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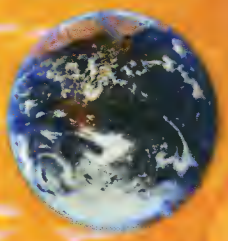
Indiana Bible College

Perspectives



Staying focused

Jonathan Shoemake, San Jose, CA - Feature, Page 6

"Come, Sweet Holy Spirit"

From the Publisher

PAUL D. MOONEY

The Church's great struggle continues to be the war between the flesh and the Spirit. "The flesh lusteth against the spirit" (Galatians 5:17). It is a constant battle requiring our spiritual discipline to be acutely cognizant of what is truly at stake. As Christians, we must consider this fact a matter of life and death. There is a winning and losing factor (Gal. 1:10).

With some reluctance, I will cite a few things I have noted over the years pertaining to my own personal struggles in dealing with the influence of the Holy Spirit upon my life. I say reluctance because it is uncomfortable to admit that although on the one hand I acknowledge the joy and strength attributed to the baptism of the Holy Ghost by which we all are born again, and I would wish to boast that I am completely surrendered to Christ, truthfully I must confess that my flesh, will, desires, ambition and all such fleshly things war against the Spirit, and the Spirit wars against the flesh. I will list four areas where I think this struggle is most intense and wherein I have experienced the most pain.

One note here about pain; do not we all groan in pain? Although we have the "first fruits of the Spirit" we groan within ourselves as the Spirit makes intercession for us. Or, we might say, the Spirit pushes us toward the ultimate and complete redemption, even our bodies (Romans 8:22-26). The point is that we should anticipate this struggle and even embrace it because it points to the victory over the flesh. The pain of this struggle should and does profit us. It is like a matrix that leads to courage and joy. Inverted it is a sign of spiritual development. We know and feel sorrow when the Spirit strives against the flesh, but we understand the coming victory when the Spirit triumphs. We know therefore that the areas where we feel the most pain are where the greatest spiritual discoveries lie. The Holy Spirit will criticize our flesh and we must accept the sting when we are made aware of our inadequacy and surrender to what the Spirit has come to do, which is to cause us to acknowledge Him. An extreme danger lies ahead for the church when we inflate mediocrity by calling fleshly things "Spirit." We endanger ourselves and our Apostolic legacy when we carelessly misidentify greatness, morality, holiness and Godliness to the point that we make failure attractive or, worse, when we pass false worship and fleshly pride onto the next generation in some form of institutional arrogance.

Examine with me four areas of pain by which the presence of the Holy Ghost brings illumination into our Christians lives:

1. The pain of revelation, or of perception is a constant source of stress for me. A part of me wants to be left to my own thoughts and ideas. This is a selfish pleasure that the Spirit never affords. As in the Old Testament, our offerings (the things we bring to God as the fruits of our labour) must bear the salt of the covenant of God lest they be lacking (Leviticus 2:13). And it is not our perception or our standards by which the slack will be measured. We are subject to God's covenant, His judgment.

When the Spirit of the Lord moves on us to more perfectly align our effort with His covenant our flesh feels the sting of conviction. This conviction brings with it suffering caused by the Spirit. It is truth contrasted against our perceptions. What we may see as right, good, acceptable, effective, clever, smart, cool or important may be in sharp contrast to the Spirit. The struggle comes when we feel the pain of our inadequacy yet to abort or to make correction threatens our ideas, plans and methods. The Spirit exposes our weakness of thought, perceptions, designs and programs but the instinctual self-preservation prevents our surrender. The wiser man knows that when he accepts the pain of correction and turns his vulnerability over to the Spirit his potential exceeds his greatest expectations.

2. The pain of declaration confronts our hearts because the Spirit always demands action. There will be a time when we must declare ourselves servants to the leading of the Spirit. The Spirit will ask that we speak, that we become willing vessels to express, voice, state our pedigree, give, go, do, preach the Gospel to the whole world, witness to the man across the room, put words on the blank sheet of paper. To be fully led by the Spirit demands complete yielding to divine vision. But, too often we feel the urging of Holy Ghost and nevertheless we stand motionless. Perhaps we are short-circuited by our fear of failure or paralyzed by our sense of perfectionism (self-imposed perfectionism can become like a gravitational pull so harsh that no one can break free from its power). The Holy Spirit stands knocking at the door of our closed minds; He comes to breach our self-constructed walls, but we resist. We spend nights tossing and turning in our beds hoping that what we felt in the Spirit is just a bad connection. I do not want to think about the failures in my life caused by those times when I did not respond to a call for declaration.

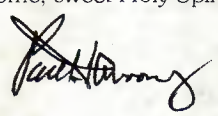
3. The pain of unfinished tasks torments the lives of so many men and women of God. We fear the challenge of action, and we also fear the completing of things. The unfinished manuscripts, plans we never executed, the projects we dreamed of but never implemented all gather mold in filing cabinets, but why? God spoke. We thought about it. We desired to see it accomplished. But there the plans lay, incomplete. We failed to close the deal. We say, "I was going to do that." We feel that certain ache when someone else acts upon a similar vision to what God gave to us years before. We are plagued with the realization that our inaction was precipitated by our fear of what others may have thought. We were scared away from the fulfillment of our calling by what amounts to little more than peer pressure. In retrospect it's all so trite, but the battle of the Spirit that kept God's plans for your life bound and tied until they are all but dead is all too real. There is much joy lost in incompletion, joy lost by not being free to move on. It is the finishing of a thing that prepares our mind and soul to embrace future projects.

The Holy Spirit commands our completion of work. Count the cost. Finish the course. The process leads to new opportunities. Be faithful in the small things and the Spirit will lead from a "few things to many things" (Matthew 25:21).

4. The painful reality of rejection exists when the Holy Spirit comes to suppress that which is against itself. "Church work" can be and often is done in the context of human wisdom and creativity, but the Holy Ghost is the final judge of all things. There are times when we must throw out our attempts to create a move of the Spirit and rely on the Spirit to reveal itself. I often watch the presentation of a worship song that bores a congregation to tears, but the singer just keeps on without ever checking to see if there is a connection with the hearts of the listeners or with the Spirit. Admittedly, I have preached many a sermon, sweating away to get my point across. I have kept right on preaching even when the Holy Spirit was saying, "Throw it out! Toss it! Stop! You're not connecting!" In response, I have rationalized, "But I spent all day writing this out!" However, the reality is: God has a right to reject our sacrifices (Amos 5:21). And our sermons. We must accept the Spirit's rejection of our contrivances in exchange for the spiritual unknown, that which will come only by the power of the Holy Ghost.

When we ask for the Lord to come, ask for His Spirit to sweep into our assemblies, and to touch our lives then we must acknowledge that the Spirit will come to overcome our flesh, to contend with our heart, to create our program, to empower our intellect, to fire our ambition, to shape our will, to demand courage of our soul, to guide our steps, to break through our fear, and to fill our mouths with His immutable Word. The Spirit will suppress all inferior work. He does not come to endorse our talents, to flatter our personalities, to support our false definitions, to inflate our egos, or to applaud our sins and unrighteousness.

Let the church pray once more, "Come, sweet Holy Spirit!"



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

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Developing a Men's Ministry in the Local Church

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

Steve Carrington, Farmington, NM - Men's ministry is vital to the strength and stability of the local church. The Apostle Paul wrote to the men at Corinth: "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong" (1 Cor. 16:13). This was a command for the men to stand guard over the church in Corinth. In this hour, when individuals, families and congregations are casting aside the precepts that have guided us, we need men to stand together as sentinels to hold fast our convictions.

We have a monthly men's breakfast, as well as scheduled trips such as four-wheeler rides, fishing trips or overnight campouts. As unity is built, the men will begin to enjoy spending more time together.

The two biggest obstacles I have seen in men's ministry are conflicting work schedules and finding the right director. However, when someone with a burden assumes this leadership role, it will not be long before excitement will build and men will arrange their schedules to attend the events.

Gavin J. Moon, Covington, GA - One of the primary reasons I believe that it is essential to have a vital men's ministry is the fact that so many men are disconnected in what we do as a church. I find that so often men are reluctant to lead; they would rather delegate responsibilities to other people, especially their wives, and let them do the things that so often are needed in the church. By having a men's ministry you get the opportunity to connect men to the mission and purpose of the church and the ministry.

Prayer breakfasts, camping trips, wild game suppers and local renovation projects for the less fortunate in the community are some of the typical activities that men's ministries are involved in. Our annual camping trip, in which we have both older and younger men coming together for a special weekend, usually either in the mountains or even along the coast, is the high point for our men's ministry activity for the year.

Tim Sullivan, Fort Smith, AR - Men's ministry is a great way to equip men to be better fathers, husbands and men of God. Men's ministry provides that platform to instruct and encourage men to be what God has called them to be.

Our men's ministry consists of a monthly meeting where one of our own men speaks; this allows each of us to hear the challenges and victories in our church. Some of the programs in our church where our men get involved are community outreach ministries. We use men's socials as an opportunity to invite the unsaved men of our community. This environment is successful, and we all meet new friends.

David Bradt, Bridgeport, CT - A men's ministry that interacts with each other on all levels is the perfect time to teach how a Christian man should act.

Each of our men has different interests outside of the church and they tend to gravitate toward their different cultural preferences. However, I spend a lot of time and attention with the different activities. We even have one of our older men who works with new converts, and he encourages them in the financial and schooling areas. On Wednesday evenings we have a class called Maximized Manhood, and that class is open to a lot of interaction. We get involved with our people and spend time with them. Men need to know that their pastor is human and walks the same roads they walk.

Myron Powell, Omaha, NE - Strong men build strong families. Strong families build strong churches. Strong churches build strong communities. God knows we need strong churches and communities, and it starts with strong men.

Our men enjoy monthly meetings called Manna for Men. We pray, teach and enjoy some good food. Our future plans include starting the "Men's Fraternity" program. This is a three-year educational program geared at equipping men with the tools they need to be what God has designed them to be.

In many churches today, praise teams made up of mostly (if not all) ladies lead the worship and much of it is a "mushy-gushy" type of love song that men don't relate well with. If men perceive men's ministry to be more of the same, they won't come. However, if they are taught principles of leadership and headship, and if there are jobs men can do in the church, then they can be fulfilled in their purpose.

Mike Labrie, Beaumont, TX - I believe that every local church should have a men's ministry. It builds camaraderie among the men that will keep them connected in every aspect of ministry. There are plenty of potential outreach endeavors for men already available in your community that can be tapped into. Local charitable organizations can always use volunteers, and that is a great place to start if your church is not large enough to put on its own endeavors. However, if you have enough men, it is great to start with fun activities such as baseball, tag football, etc. Then, once the men have connected, move into ministry mode. This can be through your own church, such as doing repairs for the elderly or widowed or through local charities such as Habitat for Humanity, food banks or homeless shelters.

Great fundraisers for men are paintball tournaments, "wild game" dinners (cooking deer, elk, etc.), classic car shows, gun shows or any activity that will attract non-church members. There is never a problem asking an unsaved man to attend any of these events. Once unsaved men actually bond with your church members, the connection is made and the invitation to attend church services comes more naturally.

J. B. Sims, Foley, AL - The Divine Order of God demands that men have the major role in the workings of God. Every pastor must start with this premise and do everything possible to get his men involved.

Men's ministry is a starting point that will lead them into other areas of ministry in the local church that they were previously hesitant to become involved with. In our local church we have regularly scheduled meetings bi-monthly; in these, we serve food that the men have prepared, discuss needs in the church, and plan "mission projects" that will help a home or foreign missionary, and we encourage one another in our relationship with God and our families.

Jeremy Damesworth, Steele, MO - Starting a men's ministry in your local church will strengthen your church body. Men's ministry will give your men wisdom in leading their homes, which will strengthen the church. The second Saturday of the month our men meet for breakfast. It is not promoted as a prayer breakfast, just a time of fellowship. One of our men speaks, and we close by praying with one another.

We have had success by each man adopting a young boy in the church who does not have a father in his life. We support them in school, on their birthday, Christmas and other special events.

Staying on FOCUS

By Christina Li

PRAYER • EVANGELISM • SACRIFICE • HOLINESS

In a nation with a church on nearly every corner, what makes the Apostolic church different? Pastor Jonathan Shoemake of First Church San Jose, California has this to say, "Our revival here is based upon the fact that we preach the Apostolic doctrine (sacrifice), we are given to prayer, we are very passionate about evangelism, and we have maintained a strong distinction of separation from the world (holiness). I think that gives us a unique flavor in a world full of churches."

Staying Focused

Pastor Shoemake continues, "Everything we do here is based on one word: relationships. I feel very strongly that our world is full of information and connections, but it's absolutely devoid of relationships. The advantage that the church has is we have the love of God that passes any human ability to understand. We can take that love and reach for someone's hand."

He has several different methods in helping people learn to reach out and truly relate to one another. "One is we use Bible studies," he explained. "This church has always been a Bible study church. Just a few weeks ago, we made a big push and got 86 people committed to doing Bible studies from off the streets. We use primarily 'The Golden Rule,' but it depends on where a person is. If a person comes in and gets baptized or whatever, we'll always follow that up with a more in-depth Bible study like 'Search for Truth.' We also get them enrolled in our Orientation Program (discipleship) here at the church. With all of that, they're getting between 24 to 40 weeks of Bible study."

Pastor Shoemake believes "a revival pastor has to maintain his focus on where the church is going. He can't afford to stop and put out every little fire. You have to keep the main thing the main thing. The main thing of the church is we have to reach the world with this gospel, and we have to represent the kingdom. You have to stay focused on what really matters. In my case, I spend 90 percent of my time focusing on the four things I just talked about [prayer, evangelism, sacrifice and holiness]."

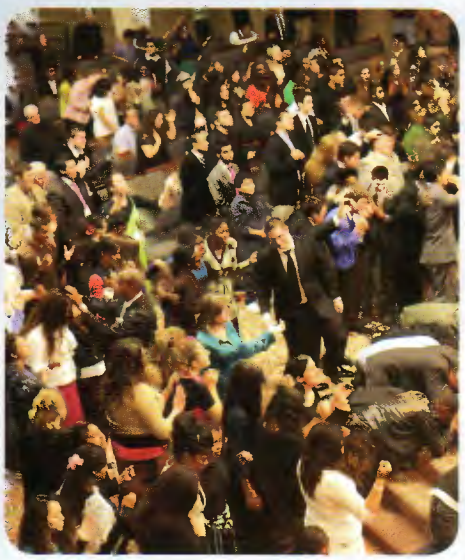
Organized

With a congregation of 550-600 people, Pastor Shoemake needs to be very organized. "My Administration Staff and I meet once a week. This includes our Church Administrator, Church Facilities Manager, Departmental Coordinator, and my Church Ministries Administrator. I have a full-time Youth Pastor and a full-time Minister of Music. I have seven Care Pastors that oversee about 40 families each. We meet every other week. Our departmental leadership has a constant flow of e-mail, and we have a monthly staff meeting that includes all department heads. We have various other meetings throughout the week. They all hand in reports. I'm very blessed to have proactive people. Generally, it doesn't get to me if it's an administrative thing. We've really endeavored to set up the church where I'm free to pursue after those four things all the time."

Every fall, Pastor Shoemake and his team do their planning for the year. "Every department brings in a list of events for the year that they need," he said. "There are two different types of ministries: relational (i.e. youth) and support (i.e. multi-media). The relational ministries need many more activities and have special events

throughout the year. The support ministries need more meetings and communication has to stay open. We overlay it all on one calendar and find out how many conflicts we have and what we can move and flex. It's a very prayerful and careful process." In this, Pastor Shoemake is careful to protect his leadership and his congregation from becoming too busy. "We do not fill up every week. I think there needs to be some quiet times. So, in that planning, there are 12 weeks out of the year that are reserved."

For training of his leaders, Pastor Shoemake tries to keep current. "If I'm reading something that I feel is applicable, I'm quick to pass it on down the line," he said. "I do some teaching, using books I've read and principles I've learned. You have turnover in leadership, so it never grows old. People only sign up for one year of ministry. Then we have a new commitment service in January."



The congregation worshipping

Commitment

Pastor Shoemake has at least two-thirds of his church committed to some ministry. "We have the philosophy here that everyone has something to offer," he said. "As soon as somebody prays through and gets the Holy Ghost, there's a place for them to go to work. They can get up from the altar and enroll. They're not going to be involved in up-front ministries but be more support, such as kitchen or phone follow-up. I have elderly people who can hardly walk, but they'll get involved in something." About 50 percent is involved in evangelism.

"As a pastor, within the church, I have an inordinate amount of faith in our young people. I think when you study the book of Acts and Joel, 75 percent is targeted at young people. Probably right now, I have 15-20 young men under 30 who feel the call of God on their life. I have another 15 who feel the hand of God on their life for ministry here on a local level. That's the inner focus.

"If we had a target group as a church, I would say our entire focus is on our community. Our buses do not go any further than one mile of our church. When we go out to get Bible studies, most of them are within 1 to 1½ miles of our church."

Pleasing God

When asked his philosophy of ministry, Pastor Shoemake had this to say, "I think that my ministry at this stage in life has been formed by the fact that many of my earlier concepts and ideas of pastoring have failed. In my first pastorate in the late '80s, I realized that I had a lot to learn. I was in my late twenties. Now, I feel that ministry is based more on who you are as a person, your character. That allows or disallows many of the things God will do in your life. I think that one of the greatest things we can do is just make up our minds that we're going to please God whatever the cost. Pleasing God does not always bring popular opinion. This doesn't mean we disregard our brethren, but we can't allow them to take preeminence over the will of God. You just do whatever it takes to get the will of God done. I try to live it, I never get beyond it. Sacrifice is a huge part of it. There's a reason why missionaries can go into a country with no church and give it all and produce many churches. One of the greatest hindrances to the Apostolic movement in America is that we are fearful and proud people. We worry about who is going to get the credit. One of my underlying principles is I want to make sure that God gets the credit. This church is not about me, it's about God. I understand my role here. I've got to live my life in such a way that God always gets the glory."

Jonathan and Tasha Shoemake
San Jose, CA

Church History

Back when Pastor Shoemake took over for his father, "there were approximately 250-300 saints back then. We didn't just go forward, we prayed through a lot of people. It did go well over time. We had to get to a place where people believed in the vision of the church."

For outreach, "we used Bible studies, lots of Bible studies. We had Bible studies where we prayed through around 80 people."

Closing Comments

"I don't know that there is any sure fire method to revival, but I do believe there are underlying principles to having an Apostolic church," said Pastor Shoemake. "I think the first thing is you focus on the health of the people and the mission. You don't focus so much on the numbers game. You just let God add to the church daily such as should be saved. Not every man is going to be capable of pastoring thousands. That's why we need more churches in North America. In our city there are a million people, 7.5 million in the bay area. In San Jose proper, there are only three UPC churches. There's probably a vast majority of this city that has no idea we're even here. We just keep going forward and focus on what God has called us to do."

First Church of San Jose, California

Interior view of the sanctuary

The church's bus ministry

Sunday school classes

Bishop Jimmy and Bobbie Shoemake

The Voice Of The Elders

Apostolic Impartation

Speakers:

Johnny Godair

Jerry Holt

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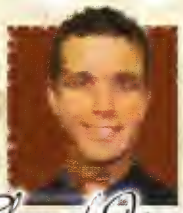
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Most Christians Not Held Accountable By Their Church

According to a new Barna study, only five percent of Christian adults say their church does anything to hold them accountable for integrating biblical beliefs and principles into their life. George Barna, director of the survey, says that one of the cornerstones of the biblical concept of community is mutual accountability. Although many exhortations in the Bible are not popular in today's culture, the Barna Group indicates that one of the least favorite biblical principles might be, "Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow" (Hebrews 13:17 NLT).

Living a Christian life is shown by being transformed from a selfish and self-driven individual to one who lives for, and surrenders control of one's life to God. Accountability is a practice that helps in that transformation and in helping one make correct life choices and behavior.

The segments that were most likely to have some form of church-centered accountability were evangelicals (15%), adults living in the western states (10%), people who say they are conservative on social and political matters (9%) and Baby Busters, who are known to be a highly relational generation (8%).

Among the five percent of Christian adults who say their church holds them accountable, the most common approach that was listed was small groups.

PURE Religion
by Stephen Judd
tupelo children's mansion

Saving Little Ryan

By Stephen Judd, TCM President & Chad Parker LSW, Executive Director of Residential Services

Stephen Judd
www.mansionkids.org

Chad Parker

Death. Murder. Deceit. Many of us could not apply these words to any aspect of our lives. Even though times have been tough, most of us have been abundantly blessed, and live lifestyles far removed from such words. That's why it is hard for me to believe that so many of our children at Tupelo Children's Mansion rarely seemed shaken by the madness. Some of our children have come from such darkness, but the light of Jesus Christ brings them a new hope and a fresh future.

I'm easily reminded of a phone call we once received about a little boy, Ryan. Ryan is the second of three children born to his unwed mother. Mom had lost custody of her oldest child a few years ago. Ryan's baby sister, who was three months old at the time, was in the hospital on life support. Then the shocking news . . . the mother and her current boyfriend were under investigation for abuse. Then we heard those words echoing throughout the conversation: Death. Murder. Deceit. The voice on the other line was letting us know that Ryan may not be safe. Urgency gripped our hearts. What's going to happen to that little boy? With a phone call to our attorney and state authorities, the process of saving little Ryan began.

I'm happy to report that we were able to save little Ryan. He is now an energetic and entertaining little guy. The best part is that Ryan now has a future...a future full of love, support, understanding, and best of all, Jesus Christ! Because of caring and compassionate people like you, who sacrifice to support this ministry, Tupelo Children's Mansion was successful in saving little Ryan.

It is with all sincerity that I ask you to continue to pray for God to grant our staff wisdom each day.

Applications are processed and calls are received that are not only heart-wrenching, but sometimes unbelievable.

Today, my staff and I will be dealing with apps that involve a sibling group of children whose mother is addicted to drugs, one for a little boy who watched his mother kill two men and then she told him he was next, and one for a young lady whose mother killed her father. We were able to save Ryan, and we will do our best to intervene with these other children.

One thing is for certain, we can't do anything without the help of Jesus Christ, and without your continued prayers and financial support. Thank you for saving little Ryan and the many other lives you will help save in the future! I do believe that makes you a hero!

For information about Tupelo Children's Mansion, go to: www.mansionkids.org.

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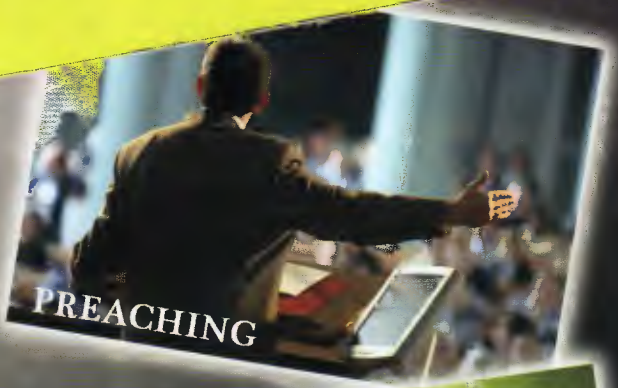

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Brian Norman
International Evangelist

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Marketing Your Church

Interviewed by Gregg Stone

Bro. Rick Brewer
St. Louis, MO

Bro. Brewer, tell us about yourself and your background.

I've been attending Apostolic Pentecostal Church, Pastor Stephen Willeford, since birth. I have finished both a B.A. and a Masters in Business Administration while also dedicating myself to growing a company that specializes in Media Communications. My company services in film, motion graphics, design, web development and photography. S03 Creative has been in operation for three years now. Since then I have worked with our very own World Evangelism Center and several of their divisions and provided promotional materials to several churches nationwide. We've also been able to touch base with several secular clients ranging from commercial businesses to film production companies to non-profit organizations.

Why should a church be concerned about their "graphic image"?

In these days a "graphic image" is fundamental. Things are running and changing at a faster pace than ever before. That motion and progress is dictating the way corporations and organizations market a brand or product. We are a product of Christ; therefore, we should target this world with the same motivation, enthusiasm and creativity.

What elements go into a good "graphics package" for a church?

I most often hear churches in need of branding (logo, letterhead, envelope, business card) and a website. These are great tools to get started, but very rarely do I ever hear a church ask for a market campaign. A church market campaign could be comparable to an announcement party. It could contain several ads to be run in the local newspaper or magazine as well as a mass mailing of postcard-type ads and a video commercial. We, the church, are not a corporate group, but we should think and act as one. A church is a business, and our business is Christ. We should be as bold as any Starbucks ad and as prevalent as a McDonalds Value Meal billboard. We could be just as effective as any leading brand if we took the time to grow and dedicate a budget to market our community.

Why is a church website important today?

It's a lifeline. We are the age of the web; everything we do generates around apps, search engines and blurb-casts from bloggers and micro-bloggers alike. Without a web presence you are losing out on an audience of millions. You would ask then – well we only want to reach our local area, so what use is the web for us? When your neighbor googles "Church – your city" wouldn't you like to be the first listing he sees? It's a given – without having an effective web presence you will be handicapped and at a disadvantage in marketing to your area.

Churches struggle in keeping their website fresh and current. How do you suggest this problem be solved?

a.) Content – You need lots of it. Your website should never be minimalistic in content. Content is what helps search engines discover you, and the more content, the more probability that you will rise in standings over time.

b.) SEO – Search Engine Optimization. Built within the code of your site are key words and tags that help strengthen your web standings. In order to optimize the strength of your site you have to make sure that it has been given its best detailing job. This means that your web designer must take the time to place the key terms and verbiage into the coding to give search engines the most precise detail of your website.

c.) Social Networking – Twitter and Facebook. When you hear the term "social networking" these two are usually the most prominent. As a church, they would definitely be the best outlets for connecting with individuals and also help boost your potential on search engines. Now, not only do you have an online presence with your website, but you also have two accounts that are connected with your church's name and your church's website. If the church secretary has some free time on her hands, have her tweet and post in that spare time and I promise you, you won't regret it!

What is a church's goal in advertising?

Do you have a church event coming up? Then budget and build some extra funds to market the event! I'm not talking about having your secretary create a guest card in Microsoft Word and using Office Depot's cheap card stock in your LaserJet. I'm saying, take it to another level. Take the time to build the funds to market effectively to your area. Use a professional or a firm to create an outstanding graphic that will draw traffic to your church or to your site. I understand being cost effective is important, but you can't limit yourself in production. To grow in numbers, you need marketing. I'll be blunt – to limit a firm or professional by a "little to no budget" is not an effective means of marketing. I'm not saying that you have to spend more funds than you are comfortable with, but be open with your designer or firm and let them know what you want to see in the final results, and they will be open with you in price (and maybe even flexible).

Six key methods of advertising exist (besides word of mouth): radio, TV, mass mailing, newspaper, billboard and web. Discuss each briefly and what your feelings are on each.

Radio – Podcasts, online radio apps and other streaming media on the web is a great way to start a "radio ministry." I would say spending a few extra bucks to highlight your church on a popular radio station in your area is well worth it.

TV – A video commercial for your church is a great way to communicate with your local audience. A lot of faith-based organizations have small blurbs about life applications, things families face, and how families need to stay unified, etc., and then tie in the church's logo and info at the end. So it's not really centralized on the church and all the things they offer, but mainly a glimpse or Christian thought on life with a small chunk at the end referencing the organization or church that placed the ad.

Mass mailing – A great way to keep your presence in individual's faces.

Newspaper, Ads, Billboards – Any advertising that places you in front of eyes is a must. Again, it's not all about which advertising you choose; it's about making sure you create an effective ad and place it where it will stand out. Even yard signs could be as effective to an area as a billboard.

Web – If your web presence is not growing you will fail to see the numbers you could potentially see. Take the time to raise a budget for a site that doesn't just talk about you, but it shows interactivity between the members and saints and also speaks a lot about how you reach the community around you.

How to contact you, your website, etc.

Contact me at rick@s03creative.com or visit my company's site at www.s03creative.com. We have a large portfolio as well as a services list. I am also a PK (printer's kid) so I know some great printers with great quality. E-mail them at brewersprinting@aol.com.

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 2011

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SPEAKERS	CONTACT / INFO
Feb 24-25	**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, Jason Gallion, others.	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
March 10-11	**Passing The Mantle** A meeting of impartation for ministers and their spouses.	Bartlett United Pentecostal Church 270 East Schick Rd. Bartlett, IL 60103	J.E. Yonts, R.O. Boettcher, T.F. Tenney, Terry Black, Harold Hoffman, Eli Hernandez	For more information: visit www.upcbartlett.org/ptm (630) 837-9800
March 16-18	**IBC Music Fest 2011** Features three glorious nights of concerts featuring the IBC Music Department and many guest musical artists. The three day sessions are geared to encourage and inspire the church worship ministry.	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
March 17-20	**Times of Refreshing Conference - Visalia, CA** 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.	Pentecostal Lighthouse 1219 West Noble Ave. Visalia, CA 93277 Pastor James McPhail	Gordon Poe, Jerry Dillon, Bill Davis and Lloyd Squires	For more information: visit www.gordonpoe.com/TOR/conference. (713) 443-1324
April 28-30	**Eagle's Summit Apostolic Conference** A conference for saints, staff and leadership alike which focuses on equipping the minister and believer for Apostolic ministry.	East Valley Pentecostal Church 2715 S. White Rd. San Jose, CA 95148 Pastor: Rodney Nelson	Stan Gleason, Kenneth Haney, Mark Morgan, James Hughes, Gerald Jeffers, Nathan Hurst and John Arcovio	For more information: (888) 776-0797 www.spiritled.org jonarcovio@aol.com
June 23-25	First UPCI Multicultural Summit This summit will promote UNITY, AWARENESS of the potential for revival among various ethnic communities, TRAINING for the church to reach the whole world with the gospel, and INSPIRATION to make it happen.	The Sanctuary 965 Anglum Road Hazelwood, MO Pastors Timothy A. Dugas, Scott Graham	David Bernard, Edwin Forkpa, Jesus Fortaleza, Elias Limones, Don Hanscom, Bruce Howell and many more.	For more information: www.mcmsummit.com; dhanscom@upci.org; chief-1god@aol.com; hmd@upci.org
July 18-22	**National Deaf Evangelism Conference/Workshop** To evangelize and empower the Deaf with the Apostolic gospel; to teach, train and equip interpreters so they can effectively communicate the gospel to the Deaf.	First United Pentecostal Church 7512 Charlotte Pike, Nashville, TN 37209 Pastor Ronald M. Becton	David Bernard, Ernesto Murillo, Wesley Swanson, Meloy Richmond	www.deafevangelism.com; Smdeafinterpt@aol.com
July 2011	**IMPACT Family Conference 2011** 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	For detailed schedule, visit www.woodlawnchurch.cc (601) 736-5128
July 2011	**Mile High Conference: 2011** Rocky Mountain Region Meeting designed to strengthen the cause of Oneness, holiness-minded preachers, churches and families.	Calvary Apostolic Church 5900 E. Yale Ave. Denver, CO 80222 Host Pastor: D.E. Haymon	To be announced	(303) 758-5900 www.cacdenver.org DEH2@comcast.net
Sept 2011	**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
Oct 11-15	**87th Annual UPCI General Conference** Official conference of the UPCI. Don't miss it!	Louisville, KY	To be announced	For more information visit the UPCI web site at: www.upci.org
Nov 2-4	**West Coast Conference - Fresno, CA** 28th Annual Fresno Meeting	Fresno Convention Center 848 M St., Fresno, CA Host Pastor: Vaughn Morton	Kenny Godair, Robert Davis, Johnny Godair, John Collins, Dennis Garza, Ron Green and Galen Gregg	For more information call: (559) 225-1622 www.truthtabfresno.org
Dec 2011	**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	To be announced	For more information: visit www.gordonpoe.com/TOR/conference. (318) 742-9539
Jan 2012	**Indiana Bible College LIVE RECORDING 2012** Under the direction of Lindel M. Anderson, Dean of Music	Indiana Bible College 1502 Sumner Ave Indianapolis, IN 46227 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

Church Growth: Your Church Can Double!

Robert L. Rodenbush

Church Today

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Safeguarding Our Churches - Part II

In follow up to last month's article we will discuss in more detail the three areas of preventative measures and provide some tips and resources to hopefully prevent a tragedy of child sexual abuse from ever happening in your church.

Adequate screening. A church should properly and confidentially screen all church workers (both paid and volunteer) who will be placed in a position that involves supervision of or access to children or youth during Sunday school or any other church sponsored activity. Such screening generally involves the use of (1) application forms, (2) background checks, (3) reference checks, (4) a requirement that the worker be a church member in good standing for a specified period of time (generally six months or longer) before allowing them access to children, and (5) a requirement that the worker have a clear background check, especially one free from any conviction or plea involving actual or attempted child sexual or physical abuse.

Adequate supervision. A church should establish procedures to properly supervise children and youth as well as all church workers who will supervise, work with or have access to children or youth during Sunday school or any other church sponsored activity. Such supervision generally involves (1) requiring training on and adherence to a written policy that covers proper conduct for all church workers to follow when working with children and youth, (2) insuring that an adequate number of qualified adults are present at all times and that a minor is never alone with just one adult church worker, (3) the use of hall and/or bathroom monitors, (4) putting windows in the doors and/or walls of classrooms so they can be easily monitored, and (5) making sure that parental or guardian consent is obtained for the child's participation in church activities.

Adequate reporting. A church should implement a program to make all church workers who work with children and youth aware of the symptoms of child abuse and the child abuse reporting requirements in the church's state. Churches should implement educational and awareness programs as well as a written policy to insure the proper prevention, and the confidential handling and reporting of child abuse. Child abuse reporting is not just a moral issue, it is a legal obligation. All states have laws that require the reporting of child abuse as well as penalties for failure to report.

Space does not permit a detailed discussion of all the screening, supervision and reporting requirements necessary for a comprehensive prevention plan. However, there are various comprehensive preventative plans available commercially or through your church's liability insurance company. Some plans are better than others. In my experience as an attorney and as a minister the program "Reducing the Risk" with well-respected church law attorney Richard R. Hammar is one of the best and serves as the primary resource for this article. It is available through www.churchlawtodaystore.com and can be previewed at www.reducingtherisk.com.

Bobby Killmon

Theology

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In Psalms, what does "God exalted His word above His name" mean?

We are "people of the name" but often misunderstand what that means. God called His people into covenant built on requirements or "stipulations" in which He swears He will do His part if they will do theirs. God's name was called over them to bring them into covenant as shown in Num. 6:22-27. In the NT we become "people of the name" covenantally by having the name Jesus called over us in baptism. That's why Acts 15:7 quotes Amos 9:12 saying there will be Gentiles who are called by God's name. This shocked Jewish sensibilities that pagan Gentiles would be covenant "name called" people of God.

However, there were components in covenant that spelled out the agreement between covenant parties. A parity covenant was an agreement between equals, but a suzerainty covenant was an agreement between a subject and high king. It was not a negotiated contract between equals. The only decision the subject could make was whether to be in covenant. The high king dictated all the terms. It is interesting that the stipulations or laws of the covenant reflected the same as the high king's land. That's why we are commanded to pray, "your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." The commands were part and parcel of covenant. That's why "taking the name of the Lord in vain" meant not merely saying the name of God flippantly but rather saying you are God's name called people and living in a way that's in conflict with His directives. Jesus said, "Why do you call me Lord Lord and do not the things that I say."

God offers us partnership with Himself. It is a union and partnership based on a binding legal contract. What is the result of obeying God as "name called" people? "...if ye keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me..." (Ex. 19:1-6). So clearly it is a fellowship which has a legal basis. The equivalent of breaking covenant would be saying I want to marry you but not be bound by rules. Is. 4:1 shows this saying, "And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel; only let us be called by your name, to take away our reproach." They are saying we want the blessing of covenant without the rules of covenant. 2 Tim. 2:19b says, "... And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." The point is we cannot be "people of the name" without being "people of the Word."

T. W. Massengale

Church Growth

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Your Church Can Double!

After over thirty years of ministry in the area of church growth, I am strongly convinced that any church can grow – and not just grow but at least double in attendance and membership. What does it take for a church to double?

Sufficient desire by the pastor. Every pastor wants his or her church to grow. The question is: Do you want to grow badly enough to do what is necessary to bring about that growth? Unless you are currently in a steady growth mode, you are going to have to make changes. This will take considerable time and effort. But know this well: If you keep doing what you have always done, you will continue to get what you have always gotten.

Sufficient desire by church membership. Few churches have 100 percent involvement. But to double you need a goodly number of saints willing to work with you. This was the focus of the earthly ministry of Christ: to train leaders and workers to build a church. He called the twelve and He discipled the seventy. These men and women were passionate about the work of God and willing to sacrifice to spread the Good News. Training and motivating workers is a never ending process that will last until Jesus comes.

Implementation of key principles. God wants every church to grow, and He has given several fundamental principles that must be embraced if we want to see growth happen. The three keys are: *(1) Sow an abundance of gospel seed.* If you sow abundantly, you will reap abundantly. The opposite is also true. You will need good seed sowing ministries in operation week after week and workers to work them. *(2) Organize your saints.* You basically sow more seed two ways: involve more people in the sowing process and use more effective seed sowing methods. A pastor must have a plan to develop leaders and laborers. *(3) Retain the harvest.* New convert care must be a priority. The infant church understood this. After 3,000 were saved on the Day of Pentecost, God inspired the Apostles to do three things with these converts: instruction, fellowship and involvement (Acts 2:42-47). A church must implement a solid new convert care ministry and increase their retention to around fifty percent.

While there are other elements that assist, these three are essential. If you would like more information on how to double – guaranteed – e-mail me or call 1-800-800-0247 for free information.

Meet Me
in St. Louis
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2011

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MULTICULTURAL SUMMIT

Bringing the Global Harvest together

June 23-25, 2011

One of the reasons many people visit St. Louis is to see the National Monument called "The Arch", signifying that St. Louis is the famous gateway to the west. There are many reasons to visit St. Louis, but none as important as the inaugural Multicultural Summit 2011.

MCM Summit is an opportunity to equip and empower us to reach our world around us. Plan to attend and learn the many opportunities, and how easy it can be to reach the diverse world around us.

- Rev. Donald Hanscom, Sr.
GHMD Director of Multicultural Ministries

THE SANCTUARY
A UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

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Hazelwood, Missouri

Carol Clemans

Spiritual Growth

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Judy Segraves - A Proverbs 31 Woman

On Jan. 16, 2011 my dear friend, Judy Segraves, went to the arms of God. She is the wife of Dr. Daniel Segraves who is the Academic/Administration Dean at UGST in Florissant, Missouri. God brought the Segraves into our lives when they were invited to come to Stockton, CA to be the Executive Vice President of Christian Life College in 1982. Bishop Kenneth Haney asked me to have the Segraves to our home for dinner. We enjoyed our first meeting and dinner together.

About four days later, Judy's mother, who moved with them, died in her sleep with a heart attack. It was a shock to Judy and family. We opened our home for their guests to come to after the funeral. Our friendship was a gift from God.

Judy was the modern day Proverbs 31 virtuous woman. Vs. 10-12 (NLT) - "Who can find a virtuous and capable wife? (Dan Segraves found one.) Her husband can trust her, and she will greatly enrich his life. She brings him good, not harm all the days of her life." Vs. 17 – "She is energetic and strong, a hard worker." Vs. 25 – "She is clothed with strength and dignity." Vs. 26, 27 – "When she speaks, her words are wise, (humorous) and she gives instructions with kindness. She carefully watches everything in her household." Vs. 28 – "Her children stand and bless her. Her husband praises her."

Judy was my genuine friend. We lived in Missouri together for two years. We shared our ups and downs of life for 28 years and loved each other unconditionally. In her two-year battle with cancer, I called her almost daily after we moved to Colorado with prayer and encouraging words. She talked about the process but never complained.

Judy could say, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful." Now she awaits her crown of righteousness. There is no greater faith!

Carol Clemans is a Cert. Pastoral Counselor/Christian Life Coach/anointed Bible seminar speaker for spiritual, emotional & relational growth for conferences, etc. She provides nationwide phone/web cam counseling (636) 448-0121. Carol is founder of LIFE ENRICHMENT MINISTRIES, INC. (501c3), 1437 N Denver Ave., Ste. 251, Loveland, CO 80538 – www.carolclemans.org

Brian Norman

Revival Concepts

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Building Unity

"... for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore" - Psalms 133:3.

How can two walk together except they agree? Only in a setting of unity do I find in the Bible where God goes beyond the promise of blessing, to actually commanding there to be a *blessing* and *life*. Unity always brings revival and *life*. According to the Bible, God commands it to be so.

So can a church expect consistent, sustained growth without unity? No. Unity is essential to seeing sustained life in a church and community. How many ministers wonder what hinders their church from having a deeper move of God? How many pastors have seen their congregation experience a spurt of growth only to split? A paramount reason for each of these situations is a lack of unity. Following are areas that must be united around (especially by the ministry team):

- The WHAT: who we are, our core beliefs and values must be believed
- The WHY: the purpose of our existence, our identity, must be bought into
- The WHERE: the vision of where the local church will go should be shared

As a pastor is the voice of God to the congregation, so the ministry team is the fingers of the pastor to the congregation. They help set the pace for the saints. Thus church unity begins with developing and having a ministry team united in the above areas. It will trickle downward.

Some ways to create unity in a congregation are:

- Teaching the What - saints understanding what we believe and why we believe it causes unity and, yes, church growth. People convince when they are convinced.
- Preaching the Cross - the WHY of our existence, our identity, cannot be understood outside the cross's shadow
- Presenting the Vision - keeping people looking toward where they are headed motivates them

Unity guarantees life and blessing!

Brian Norman is an ordained full-time evangelist with the UPCI. He can be reached at (636)544-0627. His website is www.briannorman.org.

Aubrey Jayroe

Finance

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It seems that things are constantly changing for the church's records regarding tax and legal matters. Can you help me understand what these changes are and how we can stay up-to-date?

Yes, in recent months there have been many changes regarding the resolutions and/or policies that the IRS requires churches to implement and maintain. These presently are:

1. Housing Allowance Resolution for all ministers who receive housing allowances.
2. Qualified Accountable Reimbursement Plan authorizing the church to pay or reimburse church expense to an individual.
3. Spousal Accountability Policy which assists the spouse of an employee, officer, or director to have the church pay for certain travel expenses.
4. Record Retention & Destruction Policy to provide direction to the church administration regarding the maintaining of records, how long to maintain them, and when to destroy old records.
5. Wrongful Conduct Policy gives direction and protection to the staff of officers when someone is blamed for wrongdoing.
6. Gift Acceptance Policy provides guidance in accepting proper gifts or contributions in accordance to the IRS regulations.
7. Indemnity Resolution gives liability protection to the officers and directors.
8. Sexual Harassment Policy provides statements and protections in case anyone is accused of sexual harassment.
9. Conflict of Interest Policy covers the board, officers or directors in not having a conflict of interest in certain transactions.
10. Fraud Prevention Policy gives structure and guidance in establishing procedures to protect from fraud or mismanagement of church funds.
11. Church Powers Policy gives authority to the church to conduct business and transact actions according to the current laws of the state.
12. Discrimination Policy provides a written guide stating the church will not discriminate when people want to be involved and attend church.

In order for a church to comply with current regulations, these are necessary to have as a part of the permanent documentation in the church records. For more info or to secure these resolutions or policies, email jayroeone@sbcglobal.net.

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

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Leaving a Legacy
(Part 1)

I have grown to love the word "legacy." Typically the word is used to identify a bequest of personal or real property from one person to another. It can also refer to almost anything that is handed down from one person or family to another person or family.

In the last several months, charities and ministries have become concerned about folks focusing on their day to day living during this recession in such a way that they have not continued to think in terms of leaving a legacy through bequests and other planned gifts.

But it appears that better times for charity fundraising are just around the corner. At the Partnerships for Philanthropic Planning National Conference, leading experts on planned giving told participants that by 2020 America will have far more millionaires than today. And, according to Charles Shultz, chief executive of Crescendo Interactive, a planned giving software and consulting company in California, donors will be motivated by even greater tax incentives to give to charity.

Robert F. Sharp, a well-known fundraising consultant out of Memphis, Tennessee, whom I have sat under in seminar training sessions, states that although Americans have been frustrated by the economy, history does in fact repeat itself. What does he mean by that?

Financial tax and gift data going back over 100 years along with old newspaper accounts of donations were presented at this conference. It tracked the ups and downs of philanthropy over time. The research showed that by 1937 charitable giving had returned to pre-depression levels and continued to grow from there. It was clear from their presentation that what America has been through before, America will get through again. It was pointed out that during a depression, like now, outright large gifts given to many organizations dropped but bequests for other estate gifts continued. Deferred gifts even get added attention during economic down cycles.

(To be continued next month)

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

THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS

Apple Removes "Offensive" Christian App for iPhone

The Manhattan Declaration, an ecumenical document promoting traditional marriage, the sanctity of life and religious liberty, has been signed by almost 500,000 people. An iPhone application was created recently to help promote the cause, and it did just that ... until November when Apple removed the Manhattan Declaration iPhone/iPad application from the iTunes store.

The Manhattan app was originally accepted by Apple and rated as a 4+, meaning it contained no objectionable material. Yet Apple pulled the app shortly after a small but vocal protest by those who favor gay marriage and abortion. These groups claim the Manhattan Declaration promotes "homophobia" and that its supporters are "anti-gay."

Supporters of the Manhattan Declaration are still waiting for an official explanation, although Apple reportedly did admit the app was removed "because it violates our developer guidelines by being offensive to large groups of people."

Matt Warner, in support of the religious application, said, "There is nothing in the Manhattan Declaration that isn't completely in line with Christian teaching. To call it offensive is to call Christianity offensive. This is about drawing lines and taking sides in a very real culture war."

Content of MTV Show 'Most Dangerous Ever'

In mid-January, MTV launched the TV show *Skins*, an adaptation of the award-winning British series, which will have parents of teens very nervous. It reportedly features teens engaged in drinking, drugs and graphic sexual situations. MTV's website describes the program, "Be it sex, drugs, the breadth of friendships or the depth of heartbreaks, *Skins* is an emotional mosh-pit that slams through the insanity of the teenage years. They'll crush hearts and burn brain cells, while fearlessly confronting every obstacle head on . . . or slightly off." The Parent's Television Council provided a warning: "(*Skins*) may be the most dangerous TV show for children we've every seen."

The Religious Climate in America is Changing

According to the Barna Group, an analysis of research from the past year reveals six major religious trends in America. These "megathemes," as Barna calls them, should encourage Christian leaders to "revisit their criteria for 'success' and the measures used to assess it." According to Barna, the research also reveals that, "Christianity is no longer the automatic, default faith of young adults." The six trends that Barna identified are:

1. *The Christian Church is becoming less theologically literate.* For example, research in 2010 showed that while most people regard Easter as a religious holiday, only a minority of adults associate Easter with the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
2. *Christians are becoming more ingrown and less outreach-oriented.* Less than one-third of born-again Christians planned to invite anyone to join them at a church event during the Easter season.
3. *Growing numbers of people are less interested in spiritual principles and more desirous of learning pragmatic solutions for life.* Spiritual practices like contemplation, solitude, silence and simplicity are rare, while the importance of lifestyle comfort, success and personal achievements is growing.
5. *The postmodern insistence on tolerance is winning over the Christian Church.* Possibly because of the fear of being labeled judgmental, Christians have become tolerant of a vast array of morally and spiritually dubious behaviors and philosophies.
6. *The influence of Christianity on culture and individual lives is largely invisible.* While contemporary Americans find it difficult to identify any specific value that the Church has added to society, they have no problem identifying faults of the churches and Christian people.

According to Barna, "The Christian Church is in desperate need of a more positive and accessible image . . . and the most influential aspect of Christianity in America is how believers do – or do not – implement their faith in public and private."

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ While considerable progress has been made, the Bible still needs to be translated into more than 2,000 languages spoken by over 350 million people. Biblica, which has already translated the Bible into more than 100 languages, just released a Tagalog Bible in contemporary language for the Philippines' 85 million Tagalog speakers. Wycliffe Bible translators recently announced it has raised nearly $250 million of the $1 billion needed to see a Bible translation started in remaining languages by the year 2025.

■ Rick Warren, pastor and motivational speaker, pledges to lose 90 pounds during a 52-week church fitness plan. The plan was launched recently at Saddleback Church by Dr. Oz and two other medical experts. The Daniel Plan is based on the prophet Daniel who chose healthy eating instead of the king's rich foods and is a church-wide program to help the parishioners get physically healthier. Around 6,000 people signed up for the program.

SOCIETY TRENDS

Despite Bad Economy, Americans Still Giving

Research conducted by Harris Interactive in the last quarter of 2010 shows that while Americans are continuing to tighten their financial belts, they are still finding ways to give where it counts.

- Nearly seven in 10 adults (69%) say they will spend less money on holiday presents this year. In 2009, only 57 percent said they would be spending less.
- Forty-eight percent of Americans are still willing to donate their time and money to causes they believe in.
- Thirty-one percent say they will give smaller amounts to charities this year.
- Nineteen percent say they will make donations to fewer organizations.
- Thirty-nine percent say they have not changed their charitable behavior as a result of the current state of the economy.
- About half of Americans say they are now more likely to give a charitable gift as a holiday present.
- Seventy-one percent say they plan to increase their giving once the economy improves.

LEGAL TRENDS

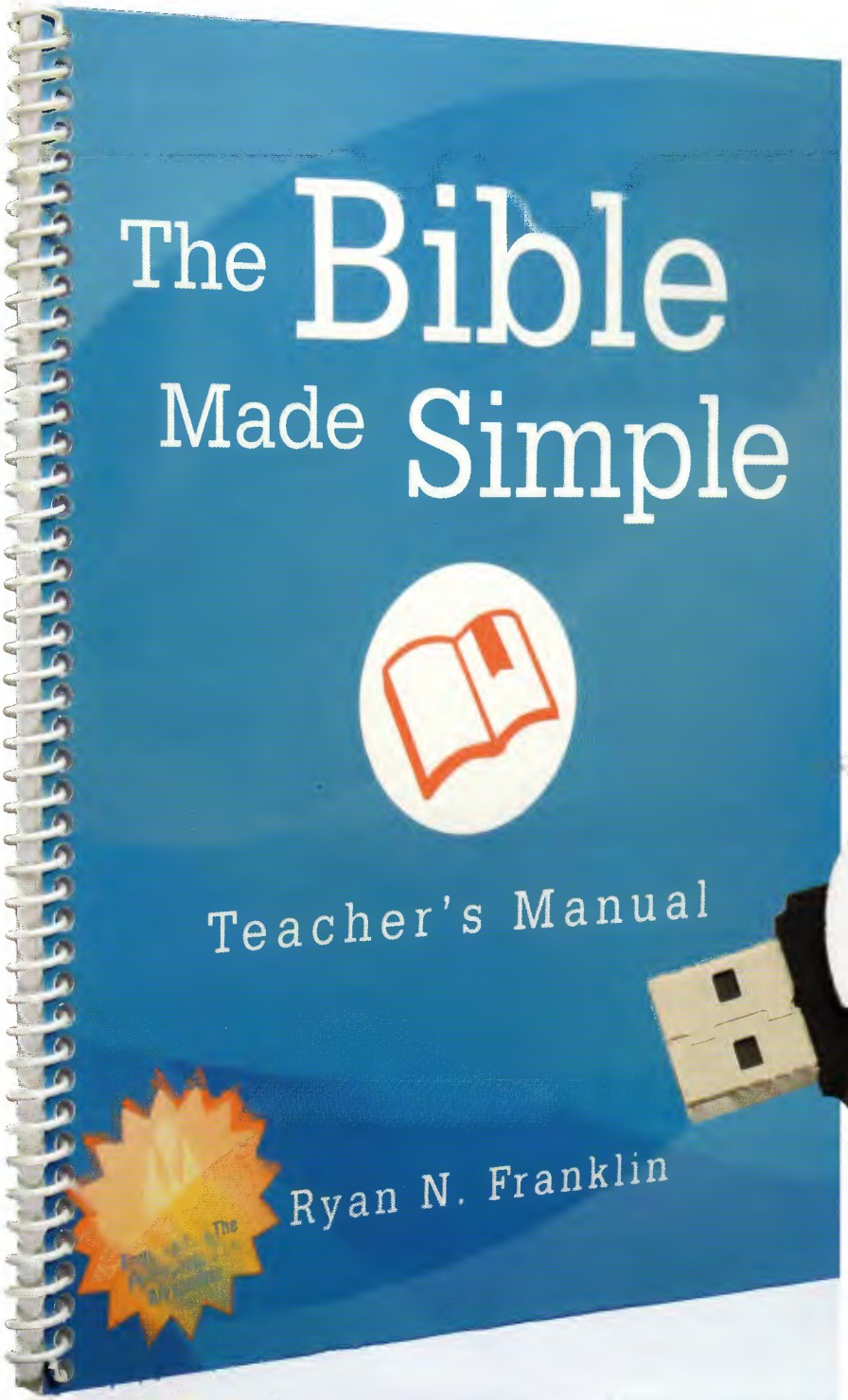
Vermont Allows a John 3:16 License Plate

Shawn Byrne has been in legal dispute for many years with the state of Vermont, fighting for the right to display a reference to one of the Bible's most famous passages on a vanity license plate: John 3:16. The state won't ask the U.S. Supreme Court to review a federal appeals court decision that said Byrne must be given the license plate "JN36TN." In the settlement, the state also agreed to pay Byrne's $150,000 legal fees and allow other Vermonters to have religious-themed license plates.

POLITICAL TRENDS

Hawaii Senate Ends Daily Chamber Prayers

Hawaii's state Senate has voted to stop the daily prayer before each session for fear of a possible court challenge. This makes it the first state legislative body in the nation to halt the practice.



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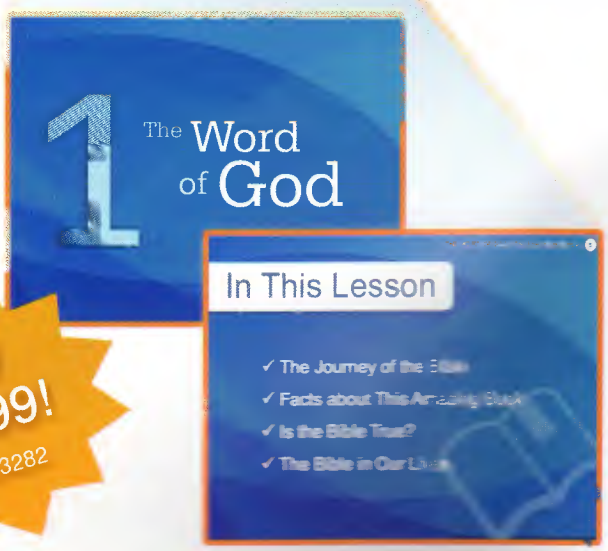

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"Spread Thy Skirt Over Me"

Ruth 3:9

Ruth came to Boaz, in Ruth 3:1-9, and requested that he "spread thy skirt over me." That means, "cover me with your tallit" or "marry me." Ruth tells Boaz, in essence, "I am uncovered, unprovided for, unprotected, no one is covering me spiritually, no one is praying for me, no one has taken me under his wing." In Ruth 2:12, Boaz tells Ruth that God has already covered her with His wings.

In the Jewish marriage ceremony, the bride stands under the chuppah (or prayer shawl held up with four poles) with her groom. This is a representation of God marrying Israel under the canopy of Mt. Sinai. The groom covers her with his tallit, or prayer shawl. Literally it means "little tent." He opens his arms and spreads the tallit wide, thus creating the wings, and covers his bride, signifying his protection, his provision.

Under the canopy, according to Jewish weddings, the couple experience their own personal Yom Kippur, or Day of Atonement. In the Old Testament, Isaiah 16:5 states, "And in mercy shall the throne be established: and he shall sit upon it in truth in the tabernacle of David, judging, and seeking judgment, and hasting righteousness." David's tabernacle was an open air tent where all of Israel could see the Mercy Seat of God. In the Tabernacle of Moses, the Mercy Seat was hidden away and only the High Priest could see it. But no longer. David brought it out for all to see, and it caused such rejoicing that David himself was overcome with celebration.

As the wings of the Cherubim, who are guardian angels, cover and protect the Mercy Seat, and the "wings" of the groom's prayer shawl cover his bride, so the "wings" of God cover us and protect us in mercy. When we enter the tabernacle of David, the accessible presence of God, we come under His Tallit, His protection, His wings. Psalms 91:1 gives us the promise of the tallit of God:

Psalms 91:1-16 (KJV)

1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
2 I will say of the LORD, *He is* my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.
3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, *and* from the noisome pestilence.
4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth *shall be thy* shield and buckler.

This is the promise of the Bridegroom under the Tallit, under His wings. Look at the wings over the Mercy Seat. It represents the promise of the Bridegroom. He gives us a promise of marriage, and with it, protection and provision. We become a new and complete soul as we unite with our God, our Savior. Malachi 4:2 says, "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings..." In our personal Yom Kippur, we realize we have made many mistakes, done things we shouldn't have done, and acted and said things that we would like to take back, but cannot. Probably all of it happened because we failed to believe and trust God.

Linda Krog
Marion, IA

Think about that. If we allow God to bring us under His tallit today, how would our lives change? How would our thinking change? How would our relationships change? I'm sure there are many things we could repent for. But let's just look at one thing. Let's bring ourselves under the wings of God, and promise Him to live more like we trust Him. Let's try to covenant with God and promise to remember that today we humbly approached the tabernacle of David, where the Mercy Seat of God dwells in a tent, open and accessible. We willingly put ourselves under His wings. Imagine that, God standing next to you under a chuppah, spreading His prayer shawl, the one that the woman with the issue of blood touched and was made whole. The "wings" that people of Jerusalem crowded around Him to touch because they understood His power was theirs to have. Matthew 14:35-36 states: "And when the men of that place had knowledge of him, they sent out into all that country round about, and brought unto him all that were diseased; and besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole."

Psalms 91:1-11 - "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust . 3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. 4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust : his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. 5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; 6 Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. 7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. 8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. 9 Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; 10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. 11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways."

Would anyone like to be made perfectly whole right now? Healing is in His wings. Let me say it more plainly. Healing is in trusting God. Look at the Mercy Seat and gaze at the Cherubim that cover it. It is a concrete representation that God promises to take care of us.

We face economic crisis right now. Now is the time to bring yourself under His wings and make a covenant promise to Him that you will begin today to live like you trust Him. Look for Him under the wings; He resides on the Mercy Seat.

Psalms 91:1-16 (KJV) [altered and personalized]

1 [I dwell] in the secret place of the most High [and I] shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
2 I will say of the LORD, *He is* my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.
3 Surely he shall deliver [me] from the snare of the fowler, *and* from the noisome pestilence.
4 He shall cover [me] with his feathers, and under his wings [shall I] trust: his truth *shall be [my]* shield and buckler.

Bio: Linda Krog is a licensed minister with UPCI. She and her husband, Rev. Dennis A. Krog, pastor in Marion and Ft. Dodge, Iowa. She also holds two Masters degrees in education.

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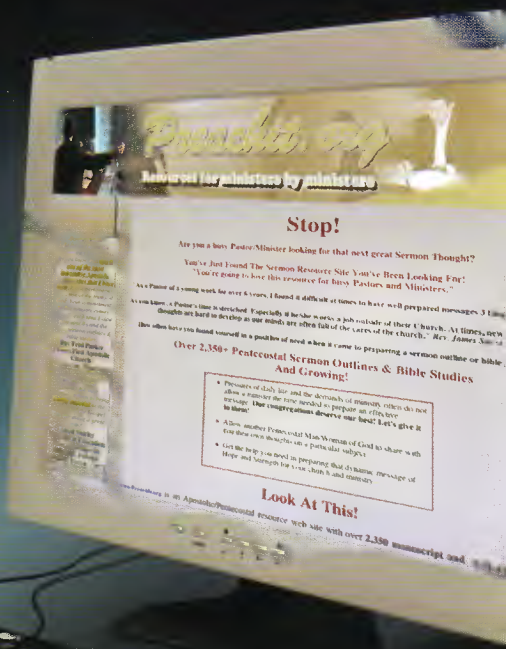

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Lack of New Convert Retention a Frustration for Many Churches

By Charlotte L. Pound

Michael and Anne Bower
Ft. Worth, TX

Every church has experienced the disappointing cycle of reaching and gaining new converts only to have them slip away out the "back door." Evangelist Michael Bower and his wife, Anne, of Ft. Worth, Texas have developed Life Evangelism, a concept to help churches retain their new converts.

Bro. Bower explained the concept. "After listening to many pastors express frustration of minimal new convert retention after revivals, we decided to create a plan for new convert preservation. We began to collect ideas from all our years of experience," he said.

"The key elements of the concept are to encourage a church to grow," Bro. Bower continued. "We go into a church and act as a sort of catalyst — coming alongside a pastor and helping to 'put things together and make them stick!' We try to evaluate what the specific needs are. We also listen to the vision of the pastor. We speak with members and offer a class on 'finding your place in the body.' Many saints want to be involved in assimilation but have no idea where they fit.

"From our observations, we then tailor the concept for that particular assembly based on what the pastor desires: the number of workers available to help, rate of growth potential, as well as city size, church facilities, etc. We are currently streamlining our efforts to be able to go into a church and stay as long as three months or as little as two weeks.

"Attendance and involvement of new converts is crucial. The keys to effective retention and assimilation are to establish an attendance for repeat guests as well as first-time guests. We create a weekly three-fold outreach effort of visiting first-time guests, repeat guests and canvassing new areas. We also assign team leaders to new converts, who will care for them on a three-month basis."

Bro. Bower's Life Evangelism concept has been successful and hopefully will become more so as pastors see this need. A personal quote from Pastor Mike Watts of Ft. Worth, Texas: *"As a result of the strategic concepts in the area of retention that were presented by Mike and Anne Bower, our level of awareness in the process of caring for the new believer has increased tremendously. Prior to their arrival we were effectively caring for about 10 new believers on a weekly basis. That has now increased to about 50 new believers every week."*

Bro. Bower stated that, "most churches we help have at least a 50 percent increase in new convert retention and usually a tremendous increase in repeat guest attendance. We have been to Home Missions churches, with only about 10 people to work with, and have seen, in a two-month period, growth go from 35 members to 80-plus members — Forney, Texas is example of this."

Bro. and Sis. Bower travel full-time in North America and have made several missions assignments into Russia in the past two years helping our missionaries. They have also written manual inserts for national workers to use in other countries. Their ministry is called Global Ministries Group. They currently base out of Ft. Worth with Pastor Watts and welcome personal consultation with any pastor to discuss individual church needs. For more info, Bro. Bower can be reached at 417-540-8336 or bowermichael@ymail.com.

Illinois Pastor Shares Tips to Starting a Successful Daughter Work

By Gregg Stone

Brian and Lori Bradshaw
Troy, IL

"God has blessed both the mother church and our two daughter churches with a harvest of Hispanics, African Americans, kids and adults that we would not have reached had we stayed in the four walls of the church in the city of Troy," explained Pastor Brian Bradshaw of Troy, Illinois. "We have seen a steady stream of baptisms, both water and Spirit, over the past ten years. The city of Troy is not racially diverse but by virtue of our daughter works we have created a multi-culture atmosphere in the mother church."

In 1993, Bro. Bradshaw assumed the pastorate of the United Pentecostal Church of Troy which was founded by his parents in September of 1973 in the living room of their home. "My father had an acoustic neuroma brain tumor which caused major health issues for him and prevented him from being able to continue as pastor," he said. "We started considering daughter works to fill a need in locations that did not have a church. Also, individuals came forward with a burden for certain areas after we had cast a vision about starting daughter works. We target cities and ethnic groups that are not being served and reached with the Gospel."

Bro. Bradshaw said the process of starting daughter works is threefold in nature. "First, we start off doing home Bible studies and reaching out to the community," he explained. "We hope to get contacts for the Bible studies. Craft fairs, flea markets, canvassing, homecomings and other social events help us to make critical connections. After the Bible studies are going well and we become comfortable with the direction of our efforts, we move the work to a preaching point. A preaching point is simply conducting church services in homes, senior citizen halls, VFW halls, libraries or any other location that can be rented or used on a service-by-service basis. This can be done weekly or bi-weekly. Lastly, once we see that the work has taken root with a core group of saints, we make application for it to become a daughter work. It is at this point that we look to secure a building to hold service on a regular basis."

According to Bro. Bradshaw, when starting a daughter work, several questions should be considered. How much of a financial investment is the mother church willing to make? Does someone have a burden to lead the daughter work? Are you willing to send several saints into the church plant in order to secure its success? What other resources are you willing to commit to the daughter work, such as music equipment, chairs, tables, literature and sound equipment?

"Buy-in is critical from the mother church saints and leadership," he said. "One unique item about our daughter works is that my dad started our first one. After a prolonged health issue with the benign brain tumor, he received his healing and regained his strength around 1998. In 2000, they went into Mascoutah, Illinois and raised up a Hispanic daughter work. God has sent us the help to reach the Latinos in the St. Louis Metro area, and we have a second Hispanic daughter work in Fairmont City, Illinois as well.

"It has been a tremendous blessing to our church to participate in these daughter works and on occasion, when the daughter churches worship with the mother church, it is wonderful to see the reflection of heaven right before our eyes."

If you have questions for Pastor Bradshaw, you can contact him at (618) 920-8060 or by email at revbb63@aol.com.

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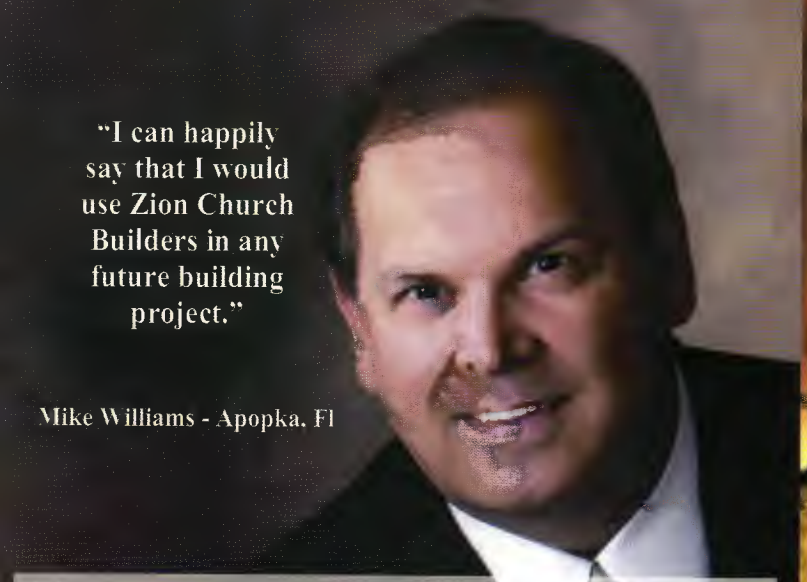

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Word To The Wise:

"Children seldom misquote you. In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said."

* * * * * * *

A New "Saint"

Johnny's mother looked out the window and noticed him "playing church" with their cat. The cat was sitting quietly, and he was preaching to it. She smiled and went about her work.

A while later she heard loud meowing and hissing and ran back to the open window to see Johnny baptizing the cat in a tub of water.

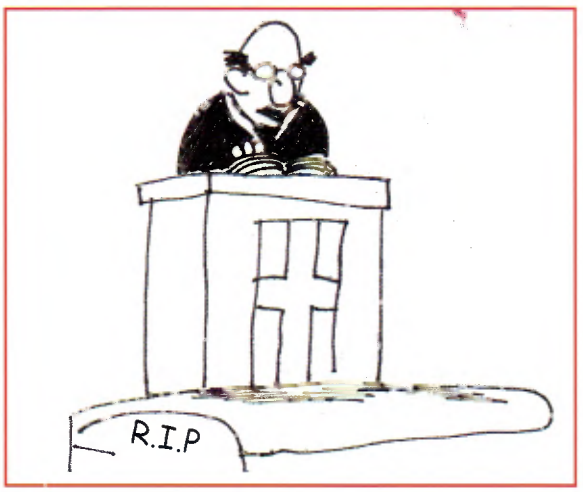
She called out, "Johnny, stop that! The cat's afraid of water!"

Johnny looked up at her and said, "He should have thought about that before he joined my church."

* * * * * * *

Money . . .

* It can buy you a house but not a home.
* It can buy you a bed but not sleep.
* It can buy you a clock but not time.
* It can buy you a book but not knowledge.
* It can buy you a position but not respect.
* It can buy you a church pew but not salvation.
* It can buy you medicine but not health.
* It can buy you blood but not life.



"We can remember George as a convicted counterfeiter or as an unselfish and generous man who paid off our church mortgage.

A man was walking through a German forest when he saw this deep cave, so he decided to go exploring. He walked in a ways and saw a flickering light far ahead so he walked to it.

He was surprised to find an old man with a large stack of music scores in front of him. The old man was rubbing the notes off of the paper and laying the blank sheets aside.

The walker was astonished when he saw who he thought the man was. It seemed to be Mozart! He asked, "Are you Mozart?"

"Yes," the old man replied.

"Would that be Wolfgang Mozart?"

Again the reply was "Yes."

"Well, you've been dead for centuries. What are you doing rubbing notes off of music?"

The old man looked up. "I'm decomposing!"

* * * * * * *

A Hearing Aid

A saint was telling his pastor, "I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art. Now I can hear every word you say when you preach!"

"Really?" answered the pastor. "What kind is it?"

"Twelve-thirty . . ."

"I really regret you moving, Mr. Thigpen. You've been excellent material for sermons."

Walking on Water

As a duck hunter, I was in the market for a new bird dog a few years ago. My search finally ended when I found a dog that could not only retrieve but could actually walk on water! Of course, I bought him immediately but wasn't sure how I'd tell my hunter buddies.

I decided to try to break the news to one friend at a time starting with a long-time buddy who was also a hunter. He was a pessimist by nature, but I invited him to hunt with me and my new dog.

As we waited, carefully concealed by the shore, a flock of ducks flew by. We fired, and ducks fell at a distance. The dog responded and jumped into the water. The dog, however, did not sink but instead walked across the water to retrieve the birds, never getting more than his paws wet. This continued all day long – each time a duck fell, the dog walked across the surface of the water to retrieve it.

My pessimist buddy watched carefully, saw everything but did not say a single word about it the entire day.

On the drive home the silence was suddenly broken when my friend said, "Too bad about your dog."

A little surprised at his statement, I asked, "What do you mean?"

"I mean," drawled the pessimist slowly, "it's too bad ya got stuck with one that can't swim."

* * * * * * *

A bald, wizened little man was rocking in a chair on his porch, smiling happily. A passerby, charmed by his smile, came up to him and said, "I couldn't help noticing how happy you look. What's your secret for a long, happy life?"

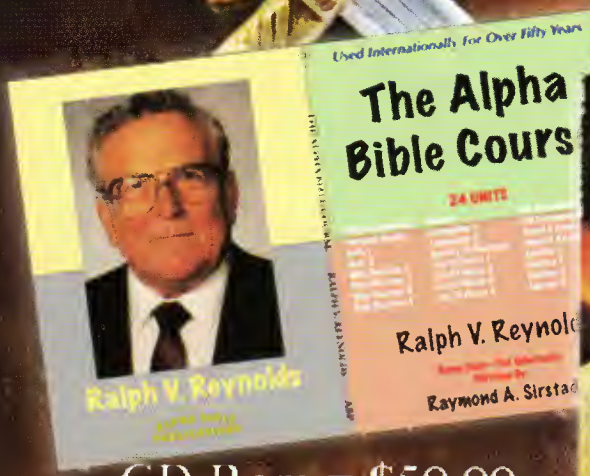
"I smoke three packs of cigarettes a day," he said with a toothless grin. "I drink a case of whiskey a week, eat fast food and never exercise."

"No way! How old are you?"

"Twenty-six."

"So that's what tithing was all about."

Time Spent Sharpening the Sword is Time Well Spent



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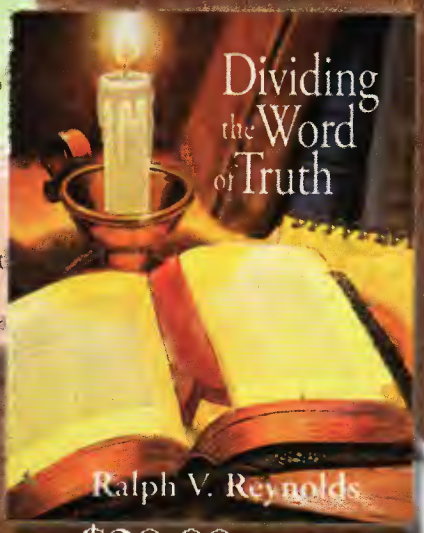

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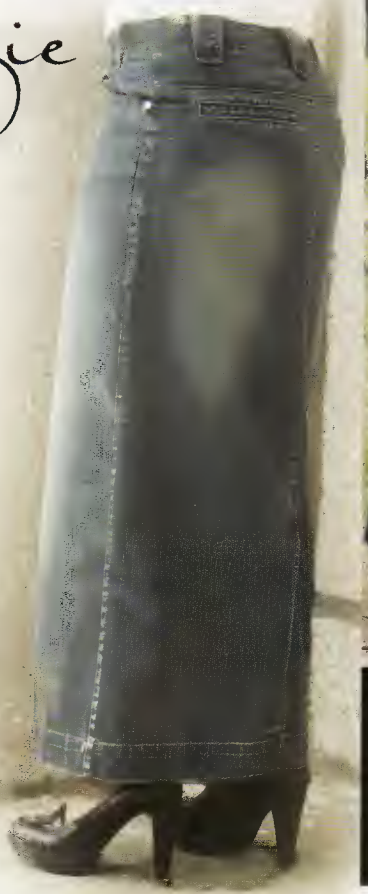

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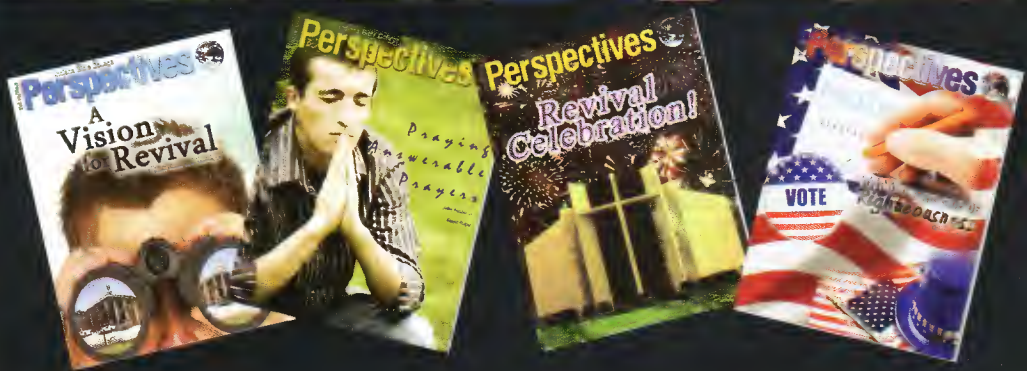

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