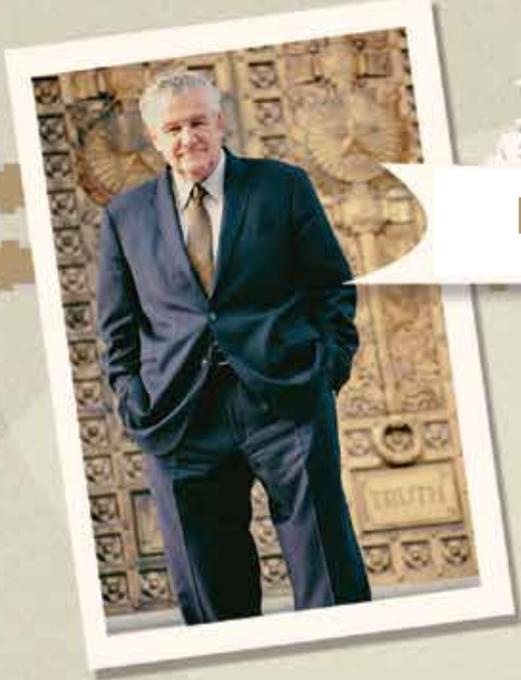




Perspectives

THE HOLINESS OF GOD



From The Publisher

Eyes Of Your Understanding

Paul D. Mooney

“We all, if we are honest, would have to admit that we see similar indications of the loss of spiritual discernment and lack of understanding in our churches today. We are at an intersection of faith and culture, and this is no small matter.”

A few moments before writing this article I glanced at Ephesians 1:18. The scripture gripped my heart, and I was unable to detach my thoughts from the profound and mysterious meanings that the Apostle Paul herein introduces.

“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power.” (Ephesians 1:18-19)

“The eyes of your understanding” – Many commentators would explain this phrase as Paul referring to “the eyes of your heart” or “the eyes of your inner convictions.” However you look at it, Paul is trying to address the primary issue of the saints’ walk with God. It is the ever-pressing challenge and *still* represents the core factor of the church’s effectiveness. Paul prays for an enlightened understanding, by which the Christian “may know what is the hope of his calling.” Once this understanding comes, the soul becomes willing to embrace all that is of Christ at the expense of all that is in the world. Enlightened eyes of understanding are eyes that can see clearly, they are eyes that know and are convinced. Eyes of understanding see into the heavenly places; they see the end and see Jesus above all principalities and powers (Ephesians 1:18-23).

Think about how Peter expressed it, “Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness” (2 Peter 3:11). He saw the “Day of the Lord.” It was not a hope connected to this world but a hope in Christ alone. “Look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness” (2 Peter 3:13).

There is in this day, I suspect, a dimming of our spiritual eyesight. The Apostle Peter’s words, especially in chapter three of his second epistle, addressed the matter of the church losing its sight or understanding. We all, if we are honest, would have to admit that we see similar indications of the loss of spiritual discernment and lack of understanding in our churches today.

We are at an intersection of faith and culture, and this is no small matter.

Look at the Pentecostal/charismatic revival sweeping the continent of Africa. It is presently one of the most noted religious phenomena in the world. The documentation has been primarily non-Apostolic and the results are disturbing, to say the least. According to researcher Martin Lindhardt, editor

of “Pentecostalism in Africa” (Brill, 2014), the shift away from the basic tenants of Biblical doctrine is notable. He writes, “In contemporary Pentecostalism therefore, the Scriptures are applied in ways that encourage members to invest in financial markets, seize opportunities in education, business, politics and entertainment and whatsoever able, increase their spheres of influence in the world.” These ideas are often in the context of Dominion Theology.

We haven’t yet seen much of this in America’s Apostolic Pentecostal churches. But nevertheless, there is, in my view, a growing carelessness in the way we deal with the world and its influences. It’s also clear we are weakening our traditional stance against worldly entertainment and, shall we say, worldliness in general. But what is more troubling is the growing cavalier attitude toward immorality, at times coupled with a kind of protectionism – an unwillingness to address the problem. Sin is no longer called sin, the definitions are muddled, unrighteousness is left unaddressed, unchallenged until at some point the apathy turns into defense of the very thing we were supposed to war against. I pray that we will not turn a blind eye to sin. I pray that we will not allow ourselves to become comfortable with the world, afraid to confront unrighteousness, ungodly lifestyles. I pray we will have the courage to stand against homosexuality, pornography and sexual sin.

Jesus commanded that we “love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If a man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (1 John 2:15). This bold proclamation must mean something. We must be willing to pray for our understanding to be awakened. We must turn our eyes toward heaven. For as the Apostle Paul points out, if the eyes of our understanding are clear concerning an eternal destination, an eternal home where Jesus reigns, then we will live while in this present world “in peace, without spot, and blameless” (2 Peter 3:14). Our prayer must be that we may *see* the eternal, and therefore may *understand* the battleground of the temporal. Make no mistake; it is a choice that every individual, every church and every organization must make, and it will not be an easy road – the “way of the Lord” will always be in contention with the world. When the eyes of the heart, the eyes of godliness and truth set the agenda for our very being and set the course for our organization and our churches, we are then on the road of hope. No wonder the songwriter was inspired to say, “Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart.”

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♦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: THE HOLINESS OF GOD

(MIKE CONN)

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Dealing With ANGER, STRESS and FRUSTRATION in Ministry

Interviews by Charlotte L. Pound

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



Steve Waldron, Albany, GA – Dealing with negative emotions is more common than maybe we talk about. When we go through a trial or struggle, we feel isolated. This leads to anger, stress and frustration. I think being open and honest about trials we face helps others not feel so alone. Prayer and scripture really are the keys to keeping our human spirit in alignment with God's Holy Spirit. Other ideas that may help are just getting away for a short time, having fun, or even going to a special

service somewhere. Keeping an upbeat, faith-filled attitude around my family is so important. I greatly appreciate the confidentiality I have experienced over the years by great men and mentors that God has brought into my life. We bear one another's burdens. I also confide in my wife. I used to shield her from every bad comment or situation, but after 31 years of ministry, Sandi has grown accustomed to the intricacies of pastoring and shares my load.

2 Corinthians 12 and Acts 14:22 have helped me keep a Biblical perspective on things. *Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but God delivers us out of them all.*



Arlo Moehlenpah, Poway, CA -- Since I only pastored a short time I don't know how common this problem is; but in my experience I have found that in dealing with negative emotions, forgiveness is a key. And realize that it might be you who is partly to blame for the problem. Also, get adequate rest and exercise. At one time, two of us faculty members at one school said we would just "keep our mouth shut and go play golf." A minister can keep negative emotions from affecting his family

and personal life by not talking about problems in front of his children. It probably would be wise not to always unload on your wife, as well, as you do not want her to get bitter. Sharing with a trustworthy fellow pastor or minister would probably be a good idea, as we all need counsel once in a while. I would advise any pastor or minister to put forth effort to communicate, pray and forgive.



Robert Linder, Reynoldsburg, OH - Anger, stress and frustration generally flow from hurt, disappointment, and unmet expectations. All pastors and ministers must be prepared to meet these challenges in a healthy way. When negative emotions are pressing, I do my best to evaluate the quality of my personal devotions and worship life. Even a minor drop-off in this area can create major challenges. I am learning that the proper amount of rest and the right kind of nutrition

can have a strong influence on my emotional health. If asked, I would remind my colleagues that ultimately *"our meat is to do the will of Him that sent us, and to finish His work."* Get out of the people-pleasing business and be at peace with what you have accomplished for His cause. There is a level of adversity that God allows so that we can be stirred to take the action needed to get ourselves right. My wife and I discuss openly the challenges that arise; she is instrumental in helping me to regain the proper perspective. Also, there are a couple of ministers I am in regular contact with, and their support can always help me refresh my perspective.



Larry Arrowood, Seymour, IN - Stress and frustration in ministry comes with the territory. The primary concern is how we handle it. We can become angry and lash out at others, play the blame game, allow our frustration to destroy our health, or we can maneuver the rapids of life. First, we must realize that there is an adversary. We must anticipate difficulties and appreciate successes. One of the ways to do this is to maintain flexibility in our schedule. We must adjust as we

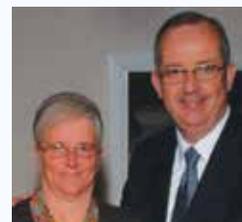
go. Also, it is important to network with those who know. Ascending the top of Mt. Everest was impossible until one person accomplished it. Don't expect a lot of affirmation, but you are not alone. You stand alongside men like Abraham, Moses, David, and Paul. Finally, stay close to Christ. One Christian counselor draws from the analogy of Mary and Martha: Mary sitting at Christ's feet; Martha busy in the kitchen. The counselor explained that he has never once had to minister to a "Mary" who failed, but he has dealt with many "Marthas" who failed. Those who stay at the feet of Christ are not as vulnerable to failure.



L. Chancy Gore, Wylie, TX – All ministers are human like everyone else. However, as Christian leaders, we should keep a biblical spirit-led check on our reactions to the stresses of life. I try to always allow the Holy Ghost to produce *peace, gentleness, meekness, longsuffering and temperance* in my spirit. The Holy Ghost calmed down my anger, frustration and basic reaction to life when I came to God. I made the Lord a promise when He called me to preach at 17 years old – that with His help I never wanted to "smite the rock" when told I should

only "speak" to it.

Another key to keeping life's pressures at bay is in the home. Cynthia and I strive daily to keep our home atmosphere healthy, balanced and loving. I would encourage fellow ministers to pinpoint the exact reason they are angry or frustrated. I would encourage them to know that it is okay to feel these emotions, but we must be careful how we react. The Bible tells us to be angry and sin not. *A man who can control his spirit is more powerful than a whole fortified city.* The Holy Ghost is the key here. Sometimes, the best thing I do to balance it all out is to go fishing.



Raymond Woodson, Vancouver, WA - Stress is common due to demands of changing times and ministry adaptations to approach and meet those changing needs. Frustration is mostly due to delayed or unfulfilled expectations. Anger is least common in Kingdom-minded ministries. If the load gets too weighty, some may want to "drop out." They may be due to misplaced priorities possibly brought on by uncorrected

approaches to stress-related issues. If a fellow minister came to me for advice in this area I would recommend to always remember whose Kingdom this ministry is empowered from. When it becomes too heavy, take a break! My reminder verse is Philippians 4:6-7. My pastor taught me to "leave the job at the office." Take a day with your spouse and/or family once a week. We must learn to leave the unchangeable with "Him who alone doeth great wonders." [Psalm 136:4]

My Father's Dream For Our Father's House

RICKY BOWEN • ABERDEEN, MS

Aberdeen First Pentecostal Church of Aberdeen, Miss. sits on three city blocks and is notably the largest church in the city. Pastor Ricky Bowen's desire in life was to honor his late father, Bro. William E. Bowen, by endeavoring to make AFPC the greatest and most focal church in Aberdeen. He said, "My dad, who pastored before me, was a prince of a man and the greatest man I have ever known. He was so brilliant and yet so very humble. He faithfully labored in the work of the Lord for 42 years, pastoring and building houses on the side until his death."

Bro. Ricky Bowen and his wife, Barbara, whom he refers to as Barbie doll, have three children; a daughter, Andrea Cucchiara (35) who teaches at the church school, sons, Brad (31) who plays guitar and bass, and Zach (19) who plays the keyboard and organ. Cody, their adopted son, works in the Media Ministry and sings on the Praise Team. The Bowens have five grandchildren: Abby, Maddie, Ian, Chase and Reid. Their son-in-law, Jim Cucchiara, directs the Media Ministry and their daughter-in-law, Jenna Bowen, teaches at the church school.

Principles of Growth & Revival

"Everything we do is about souls," said Bishop Bowen. "I believe the most important key to having a growing church is a true passion for souls. Our lighting display during the worship services has powerful visual effects, and our altar services are explosive! We have grown from 40 in attendance to 350 in 13 years. My priority as pastor is to develop great leaders under me. Of all our outreach efforts such as knocking doors and neighborhood events, we have found that personal evangelism brings the greatest results for us in growth."

Organization & Management

AFPC has a variety of departments and ministries within the church. "Our Youth Ministry is named AMPED," he said. "We have a Hyphen Ministry, SISTERS in Christ (Ladies Ministry), Men of Honor (Men's Ministry), Pathfinders is our Young Couples Ministry, Ark Builders (Children's Ministry), Pentecostal Christian Academy and our Pentecostal Daycare, the oldest privately owned daycare in the state of Mississippi. Our church is largely made up of young couples, who

work very hard, and we draw a lot of leaders from this group. The reason why we call the Children's Ministry Ark Builders is that we believe if they help build the ark, they tend to stay in the ark.

"One of our most effective ministries has been our Martial Arts School at the church. The teacher is Bro. Eric Nabors, who has a Black Belt Master in Aikido. This is a martial art that teaches students discipline, a more evasive mindset, and how to protect themselves, while also protecting their attacker from injury. This ministry attracts a large spectrum of people from our community. The classes are for ages 5 to 12 and 12 to adult."

Bro. Bowen is very proud of AFPC's dynamic Music Ministry, led by Sis. Shana Terry. He said, "We hold a music clinic twice a year, taught by Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Barbie Hoffee, which is attended by local churches also. Two of our singers were part of the Mass Choir at 2015 General Conference. Our Media Ministry won the Award of Excellence in 2014 Worship Through Media Conference. The award was presented by Todd Starnes of *Fox News*, who wrote a book titled *Godless America*." Bro. Bowen believes AFPC's Media Ministry is the best in the world!

"I am a stickler for consistency," he explained. "I meet with my department heads and ministry leaders bi-monthly. And I meet weekly with all who want to be leaders, doing vision casting and pastoral studies. We utilize our own training and wrote our own syllabus. Every eight weeks we take a two-month break and then begin again. Pastor James Terry and Assistant Pastor Randall Carmeans teach the young ministers."

Bishop Bowen said that 18 percent of the congregation is involved in some form of ministry. But he hopes to continue to increase that percentage. "Thirty percent of the members are involved in evangelism," he said. "Pastor Terry, whose greatest passion is for workers to love souls and love God, teaches our Evangelism class. We believe if people see a passion for souls through the classes, they will become passionate. We follow through with Next Step, our ten-week discipleship course for new converts."



The praise team leads worship inside the sanctuary.



Pastor Bowen gives a call to worship.

Special Miracles

“The greatest miracle in my life was our grandson, Reid,” said Bro. Bowen. “He couldn’t cry or speak when he was born, because his vocal cords weren’t developed, so someone stayed awake at night to watch his facial expressions. I promised God if He would heal him, I would tell everyone I meet. My daughter-in-law brought him to the altar, and God miraculously healed him one night. He cried all night long and has never stopped talking since! And I do tell everyone I meet. We experienced another miracle when we were growing fast and needed a larger building. I had attended school and college with the owner of the shopping center across the street. He is now deceased, but he walked across the street one day and gave us the title to that entire property! The money from the leases of that property comes in every month. And God proved His faithfulness by an astounding miracle when we needed the funds for our Hamilton daughter work. After prayer one morning, the Lord said, ‘You stand still. I pay my bills; you just keep planning.’ Our Sunday offering was \$269,000. On my way home in my truck, God spoke this to me, ‘You’ll listen to me from now on. I pay my bills!’”

Personal Ministry

“I grew up in the South where we were the obscurity,” said Pastor Bowen. “But we are not a people to be ashamed. We are royalty! I believe our churches should be the very best. I came from the peanut brittle days, and I sincerely believe we should make every effort to move beyond that. One example is the only sports complex in Aberdeen. When I took my five-year-old son to play there, I overhead people in front of us say, ‘The Pentecostals are here, there goes the neighborhood.’ My son is now 19, and AFPC owns the entire 21-acre sports complex, including five ball fields, concessions, the equipment, scoreboards, future walking track and pavilion, all purchased for \$75,000. I remind our church all the time that we are the head and not the tail. People really want to be like us, regardless of the fact we dress a certain way or live a certain way.”

Pastor Bowen enjoys teaching from the Torah most of all. He explained, “I love teaching how Judaism is tied into Christianity, because it gives such an in-depth understanding of who we really are and where we come from. People call me, expressing the impact the teachings on Judaism has made upon them.” He said the focus of his ministry is toward young couples. “I believe they are the lifeline of a church. In fact, eighty percent of our church is youth.”

Current Facility

“We have over 100,000 square feet under roof,” said Bro. Bowen, “including our sanctuary that seats 500, our school, daycare, large gym, large dining hall, Sunday school rooms, administrative offices and two commercial kitchens. Our church is like a campus, with seven large buildings. We just finished the \$400,000 gym with bleachers and paid cash for it. God laid part of our property in our lap. We are upgrading our facilities at AFPC with a huge foyer, prayer rooms and a drive-through entrance.

“We have averaged 12-15 new families per year for 13 years, and are working on a project to increase that to 20-25 families per year. Sixty-eight filled with the Holy Ghost and baptized last year are faithful supporters of the church. We have three daughter works.

“Through our Promise Project, at Abundant Life we are building a church of about 10,000 square feet right now in Hamilton, Mississippi on 3½ acres. That church runs 80-85, and the new sanctuary will seat 300. Bro. Joseph Kennedy is the site pastor there. Our daughter work, The Pentecostals of Okolona, will have a new 10,000-square-foot sanctuary in Okolona, Mississippi, and Bro. Jason Salisbury is the site pastor there. Our third daughter work is Thaxton UPC, a 3,000-square-foot sanctuary in Thaxton, Mississippi, and Bro. Billy Foster is the site pastor there. I meet with all three pastors at 1:30 p.m. every Sunday, and they attend our 3 p.m. Sunday services. My dad preached a message about having bread at midnight, and we are planning for the harvest to come for bread in the midnight hour.”

Personal History

Bro. Bowen grew up in Aberdeen and was raised in the church he currently pastors. He received the Holy Ghost at eight and his calling to preach at 15. “I preached my first sermon October 1975 at a youth ser-

vice where Sis. Louise Hickman was my youth director, and she impacted my life as a young man,” explained Bro. Bowen. “My greatest influence was my father and Bro. Jerry Jones, a true Pentecostal statesman. Both have had a great impact on my life. My favorite preacher is Bishop Douglas White, who I hold myself accountable to. And my best friend is Bro. Sam Emory, who is like a brother to me.”

After attending secular college, Bro. Bowen received his Master’s degree at the Omega Bible Institute and Seminary in Louisiana. He attended online classes at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem from 2007-2009. He recounted the amazing story of becoming pastor at AFPC. “Sis. Louise Hickman, 84 at that time, boarded a plane in Virginia to fly to Aberdeen with a word from the Lord for me. I was recovering from quadruple bypass heart surgery. She said, ‘Bro. Ricky, there are some things in your life you need to work on,’ and I began weeping. Then she said, ‘In two months, you will be doing the will of God. The road you’re about to travel is beautiful and is ordained and destined of God.’ In two months to the day, my father suddenly passed away, and I was voted in as pastor on December 17, 2002. There were 42 people. It was bittersweet, because I never thought I would pastor. My first years as pastor were more evangelistic in nature, and my goal was to honor my father with growth that would make the church great.”

Church History

According to Bishop Bowen, AFPC was started in 1929 in an old storefront on Vine Street by Sis. Ruby Bishop, who had eight children and an alcoholic husband, who came to God in later years. Several great men pastored the church before William E. Bowen became pastor in 1960. Artifacts of the history of the church are stored in glass cases.

Human Interest

Pastor Bowen’s favorite leisure activity is to golf with men in the church. He said, “As a general contractor, the one thing people would be surprised to learn is that I enjoy building massive churches on the side, and I have six churches to build. “I cannot stress how important my family is to me, and they are my greatest support,” he said. “I will not offer my children on the altar of convenience. My favorite time is our Thanksgiving family trip each year that the church helps pay for and the times we spend together as a family around the table, talking and laughing. It is God first, family second, and church third.” The family has a pet Shih Tzu, named Bandit, who goes to the church with him and runs around the church while he prays.



Barbara and Ricky Bowen
Aberdeen, Miss.



Top pic: Pastor Bowen baptizes a little girl. Bottom pic: The Aberdeen First Pentecostal Church complex

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General Session

// Rev. Bryan Parkey

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Reasons Why Churches Don't Grow

By Greg Stier, founder and president of Dare 2 Share Ministries International

I've had the privilege of preaching at churches from coast to coast over the last 25 years of ministry. In the process I've talked to countless pastors, church leaders and youth pastors about how their churches are doing when it comes to growth and the reasons for it. Here is my list of nonscientific reasons why some churches don't grow.

1. *They're not friendly enough.* There have been far too many times I've walked through the foyer of a church and NOT been greeted or received help finding my way around. I've felt like an outsider floating in the midst of a group of insiders. Churches that are friendly have a much higher chance of growing than churches that are not. First impressions matter.

2. *They're not intentional enough.* I've talked to many pastors who have assured me that they want to grow with new believers, but they have no plan to make it happen. They tell me of their vision and their new sermon series and their exciting Easter outreach. But these three things are like making a plan on "How to have an effective huddle" in a football game. No, you need the actual plays you and your congregation are going to run day in and day out (not just on Sunday morning) if you are going to intentionally grow with new disciples being made and multiplied.

3. *They're not organized enough.* Some churches lead people to Christ but don't have an assimilation plan that is robust enough to get these precious new believers clicked into the life blood of the congregation. As a result there are precious babies out there without the shelter of the church and the milk of God's Word. We also need to follow up with the visitors who are already believers.

4. *They're not meaty enough.* Some churches grow initially because their services and sermons are relevant but their sermons tend to be light and fluffy. As new believers grow in faith they get a hunger for God's Word on a level beyond the surface. Now when I talk about "meaty" I'm not talking about hour-long doctrinal diatribes. I'm talking about being willing to "rightly divide the Word of God" beyond just topical series that tend to skim the surface.

5. *They're not loving enough.* Churches can seem friendly but when you dig under the surface a lack of love can rule the religious roost. They may attract people at first and even seem friendly but, once in, the newcomers become grossly aware of the politics and relational dysfunction that is systemic in the congregation. Seekers and new believers often opt out for a more loving church, just stop going to church altogether or, worse yet, stay and become just like the other members of the church.



Goodness

By Stephen Judd, TCM President



Stephen Judd
www.mansionkids.org

The word *goodness* is listed in Galatians 5:22 as a fruit of the Spirit and was used in the New Testament to portray a person who is generous, big-hearted and liberal. We would call this person a giver.

According to Acts 10:38, this "goodness" operated mightily in Jesus, as He was anointed "with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good and healing all..." In this verse, we generally focus on the reference to healing and overlook the "doing good" part. However, these words are from the Greek word *euergeteo*, which denotes a philanthropist or one who financially supports charitable works. It was used to describe one who assisted those who were less fortunate.

Jesus didn't only operate in the supernatural; He also used the resources that were available to Him to do "good works" in the natural realm. He cared for the poor; He ministered to the basic needs of mankind.

I recently did a concordance search of the phrase "good works," and was amazed

at the number of times these words appear in the New Testament.

Acting in "goodness" is a character feature of the nature of God. As Spirit-filled people, we should be selfless, using our resources to help others. As we walk in the Spirit, we will be sensitive to the needs of those around us, and our hearts will be moved to give.

This may seem foreign to our understanding, but it appears that Jesus had some supporters that contributed to His ministry. Luke 8:3 tells us that several women with considerable means backed Him financially. In other words, they were sponsors. Judas' words in John 12:5 would indicate that Jesus' ministry had a significant philanthropic outreach to the needy.

Would you like to "do good" by supporting a great cause that is very close to the heart of God? Please consider supporting Tupelo Children's Mansion. For more information or to give online, go to www.mansionkids.org.

The above article was partially inspired by *Sparkling Gems From The Greek* by Rick Renner. It's a great book!

Website: www.stephenhjudd.com, Twitter: @StephenHJudd, Facebook Page: StephenHJudd

DEFENDING THE APOSTOLIC FAITH, FAMILY & FUTURE

JULY 27-29

HOLY BIBLE



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Fulfilling the Need for Keyboard Players in Local Churches

Susan Triplett • Clinton, TN

Written by Linda Schreckenber



Sis. Susan Triplett, tell us a little about yourself, your background and ministry.

I was classically trained in piano, violin and viola, and had decided at a young age I wanted to make a career out of music. I was baptized in Jesus' name and received the Holy Ghost in

my senior year of high school, and the Lord took over my dreams and plans. I attended the University of Tennessee as a music major. During my junior year in college, I married my husband, David Triplett, balancing college classes and teaching at the Christian school at the First Apostolic Church in Knoxville. Our pastor was Bro. Billy McCool. My husband and I started a home missions church in Clinton, Tennessee in 1983. All along, I taught piano and violin lessons.

Smaller churches often lack individuals to play keyboards, piano and organ. What options do they have, and what are the drawbacks of each?

Music is such an integral part of Apostolic services. Smaller churches do what they can, but the goal is to have live music, usually with the piano at the center of the music department. Smaller churches generally want a piano player first, then add other instruments as God fills the need. My ministry provides students with piano courses that teach them the basics.

Learning keyboards can take years of expensive lessons. Is there a faster way?

Most Apostolic church musicians do not utilize note-reading but play by ear or chord. Learning to play by chord is much faster, usually taking weeks or months. Playing by chord provides the perfect accompaniment for Apostolic singing.

How long does it take the average person to be able to play a collection of simple choruses in church? Is it necessary to already have a music background?

No previous musical experience is needed with our piano courses, and the average student can play beginning-level songs and choruses in a few weeks. The most successful students are the ones working to fulfill a need for a piano player in the church.

What makes your lessons unique from other courses that are on the market?

I focus on making the lessons easy for the beginner. That is what makes my lessons unique. Everything is explained, and I developed a system to teach rhythm, using word phrases. This has been the mainstay of the courses. As a student progresses, concepts are added step by step. This system has really worked over the last 20 years.

Around 1994, a piano student asked me to teach her how to play "the way we play in church." I knew this was coming, but how do you teach someone to play by ear? I went back to my college training in music theory and ear training and came up with the answer. Those early lessons for this student resulted in our first beginner piano course series, *Learning, Playing, and Mastering the Piano by Ear*. Many people learned to play for churches using that course. Sis. Dedie Cooley used the course as curriculum at Jackson College of Ministries, and she assisted me in producing the *Advanced Piano Techniques* in 1997.

Music changes, so we released the *Piano Praise* series in 2003. We are revising the course again and have just released *Piano Praise and Worship*. Soon, we will release *Piano Praise Heritage*, an update of the old *Piano Praise* series. The student can then play the new and the old. We also plan to release a Spanish version of *Piano Praise and Worship*.

What is included with your lessons? How far do they take a student, and how much practice should they expect to devote each day?

Our newest course, *Piano Praise and Worship*, includes a 117-page workbook with three instructional DVD's of over five hours of teaching. The DVD's walk the students through the workbook, and the course takes students from beginner to an upper intermediate level. Practicing half an hour a day will produce great results.

What kind of success have you had? Can you share any success stories?

I have personally taught my piano courses to hundreds of students through the years. I taught Sis. Fallon Erickson of First Apostolic Church in Maryville, Tennessee as a young girl. She had the interest and drive, and today she is an accomplished pianist and teacher. I have taught at piano camps, and students I have never met learned on their own through the courses.

How long have you had your newest course on the market?

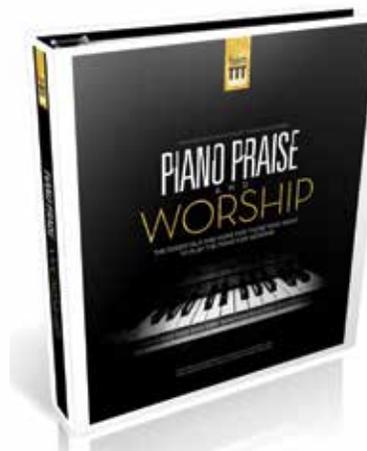
We introduced *Piano Praise and Worship* at the 2015 UPCI General Conference. I taught it to several of my students to prove and perfect it before marketing it.

What's the story behind its development? What prompted you to develop this approach?

This new course addresses modern praise and worship music only. The student learns to play 32 popular praise and worship songs. The course has been about four years in the making. The new music is easy for young people to learn, because they were raised on it. However, for older musicians like myself, it is a whole new world -- not difficult, but different. The student learns chords, rhythms, fills and concepts pertaining to modern praise and worship music.

What does it cost, and how can we order it?

The cost for the workbook with three DVD's is \$89.95. Order at www.pianobyyear.com.



apostolic alendar 2016

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

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SPEAKERS	CONTACT / INFO
APRIL 6-8	Indiana Bible College MUSIC FEST 2016 Under the direction of Lindel M. Anderson, Dean of Music	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN Host: Paul D. Mooney	Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, Lindel Anderson, IBC Choir, IBC Chorale, IBC Praise, others	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
MAY 4-8	Impartation Conference Day and evening services are open for everyone; these services are full of powerful worship including singing and inspired preaching from anointed men of God.	Praise Tabernacle 2121 13th Avenue South Great Falls, MT 59405	Marrell Cornwell, Dr. James Hughes and Lee Stoneking	For more info: visit www.praisetabernaclegtf.com or email: praisetabernaclegtf@yahoo.com (406) 268-1780
MAY 6	Indiana Bible College GRADUATION 2016 Paul D. Mooney and Robert L. Rodenbush All are welcome. 7 p.m.	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN Host: Paul D. Mooney	Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, and others.	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
MAY 9-10	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 8-10	Power Conference 2016 Services begin at 7:30 p.m. nightly. Day sessions at 10 a.m. Thursday and Friday morning.	Crossroads Arena 2800 S. Harper Rd. Corinth, MS Host: John Hodum	Mark Morgan, Wayne Huntley	For more info: contact Josh Hodum @ 662-872-9999 or John Hodum @ 931-332-3926
JULY 27-29	Mile High Conference 2016 Defending the Apostolic faith, family and future.	Calvary Apostolic Church Of Denver, 5900 E. Yale Ave. Denver, CO 80222	J.H. Osborne, Joel McCoy, Marney Turpin and Sean Libby	(303) 758-5900 www.cacdenver.org DEH2@comcast.net
AUG 17-19	The Apostolic Conference A conference designed for the North American Missionary and Church Planter.	Parkway Pentecostal Church, 601 Reunion Parkway, Madison, MS 39110. Host Pastors: Jerry and Jason Dillon	J.W. Dillon, Art Wilson, David Shatwell, Chester Wright, Raymond Woodward and Mark Morgan	(601) 853-2607 www.parkwaychurch.net ParkwayChurch.net/NAMRegistration
AUG 18-19	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	Donnie Sheerin, Brian Kinsey, Tim Gaddy	For more info: visit invest-in-futures.com (309) 792-0414
SEPT. 10-11	Mid-America Renewal Conference (MARC) Indianapolis, Indiana - A Power Packed Preaching Conference in the Heart of the Midwest.	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN Host: Paul D. Mooney	To be announced	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
SEPT 27-30	92nd Annual UPCI General Conference Don't miss it!	Indiana Convention Ctr. 100 S. Capitol Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46225	To be announced	Online registration, hotel reservations and exhibit registration available at www.upcigc.com
OCT 2016	Apostolic Doctrine Conference Strengthening Our Doctrinal Foundation	New Life Fellowship 7849 Wabash Avenue Terre Haute, IN 47803	To be announced	For more info: www.newlifeterrehaute.com or 812-877-9348
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.truthtabfresno.org
JAN 2017	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 2017	WinterFire 2017 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	To be announced	For more info: visit www.winterfire.org or visit Twitter: winterfire-conf or Facebook/Instagram: winterfireconf
MARCH 2017	Passing the Mantle 2017 PTM exists to equip ministers and ministry teams with spiritual tools to better reach their communities for the Lord. Our goal is to make each attendee more effective in their place of ministry.	Bartlett United Pentecostal Church 270 E. Schick Road Bartlett, IL 60103	To be announced	For more info: visit www.passingthemantle.org or call 630-837-9800

Church Growth: The Need For a Proactive Approach to Outreach



Robert L. Rodenbush

■ Church Today

rdodenbush@earthlink.net

Escape Plan

As finances permit, we have been putting the finishing touches on the new IBC chapel. The planning started with a few napkin drawings that came to life with a miracle of provision. Calvary Tabernacle has so generously given through the years to birth IBC and keep it going, but things were tight. There just wasn't funding for the project. However, God placed a burden in the heart of a few pastors and churches from Illinois and Indiana, and they began sending crews to help to make the dream a reality. This week we were working on the old tunnel that leads from the main building into the new chapel and started discussing traffic flow and fire safety. Bro. Wayne Turner, our director of maintenance, looked at the plans and immediately knew that the new doors would require a panic bar to allow people easy exit from the building in case of emergency. You could tell his mind was recalling stories of incidents that poor planning had led to catastrophe and loss of life. Or, worse yet, building or business owners who did not want to spend the time or money necessary to make a building or escape route safe.

I recalled the infamous nightclub fire in Rhode Island about a decade ago that killed 100 people because the exits were blocked. More recent tragedies in Brazil and Romania killed and injured hundreds of people. Incidents where panic, chaos and confusion caused a frantic mob mentality; people pushing and shoving one another to the ground and trampling bodies upon bodies until the congested areas became impassable. At one event someone had even chained shut the emergency exit doors, mindless of the horror this careless action might cause.

It is an easy parallel to envision our country, our world and sadly even some churches in a similar entrapment. Look at the chaos and confusion of our political system, the decay of society, our forfeiture of manners and morals, the loss of commitment to sound doctrine, separation from the world and holiness living. People aren't sure what direction to run or who they should follow. It seems we have chained the doors to the escape route, and we're stuck with a country we don't recognize, a world that looks darker and more foreboding than ever, and too many churches that are not prepared for the challenge of being a true escape route for lost souls. Or, worse yet, churches that for money, fame or acceptance hide the true way of escape or will not stand for righteousness because they believe it costs too much or will prevent them from drawing large crowds.

God always has an escape route planned for His people (1 Corinthians 10:13). However, we must look at our plans, our hearts and our actions and make sure we haven't barred the doors or failed to show the world the true way of escape.



Bobby Killmon

■ Theology

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If Jews, Muslims and Christians all believe in "the God of Abraham" . . . why would it be said that these religions believe in different gods? How is that possible? Is it not the same/only God but people themselves who possess very different (even incorrect) understandings of who God is and what He did (come as Jesus/ remit sins)?

Well, a few things first. If you simply read the Quran the god described in it is clearly not the God of the Bible. Many books, articles, even blogs can demonstrate this easily. Second, while Jews do read the OT they also have the distortions from Judaism found in extra-biblical sources such as the Talmud. There are dangers in reading these things uncritically because they do not approach the OT like Jesus and the Apostles did. Also, our God was robed in flesh. Jews resist this truth and Paul even says Judaism in his day was the domain of principalities and powers (see Gal. 4:3, 9 and Col. 2:8, 20). We see the claim Judaism was under control of principalities and powers is further verified in that they even crucified their Messiah, our Lord. The differences then are not merely incidental but are critical because ultimately it's not simply the intellectual inconsistencies but in reality the difference in Lordship. One is of God; the other is ruled by demonic forces.

However, after all of this is said, sincere prayer is promised something -- that the Spirit of God will lead and guide you to ALL, not some, truth. People can be sincere. But they are still sincerely wrong and still lost. But the promise is the hungry, the sincere, as long as they continue to be led, will find a God who loves enough to guide to ALL truth. Many do come from other faiths. Still many others find separation from tradition, family or the familiar too much to give up. But remember the constant is God's call, and God calls all people to all truth.

I am not saying it's the best witnessing technique to say, "Your religion is the domain of principalities and powers..." I'm pointing out here the Scripture teaches sincere people open themselves up to manipulation by deception. So attempting to minimize differences does not help us evangelize people. We must win those that "oppose themselves" by calling them to "repentance to the acknowledging of the truth" (2 Tim. 2:25). I will also add that sincerity matters in keeping truth, too. If people raised in truth don't love it as much as those that hunger enough to find it, they will lose it. This explains why some never seem to find it and why some leave it.



T. W. Massengale

■ Church Growth

tmassengale@apostolic.edu

Growing churches come in all types and sizes. But one of the most consistent qualities of a growing church is a commitment to evangelism. Specifically, they tend to

embrace a proactive approach to outreach.

The involvement of churches in evangelism tends to fall into two broad categories: passive and proactive. Passive evangelism churches seldom grow, or if they do, tend to grow very slowly. Passive outreach churches have little organized evangelism. Their approach tends to focus mostly upon having good quality church services and encouraging their saints to invite people to those services. The importance of being a witness may be emphasized from the pulpit, but few opportunities will exist to exercise their

witness within a church-sponsored event. In the passive evangelism church there will be no organized door knocking, bus/van ministry, visitor follow-up, Sunday school contests, home Bible study training seminars, or revival crusades. When asked why, they often respond that few in their church participate in such activities so they have been dropped altogether. So evangelism has become "passive" as in "we hope our saints are witnessing."

This can be contrasted with churches that take a proactive approach to outreach. Each week the church bulletin and announcements are filled with opportunities to spread the Good News within the community. Here you will see throughout the year organized door knocking, prayer walks, block parties, bus and van ministry, home fellowship groups, home Bible study training events, special services and activities, Constant Contact Consciousness, Sunday school contests, soul-winning training, visitor follow-up, flyer distribution, youth

evangelism, street and park services, and the list goes on. Evangelism is proactive, intentional, organized and well-promoted. Participation in these activities is high, often with 50-60% of the members involved in some kind of organized activity. The saints in these churches see the commandment to be a witness (Acts 1:8) as an important part of their spiritual maturity -- just as important as church attendance, tithing and prayer. They believe it because this truth has been taught to them over and over again.

Bottom line: for there to be a harvest, seed must be sown. How much harvest you have is in direct proportion to the amount of seed distributed. Sow abundantly, reap abundantly; sow sparingly, reap sparingly. When we do our part, God always does His part (Psalm 126:6). When a church does all it can to sow as much seed as possible, it always grows at a faster rate than those churches that just sit back and hope that God somehow does it for them.

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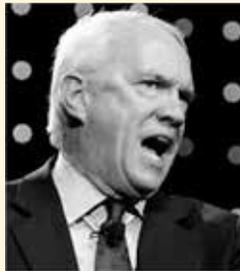
Art Wilson



Lee Stoneking



Vani Marshall



Anthony Mangun



Tom Foster



David Bernard

Don & Sandra Hanscom
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COMING TOGETHER...

*Reaching the Global
Harvest at Home*



THURSDAY, AUGUST 11

5:00pm **Registration Opens**

7:30pm **Main Service**

Art Wilson & Lee Stoneking

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12

9:00am **General Session** *Brocc Chavis*

9:45am -10:30am **Breakout Session I:**
French, Filipino, Deaf, Chinese & South Asian

10:45am-11:30am **Breakout Session II:**
R.A.I.N, Slavic, Middle Eastern, Amish, & Youth

11:45am-12:30pm **Breakout Session III:**
*N.A.M.E, Southeast Asian, Vietnamese, Korean
& Youth*

12:45pm **Ministers & Spouses Banquet**

7:30pm **Evening Session**

Vani Marshall & Anthony Mangun

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13

9:00am **General Session** *David K. Bernard*

10:00am -11:30am **Ministry Tracks:**
*Building the Bridge, Spanish, Ladies, Youth, &
R.I.S.E.N.*

11:45am **General Session** *Tom Foster*

Hosted at:



DALLAS FIRST
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5606 W. Illinois Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75211



Carol Clemans

Spiritual Growth

carol@carolclemans.org

Why Do I Write About Sins in the Church?

The reason I write about sins in the church is because I have provided a nationwide teaching ministry for churches and conferences and nationwide counseling ministry by phone/Skype -- (636) 448-0121 -- as a Certified Pastoral Counselor for 24 years. I counsel pastors and lay people. In Galatians the fifth chapter, Paul describes the spiritual warfare between the flesh and the Spirit -- the works of the flesh versus the fruit of the Spirit.

After Paul lists several sins, he says (Galatians 5:21), "Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God." If we allow any sin to control us, we will not make it to heaven. We cannot run to the altar every week and "repent" and go out and repeat the same sins and expect to be saved!

My nationwide counseling/teaching ministry is revealing how these sins are active in people who attend Apostolic churches -- it should not be so. Depression and damaged emotions in the church are the fallout from all the above sins. My heartbeat in teaching and counseling is to encourage and help every believer to live holy lives unto God. Jesus said, "I would that all would come to repentance."

My articles come from deep within my soul. I feel impelled by God to confront sin issues and encourage people to make the choice to repent of sins and addictions and be willing to be transformed by renewing their minds with God's truth (Romans 12: 1 & 2). The devil has crept into the church destroying the people from within. Sin spreads as yeast that Paul addresses in his letter to Corinth.

Psychology's root definition is the study of the soul. I can teach and counsel from Genesis to Revelation on the study of the soul. God breathed into Adam and man became a living soul. Let's be holy as He is holy!

Carol Clemans - Holy Ghost 61 years, Bible teacher 50 years, counseling for 24 years, married to Rev. Harold Clemans 46 years. Ref: Pastor Daniel Batchelor of Dupu, IL and Supt. David Tipton Jr. of Raymond, Miss. Call (636) 448-0121 for teaching or counseling - www.carolclemans.org - carol@carolclemans.org.



Brian Norman

Revival Concepts

evangelistnorman@gmail.com

Denominal Pastors Baptized!

"For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?" Matthew 5:46

My prayer for this year? To love extravagantly! This is a better way. Right before each new year I have a season of asking God for a specific thrust for the upcoming year. Prior to the beginning of 2016, I asked God to help me "love extravagantly" and also to have "extravagant mercy" toward others. For these two are intertwined. It is not by happenchance that this year I have already baptized two American denominal pastors in the name of Jesus, with another baptism slated to happen very soon. God is working!

As Apostolics we have this great treasure of truth -- something we cannot sell nor should we ever water down. At the same time we must realize that part of that great truth is love. The old adage is simply so true -- *you win more people with honey than vinegar*. Those denominal pastors' hearts were opened after I built relational equity with them through love. I focused on loving them as Christ did and using wisdom in when and how I shared truth with them. The work in their lives is still not done, but I am still showing love. And God is not done working!

The churches that I work with that experience above average growth have a common denominator -- love and acceptance. No, not a watering down of the truth or acceptance that people cannot be changed. God forbid! Rather an acceptance that Christ did die for all of us and that many people are on a journey, much like Cornelius (Acts 10). Yes, they need more. Yet that begins with more love. The reality is that everything we do must be motivated by love. People are simply more apt to receive what we share when they know we love and appreciate them. Are they perfect? No. Then again, neither are we. And each of us is the one Christ died for.

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



Aubrey Jayroe

Finance

jayroeone@sbcglobal.net

It is time to do my taxes as a minister. What do I need to do to ensure I utilize my efforts with my tax preparer so as to have the least possible tax liability?

First, you need to consult with your tax preparer ahead of time to be certain you know what to have ready at tax time. Asking questions about your particular situation is vital so that you and the tax preparer are "on the same page."

Then gather and organize your records in a neat and readable format. Many tax preparer offices send out a tax organizer to assist in the recording of the tax information. Use this if you have one and ask your preparer questions about the organizer if you don't understand it. Don't take a paper bag full of receipts and documents and drop them off at your tax preparer's desk and expect a quick response on your tax return. The more organized you are, the better your preparer can handle your tax matters.

Be sure you and your preparer understand the "housing allowance" benefit. This, for ministers, is one of the best tax benefits available today. You only have to pay self-employment taxes on the housing but no income taxes. This must be designated by the church or board prior to utilizing it, so be sure this is in order and provide that information to your preparer, separate from your salary, etc.

Have your W-2 from the church ready ahead of time. Many ministers let the tax preparer do the W-2 when they file their taxes; however, for 2016, there are new penalties if these W-2 forms are not prepared and submitted by the January 31 deadline. In the future, don't wait until you file your tax return to have the W-2 prepared.

In summary, two things need to be done to ensure the best possible tax results. One, communicate with your tax preparer. Even call or e-mail prior to tax season and ask questions. Communication is vital. Secondly, be organized. Make sure you have everything ready and organized when you get your taxes done. The better organized you are, the better your preparer can complete your return efficiently and more productively.

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

How Do You Measure Up?

I recently read an article on the benefits of financial metrics that every CEO should pay attention to. Some call them KPI's (key performance indicators). The benefits are the same for a church. The goal is to get a summary of important information in a report that is easy to read and timely prepared.

Too often when I meet with a pastor,

I hear him say "the reports I get don't tell me anything" or "I don't know how to read them" or "I don't get any weekly or monthly reports." While having a "successful" church isn't all about increasing income, or even increasing attendance, it is still vital to know where the church is financially. Having the right information helps measure growth (or a retraction), cash flow and can help to avoid a financial crisis.

Even something as simple as knowing how the current year tithes and offerings compare to the prior year for the same

time period can be helpful. Some financial metrics can even provide insight into how much a church can increase income through teaching, e-giving, etc.

A summary of key data, with areas of interest, should be included for a quick review. If you would like help in this area, please contact us.

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

THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS**NASA Censors Name of Jesus From Employee Newsletters**

NASA has banned an employee club from using the name Jesus in newsletters announcing the club's activities.

Charisma News reports that the Johnson Space Center Praise & Worship Club was told by NASA attorneys that they could not



mention Jesus in their newsletters because it violated the U.S. Constitution's Establishment Clause.

The JSC Praise & Worship Club is made up of NASA employees who meet on their lunch break to pray, read the Bible, and sing praises to God.

The club's newsletter in question read: *"Join with the praise and worship band Allied with the Lord for a refreshing set of spring praise and worship songs on Thursday, June 4, from 11:15 a.m. to noon in Building 57, Room 106. (The theme for this session will be 'Jesus is our life!') Prayer partners will be available for anyone who has needs. All JSC civil servants and contractors are welcome."*

Liberty Institute is defending club members and has threatened to bring a lawsuit against NASA unless it stops censoring the name Jesus.

Liberty Institute lawyer Jeremy Dys said that club organizers offered an alternative solution, proposing that they could put a disclaimer on their newsletters, making clear that the views expressed in them were not endorsed by NASA. This proposal, however, was rejected.

"The bottom line is that NASA should not be censoring this club just because they use the name Jesus in an employee advertisement," Dys stated. "That is blatant religious discrimination."

NASA has a history of protecting religious speech. They defended the Apollo 8 astronauts who read the Creation story while orbiting the moon. In addition, astronaut Buzz Aldrin received communion while on the moon as part of the Apollo 11 mission.

"NASA should continue its tradition of protecting the great religious expression of its employees," Dys said.

**A Neuroscientific Look at Speaking in Tongues**

The passionate, sometimes rhythmic, language-like patter that pours forth from religious people who "speak in tongues" reflects a state of mental possession, many Christians say. Now they have some neuroscience to back this up.

Recently, researchers at the University of Pennsylvania took brain images of five women while they spoke in tongues and found that their frontal lobes — the thinking, willful part of the brain through which people control what they do — were relatively quiet, as were the language centers. The regions involved in maintaining self-consciousness were active. The women were not in blind trances, and it was unclear which region was driving the behavior.

The images, appearing in the journal *Psychiatry Research: Neuroimaging*, pinpoint the most active areas of the brain. The images are the first of their kind taken during this spoken religious practice, which has roots in the Old and New Testaments and in Pentecostal churches established in the early 1900s. The women in the study were active churchgoers.

"The amazing thing was how the images supported people's interpretation of what was happening," said Dr. Andrew B. Newberg, leader of the study team. "The way they describe it, and what they believe, is that God is talking through them."

In the study, the researchers used imaging techniques to track changes in blood flow in each woman's brain in two conditions, once as she sang a gospel song and again while speaking in tongues. By comparing the patterns created by these two emotional, devotional activities, the researchers could pinpoint blood-flow peaks and valleys unique to speaking in tongues.

Donna Morgan, a co-author of the study, was also a research subject. She is a born-again Christian who says she considers the ability to speak in tongues a gift. "You're aware of your surroundings," she said. "You're not really out of control. But you have no control over what's happening. You're just flowing. You're in a realm of peace and comfort, and it's a fantastic feeling."

Contrary to what may be a common perception, studies suggest that people who speak in tongues rarely suffer from mental problems. A recent study of nearly 1,000 evangelical Christians in England found that those who engaged in the practice were more emotionally stable than those who did not. Researchers have identified at least two forms of the practice, one ecstatic and frenzied, the other subdued and nearly silent.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ An LGBT activist group has singled out Christian colleges in a recent report, claiming they use religious liberty as a "guise for discrimination" against LGBT students.

Since 2013, 56 colleges have applied for partial exemptions to Title IX of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, citing views on transgenderism and homosexuality. The LGBT group is now calling on

Congress and the Department of Education to broadcast information about these schools to prospective students.

For decades, religious schools and colleges have been able to set rules for students regarding gender identity and sexual orientation and did not feel the need to request exemptions from Title IX. But the climate on this issue has now drastically changed.

SOCIAL TRENDS**Most Americans Support Living Together Before Marriage**

A recent national survey has revealed that 76 percent of Americans ages 18 to 31 believe that living together before marriage is not morally wrong.

Charisma News contributor Larry Tomczak warns parents and grandparents that this is a dangerous belief.

Sixty-five percent of young couples now live together before marriage. Some of these couples also identify as Christians.

Tomczak cites some common arguments these couples give for living together before marriage: "Times have changed. We have to face certain realities of living in the 21st century. We're going to get married eventually. Like buying a car, you've got to try it out first. What difference does a certificate really make—it's just a piece of paper. We're older . . . more mature . . . been divorced . . . not ready financially . . . providing parents for a child . . . benefiting from tax incentives . . . have peace that God understands our unique situation . . . look how many people even 'Christians' are doing it."

**LEGAL TRENDS****Christian Schools Banned From Praying at Championship Game**

A Christian high school in Florida is fighting a mandate that prohibits their football team from praying before games. Fox News' Todd Starnes explains that Cambridge Christian School's football team was facing University Christian School's team in a 2A state championship game last December. The schools asked the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) if they could begin the game with a prayer.

The FHSAA denied their request, stating that a pre-game prayer was against the law because, though both schools were Christian, they would be playing on government property.

Liberty Institute, a law firm that specializes in defending religious liberty, is representing Cambridge Christian School. "This is ridiculous," said attorney Jeremy Dys. "We've got two Christian schools being told they can't pray."

Despite the FHSAA's mandate, the teams gathered on the field to recite "The Lord's Prayer" before the game.



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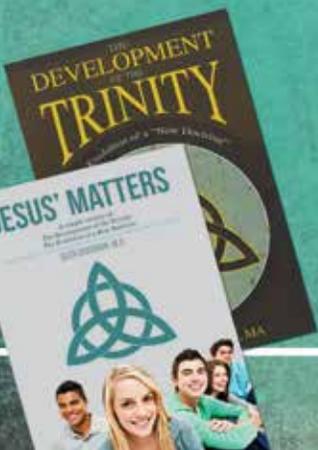
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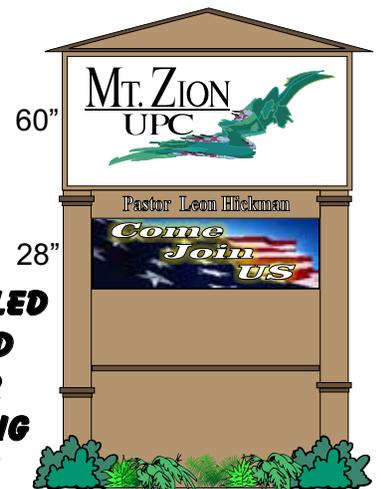
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MIKE CONN - TOPEKA, KS

THE HOLINESS OF GOD

Some of the many things that define God's character are, among other things, the vast ocean of His love, His absolute truthfulness, hatred of evil, steadfast loyalty, and a strong sense of justice. These characteristics are a direct result of His holiness. Because He is holy we can be assured that every deed and every work of God is "true and righteous altogether."

High-ranking angels who surround God's throne cover their faces and their feet while in His presence. They do not cry "mighty, mighty, mighty" or "awesome, awesome, awesome," but they continually cry "holy, holy, holy is the Lord." Isaiah heard these words and saw that they were spoken with such force and veracity that the "posts of the door" were "moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke."

The Nature of God

This adoration of the Seraphim and the words of their song strongly indicate that holiness is an intrinsic part of the nature of God. That is, it is the basis for all His other characteristics and is the most powerful component in God's persona. It is the most prominent attribute that makes God who He is. Furthermore, because of His holiness, God made it a requirement that we separate from sin if we want a lasting relationship with Him. We are commanded to make straight paths for our feet and to follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. Both inward and outward holiness are intended to be the result of the salvation process in God's people.

The absolute purity of God and His steadfast refusal to compromise that purity is similar to certain natural tendencies in humans to despise filth and vermin. Cleanliness and purity are natural characteristics of human nature (and people who are not given to cleanliness are considered inferior). People's awareness of the danger of infection and disease is a mark of intelligence that reflects the nature of God. Thus, human revulsion for filth and uncleanness causes him to separate from it and be diligent in many areas. Man's understanding of germs causes him to avoid

uncleanness because of self-preservation. This is a reflection of God's nature in us, and it can help us understand a little about God's holiness and why He chose to remain separate from evil. Yet, man in his fallen state does not see the need to avoid spiritual defilement.

Fallen man is unaware of how sin adversely affects the human mind and heart. Man's natural tendency to commit sin proves detrimental to his existence, and he is unable to extract himself from that cycle of self-destruction. Human history is littered with evidence that something is missing in the human psyche. According to the Bible, this lack is the result of refusing to be connected with God, which requires a separation from all sin.

Failure to realize the need for holiness causes much misunderstanding. Until we understand God's holiness, His actions will be a great mystery and sometimes a stumbling block to our love for Him. However, the more we discover about God the more we can see how infinitely good He is and how His intentions and motives are always right, for they are based upon the absolute purity of His character. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

The holiness of God is the reason He refuses to have fellowship with sinful humanity, and yet it was His love that springs from His holiness that drew Him to earth to save sinful humanity. Adam's sin made it necessary that he be expelled from God's presence, yet the holiness of God breached that wall and man was given a plan of salvation that allowed him to have fellowship with God. The same holiness that created the wall eventually demanded that the wall be torn down. This would be similar to what the songwriter said, "Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved." God's holiness both complicates our relationship with Him and then reconciles us to Him.

His Word is True Because of His Holiness

The truthfulness of God's Word is a product of His absolute purity. It is as silver "purified seven times," and it is "truth." This means that God's Word is a product of His holiness. Furthermore, the vast universe, that was a product of God's spoken word, was as pure as God Himself in the beginning. While the universe was being formed and the Creation process was taking place, God repeatedly "saw that it was good," and it was summed up as being "very good."

Until Satan introduced the first lie in the Garden of Eden, falsehood was a foreign idea to the Creation. The lies of Satan are not "good" and function as a malignancy in an otherwise healthy environment. They are designed to replace God's Creation with an inferior creation and a substitute god. Satan's desire to engineer a different creation that was based on falsehood and deceit can be seen in this fallen world that is filled with falsehood. It is therefore evident that the Luciferian revolt that affected both heaven and earth was an attempt to remake the Creation. This substitute creation was based on an attempt to make evil look good and good look evil, "that put darkness for light, and light for darkness."

New Life

Since the order and balance of God's Creation is the result of the ultimate Mathematician who formed the laws of nature on true mathematical equations, God would not allow His "good" universe to be compromised. He has decreed that death and destruction would be the inevitable end of every part of Satan's rebellion. He has decreed that Satan and all who follow him will be cast into "outer darkness" and swallowed by the black hole of hell. This will take place to prevent the universe from becoming the domain of the "father" of lies. It has been subjected to the "bondage of corruption" and when it is purged, it will someday be reconciled back to its original condition and put under the dominion of the "last Adam," the resurrected Christ. The resurrected Christ is the "firstborn" of this new Creation because He was given a new kind of "life." This new life cannot be overcome by death, for it is in the process of swallowing death "in victory." This new life was given to His followers' inner man when they obeyed the plan of salvation and will be given to their outer man at the first resurrection.

From Scripture we know that the worlds were spoken into existence at the command of God. They were "framed by the word of God," and upheld "by the word of his power." Therefore, anything that attempts to make God's Word untrue is a threat to that part of the creation that believes the lie. To be saved we must be begotten "with the word of truth" and be made conformable to the image of Christ. "For he spake, and it was *done*; he commanded, and it stood fast."

"Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

When God Came Near

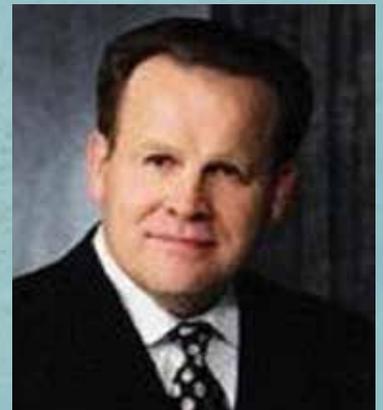
Finally, after 1,500 more years, God came nearer than anyone could imagine. He came in the "likeness of sinful flesh." However, the "man Christ Jesus" was not sinful; He was a flawless, sinless, perfect human being and "everything about him represents God exactly." God came as an ordinary man. Yet, this union of deity and humanity allowed God to closely interact with fallen creatures and affect corrupt and fallen mortals. The humanity of Christ was a medium that allowed God to dwell in the midst of lost humanity and in so doing, He gave a glimpse of a better way for man to live. God graciously revealed Himself to a horribly corrupt world.

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

The Incarnation was an act of the highest order that only a divine being could design. Its eloquence and beauty demonstrated the excellent handiwork of a holy and awesome God. "God was manifest in the flesh," and He "so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son," and "though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." It is described in lofty language in the Bible, yet that language falls far short of the full description, for even the "world itself could not contain the books that should be written."

The Incarnation was a compassionate act of mercy and grace to reach lost humanity by a pure and holy God. The influence of that act has drastically altered the course of human history and in the end will answer every argument and stop every mouth. It will become clear to everyone that God is without rival and can be believed in every situation. Furthermore, His holiness will be more clearly seen in eternity. Every "knee" will bow and every mouth will "confess" that He is Lord. The influence of the Incarnation, and what it accomplished, will influence the Creation forever. "That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."

Bro. Mike Conn has pastored in Topeka, Kansas for 39 years. Also, he has served as District Superintendent of Kansas since 2007.



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Kids-R-Super Special Ministry

Utilizing Creative Ways To Reach Children With the Gospel of Christ

By Brittney Ragan



Bro. and Sis. Bob McGray
Nashville, Tenn.

Bob and Joani McGray have been traveling children's evangelists for 25 years and counting. Their ministry, "Kids-R-SuperSpecial," illustrates the gospel message in creative ways, such as using illusions, storytelling and object lessons.

The goal of this ministry is to present the message of Acts 2:38 salvation to kids of all ages, with the hope that truth will remain in their hearts forever.

Their ministry is based out of First Church in Nashville, Tennessee. Pastor Ron and Cheryl Becton are very supportive of children's ministry. It is one of the most important programs at the church. Bro. McGray has had the privilege of speaking at many Kids Crusades held each year in the main sanctuary at First Church.

The McGrays became involved in Children's Ministry as students at Gateway College in St. Louis. During this time they purchased a ventriloquist figure from Robert Sparks, who was the Promotional Director for the UPCI General Sunday School Division. Bro. Sparks also ministered using

gospel illusions, an unforgettable technique of telling Bible stories.

The seed that was planted in them as young Bible school students continued to grow in their hearts. It came to fruition during their pastoral years in Torrington, Connecticut, where bus ministry was an exciting part of their church. These children came from all walks of life and desperately needed to know that Jesus loved them. They were privileged to be able to bring them to church to teach them the Word of God. Many of these children received the Holy Ghost in their services.

At a children's revival in Ottawa, Canada, Bro. McGray told a story about Freddy the Foolish Frog. He heard the story when he was nine or 10 years old in a revival at his church in Bristol, Connecticut. Edith and Edna Brown, twin sisters from Canada in their early 20s, were the evangelists. Each night they would take turns ministering to the children and preaching to the adults. He vividly remembers Edith telling the story about Freddy the Foolish Frog, which is a story that has a powerful message about being ready for the coming of the Lord. He never forgot this

story and the impact it made upon him.

On the night that he told this story in Ottawa, one of the children that received the Holy Ghost was a young boy. After service he discovered that he was the grandson of one of the Brown sisters – Edna (Brown) Kingsley. Only eternity will reveal the results of the ministry of these twin sister evangelists so many years ago. The message of "Freddy" still lives on today!

Prayer, fasting, preparation and passion are the most important elements that bring success to any ministry. Presenting the Gospel with excellence is especially important in children's ministry. There are many creative ways to present

the Gospel that will allow the Bible story to come alive in the hearts and minds of children, making for an unforgettable experience that will remain in their hearts forever.

Bob McGray is an ordained minister and children's evangelist with the United Pentecostal Church International. He has served as a pastor, presbyter, youth president and Sunday school director in the district of Connecticut. He has also served as the Children's Ministry Association Director for the UPCI General Sunday School Division. He is a graduate of Gateway College of Evangelism in St. Louis, Missouri. He is the father of two grown children and has five grandchildren. He and his wife, Joani, currently reside in Nashville, Tennessee. They can be reached by phone at 615-535-1136 or email at rcmccgray@comcast.net



Unique Miracle: GoFundMe Bus Project Success

By Charlotte L. Pound



Tracy & Brandon Houseworth
Carbondale, Ill.

"A good [man] leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner [is] laid up for the just" Proverbs 13:22. God has a reserve of wealth for His use. One pastor has learned to tap into it.

Brandon Houseworth is pastor of Life Church in Carbondale, Ill. He and his wife are consumed with a desire to win souls for the kingdom of God. "Vision is the number one thing that should motivate all pastors," he said.

Bro. Houseworth's vision is to fill church buses with children and youth of all ages and to bring them to a place where they can receive the truth of God's Word. To fully appreciate his vision and perspective on winning souls to God, we must go back to his early years.

As a young child, Bro. Houseworth was picked up on a church bus and taken to a Pentecostal Sunday school where he was baptized in Jesus name. "Sadly, as I entered my teens I got in with the wrong crowd and became involved in serious unlawful activities," he said. "From ages 15 to 18, I was in

a maximum security facility for teen felons for rehabilitation. During those years, God began to deal with me and reminded me of songs and lessons I had heard as a child. At age 19, I was re-baptized in Jesus' name. I soon received the Holy Ghost, and God called me to the ministry. All through my adult life, because of my personal experience, bus ministry has become my passion."

God recently called the Houseworth family to start a new church in Carbondale. "For our first service, in September 2015, we had 139 people," he said. "God continued blessing and soon I felt that we needed a bus to carry all the children and youth to services. I began talking to pastors and found a bus. It was a smaller shuttle-type bus for \$5,000. We had heard of the GoFundMe projects that were popular on Facebook, etc. I decided to set up an account and share my reason for it. A bus ministry had reached to me when I was a child. What I felt and learned at church helped bring me back to God when I was astray. I wanted God to use that to touch hearts."

Somehow, the first bus deal wasn't

working out, so Bro. Houseworth earnestly prayed for God's will and direction. "I also began searching on Ebay to find the right bus for our needs. I found a 68-passenger bus with an asking price of a little over \$3,000. This was a much larger and newer bus. I felt that this was the right bus. With little money in the GoFundMe account, God

spoke to me to step out in faith. I put in a bid on Ebay for the 68-passenger bus. Within a day or two the money started coming in. It was amazing, and in a very short time we had the purchase money, plus enough to pick up the bus and bring it home. This money came from all over the country and proved to me that God does have money reserved for His use."

Recently, Bro. Houseworth underwent very successful brain surgery to remove a tumor off his pituitary gland. "God again turned a frightening time of uncertainty into a miracle," he said. "My love for God, thankfulness for His mercy, and the vision of reaching souls for Jesus brought me through it."

For more information, contact Bro. Houseworth by email: houseworth123@gmail.com or phone: 618.201.1901



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"Experience is a hard teacher. It gives the test first and then the lesson."

* * * * *

In Budapest, a man goes to the pastor and complains, "Life is unbearable. There are nine of us living in one room. What can I do?"

The pastor answers, "Take your goat into the room with you."

The man is incredulous but the pastor insists, "Do as I say and come back in a week."

A week later the man comes back looking more distraught than before. "We cannot stand it," he tells the pastor. "The goat is filthy."

The pastor then tells him, "Go home and let the goat out. And come back in a week."

A radiant man returns to the pastor a week later, exclaiming, "Life is beautiful. We enjoy every minute of it now that there's no goat-- only the nine of us."

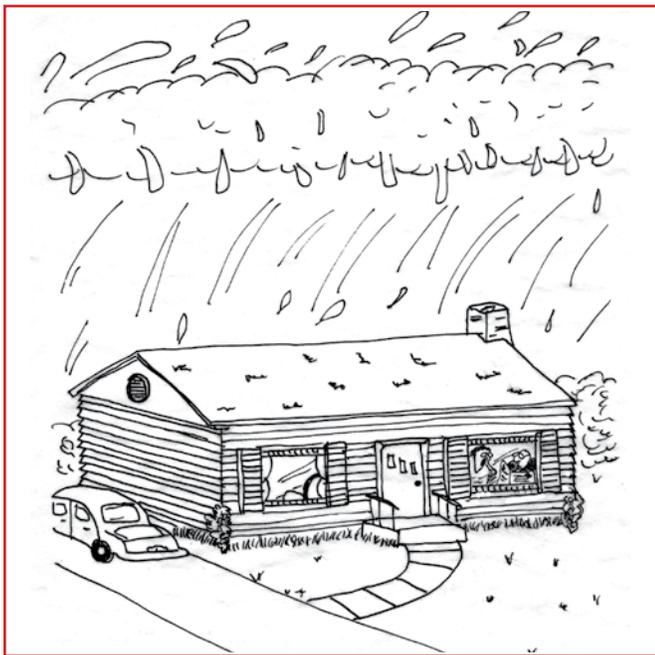
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After the revival had concluded, the three pastors were discussing the results with one another.

The Methodist minister said, "The revival worked out great for us! We gained four new families."

The Baptist preacher said, "We did better than that! We gained six new families."

The Presbyterian pastor said, "Well, we did even better than that. We got rid of our 10 biggest trouble makers!"



"Did you hear about that awful tidal wave that the missionary told about Sunday morning? I am sooo thankful we live in America where things like that don't happen!"

* * * * *

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He finished and there was an awed silence at his testimony as he moved toward his seat. As he sat down a little old lady sitting in the same pew leaned over to him and whispered, "I dare you to do it again."



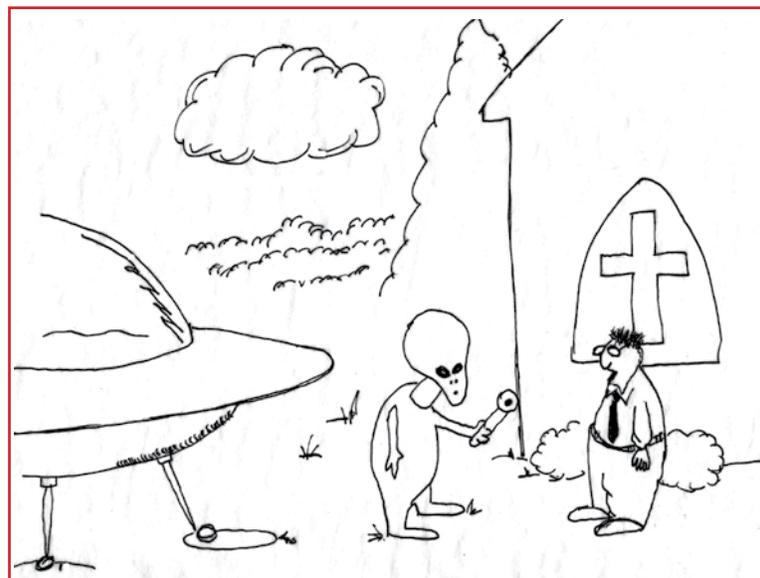
"Pastor, is liking myself on Facebook a sin?"

* * * * *

The Top Ten Ways the Bible Would Have Been Different If It Had Been Written By College Students

10. The Last Supper would have been eaten the next morning...cold.
9. The Ten Commandments are actually only five, double-spaced, and written in a large font.
8. New edition every two years in order to limit reselling.
7. Forbidden fruit would have been eaten because it wasn't cafeteria food.
6. Paul's letter to the Romans becomes Paul's email to contact@romanschurch.org
5. Reason Cain killed Abel: They were roommates.
4. The place where the end of the world occurs: Finals, not Armageddon.
3. Out go the mules, in come the mountain bikes.
2. Reason why Moses and followers walked in the desert for 40 years: They didn't want to ask directions and look like freshmen.
1. Instead of God creating the world in six days and resting on the seventh, He would have put it off until the night before it was due and then pulled an all-nighter.

* * * * *



"If you're going to erase my memory, could you include the sermon I preached last night? It was a real stinker."

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When the time comes, you can pass this privilege onto your children or you can include a final bequest to the ministry of your choice, potentially maximizing estate tax advantages. So whether you want to carry on a tradition of giving within

your family or simply provide ongoing support for the ministries you care about, the fund helps you simplify your planning.

After opening your fund, you can simply contact us with your personalized recommendations of how your DAF funds should be distributed. You can fund your account through cash, securities, real estate or other assets. This is a convenient, simple way to be more strategic about your giving to the Kingdom of God. For more information contact Kent Russell at: krussell@upci.org or 314-373-4363.

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