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Perspectives



CONNECTING POINT
FOR REVIVAL



"Sure Mom . . . I Know Slender Man"

Paul D. Mooney

"Never before have children had such unfiltered, unlimited access to pornographic and violent material. Naïve parenting is not going to cut it."

I asked my daughter, Jaye Rodenbush, if I could share another of her articles with you this month. This article speaks directly to the cultural battle we are facing as parents and grandparents. Let us think on these things. Jaye teaches at IBC, is an anointed speaker and writes about current cultural and moral issues that affect Christian women and families on her blog entitled "Her Candle Goeth Not Out By Night" at www.jayerodenbush.com.

I write with heavy heart as a fellow parent. The enemy is so clever, and it can be easy to miss the little distractions he throws at our families and children. I think the discussion has to begin with two central questions. Concerning our children, we must ask, "What happens when the lines between fantasy and reality become indistinguishable?" And concerning our parenting, we must ask, "Has complacency yielded to complicity?"

The gruesome but true story is this. Last May, three 12-year-old girls in Wisconsin packed up their American Girl dolls for a sleepover. They were good friends, in and out of each other's homes, and attended school together. Yet, two of the girls had an evil plan to attack the other girl. Why? What causes two seemingly innocent girls to decide to pick up a knife and stab their friend a total of 19 times? Their plan was to impress Slender Man – an Internet-driven fantasy character who is extremely popular among the preteen age group. The two attackers had become obsessed with Slender Man and wanted to serve as his proxies, to earn his favor. Miraculously, the victim lived. But their intent and desire was to kill her as a sacrifice to their Internet idol.

John Kass wrote the following for *The Chicago Tribune* (chicagotribune.com) in response to the Slender Man stabbing. "It is a culture that has fallen in love with magic and fantasy. It is a culture that takes fantasy symbols of evil – the vampire, the witch – and transforms them into heroes of great virtue. It is a culture where dark magic is celebrated, but religion is considered bothersome." Kass asks his readers to consider the difference between the classic fantasy literature of the past and what is offered today. This genre in historical literature was written to show contrast between light and darkness. "[It was] written back when evil sought your soul. Now evil wants to be your friend, marry you and hang out on 'Twilight.'" And, for the young girls in Wisconsin, evil wanted them to do its bidding.

Slender Man is the modern, electronic version of the Boogie Man, a faceless phenom with tentacle-like appendages that abducts children after he has lured them into the woods. He is a meme, created as the result of a paranormal website's forum. He is now a cultural marvel that has stories, supposed sightings and urban legends spreading like wildfire through various media. He is found on Facebook, Instagram, horror blogs, chat rooms and in video games. A simple app search on an iPhone brings up nearly 400 Slender Man-related games/apps, many of them free for download. There is even a modification for the uber-popular videogame series Minecraft. While Minecraft itself can be played without accessing the Slender Man mod, kids will still have access to Minecraft's take on the Slender Man character called Endermen. These are creepy block

figures, with long arms designed to look like Slender Man and they can be provoked into turning hostile. Minecraft itself has attracted 33 million players in just four years (pcpro.co.uk). These players have racked up more than 1 billion hours, the equivalent of over 114,000 years, of play time on the Xbox 360 edition alone (gamespot.com).

There is truly a flood of this type of content, and its grip upon the minds of our young people is frightening. As Christian parents we are forced into the task of trying to keep up with the latest devices the enemy chooses to wield against our children. It is daunting. Is there a balance between isolation and protection? We don't want to expose our children to the junk of this world, but we can't have them so insulated that they can't recognize the tools of the enemy or defend themselves against them either.

It is a battle. But perhaps too many of us are just overwhelmed. It means learning new technology, new language, a whole new culture. And so, we slap on a badge of naïveté and throw up our hands. But is being naïve really all that noble? Or is it merely an excuse to keep our heads in the sand and avoid the reality of what it means to raise children in a culture that is obsessed with violence, sexuality and death? This is new territory. Never before have children had such unfiltered, unlimited access to pornographic and violent material. Naïve parenting is not going to cut it. Either we educate our children or the enemy will.

So, I asked him, "Son, do you know Slender Man?" My son, the seven year old with wide, innocent eyes, the one who goes to church at least three times a week, the one who attends an Apostolic Christian school, the one who we monitor what he sees and with what he plays, the Bible quizzer. I asked him, "Do you know Slender Man?" I'm not sure I was prepared for the response. "Sure Mom...I know Slender Man! The guys play that on the playground." These things are filtering through. The enemy has his foot in the door. Our door!

Should we really be surprised? Parents provide their children access to all types of explicit content, hours of movies, video games and fantasy books, yet expect that the same children, who possibly still believe in the Tooth Fairy and Santa Claus, will be able to discern the blurred lines between fantasy and reality when it comes to evil. Children whose brains are not yet fully formed, whose thought processes are still developing, are exposed to violence and filth, and then are expected to put it aside, and to understand that it's all just a game, just a story. But, for some, it's all they know, there is no distinction. No doubt in Wisconsin, the darkness consumed those girls' hearts and minds until the lines were no longer distinguishable.

In his article, Kass challenges parents with these words: "All living things take on the characteristics of their environment. Plants soak up nutrients or poisons, as do animals. Young humans do, too." We must pray together that the environment of our homes is filled with the Holy Spirit. It is our only hope against the enemy who seeks to steal the innocence and destroy the joy and peace of our children. But it will not happen by coincidence or happenstance. We must saturate our homes and churches with prayer and deepen our spiritual commitment, lest our parental complacency yields to complicity.



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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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Feature: Connecting Point For Revival

(Dwayne Cornelius)

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MENTORING

Compiled by
John Fonzer Jr.

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



Jerry L. Burns, Albuquerque, NM – As a former missionary of 23 years, I have started a Bible school in two countries. When I came home from the mission field, we started a Bible school here at our local church. There has never been a lack of students. In fact, I am wondering how we are going to handle these that are coming up.

We have arranged it so we can license four new ministers a year and

give them six months of preaching experience. We will not license a minister unless they go through our Bible school. We currently have five in training plus 11 local ministers. Our MIT program is a two-year process. We have probably sent off six to eight in 10 years and graduated 40 or 50.

We don't insist that ministerial candidates get a higher secular education, but we do encourage it because after they are licensed, over 80% of UPCI ministers are bi-vocational. They are going to have to provide for their families. It's important to get a secular education. Going to a trade school to learn a skill is even better.

We don't baby our ministers. We test them to make sure they know there is a process to go through. The pressure of materialism is a major obstacle for young people going into the ministry today. They look around and see the prosperity of their parents and friends, and there is a tendency to want to do it the easy way. Also, some of them have become top heavy: their heads have become too large for their feet. I tell them, "When pride walks on the platform, God walks off."



John Arcovio, Santa Rosa, CA – Mentorship is when you come alongside someone for a season. Mentees are there for a season and then they move on. Among those I call a mentor group, which numbers around 50, I do a monthly phone call. It's a time when I share vision and revelation with everyone as to what the Spirit is saying to the Church and to build them in their particular lives and ministries. If they have a very important decision, they call me. They are not what I call a son though. Sonship is a lifetime bond and

requires intensive time. In true sonship, the only way a son is released is if the father dies or in the event of a terrible falling.

Glaringly, the first obstacle for people coming into the ministry today is Pentecostals' rejection of the fivefold ministry. Maybe they are called to the office of apostle or prophet, but they have stymied their gift to do something that may be either a second or third gift, so they are frustrated because there is no fruit.

I'm seeing a great decline in the younger generation, partly due to what Paul said. You may have 10,000 instructors, but there is an absolute drought of fathers. We've had a lot of politicians and authorities but not true fathers.

I've either commissioned or launched at least 160. I minister to the body of Christ: the independent or whatever, I just want to see young men excited about ministry and the things of God. I have no desire to start an organization. My group is the UPC.



J. Laverne Tyson, Indianapolis, IN – The Lord told me to open our pastors' school to people of other denominations. There are 40 students of various affiliations. There is also a smaller, more intimate group of 20 men and women that I mentor. I meet with them more often and in more intimate settings. The areas of specificities are more unique to their positions. Those people are under our covering. When they come up under our umbrella, they sign an agreement. I will only cover them if their lives are in order.

An upcoming class is "How to Start Your Own Media Ministry." We deal with subjects such as finances, having a working relationship with your official board and dealing with difficult members.

I don't begrudge anyone who wants to get a higher education in our culture. Some pastors' expertise demands that they get extra-curricular education and training. Unless people have 'that piece of paper,' they can't get in some prisons and nursing homes.

Of the three churches we have pastored, we have sent nine or 10 into the pastorate over the years out of our womb and dozens and dozens of ministers. We have ordained over 300 people.

Our numbers are up. A lot of them are coming in for the wrong reasons though. It's hard to find people who aren't entering into the ministry for the glory and finances. They are caught up in superficiality, and they don't understand the power and necessity of prayer. They don't want to wait for anything. Depth comes through prayer and study of the Word. That comes through patience.



William Love, Charlottesville, VA – I began my ministry under Rev. M.J. Williams about 30 years ago. First, I cleaned the church, mowed the lawn and began to do home Bible studies along with other institutional ministries. I also began a bus ministry. The one thing that today's young candidates lack is encouragement from their seniors. This discourages and defeats them.

We are currently working with four license candidates and have had the privilege of sending six into the ministry. Our ministerial

training program involves teaching them as well as talking with and encouraging them on a weekly basis. Bible college is very important, but so is sitting under seasoned pastors in order to have a balanced education in Kingdom work. I encourage furthering one's education on a daily basis through in-home helps, taking courses online as well as exposing oneself to preaching on tapes, videos and recorded media.

We live in a secular world, so secular training is needed as well as spiritual training. I strongly believe in education. It's important that we understand the people in order to love them like Jesus does.

We are seeing more men, especially younger men and women desiring to enter ministry. A lot of new entries are looking for a pulpit ministry to get, instead of making one. High-tech has its value but will never replace a one-on-one contact. The way Jesus does it will not change. As John Maxwell said, "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

CONNECTING POINT

FOR REVIVAL

By Susan Thomas



The Cornelius family
Smithville, TN

Just an hour east of Nashville is the small factory and farming town of Smithville, Tennessee, home of the dynamic congregation of New Life United Pentecostal Church, pastored by IBC alumnus Dwayne Cornelius. "Welcome to the most exciting church in DeKalb County" is the signature phrase at New Life. "We believe the church you attend should be the most excit-

ing place you ever go," explains Pastor Cornelius.

Personal History

Pastor Cornelius was born in West Palm Beach, Florida. He received and accepted his calling to preach at the age of 18. After high school graduation, he attended IBC in 1991-1993, graduating with an AA in Theology and a minor emphasis in Christian Education.

"In July of 1993, I married Heather Graham from Peoria, Illinois and returned to my home church in West Palm where our newly elected pastor, Daniel Kyle, put us to work," states Bro. Cornelius. "We assisted in starting a Christian school - Forest Hill Christian Academy, ACE - and in 1995 we were made the youth pastor at our local church. We were blessed to become involved in a wider ministry by serving the Florida District as sectional youth leader and worked in that capacity until 2001. While in Florida, I also received my General Contractors License and worked in that field while being youth pastor.

"In 2001 we relocated to Palm Bay, Florida to work with Pastor

David Myers. At that time I continued to be bi-vocational, working in construction and in different capacities with the church. Then in 2003, we accepted a full-time position in Jacksonville, Florida working under Pastor Lester Green. I was the Pastoral Assistant and Assistant Administrator for the Jacksonville Christian Academy. While in Jacksonville, we continued to work with the youth as well as helping with the Christian school operated by the church." In 2007, Bro. Cornelius and his wife accepted the senior pastor position in Smithville. Since arriving in Smithville, they have been blessed to see God grow their congregation from around 50 people to over 200.

Principles of Growth

"Love people, have good church, and build solid doctrinal foundations." These are the principles Pastor Cornelius uses to keep New Life vital and growing. "Upon preparing for every service, we prayerfully determine to be a place that the presence of God can be felt and lives can be changed," he said. "I have used things that I have learned in every place we have had the opportunity to serve. This is how we have developed our style and principles of growth which God is blessing.

"When we arrived, we began a discipleship program with the entire existing congregation. This evolved into the present ongoing program for all new members. Discipleship is definitely a priority at New Life. We have incorporated many resources as well as writing much of our own new material in-house to develop our current extensive discipleship program."

He adds, "About every two years we reassess our program and classes to make sure we are keeping it current and relevant, and to be sure people are continuing to learn, grow closer in their relationship with God and involvement in the church." Also, New Life uses visitor follow-up programs, home Bible studies and community involvement to draw in new people. When visitors come in the door, the New Life family makes sure they feel welcome and find a place that is friendly and genuinely concerned about them and their needs.



The exterior of New Life United Pentecostal Church of Smithville, TN



The Connection Center, home to a daycare, gymnasium, kitchen, offices, classrooms and more.

Diverse Ministry Programs

"We are continually developing new programs to help us grow and strengthen each member," said Pastor Cornelius. "Our newest addition is our visitor/new convert program, Connect Point. Connect Point leaders meet the guests and follow up on them after their first visit. Upon the follow-up, we transition them to a new convert class (Connect 101). Upon completion, they proceed into discipleship (Connect 102-106). The Connect Point system keeps them progressing through new, graduated material for a total of 36 weeks. While participating in Connect Point, the staff involves the new convert in a home Bible study and introduces them to the different departments available within the church," states Bro. Cornelius. "We understand that involvement is key in retaining new converts. We make sure new people understand how many ways they can be involved at every level of their personal growth."

Matthew 25 Ministries is also newly developed. This department is a venue for many different aspects the church was called to do in Matthew 25, such as Prison & Half Way House Ministry, food and clothing banks, assistance to elders, widows and single moms, and more home Bible studies.

The outreach of Matthew 25 also consists of community events, church bus transportation, and Nursing Home Ministry.

New Life has recently established a Spanish Ministry. Because of local industry needs, the Hispanic community is very significant in DeKalb County. "We have begun with Bible studies and a quarterly Spanish service and fellowships to build our base before moving to weekly services," said Bro. Cornelius. Also, free English classes have been offered to the Spanish-speaking people of the community.

"We also believe strongly in personal ministry development," he said. "We have two levels of leadership involvement and development. The first level is Connection Ministries. This is a group of about 50 people who desire more involvement in the work of the Lord. They are department leaders and others who plan and implement the majority of all activities and functions of the church. They are the first pool of people that we look to for help with any functions of the church. The second level is what we call Life Leaders. This is currently a group of 12 ministers who are either licensed or working toward license with the UPCI. Life Leaders meet twice a month for training and planning. We cover different aspects of the ministry. Some of the material we have developed in-house, but we also use materials by UPCI writers. We currently are using Bro. David Bernard's teaching found on Launch Your Ministry to begin our class discussions."

Pastor Cornelius adds, "These ministers are involved in home Bible studies, discipleship, service leading and preaching. God has given me a great passion for development of ministries. When we came to New Life, I was the only licensed minister in the church. We now have nine ministers and their wives. We also have very active, vital ministries that are typical to Apostolic churches, such as Children's Ministry, Student Ministry, Prime Timers (Elders), Young Marrieds, Singles and Music."

You Cannot Grow a Church by Remote Control

"You have got to get involved!" said Pastor Cornelius. "Being active in our community is our heartbeat. I feel strongly that the church needs to get out of the building and into the community. I am personally involved in the community as City Police Department Chaplain, member of the County Chamber of Commerce Board and coaching Little League sports. The church family is involved in many community events as well. We support and sing at such

events as the City Police Department "Cops for Kids" Banquet, ACS Relay for Life, and community memorial services. Several non-UPC churches in our community have invited our Praise Team to be a part of their functions. Our Children's Ministry has taken its puppet ministry to many different community events. We host a community Easter Egg Hunt which averages over 500 in attendance. Our Harvest Festival usually hosts over 1,000 in attendance," informs Bro. Cornelius. "Being involved in the

community really pays off in terms of ministry opportunities.

"The New Life Drama Department presents the Reality House in October, a Children's Musical in December, and an Easter Drama on Easter weekend. These events draw hundreds into our facilities, giving us access to many new connections while we present the story of Christ to our world. During the summer months we keep

attendance climbing using Focus Services, emphasizing such things as educators, professionals, friends and family, neighbors, and prime timers – a Sunday to revisit our old-fashioned roots in Pentecost. We hold services at the local nursing homes and Bible studies at the jail and halfway houses. This has gained us

tremendous exposure and respect within our community."

Planning for Growth

Desperate for more space, New Life leadership began planning a building program in 2011. As plans were being drawn, the Lord blessed the church with a 36,000 square foot department store located next to the church. After extensive remodeling (another blessing from the Lord) the new facility was renamed the Connection Center. This gave New Life a total of over 50,000 square feet to use in reaching and blessing the Smithville community. It now houses Kids Connection Early Learning Center, a daycare which is open to the public. The Connection Center also includes a full gymnasium, men's and ladies' exercise rooms, a student auditorium, game room, church offices, banquet facilities, a commercial kitchen and nine classrooms. These facilities enable the church to connect with the community further by hosting basketball tournaments, banquets for high school functions, and renting to private parties for personal events. Pastor Cornelius commented, "This was something I had secretly desired to gain access to but was almost afraid to tell anyone about. It just seemed too ambitious for our little town. Finally, with my wife's encouragement, I asked the church to pray about it with me. Soon, the owners of the building made an unbelievable arrangement and this huge empty building was ours! When we were planning our use for this new facility, some said, 'What are we going to do with all this space?' Now, just two years later, the impact it has had in our community is incredible and we cannot imagine how we got along without it."

Closing Remarks

"The principles we have used in the community can be used anywhere," concluded Pastor Cornelius. "Growth and revival is not dependent on the size of the city or the location of the facility. Conventional thinking would never accept that a small city of less than 6,000 and a county of less than 20,000 would ever support an Apostolic church as large, vital and growing as New Life. However, church growth based on the principles of teaching foundational truths, developing personal ministries, having great Apostolic services, and loving people cannot fail. This is how we plan to enjoy continued Apostolic revival until Jesus comes. This is how we plan to remain 'The Most Exciting Church in DeKalb County!'"



Top left clockwise: Pastor Cornelius baptizes a man; the pastor preaches to the congregation; interior view of sanctuary.



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Ten Books Church Leaders Simply Must Read

What are some books that have impacted your life? Steve Murrell, church planter and missionary to the Philippines, includes a list of the top 10 books that have had the greatest influence on his life:

1. *No Wonder They Call Him Savior* by Max Lucado. Taught me that complicated difficult-to-understand theological concepts can be communicated with clarity and that even a child can comprehend.
2. *C.T. Studd* by Norman Grubb. The C.T. Studd story, a missionary bio, planted seeds of sacrifice and service deep in my soul as a teenager. Not sure I would have stayed in Manila had I not read this foundational book about absolute surrender to the Lord.
3. *Knowing God* by J.I. Packer. Helped me know God, and made me want to know Him better. I have read this book over and over. Today it is held together by duct tape.
4. *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer. Ignited a lifelong desire to pursue and please God wholeheartedly. Reignites that desire every time I read a page.
5. *The Holiness of God* by R.C. Sproul. Opened my eyes the first time I read it. Opened my heart the second time. Pierced my heart the third time. Healed my heart the fourth. Every time I read this book, I go deeper with God.
6. *A History of Christianity: Volume I: Beginnings to 1500* by Kenneth Scott Latourette. The author's experience as a missionary to China and as a professor of Ecclesiastical History at Yale gave him a unique perspective on the expansion of the church.
7. *Focus* by Al Ries. I read a lot of leadership and business books. None has impacted the way I work or shaped the way I think more than this one.
8. *The Making of a Leader* by Frank Damazio. This book has influenced how I think about leadership, how I lead, and how I equip and empower leaders.
9. *Shepherding Your Child's Heart* by Tedd Tripp. Whatever my sons have become as men, my wife and I owe a debt of gratitude to this book. Best parenting book, period.
10. *The Old Man and the Boy* by Robert Ruark. My dad's all-time favorite book. I finally read it when I had my first son, and I understood Dad's parenting philosophy as never before.



PURE Religion
by Stephen Judd



Lance's Letter to his Sponsors

By Stephen Judd, TCM President



Stephen Judd
www.mansionkids.org

I am writing you from Urshan College, where I have been living since August. I cannot even begin to tell you how exciting it is to be able to attend Bible College.

I want you to know that I greatly appreciate you and TCM for continuing to help support

me. I'm not sure if you know my story, but when I was 11 years old, my mother committed suicide. This was a nightmare for my father and me, and he was not able to overcome his grief. When I was 15, dad overdosed on drugs and left me orphaned. I actually discovered TCM on-line, and a couple of weeks later, my aunt brought me to Tupelo.

When I arrived at the Mansion, I was hardened and angry—scared and hurt—fearful and hopeless. But with the help of the staff, having sponsors like you, and coming to know Jesus Christ—that all began to change for me. Now, I am a blood bought child of the King. Not long after coming to TCM, I was baptized and was

filled with the Holy Ghost.

I am blessed that TCM has allowed me to continue to receive support from you. I still have a place to call "home" when I need to get away for a weekend or a holiday. My classes this semester are Choir, Old Testament Literature, Introduction to Theology and College Success. I am so hungry for knowledge of the Word of God and consider it a privilege to be here.

Thank you for all that you do. I

hope that you are doing amazing. I want you to know that I think of you and pray for you often. I will be "home" at TCM for Christmas and I want to thank you in advance for the part you play in helping to supply my needs, wants and college expenses.

God bless you. I hope to make you, Bro. Judd,

the TCM staff and board proud of me as I continue to pursue the things of God and allow Him to turn my once broken life into something great for His service.

Love,
Lance Lewis

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Lance Lewis

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A NEED FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Interviewed By Grace Lyon



The James family
Springfield, MO

Could you tell me a little about yourself and your ministry?

My husband and I began evangelizing on a part-time basis right after Bible college. We traveled for the first few years, preaching regular evangelistic

revivals and doing some children's revivals with my in-laws and sister-in-law. Never had I done puppets in a ministry type setting. I just knew it was something I was willing to try. I caught on quite quickly to technique and developing signature characters. After jobs moved my in-laws to Florida, some calls kept coming in for a need for a children's evangelist. We didn't think it was something we wanted to pursue on our own, as we had a routine that worked for us as a family of five. But the Lord knew He had a need for us to fill. After we "tweaked" our routine for our children's service to accommodate just my husband and me, opportunities began to come about regularly for us to minister. We began traveling as R.E.A.C.H. Ministries, which stands for Reaching Every Adult, Child & Home. Our ministry was multi-faceted; therefore, we were able to minister to a variety of ages and venues. After a few years of traveling and trying to work secular jobs, we realized it was time to make a choice and take a giant leap of faith. So, for the last eight years we traveled as full-time evangelists. During those eight years of being full time, God opened many doors that we had not yet had a chance to walk through. We were privileged to minister in several district junior camps, Bible quiz rallies and national Sunday School events, just to list a few. Until September of this year we have happily traveled sharing the gospel with children of all ages. In September, we were elected as pastor of Harvest Ministries in Springfield, Missouri. Although we know it was God's perfect timing for us, it was still a bittersweet transition. We are hopeful for future opportunities to minister to children in other districts once in a while and in our home church as well. Children's ministry will always be part of who we are, and I believe that it will be a significant avenue in which we

will reach the lost of our community!

What does children's evangelism mean to you?

Children's ministry is very dear to my heart. Through this avenue of ministry I have personally seen souls of all ages come to know Christ. I love that the simplest of messages brought by a puppet or object lesson can touch a child and adult alike. I love seeing children begin their relationship with the Lord in these types of services.

Is there a need for more children's evangelists?

There is a definite need for more children's evangelists. Pastors and district leaders are always telling us that. There is a need for them to be more spread out across America too. It is hard for the smaller districts and churches to bring in evangelists from clear across the nation.

What are some requirements to have a successful children's ministry?

There are several ingredients to have a successful children's ministry. I believe the first is PASSION. Anyone can entertain children for a while, but someone with real passion and desire with God's help will affect the lives of children they minister to. I also think you need to have a CHILD-LIKE quality in your own personality. That doesn't mean childish, but you should be able to think and gear things to be on their level and have fun doing it. Another ingredient is to be FLEXIBLE. Anytime you work with children, anything can happen. You will learn from your mistakes in children's ministry. Things that work for one group may not work for another, so allow this to make you stronger. BALANCE would be another ingredient, I would say that you need to be successful. What I mean is balance in your ministry style. I believe there is a time and place to have fun and cut up, but you must have a time for spiritual application and letting God move in the lives of the children. Also, a vital ingredient is finding your NICHE. Be comfortable being who you are and using the talents God has given you. There are many varieties and styles of children's ministry out there, but you can't be all those. The last ingredient would be to be INFORMED. I believe to stay ahead and

on the cutting edge of children's ministry you must educate yourself. Go to seminars, read books, subscribe to children's ministry newsletters, blogs, etc. and network with others involved in children's ministry.

Do you help other churches start children's ministries?

Yes! We have helped several churches either start their children's ministry from the ground up or revamp their program.

What would you say to a church that is trying to start a children's ministry?

Well there's a lot to be considered when starting a children's ministry at a church.

1. Make sure safety precautions have been addressed and set in place.
2. It is best to utilize staff that has a burden for children and that type of ministry, not just warm bodies.
3. Remember back to what it was like to be child. What drew your focus/held your attention? An exciting children's ministry should be one that a child can taste, see, experience and REMEMBER!
4. Obviously, I'm a bit biased, but if you can incorporate some type of puppetry in your program you wouldn't regret it.
5. Make sure your children's program has identity, not just "First UPC Sunday School." Come up with something that your children's ministry program would be known by in town, that would turn heads and make people say, "That sounds fun ... maybe my kids should visit there." Our youth groups are great about labeling themselves and giving their programs identity and ownership. We should do the same for the little guys.
6. Proper training for your staff is imperative. You want to give quality to your children and it's important that we're educated, updated and networked.

What resources would you recommend?

Resources are everywhere. Internet is your best help for up-to-date resources/ideas. Networking with other children's ministry leaders is a great way to stay energized and gain new ideas. Keep in mind, while looking for resources and material, a church will likely have to tweak the material to fit doctrinally and keep the "worldly influences" out of your program.

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

apostolic alendar 2014

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SPEAKERS	CONTACT / INFO
NOV 5-7	West Coast Conference - Fresno, CA 31st Annual Fresno Meeting	Fresno Convention Center, 848 M Street, Fresno, CA	James Townley, Jimmy Johnson, Rocky Dunlap, Wesley Jackson, Tommy Jackson, Ron Garrett and Jesse Galindo	For more information call: (559) 225-1622 www.truthtabfresno.org
JAN 1-4	Times of Refreshing - Odessa, TX TOR will be hosting a fellowship dinner Friday and Saturday for pastors, full-time evangelists, assistant pastors, missionaries and retired pastors.	Life Challenge Church Odessa, TX Host Pastor: Dan Smelser	To be announced	For more info: visit www.gordonpoe.com/TOR/conference . (717) 755-7202
JAN 30	Indiana Bible College LIVE RECORDING Under the direction of Lindel M. Anderson, Dean of Music	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN Host: Paul 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 19-21	WinterFire 2015 WinterFire's focus is ministering to those in ministry. Our objective is that every member of your team will leave renewed and refreshed.	First Cathedral Bloomfield, CT	Sam Emory, Jelaine Lumpkin, Elias Limones, Mark Morgan, Theodore Brooks, Jerry Jones, David Bernard, David Hudson and I.J. Cunningham	For more info: visit www.winterfire.org or visit Twitter: winterfireconf or Facebook: winterfire
FEB 26-28	Indiana Bible College CONNECT 2015 Your chance to visit the IBC campus and see what Bible college is all about!	Indiana Bible College 1502 Sumner Ave Indianapolis, IN 46227 Host: Paul D. Mooney	Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, Jason Gallion, Bobby Killmon, Lindel Anderson, others.	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
MARCH 19-21	Times of Refreshing - Tulare, CA Services times are Thursday and Friday at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday at 6:30 p.m.	Living Christ Church Tulare, CA Host Pastors: James McPhail, Don Demyan, Brian Allard and Arthur Law	Jeff Arnold, Doug White and Gordon Poe	For more info: visit www.gordonpoe.com/TOR/conference . (717) 755-7202
APRIL 15-17	Indiana Bible College MUSIC FEST 2015 Under the direction of Lindel M. Anderson, Dean of Music	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN Host: Paul 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
JULY 22-24	Mile High Conference 2015 Revival of Prayer, Praise and Evangelism	To be announced	To be announced	(303) 758-5900 www.cacdenver.org DEH2@comcast.net
JULY 2015	IMPACT Family Conference 2015 Day sessions to meet the needs of your entire family unit (Married, Single, Parents, Teens & Children) and your church leadership.	To be announced	To be announced	For detailed schedule, visit www.woodlawn-church.cc (601) 736-5128
AUG 2015	Arkansas Campmeeting - North Little Rock, AR A conference where Apostolic doctrine is not only preached but embraced. The message of Acts 2:38 remains the same!	First Pentecostal Church of North Little Rock, 1401 Calvary Dr., North Little Rock, AR Host Pastor: Joel Holmes	To be announced	For more info visit www.arkansascampmeeting.com
AUG 2015	Indiana Bible College Fall Semester Begins Register for Fall classes today!	Indiana Bible College 1502 Sumner Ave. Indianapolis, IN President Paul Mooney	Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, Lindel Anderson, Dave Brown, Bobby Killmon, Jim Sleeve, others.	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
AUG 2015	Investing in Futures A conference for those who invest in children. Educating, encouraging and equipping children's ministry workers.	The Apostolic Sanctuary, 1501 John Deere Parkway, Silvis, IL 61239 Host Pastor: Gary Randol	To be announced	For more info: visit invest-in-futures.com
SEPT 2015	Mid-America Renewal Conference (MARC) Indianapolis, Indiana - 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	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
SEPT 2015	Apostolic Doctrine Conference Strengthening Our Doctrinal Foundation	To be announced	To be announced	For more info: www.newliferrehaute.com or 812-877-9348
OCT 2015	91st 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 website at: www.upci.org

Church Growth: Maintaining a Ministry Balance



Robert L. Rodenbush

■ Church Today

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College Christian Clubs May No Longer Require Their Leaders to be Christian

The Chronicle of Higher Education reported that in September of 2014 California State University withdrew its official recognition from an on-campus Christian fellowship group because the group requires that the leaders of the group be Christian. Are they serious? College officials are calling these types of organizations "Exclusionary Religious Groups" and they will now be "barred from official events at which student groups recruit members" and they will likely have to pay to rent space for meetings, etc. Some private colleges have taken similar stands on this issue, including Bowdoin College, Vanderbilt and Tufts University.

Christian fellowship groups are being targeted by university officials despite the fact that these groups welcome any person who wishes to attend regardless of their religious beliefs, ethnicity or sexual orientation. Muslims, Jews and even atheists are welcome; sinners, fornicators, adulterers and homosexuals may attend. The issue at hand is whether or not these groups should be allowed to require that an individual accept the group's statement of faith before being allowed to become an official member of the group or a leader of the group. An individual does not have to accept the group's statement of faith to attend group functions or events; acceptance is only a prerequisite to membership or leadership in the group. It seems only logical that a member of a Christian club would be Christian and certainly that the president of the club be so. However, according to California State University this type of requirement is a violation of antidiscrimination policies.

These types of rulings are troublesome, and while for now they are only college campus policies and not laws, it is easy to see how this progression of thought can lead to legal complications and more persecution for Christians in the future. Imagine a nation where a church is not allowed to exclude a pastor's application because he or she is not Christian, or because he or she is living a morally sinful, adulterous or homosexual lifestyle. Imagine a church not being able to require that its voting members believe and adhere to Christian doctrine. At this point, churches can uphold and require belief in a statement of faith; however, if we are educating college students today that statements of faith are exclusionary and must be eliminated to avoid discrimination, will not these same people be tomorrow's lawmakers and society's future leaders? The enemy truly is going to and fro seeking any and every means possible, no matter how illogical or outlandish, to try to harass, undermine and ultimately devour the church. 1 Peter 5:8.



Bobby Killmon

■ Theology

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Is the word *one* in Deuteronomy 6:4 a "compound unity," proving the trinity instead of oneness?

While some suggest this, it is usually an uncritical restatement of people without a fundamental knowledge of Hebrew. To put it simply, *one* does in fact mean "one." I'll prove this by simply showing how the Hebrew word for *one*, "echad," is used. Some falsely claim the word *one* is overwhelmingly used of a compound unity like "one cluster of grapes" or "one flesh" but that's simply not the case. Here is a sampling from a good list on how it's overwhelmingly used: one place (Gen. 1:9), one man (Gen. 42:13), one law (Exod. 12:49), one side (Exod. 25:12), one ewe lamb (Lev. 14:10), one of his brethren (Lev. 25:48), one rod (Num. 17:3), one soul (Num. 31:28), one of those cities (Deut. 4:42), one way (Deut. 28:7), one ephah (1 Sam. 1:24), one went out into the field (1 Kings 4:39). This list demonstrates what the clear use of *echad* is, showing it simply means "one." We would expect this which goes along with the 3,000+ direct and indirect references to God's absolute numerical oneness in the OT alone.

The facts are the word *echad* occurs 970 times in the Bible and it is the number "one." It is a numeral adjective, the ordinary word for "one" like the English number "one." Hebrew Lexicons offer no support at all for any complication of the simple word *one*. It can mean one cluster, one flesh but never three clusters or three flesh. Further, Deut. 6:4 says God is "one LORD" which is the name of God in the OT. "One Tim" cannot ever be made into "three Tims." This passage is not discussing one substance, but one personal name describing the one God. That is why Jewish people don't accept this argument and even many Trinitarians are backing off from this claim due to the obvious way Hebrew functions. For instance, the *Theological Wordbook of the OT* discussing *one/echad* while suggesting "diversity within unity" admits this can only be in the plural form *achadim*. The problem is this plural adjective is never used for God! Further, even Abraham is called "one" (*echad*) and "the one father." No one argues he was a trinity or plurality of persons.

It is fascinatingly painful to watch the extreme linguistic acrobatics some have attempted to get around the clear way the Hebrew word *echad* is understood. This type of stretch when one looks at the way *echad* is used in the OT clearly shows trying to make "one" equal "three" (an arbitrary stopping point, why not 3 million?) to convince themselves and others borders on desperation.



T. W. Massengale

■ Church Growth

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My outreach director

seems to be having difficulty keeping all the outreach ministries working. I have asked him to oversee all evangelism ministries, which includes home Bible study, visitor

follow-up, promotions, jail ministry canvassing, tract ministry, as well as several others. Nothing seems to be working very effectively. What do you suggest?

In order to maintain peak efficiency in your church's outreach ministries, it's important that you not place too many responsibilities on one individual. When an individual has two or three major

responsibilities that'll require considerable time, then it stands to reason that one or more will go lacking. This has often been the case with the church outreach director.

Too often one individual is given the title of "Outreach Director" and placed in charge of all home Bible studies, all visitor follow-up, all canvassing and tract distribution and every other outreach that the church might have. Outreach is too critical to allow any of these vital ministries to fumble and fall. By separating visitor follow-up, home Bible study and canvassing out of one general outreach department and into their own individual department, each with its own director, you allow all these ministries to flourish.

Remember, the key is balance. By organizing your outreach ministries in

the above way, you better balance your resources to contribute to each area's success. Also, you must balance the outreach ministries ("outward" directed ministries) with those aimed at the perfecting of the saints ("inward" directed ministries).

Overbalance in either of these two areas can cause problems, like having one leg shorter than the other. Too many churches are overbalanced on one side or the other by an extreme. Your structure may not have exactly the same number of inward and outward departments, but it shouldn't be out of balance three or four departments. So I would say that while each of your church's ministries is important, none of them should ever be accomplished at the expense of another.

A close-up photograph of a person's hands in metal handcuffs, positioned behind vertical black prison bars. The person is wearing blue denim jeans. The background is dark and textured.

Freedom. **Help him** find it.

*...The LORD gives
freedom to the prisoners.
Psalm 146:7 NKJV*

Christian Prisoner Fellowship
NATIONAL CONFERENCE | FEBRUARY 11-13, 2015
The Anchor Church | Beaumont, TX | Pastor Johnathan Green

For more information, please visit:
www.ChristianPrisonerFellowship.net



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Carol Clemans

Spiritual Growth

carolclemans.org

**Heartbeat of Life
Enrichment Ministries Inc.**

My 'heartbeat' is teaching/counseling the Word of God for spiritual, emotional and relational growth. It's birthed from 50 years of studying and sharing His Word. As a Certified Pastoral Counselor for 22 years, I've been helping people with their emotional wounds. Salvation removes our sins, but it does not erase our memories or emotions.

Isaiah 61 tells us that Jesus Christ came to bring the 'good news' and to heal the broken hearts, set the captives free and comfort those who mourn, etc. Wounded hearts can have distorted thoughts regarding what has happened in their lives. They define who they are through the grid of their pain.

Emotional/spiritual healing happens when the wounded heart understands God's interpretation about the facts of their lives. God-based teaching/counseling helps them be 'transformed by renewing their minds' with God's truth.

Through teaching God's truth to your church, the wounded can be healed, sexual purity for all ages can be fortified, marriages can be loving and God-centered, parenting skills can be taught and holiness of the heart becomes the foundation for all truth because God said, "Be ye holy for I am holy."

Please go to my updated website: www.carolclemans.org. We have 80+ articles posted, my complete bio, mission statement, teaching CD's & DVD's. My ministry is a support to pastors/missionaries. I provide nationwide confidential phone & webcam counseling - to schedule call: (636) 448-0121.

Through Skype, I'm teaching Bible studies and seminars through the Internet to churches in the U.S. and to other countries. My book, *God's Design for Marriage*, is on the website.

Carol Clemans is a Certified Pastoral Counselor/Christian Life Coach/anointed Bible teacher. She does her ministry from Madison, MS - Pastor Jerry Dillon.



Brian Norman

Revival Concepts

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**What Are You Hearing and Seeing?
And Elijah said unto
Ahab, Get thee up, eat and
drink; for there is a sound of
abundance of rain" - 1 Kings
18:41**

It is amazing how much of the Bible focuses on our hearing and vision. There are positive and negative things associated with our hearing and vision; it all depends upon what we are hearing and seeing. Psalms 101:3 says, "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes; I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me." For years people have used this passage in support of not owning a TV, due to its overwhelmingly evil content. Yet the truth is this principle applies way beyond TV.

Notice the wordage used in Psalms 101:3: *that turn aside*. The reality is there are many *dream killers* in this world. They come in the form of things that attack the holy nature inside every believer filled with the Holy Ghost, as well as in the form of sabotage seeking to persuade God's man and people to "turn aside" from what Jesus Christ Himself has promised them. Anything, everything and everyone that seeks to turn us aside should be avoided like the plague. When the holy nature of the thing God has given us, being in His Kingdom under His reign, is attacked, we should avoid that. When our ability to hear and see God's plan of blessing and abundance is being diverted or diluted we should avoid that. At the moment we can no longer influence something or someone to be holy and conducive to the voice and vision of God - it should be avoided!

If you desire to bear fruit, to see the Kingdom expand and your church grow, then let me ask you - whose voice and vision are you listening to and seeing? If it is not God's, then evaluate your life and friends and pursue the King of all Kings. He has promised fruit, declared victory and has a voice that speaks salvation and a vision of an abundance of fruit and victory. Yes, my friend, Jesus Christ has destined for you to be victorious and you as a man of God to minister with authority, power and signs following. Yes, Jesus Christ has declared it His will and desire for your church to grow. Get in line and get in step; God's got a work for you to do.

Brian Norman travels full-time globally ministering. His past experience includes Pastoring and Church Planting. www.GlobalEvangelism.org Phone: 636-544-0627



Aubrey Jayroe

Finance

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**As we get toward the
end of the year, we look at
retired files, old records, old
tithing envelopes, and other
documents the church must
keep and try to determine
what to discard and what to
retain. Can you provide help as to maintaining
records and destroying them based on the IRS
requirements?**

I will answer this in two parts: first this month, and complete it in next month's article. In accordance with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, which makes it a crime to alter, cover up, falsify or destroy any document with the intent of impeding or obstructing any official proceeding, and in accordance with the need to maintain certain documents for verification and future usage, the General Accounting Office has provided a time frame for retaining or destroying records. For a church, we are providing a listing of how long to retain records, etc.

Corporate Records such as Reports to the Secretary of State or Attorney General, Articles of Incorporation, Board Meeting and Committee Meeting minutes, Annual Church Business Meeting minutes, Board policies and/or resolutions, by-laws and addendums to the by-law, IRS application for non-profit status, non-profit determination letter, and construction documents and sales tax exemption letters/documents should be permanently retained.

Other corporate records such as expired contracts and fixed asset records (after disposal of the asset) should be maintained for seven years after the expiration or removal date; general correspondence and general email messages should be kept at least three years.

Contribution Records such as donor records and annual donor statements should be maintained for 7 years; tithing envelopes should be maintained a minimum of 3 years.

Bank Records such as check registers, bank deposit slips, bank statements and reconciliation papers should be kept 7 years while electronic fund transfer documents should be kept for 5 years.

Legal Records such as appraisals, copyright registrations, environment studies, real estate documents, stock and bond records, and trademark records should be maintained permanently.

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



Delano Sherley

Accounting & Tax

Reimbursing Expenses Part 2

Churches are required to follow the IRS "accountable reimbursement plan" rules when reimbursing business expenses.

Proper documentation is a key requirement: the employee must document the business purpose of the expense.

One area where we find that many churches don't comply is in reimbursing automobile expenses. Some churches pay for fuel for the employee's personal

vehicle. Since it cannot be determined how much of each tank of gas is used for church business versus personal, this arrangement does not comply with the IRS rules.

For this reason, the IRS annually issues the allowable reimbursement rate for business travel. For 2014, the rate is \$0.56 per mile. This requires the employee to keep track of all business miles. The rate is set to cover fuel, wear and tear, depreciation and maintenance expenses. The church can reimburse at a lower rate if they choose.

It is also important to note that driving from home to the office and back

is considered "personal commuting" and should not be reimbursed. Mileage reimbursement is not taxable to the employee.

These rules apply when the employee owns his own vehicle. If the employer/church owns the vehicle, then all expenses related to the vehicle, including fuel, should be paid by the church. However, a mileage log is still required to determine the taxable value of any personal use of the vehicle.

Delano Sherley is a CPA and president of Delano Sherley & Associates, Inc. He can be reached at 513-737-1314. Delano Sherley & Associates, Inc., 3189 Princeton Road, Suite 228, Hamilton, OH 45011. Email: Delano@dsacpa.com Website: www.dsacpa.com

THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS**CA Parents Object to New Health Book That Exposes Adult Sexual Behaviors**

Parents in Fremont, California are pushing their school district to remove a health book with sections about oral sex, bondage and drug use from local high schools, saying



there is no way the publishers can adapt the adult content featured in the book.

The Fremont Unified School District purchased the textbook, *Your*

Health Today, over the summer to be taught to incoming freshmen in its six high schools. After overwhelming response from parents, Superintendent Jim Morris offered to have the books amended. However concerned parents want the books pulled from shelves because of its adult subject matter.

"There is so much adult content in this book; how can they remove everything?" Asfia Ahmed told *The Christian Post*. Ahmed is one of the parents behind the "Protect Fremont Children" petition against the books. The petition, signed by more than 2,300, explains that the textbook "exposes youth to sexual games, sexual fantasies, sexual bondage with handcuffs, ropes and blindfolds, sexual toys and vibrator devices, and additional instruction that is extremely inappropriate for 13 and 14 year-old youth."

Ahmed said she and other parents welcome sex education. However, she worries the *Your Health Today* book goes to extremes and gives young adults the impression that those behaviors are typical.

EDUCATIONAL TRENDS**Bush Compared to Hitler In School Assignment**

A Washington, D.C. public school gave a sixth grade class a homework assignment that required students to draw comparisons between former President George W. Bush and Adolf Hitler.

The assignment was given out recently at McKinley Tech Middle School in Washington, D.C. The assignment instructed students to draw examples from two texts they were assigned and compare similarities and differences between the two men.

When parents complained, they were told that the assignment was part of a curriculum unit approved by the school system.

**Pentecostal Growth Explosion Around the World**

So how can the Christian church grow in such an antagonistic environment? The reality is that though the early church was conceived in the wicked constraints of the Roman Empire, it still found a way to grow exponentially. Historians acknowledge this expansion happened, principally, through healing and deliverance. The supernatural is also facilitating growth these days, especially throughout the third world, with many testimonies and reports of healing, deliverance and the gifts of the Spirit. Luis Lugo points out that "Pentecostal beliefs and practices are literally reshaping the face of Christianity throughout the developing world."

Signs and wonders have proven to be a catalyst for a significant number of conversions in Mozambique, Kenya and other parts of Africa. The Pew Research Report acknowledges that, "The share of the population that is Christian in sub-Saharan Africa climbed from 9 percent in 1910 to 63 percent in 2010."

A similar impact is now being felt throughout Latin America. It was recently reported over 40 percent of the Guatemalan population closely identifies with Pentecostal-Charismatic Christianity. In the same way, Argentina has multitudes filling up soccer stadiums and transforming the ethos of their nation. One Catholic detractor exclaims: "Not only does Pentecostalism claim at least 70 percent of all Latin American Protestants, but it also exerts great influence on many 'renewed' mainline Protestant denominations, such as Presbyterians and Methodists, who have had to adopt pneuma-centric practices [i.e. healing, deliverances, tongues] to remain relevant."

Brazil is also experiencing accelerated growth due to supernatural displays of power. Pastor Marcio Valadao of Lagoinha Baptist Church exclaimed in 2011, "In 1998 there were more or less 5,000 members. Today we have surpassed 35,000." Similarly, Paul Strand observes that, "Christianity is increasing in Brazil. If the trend continues, it is predicted that more than half will be evangelical Christians by 2020. It's a place where belief in miracles and healings are high."

Signs and wonders are also transforming the vast continent of Asia. China only had around 1 million Protestants in 1949. Now there are conservatively "more than 58 million Protestants in China." Professor Yang, a noted religious researcher in China, believes this number will swell to around 160 million by 2025. He says, "By 2030, China's total Christian population...would exceed 247 million, placing it above Mexico, Brazil and the United States as the largest Christian congregation in the world."

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ Of the twelve most recent studies on the link between abortion and breast cancer, all found that women who had prior abortions were at an increased risk of developing breast cancer. The breast cancer risk for women who have had prior abortions is five and

a half times that of women who have not.

■ Calling the church sex abuse scandal a "leprosy in our house," Pope Francis tells an Italian newspaper that 1 in 50 Catholic clerics are pedophiles. The pope reportedly described the number as "very grave."

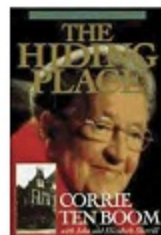
EDUCATIONAL TRENDS**Labeled "Too Christian," School Library Dumps Corrie ten Boom Books**

Pacific Justice Institute is warning a charter school in Southern California that it is violating the First Amendment by removing library books based on their perceived Christian content. A parent at Springs Charter Schools was shocked to see some of the books being targeted for removal, including the well-known account of Holocaust survivor Corrie ten Boom, *The Hiding Place*. The library personnel reportedly explained to the parent that they had been directed to remove Christian books, books by Christian authors, and books from Christian publishers.

Pacific Justice Institute attorney Michael Peffer sent the school a cease-and-desist letter on Aug. 22, citing long-established Supreme Court precedent that strongly disapproves of school libraries removing books based on opposition to their content or message.

The superintendent of Springs Charter Schools, Kathleen Hermmsmeyer, reportedly ignored the precedent in PJI's letter and instead insisted, "We ... do not allow sectarian materials on our state-authorized lending shelves."

The Pacific Justice Institute is prepared to take further legal action if the school continues to ignore its constitutional obligations.

**RELIGIOUS TRENDS****"Indestructible" Bible To Hit Store Shelves Soon**

A Bible that is waterproof, dirt-proof and tear-proof may soon be hitting stores. The Forever Bible, created by Forever Publishing, promises to withstand anything without ripping or falling apart.

Forever Publishing calls the Forever Bible "virtually indestructible." A Kickstarter video shows the Bible being covered in ketchup, ice cream, jelly, chocolate syrup, dirt and coffee, then hosed off clean again.

According to the video, the Forever Bible's pages are not made of trees and are environmentally friendly. Technological advances were made so that the Bible reportedly floats on water.

The Bibles will come in three different translations (KJV, NIV and ESV) and will have prices ranging from \$40 to \$60. But Forever Publishing says they did not create the Forever Bible to make money. "Our goal isn't profits—it is spreading the word of God."



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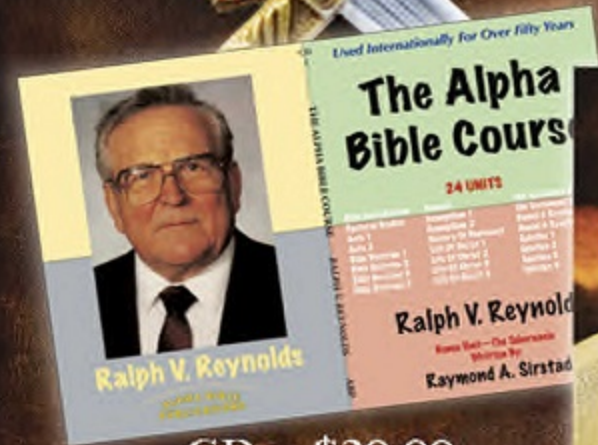
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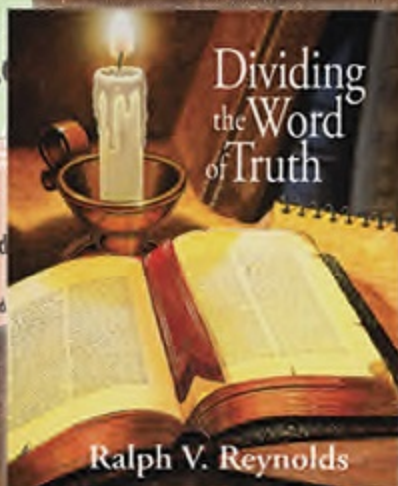
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IBC TODAY

REALITY WEEK 2014



Written by: IBC Student Body Secretary, Zack Ross

Celebrating its eighth year in operation, Reality Week is Indiana Bible College's mass effort to incorporate evangelism into the ministries - and hearts - of all students. This past September, the IBC Student Body



spent a solid two days of outreach training and implementation, attended Spirit-filled chapel services, and heard moving messages about outreach from IBC Director of Urban Ministries, Jim Sleeva, and Calvary Tabernacle Youth Pastor, Chris Barber. The fires of students' hearts were lit, and they knocked the doors of Indianapolis' homes throughout the week, asking people if they needed prayer, wanted to talk about God, or just have a friendly conversation. Students also invited the residents of Indianapolis to an annual block party, held at Calvary Tabernacle, as well as IBC's annual Concert on the Circle, in

downtown Indianapolis. Both of these events involved an altar call, where hungry souls stepped out on faith and allowed God to touch them, with IBC students praying fervently with them! So many testimonies were formed as a result of Reality Week. A few of them are listed below.

"IBC Reality Week is a great way to take what we've learned in the classroom and apply it to day-to-day ministry. It challenged us to put action behind what we believe."

Hannah Benson, IBC Senior

"I remember when one lady answered the door - I saw the pain in her eyes. And there was a little boy standing behind her. I thought of my mom and myself when I was a child. For me, being able to address that same pain I once felt with the light of Jesus was the highlight of Reality Week."

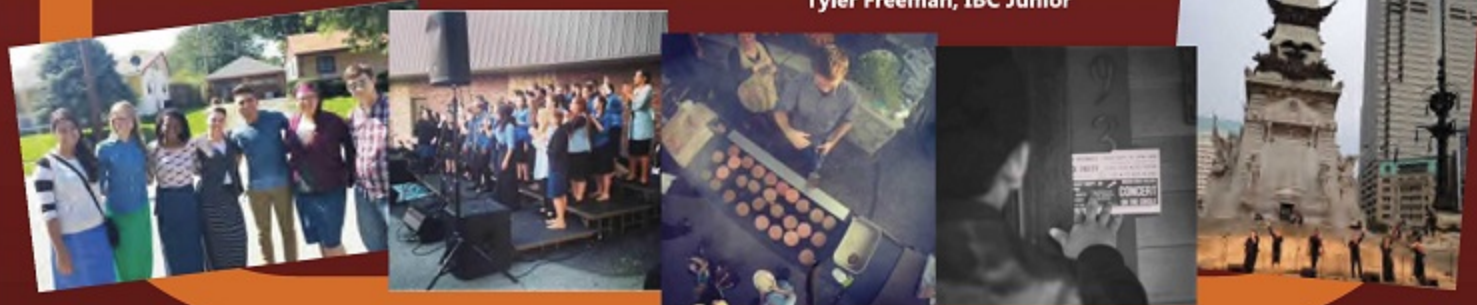
Cristian Ramirez, IBC Freshman

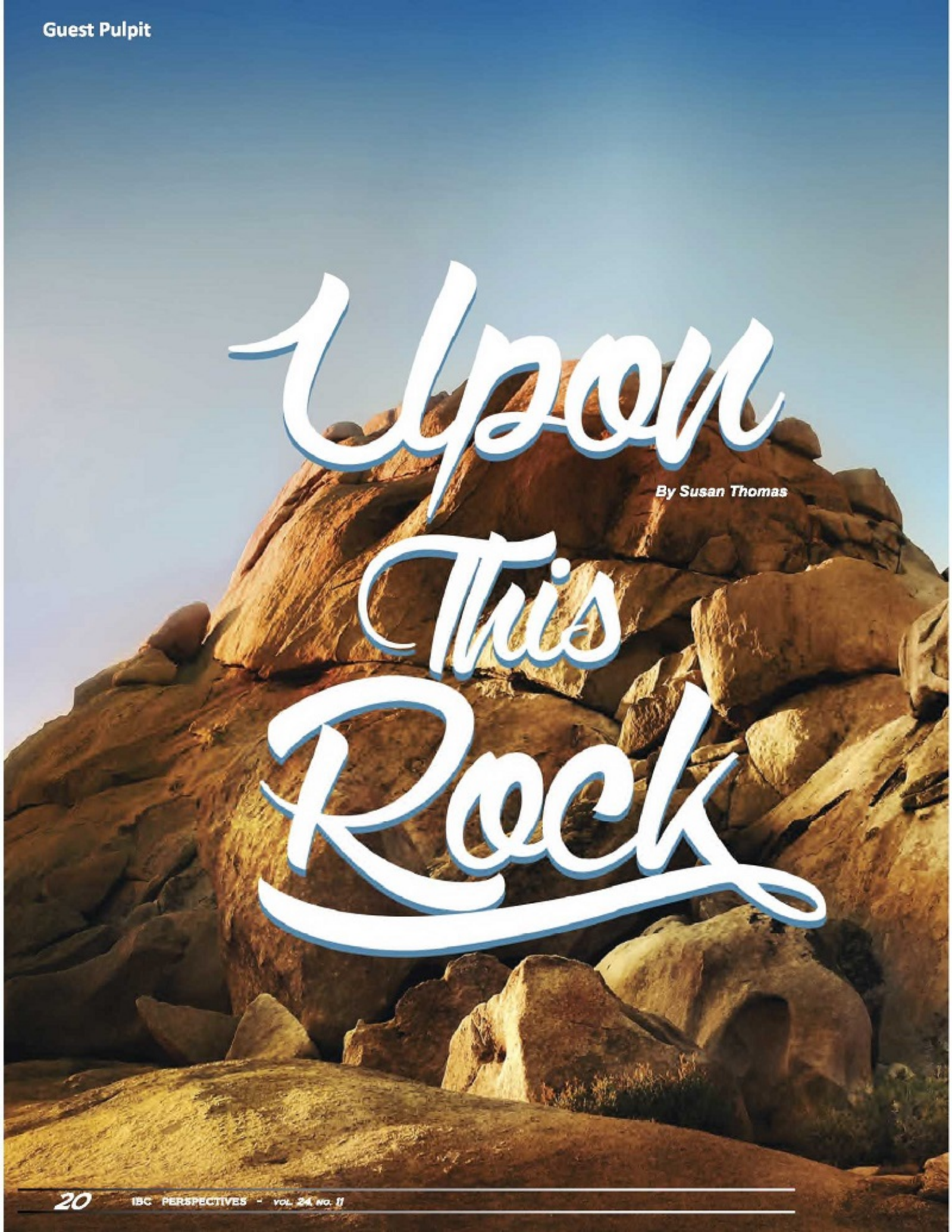
"I ran into a former customer, and her husband, from my workplace. We asked them if there was anything we could pray for. The husband told us his need, and as we began to pray, he started weeping. Long story short, he used to be a Pentecostal, and through that prayer, he longed for the experience again. He told his wife that he wanted to get back to God."

Rebekah LeMay, IBC Sophomore

"Reality Week impacted my life. It made me hungry for more souls to be saved. It made me realize that people are hungry. But they won't be fed if we are not willing to go."

Tyler Freeman, IBC Junior





Upon This Rock

By Susan Thomas

Upon this rock I build my church. I'm going to build upon the thought that the truth is built upon a firm foundation. When God said He would pour His spirit out upon all flesh that's exactly what He is doing.

Expanding and Emerging

I just got in from Europe, and I've been doing research. I've been doing studies for a number of years on the way the Oneness church is expanding and emerging all over the world. I'm trying to get through with the research I'm doing on the Oneness movement. Oneness Pentecostalism is international, and it's interracial. There's no such thing as the idea that it's just about us. It's always about souls, it's about other people. It's about everybody, no matter color, stature, language you speak or what nation you're from. I want to go down several avenues to tell you how awesome it is to me that we are living in what I believe to be the last days and when God said, "I will pour my spirit out upon all flesh," that's exactly what He meant, and that's exactly what He is doing. There are thousands of wonderful missionaries; they do a great job. They come from all over and I believe anybody can touch the world. This is not a revival of a bunch of well-educated, well-organized people who just know how to do it. No, He said, "I will pour out my spirit and upon this rock I will build my church."

Not About Dusty Learning

Matthew 16:18 says, "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." We weren't real good as a movement about saving our history so most of the early papers and the early historical records are long gone. But over a process of years we've been able to collect a number of early Oneness papers from a hundred years ago. In fact, what the university asked me to do was to demonstrate the fascination in the church. This university has the largest Pentecostal research center in the world.

There's a tremendous fascination in the church that we are a part of. There are a lot of people that are startled by the fact that holiness people, who are usually emotional, are part of one of the fastest growing churches in the world today. People are quite startled by that. Years ago, I started thinking that some people don't know the details and they don't understand so maybe representing it in a better fashion or showing it a little more accurately will help people to begin to see that this is not about a dusty library or dusty learning. It's about a God that's as real today as He was yesterday. He's real. He's real in my life. He's got to be real in our lives.

The Truth is the Truth

I don't know what we're afraid of; the truth is the truth. We can't say it any other way. The truth is the truth. I've had such a great time thinking about how God has touched people, and I hope we don't lose it as a movement. I hope we don't lose the fact that it's international, it's interracial, it is for everybody. There isn't anybody that God isn't reaching out for. He's reaching for everybody. I believe God is revealing good things to people; He's revealing truth. We serve a God that is bigger than our sickness, He's bigger than our condition, and He's bigger than our circumstances! There was a time a while back that I was asked to go back to the church I was raised in and explain to the group why I got re-baptized. I wasn't raised in an Apostolic church like my wife. They wanted me to do this in two days (four lessons) and address the entire faculty. That says a lot to me. That

says that things have changed. I remember a time not that long ago that people wouldn't get an invitation back to explain why they got re-baptized. I was willing to do this, but I was sort of reluctant. I wanted to know first why I was asked to do this. So I asked them if they wanted me to come speak about my baptism so they could try to prove me wrong. They said, "Oh no, we don't feel that way."



Pastor Talmadge French
Apostolic Tabernacle, Jonesboro, GA

He's Got to be Real in Our Life

Is it wrong for others to put us under a microscope and say, "Why did you do that?" There have been times in my life when I have felt like I was put under a microscope. People are using a microscope whether we realize it or not, and whether we like it or not. Sometimes they don't even realize they're doing it. What do we want them to see? He's got to be real in our life. He's got to be real to us personally. There isn't a place where there aren't Oneness people. There are Oneness people in every nation in the world, every geographical area of the world, all the way from Iceland to any remote area you can think of.

The Revelation

You cannot find a place where people are not getting a revelation of Jesus name. When I say revelation I don't mean something like, "Okay God speaks to me and it's not in the Bible." I see revelation like illumination. Somebody seeks truth and wants truth, then all of a sudden they receive an understanding of the truth of the Word of God and their soul is opened up to it. They may be Hindus, Buddhists or whatever. But all of a sudden they receive this mighty revelation. Thank God for revelation.

People want proof, and we say, "Okay, here are the numbers. Here are how many people we can demonstrate are baptized in Jesus name right now that we know of." To date I have cataloged 676 Oneness organizations. That means in various parts of the world groups of Oneness people are organized under various names. That's how many I personally am studying. What's happening right now is there's been an interest, a question of "Okay, what is really happening? What is causing this to happen?" It's exciting to me to be thinking about what God is doing. There are millions of people in China with the revelation of the Oneness movement. It's amazing to me that God is doing it. He doesn't wait to say, "Were they born in America, were they part of this group or that one?" No, He just touches their heart. He doesn't care where they're from; He cares about their heart. He says, "I'm going to reveal myself to them," and He does it.

BRAND NEW RELEASE

From the best-selling author of *Our God Is One*, Talmadge L. French

This in-depth study, adapted from French's PhD research at the University of Birmingham (UK), sheds amazing new light on the emergence of the Oneness movement and its flagship organization, the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World. While detailing the lives of its earliest primary architects, as well as its least researched key leaders, such as G.T. Haywood, J.J. Frazee, E.W. Doak, and R.C. Lawson, this one-of-a-kind history views Pentecostalism through the lens of the Jesus' Name movement and its tenacious, counter-cultural interracial vision, interlinking the significance of Charles Parham, William Seymour, the Azusa Street revival, the AG, COGIC, and dozens of the earliest Oneness organizational bodies. It is the fascinating story of the phenomenal growth of Oneness Pentecostalism up to 1930, via the development of its epicenters in the U.S. and its missionary and autochthonous church expansion worldwide.

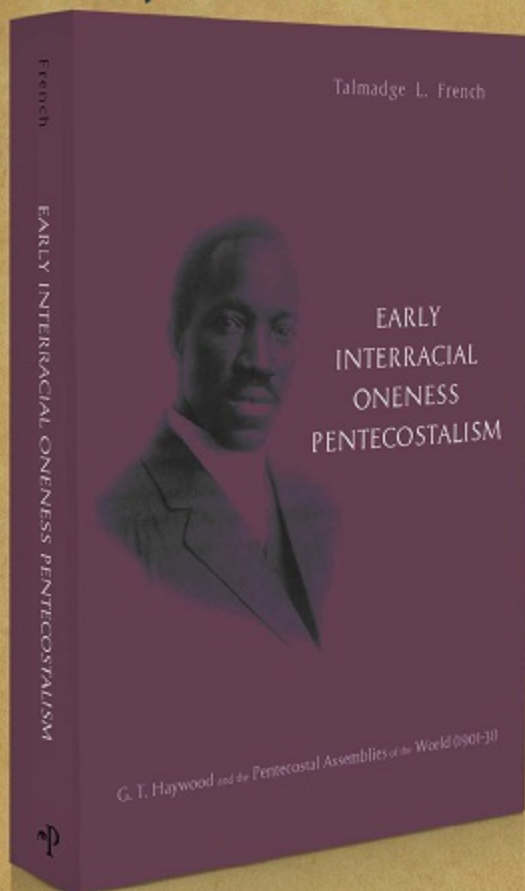


Talmadge French is a graduate of Wheaton College and Wheaton College Graduate School and has a PhD from the University of Birmingham, UK. He is the author of *Our God Is One: The Story of the Oneness Pentecostals* (1999). He is the pastor of Apostolic Tabernacle, Jonesboro, Georgia.

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"I truly was mesmerized as I learned of the searched out particulars, the people, and the power of this movement and message. The Apostolic movement is blessed of God by the sanctified intelligence and expertise of Dr. Talmadge French, who is a scholar on fire!"

Allan H. Anderson, Professor of Mission & Pentecostal Studies, University of Birmingham UK

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Captivate Project

Overcoming Fear of Reaching Out To Muslims With Gospel Message

By Linda Schreckenberger



Missionary Stephen Bennett
Indianapolis, IN

Bro. Stephen Bennett, an Apostolic missionary, witnessed firsthand the kidnapping of British co-workers by Muslims, so he understands the complexity and fear of reaching out to Muslims with the message of the cross. He has been in Muslim areas of the United Arab Emirates, including Dubai, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, and Egypt and Israel. Bro. Bennett and his family will soon be based in Malta, a nation of Muslims, Christians and Jews.

"The memory of 9/11 is still very much alive in people's minds," said Bro. Bennett. "That fear has kept many from witnessing to the Muslim people. When our ladies see a Muslim woman in a veil in the supermarket, they are usually hesitant to speak with her. We must get intentional about it. We are called to be salt and light in a dark world."

Since 2003, the Bennetts, working with Global Missions, have sought through the ministry of Captivate Project to mobilize God's people to think differently in their approach to Muslims. Much of the research is from his personal interaction with Muslims.

"Twenty-three percent of the world's population is Muslim, with the highest

population in Malaysia," said Bro. Bennett. "Muslims are divided into three different groups: 1) Militant (ISIS, etc.) 2) Cultural or nominal and 3) Converts to Islam. Few nominal or cultural Muslims have ever read their Arabic Holy book, and 80 percent don't know Arabic. Muslims are more willing to talk about spiritual things than we are to approach them. They likely haven't read the Bible, although their Holy book doesn't prohibit it, and many know there are problems with their faith and theology, both spiritually and logically."

Bro. Bennett said there are numerous examples of Muslim conversions in many countries. "But we must be discreet for those who remain in their Middle Eastern home to be salt and light," he said. "A Saudi-born man, Sami, began his journey, leaving Islam to follow Jesus. A Malaysian Muslim woman, invited to our home, was overcome by the awesome power of the Spirit, baptized and received the Holy Ghost. Stateside, we have begun dialogue with two Saudi families, a group of Saudi university students, and two Iraqi immigrant families that have visited Calvary Tabernacle. We continue to hear testimonies from UPC pastors of Muslims being touched by the power of God, baptized and filled with the Holy Ghost

in their churches, from California to the Midwest to the East Coast. We have been quiet about our work, following the leading of the Lord. Now the Spirit has declared to us this is the time to let our churches know there is a harvest among Muslims. Now is the time to be what they are looking for: an authentic Apostolic witness of the power and truth of God."

The Bridges Bible Study (*Beyond the Veil*) consists of seminars on Islam, Muslim cultural background and aspects of Muslim beliefs. It enables and trains God's people to build a bridge from Muslim beliefs to the cross. The Spanish version is timely, since one half million American Hispanics have converted to Islam in the past 10 years.

Apostolic Women Reaching Muslim Women workshops, under development, will be given by Sis. Lloy Bennett. It is a study from a woman's perspective, since Muslim society is separated between men and women. Through Anchor Church consultations, churches partner to consult and train their people to be authentic Apostolic witnesses to Muslims.

Information on Captivate Project may be found at www.captivateproject.org. Or contact Bro. Bennett at sbennett@captivateproject.org.



The Powerful Evangelism of HBS

Making Home Bible Studies a Culture Instead of a Program or Ministry

By Linda Schreckenberger



Pastor Greg Steele
Johnson City, TX

"No home Bible studies, no evangelism," was the emphatic statement from Bro. Greg Steele. Many years before he became pastor of the H.O.M.E. Church in Johnson City, Texas, he was introduced to HBS through his pioneer pastor, Sis. Billie Fluitt. He saw the

value of what was presented and began to teach. The results were immediate and rewarding.

Bro. Steele has no idea how many are in the church today from his efforts. He recalled how a home Bible study certainly made the difference in the life of one

man he taught, Bro. John Everett, who now pastors a church in Corpus Christi, Texas. The Bible study affected his life in such a magnitude he began to teach his family, and 60-plus family members were converted through this one man. Bro. Steele commented, "That report was ten years ago. Who knows how many there are today?"

Pastor Steele starts with the Water/Spirit Home Bible Study, written by James Burris. "This is a must get and teach study," he said. His students then transition to Salvation Made Simple, written by James Jackson. Bro. Steele said, "From there, I personally use Search for Truth 2 as a discipleship course. These three studies usually take up to a year to complete. We use the crockpot method!"

The church has used just about every kind of tool one can imagine. They brought in special HBS teachers to encourage,

motivate and share their testimonies, which created an "I can do this thing" mindset. They use classroom training and hands-on training where potential teachers go with a seasoned teacher. They also use video training and have utilized the Train 12 HBS training, available through the website www.train12.com.

Bro. Steele explained how they encourage their saints to give home Bible studies. "We place a strong emphasis on relationships in our church," he said. "We talk about HBS all the time, preach on it, and teach on it. When a new convert receives the Holy Ghost, we congratulate them and their HBS teacher and rejoice with them. When an individual accepts a leadership role in the church, they know that one qualifier is to be a HBS teacher. We are trying to make HBS a culture instead of a program or ministry."



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Word To The Wise:

"Chocolate comes from cocoa, which is a tree. That makes it a plant. Chocolate is salad."

One Way Into Heaven

"If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would that get me into Heaven?" I asked the children in my Sunday school class.

"NO!" the children all answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would that get me into Heaven?"

Again, the answer was, "NO!"

"Well, then, if I was kind to animals and gave candy to all the children, and loved my wife, would that get me into Heaven?" I asked them again.

Again, they all answered, "NO!"

"Well," I continued, "then how can I get into Heaven?"

A five-year-old boy shouted out, "YOU GOTTA BE DEAD!"

A man appeared at the church office door and announced, "I'm the piano tuner."

"I didn't call for a tuner," the church secretary said.

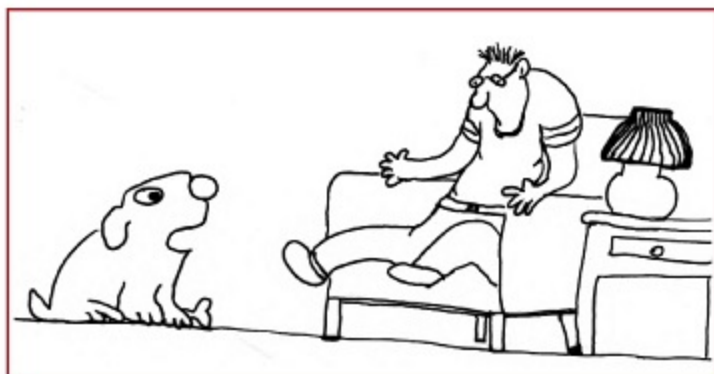
"I know, lady," the man said. "Your neighbor did."



Pastor Moofa tries out instant messaging.

My Appetite Is My Shepherd (Pound 23)

My appetite is my shepherd; I always want.
It maketh me sit down and stuff myself.
It leadeth me to my refrigerator repeatedly.
It leadeth me in the path of Burger King for a Whopper.
It destroyeth my shape.
Yea, though I knoweth I gaineth, I will not stop eating
For the food tasteth so good.
The ice cream and the cookies, they comfort me.
When the table is spread before me, it exciteth me
For I knoweth that I sooneth shall dig in.
As I filleth my plate continuously,
My clothes runneth smaller.
Surely bulges and pudgies shall follow me all the days of my life
And I shall be "pleasingly plump" forever.



"Cheer up. Your life isn't meaningless. God put you on this earth for a purpose -- to buy dog food and clean up after me."

You Know You've Been Out Of College Too Long When ...

- ~ Your potted plants stay alive.
- ~ 6:00 a.m. is when you get up, not when you go to sleep.
- ~ You hear your favorite song on the elevator at work.
- ~ You carry an umbrella.
- ~ Jeans and a sweater no longer qualify as "dressed up."
- ~ You're the one calling the police because those kids next door don't know how to turn down the stereo.
- ~ You don't know what time Taco Bell closes anymore.
- ~ Your car insurance goes down and your car payments go up.
- ~ Sleeping on the couch is a no-no.
- ~ You no longer take naps from noon to 6:00 p.m.
- ~ You actually eat breakfast foods at breakfast time.
- ~ Grocery lists have more on them than macaroni & cheese, Diet Pepsi, and Ho-Ho's.
- ~ Over 90% of the time you spend in front of a computer is for real work.

When my daughter, Kelli, said her bedtime prayers, she would bless every family member, every friend, and every animal.

For several weeks, after we had finished the nightly prayer, Kelli would say, "And all girls." This soon became part of her nightly routine to include this closing.

My curiosity got the best of me and I asked her, "Kelli, why do you always add the part about all girls?"

"Because everybody always finishes their prayers by saying 'All Men!'"



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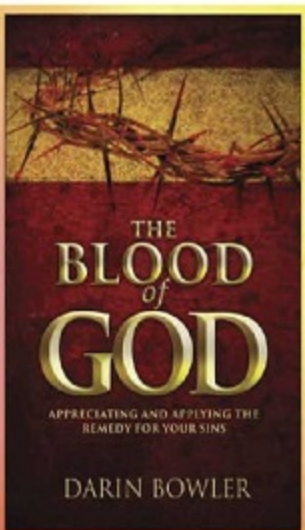
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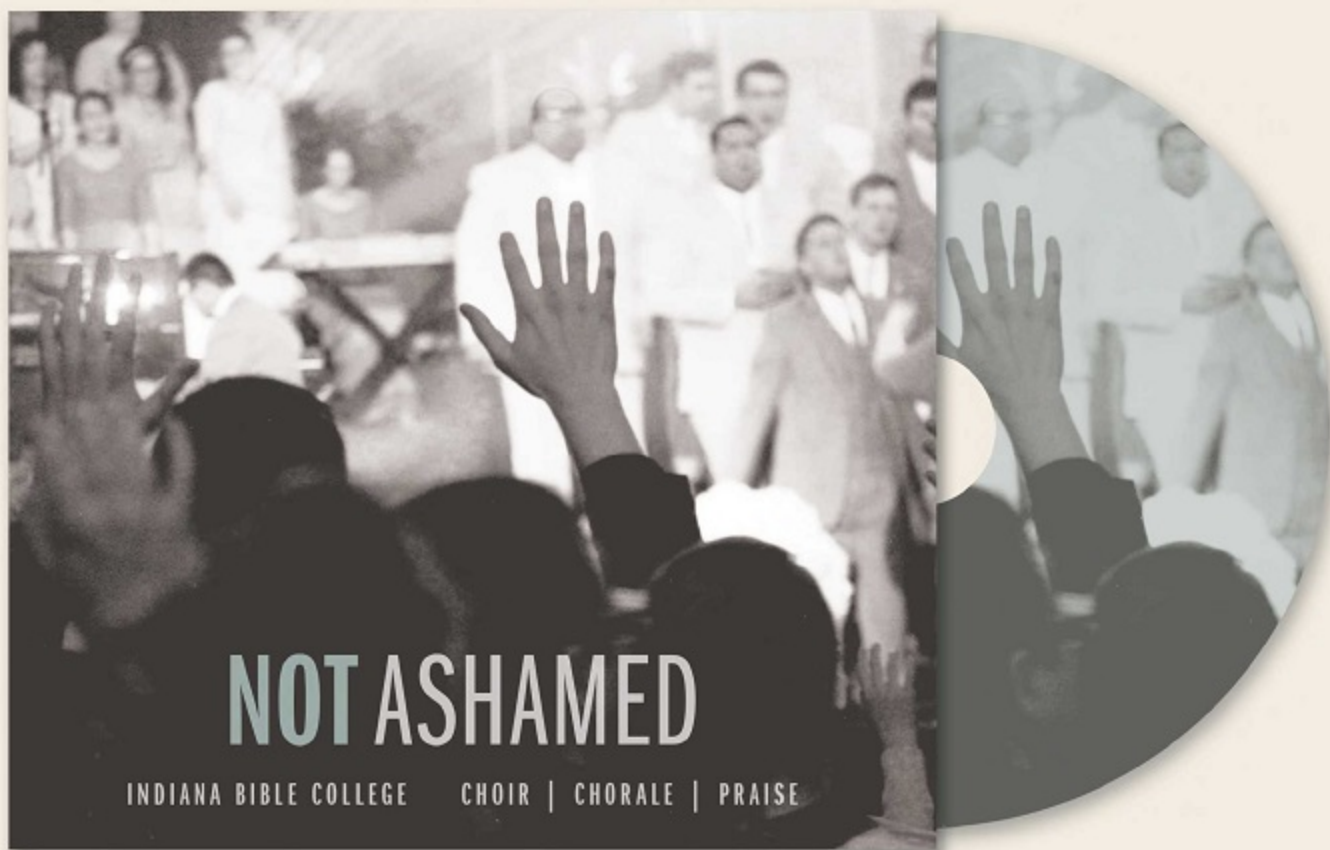
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