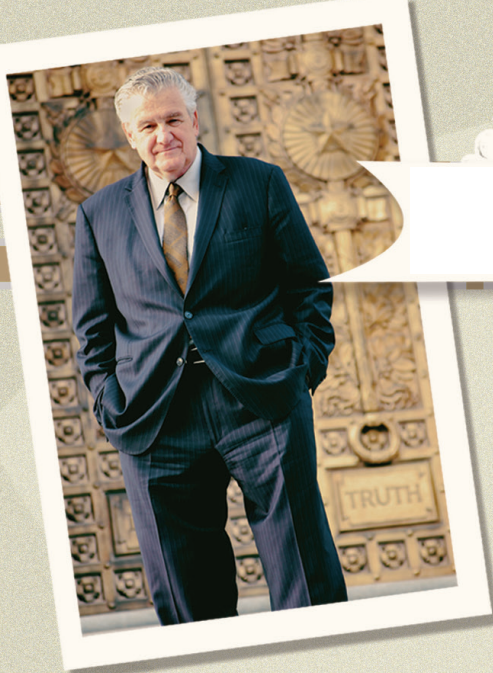


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Perspectives

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From The Publisher

At the Edge

Paul D. Mooney

“Are we foolishly curious to see how much ‘fun’ it might be to break down the Judeo/Christian moral foundation of our country, to rip the U.S. Constitution to shreds?”

Several years ago, I walked out to the edge of the Grand Canyon, near a spot where a young lady had recently jumped to her death. A nearby park ranger approached me and engaged me in a conversation about the dangers of being near the edge. He said, “There are two forces at play concerning the edge. There’s the force that pushes you toward the edge and over the edge, and then there’s a force that keeps you from falling.”

The more I thought about this, and the more I analyzed my own step toward the edge that day, I became convinced the ranger had it right. There is a force of some sort, perhaps it stems from our sense of curiosity or the desire for a better view, but it does indeed draw, at least some people, to approach the edge. Yet, all the while the second force is in play, triggering our heightened senses and warning us of the edge’s danger.

Today, almost all social commentators, politicians, newscasters, academics, pastors, philosophers, and even common men talk almost incessantly about the current and influential forces that are pushing us to the edge. Are we foolishly curious to see how much “fun” it might be to break down the Judeo/Christian moral foundation of our country, to rip the U.S. Constitution to shreds? Would it satisfy our prurience to discredit the Bible by exposing it to continuous debates and dubious examinations, rather than preaching from it as the revealed Word of God? Let us keep in mind that before foundations are removed they are first cracked.

Former President Obama stated in 2007, “Whatever we once were, we are no longer a Christian nation, at least not just. We are also a Jewish nation, a Muslim nation, and a Buddhist nation and a Hindu nation and a nation of nonbelievers.” That powerful statement, combined with increasing moral decadence and increasing universal godlessness, supports the fact that the United States is increasingly a post-Christian nation (*America’s Post-Christian Apocalypse*, Goehle, 2015). A force of some sort is pushing us to the edge.

If secular writers, journalists and various non-Apostolic denominations dare to speak to these pressing issues concerning the “loss of Christianity’s cultural authority” (Goehle), when do we plan to join the fight? Where are our old-time, Pentecostal, holiness preachers who dared to make clear that the very essence of Christianity is the principle of separation - coming out of the world? Who will raise their shield to protect this future generation from the secularization, deception and mindless inclusion into worldliness? Who will be the voice of warning against the force that is pulling us toward the edge?

I’m an Apostolic pastor. I’m concerned. I’m troubled. I’ve decided to resist modernism and secular ideas of “enlightenment.” I’ve decided to resist spurious, choreographed worship that reeks of carnality and sensualism (1 Corinthians 14:40). I resist the blatant deconstruction of holiness, the doctrine of separation and the disparagement of the holiness lifestyle. I resist theatrical services and sermons devoid of the Spirit, devoid of discernment. I resist the democratizing or privatization of doctrine (John 18:20). This is not the time to put our beliefs up for debate. This is not the time to tell our congregations, “Whatever works for you!” This *is* the time to defend steadfastly the Apostles’ doctrine as never before. We cannot afford to break down spiritual authority - if we do, we lose the concept of right and wrong altogether.

I must, at all cost, fight for my family and the children, teens and ministers who are in my pastoral care. It is an imperative that they not be enticed away from pastoral authority, unethically enlisted, isolated or indoctrinated into paths of apathy and worldliness. The forces that have pushed our world to the edge must be met by a second, *counter* force. The force that keeps us from falling.

“But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit. But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,” (Jude 1:17-24).

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

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

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FEATURE: THRIVING ON REVIVAL
(SERGIO VITANZA)

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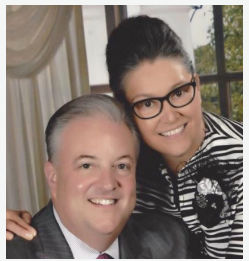
READERS ARE LEADERS

SUGGESTED LITERATURE
BY APOSTOLIC MINISTERS
Interviews by Angela Labunski

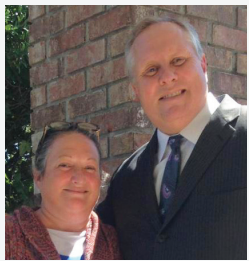
Note: The opinions on this page are entirely those of the individual and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Indiana Bible College.



Ben Corbitt, Pampa, TX - As much as I feel that it is very important that as leaders we are avid readers, I am equally adamant that we be cautious as to what and whom we read. It is very important that Oneness writers of our fellowships be accountable to good "solid" men and women of God to ensure the interpretation of the Holy script is accurately and "rightly" divided. Authors I find helpful for my ministry include Daniel Segraves, David Bernard, Talmadge French, Nathaniel Wilson, Larry Booker, T.W. Barnes, Verbal Bean, J.N. Holmes, Nona Freeman, Joy Haney, J.T. Pugh, and Morton Bustard. In a different category, *Who Moved My Cheese?* by Spencer Johnson, M.D. and *Fixing Broken Windows* by George L. Kelling and Catherine M. Coles are incredible books. Staying in tune with our published magazines is important: *Perspectives*, *Forward*, *The Pentecostal Herald*, *Texico Harvester*, etc. Also, I highly recommend reading *You Can Understand the Bible* by Daniel Segraves.



Zane Isaacson, White Hall, AR - You've heard it said, "Readers are leaders." Apostolics who desire to be leaders in this hour must be teachable, hungry for wisdom and knowledge. We need to be willing to learn from those heroes of the faith who have gone before. As a pastor, I read from four categories at a time. For Bible study, I primarily read the Bible, David Bernard and Daniel Segraves. In leadership principles, I enjoy authors John Maxwell and Nathaniel Wilson. Emerson Eggerichs and Gary Chapman can be gleaned from on marriage and family. Finally, for personal growth and subjects that "stretch" my personal knowledge base, Glenn Clark is one of my favorites. As a young minister, *A Tale of Three Kings* impacted me greatly and has continued to be instrumental in my quest for a "clean heart and right spirit."



Steve Waldron, Albany, GA - Reading helps us to understand the human condition, and allows us to glean the best from others. It is important for Apostolic leaders to be readers because it takes us beyond ourselves, giving us a perspective of where we are in this moment of time. When we read the correct things, it serves to calm the savage beast of negative emotions. Paul told Timothy to give attendance to reading, which means to do it on a regular basis. A few authors

that have helped me in various ways for ministry are Warren Wiersbe, J. Vernon McGee, John Warwick Montgomery, C.S. Lewis, Malcolm Muggeridge, Francis Bacon, and G.K. Chesterton. John Bunyan, among other Puritans, and Josh McDowell have also benefitted me much in helping others and myself. A few books that have greatly impacted my ministry are *The Pilgrim's Progress* by Bunyan, *In His Steps* by Charles Sheldon, *Awake My Heart* by J. Sidlow Baxter, and *Today is Mine* by Leroy Brownlow.

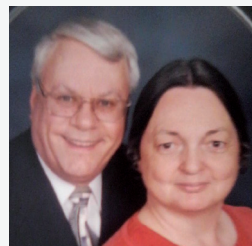


Rick Perry, New Haven, CT - Leaders who stop reading, stop leading. When you read, you ingest thousands of hours of research, and the different points of view received from literature helps in understanding those you lead, as well as how to lead. First, you must get into the Word of God. This may seem cliché, but most importantly Apostolic ministers need the Word and prayer.

Authors I enjoy are Jim Kouzes, Gerald Posner, John Maxwell and anything from George Barana. I read a lot of church growth authors like Nelson Searcy and Thom Rainer. On family and life, my favorites are James Dobson, John Eldredge, and Mark Batterson. I enjoy those that challenge my thought process, such as Malcolm Gladwell. *A Tale of Three Kings* by Gene Edwards is one book I require all our ministers in training to read, as many have failed because they attempt to lead as a Saul.



Sam Emory, Merced, CA - The mindset of our society constantly shifts and changes, so it is very important for leaders to read and stay informed on the transforming world around us. If we are unaware of the general mindset that our culture has, it may become difficult for us to communicate to individuals. Our Gospel was written to minister to all generations; however, it is our responsibility to reach out to where the people are and bring them to where He is. I'm not sure I have a favorite author, but I do particularly like and read the following authors: A.W. Pink, Daniel Segraves, Bishop D.K. Bernard, Sis. Joy Haney, along with others as well. *A Tale of Three Kings* by Gene Edwards would be my recommendation for every Apostolic minister to read.



Dale Welch, Peshtigo, WI - There is an old adage that says, "No man is an island unto himself." This speaks to the importance of reading, especially for leaders. I am always careful when reading non-Apostolic authors. I wouldn't want to read their books without first knowing Biblical truths. I utilize many Apostolic authors such as Robert E. Henson for Bible study outlines from which I can expound. David Bernard's writings are

complete and easy to understand for teaching our Apostolic message and doctrine. J. Mark Jordan has tremendous insight into what it takes to be a great, God-led leader for today's world. Fred Foster's thoughts are helpful in special messages, such as funerals and weddings. Finally, Ken Gurley's anointed flow has given me many great thoughts to preach. As for non-Apostolic authors, I have been able to glean from the works of John Bevere, John MacArthur and John Maxwell. One book I recommend to every minister is *For Preachers Only* by J.T. Pugh, which deals with the many aspects of ministry, from doctrine to ethics.

THRIVING REVIVAL

Sergio Vitanza // Wendell, NC



Rhonda and Sergio Vitanza
Wendell, NC

Principles of Growth & Revival

Primera Iglesia (First Church of Wendell, North Carolina) is flourishing with revival. Pastor Sergio Vitanza believes that the most important keys to having a growing church are evangelism and loving people. Accepting the people where they are, teaching home Bible studies, and preaching without compromising are also key factors to having a thriving church, and that is

exactly what Bro. Vitanza does. He also believes that a revival pastor should place his priorities in prayer, fasting, the Word of God, and training leaders. "If you are looking to increase your attendance, personal evangelism and home Bible studies are the tools," he said.

Organization & Management

Over 20 ministries are operating at Primera Iglesia, including Bus Ministry, Radio Ministry, New Convert Ministry, Food Fellowship Ministry and many more. Pastor Vitanza keeps in close contact with his ministry leaders, asking them to communicate with him or his wife every week to fill them in on how things are going. Pastoral group meetings with all the ministry leaders vary from once a quarter to once a year.

Presently, Pastor Vitanza is revamping every ministry, one at a time, and updating all the systems/policies. For planning purposes, in the developed ministries, the leaders are given assigned tasks to develop proposals for Bro. Vitanza's approval. In the other ministries, they are proactive in a personal way. They hope to have corporate planning sessions every year. For training, Bro. Vitanza uses Kineo Resources via Skype. However, most of the training takes place using resource material from Pentecostal Publishing House.

About 60 percent of the Primera Iglesia members are involved in some form of ministry. Between 10-20 percent are involved in evangelism. "To get people involved, we model it and teach it," said Pastor Vitanza. "We appreciate the folks involved through various means, from taking them out to dinner to honoring them in front of the congregation."

Personal Ministry

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 has been a guiding principle as Bro. Vitanza learned to fulfill Matthew 19:28-29. When he arrived in Raleigh, N.C., his pastor told him that everything Spanish-related was Bro. Vitanza's. Therefore, anyone that breathed oxygen that spoke Spanish became his focus for evangelism. After moving to their present location in Wendell, the focus became their local community. "Anyone who has not been born again has become our focus for evangelism regardless of language, race or creed," he said.

Current Facility

Primera Iglesia's current facility was built by a previous church organization with a seating capacity of 1,000. The 30,000 square foot building, built in 2004, has 10 classrooms. The vestibule alone is 2,000 square feet. It sits on 26 acres of land. The way the church acquired this facility is quite the story, according to Pastor Vitanza. They searched for places to rent to no avail. After several years, they purchased five acres of land with plans to build. However, at the eleventh hour, when they were preparing to sign papers to begin the building project, they were shown a foreclosed church building. The church building was double the size they were originally planning to build, and was furnished and move-in ready. According to Pastor Vitanza, it was a no-brainer to pursue the foreclosure. The investment group that owned the property accepted the five acres of land

as a down payment, so they moved into the building virtually with no money down. Currently, Primera Iglesia is the largest UPCL church in North Carolina, and the district uses their church building for family camp/district conference.

They hope to eventually put a family life center on one side of the property, extend parking, and build an education building. The average attendance



Excursion Day to North American Youth Congress in 2015

for Primera Iglesia has been about 450 each week. In 2015, a daughter work was started about an hour away in the town of Newton Grove.

Personal History

Pastor Vitanza grew up in Albany, California. He was not raised in church. After being in college for a while, a few people had spoken to him about the Lord so Pastor Vitanza asked God to lead him to a church. Soon afterward, he was walking down a street and saw a sign on the marquee of an old theatre, "Voice of Pentecost," so he decided to attend the following Sunday. He received the Holy Ghost in January of 1980 at the age of 22. The irony of it all is that when Bro. Vitanza came as an immigrant from Honduras in 1967, he vowed to himself and his mother that as soon as he learned English, he would never again speak Spanish. He also vowed to never associate with Latinos. He never imagined that the Lord would call him to Spanish Evangelism, where he would speak Spanish and work with Latinos. When he finally said yes to God's will, the Lord opened doors of ministry for him.

Pastor Vitanza first felt a call to the ministry when he moved to South Carolina as a graduate student on an assistantship that paid his way through graduate school. He graduated with a Master's Degree in music from the University of South Carolina. He began his ministry at the age of 33. His first milestone was obeying his pastor and being willing to be sent to a Spanish Evangelism Conference in 1990. Then when he arrived in Raleigh, he began to focus on being full-time in ministry. This included outreach to the community and becoming involved in any way possible. For the first four years, he worked the existing bus routes and knocked on doors, teaching the *Search for Truth Home Bible Study*. The church saw growth from about 20 migrant workers to over 100, which included women and children.

Church History

Primera Iglesia started out as an outreach program. At the time, there was no church. The local church in Raleigh had started an outreach to the Latino migrant workers three years prior to Pastor Vitanza's arriving, and Bro. Wayne Huntley had asked the church to pray and fast for a Spanish pastor to come work with the Hispanic community in Raleigh. That prayer was answered in November of 1991 when Pastor Vitanza was installed as pastor of Primera Iglesia.

They began meeting on Sunday mornings, using a hybrid format that was a combination of Sunday School/church service. The first service was more in the fashion of a Sunday school class. The outreach methods used were simple but effective. Teaching home Bible studies and door knocking were the principle methods. Soon after, they began ministering in the form of social work, such as taking people to doctor appointments, interpreting in hospitals and courthouses,

helping people find apartments, buying food for the needy, and visiting everyone. A dynamic church began to grow and thrive through those efforts. After moving into their new church location in Wendell in 2010, their congregation has grown to an average of 450.

Personal Life

In Pastor Vitanza's leisure time he enjoys playing classical guitar. If he were to pick a favorite preacher, his would be Bro. Huntley. He and his family love to travel together. They have two dogs. He enjoys collecting books and loves to read Bro. David Bernard's books. Contact Pastor Sergio Vitanza by phone at 919-365-0177 or by email: vitanzafamily8@gmail.com.



Top to bottom: Exterior of Primera Iglesia (First Church of Wendell, N.C.); Pastor Vitanza baptizes a young man; hundreds fill the tents at the 2015 Carolina Crusades; children pray in the altar; members celebrate Fiestas Patrias in the sanctuary.



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The Problem With “Bus Kids”

By Brent Randall



Brent Randall
brent@brentrandall.com

“Who scuffed up the wall by the pastor’s office?”
“Who stole the cookies from the Sunday school closet?”
“Who stuffed three rolls of toilet paper down a toilet and flooded two classrooms?”
Why, it must have been those “bus kids!”

Over the years I have been associated with several churches that ran thriving bus

ministries.

Passionate team members would dedicate their Saturday mornings to knocking on doors in the neighborhood and inviting kids to come to church. Then these same committed people would head out early Sunday morning on a lumbering white church bus—in all sorts of weather—to pick up those same kids, bring them to our church campus for Sunday school, and shepherd them home afterward.

Frequently, however, the kids who rode the buses brought their culture with them into our conservative Pentecostal church. They brought their language, their music, and other elements of their worldly lifestyle into our tight-knit church community.

Thus, whenever any sign of suspicious behavior presented itself such as a scuffed wall or a stolen bag of Oreos, who would get the blame? Those “bus kids!”

In over four decades of involvement with children’s ministry, I have rarely heard the term “bus kids” used in a positive light. Rather, I have heard it commonly used in a derogatory manner, somehow designating these “bus kids” as second-class citizens. I have even heard grown adults refer to themselves with the words, “I was just a ‘bus kid.’”

If you glanced at the title of this column, you may think that I have a problem with bus kids. I don’t. I have a problem with the *term* “bus kids.”

They are not “bus kids.” They’re kids. They just happen to come to church in a larger vehicle than you and me, and likely without their parents.

Recently I was privileged to speak on a Sunday morning at a church on the East Coast, and in my audience were about 20 kids from the neighborhood who had been brought there in church vans by the outreach team.

At the end of service, I called those kids up to the front and told them that we were thrilled that they were there, that they were in a place that loved and valued them. The entire congregation applauded in agreement!

If you must call them something, call them “neighborhood kids.” Call them “kids from the community.” But look past their culture, their clothes, and their language and remind yourself: they’re kids.

These children need love. They need friendship. And most of all, they need Jesus. In other words: they need *you*.

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.

What to Avoid When Recruiting Ministry Volunteers

By Thom S. Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources

Sometimes church leaders take the most negative approaches in an attempt to encourage more people to get involved in ministry in the church. There are several common blunders. Here are six of them:

1. Fail to pray about it. We often give lip service to prayer. We know that getting people involved in ministry in the church is one of the most important things we can do, but we try to do it in our own power. Try praying before asking a ministry volunteer. God just might surprise you.

2. Only make a general announcement. Ever heard something like this statement in a church? “We need someone to teach the third grade Sunday school class. If you are interested, let me know.” Granted, you might get some volunteers. Those volunteers typically fall in one of two categories: the overworked already, and the person who has no business teaching that class.

3. Wait until the last minute. If you are recruiting people to lead small groups two weeks before the groups are scheduled to start, you will frustrate and discourage them. That is something that should have happened months earlier. You are communicating to those recruited that the ministry is not that important, and that you are asking them as an afterthought.

4. Not considering the gifts, abilities and schedules of those you are recruiting. It’s the worn out cliché: trying to put a square peg in a round hole. We are all different. We are all gifted differently. We all have different schedules.

5. Send the person on a guilt trip. Great ministry volunteers are naturally (or supernaturally) motivated to do their ministry. Guilt is a negative motivation that guarantees the person will be miserable in the ministry. He or she will be perpetually frustrated or drop out. Neither option is good.

6. Fail to follow up. Lack of follow-up indicates you were just trying to reach a quota or fill a blank. It’s a path toward making the ministry volunteer feel unappreciated and unwanted.

The body of Christ is an amazing gift when its members are doing what God has called and gifted them to do. But don’t start poorly. How you recruit ministry volunteers will make an incredible difference, for good or bad, in your church.



Addilyn was born in October 2007.

Addilyn enjoys painting pictures and coloring.

She loves dolls and her caregivers told us she likes to dress them in different outfits. Her smile lit up her face. She could speak in full sentences when asked, but what she said was not always clear, due to her repaired cleft lip. Her palate has not been repaired yet. Addilyn is also developmentally delayed, but her biggest need is for the love and care of a family.

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LEADING GROWTH

EUGENE WILSON--KATY, TX

Written by Gregg Stone



Bro. Eugene Wilson
Katy, Texas

Bro. Eugene Wilson, tell us a little about yourself and your ministry.

I have been in the ministry for nearly 30 years, having served as senior pastor, associate pastor, family pastor and youth pastor. I am presently serving alongside Pastor Rob McKee as executive pastor at The Pentecostals in Katy, Texas. My focus is in the leading, developing and expansion of our leaders/ministries.

I am also the founder and leader of *Equipping Leaders*, a nonprofit coaching and consulting organization for churches and Christian business people that is actively engaged in leadership development around the world. I have a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies, Master of Arts in Human Relations, and a Doctorate of Strategic Leadership from Regent University. Lastly, I am a monthly columnist and adjunct professor.

You state we need to “rethink church growth.” What do you mean by this?

Peter Wagner is largely considered a premier spokesperson for the church growth movement. This is what he stated, “I don’t think there is anything intrinsically wrong with the church growth principles we’ve developed, or the evangelistic techniques we are using. Yet somehow they don’t seem to work. Maybe something else is needed.”

What is this something that is needed? Rick Warren, pastor of one of the largest churches in America, suggests we have the wrong focus. He states, “Forget church growth; church health is the key to church growth.” He is not alone. In my research, I found that many of the largest and fastest growing churches in America have discovered that if the focus is placed on growing people, a natural byproduct will be church growth.

However, that is not the most compelling argument for “rethinking church growth.” The most compelling argument, in my opinion, is found in examining the purpose of the five-fold ministry. And based on Scripture it is not church growth. Per Ephesians 4:11-12, our purpose is to equip saints for their work of ministry. This certainly gives credence to Wagner and Warren’s assertions.

What is the key role that a pastor plays in church growth?

As just stated, per Ephesians 4:11-12, the purpose of the five-fold ministry is to equip others for their work of ministry. Equipping others involves much more than instruction. It entails modeling the expected behavior, mentoring, creating safe environments in which people can make mistakes and learn from those mistakes, equipping others as opposed to criticizing others, empowering as opposed to merely delegating, building a value-oriented culture as opposed to performance-oriented, and so on.

In short, church growth is primarily about the growth of people, and the way we lead others greatly impacts the growth of the people we are leading.

In your opinion, what does a “growing church” look like?

I alluded to this in the previous question, but let me attempt to make it as simple as possible. I have been fortunate to work closely with some growing churches led by some outstanding leaders. Additionally, my studies and travels have helped me in identifying key elements that appear to be universal. A condensed version of a growing church has the following elements: great church services (people are experiencing a powerful move of God), fellowship (people are connecting in relationships with other believers), discipleship (people are genuinely growing in their walk with God), and serving.

How should a pastor measure growth? Numbers is only one indicator. What else should a pastor consider?

The number of attendees on Sunday is an important measurement. But, as you have suggested, it is only one measurement. And, I might add, it is probably at the bottom of the list of what we should be measuring.

I am presently reading *The 4 Disciplines of Execution* by Chris McClesney. He maintains that almost all organizations are measuring the wrong thing. They are measuring lag measures as opposed to lead measures. For example, let’s consider someone who wants to lose weight. A lag measure would be to weigh one’s self. But weighing one’s self doesn’t lead to weight loss. However, measuring one’s

calories and amount of exercise would be more advantageous and would likely lead to the desired result: weight loss. As you can see, applied to church growth, it would be more beneficial to measure the number of people actively involved in ministry, teaching Bible studies, engaged in discipleship, and so on.

In your opinion, what are the three top strategies a pastor should consider if he wants his church to grow?

Number one, be a spiritual leader. Number two, align with the calling of equipping others (which involves much more than mere instruction). And number three, empower people to engage in serving/ministry. This sounds simple, but for most church leaders to adequately accomplish the before mentioned items, it will require some paradigm shifts and changes in philosophies.

Why did you write *Leading Growth*? What is the story behind it?

I have a deep love and passion for church leaders, church growth, and the advancement of the kingdom of God. I was raised in a pastor’s home. My wife and I have 27 Apostolic ministers in our extended family. This is all I have ever known. Having traveled to many areas of the world, and witnessing first-hand churches that are expanding and making a great impact, I became convinced that although many church leaders have great intentions, commitment and desire, something

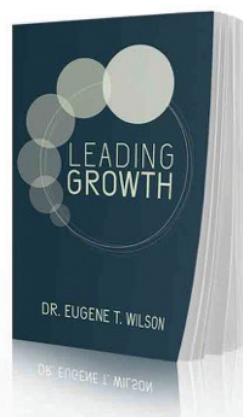
was missing. I believe the need is to focus on leading people to growth. Unfortunately, research reveals that only six percent of people feel that they learned anything the last time they attended church. Most feel disengaged and unexcited. They are failing to identify with purpose. It is our job as ministers to equip and empower people to engage in their ministry.

How to order your books, cost, etc.

Leading Growth, as well as previous books, *Seventy: Everyone Needs a Team* and *Realign: God-called Leaders and Their Purpose*, can be purchased through PPH. Also, eBook versions can be found on Amazon.

If pastors have questions, what is the best way for them to contact you?

I would be honored to talk with pastors and can be reached by email at egwil@me.com.



For information about these events, call the event coordinator. If you would like your event on this list, call (800) 800-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
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
MAY 11-13	Hope Corps Conference 2017 - The Mission Want to exponentially grow in your personal and corporate ministry efforts? Join us for three days of incredible services, breakout sessions and ministry focused development.	Baton Rouge, Louisiana	B.J. Wilmoth, Nathaniel Urshan and various Hope Corps instructors	Register now at hcmision.org
JUNE 7-9	Power Conference 2017 Services begin at 7 p.m. nightly. Day sessions at 10 a.m. Thursday and Friday morning.	Crossroads Arena, 2800 S. Harper Rd., Corinth, MS 38834	Kenny Carpenter and Jerry Jones	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 2-4	The Apostolic Conference A conference designed for the North American Missionary and Church Planter.	Parkway Pentecostal Church, 601 Reunion Parkway, Madison, MS 39110. Host Pastors: Jerry and Jason Dillon	J.W. Dillon, Wayne Huntley, Nathan Harrod, David Shatwell, Chester Wright, and Mark Morgan	(601) 853-2607 www.parkwaychurch.net ParkwayChurch.net/NAMRegistration
AUG 4-6	Mile High Revival 2017 Defending the Apostolic faith, family and future.	Calvary Apostolic Church Of Denver, 5900 E. Yale Ave. Denver, CO 80222	Jimmy Toney and Sammy Sherrill	(303) 758-5900 www.cacdenver.org milehighrevival.org
AUG 5-8	Arkansas International Campmeeting - North Little Rock, AR A conference where Apostolic doctrine is not only preached but embraced. The message of Acts 2:38 remains the same!	First Pentecostal Church of North Little Rock 1401 Calvary Dr., North Little Rock, AR Joel & Nathan Holmes	To be announced	For more info visit aricm.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 Sleeve, 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
OCT 19-21	MidAmerica Conference 10th Celebration	First Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christ, 1401 Calvary Rd., N. Little Rock, AR 72116	To be announced	For more information visit midamericaconf.com
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

Church Growth: Our Divine Contract



Robert L. Rodenbush

Church Today

rrodenbush@earthlink.net

Taxing the Church Into Political Correctness

Senate Bill 476 worked its way through the Indiana legislature in February of 2017. Within the bill was cleverly written language that would allow local government to tax churches. Of course, it was not called a “tax” but rather a “user fee” designed to force churches to pay additional fees for public

services, like the fire department, police and other government services that church members already subsidize through their tax dollars. The ambiguous wording did not define exactly the amount of the “fee” or if or how it could be raised over time. Yet, if churches refused to pay this new “fee” or tax, a lien could be issued for the church property and if not resolved the government could sell the church out from under the congregation to pay the fee. Thankfully, through much prayer, intense lobbying and pastors and churches in the state speaking out, the language charging churches the “user fee” was dropped from the bill.

Sound scary? It should. Similar bills and legislation are finding their way into our state legislators throughout the country. It's important that we stand against the taxation of churches. Any tax, fee or assessment violates our core principle that churches are by nature good for society and therefore should not be taxed. We did see victory on this particular bill here this year; however, many liberal elites have made it their mission to make sure churches are “paying their fair share” of the government tax bill, despite that as individuals we already pay for these services. As Christians we must watch for these things and look for politicians and leaders who are willing to stand up for the rights of churches and non-profit institutions.

Bill Maher, political commentator and comedian, recently made these statements: “New rule: If churches don't have to pay taxes, they also can't call the fire department when they catch fire. Sorry, Reverend, that's one of those services that goes along with paying in. I'll use the fire department I pay for. You can pray for rain.”

And, to a cheering audience Maher further stated: “If we levy taxes — sin taxes, they call them — on things that are bad to get people to stop doing them, why, in Heaven's name, don't we tax religion — a sexist, homophobic magic act that's been used to justify everything from genital mutilation to genocide? You want to raise the tax on tobacco so kids don't get cancer? Okay. But then let's put one [a tax] on Sunday school so they don't get stupid.”

Through this type of comedic harassment and relentless political attack, public opinion continues to be turned against the church. And through Maher's last comment above we see the ultimate goal — to control, censor or stop through taxation what churches and congregants can believe, teach and preach.



Bobby Killmon

Theology

bobby.killmon@sbcglobal.net

How would you address the claim that “There are ‘good people’ who haven't obeyed Acts 2:38 who might be saved...” or will perhaps be “...judged by the light they knew”?

First, I wouldn't answer that personally but instead would let Scripture speak on that clearly. Scripture does not say people will be saved by ignorance in our age (Acts 17:30). Further, Scripture is against salvation by works. Paul spends the first three chapters of Romans making the theological point clear that no one is saved by works righteousness. The only way to be saved is to appropriate by faith, the perfect law keeping of the man Jesus, through obedience to the Gospel. The absolute uniformity of the entire NT witness to this fact is a powerful witness that cannot be denied.

As one man said, we must see all of humanity's ruin in sin and the surety of God's just punishment guaranteed before we can then go on to God's perfect remedy in Christ. The old timers used to teach this same point strongly as well through statements like, “You must preach them lost before you preach them saved!” Or “God didn't come to make good men better . . . He came to make dead men alive!”

The question of what we do with “good people” has at its core an unscriptural view of humanity. By what definition do we say people are “good” and then what is the standard for entrance into heaven? All have sinned . . . and sinless perfection is the standard of entrance into heaven. Either we are “hid in Christ” and have joined with Him as a perfect man in covenant, or we are left on our own to face a holy and just God alone. Paul is clear. No one, not even the Jews, including David their greatest King and Abraham the father of the faith, has ever kept the law perfectly. All have “fallen short.”

The purpose of the law then was not to give us a series of steps to heaven. It was to expose our inability to merit heaven so we would be convinced we could not earn salvation. This leads to both acknowledgement of our sinfulness and the subsequent need for salvation. Only after this can we be preached to about Christ! The correct response will then be obedient faith, which simply takes what God freely gives. Our obedient faith is critical, and the continued life of faith afterward, but it adds nothing to the gift of entrance into the Kingdom itself. It is only by grace we have both capacity (the measure of faith innate from our created make-up) and opportunity (through the substitutionary work of the man Christ Jesus).

The point is simple then. Anything less than appropriating this provided forgiveness through the direct command of Jesus through both water and Spirit baptism (John 3:3-8), which was also affirmed by the apostles throughout the NT (Acts 2:38-39; 4:12; 8:5-15; 10:44-48; Acts 11:17; Acts 19:1-6; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 1 Cor. 12:13; Titus 3:5-6) is not salvation. Anything less is not Apostolic. We do not believe in “works righteousness” or that people will be saved because they are simply “good people.” We cannot believe in salvation by ignorance either. Jesus and the Apostles did not lie. God does not ever “grade on the curve.” This message has always been clearly in the Bible, and the command at Pentecost for our age has still not ever changed. We do people no favor by trying to include them another way. We must only say what Jesus and the Apostles said! That truth still works today as it always has since the day of Pentecost!



T. W. Massengale

Church Growth

tmassengale@apostolic.edu

Our Divine Contract

I have stressed this repeatedly: 100% of your new converts come from your visitors. Also, very few visitors receive the Holy Ghost the first

time they come. So getting visitors to return must be your top priority. The most effective and successful way to do this is by a comprehensive visitor follow-up program (phone call, letter, visits, mailing list). But allow me to add yet one more important truism: Most people come to God during

some kind of crisis. Research shows that approximately 78% of adults who have a “conversion experience” can identify a crisis situation in their lives that prompted feeling a need for God and often a sense of desperation to find answers.

I point this out to underscore the importance of making repeated follow-up visits. A good follow-up program will make 3-4 at-home visits over the course of a year. These visits are very quick; a small gift is given each time. We invite them back with a flyer and ask about a home Bible study and prayer requests. Short, focused and effective; three minutes and we are gone. It provides many return visits, home Bible studies, and opportunities to minister to needs in guests'

lives. Why does this work so well? Because of what I call our “contract with God.”

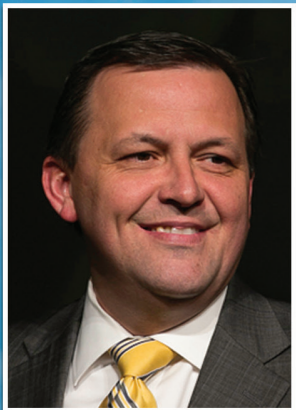
God wants this individual to be saved more than you do. God is more than capable of arranging a crisis in their lives, and we are praying daily to that very end: “God, do whatever it takes to see this person saved!” It goes without saying that you should have your prayer warriors praying for your list of past visitors daily. So our divine contract is this: “God, you put them into the place they feel a need of You, and we will visit them again and invite them back.” God agrees: “You do your job, and I will do my job.” Our job is to witness and invite back. God's job is to get their heart ready for our witness. God always does His job. Will we do ours?

REDIRECT

POWER TO CHANGE
Today's Hope
Tomorrow's Destiny

*"You guide me with your counsel,
leading me to a glorious destiny."*

- Psalms 73:34 NLT



**Jimmy
Toney**
Lexington, KY



**Sammy
Sherrill**
Moulton, AL


mile high
REVIVAL

AUG 4-6, 2017

HOSTED BY:
PASTOR DON HAYMON II



5900 E. Yale Ave., Denver, CO 80222
303-758-5900 | milehighrevival.org



CALARY
APOSTOLIC
CHURCH OF DENVER

The top half of the poster features a dark teal background with a city skyline and a bridge reflected in water. A complex white line-art structure resembling a globe or a network of orbits is centered over the skyline. A small teal square is positioned behind the word 'INTERNATIONAL'.

ARKANSAS INTERNATIONAL CAMP MEETING

AUGUST 5-8, 2017 • ARICM.NET

The bottom half of the poster has a white brick wall background. It features two large, shiny silver balloons in the shape of the numbers '100'. A large amount of multi-colored confetti is scattered around the balloons. The word 'Celebration' is written in a cursive script to the right of the balloons.

MIDAMERICA CONFERENCE

19-21 OCT 2017 • MIDAMERICACONF.COM



Carol Clemans

Spiritual Growth

Our Words Reveal Our Heart

God's Word gives us great tools to understand self & others. Our words reveal our heart. Luke

6:45 (NKJV) "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."

If you are hurting other people with your words, invite God to examine your heart. Psalm 139:23-24 (KJV)²³ "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:²⁴ And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

In my counseling nationwide by phone/Skype (636) 448-0121, I help many who have been deeply wounded by others' words and actions. Words create death or life in relationships. When I counsel the perpetrator of the emotional pain, I gently bring them to the Word. We are to imitate God in all we do (Eph. 5:1). If we are Holy Ghost-controlled, the Fruit of the Spirit will flow from our heart, mouth and actions.

If we are speaking negative painful words to those around us, we are revealing our heart full of unforgiveness, bitterness, etc. We must invite God to do spiritual exploratory surgery on our hearts. We are to walk in the Spirit, not walk in the flesh!

I use Facebook for God's glory. I reach thousands that I cannot reach any other way. On my 'LIFE ENRICHMENT MINISTRIES, INC. (501c3)' Facebook page, I have teaching videos. Click the 'videos' tab and listen to God's Word that transforms lives. Over 28,000 people have viewed my teachings.

My heartbeat is being a conduit of God's truth though teaching, counseling and writing. I teach for churches/conferences, marriage seminars, and sexual purity seminars, etc. God's truth makes us free when we allow His Word to reign in our heart, soul and mind.

© Carol Clemans - Certified Pastoral Counselor, anointed Bible teacher (50 yrs.), Cert. Christian Life Coach, Cert. Sexual Addiction Recovery Facilitator. Visit www.carolclemans.org 'about ministry' page for bio of life, ministry, education, 360+ articles, teaching CD's & DVD's, book: God's Design for Marriage - soft cover or eBook: amazon.com. Call (636) 448-0121 for speaking/counseling. Ministry ref: Pastor Daniel Batchelor, Duplo, IL.



Arlo Moehlenpah

Teaching With Variety

Aims and Objectives in Teaching

What are we trying to accomplish when we teach? Teaching without aims is like a man trying to hit a target without aiming.

Aims are clear statements of what we hope to accomplish by teaching the lesson. Write these down. Ask (1) What do I want my students to know as a result of this lesson? (2) What do I want my students to feel? (Attitudes and convictions I wish to impart.) (3) What specifically do I want my students to do during and after the lesson? Vague lesson aims result in vague teaching. How will we know if we hit the target if we do not know what the target is? Teaching without clear-cut aims is probably the greatest weakness of teaching. On the other hand, when we know specifically what we want to accomplish, our teaching will be more effective.

Clear-cut aims serve several purposes in teaching. Aims (1) give direction regarding the changes we want in the knowledge, attitudes, and behavior of the students; (2) help the teacher to avoid rambling. Omit activities or material that will not help us to accomplish our aim; (3) help us to select materials, activities, and teaching methods. For example, if our aim is to develop tolerant attitudes, we may choose the discussion method. If our aim is to teach soul winning through home visitation, we might create a role-playing situation; (4) provide a sound basis for measurement of progress via questions, quizzes, etc.; (5) inspire the teacher who sees goals achieved.

How does a teacher determine his lesson aims? If teaching from a printed lesson, consider the aims included. Read the Bible text several times, pray, and allow God to impress some aims. Also, consider the needs and interests of the class by listening to them and observing their behavior both inside and outside of class and by knowing general characteristics of their age group.

Everything in a lesson, including attention getters, variety, humor, visuals and activities, should be planned to accomplish the aims. With the aims clearly in mind, let us teach with the intensity of a football player running for the goal line.

Arlo and Jane Moehlenpah have taught Teacher Training at a number of Bible colleges and seminars. Contact them at Moehlenpah@aol.com or 619-852-4979 if you would like their book *Teaching with Variety* or for them to come to your area for a seminar.



Carlton L. Coon Sr.

CoonEctions

Root Before Fruit!

Disciple-making starts with a convert. The convert is undeveloped raw material. A disciple-maker seeks to develop a mature follower of Christ. Understanding the process of development is important.

There is a reason calculus is not taught in kindergarten. The basics of math don't exist in kindergarteners. Without the basics, the student cannot comprehend or apply a concept. To someone who has taught calculus for decades, calculus is simple. It is not simple to a five-year-old.

In a similar way, basic Bible doctrines are simple and logical to me. I've been engaged with them for decades. New converts need someone to hold their hand as they take baby steps.

A pastor may teach a wonderful series connecting the books of Leviticus and Hebrews. New converts, the church's current "kindergarten" class, will likely not be engaged. Converts may just choose to stay home.

Converts need a shallow end of the pool. In all growth processes, the basic precedes the advanced. Twice the Bible has the phrase, "Take root downward and bear fruit upward." *The root precedes the fruit!* At Calvary, our first level of instruction for converts is *Take Root*. *Take Root* deals with topics like prayer, church attendance, spending time with the Bible and salvation. It is a small group setting. The ten lessons of *Take Root* are as interactive as possible. Students do all the Bible reading. Discussion is encouraged. Each student has his or her own *Take Root* student booklet. To "graduate" from *Take Root* a student also completes homework.

Taking converts along a path of baby steps has resulted in growth and progress. A review of one lesson of the baby steps in *Take Root* is available by emailing me at carltoncoonr@gmail.com. Monthly, on the last Tuesday (7:30 CST) join my Facebook Live Webinar on Disciple-making.

Carlton L. Coon Sr. pastors Springfield Calvary 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 Investments

When a church has excess cash that it does not need for a while (i.e. money set aside for a future building program), the issue comes up regarding how to invest that money. Church leaders obviously want to maximize the interest earned until the money is needed. With bank savings accounts barely paying anything, many around a quarter of a percent, the desire for a better return is

understandable.

However, the church board is required to act in good faith and exercise ordinary business care and prudence in making investment decisions. They have a fiduciary responsibility to make sure that undue risks are not taken which may put the church funds at risk of loss due to market fluctuations, etc. Even when the investment of funds is managed by a third party, a standard of care applies. Church leaders should be aware of the Uniform Prudent Management Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA). This law has been passed by every state except Pennsylvania. Each

state's version may be slightly different, but the basic outline addresses how nonprofit organizations handle investments and the use of restricted funds.

In some states, a court order is needed to redirect restricted funds. You should be familiar with your state's specific rules, as significant risks and penalties could apply for not following the 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**U.K. Street Preacher Arrested for Sharing Scripture with Gay Teen**

A Christian preacher in the U.K. was arrested and accused of a hate crime after he responded to a gay teen's question about homosexuality.

The Telegraph reports that 42-year-old Gordon Larmour was handing out leaflets and street preaching in the town of Irvine when he was approached by a



19-year-old who questioned him on what the Bible said about homosexuality. Larmour

proceeded to tell the young man about Scripture and shared the story of Adam and Eve and how God told them to "be fruitful and multiply." Soon after responding to the young man's question, police arrested Larmour, accused him of using threatening or abusive language regarding sexual orientation, and locked him up in a jail cell overnight.

Now, after a prolonged trial, Larmour has been acquitted of all charges. Although thankful to be released, he and many other Christians worry about free speech. "I can't see why I was arrested in the first place - it was a massive overreaction and a waste of everyone's time."

LEGAL TRENDS**Mississippi Town Forced to Take Down Christian Flag**

The residents of a small Mississippi town have engaged in rallies and protests after an atheist organization forced the mayor to take down the Christian flag at a local park.

TheBlaze.com reports that the Freedom From Religion Foundation threatened to sue the town of Rienzi, Mississippi for \$500,000 if Mayor Walter Williams did not remove the flag from the public park.

Williams felt he had no choice but to give in to the FFRF's demands since Rienzi does not have the funds to engage in an expensive lawsuit. However, the residents of Rienzi were not surrendering without a fight. They organized and staged protests and hosted a rally in support of keeping the flag up. The town has hired an attorney and is discussing what further action can be taken.

**Evangelical Leaders Reject Compromise on LGBT Rights**

Compromises designed to safeguard both religious freedoms and LGBT rights won't fly among many of America's most influential conservative Christians.

Leaders from nearly 90 evangelical seminaries, publications, ministries and churches—as well as Catholic and Orthodox clergy—signed a statement last month rejecting any legal efforts to protect sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI).

"[We] believe that proposed SOGI laws, including those narrowly crafted, threaten fundamental freedoms," they wrote as part of the "Preserve Freedom, Reject Coercion" campaign, hosted by the Colson Center for Christian Worldview.

The declaration follows months of conversations among Christian college leaders around the Fairness for All strategy, which would bring religious leaders and LGBT advocates together to try to secure satisfactory legal protections for both. Parties from each side of the conversation convened recently for a conference at Yale University.

The Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCCU) spearheaded discussion of a potential nationwide Fairness for All law—modeled after a well-regarded compromise enacted in Utah in 2015—among its members and partners.

Advocates of the Fairness for All approach argue that evangelicals and other faith groups end up with greater protections when actively involved in crafting legislation; if left up to the courts to weigh the rights of either side, Christian-run institutions and businesses—from churches to bakers—risk more severe restrictions.

However, presidents and professors from 16 CCCU member schools and affiliates are among the signatories declaring that "any ostensible protections for religious liberty appended to such laws are inherently inadequate and unstable."

At stake in the SOGI dispute are the local, state, and federal laws governing whether religious institutions or businesses owned by people of faith must serve LGBT individuals despite their convictions on sexuality and gender.

Opponents of Fairness for All legislation worry that such compromises offer too limited protections at the expense of designating SOGI as a protected class—a position they believe has deeper moral implications for Christians.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ Testimony from a former Planned Parenthood employee has revealed that the organization focuses on selling abortion services and offers incentives for employees to make more "sales." According to a report from the *Washington Examiner*, Planned Parenthood employees are offered rewards such as paid time off or free pizza for getting more women to get abortions through Planned Parenthood. President Cecile Richards disagrees, claiming

that abortions only make up three percent of its services.

■ The newest target of gendered-language crusaders? Motherhood. Gender neutral language guidelines just took a turn for the bizarre; the term *expectant mother* made the list of words that could be offensive to pregnant females who identify as male and plan to play the role of fathers. The new preferred term, according to the British Medical Association, is *pregnant people*.

RELIGIOUS TRENDS**Favorite Bible Verses Around the World**

Zechariah 14:9 doesn't show up often on lists of favorite Bible verses.

"The Lord will be king over the whole earth," it reads in the New International Version of the Bible. "On that day there will be one Lord, and his name the only name."

But last year, these words of Zechariah showed up as the top verse on YouVersion with the most highlights, bookmarks and shares in two countries with little else in common.

People in both Israel and Afghanistan engaged most with it—and so did those in France, Finland, Sweden, Guadeloupe, Belgium, Martinique, and Cyprus.

Overall, the world's favorite Bible verse in 2016 was Romans 8:28: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." It was highlighted, shared, and bookmarked more than any other verse by YouVersion's users, who have now installed its Bible App on more than 250 million unique devices.

"In every category that we measure, the global YouVersion community has been more engaged with the Bible throughout 2016 than in any previous year," the organization announced. "2016 was our biggest year ever. Again."

**SOCIAL TRENDS****Commentator: Church Should Sever Ties With Boy Scouts**

The Boy Scouts of America recently made the decision to allow girls who identify as boys to join the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts.

In a column for FoxNews.com, Todd Starnes writes that "the time has come for every church and every parent in America to sever ties with the Boy Scouts."

Starnes argues that, through this policy, the Boy Scouts have abandoned the original purpose for which they were created—to instill morals and good character into boys and young men.

Boy Scouts spokesperson Rebecca Rausch responded: "For more than 100 years, the Boy Scouts of America, along with schools, youth sports and other youth organizations, have ultimately deferred to the information on an individual's birth certificate to determine eligibility for our single-gender programs. However, that approach is no longer sufficient as communities and state laws are interpreting gender identity differently, and these laws vary widely from state to state."

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CONNECT

INDIANA BIBLE COLLEGE

On February 23, 2017, Indiana Bible College hosted 158 high school juniors and seniors. The guests were welcomed into the student body for three days of events. Thursday afternoon was the beginning of a great weekend. Students from all over the country came expecting great things to happen. IBC CONNECT is designed for potential students to experience first-hand what it is like to attend IBC. Each CONNECT student is assigned an IBC student; everyone attends classes, chapel, choir, and lunch together.



After check-in on Thursday, IBC students, CONNECT students and staff were all a part of the CONNECT SOCIAL. From pizza to archery tag, everyone had a fun

time.

A specific class schedule is designed for CONNECT weekend. Students have the option to choose course offerings that highlight each minor offered at Indiana Bible College.

Chapel typically happens on Tuesday/Thursday at



IBC; however, during CONNECT we had a Friday chapel where Bro. Mooney challenged students, "Can we do it again?" One of the most life-changing events for both IBC and

CONNECT students is the Friday night Worship Studies Concert. IBC Singers, IBC Chorale, Unidos, and IBC Praise were among those who ministered to the CONNECT students at the concert.

Many IBC students who recall being a part of previous CONNECT events were among those singing and playing on the platform this year. As the concert progressed, the Spirit of God fell and filled the entire room.

"Being able to have a real IBC experience was exactly what I needed from God. From meeting new people, feeling enriched in ministry driven courses, and having God move over my heart during chapel and the concert, it was worth the trip."

Kaitlyn Doublin, NC



IBC CONNECT was a powerful experience for all of those involved. In one weekend CONNECT students experienced all three aspects of the Bible school experience: academic, spiritual and social life. We are excited to see applications come in from all around the country to become part of the IBC family. It is never too early to make plans to CONNECT attend next year, February 22-24, 2018. The future of ministry is being prepared here, SAY YES.



I WANT MY INHERITANCE AND MY HERITAGE

David Trammell <> Albion, MI

Your Heritage

Many people today are wasting their inheritance. More specifically, they are wasting their spiritual inheritance to the exclusion of their heritage. Contrary to contrived beliefs, your heritage is one of the most important things in this life. The world may argue that inheritance takes precedence; however, we find in the book of Luke that this is not the case.

The Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11-18 conveys a story that begins and ends with the plea of a young man. In verse 12, we see that the younger of two sons asks, "Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me." Notice that the son did not ask for his heritage. He only asked for his inheritance. The "prodigal son" sought the life that he believed the goods would provide. He did not ask for the passion that the father had for the goods. His inheritance was wasted, because the heritage no longer accompanied it. The failure of the son to ask for only the inheritance was a major cause of the downfall he experienced. Regardless of the fact that he had his moment in the world, he forgot from whence he came. It took the lowly place of a hog pen for him to come to the conclusion that he needed to go back to his father's house and discover his heritage. Although the Bible does not identify this man as the "prodigal," we give him this title because he wasted all he had.

The Prodigal God

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, the first definition of the word *prodigal* is "to be characterized by profuse or wasteful expenditure." This describes the prodigal son. In contrast, it is interesting to note the third definition of *prodigal*, which is "yielding abundantly." This in essence changes the connotation of *prodigal* and could be used to describe the God we serve. God robed Himself in flesh and willingly laid down His life for the redemption of humanity. In reality,

it takes a prodigal God to save a prodigal son. This prodigal God is the very source of both inheritance and heritage.

Heritage and Inheritance

There is a difference between these two words or concepts. It is not the inheritance of a country or a family that make them great but rather the heritage. A good church has a strong heritage. The opposite is also true. What is heritage? It is what we believe. It is our value system, traditions and lifestyle. Heritage is the essential part of the present that we live in and the future that we build. Heritage is what gives you inheritance.

Heritage was born in the generations before us. There were many like my grandmother who diligently called the names of her children and grandchildren in the early mornings and the twilight hours of the evening. If we are willing to catch the vision that motivated those who have gone before us, we will be able to not only take on that mantle of heritage but also receive the inheritance. This Pentecostal movement began when people humbled themselves and cried out to God. Our American heritage was also propagated by those who cried out to God.

America's Heritage

As sons fought battles in WWII on foreign soil, mothers fought with prayer on the home front. In Parkersburg, West Virginia, a group of mothers often met in an old garage to pray for their sons overseas. These prayer meetings began to cause a stir in the surrounding area, and the police were called to intervene. Pastor Cole was asked to go into this garage and quiet them down. Upon his refusal, a police officer was given this assignment. As the officer entered the garage, a mother was interceding and crying for her son. He soon came out and stated that he "could not touch that" because it was our heritage.

Many Americans today have all the toys and worldly possessions, and appear to be enjoying the inheritance of America. It is true that God shed His grace on America; however, we have forgotten about its heritage. President George Washington proclaimed that it was "impossible to govern a nation without God or the Bible." This country was founded upon Judeo-Christian principles.

Sadly, many of the actions that America is now taking do not align with those same Judeo-Christian principles which our forefathers had intended. The just and holy God in which we serve can no longer bless a nation that is rejecting Him. We can only pray for His mercy concerning the heartbeat of our nation. Just as the heritage of the nation is at stake, so is its spiritual heritage.

Preserving Our Heritage

People have walked away from their heritage and replaced it with something so watered down that it is no longer effective. The desire to be relevant or "cool" has turned many away from the truth. This results in broken homes, unhappiness and ultimately a lost heritage and inheritance. When you give up heritage, you lose what gave you the inheritance. When you leave the heritage of holiness, you will eventually lose the truth of one God.

We are reminded in Jude 1:3 to "earnestly contend for the faith." Paul reminded Timothy in II Timothy 1:5 of the "unfeigned faith" of his grandmother. David recounts in Psalm 16:6, "The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage." We, like Timothy and David, have been given a beautiful heritage for which to be thankful.

The curse of the hour is the lack of thankfulness. We need to be thankful for what God has given us. We have been sanctified and justified by God. We cannot be ashamed of our heritage. We need to truly desire to have our inheritance with our heritage. If we do not want the heritage, then someone else does. People desperately need and want what is real. The Holy Ghost is real. Pentecost is real. Our heritage is real.

Preserving the heritage is important, especially in a day where people are trying to decipher what the church represents. Jude 1:4 warns us that, "certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ."

There are men who have crept into pulpits who have walked away from our heritage and are trying to dismiss the Word of God. These same men are also attempting to have a move of God while stripping the Apostolic heritage out of the church. Micah 2:1-2 attests to this destruction and even states that they "...oppress a man and his house, even a man and his heritage." A day is coming, however, when those who have heritage are going to rise up and say, "This is the way, walk in it." May we be the ones to join with those in the "Hall of Faith" mentioned in Hebrews.

The Non-Negotiables

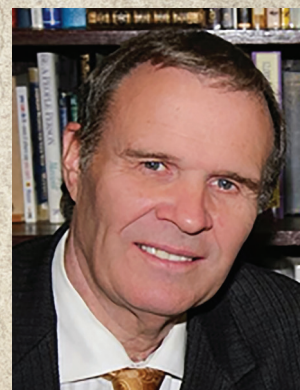
In order to "keep the faith" and receive both our inheritance and heritage, we must not compromise the following. Number one is *person*. We must be Christ-centered, according to Col. 1:6. We must be unapologetically Apostolic. He will forever be "the Way, the Truth and the Life."

The second non-negotiable is *passion*. The greatest commandment was to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength." God is not just calling us to merely like Him but to love Him.

Thirdly, we cannot forsake the *prophetic*. We are a prophetic people. This does not deal with someone telling you your name but rather the testimony of Jesus. We need a prophetic voice because we serve a God of deliverance. We must never compromise *power*. We need the power of the Holy Ghost which anoints our goings. We need this power to not only be present in the church but also on the airplanes, street corners, business transactions and encounters with others.

People have had enough sensationalism and fake Christianity. They need an encounter with something that is real. The power of the Holy Ghost is the only thing that will deliver, redeem and transform the lives of people. We must not be ignorant or ashamed of the power that worketh in us. It is through this that a revival of heritage will come to pass. God is more than able.

Finally, God has a *plan*. We can never forget that God knows the beginning from the end. Jeremiah 29:11 states, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." It is God's desire to give us our heritage with the inheritance.



Pastor David Trammell
Albion, Mich.

Biography: Bro. David Trammell and his wife, Rebecca Starr Trammell, were married in 1974. Early in their ministry together, they served on the evangelistic field and pastored for a number of years in Festus, Missouri. In 1987, they returned to Christ Apostolic Church in Albion, Michigan and were unanimously elected pastors.

Bro. Trammell released his first vocal recording, "Don't Lose the Vision" in 2006. He served as secretary/treasurer of the Michigan district and has served as superintendent since 2011.



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Children's Ministry Addresses Real Struggles of Kids

By Angela Labunski



Caleb and Beth Randol
Moline, Ill.

In a world that is rapidly changing, so are the needs of our children. No longer do we live in an age where the children are innocent and sheltered from the sin of this world. How is ministering to them different? Bro. Caleb Randol, licensed minister and

member of the UPCI Children's Ministers Association, and his wife, Beth, come from a long line of children's ministry and Sunday School planning. Both are highly involved in the Investing in Futures conference started by Gary Randol, Caleb's dad.

Their vision for children is to address the real issues kids face. "We have a deep desire to see children saved," said Bro. Randol. Recently, he and his wife were invited to an African-American Trinitarian church in St. Louis for a Saturday teaching seminar and to present a Sunday school lesson the next day. While teaching, they asked the children to go to the whiteboard and write down honestly

what they were struggling with. "We had teachers in the back crying because they had no idea that their kids were going through suicidal thoughts and drug addictions," said Bro. Randol. "They were just so focused on the lessons and stories that they never connected with the students."

No longer are we just dealing with innocent children, but many that have real struggles every day. According to Bro. Randol, simple lessons, stories and snacks alone are not going to suffice; the students need someone to be real and talk about the hard issues. It is not unusual to have children and young teenagers drinking alcohol and smoking, whose parents split up, and living life on their own. We need to know how to minister to them. Bro. and Sis. Randol have seen firsthand how many children nowadays are different from previous generations, having to deal with much more extensive problems.



"Children are becoming upset because they are looking for attention and love, so it's important to show them that love, then lead them to God," stated Bro. Randol.

Unlike many other children's ministers, the Randols have decided to limit the use of puppets or costumes. They use one puppet occasionally but she doesn't talk, and the

costumes are donned for the story but quickly shed when it is time for the serious conversation on steps to salvation. "I know first-hand the possibility of stuff children can go through because at 18 years old I started really getting away from God and got mixed up in many things," stated Bro. Randol. As the

well-known saying goes, "When you save an adult, you save half a life, but when you save a child you save a full life."

If you are interested in scheduling a teaching seminar, children's revival, or would like to help fund the Randol's ministry, please contact them at candbrandol@gmail.com.

Verbal Bean Ministries

New Website Launched to Share Messages, Revival Stories of the late Verbal Bean

By Linda Schreckenberg



Bro. and Sis. Joel Bean
San Francisco, Calif.

Evangelist Joel Bean, under the powerful mantle of his late father, Verbal Bean, recently launched Verbal Bean Ministries. Based out of Pastor Mark Morgan's church in San Francisco, California, Bro. Bean's desire is to give honor and

recognition to the powerful legacy of his late father.

"In almost every church we have ministered in, there has always been someone who has read and been blessed by my father's books," he noted. "I was only 21 months old when he died, but the stories, messages and his prayer series had a tremendous impact upon my life. When I received my call to preach, I hungered for and reached for what my father had as a role model for me. His walk with God, his prayer life, and the fruit that followed set such an example for me. The stories of hundreds of souls that prayed through, the miracles, and the anointed revival stories made me hunger for that in my own life and ministry."

Bro. Bean reflected upon the stories told about his father: "Many stories were about

him calling out sin and his sensitivity in the Spirit. He had such a strong walk with God, and God used him to prepare churches for revival. In one service, God spoke through him to warn a man if he didn't repent of his sin that night, his sin would be published in the newspaper, and he would die in an asylum, chanting his sin. The man, a school teacher, had been molesting school children. The man refused to repent. His sin was discovered and published in the newspaper, he went to trial and died in an asylum, just as God had warned."

Bro. Bean continued, "But for my father's ministry to just be known for calling out sin is a bit unfair, because his strongest passion was to pray souls through to the Holy Ghost. For all the times God used him in the word of knowledge, there were many more souls that prayed through to the Holy Ghost. Another one is a story of a miracle. During a service, my father walked by a man, and his arm began to hurt. He stopped and asked the man if he was having trouble with his arm. The man said yes and was instantly healed as my father prayed for him. Interestingly, people would repent and get their lives clean when they heard Rev. Verbal Bean

was coming, because of his sensitivity in the Spirit. However, my father usually spoke more generally regarding sin in someone's life.

"My goal is for his ministry to be carried on in the right way, so people understand, and for this generation to be connected to it. I launched Verbal Bean Ministries, because

I believed it should be done.

There are about 20 messages, a prayer series and *Works of the Holy Ghost* series available on the website www.verbalbean.com. Most are of good quality. I will be adding about 80 more messages over the next three to six months. The next project is my father's biography, for which I am gathering materials. That book should be available sometime in 2017. Works of the Holy Ghost,

Verbal Bean Battlefield, and Verbal Bean Prayer are still available on the PPH website. MP3 downloads are available through the website www.verbalbean.com, and there is a free download as well. Anyone who hungers for an anointed ministry and a deep walk with God will be blessed by my father's ministry."

Bro. Joel Bean can be contacted through the website or 206.402.8562.



The late Verbal Bean



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Word To The Wise:

"Man cannot live by bread alone. He also needs a roll of duct tape and a can of WD-40."

A man wrote a letter to a small hotel in a town he planned to visit on his holiday. He wrote: "I would very much like to bring my dog with me. He is well-groomed and very well-behaved. Would you permit me to keep him in my room with me at night?"

An immediate reply came from the hotel owner, who wrote: "Sir, I've been operating this hotel for many years. In all that time, I've never had a dog steal towels, bedclothes, silverware or pictures off the walls. I've never had to evict a dog in the middle of the night for being drunk and disorderly. And I've never had a dog run out on a hotel bill. Yes, indeed, your dog is welcome at my hotel. And if your dog will vouch for you, you're welcome to stay here, too."

The efficiency expert concluded his lecture with a note of caution: "You do not want to try these techniques at home!"

"Why not?" asked a man from the audience.

"After years of not paying attention, I suddenly noticed my wife's routine at breakfast," the expert explained. "She made lots of trips to the refrigerator, stove, table and cabinets; often, she carried just a single item at a time. So I asked her, 'Hon, why don't you try carrying several things at once? It'd be much more efficient.'"

"Well, did your suggestions save much time?" the attendee asked. "Actually, yes," the efficiency expert responded. "It used to take her 20 minutes to get breakfast ready. Now I do it in seven."



TOP TEN PICKUP LINES USED BY ADAM

10. "You know you're the only one for me!"
9. "Do you come here often?"
8. "Trust me, this was meant to be!"
7. "Look around, baby. All the other guys around here are animals!"
6. "I already feel like you're a part of me!"
5. "Honey, you were made for me!"
4. "Why don't you come over to my place and we can name some animals?"
3. "You're the girl of my dreams!" (Gen. 2:21)
2. "I like a girl who doesn't mind being ribbed!"
1. "You're the apple of my eye!"



"No, Jimmy, when the Bible says the disciples followed Jesus ... it's not talking about Twitter."

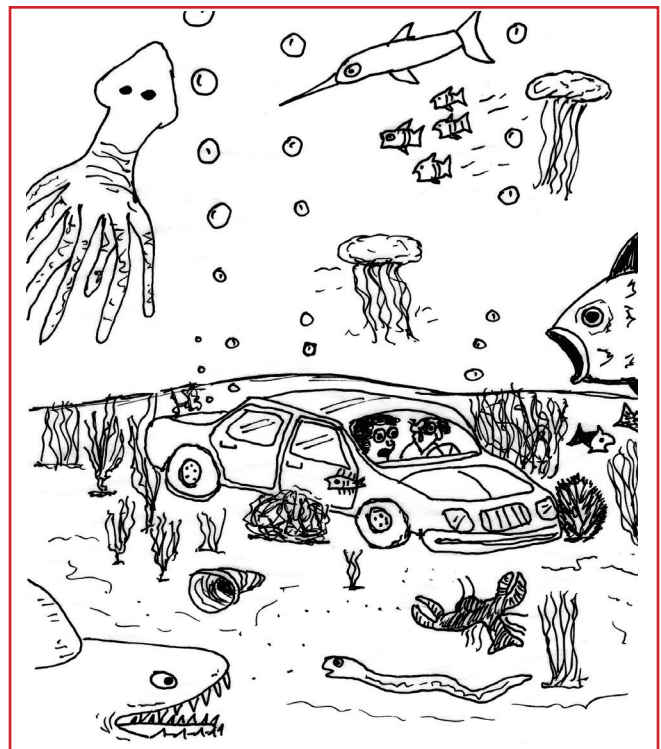
Shortly after tying the knot, a young married couple started arguing over who should make the coffee. Being a good Christian woman, the wife went to the scriptures for her answer. She said that the Bible specifically stated that men should be the ones to make the coffee.

Puzzled, the husband asked her where in the Bible it said that. Very confidently, the wife opened up her Bible and said: "It's right here—HEBREWS."

Store owner: "Thank you for your patronage. I wish I had 20 customers like you."

Customer: "Wow, it's nice to hear that, but I'm kind of surprised. You know that I argue every bill and always pay late."

Store owner: "I'd still like 20 customers like you. The problem is, I have 200."



"I told you, you typed the wrong directions in for the church!"

PORTRAITS OF COURAGE

A COMMANDER IN CHIEF'S TRIBUTE
TO AMERICA'S WARRIORS

-JOSHUA ERIC MICHAEL-
(APOSTOLIC WOUNDED WARRIOR FEATURED IN NEW BOOK)

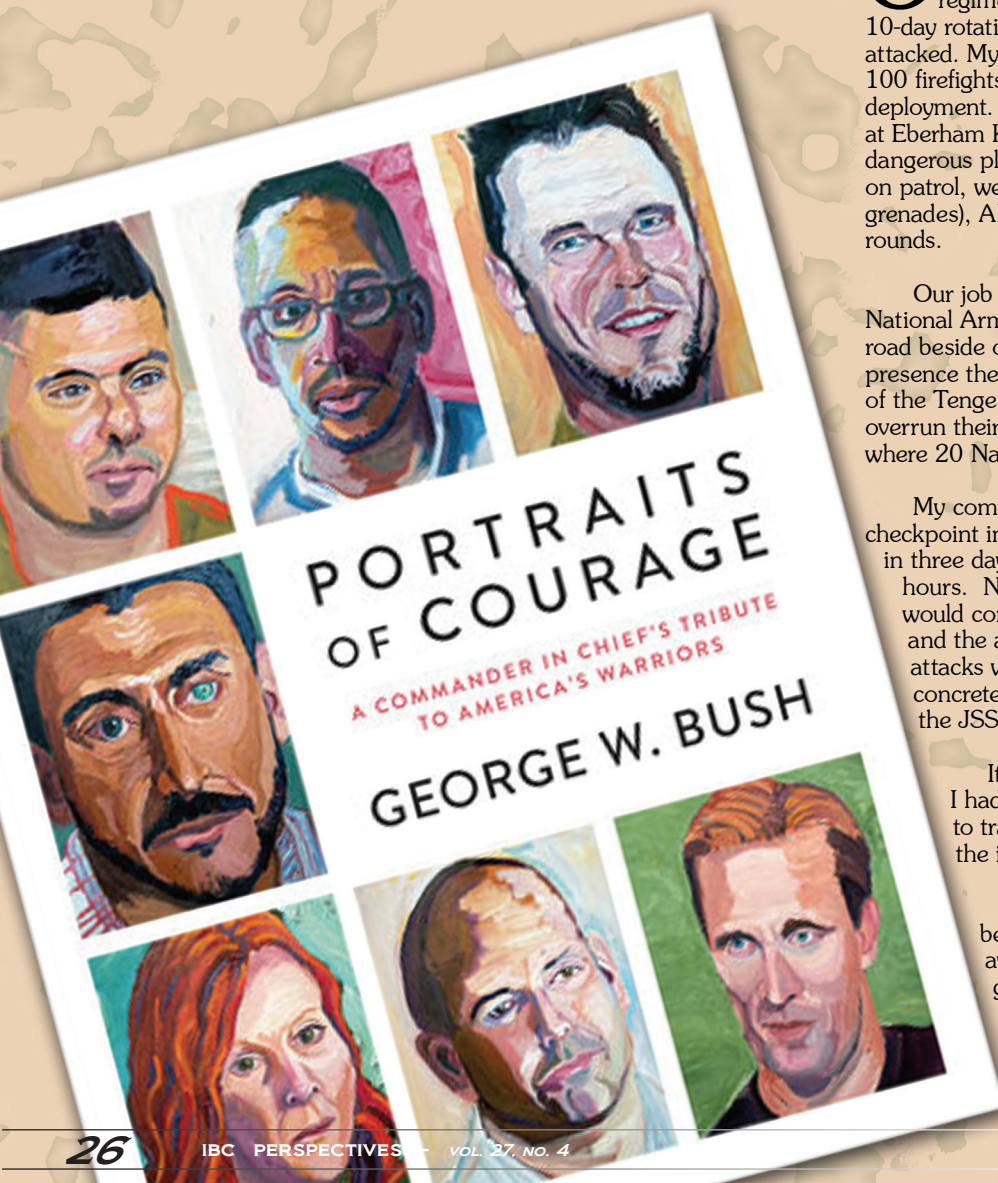
On September 8, 2011, I was hit by an 82mm mortar round. My unit, Charlie company 2-30th infantry regiment 10th mountain 4th brigade, was on our last 10-day rotation at the JSS Eberham Kiehl when we were attacked. My platoon had already seen over 420 missions, 100 firefights, and walked almost 800 miles during this deployment. We were happy that this was the last rotation at Eberham Kiehl (EBK), considering it's one of the most dangerous places in Afghanistan. Almost every time we went on patrol, we were attacked with RPG's (rocket-propelled grenades), AK-47's, PK machine guns, grenades, and mortar rounds.

Our job was to provide security for the ANA (Afghan National Army) as they did traffic control points along the road beside our small base. The ANA already had a small presence there, but it wasn't well fortified. EBK is on the edge of the Tenge Valley, where in earlier months Taliban had overrun their base and taken control of the area. The Tenge is where 20 Navy SEALs lost their lives in a helicopter crash.

My company had decided to build up the ANA checkpoint in April 2011. We received over 30 rocket attacks in three days, so we would fight a few hours and build a few hours. Not the most fun time I've had. Every rotation, we would continue to fill sand bags to fortify guard positions and the aid station. Our hard work paid off as the rocket attacks were fewer and fewer since we had put 10-foot concrete T-walls along the road blocking the entrance to the JSS.

It was my shift to run the checkpoint. This means I had to enter randomly selected people into a system to track movements. I had just been bumped up to the intelligence side of our work.

That day, I just started my shift when they began to attack us. The first round landed so far away we weren't sure if they were firing at us. The guy in the tower next to me spotted the guy firing and began to fire on him. The insurgent fired two more rounds, getting closer to our base.



At that point, I felt like it was a good idea to find some cover. When I looked behind me, everyone was gone. I bent down to get my gear, and the fourth round landed five feet from me, knocking me to the ground. My ears were ringing, my adrenaline was pumping, and my left arm and leg hurt. When I started to crawl out of my position, I noticed my right hand had blood on it; that's when I knew I was hit. Then I put my left arm down to get up, and blood sprayed everywhere spitting out bone fragments. I had to crawl fast because if they shot in the same place I would be dead for sure. So I crawled, screaming for help, and my buddies got me to the aid station, so the medic could stop the bleeding.

During that time a lot more rounds landed and a full-on firefight was going on. By God's grace, I was the only one injured. When the helicopter came for me, it landed under fire, which is very rare. My platoon was laying cover fire for the chopper, but when we took off, the Taliban again tried everything they could to kill me.

I was flown to Forward Operating Base (FOB Shank) where I had my first of 16 surgeries, then on to Bagram Air Force base, to Germany, then finally to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas.

The mortar blast fractured my left knee enough to put me in a wheelchair for three months. It also shattered my left elbow and forearm. It also caused nerve trauma so that my left hand was numb for two months. My arm surgeon said it was the worst break he had seen in 20 years. But through all of the firefights, I knew that I had many people praying for me.

There were many times when I should have been killed, but the bullets seemed to go around me. Being an Apostolic infantryman is very rare. I understood the value of a strong relationship with Jesus throughout my military years. There is no church in combat, only a prayer life.

In 2014, I signed up to participate in a mountain bike ride with former President George W. Bush. I have been fortunate to connect with him and his staff and be a regular on his ranch to ride. He wrote *Portraits of Courage*, a book about many veterans who struggle to cope with post-traumatic stress.

I am most proud of the fact that he wrote about my relationship with Jesus, and how it has helped me cope. Former President Bush may not be Apostolic, but we had dinner at his house on the ranch my first year of riding and that night's entertainment was a full-on gospel singing. I must admit that the Lord was there, and the look on the warriors' faces was priceless. President Bush said that gospel music is his and his wife's favorite thing, and it was important to them to share it with us. He is a selfless man and is donating 100% of the profit to the Bush Center's Military Service Initiative.

Joshua Eric Michael, 35, entered the Army in April 2009 and retired in June 2013. He and his wife, Brittany (Strange) Michael, attend Hope Center Church in San Antonio, Texas, pastored by Nathan Scoggins. They formerly attended Calvary Tabernacle in Indianapolis, Indiana, pastored by Paul D. Mooney.



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