

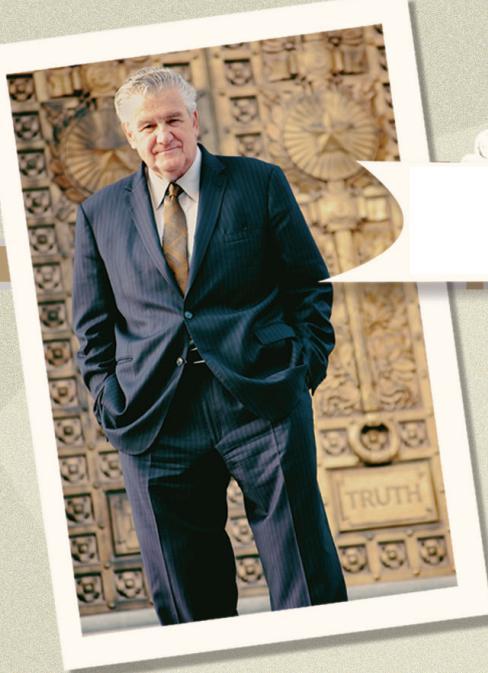
VOL. 26 NO. 12  
INDIANA BIBLE COLLEGE



# Perspectives







From The Publisher

## The King's Sword

Paul D. Mooney

**"We cannot escape the confrontations of our day, but we can walk down to the brook, pick up some stones and trust the Lord to anoint the service, the song, the preaching, and our destiny."**

**T**he moment in the drama of David's battle against Goliath is well-explored, but at the risk of losing the reader's interest, I nevertheless beg the indulgence.

Consider the significant moment when David - strapping on the king's borrowed sword - paused. He undoubtedly was thinking about what he was preparing to do. In that pause, he acknowledged an uncertainty about his expertise, or lack thereof, in the use of the sword. The gravity of what was about to take place was manifest. He was mere seconds away from death or victory, and in a man-to-man contest Goliath had the obvious advantage.

David may have revealed some measure of hubris, we don't know, when he speaks boldly about his victory in overcoming the sheep, killing a lion and a bear. As recorded, he recalled, "...there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him" (1 Samuel 17:34-35). Whatever degree of self-confidence he may have had (he had also inquired about the potential personal rewards offered to anyone who would kill Goliath), he nevertheless was quick to emphasize that it was the Lord that had delivered him. It is that disclosure that revealed his great faith.

While King Saul dressed David with his own kingly armor, helmet and coat, and gave David his own personal sword, the observers were preparing to watch a fight - sword against sword. Goliath, the giant Philistine, versus a shepherd lad from Israel. It would be the global event of the year. What those observers that day failed to discern was that the entire course of history was about to be altered.

So . . . David paused, he thought, and he must have relived his battle with the lion and the bear. Perhaps he touched Saul's famous sword, and maybe he tried to move about in the armor, and felt the weight of the helmet. Then boldly he spoke to King Saul, "I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him. And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had....And he drew near to the Philistine" (1 Samuel 17:39-40).

David walked toward Goliath, and the Philistine cursed him and threatened to feed him to the fowls of the air and the beasts of the field. But, he walked on and shouted back to the giant, "thou comest to me with a sword and with a spear, and with a shield...but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel" (v. 45). David's forward motion from that point was by faith alone, and that fact undoubtedly changed *everything*. The future of Israel and David's life were at

stake. And at that moment he chose to rely on divine intervention. He set aside the sword and gave his trust fully to an unreasonable but God-directed strategy. He moved forward in the name of the Lord.

I shudder somewhat when I read the line, "and he drew near the Philistine." This is David's walk of faith. Killing giants with slingshots was not likely an accepted method taught in military schools. The onlookers awaited David's slaughter. No one expected to see the beheading of the Philistine.

I imagine David, surrounded by the power of King Saul's presence, frozen in the moment, contemplating the use of the king's sword. The king's sword! It's an absurdity! The great king's sword surrendered to the hand of an untrained shepherd given the daunting challenge to eliminate the very symbol of humanistic power. But, alas, David's soul is checked. His spirit demands that he rely on a rudimentary slingshot and simple stones. In that moment, God smiled upon David and the victory was preassured. If instead David had chosen the sword, he risked not only losing the battle because of his inexperience, but any victory he may have achieved would have been changed from a divine miracle into a political and possibly an egotistical snare.

Today the Pentecostal revolution is being dangerously rethought, reshaped, and philosophized. Are we contemplating the use of the king's sword? Are we foregoing the rudimentary tools given to us by the Apostles? Confronting the world in the borrowed armor of political power, academia, talent, human ability or carnality is not the path God revealed to us in the Upper Room. It will not bring us revival or victory over this world. Strapping on the world's methods, fantasizing for the world's approval is a certain path to failure. We cannot escape the confrontations of our day, but we can walk down to the brook, pick up some stones and trust the Lord to anoint the service, the song, the preaching, and our destiny.

"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his" (Romans 8:9).



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

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

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

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## GUEST PULPIT: PERSISTENCE

- ANTHONY BALLESTERO

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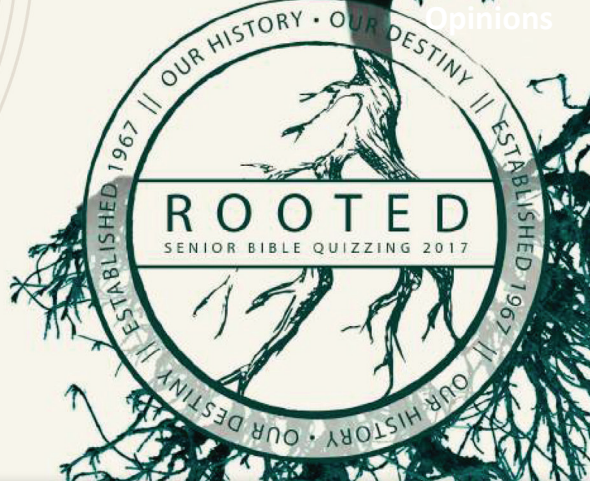


UPCLF



# The Amazing **IMPACT** of Bible Quizzing

Interviews by Angela Labunski



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



**Michael Ensey, St. Louis, MO** -- For 31 years I have been involved in Bible quizzing as a quizzer, coach, quiz parent, and administrator through district and North American oversight. The many benefits include developing personal discipline and proper study habits, which often lead to academic improvement. Doing something that is difficult and being committed without the option to quit builds something into children and teenagers. It is also a very powerful social tool as quizzers learn teamwork and build relationships. There are many great resources available for new teams at [www.seniorbiblequizzing.com](http://www.seniorbiblequizzing.com). Like with any spiritual discipline (prayer and fasting), one must do it with the right spirit and motive. The ultimate motivating factor should be to develop a stronger relationship with God through studying His Word. Everything we do is unto the Lord.



**Steven Beardsley, Newark, DE** -- Spending time in the Word of God and with godly individuals optimizes the ability of a young person to ultimately choose God. In our experience, there is no youth program that is better at establishing strong Christians than Bible quizzing. We use this ministry to develop fully mature members of the body

of Christ. It unlocks the spiritual and human potential of God's creation, and quizzers can go into the world with confidence in word and deed. Competition tends to be about selfish wants, but they can switch the desire of winning to the need for study. Each quiz should be a contest against themselves and how hard they can study. Real life in the Kingdom is not always winning; the secret to abounding is learning how to be abased.



**Sam Emory, Merced, CA** -- If our students can memorize a rap song, then they can memorize the Word of God. However, memorizing the Word is much more important because it grows in hearts and minds. It ingrains in young people the Pentecostal principles that will keep them strong. To start a Bible quizzing program, a church must begin with a person who has a burden for it. The tournaments are not all about winning the trophy. The margin of success is not what you come home with but what you take to them. Whether you win or lose, keep a good attitude and remember that

learning to lose is a virtue. However, all should be congratulated because the Word of God is the ultimate prize.



**Vance Bowman, Shawnee, OK** -- The sooner you can start a Bible quizzing program in your church, the better. There is no substitute for hiding the Word in your young people's heart. It establishes them in their faith and in the Bible. Many children who do not have the Holy Ghost receive it within a year of quizzing. The same young people who compete against each other in tournaments can be seen praying for one another at the Holy Ghost rallies. Churches established in this ministry are willing to assist other churches in the start-up process. Financial sacrifice is always necessary where children are involved.



**Jerry Burns, Rio Rancho, NM** -- For over 20 years we have had Bible quizzing in our church and have seen dramatic changes in our children and youth. While many of our churches are losing a majority of their young people to this world, Living Word Church is keeping upwards of 95%. Anytime you have a large number of your students committing over 500 Scriptures annually to memory, you can certainly expect a positive outcome. To start, I suggest having a meeting with potential quizzers and taking them to a district quiz meet to show them how interesting it is. You must start with pastors willing to commit considerable finances to the program and individuals not afraid of hard work and long hours of instruction and study.

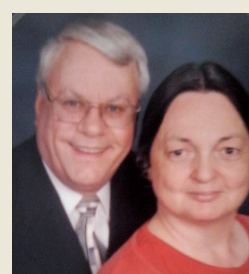


**Jason Staten, Lexington Park, MD** -- The key to a successful Bible quizzing ministry is having a knowledgeable director and a pastor who is actively involved. It is difficult to keep the program running without these. If you succeed, you will see a greater investment in the Word and personal spiritual growth in your students. Competition seems to be more difficult for the parents than the young people due to the desire to see their child succeed. However, most quizzers seem to keep the competitive part of quizzing in its proper context and make great friendships with the other quizzers. The various ways they learn to memorize the verses helps them form creative ways to commit things to memory, which will benefit them later in any career path.



**Justin Gleason, Kansas City, MO** -- Since the late 1970s, the Life Church of Kansas City has had a UPCI Bible quizzing ministry. What amazing spiritual changes we have seen in the lives of our quizzers. The more a person goes into the depths of God's Word, the higher they go in God's Holy Spirit and ministry. We have observed a common pattern, that after a Bible quizzer leaves their youth years and becomes an adult, they remain committed to God and the church. It is very rare for us to see a committed Bible quizzer become

spiritually discouraged and backslide. Quizzers learn techniques that have the potential to advance them in school, extracurricular activities, and benefit resumes. Quizzers are impressive people.



**Dale Welch, Peshtigo, WI** -- The Bible is the greatest life book that there is and those that participate in Bible quizzing tend to develop great study habits and build people skills. As they look deeper into the Word of God, they learn the words on which they can base their life, which molds their character. Not all will become involved and be incredibly enthusiastic about joining. Good Bible quiz coordinators will aid the success of the program. Some students will excel, others will

seem apprehensive and unwilling to study hard. Becoming involved in Bible quizzing always opens up the children and young people to step forward, become more involved, and volunteer for other church events.



# SPARKING REVIVAL IN A CYBER CULTURE

Talmadge French — Jonesboro, GA



Pastor Talmadge French

Strategically placed on a major highway that leads into the heart of Atlanta, Apostolic Tabernacle serves as a foundation of truth for a diverse culture. “Every day about a half a million people pass by our church,” stated Pastor Talmadge French. “It is almost shocking the thousands of visitors we get.” In addition, the cyber traffic generated each week from the church website and podcast is growing rapidly, already reaching hundreds of thousands of visitors. Bro. French, 60, and his wonderful wife, Rebecca, recognize that God is ready to do great things in Jonesboro, Ga. and are preparing for an abundant harvest. They have three

sons: Ryan, assistant pastor, Jonathan, and Nathan, music director. Bro. French has served on the Illinois District Board, as well as published books including: *Our God is One*, his master’s thesis, and doctoral thesis, *Early Interracial Oneness Pentecostalism*.

## Principles of Growth & Revival

“I think the real key to revival is preaching and teaching,” said Bro. French. “And when there is a focus on outreach and evangelism, folks start getting the Holy Ghost and saints get excited about that. It also helps that Atlanta has a very positive outlook toward Pentecostals.” Pastor French describes his church as a very worshipful people, giving others a sense of hope that they are about to receive what they need. They emphasize having a wide range of ethnicities and support 62 missionaries on a monthly basis. Pastor French believes keeping track of and organizing Bible studies is important. Revival must start by preaching and teaching with excitement, and people accepting and believing the message.

It is a high priority for Apostolic Tabernacle to start expanding

their online ministry due to the growing number of individuals utilizing the Internet. “Our number one attraction is that we are online,” said Bro. French. “We have a website and a podcast where there are hundreds of thousands of followers. With this and a publishing ministry, people hear and they come.” The church website and podcast ([www.aptabupc.com](http://www.aptabupc.com)) along with Apostolic Voice ([www.ryanafrench.com](http://www.ryanafrench.com)) reach into over 18 countries. This has become a fundamental part in the growth and localized awareness for their church. Visitors regularly attend from the community who have listened to the services for months before deciding to step into service. High-definition video recording is the next goal in this ministry.

## Organization & Management

Apostolic Tabernacle has 18 different areas of ministry, which includes being the head of the Georgia prison ministry, which is led by a minister in their church, Bro. Tee McGee. Everybody is trained to be an evangelist: to fast, pray, and be a part. Every few weeks they make thousands of business cards and distribute them throughout the community. “We want to make our presence known,” said Pastor French. “Even the very newest members will do that. The church is exciting and if you like it, others will like it too. I have always felt that our movement needs to emphasize that we have a great product. Get people out to see it and have something there for them. That will cause your church to grow.” Often they target children with special events throughout the year to encourage members to get their family and friends’ kids involved.

Sunday mornings before service, the department heads of all ministries meet, and the coordinator for the Evangelism office gathers their reports. If there has been a Bible study or new visitor, they know about it and have it recorded. They set dates for the entire year and organize with revival in mind in their annual planning session. The vision for 2017 is *3D: Discipleship, Dedication, and Dynamics*. “I think we are reaching a point that further training is the next level. This growth happened so fast that a lot of the training tends to be on-the-job,” said Pastor French. They are launching several new ministries and initiatives this year to undergird this vision, such as altar



The congregation prays and worships in the altar area of Apostolic Tabernacle.



working, baptism ministry, and Bible study training. About 36% of all members at Apostolic Tabernacle are active in ministry.

### Special Miracles

"The miraculous has to be expected," said Pastor French. "It is part of faith in a church and as God moves, people see that God is doing it and are inspired. Our son, Ryan, had a heart condition as a baby and God touched him. Middle son, John, had cancer and God healed him." One miracle that happened recently at Apostolic Tabernacle was the healing of former pastor, Bishop B.S. Cole, who at 87 years old fell and broke his neck and was not expected to live. He had surgery and God miraculously healed him. The church was strengthened and glorified God. Twice in the last six months, the church prayed specifically that God would draw people as they drove by to come. Both times, the very next service someone walked in and said they felt drawn to come.

### Personal Ministry

One thing Apostolic Tabernacle strives to do is to reach for everyone the same. "The basis of Christian faith is that everybody, every human being, is valuable," said Pastor French. "This includes the rich, the poor, no matter who they are ethnically. We reach for everyone the same and display that to our people. They need to see you loving people. Being available is very important, as well as putting yourself out there to meet and talk with people. Not in the office, but out in the church." Fairly regularly, they schedule a "Meet the Pastor" day, where individuals can have a bite to eat and talk to the pastor for hours if they wish.

Defending the Bible is the subject Pastor French enjoys preaching about the most. Oneness is close behind, as he was a Trinitarian that came out of the Assemblies of God. But he loves preaching about the Bible and the power of the Word of God, which translates into dynamic worship. It is more than just giving facts about the Bible but talking about its power. "I emphasize a great deal that you have to live by the Bible, love the Bible, and obey the spirit," said Bro. French. "If you want to know what to do, it is in the Bible. The Bible comes alive, and thousands of people that listen are affected."

Because of Pastor French's extensive educational background, including a B.A. in Ancient Language (Greek) from Wheaton College in Chicago, an M.A. in New Testament Theology, and a PhD from the University of Birmingham in England, the church does target intellectuals, such as university professors trying to understand the Apostolic message. He is regularly called in to meet and talk to Trinitarians about what they believe. When they hear or read his material, for the first time they understand Oneness.

### Current Facility

Presently, Apostolic Tabernacle is housed in a 30,000 square foot building with a 500-seat auditorium. It is located on a major highway coming out of Atlanta with a large charismatic church across the street. The building had no prior uses and was built 20 years ago by Bishop Cole. It is about a \$3 million building and paid for completely. All under one roof, it houses a full gym, sanctuary, 12 classrooms, a chapel, fellowship hall, and kitchen. Pastor French stated that, "We just recently purchased headsets for our new Spanish ministry and are running about 20-25. Many have gotten the Holy Ghost. It is the first really successful ethnic ministry that we have. They have their church service first with a Bible lesson in the chapel, then they join us for the main service. We advertise that and are having natural growth." Apostolic Tabernacle's average attendance is 235, which is a 165% growth from the last five years.

### Church History

Bishop Cole started the church, which first met in four to five little buildings close by the church now. They merged with another Apostolic church in the 1990s and, in 2000, they used the property of the merged church to build the current church. As pastor of Apostolic Tabernacle, Bro. French preached his first

sermon on July 20, 2011 with about 85 attendees and stated that it was really a wonderful, dynamic service. The early outreach methods were door knocking and Bible studies. Since then, 252 have been baptized and 267 have been filled with the Holy Ghost.

### Personal History

Pastor French grew up in Memphis, Ark. as a Trinitarian Pentecostal. He first received the Holy Ghost at 11 years old with no member of his family in church, except a Pentecostal grandmother whose roots traced back to the Azusa days. "The way I came into the Oneness movement was as a young college kid who asked a lot of questions. I started listening to Harvest Time radio and it piqued a lot of questions. I began to probe at why we do not do some things. I was a Latin language major at the time. Eventually, I began to look at it and became convinced that I needed to be baptized. This was before I had ever been to an Apostolic church."

The first message Bro. French preached at age 17 in Truman, Ark. was on the subject of the rapture. After that he knew he wanted to preach. "My pastor said that after I got baptized I should go to Bible school," said Pastor French. "I went to ABI to learn to preach and really loved it. I knew I wasn't Trinitarian but didn't understand yet. I just wanted to make sure I wasn't a heretic." While at ABI (Apostolic Bible Institute), his ministry was greatly influenced by Bro. S. G. Norris, Bro. Robert Sabin, and Bro. N.A. Urshan.

Over the years, all of Pastor French's family has come into the Apostolic church. He feels like the unique aspects of his youth with academic opportunities influenced his ministry greatly. "Not everybody studies Greek and Hebrew when they are a kid. That affected my ministry and how I approach the Bible and ministry. Many people will probably never walk that road," he said.

### Human Interest

Pastor French is known to collect books and enjoys reading Francis Schaeffer's works. In his free time he loves to study languages, read, and write. Because of his exciting, emotional, and intense teaching, many are surprised meeting him in person, as he is calm, quiet, and soft-spoken. His level of humility with a world-class education is refreshing and unique.

Favorite preachers of his include Wayne Huntley and Paul D. Mooney.



Talmadge and Rebecca French  
Jonesboro, Ga.



Clockwise top: The French family sings at a Christmas concert; exterior of Apostolic Tabernacle in Jonesboro, Ga.; Bro. Ryan French baptizes a young boy; the children's choir sings



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## Learning from the Golden Arches

By Brent Randall



**I**ndulge me for a moment and take a journey in your mind with me. (I'd have you close your eyes, but then you couldn't read this column!)

In your mind's eye, I want you to drive to your nearest, most familiar McDonald's®.

Are you there yet?

Walk up to the glass-and-metal front door and enter the building. You'll find that you

are walking on a non-skid tile floor. Step forward to the busiest area in the midst of the McDonald's® just in front of the sales counter, and stop.

Don't read further until you are definitely there.

Are you there?

Now, take a long moment, look around that room, and count all the elements that tell the seven-year-old, "We're glad you're here!"

Don't read further until you have done so.

What did you see?

Perhaps you saw one or more of the following: The kids' play area with the slide, the ball-crawl, the bright colors, Ronald McDonald®, and the all-important Happy Meal® display which includes the latest toy, located perfectly at eye level of every child that enters the place.

Every one of these items emphatically tells your child: "We're so very glad you are here! You are important to us! You are a priority!"

Now, take another journey with me. Exit the McDonald's® and drive directly to your local church. Once you park your car, enter the building through its main entrance. Come to a stop in the middle of your lobby.

Are you there?

Now do me a favor and count the elements in your church lobby that tell the seven-year-old, "We're glad you're here! You are important to us! You are a priority!"

I'm waiting.

I'm still waiting.

Some reading this column will joyously count the numerous things in their lobby that send the unmistakable signal to kids that they are important: the brightly-colored bulletin boards, the friendly greeters who take the time to greet kids, the well-appointed registration area for Children's Ministry.

However, I fear that that number will be a small minority of my readers. Why? Because we tend to design our lobbies with only the adults in mind. We'll put a Ming vase on an antique glass table and then shudder with fear when our four-year-old wants to run around it. If we have a greeter, most likely the greeter is greeting adults while the kids fly under the radar.

Maybe it's time to take a good look at your lobby. Maybe it's time to take a good look at your priorities as a church. Maybe it's time to order up some change.

Would you like fries with that?

**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](http://www.brentrandall.com), [brent@brentrandall.com](mailto:brent@brentrandall.com).**

## Good Leaders Attract, Challenge and Persuade Others

By Bill Hybels, founding pastor of Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Ill.

Leading a business is demanding, but guiding a church demands a higher and more complex form of leadership than business does. The redeeming and rebuilding of human lives is exceedingly more difficult than building widgets or delivering predictable services. Here are four leadership essentials:

1. *Leaders cast a God-honoring vision.* Spiritually gifted leaders live in such a way that God invariably ignites a heartfelt yearning for advancing some part of God's kingdom. They start thinking about it, dreaming about it, and praying about it. When God ignites a vision in your heart, you can't not talk about it. There is so much power released when leaders start casting a godly vision. It draws people out of the woodwork. It gets bored spectators out onto the playing field.

2. *Leaders gather and align people.* Spiritually gifted leaders have that God-given capacity to attract, challenge, and persuade people. Then they assist them in finding their niche in the achievement of the vision. Spiritually gifted leaders are almost shameless in the boldness with which they approach people. They can't understand why everyone isn't already on board with them. People catch their enthusiasm.

3. *Leaders motivate their co-workers.* Motivation makes work fun. It can make thankless tasks exciting. It can make beaten-down people feel renewed and rejuvenated. People with the spiritual gift of leadership have a God-given ability to know what to say and how to inspire different people.

4. *Leaders create a culture of leadership.* This sounds counterintuitive. One would think that strong, gifted leaders would make sure that no emerging leader would mature to the point where his or her own leadership might be threatened. Actually, the exact opposite is true: The greatest thrill a mature, gifted leader can experience is the gradual achievement of the God-given vision through the combined efforts of younger leaders who some day will carry the kingdom baton. That's at the heart of leading an organization.



## What To Do With a Worn-Out Blanket

By Stephen Judd, TCM President



Stephen Judd  
[www.mansionkids.org](http://www.mansionkids.org)

Johnny arrived at the Mansion a few days ago with a trash bag of mismatched clothes, four books, a football and a very worn-out blanket.

Within a few hours, all of his clothes had been washed and folded neatly in his dresser with many new items added to the mix.

On top of his freshly made bed—with fresh sheets, a pillow and a new bed-spread—was a cute little stuffed animal, waiting to be hugged. A goody basket, with some personal care items and small toys, was sitting on his dresser.

Newly arriving children are often embarrassed and reluctant to ask for things at first, so we try to anticipate what they may need.

The blanket that Johnny brought with him appeared to be beyond saving. It was literally falling apart and had multiple stains, so the housemother placed it aside intending to throw it away, seeing as he had a brand new comforter on his bed.

When it was time for bed, Johnny began searching frantically for the worn-out blanket that he had brought with him. When he was told that it had been removed and why, he began to sob uncontrollably. He exclaimed that it was all he had from his mom, that it smelled like her and that he couldn't sleep without it.

As you can imagine, Johnny got his worn-out blanket back and has slept with it every night since his arrival nearly a month ago! He and his housemother have worked out an agreement to take the blanket and use the salvageable pieces that are most intact to make a teddy bear. Every night, in a sense, he'll be able to hug a piece of his mom. This will be Johnny's first Christmas at the Mansion. It will probably be his first real Christmas ever.

The Mansion kids are overwhelmed with joy on Christmas morning as they open the gifts that are provided for them by their sponsors.

They would be thankful to just have some necessities and a good meal, but because of our generous supporters, they receive not only what they need and a fabulous Christmas dinner, but also so much more.

They are so appreciative. Some of them have never had their own "anything."

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# The HEART of MUSIC MINISTRY

-Brandon Jones

Written by Maranatha Gannon



Bro. Michael Rickenbaker  
Henderson, Tenn.

**Bro. Brandon Jones, tell us a little about yourself and your ministry.**

I am currently the music director for Charity Church in Chalybeate, Miss. under the leadership of Pastor Tim Watson. I also serve on a youth leadership board in my area.

I've been in full-time music ministry for almost 11 years. I was born and raised in Walnut, Miss. and graduated from Indiana Bible College with a BA in Music in 2005. I am not much of a speaker due to having a stutter most of the time; however, when it comes to singing, everything is completely different. I can only give God the glory for my ability to sing clearly.

I am very passionate about music ministry, so anytime I can share that passion, I do. I cannot stand in front of a classroom and get a message out like so many men and women I admire; however, if I can put a message into writing or singing, it is true joy for me.

**How can church saints and pastors support the music ministry?**

The act of worship is extremely helpful and encouraging to a music team! It is not possible on any level for a congregation to like every song the worship team does. I personally do my best to keep a variety of music in our repertoire and blend them together in our services. An individual can greatly support their music ministry by continuing to worship even if they are singing a song of which they are not particularly fond. Encouraging your music team is also very helpful. If the worship team does a song you really enjoy and that ministers to you personally, let them know. A genuine compliment or small word of thanks goes a long way.

The pastor, of course, has a very special role when it comes to the music team. As a pastor, it is extremely beneficial to have a plan to send your music leadership to some type of music conference at least once a year. This is especially vital for your full-time staff. I always do my best to attend IBC Music Fest each year. This is a three-day music conference

hosted by Indiana Bible College.

IBC Music Fest provides workshops, clinics and multiple resources to present and future musicians and music ministers. These three days are some of my favorite days out of the year. I do not need to have my hands on a piano or worry about that singer who is not hitting the right note. Rather than being on the piano or behind a microphone, I am able to put my hands in the air in pure undistracted worship to God. This is a wonderful venue in which I recharge and fill up, so I can go back to my church and pour it all out again. The opportunity to be reinvigorated as a music minister is imperative. You cannot pour out what has not been poured into you.

**How do you borrow literature without imitating non-Apostolic groups?**

Writing songs is not really a talent that God gave to me, so I almost always draw my music from other groups and writers. I try to be eclectic when it comes to choosing music. I draw from artists such as Indiana Bible College, Israel Houghton, Kari Jobe, Eddie James, Tasha Cobbs, Anthony Brown, James Fortune, and others. I very much enjoy doing material that has been written by an Apostolic author but it is nearly inevitable that we sing songs written by authors outside of our Pentecostal faith.

It is here that I feel prayer and anointing must be present in order to fill in the gap. There is an undeniable difference in hearing a great song by a mainstream Christian artist and then hearing that same song performed by an anointed Pentecostal artist. I try to impart this truth to my music team. Anyone can PERFORM a gospel song to a crowd but not everyone can use a song to MINISTER to a crowd. It must also be emphasized that leading our people into worship is much more important than singing the latest chart topper.

**How do you handle doctrinally questionable or possibly double-meaning songs?**

I always try to pick songs that are doctrinally accurate and 99% of the time it is not an issue. This is especially true in modern

worship songs. Most of those are vertical songs we sing to God and not about Him. If the song I choose is inconsistent with our Apostolic doctrine, then I will change the lyrics if possible. If the lyrics cannot be changed, then I refrain from using the song. Songs with inaccurate doctrine could be confusing and act as a stumbling block to a new convert that is still in the process of becoming grounded in the faith.

**What are the benefits of original, Apostolic songs?**

I believe there are many benefits. First of all, they are anointed and can reach into people's hearts and change them in a way that some mainstream Christian music is incapable of doing. Secondly, a five-minute song that teaches our Apostolic doctrine is sometimes more effective than hearing a 45-minute sermon. Music has the incredible ability to stay and resonate within your heart.

Writing music is not a talent that God gives to everyone. If you are interested in writing music, then pursue it. Contact some of your favorite Apostolic writers such as Bro. Tim Pedigo, Bro. Mark Condon, Sis. Jessica DiGiovanni, Bro. Mark Yandris and ask for their advice. I always encourage anyone in music ministry to do what they love, love what they do, and stay sensitive to the voice of God. He will take care of the rest.

**What music projects have you completed and are more in store?**

God has allowed me to complete three albums, and I am so grateful and thankful for this opportunity. *I Need You Now* (2006) and *Captivated* (2009) can be purchased from the Pentecostal Publishing House while the album *Take the Limits Off* (2015) can be found and purchased on iTunes. All three projects can also be purchased at <https://squareup.com/market/brandon-jones-2>. I am planning to do an album with my worship team sometime in the near future. We are just waiting on the Lord to orchestrate a few things and initiate the proper timing.

For more information, contact Bro. Jones through email at [hbrandonjonesmusic1@gmail.com](mailto:hbrandonjonesmusic1@gmail.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 2017

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SPEAKERS	CONTACT / INFO
<b>JAN 27</b>	<b>Indiana Bible College LIVE RECORDING</b> 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	<a href="mailto:ibc@apostolic.edu">ibc@apostolic.edu</a> <a href="http://www.go2ibc.com">www.go2ibc.com</a> or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
<b>FEB 6-15</b>	<b>Israel Holyland Tour</b> 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 <a href="mailto:djsagil@sbcglobal.net">djsagil@sbcglobal.net</a> or visit <a href="http://mjr.world">mjr.world</a>
<b>FEB 16-18</b>	<b>WinterFire 2017 - RESTORE</b> 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	Jimmy Toney, Douglas White, David Bernard, Sam Emory, Brian Kinsey, Michael Ensey, James Hughes, Cindy Miller, Theodore Brooks	For more info: visit <a href="http://www.winterfire.org">www.winterfire.org</a> or visit Instagram/Twitter/Facebook @winterfireconf
<b>FEB 23-25</b>	<b>Indiana Bible College CONNECT 2017</b> Your chance to visit the IBC campus and see what Bible college is all about!	Indiana Bible College 1502 Sumner Ave Indianapolis, IN 46227 Host: Paul D. Mooney	Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, Jason Gallion, Bobby Killmon, Lindel Anderson, others.	<a href="mailto:ibc@apostolic.edu">ibc@apostolic.edu</a> <a href="http://www.go2ibc.com">www.go2ibc.com</a> or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
<b>FEB 24</b>	<b>Fresh Oil Youth Conference</b> 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 <a href="http://newlifeofalbany.com">newlifeofalbany.com</a> , <a href="http://freshoil youth.com">freshoil youth.com</a> 229-439-7242
<b>MARCH 10</b>	<b>Indiana Bible College All Night Worship Event</b> 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	<a href="mailto:ibc@apostolic.edu">ibc@apostolic.edu</a> <a href="http://www.go2ibc.com">www.go2ibc.com</a> or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
<b>MAY 5</b>	<b>Indiana Bible College 2017 GRADUATION</b> Paul D. Mooney and Robert L. Rodenbush All are welcome	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN Host: Paul D. Mooney	Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, others.	<a href="mailto:ibc@apostolic.edu">ibc@apostolic.edu</a> <a href="http://www.go2ibc.com">www.go2ibc.com</a> or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
<b>MAY 2017</b>	<b>Ministers Only Book Rendezvous - Grand Rapids, MI</b> 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 <a href="mailto:labwn@aol.com">labwn@aol.com</a> or 317-262-4030
<b>JUNE 2017</b>	<b>Power Conference 2017</b> 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
<b>JULY 2017</b>	<b>Mile High Conference 2017</b> 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 <a href="http://www.cacdenver.org">www.cacdenver.org</a> <a href="mailto:DEH2@comcast.net">DEH2@comcast.net</a>
<b>AUG 2017</b>	<b>Indiana Bible College Fall Semester Begins</b>	Indiana Bible College 1502 Sumner Ave. Indianapolis, IN President Paul Mooney	Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, Lindel Anderson, Dave Brown, Bobby Killmon, Jim Sleeve, others.	<a href="mailto:ibc@apostolic.edu">ibc@apostolic.edu</a> <a href="http://www.go2ibc.com">www.go2ibc.com</a> or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
<b>AUG 17-18</b>	<b>Investing in Futures</b> 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 <a href="http://invest-in-futures.com">invest-in-futures.com</a> (309) 792-0414
<b>SEPT 26-29</b>	<b>93rd Annual UPCI General Conference</b> Don't miss it!	Kansas City Convention Center, Kansas City, MO	To be announced	Online registration, hotel reservations and exhibit registration available at <a href="http://www.upcigc.com">www.upcigc.com</a>
<b>OCT 2017</b>	<b>Soar 2017</b> 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	To be announced	Contact Dave Punzel, 920-723-2179, <a href="http://lifechurchwi@yahoo.com">lifechurchwi@yahoo.com</a> , or <a href="http://www.lifechurchwi.org">www.lifechurchwi.org</a>
<b>NOV 1-3</b>	<b>West Coast Conference - Fresno, CA</b> 34th Annual Fresno Meeting	Fresno Convention Center, 848 M Street, Fresno, CA	To be announced	For more information call: (559) 225-1622 <a href="http://www.truthtabfresno.org">www.truthtabfresno.org</a>



# Theology: Was the “Son” Present at Salvation?



Robert L. Rodenbush

## Church Today

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### All Manner of Conversation

“But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:15-16).

The word *conversation* is interesting. Peter used the word eight times in the two epistles, but his use of the word has little to do with how we use it today. In modern context, the word *conversation* refers to our speech or communication back and forth. However, Peter used the word referring more to behavior. The Greek translation leaves us with the definition “to turn.” So the phrase “be ye holy in all manner of conversation” describes so much more than just our words. We are being instructed by Peter to embrace the idea of conversion, a complete turning away from the world, what it represents and its contrary philosophies.

Look at a Converse tennis shoe. More than 800 million of these sneakers have been sold, and the design has remained basically the same since the shoe was released in 1921. Sixty percent of all Americans have at one time owned a “Chuck Taylor” pair of tennis shoes. The shoe is iconic: the circle logo near the ankle, the bright white rubber sole, simple laces. No one has to ask, “What brand are those?” They are likely the most recognized shoe to ever exist. Converse became iconic not by embracing every new trend in shoe design and not by reinventing themselves to keep up with “cooler” brands like Nike or Adidas. They simply just kept producing a good, recognizable, familiar product. Today, almost 100 years later, they are still revolutionizing the industry. As a matter of fact, the basic Converse shoe is the most counterfeited shoe in the world.

Perhaps this was Peter’s point to the Church. Stay recognizable. Turn from the world. Be different in all manner of conversation, in everything you do. Be countercultural and resist every wind of doctrine. Just be who Christ has called you to be. It will mean being a contrast to the filth and carnality of the world, but that’s precisely what the world needs. As the world gets darker, it will be ever more important that His Church be a shining light standing in contrast to evil and perversion. This is no time to change what we believe, or how we behave, or how we look to blend in to the ecumenical soup of religiosity. One day, God will call for His church and we will need to be ready to answer.

“Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (1 Peter 1:5).



Bobby Killmon

## Theology

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### How do we make sense of verses that seem to suggest the “Son” was present at salvation, if we Oneness people say He could not be until the incarnation?

Gal. 4:4 is clear. The way the Son was sent was when He was born in Bethlehem. There are other verses that show the Son “in view” at creation, but this in no way shows a literal Son in the beginning. Some verses that need clarity in this regard are Heb. 1:2, Col. 1:13-17, and Eph. 3:9.

When the above passages say God made the world “by the Son,” it simply means with the Son in view. The Greek preposition *dia* in the genitive case clearly means “by means of.” So, “by” or “through” the Son means God as Creator created everything by anticipating the incarnation. But there’s a further step of clarity in these passages. When Hebrews says He made the “world,” it’s not the cosmos (created world). The Greek word translated “world” is *aeons*, which means periods of time or ages. So the text means God laid out the ages by seeing the man Jesus in the unfolding plan! John picks this same thought in Rev. 13:8 in his phrase, “...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

The allusion is to the foreordained work of the Father in Christ (Eph. 4:6) which made it possible for us to join Christ positionally in covenant (Eph. 2:4-6). So, from the foundation of the world, God planned that the man Jesus would fulfill His mediative role, and in so doing would be exalted higher than any man before (Phil. 2:9-11). When both the work and identity of the man Jesus is understood, He can be worshiped as the Father incarnate, who from eternity past spoke this redemptive plan into existence. Heb. 1:8 is prophetic (referring to the ushering in of eternity) taking a psalm about God and applying it to Jesus: “But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.”

The use of “thy” in the KJV is a beautiful reflection of the Scripture’s affirmation of Oneness! It’s not simply “you,” which can be plural or singular in English, but emphatically “One.” The KJV translators went back about a hundred years earlier in English to pick up this old language usage (Thee, Thy versus Ye, Your) to convey the accuracy of both the Greek and Hebrew singular and plural. There’s only one God (Eph. 4:6) and He came as the Son. In 2 Cor. 5:19, “To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself...,” notice that it was not “themselves.”

When one sees the incarnation correctly, the perfect man the Father became (Eph. 4:6), one can rightly say “Jesus.” This is the meaning of Heb. 1:4, “Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.” Literally, Jesus means “God has become my salvation” and in His work as man, sacrifice and mediator, He accomplished the task of offering reconciliation! But this was accomplished as humanity, not deity. What a God who planned out the ages and then stepped into our world uniquely at Bethlehem to become the Savior!



T. W. Massengale

## Church Growth

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### Evangelism Priority

After years of working with churches on growth, one common thread clearly stands out: revival churches are totally consumed with a passion for the lost. It influences everything they do. While they may have vastly different personalities, membership, organizational structures and facilities, their burden for the lost outshines all else.

Talking with revival pastors is exciting! They share story after story of people who have come to the truth, of lives transformed by the Holy Spirit, and of various outreach successes. These churches are busy – with scheduled outreach activities, home Bible studies, prayer walks, fall festivals, and special Sundays to attract new people. New guests

can be found in most services. Key ministries are promoted and new converts are recruited for involvement: bus ministry, Holy Ghost Sundays, Super Children’s Church, Jesus houses, car ministry, constant contact consciousness, home Bible studies, visitor follow-up, and special attendance thrusts for holidays. Busy – and exciting!

How can you transform your own church into high evangelism priority and potential? Three suggestions: First, make evangelism a top priority in your personal life. You can never lead people where you are not willing to go yourself. Don’t be shy to talk about your Bible studies, door knocking experiences, prayer walks, and tract passing. It’s easy to work personal experiences into sermons when you are consumed with soul winning on a daily basis.

Second, make evangelism a priority in every department and ministry. If you don’t have written job descriptions for every ministry leader, write them. In every job descrip-

tion there should be clearly defined activities during the year that focus on souls. If you have 12 departments and each has one or more evangelism events, that will provide at least 12 evangelism-focused events for your members to become involved in. But each event must be well-planned and promoted. To do this you need a comprehensive management system that includes an annual planning retreat, departmental one-year plans, monthly group planning sessions and regular tag-in’s. This provides the needed structure and motivation for each activity’s success.

Third, make sure these five key departments are well-staffed and high priority: visitor follow-up, home Bible study, personal evangelism, bus/van/car ministry, and new convert care. Historically, these five have seen more outreach success in Apostolic churches than all others. Want more details? Call 1-800-800-0247 and order *Total Church Growth*.



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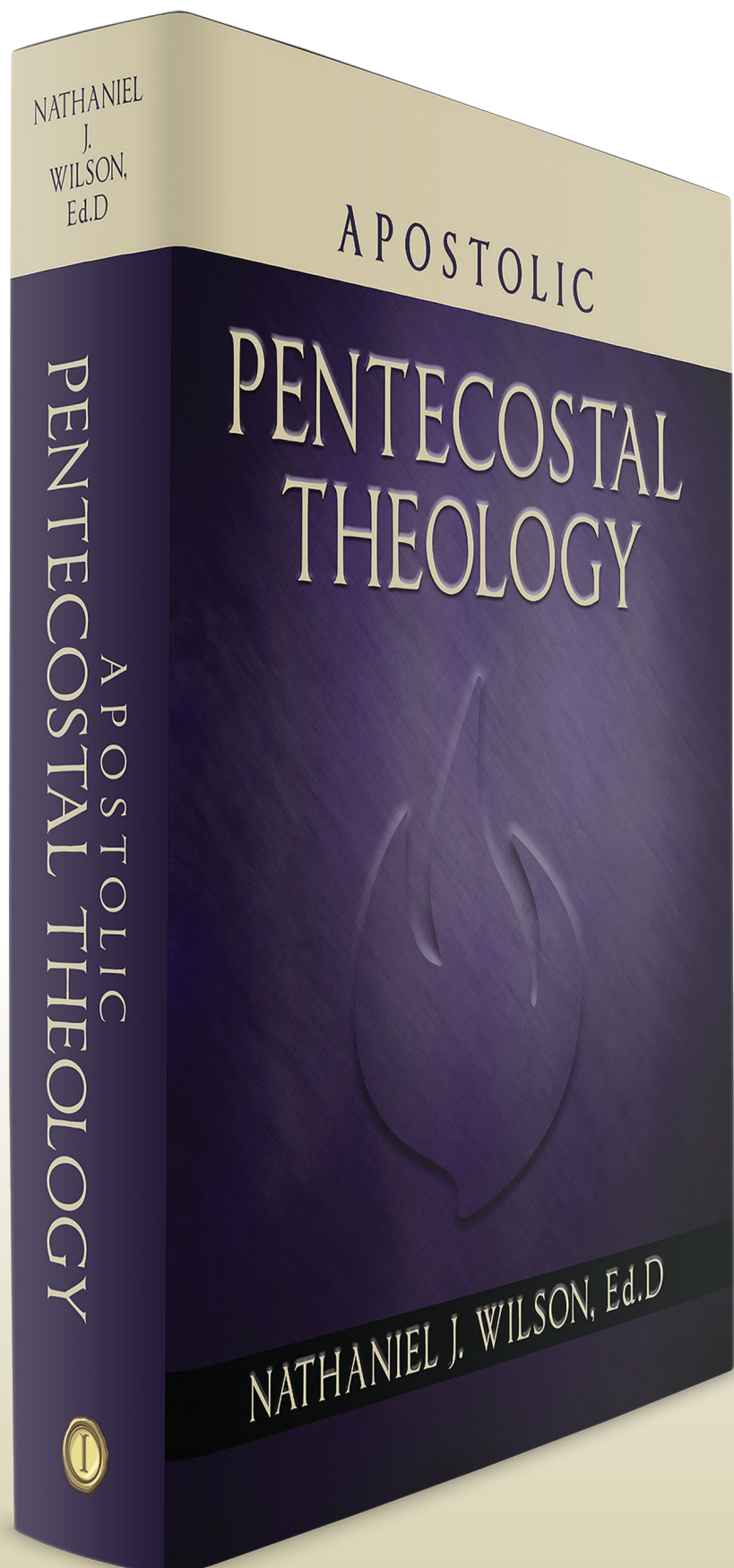
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Carol Clemans

## Spiritual Growth

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### God's Truth Offers Healing For All Abuse!

Abuse in the church is not acknowledged or talked about, yet it exists among us. Verbal and physical abuse produces emotional abuse. Sexual abuse is physical, verbal and emotional abuse. All abuse is sinful!

The Bible teaches we must love one another. The Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control. Yelling, abusive name-calling, controlling through verbal anger, physical hitting, etc. is all sin in God's sight.

Ephesians 4:32 instructs us to be kind one to another, tenderhearted and forgiving one another. There is no room for abuse in marriage or family. Read all of chapter 4. God's Word is full of instruction on how we are to treat one another.

I provide confidential nationwide counseling by phone/Skype (636) 448-0121. I receive calls from wives, including ministers' wives, in abusive marriages in the church – this should not be so. Galatians 5 explains the works of the flesh including wrath and outbursts of anger – it is sin; sin cannot enter into the kingdom of God!

We all are accountable to God for our thoughts, feelings and actions. Sin will not enter into heaven. What we do in secret will be revealed openly. Abusive anger comes from a heart with painful issues that needs to be healed and transformed by renewing our minds with God's truth! It's a process of acknowledging the sinful abusive anger and surrendering to God. Our bodies are to be a living sacrifice unto the Lord as our true worship.

I love teaching for churches/conferences and counseling from the Bible. God's truth is what sets us free. I've been a conduit of God's Word through the Holy Ghost for over 50 years. God is returning for a Bride that is without spot or wrinkle. God's Word defines all abuse as sin. It is possible to be Holy Ghost-controlled when we allow God to reign in our hearts!

*Carol Clemans is an anointed Bible teacher, Certified Pastoral Counselor, Certified Sexual Addiction Recovery Facilitator. About ministry page on [www.carolclemans.org](http://www.carolclemans.org) gives complete bio of life, education & ministry, teaching products, book: God's Design for Marriage. Mins. Ref: Pastor Daniel Batchelor, Duplo, IL.*



Arlo Moehlenpah

## Creation vs. Evolution

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### Bible Challenge Game

To introduce this game please watch a 3 minute video at [http://www.biblechallengegame.com/Bible\\_Challenge\\_Game/Welcome.html](http://www.biblechallengegame.com/Bible_Challenge_Game/Welcome.html)

This game has proved to be fun and educational. It has hundreds of Bible questions from both the Old and New Testaments in five different categories (People, Places, Numerals, In Which Book? and Who Said?) at various difficulty levels from the Beginner to Advanced.

Included is a game board with spaces named for books of the Bible. Each section has a different background color. The board is useful for learning the books and divisions of the Bible. Each player has a different colored pawn. There are many ways to play the game but probably the best way is for the parent or teacher to read the questions from the appropriate level of those playing the game. If the player gets the question correct, he or she rolls the dice and moves according to the number rolled. If the player gets the question wrong, their pawn remains in the same space and a different question is read to the next person. The game continues until a player reaches the end, thus winning the game. There are various ways to shorten the time the game takes. One is to use two dice, another is just to advance to the end of the Old Testament.

The questions can also be used in a Spelling Bee format. The group is divided into two teams who stand on opposite sides of the room. The moderator reads the first question to the first member of team one. A person who answers correctly remains standing and the moderator will ask a new question to the first member of team two. If a person answers incorrectly that person must sit down and the same question is read to the other team. The procedure is continued until only one team has members standing and that team is declared the winner. If a time limit is reached, then the team with the most still standing is declared the winner. A variation would be to have just one line of players. The last person standing is the winner.

The game encourages family Bible reading and togetherness. It also can be used in many church activities not only for fun but as a subtle way to determine what has been learned.

*Dr. Arlo Moehlenpah has taught at four UPC Bible colleges. He authored three books including Teaching with Variety and Creation versus Evolution: Scientific and Religious Considerations available at [www.doinggood.org](http://www.doinggood.org) and the Pentecostal Publishing House. To have him speak at churches or other meetings contact him at 619-852-4979 or [Moehlenpah@aol.com](mailto:Moehlenpah@aol.com)*



Aubrey Jayroe

## Finance

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### Who is exempt from the new wage and hour laws?

There is a white-collar exemption in addition to the ministerial exemption as discussed last month. To be exempt from federal overtime rules, an individual must pass all three of the following tests. If an employee fails any one of them, the person is an hourly worker who is entitled to earn the minimum wage and overtime pay.

1. *Salary basis test:* This test requires that an exempt employee be paid a salary, and it limits the type of deductions that can be made to the employee's salary.

2. *Salary level test:* This test requires that an exempt employee be paid at least the required minimum salary amount. This is the threshold that the Dept. of Labor will be increasing, effective 12/1/16. Accordingly, nearly all ministry employees who earn an annual salary of less than \$47,476 per year (\$913 per week) will soon be considered non-exempt and will be subject to minimum wage and overtime.

3. *Primary duties test:* This test requires that an exempt employee typically perform executive, administrative, professional or creative professional job duties. It is important to understand that a job title, such as "office manager," is not a determining factor. The employee's job duties must pass the primary duties test.

Under the primary duties test, there are four types of duties as follows:

1. *Executives, who must primarily perform management duties, must regularly supervise at least two full-time employees (not volunteers); and have authority or significant influence in hiring, firing, discipline, and promotion affecting employees.*

2. *Administrators, who must primarily perform office or non-manual work related to the ministry's management or business operations. An example would be the business administrator, daycare director, school principal; use "discretion and independent judgment" in making decisions regarding significant matters (Most support staff and clerical workers do not meet this standard).*

3. *Professionals, who do work requiring advanced knowledge in a field of science or learning, such as theology, teaching, accounting or law. An example would be licensed or ordained clergy, qualified teachers, or a qualified accountant.*

4. *Creative Professionals, who must do work involving invention, imagination, originality, or talent in a recognized field of artistic or creative endeavor. An example would be musicians, writers, or actors.*

If the church were to misapply the white-collar exemption, the penalty could be quite steep. For example, if a ministry mistakenly labels its secretarial position as exempt, and the employee regularly works more than 40 hours per week, the secretary could be entitled to several years' worth of unpaid overtime.

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Delano Sherley

## Accounting & Tax

### Employee Wages

Continuing our discussion regarding minimum wage and overtime rules:

The new rules, which are set to take effect on December 1, 2016, might be delayed until June 1, 2017, pending the signing of a bill approved by the House of Representatives. Many doubt the delay will be approved by the Senate and signed into law.

For now, it is important that the

church properly classify each employee as either exempt, non-exempt or ministerial. A job description is also necessary for each employee. If the church claims the ministerial exception for an employee, the job description can be used to support that claim. However, the job description should show spiritual oversight and/or essential religious duties are part of the employee's position. We recommend consulting an attorney familiar with religious organization employment law to make sure that the job descriptions are properly prepared and would properly support the ministerial exemption.

Another exception to the FMLA rules are teachers, provided that the school meets the "educational establishment" requirements as set by the Department of Labor.

Proper documentation and record keeping is required, regardless of the employee classification. The church must be able to make these records available within 72 hours following notice by the DOL.

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**THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS****TN Newspaper Rejects Ad Over "Offensive" Word *Christian***

A Tennessee newspaper has caused quite a stir for refusing to run an advertisement placed by a Christian store.

FoxNews.com reports that Lois



McGinnis and her family own Cedar Springs Christian Store in Knoxville.

The McGinnis family owns two store locations, but recently decided to close the second location.

McGinnis called the local newspaper, the *News Sentinel*, to place a going-out-of-business ad. McGinnis wanted the ad to say: "Store closing sale – Cedar Springs Christian Store – Clinton Highway location – All merchandise, fixtures, slat walls must go. Sale through August 13, phone 865.947.XXX."

But when McGinnis opened the newspaper the day the ad was scheduled to run, it wasn't there, so she called the newspaper office.

The employee whom McGinnis spoke with explained to her why the paper hadn't run her ad: "She said our ad did not run because it contained an offensive word," McGinnis told Todd Starnes of *Fox News*. "I asked what that offensive word was and she said the offensive word was *Christian*."

McGinnis received no notification from the newspaper that the word *Christian* would be considered offensive. The newspaper also did not say they would refund her money for not running the ad.

Cedar Springs Christian Store decided to tell their Facebook followers about the experience with the *News Sentinel*. It did not take long for residents of the Knoxville area to call out the newspaper for its bias.

Because of the outcry, the newspaper eventually backpedaled and stated, "We had a system failure, which resulted in a classified ad for Cedar Springs getting hung up in our front end system."

The newspaper also said they would now run the ad for an extended period of time without extra charge.

In response to online critics, Publisher Patrick Birmingham had this to say, "The *News Sentinel* does not have a bias against Christianity or any other religion."

**The Real Difference Between Christians and Muslims**

The Internet is typically abuzz over the question "Do Muslims and Christians worship the same God?" A cacophony of largely Christian voices exhaust themselves arguing these complex issues, to almost no one's satisfaction. The primary problem is that the dispute is focused on the wrong question. Understanding what Islam and Christianity do and do not hold in common is an important task these days, but asking whether Muslims and Christians worship the same God will not get us there. If our goal is to compare these two religions we need to shift our focus to a much more illuminating question: How do Christianity and Islam differ?

During debates, Trinitarianism is often offered up as the core difference between Islam and Christianity: Most Christians embrace this view, Islam does not. But this observation does not automatically locate the true decisive issue. Neither the Old Testament faithful nor even the earliest Christians believed orthodox Trinitarianism as many see it today, a doctrine that was not embraced by the orthodox church until the fourth century. So reducing the question to the presence or absence of historic Trinitarianism is not a helpful way of getting at the key difference between Islam and Christianity.

The decisive issue between Islam and Christianity is, quite simply, the gospel of Christ—the Bible's account of what God has done, is doing, and will yet do through Jesus Christ to redeem all creation. It is this "good news" story of the Creator's Messiah centered plan of redemption that reveals to us who God truly is. This gospel story is the watershed issue that exposes the difference between Islam and Christianity. It is not until this difference is grasped that the question of what Christianity and Islam may or may not hold in common can be addressed.

Before the term *Christian* was applied to those who believed in Jesus, early believers called themselves followers of "the Way" (Acts 9:2; 16:17; 19:9, 23; 24:14). There's a clear reason for this, Christianity is about "the Way" which the Creator—revealed now through His plan to be a loving heavenly redeemer—has graciously opened for His estranged, mutinous creatures to be reconciled to Him.

It is this gospel that informs the gaping divide between Christianity and Islam. Christianity recognizes, embraces, and proclaims this Christ-centered plan and the Mighty God that it reveals to all who will hear. Islam repudiates this Christ-centered plan and substitutes a dramatically different proposal in its place. If our goal is to compare Christianity and Islam, this is the difference we need to grasp.

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

■ The Netherlands, Belgium, Colombia and Luxembourg now have legalized euthanasia while in Switzerland, Germany, Japan and Canada, doctor-assisted suicide, where patients take the final action themselves, is legal. In the U.S., euthanasia is already legal in five states: Washington, Oregon, California, Montana and Vermont.

Supporters are trying to legalize assisted dying nationwide with 20 states currently facing proposed euthanasia legislation.

■ Less than one-third of U.S.-educated millennials are able to identify Israel on a map, a new survey has found. Close to 50% were able to locate Iraq and Iran on a map, with 61% able to identify Saudi Arabia.

**PROPHECY TRENDS****Temple Institute To Open School to Train Levitical Priests**

We are witnessing events coming together to bring about the fulfillment of prophecy in Revelation chapter 11 regarding the Temple Mount.

A new report indicates that the Temple Institute, which is dedicated to reestablishing the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and in keeping its memory alive, announced it is opening a school for training

Levitical priests for their eventual service in a new temple.



The institute ran several pilot programs in recent years and now "is embarking on a mission to teach Kohanim all the practical skills required to serve in the Third Holy Temple," it said in a statement. The institute has opened an Indiegogo crowdfunding campaign to raise at least \$75,000 for the project.

The Temple Institute hopes one day to replace the Dome of the Rock with the Third Holy Temple, but not by violent means. Observant Jews pray for that to happen in every daily prayer service, with some awaiting the appearance of the Messiah and others believing that they must act to bring the Messiah closer.

**RELIGIOUS TRENDS****Christian Revival Sweeping Iran, Despite Persecution**

Iran is experiencing a Christian revival despite the Christian persecution that exists there, reports ChristianToday.com. Gathering together to worship the Lord is prohibited in Iran, but that isn't stopping God from working. Many believers are connecting with a Christian community online.

"The main church is my house, and through the Internet I connect to everybody," said one believer named Reza. "That's why it's become like an Internet church." Believers connect to churches in the U.S., Canada, Germany, and Malaysia via Skype.

Reza said that many of the Christian converts came to Christ after they had a vision or dream. In 1994, there were about 100,000 believers in Iran. Currently, the number of Christians in the country has risen to about three million, despite the fact that persecution against Christians has also increased, and Iran is ranked ninth on Open Doors World Watch List for Christian persecution.

Many of the Christian converts are leaving Iran for Turkey where persecution is less severe. In Turkey they hope to gain refugee status and eventually emigrate to other countries.





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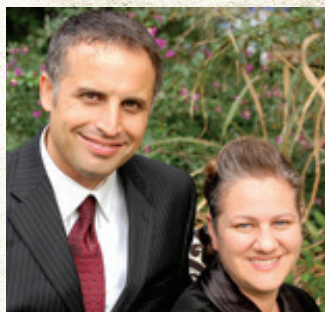
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# PERSISTENCE

PASTOR ANTHONY BALLESTERO  
NEW DESTINY WORSHIP CENTER

CLEARWATER, FLORIDA



Anthony and Kim Ballester  
Clearwater, FL

"Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. ... Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. ... Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (See Luke 11: 7-9).

Notice in particular verse eight: "Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth." That King James word *importunity* is just another word for persistence. The friend is not going to get up and give his friend bread just because they are friends, but because of the man's *persistence*. The Amplified Bible states here, "because of his shameless persistence and *insistence*." The man was shamelessly persistent.

Another definition for importunity is "*over-bold*"—not just bold, but over-bold. The man had a need. He was shamelessly persistent and insistent. He did not care if it woke up the friend or his children. He had a need.

Persistence. Get that word in your spirit because it will be a key to unlock what you need in your life. Your shameless persistence and insistence can grant you some things you would not normally get just by your relationship. I have God's promises available to me but it doesn't mean I get every promise. Just because you're in the neighborhood doesn't mean you get everything the neighbor can provide. I've driven through some very wealthy neighborhoods but the key phrase is *driven through*. I'm sure after a few drive-throughs, if I didn't leave the neighborhood, security would be called to find out, "What's this guy doing in the neighborhood?"

## Prayer: Communicating with God

The events of Luke 11 begin with Jesus teaching on the topic of *prayer*, beginning with verse one. Prayer is simply talking or communicating with God: you're talking to God, and He's talking to you.

The Bible is full of prayers from Genesis to Revelation. Adam and Eve talked with God. Noah prayed. Abraham prayed, Moses prayed, Joshua prayed, the Judges prayed. The Psalms are filled with prayers. The Prophets prayed. Daniel prayed. The

New Testament church prayed.

Jesus prayed—at His baptism, in the wilderness, on the mountain, in the garden. When His disciples said, "We came into contact with this man that had a devil but we couldn't cast the devil out," Jesus responded to them, "This kind comes out only through *prayer* and fasting."

So when the disciples said in verse one, "Lord, teach us to pray," Jesus said to them, "When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil" (Luke 11:2-4).

These Jewish men were asking Jesus to do something that had been taught to them from childhood. Prayer was a part of their life; they prayed and taught their children to pray. They had prayers for every occasion; prayer in the morning, prayer at noon, prayer in the evening. There was a set time for prayer, a set way for prayer.

But the disciples saw something in Jesus that was different. They saw something in the connection between the prayer in Jesus' private life and in His public ministry. He had a private prayer life, but when he came off the mountain, or out of the garden, or from the wilderness into public ministry, there was something different.

## The Pattern of Prayer

Jesus gave them this incredible pattern so they could be effective in their prayers. It's found in Luke 11 but you can also read about it in Matthew 6.

Matthew 6 is in the middle of the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus teaches them how *not* to pray, how *not* to give, how *not* to fast. There's a way to do it and a way not to do it. We want to do it Jesus' way, not just man's way.

Jesus taught them, "When you give, or pray, or fast, don't do it to be seen of men." He didn't mean that you can't give or pray publicly, that you can't fast and be found out, but the goal was not to be seen of men. But if you will do it as unto God, you will get the reward that can only come from God. If you do it to be seen of men, then that is your reward. But when you do it in secret, God sees you in secret and rewards you openly. When you do your part, God will do His part. What you do in secret with the right motive, God will reward you openly.

Don't give to be seen of men. You don't come and put \$20 in an envelope, put your name on it, and wave it around so all the people in your section see you give this week. Your motive is wrong: you want to be seen of men. But if you give as unto the



Lord, give it not as a show but as a commitment to God.

There's nothing wrong with praying publicly, but we shouldn't pray like the Pharisee. We don't come in and see a struggling brother and smugly say, "Oh, God, I thank You that I'm not like *that* brother!"

When you fast, do you make sure that everybody knows? You don't brush your teeth or comb your hair; your clothes are rumpled; you look like you've been through it. You tell everybody sanctimoniously, "I'm fasting right now. Just pray for me." Your reward is exactly that, that you're seen of men.

When you do these things, Jesus said, don't do them to be seen of men, but do them to be seen of God. God says, "If you will have that private prayer, that secret fasting, I'll bless you."

### **Private-Life Prayer Flows Outward**

God is dealing with our motives today, dealing with the fact, the real, the authentic. How we pray and fast and give ought to be out of humility. Blessings are going to happen when it's more than a show of spirituality, when an inward desire to please flows out and becomes a part of our personal life.

Our friend, Rob, was in an airport, faced with an uncomfortable five-hour delay. At the food court, he noticed an elderly lady sitting alone. Her hand trembled, and she looked scared. Rob bought a bottle of water at the counter and asked the clerk to deliver it. He went on down the hall—and learned his "five-hour-delayed" flight was boarding soon! He felt God speak to him, "You sowed into that lady's life, and so I've done this for you."

How many miracles are waiting for us, opportunities to GIVE into the lives of others if we weren't so consumed with me, myself, and I; so consumed with ourselves that we stop giving, stop praying and stop fasting? What *is* fasting for? It's afflicting our flesh, getting us aside from the I-mode to see there's something bigger. It stops feeding the flesh and starts feeding the spiritual man where we flow in a different, deeper realm.

Jesus gave the disciples a pattern for prayer. This is *how* we should pray. It was not just a mindless ritual, a traditional prayer to be recited from a written scroll, but a pattern for prayer: "Our Father which art in heaven...thy will be done...give us this day...forgive us...lead us not in temptation...deliver us." It's but a pattern that we apply to various parts of our life.

### **Connected for a Purpose**

Following the pattern for prayer in verses 2-4 is a parable Jesus gives them (verses 5-8). A parable is a story that comes alongside a lesson to teach us its truth. He tells this incredible and significant story of two neighbors who are obviously friends.

The parable is not separate from the teaching of prayer but meant to be *connected to the teaching of prayer*. We need inspiration to persistently and insistently pray, a persistence about prayer that becomes shameless. It will help us understand that if we don't get it the first time, we're going to keep praying,

keep asking,  
keep knocking.  
An old saying goes,  
"He may not come when  
you want Him to, but He always comes right on time."

There is a season of timing. It's my job to pray, but I must pray according to the will of God. A good father's not going to give his kids everything they ask for. All that candy? No! You're not having it! "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" (Luke 11:13).

Jesus is teaching a principle here, that the gift of the Holy Ghost is the "good gift," the *best* gift. *Oh, and by the way*, He's saying, *you can get these things you've asked for in the natural, but the best gift you can receive is the gift of the Holy Spirit*. The good gift, the best gift, is the Holy Ghost. Put in your request!

In this parable that comes alongside the teaching on prayer, it is significant that one man goes to bed at a decent hour. He brings his family in. In those days, homes had a level near the door where if you had a goat or cow to milk, you could bring it in and close the door. On another level was a room near the fire where you could put your family to bed. This man had closed up shop.

Meanwhile, the man down the street gets a visitor at midnight. Midnight! Because travelers avoided the hot sun, the visitor got there late, perhaps unexpected. Hospitality and preparation were the culture of that time, but this homeowner was unprepared.

"You all make yourself comfortable," he said. He ran out the door and down the street to his friend's house. Knock-knock! "Who's there? ... Freddy! It's midnight! Go away!" That man wouldn't get up because of their friendship, but because of his friend's persistence—his shameless persistent and insistent knocking—he responded.

How many of us have reached that in life? Sometimes we just don't ask. I believe God wants to answer big prayers in your life so if you will begin praying again—keep asking, keep seeking, keep knocking—you'll see blessings come into your life. Be shamelessly persistent and insistent!

**Bio:** C. Anthony Ballestero is an ordained minister with a Bachelor of Theology from Jackson College of Ministries (88-91). He has been involved in full-time ministry since 1991, having served as a youth pastor, associate pastor, and presently as the founding pastor of New Destiny Worship Center. His ministry focus is preaching and teaching the Word of God with pastoral oversight.

His wife, Kim Ballestero, graduated from Jackson College of Ministries with a Bachelor of Music with highest honors (87-90). She is an anointed musician, singer and currently serves in the role as music pastor at New Destiny. She and her husband were both raised in the home of a pastor and have spent their lives involved in the work of the ministry. They have settled in Clearwater to raise their children -- Kalyx, Carlton and Braden -- and to lead New Destiny Worship Center.



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# "How to Teach Holiness From the Inside Out"

*Apostolic Book Helps Leaders Teach Holiness Principles in Positive, Upbeat Way*

By Linda Schreckenberg



Pastor David Huston  
Carlisle, Pa.

"I've been concerned for a while about the direction the Apostolic movement is going concerning holiness, especially external holiness," said Pastor David Huston of Carlisle, Pa. "In talking to people, I have found that some pastors are losing the battle for holiness,

because they really don't know how to teach it in a positive, upbeat way. Some have given up even trying to fight the battle. To be honest, it really bothers me to see this important part of who we are slipping away."

Bro. Huston explained the background behind his book about holiness: "In 2013, I was asked to teach seminars on holiness in seven cities in South Africa. I had been asked to focus on the principles, rather than the standards. As I was preparing, I got the idea for my book, *How to Teach Holiness From the Inside Out*. This book was written specifically for pastors and others who are responsible for teaching holiness to God's people. One point I make in the book is that

holiness teaching should not be limited to pastors. Why not equip women to be able to teach women about holiness? This may make it a whole lot easier for some to accept it."

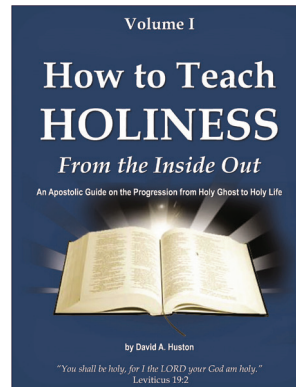
The book begins by describing the current battle for holiness and why it matters. It then provides an in-depth definition of holiness, explains why it must be pursued and what should motivate us to strive for it. Bro. Huston said, "To me, the new and unique part of the book is my description of seven eternal principles of holiness, which come directly from the attributes of God. These principles were revealed in the Garden of Eden, and every legitimate holiness standard is based on at least one of these principles. I believe that once people understand the principles, they will be more inclined to embrace the standards." He noted that toward the end of the book, there is a lengthy question-and-answer section.

Asked why the topic of holiness is so important today, Bro. Huston said, "God has

always wanted His power associated with holiness. If we lose the battle for holiness in our movement, we will lose that special anointing of power that rests upon us. This makes preserving holiness in the Apostolic church extremely important for the harvest of the last days."

The purpose of *How to Teach Holiness From the Inside Out* is to provide pastors and teachers with practical tools that will strengthen their effectiveness in teaching holiness. Bro. Huston also published a companion book titled *Jesus Bought a House* for those being taught on the subject of holiness. Lesson outlines that follow the chapters in this book are available along with PowerPoint slides. Both books can be

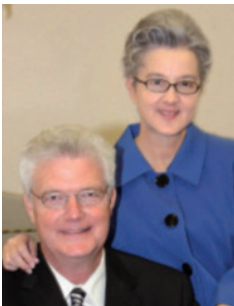
ordered at RoshPinnah.com or by emailing Pastor Huston at DAHuston@aol.com. *How to Teach Holiness* is \$24.95, and *Jesus Bought a House* is \$14.95, and discounts are available for volume purchases. The lesson outlines and PowerPoint slides are free downloads on the site.



## Gripping Book: "The Dancing Father"

*Readers Encouraged to Rediscover Joy and Power of Daily Relationship with God*

By Gregg Stone



Bro. and Sis. Brian Kinsey  
Leavenworth, Kans.

The title is gripping, the concept thrilling. Just imagine the Father himself tapping you on the shoulder and saying, "Break from whatever you are doing. This dance is mine!" *The Dancing Father* is the sequel to the recently released book by Pastor Brian Kinsey, *Made For More*.

*The Dancing Father* is a re-discovery of the joy and power found through a daily relationship with God. "Power comes out of relationship," said Bro. Kinsey, pastor of First Pentecostal Church, Pensacola, Fla. The book is filled with powerful points, such as: "The very statement, 'If thou be the Son of God...' tells us that hell hears what heaven says about you and there's nothing hell fears any more than the power of the son-ship relationship."

"The seven spiritual principles described in this book lead to a spiritual life on the level plain. Having gained this spiritual maturity, we are able to welcome the moments when

God chooses to reveal Himself through rapturous experience without clinging so tightly to them that we plunge to the depths when the feeling inevitably slips away."

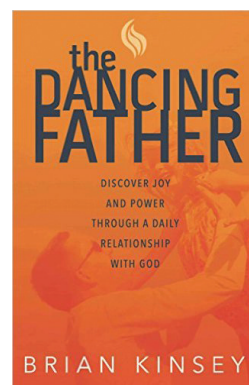
*The Dancing Father* is arranged in two parts. "Part I is a series of four lessons that will prepare you for the dance of delight with your heavenly Father," explains Bro. Kinsey. "These are the foundational concepts that you must master if you are to have any meaningful contact with the Father. These are the underlying principles, the 'music,' we might say, that accompanies your daily relationship with God."

Part II describes the dance of delight you will enjoy with your heavenly Father. These seven steps, or moves, are the actions you take to enter into a consistent daily interaction with the Father. Each action springs from a divine principle of the spiritual life. As you consistently practice these seven actions, you will find your relationship with the Father growing deeper, stronger, and more precious than ever before. Of course,

the valuable principles in this book will be useless to you unless you find practical ways to put them into practice in your daily life, so each chapter includes a section titled "Your Next Move," which is designed to help you do exactly that. Whether you read this book by yourself in a single sitting or study it with

a group of others over several weeks, do not neglect this section! As you discipline yourself to put these principles into action, you will find the Dance of Delight with your heavenly Father becomes second nature. You will move beyond understanding what God wants from you to entering into the blessing of a rich daily fellowship with Him. Pastor Kinsey states, "I offer this work in the hope that it will lead you to discover a deeper, healthier, more constant relationship with your heavenly Father, who dances with joy at the very sight of you. I pray that your soul may dance in return."

*The Dancing Father* is now available on Kindle through [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) or by contacting the church office at 1-850- 477-1100.







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**SOUND  
LODGE**



**Word To The Wise:**

"Every year Christmas becomes less of a birthday and more of a clearance sale."

\* \* \* \* \*

One night a burglar, needing money to pay his taxes, decided to steal from a safe in a mom and pop grocery store.

On the safe door was a note that read, "Please don't use dynamite. The safe is not locked. Just turn the handle." He was quite pleased with this turn of events so he followed the instructions.

Instantly a heavy sandbag fell on him, the entire store was floodlighted, and alarms started sounding. As the police carried him out on a stretcher, he was heard moaning: "My confidence in human nature has been terribly shaken."

\* \* \* \* \*

A young soldier was up before his commanding officer for a reprimand.

After going through a list of his misdemeanors, the commanding officer says, "And another thing, I didn't see you in camouflage practice this morning."

"Thank you, Sir," the soldier replied.



**Dogs in Heaven**

This morning I was sitting on a park bench next to a homeless man. I started a conversation by asking him how he ended up this way.

He said, "Up until last week, I still had it all. I had plenty to eat, my clothes were washed and pressed. I had a roof over my head. I had TV and internet, and I went to the gym, the pool, and the library. I was working on my MBA online. I had no bills and no debt. I even had full medical coverage."

I felt sorry for him, so I asked, "What happened? Drugs? Alcohol? Divorce?"

"Oh no, nothing like that," he said. "I just got out of prison."

\* \* \* \* \*

A man is driving down a country road when he spots a farmer standing in the middle of a huge field of grass. He pulls the car over to the side of the road and notices that the farmer is just standing there, doing nothing, looking at nothing.

The man gets out of the car, walks all the way out to the farmer and asks him, "Ah, excuse me mister, but what are you doing?"

The farmer replies, "I'm trying to win a Nobel Prize."

"How?" asks the man, puzzled. "Well, I heard they give the Nobel Prize to people who are out standing in their field."



\* \* \* \* \*

If you can start the day without caffeine,  
If you are always cheerful,  
If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it,  
If you are understanding when your loved ones are too busy for you,  
If you never treat a rich friend better than a poor friend,  
If you face the world without lies and deceit,  
Then you are probably the family dog!

\* \* \* \* \*

**BIBLE TRIVIA**

*Who was the most successful physician in the Bible?*

Job. He had the most patience.

*Who was the best financier in the Bible?*

Noah. He floated his stock while the whole world was in liquidation.

*Who is the straightest man in the Bible?*

Joseph. Pharaoh made a ruler out of him.



"Oh, for Pete's sake! Not the smoke alarm again!"



# IRA Rollover

If you are over 70½, you are eligible to make an IRA charitable rollover to public charities such as the ministries of the United Pentecostal Church. This type of IRA distribution will be like other IRA rollovers – it will not be included in your Federal taxable income.

While there is no added deduction for an IRA charitable rollover, avoiding up to \$100,000 of taxable income may save substantial income taxes not otherwise available.

**Charitable IRA rollovers offer the following benefits:**

1. Convenience – It is a very simple and easy way to make a gift.
2. Standard Deduction Benefit – With an IRA charitable rollover, you may take the standard deduction and still receive benefits for your gift. Also, because the IRA rollover qualifies for RMD, it may reduce your taxes.
3. Lower Tax on Social Security – Because of an IRA distribution, you may be paying tax on 85% of your Social Security. Using the IRA charitable rollover may lower your income to a level where only 50% of Social Security is taxable.
4. No Giving Limits – With an IRA charitable rollover, you may give more than the usual deductible amount of 50% of income.

Your IRA charitable rollovers this year could be \$1,000, \$5,000 or any amount up to \$100,000. We recommend that you discuss the benefits of an IRA rollover with your CPA or tax advisor.

For more information, please contact Kent Russell at: [krussell@upci.org](mailto:krussell@upci.org) or 636-229-7981.

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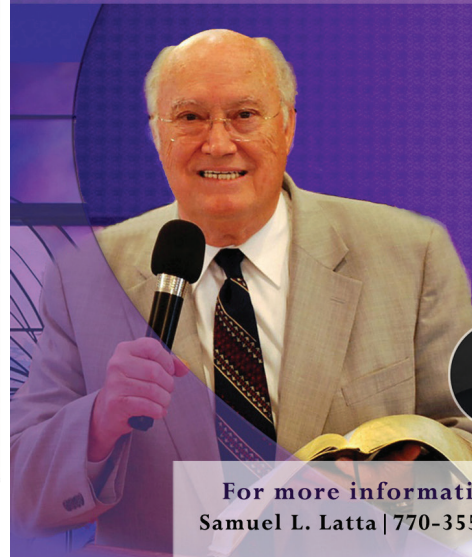
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