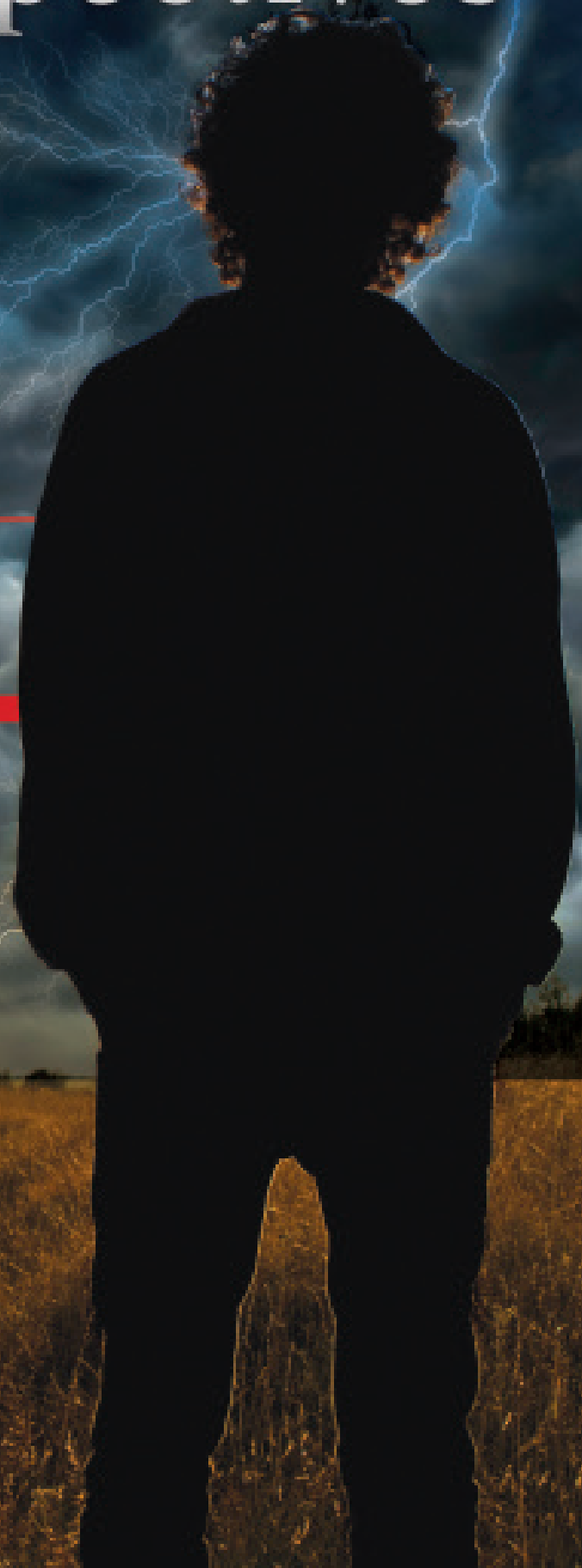




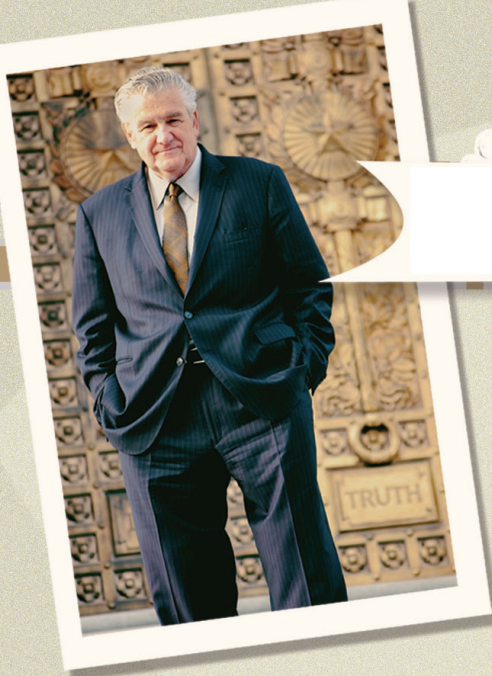
# Perspectives

## THE **VALUE** OF AN AFFLICTION

Gary Keller • Pastor of New Life Christian Center • Lancaster, OH







From The Publisher

## Dialogue With Reality

Paul D. Mooney

**“Trying to adapt the manners, techniques, and/or methods of this world, or worse, the false manner and methods of charismatic charlatans into the structure of an Apostolic church is a foolish endeavor -- the very opposite of the Apostles’ foundation.”**

I suspect we would all agree that no political campaign in recent history has incited more dialogue, denunciation, false news, real news, insulting rages, horrible feuding, bold oratory and occasionally some powerful and commanding rhetoric. Laying aside political opinion, it is obvious that despite the ugliness of the debates and the constant barrage of negative news reporting, the nation, nevertheless, was fully engaged. Coffee shops, talk shows, universities, offices, family gatherings, and even churches provided lively venues for endless dialogue. The result? American voters responded. And a political revolution exploded into the history books.

The issues, although still in a state of fluidity, are at the very least being submitted to debate and dialogue by large numbers of people, both on the left and right. This dialogue is illuminating America’s ugly sins and weaknesses. Yet, in some ways, it is also revealing the glorious hope for this country’s future. We are rediscovering what’s important, the things that matter.

Christians should learn from our culture’s present example. Dialogue matters. Preaching the Bible under the anointing of the Holy Spirit reveals the conflicts caused by sin. It turns the world toward the truth. It strengthens the vision and joy of the church. It calls home backsliders. It gives peace and hope to the hearts and minds of God’s beloved humanity. Jesus commanded His disciples to go and preach. “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). I suspect Jesus gave this command because it works. It’s His chosen method.

“For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe” (1 Corinthians 1:21). Herein lies an important issue, “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Timothy 4:2). We can shake the world again -- ‘preach.’ Jerry Jones, our beloved General Secretary, got it right in his new book entitled *We Preach*.

“It’s easy to forget,” as James Herrick, Hope College professor, mentioned recently in his discussion concerning the massive negative impact that the Internet is having on our children, “that students today inhabit a ‘phantasmagoric’ theater of frenetic-media images, raw emotion, and powerful appeals that undermine the ‘self,’ to make a sale.”

The more one looks into Herrick’s warning the more one understands the monumental significance it plays concerning the darkness of this “present world.” The word *phantasmagoric* references the images of horror, religious mysteries, animal-

ism, violent rituals and such, as is common to the cyber world, video games, television and movies, that dominates minds and lives, especially of children. Once exposed, young minds carry these images, messages, thoughts, suggestions, challenges and inducements in their heads and hearts constantly, every day. These strong and influential images shape a child’s thinking and personality. It is not good. The consequences are destroying the innocence and happiness of our children. Many are enticed into alternate personalities or extreme characterizations.

Psychologist Michael Seto states, “We are living through the largest unregulated social experiment of all time. A generation of youth who have been exposed to extreme content online, we are facing serious ‘socio-technological implications.’” In London, 200 teachers, psychiatrists, neuroscientists and other experts signed a paper expressing alarm over the “erosion of childhood” (*The Daily Telegraph*).

Either we preach in order to challenge the darkness of this world or we lose. The Prophets and the Apostles were protagonists against humanism. God’s carved stones given to Moses were a direct challenge to the status quo. Our generation must understand that there is no compatible compromise with the world’s philosophies. Trying to adapt the manners, techniques, and/or methods of this world, or worse, the false manner and methods of charismatic charlatans into the structure of an Apostolic church is a foolish endeavor -- the very opposite of the Apostles’ foundation.

An Apostolic church is the one place we should expect the believers to be overcoming these matters. It’s possible, of course. Preach the word -- it transforms sorrow into joy, it strengthens the weak, it expels darkness from the mind. Confront and address the false hopes and false religions that are overwhelming the world. May we forever exalt Godly living as a lifestyle of joy and peace, deny the overt juvenilization of church services, and call our youth to greatness in Christ.



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

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

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

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# 20

## GUEST PULPIT:

### THE VALUE OF AN AFFLICTION

- GARY KELLER




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# GETTING ALONE WITH GOD

Interviews by Maranatha Gannon

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



**Ben Weeks, Lake Park, GA** - It is no accident that the most powerful and effective preachers are those who spend much time in consecration. Setting aside several days each year in prayer and fasting allows me to re-establish my priorities, receive fresh inspiration and oftentimes specific direction for our local church. It is sensed by others when you communicate what God has given to you personally or revealed to you out of Scripture during those special times in His presence. The anointing does not happen in a moment. It is not an event that only takes place in the pulpit. The anointing is a way of life which flows out of a lifestyle of surrender and sincerity. An anointed prayer life will produce an anointed preacher.



**Jim Sleeva, Indianapolis, IN** -- These times of prayer often occur when a crisis enters your life and forces you to make a decision. There are other times when we reach a plateau in ministry and no matter how successful or busy we are, we are still dissatisfied and experience deep hunger and crave something more in God. This type of extended, set-apart prayer is essential for God to give us greater vision of who He is and His purpose for our lives. Prayer retreats

can be enriched with reading His Word, listening to sermons, and just simply meditating. I have utilized several prayer retreat methods, and have found that a quiet place in a church works very well. I have also discovered that long road trips provide not only a geographical change, but also a different perspective on life.



**Rufus Parker, La Crosse, WI** - In scripture, Jesus often rose early and went into a solitary place and prayed. He taught this same principle to His disciples. The ministry is taxing and Jesus exemplified that one must come apart and rest a while. Just like the disciples, we as ministers need to get alone with God not only in prayer, but also in learning. There have been times that I have locked

myself away in the church all night just to be alone with God. These times allow God to restore our strength and provide encouragement. Every minister has to learn the value and importance of spending time with Christ and seeking His face for their direction. This should be a part of every pastor's training development for his younger ministers.



**Rich Thomas, Madison, WI** - When I feel led to pray for special answers, or something of that nature, I almost always couple prayer and fasting for one to three days. I have been at several all-night prayer meetings; however, those have not been the most beneficial for me personally. I have been on several longer fasts but for the most part they have been one to three days. I strive

to be faithful to prayer at least one hour a day and fast one day a week. This consistency has been beneficial in many ways. Quarterly, our church schedules three days of prayer and fasting. This year our church went on the 21-day Daniel fast with amazing results.



**Wendell Elms, Lufkin, TX** - My longest prayer time was about four hours without interruption. This prayer time was prompted by a challenge I faced within my congregation. One simply cannot obtain answers to spiritual problems from secular or educational resources. Prayer is the life-blood of pastoring. It is the oxygen of our calling. Prayer is relationship. Without relationship with God one cannot fulfill God's will for their life, and one cannot know God without being in relationship with Him.

Spending time together builds the foundational relationship upon which everything spiritual is built. The anointing is derived from prayer. Without the anointing we will be reduced to sensationalism.



**Marshall Newble, Milwaukee, WI** - As in the days of the prophet Joel, I believe it is vital that we also engage in a personal solemn assembly. The word for "solemn assembly" in Hebrew is *atzerah*. This is a biblical term for a sacred gathering for concentration unto the Lord for spiritual increase, provision and protection. This also includes little to no laborious work as well as abstaining from normal or daily fleshly pleasures. Joel chapter one and two specify a fast accompanying this special time. I personally set

aside each Monday of the week as a day of concentration, prayer and fasting unto the Lord. I have even included a statement on the church website concerning this endeavor in order to minimize the amount of interruptions on this particular day.



**Stephanie Gallion, Indianapolis, IN** - I have been involved in several types of prayer retreats ranging up to 21 days of prayer and fasting. Some were 24-hour prayer times, others a complete retreat away from the noise and still others a time spent in my personal "closet."

Normally, these times come from needing direction or an answer during a difficult season. Most often, I find myself wanting to push away outside distractions in order to hear a clear Word. When we spend time in fasting and prayer our perception changes and we are able to view situations through a more spiritual lens.

I never fail to receive what I'm needing from the Lord during these times. "Seek me and ye shall find me..." God responds to our desire for Him. It never fails. He will always answer. He will always reveal Himself. Direction, peace, a Word, a song... all this and more can come out of a personal time of prayer with the Lord.

I believe it's imperative for every minister to set aside a time for personal prayer retreat. And not only every minister but every Christian. Every saint of God. Life gets busy, overwhelming and consuming. I think it's important to discipline ourselves in order to clear ourselves of the voices and influences around us. There are some things that only come out by prayer and fasting.

With great sacrifice comes great anointing. Develop this discipline early in your ministry. There are situations that require a boldness in the spirit and a commitment to crucifying our flesh in pursuit of His will and His voice. This can only come through a time of personal prayer and fasting before the Lord.



# FAITHFULLY PURSUING REVIVAL

NATHAN HURST > HOLLISTER, CA

## **Church Growth Is Inevitable**

"There are no new gimmicks in building a revival church," says Pastor Nathan Hurst, of The Pentecostal Church in Hollister, Calif. "It's the same thing that has always worked: prayer, fasting, evangelism and unity. If you have and maintain these things, a revival church, over time, is inevitable."

Pastor Hurst has tried other things. "It's not hard to get a crowd; just give stuff away. You can even have a large service in a park or on the street and baptize a lot of people, but it doesn't work. I remember in one instance we baptized 96 in one weekend, yet none of them made it. The reason why? Conversion is personal. Even Jesus never saved souls en masse. He won people one at a time. The best way to build a church is slow and steady. Bible studies and witnessing will produce baptisms and fruitful altars. Church growth is inevitable. If you just grow 10 people per year, in 10 years you'll have 100 people."

## **Priorities**

"There are two sides to that coin," says Pastor Hurst.

"One is the systematic side, where I do my homework. Every pastor has things he has to do on a daily basis to prepare himself to be at his best for his church. You need to have your personal walk with God. Preparation for Wednesday night Bible study and my Sunday morning sermon is paramount. To be at my best I need to be prepared to have good church. I want each service to be a place where people want to come, expecting to receive something from the Lord. By the way, the saints also need to be prepared to have good church. This comes by promoting prayer and fasting every week. Everybody needs a prayer time and at least one fast day. If the church does that, the glory and power of God will be in each service. I don't preach out as much since I took the church in Hollister. To build a church, you have to be there consistently.

"The other side of that coin, called priority, is you have to be there when you're needed. Pastors are a lot like firemen -- you never know who is going to need you or when they will need you. However, if you are there when they need a pastor, it means everything to them. A time of crisis, a baby dedication, the baptism of a child, a wedding, a funeral, a hospital visit -- all of these build relationships between a pastor and his people. In my 32 years of pastoral experience, I've seen this truth many times. Be there when you're needed. Between the systematic preparation and being there for people when they need you, it's a full-time job."

## **Growth Ministries and Methods**

On Sundays, Bro. Hurst schedules only one service "so we don't get in a hurry. Our main goal is to have a great service. This one has to count. This is the only service on Sunday. It doesn't matter how you feel or what you're going through, you get up for that service, and you give it your very best. You only have 52 opportunities like that in a year.

"One of the best things going right now is our Wednesday night New Converts/Christian Development class. Currently, we have about a dozen adults in class. It's really working because the new converts are, number one, being taught to come on a Wednesday night. Number two, a lot of times they bring their friends. So this class is also a soul winning opportunity, along with discipling people. Sometimes, they'll come two or three weeks on a Wednesday night before they ever come to church on Sunday. It's a small group and they get to know one another. So when they come to the auditorium on Sunday, they're not lost in the crowd. They already feel at home. We don't rush people through New Converts class. They've got to learn how to live for God. I've found that this laid back, small group approach is best for discipling new converts.

"Wednesday nights, we have very good attendance. Also in session is Kids Club, Ignite (Youth), Young Adults (Hyphen) and Pastor's Bible Hour. It's not unusual for a move of God to break out in any of these classes. A surprising fact is we have more kids that come from the community on Wednesday night than we ever had on Sunday morning. So our Wednesday night is working very well. I've learned that if it's working, stay with it."



### Promoting Involvement

Pastor Hurst estimates that 65% of his people are involved in some sort of ministry. "The parable of the sower in Matthew 13 and verse 8 states that the seed that falls onto the good ground brought forth fruit. Some 100 fold, some 60, and some 30. I believe that this is speaking of people's spiritual capability to produce fruit. Their level of spiritual productivity, if you will. A pastor can waste a whole lot of time trying to make a 30% producer a 100% producer. All you're going to get is frustrated. You must find out how much a person is capable of, and then work with them to produce at that level.

"You always have a percentage of your congregation that only wants a place to go to church. They'll pay their tithes and be faithful, but they do not have a desire to be involved as far as a job or ministry is concerned. I'm not going to write them off. If they want to live for God, I'll be their pastor. Whether they want to be involved or not, they're welcome in my church, but I still strive to get as many people as possible involved in ministry."

### Philosophy of Ministry

Bro. Hurst believes the following: "1. There are no throw-away people. It doesn't matter who you are or what you've done, everybody can be helped by Jesus Christ. 2. Everybody deserves respect. There is a great need in the human psyche to be respected, and people will congregate where they feel respected. We don't respect their sinful lifestyle, but because they are a soul, a God-breathed entity, we will respect them. You can preach to people and tell them they are lost but do it with respect. 3. Great people are kind to everybody. Sometimes, churches major on 'spiritual things,' but they forget that without kindness, there is no spirituality. These three principles are always my guide in everything I say and do."

When dealing with difficulties, Bro. Hurst says, "If you preach on the problem, usually it will only get worse. If you attack the person who is creating it, it will make other people feel sorry for them. When you ignore the problem, and instead preach on the great themes of Scripture, Jesus Christ, the power of the Word, the Name, Salvation, the fact that God can do anything, the blood, etc., you elevate the entire conversation. The Word is creative. When you take the Word of God and speak it, you create new worlds. Preach the Word in the spirit of faith, and not aggravation or personal agenda. Purely preaching the Word of God in the spirit of faith wins every time. If it doesn't change things the first, second or third time, it will eventually. I've learned this from personal experience."

### Continued Growth

Pastor Hurst is always aware of the children. "Back when my wife and I were evangelizing, if we were not having a breakthrough in the church, we would start focusing on the children. Why? Be-

cause children are the easiest to be touched, because their heart is tender. When you touch the heart of a child, you will also touch the heart of a parent. That's not manipulation; that's wisdom. This year when school started, I had all the kids come up to the altar, and talked to them and promised I would pray for them while they were in school every day. A couple came up to me afterward and said they were so touched I cared for their kids.

A lot of people have come into our church because of the emphasis we put on children's and young people's ministries. Moms and dads want their kids to be saved. They want their kids to be part of something that's good for them."



Bro. and Sis. Nathan Hurst  
Hollister, Calif.

### Concluding Remarks

"If you're going to build a church, it takes time and faithfulness. Nothing in God's kingdom was built overnight. God is slow. He doesn't move like we want Him to when we want Him to. You can't force God to move even through prayer and fasting. He's God. He's going to do it His way in His time. If you're faithful and consistent, if you're doing the right things, having good church, preaching good sermons and loving people genuinely over time, it is inevitable that you will build a great church. But it takes time. Don't get in competition with yourself or anybody else. Focus on the long-term goal and you'll get it. I've done it once by the help of God already in Texarkana. That took me 20 years. I'm doing it again in Hollister, and I've already been at it for 12 ½ years. I wouldn't want to be anything else in the world but an Apostolic, Holy Ghost-filled preacher and pastor."



Exterior of The Pentecostal Church in Hollister, Calif.

Top left clockwise: Pastor Hurst dedicates a baby to the Lord; A child is baptized; A view of the church sanctuary; Pastor Hurst preaches to the congregation.



# RESTORE

## SPEAKER SCHEDULE

### THURSDAY PM

Jon Petoskey | East Hartford, CT  
Brian Kinsey | Pensacola, FL

### FRIDAY AM

Cindy Miller | Columbus, NJ  
James Hughes | Pearland, TX  
Sam Emory | Merced, CA

### FRIDAY PM

David K. Bernard | Hazelwood, MO  
Michael Ensey | Hazelwood, MO

### SATURDAY AM

Theodore Brooks | New Haven, CT  
Jimmy Toney | Hazelwood, MO  
Doug White | Silsbee, TX

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## The Ministry of Hanging Around

By Brent Randall



Brent Randall  
brent@brentrandall.com

Eight-year-old Samantha was late getting home from school one day. When she eventually arrived and strode up the walk to the front door of her house, her mother met her at the door with a slight scowl.

"Where have you been?"

Mom snapped while the girl in the red-and-blue checkered school uniform looked up

shyly.

"Sorry I'm late, Mom, but I stopped to help Donna," Samantha replied.

Her mother asked, "And just what was wrong with Donna?"

"Her doll broke," said Samantha sympathetically.

Mom responded, "Oh, so I guess you stopped to help her fix it."

"No," replied the eight-year-old, "I stopped to help her cry."

If you work in children's ministry long enough, you will at some point come across the child with the problem that you just cannot fix.

But that runs contrary to our nature! By and large, Sunday school teachers are control freaks who like to fix things! It is simply how we are wired.

In fact, we are so driven to fix things that we can live under a cloud of guilt, fretting over all the things, people and situations that we cannot repair in our own strength.

The day will come when you will meet that situation over which you have no control. A child in your circle of influence will have an unsolvable problem: a family breakup, a terminal illness, or some other tragedy for which there is no answer.

Sometimes the only effective response we can deliver is to just cry with people, and that includes children in need. The second half of Romans 12:15 instructs us to "Weep with those who weep." It does not command us to fix every problem that comes our way. It simply commands us to cry with those who are hurting.

I have a tender memory from my childhood of my fifth-grade teacher, Mrs. Meyer, comforting me regarding my parents' impending divorce. She didn't solve my problem, but she showed that she cared, and I have never forgotten her kindness.

There is such a thing as "The Ministry of Hanging Around." Sometimes all you can do is just hang around with someone in need, hold their hand, and cry with them.

You don't have to have all the answers. You don't have to fix everything.

Maybe all you can do is cry. And that's ok.

**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). Call or text: (209)601-4315.**

## Five Signs a Young Leader is Ready For More Responsibility

Most young leaders are eager to rise in their level of responsibility. They want to excel, be productive and make a difference. They want to rise in leadership. That's a good thing. Knowing when that should happen is a very artful process requiring wisdom and discernment.

Giving more responsibility too quickly can hurt a young leader and cause a set-back in their growth. Also, giving more responsibility too slowly can frustrate a young leader and cause them to lead beneath their ability, and possibly affect their team spirit.

Here are five key indicators to increase the level of responsibility:

1) *They love their current job and excel at it.* Over the long haul, the majority of success is found through a positive attitude expressed through persistence, gratitude and personal growth. Competence is essential, but attitude is the winning edge.

2) *They've been in their current role long enough to show consistent results.* If a young leader shows up and "kills it," that's great. But like the honeymoon of a young couple just married, the first few weeks and months are usually smooth sailing. In terms of real results for your young leader, you don't really know anything of their competence until at least 12 months in a specific leadership role.

3) *They demonstrate margin and capacity for more.* Margin and capacity are subjective and carry a different interpretation for each person. Both are wonderful traits that begin to authentically reveal themselves only after the leader has demonstrated love for their job, a great attitude and competence. When those behaviors are consistently in play, you can gain confidence that their skill, experience level, and ability to prioritize (focus), have created margin to handle more (capacity).

4) *They demonstrate a healthy personal life and growth patterns.* You discover the true bottom line when you pay attention to their whole life. How are things at home with their family? Whether single or married, the health of their family relationships is a huge deal. No one can carry an ever-increasingly heavy load when things are chaotic in their personal life.

5) *The organization has an available role that fits their gifts and abilities.* Sometimes a young leader must be patient. If your church doesn't currently have an area of responsibility that makes sense, it's foolish just to make up a job so they have more to do. Greater responsibility must be a marriage of the gifts and desires of the young leader, as well as the needs and vision of the organization.



## TCM Saved My Life!

By Stephen Judd, TCM President



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

anonymously...

"In 2013, TCM became my home. I came to TCM hurt, broken and with nothing. I never knew God cared about me, and I had never experienced true love before. TCM taught me how to love Jesus, others and myself. They have blessed me with everything that I have. TCM saved my life. The staff loved me unconditionally, even when I didn't love myself. THANK YOU to all of the staff and people who poured themselves into my life at the Mansion. My housemother, Rosalee Odum, impacted my life more than she will ever know. I am so grateful for the Judds. They are Godly

examples to all of the children at TCM. Tupelo Children's Mansion saves lives. God does love me. I love myself now. I am not broken. I am strong. Thank you TCM!"

Please pray for all of our former residents and the children who are currently at the Mansion, that good things will continue to happen in their lives.

Additional houseparents are being hired as I write this letter in order that we can expand this ministry and take in even more children. The inquiries and applications for placement are frequent. The need is so great.

As we close out 2016, I appeal to you one more time to consider sending a year-end offering to help us meet our financial needs in caring for the children.

I can assure you that your gift at this time would be appreciated so very much.

Thank you for believing in this great cause. Please know that your support is making a difference in the lives of many precious children.

Please let me hear from you by December 31. You can give your tax-deductible gift online at [www.mansionkids.org](http://www.mansionkids.org).







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# WHAT EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ISLAMIC ESCHATOLOGY

-Michael Wiltcher // Bridgeport, TX



Bro. Michael Wiltcher  
Bridgeport, Tex.

**Bro. Michael Wiltcher, tell us a little about yourself and your ministry.**

I was ordained in 1976. I have pastored two home mission churches, one in North Carolina and one in Georgia. I have pastored in Bridgeport, Texas for the past 17 years. I am

the author of the book, *Ten Tests Every Christian Must Take*, currently available through the Pentecostal Publishing House. My second book, *Wolves Among Us—a survey of Preterism*, is ready for publication. I am currently working on my third book, *Kintsugi, The Broken Made Beautiful*.

## **How are biblical end-time prophecy and Islamic Muslim terrorism interrelated?**

Much of our biblical end-time prophecies focus upon the events leading up to and including the final seven years of Daniel's Seventy Weeks. The rise of antichrist, the false prophet, and their seven-year treaty with Israel are among the precursors to the climactic battle at Megiddo between the antichrist and his prophet against Jesus Christ.

Islam has its own version of the end times, an antithesis of our Christian end-time views. Muslims believe that their Islamic messiah, or Mahdi, and his Jewish prophet will arise out of great world chaos and lead a federation of Islamic nations in conquering the world to establish Islamic peace with their twelfth caliphate. Islamic terrorists believe that they can force the appearance of their Mahdi and his prophet by creating enough chaos and bloodshed to satisfy their prophecies.

## **What are the seven similarities and differences between Biblical end-time events and current Islamic end-time teachings?**

First, the Islamic Mahdi, or messiah, possesses a striking similarity to the Christian view of the antichrist. While Muslims regard our Bible as a corrupt book

of lies, they do believe that Revelation 6:2 accurately speaks of their messiah. This Mahdi will be a political and military ruler that will "go forth conquering" over the entire earth, and will rule the world from the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. He will put to death every non-Islamic Jew and will force people to embrace Islam or face a beheading as described in the Quran. He will also change the laws and the times to fit the Islamic calendar of weeks and years (Source: [http://www.discoveringislam.org/end\\_of\\_time.htm](http://www.discoveringislam.org/end_of_time.htm)).

Second, the Islamic Mahdi is accompanied by a Jewish prophet whom they call Isa, or Jesus, the son of Mary. While this Jesus is a perverted version of the Jesus in our Bible, he is eerily similar to the false prophet of Revelation 13. This Muslim Jesus will affirm the Mahdi as the chosen one and assist the Mahdi in the subjugation and conversion of the world unto Islam. He and the Mahdi will slay the "Jewish Deceiver" in a climactic battle in Israel. In Christian eschatology, the antichrist and his prophet are defeated and are cast into hell (Source: [http://www.discoveringislam.org/return\\_of\\_jesus.htm](http://www.discoveringislam.org/return_of_jesus.htm)).

Third, Islam has an "antichrist" that they call the Dajjal or Deceiver. This Islamic "antichrist" will be a Jew who claims to be the Jesus of the Christian Bible and will come with his army to defend Israel. This Jesus will meet the Mahdi and Isa (Islamic Jesus) in a deciding battle and be defeated. In Christian eschatology, Christ defeats His enemies (Source: <http://www.discoveringislam.org/anti-christ.htm>).

Fourth, Islamic prophecies state that the Mahdi will make three treaties with Rome (Christians) before signing the fourth treaty with the sons of Aaron (Israel). This treaty with the Jews is stated by Islamic prophecy to be for seven years, but will be broken, and Jews will be forced to convert to Islam or be put to death by beheading. This is eerily similar to the actions of the antichrist that also makes a seven-year covenant with Israel, only to break it, and change the worship in the Temple (Source: *Tabarani*, as related by Hadrat Abu Umamah, as quoted by Zubair Ali, p. 43 and Abdullah, p. 55).

Fifth, Islam teaches that the number 666 is a holy number to be embraced.

Keikhosrow Emami, editor of *Universal Unity*, wrote, "In accordance with God's will, the 19-based mathematical miracle of the Quran will prove to the whole world that 'The book is, without a doubt, a revelation from the Lord of the universe. The mathematical signature of our Creator, '19,' was one of the signs, and '666,' the book [Quran] that contains the 'Message.' [The number] 666, it is indeed a glorious Quran, in a preserved master tablet." Emami also claims that Satan is trying to undermine Allah's mathematical miracle in the Christian book, *The Revelation of Saint John*, by giving it a curse rather than a blessing (Source: <http://universalunity.org/UU14.2.html>).

Sixth, Muslims believed that the official beginning of the end times and the coming of the Mahdi would have occurred in 2015 or will occur in 2016. The coming of Isa, or Jesus, the son of Mary, will occur in 2022, according to Islamic prophecies (Source: [http://www.discoveringislam.org/end\\_of\\_time.htm](http://www.discoveringislam.org/end_of_time.htm)).

Seventh, great global and cosmic signs are expected to precede the arrival of the Mahdi, just as there are global and cosmic signs that precede the coming of Jesus Christ (Source: [http://www.discoveringislam.org/signs\\_before\\_mahdi.htm](http://www.discoveringislam.org/signs_before_mahdi.htm)).

## **So, what lessons should we learn from these parallels? How should we view today's Islamic terrorism?**

We should recognize that every end-time prophecy in our Bible will be fulfilled exactly as the prophets of old have stated. It also should cause us to, at the very least, consider the *possibility* of the rebirthing of the Ottoman Empire as the vehicle by which the antichrist and false prophet enter the world stage.

No matter by which vehicle the antichrist enters, a revived Roman Empire or revived Ottoman Empire, acts of terrorism will greatly increase because Muslims believe it is their manifest destiny to bring about a one-world government and religion based upon Islam. They are filled with a terrible resolve to make it so (Source: <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/03/what-isis-really-wants/384980/>).



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>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>JULY 26-28</b>	<b>North American Youth Congress 2017</b> The largest gathering of Apostolic students in North America	Lucas Oil Stadium 500 S. Capitol Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46204	Michael Ensey, Tom Ellis, Sam Emory, Victor Jackson, Jason Staten, L.J. Harry	UPCI General Youth Division
<b>AUG 21</b>	<b>Indiana Bible College Fall Semester Begins</b> Student Welcome Weekend Aug. 18-19 Classes Begin Aug. 21	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>



# Church Growth: #1 Strategy For Helping Your Church Grow



Robert L. Rodenbush

## ■ Church Today

[rlrodenbush@earthlink.net](mailto:rlrodenbush@earthlink.net)

### Creating Delinquents

In a South African game park known for rescuing animals from extinction, there was a problem. Approximately 39 endangered white rhinos had been attacked and killed. Poaching was ruled out as a cause since the valuable rhino horns were left untouched. So game wardens began monitoring activity within the park and what they found was fascinating. A group of younger orphaned elephants that had been transferred from another game park were the culprits. Unusual, since elephants are typically herbivores and attacking rhinos went against their very nature.

The problem started nearly 20 years earlier when there were too many elephants in South Africa's Kruger National Park. The proposed solution was to cull the adult population of elephants and save the children, who could be easily transported. "The intentions may have been good but the program created a whole generation of traumatized orphans thrown together without any adults to teach them how to behave" (<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/the-delinquents/>). Eventually these elephants became lonely, troubled and aggressive and became known as "the Delinquents."

As I read this story, I thought how could people so easily miss the mark? Did game wardens really think they could kill off the adults in a population and not have any consequences? That everything would be ok? But when you think about it, as a society we are doing something very similar as we distance our children from traditional parenting and the influence of elders, teachers and preachers.

When a parent squanders or destroys influences of righteousness and holiness, how can that parent expect the child to grow to embrace these essentials? Sadly, it is often only when a child is in a crisis of rebellion that parents want the youth pastor, Sunday school teachers and pastor to save the day. But, unfortunately, after years of killing off their influence by badmouthing the church, picking and choosing which standards to enforce in the home, by not making church a priority; the time for intervention has long passed.

In Africa, there was no salvaging the delinquent elephants. Researchers tried everything they knew to try to retrain the creatures. They showed them love, worked to try and teach them how adult elephants behave. But ultimately, they became too dangerous, attacking more animals and even humans and had to be put down. We are afforded a window of opportunity - a time to plant the right seeds and make an investment in the lives of our children. But, too often we resist the authority in our lives and in the lives of our children. Let us not kill the voices of reason, the voices of wisdom, the voices of influence, the voices of sound doctrine, and of right living.

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" (Matthew 23:37).



Bobby Killmon

## ■ Theology

[bobby.killmon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bobby.killmon@sbcglobal.net)

### *I always hear from elders to "listen and read critically" sermons and other commentaries. How can I do that well?*

What a great question. There is no way to treat the breadth of that here in the brevity of this article, but perhaps we can treat one example in the next couple of column articles.

How we approach the Bible matters. Reading and listening to others discerningly is necessary because one's theological starting points can distort what they write about Scripture. The importance of understanding how we approach Scripture is shown in the ramifications for what it does to biblical inspiration and inerrancy. Unwittingly, and I believe in most cases unconsciously, some have repeated things they've read or heard without realizing the consequences. This is especially true in dealing with liberal scholarship and how it makes its way into pulpits through things like the liberal development of "historical criticism."

What is historical criticism and where did it come from? This development was "born" out of "hermeneutical presuppositions" which are our assumptions we hold when we approach reading the Bible. This can be seen by asking three very simple questions and realizing that our starting points determine our conclusions. They are as follows:

What is the Bible? There are basically three groups of answers to this question, although there are subsets in each. There is what has been called the "historical grammatical" approach that believes the Bible is the Word of God. "Historical" means, in this approach, the text is a true witness to God's interaction in history and it has been recorded and preserved for us in the Bible.

The liberal approach of historical criticism suggests the Bible isn't the word of God, but "contains" the word of God. "Historical" then means the text is a product of people through the historical process. The liberal critic assumes the Word of God is there, but it was "mixed up" with other human words that were a part of this historic process.

Finally, there is post-modern skepticism or post-modern hermeneutics which says the Bible is merely a "human" document. They claim there is no word of God in it at all. They further say the Bible is simply a reflection of the religious experiences of individuals and communities.

Directly out of these conclusions the second question is already answered. How does our view of what the Bible is affect interpretation? Or what is the "task" of the reader or preacher? The Bible-believing approach (historical grammatical) says we are to understand the text correctly, then proclaim it.

The liberal historical critical approach (Bible "contains" the word of God) says if there are "words of God" and "human words," the task of the reader or preacher is to discover which is which. We are to "sort out" the word of God, to finally "discover" the word of God, then proclaim it.

The post-modern skeptical approach (Bible is merely a "human" document) says simply read the Bible and see if anything agrees with our own desires for religious experience. This approach claims there's nothing authoritative in the Bible; it's simply another example of religious ideas, which can be used or dismissed as such. So how does this affect teaching and preaching? How does this affect methodology? I will show in the next article that inerrancy and inspiration are at risk.



T. W. Massengale

## ■ Church Growth

[tmassengale@apostolic.edu](mailto:tmassengale@apostolic.edu)

### #1 Strategy For 2017

What's the best thing you can do to help your church double in 3-5 years? Focus on helping your ministry team succeed in their evangelism plans.

First, meet with your ministry team and plan in detail what you would like to do to win souls in 2017 (a planning retreat). Have each leader hand in a one-year plan for their departmental plans and activities that supports and promotes growth. Finally, commit to meet with your team monthly,

on an off-church night, and step-by-step implement these strategic plans.

This monthly planning session will do more for seeing ministry success than anything else you can do. Keys to monthly counsel success are: (1) set dates for all monthly meetings for the entire year. (2) Get a commitment from each leader to attend faithfully (or to have someone attend in their place if needed). (3) Provide snacks, drinks, sit around a long table. (4) Begin each session with a short season of prayer (about 10 minutes). (5) Teach a 15-minute leadership training lesson - short and to the point. (6) Collect a short, written departmental report from each leader. (7) Take each department, one-by-one, and as

a group, discuss their upcoming plans for the next three months (most activities should come from their written one-year plans). (8) Most departments should have one or more activities each year that are evangelism focused. Discuss how to make each activity an evangelism success. Include event follow-up. (9) Start on time and end on time. Keep the meetings fun, focused, and fruitful.

Few churches can grow without a team ministry emphasis. This is what Jesus did. He assembled a team, trained them, and commissioned them to reach their world. To grow, you must be willing to do the same.

If you wish details on effective monthly planning sessions, call 1-800-800-0247 and order *Total Church Growth*. Or contact PPH.



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Carol Clemans

## Spiritual Growth

[carol@carolclemans.org](mailto:carol@carolclemans.org)

### What Despoils a Marriage?

Sex before marriage in the world is very common. It can be with many sex partners or your fiancé using the excuse, "We will be married soon. What difference does it make?" The difference is God! God gives the gift of sex to married couples only with His full blessing!

God considers having sex outside of marriage fornication. The Greek word for fornication is: *porneia* – the root word for pornography. Having sex before marriage robs (despoils) the marriage of its sacredness in the sight of God. The marriage has been defrauded before it begins.

In my 24 years of being a Certified Pastoral Counselor, I have counseled many couples that engaged in premarital sex. The pressure to have premarital sex usually starts with the male. Most females are reluctant, but do not have enough of God's worth in their heart to say, "No!"

So, gals, listen up! If your boyfriend or fiancé tries to "love talk" you into premarital sex, he is not asking for sex because he loves and cares about you. He is asking for sex because of his lustful selfishness. That selfish attitude and spirit will be the ruin of a marriage. He is not being spiritual and will not be the God-leader of the home that God demands.

NOTE: PLEASE GO TO [www.carolclemans.org](http://www.carolclemans.org) to read the completion of this article: *What despoils a marriage?* I write about porn addiction, the negatives of premarital sex, teaching youth sexual purity. Pastors and parents, let's become equipped to give our Holy Ghost youth the tools to resist the devil's temptations of lust. Life is short and eternity is forever. We must prepare our youth to be holy as He is holy!

© Carol Clemans - [www.carolclemans.org](http://www.carolclemans.org) - anointed teaching for churches/conferences, provides nationwide counseling by phone/Skype (636) 448-0121, 340+ articles, teaching CD's & DVD's, book: *God's Design for Marriage*. Ministry ref: Pastor Daniel Batchelor, Duplo, IL.



Arlo Moehlenpah

## Creation vs. Evolution

[moehlenpah@aol.com](mailto:moehlenpah@aol.com)

### The Fossils Say No to Evolution But Yes to the Flood

Fossils are the remains or traces of plants and animals in the earth's crust. Fossils are formed when a plant or animal gets buried rapidly such as by the world-wide flood. Fossils provide the only direct evidence for or against evolution. If evolution were true, we should find fossils of transitional forms (called missing links). The fossil record, instead, is a record of mass destruction, death, and burial by water and its contained sediments. There are no intermediates between single-celled organisms and the complex invertebrates, between fish and amphibians, or between reptiles and mammals. Creatures appear in the rocks without any evidence of step-by-step changes. Charles Darwin recognized the lack of fossil evidence for his origin of species theory but thought it would be found. In over 150 years, billions of fossils have been uncovered but there is still no evidence of a gradual change from simpler to more complex plants and animals.

Probably the most popular fossils are those of dinosaurs. The word dinosaur is not mentioned in the Bible because the word was not coined until 230 years after the KJV was translated. However, the word dragon is mentioned at least 25 times and Job described in detail both Behemoth (Job 40:15-24) and Leviathan (Job 41), which were probably land-dwelling and sea-dwelling dinosaurs.

Practically every evolutionary story about prehistoric men has now been debunked. Nebraska man turned out to be the tooth of a wild pig. Piltdown man was a deliberate hoax. Neanderthal man was fully human but perhaps suffering from bone deformities that may have been caused by disease.

Over 99 percent of the fossils are marine creatures or plants. When humans or land animals die in water, they usually bloat, float, and come apart. Scavengers, seawater and bacterial action destroy almost everything.

Sedimentary rocks, fossils on mountains and fossil fuels such as coal and oil are all over the world confirming Noah's Flood. Jesus said as the days of Noah (corrupt and filled with violence), so will be His coming.

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

[jayroeone@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jayroeone@sbcglobal.net)

### I understand there are several changes in the law that affect the minister or church administration. Can you provide some information on these changes?

Yes, we are going to see several changes that affect the reporting immediately. First, all W-2 forms and Form 1099 for 2016 must be completed and filed by January 31, 2017. In prior years we had until the end of February but not this year. Any W-2 or Form 1099 received by the IRS or Social Security Administration will be penalized a substantial penalty. This is critical for the church to timely file the necessary reporting information forms.

Some two million entities will be provided with a volunteer identification number to be placed on the W-2 forms. Please be sure to include these on all W-2 forms for 2016.

The due dates for filing income tax returns have changed. The new due dates are: for individuals April 15; regular 1120 corporations April 15; S corporations March 15, and partnership returns on March 15.

There will be many changes an individual tax preparer will request of the individual before completing the Form 1040, such as documentation for the verification of a dependent's social security number, citizenship, and that the dependent actually lived with the taxpayer. If the taxpayer claims Earned Income Tax Credit, many more proofs will be requested.

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](mailto:jayroeone@sbcglobal.net)



Delano Sherley

## Accounting & Tax

### Employee Wages

Good news! A judge has blocked the new overtime rules that we have written about over the last two months. They were scheduled to take effect on December 1, 2016. However, legal action from 21 different states was taken to stop the new rules.

While it is possible that the new rules could be implemented at some point in the

future, the general consensus is that the Trump administration will likely drop the new rules entirely.

The old salary threshold will still remain. Any employees who earn less than \$455 per week (\$23,600 per year) are still eligible for overtime if they work over 40 hours per week. There are still exemptions for ministers and teachers. Also, a church still needs to make sure they are meeting the minimum wage rates for their state.

The church still needs to make sure each employee is properly classified, and have job descriptions for everyone. As

recommended last month, it is also still important to keep proper documentation and recordkeeping regarding employees' pay rates, hours worked, etc.

Delano Sherley is a CPA and president of Delano Sherley & Associates, Inc. He can be reached at 513-737-1314. Delano Sherley & Associates, Inc., 8240 Beckett Park Dr., Suite A, West Chester, OH 45069. Email: [Delano@dsacpainc.com](mailto:Delano@dsacpainc.com) Website: [www.dsacpainc.com](http://www.dsacpainc.com)



**THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS****Canada May Ban Anti-Transgender Speech; Two Years in Prison**

Canada's Liberal Party government, led by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, has introduced a bill that would ban transgender discrimination, including both gender identity and gender expression, with up to two years in prison for violators.



Justin Trudeau

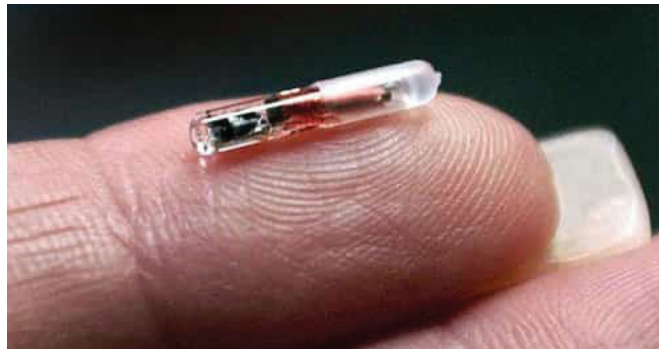
The bill seeks to amend the Canadian Criminal Code to expand existing hate speech prohibitions to include any public speech or communication that promotes hatred on the basis of gender identity or gender expression, and also the Canadian Human Rights Act, to cover transgender people.

"As a society, we have taken many important steps toward recognizing and protecting the legal rights for the LGBTQ2 community," Trudeau said in a speech. "There remains much to be done, though. Far too many people still face harassment, discrimination and violence for being who they are. This is unacceptable."

He added: "To do its part, the Government of Canada today will introduce legislation that will help ensure transgender and other gender-diverse people can live according to their gender identity, free from discrimination, and protected from hate propaganda and hate crimes."

In 2013, the Canadian Supreme Court upheld the conviction of a Christian street preacher for distributing fliers denouncing homosexual behavior. The court justified the conviction on the grounds that he used "vilifying and derogatory representations to create a tone of hatred" against homosexuals, according to *The Daily Caller*. The court held that the pastor's religious freedom did not excuse him from violating "hate propaganda" laws.

In the U.S., the New York City Commission on Human Rights released a legal enforcement guidance in December 2015 saying business owners who fail to call transgender people by their preferred name or pronoun or bar them from using opposite-sex bathrooms may be fined as much as \$250,000. Reportedly, if businesses refuse to call transgender employees or customers by preferred newly created pronouns such as "ze/hir," or if they refuse to call a biological male "her" or "she," they will be liable for paying huge fines.

**Human Microchip Implants Gaining Greater Acceptance**

There are now an estimated 10,000 people with RFID implants embedded in their bodies capable of sending out signals, but the rate of implantation has begun to increase rapidly. So why has a technology used to track and control animal populations now gained more widespread, and voluntary, adoption among young people around the world?

The first answer is convenience. In the same way that we agree to unlimited monitoring of our private communications through social media and phone networks in exchange for the convenience, people are beginning to prefer the advantages of simply waving a hand to open a door or turn on the lights.

The chips, which are usually implanted in the hand, are about the size of a grain of rice and can be used to replace identification cards as well as interact with sensors that allow an implanted person to activate home electronics.

One woman, Shanti Korporaal of Sydney, Australia now has two implants under her skin that allow her to access her work office and car without the use of keys. Her goal is to abandon the use of wallets and cards completely in favor of the implanted chips. She said, "You could set up your life so you never have to worry about any password or PINs."

The 27-year-old woman described the procedure, "They give you a local, an injection and a quick ultrasound to make sure it's in place." The mark from the implant looks like little more than a freckle on the skin, she said.

Apart from simple convenience, the chips are being marketed as a way to identify lost children, track felons, keep tabs on dementia patients and verify identity in war zones. The chips can interact with some smart phones as well as transmit identification, contacts or even medical data.

The U.S. Navy has shown some interest in the technology and some companies are already using implanted chips as a way both to monitor and identify their employees. A Swedish company has recently found itself in the headlines for allowing employees to use implanted chips rather than work passes and 400 workers have already taken them up on their offer.

Astute observers will note, of course, the similarity to a certain passage from the book of Revelation that in the New King James Version reads, "He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand, or on their foreheads."

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

■ All over the world there is a relentless march toward a cashless society, and this is especially true in northern Europe. About 95% of all retail sales in Sweden are now cashless. Hundreds of bank branches no longer accept or dispense cash, and thousands of ATM machines have been permanently removed. The government of Denmark has a stated goal of "eradicating cash" by the year 2030.

■ The Palestinian Authority is reportedly preparing to demand that United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) force Israel to "return" the Dead Sea Scrolls to the Palestinians. Currently housed at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, the scrolls include some of the earliest copies of the Hebrew Bible ever found and serve as proof of the Jewish connection to the land of Israel.

**RELIGIOUS TRENDS****Study: Nearly 90% of Americans Have Prayed for Healing**

If you've ever prayed for healing for yourself or someone you know, you're not alone. In fact, the majority of Americans have prayed for healing at least once in their lives, and this prevalence suggests the spiritual practice could have some major benefits, according to a new study.

About 79% of people have prayed for themselves

and 87%

have prayed

for others,

according to

data from a

randomized

Gallup survey

of 1,714 Americans. About 26% have

even participated in a laying on of

hands, or when a person places their

hands on the body of someone who

needs healing while praying for them.

These findings fly in the face of stereotypes about religious people, writes study author Jeff Levin of Baylor University. Contrary to popular belief, healing prayer is not used only by "poor, uneducated, rural folks, or old people, or people who are suffering from a health crisis or who are depressed or stressed out."

Despite the country's increasing secularization, there's an "undercurrent of spirituality" that still runs through most Americans, and prayers for healing is one of the ways this is manifested.

**LEGAL TRENDS****Christian School in Court to Defend a 30-Second Prayer**

Last December, the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) refused to allow a private Christian school to deliver a pregame prayer over a loudspeaker before a championship football game.

Cambridge Christian School has now filed a federal lawsuit against the FHSAA alleging they unlawfully censored the prayer and violated the players' religious freedoms.

The case stems from a Dec. 4 game between Cambridge Christian and University Christian School in Orlando. Cambridge asked permission to use the public address system to deliver a short pregame prayer. However, the FHSAA refused to let them use the taxpayer-funded microphone. Both teams ended up gathering on the field to pray, but fans and spectators were unable to hear.

Headmaster Euler said he never thought he would see the day in America where a Christian school would have to go to court to defend a 30-second pregame prayer. "This is an opportunity for us to defend our faith as a school," he said. "We've got to stand in the gap and defend biblical principles."





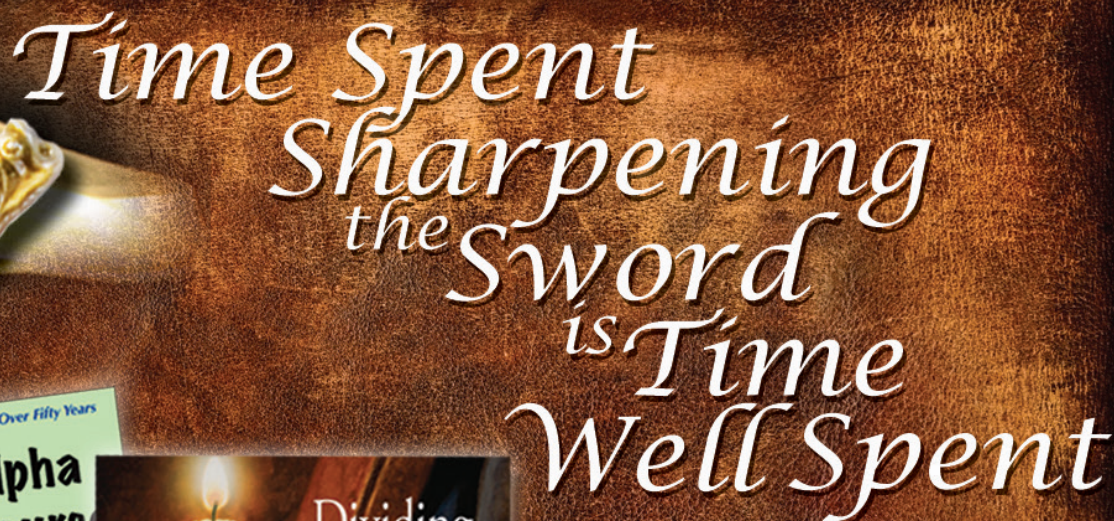
The New Year brings an opportunity for new beginnings in each of our lives and families. One important area should be that of providing for your family while you are here and after you are gone. A few questions to think about are:

- Who will raise your children in the event of an accident that takes your life?
- Do you have adequate life insurance to provide for your wife and children?
- Do you need to update your estate plan?

**Estate Planning** is planning what you want done with what you own at your death. The good news is that you can provide for the people and causes important to you by taking simple steps. Creating your plan for the future can be easy and even enjoyable. The Stewardship Group can help walk you through the process of an estate plan. For more information or to set up an estate planning seminar at your church please contact Kent Russell at [krussell@upci.org](mailto:krussell@upci.org) or 636-229-7981.

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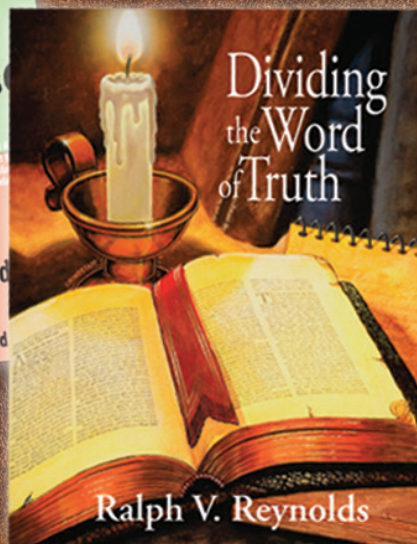
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# IBC MISSIONS CONFERENCE 2016

Written by William D. Turner, IBC Missiology Instructor



It was the final altar service of the Missions Conference that made everyone present realize something awesome and life-changing was taking place among the students of the new Missiology Department at Indiana Bible College.

When Campus Pastor Jason Gallion asked for students to come forward for prayer who felt a specific call to ministry in Global Missions, about 50 students from freshmen to seniors filled the altar area of the IBC chapel.

Faculty members prayed with them in a prolonged and intense prayer service that will undoubtedly become a very significant spiritual milestone for many of those students, a good number of whom have already participated in missions trips and various ministries overseas.

That final prayer service said it all. A deep and growing spiritual intensity among the many students who have committed themselves to the new IBC Missiology program was evident, as it had been increasingly evident throughout not only the conference week, but the entire semester.

The significance of IBC's new Missiology program became very clear when those approximately 50 IBC students filled the altar area to commit themselves to a missions calling. They were joined in a deep prayer by faculty members, along with another 200 IBC students who mingled their tears and prayers of dedication with their fellow students.

In his challenging message, Bro. James Poitras had exhorted IBC students to ask the Lord to teach them to number their days and to realize that spiritual opportunities are sometimes fleeting, and must be grasped in the present moment, even if fulfillment comes later.

Missiology now joins the Biblical Studies Department, the

Worship Studies Department, and the Christian Education Department as another important area of study for IBC students preparing themselves for a life of Apostolic ministry and service to the Kingdom of God.

Missiology Department Dean, Robert K. Rodenbush, agreed with other faculty members that the final altar service was a notable indicator that IBC was clearly on target with its new Missiology program.

IBC was blessed at this year's conference by the ministries of the Director of Education and AIM, James and Linda Poitras from the Global Missions Division of the United Pentecostal Church International, and Missionaries Steve and Kari Shirley, veteran missionaries to the Dominican Republic and the Leeward Islands. The IBC Missions Club hosted an international dinner following the evening service.

On Tuesday evening, the Poitrases and Shirleys were joined by Bro. Rodenbush and his wife, Evangeline, as well as Missiology instructors Jim Sleeva and William Turner and his wife, Elizabeth, for a question and answer session with students interested in missions as a future ministry. A wide variety of topics asked by students were discussed, ranging from dealing with culture shock to methods for opening new nations for the gospel and reminiscences about life on the mission field from these veteran missionaries.

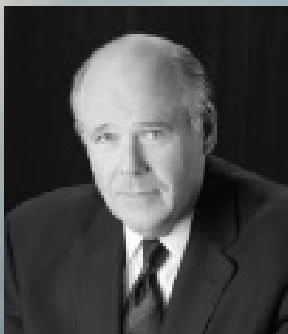
The Missions Club, led by Jessica Sully, president, Jonathan Taylor, vice-president, and Lydia Gannon, secretary, along with a large number of student volunteers, did an outstanding job of organizing the week of missions emphasis under the direction of Bro. Rodenbush, Missions Club faculty advisor.



# THE VALUE OF AN AFFLICTION

Gary Keller ♦ Pastor of New Life Christian Center ♦ Lancaster, OH

*"And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong" (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).*



Pastor Gary Keller, New Life Christian Center, Lancaster, Ohio

The thorn in the flesh, which the Apostle Paul references in this passage, came on the heels of an incredible spiritual experience where he was "caught up to the third heaven" and saw "visions and revelations of the Lord" and "heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter." It was a heavenly experience, which Paul called "paradise," and it was in this place he saw things he was not permitted to share with mortal man.

Because of the revelations and visions this experience cultivated, Paul was given "a thorn in the flesh" he described as the "messenger of Satan to buffet me." Overwhelmed by this thorn, he prayed to the Lord on three occasions asking for deliverance, only to hear these words, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."

The carnal mind makes it difficult to understand all that Paul was asked to endure. It doesn't make sense when Paul says; "I will glory in my infirmities" and "take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses..."

The Amplified Bible reads, "So for the sake of Christ,

I am well pleased and take pleasure in infirmities, insults, hardships, persecutions, perplexities and distress; for when I am weak (in human strength), then am I [truly] strong—able, powerful in divine strength." Reading this passage makes it obvious that the key to surviving a thorn in your flesh is to never allow it to become a thorn in your spirit.

In this thing called life, you are going to face persecutions, distresses, hardships, afflictions, and human weakness. Therefore, you must understand what Paul understood and make this declaration: "I'm not going to allow the thorn in my flesh to become a thorn in my spirit." We must join in Paul's resolve and say, "I'm going to trust the Lord regardless of the situation I am facing today. His grace is sufficient to take me through."

We love Romans 8:28, but we've got to go through verses 26 and 27 to get to verse 28: "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God." Now, we can visit verse 28: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Even in my infirmity, my thorn in the flesh is going to be used for His glory!

## **Separation is a Risk**

Paul made up his mind that absolutely nothing, not even a thorn in the flesh, was going to separate him from the love, the plan, or the will of God. "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come. Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God..." (Romans 8:38-39).

At MARC Conference 2015, Bro. Mooney prayed, "Lord, make us more than conquerors." A conqueror is one who fights, but someone who is more than a conqueror is someone who rules. Paul said, "In all these things we



are more than conquerors..." I'm not going to fight life's situations; I'm going to rule and have dominion over them. They will not become a thorn in my spirit.

By Paul's admission, he went through incredible hardships (II Corinthians 11:23-29). He was beaten, stoned, shipwrecked, in perils, weariness and pain, but he never allowed it to affect his spirit! Yes, you are going to have thorns in the flesh, but you cannot allow them to get in your spirit. Why? Because the moment the thorn in the flesh gets in your spirit, it will separate you from the love of God.

In Proverbs 18:14 we read that, "The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?" You must make sure the thorn stays in your flesh, because a wounded spirit, a thorn in the spirit, who can bear? In my experience, the number one reason why people walk away from the Lord, backslide, revert back to their old sinful ways and give into the buffeting of Satan, is a wounded spirit!

### ***"I Know God is a Healer!"***

My dad passed away in 1975. A few moments before he took his last breath on this earth and slipped into eternity, dad asked my mother to sing, "What Good Has My Life Been? Someday I'll Surely Know." While she sang, a blood clot went to dad's heart. While the staff tried to revive him, mom paced the hallway of the hospital only to hear a man in the room across the hall call out to her, "Ma'am, come in here. I have to talk to you." The man was from India and he said, "I know that you're going through a terrible thing right now, but I want to tell you that your husband speaks my language. All night long he praised his God in my native tongue, and this is what he said, over and over again: 'Nevertheless, not my will, but thy will be done.'"

As my mother shared this story with me a few months ago, she said, "For four or five years after your father passed away, every time the man of God would say, 'God is a healer,' I would just bow my head and say, 'No, He is not! He didn't heal my husband!'" Because of that horrific experience, the thorn in her flesh made its way into her spirit to the point she could not believe God for the supernatural. But about five years after dad died, she had an incredible encounter with God, and the Lord took that thorn out of her spirit and today she can say, "I know that my God is a Healer!"

### ***We're Not Exempt***

If there is one person in your Old Testament who would have been justified to allow the thorn in his flesh to become a thorn in his spirit, it would have been Job. He was "perfect and upright." He had seven sons, three daughters, and much substance: sheep, camels, donkeys, oxen. He was the greatest man in all of the East. However, his greatness did not provide him with exemption from tests and turmoil. By slaying his herds, his servants and his children, Satan delivered a thorn in Job's flesh. This thorn caused him to fall to the ground and worship God, "...the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD" (Job 1:21).

In his worship, he was informing Satan, "You may touch my family, my spouse, turn my friends against me, take my substance, touch my body with boils, clutter my mind with questions, and remove all my possessions, but Satan, you're

not going to take this thorn in my flesh and put it in my spirit. Why? Because my spirit belongs to God!" That's why Job could say, "But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding" (32:8). I will not give the thorn in the flesh access to my spirit. My inspiration comes from Almighty God!

If you're going to survive the thorn in your flesh, you've got to be inspired by the Holy Ghost, God's Word, and His presence. Only an afflicted person with a right spirit can pen these words: "Oh that my words were ... graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever ... I know that my redeemer liveth" (Job 19:23-25).

In the end, God gave Job twice as much as he lost: the Lord doubled the number of his oxen, donkeys, sheep and camels (see Job 42). However, Job only received seven sons and three daughters. Logic would say, he should have received 14 sons and six daughters, but consider this: when an animal dies, it goes back to the dust, and that's the end of story. But when Job's children died, their spirits went back to God and IN HIM they're still alive. The number of Job's children indeed doubled: ten children in heaven, and ten children on earth.

You may not understand why a loved one passed away, but the good news is, death is not the end, it's the beginning! "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all" (Psalms 34:19).

### ***Lord Jesus, Receive My Spirit!***

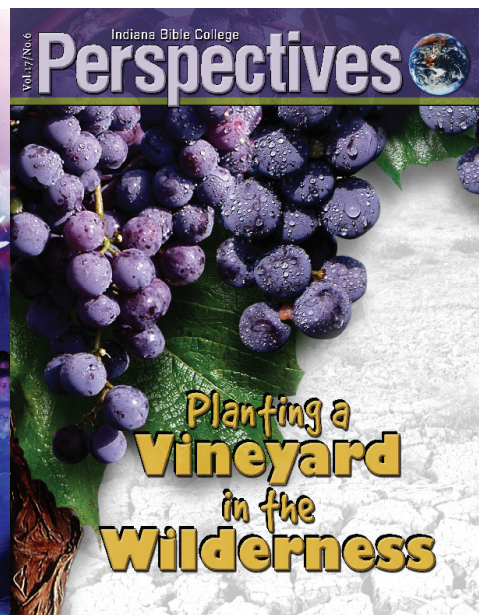
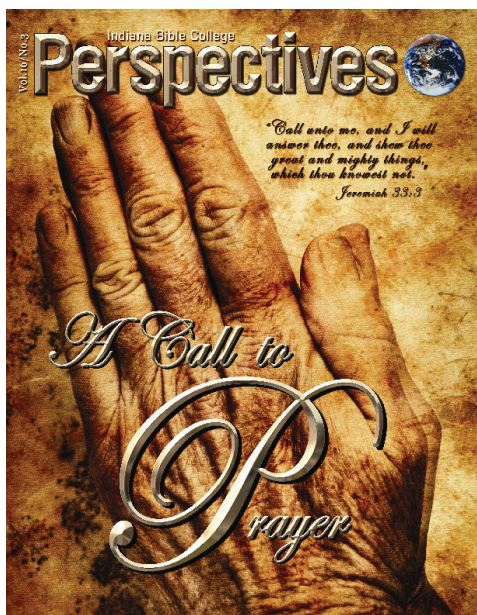
Last year, our church experienced the tragic loss of a young man named Logan Atkinson, who was killed in a car accident. Logan was 18 years old, a fourth generation member of our church. I had the privilege of dedicating him to the Lord, baptizing him in Jesus name and watching God fill him with the Holy Ghost.

As I walked into the morgue, wondering what I could say to his family, the Holy Ghost gave me these words: "Jesus Christ has always been the Author and the Finisher of your faith. You have trusted Him as the Author but today His question is, 'Can you trust Me as the Finisher?'" I can attest to the fact that his family has not allowed the thorn in their flesh to become a thorn in their spirit. Jesus is the Finisher of their faith!

The story of the first martyr, Stephen, goes like this, "And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit" (Acts 7:59). He trusted the Finisher of his faith and said, "Lay not this sin to their charge."

There are going to be afflictions, but can you trust Him as the Author and the Finisher? Make sure your spirit is always right. Don't let the thorn in your flesh become a thorn in your spirit. You, too, will be able to say, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!"





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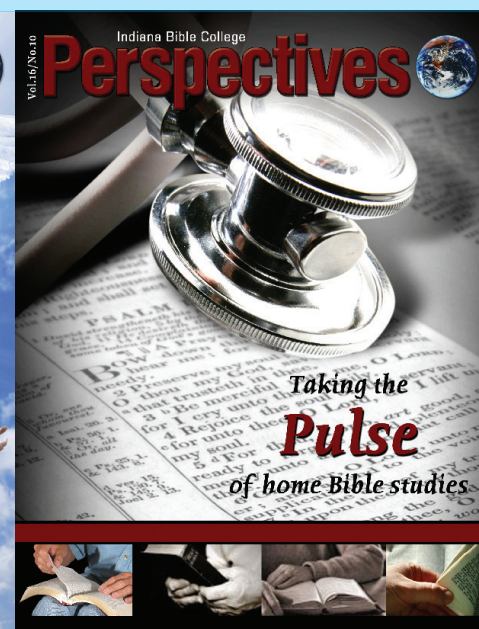
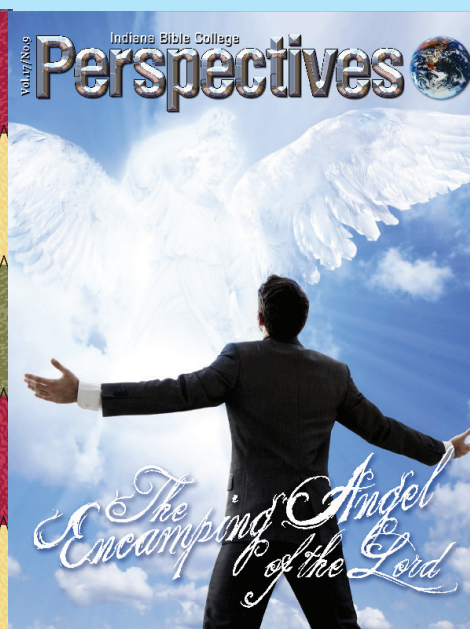
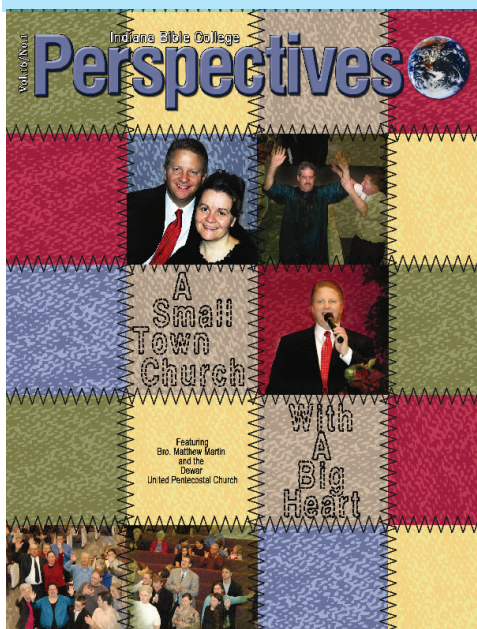
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# IBC Alum Appointed to General Youth Division

## Justin Reinking Hopes to Provide Resources, Tools to Support Local Youth Ministries

By Maranatha Gannon



The Justin Reinking family  
Dewar, Okla.

Recently appointed Director of Promotion for the General Youth Division (GYD) of the UPCI, IBC alumnus Justin Reinking shares his journey and aspirations for the department. His new mission includes that of overseeing the

creation of promotional materials, maintaining the webpage, organizing the social media team, updating and maintaining the app, and any other forms of communication needed.

Bro. Reinking grew up in Indianapolis, Ind. and attended Calvary Tabernacle through his childhood and college years. "My wife, Kimberly, and I attended IBC from 1999-2003 and after graduation became the youth pastor of Youth Alive in Dewar, Oklahoma. I was ordained in March 2013 and have been honored to serve as a senior Bible quiz coordinator, sectional youth leader, district youth secretary, and district youth president in the Oklahoma district. Kimberly and I will

soon be celebrating 16 years of marriage and have been blessed with three handsome boys: Noah (12), Elijah (10), and Micah (6)."

When sharing his vision he expressed that as Director of Promotion he hopes "to continue to contribute to the great success of the GYD. So many exciting things are happening right now, SFC (Sheaves for Christ) giving is at an all-time high, AYC (Apostolic Youth Corps) trips are growing each year, NAYC 2017 will be hosted in a football stadium, and P7 Bible clubs are having revival all across the nation. It is my dream that these and many more ministries continue to grow and are highlighted for God's glory. My goal is to help provide local youth pastors, district youth ministries, and churches with the resources and tools they need to reach the youth in their city."

Bro. Reinking expressed the vital stepping stone of Indiana Bible College in regard to his ministry journey. "It gave me the opportunity to be involved in student government and other ministry venues which

prepared me for the various leadership roles in which I have been able to serve. IBC is blessed with an amazing team of qualified, passionate and dedicated staff and faculty who believe that generations of young people need to be trained and equipped for ministry. The ability to learn principles of working

with teams, volunteers and ministries at the college level prepared me for each new step of this chapter of life. Also, many of the friendships that began at IBC have continued through the years and many of those same people have encouraged me in the ministry along the way."

Bro. Reinking encouraged those interested in ministry to, "be willing to serve. Whatever opportunity God places in front of you, do it well. Do not look beyond what may seem like small or menial tasks only to be looking for the next big thing. God wants to see if He can trust you with the small things before He gives you bigger tasks. When you put His kingdom first, He will give you the desires of your heart. When the desires of your heart match His will, amazing dreams will come true!"



# A Ministry For Musicians and Singers

## New UPCI Music Ministry Provides Online Memberships, Training For All Skill Levels

By Maranatha Gannon



Barbie and Jeromy Hoffee, Music  
Directors, The Sanctuary, St. Louis, Mo.

A dream began in the heart and mind of Bro. Jeromy Hoffee several years ago as he traveled and worked with church music programs across the country. "It became clear to me that the UPCI needed a music

division to offer support for music directors, musicians, singers and all those involved in music ministry," said Bro. Hoffee. His vision took flight when he shared his ideas with UPCI General Superintendent David Bernard. In November of 2015, with approval and support from the general board, the first phase of the UPCI Music Ministry was launched.

According to Bro. Hoffee, "This resource offers Apostolic content and training for those desiring to grow in their personal musicianship as well as to help strengthen a local church music ministry. Our first phase of the ministry offers monthly online memberships providing training as well as new songs and choruses for members. Training videos on

different instruments, as well as sound, media, voice and theory, provide a well-rounded tool for anyone involved in a church music program. In regard to skill levels, each instrument category is broken down into beginner, intermediate and advanced level videos, where everyone can benefit." Also, with the introduction of new songs, "Each song comes with chord charts, vocals, a rhythm chart, easy read vocals, and a number chart as well as drum loop."

He shared, "Aside from the technical aspects of music ministry, we also offer monthly articles as well as a newsletter, written by Apostolic directors, to give insight and perspective on music-related topics. We are also in the process of developing an app to help churches with a limited number of musicians. This app will equip you to have live music for your services and/or advance your current music climate. Along with the new app, we have plans to establish district music coordinators to help streamline music on the district level. This will also provide more community and a connection with all those involved in music ministry. In addition, we are working

toward offering certification for musicians and directors wanting to further their education and perfect their skills.

"We want to provide an outlet for everyone in the creative arts to help develop their ministry. We desire for new people to get involved and help with writing, teaching and providing monthly content." If you would

like more information in regard to monthly memberships or becoming a contributor please email [jhoffee@upci.org](mailto:jhoffee@upci.org) or visit [www.upcimusic.com](http://www.upcimusic.com). Sign up today and begin receiving this monthly content as a member of the UPCI Music Ministry. The basic plan starts at \$20/month and the premium membership is \$30/month.

Bro. Jeromy Hoffee and his wife, Barbie, serve as Music Directors at The Sanctuary in St. Louis, Mo., under the leadership of Pastor Tim Dugas and Pastor Scott Graham. Bro. Hoffee served as Director of Music at Gateway College of Evangelism from 1999-2009, and founded the J. Oscar School of Music, a private teaching studio in St. Louis. Bro. Hoffee currently serves as director of the new Music Ministry of the UPCI.





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\*\*\*\*\*

**Top Ten Signs You May Not Be Reading Your Bible Enough**

- 1) The preacher announces the sermon is from Genesis . . . and you check the table of contents.
- 2) You think Abraham, Isaac and Jacob may have had a few hit songs during the '60s.
- 3) You open to the Gospel of Luke and a WWII Savings Bond falls out.
- 4) Your favorite Old Testament patriarch is Hercules.
- 5) A small family of woodchucks has taken up residence in the Psalms of your Bible.

\*\*\*\*\*

An outspoken atheist went on a tour of a local monastery during his vacation. At the end of the tour, he remarked sarcastically to the monk who had been his guide, "Imagine, if God doesn't exist - and I believe He doesn't - you will have wasted your whole life here in this place."

The monk replied, "If I am wrong, I shall have wasted only 60 to 80 years. But if you are wrong, you will waste eternity."

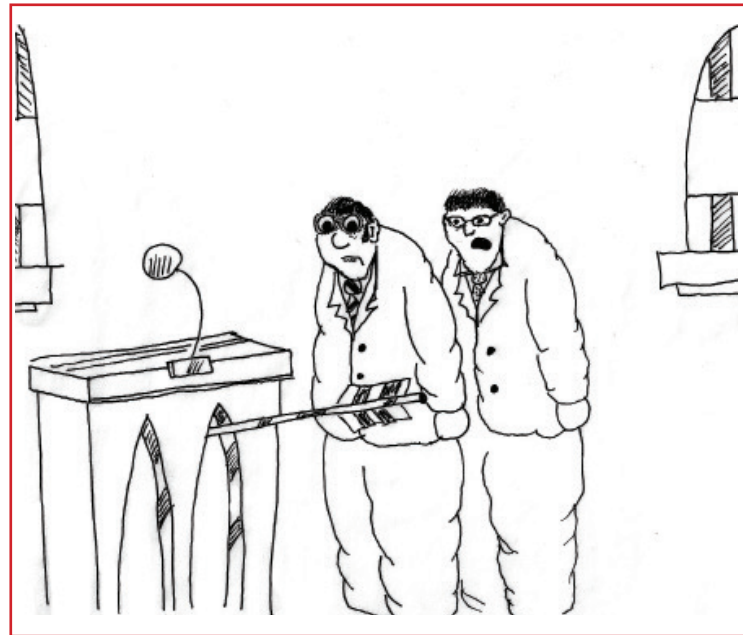


"Last Sunday night when you preached, the entire first row passed out, and they were NOT slain in the spirit!"

\*\*\*\*\*

**Witty Quotes About Elections**

1. The problem with political jokes is they get elected. —Henry Cate, VII
2. I offer my opponents a bargain: if they will stop telling lies about us, I will stop telling the truth about them. —Adlai Stevenson
3. Why pay money to have your family tree traced? Go into politics and your opponents will do it for you. —Author Unknown
4. George Washington is the only president who didn't blame the previous administration for his troubles. —Author Unknown
5. Bipartisan usually means that a larger-than-usual deception is being carried out. —George Carlin
6. There are always too many Democratic congressmen, too many Republican congressmen, and never enough U.S. congressmen. —Author Unknown
7. We stand today at a crossroads. One path leads to despair and utter hopelessness. The other leads to total extinction. Let us hope we have the wisdom to make the right choice. — Author Unknown



"Why do you always obsess about the one negative response?"

A poultry farmer was experimenting to breed turkeys with more legs for greater profits. Finally, he succeeded.

While narrating the results to his friends, he told them, "The turkey I bred had six legs!"

His friends, who had gotten quite excited, eagerly asked, "What about the taste?"

The farmer said with a long-drawn face, "I have no idea. Can't catch it."

\*\*\*\*\*

Three gentlemen were all born the same year and decided to go to lunch together to celebrate turning 50. They decided to go out to the local German restaurant because the food was good.

The next time they celebrated turning 60 years old and decided to go to the local German restaurant because they had a great senior citizen discount.

The next time they celebrated turning 70 years old and decided to go to the local German restaurant because it was handicapped accessible.

The next time they celebrated turning 80 years old and decided to go to the local German restaurant because they had never been there before...

\*\*\*\*\*



"Just don't do it if you don't want to. 'Shake hands and greet your neighbor' is only a suggestion."

# MENTORSHIP CONFERENCE 2017

WWW.MENTORSHIPCONFERENCE.COM

2<sup>ND</sup> - 4<sup>TH</sup>

MARCH

## BEAR MUCH FRUIT

Herein is my Father glorified,  
that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

*John 15:8 KJV*

MC17



ALONZO  
TERRY



BRIAN  
KINSEY



MYRON  
WIDEMAN



CORTT  
CHAVIS



D.B.  
HARGROVE



KATHY  
TERRY

### REGISTRATION

Regular Registration  
\$49 - by February 1<sup>st</sup>

Late Registration  
\$59 - by February 25<sup>th</sup>

Group Early Registration- by February 1<sup>st</sup>  
10 from one church - \$399  
15 from one church - \$499

Pre-conference Luncheon - Thursday, March 2nd

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