

VOL.27 NO.2
INDIANA BIBLE COLLEGE



Perspectives



ALL PEOPLE
TRANSFORMED--ENRICHED--INVOLVED

From The Publisher

Straight to the Point

Paul D. Mooney



"I believe we are getting an early glimpse of an unequaled, unparalleled revolution that human civilization has never imagined. Our youth are in real danger. It cannot be ignored."

"We are living through the largest unregulated social experiment of all time—a generation of youth who have been exposed to extreme content online, and we are facing serious socio-technological implications" (Psychologist Michael Seto).

As a child, I lived in a Pentecostal, holiness culture - it was a way of life. My world, for the most part, was structured in and among family, friends, and ministers who were committed to the Bible as the inspired Word of God, and believed that from it alone, came the doctrine of Jesus Christ as "God manifest in the flesh." One Lord, one faith, one baptism, and clear teaching advocating a righteous, moral lifestyle were the foundational principles of our life.

As Christians, however, my family was not unaware, dismissive or cultish in our lifestyle. My folks interacted with our community. My father worked in politics some; my brothers were soldiers, tradesmen, businessmen, and my older sister owned a local restaurant. My twin sisters were devoted Christians; and undoubtedly, the most popular teens in their high school. Later in life, they owned a gift shop.

Our Pentecostal world was not "the world," nor was it "of the world." We did witness other belief systems, disturbing customs and strange moral codes. I visited my friends' churches and quickly learned much was different from what I had been taught. There were challenges that attacked my faith and early on I learned we were not alone in this world. But walking into those old storefront churches and experiencing the anointing that fell on the preachers and the members, the moving of the Holy Spirit, the worship and praises expressed in drunken joy, and the "honest realness" of it all, kept me saved.

As a pastor and overseer of two schools comprising of nearly 600 students in our buildings every weekday, I partner with a magnificent group of parents, helpers, teachers, leaders, ministers and consultants - none of which are unaware of the message in Mr. Seto's remarks. I believe we are getting an early glimpse of an unequaled, unparalleled revolution that human civilization has never imagined. Our youth are in real danger. It cannot be ignored.

We should be troubled by immature preaching that centers on extreme juvenilization. Programs that recompose and/or "Christianize" cartoons and Hollywood heroes so as to entertain rather than train should be disturbing. The church, pastors and parents must pray for creative, anointed, focused training that will confront the cyber world that is overtaking our children's minds, morals and souls.

For us moderns, the cyber world is our great challenge, and its consequences are serious, very serious. Recently, Thomas L.

Friedman described it as a "digital river." And he predicted, as well as others, "these digital flows keep accelerating, it boggles the mind to think about how interdependent we will be in another decade. Something big is going on." Of course, we all grant that there are positive aspects, but the wise know well that the cyber world also threatens the world as we now know it.

Here's what I'm most concerned about. Although I reflected on my own childhood earlier, I never faced what our children our facing today. Nor have any of you. For an example, there is a cyber intrusion into the very core of our children's learning process (there is much research on how computers are altering minds). And, Friedman's "digital river" is floating with scum, hatred, violence, anti-Christian values, not to mention shocking amounts of pornography.

I bought an old book in London by Lloyd Scott (1925). He theorizes about Judas' betrayal of Jesus. It's likely, he says, that Judas had compared Jesus with the glamour and rituals of Ancient Jerusalem. Toward the end, Jesus was losing followers, his "impracticable morality" was more and more being rejected. Judas may have been comparing it all, and longing for the past. He states (edited), "What chance did Jesus have against the queenly city of Jerusalem, this giant rock that drew millions of pilgrims at the feast? Not even a ghostly chance! ... *the great lamps of the ancient rituals burned in gold. Judas felt he has wasted the three fevered years, like one who has been carried as a captive beyond the seas, and now comes back to an old harbor . . . the Jerusalem of his fathers, the perpetual city of his soul, to be at rest again.*"

The old preacher may have had it right. What chance did Jesus have? Could this virtual cyber world so capture the minds of our children that they ignore or reject reality and choose to live in a completely new conceptual location? The rituals of old Jerusalem pulled on Judas and others back to an old world of ordinances, sacrifices, types and shadows, a virtual world. The world and its fantastical dream of a virtual reality that promises to satisfy the souls of men is - and has always been a trap. We have a grave decision to make. Shall we say . . . oh well, so it goes and allow this next generation to succumb to Satan's swansong? Or . . . do we pick up our Holy Ghost experience and fight back, claiming no weapon formed against us shall prosper? There is no choice.

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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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**FEATURE: ALL PEOPLE- TRANSFORMED,
ENRICHED, INVOLVED**
(TROY FAIR)

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YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

challenges of retention

Interviews by Elizabeth Taylor

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

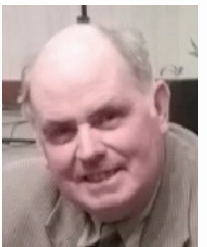


Rick Perry, New Haven, CT - One of the key issues is getting them plugged in; we trust them with equipment worth millions in our military but hesitate to use this demographic in the church. From a pastor's perspective, you have to be patient with their college and work schedules. The greatest enemy of that age group is the feeling of isolation - being on a campus and busy with life, it's easy to be disconnected from the body. Stay connected with them! Every church is unique. We don't have a "Sunday school" class for them, but we do outside activities, like bonfires and events at our home to talk about life and disciple them. There has to be a place where they are ministered to at their level with what they are dealing with, whether that is a Sunday school class or other meetings.



Stan Gleason, Kansas City, MO - This is a disciple-making issue. The church staff often provides good programs and activities but these alone do not produce spiritual maturity and decision-making skills. This is not a church problem as much as it is a parent problem. Moses made a disciple out of Joshua, but who was Joshua's successor?

When parents fail to make disciples of their children, Apostolic values can be lost in one generation. Joseph, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and Esther were in strange lands without a pastor, church or youth group, yet they stood strong. True disciples don't leave, but they last no matter what the culture or environment is around them.



Timothy Daywitt, Seward, NE - It is foundational to fall in love with Jesus and the Kingdom of Heaven. This will guide them as they make important decisions. Get them connected to our heritage, then you can make plans for their future. Also, show them that living for God is something to be glad about. If living for God is all gloom, where is the joy of the Lord? Help them to not be discouraged about a lack of progress, but see what God is doing in their lives. They need to feel

ownership and connected to the church. Don't be afraid to entrust them with responsibilities. If they don't feel like they are a part of the group, but just a statistic, they won't feel engaged.



Tim Elmore, Mt. Pleasant, TX - This begins with discipleship, starting with the youth age to help them develop a better understanding of the beliefs that we have and how to combat the secular pull. Spiritual growth first starts with setting attainable and measurable goals. Also, we must know the pitfalls that we had to face when we were that age as well. The local church should bear the brunt of this issue.

Many churches have great youth programs and just hope the young people make it through the next few years. Then, if they do make it, they have programs for the adults. But this age does need their own class to help them be equipped to make it through this phase of life.



James Julien, Indianapolis, IN - Young people of this age group are in a pivotal time in their lives, and it's necessary for the church to be intentional about ministering to them. We cannot assume they will just stick around, so it's vital to connect with them on a personal level. Building a relationship with them paves the way for creating a safe environment where open and honest discussions can be had. Spend the time and talk about the difficulties they face. A small group setting is a good way to cultivate active discussions and biblical application to their lives. Equally vital is creating a worship environment where they can truly connect to God with songs of their generation. The key? Be intentional.



Stefan Vitanza, Bloomington, IL - If we are going to keep young adults and win new ones, we cannot simply try to attract them with programs. They need to understand why we serve God and have a genuine love for the things of God. If we will teach them to love prayer, they will learn to love God. We live in a culture that says right is wrong and wrong is

right. If they know how to pray, they will learn to walk in the Spirit. Doing so will equip them to be a Christian in an increasingly godless society. We also need to involve them in God's work. If they are able to use their gifts, they will develop a sense of belonging and commitment.



Rodney Burks, Bay Point, CA - We are losing this group due to three things: the acceptance of this world has become a priority, we have placed a job as a higher priority than the kingdom of God, and we don't have enough programs designated specifically for them. We also don't incorporate them into ministry very often. We need to learn to allow our young people, before 18, the opportunity to step into ministry. Give them an opportunity to make mistakes. They need to be teaching and being used, even if they are not the best. This sets the example for the generation following them. We need to quit

looking at people according to what they can do, but use them in what they've never done and see what God will do through them.



J.R. Meyer, Portland, OR - Coming from a small church background, I saw that the leader of this group must be a spiritual leader that balances and builds relationships with this age group. Connect them with God, elders and the Word! Have pillars in the church be involved in mentoring and taking them in. If the church has a spiritual growth atmosphere, this group will thrive in it. This group longs to know God and feel God and see God work. Teach them that this is possible and teach them the Word of God and how to grow. Stay connected to this group in the schools, colleges, in their marriage.

Show them you care. Show them the church is a place where you can find Jesus, be saved and transformed and truly have purpose.

TROY FAIR/SACRAMENTO, CA

ALL PEOPLE

TRANSFORMED~ENRICHED~INVOLVED

Located in beautiful, sunny Sacramento, Calif., Calvary Evangelism Center is an exciting place of passionate worship, uplifting music and dynamic preaching. Everyone is warmly welcomed to worship and become a part of their dynamic ministries and to enjoy spiritual growth while allowing God's Word to come alive in their lives.

With this year's theme of "Be The Light," Pastor Troy Fair has encouraged his church body to pursue the vision God has for their city. "Each year I pray for God's direction for the year and this becomes our theme for the year," said Bro. Fair. "We seek to pursue this direction in our preaching and practice for the entire year. Our mission is to find the vision and passion for God's specific direction in our city and pursue it with purpose and determination."

Personal Ministry

Bro. Fair was raised in the church, felt the call to ministry at the age of 13 and preached his first sermon at the age of 16. "It was at this point that my father appointed me to serve as youth pastor," said Bro. Fair. "Our youth group began to grow, and soon after I sold my car and bought an old bus from a neighboring church. After some mechanical repairs and a do-it-yourself paint job, the youth group started a bus route and a Sunday School ministry that ran parallel with the regular Sunday School ministry. Before long, we had multiple routes and provided children from our bus route for both Sunday School ministry sessions. This ministry gave purpose to the boundless energy of a great group of young people.

"When I was 19, I was given a local license by the district board and became the assistant pastor for our local church. Over the next two years, I felt like God was calling me to evangelize. I was not too excited about this development. I knew from the beginning that God had called me to become a pastor, and I was not enamored with the thought of not knowing where I would be from week to week and with the insecurity of the financial concerns involved. I discussed what I was feeling with my father, and he told me to wait for six months. He told me that if God was indeed involved that He would bring someone to assume all of the ministry commitments I was currently leading. At the time, I had six different ministries that I was leading. I felt as though I had done my part to answer the prompting of God and could now essentially put it out of my mind and move forward. Much to my amazement, God did bring several different people to assume all of the responsibilities I had been involved with.

"At 21, I hit the road and began the adventure of an evangelist. After a year and a half, I met and married my wife, Jennifer. As we prepared to be married, the church in Sacramento asked me if I would be willing to teach in their Christian school and serve as the youth pastor for the church. I agreed to do so for a period of one year. That was 28 years ago, and I am still happily serving here in Sacramento."

Along with his duties at the church, Bro. Fair is also the Southwest Regional North American Missions Director UPCI (National) and previously has held the positions of Western District Presbyter, Western District Sunday School Director and Western District Sectional Youth Director. In his free time, he enjoys spending quality time with his family. "My family is very important in my world," explained Bro. Fair. "I enjoy riding motorcycles and quads, boating, and traveling with them. I also enjoy computer-related technology and have built and worked with computers most of my life. This has rubbed off on my children, leading my son into a career as a computer programmer."

Most of the tasks required of a pastor can be measured in either management or vision. Finding the right balance is like riding a bicycle. "I think Ecclesiastes 11:1,4,6 sums up the journey of ministry rather well," said Bro. Fair. "Ministry involves sacrificial faith-filled sowing. This is illustrated beautifully in verse 1. Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days. A pastor can sow sparingly, avoiding any measurable risks, while also avoiding any measurable returns. Verse 4 illustrates that there will always be a reason to 'not rock the boat,' but faith-filled,



Top left clockwise: God moves in a prayer service; Pastor Fair preaches to the congregation; exterior of Calvary Evangelism Center; the choir sings

consistent sowing -- in spite of the obstacles or risks -- will build a great church. He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap. Verse 6 illustrates another important principle. In the morning, sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both *shall be* alike good. Sow prolifically but pick many fields in which to sow. Many endeavors we have engaged in over the years have proven to be unproductive, while others have been very productive. You never know which ones will result in great success until you step out of the boat and start walking on water. Therefore, it is imperative to dream big, don't sweat the small stuff, pray often, and be prepared to adjust instantly to new opportunities."

Ministry is always slightly changing, and momentum is necessary for both progress and survival. In order to refrain from falling you must pedal hard, while looking ahead, constantly shifting your weight in the right direction. "Vision requires risk taking and the willingness to embrace new methods and new ministries, while realistically measuring the effectiveness of existing ministries within the church," explained Bro. Fair. "It is often necessary to eliminate something old to start something new. Making the right choices and living in faith rather than fear is essential. Change is inevitable. Vision helps you to celebrate and anticipate those changes as something new, exciting and refreshing. Vision is change on purpose. The lack of vision will not stop change; it simply dictates change by decay.

"Management is also essential. Proper management sustains the victory of vision's accomplishments. Management comes in the form of planning sessions, discipleship classes, counseling sessions and endless other endeavors.

"Vision without management achieves successes without growth. Management without vision ultimately leads to extinction. Vision with management will lead to sustained progress and growth. I believe that a revival pastor must ensure that he is balancing both of these elements. This will be reflected in his preaching, his leadership and his schedule."

Bro. Fair credits much of his success in ministry to his father, Delton Fair. "I was influenced to the greatest degree, relative to ministry, by my father," he said. "He was diligent, dedicated, and the most amazing theologian I have ever been privileged to know. His knowledge of scripture and lifetime of research led to a prolific understanding of biblical doctrine and ministry. I was also influenced by my father-in-law, Allan Abbey. His voracious appetite for vision and his willingness to step out of the box in team-style ministry impacted my ministry philosophy in very significant ways. I was privileged to serve in ministry for many years with him and to subsequently succeed him as senior pastor of Calvary Evangelism Center, the church I currently pastor."

Organization and Management

Calvary Evangelism Center strives to activate every person in ministry and, in order to facilitate this, two services are held each year dedicated to ministry commitment. "Individuals are able to make commitments to ministries in the church for a specific period of time," said Bro. Fair. "At the conclusion of that period of commitment they can change their area of ministry or continue in the areas of involvement they have previously enjoyed."

Meeting with his leaders is essential and helps keep the vision and mission and purpose of the church in focus. "I meet with our pastoral staff every Friday morning for breakfast and with all of our department leaders once a month for lunch," explains Bro. Fair. "All departments provide a brief report at each monthly department leader meeting. We also have monthly and annual planning on a collective basis, and I also meet with them one-on-one."

Principles of Growth and Revival

Many growth ministries have had a significant impact on Calvary Evangelism Center, but the most effective on a long-term

basis has been the planting of daughter works. "We are blessed to be in the most diverse city in the nation on a per capita basis," said Bro. Fair. "This has allowed us to reach into many different languages. We are currently ministering in eight different languages each week. These different congregations represent the single most effective ministry efforts we have encountered over the years and have collectively grown to be as large as our mother church. Our school and preschool have also had a very significant impact in the growth of the church on a long-term basis. With parents on-site every day, evangelism is nearly automatic. While we employ many other evangelism efforts, such as revivals, dramas, small group meetings and Bible studies, I believe that our greatest result has been the creation of a sense of lifestyle evangelism, making it a normal thing to bring friends, relatives and co-workers to church."



Troy and Jennifer Fair
Sacramento, Calif.

Church History

Calvary Evangelism Center has a long and distinguished history dating back to 1940 when Bro. Sammy Klein established the church under the name of Emmanuel Pentecostal Church. "After several years and a number of pastors, Bro. Allen Abbey was elected pastor of this small church of 12 people," explained Bro. Fair. "The church eventually built a new facility at 5051 47th Avenue with a fellowship hall, offices, classrooms and a seating capacity of 100. Continual improvements and additions were made over the years. In 2011, we sold the property and moved to 4911 47th Avenue. Our current facility was originally a shopping center with a grocery store and six smaller stores attached to it. The conversion was interesting, but it has worked out very well for us. It is set up at present to seat about 600 but can be altered to accommodate as many as 900. We also have two smaller worship areas in the building, with one seating about 115 and the other seating about 40. Our fellowship room is also used quite frequently for discipleship classes and many other activities, and it can accommodate quite a large crowd as well."



Pastor Fair baptizes a young man.

Looking Ahead

Bro. Fair's journey at Calvary Evangelism Center began long before he became senior pastor and has indeed been an incredible adventure. "Our journey began shortly after my wife and I were married," he explained. "We have witnessed many miracles as God opened doors into many languages. The first group began with a Mong man who was traveling past the church when God told him to turn into our church and go inside. He came into the service and was incredibly touched by God's presence. Just a couple of weeks after being filled with the Holy Ghost and getting baptized in Jesus name, he told us he was traveling to France and asked if he could baptize people there. He baptized 27 people on that trip to France and shortly after his return he started our Mong congregation. That was just the beginning. We are now ministering in eight languages, each with a unique story, and dreaming and reaching for more.

"Calvary's pastoral team is absolutely incredible and the birthing of congregations and evangelizing of souls is a team effort with God using each and every pastor at Calvary to bring about His will. Having served as senior pastor for 13 years, I am more excited now than ever before with God's vision of reaching Sacramento. We are preparing to plant new daughter works and developing more leaders and pastors. Until Jesus returns we live in constant expectation for the next miracle and the newest language."

The Voice of the Elders

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Next Generation:

Rev. Wesley Jackson

Rev. Nathaniel Urshan

Never Use the “B-Word”

By Brent Randall



Brent Randall
brent@brentrandall.com

Things were desperate. We were running out of space.

I had been the children’s pastor at a church for a few years when we developed a very nice problem: our numbers were increasing rapidly, and we were running out of room in the children’s ministry area during our midweek sessions. Kids were pretty much hanging out of the windows and swinging from the lights. We desperately needed more square footage.

I became aware of two classrooms on the church campus that were not being utilized during our ministry time, so I embarked on a mission to secure those rooms for our purposes.

To do so, however, I would have to gain the approval of our church’s Facilities Manager, a leader whose job it was to assign which ministry had access to which room and when.

So I made an appointment to meet with Mr. Facilities Manager. When we met, I made my best case for why my department should be granted permission to use those two rooms.

With folded arms, he listened to my passionate plea, then replied with an answer that still sends a chill down my spine.

He said, “I don’t know why you need all that space on Wednesday nights. After all, all you’re doing in there is just ... babysitting.”

“BABYSITTING!??”

I was absolutely stunned.

Apparently he was under the very mistaken notion that the job description of my team was to provide childcare. He had no clue that what we were all about was ministry to kids.

In my years of children’s ministry, I have seen lives changed. I have witnessed kids receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit. I have seen children obtain the faith, hope and love that they needed in their young lives. I have seen children who started out in Sunday school eventually become ministers, missionaries and other influential leaders.

To my friends in children’s ministry: never equate what you do with “babysitting.” You are in the business of impacting lives. Furthermore, if you are the parent or grandparent of a child who attends children’s ministry in your local church, do not take for granted those dedicated staff members who are working with the kids.

You may think that when you drop off little Daniel at his Sunday school room before you go to adult service that you are dropping him off at childcare. But you could not be more wrong: you have entrusted him into the hands of people who are helping *you* fulfill *your* duty of raising a godly child.

Don’t ever let me catch you using the “B-word.” I might have to put you in Time Out.

Brent Randall Regnart has served in Children’s Ministry leadership for over 25 years. He is available to conduct a Teacher Training or Children’s Ministry event in your church or district. He and his wife Rachel live in Stockton, CA. www.brentrandall.com, brent@brentrandall.com. Call or text: (209) 601-4315.

Seven Personality Traits Guests Like in a Pastor

By Thom S. Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources

Initially, when you ask church guests what they like about a pastor, they will respond with a comment about the pastor’s preaching. But if you go just one more level in the conversation, these church guests will also talk about the favorable personality traits of the pastor.

Most of these traits fall under the category of “relational skills.” Here are some of the most common personality traits noted in exit interviews with church guests. Each of the traits is followed with a representative guest comment:

1. *Down-to-earth* – “I hadn’t been in church in over seven years. When I visited this church, I was shocked how the pastor seemed to be a regular guy. When I used to go to church, pastors presented themselves as high and mighty. Not this pastor.”

2. *Other-centered* – “The pastor is always asking about how others are doing. He really seems to care about other people.”

3. *Sense of humor* – “There is no doubt the pastor takes his ministry seriously; he just doesn’t take himself too seriously. He seems to have a lot of fun.”

4. *Humble* – “The pastor at the church I’m visiting is one of the most humble people I know. He never talks about himself unless it is self-deprecation.”

5. *Relational* – “The pastor says he is an introvert, but he sure has good relational skills. The two times I spoke with him were very enjoyable conversations.”

6. *God-centered* – “Pastor Frank is a man of prayer. You can just tell he walks with God.”

7. *Not defensive* – “I heard someone criticize the pastor after worship services. I was amazed how he responded kindly and gently. I would have hit the person!”

Of course, the guests who provided these exit interviews do not know the pastors of the churches well. Some had visited only once or a few times. But these first impressions were lasting. Indeed, the personality traits of a pastor, for better or worse, played a major role in the guests’ decisions to return to these churches.



Spotlight Kid -- Torri

By Stephen Judd, TCM President



Stephen Judd
www.mansionkids.org

Sixteen-year-old Torri is an outgoing, optimistic, fun-loving young lady with a sweet spirit and a heart for the Lord. Torri’s friends describe her as giggly, supportive and loyal.

Torri enjoys reading, drawing, listening to music and chatting with her friends. She also loves learning about photography and playing volleyball.

She excels in school, with history as her favorite subject. She said she most enjoys history because it involves doing a lot of projects and learning about her heritage.

At this time, Torri is on a quest to memorize the book of Acts. She is a Bible quizzier who is passionate about learn-

ing the Word of God. She said she looks forward to traveling with the team because she loves making new friends.

Please pray for this beautiful young lady. We are delighted to have her at the Mansion and pray for God’s direction in her life.

You can become a monthly sponsor for Torri by contacting Sponsor Relations at (662) 842-6982, or by enrolling online at mansionkids.org.



Torri

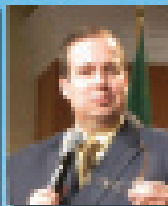
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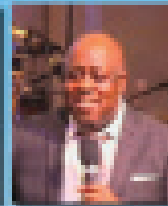


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Emory



Josh
Carson

August 17-18, 2017

The Apostolic Sanctuary
1501 John Deere Parkway
Silvis, Illinois 61282
Phone: (309) 792 - 0414

Day Clinicians: Lee Ann Alexander, Daniel Autery, Carla Bailey, Aaron Batchelor, Bruce & Jami Borlick, Steve Cannon, Melanie Claborn, Elizabeth Loyd, Ethan McGonigal, Vickie Oliver, Mindy Randol, and Art Wilson



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PENTECOSTAL WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Daniel Koren <> Neosho, MO

Written by Gregg Stone



Bro. Daniel Koren
Neosho, Mo.

Bro. Daniel Koren, tell us a little about yourself and your ministry.

My wife, Leanne, and I pastor Living Springs UPC in Neosho, Mo. Both of our parents started churches and we grew up with a heart for the Kingdom. We are now the proud parents of seven children who are

active in the ministry. I have been in full-time, ordained ministry with the UPCI for over a decade. I have a degree in Creative Writing and have obtained my Masters of Theological Studies from Urshan Graduate School of Theology.

Why did you write this book, *He Called Her*?

I penned this work because there were so many confusing ideas about women in ministry floating around. Most are based on opinion, misquoted scriptures, or personal experiences rather than clear biblical exegesis. The Apostolic movement needed a reference work to address this topic systematically.

This book speaks to the young woman who struggles with following what the Spirit is telling her to do when some people tell her that women shouldn't be involved in certain aspects of ministry. *He Called Her* is also geared to help a pastor have a biblical perspective on the women the Lord has called within his assembly. It will also help educate any believer who wonders if he or she should listen to a woman who teaches, preaches or leads in the Kingdom.

What was your motivation?

To bring clarity to an emotionally-charged topic. I felt I could approach the

topic in a non-biased manner since I would not be attempting to justify my ministry or that of a close relative who was a woman in ministry. I simply began the study to know an answer for myself. Before starting this search, I did not think God approved of women being teachers or in other key roles of ministry.

What, in your opinion, is the strongest support in Scriptures for women's place in ministry?

The biggest thing is that God called them. Hence, the book's title. It is the same argument for any man in ministry—the high calling of God. It is not a discussion of whether or not we will “allow” women to be in ministry or of what we will call them. The important thing is that God has called them.

Can you provide any insight into why Paul wrote 1 Tim. 2:11-15 and 1 Cor. 14:34?

These often become the battleground passages for the debate about women in ministry. In *He Called Her*, I took a couple of chapters to deal with each passage. Both sections make clear sense once the reader understands the context, the source, or the audiences surrounding these verses.

In your opinion, is there any position in ministry that a woman cannot fulfill equally as a man?

Yes. She cannot be a father or a husband.

If a woman cannot “exercise authority over a man” (1 Tim 2:12), can she then pastor?

Many times people suffer from a skewed understanding of authority. Jesus said we are

not to exercise authority over one another. Since there is much to say about biblical authority, a couple of chapters of *He Called Her* deal with this in detail.

Why, in your opinion, don't more women accept a call into ministry? Is God just not calling them?

Many women do minister but avoid doing so with an official title because of shadows cast by the prevailing confusion regarding this topic. Some have avoided the call of God because of bombastic arguments by well-meaning (we hope) individuals who have left them confused. It must be

quite frustrating to know one's purpose in life yet not be allowed to pursue it. The anti-women-in-ministry mindset could leave young women feeling like their only place to lead or teach would be in the secular workforce.

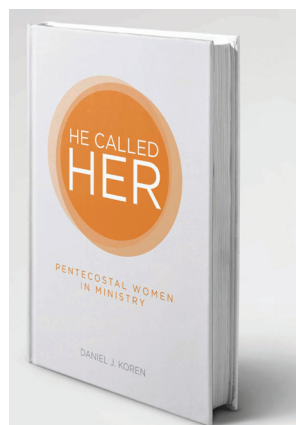
What unique ministry skills does a woman bring to ministry involvement?

Whatever spiritual gifts the Lord has given her. In Christ there is neither male nor female. In the marriage and family there is a clear distinction in gender roles. In the church, healing, prophesy, evangelism and all

other ministry functions flow by authority of the Spirit, not the ability of one's gender. Kingdom work is not to be flesh-driven; gender is essentially a flesh-based distinction.

How do people order your book?

The book is just newly released in hardback form for only \$19.99. Not only is it a smooth read but also makes a great library builder for future reference. You can find it when you log onto pentecostalpublishing.com or call 866-819-7667.



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
JAN 27	Indiana Bible College LIVE RECORDING Under the direction of Lindel M. Anderson, Dean of Music	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN Host: Paul D. Mooney	Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, Lindel Anderson, IBC Choir, IBC Chorale, IBC Praise, others	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
FEB 6-15	Israel Holyland Tour An Apostolic 10-day Biblical tour of Israel. Apostolic, Academic, Anointed.	Israel Hosted by: David J. Sagil, Director of Ministry of Jewish Relations	David Bernard and Steve Cannon	For more info: contact David Sagil, 773-617-9550, email djsagil@sbcglobal.net or visit mjr.world
FEB 16-18	WinterFire 2017 - RESTORE WinterFire's focus is ministering to those in ministry. Our objective is that every member of your team will leave renewed and refreshed.	First Cathedral 1151 Blue Hills Ave. Bloomfield, CT 06002	Jimmy Toney, Douglas White, David Bernard, Sam Emory, Brian Kinsey, Michael Ensey, James Hughes, Cindy Miller, Theodore Brooks	For more info: visit www.winterfire.org or visit Instagram/Twitter/Facebook @winterfireconf
FEB 23-25	Indiana Bible College CONNECT 2017 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.	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
FEB 24	Fresh Oil Youth Conference Power From On High -- Acts 1:8 7:30 p.m.	New Life of Albany, 1200 Cordele Rd., Albany, GA 31705, Host Pastor: Steve Waldron	Nathan French, Myron Wideman Jr. and musical guests Tiffany Huba, Joy McGarr & Edward Seabrooks	For more info: contact newlifeofalbany.com, freshoil youth.com 229-439-7242
MARCH 10	Indiana Bible College All Night Worship Event Under the direction of Lindel M. Anderson, Dean of Music	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN Host: Paul D. Mooney	Paul Mooney, Rob Rodenbush, Lindel Anderson, IBC Choir, IBC Chorale, IBC Praise, others	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
MAY 5	Indiana Bible College 2017 GRADUATION 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.	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
JUNE 2017	Power Conference 2017 Services begin at 7:30 p.m. nightly. Day sessions at 10 a.m. Thursday and Friday morning.	To be announced	To be announced	For more info: contact Josh Hodum @ 662-872-9999 or John Hodum @ 931-332-3926
JULY 2017	Mile High Conference 2017 Defending the Apostolic faith, family and future.	Calvary Apostolic Church Of Denver, 5900 E. Yale Ave. Denver, CO 80222	To be announced	(303) 758-5900 www.cacdenver.org DEH2@comcast.net
JULY 26-28	North American Youth Congress 2017 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
AUG 17-18	Investing in Futures A conference for those who invest in children. Educating, encouraging and equipping children's ministry workers.	Apostolic Sanctuary 1501 John Deere Pkwy Silvis, IL 61282 Host: Gary Randol	Richard Gifford, Sam Emory and Aaron Bounds	For more info: visit invest-in-futures.com (309) 792-0414
AUG 21	Indiana Bible College Fall Semester Begins 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 Sleeva, others.	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
SEPT. 2017	Mid-America Renewal Conference (MARC) Indianapolis, Indiana - A Power Packed Preaching Conference in the Heart of the Midwest.	Calvary Tabernacle 902 Fletcher Ave. Indianapolis, IN Host: Paul D. Mooney	To be announced	ibc@apostolic.edu www.go2ibc.com or call (317) 262-4030 or (317) 554-8069
SEPT 26-29	93rd Annual UPCI General Conference Don't miss it!	Kansas City Convention Center, Kansas City, MO	To be announced	Online registration, hotel reservations and exhibit registration available at www.upcigc.com
OCT 2017	Soar 2017 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, lifechurchwi@yahoo.com, or www.lifechurchwi.org
NOV 1-3	West Coast Conference - Fresno, CA 34th Annual Fresno Meeting	Fresno Convention Center, 848 M Street, Fresno, CA	To be announced	For more information call: (559) 225-1622 www.truthabfresno.org

Church Today: Leaving Hollywood in the Cold



Robert L. Rodenbush

Church Today

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Leaving Hollywood in the Cold

Say what you will about President Donald Trump (and there's a lot to say); however, he has managed to polarize America like no other modern political figure. A recent *Politico.com* article entitled "How Trump Left Hollywood in the Cold" says a lot about how Trump managed to trigger something in many Americans that other figures in politics and pop culture, despite their influence and "cool" factor, could not.

"Washington, that has been happily benefiting from the psychic and social rewards of the increasing intermingling of celebrity culture and Democratic politics, suddenly found the door to the White House slammed squarely in its face. And the rejection came with an extra, and especially scary, sting: It turned out that the industry, supposedly known for having its finger on the popular pulse, didn't understand America—'red America,' the 'real America,' the 'rest of America'—at all."

Among most it was a foregone conclusion that America would likely vote as influenced by Hollywood. Sure, polls vary, but I know I certainly didn't expect a political novice with a brash personality and few traditionally Christian values to capture more of the traditionally Christian vote than any conservative since 2000.

But something switched. Maybe people just got tired of everyone assuming they would go along with all the celebrities, or perhaps voters decided to prove that fame, fortune and glamour wasn't going to influence them or easily sway them to hold certain opinions. But I think it's safe to say a large portion of people just were tired of being told what to think.

If this is political overload, forget Trump for a minute and think about Apostolics. Maybe the Apostolic church is ready to stand up and prove that they are not going to be swayed by Hollywood either. Maybe they are tired of intolerance and the pressure to look, act and think more ecumenically. Maybe some are sick of being taunted, even among other Christians, for being too dogmatic, too Pentecostal, or too old-school. The lines have blurred for quite some time as we balance our desire for excellence, progress and revival while maintaining our Apostolic doctrine, identity, message and purpose. I know every day I work with incredible Apostolic-to-their-core Bible college students who are rejecting the bait of worldliness, political correctness and peer pressure to fulfill the call of God on their lives. Sure, we have to admit we are losing some; they are under great spiritual attack, but that doesn't mean they should be counted out or underestimated.

There will be an end time revival. There will be those who rise up and make a difference. Maybe the enemy doesn't understand "real" Apostolics after all.



Bobby Killmon

Theology

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I always hear from elders to "listen and read critically" to preachers and other commentaries. How can I do that well? (Part 2)

In my last column I was dealing with how liberal approaches start with assumptions that inform the whole task of theology that follows. If we believe the Bible is not God's inerrant and inspired Word, that assumption informs all that we do afterward.

How do we interpret the Bible as a result of our answering "What is the Bible"? If we believe the Bible is in fact the Word of God, the exegetical or verse-by-verse method of study is how we make sure we are reading the text correctly. There is no "second-guessing" the text where the reader stands in judgment of the text. The reader stands beneath the text and looks to it as his or her authority in interpretation and application.

The method of liberal Historical Criticism (the Bible only "contains" the word of God) then becomes to discover the word of God "hidden in" the other merely human words. This necessarily leads to liberal "historical criticism" because the whole purpose, according to their liberal approach, is to critically judge which parts of the text are the Word of God and which are human words.

The method of study for Postmodern Skeptics (the Bible is merely a "human" document) leads to postmodern readings (or postmodern hermeneutics) which are liberal critical approaches that only seek to find a meaning or "reading" valuable to his or her own life.

The point of these two articles has been to show that how you answer the question "What is the bible?" necessarily leads to the way you will view and read Scripture (your hermeneutical methods). Liberal Historical Criticism and Postmodern Skepticism are trying to find different answers to different questions than our approach because we believe the Bible is in fact the Word of God. Historical Criticism's methods and postmodern readings were born out of the aforementioned liberal assumptions and philosophies.

This same liberal critical approach has attacked Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch. It has created a theoretical construct which claims that behind the present forms of the books of Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings there was an author who created or composed this during the exile into what we now have (the "Deuteronomist") in 587–586 BC.

The result is that these liberal approaches view the Bible as the result of human constructs, not even authored by whom the Scripture says wrote them. It ends with believing redactors and editors cut and compiled the texts in a human way to "put together" portions of the Bible as we have it today. The problem again is one of authority. The rest of the OT says Moses wrote the Pentateuch. The NT says Moses wrote the Pentateuch. Jesus Himself says Moses wrote the Pentateuch. The NT says the Prophets testify of Jesus, not the prophets, the editors, and/or the redactors. These other claims are based on liberal critical assumptions and the resulting methods of interpreting Scripture are necessarily anti-Christian. It attacks the truthfulness of the Bible. Jesus cannot lie. Scripture cannot lie. If so, then we have lost both revelation and incarnation. That is what is at risk if we do not read critically.



T. W. Massengale

Church Growth

tmassengale@apostolic.edu

Ways to Increase Door Traffic

"100% of your new converts come from your visitors." This is a point that I stress in every church growth seminar I teach. If you want your church to

grow, you must increase your door traffic. You must also get these visitors to return, because only about 5% receive the Holy Ghost the first time they come. So a strong effort must be placed upon effective guest follow-up.

There are many ways you can encourage guests to visit your church. But among the best has been a sermon series or seminar topic that captures people's attention.

It should be a topic that motivates your members to invite their family, friends, work associates and general acquaintances. Historically, one of the topics that has seen the most success is a prophecy conference. People have a keen interest in knowing the future, and in this day of global uncertainty and societal distress, explaining what the Bible says about soon-to-happen world events can be a sure winner.

Bringing in a special speaker that has a quality presentation with PowerPoint graphics is best. But if you can't afford such an evangelist, most pastors are capable of teaching this subject themselves. Even if you are not a student of eschatology, many great books are available to assist you in such a seminar series. One I would recommend is *The End Times in Chronological Order* by Ron

Rhodes. Taking this book and breaking it into five sermons is not difficult. End each lesson with a strong altar call. Design PowerPoint slides to accompany each major point. Graphics are easily found in Google Images. Don't get bogged down in details – stick with the broad themes of Signs of the End Times, Rapture of the Church, Rise of the Anti-Christ, The Great Tribulation, and the Second Coming of Christ. Don't preach too long and make the altar call your focus of the evening.

Advertise and promote this seminar well. Flyers, posters, and even billboards and newspaper ads help. But the greatest number of guests will come from the personal invitation of your church members.

For a PowerPoint presentation on the end time that I have designed and successfully used, e-mail me and I'll be glad to share it.



YOUTH CONFERENCE

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

"POWER FROM ON HIGH" ACTS 1:8

SPEAKERS & MUSIC



Nathan French
JONESBORO, GA



Myron Wideman, Jr.
STONE MOUNTAIN, GA



Tiffany Huba
TALLAHASSEE, FL

FEATURING SPECIAL
MUSICAL GUESTS
JOY MCGARR
& PASTOR EDWARD
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Host Pastor: Steve Waldron

FIND US ON 

The top half of the image features a dark teal background with a city skyline reflected in water. Overlaid on this is a white, abstract geometric design consisting of numerous intersecting lines and dots, resembling a molecular structure or a network. A small, solid teal shape, possibly representing the state of Arkansas, is positioned behind the word 'INTERNATIONAL'.

ARKANSAS INTERNATIONAL CAMP MEETING

AUGUST 5-8, 2017 • ARICM.NET

The bottom half of the image has a white brick wall background. It is covered with a large amount of multi-colored confetti. In the center, the numbers '100' are formed by large, shiny, silver balloons. To the right of the balloons, the word 'Celebration' is written in a black, cursive script.

MIDAMERICA CONFERENCE

19-21 OCT 2017 • MIDAMERICACONF.COM



Carol Clemans

Spiritual Growth

carol@carolclemans.org

God's Design For Marriage

God created marriage and has a perfect design found in the Word of God. *God's Design for Marriage* was birthed from my having the Holy Ghost 62 years, my teaching God's Word for over 50 years, 46 1/2 years of marriage, counseling education, counseling experience as a Certified Pastoral Counselor for 25 years, and teaching marriage seminars over 30 years. It is concise and power-packed with God's Word.

Purchase this soft cover book at www.carolclemans.org or as an eBook on www.amazon.com. Note: All purchases at amazon.com can bless my ministry by choosing Life Enrichment Ministries, Inc. (501c3) as your choice of charity. Amazon will donate to my ministry at no cost to you.

God's Design for Marriage is a scripture-based tool to help with pre-marital counseling, as a wedding gift, and a tool to help marriages heal and grow. Headship and submission are explained in detail according to God's truth. It covers emotional issues, communication skills, tips on parenting, the power of forgiveness and breaking generational dysfunctions.

I teach marriage seminars for churches (Ref: Pastor James Larson, *The Anchor*, San Diego, Calif., Sept. 2016). This can be at your church or through the Internet using Skype.com for live teaching sessions including Q & A. I've taught live to churches in the U.S., Canada, and Sweden. Also, I provide counseling by phone nationwide and through Skype.com to several different countries. Read 'about ministry' page on www.carolclemans.org for details.

Marriage on earth represents our relationship with God as our Bridegroom and we the church as His Bride. Love, joy and peace should rule and reign in all marriages. God's Word provides the guide to a God-centered marriage and family.

Go to: www.carolclemans.org - read 'about ministry' page for complete bio. Read 345+ articles. Order book: *God's Design for Marriage*, teaching CD's & DVD's. Ministry ref: Pastor Daniel Batchelor, Duplo, IL. Call (636) 448-0121 to schedule speaking or counseling.



Arlo Moehlenpah

Creation vs. Evolution

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A Young Earth

The theory of evolution rests on the two foundations of eons of time and chance. If you ask an evolutionist if anyone has ever observed evolution take place, they will probably reply, "No, it occurs too slowly; it requires eons of time." The theory of evolution is not a science because it is not observable, repeatable, verifiable and subject to experimentation.

To try to determine the age of a sample by radiometric dating, one must assume the following: 1) the original amount of both the radioactive isotope and the decay product, 2) changes in these concentrations only occur by radioactive decay, and 3) the rate of decay is constant. Gross errors have been achieved by this method. Twelve-year-old samples of rock taken from Mount St. Helens were erroneously dated as hundreds of thousands of years old. Dates obtained by radiometric methods don't determine the age of the earth. Also, mathematical probabilities show beyond doubt that the complexity in nature was designed and did not occur by chance. Thus, the theory of evolution rests on absolutely nothing but imagination.

Other methods such as the depletion of earth's magnetic field and the fact that no tree dates seem to be much older than 4,000-4,500 years old (the approximate date of the flood of Noah's day) seems to give evidence of a young earth. Population statistics, the influx of materials into the ocean, and the lack of helium in the earth's atmosphere also concur.

How old is the earth? Jesus said "from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female" (Mark 10:6). From genealogies and history, it can be shown that man was created approximately 6,000 years ago. Since the earth was created in the same week as mankind, it must also be approximately 6,000 years old. For more detailed explanations of the material in this column, see chapters 19-20, 35-38 of the book mentioned below.

Dr. Arlo Moehlenpah is a registered Professional engineer, taught chemistry at three secular colleges, Bible subjects at four UPC Bible colleges and pastored two churches. He authored three books including *Creation versus Evolution: Scientific and Religious Considerations*, available at www.doinggood.org. To have him speak at churches or other meetings contact him at 619-852-4979 or Moehlenpah@aol.com



Aubrey Jayroe

Finance

jayroeone@sbcglobal.net

We have individuals who work for the church, such as the janitor, lawn maintenance worker, and part-time music director. Can these individuals be classified as contractors and not as employees?

This is a very common question but one that demands our careful attention. The law is very clear as to who is an employee. If you provide the place for them to work, provide them with the tools or equipment to conduct their work, supervise their activities, and assign a specific time and place for them to work, they will be considered as an employee and should be treated as an employee.

Another factor to the contrary is, if the person cleaning the church is in the "cleaning business" and declares themselves as such, advertises their business, etc., then this person would be a contractor.

So, the janitor, lawn maintenance worker, or part-time music director usually are considered to be employees. As such, the employee would receive a W-2 form and would be subject to income tax withholdings.

Beginning for the year 2016, the W-2 forms are due by January 31, 2017 and should be provided to the employee and mailed to the Social Security Administration by January 31.

Aubrey L. Jayroe is an Accredited Tax Advisor, Accredited Tax Preparer and Enrolled Agent by the IRS, as well as an Apostolic pastor. Contact him at: (870) 633-6045. Jayroe & Company, P.O. Box 1217, Forrest City, AR 72336. Email: jayroeone@sbcglobal.net



Delano Sherley

Accounting & Tax

Health Insurance Reimbursements

In December, Congress passed a law that allows small employers to once again reimburse an individual for health insurance premiums without incurring a \$100-per-day penalty. To qualify, the church must have a plan document drafted for the reimbursement arrangement. The plan must be offered to all full-time

employees, which is anyone who works 30 or more hours per week. Also, you cannot fund the reimbursement through salary reductions.

There are now limits on how much can be reimbursed annually: \$4,950 for an individual and \$10,000 for a family. These limits are prorated for anyone not covered for the entire year. The employee must provide proof of "minimum essential coverage." The plan can also cover qualified medical expenses.

The reimbursements are tax-free, but they are required to be reported on

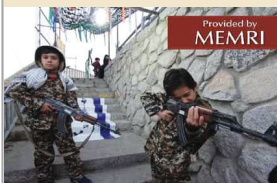
the employee's W-2 (likely in box 12). Also, any employees receiving a premium tax credit under the ACA will have the credit reduced if they are eligible for reimbursement from the employer/church.

We recommend contacting an attorney or benefit provider to draft a proper Health Reimbursement Plan that complies with all aspects of this new law.

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@dsacpains.com Website: www.dsacpains.com

THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS**Iran Amusement Park Allows Kids to Practice "Attacks" on Israel**

Children in Iran reportedly now have the opportunity to train for jihad in a new educational theme park that both indoctrinates them



on the evils of Israel and the U.S., as well as letting them practice

shooting at Western targets.

The Middle East Media Research Institute, also known as MEMRI, has obtained an interview given to a media source close to the Iranian Republican Guard as it reported on the educational theme park called City of Games for Revolutionary Children Park.

In Mashad, Iran's second largest city, the park was open free of charge for children between the ages of 8 and 13. The attraction ran for several weeks with the option to run for longer if interest was high. According to the interview, the park was in "high demand" and could be expanded soon.

The park reportedly consists of 12 stages of jihadist indoctrination. Crawling under child-sized barbed wire obstacles, learning to move with child-sized replica AK-47 rifles, the children shoot bullets and plastic mortars at effigies of the Israeli Prime Minister, the American flag and Israeli flags, the Saudi Royal family and ISIS fighters.

SOCIETAL TRENDS**Judge Orders CA Pregnancy Centers To Give Abortion Info**

A federal judge refused to grant a preliminary injunction recently against a California law that forces pro-life pregnancy centers to advocate for abortion. Under the law, pro-life pregnancy centers must give information about abortion even though they exist to offer abortion alternatives.

The National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA) has sought an injunction since October. NIFLA includes 1,350 pro-life pregnancy resource centers, including 115 in California.

California's "Reproductive Fact Act" took effect Jan. 1. It requires licensed, religious, pregnancy resource centers to inform women, with either posted signage or a handout, that the state offers free abortions for qualifying women.

**Muslim Man Intent on Killing Christian Family Miraculously Converted**

A Muslim man determined to kill Christians has miraculously encountered Christ and become a Christian himself.

Charisma News reports that Al-Rashid was the commander of a radical Islamic group that sought to bring all people and nations under Islamic rule.

Al-Rashid was especially angered by a report of a former Muslim who had converted to Christianity, became a pastor, and began spreading the gospel. Al-Rashid decided to target Pastor Paul and his family, but God had other plans in mind.

Al-Rashid and his band of followers attempted many times to capture Pastor Paul and his family. Their plan was to kill the pastor's family members and force Pastor Paul to convert back to Islam. "We attacked them several times," Al-Rashid recounted, "and miraculously they escaped." They tried to ambush and kill the family at night, but saw what appeared to be soldiers surrounding the family's house. Another time they tried to poison the pastor's children, but the children survived. Still another time they tried to capture the family when the daughter was sick and being placed in an ambulance.

"I was watching with two others from an ambulance near the hospital to see his daughter's death. Our plan was to kidnap the dead body along with his family in our ambulance," Al-Rashid recounts. "Then, I saw a ball of light come down from the sky and stand over the room where his daughter was lying unconscious."

The pastor's daughter regained consciousness and stood up, healed. Al-Rashid saw a hand reach down with a hole in it and blood flowing from the hole. After this vision, Al-Rashid felt no peace. A shadow of a human face appeared with the same hand he had seen earlier and asked why Al-Rashid was "nailing Him."

Al-Rashid, who had a Bible in his house for the purpose of refuting Christians, flipped it open to John 1:9-10: "That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not."

Al-Rashid understood that the passage was about Jesus. Soon after, he surrendered his life to Christ. He now works with Bibles for Mideast, distributing God's Word to those who are just like he was.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ The French Council of State recently upheld the French Broadcasting Council's ban of a commercial intended to convince mothers not to abort their babies after discovering they have Down syndrome. The ad's purpose was to showcase the normal activities most children with Down syndrome can enjoy. However, the French Council said the ad would "likely disturb the conscience of women who had lawfully made

different personal life choices." ■ Marriott International will not carry Bibles or the Book of Mormon at its new millennial-oriented hotel brands, the Moxy and Edition hotels. The percentage of hotels that offer religious books in rooms has fallen over the past 10 years. In 2006, 95 percent of hotels carried such books, and this year, it's estimated that only 48 percent of hotels carried religious materials.

RELIGIOUS TRENDS**Evangelicals Key Group In Propelling Trump to Victory**

Research now shows that evangelicals were a key factor in the recent election of Donald Trump as our nation's 45th president. One commentator noted that "this was the largest turnout of evangelical voters in American history."

Despite many evangelicals' reservations about voting for Trump, *Christianity Today* notes that research shows four in five white evangelicals voted for him. White evangelical Christians voted for Trump over Hillary Clinton 81



percent to just 16 percent. Evangelicals of color, however, preferred Clinton.

Although some evangelical leaders such as Russell Moore, Denny Burk and Max Lucado remained firmly against Trump, many other evangelical leaders such as Robert Jeffress and Jerry Falwell Jr. were enthusiastic Trump supporters.

Research also shows that evangelicals made up one in four of all voters in the 2016 election. Other demographics that voted heavily for Trump were Republican men (90%), Republican women (89%), and conservatives (81%).

LEGAL TRENDS**Atheist Group Complains; Ohio Schools Suspend Bible Clubs**

Bible study clubs at two schools in Ohio have been suspended following a complaint made by a Wisconsin-based atheist group. *The Columbus Dispatch* reported that two schools in Fairfield County have temporarily suspended their Bible clubs in response to a complaint letter sent by the Freedom From Religion Foundation.

"[FFRF] sent letters to four school districts regarding Bible studies held in eight high schools, junior high schools and middle schools before class or on lunch breaks," reported the *Dispatch*.

"Such groups violate protections of separation of church and state if they are led or regularly attended by local pastors," said Ryan Jayne, from the Wisconsin-based foundation.

Of special concern was the involvement of Faith Memorial Church of Lancaster, whose website temporarily listed the Bible clubs as places where their pastors speak. Youth Pastor Aaron Green told *The Christian Post* he was not aware of any school administrator not supportive of the Bible clubs, but said some school districts have asked youth leaders and volunteers to attend less often and only speak at the specific request of the students.

Disciple-Making: Don't Drop the Baby!

By Carlton L. Coon Sr.



Carlton L. Coon Sr.
carltoncoonsr@gmail.com

Meaningful things take time. This includes turning converts into disciples. Remember Saul's lame grandson, Mephibosheth, who David provided for? How Mephibosheth became lame is a parable on disciple-making.

(Mephibosheth) . . . was five years old when the tidings came of Saul . . . and his nurse . . . fled . . . as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 4:4).

Mephibosheth's experience gives four principles related to developing healthy disciples.

- A caregiver's haste left Mephibosheth lame.
- Unfounded fear was the basis for the nurse's hurry.
- The youngster suffered, not the hasty nurse.
- Mephibosheth's childhood fall limited him for life.

Perhaps, the nurse had nothing to fear. Mephibosheth's father, Jonathan, was David's closest friend. The nurse's decision was a reaction. Her haste had no good reason. What she did forever harmed the child in her care.

Apply those four principles to caring for spiritual infants. Unfortunately, not

all converts come out as well as Mephibosheth. Some die due to the haste of a caregiver.

Hurrying comes in many forms. Rush newcomers along with unrealistic expectations, and you will harm them. Yes, there are different sets of expectations. People saved 30 years should be at a different level than someone saved 30 days.

Let's be clear. The messy life of a spiritual baby does not communicate anyone's position on right living. Is a baby's dirty diaper a statement on whether the mother keeps a clean house? Stop fearing what others think.

There is a better way to care for spiritual babies. Your church needs a well-reasoned strategy for caring for newcomers. If you carry out such a plan, more spiritual babies will grow to healthy maturity. Few will die or be lame.

The deliberate, focused and intentional teaching of God's Word works. Target a class for new converts. Teach at their level of understanding.

More insight on disciple-making is available. Watch my *Don't Drop the Baby* webinar at Carlton L. Coon Sr. on Facebook, or on YouTube or at Carltoncoonsr.com. I welcome questions and your own insight into disciple-making.

Carlton L. Coon Sr. pastors SpringfieldCalvary.church (Springfield, Mo.). He is a past director of North American Missions for the UPCI and author of 22 books. For a seminar or consultation on disciple-making e-mail carltoncoonsr@gmail.com. Blog posts and resources are available at Carltoncoonsr.com.



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The Miracle NOW^{Of} Faith

Harrell T. Wilson > Sheridan, IN

“And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine” (John 2:3). “Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim. And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it” (verses 7 and 8).

Jesus could have made wine from the sand. He could have just spoken the command, and wine would have appeared. Yet He wanted participation from those at the wedding party. “Fill the pots with water,” He said, and they did. God’s will is not automatic. I wish it were. If that were the case, none would be lost, for it is the will of God that all be saved. Only by responding to the Word can the will of God for one’s life transpire.

A New Experience

“Fill the water pots.” Consider the faith it took for those to obey this command. The scripture does not indicate how many people walked away from the miracle that was about to occur, simply because all the wine had been consumed. Yet for those who stayed, they were not only about to receive more wine, but they were about to view the Lord’s first

miracle of His ministry—that of turning water into wine—and encounter a NOW experience of how faith works.

The command was not only to draw out water from the water pots, but they were commanded to draw out NOW. Not at their convenience or any time they desired, but rather the command was, “Draw out NOW.”

I am of the opinion that only the water that was drawn out at that “NOW” moment was turned into wine. The water in the pots remained water—until it was drawn out NOW by the believer. At that moment of NOW, not the water in the pots but the water in the drinking cup was turned into wine.

In the Present

Faith operates in the NOW! Faith does not operate in the future, nor the past, but faith operates in the present. Faith is not faith until it is released NOW. God is a *present* help in the times of trouble (See Psalm 46:1).

When one expresses, “God can,” it’s a matter of *trust*, not a matter of *faith*. To know that “God can” is not an expression of faith. To know anything is not an expression of faith. You don’t need faith with what you know. Abraham went out not *knowing* where he went. Rather, faith works in a present situation. “The just shall live by faith.” Since one cannot live in the past, faith won’t work. Since one does not live in the future, faith won’t work. Since one lives in the present, faith will only work in present situations.

Trust is designed for the long haul, faith for the present.

Faith honors God. Without faith, Hebrews 11:5 tells us that it is impossible to please Him. Healings do not please God, blessings do not please God. Success does not please God. Only faith pleases God...

faith NOW.

Life's struggles will leave you standing in the middle of NOW. Your future will seem so far away. It is at that moment that now-faith works for you.

A Protective Anointing

Now-faith releases a protective anointing about you. The three Hebrew children were not delivered *from* the fiery furnace, but they were delivered *from* what the fire could do, because of the protective anointing now-faith delivers. The scripture declares not a hair on their heads was burned. It may not protect from the fiery darts of the evil one, but now-faith can certainly protect from the spiritual damage intended.

Provision Follows Assignment

The mother of Jesus said, "Just do what He tells you to do NOW." At the point of obedience, faith works. A farmer cannot raise corn; he can only plant corn. His responsibility is to plant the seed. Surfers can't make the waves; they can only ride them when they come in. We can't do the works of God; we can only do what He says to do.

While starting a home missions work several years ago, my wife and I attended a home missions convention. The offering was taken and the Lord told me to give in the offering. I said, "Lord, all I have is \$2." I heard the Lord say to me, "That's all I ask for." Wow! At that now-moment the Lord taught me that He would never ask for what I don't have nor ask for what I can't do. The results of that small lesson led to great results. God's provisions will always follow God's assignments. One can miss God's divine provisions by failing to act in NOW faith. Turning your car lights on in the parking lot of the church won't light up the complete route to your home, but if you will drive as far as you can see, only then can you see further.

Too much of a child-of-God's struggles are found in what God did not ask us to do. God has never and never will ask you to do the *big* stuff. God's blessings will flow to you when you allow God's blessings to flow through you.

Sometimes what you have does not seem to match what God has asked you to do. Now that is for a reason. "And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die" (1 Kings 17:12). But she obeyed God; she did what the man of God told her to do, with almost nothing, and the barrel of meal was not used up. This meant every time this widow lady went to the barrel of meal, she found enough for supper. She may have had to reach down to the bottom of the barrel for the flour, but my question is this: What difference does it make if God supplies from the *top* of the barrel or from the *bottom* of the barrel, if He is the source? The answer is, *none at all*. We feel better if what we do for the Lord comes from the overflow, but most of the time God provides from the underflow.

Prove Me NOW

A retired missionary shared with me his experience of expressing to the Lord of all he needed and what he did not have since coming home after serving for many years in a foreign land. As he was praying and telling God all that he did not have, the Lord stopped him, called his name, and said to him, "I have heard about what you don't have, but I have a question. *Do you lack anything?*" The early church was powerful not because of what they had, but rather because they lacked nothing!

Now-faith will reveal to you God's source. Malachi 3:10 reads, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse,"

[that's the place where God's blessings are stored]
"that there may be meat in mine house, and
prove me now [prove Me now, now NOW!]

herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

I am of the opinion that the blessing (singular) God pours out is the blessing of the revelation that *God is our source*, at the point of obedience. We need the revelation, or blessing, that money does not come from where you work but through where you work. All the silver and gold belongs to Him. Children do not come

from parents, they come through parents. When you get the revelation that God is your source, and that you can't provide a place for His provisions, your heart will open up to His command to act NOW. We are the channel for His blessings to flow through us, not a container.

There was a reason Israel lived in tents, and the tabernacle was made to move about. When God speaks, it's time to pick up and go. God has always spoken in the NOW. Usually those who are waiting for God to bless them so that they can be a blessing, never or seldom do anything for the Lord. We can miss what God is doing NOW while preparing for a move of God tomorrow. The beauty of a journey isn't found in where we have been or where we are going but rather in the moment.

While desiring greatness in the things of God is honorable, having an understanding of the simple will of God in your life is much greater. George Washington Carver prayed and asked God for the secrets of the universe; God never answered. Then he prayed and asked God for the secret of the peanut, and *God answered*.

I sometimes wonder how many more churches there would be if men would have responded to the NOW call. How many miracles pass us by because we fail to respond to the miracle of NOW faith. Any preacher will tell you the greatest memories of their ministry were when God's people responded to NOW faith.

In 55 years of ministry, I have seen more done with nothing than with something. Perhaps the work that God has called us to do would benefit greatly by returning to NOW faith.

To Activate Miracles

Your divine assignment will reveal your sufferings. Paul declared that he had suffered much for the gospel sake. If we have no suffering, we have no assignment. Tears alone do not move God. Desperation does not intimidate God. Manipulation does not control God. Education does not influence God. Faith is the only method that impresses God to activate miracles.

The moment will come when God will show you your assignment for your future. At that moment it will seem so big that your present situation will seem too small to accomplish it. At that moment God will use the vision of your future to inspire your NOW faith, which in the end, will bring all glory to Him.



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Miracle Church: Building Purchased For a Dollar

By Brittney Ragan



Adam and Betsy Solorio
Casey, Ill.

What is the key to successfully planting an Apostolic Pentecostal church in a city that doesn't have one? Some might say that financial preparation, programs and contacts are the key. A church planter in a little town in Illinois has a different answer. Pastor Adam Solorio and his wife attribute the success of their church to prayer, showing kindness, and the miraculous provision of God. For the Solorio family, it didn't take a financial program to attain a 15,000 square foot building, but instead a miracle from God.

Pastor Solorio was raised on the south side of Chicago, in Harvey, Ill. After high school graduation, he felt a calling into ministry and attended Indiana Bible College for two years. After leaving IBC, he served at Calvary Tabernacle in Toledo, Ill., where he met his sweetheart, Betsy. In 2003, the couple married.

Sis. Solorio was from Casey, Ill. but attended the church in Toledo, just a few miles away. The same year they were married, the Apostolic church in Casey had closed due to a dwindling population. The Solorios developed a burden for the city of Casey. Bro. Solorio would often tell his wife, "There really needs

to be an Apostolic church in that city."

In 2010, the couple communicated with their pastor about planting a church. They were planning on starting a church near Toledo. That's when their pastor asked them, "Have you ever thought about Casey?" The couple had thought about Casey. In fact, they thought about the city quite often.

In 2011, the Solorios received approval from their district to plant a church in Casey. That October, The Church of Casey was born. They rented a 2,000 square foot storefront, right on Main Street. The owner of the property only charged them enough to cover the property taxes for the year! This can be noted as the first financial miracle of many. After four years, the church began to outgrow its storefront home.

In May of 2016, the church purchased a 10,000 square foot warehouse. It was empty, and it needed work and funds to transition into a place of worship. The church didn't know it, but another miracle was on its way.

Bro. Solorio had recently attended a town hall meeting where a discussion opened regarding a new medical clinic being built in Casey. After the meeting, he spoke to the vice president of the local hospital regarding plans for the 15,000 square foot clinic. Bro. Solorio described the building as "a beautiful facility made of brick, with tons of rooms, right off the main highway." The vice president stated that their plans were to donate the

building to a non-profit organization, but they "had not been able to find the right one yet." Bro. Solorio proceeded to tell her about The Church of Casey. They exchanged emails and corresponded for a few weeks.

Recently, the hospital vice president contacted Bro. Solorio stating that the construction on the new clinic would be completed by January 2017. She went on to say that they wanted to sign over the title to the church for the purchase price of one dollar! This truly was a financial miracle! The Church of Casey can expect to move into their new building by March 2017. Moreover, the church will be able to sell the warehouse and regain all of the equity. They will be moving into the new building debt-free! Bro. Solorio stated, "God has done more than we ever could have anticipated."

The Solorios have five children: Abby, Beckham, Jonas, Evah-Kate, and Jude. You can connect with Pastor Solorio on twitter @ajsolorio or email him at: ajsolorio@hotmail.com.



"More Than Grasshoppers"

Apostolic Author Urges Spirit-Filled Readers to Reclaim Their God-Given Identity

By Maranatha Gannon



Sis. Lee Ann Alexander and co-author
Joel Alexander, her brother

"As Oneness Pentecostals who embrace being led of the Spirit and who believe God wants the whole church to take the whole gospel to the whole world, we must be clear about our calling," said Sis. Lee Ann Alexander, author of the book *More Than Grasshoppers*. As she expressed, "The subtitle really explains the thesis of the book: that we must reclaim the identity God has for us. We use the twelve spies who thought they were just grasshoppers (even though God had just used grasshoppers as a powerful plague in Egypt) to suggest each of us must understand how God sees us and how we should see ourselves. We explore what it means to be made in the image of God and how that should be reflected in every area of our lives."

In response to why Apostolics should read this book, Sis. Alexander explained that, "many Apostolics get sidelined by fear and in-

securities or the other extreme of arrogance—both a result of misunderstanding our identity as Spirit-filled children of God. We need to have the honest self-examination this book calls us to so God can more closely mold us in His image and call us to His work for this urgent hour."

The origin of this book "began a few years ago with my brother, Joel, pointing out the identity issues the twelve spies had in Numbers 13 and how this kept them from God's promises. With the encouragement of my father, we co-authored the book, with Joel feeding me ideas while I formulated them into a manuscript."

When writing *More Than Grasshoppers*, Sis. Alexander did have a target audience. "The call to identity is universal, and we have purposely written in an engaging, conversational style to reach the broadest spectrum of readers possible. We incorporate humorous stories and simplify the theology so students as young as fourteen can access the book and yet have a depth of ideas that also engage senior adult readers."

When asked how this book could be used in the local church, Sis. Alexander shared that she had "heard of a small church using the book for their weekly home fellowship group meetings with reports of great engagement. Another church is using it as an adult elective Sunday school class. My hope is that book clubs will form in our churches and they'll use the discussion questions at the end of every chapter in this book to grow together."

Sis. Alexander's brother, Joel, and his wife, Jessica, live in Florida where they serve as student pastors. Sis. Alexander lives in St. Louis and serves as an associate editor for the United Pentecostal Church International, leading the curriculum team. "My brother and I love God and the great privilege we have to serve the church and encourage people to embrace their Apostolic identity."

The book is available as a paperback and an eBook from Pentecostal Publishing House (www.pentecostalpublishing.com) for \$14.99. The eBook is also available via nook, kindle, and iTunes.



APOSTOLIC BOUTIQUES ABOUND

MODEST & STYLISH ATTIRE

Interviews by Angela Labunski



Zadie B's Fashions - Sonya Bryant www.zadiebs.com

Classy Collections started their trunk shows at ladies' conferences and camp meetings back in 1998. In 2008, they opened a retail store in Northpark Mall, Ridgeland, Miss.

Their merchandise includes home decor and ladies' apparel. In 2013, the owner, Sonya Bryant, began designing her own line, which is manufactured in the U.S. These designs, made for every age group, have been a huge hit with customers. Their top priority is quality in fabrics, styles, and fit for the modest lady. Offered are a wide range of sizes that include small-3X and styles that range from basic pencil skirts and tunics to lace and formal sets. Zadie B's Fashions does its best to fit the customers' needs and provide proficient customer service. As Internet purchases can be difficult due to sizing and options, they offer great over-the-phone service. All orders are shipped within 24 hours of receiving them. [601-957-6050](tel:601-957-6050).



LuLaRoe - Tara Robinson [Facebook.com/LuLaRoe](https://www.facebook.com/LuLaRoe) TaraRobinson.com

In 2015, Tara Robinson and her husband became a part of the LuLaRoe family where the vision is to create

freedom, serve others, and strengthen families through fashion. They continually do pop-up boutiques in homes, churches and businesses throughout the United States on a full-time basis. Whenever a hostess books a pop-up boutique with them, she has the opportunity to earn FREE clothes at her pop-up party. There are no catalogs or presentations when hosting a pop-up; you get to purchase the inventory on hand immediately. LuLaRoe carries a variety of 20 styles of dresses, tops, kimonos, skirts and leggings for women, along with men's casual shirts. They also offer a variety of styles of kids' clothing and leggings and are known for their extremely rare prints, so you will NOT be wearing the same outfit as your other church ladies. They offer church and mission fundraising opportunities. Call or email to book a pop-up boutique today. [918-284-4501](tel:918-284-4501).



Ashlynn's Boutique - Teresa/Ashley Bohannon www.ashlynnsboutique.com

Traveling all over the U.S. and selling at conferences and ladies' meetings, Ashlynn's Boutique started out designing

and making their own modest clothing for ladies and children. Demand quickly outpaced their productions, so they began purchasing wholesale from other vendors. Their vision is to offer clothing each lady will wear with pride and confidence, knowing she looks her best. The ultimate goal is to own a tearoom and boutique, as well as continue to sell online and at conferences. They hope to spend more time designing to add to their exclusive line. Ashlynn's Boutique strives to diligently search for products not carried by other boutiques because they understand that no one wants to be a carbon copy. Home and foreign missionaries are blessed with their proceeds whenever possible. [409-210-2120](tel:409-210-2120).



Simple Extravagance - Sara Hodge www.simpleextravagance.com

Simple Extravagance started not only as a business but as a calling. As

women of God, we should be a representation of Him everywhere we go. They knew there was a way to be beautiful on the inside AND on the outside, to be modest AND fashionable. In this world, women see a smorgasbord of images that make them feel inadequate. Simple Extravagance strives to encourage a woman to see the beauty that God has placed inside her by giving her clothing options for all sizes and shapes, while allowing her to obtain modesty and display her personality on the outside. Simple Extravagance products are "traditional" with "eclectic" style, sometimes mixing stripes and florals. One can also find layering pieces, as well as traditional tunics and pencil skirts or dresses. They provide something for everyone: bright colors and bold patterns, as well as simple pieces for the less bold dresser. [832-451-2129](tel:832-451-2129).



W. Vintage Vibe - Camelle Watson [etsy.com/shop/wvintagevibe](https://www.etsy.com/shop/wvintagevibe)

W. Vintage Vibe started initially with sales of their clip-on bows for women and skinny ties for men. They provided accessories for countless weddings and UPCI Bible colleges, but the dire need for modest and affordable clothing pushed them to provide more. In their women's line, you can find casual wear

to the most formal of attire. Each piece is handpicked to have a cutting edge appeal and whimsical vintage quality. Any of the accessories can be partnered with their clothing to make the quintessential outfit that breeds the question, "Where did you get that?" Their goal is still to make sure there is affordable clothing that is modest for both men and women. Later this year, they hope to launch their men's dress shirts and expand that line as well. The income at W. Vintage Vibe will provide for the owners' evangelistic ministry along with other ministries at their home church in Detroit, Mich.



Beautiful One - Jessica Garza www.beautifulonemodest.com

Started in 2010, Beautiful One's vision is to provide modest clothing to women all over the world. They understand how difficult it can be to find modest clothing in this current age. Beautiful

One, located in Humble, Texas, carries its own brand of quality denim skirts, offering them in unique prints, colors and in different stone-washed denim. The fabrics used are high quality fabrics and each are designed with a modest length and fit. Their goal is for their brand of modest styles to be carried in boutiques worldwide. Already, their denim skirts are being sold in a store in London. They also provide their own brand of quality modest tops, dresses and skirts. They carry vendor items found at market, so customers are given a variety of styles and designs from which to choose. As Beautiful One grows in business and profits, they want to become a strong supporter of foreign missions. [281-571-6515](tel:281-571-6515).



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The Stewardship Group of the UPCI desires to help our constituents be good stewards by using tools like endowments. With endowments we can provide a more stable environment financially for

our churches. Churches often only think about the current fiscal year or the next payroll. An Endowment helps a church get out of that financial trap and in time, will diversify church income and reduce dependency on the fluctuations of the economy and any donation reductions. By using this tool we are stewarding the blessing that God has given to us by providing a stable future for the church.

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