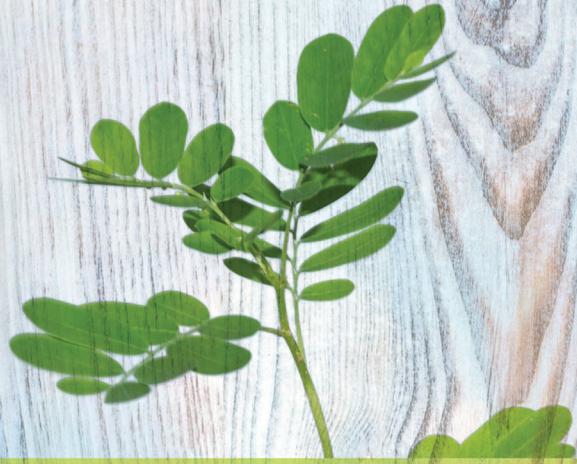




Perspectives



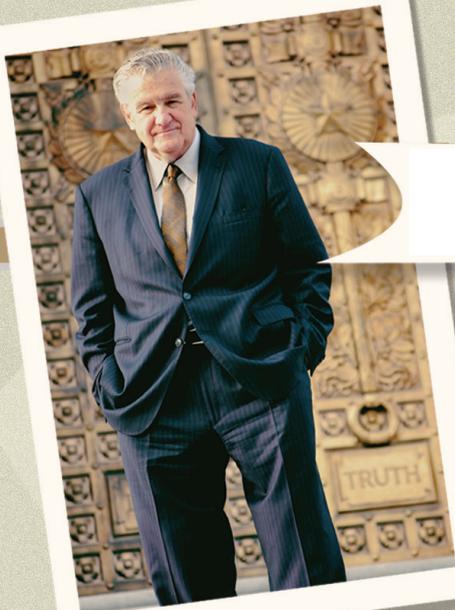
The **AMAZING MINISTRY** *of a*
CAREER CHURCH PLANTER



From The Publisher

Unpredictable Winds

Paul D. Mooney



"In The Glorious Age of Discovery, the known world was small and imperfectly understood. The first sailors to venture out across the Atlantic had before them an uncharted wilderness, one that far exceeded in its dangers and in its terrors that of any overland travel route; here there were no sign posts to guide their way, no precedents to rely on. Once out of the sight of land, they were completely on their own, at the mercy of violent storms, while unpredictable winds and currents altered their course."

The above paragraph is the opening introduction to a fascinating little book by Donald S. Johnson entitled *Phantom Islands of the Atlantic* (Avon Books, 1994). The author brings to life the voyages of brave mariners motivated mostly by commerce, fortune and, as always, the dream of fame. Hoping to find new routes to the far east and to advance the explorers' sovereign (country) through discovery and plunder, these brave and intriguing men brought back embellished tales of sea monsters and strange beasts. They told about gold, silver and great riches on these islands. Perhaps these stories were woven to enhance their reputations as explorers, or maybe it was ignorance and illusionary fears caused by long periods at sea. They imagined and misjudged many of the real elements they faced. They traveled through the vast Atlantic Ocean, then referred to as the "Sea of Darkness" or the "Great Green Sea of Gloom."

Johnson's book deals with the islands that were for many years considered real places, islands that had been positioned on sea-charts, islands such as the Isle of Demons, Antillia, The Isle of Seven Cities, Hy-Brasil and many others. Later, they became known as the "phantom islands." But they never existed. Many mariners looked for them, some reported sighting them, and some submitted reports of having explored them. Today we know they are the "islands that never were."

As I read Johnson's small book, I kept thinking about the parallel it had with our day, in a certain sense. These men were on a search for a water route to China that simply did not exist. They did everything in their power to justify their work and have it appear more valuable, at a time when their world was changing -- hope and meaning was attached to everything. It all mattered because they knew that the sea alone was their only connection to other cultures, ideas and commerce. It was their only hope for prosperity. Discovery and change were everywhere and mankind was not to be denied its optimism in the future. This was the passion that pushed them into ships to sail into the unknown.

Here we are again. Whole new worlds are being discovered. Ships are being set to sail. Excitement reigns. Our children's futures are being reimagined, redirected and restructured. They are being pushed out of old cultural foundations, old religions, old worship modes, old business paradigms, old ethics, old (Christian-based) morals, old educational foundations and led into a new new age. They are coerced into cooperation through peer pressure, pop-culture indoctrination, and even by activist legislation disguised in political correctness.

There is an unshakeable feeling that a new kind of future is not only here but that it holds tremendous opportunities, great promise and fortune for all. I am not suggesting that we should fear the future: it is clearly an unavoidable thing. The future is altogether in God's hands; to fear it is not wise or necessary. However, understanding your relationship and responsibility toward the future is another matter. We can't blindly allow our misplaced hope to guide us toward uncertain paths.

The Cyber Effect (Spiegel & Grau, 2016), a book authored by renowned forensic cyberpsychologist Mary Aiken, Ph.D., (a must-read for leaders), deals with what I'm trying to emphasize here. She states: "We

are living through a unique period of human history, an intense period of flux, change and disruption that may never be repeated. A seismic shift in living and thinking is taking place due to the rapid and pervasive introduction of new technologies to daily life, which has changed the way we communicate, work, shop, socialize and do almost everything else. This moment is not unlike the Enlightenment (1650-1800) when there were great shifts in awareness, knowledge and technology accompanied by great societal changes." Can we really disagree with Dr. Aiken's thoughts here? She does not, by the way, see the cyber world as a path to utopia. This is a serious subject and my point is not that the future can be eliminated, but that we as Spirit-filled people must discern the danger here. We must not start drawing phantom islands on our "future charts." We cannot put our hope in an earthly future: imagining, dreaming and embellishing the reality that is coming our way. The inevitable future that we are facing is fraught with danger. We've been warned that there is potential to make errors, to fall away or be deceived (Matthew 24:24).

A love for the world will block out reality. It will keep us from seeing clearly the attacks against Christianity. We cannot fear the battles that lie ahead, but neither can we ignore them. Our hearts, our spirits and our minds must be prepared to meet the future in which we are "hated of all men" for His name's sake. We are not on an illusory quest to some idealistic world full of riches and golden prosperity. We are at a critical juncture. We can move ahead, blindfolded by silky smooth promises of the adversary, and search for islands that don't even exist. Or we kill the idea of a fantasy future, and we boldly rise up, instruct our children in righteousness, take them out of the clutches of the enemy's modern devices, and begin to press back against the encroaching darkness of the world.

The Internet may seem like the great hope of today. It will connect cultures, provide easy commerce, create the medium for new fortunes and so much more. It has been labeled the greatest treasure the world has ever known. Know this ... it will not save us. To the contrary, it is the most pervasive, harmful weapon the world has ever held in its hands. It is changing the very way we as humans think, how we interact, how we communicate. Just now are we beginning to see the surface-level consequences all of this is having upon us and our children.

The Internet feeds the minds of our youth with utopian ideas of the future. They are developing what Dr. Aiken describes as "online disinhibition effect" because they feel invisible, have perceived anonymity and have completely embraced virtual reality. Like the explorers who came to believe in whole islands that didn't exist, the minds and lives of so many young people today are a blurred mess of fantasy and reality combined. Some, I believe, know the difference. They know they've created some embellished form of a life that really isn't there. But, sadly, there are others who are completely lost to the cyber world. It is real to them. The unpredictable winds have carried them into delusion and they've added this destination to their map. Tragically, they will find no utopia -- there is no utopia here. It is all "phantom islands." Ultimately, this world is not our home.

It is time we challenge our Apostolic youth to become a counter-force in this world. This is their moment. They must resist the enemy and the devices that he is using to try to take them captive. The foundations built by past generations through the power of the Spirit cannot be abandoned, exchanged for pseudo-religiosity, fame, fortune, or fanciful tales of non-existent lands. While the moment may belong to the next generation, the elder generation cannot simply throw in the towel. We all must earnestly contend together for the preservation of the faith. The mantle must be passed with great care and discernment to those who are wholly committed to the Apostles' doctrine. It cannot be given carelessly, but rather with all diligence: ensuring that nothing is lost and the foundation stays whole and intact. "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived" (2 Timothy 3:13).

Editors and Staff

PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER:

Paul D. Mooney

EXEC. VICE-PRESIDENT:

Robert L. Rodenbush

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:

T. W. Massengale

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Julia Reinking

GRAPHIC DESIGN:

Brooke Robinson

STAFF WRITERS:

Christina Li

John Fonzer Jr.

Charlotte L. Pound

Gregg Stone

Linda Schreckenberg

Jonathan Mohr

Susan Thomas

Brittney Ragan

Maranatha Gannon

OFFICE MANAGER:

R. Jaye Bannister

OFFICE ASSISTANT:

Charissa Huff

AS PROMOTIONS DIRECTOR:

Linda Massengale

ADVERTISING MANAGER:

Angela Labunski

AS CD RESOURCE CLERK:

Jonathan Schellhardt

ACCOUNTS MANAGER

Julia Reinking

GENERAL OFFICE CLERK

Kristoria Chapman

Waunita Unutoa

Kade Abbott

Maranatha Gannon

DIGITAL MAGAZINE EDITOR:

Brandon Graham

WEBSITE MANAGER:

Zack Ross

Web Site: www.ibcperspectives.com

E-mail: tmassengale@apostolic.edu

Mission Statement

♦To promote revival and growth among Apostolic churches and pastors by encouraging unity and cooperation among those of like faith and by providing a forum for the sharing of new ideas, ministries and programs.

♦To report on those trends and events which directly affect the work of the church.

♦To promote and enhance the ongoing ministry of Indiana Bible College.

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

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

IBC Perspectives 1-800-800-0247 (Phone)

P.O. Box 47917 1-317-781-7712 (Phone)

Indianapolis, IN 46247 1-317-781-7700 (Fax)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

11

PLAINLY SPEAKING: "THE AMAZING MINISTRY OF A CAREER CHURCH PLANTER"

-FRANK BOUNDS

CONTENTS

Vol.26 / No.10

- 05 Opinions: Expository Preaching:
Digging Deeper in the Word
- 06 Feature: A Miracle Church
(Mark Burk)
- 20 Guest Pulpit: The Greatest Love
Story Ever(John Stage)
- 9 News You Can Use
- 13 Answer Forum
- 16 Columnists
- 17 World News
- 23 Apostolic Ministry

SUPPORTING CHURCH PLANTERS IN NORTH AMERICA



CELEBRATING
50
YEARS
OF GIVING

THANK YOU FOR GIVING
\$79,500,000
TO CHRISTMAS FOR CHRIST
OVER THE PAST
FIFTY YEARS.



CHRISTMAS
FOR CHRIST

2015 GIVING
\$4,100,000

HELP US REACH \$5 MILLION IN CELEBRATION OF 50 YEARS IN 2016

Christmas for Christ is an annual offering for North American Missions.

This special offering is received during the Christmas season and is used to enlist, train, and financially support missionaries who work to establish churches in un-evangelized and in under-evangelized areas in North America.

VIEW & DOWNLOAD YOUR CFC STORIES AT CHRISTMASFORCHRIST.FAITH

NORTHAMERICANMISSIONS.FAITH



EXPOSITORY PREACHING

Digging Deeper in the Word

Interviews 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.



Mike Meadows, Columbus, OH -- I dearly love topical preaching. God uses it. Going from topic to topic appears to be our most prevalent style today, but I have discovered there are a lot of gems we can uncover from the Word by coming at its truth from a variety of presentation angles. The Word is an incredible goldmine and what is housed in the original languages is mind-blowing. Sometimes we barely skim over the top of sacred truths.

I have seen the power of expository teaching: exposing cardinal truths week after week as the text successively presents them. I taught a year and a half on the first 12 verses in the book of Jude. We were literally going word by word. I combined topical and expository, although the basic infrastructure was expository.

Boredom is the biggest curse of expository preaching. There should be nothing boring about it. Add a story; bring out the Hebrew, the Greek. Slap some cologne on it. Dress it in a tie and a suit. It'll dance in the aisles. That year and a half was awesome. Our church really grew. I have never seen anything like that before.



Clifton Jones, Philadelphia, MS -- In topical preaching, you single out a portion of the text which you may never refer to again. You get a theme and ride it. Everybody gets happy because it sounds so sensational, but it does not anchor the hearer in the depths of the scripture. We like to leave them happy and yet ignorant.

Expository preaching is designed to dispel ignorance by explanation. The downside to expository preaching is that if the preacher isn't studious enough to be fresh, he bores his audience. The preacher must be wise enough to choose the right text with enough outlets to cover other related scriptures without deviating from the truths of the central text.

There is a need for Apostolic commentary, providing the people are in tune with basic Bible teaching that will provide insight and information from a relationship you developed with God that is not obtainable anywhere else.



Edward McFarland, Richmond, IN -- Expository preaching does not carry the same impact or have the same validity with new converts and people who do not trust that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. Further, there are certain subjects that need to be covered with a congregation on an annual basis, and expository preaching doesn't allow for that. In those cases, you have to go topical. In topical preaching, you

have an agenda and look for scriptures that go along with it. With expository preaching, you go with the flow of the text and allow the things that come out of it to engage you. You can't bend the words. It is either in there or it is not; or if it is in there, you don't see it right away. I find it more rewarding and edifying to find those hidden jewels. I think everybody that does expository teaching should write a commentary.



Gary Ellis, Clarksville, TN -- In my opinion, Pentecostals have become more response-driven and have great expectation of an experience. Too often, we are used to experiencing God during the preaching, but not listening to God. We have a hard time not having something to shout about.

Expository preaching is more about expounding and the application of the scripture and remaining true to the text itself. The scriptures have their own outline.

You don't have to create one. The Scriptures are well-written, and they interpret themselves. I taught many weeks on the book of Ephesians.

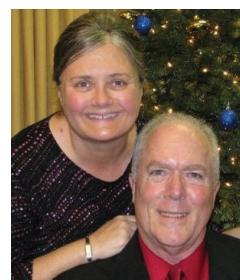
I love expository preaching. I don't do it as much as I used to, mainly because I have a lot of unbelievers and new converts coming to church. I teach a lot of doctrine and do topical studies. The drawback with expository preaching is that you can't talk about some of the other things you need to talk about as you can when you preach topically.



David Reynolds, Gresham, OR -- I don't think the Word of God needs much commentary. It was written in a form that you and I could understand. Not much of the Word of God is hidden. Most scriptures don't take any interpretation. They are God-breathed and God-inspired. When it comes down to it, if we are Apostolic and if the Bible says it, we ought to let the Bible say it.

We quote Matthew 28:19, but we don't always quote verse 20. After you baptize people and get them saved, then comes discipleship. We are losing a lot of our new converts because we are not taking the time to disciple them. I'm a strong believer that we need to evangelize through teaching. Discipling is hard to do in an evangelistic setting.

A topical sermon is easier to prepare. You get a thought, go through your Thompson chain and put thought with thought. Expository preaching is what I would rather do because to prepare for it, you have to dig out the setting, what it contains and the reason why that portion of scripture was written. Some people would say expository preaching is really teaching—and maybe it is—and maybe that's not so bad.



David Huston, Carlisle, PA -- Expository preaching is my basic style of preaching and teaching. The last book I went through verse by verse was the book of Ephesians. Expository preaching helps bring out some of the deeper meaning. It gives a more comprehensive understanding of the scripture. The average person tends to read the scripture quickly and may not catch some of the deeper meanings. In some cases, it may be hard to hold the attention of some of the people with expository preaching, but that is where the skill of the teacher comes

in. I do topical preaching, too. It gives a well-rounded approach.

It would be great to have a commentary written by Apostolics. Most of the commentaries are written by Trinitarians. That doesn't mean you can't get good stuff out of it, but you must be discerning. The average guy in the pew may not be able to tell the truth from the error.

A MIRACLE CHURCH

Mark Burk ■ Bethalto, IL

Landmark Worship Center sits as a beacon of truth in Bethalto, Ill., and its history is phenomenal. “We are a very friendly church,” said Pastor Mark Burk. “People who visit us feel that from the moment they are met by our greeters at the door.”



Mark and Rhonda Burk
Bethalto, Ill.

Bro. Burk, 53, and his lovely wife, Rhonda, look forward to a bright future of growth for Landmark Worship Center. The Burks have three sons, Timothy (and his wife Jen), Titus (and his wife Lyndsey), Micah (19), and four grandchildren.

Bro. Burk served as Illinois Section 4 Youth Director and as the Camp

Promotional Director for Youth Camps in the state of Illinois. Sis. Burk serves as the District Ladies Ministry Secretary for Illinois.

Principles of Growth & Revival

“An important key to a revival church is consistency,” said Bro. Burk. “Trusting in the Lord when things aren’t going right and being committed to walking with Him every day. Our church is a miracle church, because we had to trust the Lord just to get us to where we are today.”

Bro. Burk strongly believes a pastor’s priorities should be prayer, fasting and faith. And he believes that personal one-on-one relationships work best for increasing attendance. He noted, “But we have had results with block parties and have people in our church who were won through them.”

Organization & Management

“Our son, Timothy, is the administrative assistant of our leadership team. Our son, Titus, is over our student ministry or youth group. Along with our Sunday School Department, we have a children’s ministry called Fusion. Our men’s ministry is called Man-To-Man, and we do have a ladies ministry. Our church has a greeting/follow-up ministry for which I personally make phone calls. We have a praise team ministry and a New Life course through which we teach discipleship. The prayer coordinator of our prayer ministry is responsible for one Wednesday service every quarter, where we focus on various prayer needs.

“Our daughter-in-law, Jen, is over our media ministry. She and Timothy do a lot of projection graphics and graphics on our

outreach materials. Timothy also does graphic design for the *Pentecostal Herald* magazine. Another ministry at our church was birthed through the burden of Sis. Burk. We host a First Ladies Conference, usually held in November. It is a ministry to pastors’ wives, and wives of missionaries and full-time evangelists. Our daughter-in-law, Lyndsey, takes care of much of the details surrounding this conference. We advertise the conference yearly and invite excellent speakers and have attendees from various states.

“I meet with department heads and ministry leaders once a month and cover what is happening in each ministry. And our department heads do have specific job descriptions. As for planning, we cover our calendars three months at a time and hold a yearly vision casting planning session. We utilize Total Church Growth by Bro. Tim Massengale and have had good success with it.”

Pastor Burk said about 25 percent of the congregation is involved in some form of ministry. “And about 50 percent are involved in reaching out to people,” he said. “I preach on the subject of outreach, and my wife and I try to be an example. We make every effort to encourage our leaders to be examples as well. We are also in the process of working toward Home Connect groups.”

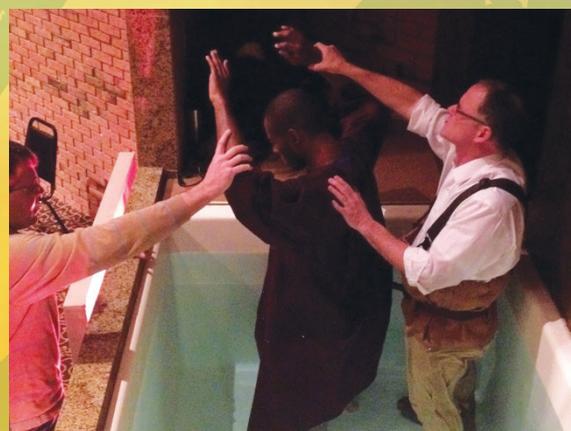
Special Miracles

“We have seen so many miracles,” said Pastor Burk. “Different evangelists have preached throughout the country about various things that have happened here. We were growing where we were in the smaller, older building. However, during revival services with my friend, Bro. T.L. Smith from Louisiana, we saw a lot of miracles that increased our faith and trust in God. He prophesied that we would double within six months, and we did. Then the next year, he came again and prophesied, in the middle of preaching, that God was going to move us out of the building we were in within six to eight weeks. He told us we might have to rent for a while, but that God would take care of all the expenses. After that revival, we watched as God fulfilled that prophecy within six and a half weeks.

“My wife had injured her back in a car accident many years ago, and God healed her. Our assistant pastor had injured his knee and was headed for surgery, and God healed him. A man who had braces on his legs was completely healed.”

Personal Ministry

The pastor reflected on his philosophy of ministry, “When in Bible college, many feel that ministry is going to be about preaching in the pulpit and people doing what you ask them to do. Ministry is more about digging deep with God, having a relationship with Him and trusting Him. Difficult times come, but we have to persevere and trust in the foundational principles in our life. My wife and family have been there for me, but personally it is about taking the Word at face value and just believing God for anything.”



Clockwise top right: Exterior of Landmark Worship Center, Bethalto, Ill.; balcony view of the church platform and sanctuary; a baptism; a Sunday school classroom.

Pastor Burk enjoys preaching on faith and salvation. He said, "Never is there a point where all hope is lost. I am a believer that God answers prayer, but we need to be patient and trust Him when He doesn't answer for a period of time. One man who greatly impacted my life in the area of faith was my pastor, Bro. Jerry Holland, in Springfield, Missouri."

Current Facility

There were miraculous circumstances that placed Landmark Worship Center in the current facility. "Bro. T.L. Smith had prophesied God was going to move us out of our old building," said Pastor Burk. "We would drive evangelists we had brought in to see the Baptist church we were believing God for. We always told them this would be our next church property. I went to the Baptist church to talk with them, but they wanted 1.1 million dollars for the property. I explained there was no way we could do something like that by ourselves. A few weeks later, a storm moved north of St. Louis, then turned, came back and hit our old church building. We ended up having services in the Baptist church after the storm. They had asked us to pray about what we thought would be fair rent. We found out the insurance company was going to pay our rent, so we paid a portion of the utilities. The time came when the insurance company would no longer pay the rent. That week the Baptist church came to an agreement with us on a lower price. With the money we had saved and the insurance settlement, we were able to buy the building and remodel it, and it is totally paid for. Sis. Nona Freeman had preached for us and prophesied that God was going to supply a building that would be adequate for our revival."

The new church has 20 classrooms, a baptistery, a separate youth building, a parsonage (rented out) and a large fellowship hall. "We are definitely on the upswing," said Pastor Burk, "and through prayer, we are seeing backsliders come back to God. We are a revival church!"

Personal History

Bro. Burk grew up in Springfield. He noted his amazing Pen-

tecostal heritage, "I got in church when I was 14 years old, under Bro. Jerry Holland's ministry. My parents had been in church and were away from God, but my great grandmother had lived on the Kansas/Missouri line in the early 1900s. During the time the Holy Ghost was being poured out in Stone's Folly, she saw the baptism in the Bible, and prayed for and worked on the rest of my family to get them to truth." He noted, "It was through the prayer and worship of the church in Springfield, under Bro. Holland, that faith in God was instilled in me.

"I felt a strong call to the ministry at 16. When I spoke with Bro. Holland, he told me he had felt the same thing. I preached my first sermon at 17. He began to teach me, and then I attended Gateway College of Evangelism and graduated from there. I met my wife, Rhonda, at college. Her parents, the Sheets, were missionaries to Haiti where we were later blessed to work at a Bible school through the A.I.M. program. I received my local license in 1983 in the Missouri district, then went back to Springfield and served as youth pastor there three years. We worked in a Christian school in Vandalia, Ill. under Pastor Ed Lucas and then moved to Wood River, Ill. and attended Bro. Lee Jackson's church. The Lord began to place a strong burden on my heart for Bethalto. We preached there, were later voted in and began pastoring there on May 11, 1994. There were only 13 people. At the first service, I just sat on the platform and had a chat with the congregation about my vision for the church and got to know them.

"The church was founded by Bro. Lester Bruce, who along with Bro. Rick Evans, pastor of Bethel in Saint Peters, Mo., had been giving Bible studies in Bethalto. The original church building, then Bethel Presbyterian, was built in 1865. As the new pastor, I started a future fund for the church, and that was the savings that was later used to purchase the Baptist church."

Human Interest

"I love to deer hunt and fish if I get the chance," said Bro. Burk. "My wife and I love to read, and we enjoy our time with our children and grandchildren. My favorite author is Jesus Christ, but I do like Bro. T.F. Tenney's books, and my favorite preachers are Bro. Jerry Holland, Bro. T.L. Smith and Bro. Wayne Huntley. In our home, we just enjoy the simplicity of sitting around with our family and having fun."

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.

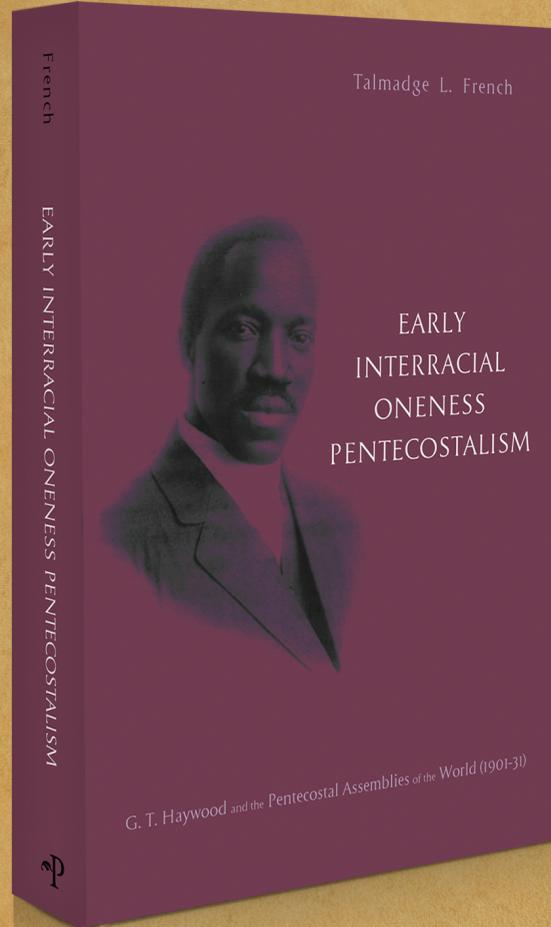


Talmadge French is a graduate of Wheaton College and Wheaton College Graduate School and has a PhD from the University of Birmingham, UK. He is the author of *Our God Is One: The Story of the Oneness Pentecostals* (1999). He is the pastor of Apostolic Tabernacle, Jonesboro, Georgia.

EARLY INTERRACIAL ONENESS PENTECOSTALISM

**G.T. Haywood & the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World
(1901-1931)**

**Wipf and Stock Publishers
Eugene Oregon**



**Pentecostal History
Come-to-Life Like
Never Before!**

**A Virtual Who's
Who of the Early
Oneness Movement**

Paul D. Mooney, Assistant General Superintendent UPCI, Indianapolis, IN

"I could not put it down! More than a great book, this is essential reading for all who wish to get acquainted with those amazing men and women at the beginning of the worldwide Pentecostal Revolution. I will be gifting this book to as many people as I can."

Wayne Huntley, North Carolina District Superintendent UPCI, Raleigh, NC

"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

"... a carefully-crafted, meticulously-researched history of early American Oneness Pentecostalism, based on original documents and hitherto-unknown sources."

**ORDER @ www.aptabupc.com/media
use the "online store" link**

List Price: ~~\$32.00~~ \$28.95 plus \$2.00 shipping

Just a Kids' Service

By Brent Randall



Brent Randall
brent@brentrandall.com

On a late August Wednesday night at the church where I served as children's pastor, our pastor gave the children's department permission to host a Back-to-School service in the main sanctuary, in place of the normal mid-week Bible study.

Our team decorated the platform, sanctuary and lobby in kid-friendly colors and décor, using balloons, streamers

and the like.

Five minutes before service, one of my staffers observed a gentleman stepping through our front door and then freezing in his tracks. After looking around at all the décor, he reached for his cell phone, called a friend and said, "Oh, man, they're not even having Bible study tonight. *It's just a kids' service.* I'll meet you at Starbucks." He then whirled around, headed out the door, and was gone.

Why did our friend leave the church that night? Because it was *just a kids' service*. I can hear the thoughts going through his mind: "What a complete waste of valuable time! How dare the senior pastor dedicate an entire evening to just the kids!"

What our friend did not realize, however, is the kind of impact a kids' service can have on a community. What he failed to recognize was the potential that that one service could have on our local church, and how his participation, prayer and support could have played a role.

I guarantee you that in attendance that night were future pastors, future teachers, future community leaders, and future godly men, women, moms and dads! The future pastor of our church may have been sitting on the front row, listening to the preaching. The future choir director may have been on the third row next to her mom, clapping her hands and singing "Friend of God." And our friend's future employer may have been on row six, learning the principles of godly living.

Our job as children's pastors, teachers and leaders is to come alongside the parents in our community and assist them in raising the next generation of influential godly leaders.

And where do the seeds of godly living get planted in a young heart?

At just a kids' service.

Brent Randall Regnart has served in Children's Ministry leadership for over 25 years. He is available to conduct a Teacher Training or Children's Ministry event in your church or district. He and his wife, Rachel, live in Stockton, CA. www.brentrandall.com, brent@brentrandall.com.

Seven Relational Skills of Great Church Leaders

By Thom S. Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources

They are the two most common causes of forced termination of pastors: weak leadership skills and poor relational skills. Most pastors and church leaders have never received formal training in relational skills. Perhaps these seven observations of outstanding leaders will prove helpful:

1. *They have a vibrant prayer life.* The more we are in conversation with God, the more we realize His mercy and grace. That realization leads to a greater humility, which is a key attribute of those with great relational skills.

2. *They ask about others.* Listen to people with whom you have regular conversations. How many of them focus the conversation on you and others? A key sign of relational health is a desire to direct the conversation to concern and questions about others.

3. *They rarely speak about themselves.* This trait is the corollary to the previous characteristic. Have you ever known someone who seems always to talk about himself or herself? They are usually boring or irritating. They are definitely self-absorbed.

4. *They are intentional about relationships.* They do not wait for others to take the initiative. They are so focused on others that they naturally seek to develop relationships.

5. *They have a healthy sense of humor.* This trait is natural because the leaders are not thinking obsessively about themselves. Indeed, they are prone to laugh at themselves and their own perceived inadequacies.

6. *They are not usually defensive.* Pastors and other church leaders deal with critics regularly. Sometimes a defense is right and necessary. Most of the time, the leaders with great relational skills will not take the criticism too personally.

7. *They constantly seek input.* Their egos are not so tender that they are unwilling to receive constructive criticism. In fact, many of these leaders seek such input on a regular basis.

PURE Religion

by Stephen Judd





November 6, 2016 is Mansion Sunday. The Tupelo Children's Mansion has been loving and helping children for 63 years!

This Mansion Sunday, let's do our part to KEEP IT GOING!

For more information, including usable media, visit www.MansionKids.org

FRESH OIL

YOUTH CONFERENCE

FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 24TH | 2017 | 7:30PM

“POWER FROM ON HIGH” ACTS 1:8

SPEAKERS & MUSIC



Nathan French
JONESBORO, GA



Myron Wideman, Jr.
STONE MOUNTAIN, GA



Tiffany Huba
TALLAHASSEE, FL

FEATURING SPECIAL
MUSICAL GUESTS
JOY MCGARR
& PASTOR EDWARD
SEABROOKS

NEW LIFE OF ALBANY

1200 CORDELE RD
ALBANY, GA 31705

NEWLIFEOFALBANY.COM
FRESHOILYOUTH.COM

229-439-7242

Host Pastor: Steve Waldron

FIND US ON 

WEST VIRGINIA

“The AMAZING MINISTRY of a CAREER CHURCH PLANTER”

Pastor Frank Bounds, Currently starting a new church in Ripley, WV

Written by Brent Neace



Bro. Frank Bounds
Ripley, WV

Bro. Frank Bounds, tell us about yourself and your ministry.

My wife, Debbie, and I are career church planters. Between my two sons and me, we have started 11 churches, and I am currently starting a new church in Ripley, West Virginia. I also took one church with two

members, one with four and one with 11 and built them up and turned them over to pastors. Building and starting new churches has been my life's blood since 1990. My sons have often told me that whenever I speak of starting a new church I get a light in my eyes that seems to burn with the passion and burden that I carry for the lost and the work of God. Starting a church is not always an easy task; you have to be willing to commit and sacrifice, and you must know for sure that it is the will of God or it will not succeed.

Why did you want to start a new church?

The first time I felt a burden to start a church I was an evangelist driving through an area and saw that there was a great need in that area for a church. The burden would not leave, so after much prayer the Lord increased the burden on my heart, and we responded to it. We stepped out on faith and sold our home. You have to learn to trust God and walk by faith.

What was it like to start a church?

Going back again to the first time we started a church, the Lord had changed the burden on my heart from evangelism to home missions work. My wife and I sold the house we were living in as well as our farm. And then we went to the town of Glen Ferris, West Virginia where God had called us. We bought an ancient 100-year-old school house and built a little apartment in the back for us to live in. We began to conduct church services in one room of the ugly four-room schoolhouse. Looking back, I wonder why anyone would want to come to that terrible-looking building, but people began to come. We knocked on doors throughout the entire town, as well as the neighboring city and communities. People began to come and word of mouth spread. We grew and saw many miracles performed there.

Today, there is a beautiful building in Glen Ferris pastored by Sal Bria, a young man we won from the Catholic church.

Parkersburg, W.Va. was a completely different challenge. I was very afflicted most of the time. I had seven surgeries in 17 months, and one was a double fusion. The church was birthed in great pain.

How did you get people to support your vision of starting a new church?

We had people praying for us. We had made a lot of friends while evangelizing, and they supported us in our vision. Also, they supported when we started the second church, which was under the North American Missions (NAM) program, metro missions. It was in Salt Lake City, Utah. A large part of our budget was raised at General Conference in Salt Lake City.

Where did you get the financial support to start the church?

It was really a God thing. People from all around the country sent financial support. There was a gentleman in Utah that had closed his church and donated us a significant amount. In each church we have started, it was a little different. The first church we started we received \$2,700 Sheaves for Christ (SFC). It seems everywhere we go, God supplies the need in some way, shape or form. In Parkersburg, we received SFC and Christmas for Christ (CFC). We are forever indebted to the Youth and NAM Departments.

What approach works best reaching the lost?

There are different ways that work better to reach people of each area. But one thing is for certain; you always have to be energetic about it. When we were in Utah, we always made it a priority to knock on doors every Saturday. And before the youth were allowed to play ball, they had to door knock at least a block. Even the Mormon young folks would help us, so they could play ball with our youth group. As I mentioned, you must be passionate and excited when talking about Jesus. When you win souls, it becomes contagious for the rest of the church, and the excitement spreads. We didn't have to beg people to come to outreach; they automatically came. We would meet in our home and teach people discipleship classes. We taught 2,700 discipleship and home Bible studies in four years. We would work six days a week, 80 hours a week. Remember, people love positive people.

What type of obstacles did you face during the process of starting a church?

One of the biggest problems or obstacles we faced was not finances or winning the lost but loneliness. There are cities that have more people in them than what would be possible to reach by one church. A lot of the time, pastors want cities to themselves. When you have ministers that are unwilling to work together to see the kingdom grow, it is a sad thing. Eighty percent of church plants fail, but 80 percent of daughter works succeed. The difference is the support from another church. If you don't have anyone to fellowship with, it gets lonely. There were some people that would discourage us, saying we couldn't build a congregation in the area, and when we began to grow some tried to find a negative reason why we were growing. For example, "He must be a compromiser" or "He gives free meals each Sunday," etc. That kind of mindset is dangerous, because if you believe you can't have revival, then you won't have revival. It's a lack of faith. Bishop Haney sat down with me before I went to one area and said, "Now don't pay attention to critics; you ignore them and build a church." I have tried to live by that. Bro. T.F. Tenney once said, "Don't pay any attention to the poodle ankle biters; all they can do is make noise."

What got you through those hard times?

Reaching more souls. The first couple of years I missed my kids and grandkids so much I wanted to just lie on the floor and weep. But when a person would walk in, repent, be baptized and receive the Holy Ghost, it would ease the loneliness and make it all worthwhile. We kept teaching Bible studies and reaching for the lost. Almost every service we would have someone come and repent. The church in Parkersburg, which we turned over to my oldest son David, is in great revival. We have outgrown our current building and are buying a larger building. The remodel is in progress. We had retired, but God came to me in a dream and told me a street he wanted a church on in Ripley. When I followed the GPS directions, there was an empty church building on the spot where God told me to plant the next church. The people who own the building are excited and say they know it is a God thing. One is a judge who has the Holy Ghost. Debbie and I covet your prayers as we endeavor to plant one more church.

For more information, contact me at (304) 966-1551 or frankpoppastor@aol.com.

For information about these events, call the event coordinator. If you would like your event on this list, call (800) 8000-AIS. IBC Perspectives does not endorse any seminar or conference listed. This page is provided simply as a service to the greater Apostolic community.

apostolic alendar 2016

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SPEAKERS	CONTACT / INFO
SEPT 27-30	92nd Annual UPCI General Conference Don't miss it!	Indiana Convention Ctr. 100 S. Capitol Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46225	Ashley Leppo, Tes Stewart, Bruce Howell, Aaron Bounds, Art Hodges, Jerry Jones, Chad Douglas & David Bernard	Online registration, hotel reservations and exhibit registration available at www.upcigc.com
OCT 6-7	Soar 2016 An equipping conference for North American missionaries, church planters, Bible study teachers and church leaders	Holiday Inn Conference Center, 3100 Wellington Place, Janesville, WI 53546	Marrell Cornwell, Brian Kinsey, Bill Hobson and John Putnam	Contact Dave Punzel, 920-723-2179, lifechurchwi@yahoo.com , or www.lifechurchwi.org
OCT 27-28	New England Revival Conference Revival services for everyone. Service begins 7:30 p.m. nightly.	Faith Church 22 Faith Ave. Auburn, MA 01501	Scott Graham and Bruce Johnson	For more info: contact Pastor Cicero (413) 218-5161 or Pastor Craft (774) 289-9597
NOV 2-5	West Coast Conference - Fresno, CA 33rd Annual Fresno Meeting	Fresno Convention Center, 848 M Street, Fresno, CA	Paul Bertram, Larry Montano, Jess Parker, Sam Ham, O.C. Marler, Homer Looper and David Villegas	For more information call: (559) 225-1622 www.truthabfresno.org
NOV 3-6	Time of Harvest Conference - Milford, DE	Lighthouse Christian Center, 662 Milford-Harrington Highway Milford, DE 19963	Art Wilson, Stan Gleason, Joel Andrus, Royce Andrus, Lee Stoneking, Ronald Libby and Aaron Soto	For more information call: (302) 841-7777 www.timeofharvest.org
NOV 11-12	Chicagoland Men's Conference	Family Harvest Church 18500 S. 92nd Ave. Tinley Park, IL Host Pastor Miroballi	Jerry Dean, Michael Easter, John Wolfram and Thomas Trimble	For more information call: (708) 330-5252 or (708) 542-2399, www.chicagolandmensconference.com
JAN 27	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 6-15	Israel Holyland Tour An Apostolic 10-day Biblical tour of Israel. Apostolic, Academic, Anointed.	Israel Hosted by: David J. Sagil, Director of Ministry of Jewish Relations	David Bernard and Steve Cannon	For more info: contact David Sagil, 773-617-9550, email djsagil@sbcglobal.net or visit mjr.world
FEB 16-18	WinterFire 2017 - RESTORE 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	Douglas White, Brian Kinsey, David Bernard, Sam Emory, Jimmy Toney, James Hughes, Michael Ensey, Cindy Miller and Theodore Brooks	For more info: visit www.winterfire.org or visit Twitter: winterfireconf or Facebook/Instagram: winterfireconf
FEB 24	Fresh Oil Youth Conference Power From On High -- Acts 1:8 7:30 p.m.	New Life of Albany, 1200 Cordele Rd., Albany, GA 31705, Host Pastor: Steve Waldron	Nathan French, Myron Wideman Jr. and musical guests Tiffany Huba, Joy McGarr & Edward Seabrooks	For more info: contact newlifeofalbany.com , freshoil youth.com 229-439-7242
MAY 2017	Ministers Only Book Rendezvous - Grand Rapids, MI No pre-registration required. Just show up! Enjoy the newly expanded Baker Book House. No business, no agenda. Just books, sharing and fellowship.	Grand Rapids, MI	Hosts: Paul D. Mooney and O.C. Marler	For more info: contact LaDusta Brown at labwn@aol.com or 317-262-4030
JUNE 2017	Power Conference 2017 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 2017	Mile High Conference 2017 Defending the Apostolic faith, family and future.	Calvary Apostolic Church Of Denver, 5900 E. Yale Ave. Denver, CO 80222	To be announced	(303) 758-5900 www.cacdenvver.org DEH2@comcast.net
AUG 17-18	Investing in Futures A conference for those who invest in children. Educating, encouraging and equipping children's ministry workers.	Apostolic Sanctuary 1501 John Deere Pkwy Silvis, IL 61282 Host: Gary Randol	Richard Gifford, Sam Emory and Aaron Bounds	For more info: visit invest-in-futures.com (309) 792-0414
SEPT 2017	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

Church Growth: Healthy Church Characteristics



Robert L. Rodenbush

■ Church Today

rrodenbush@earthlink.net

Isolated Together

When you look at the eyes of many young people today (teens, college students, and even younger children) there is a sadness that you cannot dismiss. Without their consent, they are being forced to live out the greatest social experiment in the history of the world. From rural bush-towns in Africa, to Europe, to Central and South America, we have decided to turn the lives and the minds of young children over to computers. I do realize that not every country in the world is experimenting as rapidly as most Western cultures are, but for the most part the digital revolution is affecting every part of the globe and, most specifically, it is affecting children.

We are turning the lives of young children over to computers. They are educated, socialized, entertained, all, for better or for worse, on small devices they can shove into their pockets. We have severely altered the way kids and teens see the world. Everything is viewed through the lens of a "smart" device. Don't know something? Grab your phone. Want to have "friends"? Grab your phone. Bored? Grab your phone. It has become the instant answer for everything, and we have created a world that expects immediate answers, immediate connection, immediate EVERYTHING! We have eliminated delayed gratification almost entirely.

So the virtual, immediate world of the Internet has replaced teachers, parents, boyfriends/girlfriends, and we are raising kids who are completely disconnected from reality and swallowed up in connection with the Internet. Perhaps educators and parents are complicit in this giant experiment. Instead of parenting, we plug ourselves in and we all live with our own headphones, connected to our own devices, living together in complete isolation. So maybe it's no wonder the eyes of today's kids look sad. They are disconnected and isolated.

A worrisome report was released by CBS News Boston (August 25, 2016). It states: "Dr. Gene Beresin, a psychiatrist and Executive Director of The Clay Center for Young Healthy Minds at Massachusetts General Hospital, says 50% to 60% of college students have a psychiatric disorder." The same doctor was also quoted saying that the suicide rate among college students is "astronomical."

I do believe the lack of personal connection at every level is creating these great psychological and spiritual issues across every culture and age. But, I worry most about the full, joyous lives Satan is attempting to steal from our young people. I don't believe the battle will be won with criticism. This is an attack of Satan that they are enduring. Only God will be able to give us the compassion, wisdom and strength to know how to break through the great walls of isolation. Do as the Apostle Paul instructed, "Bear ye one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2).



T. W. Massengale

■ Church Growth

tmassengale@apostolic.edu

Church growth has sometimes been criticized for placing an undue emphasis upon numerical over spiritual growth. While this may have been true in the past, today the term "healthy church" is commonly used with an equal emphasis upon both. So at the risk of hearing, "I can't believe you didn't include <insert word> in your list!" I will give you my top ten traits of a healthy church, but not in any priority order:

Worship. They strive to have a dynamic move of God in every service. No service can ever be called ordinary or boring.

Prayer. They place a strong emphasis upon prayer – both corporate and private.

They know prayer is the key that unlocks revival. Fasting is also encouraged regularly.

Ministry. They stress ministry involvement. At least 70% of members are involved in some kind of organized labor for God.

Evangelism. They know an abundant harvest requires sowing an abundant amount of spiritual seed. An emphasis is often placed on the four most successful: bringing and following up on visitors, home Bible studies, personal witnessing, and Sunday school growth.

Family. They place a concerted effort to strengthen families with a variety of events and activities. Strong marriages and ministries to strengthen youth and children are common.

Administration. They have a strong leadership structure and solid management practices that builds department and ministry leaders. Planning retreats, departmental plans, and monthly planning sessions are utilized to

build a solid leadership team.

Giving. They do not neglect stewardship and tithing. Giving of treasure and talent is taught, practiced and modeled by leadership and saint alike.

Discipleship. They encourage the growth of each individual in their walk with God. Events, programs and activities that encourage this are common each year. New convert care discipleship is especially stressed and practiced with a solid program and plan.

Gifts. They teach both the gifts of the Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit. There is a freedom to minister in the gifts because the proper use of the gifts has been clearly taught.

Holiness. Separation from the world and living a life that exalts and models Christ is preached, taught and practiced by saint and leader alike. There is no hesitation to identify sin and holy standards of living.



Bobby Killmon

■ Theology

bobby.killmon@sbcglobal.net

If Jesus and the Father are not distinct Persons, why are there clear passages showing a subject-object relationship between them?

This argument is based on any distinction made between Father and Son whether of messianic prophecies in the OT or Father/Son statements in the NT such as, "I (subject) have glorified thee (object) on the earth: I (subject) have finished the work which thou (object) gavest me to do" (John 17:4). The point made in this argument for the trinity is as follows: Father and the Son stand in an "I"–"You" relationship of each other. The Son personally relates to the Father, so there must be two persons here.

The "subject/object distinction" argument is being dropped by more and more scholars as regard to speaking of "persons" in a trinity. As a matter of fact, one example of this is well-respected Southern Baptist theologian Frank Stagg who says the NT doesn't make room for the concept or even the term "persons." He goes further, saying this led to worship of three distinct gods. To the term *trinity* were soon added the terms *persons*, *three persons*, *three persons of the Godhead*, and even the ranking of the persons as first, second and third. Thus, trinitarianism was fast on its way to tritheism, a de facto belief in three distinct gods. This is something the New Testament never anticipated and does not support (pg. 8, Baptism of the Holy Spirit).

This distinction cannot be about separate persons. First, in the OT the clear "prophetic nature" of the Psalms and other OT passages is readily admitted by scholarship of every denominational and theological stripe. This acknowledgement proves these messianic Psalms are speaking prophetically or futuristically of the incarnation, not an "eternal son." This is proven by the content of the prophecies themselves. Both these passages as well as the NT repetitions show the Son would: be begotten, love righteousness, hate iniquity, be a High Priest (only men could be Heb. 5:1), is exalted (a co-equal god could not be), etc.

So, the context of these passages are references to Christ speaking of His existence and work in a future time. He could not be begotten, prove He loved righteousness (this is action played out on Earth as a man), hated iniquity (again as shown on Earth), is a priest forever, or be exalted, from eternity past. So, the subject/object distinction is about the incarnation and what His work was as man.

John 17:4, in particular, speaks of "glory" the man Jesus accomplished. Remember, this passage is in the context of prayer and so cannot be about one god praying to another god. That cannot fit a co-equal trinity. Heb. 5:7 shows clearly it's about the man Jesus praying. All of the messianic psalms and OT verses speak of a future time when God would be truly a man. All the NT texts dealing with Father/Son language do not speak of a so-called "eternal son" but the man who would accomplish His work as the final Adam!

Great Investment Rates*

WE ARE NOW OFFERING INVESTMENTS STARTING AT:

MATURITY	MINIMUM INVESTMENT	FIXED INTEREST RATE	YIELD TO MATURITY
1 YEAR	\$2,500 to \$4,999	2.0%	2.02%
	\$5,000	2.5%	2.52%

MATURITY	MINIMUM INVESTMENT	FIXED INTEREST RATE	YIELD TO MATURITY
3 YEARS	\$2,500 to \$4,999	2.5%	2.59%
	\$5,000	3.0%	3.13%

MATURITY	MINIMUM INVESTMENT	FIXED INTEREST RATE	YIELD TO MATURITY
5 YEARS	\$2,500 to \$4,999	3.0%	3.22%
	\$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
LOAN
FUND**



Stephen M. Drury
smdrury@upci.org



314-373-4309



www.upciloanfund.org



UPCLF



AIS

APOSTOLIC
INFORMATION
SERVICE

WWW.APOSTOLIC.EDU

1.800.800.0247

ONLINE ONLY
\$8.99/MO - \$99.95/YR

MONTHLY CD
\$12.95/MO - \$149.95/YR

FOR A FREE
10-DAY TRIAL,
VISIT OUR WEBSITE
TODAY

- I need...
- To grow my church
 - Apostolic material for my sermons and lessons
 - Regularly updated, fresh content
 - Ideas and tips for effective church management



Carol Clemans

Spiritual Growth
carol@carolclemans.org
Families Need Godly Fathers!
 It must break the heart of God when He sees earthly fathers who are abusive to their families. God knows that earthly fathers either portray His unconditional love or through anger destroy the ability of the children to understand how much God loves them.

Abusive anger from a parent destroys the soul of a child. The earthly father is the first "god with skin on." Fathers have it within their power to destroy a soul or lead a soul to God through loving as Christ loves! God wants to heal the souls of fathers so they will turn to Him. Then, the love of the natural father will lead the soul of his children to God. Words have the power of life and/or death. Uncontrolled anger is a sin against the Lord. Read about the works of the flesh in Galatians 5. Paul said that wrath and outbursts of anger were sins and a person doing these things will not have a part in the kingdom of God!

I'm counseling adults daily that are deeply wounded by an unloving, angry natural father. Because of the emotional wounds from childhood, many have experienced salvation but struggle with accepting God's love and forgiveness even after salvation.

God fully loves, fully accepts and fully forgives His children. I pray earthly fathers who have anger passed down from generations will allow God's love and forgiveness to enter their hearts. Psalms 139:23-24 (MSG): "Investigate my life, O God, find out everything about me; Cross-examine and test me, get a clear picture of what I'm about; See for yourself whether I've done anything wrong — then guide me on the road to eternal life."

Families need godly fathers who love as God loves - with kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, goodness, meekness and self-control. When this happens, the family will be flooded with love, joy and peace - Gal. 5. God is the only one who can turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers - Malachi 4:6.

Whether we are a husband, wife, son, daughter, friend, sibling, parent, etc., we all must be holy as He is holy! We must be holy - set aside as godly vessels reflecting His glory in all areas of our lives!

Carol Clemans - Anointed speaker for churches/conferences. Certified Pastoral Counselor providing nationwide counseling by phone/Skype (636) 448-0121. www.carolclemans.org; 330+ articles, teaching products, book: GOD'S DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE. Mins. Refs: Pastor Daniel Batchelor, Dupo, IL & UPC Supt. David Tipton Jr., Raymond, MS. View live teaching on Carol Clemans Youtube channel.



Arlo Moehlenpah

Creation vs. Evolution
moehlenpah@aol.com
Bible Answers Regarding Creation

Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you (1 Pet. 3:15).

Why Is It Important to Believe the Genesis Account?

Jesus said, "If you cannot believe the words of Moses how will you believe my words?" John 5:46-47.

How did the writers of the Bible get their information? "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God" (2 Tim. 3:16). There is no disagreement among the writers of the Bible although many had different backgrounds (see pages 12-13 of my book mentioned below).

Who created all things? "For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible" Col. 1:16.

When? In the beginning; Who? God; How? Created; What? The heaven and the earth (Gen. 1:1).

Who was the first man? The first man was Adam (1 Cor. 15:45). *Who was the mother of all living?* Eve (Gen. 3:20). *What did the first man look like?* Jesus. Adam was made in the image of God (Gen. 1:27). Jesus is the image of God (Heb. 1:3, Col. 1:13-15, 2 Cor. 4:4, Rom. 5:14).

When was man created? Approximately 4000 years BC according to genealogies and history (see p. 17-18 of my book). Population statistics confirm this. At a growth rate less than one third of our present growth rate, if man had been here just 9,000 years since the flood, we would have over 4,000 people per square foot (plus all the animals, trees, buildings, etc.) and man would be crushed.

Who was the only evolutionist in the Bible? Aaron, but he told a lie as evolutionists do today (Exod. 32:1-4, 24).

Arlo Moehlenpah has a D.Sc. Ch.E. and a degree from Apostolic Bible Institute. He is a professional engineer and taught chemistry at three colleges. His ministry experience includes starting a church in Wisconsin, pastoring in England for two years and teaching for over 40 years at four UPC Bible colleges. He has authored three books including *Creation versus Evolution: Scientific and Religious Considerations*, available at www.doinggood.org. He is available to speak at churches and other meetings and can be contacted at 619-852-4979 or moehlenpah@aol.com.



Aubrey Jayroe

Finance
jayroeone@sbcglobal.net
I am interested in purchasing a ROTH IRA. What are the benefits of having this type of retirement plan?

A ROTH IRA is a good plan of investment for retirement for some people.

First of all, not everyone can contribute to a ROTH because of the IRS-imposed income limits. Your tax preparer can help you determine if you qualify.

In short, there are several benefits of a ROTH. These are:

1. Money may grow tax-free; withdrawals are tax-free, also.
2. There are no minimum required distributions to take at certain ages.
3. If properly handled, a ROTH left to heirs is tax-free. Do the proper estate planning to take advantage of this benefit.
4. There is great tax flexibility in retirement by being able to diversify.
5. They can help reduce or even avoid the Medicare surtax.
6. A ROTH becomes a hedge against future tax hikes.

7. At retirement, you can use your contributions at any time with no taxes or penalties.

8. If you are older, you can continue to contribute to a ROTH as long as you work. In many cases, if you keep working, you can continue contributing to the ROTH.

9. If you are younger, your income is likely to rise, thus allowing for more contributions to a ROTH and helping you better prepare for retirement.

One very important thing to remember is that the Minister's Retirement Fund (as well as other 403(b) type plans) allow for a ROTH contribution. This could give a person the BEST of both worlds in investing for the future. Contact the MRF staff for more information regarding this subject to determine how it would benefit you.

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
Church Balance Sheet (Part 2)

Previously we discussed what assets should be included in the "Fixed Asset" section of the balance sheet. Properly recording the assets results in a stronger balance sheet and also moves the assets out of the expense section of the Statements of Activities.

A properly prepared balance sheet will also include all of the liabilities of the organization. Short-term liabilities will

include any payables (expenses that have been incurred as of the balance sheet date but not yet paid) and the current portion of any long-term debt. Typical payables will include credit card purchases, utilities and expenses for items purchased later in the month but not paid for until the next month. Payables also include any payroll and payroll taxes owed for the prior month.

Long-term liabilities include any loans and obligations that have a maturity date of more than twelve months, after an adjustment is made for the portion that is due in the next twelve months (the current portion referred to above).

Lastly, if the church has any restrictions on cash (either from donors or from the bank), the restricted portion should be shown separately.

We have provided a brief summary of what is needed to prepare a balance sheet for a bank under GAAP (generally accepted accounting principles). We recommend getting the help of a professional in preparing the statements and prior to submitting them to the bank.

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@dsacpainc.com Website: www.dsacpainc.com

THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS**Satanic Temple Seeks to Open Extracurricular Satan Clubs in Schools**

The Satanic Temple recently contacted several school districts nationwide to announce plans to open After School Satan Clubs at elementary schools in an effort to counter religious groups, *The Washington*



Post reported.

Members of the Satanic Temple who are proponents of the program say that the purpose of the club would not actually be to worship the devil, but rather to promote rational thinking.

"It's critical that children understand that there are multiple perspectives on all issues, and that they have a choice in how they think," said Doug Mesner, the Satanic Temple's co-founder.

The Satanic Temple, despite its name, does not worship Beelzebub. The group claims it does not believe in any religion and uses Lucifer more as a mythical symbol. They reportedly hope that their after-school program will compete with the Christian program, the Good News Club, that is allowed in public schools.

EDUCATION TRENDS**WA: Transgenderism to be Taught Next Fall in Kindergarten and Up**

Starting in the fall of 2017, public schools in Washington state will begin teaching students as young as kindergartners about transgenderism.

The Daily Caller reports that the state recently made changes to its health education learning standards, revising them to include instruction about gender expression.

A part of the sexual health curriculum titled "Self-Identify" will begin in kindergarten where students will be taught to "understand there are many ways to express gender." Students will be taught that gender expression is subjective to individual preference and is not restricted to biology.

By the time they reach third grade under the new curriculum, students will be expected to "explain that gender roles can vary considerably" and "understand [the] importance of treating others with respect regarding gender identity."

**5 Horrors Hillary Clinton Could Bring Upon America**

By Larry Tomczak, author and commentator

Most Christians agree that the upcoming presidential election is a defining moment in history. But it is much more than selecting Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump. It's about a vision for the future of our nation. As Christians, we must be realistic, courageous, prayerful and take some righteous risks at this tipping point in history. I am presenting, from a biblical point of view, five points on why Clinton's vision would bring an unmitigated disaster of incalculable damage to America.

1. *Abortion will become casual, commonplace and covered by tax dollars.* She is supported by abortion providers like Planned Parenthood and aggressively promotes tax-funded dismemberment of children on-demand until the moment of birth.

2. *Clinton could appoint two or three liberal Supreme Court justices to shape America for decades.* No need to say much here, as this is a terrifying prospect. The aging members of the court are waiting, and Clinton admits she'd love to appoint President Obama as one of them!

3. *Clinton's misguided, reckless, socialistic spending spree could collapse our economy.* She has endorsed universal pre-K, free college tuition, paid family and medical leave, subsidized abortions and childcare; expanding, not trimming, Social Security (last year's Social Security ran a deficit of \$70 billion); raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour (which will force scores of small businesses to lay people off); and free medical care and entitlements in the trillions. Finally, she will dramatically raise taxes not just on the rich but the middle class.

4. *Clinton will dramatically exacerbate the immigration problem and threat to our national security.* Her party pushes amnesty, open borders, full work permits, full benefits leading to voting rights, support for sanctuary cities and proposing a 500% increase in Syrian refugees alone. Vigilant screening and vetting of these refugees isn't realistic or even possible at this time. With radical jihadism on the increase in chilling ways, we must be proactive.

5. *Her track record of dishonesty and deceit will further erode America's moral character at a time when we desperately need a spiritual turnaround.* Character matters, and as far as Clinton goes, millions believe her grade is F. A recent poll published in *USA Today* showed that 68% of Americans believe she isn't honest and trustworthy, 56% have an unfavorable image of her, and 57% believe she should have been indicted for her mishandling of classified information.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ Christian author Tim LaHaye, 90, passed away recently after suffering a stroke. He is most known for co-authoring *Left Behind*, a series of 16 best-selling novels dealing with the Christian eschatological viewpoint of the end of the world. About 62 million copies of the series were sold.

■ Undercover journalists David Daleiden and Sandra Merritt, who are responsible

for the controversial undercover Planned Parenthood videos, have been acquitted of all charges. A judge ruled recently that they were not guilty of attempting to purchase fetal body parts after they pretended to be employees of a fictitious company seeking bodies of unborn babies for experimentation in order to expose Planned Parenthood's alleged sale of fetal body parts.

LEGAL TRENDS**CO Pastor Fights To Keep Jesus Ads At Bus Stops**

A Colorado Springs pastor is fighting to keep his Jesus ads on public transit benches in the city. *The Christian Post* reports that Pastor Lawson Perdue's license with Mountain Metro Transit to display the Jesus ads expired recently, and the city may not allow him to renew it due to a complaint from a customer.

Perdue has been displaying his large Jesus ads on the benches of bus stops for three years. After the complaint, the city has undertaken a review of Mountain Metro Transit's advertising policies to determine if they violate the Constitution.

"We take First Amendment issues very seriously, and strives to fully comply with constitutional law," the city said in a statement.

Pastor Perdue said he is willing to go to court if the city decides against him. "We believe that Jesus is a very positive message of faith, and we want to share that around our community."

**SOCIAL TRENDS****Report: Divorce Rates Dropping; Contributed to Fewer Marriages**

Declining marriage and divorce rates go hand in hand and reveal a cultural skepticism about relationship definition, according to a new report from The Heritage Foundation.

The marriage rate has been trending downward for decades. From 2004 to 2014, the U.S. marriage rate fell by 20%. The report also noted the divorce rate's steady decline since 1979, from 5.3 per 1,000 people to 3.2 per 1,000 people in 2014—a 40 percent drop.

But those numbers do not tell the whole story, experts say. "The declining marriage rate is not so much a reflection that marriage is no longer desired, but that, in a culture of distrust and divorce, it is fragile," write Amber and David Lapp, research fellows at the Institute for Family Studies. The Lapps assert young people today are not opposed to marriage—they are conflicted about it. They want a healthy, sustaining marriage relationship and desire to raise their kids within marriage but are afraid of divorce.

"As a result, many young Americans are left on the outside looking in, admiring marriage but paralyzed with anxiety about becoming another divorce statistic or worried that their boyfriend or girlfriend is not trustworthy," write the Lapps.

CONSIDER THESE WORTHWHILE STRATEGIES BEFORE THE YEAR'S END

Are you selling securities, real estate or a business this year? Consider these planning strategies to avoid capital gains tax.

Zero-Tax Gift and Sale

If you are planning to sell an asset like securities, real estate or a business, before you sell, consider a "zero-tax" charitable gift and sale. By making a gift of part of the asset before the sale, you can use a tax-saving charitable deduction to significantly lower or eliminate the capital gains tax on the sale.

IRA Charitable Rollover

Congress has made the law permanent that allows people age 70½ or older who own an IRA to make cash gifts directly from their IRA to charity. For many people, this is the best tax-wise way to give. An IRA rollover gift will not be included in your taxable income and will qualify for your required minimum distribution.

These strategies and others are a great way to bless your favorite ministry and save on your tax obligations.

www.upcstewardship.com
  UPCStewardship

For more information, please contact Kent Russell at: Krussell@upci.org or 314-373-4363

MSA

MINISTERIAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

THE GOAL OF MSA IS TO OFFER DIFFERENT TYPES OF MINISTRY TRIPS ACCORDING TO THE NEEDS OF THE LOCAL CHURCH.
JOIN US AS WE TRAIN A GENERATION OF APOSTOLIC LEADERSHIP FOR APOSTOLIC REVIVAL.



POWER OF THE PRINTED PAGE



IBC BOOK TRIP 2016

Written by Maranatha Gannon

Leaders are readers. The sphere of books encapsulates both the minds and dreams of people from all walks of life. "There is nothing like being in a bookstore with some of the greatest minds in our movement as they hand over a work and emphatically state, 'This one is a must read.' It is because of great men that took time to give me direction that I found myself in a brilliant library." Tom Casselman, recent graduate of Indiana Bible College, reflects on his involvement in the 2016 Book Trip hosted by Pastor Paul Mooney and the IBC staff on Feb. 8-9.

IBC student Mark Hattabaugh shared his experience by stating, "The book trip truly changed my outlook on my ministry and my life. I learned so much from the professors who took the time to invest in us. One thing that I will take away from the book trip is that books are needed to improve our ministries as well as our lives. I have already increased the size of my library and plan to continue growing it." As depicted in the words of Hattabaugh, the vision and purpose of the Book Trip endeavor is to help focus students on the importance of books and resources as well as how to build one's own library.

Pastor Mooney expounded on the purpose of this annual expedition to Baker Book House in Grand Rapids, MI. "Reading helps keep one emotionally, mentally and spiritually alive. Your mind can be developed, stimulated and made aware of the inspiration that is available in the printed page. This trip with the students acquaints them with not only the book publishing industry, but also good literature that they can utilize in their personal libraries. The apostle Paul exemplified the life of a well-read scholar through his references to authors of his day. I believe scripture also encourages us to read and study in II Timothy 2:15. 'Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.'"

Pastor Mooney also stated that this year's trip "proved pleasant and productive in that we had no competition within the bookstore on the day we went. We were even able to meet with one of the Bakers of Baker Book House. The lectures, coupled with the fellowship and inspiring remarks of Bro. O.C. Marler, added to the richness of the experience." IBC junior Jacie Sellers shared some of her thoughts. "I was beyond thankful for the opportunity to travel to Baker Book House this year. The book trip was one of the most enjoyable experiences I've had during my time at IBC. It was a great time to really get to know the staff as they helped us take advantage of the numerous amounts of resources available to us. What I learned during that trip will remain with me for many years."

The opportunity to attend the yearly Book Trip is not available to every student each year, so the students who are privileged to attend do not take it lightly. Each one seems to return with not only newly purchased books but a desire to continue learning and reading. Katie Haggard, a 2016 IBC graduate, explained, "The book trip was an eye opener. It was an experience of a lifetime to connect with the staff and catch onto the burden and vision that they have. They showed that having a library and choosing the right books and commentaries are important, as is the studying of the Word of God to show yourself approved. I know this trip gave us all a desire to go beyond and dig deeper."



THE GREATEST LOVE STORY

EVER

JOHN SLAGE, UTICA, OH

When you hear the name Adam, what one word comes to mind? Sinner? Disobedient? Loser? Whatever it is, it's probably not courage!

Adam is the root of the word *adamant*. Adamant, an adjective, means "unshakable, unyielding, or insistent." If we keep that in mind, we can begin to look deeper into the person that Adam was. Timothy wrote of him, "For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression" (1 Timothy 2:13-14).

And the writer of Proverbs asked, "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies" (Proverbs 31:10).

With this little introduction, I want to preach, "The Greatest Love Story Ever."

The Two Adams

In writing to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul begins to open our understanding about the comparisons between two Adams: "And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit" (1 Corinthians 15:45).

Did Paul just equate Adam and Jesus together in the same sentence? Why? How could Adam possibly be compared to Jesus? The answer is, both are sons of God; both were made in the image of a loving, forgiving God; and both were without sin and perfect. Yes, God made the first man Adam entirely without sin.

"Okay, but they're still vastly different," someone might say. And yes, that's true. Paul tells us in Romans 5:17-18 that by one comes death and by the other comes life. "For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:17). He further writes in verse 18, "Therefore as by the offence of one judgment

came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life." (See also 1 Corinthians 15:22.)

Let's take a closer look at the passage found in Romans 5:14:

"Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come."

"(W)ho is the figure of him that was to come."

Did you catch that? He who ate the forbidden fruit after listening to his wife is the figure of Christ to come? Adam? Really?

To understand this better, let's go back to the beginning.

Even though Adam and God met in the cool of the day and enjoyed close fellowship, God recognized a deficiency in Adam. He heard the deep sigh, saw the wistful staring off into the distance, and observed the ache deep down within despite the surrounding beauty. Have you ever seen something so beautiful, or been to some place so special that you just ached to share it with someone? Adam lived in the midst of paradise and yet had no one to love, no one to share it with. And so recognizing the telltale signs of loneliness, God lovingly created for Adam the perfect companion.

The Bride from the Side

In Genesis 2:21 and 22, we learn that God caused a deep sleep, or a type of death, to come over Adam. Then opening his side—near his heart—God took a rib and prepared for Adam a beautiful, one-of-a-kind bride. There is a spiritual application of God creating Adam's bride from his side. It speaks of the sacred mystery, the bride of the Lamb referenced in Revelation 21:2, who owes her existence to His wounded side.

While the Bible gives no physical description of Eve, Adam must have experienced an astonishing, breathless, heart-pounding joy. Indeed his first reaction upon seeing this beautiful, lovely gift from God was to wax poetic with these words -- "This

is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man" (Genesis 2:23).

Fresh from the hand of God with unmatched grace and beauty of body, mind and spirit, Eve had an advantage no other woman has ever had. She was created pure and holy. She had no inherited sin.

Yet in time, she would surrender a perfect paradise for the ungodly world of thorns, thistles and tears. Though she was created sinless, she would become the world's first sinner and, by default, all of her offspring would then be conceived in sin and shapen in iniquity.

Having Tea with the Serpent

There came a day when Eve entered into a most intriguing discussion with the serpent. Holding up her end of the conversation, she demonstrated her knowledge that all the fruits of the garden were good and acceptable to eat -- save one. The woman was surrounded by every imaginable good thing within the paradise, yet Satan succeeded in convincing her to focus upon the one thing that she could not have. By his craft, he disguised this way downward as the path upward. As a true innocent who had never encountered deceit, delusion or a simple lie, Eve suspected nothing sinister in the serpent's masterpiece of subtle seduction. Innocent and unaware, she took of the fruit and did eat; and with eyes now open, she came to know evil.

The Genesis account does not record where Adam was at the moment when Eve gave in to temptation. But clearly he was not included in the conversation. Neither did Eve consult him for his opinion. So it's unlikely that he was within earshot or close enough to see what was happening until it was all over.

It is famously stated that the shortest sentence in Scripture is "Jesus wept." The Bible doesn't record this, but long before Jesus wept in a garden—over the death of His friends, or over His beloved city of Jerusalem—we can speculate that Adam wept in the garden of Eden.

"And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression" our text from I Timothy 2:14 reads. It gives us a strong indication as to Adam's mindset. It tells us he was not deceived. He didn't fall for the serpent's seduction with dreamy expectation and mounting curiosity. He knew and believed adamantly that disobedience to God would surely lead to death. And when he saw that his beautiful, innocent bride—his cherished gift from God—had succumbed to the lethal lies of Satan, we wonder if he didn't fall to his knees with his head in his hands and scream out in agony, "You murderer! You murdered my wife!"

Because Adam was not deceived, he realized he had just lost the woman he loved. The sweet fragrance of innocence had been replaced by the stench of death. Darkness had crept into the garden, and his heart was ripped in two as he surely must have felt the widening gap between his still-innocent soul and hers. She might have tried to console him in his wrenching heartache while offering him the gift of the fruit—and yet he knew the truth. He was not deceived. With bitter tears streaming down his face, he saw her future. She must now die. Fearfully. Without God. Without her husband. Without love. Alone.

Staggering slowly to his feet, he accepted the fruit she offered him, "and he did eat." Willingly and knowingly, he did partake of that sinful act. With eyes wide open, he accepted the death sentence—not for the false promise of a lie, but for the love of his bride. He just could not and would not abandon her to experience death alone.

Adam, the Figure of Him Who Was To Come

Now we begin to see that Adam was not some kind of spineless weakling, as he is so commonly portrayed. He was created perfect in the image of a loving, self-sacrificing God. As "the figure of him who was to come," he foreshadowed how

Christ, the perfect, sinless Man, would willingly go to the cross to take on the shame of sin and the agonies of death.

In similar fashion, neither the first nor the last man Adam was deceived by sin. They both took on sin—not for the love of sin, but for the love of their brides.

With this understanding in mind, we read verses 6 through 8 of Romans chapter 5.

"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Verses 12 and 15 read: "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned...For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many."

Beyond gaining a greater appreciation for Adam's role in pointing the way to Christ's work on Calvary, we also gain a better understanding of the parallel metaphors of the two brides. Each owes her existence to the wound from the side of her husband.

The Ruby Blood Stone

Rubies are among the rarest of gemstones and highly valued. They are deep red in color and therefore are often referred to as the blood stone. In fact, in May of 2015, the "Pigeon Blood" ruby with more than 25 carats sold at auction for a world record \$30 million.

Although the purchase is impressive, scripture places the value of a virtuous woman "far above" that of rubies. For the most virtuous of women—the glorious Bride of Christ adorned in pure white without spot and without blemish—the price is the rarest of elements in the universe: nothing less than the sacrificial blood of her husband, the Bridegroom.

Bio: Born near Akron, Ohio, John Slage was raised in an unchurched family. He graduated with a degree in Journalism from Kent State University and also holds a Master's degree in Marketing & Communication from Franklin University. His conversion began early in his newspaper career. In 1981, while interviewing three Apostolic ministers arrested in a legal battle over 1st Amendment Rights, he stopped the interview and asked to be immediately baptized in Jesus name. In 1995, he received the call to preach and in 2001, he founded New Life Apostolic Fellowship near Columbus, Ohio.

As a bi-vocational minister, he has more than 30 years of experience helping corporations, government agencies and nonprofit healthcare entities communicate their culture, missions, products and visions for the future.

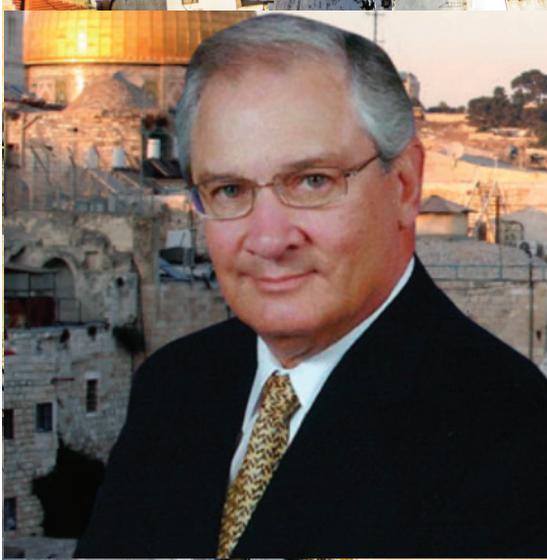
He and his wife, Brenda, love to travel and spend vacations in Maine with their four children and 11 grandchildren.



John and Brenda Slage
Utica, Ohio

What makes
the miracles of
Jesus even more
miraculous?

STANDING
WHERE THEY
HAPPENED.



For information contact:
Rev. Ronald G. Walls
(618) 997-4795

Pastor & Wife Go Free Program

Eight Days Israel plus
Jordan Pilgrimage

November, 2017 Tours -
Best Weather/Less Expensive

Apostolic Holy Land Tours
Hosted 3500 plus
UPC members to Holy Land



Historic Flooding in Louisiana

Multiple Churches and Homes Affected by “Unprecedented” Disaster

By Gregg Stone



Bro. Kevin Cox
District Supt. of Louisiana

August 11, 2016 started out like any other ordinary summer day in Louisiana, but by day's end it would be anything but ordinary. Torrential downpours dropped 2-3 inches of rainfall an hour, resulting in the worst U.S. natural disaster

since Hurricane Sandy. Louisiana's governor, John Bel Edwards, called the disaster a “historic, unprecedented flooding event.”

The *Washington Post* noted that the “no-name storm” dumped three times as much rain on Louisiana as Hurricane Katrina. It dropped the equivalent of 7.1 trillion gallons of water or enough to fill Lake Pontchartrain about four times. “The devastation in the aftermath of the rain is almost beyond comprehension,” said Bro. Kevin Cox, UPCI District Superintendent of the state of Louisiana. “According to my understanding, some areas received 30 inches of rain within just a few days, and many other areas received almost that much.”

In the wake of the flood, over 100,000 homes were damaged, not counting the schools, businesses and churches that were impacted by the rising waters. At least 13 deaths have been reported as a result of the flooding. “In times of crises, we all know what a comfort it is to be able to go to church and gather with the body of Christ and find strength. However, in many cases, due to

the flooding of many of our churches, this is simply not an option yet,” said Bro. Cox. “The gutting, cleaning and rebuilding process could take a very long time. The sooner we can help with the efforts for these church buildings to regain functional use again, the better off the members of each church will be as they too work to rebuild their own homes and lives.”

As would be expected, some of the damage to the churches was worse than others and some pastors have opened their doors to be used by other churches until they can get back in their own buildings. “Many have been involved in some form of help from the earliest points possible,” said Bro. Cox. “Pastor Davis immediately opened his church as a distribution center and has worked with Larry Williamson of Reach Out America. Many 18-wheeler loads of supplies have come in and been distributed to those in need. However, there is still a monumental need for financial help, and I am appointing a committee of pastors to make decisions concerning the distribution of incoming funds to our churches in need. Every single penny that comes in for this purpose will go out for this purpose; no funds whatsoever will be kept for any kind of administrative purposes.”

The tedious process of rebuilding has begun, and you can be a part of helping these fellow churches recover.

Besides financial support, please continuously make mention of the affected churches and church members in your prayers. If you are able to donate, send checks to Louisiana District UPCI, PO Box 248, Tioga, LA 71477. Mark “flood relief” on the payment. Electronic donations can be made on their website, www.ladistupc.com, under the “Donate” tab.



Clockwise top left: Sis. Tonya Penalber and son Joel, First UPC Holden; Pastor Ray Johnson's office, Denham Springs; Pastor Robert Martin's home in Baton Rouge; Pentecostals of Alexandria volunteer group; aerial view of First UPC, Denham Springs

Next Steps Program: The Next Step After AYC

By Brittney Ragan



James and Linda Poitras
Florissant, Mo.

Apostolic Youth Corps (AYC) is a great starting place in missions. Next Steps (NS) is the next right step. Many of the Next Steps participants have been on AYC, although it's not a requirement. Next Steps is an eight-week program.

Three weeks are spent in the classroom being taught by seasoned missionaries and leaders. James Poitras (director of AIM) and his wife, Linda, remain with the group for the three weeks of training. A supervising missionary is with them the rest of the time.

The curriculum covers various elements and strategies of cross-cultural ministry and missions, followed by five weeks of hands-on practical work and ministry in the field.

The countries are predetermined up to three years in advance to assist with personal planning. The types of ministry opportunities Next Steps participants may be involved in on the field include: preaching, teaching, singing, children's ministry, crusades, youth events, conferences, construction/painting and puppet ministry, you

name it! Ministry is tailored to match the needs and opportunities of each country. Language training is also conducted in most places.

Anyone 18 and above can be involved in Next Steps. There are typically more college-aged individuals, but there are always a few older individuals too. Most participants are single. It's not impossible to accommodate married couples, just more difficult. All participants need to be in good standing with their UPC pastor, have obeyed the Acts 2:38 salvation plan, are considered faithful, and have a heart for missions.

To participate in Next Steps, the following items are needed: a \$100 U.S. application fee, application, resume, pastor's approval and recommendation, supervising missionary's recommendation, regional director's recommendation, insurance waiver, and approval of the completed application file by the GMAC (Global Missions Administrative Committee). A passport, immunizations and visas for some locations are also required. The average financial obligation that the Next Steps participant should expect to raise is \$5,900. Participants can do fundraising for missions support to help with their financial obligation. To assist, the General Youth Division is offering scholarships of \$1,500 each. Each candidate would need

to fill out an application and have gone on an AYC trip to be considered.

Next Steps provides a great foundation for ministry in missions and in any cross-cultural environment. One of the first “Next Steppers” is under missionary appointment. Many NS participants go on to AIM. Two participants were just recently approved. There is an immense need for men and women Next Steps participants. The harvest is huge and workers are limited. Opportunities are endless.

For further information, contact the following: Pat Morgan - Administration including application processing: pmorgan@upci.org; Tia Reynolds - Promotions and Social Media for Next Steps and AIM: treynolds@upci.org; and Jim Poitras - Director of AIM: jpoitras@upci.org



Apostolic Youth Corps trip



CONNECT

INDIANA BIBLE COLLEGE

Your chance to see what
Bible college is all about

February 23-25, 2017

for more info visit www.go2ibc.com/connect

Word To The Wise:

"The difference between a rut and a grave is the depth."

* * * * *

Three little boys were bragging about how tough they were. "I'm so tough," said the first boy, "that I can wear out a pair of shoes in a week."

"Well," said the second little boy, "I'm so tough, I can wear out a pair of jeans in a day."

"That's nothing," said the third boy. "When my parents take me to see my grandma and grandpa, I can wear both of them out in just one hour."

* * * * *

After enlisting in the 82nd Airborne Division, I eagerly asked my recruiter what I could expect from jump school.

"Well," he said, "it's three weeks long."

"What else?" I asked.

"The first week they separate the men from the boys," he said.

"The second week, they separate the men from the fools."

"And the third week?" I asked.

"The third week, the fools jump."



Ronnie stumbles onto a gold mine.

* * * * *

We went to breakfast at a restaurant where the "seniors' special" was two eggs, bacon, hash browns and toast for \$1.99.

"Sounds good," my wife said. "But I don't want the eggs."

"Then I'll have to charge you \$2.49 because you're ordering a la carte," the waitress warned her.

"You mean I'd have to pay for not taking the eggs?" my wife asked incredulously. "Then I'll take the special."

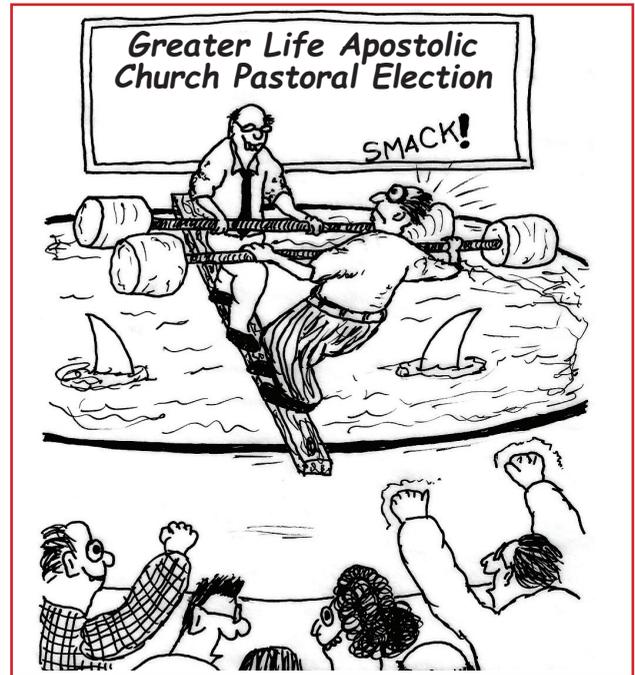
"How do you want your eggs?" "Raw and in the shell," my wife replied. She took the two eggs home.

* * * * *

"WHERE is my SUNDAY paper?!" the customer yelled after calling the newspaper office.

"Madam," said the newspaper employee, "today is Saturday. The Sunday paper is not delivered until tomorrow, on SUNDAY."

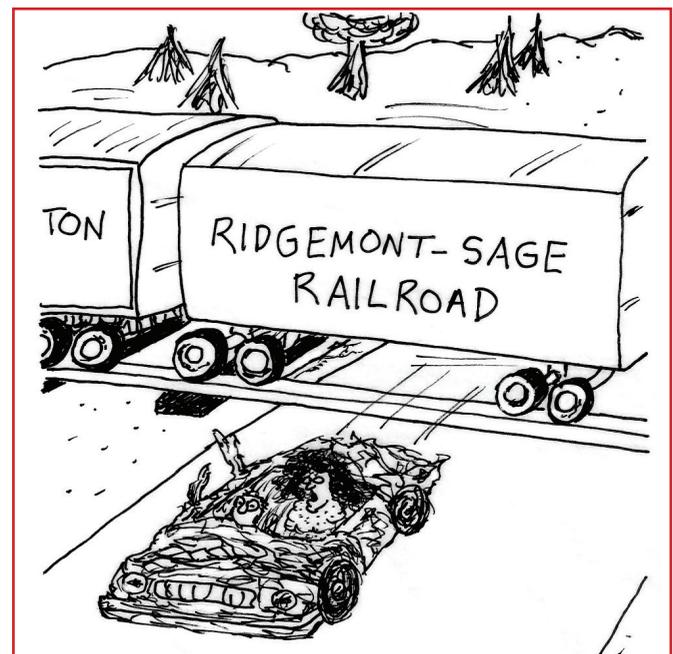
There was quite a long pause on the other end of the phone, followed by a ray of recognition as she was heard to mutter, "Well, that explains why no one was at church either."



Greater Life's pastoral election process has always been a congregation favorite.

My Housework Philosophy

1. I don't do windows because I love birds and don't want one to run into a clean window and get hurt.
2. I don't wax floors because I am terrified a guest will slip.
3. I don't spring clean because I love all the seasons and don't want the others to get jealous.
4. I don't pull weeds in the garden because I don't want to get rid of the only green I've got.
5. I don't put things away because my husband will never be able to find them again.
6. I don't do gourmet meals when I entertain because I don't want my guests to stress over what to make when they invite me to dinner.
7. I don't iron because I choose to believe them when they say "Permanent Press."
8. I don't stress much on anything because "A Type" personalities die young, and I want to stick around and become a wrinkled up crusty ol' person!



"Well, it figures! Instead of complimenting me on keeping us from being late to church, you have to complain!"

EXPERIENCE JERUSALEM
TOURS

7 DAY TOUR LAX to Tel Aviv

THIS PRICE INCLUDES
FLIGHT, LODGING,
AND BREAKFAST.

\$1595.00

Invest in your Ministry

Dec. 3-10, Jan 7-14, Jan 21-28

: CALL :

925.642.4708

www.experiencejerusalem.info

SCHEDULE YOUR

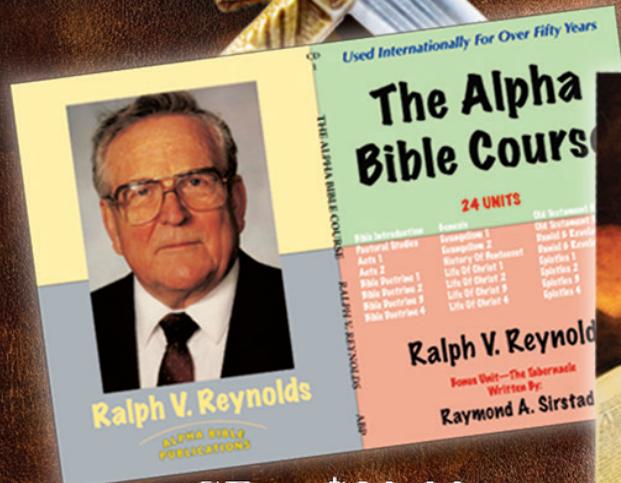
REVIVAL
TODAY



Evangelist
REMA DUNCAN

(224)279-9800 WWW.REMADUNCAN.COM
Youth Revivals, Church Revivals & Urban Evangelism

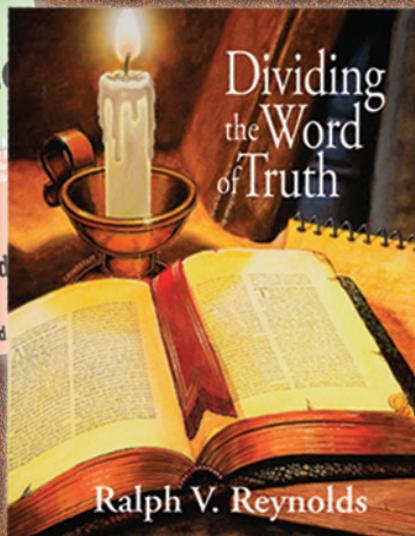
*Time Spent
Sharpening
the Sword
is Time
Well Spent*



CD = \$39.99

Also Available In Spanish

24 Lesson Book Set = \$200



Ralph V. Reynolds

\$20.00

Alpha Bible Publications
www.alphabiblepublications.com

(503) 946-3316

Visit our website for other
excellent books and CDs!

Find us on
Facebook

Apostolic Voice

by Ryan French

www.ryanafrench.com

A growing blog curating apostolic articles, social media, quotes, podcasts, book reviews, information, study helps, sermons, bookstores, and more.

gofundme

MATTHEW YEATER

IBC GRADUATE
M. DIV. SCHOLAR



>He has received a scholarship to continue his studies in Israel, but needs additional funds to get there and rent an apartment.

Apostolic Blind Scholar Seeking Funds To Continue Studies In Israel

READ HIS AMAZING STORY AT:
GOFUNDME.COM/2m7kefs3

UPDATE

Your stationery

www.aestheticdesign.us
branding | web design | graphic design | printing

AESTHETIC
Branding & Design Solutions

'nuggles clothing



www.nugglesboutique.com

The UNITED PENTECOSTAL Church of DeKalb, IL

HIRING: HEAD YOUTH PASTOR (MARRIED COUPLE)

SEND RESUMES TO IMADAVIS2@AOL.COM
FOR MORE INFORMATION: 815-762-8552

THE YOUTH GROUP CONSISTS OF ABOUT 30 MEMBERS AND THERE IS GREAT POTENTIAL FOR GROWTH. NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, A COLLEGE OF 20,000 STUDENTS, IS LOCATED IN OUR CITY.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- OVERSEE MONTHLY YOUTH EVENTS
- HEAD UP A YOUTH COUNCIL
- TEACH WEEKLY



50 Back Issues of the
IBC Perspectives
\$35.00 (plus postage)
1-800-800-0247

SAMUEL L. LATTA

Ministries

Now joining hands with pastors in training of tomorrow's church leaders and soul winners.

"ABLE MINISTERS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT"
| A FIVE LESSON SEMINAR |

Topics include:

- SOUL WINNING
- TESTIMONY
- KNOWING JESUS
- PERSONAL GROWTH
- STEWARDSHIP

"You will enjoy these powerful lessons sprinkled with stories from Bro. Latta's accomplished, adventurous and inspiring life." - Paul D. Mooney

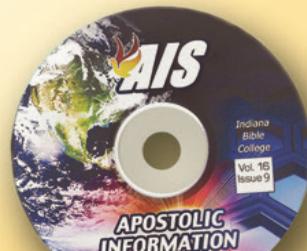
For more information & booking, Contact:
Samuel L. Latta | 770-355-5473 | samlatta@gmail.com



Sermon Development Tools For Apostolic Preachers

Quality sermon development is a critical key to successful church growth and ministry success. When you subscribe to the Apostolic Information Service you have access to thousands of sermon and Bible study files, many of them with outlines and powerpoints. Call or visit our website to subscribe today!

1-800-800-0247
www.apostolic.edu



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

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

Send To:

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN **WORSHIP STUDIES**

WITH A MINOR IN BIBLICAL STUDIES



INDIANABIBLECOLLEGE

The IBC Worship Studies degree is a unique program blending music and media with a heart for ministry while integrating the essential skills to prepare Biblically grounded worship experiences. Students will receive training in the following areas:

Writing original musical compositions
Writing original worship songs
Audio recording and production
Graphic arts
Music theory and ear training
Leading and rehearsing bands
Creating worship sets
Designing media presentations
Leading corporate worship
Theology and philosophy of worship
Private studio lessons for piano, guitar, voice, drums, and bass guitar
And much more...

The IBC Worship Studies degree will prepare students to engage a diverse (e.g., ethnically, generationally, etc.) congregation or group of people with a strong foundation in Biblical doctrine and theology with professional training in music and media production. IBC Worship Studies graduates will be well-prepared for various career and ministry possibilities including:

Minister of Music
Worship Leader
Director of Worship Arts
Director of Worship Media and Technology
Studio Recording Artist
Singer/Songwriter
Music and Worship Evangelist
Private Lesson Instructor
Music and Worship Leader for Global Missions
Christian School Music Educator
...or a bachelor's degree to prepare for graduate studies