disputes are some of the most common forms of church litigation. If arbitration is included into a church's employment contract, disputes are much easier and more peaceful to settle. If the contract includes an arbitration clause, the court must acknowledge the contract and dismiss the case, since the purpose of the dispute resolution is to resolve disputes within the church, and not in court.

The Christian Freedom Foundation fully supports arbitration as alternative dispute resolution and encourages any church to contact us for more information on how to implement arbitration in the bylaws and administer such proceedings if an arbitrator is needed. Contact us at omt1@juno.com or 410-761-0323.

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February 14-16, 2008

PREACHER SHORTAGE



Bro. and Sis. Rex Deckard
Pastor, Des Moines, IA

Bro. Deckard, tell us a little about yourself and your background.

I pastor in Des Moines, IA, and coordinate the Apostolic Training Institute, a distance learning initiative of the Home Missions Division. I have pastored in Tennessee and Indiana, ministered for a time in Papua, New Guinea and been involved with four daughter works and church plants. I've also been a public school administrator. I'm working on a couple of books, I play the violin and I like to fish.

There have been a number of articles in the news recently addressing the shortage of young men going into the ministry in the denominational world. Do you feel this is also true within the UPCI?

Yes, I do. I think there is a shortage of preachers that will increase over the next decade, if the Lord tarries. The problem is worse in the denominational world than in the UPCI, but we are facing it as well.

Do we have a shortage of preachers in general within our organization?

Our problem is more an issue of distribution, at the current time. In some areas, we have a surplus, while in other areas, we have a severe need. I know of churches that have closed because they couldn't find a single applicant for their pastorate, while in other districts there is fierce competition for any openings that come up.

Very often I hear quotes of our preacher-to-church ratio, which would give the appearance that we have a large surplus of pastors. This statistic is very misleading because it doesn't consider the large number of retired ministers, ministers in training, assistants or ministers that have a calling that is not pastoral in nature. These men and women hold a license, but aren't necessarily going to pastor. As a result, we will always have a higher minister-to-church ratio.

Is the attendance of UPCI Bible colleges down?

Some of our colleges are seeing record attendance, while others see some decline. I don't know what the overall numbers are, but I am certain that we underutilize our schools and should do everything we can to encourage increased attendance.

We understand that everyone is not capable of attending a Bible college.

What resources are available to assist the local pastor to train those who feel a call into the ministry?

There is an abundance of resources available, and some of our districts have been very creative at developing internal training programs. Purpose Institute, Apostolic Training Institute, and several of our Bible Colleges have extension programs. I am most familiar with ATI, and we designed it so a local pastor could establish a quality weekly or monthly class at a very, very small cost to the church or the student. It addresses Church Administration, Church Growth, Teaching Methods, and nine other significant areas for the apostolic leader.

Are Home Missions church starts down or dropping?

Home Missions and daughter works are increasing! Bro. Carlton Coon and the Home Missions Division staff are doing an outstanding job at casting a vision, and then following through with the details. Many of our district directors are really thinking outside the box, as well. It is exciting to see the unprecedented growth in new ethnic

communities, particularly among Spanish speakers. I am also encouraged by the number of new churches already planning or establishing their own daughter works. It will be a great day when we can think in terms of churches that are leading or serving more than one congregation in one community.

Are district superintendents finding it difficult to get qualified pastors to take over churches of retiring pastors?

Again, I think this may largely depend upon the location. Districts that have active training and equipping programs within their churches are always going to be a step ahead of those that don't, whether it is district-sponsored, sectional or even local churches. Leaders don't just appear, they are developed. Often it is the tax collector or burly fisherman that we overlook as potential leaders.

Is the UPCI growing, stable or declining in total number of churches?

The UPCI is growing, stable, and is the greatest oneness fellowship there is, and that is why I am honored to be a member. This is the result of good leadership at all levels. I am encouraged by the vision of our leaders, but more importantly, that they have articulated a strategic plan.

Has any solid research been done on our organization in this area? Any future trends or projections?

I think there is research being done, but I am sure that we need more. It is dangerous to base our ideas or plans on anecdotal stories that aren't backed up by accurate statistics. Insofar as future trends, we do see a significant number of ministers reaching retirement age by the end of the decade. We also see a trend toward young ministers waiting until a much later age to first apply for license. A few recommendations I would definitely make are:

1. Every district, section and local church needs to have a training plan for leaders, including both preachers and "lay" leaders.

2. A placement office needs to be developed within our organization to disburse information on available churches and ministries. This has been attempted at the grass roots level with limited success, but it really needs to be done at an organizational level. This would replace our current system, which is mainly "word of mouth."

3. We need to do more within our sections to coordinate and equip local leaders, and to target unchurched cities. The closer these activities are to the local level (as opposed to state and national), the more efficient and cost effective they will be.



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 alendar 2008

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SPEAKERS	CONTACT / INFO
FEBRUARY 14-16	Winterfire 2008 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: Jon Petoskey	Jeff Arnold, Morton Bustard, Sam Emory, Wayne Huntley, Dr. Jeffers, Michael Mitchell, Mark Morgan, Steve Wiloughby, Mike Williams	More information: (860) 649-9848 (860) 528-9834 www.winterfire.org
MARCH 6-7	Passing the Mantle, Bartlett, IL A meeting of impartation for ministers and their spouses. Host pastors: J. E. Yonts and R. O. Boettcher	Bartlett UPC 270 East Schick Road Bartlett, IL 60103	C. M. Becton, J. E. Yonts, Stan Gleason, Harold Hoffman, Eli Hernandez	For more info call: (630) 837-9800 bartlettupc@yahoo.com
MARCH 6-9	Times Of Refreshing, Bossier City, LA Additional conferences will be held throughout the nation in 2008. Check our web site for dates and locations. www.gordonpoe.com/TOR	First UPC 2833 Viking St. Bossier City, LA Host Pastor: Jerry Dean	Bill Davis, Mike Mitchell, Matt Maddox, Gordon Poe Children's Ministry: David Moore	For more information: visit www.gordonpoe.com/TOR/conference . Or call: (318) 742-9539
APRIL 1-2	Apostolic Studies Group Distinctive. Unique. Informative. Educational. Global. For Pastors, Wives, and Families in Beautiful Branson, MO	Hilton Branson Convention Center, Branson, MO	To Be Announced	For more information: www.apostolicstudiesgroup.org
APRIL 2-4	IBC Music Festival - In Pursuit of Excellence... For His Glory - A Music Conference created to inspire and challenge your Music Ministry. Under the direction of Lindel M. Anderson, Dean of Music.	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46203 Host: P. D. Mooney	IBC Choir, PRAISE, others.	ibcmusicoffice@aol.com www.ibcmusicfest.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
APRIL 16-18	13th Annual F.I.R.E. Conference 2008 Faith, inspiration, Renewal, Edification Special leadership weekend with T. F. Tenney	The Pentecostals Of Henderson, 638 White Ave. Henderson, TN 38340 Host Pastor: Chris L. Tharp	T. F. Tenney, Jeff Arnold, Rex Johnson Music by Timothy Spell	For more information: Web site: www.pentecostal-sofhenderson.org or call (731) 989-7142
APRIL 2008	Steadfast Conference, South Dakota Two days of great teaching on the importance of Apostolic Doctrine in our time.	Word of Life Pentecostal Church, 3513 N. 10th Ave. Sioux Falls, SD 57101 Host Pastor: Gary Legg	To Be Announced	For more information: (605) 338-9983
MAY 8-10	Eagle's Summit Apostolic Conference 6th Annual Missouri District "Eagle's Summit Apostolic Conference." A conference for saints, staff and leadership alike which focuses on equipping the minister and believer for apostolic ministry.	Life Church Kansas City, MO	Dr. Jeffers, T. F. Tenney, Tony Bailey, Stan Gleason, Cyvonne Davy, John Arcovio	For more information: (816) 390-7266
JUN 5-7	Man 2 Man Conference 2008 Every year great men of God bless the Man 2 Man Conference with fresh Word from heaven!	Abundant Life Outreach Ctr Clarksville, TN Host Pastor: Gary D. Ellis	To Be Announced	For more information, call (931) 648-8577 or visit www.aloonline.com
JULY 2008	Mile High Conference: 2008 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 2008	IMPACT Family Conference 2008 Day sessions to meet the needs of your entire family unit (Married, Single, Parents, Teens & Children) and your church leadership.	Woodlawn Church Hwy 98 - Columbia, MS Host Pastor: James Carney	To Be Announced	www.woodlawnchurch.cc Info: (601) 736-5128 ext. 107 Jerron@woodlawnchurch.cc Coordinator: Jerron Carney
AUG 19-22	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 20-22	P.A.T.H. Conference Preserving Apostolic Truth and Holiness. A preaching conference that promotes an unfettered pulpit.	Faith Tabernacle 6 West Loop Madera, CA 93637 Host Pastor: Dennis Garza	To Be Announced	For Information: (559) 673-3233
SEPT 2008	Times of Refreshing, Houston, TX Additional conferences will be held throughout the nation in 2008. Check our web site for dates and locations. www.gordonpoe.com/TOR	Life Tabernacle 9901 Windmill Lakes Blvd. Houston, TX Host Pastor: Jim Kilgore II	To Be Announced	For more information: visit www.gordonpoe.com/TOR/conference . Or call: (713) 910-1911
SEPT 2008	Rushing Mighty Wind Preaching Conference Indianapolis, IN. A power packed preaching conference in the heart of the Midwest	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN. Host: Paul D. Mooney	Brian Kinsey, Ron Mullings, Brent Brosam, Sergio Vitanza, Tim Gaddy, Jerry Jones	For more info call: (317) 262-4030 or visit our web site at: www.calvarytabindy.org
OCT 15-19	85th Annual General Conference UPCI Official conference of the UPCI. Don't miss it!	Greensboro, NC	To Be Announced	For more info visit the UPCI website at www.upci.org
OCT 2008	Mannafest Ministry Conference Celebrating 20 Years of Ministry Host: Gary D. Ellis Sr.	Abundant Life Outreach Center 119 Chapel St. Clarksville, TN 37042	To Be Announced	For more info call: (931) 648-8577 www.aloonline.com
Nov 6-7	East Coast Conference Conference On Revival and Evangelism	First Pentecostal Church 2008 Carver St. Durham, NC Host: Johnny Godair	To Be Announced	For more info call: (919) 477-6555 info@fpcurham.org
Nov 5-7	West Coast Conference A Meeting Place for the Whole Family.	Fresno, CA Host Pastor: Vaughn Morton	To Be Announced	For more information call: (559) 225-1622 www.truthtabfresno.org

Theology: Recommended Bible Software Programs



Steve Waldron

■ Theology

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Bro. Waldron, what is the best Bible software program in your opinion?

The three primary Bible software programs which have extensive features are: PCStudy Bible by BibleSoft, QuickVerse by Parsons Technology, and Logos Bible Software. There are other smaller programs which are also good. Among these are SwordSearcher, Online Study Bible, and Power Bible. All of these programs are beneficial in the area of Bible study. Some of the finer points of these are:

■ PCStudy Bible has been around nearly 20 years. They are truly one of the pioneers in the Bible software department. Their strengths include ease of use and the breadth of programs available. Numerous commentaries, sermon helps, maps, and various Bible and language helps are all easily accessible to the average computer user. Another advantage of PCStudy Bible is their partnership with PPH. This allows for various apostolic materials to be used with the program (such as Jerry Jones, Wayne Huntley, and David Bernard resources, for example). You can usually find the complete package (as complete as is commonly available) for around \$400 at CBD (1-800-Christian).

■ QuickVerse has been a long-time competitor with PCStudy Bible, after the same market of pastors, teachers and students. I personally have owned both PCStudy Bible and QuickVerse and liked the basic search feature in QuickVerse better. QuickVerse also has a STEP technology which allows for integration into a vast online database of information, as well as the items on your CDs. Pricing is slightly less than the PCStudy Bible, although there is an advanced edition that costs quite a bit more (\$799). All things being equal, I prefer PCStudy Bible over QuickVerse. Most of its functions are more intuitive for me.

■ Logos is the Bible program I used at my former pastorate. It is slightly more expensive than either QuickVerse or PCStudy Bible. It is a more technical program, not quite as user friendly as either of the first two, but if you are interested in language study and professionalism, it has a massive comprehensive package for about \$1,500, available on the Logos website. I like Logos a lot but find PCStudy more suited to my taste.

■ Three more in the comprehensive Bible software category are BibleWorks, Bible Explorer, and Illumina. BibleWorks is the best for language study, if you know the original languages, and it costs about \$349. Bible Explorer used to be a favorite of mine and still has a strong emphasis on sermon preparation. I have never owned Illumina, but people who have used it really brag on it, and it is the cheapest of the bunch.

■ The other programs are much smaller but have a few different Bible translations, and some classic Bible dictionaries and commentaries, but again, their scope is limited. However, cost is usually under \$50.

■ Also, for historical research, Ages Biblical with the Master's Christian Library has many valuable historical documents. Writings from Charles Finney, John Wesley, Charles Spurgeon, and many others are available here. Still-Waters Revival Books and O Timothy ministries with David Cloud also have tremendous CD resources.

Whichever program you chose, have a great time studying the greatest book ever, God's revelation to man – The Bible!

■ Church Today

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Do identity card and tracking laws that promote the protection of children and national security raise concerns about personal autonomy and the possible imminence of the "mark of the beast?"

Yes. I was disturbed after reading about the tracking of children taking place in the United Kingdom. Beginning this year Britain will be building an electronic database to essentially track every child in the country. Throughout the child's life, medical, education, and other social professionals will have access to the database and will be required to add information as they have contact with the child. Information may include low test scores, medical issues, and even details about parents' mental status or addictions, and will be available to hundreds of thousands of "professionals."

This begs the question about how secure

can the information possibly be and what guarantees that all of these "professionals" with access to the database will have honorable intentions toward the children or that they will agree that parents should have the right to raise their children with certain core beliefs or morals. What if a pro-homosexual social "professional" decides that a child is in a damaging environment because the child's Christian parents believe and teach that homosexuality is a sin? And once "negative" data is added to a child's record, what recourse do parents have for getting it removed?

Despite the £241 million price tag and some outcry from its citizens, British government officials are planning to move forward. The concern is that this is only the beginning of the computerization of personal data and that will eventually include fingerprint and DNA information. Ironically, in Nov. 2007 reports surfaced of a breach of security in the British government and its loss of the personal data of 25 million citizens.

The U.S. has not yet instituted this inva-



T. W. Massengale

■ Church Growth

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We have a number of people willing to teach home Bible studies. But do you have any suggestions for how to get home Bible studies?

There are many ways to get Bible studies. But the most successful studies will be those that you teach to your *oikos* (family, friends, co-workers, acquaintances). So encourage your teachers to ask those they know for a study. Teach them that 'no' does not mean 'no,' it just means 'not now.' They should constantly look for an opportunity to say, "Joe, when are you going to let me teach you that home Bible study I've been telling you about?"

Other successful ways to set up home Bible studies are from visitor follow-up (when you visit, simply ask them, "Have you heard about our home Bible study program? No? Let me tell you about it!"), bus ministry parents, altar working, church guest cards, and many more.

But if your teachers can't seem to set up their own study, help them find one by using the 'Quest' survey. This door-to-door survey was developed a number of years ago and has been used successfully all over the USA. Take a team of teachers out on a Saturday morning to any neighborhood with lots of young families and children. If you knock on 100 doors, you will find about 50 to be home. Of those home, 30-40 will take the survey (*only 10 quick questions!*). Of those that take the survey, about 5-10% will say 'yes' to a home Bible study. It really works. I have successfully used it all over the country. Anyone that will spend 2-3 hours knocking on doors can come back with several home Bible studies that they can teach.

If you would like a copy of the Quest survey and a set of instructions on how to use it, call 1-800-800-0247. Cost is \$3.⁰⁰ plus postage.

sive of a tracking system. However, a possible precursor, The Real ID Act passed by congress in 2005, is going to require that all U.S. citizens receive a National ID card by Dec. 2009.

How far will concerns about child safety and national security carry us? Everyone agrees that we should keep our children and our nation safe. However, we must be careful to protect our autonomy and privacy, as well as that of our children, in the process.

At least once a year, we should each check our credit report, as well as that of our children, to detect potential identity theft. With adults becoming more vigilant, identity thieves are now targeting children. We should closely guard our family's social security numbers and not disclose them except in certain situations where both necessity of disclosure and security of privacy are assured and verifiable. Finally, we should be vigilant about what tracking and I.D. laws our government proposes as "necessary" for the safety of our children and national security. We must each stay informed, speak out and vote.

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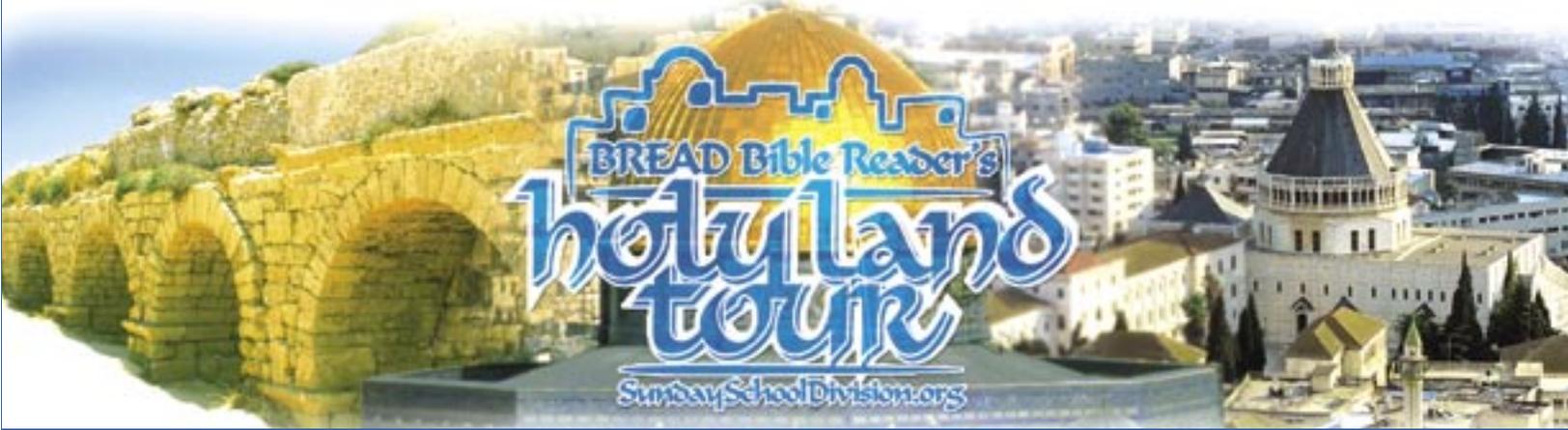


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Do You Love Yourself? It's God's Command!

I can almost hear a reply to the question: "Do you love yourself?" Reply, "What do you mean love myself? I'm to be humble. I would be prideful if I loved myself!" God's resounding truth says, "Yes! We are to love ourselves!"

Jesus gave us the greatest commandment in Mark 12: 29 - 31. My simple interpretation is: Love God, Love Self, and Love Others. Jesus went on to say there is no greater commandment than these. God wants each of us to love ourselves as He loves us. We have value because God created us and died on the cross to provide us salvation. We are to love ourselves unconditionally as He does. We should humbly give God the glory for all that we are in Him. We are His workmanship - His poetry.

The NLT commentary on this scripture says, "When you love God completely and care for others as you care for yourself, then you have fulfilled the intent of the Ten Commandments and the other Old Testament laws."

An abused child feels devalued, unloved and worthless. As an adult, even after salvation, those same negative feelings are embedded in their thoughts and feelings.

When I counsel and teach God's truth of Mark 12, the wounded adult has difficulty accepting God's truth that they are fully loved, fully forgiven and fully accepted by God.

A person can be saved, but his or her joy in the Lord is stolen by Satan's lies. Satan wants a saved person to remain in their distorted thinking, but God's truth sets the captive free.

God's truth must transfer from head knowledge to heart knowledge. A child of God who was abused in the past must take ownership of God's truth that they are loveable. I provide Bible-based counseling and teaching that brings healing to hurting hearts. Please love yourself with the love of the Lord.

Carol Clemans is a certified pastoral counselor/Bible teacher. She provides a teaching and counseling ministry for Pastor Dan Batchelor in Dupo, IL, and for churches nationwide. To schedule seminars or confidential phone counseling call: (636) 448-0121. Carol has a book and teaching CD's on emotional healing, marriage and sexual purity. Call or e-mail her regarding products. carol@carolclemans.org



Leadership
childslsi@aol.com

Strategic Mentoring

I am happy to introduce a new ministry we are offering aptly called *Strategic Mentoring*. It is a concept whose time has come. The need for strategic mentoring is overwhelming.

Strategic Mentoring will allow me to meet with small groups of church pastors and select leaders. There will be no topic taught or curriculum offered. Instead we will openly discuss our challenges and areas in our ministries where we need guidance or assistance. I will use my expertise and the experience of others within and without the session to propose or develop solutions, strategies and implementation plans to enable the church leader to accomplish what he is called to do.

What is said in the *Strategic Mentoring* group will stay in the group. Leaders will be able to open themselves up and simultaneously receive real direction and solutions.



Architecture
jeff@omegachurchdesign.com

Environmental Concerns

Many churches will need to deal with a local permit department whose charge is to protect the environment while allowing for growth. One of the challenges of your church addition or new construction project may be satisfying these authorities that you have properly addressed how your project will affect your neighbors and the environment.

Your locale may have very specific rules dealing with how you are to manage the flow and volume of water from your property after you have changed the site from absorbent soil and vegetation into impervious asphalt and steel. Some jurisdictions are even requiring the filtration of this stormwater as it leaves an oily parking lot and before it enters the public water supply.

Another concern will be erosion control. How will the church insure that site excavation will not result in silt filling up nearby ditches, streams and sewers? If your property contains land deemed to be "wetlands," some jurisdictions will not allow you to disturb it, or you may be required to purchase additional land and create a new wetlands area of proportionate size to the area you are destroying. A fourth concern to your permit department may be the removal of trees on your property.

All of these issues should be addressed to some degree prior to purchasing new church property. Your architect and civil engineer can assist you by determining the feasibility of your proposed new church project, and then helping you satisfy all local codes.

Jeff Thomas is President of Omega Church Consultants, Inc., Church Designers and Builders, located in Indianapolis. You may contact him at jeff@omegachurchdesign.com or (877) OMEGA22. Or visit the Omega website at www.omegachurchdesign.com.



Finance
ajayroe@swbell.net

I was told that as a pastor and executive of the church, I did not have to keep up with any travel documents if the church paid all my travel expenses. Is this correct?

First of all, the rule for travel deductions is that taxpayers who travel away from home on business may deduct related expenses, including the cost of reaching their destination and returning home, the cost of lodging and meals and other ordinary and necessary expenses. Taxpayers are considered "traveling away from home" if their duties require them to be away from home substantially longer than an ordinary day's work and they need to sleep or rest to meet the demands of their work. In addition, travel around town is a qualified expense if it is ordinary and necessary in the operation of a business.

In this case, the pastor's work would qualify when it is required that he travel to visit members, hospital visitation, etc.

If traveling out of town and overnight, the taxpayer may use the standard per diem allowances and thus reduce the recordkeeping, but to say that there are no requirements for keeping up with records is incorrect. A pastor must maintain a certain amount of records either to deduct the amount of travel on his/her tax return, or keep up with records to turn in to the church secretary for reimbursement or payment of those expenses. If the information is given to the church secretary for either reimbursement or payment of the expenses, the secretary is required to maintain the records for a specified period of time. The pastor is then exempt from keeping the records any longer.

There are ways to reduce the travel record-keeping such as having a qualified accountable reimbursement plan or using the standard per diem rates. It would depend on the type of plan or method the church uses to reimburse or pay for the travel expenses. However, there are always certain records that must be kept.

It would be advantageous to contact a professional tax preparer in this area for advice based on the church's method of reimbursement or payment and the tax law.

Aubrey L. Jayroe is an Accredited Tax Advisor, Accredited Tax Preparer and Enrolled Agent by the IRS, as well as an Apostolic pastor. Contact him at: (870) 633-6045. Jayroe & Company, P.O. Box 1217, Forrest City, AR 72336

We are living in a tremendous time of opportunity, but the pace and pressure of change provides a constant challenge for church leaders to keep pace. Very few churches have the skill sets and components in-house to face the rapid changes of the 21st century. For this reason, strategic partnerships and alliances are essential. That is what we intend to accomplish through *Strategic Mentoring*.

The Bible has many precedents for such an endeavor. 1 Kings 7 speaks of how wise King Solomon reached beyond his domain and solicited the expertise of Hiram from the kingdom of Tyre. Hiram's skills and ability to train and impart understanding to others enabled Israel to accomplish the vision of building the temple. My approach to strategic mentoring is similar. God has given me in abundance, and I am willing to impart gifts to others so the Kingdom of God will prosper.

Warning: *Strategic Mentoring* is not a program. I look forward to hearing from you.

Dr. Fred Childs pastors in Granite City, Illinois. He is a leading leadership authority, church business consultant, author, and keynote speaker. Visit his website at www.churchpotential.com for a list of materials and services. Email childslsi@aol.com

THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS**Controversial Children's Movie Promotes Atheism**

"The Golden Compass," a fantasy film starring Nicole Kidman that is scheduled to be released into theaters in December 2007, has been drawing fire from concerned Christians worldwide. The film is based on the book *Northern Lights* (released in the U.S. as *The Golden Compass*), and is the first offering in Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials* trilogy of children's books. This is a series of children's books that follows the adventures of a streetwise girl who travels through multiple worlds populated by witches, armor-plated bears, and sinister ecclesiastical assassins to defeat the oppressive forces of a senile God.

The movie has been described as "atheism for kids." Pullman is a militant atheist and secular humanist who despises C. S. Lewis and the "Chronicles of Narnia" children's series. He has publicly stated that his motivation for writing this trilogy was specifically to counteract Lewis' symbolism of Christ that are portrayed in the Narnia series.

LEGAL TRENDS**Distribution of Gideon Bibles Allowed**

A federal judge in Florida ruled last week that a member of Gideons International can resume distributing Bibles on a public sidewalk until his case is resolved. In April, attorneys with the Alliance Defense Fund filed a lawsuit on behalf of Thomas Gray, who was threatened with arrest for distributing Bibles on a public sidewalk. City officials said he and other Gideons could not be within 500 feet of public school property.

ADF attorneys argued that everyone has a constitutional right to express their faith on a public sidewalk. The Gideons, who never stepped on school grounds, had received permission from the sheriff and school officials to distribute their Bibles.

"The law is clear: This distribution of Bibles on a public sidewalk is not illegal," ADF's David Cortman said, "However, it is a violation of the law for officials to silence Christians whose only intent is to exercise their free speech rights."

**Childhood Church Attendance Survey**

Ellison Research has released new study data that shows the vast majority of adults who regularly attended religious worship services at some point before the age of 18 are glad they did. Even people who no longer attend worship services as adults largely feel their attendance as children had a positive influence on their life, and few believe it had a negative influence on them. The Phoenix, AZ, firm conducted the study from among a representative sample of 1,007 American adults.

Just over half of all adults (51%) say they currently attend religious worship services of some kind once a month or more, leaving 42 percent who can be considered "lapsed" - meaning they attended regularly at some point, but no longer do so. Most of this previous attendance was during childhood. Nine out of 10 adults attended religious worship services regularly at some point before the age of 18, including 86 percent of those who no longer attend today.

Most Americans who attended religious services at some point during childhood look back on their experience in a positive way. Sixty-six percent believe their religious attendance before age 18 gave them a good moral foundation; 62 percent say it's something they are glad they did; 57 percent believe it gave them important religious knowledge; 50 percent believe it helped them grow spiritually; 47 percent feel it helped them prepare for life as an adult; and 43 percent say it deepened their faith.

On the other hand, 19 percent believe their childhood experiences turned them off on organized religion; 15 percent believe their childhood religious attendance is not relevant to their life today; and 13 percent feel it helped send them down a different spiritual path than the one they were taking at that time.

Among those who currently attend services, the vast majority have positive things to say about their childhood religious attendance. For instance, 62 percent believe it helped them grow spiritually and 75 percent believe it gave them a good moral foundation.

Ron Sellers, president of Ellison Research, noted, "There have long been claims from some in the atheist community that taking children to religious services is harmful to their development," Sellers said. "This is simply not true."

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ When it comes to dating and sex, teens care more about what their parents say than their closest friends. According to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, 65 percent of teens said it's "easy" to have conversations with their parents. Nearly one-third of teens called their relationship with their parents healthy and worth emulating.

■ Roger Williams University in Rhode Island is forcing students to watch *An Inconvenient Truth* — the documentary on global warming produced by former Vice President Al Gore — as a science class requirement

in order to receive a degree. This decree provoked one conservative student to say that "we should stop calling these schools 'bastions of knowledge' since they're really bastions of leftist thought."

■ The number of luxury hotels to include Bibles and other religious materials has dropped 18 percent since 2001, according to the American Hotel and Lodging Association.

The more you pay for hotel room, notes abcnews.com, the less likely a Bible will be there. Only 73 percent of luxury hotels provide a Bible compared with 99 percent of economy hotels.

EDUCATION TRENDS**Cross-Dressing Day Sparks School Exodus**

A public school's "gender-bender" cross-dressing event, where boys were supposed to dress as girls and girls as boys, has prompted at least dozens, perhaps hundreds, of students to flee the tax-supported institutions in Iowa, according to WorldNetDaily.com.

Many of the parents are members of the Christ Apostolic Temple in Des Moines, which teaches a biblically-based doctrine of rejecting the world's values.

"Christ Apostolic Temple Inc. Fellowship is a Bible-based organization that believes one must 'come out from among them and be ye separate.'" (2 Cor. 6:14-17), the organization's website says.

That apparently includes cross-dressing, which has found sponsorship in other arenas from the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, which promoted a school lesson plan for teaching kids to cross-dress.

State officials in Des Moines confirmed to WND that at least 80 children whose parents were alarmed by the "Gender-Bender Day" during homecoming week at the city's East High School have moved their children from various districts in the area into home-schooling plans.

Barb Heki, a board member for the Network of Iowa Christian Home Educators, was ecstatic. "I'm just praising God there's a church with so many families that would take a biblical stand and decide that we will not put our children under anti-Christian indoctrination any longer. That's refreshing and encouraging," she told WND.

YOUTH TRENDS**Alcohol Consumption Common In Middle Schoolers**

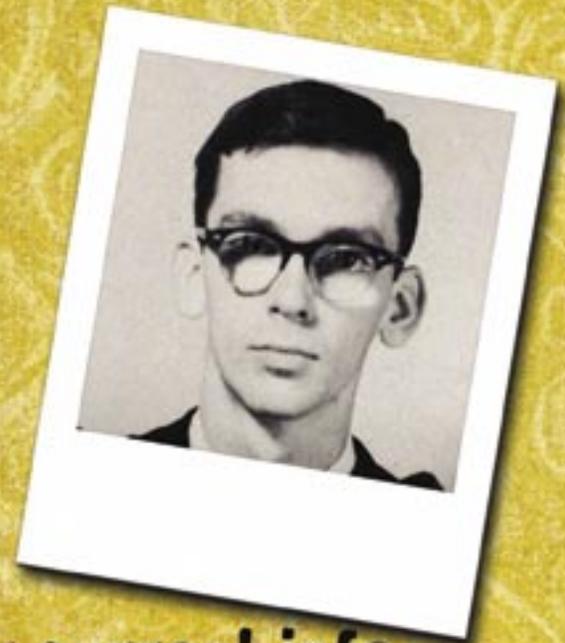
According to new research, seven percent of 4th graders have had an alcoholic drink in the past year. Rates of alcohol consumption continue to rise thereafter, with the biggest jump taking place between 5th and 6th grade -- a time when many children begin middle school. "There is a sizeable amount of literature showing that the earlier people start to drink, or even have their first drink, the more likely they are to have problems later in life with alcohol, drugs, delinquency, risky sexual behavior and vehicle accidents," said John Donovan, associate professor and author of the study published in *Prevention Science*.



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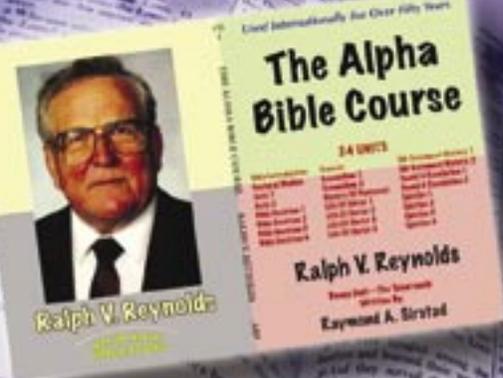
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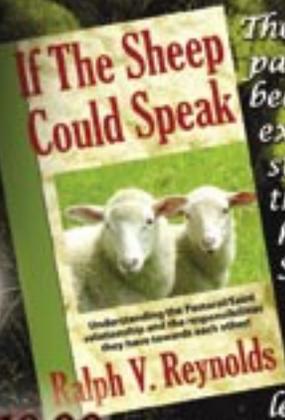


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If the Sheep Could Speak

By Ralph V. Reynolds



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The relationship between the pastor and the saint of God is beautifully illustrated in this explanation of church structure. The author places the pastor in the position of honor as pertains to the Scripture. He gives an enlightening explanation of the sheep of the fold, or the saint of God, under the leadership of the pastor, as to the rights that he has to speak. All of this is couched very scripturally in a beautiful area of mutual relationship between a sheep and his shepherd.

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The Power of SANCTIFICATION

Transcribed by Gregg Stone

II Chronicles 29, 3-11

He in the first year of his reign, in the first month, opened the doors of the house of the Lord, and repaired them.

And he brought in the priests and the Levites, and gathered them together into the east street, and said unto them, Hear me, ye Levites, sanctify now yourselves, and sanctify the house of the Lord God of your fathers, and carry forth the filthiness out of the holy place.

For our fathers have trespassed, and done that which was evil in the eyes of the Lord our God, and have forsaken him, and have turned away their faces from the habitation of the Lord, and turned their backs.

Also they have shut up the doors of the porch, and put out the lamps, and have not burned incense nor offered burnt offerings in the holy place unto the God of Israel.

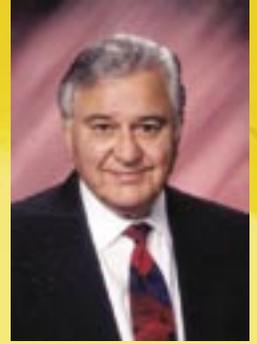
Wherefore the wrath of the Lord was upon Judah and Jerusalem, and he hath delivered them to trouble, to astonishment, and to hissing, as ye see with your eyes.

For, lo, our fathers have fallen by the sword, and our sons and our daughters and our wives are in captivity for this.

Now it is in mine heart to make a covenant with the Lord God of Israel, that his fierce wrath may turn away from us.

My sons, be not now negligent: for the Lord hath chosen you to stand before him, to serve him, and that ye should minister unto him, and burn incense.

“When you come into the presence of the Lord, you don’t come in with dirty hands or defiled minds, you don’t come in with a heart filled with wickedness. You come in with purity so that you can enjoy the mighty presence of God.”



Bro. N.A. Urshan

Hezekiah put the responsibility where it belonged when he saw the conditions existing in Judah. Can you imagine that the king had to open the house of the Lord? Can you imagine that the doors were shut? Who shut the doors? It is rather a shame, but it was the ministry or the priesthood that shut the doors.

When the pressures of sin begin to press men in leadership of the religious areas of life, these men get faint hearted and back up. In their backing up, they let the house of God go begging.

Sanctification

Here in the reading of the scripture we see the house of God is closed. The doors are shut. The king then comes and calls the priests and the Levites and gathers them together into the East Street, and said unto them, “sanctify now yourselves.” First you must get yourself sanctified.

Sanctification in an individual’s life has to do with separations from a lot of things that will bind you and take your time away from God.

So here is this King, a secular King. He should not have been in that leadership position but thank God that he was. When you see this, it not only tells you to sanctify now yourselves, but to sanctify the house of the Lord God of your fathers, and carry forth the filthiness out of this place.

What Hezekiah is saying is that when the house of the Lord is used for things that are not pertaining to God, anything can enter into the church and destroy the beauty of worship and destroy your faith in almighty God.

The Fire Of The Lamp

Here is a very great situation of that cause. In verse 7 it says, “and they put out the lamps.” The lamp had to do with the continuity of worship in the temple. Let me point out what the lamp had as its position in the matter pertaining to God’s house.

The lamp had to be lit by the fire of the brazen altar. The fire that was on the brazen altar was the fire that consumed the sacrifice. The brazen altar was a place of repentance. The Levites would take the fire from the brazen altar and go into the holy place. The lamp was lit by the repentance fire from the brazen altar.

The lamp illuminated the shewbread, which is a type of the word of God. If the lamp is not lit you won’t be able to be in a position of having a revelation from the light of the lamp.

The Fire Never Burns Out

The fire at the altar of repentance was to never go out, but what we are reading here shows us that they allowed the fire on the altar to burn out. That means there was no repentance in Judah or Israel and there was no light of his revelation.

In another part of the scripture it tells us about the days of Eli and says that the lamp had gone out and there was no voice of God in the land and there was no open vision. When the lamp goes out your vision is deterred and darkness hangs over the area.

Approaching God

It was repentance at the altar, repentance before revelation, and it was repentance before worship. When you come into the presence of the Lord you don’t come in with dirty hands or defiled minds, you don’t come in with a heart filled with wickedness. You come in with purity so that you can enjoy the mighty presence of God.

Hezekiah did not take this into his hands; he put it where it belonged, in the hands of the ministry. Kings did not enter into the ministry, but Hezekiah got the ministers encouraged and told them to get sanctified. A sanctified message will strike to the hearts of people and will cause them to react to God. It is not the words you speak, but it is the spirit with which you speak the words that is so important.

When the anointing of God comes upon a man there is a beautiful presence of the holiness of God that makes people think and it makes them take a special observation of self.

The Power Of Travail

If we could understand that travail brings forth life. There is power in prayer and when we travail in prayer, God brings forth mighty things. The more you talk revival, the more it is going to happen.

When you weep before God for the sins of a generation and travail in prayer, you can change conditions. However, if you’re not concerned about the people around you and the way your nation is going into immorality, then you have lost a sensitivity to God that makes the church a force in the world when the church cries out to God.

When Zion travails, she brings forth. It is absolutely certain that you can have revival if you sow the seed with tears. Going forth weeping bearing precious seed, you will come with joy.

God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or think. If you get a revival consciousness when you walk through the doors of the church, you should expect something great from God. If you will consciously praise God and worship God and give glory to his name he will do mighty things.

Don’t say revival is coming tomorrow, or four months from now we may have revival. Look on the fields; they are ready to harvest now.

Conclusion

Part of this gospel has to do with how we walk, how we live and how we look. When I look at what we are facing today, it’s great to be a part of a church that preaches things that have sensibility to them. It’s great to say, “I am sanctified.” We need to talk more about sanctification and purity before the Lord.

When Hezekiah got through with this sanctification process, he took a whole generation prior to him and turned the generation he lived in back to God. That tells me something about revival. In the darkest of hours, in the heaviest of sin, you can let your light shine and you can turn things around.

The late N. A. Urshan is the former General Superintendent of the United Pentecostal Church International. Bro. Urshan was called home to be with the Lord March 11, 2005.

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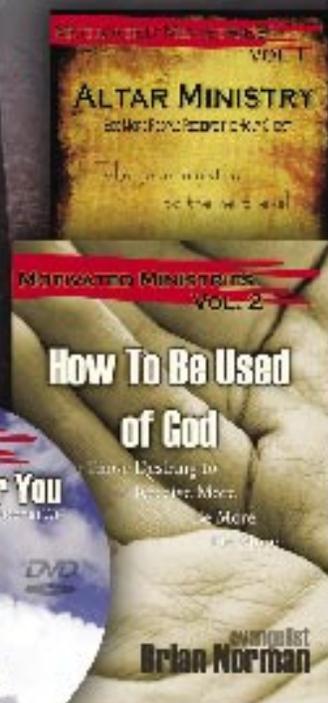
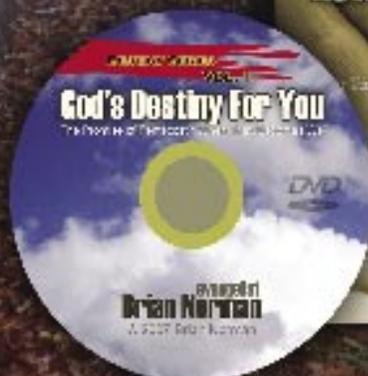
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Piercing The Darkness of Chemical Dependencies

By Linda Schreckenber



Howard Pastorella, Director
Spirit of Freedom Ministries

Over 4,000 men, women and youth have been led to salvation through this life-changing program.

Bro. Hyde's burden for the chemically dependent was born out of his personal battle with alcohol before his conversion. A man with a testimony, Martin guitar, a tape duplicator and a motor home, he began a ministry that has grown into an international ministry. He retired in 2007 at the age of 85. Bro. Howard Pastorella, also delivered from drugs and alcohol, was appointed to succeed Bro. Hyde as director of the Spirit of Freedom Ministries.

The ministry was expanded in 1991 due to the creation of the Christian Intervention Program (CIP), which is a Bible-based, life

skills program designed to assist the chemically dependent and their families in skills to re-enter into society.

The *Three Steps to Freedom* program takes the student on the downward spiral of what alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs do to them physically, to their families, their finances and their futures. It then introduces them to the plan of salvation. CIP is designed for use by the judicial system as conditions of probation and parole, pre-trial interventions, re-entry and release programs within jails and prisons and as a resource for child protection agencies. In corporate settings, the CIP can be an employee assistance program. It can be taken to colleges as an answer for at-risk students. Pastors across North America are using CIP as a foundational life skills and discipleship class for new converts.

Spirit of Freedom's future is bright and focused. Every call on the Freedomline is referred to a church. There are district representatives for various states and for the Canadian Atlantic District, and the field representatives assist pastors in establishing Christian Intervention programs. Recognizing the priority of promoting resources to the new generation of men and women in ministry, the staff of Spirit of Freedom Ministries has been contacting pastors and foreign missionaries through district confer-

ences, and personal contacts. Visits to Bible colleges are planned as well as a promotional DVD for pastors. As of 2006, Spirit of Freedom records:

- ◆ 9,103 CIP students enrolled in classes at church sites across America
- ◆ 10,456 CIP students enrolled in classes in jails and prisons in the U.S. and Canada.
- ◆ 6,127 individual direct contacts
- ◆ 1,867 "friends" have heard Bro. Hyde's testimony

Spirit of Freedom Ministries will exist as long as alcohol, tobacco and drug industries are in business. There has never been a behavior that has more devastated every phase of an individual's life! Those bound by chemical dependency are no longer the 3 percent "Skid Row" residents. Some have incredible apostolic backgrounds.

"Bringing Families Together Who Are Worlds Apart" is the motto of the Spirit of Freedom Ministries, and the success stories are numerous. One young lady approached their booth at General Conference and testified that Freedomline Magazine was the catalyst to her deliverance and salvation!

For information, please contact the Spirit of Freedom staff at info@sofm.org or through the website sofm.org.

The Greatest of Abilities: Availability

By Julia Reinking



Brian Norman
Evangelist

"Receive more, be more and do more" are strong words of advice for every Christian who desires to work for the Lord.

Evangelist Brian Norman, author of an inspirational project entitled "How To Be Used of God," feels that every born-again

believer has an obligation to be involved in some aspect of the work of the ministry.

"All believers are called to be ambassadors of Christ, i.e. ambassadors of Heaven," he said. "That means at times we have to speak on behalf of Christ. God's desire has constantly been for everyone to yield their lives unto Him and let Him reveal His glory through them."

Bro. Norman, who travels around the world preaching, purposely urges pastors and ministry leaders to use every resource available to get a high percentage of their laity involved in active ministry.

"You must first motivate people to want to be involved in the work of the ministry," he said, "then you must equip them with something they can easily do through training and teaching and by placing something in their hands they can teach."

He highly recommends "Into His Marvelous Light," a simple one-hour Bible study that can be read word-for-word. "It doesn't require deep knowledge of the Bible," he said. "Every saint can teach this Bible study at least once a month."

For the past four years, Bro. Norman has seen tremendous success with this simple, but powerful message that everyone can help spread the gospel. His goal is to eliminate the "Jacob Syndrome" - the issue of people who want to do something for God, but don't know the right way to go about it.

His latest project, "How To Be Used of God," not only emphasizes the right way to do the work of the ministry in cooperation with leadership, but it gives it hands-on application as well.

"As an evangelist, I want to equip the church so that long after I leave, they are still operating at another level," he explained. "I am targeting every saint and every lay minister, teaching them to take advantage of open opportunities for witnessing. It is not about prestige or position. It is all about stepping into the flow of God's will for your life and His kingdom and watching Him confirm the

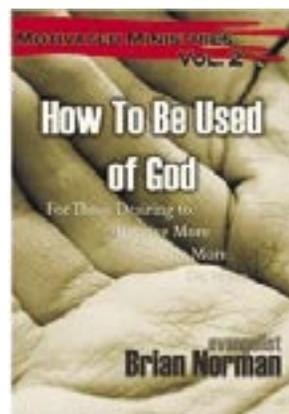
Word."

Bro. Norman gleaned much of his work ethic and experience from the business world. He worked his way up in the insurance investment industry, and by the age of 21, was listed in the top percentage of the insurance financial consultants in the world.

However, God had other designs for his life. Bro. Norman became a pastor in his early 20s, later co-pioneered another church, then felt a call to evangelize and spread the message that every member of the body of Christ is important. He has seen several thousand receive the Holy Ghost in America and overseas in his meetings, and has witnessed the healings of hundreds of people in those meetings as well.

To order "How To Be Used of God" visit the bookstore on his website @ www.briannorman.net or call 636-544-0627. The DVD, designed for a DVD player or a computer, includes a printable syllabus for your convenience.

Note: Bro. Norman holds a degree in Biblical Studies, Theology and also has an MBA.





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Word For The Wise:

“Try Jesus, if you don't like him, the devil will take you back.”

* * * * *

The preacher was wired for sound with a lapel microphone, and as he preached, he moved briskly about the platform, jerking the mike cord as he went. Then he moved to one side, getting wound up in the cord and nearly tripping before jerking it again. After several circles and jerks, a little girl in the third pew leaned toward her mother and whispered, “If he gets loose, will he hurt us?”

* * * * *

After the church service a little boy told the pastor, “When I grow up, I'm going to give you some money.”

“Well, thank you,” the pastor replied, “But why?”

“Because my daddy says you're one of the poorest preachers we've ever had.”



“I was always taught to respect my elders, but it keeps getting harder to find one.”

* * * * *

Mrs. Donovan was walking down O'Connell Street in Dublin when she met Father Flaherty. The priest said, “Top o' the mornin' to ye! Aren't ye Mrs. Donovan and didn't I marry ye and yer hoosband 2 years ago?” She replied, “Aye, that ye did, Fadder.”

The Father asked, “And be there any wee little ones yet?” She replied, “No, not yet, Fadder.”

Father Flaherty said, “Well, now, I'm goin' to Rome next week and I'll light a candle for ye and yer hoosband.” She replied, “Oh, thank ye, Fadder.” They parted ways.

Some years later they met again and Father Flaherty asked, “Well now, Mrs. Donovan, how are ye these days?” She replied, “Oh, very well, Fadder!”

The priest then asked, “And tell me, have ye been blessed with any wee little ones yet?” She replied, “Oh yes, Fadder! T'ree sets o' twins and 4 singles, 10 in all.”

He then responded, “That's wonderful! How is yer loving hoosband?” She replied, “E's gone to Rome to blow out yer candle.”



“Well pastor, good news and bad news. Good news: your glove box works. Bad news: nothing else does.”

* * * * *

Jacob, age 92, and Rebecca, age 89, living in Florida, are all excited about their decision to get married. They go for a stroll to discuss the wedding, and on the way they pass a drugstore. Jacob suggests they go in.

Jacob addresses the man behind the counter, “Are you the owner?”

The pharmacist answers, “Yes.”

Jacob, “We're about to get married. Do you sell heart medication?”

Pharmacist, “Of course we do.”

Jacob, “How about medicine for circulation?”

Pharmacist, “All kinds.”

Jacob, “Medicine for rheumatism and scoliosis?”

Pharmacist, “Definitely.”

Jacob, “Medicine for memory problems, arthritis, jaundice?”

Pharmacist, “Yes, a large variety. The works.”

Jacob, “What about vitamins, sleeping pills, Geritol, antidotes for Parkinson's disease?”

Pharmacist, “Absolutely.”

Jacob, “You sell wheelchairs and walkers?”

Pharmacist, “All speeds and sizes.”

Jacob, “We'd like to use this store as our Bridal Registry.”

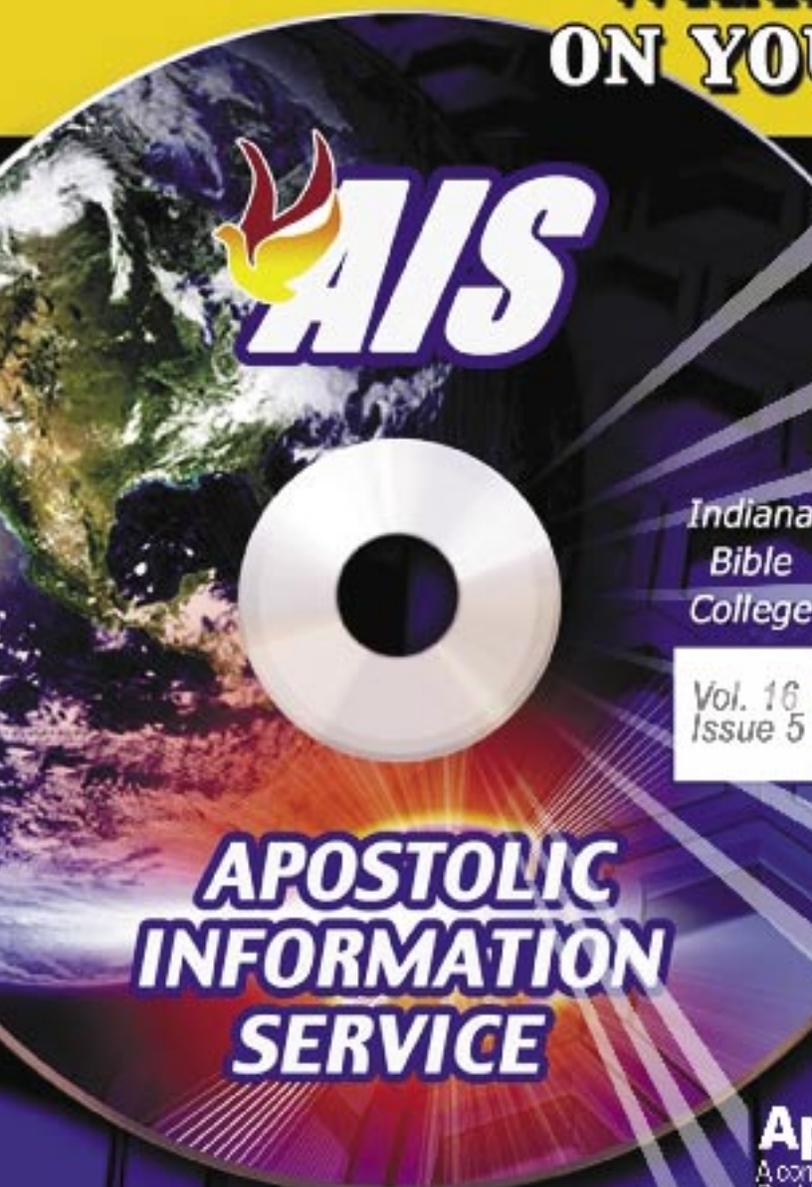


Noticing his wife's left over crepe wool, Bro. Stubble felt overwhelmed with temptation.

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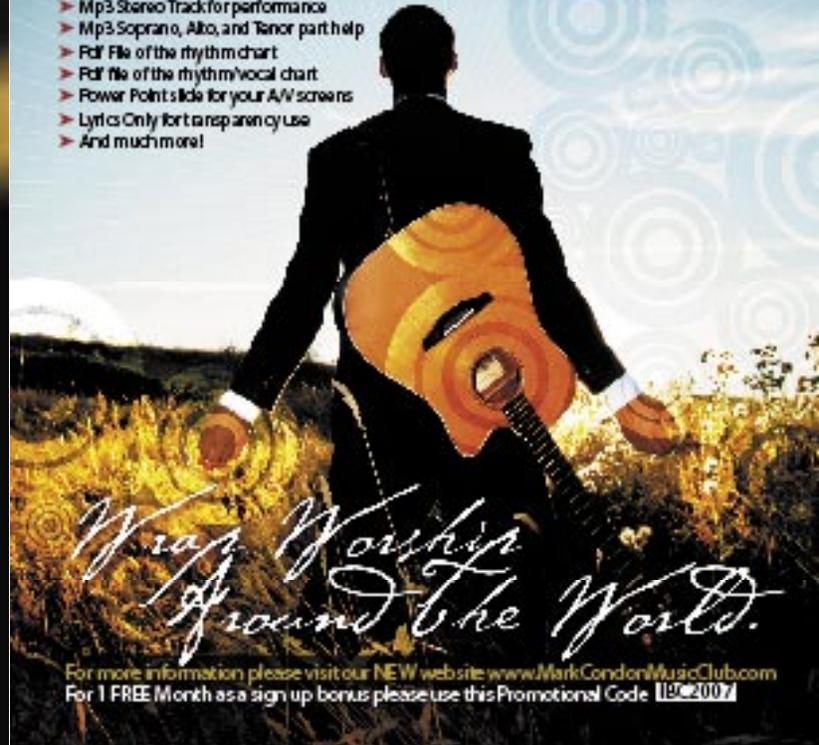
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7:00 p.m. MEET THE STAFF
8:00 p.m. "Iron Sharpeneth Iron"
10:00 p.m. B-Ball / V-Ball @ the
new Family Life Center

Feb. 29

7:30 a.m. BREAKFAST
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
CLASSES + CHAPEL
1:00 p.m. LUNCH
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
APPLICATION/
SCHOLARSHIP
MEETING WITH
DORM TOUR
8:00 p.m. CONCERT
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