Vol.19/No.12

Indiana Bible College

Perspectives

Christmas at IBC
Page 19

What About Ethics?

"How we treat one another, especially our fellow ministers, goes a long way in creating bonds of fellowship and love that keep us from treading in unethical waters. Gone are the days when funerals, dedications and anniversaries were well attended by fellow ministers. Do we truly make an effort to reach out to one another and build each other up? Or have we traded friendship for rivalry and fellowship for competition?"

We all know that real unity is of the heart. The destruction of unity can often be traced back to lack of ethics. Ethics, simply defined, is "a set of moral principles, especially ones relating to or affirming a specified group, field, or form of conduct." However, agreeing to shared moral principles or beliefs, or merely having the same objectives does not in and of itself make for great fellowship or cooperation among the members of a group. Good fellowship requires manners and integrity – proper ethics.

There is a profound passage in Isaiah that provides the ultimate ethics reality check, "Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon, sit on the ground: there is no throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate" (Isaiah 47:1). With the words "there is no throne" we are reminded that there is no place that provides exemption from the judgment of God or right behavior. One can find no place, "no throne," without the element of accountability, and no power outside God's control. So if we are without exemption from bad behavior as a body of believers, as leaders we must then define such behavior so that we do not become willfully ignorant: the paradoxical condition that exists when one does not know but chooses not to know it. In the last days the Church must not be willfully ignorant of Satan's devices, and it is without question that the destruction of unity within the body of Christ is a great tool of the enemy that hinders true fellowship and, ultimately, revival.

Allow me to share a short list of things that I believe are on the enemy's battle plan to attack the Church in the area of ethics. These are things that have the potential to bring devastation to lives and ministries. It is a short list of culturally specific items that have perhaps not been dealt with in the same way before because, while the ethical principles remain the same, new technology, new communication methods, combined with the demands of combating the heightened moral decay of the last days, has created a unique battlefield.

1. Manners – Society at every level is suffering from a general disregard of manners and common courtesy. There is little deference to elders (if any at all) and this is revealed in the way many handle even the simplest matters within the church. In the effort to attract the young we cannot isolate and ignore the established. It's easy to dismiss this item as part of the ranting of someone with gray hair, but be careful here. When we put away our manners and our respect, we lose valued perspective. How we treat one another, especially our fellow ministers, goes a long way in creating bonds of fellowship and love that keep us from treading in unethical waters. Gone are the days when funerals, dedications and anniversaries were well attended by fellow ministers. Do we truly make an effort to reach out to one another and build each other up? Or have we traded friendship for rivalry and fellowship for competition?
2. Generational Transfer of Responsibility – I boldly contend that no one has a right to steal a church away from its founding principles. There are men who come to respectfully disagree with the standards or doctrines of a particular body and leave that body. However, I fear today that there are some among us who inherit churches filled with generations of Apostolic believers, believers whose tithes, offerings and, in many cases, physical labor built the assembly from the ground up. Yet these unworthy inheritors lead these flocks back into the darkness from which they sought refuge. The responsibility for this matter relies upon Godly men to insure that successors are ready and equipped to preserve this precious faith and calls for those who are entrusted with a body of believers to be honest in their intentions.
3. Messianic Self-Characterization – In an era of prolific marketing, it is easy to move from worthy intentions to overzealous self-marketing. This dangerously puts our self-interest and self-preservation into a realm (the ministry) that should be about selflessness. Once one enters into the blinding trap of egoism, he often becomes unaware of how his actions may harm others. This self-aggrandizing can lead to a belief that one has the answers to everyone's problems. Thus recruiting, pulling people out from under the protection of their spiritual authority without thought of responsibility for these actions, seems morally justified in some way.
4. Internet – The Internet and, more specifically, social networking uniquely provides access to the individual. Mass marketing of the past was limited to cumbersome mail outs and time-consuming phone campaigns, all replaced today with the touch of a button. An evangelist in a church on Sunday links on a social networking site to your saint on Monday, and a relationship begins. While this can be innocent and provide a great sense of connection and community, it can also be used to manipulate - emotionally, spiritually and financially - and usurp the boundaries of true spiritual authority.
5. Cunning Words – In Ephesians we are warned to maturely address the sly interjection of false doctrine, "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive" (Ephesians 4:14). Young men and women are drawn into false concepts with the allure of questioning. Questions are helpful and help us establish where we should focus our teaching and our training. However, children and young people today are too often taught to ask questions and never taught answers. We must be a certain sound and help our future generations accept that we are not on some endless philosophical pursuit surrounded by uncertainty but that the mighty God in Christ provides all truth.
6. Conflict of Interest – The offices to which God has called us cannot be used to further our own agendas. Pastorates, evangelism and speaking opportunities are for the furtherance of the Gospel and are not promotional tours to sell products and merchandise. There is a need for Apostolic material and this cannot be provided without an element of commerce; however, we must guard ourselves against using one another and the precious saints of God to promote and advance our own interests.
7. Ethics to the World – Finally, we must be sure that what we preach is what we are and who we are. We cannot trade real revival and a real harvest for reckless evangelism that manipulates souls for tally, as if there is no heaven or hell at stake. Outreach should not be reduced to trickery, full of bait-and-switch methods. We must preach Christ and Him crucified: a message that will leave our children and lost souls with a real experience, the true baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Table of Contents

In This Issue

Vol. 19, NO. 12

Editors and Staff

PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER:
Paul D. Mooney
EXEC. VICE-PRESIDENT:
Robert L. Rodenbush
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:
T. W. Massengale
ASSISTANT EDITOR:
Julia Reinking
GRAPHIC DESIGN:
Jana Snyder
STAFF WRITERS:
Christina Li
John Fonzer Jr.
Charlotte L. Pound
Gregg Stone
Linda Schreckenberg
Randol Easton
Debbie Simler-Goff
OFFICE MANAGER:
Jaye Bannister
ADVERTISING MANAGER:
Teresa Roberts
CIRCULATION MANAGER:
Rebecca Smith
ACCOUNTS MANAGER:
Carleen Rogers
GENERAL OFFICE CLERK:
Melissa Gentry
Alexis Massengale
Samantha McKinny
Melinda Poitras
OCR CLERK:
Elizabeth Rowe
AIS CD RESOURCE CLERK:
Rebekah Adams
AIS WEBMASTER:
Emily Dull
Web Site: www.ibcperspectives.com
E-mail: sysop@apostolic.edu

Mission Statement

- To promote revival and growth among Apostolic churches and pastors by encouraging unity and cooperation among those of like faith and by providing a forum for the sharing of new ideas, ministries and programs.
- To report on those trends and events which directly affect the work of the church.
- To promote and enhance the ongoing ministry of Indiana Bible College.

NOTE: Indiana Bible College does not endorse or recommend any advertiser or product advertised in this publication.

If you would like to receive the IBC Perspectives each month, simply provide us with your mailing address and we will send it to you free of charge. Each year we will contact you by mail to insure your address is still current. At that time you will be given the opportunity to give an offering to help support this publication. Your offering will insure that this publication will survive. Recommended offering: $20.00

IBC Perspectives
P.O. Box 47917
Indianapolis, IN 46247
1-800-800-0247 (Phone)
1-317-781-7712 (Phone)
1-317-781-7700 (Fax)

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ **State:** ___ **Zip:** _____
Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Feature Story

One on One
Pastor Larry Arrowood
Seymour, IN 6

2 From The Publisher

Opinions 5

Ladies Ministry Success

9 News You Can Use
13 Answer Forum
14 Columnists

Plainly Speaking 11

Why Start a Home Bible Study Ministry?
Benjamin Favel

17 World News

Guest Pulpit 20

I Can Only Imagine
J. Mark Jordan

23 Apostolic News
25 Smiles

eff Arnold David Bernard Morton Bustard Sam Emory Mark Morgan Lee Stoneking Mike Williams

winterfire.org

2.4.10 - 2.6.10

FLOW

BLOOMFIELD, CONNECTICUT

THE FACILITY

FIRST CATHEDRAL BLOOMFIELD

lessed comfort of First Cathedral. The ambience and atmosphere create a natural home for the powerful anointing present each year. United worship, loving fellowship, and apostolic ministry are wonderfully facilitated by this beautiful campus and sanctuary.

EXPERIENCE

n the heart of winter, as the calendar turns and a new year begins, expectancy builds in Apostolic leaders throughout New England. God is doing an incredible work of healing, harvest, and revival in the Northeast - pruning, testing, and adversity are a part of this same work. WinterFire's 10th anniversary will be a celebration of the flow begun in Acts.

PURPOSE

WinterFire's focus is ministering to [illegible] ministry. Our objective is that every member of your team will leave renewed and refreshed as they are equipped and empowered to be the apostolic church of the 21st century in declaration and demonstration.

HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS

he following rates are reserved under the WinterFire Conference. The rooms must be reserved by January 0th to guarantee the rates below. Mention "WinterFire onference" when making reservations to one of the following

Hilton Garden Inn Distance from conference site: 5 miles	$75	860.688.6400
Courtyard Marriott Distance from conference site: 5 miles	$79	860.683.0022
Marriott Hartford/Windsor Distance from conference site: 5 miles	$109	860.847.5010
Sheraton Hartford Distance from conference site: 8 miles	$79	860.528.97703
Fairfield Inn & Suites [illegible] site: 0 miles closer to Manchester restaurant	$8[illegible]	860.648.9796
Hampton Inn & Suites Distance from conference site: 1.0 miles closer to Manchester restaurants)	$89	

SCHEDULE

Thursday, February 4th, 7:00 p[illegible]
Jeff Arnold

Friday, February 5th, 9:[illegible]
Sam Emory, Mike [illegible]iams, Morton Bustard

Friday, February 5th, 7:00 pm
Lee Stoneking

Saturday, February 6th, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Mark Morgan

ollow WinterFire Conference on TWITTE[illegible] When twittering about this year's Conference, use hash tag #wf2010

For more information please call: 860.649.9848 Ext. 100

Ladies Ministry Success

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

Sharon Perry, Toledo, Ohio - Our ladies' ministries have changed quite a bit over the last 15 years. It has definitely gone from being "Martha" driven to "Mary" driven. The best thing we have done is allow small focused groups to emerge from the larger group. This has enhanced our women's spiritual growth tremendously. We also host two to three in-house rallies a year with speakers especially focused on younger working moms. We still do some fundraising but instead of it being group-oriented we ask the ladies to commit to a certain amount, and they figure out how to raise the money as individuals or small groups. The goal of our Ladies Ministry is to uphold one another in weaker moments or tough times. We do a lot of ministering together through meals for the sick. We fix Thanksgiving baskets for our whole street — we really are one big care group.

Theresa Wasserburger, Denver, Colorado - I am involved in women's ministries in our district and am the Sectional Ladies Leader. At one of our recent conferences we had a Breast Cancer Forum, and the turnout was tremendous! We had breast cancer survivors speak and then opened it up to a Q&A. The feedback we received from that was very favorable. Many people said they'd wished it [the forum] had gone longer than just the hour allotted. Thinking outside the box and reaching out to our Apostolic women with the real issues they face is an important part of ministering to the millennial woman. A ladies' conference that has been seasoned with prayer and fasting will do much to refresh and strengthen our women. And this in turn benefits the family unit. Whenever I come home from a ladies' conference, my husband and kids notice I come home "sweeter."

Donna Sutton, Birmingham, Alabama - Once a month, our Ladies Ministry has a meeting and we offer prayer, friendship, a free lunch, free babysitting and sometimes a lesson. Our lesson topics range from how to fix healthy recipes to sewing tips (for turning pants into skirts). We do not call ourselves a Ladies Auxiliary. Instead, our church functions by passion-based ministries: Decorations, Drama, Mime, and Barnabas teams that cook for the sick and needy, etc. Not all the teams are women only. We do not do fundraising activities. My husband teaches that "the coin is in the fish's mouth" – a reference to when Jesus told the disciples to go and get the coin from the mouth of the fish won to God.

Oma Overton, Meridianville, Alabama - Having been the District Ladies President for 30 years, I've witnessed the growth and changes in women's ministry. But there are three principles that remain the same no matter what program or approach is used. The first is that prayer must be paramount. The second is you must love God and love people. And the third is to treat everyone equally. In our church we have ladies' prayer and fellowship in the women's homes. The women take turns being the host and it's always so special and so anointed of God. One of our best soul reaching efforts is the garage sale we do twice a year. It's a great way to meet the people in the community, hear their prayer needs and establish relationships. But our most successful fundraiser continues to be our peanut brittle sales. Like I said, the approaches may be old or new but what really matters is the prayer and serving others.

Yvette Ellis, Clarksville, TN - My whole perspective of women's ministry is different than most. We teach our women that they, like Esther of old, have a unique assignment from God that only they can fulfill. We have what we call LIFT Ministries – Ladies In Fellowship Together – with God and with each other. For example, the women in our church wanted to do a luncheon. We had prayer at 6 a.m. and then took a praise walk. We ended our time together with the luncheon. Sixty ladies showed up that morning! We also have a monthly LIFT meeting on the third Saturday of each month at 6 a.m. to keep the flow of early morning prayer. To meet the social needs of our ladies we have a Tribal Ministry. Tribes are grouped by last name. Tribal leaders organize baby showers, etc. and focus on ministering to the whole family. This creates a more intimate network for them. Our goal is to help our women embrace their identity in God. They are women on assignment – The Esther Assignment.

Debbie Akers, Apache Junction, Arizona - As the UPCI Daughters of Zion National Coordinator, I have observed first-hand the impact this type of focused prayer has on Apostolic women and their families. Our women's ministry has turned its focus more toward outreach than fundraisers. We do still do some fundraisers but developing connections with the lost is one of our primary goals. We accomplish this goal by having monthly Daughters of Zion prayer, a Ladies' Banquet and Tea and regular women's Bible study groups. Additionally, each lady is assigned a prayer partner.

Julie Long, Upper Kent, New Brunswick - Our ladies' ministries get involved in a lot of special activities, like a Christmas Social, Mother/Daughter banquet, etc. But what we are really focusing on during this first year of our pastorate is getting to know our new church family emotionally and spiritually. We plan to begin small group Bible studies in split sessions for men and women. We will focus on target topics that minister to their emotional needs (external factors like relationships and circumstances) which will then encourage spiritual growth. A ladies' leader who will impact today's Apostolic woman is one who is committed to prayer. Hearing from God will provide the direction, compassion, organization and collaboration (team building skills) necessary to shepherd a woman's heart.

Orvada Churchill, Alaska-Yukon - The ladies of the Alaska-Yukon are spread out over 771,951 square miles. One of our current ministries is taking in young people to the villages of Alaska to hold revival or to have a daily vacation Bible school. Various ladies from our district go with a group and together they stay about one week in each place. This year we saw 26 receive the Holy Ghost. The ladies have seen the need for evangelizing our approximately 151 villages where over 20 languages are spoken in Alaska and 14 in the Yukon. We have also encouraged each lady of the district to give a home Bible study to someone. We have furnished, free of charge, two different Bible study courses so that this can be done. If a lady completes a Bible study during a year, we grant her, along with her student, free registration at the Ladies Retreat. We also try to address various issues at the retreats: single parenthood, widowhood, rearing a family in a sinful world, financial struggles, physical fitness and spiritual growth.

ONE on One

By Gregg Stone

"Aim high and dream bigger than you are," explains Bro. Larry Arrowood, pastor of Apostolic Tabernacle in Seymour, Indiana. "We may not reach the lofty heights of which we dream, but we will soar higher than we would otherwise, and we will leave something better for our children to build upon."

When Bro. Arrowood became pastor of Apostolic Tabernacle there were a total of 150 members in the church; today the congregation numbers close to 600 members. "The most important keys to having and maintaining a growing, revival church can be found by looking at a continual theme in our church: linking the past to the present to propel us into the future.

"We have to be keenly aware of where we are as a church if we plan on getting to where we want to go," explains Bro. Arrowood. "I believe in balance; I do not push one area more than any other. I try to keep all areas growing simultaneously. There must be consistency in prayer, Bible teaching and preaching, evangelism and strong family-oriented programs. I don't push for mass evangelism for I feel that it is too difficult to disciple the masses; I instead promote one-on-one evangelism. I feel that the base group must grow in order to sustain the strains of numerical growth.

"Through the years we have used various outreach methods as well. One year we had about a 30-soul revival. Last year, the young ministers promoted a mass outreach to our community, Life Fest, and we had over 5,000 people attend. We are also promoting Global Impact consistently and plan to use it for the next few years. We have a strong friendship base, we promote group Bible studies and strongly push one-on-one evangelism and discipleship. The member who brings guests has the responsibility to help get them saved and then assimilated into the body of Christ."

Organization & Management

Apostolic Tabernacle has a variety of departments and ministries: prayer, youth, children, young adults, five older adult groups, singles, educational (Sunday school, day care, parochial), discipleship class, music department, nursing home, outreach, guests' services, green thumb, senior care, missions, Spanish, jail, deaf, multi-media, decorations, ladies' and men's ministries, and a Global Impact team. "We also have a daughter work in Westport, Indiana which was blessed with a 'Church in a Day' building, and we have a Spanish work in Seymour with its own Spanish-speaking pastor which alternates use of our church facilities."

Fellowship in the gymnasium

Exterior of Apostolic Tabernacle

State conference at the church

Apostolic Tabernacle started a parochial school in 1982 and a day care ministry in 1992. Together they run over 100 students who are managed by 25 paid staff members and a host of volunteers.

Bro. Arrowood meets at least once a year with all departments for their planning session and each department meets regularly with the respective leaders. There is also a weekly staff meeting with eight to 10 key staff members. "I encourage personal responsibility for each department," Bro. Arrowood explains. "I offer ideas when inspiration hits, but I expect the department leader to be able to plan and implement his programs.

"We encourage teacher training by way of state and national programs as well as in-house training, and we have in-church mentoring on a continuous basis. The key to this is long-term commitment. If you build a strong, united, committed staff and you stick it out long enough, doing the right things, then growth will happen."

The pastor said his priorities are prayer, teaching and preaching, building a team, walking slowly through the crowd on a Sunday, mentoring leaders (laity and ministry) and aspiring ministers. He promotes encouragement through sermons, pulpit promos and an annual department job fair.

"I would say that about 35 to 40 percent of our members are involved in some type of ministry with about 20 percent being involved in evangelism," estimated Bro. Arrowood. "Last year we had 52 conversions and this year, to date, we have had 24. Our church has seen a steady growth through the years."

Linking the Past to the Present

Apostolic Tabernacle was founded in 1953. Its first home was a house. The second was a converted one-room school building in 1955. The church moved to its present location at 301 Indianapolis Avenue in 1970. Seven years later, under the leadership of Pastor Dennis Croucher, the church built a new auditorium at the same location. Pastor Croucher inspired the founding of Indiana Bible College in 1981. The charter moved to Indianapolis in 1989. The family center was added in 1997. The Spanish ministry started in 1998, with the daughter work beginning about 2005.

"I grew up in Eastern Kentucky," Brother Arrowood explains. "We attended church occasionally. My Grandpa was a oneness preacher in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky and my Dad was saved, but my mother was somewhat against the church. My siblings and I did not get into church until I was a teenager. When I was 15 we moved to Newport, Kentucky where I got saved in a store-front home missions church. I felt the call to the ministry shortly after getting saved, around the age of 16 or 17.

"After graduation from Bible college, I helped to start a home missions church in Ohio. I then began to pastor in Indiana. I was the Executive Vice President of Indiana Bible College for five years in its tenure in Seymour, Indiana and I still continue to teach there on a part-time basis. I currently serve as Presbyter and formerly, under Superintendent Paul Mooney's leadership, served as district director of a newly formed Department of Continuing Education.

Larry and Nancy Arrowood
Seymour, Indiana

"In 1989, Pastor Dennis Croucher resigned the church here and requested that I accept the pastorate. The church voted me in, and I became the pastor of Apostolic Tabernacle. The first service I conducted as pastor was in the dead of winter, and I had to ask for an offering to pay utility bills. We now have a 10,000 square feet sanctuary including a balcony. We can seat 800-plus. We have about 30,000 square feet of educational space and a 5,000 square feet family center as well. We have 14 classrooms, 13 offices, two kitchens, a conference room, multi-meeting room and a gymnasium. We park in a four-block radius, have one parking lot and use another owned by a funeral home and two owned by the city."

Future Plans

"We cannot afford to replace our current facilities so we are in constant remodel-and-repair mode, and we are currently in the process of doing an outside facelift," Bro. Arrowood explains. "Though we are not planning any new construction to our existing facilities, we are praying for someone to purchase our facilities so that we can relocate."

Apostolic Tabernacle just recently exceeded the $1,000,000 milestone in its history of mission giving. "We have placed in the top 20 UPCI mission givers a few times," says the pastor. "We have taken congregational missions trips and have helped build about 20 buildings on the mission field."

Closing Comments

"The focus of our ministry is to continue to reach out to the lost, reaching for the un-churched more so than for those already attending church," explains Bro. Arrowood. "Surprisingly, a recent survey in our city suggested that as many as 70 percent of our community does not attend church. We feel we are on track by targeting those not attending church. We have found the UPCI Global Impact program to be a very effective guide for our desire to grow the Lord's Kingdom. Just recently, on Friend's Day, we ministered to over 100 guests in a single service. We are quite convinced that the Lord has a tremendous harvest in these troublesome times!"

In their leisure time, Bro. Arrowood and his wife, Nancy, enjoy traveling to California to visit with their son and his family, who pastor there. They also enjoy spending time in their cabin in the Smoky Mountains. Bro. Arrowood, who enjoys writing when time permits, has authored six books and is currently seeking an agent/publisher for two more.

Pastor Larry Arrowood

Sunday School rally

A baptism at the church

The Arrowood family

This Christmas Give a Gift that Gives All Year Long!

When you purchase an Apostolic Information Service subscription, every month you will receive an AIS Resource CD packed with quality Apostolic materials. You will also have unlimited access to the largest online Apostolic database in the World!

What will you find in the AIS Online Database Library?

This massive internet-based library has been in development for eighteen years. It is the online library for Indiana Bible College and the largest Apostolic resource library of its kind. AIS subscribers receive unlimited access for themselves and all who attend their local congregation. Library categories include:

- Apostolic Doctrine
- Evangelistic Sermons
- Evangelism / Outreach
- Church Management
- Job Descriptions
- Cults and Religions
- Church Growth
- Visitor Follow-up
- Home Bible Study
- Sunday School
- Bus Ministry
- Christian Schools
- Ladies' Ministry
- New Convert Care
- Ushers / Greeters
- Bible Studies
- Illustrations
- Current Issues
- Leadership
- Pastoral
- Theology
- Legal / Tax
- Prayer
- Missions
- Finance
- Counseling
- Family
- Men's Ministry
- Promotions
- Youth

What will you find on your monthly CD?

Calvary Pulpit - Video sermon of Pastor Paul D. Mooney preaching his best. Every month be inspired by one of the finest speakers in Pentecost!

Conference Keynote - A keynote video or audio sermon from one of the great Apostolic preaching conferences or camp meetings across the country.

Ministry Resources - Twenty articles and resources each month for most departments and ministries in your church.

Idea Sheets - Twenty pages of ideas each month to share with your department leaders.

Pulpit Resources - Outstanding sermon building materials. Four complete sermons from some of the finest preachers in Pentecost. Each comes complete with full sermon text, handout outline, and power point slides.

Bible College Training - Bible college training for those not able to attend IBC. Earn your certificate or degree from home.

Leadership Training - A new leadership training lesson each month from Apostolic teachers. Lesson text, outline, and power point.

Much More! - Church growth lessons, Apostolic music samples, Apostolic book samples, and more!

A subscription includes 12 months of AIS Resource CDs, unlimited access to the AIS Online Database, and the IBC *Perspectives* magazine.

Receive this special Christmas discount: *$149.95*

To Subscribe Call:

1-800-800-0247

Receive a 3-CD boxed set to wrap up! That's a total of 15 CDs in all!

www.apostolic.edu / e-mail: ais@apostolic.edu

GUARANTEED GROWTH

If someone could *guarantee* that your church would double in size within 3 to 5 years

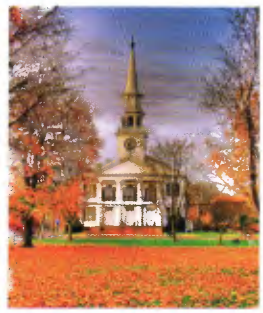
Would You Be Interested?

We are offering a select number of churches the chance to participate in a revolutionary new approach to growth. You have nothing to lose. You have everything to gain. If you would like more information, please call, email, or write:

Tim Massengale
Author: Total Church Growth
1-800-800-0247
sysop@apostolic.edu

Church Attendance Unchanged During Recession

While many have speculated that the recent economic downturn would cause a return to God and church, a new study released recently by Gallup shows that church attendance and the importance of religion in our daily lives has not changed over the past year.



After conducting over 425,000 interviews, Gallup's research shows that:

- Sixty-five percent of the population say that religion is important in their daily lives (64% in February 2008).
- Forty-two percent say they attend church, synagogue or mosque weekly or almost weekly (41% in February 2008).

The study also shows that the percentage of Democrats, Republicans and independents who say they attend church, synagogue or mosque weekly or almost weekly has also remained constant over the past year.

- Republicans -- 55 percent (55% in March 2008).
- Democrats -- 34 percent (34% in March 2008).
- Independents -- 37 percent (37% in March 2008).

CHRISTIAN LAW
By: Owen Taylor

No Liability Found in Sex Abuse Claims Against Churches, but Safeguards Are Important

Owen Taylor, Esq.
omt1@juno.com

In *C.B. v. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, a Minnesota state appellate court rejected claims by several churches that the Free Exercise and Establishment clauses preclude the court from having jurisdiction over a claim against them on behalf of a minor who was sexually abused by a retired Lutheran minister. (The suit was brought by a mother on behalf of her minor daughter.)

The court held that the claims arise out of standard tort law and merely require a determination of whether the minister was an employee of the church and whether the abuse occurred within the scope of the alleged employment. This does not excessively entangle the court in the interpretation of doctrinal matters. However, the court upheld summary judgment that had been granted in favor of the churches because it found that the minister was not an employee of any of them. With no employment relationship, claims against them for vicarious liability, negligent supervision and ratification could not be maintained.

The Minnesota decision in this case was good news and bad news. Good: non employees/volunteers are not generally a source of liability to churches. Bad: there are plenty of other ways a church may get stung.

The legal concept of extending liability to employers for actions of their employees has been around for a long time. It is common in the commercial world for drivers, clerks and other employees to cause liability for their employers because of their negligent acts. For instance, a driver is responsible for his negligent operation of the employer's truck but so is the employer liable for the employee's actions.

In this case the court was asked if a church might be held responsible for the abusive actions of their employee/minister and the answer was yes. Accordingly, churches must be doubly certain to place as many safeguards as possible to insure against abusive actions by its employees and volunteers.

Such safeguards should include a two-adult rule, plenty of supervisors, screening of workers for criminal and abuse backgrounds and lots of training on policies and procedures. Litigation is on the increase so churches should be extra careful with youth ministries and Sunday schools. Need help? Give the Christian Freedom Foundation a call – 410-761-0323 – omt1@juno.com.

Deaf Evangelism Ministry Conference

July 19-23, 2010

On site registration opens noon—July 19

CALVARY TABERNACLE | INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Speakers:

Voice interpreters will be provided for hearing

Wesley Swanson
Deaf Evangelism Central Zone Representative

Ernie Murillo
Deaf Evangelism Ministry Coordinator

Meloy Richmond
Evangelist

Contact Information:

ERNIE MURILLO • DEAF EVANGELISM MINISTRY COORDINATOR • 951-858-5348 • SMDEAFINTERPT@AOL.COM
PAT BILLILNGSLEY • DEAF EVANGELISM MINISTRY SECRETARY • 501-350-0248 • PLBILLINGSLY@YAHOO.COM
DON HANSCOM • GHMD MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES DIRECTOR • 314-497-9803 • DHANSCOM@UPCI.ORG

www.HomeMissionsDivision.com/mcm www.DeafEvangelism.com

Why Start A Home Bible Study Ministry?

Benjamin Favel

Bro. Favel, how does a church establish a new Home Bible Study ministry?

In my travels around the country, I am often asked the question "How do I start a Home Bible Study ministry in my church?" I mentally applaud anyone that asks this question, because it means that they have realized just how important home Bible study is to sustainable growth in a congregation. Obviously, the first step toward starting any ministry is realizing that there is a need for it. A pastor who does not see a need for a ministry will not invest the time, energy, money and personnel from the church to make it successful. So, first and foremost, recognizing that there is a need is the beginning step toward starting a Home Bible Study ministry.

But just recognizing that there is a need is not enough. The ministry still must be launched and promoted. There are many different facets of any ministry, and most ministries tend to get pretty complex the longer that they are running. However, the points that I think are the most important for starting a Home Bible Study ministry are broken down in this way: plan, prepare, and proceed.

How important is it to have a good plan?

You must have a plan. This involves writing out some goals for the new department. What do you want to accomplish? How will you measure your success? You need some tangible goals that you can achieve. They cannot be abstract; they must be solid.

A good starting goal is figuring out how many Bible studies that you want to teach in a year. Another part of planning is choosing the people that you think are most likely to be effective in this ministry. One of those persons should be capable of leading the new department or at least helping you to run it effectively. Finally, decide what church resources that you want to devote to this new ministry. Will the church be purchasing the home Bible study materials? All of these questions should be addressed in the planning stage.

Is preparation absolutely vital?

After you have your plan in place, it is time to prepare. I have heard it said, "Failing to prepare is preparing to fail." Most ministries get through the planning stage. Goals have been set and personnel are selected. But then the ministry falters, and no Bible studies are being taught. The reason for this failure is because there was no preparation.

Just because you tell a person that he or she needs to teach a home Bible study does not mean that they will know how to do it. Someone has to take time to train them how to teach. One of the biggest obstacles that I have run across in my travels is that some saints don't really understand how to teach. No one has ever shown them how to do it or taken time to mentor them. So because they do not feel confident in their abilities they are reluctant to teach. A successful Home Bible Study department will start on the basis of preparation. Teach your teachers how to teach. When you show them how to do it, then that will breed the confidence that they need to be able to teach on their own.

Spend some time training the workers before you send them out into the harvest. Untrained teachers will not be very effective and will quickly lose their motivation. It is in your best interest to spend some time in preparation before you launch your new ministry.

What is the final step to starting a Home Bible Study ministry?

Finally, you need to proceed with your ministry. This encompasses having some kind of "kick-off" in which you formally start your new department and get commitments from your teachers. The first commitments need to be small so that your new teachers are not overwhelmed; however, as your ministry grows your commitment drives can grow, too. Continue to follow-up with your teachers to check on their progress and to encourage them. Celebrate every home Bible study success with your teachers and your congregation. Let everyone in the church know which new converts are direct results of home Bible studies. This will generate excitement and allow you to recruit even more new teachers.

It is a good idea to continue promoting Bible studies whenever you get the opportunity. It is also wise to establish some form of mentoring for those who want to learn how to teach. The new teachers can go with some of your experienced teachers. The new ones can help the experienced ones and learn from them how to teach effective home Bible studies. This will keep the ministry continually fresh and growing.

Is it difficult to find saints who want to be involved?

A church that plans and prepares for the ministry before proceeding will always be more effective. As with anything, you have to start off small and work your way up. I have heard pastors complain that nobody wants to teach. But I have often found that there is usually at least a small group of people in any congregation who want to teach. It is your job to find those people and work with them.

Do not get discouraged because the ministry does not start off large or because not everyone wants to get involved. Work with those who want to teach. As they get established, they will help you recruit new teachers and cause your Home Bible Study department to grow. The great benefit is that as the Home Bible Study department grows, the church will grow too.

Bro. Benjamin Favel is a licensed minister with the UPCI and a graduate of Indiana Bible College. He serves as assistant pastor at Pentecostal Temple in Midland, Michigan. He is the author of *The How-to of Home Bible Study* and the founder of the Home Bible Study Institute program.

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 2009

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SPEAKERS	CONTACT / INFO
Dec 31 - Jan 3	**Times of Refreshing, Odessa, TX** You don't want to miss these special services for the entire family. Bring the lost, hurting, desperate, sick and the broken, and watch God do another miracle.	Life Challenge UPC 4500 N. Grandview Ave. Pastor Dan Smelser 432-363-5433	Bill Davis, Jeff Arnold and Gordon Poe. Children's Ministry: Lloyd Squires	For more information: visit www.gordonpoe.com/TOR/conference. (318) 742-9539
Jan 29	**Indiana Bible College LIVE RECORDING** Under the direction of Lindel M. Anderson, Dean of Music	Indiana Bible College 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46203 Host: P. D. Mooney	Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, Lindel Anderson, IBC Choir, IBC Chorale, IBC Praise, others	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
Feb 2010	**Winterfire 2010** 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, David Bernard, Morton Bustard, Sam Emory, Mark Morgan, Lee Stoneking and Mike Williams	More information: (860) 649-9848 (860) 528-9834 www.winterfire.org
Feb 25-26	**Indiana Bible College CONNECT** Your chance to visit the IBC campus and see what Bible college is all about. Watch our promo on YOUtube: www.youtube/ibcpromo07.	Indiana Bible College 1502 Sumner Ave Indianapolis, IN 46227 Host: P. D. Mooney	Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, Andrew Romine and others	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
March 10-12	**Church Planters Basic Training** A conference *by* church planters *for* church planters.	North Cities United Pentecostal Church (Dallas Metro) Host: D.G. Hargrove	Wayne Huntley, Chester Wright, Scott Sistrunk, Gerald Staten and Frank Bounds	For more information: visit www.aleaders.org (318) 820-7424
March 12-14	**Times of Refreshing, Bossier City, LA** Additional conferences will be held throughout the nation in 2010. Check our web site for dates and locations. www.gordonpoe.com/TOR	First UPC, 2833 Viking St. Bossier City, Pastor Jerry Dean 318-742-9539	Jeff Arnold and Gordon Poe	For more information: visit www.gordonpoe.com/TOR/conference. (318) 742-9539
April 14-16	**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	Paul Mooney, Lindel Anderson, and over sixty Apostolic singers, songwriters, music directors and drama directors.	ibcmusicoffice@aol.com www.ibcmusicfest.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
May 7 2010	**IBC Graduation** All are invited to attend the ceremony celebrating the graduating class of 2010.	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46203 Host: P. D. Mooney	Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, and others.	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
July 2010	**IMPACT Family Conference 2010** 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 11-13	**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 20-21	**Shema Christian Family Conference** Much fellowship and teaching for families interested in marriage building, rearing children Biblically and homeschooling.	Abundant Life Outreach Ctr. 119 Chapel St. Clarksville, TN 42262 Host Pastor: Gary D. Ellis	To be announced	info@apostolichomeschoolers.org or www.apostolichomeschoolers.org (270) 435-4027
Sept 2010	**Mid-America Renewal Conference (MARC)** Indianapolis, IN. A power packed preaching conference in the heart of the Midwest.	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN Host: Paul D. Mooney	To be announced	For more info call: (317) 262-4030 or visit our web site at: www.calvarytabindy.org
Sept 2010	**86th Annual UPCI General Conference** Official conference of the UPCI. Don't miss it!	To be announced	To be announced	For more information visit the UPCI web site at: www.upci.org
Oct 21-22	**APT to Teach: K-12 Christian Educator's Conference** An educator's conference for quality in education.	Calvary Christian School 3639 S. Keystone Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46227	To be announced	For more information call: (317)789-8710
Oct 2010	**Open Bible Conference 2010** Powerful Preaching. Clear Bible Teaching. A Mighty Move of God! All welcome!	Apostolic Tabernacle 1500 Miller Ave. Shelbyville, IN 46176 Host: Robert W. Cavaness	To be announced	For more information call: (317)398-7834
Nov 2010	**West Coast Conference - Fresno, CA** 28th Annual Fresno Meeting	Fresno Convention Center 848 M St., Fresno, CA Host Pastor: Vaughn Morton	To be announced	For more information call: (559) 225-1622 www.truthtabfresno.org

Theology: Should Holiness Standards Be Preached?

Steve Waldron

Theology

stevenwaldron@att.net

"Should holiness standards be preached over the pulpit? By whom and when? Or should they only be taught in New Convert courses? Or should we never mention it and let the Spirit lead people in this area? Help! I'm very confused."

Paul seemed to be very comfortable addressing these areas to church people. In I Corinthians 11, in speaking about hair, he was writing something to be read to the entire church body. In I Timothy 2:9-12, again, he is exhorting Timothy to maintain his (Paul's) doctrine in the area of costly array and dress, indicating he desired Timothy to make teaching in this area part of the normal proclamation of what it meant to be a disciple of Jesus. Peter also made it a matter of course in his writing in I Peter 3:1-7. The question arises in a practical matter, what do you do when guests are present? And I think the answer to that lies in the power of God that was manifest when the early disciples were gathered together. An examination of early church gatherings gleaned from the New Testament indicates there was a high level of the power of the Spirit in operation. Whether we are looking at the prayer meetings of Acts 4, 12, and 13 or the Corinthian services of I Corinthians 14, it seems the power of the Holy Ghost was marvelously present when God's people got together. And I think that is the ingredient essential to proclaiming the whole counsel of God in these areas. Either these things are important or they are not. It is either something that we as New Testament Christians follow or it isn't. We all know (I hope) to be wise in these areas, not to be Pharisaical, not to "clean a fish before you catch it," etc. I think the question facing the Apostolic movement is much simpler than that – for example, do we feel it is an abomination to God for a man to wear a dress, or for a woman to wear pants/shorts in Western culture, or do we not? Has culture abrogated this standard? If so, then what is the standard of distinction God implores on mankind? Does hair length matter or not? If not, can the women of our churches shave their heads? Remember, shock becomes commonplace over time, so we can't just say it is absurd to think this way. Homosexuality was absurd in the 1970s, and look where it is today. Do cosmetics matter? If they do, we should speak against them in the power of the Holy Ghost. And if they don't matter, we should forget about them and get on with the business of preaching the gospel. I, for one, think these things matter. I think they matter Biblically in making us everything God desires us to be for His glory. If not, the consequences are a grotesque deformity of God's intention for mankind in holy writ. The only thing stopping the most horrendous abuses taking place is the shock. And shock soon wears off, as our culture has proven time again. Think Elvis, the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Heavy Metal, Marilyn Manson, then Horror Rock to see how something seemingly harmless ends up horrific. Or Andy Griffith, Happy Days, then Friends, now American Idol. Shock is the only stopping point, and familiarity decreases the shock. Take a stand! It's good for the soul.

T. W. Massengale

Church Growth

sysop@apostolic.edu

What is the most important element for church growth?

At the church growth seminars that I teach I can normally spot those individuals that hunger for revival. They have this distinctive look and intensity. They are open to consider new and innovative methods. Often they will come up afterwards and ask questions about launching a new growth plan. They understand that it will not be easy – that there will be setbacks and challenges. Nevertheless they are willing to accept the challenge to see their churches push forward to the next level. These men are leaders and they want to lead with decisiveness.

Church growth is so much more than just a particular program or outreach method. It is also more than just praying and trusting God. While methods are a part of growth, we will never succeed without the help of God. But the real secret to successful church growth is this: Pastoral leadership.

Most pastors understand that everything rises and falls on leadership. A revival pastor must possess a single-minded determination to see his church grow. He must be willing to push beyond the obstacles and spirits of men that will often rise up to distract and discourage. He must cast a vision to his people that growth is not only possible, but inevitable if they will follow God's plan. He must be willing to find solutions to problems and help his leaders develop creative ways to reach their goals. To grow he must have a plan. If not *Total Church Growth,* then some other plan, for only by keeping his eye fixed upon the goal will he lead his church to sustained growth.

How about you? Are you willing to try something new? Are you committed to developing and training your saints to go forth into the harvest? Do you have a plan that is tried and proven to bring results? If not, then you may never reach your full potential, for no church will ever grow beyond it's pastor, and no pastor can ever lead people where he is not willing to go himself.

Robert L. Rodenbush

Church Today

rrodenbush@earthlink.net

Do you see any issues in international law that may affect efforts to evangelize the world with the Gospel?

Yes, we should be concerned about the defamation of religions movement.

Recently, drafts of a proposal espoused by the 56- member countries that form the Organization of the Islamic Conference have emerged. The effort promotes the condemnation of messages that defame religions. Proposal language is being lobbied in committees in hopes that a formal resolution will eventually be brought to a vote in the United Nations General Assembly. The resolution would have the 192 member states of the United Nations agree to protect religions, religious symbols and beliefs from mockery or blasphemy.

On initial review, such bans seem innocuous enough as they seem to be inclusive of all religions and appear to promote tolerance. Certainly, we do not like it when our beliefs are ridiculed or mocked. However, serious concerns regarding First Amendment rights to free speech and freedom of religion must be addressed.

In a letter to a committee on an anti-racism treaty, the Islamic Conference stated, "The Islamic Conference 'believes that the attack on sacredly held beliefs and the defamation of religions, religious symbols, personalities and dogmas impinge on the enjoyment of human rights of followers of those religions'" (AP. Nov, 09). Further, Pakistan posits that countries which sign the treaty should, "prohibit by law the uttering of matters that are grossly abusive or insulting in relation to matters held sacred by any religion" (AP).

In presenting the Obama administration's first report on global religious freedom in October Secretary of State Hillary Clinton stated, "some claim that the best way to protect the freedom of religion is to implement so-called anti-defamation policies that would restrict freedom of expression and the freedom of religion. I strongly disagree."

Secretary Clinton is correct. A formal resolution passed by the United Nations or language drafted into other semi-related bills should not be used to intimidate, silence or persecute preachers, teachers and evangelists who spread the Gospel and who will inevitably speak out against opposing religious beliefs and doctrines since people of different faiths by definition hold divergent views on religious questions.

If such a resolution is passed by the United Nations the questions still remain: who will decide what speech is "defamatory" and who will decide the punishment for those who violate such standards.

Carol Clemans

Spiritual Growth

carolclemans.org

God Is the Counselor

I love Isaiah 9:6: "and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." God, through His Word, is the greatest counselor available to us. For 17 years I have been a conduit of God's Word in counseling with pastors and hundreds of their people. Many pastors I work with say in different ways, "I do not have the skills or knowledge to help emotionally wounded people or people with troubled relationships." I appreciate their wisdom in understanding that having someone skilled in helping hurting people to assist them does not take away from their ministry or theological knowledge.

Even though I was a student of the Word since I was a child, I did not know how to use the Word of God as a healing tool or relational tool until God directed me to additional education that gave me a much better insight into how God's truth does set people free.

Isaiah 61 tells us that with the 'good news' that is the gospel, God would also set the captives free and heal the broken hearted. A person can be born again of the water and spirit and still have emotional wounds from abuse from the past that holds them captive to 'stinkin' thinkin.' We are transformed by the renewing of our minds through the Word of God!

We must look at everything about our lives and say, "What does God's Word say about this?" God even tells us how to think! We need God's interpretation about the facts of our lives. We need to stop believing our distorted thoughts about life and replace them with God's truth. When we allow God to transform us through changing our thinking pattern, we will have victory spiritually, relationally and emotionally. That is my goal in everything I teach, counsel or write. All of it must agree with the Word of God!

Note: Carol Clemans (Certified Pastoral Counselor) teaches seminars for spiritual, emotional and relational growth. She provides nationwide phone/web cam counseling – (636) 448-0121. Go to: www.carolclemans.org for teaching CD's & additional articles. Pastors Dan Batchelor & Todd Gaddy are on the Bd. of Dirs. for LEM, INC. (501c3)

Howard Pastorella

Spirit of Freedom

hpastorella@sofm.org

Jesus Is Still the Answer

Matthew 1:21 - And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

One of our *Freedomline* magazine ads declares that "Every day someone calls us from inside a nightmare."

I had to smile when I realized that the angelic message, in the text above, was given to Joseph, Mary's espoused husband, also in a dream. What an incredible message it is! The entire human race was given a name that is above every name. It is the sweet and holy name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The heavenly messenger said, "He shall save His people from their sins." The tyrants of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, as well as all other sins dominating the human family through personal choice, have to bow before this great Savior. Matthew shares with us the fact that God's plan for deliverance always involves human interaction. Both Mary and Joseph were committed to the will of God against very formidable odds. They joined with His divine plan to introduce the manifested Son of God to this needy world.

The chemically dependent have the opportunity to have their nightmare changed into an abundant life that is beyond their wildest dreams. We are commissioned to share the message of a very personal Savior who is able to unlock the bondage of sin. And even beyond that magnificent truth is Matthew 1:23. Jesus will become Emanuel – God with us - daily.

The United Pentecostal Church has effective ministries and resources designed to evangelize and disciple those currently living under the influence of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. The best place to start utilizing these tools is with those members within our immediate and extended families who we will fellowship with during the upcoming holidays.

May we embrace and mirror the commitment of Mary and Joseph to present to our world our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Divine opportunity awaits!

Howard J. Pastorella is the Director of the Spirit of Freedom Ministries headquartered in Metairie, LA. The Spirit of Freedom Ministries, Inc. is an international ministry to the chemically dependent and their families. For information about SOFM resources contact him at 1-800-535-6011 or hpastorella@sofm.org.

Aubrey Jayroe

Finance

jayroeone@sbcglobal.net

"We have recently received donations for a special project at the church. After the project had been completed, there were donated funds (designated for the project) left over that were unspent. Are we required to refund any donation or notify the donors?"

If the donors can be identified, they should be asked if they want their contributions to be returned or retained by the church to be used for another purpose within the church. It would be better if this were done in writing.

If the donor requests his or her contribution back, the church should send a letter to the donor informing them that (1) there could be tax consequences of receiving the fund; (2) the donor may want to file an amended return to remove any deduction claimed in any of the previous years; and (3) the donor should discuss tax options with his or her tax preparer.

Many times the donor would prefer the church keep the designated contributions rather than face the inconvenience of filing additional tax returns.

If the donor cannot be identified for whatever reason, the church has an option. One is to address the matter in a business meeting of the membership discussing the fact that the donors cannot be identified. The church then can request authorization from the members (at a duly called business meeting) to transfer the designated funds to the church's general fund. Often the membership will allow this to happen.

Another option is to have a court authorize the transfer of the designated funds to the church's general funds because the donor cannot be identified.

In any matter concerning the refund of designated funds or the reassignment of the designation, the church should contact legal counsel and their accountant to be sure all guidelines are followed, thus avoiding potential problems.

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. Email: jayroeone@sbcglobal.net

Stephen M. Drury

Stewardship

New Strategic Partnership with Stewardship Group

by Stephen Drury and Mike Jayroe

The Stewardship Group recently added a new "Strategic Partner" to our group of services as good resources for Apostolic pastors.

Ministry Solutions Group, Inc. **is a group of affiliated business partners working together to offer services for the benefit of churches and other non-profit organizations. MSG brings over 100 years of combined experience servicing our various interests with the majority of that experience benefiting churches and non-profit organizations.**

1. Construction Feasibility / Strategic Analysis:
   - Financial analysis including organizational structure review.
   - Physical plant analysis.
   - Review of congregation demographics.
   - Review of specific goals for renovation or construction of new facilities.
   - Overall Ministry & Community Program Analysis.
2. Introduction of Senior Ministry Programs.
3. Capital Fundraising Strategies and Programs.
4. Preparation of financial proposal for bank and/or mortgage lending institution.
5. Design and Construction Project Management.

To contact an MSG representative visit www.ministrysolutionsgroupinc.com or e-mail ministrysolutionsgroup@gmail.com.

Ministry Solutions Group, Inc. – Preparing Today for Tomorrow's Growth.

The Stewardship Group can help your church with Church Loans, Capital Campaigns, Church Construction and Teaching on Gift and Estate Planning.

Go to http://www.upcstewardship.net/documents.asp and fill out the appropriate form requesting that we contact you. Or contact our offices at the number/e-mail listed below.

Stephen Drury is Director of Stewardship, President of the United Pentecostal Foundation, and Co-Founder and Chairman of New Beginnings International Children's and Family Services. You may contact him at smdrury@upci.org or 314-837-7304 ext 309.

your chance to see what bible college is all about
IBC CONNECT
Weekend
Feb 25 & 26, 2010
1502 E Sumner Ave
Indianapolis, IN
46227
register online at www.go2ibc.com

Terrific Christmas Values from Pentecostal Publishing House

Seeds of Jochebed—Kim Haney

Seeds of Jochebed is a devotional for children by Kim Haney, mother of five, and is designed to be taught before sending them to school in the mornings. The lessons begin in September and go through May.

22921 Paper $12.99

Who is Joy Haney?—Stephenie Haney Montes

This peek into the private life of Joy Haney through letters, cards, and stories is an interesting, motivating, and informative book that will both inspire and change your life for the better.

22866 Paper $15.99

Seeds for Success—Joy Haney

God wants His children to be successful! The book *Seeds for Success* has been written to help light a fire in your soul, lift you up from the doldrums of despair, infuse you with hope, and let you gaze through the maze of mediocrity into the realm of greatness. Twenty seeds are given that will inspire you to reach for and live a successful life in God! Read the book, digest it, practice it, and enjoy the results!

22865 Paper $13.99

Keepers of God's Dream—Joy Haney

This book will help to awaken something within the corridors of the reader's mind, the heartbeat of God: The Dream of all dreams: that none should perish!

22944 Paper $9.99

I AM: A Oneness Pentecostal Theology

David S. Norris, PhD

Rejecting a triumphalistic reading of church history, the author argues that the first century church had a very specific christological confession, one very different from what the church later came to believe. Combining theological, biblical, and historical method, Norris works to demonstrate that this christological understanding is biblical, historical, and logical.

22350 Hardback $24.99

Confessions of a Happy Heretick—Maurice R. Gordon

The apostle Paul confessed, "After the way they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers" (Acts 24:14). Maurice Gordon joins with Paul in happily accepting the accusation of those who charge him with heresy. This book is the story of Gordon's creative and often unorthodox ways of declaring the gospel of Jesus Christ. Gordon has mastered the ability of using the news media to promote the gospel. As you read this story you will be challenged to aggressively proclaim the message of Christ.

22686 Paper $13.99

Cheated—Jerry Jones

Cheated is a study of the life of Leah and offers insight and inspiration. When we feel cheated by circumstances, friends, foes, organizations, bosses, spouses, relatives, neighbors, or even pastors, the issue we face is how will we respond?

21407 Hardback $16.99
22352 Audio Book $16.99

The Guidance Series—Karla Christian

The Guidance Series, by Karla Christian, mother of three beautiful girls, consists of three fiction pioneer romances: *Love's Guiding Light, His Guiding Hand,* and *Guided Home.* Kate, jilted by her childhood sweetheart, escapes to the town of Progress, Texas, where her faith is sorely tested. Then Clarissa struggles to believe God for a miracle when Kate is injured by a tornado. A handsome and mysterious doctor offers his kind assistance and falls for the pretty, petite Clarissa. Grant Alexander Hayes returns to his hometown to inform his parents of his plans to marry a Boston socialite. However, an unexpected encounter with a childhood friend …

Love's Guiding Light (#1)—Karla Christian

21157 Paper $13.99

His Guiding Hand (#2)—Karla Christian

22345 Paper $13.99

Guided Home (#3)—Karla Christian

22641 Paper $13.99

I Must Be Alive: I Smell Coffee!—Judy Shirley

Sometimes life is warm and soothing, much like our favorite cup of coffee; however, sometimes, like rancid coffee, life is bitter. Trusting God to take life and make it better is the only additive that is guaranteed to work. None of us have a perfect life to offer God but once we give Him our best, He takes it and makes it eternally wonderful. This book encourages you to take a coffee break—and more importantly, to take a "God break."

22644 Paper $12.99

The Swaddling Cloth—Nan Pamer

Though raised by loving parents, when Riel, a beautiful Jewish girl, is orphaned, circumstances force her to work as a servant at the inn of Bethlehem. Her dreams of a better future seem impossible when her harsh master exposes a shameful secret from her past. No one would want her as a wife with this knowledge! Can one starlit night really change everything? A beautiful Christmas story.

21620 Paper $13.99

Silent Night, Holy Night: the Imaginations—Bill Davis

Possibly you have read the Christmas story and wondered about some of what you believed to be the missing details. Author Bill Davis shares his imaginations filling in those details in the delightful story, *Silent Night, Holy Night: the Imaginations*

14243 Paper $7.00

Toll free number - 866.819.7667 • Fax number - 615.641.5566
www.pentecostalpublishing.com

THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS

Court Orders Home Schooled Girl to Attend Public School

A Christian home schooled girl in New Hampshire was ordered into government-run public school for having "sincerely held" religious beliefs. The case involves divorced couple Martin Kurowski and Brenda Voydatch and their 10-year-old daughter, Amanda.

Amanda's father believes she should be sent to public school, while the mother is adamant about home schooling. The situation was analyzed by the court-appointed guardian, who made a recommendation to the court. During the evaluation process, it was determined Amanda was excelling in her schooling and used curriculum that was approved by her school district.

Furthermore, Amanda attended her local public school to take art, Spanish and P.E. classes. Her public school instructors also commented on the fact that Amanda was well-rounded in her social skills. But a sticking point arose concerning Voydatch's Christian faith.

The court order stated: "The counselor found Amanda to lack some youthful characteristics. She appeared to reflect her mother's rigidity on questions of faith." The guardian noted that during a counseling session, Amanda tried to witness to the counselor and appeared "visibly upset" when the counselor purposefully did not pay attention.

The guardian concluded Amanda's "interests, and particularly her intellectual and emotional development, would be best served by exposure to a public school setting in which she would be challenged to solve problems presented by a group learning situation and . . . Amanda would be best served by exposure to different points of view at a time in her life when she must begin to critically evaluate multiple systems of belief and behavior."

Although the court noted that it "is extremely reluctant to impose on parents a decision about a child's education," it ruled that Amanda must attend public school.

Alliance Defense Fund attorney John Simmons has filed a motion to reconsider. He says this ruling is dangerous to home schoolers because it will set a precedent for other cases.

The Religious Are More Generous

The results of a Gallup Poll released recently confirm that those who attend religious services are more likely to be generous in how they use their resources and time. The research discovered the difference in generosity, not only among Christians in the U.S., but also among all the major world religions. Those who attend religious services, even if they do not identify with any religion, have a higher rate of generosity.

Of those who had attended a religious service in the last seven days:

- Donated money to a charity (34%).
- Volunteered their time to an organization (26%).
- Helped a stranger (50%).

Of those who had not attended a religious service in the last seven days:

- Donated money to a charity (26%).
- Volunteered their time to an organization (18%).
- Helped a stranger (41%).

In 90 percent of the countries surveyed, Gallup found a statistically significant positive relationship between religious attendance and donations.

The results of the study are based on telephone and face-to-face interviews with more than 240,000 adults, aged 15 and older, conducted between 2005 and 2009 in 145 countries. Those who were interviewed were asked to report their generous behavior only from the past month. For the complete report, visit the Gallup Poll website.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ Nearly 25 percent of moms in married-couple families stayed home with their children through 2007. According to the U.S. Census report, a stay-at-home mom is defined as a mother with a child under 15 who decided to stay at home to care for her children while her husband was working all 52 weeks of the previous year.

■ A Pew Research Center survey shows the public's assessment of the accuracy of news stories is now at its lowest level in more than two decades and Americans' views of media bias now match previous lows. Sixty-three percent of Americans say news stories are often inaccurate, while just 29 percent say news organizations generally get the facts straight. In the initial survey about the news media's performance in 1985, 55% said news stories were accurate while 34% said they were inaccurate. The percentage had fallen sharply by the late 1990s and has remained low over the last decade.

■ Just over half of all working adults ages 50 to 64 say they may delay their retirement – and another 16% say they never expect to stop working, according to the Pew Research Center.

Overall, 37% of full-time employed adults of all ages say they have thought in the past year about postponing their retirement. This proportion swells to 52% among fulltime workers ages 50 to 64. Members of this "Threshold Generation" are twice as likely as younger workers to say they never plan to retire (16% vs. 8%). Moreover, the Thresholders who do plan to retire someday say they plan to keep working, on average, until they are age 66 – when they would be four years older than the age at which current retirees age 65 or older report that they stopped working.

EDUCATION TRENDS

Jesus Banned From Christmas Poem

Mississippi public school teacher, Latasha Atkins, gave her 6th grade class a creative writing assignment with a choice of three topics. One student, Andrew White, chose "What Christmas Means to Me." Andrew's original poem, which he entitled, "A Great Christmas," reads:

The best Christmas ever is when everyone is there.
It is when everyone is laughing here and there.
That is the Christmas I want to share.
Christmas is about Jesus' birth.
About peace on Earth.
This is what Christmas is about.
It is when He lay in a manger.
And the three wise men come to see.
That's what it means to me.

After White turned in the rough draft of the poem, his teacher circled the word "Jesus," deducted a point from his grade, and asked him to rewrite the poem without using that word. White's parents questioned the teacher about her comments and were told by e-mail that "[Andrew] and another child did a poem about Christ. I know we can't discuss these types of things in school so I asked the two of them to do another poem of their choice."

But Principal Carrie Hornsby did not agree with Atkins, and sided with Andrew and his parents, changing the grade to a 100 and conceding that there was nothing improper in using Jesus' name. Hornsby also asked each teacher to send out a letter to all the parents explaining that religious expression is permitted under federal guidelines.

SOCIETY TRENDS

Family Time Decreases as Internet Use Increases

About 28 percent of Americans believe that they spend less time with family members since being connected to the Internet at home, according to the results of an annual survey conducted by the Center for Digital Future at the USC Annenburg School for Communication. In 2006, only 11 percent felt that way. According to the research, 80 percent of homes are now connected to the Internet, compared to less than 20 percent in 1994. For the complete report, as well as other studies relating to Internet use, go to http://www.digitalcenter.org/.

Retirement & Investment Professionals
for Pastors and Church Leaders

Baugh Financial Group
An Independent Firm
Securities offered through
RAYMOND JAMES® FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.
Member FINRA / SIPC

www.baughfinancialgroup.com

Call Chris Baugh toll free at 1-877-77 BAUGH

Past performance does not guarantee future results.

"Jesus said a wise man counts the cost so that he may finish well. We need to apply that principle to retirement, ensuring we set aside what is needed to finish well for ourselves and our families."

Pastor G.L. Vittitow
Pastor (retired) Louisville, KY
District Superintendent for KY (Ret.)
Honorary member of the KY District
Honorary member of the UPCI General Board.

Is your Church Praying ... for Financing?

Strongtower Financial finances Christian churches, schools, retirement centers, and is an agency of the **California Southern Baptist Convention**. **Strongtower Financial** has been in business for over 50 years, and finances Bible-believing churches.

Loans $500,000 to $50,000,000
Refinancing, Construction and Permanent Loans

- **Fixed rate for 30 years.** Most banks fix for 5 years.
- Graduated and interest only payments
- Competitive rates

For information, call

David Horvat at 800-333-9893 Ext. 502

Member of FINRA :: 7120 N Whitney, Suite 101 :: Fresno, CA 93720 :: 800-333-9893

Is Your Church Praying ... for Architectural plans?

Save up to 50% on church plans from previously built churches.

Sanctuaries, Classrooms,
Multi-purpose rooms and Gyms

- Why re-invent the wheel?
- Put the Lord's funds in the building, not the design.
- Licensed architects modify existing plans.
- Plans are updated to meet to meet all local codes.

I Am building His church LLC

For a Free Consultation call David Horvat
800-396-1842 or 908-756-1601

IBC TODAY

Christmas Memories

Tiffany Wachstetter
Senior Class Vice-President

Christmas is an amazing time anywhere you are. However, last year was especially unique because I was in a new place, surrounded by a completely different set of people. Downtown Indianapolis is one of my favorite places. The Monument on the Circle is annually decorated with thousands of lights to resemble a giant Christmas tree. In San Diego I am used to urban areas, but the ice, wind and frigid air was so new to me that when looking around, I felt the scene was right out of a storybook. This "traditional" Christmas experience was my first and will be one I will never forget.

Christopher Henderson
IBC Administrative Assistant

As a married student living off-campus, Leah and I always enjoyed hosting students in our home at various times throughout our IBC years, especially for Christmas parties. We will always remember those special moments of games, laughter, conversations, and are thankful for the chance to celebrate Christ's coming to earth with our family and friends.

Serena Edwards
IBC Business Office Manager

Every year after the IBC Christmas Banquet, the staff enjoy a time of fellowship in the home of Pastor and Sis. Mooney. I personally enjoy this time of reflection and special Christmas tradition which honors the dedication of the IBC staff.

Heather Everett
IBC Financial Officer

A few years ago a group of students and I went downtown for a Christmas celebration. We started the evening with dinner, attended a live version of "A Christmas Carol," and ended the evening with wonderful hot cocoa and a carriage ride around the city of Indianapolis. It was one of my favorite Christmas memories with the students.

Kaylin Shirley
Junior Class President

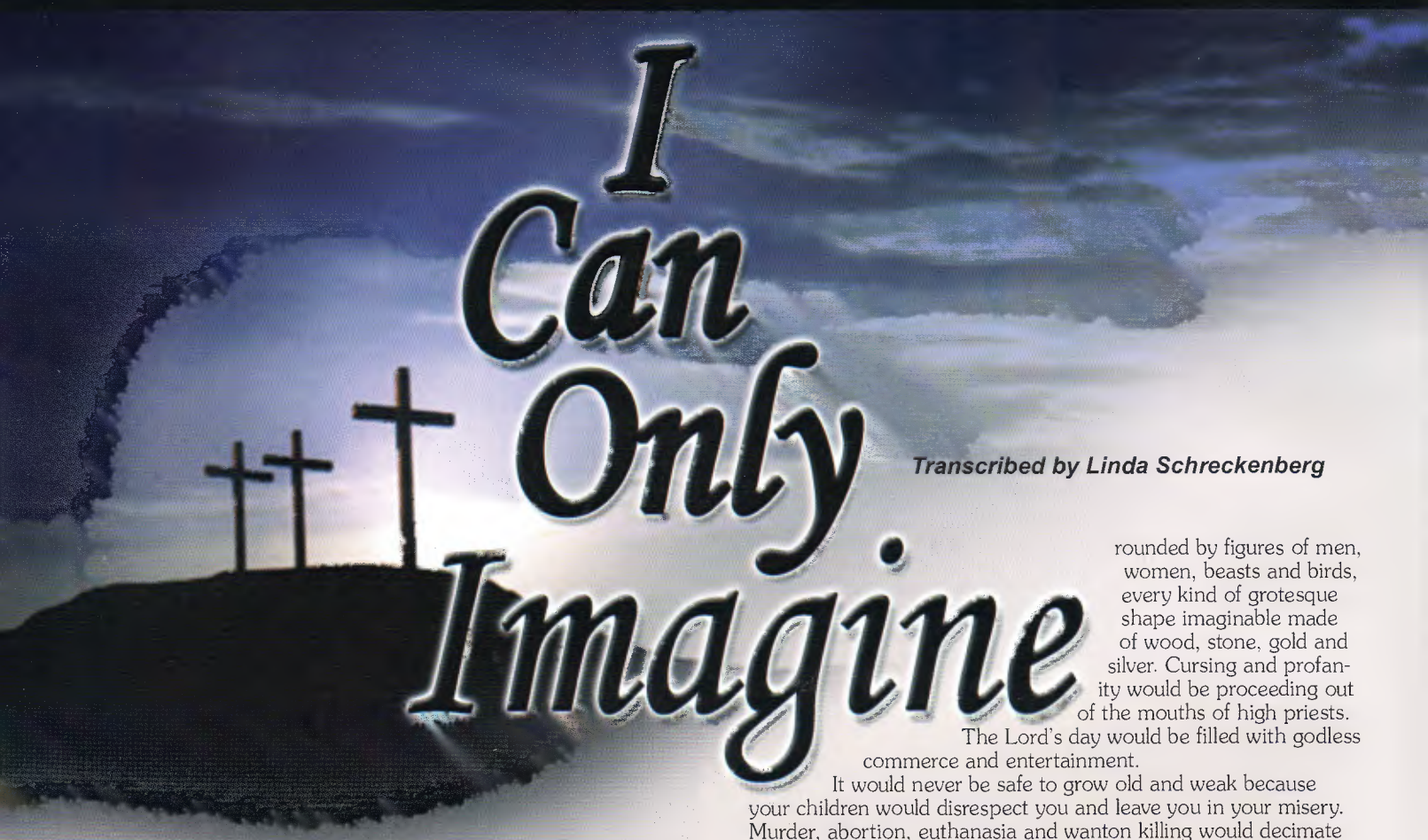
One of my favorite Christmas traditions at IBC is "Deck the Dorms." The holiday spirit is in the air; you can hear Christmas music as staff and students roam the halls of the dorms drifting in and out of every room. Students are encouraged to go all out, decorating every inch of their small apartments and offering snacks.

Kristen Sharp
IBC Junior

An IBC Christmas memory of mine is also the most embarrassing. It was my freshman year and first IBC Christmas banquet. My date was a good friend whom I had always had fun around and someone who was a safe choice. In the middle of the banquet the emcee announces my date has a surprise. My date stands up, proceeds to the front of the room, takes the microphone and begins to read to me a poem. This poem begins by cracking embarrassing jokes about me. I am horrified. He then calls me to the front of the room, drops down on a knee and concludes with a positive, encouraging twist at the end expressing that he is honored to be my date. The worst part; there was complete, stunned silence as the crowd listens in to this very awkward moment. A memory I can chuckle at now! You just had to be there.

Preston Keller
Sophomore Class President

Christmas. The day that Jesus Christ was born. There is just something about it. That one day brings happiness and joy to people and families all around the world. I personally love the Christmas season because I know that it brings quality family time and a break from academics and the other busy areas of life (and not to mention the great food and presents). We have a few fun traditions around IBC such as class Christmas parties, the IBC Christmas Banquet, and Deck the Dorms, which is a personal favorite of mine. Everyone decorates their dorms for Christmas and the entire student body and faculty go through each room. What a great season to celebrate with family and friends the birth of Christ. Merry Christmas!



I Can Only Imagine

Transcribed by Linda Schreckenberg

"And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." I Corinthians 15:17-19

In the fall of 1971, John Lennon released his hit song, "Imagine." The first few lines say, "Imagine there's no heaven. It's easy if you try... No hell below us, above us only sky."

In the song, he goes on to describe a world of peace and hope that would result from living a life void of faith and ignorance of spiritual rewards and consequences for our actions. The song has been acclaimed by an adoring public as the greatest song of all times.

I have a different opinion. Let's take up John Lennon's invitation to imagine a world without heaven or hell and see where it would lead.

Imagine There Was No Bible

We would not know why we exist and how we got here. We would not know about God or who He was. We would not understand the true history of man. We would not know about the angels, Satan, and the supernatural. We would not know about the favor of God or the deception of sin. We would not have these words, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." We would not understand that "the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."

There would be no patriarchs, no prophets, no promises, no psalms, no poetry, no proverbs, no law, no light and no truth.

Imagine There Were No Ten Commandments

We would be worshipping Baal-Peor, Ashtoreth, Chemosh, Amenhotep, Bastet, Zeus, Aphrodite, Vulcan or Jupiter. Instead of feeling the presence of the true God, we would be mutilating our bodies, burning incense or throwing our babies into the fire.

Sanctuaries would be pagan temples, and we would be surrounded by figures of men, women, beasts and birds, every kind of grotesque shape imaginable made of wood, stone, gold and silver. Cursing and profanity would be proceeding out of the mouths of high priests. The Lord's day would be filled with godless commerce and entertainment.

It would never be safe to grow old and weak because your children would disrespect you and leave you in your misery. Murder, abortion, euthanasia and wanton killing would decimate the population without fear of reprisal. There would be no protection. Marriage would have no meaning and homes would be in shambles. We would live in fear behind barricaded and barred windows, guarding our possessions. Lies and deceptions would destroy society, and greed and envy would eat out our hearts like cancerous tumors.

Imagine There Was No Bethlehem

There would be no star, no wise men, no shepherds, no mother and child, no stable or manger, and no heavenly host to sing, "Peace on earth; good will toward men." Without Bethlehem, the dark void that separates us from God would have no bridge.

The glorious revelation of the mystery of godliness would forever remain a mystery. Without the incarnation, mankind would mire down in misery, and we would be without God, nameless aliens in a lost world. Without Bethlehem, skies would be drained of all hope. If there were no God, there would be no miracles, no parables, no healings and no priceless teachings of the Master of the universe.

We might have read Isaiah 59:16, "And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor," but we would not have read, "Therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him."

Just imagine if there was no Bethlehem, no Savior, no Shepherd, no Door, no King, and no Alpha or Omega.

Imagine There Was No Calvary

"Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission." Imagine there was no remission. Sinners would pound the altars in vain. Unrequited tears would flow down their cheeks, and the crushing weight of cruel sin would never be lifted. Without Calvary, the woman at the well would have kept her shame. The demoniac would have kept roaming the tombs. The blind beggar never would have seen blue skies or green grass. Mary Magdalene never would have been delivered from the clutches of prostitution. Leprous hands would have rotted away; the woman with the issue of blood would have withered away, and the widow of Nain would have pined away. Peter, James and John never would have left their nets, and

Paul would have become a radical zealot for some lost cause.

Without Calvary, the groaning of a world condemned never would have ceased. The inexorable advance of the slime and corruption of sin never could have been stopped. Think of it. Not one sin would be forgiven. Not one tear would be wiped away. Not one broken heart would be mended. Not one paralytic would be healed. Not one Lazarus would be raised. No grace, no mercy, no love, no praise, no peace and no joy would have lifted the human spirit.

Imagine Life With No Resurrection

I don't want to ask you to imagine there is no heaven like Lennon did in 1971. Instead, I want you to imagine there is no resurrection like Paul did in 1 Corinthians 15:13-14. Paul wrote, "But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain."

This is the pivotal issue of the entire Christian faith. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, there is no reason for this worship service. There is no need to proclaim the resurrection from the teachings of scripture; because this is the truth that all other Christian truths are built upon.

And the same is true of your faith. Without the resurrection, your faith is foolishness. Without the resurrection, the faith that brought you through your trials, the faith that sustains you when you are tempted, and the conduit of faith for God's grace in your life when you need forgiveness would be worthless. Paul continues in verse 15, "Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not." If Christ did not rise from the dead, then all the Apostles were delusionary, all Bible teachers are liars, and all of Christianity is a gigantic conspiracy involving countless insincere people who have deceived us for the past two thousand years. Even more, the miraculous transformation in your life from sinner to saint, from hopelessness to faith, from guilt to justification, because God and others have forgiven you, is only a hoax.

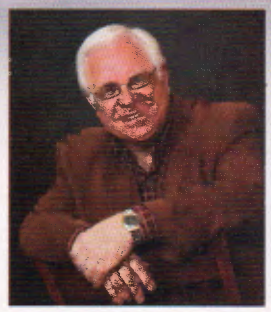
With no resurrection, there is no life after death, and you are still in your sins. Every Christian you have known and loved throughout your life -- all the pillars of the church, all the great leaders who have held up the bloodstained banner -- are to be pitied, not admired. We read in verses 16-19, "For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised; and if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable."

Vain Imagination Meets the Power Of God's Reality

Did John Lennon believe in heaven and hell or not? I think not, but he did ask us to imagine that they did not exist. Contrast his message of skepticism to the powerful message that Paul proclaimed in verses 20-22, "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

After the cross, the disciples were downcast, rejected, despondent and without hope. They were defeated and disillusioned. When they last saw Jesus, he was a limp, lifeless body. When they last saw the tomb, a huge stone blocked the entry to the corpse. When they last left Jesus, Roman soldiers were charged with keeping the disciples away. When they last departed from the cemetery, they commiserated with each other with sobs and tears.

On Easter morning, a few women went to the tomb carrying spices to anoint Jesus' body for burial. Mark 16:3-7 describes what happened next: "And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment, and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you."



J. Mark Jordan

In that instant everything changed. The bonds of sin were broken. The finality of death was decimated. Now, because Jesus rose from the dead, there is hope where there was despair, there is peace where there was conflict, and there is life where there was death. Jesus is coming back to take us to heaven, the place that Lennon asked us to imagine does not exist. Because Jesus rose from the dead, I know that it does, and that He will take me there in due time.

I Can Only Imagine

Now I'm left asking another question, "What will it be like when we get there?"

In 1999, Bart Millard asked that question as he thought about his Dad arriving in heaven after he died of cancer in 1991. After breaking both ankles while playing in a high school game, Bart had joined the school choir following his injury and began singing solos. Prior to his death, Arthur Millard had arranged for Bart's inheritance to be paid out over a 10-year period, enabling his son to pursue a music career. Bart received the final installment in the same week his song hit number one on the charts. It was entitled "I Can Only Imagine." The lyrics of the song say it this way:

I can only imagine what it will be like when I walk by Your side.
I can only imagine what my eyes will see when Your face is before me.
I can only imagine.
Surrounded by Your glory, what will my heart feel?
Will I dance for You, Jesus or in awe of You be still?
Will I stand in Your presence, or to my knees will I fall?
Will I sing hallelujah? Will I be able to speak at all?
I can only imagine.
I can only imagine.
I can only imagine.
When that day comes, and I find myself standing in the sun
I can only imagine when all I would do is forever, forever worship You.
I can only imagine.
I can only imagine.

(Bart Millard ©1999 Simpleville Music/ASCAP)

Closing Comments

No, Lennon, I can't and I won't imagine there's no heaven. Instead, I'm standing beside the N.A. Urshans, S.W. Chambers, Imogene Kilgores and Fred Kinzies imagining what it will be like and looking for the day I'm there. I'm not going to imagine what it would be like if it never happened. I am going to imagine what it will be like when it does happen! I can only imagine what it will be like to see the stalwart saints of the ages. They came through the fire, the flood, the trials and the tests. They saw it all, felt it all, endured it all, and triumphed over it all. With truth, there are no hypotheticals. You may waste your time imagining that truth is not true if you like, but that's all it is—imagination. As for me, I choose to revel in the reality of my faith!

Are your new converts looking for Bible Answers?

Don't lose them...Empower them with the Word of God!

Now you can give them the help they need with

Aid To The Scriptures

Apostolic Source Book - Pocket Size

Over eighty different subjects that are essential for making a strong and lasting Christian.

Godhead	Faith	Sin
Salvation	Hell	Gift of Tongues
Repentance	Heaven	and Much More
Water Baptism	Worship	
Spirit Baptism		
Forgiveness		

Thousands Sold!

To Order

Single / Bulk Discounts

CALL TOLL FREE

1.866.921.5679

Order Online

www.LivingWordBibleStudy.com

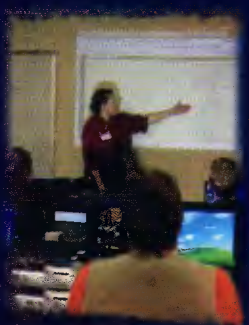
Calvary Christian School
3639 S Keystone Ave Indianapolis, IN 46227

"What I like best about this conference was that it had a teacher focus with qualified outsiders who spoke from their experience."
-an APT attendee

Apt to Teach

A Christian Educators Conference Offering Tools to Improve Your K-12 Educational Ministry

Sponsored by the
Association of Christian Teachers and Schools



October 21-22, 2010

Hosted at Calvary Christian School in Indianapolis, IN
A Ministry of Calvary Tabernacle

"I like the fact that we had time off (from school), a time of sharing with others, a time to stop and evaluate, reflect and adjust."
—APT attendee

To register call 317-789-8710
Visit doe.ur.ci.org for additional information

Apostolic Marines Bond Together

"The Few of the Few"

By Linda Schreckenberg

There is an instant bonding that takes place as soon as two Apostolics realize they both served in the Marine Corps. Bro. David Pimentel, along with Bro. Rick Chavira and Bro. John Deluca, were converted to the Apostolic faith in a church just outside the Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton in California.

"We began to realize the same bond created by being in the Marines was somewhat similar to the bond that being in the church creates," noted Bro. Pimentel. "We decided to create a network of Apostolic Marines. Marines are referred to as 'the few.' The church is made up of 'the few' that walk the straight and narrow way mentioned in Matthew 7:14. Apostolic Marines are 'the few of the few.' The Apostolic Marines Encouragement Network is a network of 'the few of the few.'

He went on to explain, "A nonprofit company I worked with was considering dissolution and needed to grant their funds to another nonprofit entity. Their generous donation provided the money needed to incorporate and fund the initial AMEN program. A name describing who we are and our purpose was decided upon and worked into an acronym. In November 2007, the Apostolic Marines Encouragement Network (AMEN) was formed." Bro. Deluca serves as president and Bro. Chavira as secretary. Their church in San Diego County, California was chosen as Headquarters and has been the birthplace of many Marine conversions. Serving as treasurer, Bro. Pimentel does organizational work out of Placerville, California.

On November 7, AMEN had their second annual gathering. Along with business, they prepared care packages for deployed troops and had fellowship over lunch. "The day was highlighted by our newest project," said Pimentel. "Veterans Day on November 11 follows the Marine Corps' birthday on the 10th. We decided to host a service to honor Apostolic veterans from all branches of the military on our anniversary. Those attending included 18 veterans from the Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force who had served as early as 1960, and several who are currently serving. We were honored to have pastors Navy Corpsman Vince Kelley and Navy SEAL James Ghiloni along with Bro. Ronnie Mullings as speakers at our service and banquet." The Life Church of Oceanside, California, promoters of AMEN, hosted the event. Bro. Pimentel also noted the recent ad in Perspectives has generated numerous new contacts and members.

AMEN meets once a year in November. Their next meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2010 in Oceanside, California. AMEN's vision is to have members on every Marine Corps base in the world. This coming year they plan to connect with pastors of churches near those bases to accomplish this goal. Bro. Pimentel noted that a Marine's entire family becomes acclimated to Marine Corps life. He said, "That transcends over into AMEN. Family members help by writing letters to deployed troops, preparing care packages, joining AMEN's network of prayer and serving at banquets."

Those interested in more information about this network of Apostolic Marines may contact them through their website www.ApostolicMarines.org or e-mail info@apostolicmarines.org.

AMEN group photo of veterans

UPCI Ministers Declare Commitment to Truth On New Apostolic Website

By Linda Schreckenberg

Bro. R. Kent Smith

These changing times demand a firm and unyielding commitment to Apostolic truth and holiness. In August, R. Kent Smith, pastor of Conroe United Pentecostal Church in Conroe, Texas, along with other UPC ministers from around the nation, gathered together. Their purpose for meeting was to brainstorm a public venue to come together and declare their love for truth. The flexibility of utilizing a website for others to declare a love for truth seemed easier to participate versus a meeting. As a search for words to market this effort began, the words "declare" and "declaration" kept surfacing. Thus the title of the website www.WeDeclare.org was deemed appropriate for affirming a powerful declaration of this glorious truth.

With culture shifting in and out of the church, it seems there is a clamor for change of Apostolic distinction from a noisy minority. On web-based venues, some UPCI ministers have publicly questioned their belief of some of the foundational truths found in the United Pentecostal Church International manual. Realizing these are simply a minority of voices, other ministers who are lovers of truth desire to make a stand. While personal declarations are limited to UPCI ministers, the truths embraced on WeDeclare are not merely about the UPCI manual. It also affirms timeless Biblical truths.

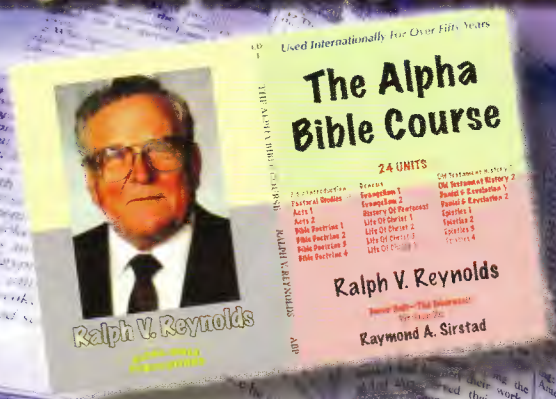
The WeDeclare website is not directed toward politics or personalities. It is simply a venue to afford UPCI ministers the opportunity to make a public declaration of truth. The Declaration stated on the "Home" page is the minimum an Apostolic minister should feel comfortable embracing. The "Declarations" page contains the list of UPCI ministers who have signed the Declaration. The "Sign Declaration" page is a web form used to sign the declaration. The "About Us" page describes the initial grassroots group of men supporting the cause. The "Contact Us" page allows persons to correspond with the site via e-mail. The site directs users by a link to www.upci.org.

The site yielded 500 declarations in the first 30 days, with over 5,000 visitors. Around 75% of those visited more than one page. It is safe to assume approximately 50% of the UPCI ministers have visited the website. Very positive responses, mostly from the grassroots ministers, have been received. Only a few negative responses have been received. Over all, the feedback is very positive. Men are ready to stand and defend truth. The leadership of the UPCI has offered favorable comments, and several General Board members have signed. Hundreds of supportive comments and e-mails have been received from UPCI ministers. Non-licensed ministers' signatures are not accepted.

The main goal is to publicly join others in encouraging those in leadership to not bow to the clamor of a noisy minority. While a few men press to set aside Apostolic distinction and doctrinal issues, leaders can log on and view multitudes of those willing to publicly support the leadership of the UPCI in defending truth. WeDeclare will prove that not everyone is "turning the grace of God into lasciviousness." Questions derived from this article should be directed to the "Contact Us" page of the site.

The Alpha Bible Course

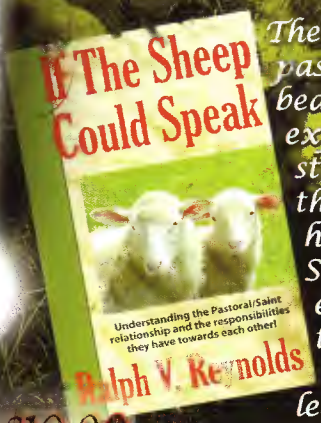
Taught and studied by thousands!



CD ROM = $59.99
6 Binders = $200.00
Both = $250.00

If the Sheep Could Speak

By Ralph V. Reynolds



$10.00

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.

Alpha Bible Publications
www.alphabiblepublications.com

1860 SW Hoskins Ct., Troutdale, OR 97060
(503) 573 - 1214
Visit our website for other excellent books and CDs!

Need Quality Job Descriptions in MS Word Format?

Send in an offering* to help support the *IBC Perspectives* magazine and we will send you a disk packed with high-quality Job Descriptions in MS Word format, ready to edit for your own use. Over 40 different job descriptions, including Outreach, Home Bible Study, Visitor Follow-up, Promotions, Bus Ministry, Sunday School, Youth, Ladies Ministry, Men's Ministry, Music, New Convert Care, Tape Ministry, Church Maintenance, Ushers, Greeters, Prayer, Missions, and more!

Send your offering to:
IBC Perspectives
P.O. Box 47917
Indianapolis, IN 46247
Or call: 1-800-800-0247
Credit cards accepted

*Suggested offering: $20.00 - but less will be acceptable - after all, it's an offering!

Word To The Wise:

"A man who gives in when he is wrong is wise. A man who gives in when he is right is married."

* * * * * * *

Different Priorities

A mom was driving her 5-year-old son to McDonald's one day, and they passed a car accident. Whenever the Mom saw something terrible like that, she would always say a prayer for those who might be hurt, so she pointed and said to her son, "We should pray."

From the back seat she heard his earnest request: "Please, God, don't let those cars block the entrance to McDonald's."

* * * * * * *

Better Than Walking

While on his way to preach a revival, a traveling preacher stopped at a local diner to get a bite to eat. "What's the quickest way to get to First Community Church in Leesville?"

The old guy behind the counter scratched his head. "Are you walking or driving?"

"I'm driving."

"Yep, that's the quickest way!"

"I don't know what Bro. Mike's teaching in Pre-baptismal Counseling but I think we should find out!"

It's All in Your Words

A blind boy sat on the steps of a building with a hat by his feet. He held up a sign which said: "I am blind, please help." There were only a few coins in the hat.

A man was walking by. He took a few coins from his pocket and dropped them into the hat. He then took the sign, turned it around and wrote some words. He put the sign back so that everyone who walked by would see the new words.

Soon the hat began to fill up. A lot more people were giving money to the blind boy. That afternoon the man who had changed the sign came to see how things were. The boy recognized his footsteps and asked, "Were you the one who changed my sign this morning? What did you write?"

The man said, "I only wrote the truth. I said what you said but in a different way. I wrote: 'Today is a beautiful day, but I cannot see it.'"

* * * * * * *

Top 10 List of Useless Inventions

10. Black highlighter
9. Braille driver's manual
8. Clear correction fluid
7. Fake rhinestones
6. Inflatable dart board
5. Mesh umbrella
4. Motorcycle air conditioner
3. Sugar-coated toothpaste
2. Super-glue Post-It notes
1. The system that allows you to report power failures via the Internet.

"Uh . . . are you questioning my authority again, Sister Bumblebum?"

Betting With God

Charlie was a regular visitor at the racetrack. One afternoon he noticed an unusual sight. Right before the first race, a Catholic priest visited one of the horses in the stable area and gave it a blessing. Charlie watched the horse race very carefully and, sure enough, the blessed horse came in first!

Charlie followed the priest before the next race, and again he went to the stables and performed a similar procedure. Charlie put a couple of dollars on the blessed horse. Sure enough the blessed horse came in by two lengths, and Charlie won close to $50!

The priest continued the same procedure through the next few races, and Charlie won each time. He was now ahead $1,000, so between races Charlie left the track and went to the bank and withdrew his life's savings of $20,000.

The biggest race of the day was the last one. Charlie followed the priest and watched carefully which horse he blessed. He then went to the betting window and put his whole $21,000 bundle of cash on that horse to win.

Then Charlie went out to watch the horses race. Down the stretch they came, and as they crossed the finish line, the horse Charlie's fortune was bet on was dead last!

Charlie was crushed. He located the priest and told him that he had been watching him bless the horses all day, and they all became winners except the last horse on which he had bet his life savings. Charlie then asked, "What happened to the last horse which you blessed? Why didn't it win like the others?"

"That's the trouble with you Protestants," sighed the priest. "You can never tell the difference between a blessing and the last rites."

Nursery	Diaper Squad	4
Toddlers	Pee-wee's	2
Beginners	Little Boogers	7
Primary	Tiny Tattlers	6
Junior	Know-it-all's	3
Jr. High	Whatever	5
High School	Smart-alecs	8
Sr. Adults	Gravediggers	9

Pastor Snoogle realized the time had come to discuss class names with his Sunday School Superintendant.

"Endowments will prove to be a tremendous resource"

Rev. Norman Paslay - Cincinnati, OH

"We are at a critical point in the financial future of our culture. In this context, Bro. Drury was an outstanding resource to share with our congregation options for financial prudence and providential giving. Endowments will prove to be a tremendous resource for the future work of God. Without applying pressure, Bro. Drury was a master at presenting options that people can apply to their own lives and vision. He showed our people how to seek first the Kingdom and see all the things added to their estate desires."

For Help with your church's financing needs, capitol campaigns, construction and stewardship seminars, contact us at stewardship@upci.org / tel: 314.837.7304 ext 309 or 346 / web: www.upcstewardship.org

STEWARDSHIP

Greet Your New Neighbors & Invite Them to Your Church

with a list of ***new residents*** in your area supplied on peel/stick labels, email or mailed postcards.

Visit Us on the Web
www.WelcomeCard.biz

Order by January 5, 2010 and receive your

First Month Free!

4 Budget Zips For $24.95 Get Limited List of new movers in up to 4 zip codes. Order directly below.

or — Standard

Full Coverage list on label, email or postcards
Fit to Budget • Follow-up/ Visit Lists • Phone Numbers • Distance Screens • Guaranteed 100% Deliverable • $15 Min • No Subscription Fees

Free estimate by zip 800-676-2435 ext 72

Cut On Line

Order Form for ***Budget*** Program

Mail back this form only if you want the budget program. Please read carefully.

Or Fax to 503.761.4071

Please send us monthly new mover list on __ peel/ stick labels or __ by email. Cost of program is $24.95 per month for 1 to 4 zip codes listed below. Additional zips are $5 each per month. I understand this mailing list may contain some errors. I may cancel this service in writing at any time. Cancellation deadline: 5th of month prior to month of shipment (orders placed on the 5th are shipped by first week of following month). No returns. 4 month minimum. **My first month is free (if this card is postmarked on or before 1/05/2010).**

_____ _____ _____ _____
First 4 Zips for $24.95 Per Month (1st Month Free)

_____ _____ _____ _____
Additional Zips for $5 Per Month

Pastor's Name _____ Church Name _____

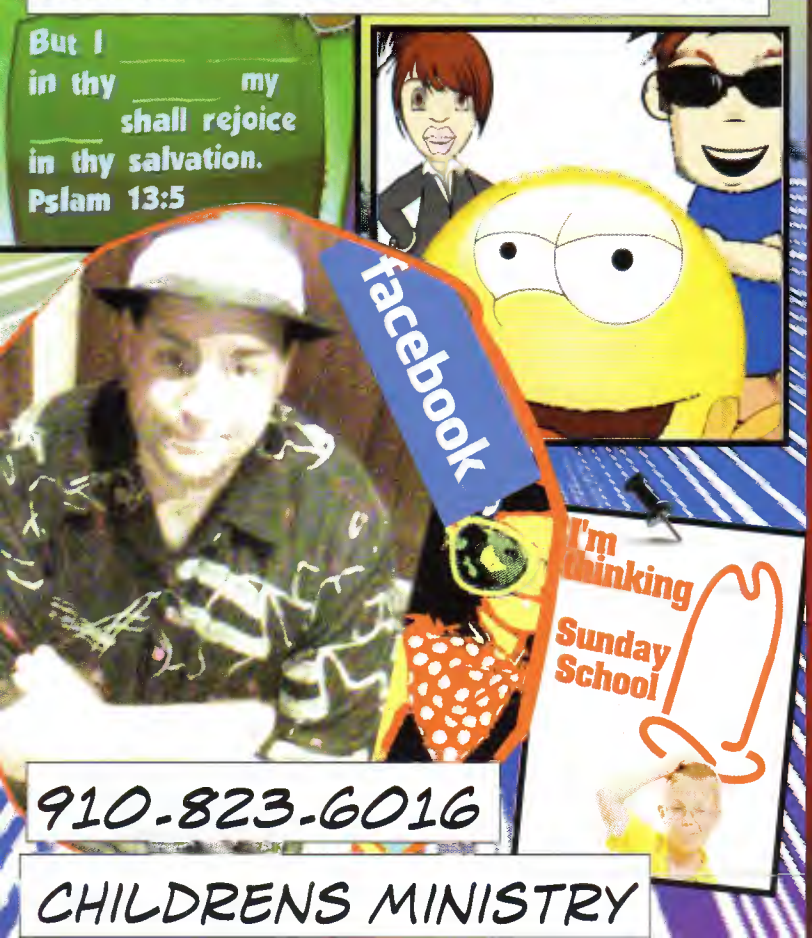
Street Address _____ City:_____ State:_____ Zip _____

Email:_____ Phone Number:_____

Pastor's Signature (Required)_____

Send To: WELCOME CARD, 10245 SE 147TH AVE, PORTLAND, OR, 97086-6063

WWW.MOCABY.COM



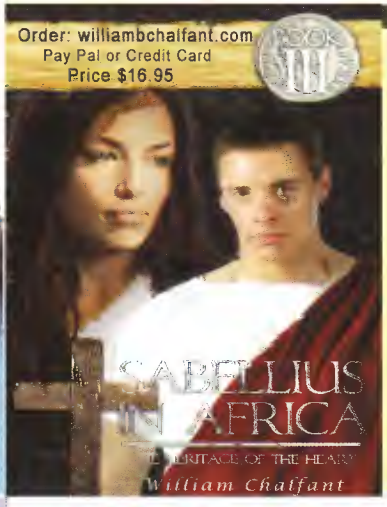
Want to see real

Hope & Change?

Have a passion for souls?
Want to help build a church from the ground up?
Like to live and work in a multi-cultural environment close to our Nation's Capitol?
Interested? Contact us @ RGODISONE@AOL.COM

www.RelevantLifeMinistries.com

Order: williambchalfant.com
Pay Pal or Credit Card
Price $16.95



The Queen and the Heretic: An exciting historical romance about the great Oneness minister Sabellius. $16.95. Order from W.B. Chalfant. Go to: www.williambchalfant.com. Pay Pal or Credit Card.

---

www.FeltsPrinting.com

Felt's Printing & Signs

Call Toll Free 1.866.921.5679

BECOME AN APC MEMBER AND RECEIVE BIG DISCOUNTS

PRINTING	SIGNS
• Business Cards	• Banners
• Flyers	• Vinyl Letters
• Book Printing	• T-Shirts
• Posters	• 3D Lettering
• Door Hangers	• Magnetic Signs

Office Hours. 9-5 PST • Ask For Bro. Felt

24 Hr. Online Store:
www.FeltsPrinting.com

Minnesota District

Needs Church Planters & Home Missionaries!
Please Contact:
Mike Hanson
(651) 986 - 8083
mjh77@msn.com
- or -
District Superintendent
Melvin Thacker
(612) - 386 - 2049

Welcomes You

KANSAS

Needs Pastors for these cities:

Leewood - 31,000
Dodge City - 25,000

Contact: Bro. Charles Jay
(620) 625-8555

Indiana Bible College Presents: The Ministry of

Steve Waldron

Contact Information
Mobile: (770) 601-8961
Home: (317) 888-4426
Email: S.STEVE@INSIGHTBB.CO

About Steve Waldron: Th. D; Ph.D Candidate

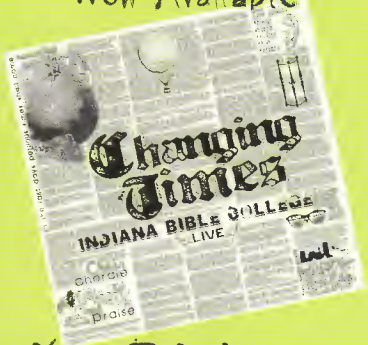
Steve Waldron currently serves as an instructor of numerous Bible courses at Indiana Bible College in Indianapolis, Indiana. He previously pastored a church in Atlanta, Georgia for twelve years.

Available Services:

Specializes in Revivals, Seminars and Teaching on:
-Oneness Theology -Holiness
-Acts 2:38 Salvation - Pre-Tribulation Prophecy
- Bible Translations - Creation
- Spiritual Authority -Bible vs. Philosophy
-Leadership

Call or Email NOW!

Indiana Bible College Live 2009
Now Available



Order Yours Today!
317-262-4030 x311 www.voicevision.com

Boston

Needs Churches
4 Million Metro

Go East Young Man!

Contact:
Jay Stirnemann
MA/RI Home Missions Director
christtempleupc@yahoo.com
401-374-0962

Providence, RI

Looking for a challenge?

The Newest Metro Area
1 Million Souls

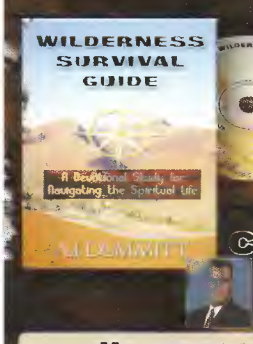
Contact: Jay Stirnemann
MA/RI Home Missions Director
christtempleupc@yahoo.com
401-374-0962

RETURN TO ACTS MINISTRIES
Home of THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM

www.rtaministries.org

Reaching denominational Christianity with the truth of Acts

WILDERNESS SURVIVAL GUIDE
by A.J. Dummitt



New Devotional Study
Ideal For:

Personal Devotion
Bible Study Partners
Small Classes
Midweek Bible Study
Bible Study Groups
Home Friendship Groups

CONTACT:
www.AJDUMMITT.com
Ph: 270.352.0554
AJDummitt@insightbb.com

MATERIALS AVAILABLE:
W.S. G. Book
Bonus CD (audio MP3s) 10 lessons
Teaching Materials CD
-(Teacher's notes, handouts, PowerPoints, Keynote)
W.S.G. CD Audio Lessons - 10 CD Set

YOUR DESTINATION IS NOT THE WILDERNESS!
(Based in 1 Corinthians 10:11 and Exodus)

An Apostolic View Of Global News

Wanted:

Apostolic Pastors and Ministers who enjoy discussing world events from a Biblical worldview. IBC Perspectives is launching a new page devoted to the discussion of current events. If you are interested in participating, please e-mail us at:

sysop@apostolic.edu

IBC Perspectives
Indiana Bible College
Calvary Tabernacle
P.O. Box 47917
Indianapolis, IN 46247-0917

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
INDIANAPOLIS, IN
PERMIT NO. 447

Send To:

INDIANA BIBLE COLLEGE

Music Festival

2010

APRIL 14-16

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.IBCMUSICFEST.COM

CONTACT INFO: 317.554.8069 EXT 322
IBCMUSICOFFICE@AOL.COM