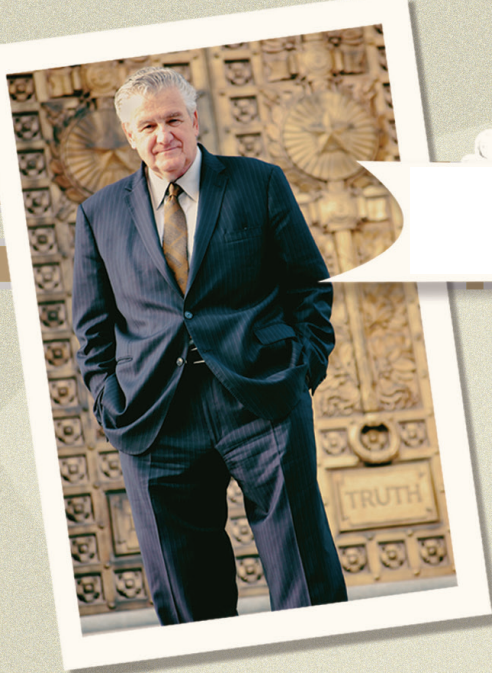




IBC Perspectives

**BUILT ON THE
POWER OF ~~PRAYER~~**



From The Publisher

The Right To Be a Pilgrim

Paul D. Mooney

“The wise among us know that if our nation forsakes its founding principles and shreds the truths upon which it was founded, then America will indeed lose all that it was intended to be.”

Modified from John Bunyan’s great allegory “The Pilgrim’s Progress,” came a single hymn with these powerful lyrics.

*“No foes shall stay his might,
Though he with giants fight:
He will make good his right
To be a pilgrim
Since, Lord, thou dost defend
Us with thy Spirit
We know we at the end
Shall life inherit.
Then fancies flee away!
I’ll fear not what men say,
I’ll labour night and day
To be a pilgrim.”*

The refrain “To be a pilgrim” echoes in the heart as Bunyan declares his *right* to be a pilgrim despite the hardship, battles, fear and pain that may come against the dedicated servant. His *intention* was to be a pilgrim.

As a teen, I spent a couple of summers with my older brother. He lived on Paw Paw Lake, near Coloma, Michigan. Almost everyone had a boat of some sort, and our summers on the lake and around the piers will never be forgotten. One old boat we commandeered for a few days had a cracked rudder and could not be steered. We could float, but we just couldn’t control the small, broken-down boat’s destination. Sometimes, I feel that way about our country – like somehow the rudder is cracked, making steering impossible, and navigating toward a fixed destination out of the question.

Not only has our country drifted away from its foundational points, but modern Christians seem to be boarding the world’s directionless vessels as well. Together, they aimlessly allow the winds of false doctrines, false ideologies and carnality to push them farther and farther away from the safety of the shore, giving little or no thought to the coming storms or rough seas. Before today’s Christians completely conform to this world, at least they should insist that the world reveal where it is going. What direction are they being taken? Is there a direction at all? Is the rudder in good condition?

The American patriot Patrick Henry expressed his commitment and conviction to freedom when he proclaimed, “Give me liberty or give me death!” He did so because he understood well that without liberty the hope of being free men was lost. Liberty was essential to being free. For Henry, liberty was the core principle: the rudder, so to speak, that made the destination of freedom possible. And when he calls for “liberty or death,” he intended to be free. For Christians, the empowering of the Holy Ghost is the transforming factor: the element that sets our direction. Christ in us shapes us, makes

us, teaches us and sets in motion the purpose and direction of our calling. If our intention is to be free from the world and its entanglements and entrapments, we must commit ourselves to fighting for our core beliefs, and the Apostolic message must be in our hearts, preached with passion and conviction.

Many Americans are fighting to restore our liberties, at least to some degree. The growing tension in our nation is mostly about the core principles. The wise among us know that if our nation forsakes its founding principles and shreds the truths upon which it was founded, then America will indeed lose all that it was intended to be. Without a commitment to the principles as penned in the Declaration of Independence that “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness,” there can be no “land of the free”; the two concepts work only if defended in concert with one another.

My summer friends did not waste much time in ditching our old busted boat. It was unsteerable. At the end of the day, we all wanted to be where we needed to be: back home at the pier, where the hamburgers were simmering on the grill.

Likewise, the church must be steerable, teachable and ready for the hand of the Almighty to direct its course. The rudder cannot be our mere human opinions and attitudes. The Word of God is our guide. Paul’s great challenge of faithfulness was stated with an admonition: “If ye continue.” Success is not guaranteed without the commitment to “continue.” If we are faithful, if we are steerable, if we abide, if we fight the good fight of faith -- then He can entrust us with the great endtime Pentecostal revival. Then we will be able to hear the clear voice of guidance against a growing demonic stranglehold on our culture... Then we will live in overcoming faith... Then we will have the blessing of holiness that will stabilize the weak and provide a standard for living in this present world.

“If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister” (Colossians 1:23).

Just as Paul was made a minister, so we may be also. The pilgrim has a right to be a pilgrim. We have a right to follow His leading and His direction – we must be fixed, intent to be His pilgrims, and He will delight in us as we in Him.

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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: BUILT ON THE POWER OF PRAYER

(MARK COTTRILL)

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ADDRESSING SOCIAL ISSUES FROM THE PULPIT

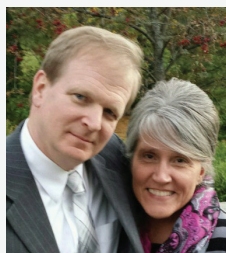
Interviews by Gregg Stone

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



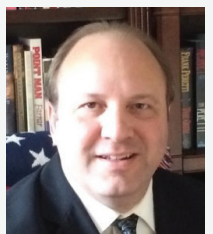
Mike Dobbs, Wiggins, MS - Yes, I do address current social issues from my pulpit when I feel there needs to be a strong voice against the coming tide of social and political opposition against Biblical values. The church needs to hear the watchman of their souls and the voice of the pulpit make a clear stand on what the Bible teaches on current issues and that we will not conform or bend to the pressure. I am careful to mix my remarks with the grace of God and that we should love the lost as they are.

As a word of caution, too many pulpits have become political outlets to discuss current events and a social gospel that is not founded upon Biblical soundness and doctrine. As in all things, spiritual temperance should always be exercised, and the utterance of our pulpits should come directly from the anointing and unction of God.



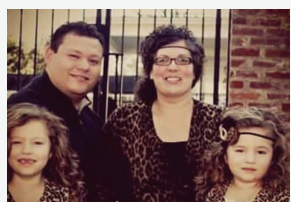
Kevin Brown, Madison, WI - We are ministering in a preaching point to several people who have never been exposed to the gospel or have very little biblical knowledge. Before addressing these topics, it is important to introduce people to Jesus and to help them understand Biblical principles and teachings. Often we address these issues one-on-one from a biblical standpoint, not necessarily singling out these issues but recognizing that sin is any transgression against God's Word. It is

important to introduce people to salvation before preaching to them about specific issues, allowing God to lead them into repentance and the new birth experience. These issues are a reflection of our humanity, and we must address the heart condition first.



Tim Milligan, Cookeville, TN - Because our political and social world is trying to dictate and govern what our boundaries should and should not be, we cannot negate our responsibility as the church to be the "clarion call" to speak truth and to reveal light on these very important issues. Jesus certainly went against the social/religious status quo. At the beginning of His ministry, Jesus wasted no time in what we call the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew

5 dealing with "taboo" subject matter, such as responsibility of being salt and light, character assassination of your brother, divorce, adultery, fulfillment of the law, oaths, forgiveness and loving your enemies.



Derek Gobert, Atmore, AL - I feel that we live in a world where secularized Christianity is at an all-time high and is winning over many of the true saints of the most high. Pastors [myself included] should address social issues the same way they address or preach holiness to the saints. When we pick up that sword, we should always make

sure that we dip it in love before we begin to swing it. With the right attitude [and scriptures], a man of God should be able to get his point across almost every time regardless of the topic. If done properly, social issues should be addressed more often.



Kevin Allen, Murfreesboro, TN - Yes, I cover social issues on a somewhat regular basis from the pulpit. The social climate today brings about a constant reminder of the challenges against moral absolutes. I feel that being proactive is a much better response than being reactive. Our mission is simple: we are an Apostolic church that grows Apostolic families. In growing the Apostolic family, we are teaching and preaching our lifestyle convictions on a regular basis. This means we are talking about the biblical

definition of marriage, sex, gender identity, murder, lying, gossip, and many other lifestyle convictions. The only con that comes to mind is not having an answer. We must remember that most of these issues are settled with obedience to His Word.



Bryant Kitchell, Gilmer, TX - These are Bible issues that have been around for a long time. Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed because of these sins. We should not shy away from addressing these things but rather speak the truth in love. Remember that God loves the sinner but hates the sin. The New Testament church dealt with these same issues; that is why Paul wrote the letters he did, because these issues were making their way into the church. In order for the church to be relevant, we must be

preaching God's Word, which is relevant for any generation or time. The church should be dictating the culture, not the culture dictating the church.



Steve Worley, Fayetteville, GA - I believe the church must be the light set on the hill. I am not sure being relevant is the issue. Fulfilling the commission is. Everything we teach must be from a biblical perspective. Man's wisdom will never measure up to God's; His Word meets the needs of every generation, so we must use His Word to teach our generation. Jesus taught using parables to address the issues. It

is constantly stated that He knew what was in their hearts and addressed it. Paul dealt with current issues as the church was growing. My only caution is to stay in the Bible with what you are teaching. As long as you remain biblically based, there is no room for argument or error. It is when you get into your personal opinions that trouble presents itself.



Steven W. Hamilton, Albuquerque, NM - Yes, I address social issues but all of this is and should be taught in our Discipleship Class to our new converts. This is the best place because you give your audience a chance to ask questions. This allows everyone attending our church to know where we stand on the issues and how to address the world

from the scripture. This also shows that we don't hate the sinner, just the sin. We should treat people with respect and kindness even when we disagree with their behavior or lifestyle. Remember, there are souls at stake. Don't just give quick answers. Pray and give scriptures to support your stand on any social issue. We are a reflection of God, not self.

BUILT ON THE POWER OF PRAYER

Pastor Mark Cottrill <> Bourbon, IN



Jane and Mark Cottrill
Bourbon, Ind.

“Our church is built on the power of prayer,” says Pastor Mark Cottrill of the Bourbon United Pentecostal Church of Bourbon, Indiana. “The thing most noticeable about our church is the pre-service prayer when one enters the doors. My wife, Sis. Jane Cottrill, is the Prayer Ministry Director, and everyone is encouraged to come a half hour before service to lift their voices in prayer. Most walk or stand at the

altar, worshipping out loud, setting the tone for the service. Our worship services are power packed!”

The Cottrills have two sons, Matt and Nathan, both licensed with the UPCI. Nathan Cottrill serves as sectional men’s director and senior class teacher. Matt Cottrill pastored in Michigan City, Indiana, and now serves as assistant pastor at Bourbon UPC. Their wives are involved in church ministry and teaching Sunday school. Pastor Cottrill has held many district and sectional offices, including Sectional SS Director while pastoring in Bucyrus, Ohio, and from 1985-present, in Bourbon, as Sectional Youth Director, Sectional SS Director, and District SS Secretary. He has served as District Global Missions Director and District Presbyterian since 2007 to the present, taught Historical Books at Indiana Bible College for eight years, traveled to 15 countries and preached multiple conferences. Sis. Cottrill served as Indiana Sectional Ladies Director and District Ladies Director.

Organization & Management

The ministries of Bourbon UPC include Children’s Ministry (SS), Daycare Ministry, Ladies Ministry, Breakout Student Ministry, Focused Families (young married), Super Singles Ministry, Bridge Group (singles 18-30), Music Ministry, Upper Class Ministry (age 55 and up), Promotion Ministry (internet and newspaper), Audio Visual, Outreach (home Bible studies), Prayer Ministry, New Life Class (new converts), and Ushers & Greeters Ministry.

“I meet with department heads every other Sunday before prayer service,” says Pastor Cottrill, “and we go over upcoming events. We have an annual planning session in November to plan the next year and post a calendar of events a month ahead. I have booklets for every department head and staff worker, detailing their purpose and responsibilities. Our Ministerial Training Class (MTC) meets before service every other Sunday morning, and shares videos or chapters on leadership principles. This gives me a chance to mentor the leadership. I tell our church that everyone has a ministry, and everyone should be doing something to reach the lost. January is our spiritual thrust month in which we encourage every member to look for open doors of evangelism, give their testimony and reach the lost or lukewarm. We began a program called Ignite to become aware of those ‘ignite moments’ when God wants to

use us. I sit down with church members and ask them about their talents and interests. They should have a burden for what they do, so they can be effective.”

Principles of Growth & Revival

“Time is a premium,” says Pastor Cottrill. “And a wise pastor will learn to look for opportunities to reach the lost and work with new people to help them grow closer to God. Our Sunday school and youth programs seem to be most effective in growing the church. Teach the Word of God to youth while they are young, and they will become faithful adults. Our unwritten theme or mindset consists of the 3 E’s for our services: Wednesday evening Bible study (Educational), Sunday morning (Evangelism) and Sunday evening (Edification).”

According to Pastor Cottrill, a portion of the church parking lot is used as a farmer’s market for their town every Saturday during the summer months. In addition, each spring, Bourbon UPC hosts a Community Fun Day and invites every child in town for free food, cotton candy, rides, and games with prizes. “In July, we do a big fireworks show and ice cream social for our entire town,” he says. “We want to bless our city and show them the love of God. People are stressed out in our world. Coming to church, worshipping and feeling His presence is the most therapeutic thing they can experience. I encourage our saints to enjoy their salvation, and I have trained altar workers to ask God for wisdom and be sensitive to those praying. Our church motto is ‘There’s Room in our Family for Yours.’

“Our church isn’t a wealthy church. However, if you give people a chance to bless others, they will give. We give to various ministries of the UPCI. Our church tries to be a resource to any church around us. We pray for them, and in the last few years, we’ve sent out three missionary families, one child evangelist, and three pastors and helped support four new churches. We send \$1,700 per month in PIMs for global missions, and seven weeks before Easter, we started a competition between the men and women to raise funds for Save Our Children. In the last 11 years, we’ve given \$51,000 to SOC.”

He continued, “People need to know what the needs are in a church to give them an opportunity to get involved. At our annual business meeting, I show the year’s improvements and what we have accomplished. It’s a great time to give God the glory! I also show and post church needs for the coming year on our hall board, and cross them off as they are filled. We have great unity, and everyone gets involved in reaching those goals. This visual reminder helps people to give to the building fund on a regular basis.”

Special Miracles

“Miracles happen just about every month at Bourbon UPC,” says Pastor Cottrill. “I’ve been licensed with the UPCI 41 years and have seen cancer healed multiple times, uneven legs become even instantly, stomach problems and migraines healed, tumors disappear, and immediate deliverance from addictions. An 89-year-old lady died during one of our banquets and was gone for 15 minutes. We prayed for her, she took a big breath and asked what had happened. The next day, her family doctor examined her and told her, ‘God has brought you back from the dead.’”

Pastor Cottrill continued, "A personal miracle encouraged me while preaching in Tanzania, East Africa. A teenage girl that only spoke Swahili received the Holy Ghost, speaking perfect English. She kept saying, 'There is only one God, and He is coming soon.'"

Personal Ministry

"We have to love people and not get hung up on the kind of sins they committed and remember how far God has brought us," says Pastor Cottrill. "Be patient with them, convince them God cares about them and loves them. Everyone is unique, so we must ask for God's wisdom and His direction, timing and manner to reach them. I've won four waitresses to the Lord just by being nice and eventually inviting them to church. Our city of only 2,000 is surrounded by smaller towns. Everyone knows me after 32 years and calls me pastor. I was the parade marshal at the city's annual parade, and I begin my days at the town coffee shop, talking to people and making contacts before I go to the church for prayer. We've got to be friendly to introduce them to our friend, Jesus."

Current Facility

The church began in 1924 in a street meeting, was established in 1925 and is still at the same site, according to Pastor Cottrill. "The original building held 75 people. Extra classrooms, added in 1947, now serve as a kitchen. Upon my graduation from the Apostolic Bible Institute of Saint Paul, Minn., I came to Bourbon as the assistant pastor. We added a third floor educational wing and missionary apartment. The church later purchased two adjoining properties. We outgrew the building by 2002 and built a 10,000-square-foot auditorium, new offices, restrooms and a new entry. Adjoining property was purchased for a new parking lot in 2010. In 2016, an acre of land was purchased across the street for a Family Life Center that will house a new daycare, gym, new fellowship area and kitchen. We are saving for that program now and are debt free. Our church is quick to respond to a need.

"We usually run 220 in attendance. Our present building will seat 350, but we've had over 425 at a youth rally. The church recently started a Spanish Ministry, and we are reaching out to the Amish community. I've been teaching one family I've never met over the phone. The father, mother and three teens have received the Holy Ghost. They've asked me to baptize them in Jesus' name as soon as they break away. God has opened doors of opportunity everywhere. He is interested in saving the whole world, all cultures and backgrounds.

"We've actually been told by visiting ministers and missionaries that we are one of the top 10 churches they've ministered to because the power and presence of God is so strong. The pastor must be an example in worship, prayer and sacrificial giving, because the church will take on his personality and follow his lead."

Personal History

Pastor Cottrill grew up in Columbus, Ohio. "My parents didn't attend church, but when I was seven years old, saints from an Apostolic church began taking me to Sunday school," he explains. "I was baptized in Jesus' name at nine, taught my first Bible study on the plagues of Egypt in front of the church at 13 and received the Holy Ghost at a church camp at 14. I witnessed to my parents and prayed them through to the Holy Ghost when I was 16. I was the only Apostolic Pentecostal in my high school of 3,000 kids and won some of them to the Lord. My pastor had me in leadership roles as a teen, and I sat in on church trustee meetings just to learn.

"While attending ABI, I felt the call to preach and was voted in as class president. My wife and I met at ABI, and both of us graduated in 1976 with a Bachelor of Theology. I was ordained with the UPCI in 1985."

Human Interest

"I love to play golf," says Pastor Cottrill. "I'm an avid deer hunter, love to ride my motorcycle and read books, including biographies about famous people. We have four grandchildren, another on the way and a Bichon Frise dog named Yogi. I've kept the notes of every sermon I've taught or preached since I was 18, and I feel very honored to pastor the finest saints on earth in Bourbon."



Top to bottom: Children pray in the altar; praise singers lead worship; Pastor Cottrill preaches and baptizes a young boy; the congregation worships in the sanctuary; exterior view of Bourbon UPC.

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The Next Mrs. Hess

By Brent Randall



Brent Randall
brent@brentrandall.com

Her name was Mrs. Hess. She was the first Bible teacher in my life.

I think I was in the first grade, an unchurched kid from an unchurched home. One afternoon each week at the end of the school day I went to my friend Dan's house, along with a half-dozen other kids from our school. At Dan's house, Mrs. Hess conducted an after-school Bible class.

There's a lot I do not remember. I do not remember how I got enrolled in that class. I don't know what the relationship was between Mrs. Hess and Dan's family. I don't know where she went to church. I don't recall anything about Mrs. Hess except her name and that she was really, really old.

But what I do remember is that I loved being in her class. I remember it being a haven of peace for me. And I remember she taught me my first Bible verse: "I am the bread of life."

I am sure Mrs. Hess is no longer walking this earth, but I often think of her and wonder how many kids she influenced with her love for Jesus and His Word.

Perhaps Mrs. Hess reached the end of her life's journey, wondering if her long life had held any meaning, if it had had any impact on anyone.

Though I can't speak for all her students, I can speak for myself: Mrs. Hess, thank you for planting the first seed of God's love in this first grader's heart.

God did in fact have His hand on me, and when I was 11 years old, I gave my life to Jesus. And throughout my life, God has given me the passion and opportunity to minister to kids and to share His story with them.

I often wonder what seeds I've planted. How many effective Sunday school teachers and influential Christian leaders will come from the ranks of those that I have taught?

The same is true for you.

You have no idea what God's plan is for the kids in your class. You are probably ministering to future pastors, future teachers, perhaps future missionaries. Because of that dynamic, always walk into your children's church or Sunday school prepared to do your best.

May we continue to tell His story to the next generation.

Who knows? That little girl on the third row of your class might be the next Mrs. Hess.

(Excerpted from Brent's book, *Whales, Rocks & Chickenfish*, available for download at www.brentrandall.com).

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. For an informational brochure call or text (209)601-4315 or email brent@brentrandall.com. Website: www.brentrandall.com.

10 Things Church Members Would Love to Hear From Pastors

By Thom S. Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources

Many church members are encouragers to their pastors. In return, pastors can be a blessing to their saints in many ways. As we have conversed with church members across America, we have heard 10 common themes or requests they have of their pastors:

1. "I love you." They want to know that you pastors love them in good times and challenging times. They want to know you really care for the sheep God has entrusted to you.

2. "I would love for God to give me a long-term ministry here." Church members desire for you to perceive your church as more than a steppingstone to the next church.

3. "I will provide clear leadership for you." Church members would like to know you are truly leading them. And they want to know where you are leading them.

4. "I will listen." They want to know you care enough about them to hear what they have to say. They want to know you truly value input and different perspectives.

5. "I will communicate clearly and often." Church members don't want to wonder what's happening in the church. They desire ongoing communication and transparency.

6. "I will be a praying pastor." Church members desire for their pastors to be in prayerful fellowship with God. They want to know you are leading in God's power and not your own.

7. "I will focus on preaching." They understand the importance of the preaching of the Word. They want to know you have put hours of prayer and preparation into your message so they can truly understand what God is saying in Scripture.

8. "I will share my faith." Most evangelistic churches have an evangelistic pastor. Most church members will follow the lead of their pastors. They want to do as you do more than do as you say.

9. "I will care for you." Most church members are reasonable. They know you cannot be present nor should you be present for every ministry need. But they want to know you care for them, hurt for them and pray for them.

10. "I will not show favoritism." Church members sometimes see pastors demonstrating preference toward some church members over others. It grieves and hurts members to see pastors catering to certain groups.







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A graphic featuring a stylized globe made of white lines and dots, centered over a teal-tinted city skyline reflected in water. A teal outline of the state of Arkansas is positioned behind the text.

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ECCLESIASTES 9:10

SIS. SHARON ANDERSON // ASHLAND, WI

Written by Maranatha Gannon



Pastor Myron and Sharon Anderson
Ashland, Wis.

Sis. Anderson, tell us about yourself and your ministry.

I married Pastor Myron Anderson 47 years ago. My husband has pastored Calvary Tabernacle in Ashland, Wisconsin for

the last 14 years. We began our ministry here 33 years ago as bus ministry workers. We later started a home missions work 60 miles away where we raised our three children. We now have nine grandchildren who are dear to our hearts. Although my intentions were to go to art school after graduating high school, God had other plans, and I felt my priority was to support my husband in his calling and mother our children.

How have you used your talent for God's work?

I have always enjoyed doing artwork. Early on, I knew that this God-given ability would be used for His glory. After raising our family, God opened many doors that allowed me to incorporate art to further His Kingdom.

I have used the talent the Lord has given to me in various ways. Putting together bulletin boards, painting scenes for plays, murals and Sunday school props, along with original favors for special events are just a few venues where art has been present. Scripture is most often used as the inspiration for my work, along with the beauty of His creation.

What inspires your work?

God is the master Artist! Psalm 19:1 states, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork." I am fascinated with His creation of the hands. Ecc. 9:10 says, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might..." Three of my oil paintings have emphasized the hands.

Thou Preparest a Table depicts a

carpenter working on a table with a wood plane in his hands. This work was inspired by scripture as well as a photo of a modern day carpenter whose hands were the focus. *The Earth is the Lord's* portrays the Creator gently holding the earth in His hands. After seeing the photo of a potter in the country of Turkey, I was inspired to paint, *Thou art the Potter*. We are His workmanship, and He is working in us. I have also painted portraits of my grandchildren. These were painted at special times in their younger years and emphasized characteristics of their unique personalities. Most of my artwork has been given as gifts, but I have sold a few pieces.

Have you had any professional training?

Colossians 3:23 encourages us with the words, "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;" I believe it is important to refine and develop the gifts or talents God has given us. Scripture paints this illustration in the story of the Five Talents. Those who invested and worked on increasing their talents were rewarded. Those who did not were punished.

Upon returning to Ashland, a friend asked me to take an art class with her. It was time. I have learned so much, especially in the mediums of oil and water color painting. Along with the technical knowledge and skills, the art classes have allowed me to create new friendships and share Jesus with others.

Would you please share some art accomplishments?

Each year the local bank has an art show. I volunteer to help hang the show and have entered a few paintings. One of the awards is given to an entry that is determined by the viewers as Popular Choice. I have won that ribbon on occasion. I make sure the entry has a significant title such as *Spring Up O' Well*, *Peaceful Past* and *Preserved*. This initiates interest and hopefully a conversation. I also have had opportunities to share an inspiration while doing a chalk or painting demonstration at a ladies meeting. Matthew 5:16 states, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and

glorify your Father which is in heaven." How can people see or know about Him if we hide our talents or refuse to share them?

What advice might you give an aspiring artist?

First, pray for the Lord's direction. I would suggest making yourself available in the Sunday school. This ministry is almost always in need of artistic ideas. Dramas, crafts, classroom sets and story units coupled with vacation Bible schools and outreach events provide a plethora of opportunities for godly artists. Not only can one share artistic gifts in a meaningful and lasting way, but an artist can play a part in the eternal Kingdom of God.

Please do not wait to share your talent. Procrastination only hinders your chance to help in the Kingdom. Begin while you are young.

There are so many areas to let your light shine. Acquire some professional instruction to enhance your ability. I have been able to encourage some of my grandchildren who are gifted in this area by getting together with them, having classes and teaching them what I have learned. Scripture encourages us to invest in the next generation. It says in Psalm 78:4, "We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done."

What are some future aspirations?

In the near future, I would like to take some watercolor classes. This is a medium I enjoy very much; however, if I had to choose a favorite in regard to painting, I would pick oil paints. I enjoy the richness of the color and have found that it is forgiving if a work does not reach expectations at first.

For the future, I aspire to portray the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. I have this work started and look forward to its continuation. His atonement and the price He paid for the salvation of the whole world is something I hope to capture with oil paint.

For more information, please contact Sis. Sharon Anderson by email at myshar@centurytel.net.

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 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. 7-8	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 12-13	Soar 2017 An equipping conference for the North American missionary and church planter. Theme: I Planted	Holiday Inn Conference Center, 3100 Wellington Place, Janesville, WI 53546	Marrell Cornwell, Jerry Dillon and Bill Hobson	Contact info: David Punzel 608.921.4971, therockchurchupci@gmail.com , www.therockchurchwi.com
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
FEB 2	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 9-11	Wisdom Conference - Sacramento, CA Bilingual conference!	House of Blessings 7020 East Pkwy Sacramento, CA	Clifford Readout, Peggy Readout, Tom Dibble and Danny Aber	For more information call 916-428-6200 or visit www.cbconnection.org
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 Today: Gender Deconstruction



Robert L. Rodenbush

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Gender Deconstruction: Satan's Great Deception

The deconstruction of gender is one of the greatest acts of deception Satan has ever perpetrated on humanity. For the Christian it is difficult to believe that so many young people have so quickly embraced so great a fallacy.

Yet, it is everywhere the subject of newspaper headlines, the feature of magazine cover

stories, the plotline of reality television and the highlight of trendy movies, fiction, music and even video games. Once a seldom-noticed fringe element of the homosexual culture comprised mostly of closeted individuals with proclivities for cross-dressing and other downplayed hedonistic behaviors, it has now burst through the door of pop culture as a powerful ideological movement changing the core beliefs of society.

Gender, defined by Oxford as "either of the two sexes (male and female)," is now a socio-political debate that is confounding politicians, teachers, parents and even some preachers, while at the same time ushering our kids into conformity through great confusion. The definitions are quickly being changed. A recent *Time* magazine cover story entitled "Beyond He or She: How a new generation is redefining the meaning of gender" is incredibly shocking, even for those who have been following this growing trend (March 2017). The article mentions that Facebook now has approximately 60 different gender options for users to choose from. In January of this year, California introduced a bill that would allow for a third, "non-binary" gender option on official state documents and driver's licenses (latimes.com, January 2017). Everyone, it seems, is scrambling to keep up with the latest terms that are replacing what was once a simple two-choice answer -- male or female. Neologisms include gender fluid, gender non-conforming, non-binary, gender queer, gender questioning, agender, asexual, multisexual, pansexual, bi-curious, two-spirit, and the list goes on.

Satan has created chaos where none previously existed. And, lest we think this is just a passing fad, or an over-reported topic that won't really gain a foothold, the same article states that young people are moving toward the middle when it comes to sexual attraction, "with one survey finding that nearly a third of young Americans see themselves somewhere between 100% heterosexual and 100% homosexual." America has entered into an irreversible social experiment. She has signed a contract of compromise binding the souls of her children to the hedonistic operators of Hollywood and the godless liberal elitists who view Judeo-Christian morality as nothing more than a millstone of rules and regulations designed to oppress those in its grasp. In the quest for ultimate freedom, this generation has become enslaved to the oppressive consequences of sin and without a miraculous, God-ordained intervention, it will be destroyed by the gross darkness of this ideology.



Bobby Killmon

Theology

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What approach should guide us to better equip young people to deal with challenges regarding non-scriptural ideas on Creation found in colleges and the media?

A wide range of beliefs on creationism exist even in the evangelical world. This includes what are much more biblical options (such as young earth creationism or the pre-Adamic gap theory) to the admittedly most liberal (i.e. framework hypothesis or so called "theistic evolution"). So, how do we start to evaluate all these systems of thought and teach our young people how to handle these liberal assaults against Scripture?

Here are some questions to help with the process. What does Romans 5:12-21 say regarding how and when "death" entered into our world? Could there be any death before then? Where does 1 Corinthians 11 show the first woman came from (Adam's side), and what does this necessarily exclude in evolutionary paradigms? How does Matthew 19 state that God created humans "from the beginning" and what claims does this exclude? Is the statement man came from dust and woman from man's side true history? If the "Big Bang" theory has the sun existing before the earth existed, do we just dismiss the claims of Genesis? If Scripture and parts of these cosmologies are in conflict, which do we believe?

Further, Scripture states before the fall God saw "everything He made that was made" and said that it was all "very good." Are brain tumors and cancers good? If not, how do we make sense of fossils (supposedly millions of years before man) having tumors, cancers, etc? If thorns didn't exist before the fall, how do we make sense of fossilized thorns? Is it consistent to hold the Apostolic view of the absolute inerrancy of the Bible, and then claim any of these things existed before the curse of the fall?

These answers are profound in implication for our views of the Word of God. So why do some equivocate? Dr. Ting Wang from Stanford University (member of the Society of Biblical Literature and National Association of Professors of Hebrews) says, "In a more mundane sense, many theologians would rather not face the calumny of the world, forsaking the foolishness of the Gospel for the 'wisdom' of the world, seeking the esteem of scholars and scholarship rather than the 'well done, good and faithful servant' from the Lord." He says it's hard to stand up in these environments and take the "academic respectability" loss. The same is true for students.

The challenge is we must equip our young people to stand for the truths of Scripture in a growing climate of antagonism. Giving them solid answers, along with the ability to stand up to the ridicule from social elitists on campuses and in the media, is critical. The "Achilles heel" of this generation may be some's desire for acceptance. Intellectually, this manifests as the desire for "respectability." This is a grave danger. In a class on the "History of Philosophy and Christian Thought" Dr. John Frame makes this shocking point. He says, "I can't think of a single instance where the quest for academic respectability has brought good results, either to the theology of the Church or the apologetics of the Church." Not one single case. We need to equip our young people with the courage to win this fight with facts, AND the ability to scorn so-called "academic respectability" to instead hear "well done, faithful servant."



T. W. Massengale

Church Growth

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The Need For Sunday School

Sunday school has made an amazing comeback. After dropping over 24% in 1980 to around 40 million enrollment for U.S. evangelical churches,

A church should plan at least four major attendance pushes: Easter (Passion Drama), Pentecost Sunday (Holy Ghost Sunday), Fall Thrust (Friend Day), and Christmas (Children's Pageant). Other attendance thrusts can happen on Mother's Day, Father's Day, and other special days.

It is a great assimilation time for new converts. I strongly urge churches to hold their new converts course as a Sunday school class. The 10-15 lessons on the basics of successful Christian life are taught in a series, and a convert can join the class at any time, and then graduate to the adult class upon completion. Successful completion of this class should be required for church membership.

It provides excellent opportunities for Christian ministry and service. Ministry involvement is essential for spiritual health. Sunday schools require teachers, class assistants, worship leaders, bus captains and

workers, SS office staff, and special groups (puppet, drama, gospel magic, etc.).

It provides age-specific Bible instruction. A child of five learns quite differently from a teenager. Without the Sunday school, young children, junior-age youth, teens, young adults, and more will not receive the individualized teaching that addresses the specific needs of that age group.

It provides a time for young children to pray and receive the Holy Ghost. Bus and van ministry brings children to your church whose parents do not attend. By having a monthly children's church or monthly Holy Ghost Sunday, children regularly receive the Spirit during the Sunday school hour. Permission is obtained, and parents are encouraged to attend the child's baptism. This often becomes an open door to a home Bible study.

Email me for more info on how to make your Sunday school growing and evangelistic.

it has since made a resurgence to over 70 million today (*Barna Research*). Pastors have rediscovered the tremendous value that this Sunday morning program brings to both discipleship and evangelism. If you want a growing church, I would urge you to strongly support your Sunday school with the needed resources to keep it vibrant and growing. How does Sunday school benefit the local church?

It provides a great time for evangelistic outreach to family, friends and co-workers.

POWER

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UNITED PENTECOSTAL
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Carol Clemans

Spiritual Growth

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A Wounded Heart Hinders Healthy Relationships

In my 25 years of counseling, I have helped thousands of people who had wounded hearts from emotional, verbal and sexual abusive experiences. The healing comes from God's truth – when you know the truth, the truth shall make you free! (John 8:32)

A wounded heart can cause a distorted Father-God concept. If earthly fathers/mothers were critical or abusive on a consistent basis, the child growing up does not learn healthy love and trust. Their God-connection can be distorted because they did not feel loved by parents. They subconsciously transfer this distrust to God, and it hinders their understanding of God's unconditional forgiveness and love even after salvation.

God's desire is to re-parent the wounded heart with His truth! Many who keep others at arm's length fear emotional closeness. This person needs help in understanding their value and worth comes from God alone, not based on their pedigree or performance.

Wounded hearts can lead to addictions. The temporary feel good of acting out with porn or workaholicism or game addiction is short lived. The wounded heart destabilizes marriage and family relationships.

God's truth is: He fully forgives, fully loves, and fully accepts us. We can do nothing to earn His love or salvation. We can be transformed by renewing our heart, soul and mind with His truths (Romans 12:1 & 2).

I counsel nationwide by phone (636) 448-0121 and to other countries through Skype and Facebook video messenger. I counsel pastors and lay people in total confidentiality. My counseling is unique because of having the Holy Ghost 62 years, teaching God's Word over 50 years, Bible-based counseling education, 25 years as a Certified Pastoral Counselor and Christian Life Coach. I continually add to my education.

Porn addiction recovery, emotional healing, marital issues, parenting, grief recovery, anxiety, etc., are just a few of the issues I counsel. God's truth transforms a hurting, wounded heart! Try God's truth in one session – you decide from there.

© Carol Clemans – www.carolclemans.org - read 'about ministry' page, 370+ articles, teaching CD's, DVD's, book: *God's Design for Marriage*. Watch teaching on Carol Clemans YouTube channel. Ministry Ref: Pastor Daniel Batchelor, Duplo, IL.



Arlo Moehlenpah

Teaching With Variety

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Teaching Methods of Jesus

Suppose you had many things needing repair, and you called a handyman who only brought a monkey wrench in his toolbox. He could not drive nails, tighten screws, paint, or cut wood. He is very limited in what he can accomplish as a handyman. In somewhat the same way, teachers limit their effectiveness if they limit themselves to one method of teaching.

Nicodemus rightfully called Jesus a teacher. Jesus used many teaching methods. He used verbal methods such as stories (Good Samaritan), illustrations (You are the light of the world), comparisons (Remember Lot's wife), asking questions (Who do men say that I am?) and answering questions (How can a man be born when he is old?). Also, Jesus used visual methods such as objects (cup clean on the outside but dirty on the inside) and flat visuals (He wrote on the ground). He taught by example that we should follow in His steps. He was not confined to classroom situations but taught in homes, boats, mountains, deserts, weddings, and funeral processions.

While most churches hear a lot of anointed preaching, sometimes there is much less emphasis on teaching. Do you test the people after you complete a Bible study series? Limited use of variety in teaching can result in decreased attendance, listeners falling asleep or exhibiting a lack of interest in the lessons. When was the last time you involved your listeners by asking them questions, allowing them to ask questions, or having them participate in a discussion? Why not ask one or more to explain an object lesson? Have you tried any student-centered teaching methods such as Bible games, having them retell the story as you show the pictures, or choral reading?

Last but not least does your life underscore or contradict what you teach?

Please watch a video on the teaching methods of Jesus at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Ez1y5lbFRg>

Teaching with Variety includes chapters on Storytelling, Asking and Answering Questions, Leading a Discussion, Student-Centered Teaching Methods, Teaching with Objects and Evaluating Your Teaching. This book is available from www.doinggood.org or PPH.

Arlo and Jane Moehlenpah have taught Teacher Training in many seminars and for 35 years in our UPCI Bible colleges. Arlo has also taught at three secular colleges. Contact them at 619-852-4979 or moehlenpah@aol.com if you would like them to do some teacher training in your area.



Carlton L. Coon Sr.

CoonEctions

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"Why?"

"Why?" is a question every parent dreads! Simple to ask. Often hard for the parent to answer. Yet, "why?" is important in life and church. Sustained growth and people development depends on knowing why.

Why we do is more important than what we do. Why is more important than how we do what we do.

- Why have a class dedicated to converts, if the church currently only has one convert?
- Why send a bi-weekly email to converts?
- Why have homework associated with each Take Root class?
- Why have a public graduation celebration for converts?
- Why send first-time visitors 6-8 email letters?

I often ask, "Why?" A leader unable to explain "why" often mimics another's behavior, without understanding the principle behind the behavior. Not knowing "why" results in an unfocused waste of resources.

Jimmy Toney acquainted me with Simon Sinek's Ted Talk, titled *The Golden Circle*. Sinek's presentation deserves a look. It is three concentric circles labeled "what," "how" and "why." The three questions will determine your effectiveness in anything meaningful.

- The largest circle reflects "what" is done.
 - Sinek's middle circle is "how."
- Answering "how" reflects both systems and quality.

The inner or golden circle is "why." Knowing "why" allows a leader to comfortably adjust what is happening and the system being used. "Why" gives a basis for change and adaptation. Learn why! Three practical tools at carltoncoonr.com reflect my interest in "why." *The How and Why of New Convert Care* may be the most important handbook you read this year. It gives the rationale for dealing with newcomers in specific ways. In all things, know "why" and your "what" and "how" will be clearer. 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

Timely Bookkeeping

The most important function of your finance or accounting team is to produce timely and accurate reports. Churches have a legal requirement to keep and maintain complete and accurate financial records.

Without timely data entry, the church cannot know how it is doing financially. If the church doesn't prepare budgets (which we strongly recommend), it will not know

how it is doing compared to the budget. Also, if the check register is not updated and reconciled, the church runs the risk of having insufficient funds when payroll or bills are paid. (Looking up the account balance on your bank website is not a way to see how you are doing financially.)

Often the bookkeeper is in a hurry and just puts the credit card payment to "miscellaneous" instead of applying it to the different expense accounts that were paid.

Finally, when financial reports are requested by the bank, or needed for the year-end business meeting, if the

accounting is not up-to-date, it can take too long to prepare the reports.

Regardless of the size of the church, the goal should be to finalize the prior month's reports and reconciliations by the 10th-15th of the following month (sooner is better, if possible). Otherwise, the pastor or church board is looking at information that is too old, and cannot react soon enough if adjustments to spending are needed.

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**FL Student Suspended For Disagreeing With Muslim Professor****Rollins College, Winter Park, Fla.**

A conservative Christian student at a private college in Florida says he was suspended after he opposed his Muslim professor, who said that the crucifixion of Jesus was a hoax.

Marshall Polston, a 21-year-old sophomore, was suspended from Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida in late March for being a "threat of disruption."

According to the *Central Florida Post*, Polston said he challenged Professor Areeje Zufari during their Muslim Humanities class when she said that Jesus wasn't crucified and that His disciples didn't actually believe Jesus was God.

Polston said that he was then given a grade of a 52 on his next essay.

"I was upset, understandably. I've never gotten anything less than straight A's," Polston said. "So, I was really interested in figuring out how to possibly improve or at least understand the grade."

He spoke with the professor, but Polston said she then reported him to the college's Dean of Safety.

In another of Zufari's classes, during a discussion of Sharia law, a Muslim student argued that "a good punishment for gays, adulterers and thieves was the removal of a certain body part, as determined by Sharia law."

His comments were not reported as unsafe, Polston said.

Later, Polston was asked to report to the dean's office.

"They made it clear that they had not gotten a report about what the student said, and were more concerned about the danger I was causing to the campus," Polston said. "What danger? A difference of opinion in a college classroom is nothing out of the ordinary and certainly not dangerous. It was surreal and degrading."

Rollins College has not released a comment regarding the suspension.

**Israel May Take Baby Step Toward Rebuilding Temple**

With June marking the 50th anniversary of Israel's reunification of the capital city of Jerusalem along with the Temple Mount, the Israeli government is considering a proposal to create a new foundation responsible for providing "research, information and advocacy" about the Jewish connection to what many consider the holiest site in all of Judaism – the place where the Temple stood until A.D. 70.

The Temple Mount Heritage Foundation was proposed by Culture Minister Miri Regev and Environmental Protection and Jerusalem Minister Ze'ev Elkin, with an annual budget starting at \$550,000. It will be based on the government-funded Western Wall Heritage Fund, which administers the site adjacent to the Temple Mount – believed to be the retaining wall for the 35-acre foundation upon which the Temple was built.

The project is getting high praise from Israel advocates for rebuilding the Temple.

Rabbi Yehuda Glick, a target of an assassination attempt in 2014 for his Temple advocacy, said he welcomed the plan for a Temple Mount Heritage Foundation and has personally lobbied for its creation. "We need to state clearly: The Temple Mount is the foundation of the history of the Jewish people and of the return to the land since the beginning of Zionism," he said.

Temple Mount activism has become an increasingly prominent issue in the Israeli political debate, even as Arab Palestinians have sought to deny any connection between the site and the Jewish Temple – in some cases, aided by the United Nations.

The foundation proposal makes direct reference to the attacks on the historicity of the Temple Mount. "In recent years the State of Israel has been facing a delegitimization campaign based on a distortion of facts regarding the history, tradition and culture of the Jewish people," reads the explanation of the proposal.

"One of the peaks of this trend took place recently with the October 2016 UNESCO decision to attempt to nullify the connection of the Jewish people to the Temple Mount. In light of this trend, the government of Israel sees itself as responsible to prevent this disinformation and distortion of historical truth."

The controversial UNESCO resolution used only Muslim names for the Jerusalem Old City holy sites and was harshly critical of Israel for what it termed "provocative abuses that violate the sanctity and integrity" of the area.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ After 85 years in business, Family Christian is closing for good, shutting down all 240 of its retail stores. The company, which had stores in 36 states, decided to close after facing declining sales following its 2015 bankruptcy protection filing. The Michigan-based company, which transitioned from a for-profit retailer to a non-profit ministry in 2012, blamed the closure on "changing consumer behavior and declining sales."

■ A company in Sweden is offering its workers microchip implants that function as swipe cards. According to the *Associated Press*, the cards, which are the size of grains of rice, are implanted in the hand of workers, and enable them to open doors, operate printers, or buy smoothies with the wave of a hand. The injections are so popular that employees often host parties for those willing to get chipped.

SOCIAL TRENDS**Canada's Transgender Rights Bill Could Threaten Religious Freedom**

Gender identity could be added to Canada's list of protected classes if the Canadian Parliament passes a bill. The bill extends "gender identity and gender expression" to the country's protected classes under the Canadian Human Rights Act.

But free speech rights advocates are worried the bill could be used against groups, particularly religious groups. Harold Albrecht, a conservative party member of parliament, said the bill is a threat to many people.

"I am concerned that this bill would cause fear for many Canadians, fear that they would not be able to even discuss public policy issues, such as this one, on which they may disagree with the government-imposed agenda," he said.

Canadian pastor Paul Dirks, who heads the campaign "Woman Means Something," says the bill doesn't allow businesses or schools to keep predators from using the bill to harm others.

"Our campaign doesn't say trans-people are a risk to anybody, it's saying predators are going to take advantage," he said.

POLITICAL TRENDS**5,000 Jews Emigrate to Israel After Terror Attacks in France**

French Jews have been leaving France in greater and greater numbers and emigrating to Israel following increasing attacks on their communities.

According to ChristianToday.com, this year 5,000 Jews have left France to settle in Israel. This continues a trend seen over the last few years. In 2015, 7,900 Jews left France and in 2014, 7,231 left. Since 2006, a total of 40,000 Jews have left the country.

Although some experts say terrorism is not the reason so many French Jews are leaving the country, Daniel Benhaim, the head of The Jewish Agency of Israel, maintains that the threat of terrorism is the number one motivating factor for Jews leaving the country.

Four Jews were killed in the attack on the Jewish Hyper Cacher supermarket in eastern Paris the same day 12 people were killed in the Charlie Hebdo attacks which took place two years ago. Another attack occurred at a Jewish school in Toulouse, France in 2012, as well as a kidnapping and murder of a young Jewish man in Paris in 2006.



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Jim Julien // Indianapolis

This issue is one that affects every one of us. It determines if you are saved or lost. It determines if you grow in God or fall away. The issue can be summed up in one little word. This one word is greater than just a word; it represents everything that you will face in life. Before I tell you that word, let me tell you a story to illustrate my point.

Henry the Sweeper

There was a man named Henry who worked as the head floor sweeper for a tool and die shop. He was good at his job: tall, thin, strong and dedicated. There wasn't anyone who loved to clean a shop like that guy. However, there was one thing that he needed to remember. He was a sweeper, making \$10 an hour, but there were die makers that were a level above him. Henry's cleaning job was important, but their job was more important.

Eventually, there was something that started to drive Henry crazy. He used an old-fashioned scrubber that he pushed by hand, and had to fill up his five-gallon bucket and pour it over the entire floor. So, he didn't like it when people walked through or drove through the water while he was sweeping. At first, he didn't let it bother him. But it started to happen again, and again, and again. The problem was that it happened continually.

One day, Henry couldn't take it anymore. As one of the die makers drove over his floors again, Henry ran up to him, reared back his fist, and hit him. He was not upset that it happened just once; it was that it happened again and again. That is our key word: *again*. Oftentimes it is not the initial situation that causes problems in our life, but when these things happen over and over.

Your life is full of again situations. How you handle these will determine if you make it to the end. I want to be able to say that I stuck it out until the end. Those who endure until the end are the ones who will be saved. What you do in these times will determine how your life goes. It isn't when temptation comes, but when it comes again. It's not when the trouble comes, but when the trouble comes again. It's when the same issues crop up again.

There are people who have lost their way with God because they forgot how to handle the again situations. We've

got to be ready and willing to stand until the end with Jesus. Life is challenging, but with God's Spirit and the power of His Word, you and I are able to make it until the end. What do you do when your prayer life disappears? When the fears that haunt you come back again? You deal with these things until you conquer them. Sometimes, God may want you to learn a lesson. A situation can change when you seek God and do something different in that situation. See, the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. Sometimes you need to change your life in these again moments.

When the Enemy Comes Again

In 2 Samuel chapter five, David had gotten a word from the Lord and smote the enemy. In verse 22, we see that the battle isn't over. The Bible says that the Philistines came yet again. It may seem like you have been in a war, but it's just one battle. Your life will be a series of battles, but you have to decide that no matter how much you fight, you will fight and believe again.

I knew a young man once who had a powerful walk with God. He acted like the battle was over and that he had beaten the devil once and for all. I tried to warn him that he may have dealt with one battle, but the war wasn't over. You see, the devil doesn't die with old age. The spirits that you have faced are not the strongest out there, and you will never get to a new level without a new devil. You will have to fight during your climb up with God.

I warned this young man to humble himself, but he didn't listen. Within two weeks, he went from revival to ruin. There are going to be battles, trials and bigger devils. This may not seem encouraging, but we're living in the end times and need to get this right, right now. It doesn't matter how many battles you face; what matters is how much fight is left in you. I plan on fighting the good fight of faith! Life is about overcoming, persevering, getting back up, loving God, and seeking God again. For example, what will you do if God doesn't heal you? Worst case scenario is that there will be a day when you are old and facing sickness, but someday you will get a new body. Life isn't always about winning in this life; sometimes our greatest victory is over there. So make sure that you're interested in God in the here and now, or you won't ever make it over there.

1 Peter 4:12 tells us not to “think it strange” when things like this come against us. This is how some saved people end up lost. People are okay with the first battle but not the next battle and the next one. Sometimes, the battles we face may honestly begin to get old. You may think, “God, do I really have to face this again?” But you must learn the lesson, fight and endure. What else is your option? Sometimes people just implode, like Henry did, and they walk away from God. It’s the again moments that challenge us every day.

What about the besetting sins? When you fall, get back up and keep doing it again. Some people fall down and then give up on God. But the Bible says, “Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: for when I fall, I shall arise...” You need to get back up every time you fall! You see, it’s not about how many times you fall, but it’s your job to get back up one more time than you fall.

Once, there was a lady who got mad at God and didn’t want to get up again, so she prayed that the devil would live inside of her, and he did. One night, a preacher was praying over her and asked why the demon was doing this to her. The demon stated that demons hate the human race because they have a second chance. When the angels that followed Satan were cast out of Heaven, they were then made into evil spirits. These spirits never had an opportunity to repent and can’t stand that we get a second chance. The blood of Jesus cleanses us, and He will forgive us every time we get back up. Life will fight you but pray again, get up again, resurrect your faith again, dream again!

Relationship Versus Revival

We have a responsibility to seek the Lord. What would have happened if David tried to fight every battle the same way? It wouldn’t have worked. Instead, he learned to seek the Lord and inquire of Him again. Acts 17 says that God created us for one purpose: to seek the Lord. He did His part when He came and died on the cross for us; now it is up to us to say, “Here I am Lord, again.” If you want to be saved, it’s about how you handle the again situations.

There is no shortcut in a relationship with God. Sometimes, we look for someone to bring us a revival. Once, there was a group of people who followed (Evangelist) Lee Stoneking around. They thought they could make it as long as they could hear him preach. Revival is not the same as relationship. What happened to prayer? What happened to God’s purpose for your life? When the veil was torn, that signified something. In Apostolic vernacular, that means we don’t have to wait for the preacher to talk to God. You can go straight to Him yourself.

Life will throw you off course again and again. You need a relationship with God to make it through. People have tried to chase after conferences and revival churches, and you know what happened to them? They lost their soul. The real answer isn’t revival but a bent knee to God and a relationship with Him. The greatest revival you will ever experience is in a relationship with God.

I learned my greatest lesson when I was 16 years old in a struggling church. Our group of young people decided that we were going to get up and worship no matter what. Then God started to deal with me, and I realized that this is more than just what I feel on a Sunday. You can have this every day if you can get the daily walk right; you need to hit your knees daily. 2 Kings 13 tells us that you can’t get your victory with a halfhearted effort. Maybe you have put your relationship with God on hold, but the will of the Lord is for you to go again.

Is there something you need to pick up again? Do you need to dream again, worship again, have a prayer life again? The enemy is going to keep challenging you, and the only way that you and I can survive and thrive is to have an again spirit. I’m going to get up again, try again, believe again, and go after it one more time.

Do you know we serve an again God? What happened to Samson? He gave Delilah the secret to his strength because he loved her more than the blessing of God. Despite that mistake, the Bible says that his hair began to grow again. There was something that triggered in the mind of Samson -- “God, I messed up bigger than life. But give me one more opportunity, Lord, and I will honor you.” So he defeated more in the moment of his death than in his entire life because he went to God again. Do you have some things in your life that you need to allow God to awaken again? Never let the “again moments” keep you from your relationship with God.



Pastor Jim Julien
Indianapolis, IN

Biography: James and Rachelle Julien served the Bible church under the leadership of the late Bishop Tom Simison for 17 years before accepting the position of senior pastor in June 2010. They met at Indiana Bible College and were married in 1993. In the spring of that year, they began serving the Bible Church as assistant pastor and soon thereafter celebrated their graduations from IBC. They have four wonderful children who love God and are striving to find their place in His kingdom.

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A Misplaced Mystery

Apostolic Pastor's Book Written to Increase Understanding of Oneness Doctrine

By Gregg Stone



Pastor Landon Davis
Marianna, Ark.

Informative and enjoyable, straightforward yet non-antagonistic, Bro. Landon Davis' book, *A Misplaced Mystery*, will reinforce your beliefs, answer questions, and increase your understanding of the Oneness doctrine.

With many resources expounding on this topic that are either introductory or exhaustive, Bro. Davis wanted his book to fit somewhere in between. "I tried to not only present the fullness of the Godhead in Christ but to also address common questions and explore the ramifications of the doctrine," explains Bro. Davis, who is pastor of First United Pentecostal Church of Marianna, Ark. "Since I wanted the book to be useful for outreach, I also compared and contrasted the Oneness doctrine with Trinitarian beliefs. "But, on the other hand, I didn't want it to read like a textbook. My goal was to have depth and simplicity. To achieve this goal, I kept each chapter short. I also used modern translations for many of the Scriptural texts. I wanted the

message to be as clear and direct as possible. I was very careful to only use language in the book that could be read and understood by lay saints, and I even included a chapter for Trinitarians or those that are undecided regarding Oneness doctrine.

"I tried to keep the book relatively short as well. The main body is 125 pages, and there are an additional 50 pages with answers to common questions."

A Misplaced Mystery was written as a resource for people that may lack a solid doctrinal foundation and can be used in many different settings. "Much of my formative teaching experience was with new converts and young adults, so I feel like engaging those audiences is a strength of mine, but it is written for anyone that wants to understand the testimony of the Scriptures regarding the mighty God in Christ," said Bro. Davis. "It can be read for individual study, and it can also be used as a group study resource. I've already heard from a church using the book for its young ministers study group, and another pastor told me that he plans to use the book as the basis

for a church-wide study. It is also intended to be an outreach tool. I believe that it would be a great resource for preachers, youth, established saints and new converts."

The book has received excellent feedback, and the reception has been very enthusiastic. "I have heard from pastors, Bible school teachers, saints and youth," said Bro. Davis. "One of my favorites was an unsolicited email from a pastor's son that had struggled with his beliefs. He wrote to let me know that he finally really understood the Oneness of God. It was a very touching and humbling letter."

A Misplaced Mystery is available at mariannaupc.com with a link provided to purchase a copy of the book from the printer. The book is \$9.99 plus S & H. "If someone would like to try before they buy, a preview PDF of the entire book is available free of charge on the church site," explained Bro. Davis. "I really want the book to be available to anyone that wants it, so if the price is prohibitive everyone is welcome to access the preview PDF. For those that purchase a copy of the book, all proceeds will go to the church I pastor."



Teenage Children's Evangelist

Ethan Tucker, 15: "One thing I've learned is, if you reach the kids, you can get the parents."

By Bre Little



Ethan Tucker
Springfield, Ill.

Many would think that 15 years old sounds a bit young to start a ministry, and for it to already be impacting so many lives sounds even more shocking. Ethan Tucker didn't let his age stop him. This young, vibrant, 15-year-old children's evangelist

from Springfield, Illinois started ministering at just 12 years of age. Shy probably wasn't the best word to describe Ethan growing up. "I'm a very funny guy naturally," he said. At the age of 12, he was being mentored by Bro. Phil Wagner - a children's minister that Ethan has looked up to since the age of six. Ethan soon started teaching a Sunday school class, then at the age of 14, he began buying his own props and making his own collection for his children's ministry.

Ethan's biggest piece of advice for any other young minister starting out would be to always have a servant's heart. He always

wanted to help in any way possible, and for him that started by learning to put the puppets and props away and cleaning up the platform after Bro. Wagner ministered to a group of children. "I would just listen and take in every word Bro. Wagner said," explained Ethan.

Looking back on his journey, Ethan's favorite memory was when two people received the Holy Ghost the first time he led a children's service out of town. "God did His magic, and it was nothing special on my part. I have not been to one place since then that someone has not received the Holy Ghost. We serve an awesome and good God!"

Our children are the next generation of the church. The Bible talks about how you should train up a child the way it should go. "One thing I've learned is, if you reach the kids, you can get the parents," he said.

"To me a children's service is one of the most beautiful sights to see."

Ethan, who attends New Beginnings Apostolic Church in Springfield (pastored by Bro. Greg Tucker), can help with special services, children's services, summer vacation Bible school, puppetry, and gospel illusions. He can be contacted by mail at 2305 E. Grandview, Springfield, Ill. 62702, by phone at 217-361-4126 or by email at kidzoneministries@gmail.com.





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*OFFERING REPORT APRIL 1, 2017

Word To The Wise:

"Ideas are funny little things . . . they don't work unless you do."

After the service, a little girl told the pastor: "When I grow up, I'm going to give you some money."

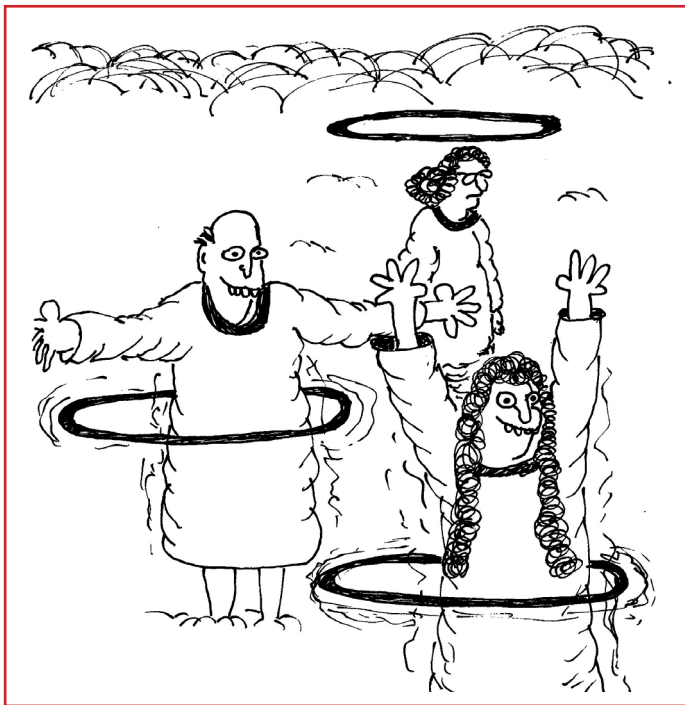
"Well, thank you," the pastor replied, "but why?"

"Because my daddy says you're one of the poorest preachers we've ever had."

When a young minister was still single, he preached a sermon entitled, "Rules for Raising Children." After he got married and had children of his own, he changed the title of the sermon to "Suggestions for Raising Children." When his children became teenagers, he stopped preaching on that subject altogether.

A young girl finally got to attend a wedding for the first time. While in the church, the girl asked her mother: "Why is the bride dressed in white?" The mother replied to the girl: "Because white is the color of happiness, and it's the happiest day of her life today."

After a little bit, the girl looked up at her mother and said: "But, then why is the groom wearing black?"



Exercise in heaven

The next time you feel that God can't use you, just remember...

- ~ Noah was a drunk
- ~ Abraham was too old
- ~ Isaac was a daydreamer
- ~ Jacob was a liar
- ~ Leah was ugly
- ~ Moses had a stuttering problem
- ~ Gideon was afraid
- ~ Samson had long hair and was a womanizer
- ~ Rahab was a prostitute
- ~ Jeremiah and Timothy were too young
- ~ David was an adulterer and a murderer
- ~ Elijah was suicidal
- ~ Jonah ran from God
- ~ Naomi was a widow
- ~ Job went bankrupt
- ~ John the Baptist ate bugs
- ~ Peter denied Christ



This famous question is asked for the first time in history.

A pastor asked a little boy if he said his prayers every night. "Yes sir," the boy replied.

"And do you always say them in the morning, too?" the pastor asked. "No sir," the boy replied. "I ain't scared in the daytime."

On the pastor's birthday, the church leaders got together and bought a beautiful small, engraved plaque telling him they appreciated his pastoral leadership. At the bottom of the plaque was engraved a scripture reference. He was quite surprised when he looked it up.

What they intended was I Thess. 1:3, "We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

What the engraver put instead was I Thess. 3:1, which reads, "So when we could stand it no longer, we thought it best to be left by ourselves in Athens."



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