

VOL. 27 NO. 3
INDIANA BIBLE COLLEGE



Perspectives

a
STRONG CHURCH
that goes the **DISTANCE**

From The Publisher

Fair to Middling

Paul D. Mooney



“The times challenge us to care about every sermon, every song. Once we exalt our own opinions, or treat the middle of the road as an honorable position, we have failed.”

“Oh, fair to middling, I guess.” Such was a common greeting among the farmers gathered at the Farm Bureau store or the grain elevator to gossip about the latest news or to track the price of corn. My father, and the others, mostly greeted one another with the question, “How are things going?” And the answer was almost always the same - a casual, mindless and non-specific mumble, “Ahh, fair to middling, I guess” - humbly admitting they were in the middle, not so bad, not so good.

The *middle* perhaps seemed an appropriate description for the Hoosier farmers. They were a modest breed of men who helped harvest one another's crops, shared ideas, worked together and enjoyed deep friendship, and most all, when I was a boy, they were enjoying post-World War II prosperity.

Middling is an interesting concept, and in some situations can be a good thing. For example, in a fair society, creating a bridge out of poverty in order to pull people up economically to the middle class is considered a good and right thing to do. However, to do so at the expense of robbing others or designing a system that traps everyone, in spite of their talent, education, hard work or genius, in a mediocre prison is oppressive. History has proven that this type of societal manipulation typically stems from evil intent.

Middling, or being in the middle, when it comes to ideology, belief systems and moral codes can be dangerous. Societies, institutions or individuals may aspire to reach a middle position out of altruistic aims; however, the concessions, accommodations, adjustments or compromises required to attain a “happy medium” often make neither side happy. A moral stance is just that, a high ground that allows one perspective to see the chaos, confusion and weakness of the other side. Coming down from this vantage point to meet the opposition in the middle doesn't project strength or virtue - it does, however, demonstrate that one is willing to give up something. For this reason, meeting the adversary in the middle weakens one's position, creates dissolution of the original value system and ultimately will render it less effective.

As the disciples of Jesus obediently made their way to the Upper Room we should note that they were not headed toward a mediocre middle. They were about to be born again.

“And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high” (Luke 24:49). From that moment, the disciples could never say they were “fair to middling.” There was no middle. Establishing an acceptable middle was not their calling. They made it their mission to preach Christ and Him crucified, not to seek a middle ground upon which they could establish a middle theology. Middling was not their destiny. Their message was controversial. It was revolutionary, and it

required full conversion, not confluence.

To their own Jewish brothers they declared, “But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh...” (Acts 2:16-17).

From the Upper Room, the Apostles were left with no options. The truth had now gripped their minds and their hearts. The words of the prophets now made sense. The mission of the Messiah was revealed. Jews and Gentiles were now and forever together in Christ (Galatians 3:14). The middle wall was gone (Ephesians 2:14).

In today's complex spiritual climate, the most devastating attitude is the attempted personalization of the truth, as if there is a truth for you and a truth for me. Modernity has intoxicated many into thinking that there is no right or wrong. We live in a culture of strict code, enforced by the politically correct and tolerance extended only to one side of an argument - and it's not really a side at all - it's the middle. It's the popular meme expressed in the question, “Can't we all just agree to disagree?”

I strongly urge us to ask the question, “Exactly what do we give up to come to the middle?” We have to admit that in some ways we have given up ground. I see authority being drained out of our preaching and teaching. Social activism has become the new priority. This was not the way of the Apostles. They refused to forsake preaching to serve tables (Acts 6). The Apostle Paul desired to be in Rome in person, face-to-face, to impart the truth and spiritual gifts. And let's not fail to note his didactic preaching and single message for all believers, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:16).

Anything that is not faithful to God's Word is not a service to God. The times challenge us to care about every sermon, every song. Once we exalt our own opinions, or treat the middle of the road as an honorable position, we have failed. Anointed preaching imparts a vision of the truth's power. Anointed preaching helps us see the truth as a contrast to the world's agenda. We are called to holiness; we are called to defend the message of a new birth in Jesus. We are called to take up the cross, to engage in the fight for the greatest message ever given to mankind. This does not make us intractable, difficult or negative. This makes us committed. Mediocrity will not change the world. Aiming for the middle will not advance the Apostolic message.

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Web Site: www.ibcperspectives.com

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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: A STRONG CHURCH THAT GOES THE DISTANCE

(DALE EASON)

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Thursday

9:30 AM

Rev. Chester **Wright**

Rev. David **Shatwell**

7:00 PM

Rev. Nathan **Harrod**

Friday

9:30 AM

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Rev. David **Shatwell**

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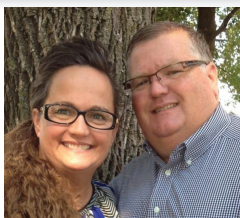
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DEAR MR. PRESIDENT...

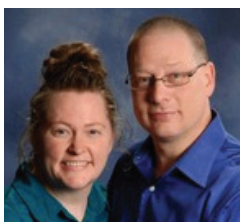
-APOSTOLIC PASTORS OFFER ADVICE TO PRESIDENT TRUMP ON THE SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF AMERICA

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



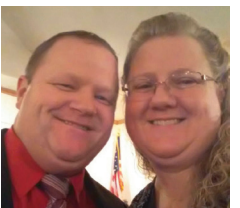
Mark Stacy I, Purcell, OK - America is a Christian nation founded upon the motto, "In God We Trust." I recommend President Trump take a fresh look at the separation of church and state, and remember the original purpose was to keep the state from interfering and forcing things upon the church, not the other way around. It would be great to see legislation that abolishes a church's tax exemption if it supports a particular

candidate. To help return America to her spiritual roots, it would be good to enact legislation ensuring the freedom of all Americans to practice their religion, and the freedom to exercise their religious convictions. I am skeptically optimistic about President Trump being elected. Optimistic we will "Make America Great Again" and skeptical that he may be just telling people what they want to hear.



Thomas Dibble, Waterbury, CT - President Trump could help by putting the focus back on God in the policies that are implemented going forward. We are a Christian nation and need to act like one. The U.S. needs to get back to standing with Israel where there is blessing, and repeal and replace Obamacare, as it is a pro-abortion legislation in which Christians pay for abortions. Being in debt makes us servants, so government spending

and the \$20 trillion debt should be reduced. If the election had gone the other way, I believe many of our freedoms would have been challenged as a church, but it seems the Lord has given the church a space of time to work with all of our might and accomplish as much as we can. This is a gift to continue to operate with the Christian liberties we have in place.



John Cottrell, Zanesville, OH - Our president needs to protect the constitutional freedoms of religion. No individuals should be forced to provide goods or services that violate religious beliefs. This is no different than a business that posts, "no shoes, no shirt, no service." The business reserves the right to do this. The same principle should apply to a baker refusing to bake a cake for a wedding he believes violates the statutes of God. The removal

of prayer and God from our schools was never intended by our founding fathers. The theory of separation of church and state was not suggested to keep God out of schools or government but to keep the government out of the church. We need to educate ourselves so we stand for what is right. If not, those who are corrupt will do what they desire.



Michael Durre, Lola, IL - If I could offer advice to President Trump, I would recommend he reinstate the freedom of prayer in the schools and public venues that was taken away from us. Abortion and same-sex marriage needs to be abolished completely from our government system, and America needs to turn back to the freedoms that were fought for by our forefathers, including the right to pledge allegiance to the flag. And if some refuse to respect it, there should be consequences. We need to start upholding the Constitution and declaring that we are still "one nation under God." Our prayers should always be with our leaders. I believe President Trump truly wants to "Make America Great Again."



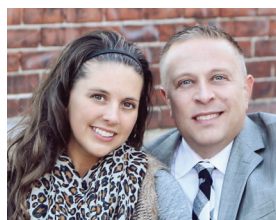
Ryan French, Jonesboro, GA - I implore President Trump to immediately nominate a Supreme Court justice that will staunchly uphold the Constitution, and resist the current progressive anti-Christian agenda. Ideally, this would be one who opposes abortion, promotes traditional marriage, and believes deeply

in religious liberty. I urge the president to give freedom back to the states to make school choice decisions, while at the same time encouraging states to make tax provisions for parents to send their children to the public or private school of their choice. The secular assault on children from religious homes begins for the most part within a politicized education system that desperately needs reformation. Finally, I plead with the president to use the power of his office to instigate pro-life legislation, at the very least to cut off government funding for agencies that perform abortions. On the Trump presidency, I am encouraged that he has brought deeply religious people into his cabinet, while simultaneously concerned over his many personal moral failings.



Jerry Burns, Albuquerque, NM - I am cautiously optimistic that President Trump can somewhat hold back the onslaught of secularism against our nation, as he is not so concerned about being "politically correct." If I could sit down with President Trump and offer policy recommendations, I would first of all say, "be a friend to Israel." As a part of that, I would like to see the U.S. Embassy

moved to "The City of David" where it belongs. Second, I would ask him to preserve our freedom of speech and liberty to speak our convictions without being prosecuted for hate speech. Parents' rights to educate their children at home or in private Christian schools need to be protected as well. I advise President Trump to return and fight our constitutional right for public displays of prayer and religious affiliation, appoint strict constitutionalists to the Supreme Court, and protect current "tax exempt donations" to religious and charitable organizations.



Bobby Carter, Kokomo, IN - Abortion would have to be my top priority in speaking to President Trump, as almost 60 million babies have been murdered since Roe v. Wade in 1973. A great start would be to defund Planned Parenthood, then to completely repeal the legalization of abortion. Every born and unborn child is a life worth saving. Without a doubt,

Christianity is being targeted and other religions are getting preferential treatment concerning their religious liberties. I recommend President Trump put together a detailed plan of protection that covers a Christian's religious freedoms, protecting them from personal and business-related situations that cause Christians to act contrary to their faith. Also, gender distinction is more important today than any other time in history. For current and future generations, we need to defend the natural God-given gender distinctions and ensure the safety of Americans in bathroom, shower, and gender-specific areas. We must start winning the morality war, and our president can help by placing men and women of faith in positions of influence.

a STRONG CHURCH *that goes the* DISTANCE

DALE EASON, BRADENTON, FL



The Eason family
Bradenton, Fla.

Guests find Life Covenant Sanctuary of Bradenton, Florida to be vibrantly alive in worship and the Word. The aim and goal of Pastor Dale Eason and the church body is to enrich the lives of those seeking an encounter with Jesus Christ, by exposing them to God's presence and glory.

Life Covenant Sanctuary is a thriving revival-minded church with a vision for growth and stability in this troubled world.

The Early Years

"Without a vision, the people perish is a call to men who dare to dream and see godly visions of the future," said Pastor Eason. "My grandfather, Rev. B. D. Drake, was such a man. His ministry set in motion a church that would stand the test of time and weather many storms. The strength of a church isn't necessarily measured by numbers, but should be judged by its staying power.

"My grandfather moved his heart, his home and his family to the city of Bradenton to begin a work for the Lord as a pioneer home missionary in 1960. He brought stability to this city, and developed a message of hope that people could anchor their lives to. His decision to reach this city was not in vain. He planted a church, and God gave the increase. Under his leadership many were baptized in the precious name of Jesus, and many were filled with the Holy Ghost. Also, several churches were established in neighboring cities by men who sat under his leadership. Eternity alone can testify of the impact made by Rev. B.D. Drake in the state of Florida and around the world.

"The first convert in this city was my dad, Rev. Ben H. Eason, who later married the preacher's daughter Connie, my mother. They assisted Pastor Drake for 32 years.

"My parents assumed the pastorate in 1993, and went on to pastor the assembly for almost 10 years. Both these men will forever be interwoven in the lives of the people who came to the knowledge of the mighty God in Christ in the city of Bradenton through their ministry."

The Mantle is Passed

The mantle of Apostolic truth passed from his grandfather to his father, and now Bro. Dale G. Eason, 42 years later, passionately communicates the vision that God has given him for the city of Bradenton.

"My wife, Patricia, and I assisted my father for eight years after marriage, and then we assumed the pastorate in 2001," he

explained. "I am the third generation to pastor this church, and God's blessings are rich. Following our installation as pastor, we were blessed in the first service to see eight souls filled with the Holy Ghost. This resulted in revival breaking out with over 65 souls added to the church in the first six months alone."

The church body feels that it was Pastor Dale Eason's unquenchable enthusiasm and confidence in God that led the Pentecostals of Bradenton into Life Covenant Sanctuary. The church now celebrates 56 years in the city of Bradenton.

Early Church History

"My grandfather bought a two-story house when they came to the city," said Pastor Eason. "They lived upstairs and had services downstairs. In only three years, they were able to buy land and build a building. When I became pastor, we were left with only 1.1 acres with no room to expand. We sold the building and purchased five acres to build our current building on."

Principles of Growth & Revival

According to Pastor Eason, building resilient, stable relationships and strong families is crucial to the health and well-being of society. "It is the most important key to having a growing church," he said. "Life Covenant Sanctuary wants to make visitors and guests fall in love with our church. We want to establish a family-friendly atmosphere that people do not want to leave. We want people that walk through our doors to feel welcome.

"Along with building and strengthening families, I believe a revival-minded pastor should place his priorities in the realm of evangelism. We are in the people business. I try to leave the platform immediately following service to connect with as many people as I possibly can, because I realize that people don't care about how much I know, until they know how much I care.

"The growth ministries and methods that have worked best in our church are teaching home Bible studies. We have been very successful in creating relationships with people by teaching them one-on-one Bible studies. And because we have so many converts the process just multiplies itself."

Visions and Goals

For evangelism, Life Covenant Sanctuary has introduced care groups called In-reach. "This ministry is designed to go from house to house with fellowship opportunities in different regions of our city," explained Pastor Eason. "Our goal is to keep church people connected via small groups. We do this on an off-night generally once a month. It has evolved into a soul winning effort. People are inviting coworkers and family members that are not in church, and we are getting opportunities to affect lives of people by fellowship.

"We plan annual evangelism events that have brought good results. Easter is one, and we have also been very successful with our annual Friend Day and All Nations Sunday. As with Easter, we cancel the Sunday evening services to have a picnic. We rent a local park that has ballfields and playgrounds for families. It is common for us to have more people show up at the picnic than we even have at the service. We use that opportunity to get out into the community, and meet and reach people. The park is in the

center of one of our major communities. These events have proven to build attendance. We always make great contacts and get Bible studies through these efforts."

Organization & Management

Life Covenant Sanctuary is blessed with a variety of ministries. "For our department leaders, I give verbal job descriptions," said Pastor Eason. "With a volunteer staff we have found meeting times hard to coordinate, so I meet with the leaders individually once per quarter. For yearly planning, we have a master calendar that they submit request forms to fill out.

"In training of our leaders, we utilize conferences and district events, which are plentiful in our area. Approximately 75 percent of our members are involved in some form of ministry, including evangelism. We preach involvement, we teach involvement, we promote involvement and we live involvement!"

Current Facility

According to Pastor Eason, the church built a 17,000-square-foot building through Omega Builders about seven years ago. "It is beautifully designed with classrooms that surround a main sanctuary," he said. "Originally we could seat about 350, but after four years we outgrew that space. We added a balcony to bring our current seating to around 500.

"We sold our old building twice. We thought we would be displaced during construction, but after the original deal fell through, the new owners decided to lease back to us. We actually moved from our old building directly into our new one. It was quite a blessing. We have plans to continue with our expansion. We currently have plans to add close to 5,000 square feet for a multipurpose area that will house our children's church on Wednesdays and youth on Fridays."

Expanding and Growing

"As for our current rate of growth, we have maintained about 10-15 percent growth for the last several years running," said Pastor Eason. "We have averaged about 75 conversions per year. When we moved into our new facility seven years ago, our attendance was 152 on Sunday mornings and about 40 in our Spanish service. We have steadily increased to nearly 350 every week, with 120 in our Sunday afternoon Spanish service. So on any given weekend we can have nearly 500 in attendance in our two Sunday morning services.

"We have Spanish ministry, but it isn't a separate church. One church, one vision. To us, Spanish ministry is like youth ministry. It becomes a sub-culture in our church. Last Sunday on our annual Friend Day, we had 464 in attendance. Last Easter we had 521. It is nice when everyone shows up at the same time."

Personal History

"I was blessed to be raised in church," said Pastor Eason. "I received the Holy Ghost at 10 years old. I first felt a call into the ministry at 18 years of age, and attended Jackson College of Ministries. I began my ministry at age 20 and preached my first sermon in Bradenton. The men that influenced my ministry the most have been my grandfather, my father, and many men in district and national leadership.

"When we took the church in November of 2001, the average attendance was around 80 people. We started changing the culture of the church from maintenance mode to growth mode, by casting a vision and teaching Bible studies. God gave us a tremendous revival. We saw around 65 people filled with the Holy Ghost in six months. We basically outgrew our building in the first two years, then spent five years developing a plan to build and move.

"I would say that the focus of my ministry is to have a multicultural ministry. The deep, guiding ideologies that give my ministry direction and purpose would have to be on this principle -- to pastor without fear or favor."

Bro. and Sis. Eason have three children: Alisha, 20, Adrianna, 17, and Anthony, 12. From leading worship, to children's ministry, to outreach and beyond, the entire Eason family is involved in ministry. "My wife and my children are an integral part of my success," he said. "We are an incredible team -- one that balances family, fun and spiritual activity. I could not do this without them."

Bro. Eason has held the office of FL District Sunday School Secretary for three years and served as the FL District Sunday School Director for seven years. He was elected Section Seven Presbyter of the Florida District four years ago and currently still holds that position on the Florida District Board. In his leisure time, he enjoys playing golf.

For more info, visit their website: www.lifecovenantsanctuary.org, email: lifecovenant@verizon.net, or call 941-746-7425.



Top right clockwise: Pastor Dale Eason ministers in song to the congregation; Praise singers lead worship inside the sanctuary; Exterior of Life Covenant Sanctuary; Pastor Eason baptizes a young girl.





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The Big Day!

By Brent Randall



Brent Randall
brent@brentrandall.com

The Triumphal Entry in John 12:12-15 was quite the event. In fact, it was a Big Day!

Jesus was having a Big Day. He rode into Jerusalem as the center of attention, enjoying the adulation of the crowd. He was having a Big Day!

The disciples were having a Big Day. They were marching in with Jesus, six on one side of Him, six on the other. I imagine they all wore matching t-shirts that read, "I'm with Him!" They were under the mistaken notion that Jesus was riding into Jerusalem to finally set Himself up as King of the Jews, and they were thrilled to be a part of history. They were having a Big Day!

The people were having a Big Day, too. When they heard that Jesus was coming into the city, they hurriedly grabbed coats, cloaks and palm branches and either laid them in the street or waved them in the air as He approached. All the while, they sang "Hosanna!" at the top of their lungs. They were having a Big Day!

Jesus was having a Big Day! The disciples were having a Big Day! The people were having a Big Day!

There's only one problem with this entire, glorious scene: there is one person in our story who was not having a Big Day. You see, while everyone else had a Big Day, he did all the work. Have you guessed who it is?

The donkey.

The donkey did not have a Big Day. He actually had a rough day. He had to carry a 180-pound guy on his back, he had people singing loudly in his ears, and he got hit in the face with an occasional stray palm branch. Furthermore, the donkey got none of the credit for all the work he did while everyone else was having a Big Day.

Doing all of the work but getting none of the credit. Sound familiar?

It does if you work in children's ministry.

To my Sunday school teaching friend who frets over the fact that she is never recognized for doing all the work while everyone else shows up at church Sunday morning to have a Big Day, let me remind you of this simple fact:

Even though he did all the work and received no credit, when the donkey got done doing his job well, *all the eyes of all the people were on Jesus.*

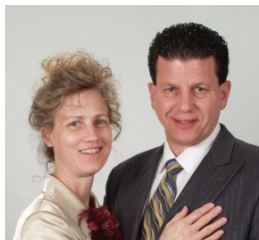
And when you get done doing your job well in your Sunday school class, *all the eyes of all your kids will be on Jesus.*

And that is why we do what we do.

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.

I Am Persuaded

By John Hanson, Connecticut District Superintendent



Carolyn and John Hanson
Thompson, CT

I am persuaded mountain lakes can be cold because I tried washing my head in a Montana lake one spring and nearly passed out. I am persuaded New England winters can be brutal because I have lived through them for several decades; I have chipped ice off roofs, shoveled tons of snow and shivered in the cold while trying to frame walls in January. I am persuaded cows are strong because, as a teen, I wrestled the calves to the ground for branding and I saw spooked cows snap off 8"x8" fence posts as if they were twigs. I am persuaded nail guns are dangerous because I've been injured by deflected nails more than



once. I am persuaded sunsets are beautiful because recently I've taken the time to stop and enjoy them.

Life experiences have convinced me of many things. If I were to read a book that declared that all lakes were warm, I would not change my mind. If the Supreme Court were to rule that New England winters were not wet or cold, I would laugh at their ruling. If a dozen Hollywood stars were to tell their fans that cows are weak, I would just consider the source. If I were to find out Ivy League schools taught that nail guns were not dangerous, my opinion would remain. If all the U.S. news outlets put out a bulletin saying sunsets were ugly, I would simply feel sorry for them.

I think most readers would react the same way in my situation. Most of us would not be so intimidated by the aforementioned sources that we would believe them over what we had proven in our own lives.


So why are we expected to cave in to popular or politically correct fads and opinions on even more important subjects? Why is it that good people with time-proven morals and values are pressured to sit quietly and adopt opinions that violently conflict with the things that have been proven true on many occasions? Why do the bullies of the world who make a lot of noise about their opinions feel so free to berate others who have been convinced and convicted about truths and values by living through the school of hard knocks?

I wonder if anyone else is a little tired of being labeled backward or prudish because they agree with powerful and time-proven principles such as those found in Scripture? Life and over thirty years of helping people deal with life's greatest challenges have convinced me that:

- God is good
- Marriage can be the most powerful asset a person can have
- Telling the truth is not hateful or bigoted
- Dishonesty is wrong and hurtful even when society tolerates it
- Obeying the Ten Commandments could solve most of mankind's problems
- The Bible is the greatest book ever written

I am persuaded. If you are persuaded, there is no good reason for you to adopt the views of people who have not discovered these things for themselves. Maybe it is time to ignore all the noise from supposed experts and test these things for yourself. Then, don't be ashamed to kindly let the world know that *you* are persuaded.

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THE POWER OF PRAYER

PHILLIP HOFSTETTER, BARTOW, FL

Written by Elizabeth Taylor



Bro. Phillip Hofstetter
Bartow, Fla.

Bro. Phillip Hofstetter, tell us a little about yourself and your ministry.

I've been a pastor for 28 years. I started in 1988 as a home missionary in Bartow, Florida. In 2007, the ministry expanded to include Mulberry, Florida. I've served as the Sectional Home Missions leader in the

Florida district, Sunday School Secretary, and in 2010 I was appointed by the Florida District Board as the Florida District World Network of Prayer (WNOP) Coordinator. Recently, I was appointed to serve on the WNOP International Planning Committee. Other areas include leading prayer and teaching sessions in the national and regional WNOP venues.

Tell us about the Florida District Prayer Ministry.

The prayer ministry consists of the District WNOP Coordinator and eight WNOP Sectional Coordinators that work to promote prayer in their sections. They have a job description that helps guide them in their endeavors. One of our goals is for every section to have a quarterly prayer meeting for pastors.

Every year, our district comes together during the first weekend of November at the campground for the "Fueling the Fire" (FTF) Prayer Conference. We have adult, youth and children's sessions that consist of preaching, teaching, and focused prayer times. FTF has grown to over 1,500 in attendance.

The Florida District WNOP has joined with North American Missions (NAM) to work with new church planters by hosting a "Plowing Before The Planter" (PBTP) event at their churches. This encompasses two days of training sessions, which include the Armor of God, Strongholds Of The Enemy, 8 Steps To Prepare For Intercession, The Weapons Of Our Warfare, Territorial Research, prayer walking, etc. There have been many incredible results, such as one church that reported their average attendance was 21 with 25 members before PBTP. After one year, they now have an average of 67 in attendance with 98 members, baptized 36, and 37 received the Holy Ghost since hosting the PBTP at their church. What makes this

event a success is that it is not a program but a biblical principle.

Also, at every district event, we set up a WNOP prayer table to promote prayer with various free materials. Each district event is covered by prayer and fasting by our team.

Why is a prayer ministry so important for a district?

Prayer is the foundation to the success of every department, conference, event and church in our district. In Acts 27:17, the Bible talks about how during a storm, the men tie ropes around the hull of the ship to keep it from breaking apart. It is called "helps" or "undergirding." Undergirding the district in prayer enhances the success of everything. Our focus is that God would help, protect, give understanding and knowledge to, and enable the churches in Florida. We pray for more laborers in the harvest to start new church plants. We pray for revival in all of our churches and many other needs, as well as for God's will to be done in our district.

Tell us about some of your past success stories and miracles.

I have seen the interest in prayer grow over the years in our district. One great reason for this is that our District Superintendent C.P. Williams backs the Florida District WNOP prayer ministry 100 percent.

It was his burden to have this prayer ministry. I have talked to many pastors who are very excited about this ministry and now have started a prayer team in their church and appointed prayer leaders.

Many have received the call to ministry, healings, miracles, encouragement, direction, inspiration and breakthroughs from attending Fueling the Fire Prayer Conference. Many have received the Holy Ghost. One young lady who was feeling the call of God to be a missionary was praying at the altar. My wife felt to go pray with her during the FTF altar call. At the time, we didn't know anything about her. My wife prayed and gave her a word of wisdom from the Lord, and this inspired her to take the next step. She is now

an AIMer in Scotland. This year, I was asked to lead an hour of prayer at the beginning of the Men's Conference. At the altar call, over 200 men received the Holy Ghost.

What role, in your opinion, does prayer play in a district's growth and revival?

Prayer is very important in the decision-making process. It gives a greater direction and understanding as to what needs to be accomplished. Prayer is the necessary link to receiving God's blessing, power and the fulfillment of His promises. Numerous scriptures in the Bible illustrate this principle. James 5:16 says, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Prayer makes a serious difference in the individual's life, a church and even the district as a whole. When there is unity in prayer, the result will be greater revival for the individual and the church, just as in Acts 2:1-4.

What advice do you have for pastors wanting to start a strong prayer program in their church?

Jesus said in Matthew 21:13, "My house shall be called the house of prayer." Everything done in the church needs to be backed by prayer first, in order to receive the full results everyone is looking for. First, the pastor has to teach on prayer and promote it to the church. Second, a

prayer team needs to be assembled. Look for those who already have a burden to intercede, then lead them by casting your vision. Next, appoint a leader -- someone you trust that will work well with you and the team. The prayer team can consist of as few as two to seven people or more. All departments in the church should promote prayer in some way with the guidance of the pastor and prayer leader.

How can others contact you for more questions or information?

Phillip Hofstetter, Florida District WNOP Coordinator, P.O. Box 926, Bartow, FL 33831, Phone: (863) 533-3974, floridaprayer@yahoo.com, <http://flupci.org/departmentsprayer.html>



Fueling the Fire Prayer Conference

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
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
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 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 4-6	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
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 Sleevea, 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, lifetchurchwi@yahoo.com , or www.lifetchurchwi.org
NOV 1-3	West Coast Conference - Fresno, CA 34th Annual Fresno Meeting	Fresno Convention Center, 848 M Street, Fresno, CA	Ben Weeks, Greg Wilkins, Gary Streeval, James Corkran, O.C. Marler, Tommy Johnson and Joseph Clay	For more information call: (559) 225-1622 www.truthtabfresno.org
JAN 2018	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 2018	WinterFire 2018 WinterFire's focus is ministering to those in ministry. Our objective is that every member of your team will leave renewed and refreshed.	First Cathedral 1151 Blue Hills Ave. Bloomfield, CT 06002	To be announced	For more info: visit www.winterfire.org or visit Instagram/Twitter/Facebook @winterfireconf

Theology: Questions About Trimming of a Woman's Hair



Robert L. Rodenbush

■ Church Today

rrodenbush@earthlink.net

By Endurance We Conquer

Endurance is not a default position. It is not opting for neutral. Endurance is a mindset that takes courage, determination and fortitude. It is natural to want to succeed, to reach a goal, or win an elusive victory. But what if you're divinely asked to endure? It's a biblical principle but difficult to live out. It's much easier to accept healing than sickness, blessing than sacrifice, joy rather than pain. Yet, many are simply asked to endure. "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (2 Timothy 2:3). "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life" (James 1:12). When facing a trial or difficulty you are likely to be told: "Just hold on," "Keep on keeping on," or "Just endure." At the time such remarks, however well-intentioned, can be painful. Yet when a test or hardship goes on for long periods, the fire of endurance has to be stoked and continuously monitored.

The word *endurance* has become synonymous with the book titled "Endurance," that chronicles the expedition of Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton. The telling of Shackleton's amazing story by Alfred Lansing defines endurance better than any other. The vessel they would navigate through the treacherous waters was rechristened "Endurance" by Shackleton, in keeping with his family motto: "fortitudine vincimus" – "by endurance we conquer." Shackleton had been taught from an early age that endurance was not a position of weakness but strength in action, fortitude displayed.

In a materialistic world of instant self-gratification, teaching endurance is more of a challenge than ever before. Yet I do believe that "by endurance we conquer." The transfer of this message to the next generation is essential. Prosperity doctrines, surface spirituality or feel-good religion will not build in our children the strength or determination they need to withstand the attacks of this world. "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Matthew 24:13).

Shackleton was described thus: "Whatever his mood - whether it was gay and breezy, or dark with rage - he had one pervading characteristic: he was purposeful." I pray that a sense of destiny and purpose will fall upon us and upon our children as we contend for the doctrine so faithfully delivered to us. It's easy to make fun of the old "Hold the Fort" mentality. Perhaps that song wasn't the best musical effort of that era, but it did have a message; that protecting and defending what we believe and standing ready, enduring whatever comes our way, was honorable and necessary.

We live in dark times. In the last day sound doctrine, morality and godliness will not be endured (2 Timothy 4:3). The temptation to compromise, to lay aside our heritage, to blend in to the ecumenical circle, to yield to conformity, complacency and acceptance, must not overtake us. By endurance we conquer.



Bobby Killmon

■ Theology

bobby.killmon@sbcglobal.net

Is it clear Scripture does not leave ambiguous whether a woman's hair is okay to trim if it's still technically long?

This is one of our key biblical distinctions from the Apostle's doctrine addressing the distinction in sexes. A fascinating thing is while some Apostolics are picking up "studied ambiguity" from non-Apostolic sources on this subject, scholarship outside our movement are revealing some amazingly plain admissions.

One claim is 1 Corinthians 11 is just addressing a local Corinthian custom. But, Dr. R.C. Sproul (chancellor of Ligonier Academy and Reformation Bible College) says, "If Paul merely told women in Corinth to cover their heads and gave no rationale for such instruction, we would be strongly inclined to supply it via our cultural knowledge. In this case, however, Paul provides a rationale which is based on an appeal to creation not to the custom of Corinthian harlots." He goes on to push interpreters by stating emphatically, "We must be careful not to let our zeal for knowledge of the culture obscure what is actually said." His point is that this is not a cultural issue but a command for all times and places. What should we Apostolics say? Amen!

Another common attempt to move away from this biblical prescription is by saying the words or concepts in 1 Corinthians 11 are so far distant from us that we cannot be sure of the correct meaning or reading. This claim suggests we cannot be sure of what is or isn't on a man or woman's head. However, again, cutting edge research flies in the face of this claim. For instance, Dr. A. Philip Brown II (Associate Prof. of Language, Bible, & Theology at God's Bible School & College) points out that although "long hair" (κομάω) can be used with various metaphorical senses, the normal meaning of the word throughout Koine literature is "to allow the hair to grow long by not cutting it, wear long hair." He further takes on the counterarguments of both Ben Witherington III (Prof. of NT Interpretation at Asbury Theological Seminary) and Preston T. Massey (Prof. at Indiana Wesleyan University) proving them wrong.

Dr. Brown points out that while the word "long hair" *kóme* (κόμη) occurs in the NT only in 1 Cor. 11:15, that "hurdle" does not leave the meaning ambiguous. He points out the early church's interpretation regarding Paul's use of *komáo* (κομάω) and *kóme* (κόμη) is uniform! He proves, citing example after example, there is simply no case historically where Paul's words are taken to refer to hair that is long and yet cut. The consistent understanding from all the existing records is that "... men are not to have uncut hair and women are to have uncut hair." What is an Apostolic response? Amen!

Brown shows all the writing in the Greek of the NT (Koine Greek), and even all of classical Greek does not support a distinction between cutting hair and trimming it. Further, he shows Paul did not intend to make a "long and yet cut" distinction in 1 Cor. 11. He states, "Since I can find no such distinction in Koine literature, in the early church's understanding of this passage, or in Paul, I conclude that the argument is not legitimate. Paul's expectation was that women would have uncut hair that grows however long nature has determined, and that men would have cut hair that did not 'cover' their heads and thus is distinctly masculine." Isn't it fascinating when even non-Apostolic authors make incredible admissions rooted in the facts of the Scripture? What a powerful day to be on the side of truth! Can I get an "Amen?"



T. W. Massengale

■ Church Growth

tmassengale@apostolic.edu

The Importance of Trained Altar Workers

Over the years, I have emphasized that 100% of your new converts will come from your guests. But now allow me to state another obvious observation: Individuals that come forward at altar call time are much more likely to be baptized and receive the Holy Ghost than those that don't. And just like a comprehensive guest follow-up ministry will increase the likelihood that a visitor will become a convert (few receive the Holy Ghost the first time they visit so we must encourage

their return), effectively trained altar workers will increase the likelihood that those that come forward to pray will embrace full New Birth salvation.

Effective altar workers are needed in every church. How to counsel and pray with people in the altar, how to encourage them to seek the Holy Ghost, and how to lead them gently toward baptism is a skill that only comes through training. Not everyone feels a burden for this type of ministry, but many do. The goal of every revival church will be to identify such individuals and train them to be as effective as possible. There are a number of altar worker courses available (all available at PPH). Two I personally recommend are *Altar Ministry* by David Smith (teacher/student workbooks available) and

the *Altar Ministry CD* by Brian Norman. But other training materials by Pat Wehlage, Felix Crowder, Ron Libby, and Robert Henson are certainly worth exploring. Many pastors review 2-3 courses, add their own special touch, and then develop a personalized training program for their church. Teach this course at least once a year.

One final note: Everyone that comes to our altars should be offered a home Bible study (*Search for Truth or Exploring God's Word*). Training altar workers on how to offer this course will provide you with many HBS prospects and the majority of HBS's taught result in someone being saved.

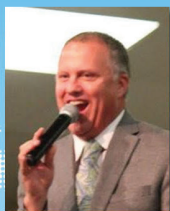
Bottom line: Devoting time and effort annually to training altar workers will pay off in increased growth and revival.

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12:00 PM REGISTRATION
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7:30 PM EVENING SERVICE: MICHAEL ENSEY

T H U R S D A Y , J U L Y 2 7

9:00 - 9:30 AM JUMP START SESSION: L.J. HARRY
10:00 - 11:00 AM SPLIT SESSIONS
• TEEN: CHANTRY DEAN
• HYPHEN: MATTHEW JOHNSON
• YOUTH WORKERS: CHADWICK CRAFT
• YOUNG MINISTERS: AARON SOTO

11:30 - 1:00 PM GENERAL SESSION: TOM ELLIS

1:00 PM AFTERNOON BREAK
6:15 PM NORTH AMERICAN TALENT SEARCH
7:15 PM PRAYER
7:30 PM EVENING SERVICE: SAM EMORY
11:00 PM HYPHEN LATE NIGHT EVENT

F R I D A Y , J U L Y 2 8

9:00 - 9:30 AM JUMP START SESSION: L.J. HARRY
10:00 - 11:00 AM SPLIT SESSIONS
• TEEN: ANDREW ROMINE
• HYPHEN: BRENT COLTHARP
• YOUTH WORKERS: JONATHAN QUINONES
• YOUNG MINISTERS: DAVID K. BERNARD

11:30 - 1:00 PM GENERAL SESSION: VICTOR JACKSON

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Carol Clemans

Spiritual Growth

carol@carolclemans.org

Jesus Is Coming! Are You Ready?

Jesus is coming! Are you ready? We must be born again of water and Spirit (John 3:3-5). We must obey Acts 2:38. But beyond our initial salvation, we must be holy as He is holy! We cannot be verbally, emotionally or physically abusive to others and be saved. How we treat others is how we are treating God. (This comes from issues I counsel nationwide – people who claim salvation but harm others with anger, bitterness and unforgiveness. We must have holiness of the heart to be ready for Jesus to return).

How can we live holy? Allow the Holy Ghost to control our every thought, feeling and action. Be patient, kind, good, faithful and meek with self-control (Galatians 5). Our words and actions reveal what is in our heart. Forgiving others is a gift to self as an act of obedience to the Lord.

Praying always in the Spirit (Eph. 6:18) is having an ongoing inner dialogue with God in everything we do. Pray for God's wisdom daily. Ask yourself, "Do others see God in me? Is my family learning about God by my actions?"

The most important question is, "Do I have an intimate relationship with God that governs my life? Do I glorify God in my body and spirit that belong to God?" (1 Cor. 6). True worship is presenting our body as a living sacrifice unto God (Romans 12:1 & 2 AMP), putting God first in all we do.

My heartbeat is sharing God's truth teaching for churches/conferences and by providing nationwide counseling by phone/Skype (636) 448-0121. If you are dealing with emotional pain from events in your life, God's truth has answers for healing. Go to: www.carolclemans.org - read 'about ministry' page for details of ministry/counseling. To God be the Glory!

© Carol Clemans – Anointed Bible teacher, Certified Pastoral Counselor, Certified Christian Life Coach. To schedule speaking or counseling nationwide call (636) 448-0121. Order teaching products or book: *God's Design for Marriage* @ www.carolclemans.org. Mins. Ref: Pastor Daniel Batchelor, Duplo, IL. Watch short video teachings on Carol Clemans YouTube channel.



Arlo Moehlenpah

Creation vs. Evolution

moehlenpah@aol.com

Design and Purpose

God formed the earth to be inhabited! (Isa. 45:18). The earth's 24-hour rotation which gives us day and night, 23.5 degree tilt which gives our seasons, yearly revolution around the sun, and the perfect composition of air is a testament to design and purpose in creation. The water we need has a number of unusual properties including expanding when it freezes, a high specific heat which prevents sudden changes in temperature between day and night and a high heat of fusion which prevents the snow from melting too suddenly. High surface tension enables water to reach the top of trees. Gravity prevents the atmosphere, water and us from escaping into space and falling off the earth as well as keeping the earth, moon and other planets orbiting in the solar system.

The heavenly bodies divide the day from the night and are for signs, seasons, days and years. The sun provides light and energy for life on earth. It gives the right amount of energy and the right kind of energy. Most stars put out a high proportion of lethal radiations such as x-rays and gamma rays, but the sun provides us mainly with a life-supporting spectrum of energy. The moon gives adequate night illumination, an accurate time record and its gravitational pull causes regular tides which cleanse our shorelines. "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows his handiwork" (Psa. 19:1).

The entire human body shows purpose and design. For example, a sperm (which weighs about five billionth of a gram) unites with an egg (which weighs about one-millionth of a gram) to start the reproductive system. From this tiny beginning, all the sense organs such as the eye, ear, nose and tongue develop as well as all of the other systems of the body such as the skeletal-muscular, digestive, respiratory, circulatory and nervous systems. "I will praise You; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psa. 139:14).

Everything in nature, from the smallest subatomic particle to the entire universe, was designed by God for a purpose.

God has a purpose for you! A question you need to ask now and every day is, "Lord, what will you have me to do?"

Dr. Arlo Moehlenpah taught chemistry at three colleges and Bible subjects at four UPC Bible colleges. 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



Carlton L. Coon Sr.

CoonEctions

carltoncoonr@gmail.com

Who Else Wants to Develop Mature, Effective Saints?

The setting is Jacob meeting Esau. Esau wanted Jacob to travel with him. Jacob would not. Jacob's reasons:

"And he said unto him, *My lord knoweth that the children are tender, and the flocks and herds with young are with me: and if men should overdrive them one day, all the flock will die*" (Genesis 33:13).

Can we "over-drive" our tender ones? Sure, but those who mature spiritual babies realize:

- The young need specific care. The Amplified Bible put it, "the children are tender. . . and need gentle care."
- Jacob also mentioned having his flocks with their young.
- The health of the *tender* took precedence over Esau's desires.

Jacob's decision was strategic and intentional. He knew the risk of rushing. Injury might befall a tired child. One of the young flock could die. Two factors are presented: (1) Jacob's concern for the "children." (2) Future benefit might be lost. Animals that died from being "over-driven" did not multiply.

As was the case with Jacob's situation, moving new converts too quickly results in loss. Given time to develop, today's converts become mature, soul-winning, tithe-paying, disciple-making saints. *But it does not happen quickly.*

"Over-driving" converts looks like this:

- Force-feeding *meat* the "tender one" isn't ready to receive.
- Expecting lifestyle change without giving foundation for change.
- Requiring the young to keep pace with the mature.

Apply Jacob's wisdom. 1. Behave intentionally and strategically. Don't over-drive your young. 2. Patience! Develop your "tender ones," and they eventually help care for others. 3. *Little one awareness!* Jacob's phrase "with me" indicated responsibility. Decisions and behaviors of today determine how your little ones will do tomorrow.

If you are not responsible for the well-being of your tender ones, who is? Take it slow. I have to! It is a slow go with my "tender ones" at springfieldcalvary.church.

More insight on developing disciples is available. At 7 p.m. (CST) on the second Tuesday of each month, I host a Facebook Live webinar at my personal Facebook page. More blog posts on these concepts are at carltoncoonr.com. I welcome questions and your insight into developing people.

Carlton L. Coon Sr. pastors SpringfieldCalvary.church (Springfield, Missouri). 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 carltoncoonr@gmail.com. Blog posts and resources are available at carltoncoonr.com.



Delano Sherley

Accounting & Tax Business Travel

We often get questions regarding the tax deduction of personal days that are part of a business trip. In order to deduct all travel expenses, you must spend 50% of days on business for domestic trips and 75% or more for foreign trips. For a day to count as a business day, you must work at least four hours. If you work Friday and Monday, you can count the weekend as business days even

if you do no work. Travel days to and from the destination count as business days.

You can only deduct hotels for the days that are considered business. Meals can be deducted at 50% for business days. For the travel expenses of a spouse or child to be deductible, he/she must also be an employee of the business or there must be a bona fide business purpose they are traveling with you.

Side trips are not deductible (i.e.: if you go to a personal destination en route to or returning from your business destination those expenses are not deductible). Likewise, if the primary

purpose of your trip is personal, but you spend some time on business, you can only deduct the expenses directly related to the business (your travel to and from home would not be deductible).

Proper documentation of the time spent working and related business expenses is important to support the deductions should the IRS audit your return. See IRS publication 463 for more details.

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@dsacpa.com Website: www.dsacpa.com

THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS**Planned Parenthood Caught Denying Women Prenatal Care**

A new Live Action investigation shows Planned Parenthood employees confirming what pro-lifers have been saying for years: Planned Parenthood is focused on abortion.

The new investigation, "Abortion Corporation," explores the abortion group's claims about



being an essential women's health care provider. Planned Parenthood has been putting extra emphasis on its non-abortion services recently in an attempt to justify the \$500 million in taxpayer money it receives every year. Its leaders claim that being defunded would hurt millions of women who depend on Planned Parenthood for services like prenatal care, breast exams and birth control.

That's not what Live Action found, though. The first video in its new series, "The Prenatal Care Deception," shows that Planned Parenthood's prenatal care services are "virtually nonexistent."

Only five of the 97 facilities it contacted across the U.S. provided prenatal care; the rest turned them away, according to the investigation.

"Planned Parenthood offers abortions, so they don't offer prenatal care," a receptionist at the Planned Parenthood in Tempe, Arizona told a Live Action investigator.

Another receptionist at the Albany, New York facility told them, "No Planned Parenthood does prenatal care, hon."

A third in Merrillville, Indiana said: "No, we don't do prenatal services. I mean, it's called Planned Parenthood, I know it's kind of deceiving."

The pro-life group's findings contradict what Planned Parenthood CEO Cecile Richards told the media in 2011. "Prenatal care – these are the kinds of services that folks depend on Planned Parenthood for," Richards said at the time.

While Live Action was hard pressed to find any Planned Parenthood that offered prenatal care, some of the investigators posing as pregnant women were offered abortions instead. Planned Parenthood does one third of all abortions in the U.S. — 887 per day on average or about 320,000 a year.

This is just the first of several videos that Live Action plans to release in the coming weeks.

**Two Special Bibles Used in Inauguration Ceremony**

Two different Bibles were used for the swearing in of President Donald Trump at the inauguration ceremony last month. One was the same Bible used by Abraham Lincoln during his first inauguration when he became the 16th president of the United States. The other is President Trump's very own personal Bible that was a gift from his mother many years ago.

Presidential Inauguration Committee Chairman Tom Barrack shared in a statement, "In his first inaugural address, President Lincoln appealed to the 'better angels of our nature.' As he (Donald Trump) takes the same oath of office 156 years later, President-elect Trump is humbled to place his hand on Bibles that hold special meaning both to his family and to our country."

The "Lincoln Bible" was originally purchased for Lincoln's first inauguration by Supreme Court Clerk William Thomas Carroll and has been used for three different inauguration ceremonies, including Lincoln's inauguration in 1861 and President Barack Obama's inaugurations in 2009 and 2013.

The other Bible that was a part of the ceremony was a gift from President Trump's mother, given when he graduated from Sunday Church Primary School at First Presbyterian Church in Jamaica, New York in June of 1955.

He shares in a campaign video about the Bible as he thanks evangelical supporters, "My mother gave me this Bible — this very Bible — many years ago. In fact, it's her writing right here (on the inside cover). She wrote my name and my address and it's just very special to me. I want to thank the evangelicals. I will never let you down."

Vice President Mike Pence was sworn in using the Reagan Family Bible, the same one that President Ronald Reagan used to take his oaths of office as the 40th president of the United States. This was the first time since Reagan used it, that his Bible will be used for an inauguration.

Pence stated, "It will be my honor to take the oath of office to defend our Constitution from a man who has dedicated his life to the same noble pursuit."

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ A startling new report about abortions worldwide estimates that 1 billion babies were killed in abortions during the past 100 years. The new Abortion Worldwide Report begins with data from 1920 when the former U.S.S.R. became the first to authorize abortion, according to Human Life International. Today, 136 nations have legalized abortions to some extent, the group reports.

■ On Jan. 23, President Donald Trump signed an ex-

ecutive order to defund International Planned Parenthood. The Executive Memorandum to reinstate the Mexico City Policy stops taxpayer funding of groups that perform and promote abortions overseas but does not stop non-abortion international assistance. The order ensures U.S. foreign aid will continue to go to health care and humanitarian relief in the millions of dollars. It just will not subsidize abortion overseas.

RELIGIOUS TRENDS**China: Six Christian Women Face Charges for Holding Bible Study**

China Aid reports that six Christian women were taken into custody on Jan. 10 after authorities broke into the church where they were holding a Bible study around 10:30 a.m. The women were charged with holding an illegal religious meeting.

A pastor of the church where the women were meeting said: "The religious affairs bureau posted

a notice, accused us of illegally [gathering], and threatened to ban our church. We did not stop the gatherings; on the contrary, we kept on meeting. The officers from the government departments came and took away our doormat, but we managed to get it back. After about 30 or 40 minutes, they simply walked in and began to grab our chairs. The [Christian] brothers tried to stop them, and the officers began to shove us away and beat us up."

Each woman has been sentenced to 10 to 15 days in prison for organizing and participating in unauthorized religious activities.

**WORLD TRENDS****The Top 50 Countries Where It's Hardest to be a Christian**

For the third year in a row, the modern persecution of Christians worldwide has hit another record high, according to the 2017 World Watch List (WWL) released by Open Doors.

In 25 years of "chronicling and ranking" the political and societal restrictions on religious freedom experienced by Christians worldwide, Open Doors researchers identified 2016 as the "worst year yet."

The findings and trends noted by Open Doors are stark:

- Approximately 215 million Christians experience high, very high, or extreme persecution.
- North Korea remains the most dangerous place to be a Christian (for 14 straight years).
- The most violent: Pakistan, which rose to No. 4 on the list for a level of violence "exceeding even northern Nigeria."
- The killings of Christians in Nigeria saw an increase of more than 62 percent.
- The worst increase: Mali, which moved up the most places on the list from No. 44 to No. 32.
- Asia is a new center of concern, with persecution rising sharply in Bangladesh, Laos, and Bhutan, and Sri Lanka joining the list for the first time.



Annabel is a beautiful girl who is waiting for her forever family. She was born in April 2007. She is shy and very attached to her caregiver. She had surgery in 2013 for stenosis of the external auditory meatus. She also has some eye issues and possibly has cataracts. She can see well enough to play with toys. This little sweetie needs a family to help her grow and thrive. Could she be your daughter?

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PLEADING the BLOOD

Philip Harrelson, Dothan, AL

Plead the Blood

Exodus 12:13: "And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt."

Leviticus 8:30: "And Moses took of the anointing oil, and of the blood which was upon the altar, and sprinkled it upon Aaron, and upon his garments, and upon his sons, and upon his sons' garments with him; and sanctified Aaron, and his garments, and his sons, and his sons' garments with him."

The concept of pleading the blood of Jesus is a distinctly Pentecostal tradition. There are some Pentecostal traditions that we may do well to do away with, but pleading the blood is not one of them. Pleading the blood should be emphasized more in the Pentecostal experience.

What Is Meant By Pleading the Blood?

The saints of times past would plead the blood of Jesus. In his book, *Azuza Street Mission and Revival: The Birth of the Global Pentecostal Movement*, Cecil Robeck recorded several accounts of William Seymour and Charles Parham. In their search for the Holy Ghost and the power thereof, they came to the understanding that the blood of Jesus Christ is a counter-agent against corruption and sin.

Sick people would call for prayer. Saints and preachers alike would respond with prayer. Many of those old saints began to understand that if they could be covered by the anointing of the Holy Ghost and the blood of Christ, then their life would be immune to some things. They found protection in the blood of Jesus.

Pleading the blood is for this generation. There are those who believe the idea of pleading the blood to be far-fetched, even archaic. There are also those who would believe that as long as you are filled with the Holy Ghost, there is no need for anything further. But when you were baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost, you became a child of God and part of His kingdom in this world. Because of that, there are benefits and blessings you have that no one else in this world has available to them.

Satan's Tactic

Satan wants you to forget that there is power in the blood of Jesus. This is his business: to cause God's people to forget. But recognizing the power of the blood needs to be an

active part of your praying, singing, worship and preaching. Satan will oppose it, but we must preach about the cross, the atonement, and the blood of Jesus Christ. This is one of the elements of spiritual revival.

Claim the Blood

You must claim the blood of Jesus Christ. When the blood is applied to your life and you have confidence in the mercy of God, you can plead the blood. The power of the blood is available for the people of God.

We sing songs like, "Hide Me in the Blood" and "Power in the Blood." There is a power in those old hymns from which this post-modern generation must never turn. When the storms of life come, you must be hidden in the blood.

By pleading the blood, you can keep yourself from unrighteousness. The psalmist said, "Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer" (Psalms 19:13-14). To engage the blood means that it must never be far from your heart and mind.

So, what about the blood? Why do we plead the blood? There are several reasons.

The Blood is a Covering

Exodus 12:13 says, "And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt."

There was a blood covering that covered the children of Israel and protected them from the death angel. The prayer of covering of the blood must be part of your prayer. Everything precious to you must be covered with the blood of Jesus. I believe there can be a covering over your family members and possessions. If God has blessed you with anything, be a good steward and make sure it is covered with the blood of Jesus.

To Overcome the Accuser

Revelation 12:10-11 says, "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them

before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."

You must be an overcomer! But how do you overcome? By the blood of the Lamb and the word of your testimony. There is an old chorus that speaks of giving God the glory. One stanza of that chorus says, "Satan, the blood of Jesus is against you." The blood of Jesus Christ is against the accuser and destroyer of your soul. You are an overcomer because of the blood!

Another stanza of the chorus says, "So let us give God all of the praise." Satan is a master of reminding saints of God of their past. Your history does not matter, nor the sins you have committed. It does not matter how Satan has accused you, the blood of Jesus is against the accuser.

Multiplied Grace and Mercy

I Peter 1:2 speaks of the "grace and mercy of God" being "multiplied to the elect."

God is not like humanity. We want to keep a record of offenses committed against us. But when you fall on your knees and plead the blood, there is multiplied grace and mercy that begins to flow in your direction. You need the grace and mercy of God applied to your life. It matters not what records people want to keep, you plead the blood and God will give grace and mercy. The grace and mercy of God can reach to the darkest sin that has ever been committed.

If you have any holiness standard and separation from the world, there is a tendency for you to look at others and say, "I am doing pretty well." But no one has enough holiness, discipline or goodness that will make them able to save themselves. This is why we need the grace and mercy of God. It needs to be poured out on us like never before. So, plead the blood!

To Gain Perfection

Hebrews 13:20-21 says, "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will..."

When you find yourself pursuing and performing the will of God, there is a baptism of perfection in every good work. The devil would rather hear you talk about anything other than the will of God. He would rather you talk about education, money, self-improvement and self-help instead of recognizing that there is nothing inside of you that will defeat the devil. But if you can do the will of God, there is a divine perfection that will come into your life. Do the will of God! There is a perfection that comes from the blood of the cross.

Boldness to Enter the Presence of God

Hebrews 10:19 says, "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus."

You are justified before God by the work on the cross of Calvary. There is a boldness that comes from the inside of you that is wrought by the Holy Ghost.

Purge Your Conscience

Hebrews 9:14 says, "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

The greatest battlefield of the enemy is that of the mind. It is not Hollywood, the seat of entertainment. It is not Washington, D.C., the seat of the governmental power of this nation; it is your mind. It is for this reason that you need the blood of Christ to purge your

conscience from dead works. It does not matter what sin you have committed in the past. If there is the action of the Holy Ghost inside you, there is a purging of your conscience, and you need to forget the past. The adversary never forgets and will continue to accuse you. But if the blood has been applied, your conscience is clean.

Protect Against the Fear and Torment

Colossians 1:20 says, "And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven."

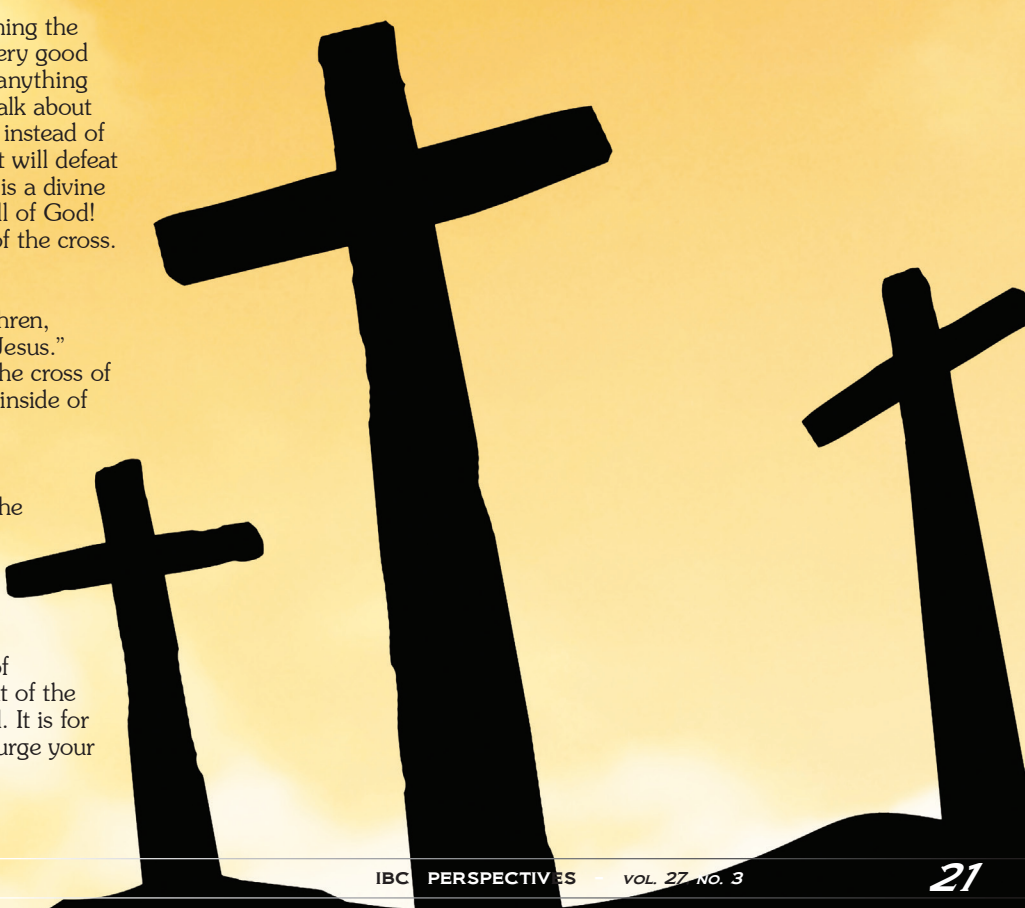
The adversary will instill fear and torment in your mind in an effort to control you. The result of this is shame, guilt, humiliation and condemnation. The world of psychology teaches that you can rid yourself of the emotions of sin. But what you need is interaction with the Holy Ghost. The blood of Jesus Christ is against the work of the enemy of your soul. Plead the blood!

Satan, the blood of Jesus is against you!



Pastor Philip Harrelson
Dothan, Ala.

Philip Harrelson is the Pastor of the Pentecostals of Dothan. He is also an AL District Board Member (Presbyter) and the SE Regional Executive Presbyter of the UPCI.



The Voice of the Elders

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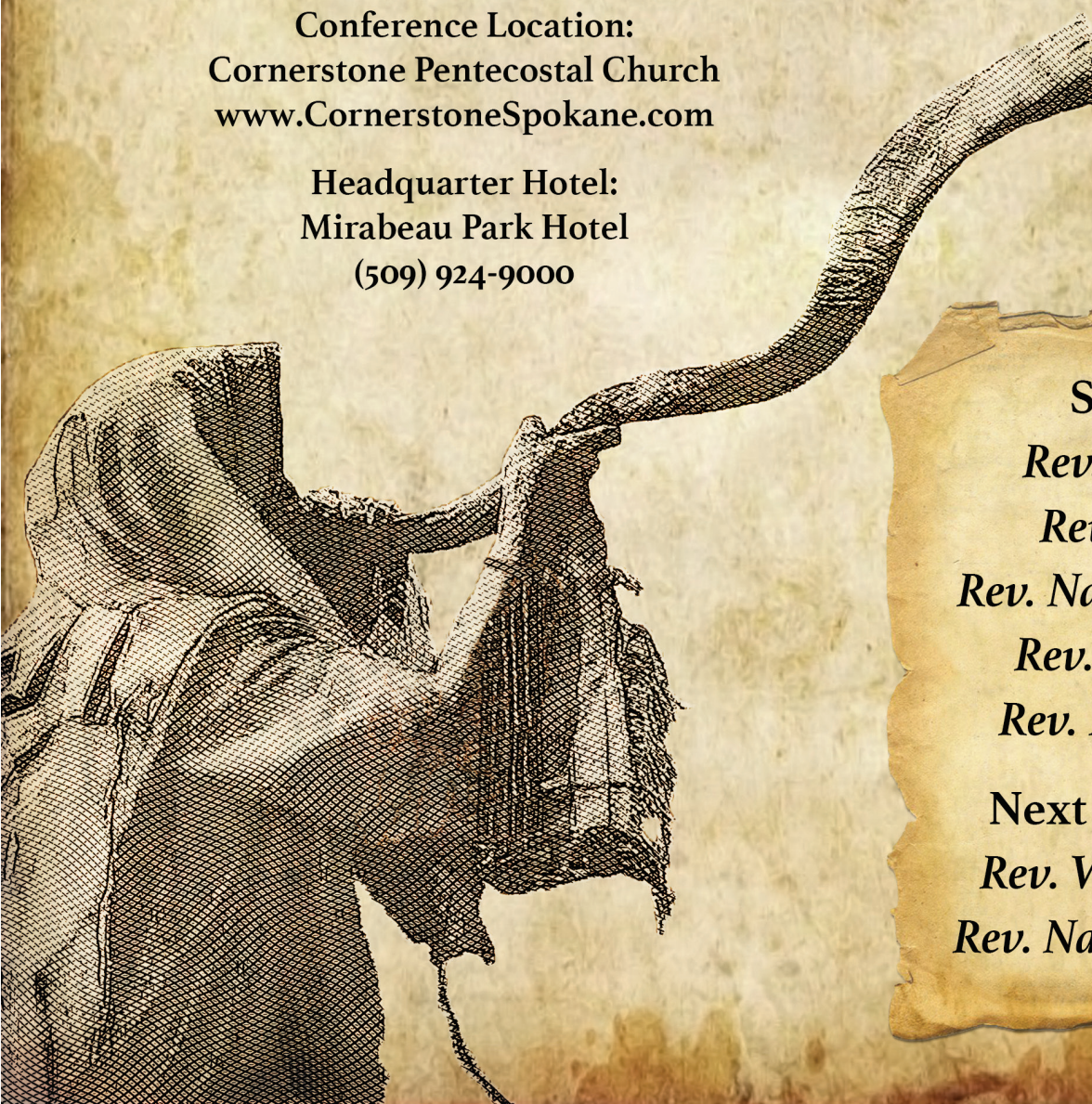
Rev. Joel Holmes

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Next Generation:

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ABLE Ministry -- Accept, Believe, Love, Embrace

UPCI Program Designed to Assist Individuals With Special Needs and Their Families

By Elizabeth Taylor



Sis. Denise Wynn, Newfield, N.J.
Director of ABLE Ministry

If you knew there was a group of 50 million Americans sharing common traits, and the majority of them didn't attend church, what would you do about it? What lengths would you go to reach them? Well, there are in fact 50 million Americans

affected by disabilities, and most of them do not attend church. Many of these individuals experience isolation "due to the lack of awareness and acceptance by the church community," according to Sis. Denise Wynn, of Newfield, N.J. This is where ABLE Ministry steps into the picture.

ABLE Ministry, directed by Sis. Wynn, is a UPCI Ladies Ministries program created to raise disability awareness within the church body. The acronym ABLE stands for accepting, believing, loving, and embracing. ABLE Ministry's goal is to assist individuals

with special needs and their families, both in the church and in the community, encouraging open hearts, open minds, and an attitude of love.

Some churches offer prayer and support groups that allow people facing similar experiences to share and grow through biblical principles and support from one another. Other churches offer a night of respite care so caregivers can take a few hours off. Some churches have increased building accessibility, hold special-needs-specific church services, or offer Sunday school classes geared for adults with intellectual disabilities. Still others offer community outreach, which provides educational opportunities for those affected by disabilities.

If a church is interested in launching its own ABLE Ministry, this group provides consulting and training to church staff in order to help them get started. They offer advice from professionals in the field of special needs and disabilities, assistance with setting up prayer and support groups, and continuing support to churches. Sis. Wynn also recommends the book *STEPS: Forming a Disabilities Ministry* by Shelli Allen and

Dr. Linda Barboa as a guide. Sis. Wynn has written a book called *When God Says No: Finding the Faith to Accept God's Will* that has a companion workbook designed for small group study.

This ministry has already had great success and continues to grow and minister to even more people. The ABLE Facebook page has over 1,000 members who are able to interact, connect, share resources, and provide support to one another. "We send a monthly e-newsletter which features personal stories of hope, strength and inspiration," she said. "We spotlight various disabilities and provide information as well as an educational Q & A segment."

If you are interested in launching an ABLE Ministry in your church, are looking for support, or have any questions, Sis. Wynn and her team would love to hear from you. You can contact Sis. Wynn by emailing ladies@upci.org or call the UPCI Headquarters. More information is also available at their website <http://www.ladiesministries.com/programs/able> or by connecting with them on Facebook at ABLE Ministry UPCI.

Global ConNEXTions 2016

Interactive Conference Designed to Connect People Burdened to Reach the World

By Elizabeth Taylor

"If we brought in the world's greatest authors, asking them to pen what took place at Global ConNEXTions, their words could never come close to encapsulating all that happened. The future will unveil the tremendous impact of a word fitly spoken, a song aptly sung, a slap on the back encouragingly given, the sights, sounds, smells, and speech creatively demonstrated." People from all walks of life gathered in St. Louis, Mo. in October 2016 for the first ever Global ConNEXTions conference, and it would be safe to say that every single person left changed. This event targeted those who are interested in global missions and served as an interactive experience and place to connect people who have a burden for reaching the world. Through various services, sessions and discussions, everyone who came to the event left with a renewed passion, a clearer sense of their call, or a newly birthed burden. Over 450 participants, including people from 31 states and five provinces in Canada, attended the conference.

The goal of this interactive experience was to help anyone who felt a burden for missions to "Discover, Prepare, and Go." It was open to people from all stages of life with the main purpose of helping each

individual discover what their next step would be. The event was split into two different parts: AIM Training (The Journey) and the Global ConNEXTions conference. The Journey was targeted at those already approved or in the process of applying to AIM, providing a smaller setting with in-depth seminars. Many different topics were discussed and taught through Q&A format, open discussion or seminars. The Global ConNEXTions conference targeted anyone 18 or older who felt any burden for global missions. This consisted of three services, a panel discussion, an interactive missions experience, interactive lunch seminar, and prayer for the nations.

Many testimonies have already come in from those who attended Global ConNEXTions 2016. Bro. Harold Linder stated, "This experience is for laborers, what I Am Global is for finances! So thankful to be there and to be impacted. Truly an alarm clock moment for all of us and the best is yet to come in Jesus name!" Sis. Hannah Riddle stated, "It was so encouraging to come together with others who have a passion and burden for missions. The Journey: AIM Training Thursday night and Friday was practical and helpful, and the rest of the weekend was challenging and inspirational."

The only prerequisite to attending the event was pastoral permission and \$25 to register. Currently, Global Missions is in the process of planning more events like this, and dates are still to be determined. In 2017, there will likely be multiple GoNEXT seminars held in different areas of the country, while the next Global ConNEXTions event will likely be held in the fall of 2018. If you are interested in attending these events in the future, stay connected via social media and be on the lookout for more information. Facebook: Global ConNEXTions, Twitter: Global_ConNEXT, Instagram: globalconnections, www.globalconnections.org



Global ConNEXTions 2016

The top half of the image is a dark teal background. In the center, there is a stylized white outline of the state of Arkansas. Overlaid on this outline is a complex network of white lines and dots, resembling a globe or a network diagram. In the background, a city skyline with various buildings and a bridge is visible, reflected in a body of water.

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The bottom half of the image has a white brick wall background. In the center, there are two large, shiny silver balloons shaped like the numbers '10'. The balloons are surrounded by a large amount of colorful confetti in various shapes and colors (red, blue, green, yellow, purple, etc.).

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Word To The Wise:

"When in deep water, be sure to keep your mouth shut."

* * * * *

LETTER FROM COLLEGE...

Dear Dad,

School i\$ really great. I've made lot\$ of friend\$ and am studying hard. With all my \$tuff, I \$imply can't think of anything I need, \$o if you would like you can ju\$t \$end me a card, a\$ I would love to hear from you. Love, your \$on

REPLY FROM DAD...

Dear Son,

I kNOW that astroNOMy, ecoNOMics, and oceaNOgraphy are eNOugh to keep even a hoNOR student busy. Do NOT forget that the pursuit of kNOWledge is a NOble task, and you can never study hard eNOugh. Love, Dad

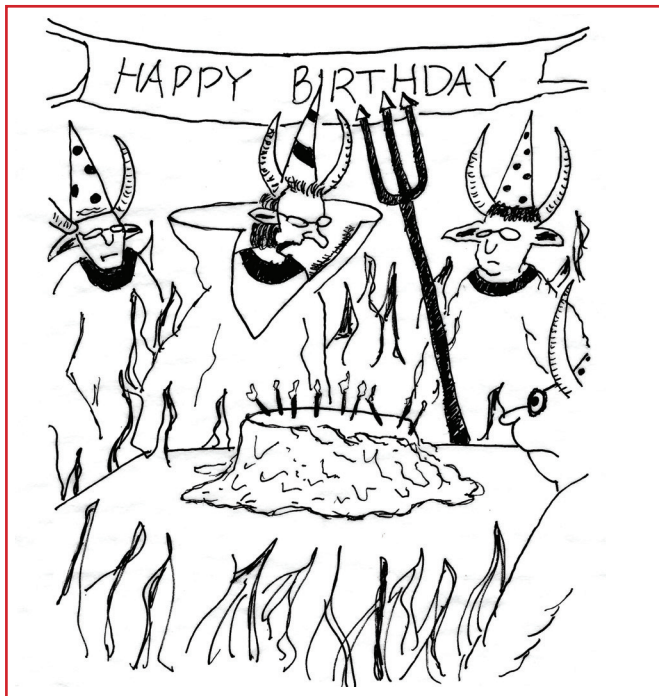
* * * * *

A farmer asked the vet to come out to check on his favorite bull which wasn't doing well at all.

After checking the bull's vital signs, the vet reached in his bag and pulled out a rather large pill. He forced open the bull's mouth and crammed the pill down his gullet. Suddenly the bull jumped up and took off like a banshee, jumping every fence in his way.

The vet exclaimed, "Well, looks like your bull is better!"

The farmer replied, "Right. Now give me one of those pills so I can catch him!"



"Really? You got me an ice cream cake?!"

* * * * *

A kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom as the children drew pictures. The teacher would occasionally walk around and see each child's artwork. As she approached one little girl who was working especially hard, she asked what the drawing was.

The little girl told her: "I'm drawing God!"

"But sweetie," the teacher replied, "no one actually knows what God looks like."

Automatically, the little girl continued drawing and said, "Well, they certainly will in a minute!"

* * * * *

Little Johnny asked his Grandma how old she was.

Grandma answered, "39 and holding."

Johnny thought about that and then asked: "And how old would you be if you let go?"



"I know you told her not to play with her food, Michelle, but wow, Greta's sure got a vision for the new church building!"

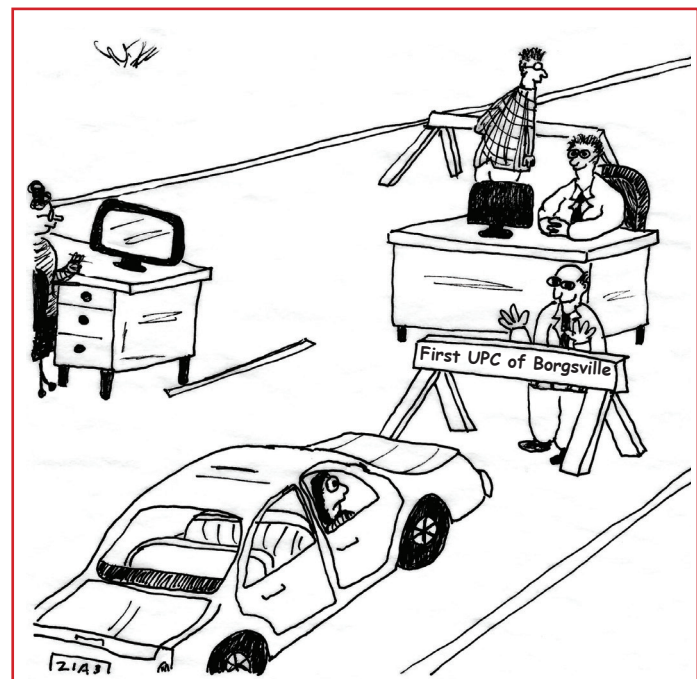
A woman and her husband interrupted their vacation to go see a dentist. "I want a tooth pulled, and I don't want any pain killers because I'm in a big hurry," the woman said. "Just extract the tooth as quickly as possible, and we'll be on our way." The dentist was quite impressed. "You're certainly a courageous woman," he said. "Which tooth is it?" The woman turned to her husband and said, "Show him your tooth, dear."

* * * * *

A groom wanted to surprise his bride on their wedding day so he arranged with the bakery to have a Bible verse inscribed on the cake.

He chose 1 John 4:18, which reads: "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love."

But the baker, not being familiar with the Bible, got the verse wrong and on the day of his wedding the groom was surprised to find the cake inscribed with John 4:18, which read: "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband."



Outreach results for First UPC of Borgsville: 4 visitors, 3 Bible studies and a \$150 fine for obstructing traffic.



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Aaron Bounds

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Night Glenn Massey

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