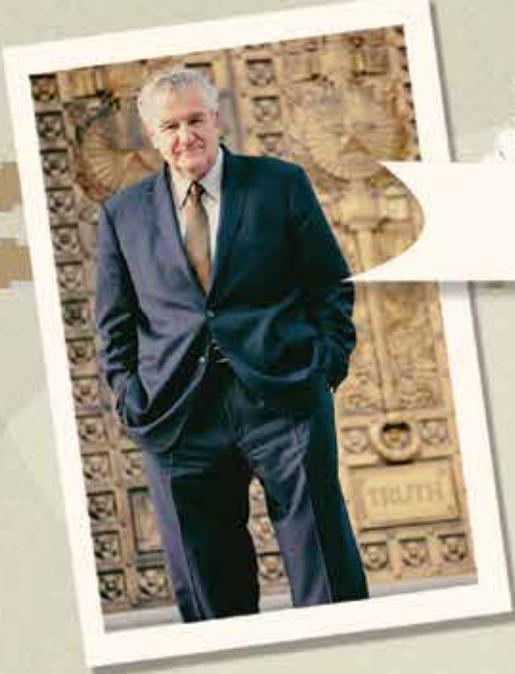




Perspectives

CASTING DOWN IMAGINATIONS





From The Publisher

We Are Not Stupid

Paul D. Mooney

“This may be a hard pill to swallow, but if we expect the church to confront the evils of our day, we must be prepared to move out of self-confidence and learn to trust in God alone. We are weak. He is strong.”

“For in Him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28). With this deep and profound statement the Apostle Paul affirms that there is no way one can view God and hope to know Him apart from being *in Him*. To what would we compare an infinite God? No matter how intellectual we are, our intellect is not truth, and by intellect alone we will fall short of what God desires to reveal by His Spirit. Paul puts the Athenians on notice that one cannot chisel God from gold, silver, or stone, or from one’s imagination. He calls them to repentance. “That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us” (Acts 17:27). To know God even partially, we must experience God. *In Him we live and move.*

Take this seriously, especially in these times. No matter how precisely we may feel that we understand truth through our intellect, there is nothing we know or comprehend of God that cannot be more precisely known by the anointing, revelation, and experience of the Holy Ghost. This fact drives our thinking along the path of the Apostle Paul: “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!” (Rom. 11:33)

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isa. 55:8-9). This may be a hard pill to swallow, but if we expect the church to confront the evils of our day, we must be prepared to move out of self-confidence and learn to trust in God alone. We are weak. He is strong.

I observe in myself, at times, a loss of dependency on Christ. It’s not a hard-nosed kind of rebellion; it’s more an indifference or forgetfulness, brought on, I suppose, by the day-to-day busyness of life, of routine . . . a self-confidence sort of thing. Thinking that I’ve seen it all before and that my experience will guide me through. It is easy to forget how serious the battle against the evils of our day has become.

The Church simply cannot afford to ignore the wickedness and evil that confronts our society, or the inconsistency and worldliness that attacks the Church. It cannot be sidestepped. Note the recent story of the selling of fetal body parts by Planned Parenthood, or the incidences of Islamic terrorist killings worldwide. It is staggering. *Theodicy* is an attempt to reconcile the notion of how an omnipotent good God would

tolerate so much evil in this world. Some conclude there must be something wrong with God. But God is not the problem. The problem is people.

On May 18, 1980, with Mount St. Helens only hours away from the great volcanic explosion, people continued to approach the mountain. They came with cameras, campers, beer coolers and picnic supplies. Ignoring warnings of the police and park rangers to leave the mountain, 57 known people died. Eleven million animals died, four billion feet of timber was completely destroyed. The mountain erupted for nine straight hours.

Author Laurence Gonzales notes in his book *Everyday Survival* that the people who lost their lives “were not stupid,” they simply didn’t understand how powerful the volcano was. That observation captures what I’m trying to say in this article: we must not underestimate the darkness and evil of our day.

Without God we are as the world; big like Goliath but not as God-fearing as David. We must acknowledge that we do not know the way. Hopefully we do at least understand that mere religion is not the answer; organizational structure is not the answer. Only right belief and the anointing of the Holy Ghost can sustain and move the church forward, and provide power for people that they might overcome the spiritual death that accompanies worldliness, evil, disobedience, and self-righteousness.

We’re not stupid . . . but we may overestimate our abilities.

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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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20

Guest Pulpit:
Casting Down
Imaginations
(Arlo Moehlenpah)

CONTENTS

Vol.25 / No.08

- 05 Opinions: Church Discipline
- 11 Plainly Speaking: Overcoming Temptation (Larry Arrowood)
- 06 Feature: Passionate About Souls (Jesse Starr)
- 9 News You Can Use
- 13 Answer Forum
- 16 Columnists
- 17 World News
- 23 Apostolic Ministry

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Interviews by Gregg Stone

CHURCH DISCIPLINE

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



Buddy Jones, Coeur d'Alene, ID -- If a church ignores widespread open sin within its congregation, the eventual ramifications would be a polluting of worldliness within that congregation. A pastor, as overseer, must address the situation. I typically try to handle revealed sin in an individual member's life through prayer and honest dialogue with that person. In my view, Matthew 18:15-16 does provide the principle and needed steps to be taken to resolve sin within a member's life.

Often, given enough time and enough preaching against the sins running rampant within a church, those in sin will either change their heart and repent, change churches, or stop attending church. My feelings are, though I hate to see people leave, the health of the church I pastor is more important than the number of people on the pews.



Mike Conn, Topeka, KS -- Unreported sin should never be tolerated in established members. However, when it happens, I have found that when I pray for a wayward church member, it gives God an opportunity to reveal what I need to do to help that person. In prayer, I claim the promise of God's love in the form of chastisement on that person (Hebrews 12:6). I have seen God chastise people and they knew it was God and not me. It really helped them. After all, He is the Chief Shepherd and we are the under shepherds. If we try to discipline saints without God's instructions, it usually ends up destroying them.



Larry D Rodriguez Jr., Ventura, CA -- In regard to addressing church members that have sinned, there are different approaches depending upon if it is a new convert or someone who is established or in a leadership role. Knowing of open sin in the church and ignoring it, is setting up for a disaster. If the man of God does not address it, or take the proper avenues to handle it, God will take care of it!

Situations as in Matthew 18:15-16 occur many times in the church, and yet they are not dealt with head-on. By not applying the context of this scripture, opinions, gossip and half-truths can easily be spread around the body and can affect the church. Seek an explanation of his conduct, and if he has done wrong, administer a friendly and brotherly reproof, that he may have an opportunity of explaining his conduct. In nine cases out of ten, a little friendly conversation would set the matter right and prevent difficulty.



Wayne Collins, Richmond, TX -- To ignore sin, in simple terms, is to allow death and destruction to remain. God has indeed placed pastors to be the shepherds over the flock and to lead the people in matters that pertain unto the kingdom of God. Pastors must at all times be aware of the circumstances affecting those in his pasture of labor. Having that awareness and spiritual insight, he should do what Bro. Kelsey Griffin would

always tell us in class at TBC: "Handle every situation with an iron hand covered with a velvet glove, firm to the grip but soft to the touch." The ultimate goal of every pastor should be to try to lead those who has fallen to a place where they can be restored in our Lord Jesus Christ.



Brett Prince, Eastland, TX -- Every case is viewed independently of others. There are not varying degrees of sin. However, there are varying degrees to which the sin can affect the rest of the congregation, or some portion of it. If the sin is influencing other members to accept a change in the lifestyle of the church, then it must be dealt with very swiftly, and as publicly as it has already become. If it is not well known, then it can be dealt with privately. What is important in the restoration process is whether they have fallen back into line. Are they faithful to church and in giving? Have they confessed and repented of their sin? Have they taken steps to ensure the sin will not occur again? Have they responded to the directives from the pastor?



Mark Johnson, Elkhart, IN -- Repentance is a cornerstone, but it comes from recognition of guilt. If people cannot recognize or accept their guilt, they don't repent. Humans have an incredible ability to self-justify. It takes humility to admit you are wrong, and people need guidance. I tend not to focus on the wrong but on correcting spiritual foundations. Jesus is the truth, and we need to know Him, not principles about Him.

The consequences of sin in a person's life are often so heavy that added condemnation can be extremely burdensome. A loving, forgiving and restorative environment should be our goal in the church. We are a hospital treating the sick and afflicted of this world, and our goal is restoring to spiritual, physical and emotional health.



Valton Elms, West Fork, AR -- This is a touchy subject because each person is different and how they need to be handled and addressed depends on their personality. Staying consistent is vitally important. Dealing with the issue and the individual(s) immediately will save much heartache and possibly more problems if left unaddressed for later or not at all. Addressing the individual(s) personally, not openly in public, helps to gain the respect with all involved because they know their laundry is not aired for all to know.

If the person(s) wants to leave the church, depending on the issue, I will try to talk them into staying and help them understand this can help them witness to others about overcoming sin. Should they feel they need a fresh slate, I will give them my blessing and pray they will serve God wherever they faithfully attend church. Restoration is the key.



Daniel Koren, Neosho, MO -- Did the offender confess? If he or she was exposed, an apology may be more from embarrassment than true repentance. Many leaders feel the only grounds for restoring someone is whether he or she confessed before being found out. When I approach individuals, I like to lead into the discussion by giving them opportunities to divulge the issue and suggest a remedy. Regardless of the situation, care must be taken for the dignity of the individual and his or her ultimate salvation. If they are in visible roles in the church, I would ask them to step down for a time until they corrected their ways. As a pastor, Matthew 18:15-16 could bleed into church discipline issues, but the context is interpersonal. A soft answer and speaking the truth in love will prevent many broken relationships.



PASSIONATE

A B O U T S O U L S

Jesse and Ruth Starr of Minot, North Dakota are passionate about seeing God's power and blessing on Apostolic Faith Church and the Minot area. Their three children -- Jared, Jonathan and Jessica -- are an integral part of the lives and ministry of their parents and are committed to seeing people who need Jesus have the opportunity to come to a personal relationship with Him. The Starrs believe that everyone should experience the same salvation that the Apostles preached in Acts 2:38-40. "Our goal is to reach out into the community and invite them to a life-changing experience at Apostolic Faith Church," Bro. Starr said.

PRINCIPLES OF GROWTH & REVIVAL

"Prayer, positive church atmosphere, family stability, and sound doctrine are the keys to church growth. Also, facilitating people to their evangelism passions and leading by example are important," Bro. Starr stated.

Ministries and methods used for increasing attendance include Sunday school, Van Ministry, Starting Point, discipleship programs, follow-up on every visitor, block parties, as well as incorporating evangelism concepts in all departments. "Our aim is to create a venue that will encourage guests to become involved in our church," he said. "We want to build relationships between guests and church members." Bro. Starr listed various means and ways to accomplish their goals: 1. Connect Point Dinners, held on a regular basis, create a comfortable atmosphere where guests can get to know the people that make up the church. 2. Organized family and friends' game nights at the church every 4th Sunday. Volleyball, basketball, softball, and group games make up the agenda. 3. Orientation is a welcome from the pastor and an opportunity to receive information and ways that a guest can become involved in Apostolic Faith Church. 4. Through guest follow-up, members are active in establishing a relationship with each guest. First-time guests receive a gift, second-time visitors receive a book, and each third-time guest receives an invitation to the upcoming orientation with the pastor.

ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT

Departments and ministries in the church consist of Youth Ministry, Ladies Ministry, including Daughters of Zion, Music Ministry, Men's Ministry, Bus Ministry, Media Ministry, and Mission Point Ministry (outreach).

"We have ministry descriptions for each department or ministry leader; we meet with our leaders once per month, we have a bi-monthly minister tag-in, and a weekly tag-in with assistants, and future ministers' training once per month," explained Pastor Starr. "We have yearly planning sessions and monthly tag-ins.

"All our ministries are focused on either evangelism or equipping saints. A very high percentage of our members are involved in some form of ministry. About 80 percent are involved in evangelism. If someone is not involved in ministry, it is by his or her conscious choice. Involvement is promoted and encouraged by personal relationships, preaching and teaching with emphasis on evangelism and ministry. We make a conscious effort to disciple people until they are plugged into an area of ministry. The Starting Point program involves each person that has started or completed the salvation process in a 10-week Discipleship Class that will instruct them how to be a Christian and how to start this new life in God. This course is held weekly, and class attendees receive a certificate of graduation upon completion. We also have another 10-week course called Launch Point, where we teach practical and Biblical principles of holiness and separation from the world. It is our intent that each graduate of Launch Point classes will be prepared to be actively

involved in the work of the Kingdom of God."

PERSONAL MINISTRY

Pastor Starr listed several deep guiding principles and philosophies that give his ministry direction and purpose. "There are five core values in our church: God, family, integrity, commitment and passion," he said. "These are the framework through which we live out the doctrine. One important area is passion. If people are connected with their passion in the kingdom, growth will result. They will be excited and will excite the people around them.

"People need teaching. We deliberately have church together for teaching mid-week, and then have classes through our Mission Point and ministry training for people to grow and mature. We try to incorporate opportunities for instruction in special group sessions with ladies, youth, men's prayer, etc.

"Passionate preaching is important. The church atmosphere needs to be positive. There are times when you have to preach and teach about areas that need consecrated or changed. Always give people hope.

The ultimate hope is Jesus. The preacher needs to point people to Jesus and then get out of the way. Never preach what you don't live. Be an example.

"Lead your church somewhere. Pastors are not always leaders, but if they want to have a growing church they must learn to lead. A call to preach does not mean you can lead. Yet, if people do not have somewhere to go, they will stagnate, or natural leaders will emerge and take the people a direction you don't want them to go. It is necessary for pastors to hone and strengthen their leadership skills for the sake of momentum, unity and growth."

Pastor Starr enumerated some target groups that he considers the "focus" of AFC ministry: (1) *Backsliders*. "My dad was backslidden, and some preachers took time with him. It took a number of years for him to stabilize and become what God desired for him to be. Today he is still in the ministry, after starting six churches and mentoring other churches. He has four sons and a daughter in the ministry. I am glad some preachers were there for him. I want to be there for someone else. (2) *Youth*. "Our young people must 'get it' for themselves. Tradition, legacy or cooperation is not enough. They must have a passion, doctrinal knowledge

and personal involvement in order for there to be a strong church." (3) *Ministry*. "We need men called of God to give themselves to ministry. It is a passion of mine to see young ministers develop and become what God has called them to be."

OUTREACH EFFORTS

A host of evangelism events and activities that have brought good results are: (a) Friends Day (held four times a year), (b) annual block parties, (c) holiday services and dramas, (d) the "Gaining Apostolic Power" Conference -- a conference to enrich the ministry. (e) Bus Ministry: where captains and workers contact Sunday school bus kids and their families. (f) Card Ministry: a weekly commitment to pass out church business cards and invitations for Friends Day and other special services. (g) Door to Door Outreach Team, which includes Sunday school outreach. (h) Life Style Evangelism: "Like begets like, people reaching friends, families and co-workers," explained Pastor Starr. "We are on the edge of the oil fields and feel a responsibility to give those in the oil industry a church to connect with. We found that an intentional approach of orienting and loving them has made our church a home."

CHURCH HISTORY

Pastor Starr discussed the history of Apostolic Faith Church.



A baptism at the church

“Charles and Judy Bollinger arrived May 28, 1969 fresh from Texas Bible College with a desire to birth a church in Minot,” he said. “The first church service was June 4, 1969. Four months after arriving they rented and later purchased a building at 7th and 21st streets. This would be our building for 24 years. We saw consistent growth at this location and many miracles and peoples’ lives changed by the power of the Holy Ghost. One awesome story from this location: a member was mowing the grass and invited a family that was in Minot for rummage sales. The family came to service that night, and both the husband and wife received the Holy Ghost. That family now has four generations attending.

“Outreach methods used in those early years were Bus Ministry and home Bible studies. In 1992, we were bursting at the seams with 80 to 85 people on a Sunday. Bro. G.W. Pearson began to tell the church we needed to build. It was amazing to see the response of the people of AFC. Members began to sacrifice and give – sold their possessions, gave of their savings, etc.”

Pastor Starr said a key component of the church’s growth has been strong pastoral leadership. With 45 years of church history, almost 40 of those years have been pastored by three men: Bro. Charles Bollinger (1969-1977), Bro. G.W. Pearson (1984-2008), and Bro. Jesse Starr (2008-current).

“In 2008, we were averaging around 120,” he said. “Our recent Easter attendance was 206. The church is averaging 155 people per Sunday. In the last several months we have seen several come as a result of just feeling drawn by the Spirit of the Lord. We have had healings, backsliders returning, and a powerful witness of the Holy Ghost. The unity of the church is very powerful. Perhaps the most telling aspect of unity would be the smooth transition when my family and I came to Minot. The previous pastor, Bro. Vaughn Pearson, remained along with his dad, Bro. Gilbert Pearson. Both remain to this day, with Vaughn Pearson now the assistant and part-time on staff. We have been blessed with stability during church transitions. Not once was there ever any conflict. The congregation embraced the new leadership and everyone is working together for the common cause of souls.”

CURRENT FACILITY

Apostolic Faith Church is housed in a building that is approximately 12,000 square feet. It seats 245 and includes a gym/fellowship hall. “Our classrooms surround our gym,” explained Pastor Starr. “Our classroom space is cramped at this time, which is a good problem to have. We also have an evangelist’s quarters. The building was constructed in two phases. We are going into the third phase, hopefully starting this summer.”

Bro. Starr shared a unique story of how they acquired this facility: “In the 1970s, the Bollingers, who started the work, felt God lead them to a gravel road on the edge of town, and there they found a farmer’s field. They felt God deal with them that this should be the place of the church someday. After much personal sacrifice, they purchased four acres of land. Little did they know that the little gravel country road would become a main highway connecting north and south Minot. The land sat there for over 15 years until Bro. Gilbert Pearson led the church to build on it.

“The Bollingers visited the church for its 40th anniversary and once more prayed that God would enable the church to acquire more property to accommodate growth. Months later, we purchased an additional seven acres for \$84,000. The timing was perfect because now that same land would cost around \$250,000 per acre.

“We now have 10.6 acres debt-free and are currently raising money for the next phase. We expect to expand our seating to 400 people. The architect is finishing up the plans, and we should be ready to start this summer. We have a next phase concept

after this which will seat around 800. This will also include converting our current sanctuary into additional classrooms.”

PERSONAL HISTORY

Pastor Starr grew up as the son of a home missionary who started churches all over the Northwest. He received the Holy Ghost at age nine, and at age twelve felt the call of God on his life. He shared some events from his youth that influenced his ministry. “My father went to a logging camp in Alaska and started a church there when I was twelve,” he said. “It was a turning point in my life. Coffman Cove, Alaska was extremely remote and during the three years we were there it was very isolated. No stores, phones, radios – nothing. It was during that time that I listened to a tape of Rev. N.A. Urshan preaching and even though I had received the Holy Ghost when I was nine, I felt God calling me into a deeper walk with Him. After that message, I slipped away to my room and committed the rest of my life to God. The next several years I studied intensely and built the foundation from Scripture that I still draw from today.”

Bro. Starr recounted when he began his ministry: “At about 13 years of age in Coffman Cove, I began to play the guitar and teach. It was there that I first taught the Adult Bible Class while my dad was out of town. My first sermon was in Palmer, Alaska as a junior in high school. I held my first revival in Anchorage, Alaska when I was a junior in high school. I attended Apostolic Bible Institute and graduated in 1987.”

Bro. and Sis. Starr met at ABI in St. Paul, Minnesota and married in June of 1988. “We started a church in Newberg, Oregon in 1991, and became pastor in Hillsboro, Oregon in 1994; we then moved to Minot in September of 2008. The circumstances that led us to take this church were unique. I received a phone call out of the blue, politely prayed about it and the next thing we knew my family and I were moving to Minot to be with this wonderful church family. The transition was smooth, and the momentum has continued to be positive.”

Pastor Starr has served in a number of ministerial capacities through the years, including youth pastor, Christian educator and assistant pastor. He was youth director for the state of Oregon for 14 years, young minister’s mentor, Sectional Presbyter and Men’s Director, and District Superintendent – North Dakota – 2011-2014.

Sis. Ruth Starr has served 13 years as sectional Women’s Ministries Director and serves selflessly in the local church. Some of her areas of ministries have included Christian education, young mother mentorship, coordinator of catering and serving.

For more information contact Bro. Starr by phone: 701-838-0609 or website: <http://www.minotafc.com/>.



The Starr family
Minot, ND



Pastor Starr leads prayer and worship in the altar.



Above: Exterior view of Apostolic Faith Church; Below: Church hosts a block party

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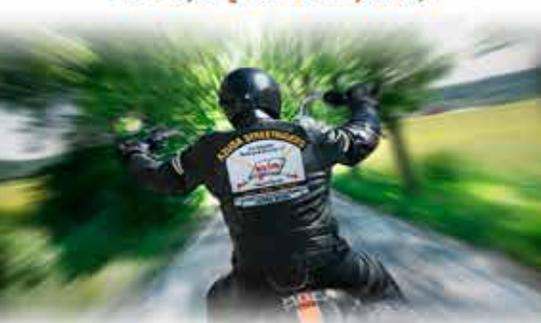
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In a time of contentious Supreme Court decisions, economic woes, and opinionated Americans living in a post-Christian nation, it's easy to see what's wrong. But economist Morgan Housel compiled a lengthy list of good things in America.

1. Way back in 1949, *Popular Mechanics* predicted that someday a computer could weigh less than one ton. Now iPads weigh less than a pound.

2. One hundred years ago, the average American died at age 51. Now, the average American retires at age 62.

3. In the 1950s the median household income was half what it is today (adjusted for inflation).

4. Even though the U.S. population grew by 60 million from 1991-2010, crime fell dramatically. Rape is down by a third, robbery is down more than half, and there were nearly four million fewer property crimes in 2010 than in 1991.

5. Today's new homes often have more bathrooms than occupants.

6. It may seem like we work all the time, but the average American workweek has declined from 66 hours in 1850, to 51 hours in 1909, to 34.8 today.

7. The price of food has dropped 90 percent since the 19th century (relative to wages).

8. More Americans have college degrees. In 1940, only five percent had them, by 2012 over 30 percent did.

9. World hunger? From 1920 to 1980, an average of 395 people per 100,000 died from famine worldwide each decade. During the 2000s, that number fell to three per 100,000.

10. In 1950, almost 40 percent of Americans didn't have a telephone. Today with more than 500 million Internet-connected devices, that averages to about 5.7 per American household.



After Coming to the Mansion . . .

By Stephen Judd, TCM President



Stephen Judd
www.mansionkids.org

She arrived at the Mansion with a four-month-old on her hip, dragging a two-year-old behind her.

You've seen children like this before...or maybe you haven't. Perhaps only in a picture, with glazed eyes, a distended belly, hungry and malnourished, and begging for food. Horrible sores and rashes covered their bodies.

It was evident that the baby was sick and struggling to breathe, and we would soon find out that he had a serious breathing disorder that would require treatment.

The teenage mother placed a dirty diaper bag on the floor, the contents of which consisted of one baby bottle of spoiled formula. No diapers or clothes. That was it!

She was evidently in a hurry. There was a man waiting for her in a car. The engine was idling.

She kept looking at the door as she hurriedly filled out the necessary papers, quickly answering all the necessary questions. She said that she didn't know who the fathers were, didn't have a family...and was homeless.

When she finished signing the papers, she hurriedly left, without a backward glance at the kids. The children were so sleep-deprived that they slept for 15 hours straight during the next two days. They

were exhausted from not having a bed in which to sleep, let alone a roof over their heads. The two-year-old had dysentery for two weeks, trying to eat real food.

But after coming to the Mansion, these precious boys are now thriving, gaining weight, and are happy! They now have a bright future, thanks to our caring staff and wonderful people like you who are sowing seeds of hope into their young lives.

As I write this letter, we are working to bring a 10-year-old girl to the Mansion who recently witnessed her mother get murdered. Her grandmother has cancer and is not going to be able to care for her.

And there are several more children in desperate need of TCM's help. The appeals for placing children with us are overwhelming.

You can help make it possible for other boys or girls to have a loving and caring home, and to overcome the past problems in their lives while reaching for their full potential.

Your generous gift of \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250, or whatever you can afford, will help make it possible for a child to have a place to call home at Tupelo Children's Mansion.

Would you ask the Lord if He would lead you to help us help these children and continue our Savior's work among these children? It's never been easier to donate online to TCM. To make a One Time Gift, go to: <http://mansionkids.org/>. Or, you can send a check to: PO Box 167, Tupelo, MS 38802.



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ONE-YEAR	\$5,000	2.5%	2.52%
THREE-YEAR	\$5,000	3.0%	3.13%
FIVE-YEAR	\$5,000	3.5%	3.81%

*Not FDIC or SIPC insured. Not a Bank Deposit

The United Pentecostal Church Loan Fund is a financial ministry that benefits individuals, churches and ministries of the United Pentecostal Church.

The certificates offer competitive fixed rates of interest while enabling the Fund to use investment proceeds to make loans to churches and ministries of the United Pentecostal Church.

www.upciloanfund.org/investment-opportunities

INVESTMENTS

- Loan Certificates
- IRAs (*Traditional and ROTH*)

CHURCH LOANS

The United Pentecostal Church Loan Fund's purpose is to make loans to churches, districts, and endorsed projects. Loans are for new construction, capital expansion projects, renovation, refinancing and property acquisitions.

For applications go to
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THE
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OVERCOMING TEMPTATION

Written by Charlotte L. Pound



Bro. Larry Arrowood
Seymour, IN

Larry Arrowood, tell us a little about yourself and your ministry.

Nancy, my wife of 44 years, and I have two married sons, both in ministry. I delight in my five grandchildren. I have pastored The Tabernacle in Seymour, Indiana for the past 26 years. I currently serve as

presbyter of Section 7 of the Indiana District. I have written eight books: *Overcoming Temptation*; *Building the Home*; *Surviving the Storm of Suffering*; *Grace, Faith, Works* (finding the Biblical balance); *They Came To Save Us*; *Bloodroot*; *Troublesome Blue*, and *Cross Switch*. I graduated from Apostolic Bible Institute with a religious degree in 1972 and the University of Findlay in 1989 with emphasis in Psychology.

Our churches and saints are under tremendous spiritual attack today. Why do you think this is happening?

I don't think we are an exception; persecution of the righteous has been since mankind's fall from the garden. Perhaps life has gotten more complex, and our expectations have changed, especially living in a democratic society. Like, let's take a poll and see if the devil should be able to bother us. Modern technology has allowed more -- in quantity and degree of debauchery -- to infiltrate every facet of our lives. The current trend of society is to offer protection for rights that the Bible, as well as present and past cultures, defines as base and wicked.

What are some positive, practical steps that people can take to protect themselves and their families against excessive temptation?

Prevention is one of the best of defenses: if you've never tasted apple pie, you'll never crave apple pie. One must remove the temptation from one's environment as much as possible. Parents must not be naive about a child's Adamic nature and must recognize that their children are susceptible to temptation; therefore, they must create, as much as possible, a hedge of protection by way of guiding principles: curfew, dating guidelines, control of media, and participation in their lives. A spiritual environment is essential:

church attendance, personal Bible reading, and consistent prayer are absolutes. We must learn to use the Scripture as a defense: calling upon the name of the Lord, rebuking the adversary in Jesus' name, pleading the blood of Calvary. Recognize that some individuals sin because they are wicked; some sin because they are weak. We must approach both in a way that addresses the root of the sin, but both from a spiritual perspective of a relationship with Christ and a continual diet of His Word.

What should Christians avoid to help guard against excessive temptation and sin?

We are tempted through the mind (an imagination that is carnal in nature) and senses (externals that stimulate lustful desires). When we let down in our spiritual progress, we always default to a carnal nature; therefore, we must always be pressing onward and upward, feeding the spiritual nature within us and starving the carnal nature. With this said, we must make commitments that guard against what enters our mind through the external senses, and we must take control of our thoughts. It becomes a matter of removing that which is carnal and acquiring that which is righteous.

You recently wrote a book entitled *Overcoming Temptation*.

What prompted you to write this book?

The title sounds a bit forlorn and could well be a turnoff. However, whether the text is relevant at the moment is inconsequential, one's situation can change without notice. Like as with Job of old, the gales of adversity appear abruptly, and nothing you do can prevent them. My hope, even if one is sensing no immediate inclination for the subject, is that they read the book for the sake of future attacks and to be able to offer guidance to someone dealing with the issue of temptation. Temptation is not sin; it is the precursor to sin. If we have a biblical means of dealing with temptation we may well avoid committing the sin. Temptation is mankind's age-old companion. Ironically, this companion is not a colleague of choice. Conversely, this companion is an intruder of ultimate magnitude, a prowler of devastating potential. Temptation is one of the adversary's

most effective tools. Like a bloodthirsty tick, this culprit will eventually find and attach itself. There are a dozen ways to deal with ticks, but we must deal with them or we may contract a disease. The same is true for dealing with temptation.

I also wanted to offer hope to those who are under the adversary's attack. Others have been there and overcome: that offers hope to us today. We can study their temptation and response to the temptation—good or bad—and find direction for our situation. The Bible has a lot to say about overcoming sin, and it has a host of characters to study.

In the book's origination, there were a lot of books out there defining sin and telling the believer not to sin, but I found little information in prevention. I hope this book answers that need. It is a great book for new converts, or to use in counseling, and as a small group study guide.

What material do you cover in the book?

In twelve chapters (each concluding with points of interest to discuss), I cover a number of topics regarding temptation. Some include: knowing our enemy, recognizing God planned redemption from our past sins and hope if we fail, the shock that comes to the newborn

Christian when they are still tempted, preventative maintenance, early warning signs, God's provision for overcoming, what we are to do if we succumb to temptation and sin, an explanation of the unpardonable sin, and an overview of our Lord who was likewise tempted but never sinned.

For more information and to order:

The retail cost is \$13.95 but some outlets offer discounts. The title is: *Overcoming Temptation* (ISBN 978-0-9892291-5-9). The book is available online at its lowest cost through the publisher: Woodsong Publishing www.woodsongsongpublishing.com but is also available through Pentecostal Publishing House and various Christian outlets. Multiple online stores carry it, including Amazon and Barnes and Noble. It is also available in digital form as an Amazon e-book for \$2.99.



apostolicalendar 2015

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.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SPEAKERS	CONTACT / INFO
AUG 1-4	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	Nathaniel Urshan, Jimmy & Bobbie Shoemake, Rick Mayo, Mike & Beverly Blakley, Gary Streeval, Julie Hair, Jonathan Alvear, Matthew Tuttle, Tim & Kathy Copeland, Larry Booker, Myles Young	For more info visit www.arkansascampmeeting.com
AUG 17	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 Sleevea, others.	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
AUG 20-21	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	Brent Coltharp, Steve Cannon, Tom Foster, Raymond Woodward, Melanie Claborn, Lee Ann Alexander, Bart & Tracy Loyd, Eric McDougal, Josh Carson, Vickie Oliver, Ron Hendricks, Pat Grossell, John & Bonnie Chance	For more info: visit invest-in-futures.com
AUG 27-29	Times of Refreshing -- Mattoon, IL Service times are Thursday and Friday 7:30 p.m., Saturday 6:30 p.m. Children's church nightly with Lloyd Squires -- ages 5-11	Apostolic Center Church 205 Country Club Rd. Mattoon, IL 61938 Host: Pastor Shine & Bishop Derold Doughy	Doug White, Jerry Dillon and Gordon Poe	For more info: visit www.gordonpoe.com/TOR/conference . (717) 755-7202
SEPT. 22-25	91st Annual UPCI General Conference The theme is "Send." Early registration is \$50 per person ages 18 and older. Don't miss it!	Music City Center Nashville, TN	Tim Zuniga, Anthony Ens, Jerry Dean, Tim Gaddy, Paul Mooney, Sammy Sherrill and David Bernard	Online registration, hotel reservations and exhibit registration available at www.upcigc.com
OCT 16-18	Apostolic Doctrine Conference Strengthening Our Doctrinal Foundation	New Life Fellowship 7849 Wabash Avenue Terre Haute, IN 47803	Raymond Woodward and James Hughes	For more info: www.newlifeterrehaute.com or 812-877-9348
NOV 3-6	West Coast Conference - Fresno, CA 32nd Annual Fresno Meeting	Fresno Convention Center, 848 M Street, Fresno, CA	Nathan Morton, PJ White, Paul Bertram, Ron Garrett, Matt Davies, Jess Parker, and Vaughn Morton	For more information call: (559) 225-1622 www.truthtabfresno.org
FEB 18-20	WinterFire 2016 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 1151 Blue Hills Ave. Bloomfield, CT 06002	Paul Mooney, Sam Emory, T.F. Tenney, Jerald Staten, David Bernard and Rashidi Collins, Tim Greene and Janice Sjostrand	For more info: visit www.winterfire.org or visit Twitter: winterfireconf or Facebook/Instagram: winterfireconf
FEB 2016	INAAP Regional Training Center Empowering and equipping Apostolic leaders to build the Kingdom of God. Our vision is to align the Apostles and Prophets for the purpose of affirmation, awakening, aligning and activation.	To be announced	To be announced	For more info: visit www.spiritled.net , e-mail spiritledm@gmail.com , or call 888-776-0797
MARCH 3-4	Passing the Mantle 2016 PTM exists to equip ministers and ministry teams with spiritual tools to better reach their communities for the Lord. Our goal is to make each attendee more effective in their place of ministry.	Bartlett United Pentecostal Church 270 E. Schick Road Bartlett, IL 60103	Eli Hernandez, Harold Hoffman, Allan Shalm, James Stark and Tom Trimble	For more info: visit www.passingthementle.org or call 630-837-9800
APRIL 6-8	Indiana Bible College MUSIC FEST 2016 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
APRIL 2016	Eagles Summit Conference - Stockton, CA Eagles Summit is committed to birthing, empowering and equipping Apostolic leaders to build the Kingdom of God.	To be announced	To be announced	For more info: visit www.eaglessummit.net
JUNE 2016	Power Conference 2016 Services begin at 7:30 p.m. nightly. Day sessions at 10 a.m. Thursday and Friday morning.	To be announced	To be announced	For more info: contact Josh Hodum @ 662-872-9999 or John Hodum @ 931-332-3926
JULY 2016	Mile High Conference 2016 Revival of Prayer, Praise and Evangelism	To be announced	To be announced	(303) 758-5900 www.cacdenver.org DEH2@comcast.net

Church Today: The Perilous Pursuit of Prestige



Robert L. Rodenbush

■ Church Today

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The Perilous Pursuit of Prestige

In his study of how to achieve cultural domination through elitism, Italian communist Antonio Gramsci found that when it comes to the concept of cultural hegemony or domination, prestige is often valued above the preservation of one's native culture and values. In an article for the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, Lee Harris states that Gramsci was fascinated by how quickly "conquered subjects sought to emulate the prestigious language of their conquerors, while they simultaneously came to look down on their own native tongue as gross, defective, and inferior."

The cultural domination of secularism that perhaps we assumed would come through intimidation, technology and "big brother" methodology may actually be coming just as quickly through the contempt of Americans for themselves, their culture and their heritage. It is a battle, well anticipated by Gramsci, of prestige.

Harris contends that the battle of prestige may no longer be about what language we speak but has drawn its lines in the world of academia as Gramsci's "march through the institutions" has proven successful. "As education became the ticket to worldly success, it naturally became a source of prestige. Prestige no longer came from conquest by arms, but from earning a Ph.D. In modern secular societies, the eminence of the intellectual elite allowed it to unilaterally allocate prestige to select ideas, thinkers, and institutions. Objects imbued with the magical glow of prestige did not need to be pushed on people — on the contrary, people eagerly vied with each other to obtain these objects, often at great personal sacrifice."

No doubt the Church will face an ideological battle over prestige and while we have been made "more than conquerors" (Romans 8:37) we risk a change of language that will ultimately destroy our Apostolic heritage. We must be vigilant in protecting our Oneness Apostolic doctrine and separated lifestyle or these valued tenets of our faith will become mere reminders of perceived inferiority.

Similarly, as our Apostolic young people prepare to face the challenges of their day we must resist the temptation to so eagerly accept the idea that their achievements in education will completely determine their opportunity and success; and that our Apostolic educational institutions must be endorsed by liberal academia to be of benefit to our movement. Of course we must be committed to educational excellence - but very careful of whose standard of excellence we commit to and not forget that educational excellence alone cannot be the sole or even primary measurement of our success.

The last days will test our resolve and our commitment and it will be the whole armor, the powerful Word of God, that will guarantee our victory over the enemy. If we measure our success by the world's standards we will become insecure soldiers attempting to fight without confidence in our own weaponry, doing battle without surety of cause, and fighting for the prestige that will destroy us without remorse.

We are not immune to the allure of prestige, so we must anticipate its effect on the Church and guard against it. For once the adversary has the Church on the pursuit of prestige the defeat will come at our own hands. According to Harris, "That is the beauty of prestige: It doesn't need to lift a finger. It can just sit back and relax, confident that people will flock to its feet, begging for the crumbs from its luxuriant table."



Bobby Killmon

■ Theology

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This is a continuation from my last column dealing with interpreting Jn. 6:51 & Jn. 6:65.

The Gospels show "sent from heaven" connected to John the Baptist and his ministry. Mk. 11:30 and Mt. 21:25 show Jesus asking the origin of John's baptism. He asks the Pharisees, "The baptism of John, whence was it? *from heaven*, or of men?" Further, in Jn. 1:16, we see the same connection to the "sent" language when referencing John's commission to ministry. Jn. 1:6 says, "There was a man *sent from God*, whose name was John." So John was a man "sent from God," that's not physically from heaven as this context shows it's about him as a man just like Jn. 6 refers to Christ's humanity. But it also says his baptism was "from heaven" showing it was a divine mandate. This is about the source of his commission, not mere geography.

In the same way, while it is true Jesus was the one God manifest, His commission and ministry was as a man (Jn. 6:51 "my flesh"). However, that's not all He was. He said "...the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works" (Jn. 14:10). How do you get one person of the trinity inside another? You can't. But the man Jesus can be inhabited by the one eternal God who was in the beginning. His human ministry on Earth was fulfilled. So Jesus asks in Jn. 6:62, "What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?" He is saying He will ascend to heaven, but now in both roles as the eternal God and the perfect man as our Priest. 1 Cor. 15:28 reflects this full understanding of the deity and the role of the man Jesus fulfilled by the one God of Scripture. Paul says, "And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all." The eternal God was manifest in Bethlehem. He lived, died, was buried, and rose again. Then He ascended into heaven in both roles, not just one.

These passages in John disclose the culmination of history which moves toward the end or goal, God's teleological aim, from the foundation of the world. The lamb was slain from the foundation of the world. Not literally but purposed, planned, then enacted at Bethlehem and Calvary. So, God came in flesh. He descended as the plan purposed, then enacted (Jn. 1:1 & 14). Afterward, He ascended in His intended role as Savior which had been purposed from the beginning (Rev. 13:8). What a savior!



T. W. Massengale

■ Church Growth

tmassengale@apostolic.edu

The Importance of a Church Promotions Ministry

Churches need to advertise. However much of the advertising done by secular business is not that effective for churches or is way beyond the budget of the average church. This makes the development of a promotions /advertising department all the more important. What does a Church Promotional Director do? Consider:

Oversee and update the church web site. Often the technical details of doing this is beyond their skill level, but they make sure it gets done in a timely manner

Oversee church social media sites on the web and keep them current and relevant: Facebook, Twitter, Linked-In, Pinterest, Tumblr, Instagram, etc.

Oversee the copying of the weekly or monthly church bulletin. This can even grow into an eight page monthly church magazine that makes a great piece to mail to all past visitors.

Oversee targeted promotional mailings to the church contact list. Keeps list updated and uses bulk-mailing rates to lower costs.

Oversee design and printing of quality flyers to promote all church events and activities. The best advertising is word-of-mouth. Flyers make it easier to invite family, friends, co-workers, etc.

Oversee regular news releases to local newspaper and religious radio stations. Most have 'community service' sections and will list

your event if properly formatted. Community service projects hosted by your church can often get solid airtime if presented right.

Maintain outside signage and special events signs: Banners, yard signs, large format display boards, electronic message boards, etc.

Explore new advertising methods as the church advertising budget allows: billboards, spot-ads, mass mailings, Google ads, etc.

Insure that all major hotels and airports have the church listed in the Local Church Register and that the information is up to date.

Maintain a list of businesses that provide a community bulletin board and insures that a color church flyer of all special church activities is posted on their board.

If you would like a job description for this ministry, call 1-800-800-0247 and request a copy. Cost is \$3.00 plus postage.

WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY

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**2014 CFC OFFERING
TOP 10 DISTRICTS**

Louisiana	\$324,000.00
British Columbia	\$219,269.70
Texas	\$210,405.20
Mississippi	\$206,115.49
Indiana	\$142,517.51
Illinois	\$137,966.59
Michigan	\$137,395.94
Florida	\$129,575.29
Missouri	\$123,961.96
South Texas	\$107,326.21

2014 CFC OFFERING - TOP 20 CHURCHES

The Pentecostals of Fort St. John	Fort St John, BC	Jason McLaughlin	\$80,000.00
The Pentecostals of Alexandria	Alexandria, LA	Anthony Mangun/Terry Shock	\$61,300.00
Apostolic Lighthouse Tabernacle	Dawson Creek, BC	James Bridges	\$47,000.00
The Pentecostals of Bossier City	Bossier City, LA	Jerry Dean	\$45,805.00
Cedar Grove Pentecostal Church	Tupelo, MS	Danny Robbins	\$40,000.00
Calvary Tabernacle Church	Indianapolis, IN	Paul Mooney	\$28,039.01
Apostolic Pentecostal Church	Saint Louis, MO	Stephen Williford	\$27,964.08
United Pentecostal Church	Sexsmith, AB	James Bridges	\$23,500.00
Powells Grove Pentecostal Church	Jayess, MS	Ronnie Turner	\$21,100.00
Life Tabernacle	Langley, BC	Phil Lemke	\$21,000.00
New Destiny Worship Center	Clearwater, FL	Anthony Ballestero	\$20,144.50
Calvary Life Center	Waterbury, CT	Thomas Dibble	\$20,000.00
Life Challenge United Pentecostal Church	Odessa, TX	Daniel Smelser	\$18,000.00
Cardville United Pentecostal Church	Greenbush, ME	William Roix	\$17,143.00
The Pentecostals of Lafayette	Lafayette, LA	Derald Weber	\$16,858.50
Saint Laurent UPC	Saint Laurent, QC	Paul Graham	\$16,357.35
Apostolic Worship Center	Gresham, OR	Ted Graves	\$16,001.00
Oregon City United Pentecostal Church	Oregon City, OR	Gary Gleason	\$15,222.38
First Pentecostal Church	Whitehorse, YT	Roger Yadon	\$15,040.00
The First Church of Pearland	Pearland, TX	Ken Gurley	\$15,000.00

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Carol Clemans

Spiritual Growth
carol@carolclemans.org

**Bible Teaching/
 Counseling by Skype.com**

In the world, there are multitudes of hurting people. They experience Acts 2:38 salvation – their sins are removed – but they are still hurting from past painful experiences such as sexual abuse, etc. God removes our sins, but He does not remove our life’s experiences, memories or emotions.

Pastors, if you desire to see your people emotionally healed as well as saved, I do Skype teaching (and counseling) for churches from God’s Word on healing from sexual abuse, porn addiction, dealing with stress, marriage issues - from my book: *God’s Design for Marriage*, raising children, sexual purity, living holy as He is holy, emotional healing, stress/anxiety, grief processing, etc.

Skype teaching is a financial savings to a church that does not pay for transportation and lodging for a speaker/teacher. I do travel and teach for churches, but Skype is another option. If you desire a sample *free DVD* of my teaching, please call (636) 448-0121. I recently taught a Skype session for a church in Canada on how to deal with stress from God’s view with Q & A.

I provided 10 years of pastoral counseling ministry for Pastor Kenneth Haney at Stockton, CA before he went to St. Louis, MO. I also taught six years at Christian Life College under Dr. Daniel Segraves. My heartbeat is helping others grow and heal spiritually, emotionally and relationally with God and others.

Pastor Daniel Batchelor is on my board of directors of LEM, INC. (501C3). Go to: www.carolclemans.org for bio, 175+ articles, teaching CD’s & DVD’s, book: *God’s Design for Marriage*. I’ve been teaching God’s Word for 50 years – Holy Ghost for 60 years – certified pastoral counseling for 23 years local & nationwide by phone/Skype for pastors and lay people – (636) 448-0121.

Revs. Harold & Carol Clemans live in Madison, MS – Pastor, Jerry Dillon. Em: carol@carolclemans.org - www.carolclemans.org - call (636) 448-0121 to schedule speaking, counseling or to ask questions.



Brian Norman

Revival Concepts
evangelistnorman@gmail.com

The Leaders’ Personal Pentecost

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all . . .” (Acts 2:1).

The Apostolic Church began with leadership.

Obviously, it was the leadership of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, but mere men were involved too. And, notably for this discussion, they were not normal men; they were men who had walked with the Savior and were infused with the power of the Holy Ghost.

There are simple truths about churches and their growth, spiritually and numerically. One is that churches do not go beyond their leadership. When we look at the book of Acts for the pattern of being Apostolic in doctrine, action and growth, we see it starts with leadership. Notice several significant things: 1) “. . . when the Day of Pentecost was fully come.” Prior to this, there had been much preparation in the lives of the disciples and apostles-to-be. They had walked with Christ the redeemer for several years, and now they had been consecrating themselves for 40+ days, readying themselves to experience the “promise of the Father” (Luke 24:49).

How does this apply to us today? As leaders, we must make sure we are preparing ourselves to hear from God. By this, I mean in word, deed and spirit. For how can we share that which we do not have? If we do not pray, can we expect those who we lead to do so? No. If we do not do devotions, can we expect those we lead to do so? No.

2) “they were all . . .” *THERE* (Norman addition). Yes, they showed up for the prayer meetings, they showed up for the worship, and they showed up for the fellowship. The “they” that experienced the first outpouring of the Holy Ghost were those in attendance. Faithfulness in doing spiritual, righteous, just and merciful things cannot be over emphasized. Every word and deed is sowing a seed into our lives, our eternity *and* those we lead. In other words, it’s the church’s growth.

As the Apostles did in Acts 6, at times as leaders we must push the reset, restart, renew and refresh button and get back to the basics. An old adage from my “BC” youth was, “Don’t forget the girl you brought to the dance.” It is imperative we major on the majors, not the minors.

Brian Norman has been in the ministry for 23 years, serving as a Pastor, Church Planter and now as a full-time Evangelist. Phone: 636-544-0627 Website: GlobalEvangelism.org



Aubrey Jayroe

Finance
jayroeone@sbcglobal.net

There is much concern over the recent Supreme Court ruling concerning the requirements of marriage, etc. Is there anything needed by the church to ensure we have a right to marry according to the scriptures?

According to the recent opinions, religious organizations are not affected by this recent court ruling; however, after consulting legal counsel, we have been advised that it is necessary for additional documents to be approved by the church.

Until recently, a Facilities Use Policy was all that was needed to fully protect the rights of religious organizations. Now, this has changed.

Based on the latest legal opinion, it is being recommended that a church include an addendum to its existing by-laws in making a statement concerning Marriage and Family. A church should be sure its by-laws are up-to-date in all areas so that the legality of the document is not in question.

A church then should have an addendum to the bylaws to include the Marriage and Family statement. This should be based on scriptural reasons with the proper wording to provide protection to the church and all staff, whether paid or unpaid, including all ministers.

It is our recommendation that all churches have this Marriage and Family document included as an addendum if they wish to be afforded protection, and have it approved by the church board or membership, whichever is required of that church.

If we can assist in this, please contact our office by emailing us at the address shown below.

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
 Health Reimbursement
 Arrangements**

Recently, I wrote about changes in health care benefits as a result of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Many churches also reimburse or pay directly for out-of-pocket (OOP) medical expenses such as prescriptions, co-pays, dental, etc. Under the ACA, these types of arrangements (also known as a health reimbursement arrangement or HRA) must also comply

with the new rules concerning health care insurance.

In order to have a qualifying HRA plan, you will need to have a plan document prepared, along with a summary plan description which must be given to every employee that qualifies to participate. The plan document must be written specifically for the underlying ACA compliant health care insurance provided. Stand-alone HRA’s are no longer allowed. The new HRA is also referred to as an “integrated HRA.”

Also, only eligible expenses can be reimbursed. Over-the-counter medicines

are only eligible if prescribed by a doctor in writing.

Failure to follow the new rules can subject the employer to the same \$100 per day penalty for not having an ACA-compliant health insurance plan.

This is only a brief summary of a complex topic with many new rules and changes. Please contact us or an attorney who specializes in employee benefits for additional information.

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@dsacpains.com Website: www.dsacpains.com

THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS**Universities Recruit Teens to Abort Babies For Research**

Researchers in Hawaii are looking for girls to participate in second trimester abortions as part of research on whether oxytocin can reduce bleeding in mothers during and after abortion.

The girls can be as young as 14 for the study, which takes place in the second trimester of abortions,



where the unborn baby is 18 to 24 weeks gestation. The

abortion procedure is two days and involves stopping the baby's heart and then delivering or dismembering the baby.

The University of Hawaii and the University of Washington in Seattle are conducting the study.

"That is 166 mothers who are going to be hurt by the devastating effects of abortion. That is at least 166 children who will suffer a horrendous and painful death in the name of research," an article by *Life News* said. Some scientific reports say that babies can feel pain at 20 weeks gestation.

"The University of Hawaii needs to stop this study immediately," Kristan Hawkins wrote. "They are recruiting children to abort their own children in late-term abortions, a very risky procedure that ends the life of at least one person involved."

EDUCATION TRENDS**Students Asked to Pretend They Are Muslims**

A high school teacher in Wisconsin reportedly told her students to pretend that they were Muslims to complete a writing assignment. According to *EAGnews*, Union Grove High School teacher Beth Urban gave the assignment to a 10th grade history class.

The assignment instructed students to pretend that they were Muslims living in the U.S. and describe the struggles they faced in an essay.

Parents complained about the assignment, arguing that it invented or exaggerated prejudices against Muslims. One reporter wrote that he asked the school, "Were students ever told to pretend they were Jewish or Christian or Hindu? It seems to be a straightforward question - but one the local school district will not answer."

**Survey: Most Americans Believe Heaven, Hell Are Real**

A recent study yielded surprising results about what many Americans say about heaven and hell. It revealed that most Americans do believe in heaven, hell and a few old-fashioned heresies. Those are among the findings of a new study of American views about Christian theology from LifeWay Research.

However, Americans disagree about mixing religion and politics and about the Bible. And few pay much heed to their pastor's sermons or see themselves as sinners, according to the online survey of 3,000 Americans.

Researchers asked 43 questions about faith, covering topics from sin and salvation to the Bible and the afterlife. They wanted to know how people in the pews—and people on the street—understand theology.

Americans say heaven is a real place but disagree about who gets in. Two-thirds of Americans believe heaven is real, according to the survey. That includes 9 in 10 black Protestants (88%) and evangelicals (90%), three-fourths of Catholics (75%) as well as a third of non-Christians (37%).

Just under half of Americans say there are many ways to heaven—which conflicts with traditional views about salvation being linked to faith in Jesus. Catholics (67%) and mainline Protestants (55%) are most likely to say heaven's gates are wide open with many ways in. Evangelicals (19%) and black Protestants (33%) are more skeptical.

Hell is a real place, too. But you have to be really bad to go there, according to many respondents. About 6 in 10 Americans (61%) say hell is real, according to the survey. But overall, Americans don't seem too worried about sin or being sent to hell. Two-thirds (67%) told researchers that most people are basically good, even though everyone sins a little bit—an optimistic view of human nature at odds with traditional teaching about human sin.

Americans disagree about sex, God and politics.

About 4 in 10 Americans—and more than half of non-Christians (55%)—say churches should remain silent about politics. Less than half of Americans (48%) say sex outside of marriage is a sin. Christian groups are split on the topic, the survey found. Mainline Protestants (44%) and Catholics (40%) don't see sex outside of marriage as sinful. Three-fourths of black Protestants (74%) and evangelicals (76%) believe it is.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ Scientists in Israel have created the world's smallest Bible, a text so small that it could fit on the tip of a pen. CNN reports the Nano Bible includes 1.2 million letters of the Old Testament etched onto a miniscule disc. To read the scripture, it would have to be magnified about 10,000 times. The Nano Bible is now being displayed at the Israel Museum's 50th anniversary exhibit.

■ A court in Canada has ruled that a Christian law school can be denied accreditation for

having a policy in opposition to homosexuality. Recently, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice ruled against Trinity Western University of Vancouver, which had filed a lawsuit after it was denied accreditation in April 2014. At issue was Trinity Western's Community Covenant, which requires students and faculty to "voluntarily abstain" from "sexual intimacy that violates the sacredness of marriage between a man and a woman." The college plans to appeal the ruling.

SOCIAL TRENDS**Insurance Concerns For Churches That Refuse Same-Sex Weddings**

Many pastors fear lawsuits or government action may someday force them to perform or recognize same-sex marriages. While there are -- so far

-- no meaningful judicial precedents that would permit such dramatic interference with churches' First Amendment rights, lawsuits challenging church liberties are inevitable.



Indeed, the Iowa Civil Rights Commission has declared that prohibitions against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity "sometimes" apply to churches and has stated that a "church service open to the public" is not a "bona fide religious purpose" that would limit application of the law.

Churches, like virtually every functioning corporation, protect against liability risks and the potentially ruinous costs of litigation through liability insurance. With same-sex marriage now recognized as a constitutional right, pastors are reaching out to insurance companies to make sure they're covered. And at least one insurer has responded with a preemptory denial: no coverage if a church is sued for refusing to perform a same-sex wedding.

RELIGIOUS TRENDS**Only 35% Americans Believe U.S. Is Christian Nation**

The majority of Americans believe that faith in God is an important component of being a true American, but that the U.S. is not a Christian nation, a new study has found.

Data compiled by the Public Religion Research Institute found that 69% of Americans agreed with the statement that a belief in God is an "important part of being truly American." This view was more popular among older people, held by 77% of seniors in comparison to 52% of young adults. The view was more widely held among Republicans (81%) than Democrats (63%).

More than half (53%) of those asked said that being a Christian is an important of being truly American, a figure that rose to 75% of white evangelical Protestants and 55% of Catholics. However, most Americans do not believe that America is a Christian nation. Around 59% said that it isn't, though 45% agree that it once was. Just 35% said that it is currently a Christian nation, perhaps pointing to the decline of religion across the U.S.

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CASTING IMAGINATIONS



Bro. Arlo Moehlenpah
Poway, CA

“(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

When the apostle Paul talks about spiritual warfare, the first weapon he mentions is casting down imaginations. *Imagination* is “the act or power of creating mental images of what has never been actually experienced.” Therefore, imaginations are unreal and dreamed up. They have not been actually experienced. The truth is that most imaginations are lies. Our chief weapon is to cast down imaginations!

One imaginative man said he didn’t like going to football games: “They huddle and talk about me!”

Positive Imaginations

What are some imaginations that turned out great? Peanut butter, some might say. But consider the airplane, Skype, the computer, the microwave oven, the calculator and the cell phone, not to mention knee replacement! I’m glad someone was creatively imaginative to bring those things to our use.

Imagination is also defined as “the act or power of producing images in the mind, of things not actually present to the senses.” Hebrews 11:3 tells us, “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.” That is creative imagination!

Wicked Imaginations

Contrary to our creative imagination, almost every mention of *imagination* in the Bible has a negative connotation. Before the flood, God saw that “every imagination of the thoughts of his [man’s] heart was only evil continually” (Genesis 6:5). Also, the Lord declared that “the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth” (Genesis 8:21). One of the seven things that are an abomination to the Lord is “an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations” (Proverbs 6:18). Paul also wrote about ungodly men who “became vain in their imaginations” (Romans 1:21). No wonder Paul wrote to cast down imaginations!

Yahtzee is a game where the player tries to roll five 6’s. The probability of rolling one 6 is 26 times, and rolling 6 five times has a probability rate of 1 in 7776. The mathematical probability of matching a three-letter word (i.e., pen, fog) is 17,756, a five-letter word is 11 million, a six-letter word is 308 million, and a seven-letter word is more than our calculators can register. We must realize the slim probability rate of our imaginations. Almost all our mind imaginations are lies.

Imagination Can Cause Wars

After Israel conquered Canaan, the two-and-one-half tribes on the east side of the Jordan River were returning to their land when they stopped to build a memorial (See Joshua, chapter 22). When the other nine-and-one-half tribes heard of it, they decided to go to war against their own brethren. They *thought* its purpose was for alternate worship, forbidden by the Lord. Communication caused the imaginations to be cast down, and the war was prevented.

Imagination Can Cause False Accusations

Hannah prayed so deeply, only her lips moved. Eli imagined untruth and accused her of being drunk (See 1 Samuel, chapter 1). At the tower of Siloam where 18 men were killed when the tower fell, people accused the men of being more wicked than others because of their resulting deaths. “Think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem?” Jesus asked. (Luke 13:4). “Do you imagine them to be more wicked?” In Moore, Oklahoma, they have had destructive tornadoes, not because they are more wicked, but because they live in tornado alley!

“And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?” (John 9:1-2). What? Did they think accusingly that he had sinned in the womb? Jesus answered them clearly. “Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him” (John 9:3).

G D O W N A T I O N S

Transcribed by Peggy Jenkins

On the Day of Pentecost, they were accused of being drunk with wine. But rather, they were filled with the Holy Ghost!

Job was perfect and upright; he feared God and hated evil. The devil imagined he served for blessings. Accusers said, "His punishment is less than he deserves." Let us cast down imaginations! The mathematical probability is that everything you can imagine will be a lie.

Joseph must have questioned, how could this be? I thought I had a good woman to marry, yet she is pregnant. Was she unfaithful? What did he imagine? But he accepted the truth: this is from God.

Imagination Can Ruin Marriages

I've been married over 56 years to my wife, but some years ago I found a tie in my closet; I had never seen the tie before. I thought I had a faithful, good wife, but it really tortured me for days. It was terrible! Finally I asked her whose it was; we talked and remembered an evangelist who had used our bedroom. Communication caused the imaginations to be cast down, and I'm happy to say we have remained happily married. Hebrews 13:16 states, "But to do good and to communicate forget not . . ."

Imaginations Can Damage Family Relationships

Parents should be concerned about the welfare and well-being of their children but must cast down imaginations. Love your children enough to trust them.

Imagination Can Destroy Church Relationships

J.T. Pugh quit counseling in his office -- several "counselees" felt he was preaching their details from the pulpit. Imaginations can go wild. Casting down imaginations is our chief weapon!

Imagination Can Destroy Fellowship Between Ministering Brethren

Once, a fellow minister promised to send me a check for money due from a transaction. I waited for several weeks but did not receive the check. Upset, I finally wrote him. He promptly called me and told me that he had mailed the check several weeks before! He had sent it to my former address from which I had moved a year and a half before. He kindly wrote me another check. (I can only wonder if some of the factions in our districts could be eliminated if we would cast down imaginations.)

Realize most imaginations are lies. Cast them down! It is our chief weapon to one of the devil's cheap tools. Perhaps you've gotten a letter or a phone call and think, "What does that mean?" You interpret it wrong, but cast down imaginations!

As we grow older, our hearing may dim. It can result in inaccuracies, misunderstandings, or a lack of reply. "Is he/she mad at me?" After finishing a meal, one story goes, a man said, "I've had sufficient."

The companion said, "You went fishing?"

"I've had plenty," emphasized the first man.

"You caught twenty?" the friend asked.

"Poor ol' soul," the first man sympathized.

"Oh, you broke your pole?" said his sympathetic companion.

Imaginations Can Weaken Our Walk With God

Some are healed, but "why not those I pray for?" One lady stomped on her glasses to show her faith, but later had to go and reorder the glasses so she could see.

Ananias in the record of Acts 5 lied against the Holy Ghost. Three hours later, his wife repeated it. Peter had discernment of spirits. There is a difference between the gift of discerning and the gift of suspicion.

Conclusion

To summarize, here are three ways to cast down imaginations: Realize that most imaginations are lies. Communication to clarify our perceptions is of utmost importance. Love enough to trust one another. We're not perfect, but the best people in the world are in church!

Biography: Arlo Moehlenpah received the baptism of the Holy Ghost while a sophomore in college. His secular education includes a B.S., M.S. and D.Sc in chemical engineering. He taught chemistry at three different colleges and also is a registered professional engineer. He also graduated from Apostolic Bible Institute. His ministerial experience includes starting a church in Stevens Point, Wisconsin and pastoring a church in High Wycombe, England. For the last 44 years he taught and served in various administrative positions at Gateway College of Evangelism, Conquerors Bible College, Christian Life College and the Apostolic Bible Institute. He currently conducts Creation vs. Evolution and Teacher Training seminars and teaches on other Biblical topics. (Check out Arlo E. Moehlenpah's website at www.DoingGood.org where he demonstrates why having the Word of God in your heart is so important.)

TIMES OF REFRESHING MINISTRIES

TIMES OF REFRESHING EVENTS

- 2015 & 2016 EVENTS -

MATTOON, IL

Apostolic Center Church

Date: Aug 27TH-29TH

Host Pastors: Shine & Derold Doughty

Speakers: Doug White, Jerry Dillon & Gordon Poe

KATY, TX

Pentecostals of Katy

Date: Sept. 17TH-19TH

Host Pastor: Rob McKee

Speaker: David Elms, Raymond Woodard & Gordon Poe

TYLER, TX

Tyler Tabernacle

Date: Oct. 15TH-17TH

Host Pastor: Mike Littlefield

Speakers: Jerry Dillon, Scott Graham & Gordon Poe

SAN BENITO, TX

The Well Ladies Conference

Date: Nov. 6TH-7TH

Host Pastor: J.C. & Diane Milligan

Speakers: Shara McKee & Gordon Poe

LEWISVILLE, TX

Pentecostals of Lewisville

Date: Nov. 12TH-14TH

Host Pastor: Rob McKee

Speakers: Raymond Woodard, Cort Chavis & Gordon Poe

ODESSA, TX

Life Challenge Church

Date: Dec. 31ST - Jan. 3RD

Host Pastor: Dan Smelser

TULARE, CA

Living Christ Church

Date: March 17TH-19TH

Host Pastor: James McPhail,

Don Demyan, Brian Allard & Arthur Law

HARLINGEN, TX

Spirit of Praise

Date: April 14TH-16TH

Host Pastor: Tony Ybarra,

JC Milligan & Craig Stallord



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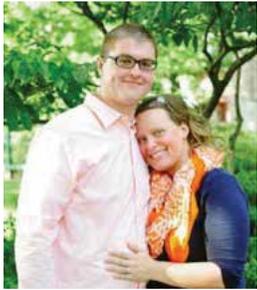
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Project 7 Bible Clubs and Campus Ministries

Student-Led Organizations Designed to Evangelize Local Schools

By Gregg Stone



Bro. and Sis. Jeremy Stafford
Cantonment, FL

With all the negativity that pervades our school system, Project 7 (P7) Bible Clubs and Campus Ministries International (CMI) has become a positive venue in the lives of students in Pensacola, Florida and the surrounding area, giving them a place to study the Word and have a positive impact in the school system. The P7 program targets students who are searching for truth and meaning in life, and are desperate for purpose.

Bro. Jeremy Stafford, youth pastor of First Pentecostal Church in Pensacola, started these ministries as he recognized a need in the surrounding schools. "I have a burden for the students of Pensacola," said Bro. Stafford, "and it is a very effective way to conduct outreach and develop relationships within your schools."

The formula of the P7 and CMI

programs provided by the General Youth Division of the UPCI makes it easy to implement and to be able to get into the schools. "To date I have started two P7 clubs and one CMI," said Bro. Stafford. "These ministries are student-led and are designed for students to evangelize their schools. I am there to support them, but I want them to develop their ministries and leadership skills. Our first P7 is in Newpoint and is led by a young woman in our youth group. This is a new P7 and averages four members at present.

The other P7 has just been implemented in Gulf Breeze High School, and we are expecting great results as well."

Bro. Stafford and his team of students have seen successful results as these ministries continue to grow. "Our CMI has been established the longest and has reached up to 10 attendees," explains Bro. Stafford. "We have seen just about every visitor to this club attend our Wednesday

night youth services, and recently a young lady from this group received the Holy Ghost. In addition, we had a new attendee at our Gulf Breeze location, and she let us pray for her. She needed healing in her body. The young woman that leads this group spoke on faith, and at the end, Maddy (the visitor) recognized the need for faith in her life."



Bro. Stafford is excited about the existing clubs and the prospect of starting new ones in the future, not only to help the students in their school systems but also to help his youth group to grow and have a positive impact on this generation.

"I believe this is an easy way for our youth to connect with their friends and invite them to something that is convenient," said Bro. Stafford. "Then once they are connected, we can speak truth into their lives. This can be a light that is much needed in our society today. This formula empowers our students to reach for others, and it also gives our local youth group something to work together on as a team."

The Apostolic Leadership Institute

Week-Long Course Develops Leadership Qualities in Those of Apostolic Faith

By Gregg Stone



Bro. Clifford H. Readout, Jr.
Longmeadow, MA

Excellence in Doctrine, Excellence in Lifestyle, Excellence in Ministry. The Apostolic Leadership Institute (ALI), which took place July 12-17, is a week-long, intense, multi-course program designed to teach and help develop leadership qualities in those

of the Apostolic faith by leading them into excellence in these three major areas.

The idea of ALI was conceived by Bro. Clifford H. Readout to help students build on their current foundation to grow in knowledge and wisdom and to be better prepared to be a blessing in their local church and help to further the gospel of Jesus Christ. "Knowing that the Apostolic movement has several relatively popular Bible colleges, it seemed to me that an intensive, short-term training program would be of greater benefit to the Church than another full-term Bible college," said Bro. Readout.

Tuition for the Apostolic Leadership Institute includes room and board for the week as well as the written course materials for the classes you will attend. Three

quality meals a day are included in one low fee. Students are roomed in the superior dormitory facilities of the college, which is located in Waterbury, CT. Married couples are allowed to room together. "The course work is illuminating and intense," said Bro. Readout.

One alumnus wrote this about the curriculum: "Even basic subjects are covered in such depth and detail that students can develop profound understanding. The teachers are passionate about their material and make personal sacrifices to deliver it. All of this is included, plus air-conditioned rooms with full kitchens and 15 good meals in the cafeteria for less than you would reasonably expect to pay for the lodging alone. For those who are serious about achieving excellence, attendance at ALI is a must."

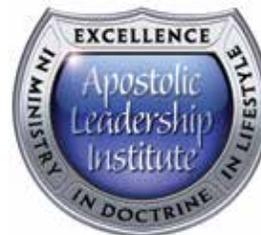
The students of the Apostolic Leadership Institute include men and women at every stage of Christian development, and every age from 15 to 85, and the results have been amazing. ALI alumni who were not already credentialed have become ministers, overseas and North American missionaries, pastors, assistant pastors, and even district presbyters and department heads. Others have become

faithful lay leaders and soul winners in their home churches. "The total enrollment in our 14 years of operation has been 831 students," said Bro. Readout. "We have received excellent feedback, and there is an entire page on our website devoted to students' testimonials and evaluations."

The Apostolic Leadership Institute Board of Directors has sought the Lord's direction in choosing the faculty and curriculum. "We are abundantly blessed with the gifted ministries of a unique and very special faculty," said Bro. Readout. "We have been blessed with a bountiful presence of the Lord, enthusiastic and loyal alumni, and an excellent reputation throughout North America and among overseas missionary works. All of us in the Apostolic Leadership Institute hope that

you will make application to attend ALI next year and also urge your local church leaders and young people to take advantage of this tremendous spiritual development opportunity."

For more information, or to apply, visit apostolicleadership.com or contact Tom Dibble at TomDibble@apostolicleadership.com or Cliff Readout at readout@mac.com



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Word To The Wise:

“Laughter is good exercise. It’s like jogging on the inside.”

My high school English teacher was well known for being a fair, but hard grader.

One day I received a B minus on an essay. In hopes of bettering my grade and in the spirit of the Valentine season, I sent her an extravagant heart-shaped box of chocolates with the pre-printed inscription: “BE MINE.”

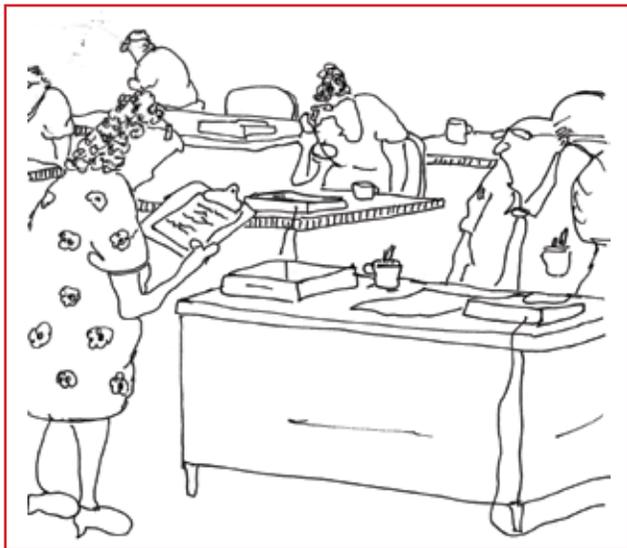
The following day, I received in return a Valentine from the teacher. It read: “Thank you, but it’s still BE MINE-US.”

A panda walks into a diner, sits down, and orders a sandwich. He eats the sandwich, pulls out a gun, and shoots out the restaurant’s windows.

As the panda stands up to go, the owner shouts, “Hey! Where are you going? You just shot my windows out, and you didn’t pay for your sandwich!”

The panda yells back at the owner, “Hey man, I’m a PANDA! Look it up!”

The owner opens his dictionary and sees the following definition for *panda*: “A tree dwelling marsupial of Asian origin. Eats shoots and leaves.”



“I’m collecting commitments for my son’s Sheaves For Christ Walk-A-Thon. Which donation should I put you down for? Heavenly Saint, \$25; Struggling Pilgrim, \$10; or Carnal Tightwad, \$5?”

Top Ten Signs You Are In For a Long Sermon

10. There’s a case of bottled water beside the pulpit in a cooler.
9. The pews have camper hookups.
8. You overhear the pastor telling the sound man to have a few (dozen!) extra CDs on hand to record today’s sermon.
7. The preacher has brought a snack to the pulpit.
6. The preacher breaks for an intermission.
5. The bulletins have pizza delivery menus.
4. When the preacher asks the deacon to bring in his notes, he rolls in a filing cabinet.
3. The choir loft is furnished with La-Z-Boys.
2. Instead of taking off his watch and laying it on the pulpit, the preacher turns up a four-foot hour-glass.
1. The minister says, “You’ll be out in time to watch the 4th of July fireworks” but it’s only May!

I was on an elevator the other day, and the operator kept calling me “son.”
I said, “Why do you keep calling me ‘son’? You’re not my father.”
He said, “I brought you up, didn’t I?”



The new roller coaster ride at Bible Kingdom averaged four conversions per hour.

A young man asked an old rich man how he made his fortune. The old guy fingered his worsted wool vest and said, “Well, son, it was 1932, the depth of the Great Depression. I was down to my last nickel. I invested that nickel in an apple. I spent a few minutes polishing the apple and sold the apple for ten cents.

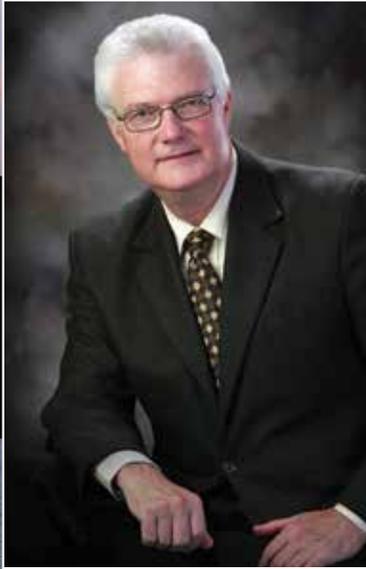
“The next morning, I invested those ten cents in two apples. I spent a few minutes polishing them and sold them for 20 cents. I continued this system for a month and by the end of which I’d accumulated a fortune of \$6.40. Then my wife’s father died and left us two million dollars.”

A guy goes into the doctor’s office. He has a banana stuck in one ear, a cucumber in the other ear, and a carrot up his nose. The guy says, “Doc, I feel terrible. What’s wrong with me?” The doctor says, “Well, first of all, you’re not eating right.”



“Okay, boys, now let’s do ‘When The Saints Go Marching In!’”

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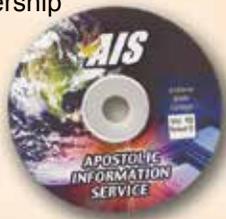
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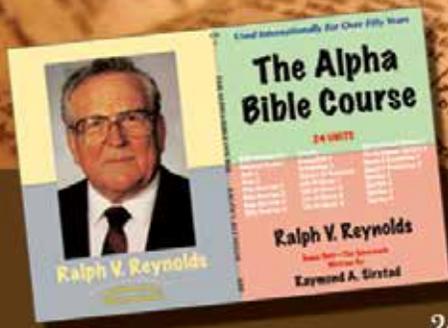
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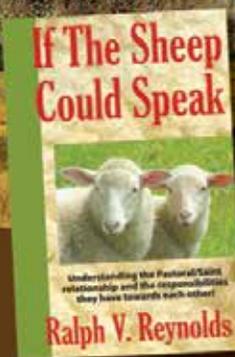


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