



IBC Perspectives

APOSTOLIC in
WITNESS, WORSHIP
AND WORD [Mark Abernathy]
[Martinsville, IN]



From The Publisher

Slow or Sudden Came the Change

Paul D. Mooney

"In matters of lifestyle, modesty, holiness of spirit, separation from worldly ambitions, worldly interests and entertainment, there is a clear departure from Godly conviction."

*Young souls, that come to claim your place
In Christ's enlisted band,
And seek the mighty sevenfold grace
Through touch of pastoral hand*

*The eyes that scan your ranks today
Are moist with hope and fear;
Just entered on the stern, sweet way, —
Oh! Will you persevere?*

*Alas for thousands that have knelt
Where you are bending now!
You feel what they as warmly felt,
In prayer and solemn vow.*

*Seemed it that nought could them estrange
From Him your hearts adore:
Yet, slow or sudden, came the change —
They walked with Him no more.*

*Seemed it that nought could them estrange
From Him your hearts adore;
Yet, slow or sudden came the change —
They walked with Him no more!*

William Bright
Conformation Canon of Christ Church, Oxford

In an old book that I had collected decades ago, my eyes fell upon an inclusion of the "Conformation Canon of Christ Church, Oxford." The words were profound, and as I read them I wept, my heart gripped, feeling the weight of the described estrangement from Christ in the poignant line, "They walked with Him no more!"

As if he were trying to understand how this separation could have happened, Bright prefaced the declaration with the lament, "Yet, slow or sudden came the change." This phrase, a near question, matched my feelings and my prayers of late. There is little need to pose an argument about whether Christians at large, or even we who see ourselves as advocates of holiness, are or are not allowing a breakdown in our traditional and biblical convictions. In matters of lifestyle, modesty, holiness of spirit, separation from worldly ambitions, worldly interests and entertainment, there is a clear departure from Godly conviction. Admit it or not, we all know this is true. Even the most cursory perusal of the Internet documents this reality. America, and her church, has lost her compass. "Yet, slow or sudden came the change — They walked with Him no more!"

Love is at the root of all things. The love of Christ moves us to obey. The love of Truth anchors our minds and gives us strength to resist the wisdom of this world which God hath

made foolish (I Corinthians 1:20). It seems impossible that the passion which once moved us, brought us together, changed us, sent us out to labor in mission fields at great sacrifice, could ever become cold. But, as the poet said, "Seemed it that nought could them estrange—From Him your hearts adore."

Our personal rejoicing is this: both my mother and father used their last breath to acknowledge their love for the revelation of the mighty God in Christ. They had paid the price. They had kept the faith. I say this not to evoke sentimental platitudes such as, "Ahh! Isn't that sweet? You must have really loved them," but rather to explain that their deathbed emotion was about a sincere testimony. The Apostle Paul explained it like this: "For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward" (2 Corinthians 1:12).

The old Oxford Conformation invoked upon the young preacher, or the next generation, the matter of the candidate receiving the conformation by the laying on of the pastor's hand. In that moment, the candidate had for himself felt the love toward the Lord in the same way and to the same depth as their pastors and elders had felt it. It was an acknowledgment of their love for the Truth as was known and understood generationally with the elders. It was a testimony of their conscience. It was not a temporary belief or popular religious position, but a matter of fervent conviction, from which no one was ever expected to become estranged.

I never expected my parents to depart from their convictions, and they trusted Micki and me to stay on the "right way," as they liked to say. It was not an imposed indoctrination, a cultish pledge, a religious rite or simply a vow to one's mother. It was a shared anointing and infilling of the Holy Ghost. We had together touched the same thing, loved the same thing — we all knew Jesus by our own revelation. Our hearts were fixed. "My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise" (Psalm 57:7).

What must happen between generations is not merely shared religious history open to new interpretation and evolving sets of values shaped by modernity. What must happen is a mutual love for fellowship in His Spirit - The same Acts 2:38 experience and commitment to holiness lived, believed and practiced in our lives and in our hearts.

*The eyes that scan your ranks today
Are moist with hope and fear;
Just entered on the stern, sweet way, —
Oh! Will you persevere?*

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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: APOSTOLIC IN WITNESS, WORSHIP AND WORD (MARK ABERNATHY)

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THE NEED FOR INSTILLING DOCTRINE IN TODAY'S APOSTOLIC YOUTH

Interviews by Linda Schreckenberg

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



Dallas Brock, Beaverton, OR - Imparting Apostolic doctrine is an integral part of equipping our youth for the challenges they will face, so they will not be vulnerable to philosophies and humanistic mindsets. False doctrine is so prevalent that without a foundation of doctrinal understanding, it is only a matter of time before they start to adopt the subtle deceptions of a misled culture. A person can be born of the water and of the Spirit (Acts 2:38) and still be ignorant of Biblical understanding. We must

continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and the revelation of who He is.

Middle school is the time most youth are developing their identity and discovering their gifts and callings. I would recommend using something similar to the *Fifth Framed* series by Bro. Carlton L. Coon. To effectively communicate doctrine, we have to be secure enough as leaders to allow people to voice their struggles, questions and doubts. This generation must know the "why" behind the doctrine to be strong in their belief. Additional training in the home is critical.



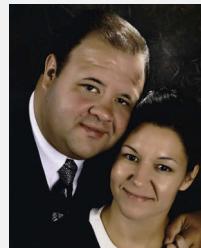
Kevin L. Borders, Norman, OK - Doctrinal teaching for today's youth is an absolute. Youth must know their salvation is rooted in scripture and not in a human structure. For them to value the experience of salvation and to protect the work of God in their lives, they must be taught biblical doctrine.

I believe training must begin from the earliest age in Sunday school. Lessons in Sunday school, as well as in youth services, must be intentional. Simply relating a Bible story is not sufficient. The truths of the Word of God must be brought out at every age level. Children and youth must hear a clear voice, not only from their Sunday school teachers and youth pastors but from the senior pastor as well. On an annual basis, in our church, we bring the youth into a Wednesday night Bible study where I teach specific topics, so the youth hear these truths taught from the senior pastor. We use Word Aflame Literature as a curriculum.



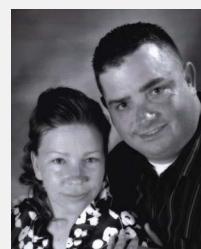
Eric Garrett, Greenville, MS - Pentecost in North America has prevailed through time to the extent that a large percentage of our saints now are receiving truth, by virtue of inheritance, from saved parents, as opposed to direct revelation a sinner receives through seeking God for salvation. Establishing children in Biblical doctrine, so they see it for themselves, is essential.

Pastoring for 25 years, I have seen the sad results of parents assuming their children understood and received a love for what we believe. Unless we instill a solid scriptural foundation in them, our children have the Pentecostal experience but no foundation. Doctrinal teaching should begin in the home, but there should be a coordinated effort between church departments to educate our children at every age level in the basic and fundamental doctrines of the church. Our church uses *10 Doctrines for Kids*, written by Nan Pamer of Barberton, Ohio. It is available through Pentecostal Publishing House. Youth departments should also dedicate a portion of each year to doctrinal teaching/preaching.



Jeremy Price, Polkville, MS - It is vital to teach doctrine to retain youth in the church. It should begin in the nursery class. Barna Research shows the "probability of accepting Christ" decreases dramatically after age 13. This research shows that 43 percent of Americans who "accept Jesus Christ" do so before the age of 13, 64 percent of "born again Christians" accepted Christ before 18, and 13 percent made their "profession of faith" while 18-21 years of age.

There must be teaching/training in addition to Sunday school. By the time students reach the age of 12, we work to involve them in ministry and training younger children. Our youth serve in children's church, SS Department, and VBS (being paired with experienced children's ministry staff.) They have Wednesday night services in the Youth Center and conduct service in the main sanctuary once each month, including music, worship, media and preaching. I can't narrow a curriculum choice to one but recommend that leaders train their youth to *serve*. God-Family-Community is our church motto in training the generation to follow.



Shad McIntosh, Junction, TX - Our youth are leaving our homes and getting a taste for a world we have worked so hard to shelter them from. Only a young person grounded in the faith will survive in a world that wants to tear them up. I have seen this with my own two children. Their environment may change, but the Word is planted in their hearts forever. One must first love the basic tenants of faith to love the truth. Today's youth fall in love with the lights and music before loving the foundation. Salvation is only the beginning. A home that does not model righteousness and submission will not produce grounded Apostolic youth.

The church should instill Oneness, Jesus' name baptism and speaking in tongues as the evidence of the Holy Ghost from the first Sunday school class. This teaching should be mixed with scripture memorization and life application. No amount of Sunday school can substitute for doctrinal teaching at home.



Paul Brown, Flint, MI - Doctrinal teaching plays a key factor in training our youth. It gives them a foundation and teaches them not only the Word of God but also why they are special and what their identity is, as they become teenagers. They are struggling to figure out who they are, and their friends are also wondering who they are. If guys have orange hair and tattoos all over them, then why not the other end of the spectrum as well? The world embraces diversity, and their friends at school won't have a problem if we provide our Apostolic youth with good answers for why they do what they do. We disciple our adult new converts, so they get a good foundation. I would love to see doctrinal teaching integrated into children's classes from an early Sunday school age, as young as 2 to 3 years old. We just have to break it into pieces for them, like a loaf of bread, so they understand. Our church uses *Kids' Doctrinal Training*, available through PPH, to teach doctrine to children during one quarter of the year. In the end, though, it is my responsibility to teach my children doctrine.

APOSTOLIC in WITNESS, WORSHIP AND WORD [Mark Abernathy] [Martinsville, IN]



Mark and Kathy Abernathy
Martinsville, Ind.

Known for years as "The City of Mineral Water" and "The Goldfish Capital of the World," Martinsville, Indiana is also home to another long-standing venue: Emmanuel Apostolic Church, which was established in 1949. With vibrant worship and passionate preaching, Emmanuel Apostolic is a dynamic place to join together in worship, fellowship, ministry and life. It is Apostolic in witness, worship and the Word.

Principles of Growth

Pastored by Bro. Mark Abernathy, Emmanuel Apostolic is a revival church that believes one key to that revival is reaching the community. "I am hesitant to give my input on a subject that I feel I am still learning about," said Pastor Abernathy. "But we have done many things to try and reach our community such as mapping out neighborhoods, knocking on doors and church events such as car shows to bring more exposure to the city. We also sponsor vacation Bible school as well as first responder services with our present city, county and state officials. However, when it all settles, we have seen results only through consistent prayer and challenging individuals to reach their world and their surroundings. Bible studies of any length always get to the heart of the commission we all have, and a praying Christian will make a difference in their world."

"I also feel that a major part of church growth has to do with long-term effects," he said. "Constant and consistent teaching of God's Word will build and grow a church that will last. It is not as exciting as a crusade, but the lasting results are life-long saints that continue to hand it down generation after generation. Sometimes I'm afraid we have lost interest and patience in the very effective old-fashioned Bible study from the pastor. My preaching at home will be packed full of scripture, because it is His Word that grows a church, not mine."

Organization and Management

With a variety of ministries, there are ample opportunities for involvement at Emmanuel Apostolic Church. Individuals as well as families are encouraged to find a place to get involved and help serve the church as well as the community. "We currently have about 40 percent of people that are involved in some form of ministry," said Pastor Abernathy, "but we are constantly encouraging others to get involved and see the impact that it has, not only on the ones they serve but in their own life as well."

"I am very involved personally with each leader, so we are in constant communication regarding events, plans and activities. All departments come together yearly for planning, and the Sunday

School Department meets every week. Because I believe strongly in raising up leaders in the local church we are always looking at possibilities to mentor and allow things to open up in lives. A shadow involvement is how we start in particular areas and increase responsibility as development takes place."

Personal History

Born in Ohio and raised in the church, Bro. Abernathy received the Holy Ghost in 1969 at a revival in a church his dad started. "I was not only a home missionary kid but in my teen years my father was a missionary in Africa," said Bro. Abernathy. "Before I came home, I had lived in Malawi, Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and Cape Town South Africa. As a missionary kid, I felt the call to the ministry in my teen years but was reluctant to answer that call because I wanted to go in another direction. Of course, God won that argument."

"My father, Charles Abernathy, had the most influence in my life and my ministry. However, his high regard for ministry helped me to allow many great men in our movement to influence and lead my life. There were men like James (Pop) Simison, Glenn Seaman, Paul Mooney, Jerry Jones, Robert Stroup, and of course, my two brothers, Gary and Bryan, who have always had a strong influence in my life. Also, my father-in-law, Bill Smith, who was not a minister but loved the Word and often challenged me to search scripture. To this day, I hold these men of God in high regard and endeavor to submit to the words they speak into my life from God's Word."

Pastor Abernathy has served in many different capacities during his ministry and considers it a great honor to be able to help in any way possible to benefit the kingdom of God. He completed the three-year program at South African Bible College and has also earned an Associate's Degree in Psychology. He presently serves as Indiana District Presbyter of Section 6, and in the past he has served as Section 4 Youth Director, Indiana District Youth President, Presbyter of Section 3 as well as Secretary of Section 4.

"My ministry began shortly after marriage in Titusville, Florida," explained Bro. Abernathy. "January of 2017 made 36 years that my wife, Kathy, and I have spent in ministry. I love being with my wife every day and with my son, Joel, and his family every chance I get. There's nothing like the grandkids coming over and going cruising with them. God has blessed me with a wonderful, supportive wife, a son that I couldn't be more proud of, and a daughter-in-law that stands with him in life and ministry."

"The priorities of a pastor must be his personal devotion to God in prayer and the constant intake of God's Word. A consistent reading regimen keeps you challenged and fresh. It is also important that the people of the church know you are approachable and available. As a pastor, I must care enough to prepare and be there for the people that are kind enough to let me be their shepherd."

Special Miracles

Emmanuel Apostolic Church has seen many miracles in its time, and the saints thank God for each one of them. "We give God the praise and the glory for the many miracles of healing,

financial blessings, etc.,” said Pastor Abernathy. “But recently the deliverance of a precious individual from drug addiction has really inspired our church. Then, it was really exciting for them to reach out to another individual with the same addiction and see that person baptized and filled with the Holy Ghost.”

Current Facility

God has blessed Emmanuel Apostolic Church with a very nice building sitting on 4.9 acres, and the future is looking bright. “It is presently on a state highway with an interchange to another state highway, and connecting to a third state highway,” explained Pastor Abernathy. “That interchange will eventually be an interstate exchange as the construction of the interstate is now underway. So, we will be at the intersection of three state highways and an interstate. Location, location, location . . .”

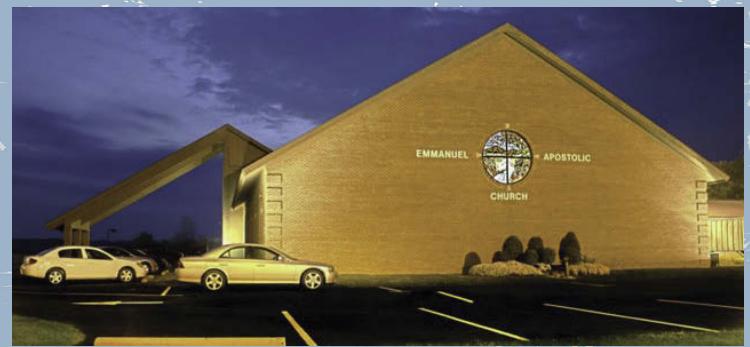
Church History

Bro. Robert Potter started Emmanuel Apostolic Church in Martinsville in 1949. He was a unique but great man with a vision. The church he built was strongly Apostolic. “We were privileged to start pastoring here in May of 2002,” said Bro.

Abernathy. “God has taken us through some hard times with unbelievable miraculous things happening that caused us to say, ‘to God be the glory.’ The church is strong and growing which has nothing to do with my limited abilities but because God is faithful, and this church belongs to Him.”

Plans and Vision for the Future

Pastor Abernathy is excited about the future of Emmanuel Apostolic Church and the projects of growth that they are involved with. “Our vision for the future has to do with what we are presently involved in,” he said. “With God’s help we are discipling people who will disciple people. Leading individuals, groups and the congregation into a love for God’s purpose of reaching our world grows a church. I feel we are in the beginning stages, really, of what God has planned for Emmanuel Apostolic. Not just to fill our facilities to overflowing and our efforts locally in number, but to make a difference in as many home and foreign mission works as possible by giving from the abundance God gives us. My hope is to grow church planters, foreign missionaries, pastors and evangelists, not because we planned it but that it just happens from an atmosphere of Holy Ghost anointing created from years of faithfulness in praying, teaching, preaching and reaching our world. A local church can become fertile ground that produces laborers in God’s Kingdom.”



Left to right clockwise: Pastor Abernathy baptizes a lady; the congregation worships inside the sanctuary; exterior of Emmanuel Apostolic Church in Martinsville, Indiana; Pastor Abernathy speaks to the congregation.

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- Psalms 73:34 NLT

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I Started Out as a Dad

By Brent Randall



Brent Randall
brent@brentrandall.com

Twenty-seven years ago, I was working full-time in Christian radio but was not serving in any capacity at my local church.

My wife Rachel and I had four young children. Bethany, our oldest, was 8.

Each Wednesday night, we would faithfully attend midweek Bible Study. While the adults assembled in the main sanctuary, the elementary-age children assembled in an adjacent multi-purpose room where they held children's church, which was called "King's Kids."

King's Kids had been operating smoothly for several months, but one particular Wednesday night at about 7:10, the kids, including Bethany, filtered back into the sanctuary and sat down by their parents.

I asked Bethany, "How come you aren't in King's Kids?"

She replied, "Brother Snoogledorf, the leader, isn't here."

"Hmmm," I thought.

The next Wednesday it happened again. And the next.

This went on for about six weeks. With each week I was getting angrier with Brother Snoogledorf (not his real name). I wanted to go to the church leadership to complain about their AWOL staff member who was causing my daughter to miss out on a chance to be ministered to at her level.

But then the voice of one of my elders rang in my ear. Dr. Arlo Moehlenpah (his real name!) had taught me a valuable lesson a couple years prior: "Before you go to the leadership to complain, consider volunteering to be a part of the solution." He demonstrated this himself: this college professor was teaching the high school Sunday school class because no one else would step up.

I prayerfully mulled this over for a few days and then decided, "If it happens again, I'm signing up."

And just like clockwork, the very next Wednesday at 7:10 p.m., here came Bethany and all the rest of the kids into the sanctuary.

I remember that I grabbed the pew in front of me, looked down at my feet, took a deep breath, and exhaled. The next day I went to the church leadership and signed up for Children's Ministry. They exuberantly made me the new leader of Kings Kids, in place of Brother What's-His-Name. That was October 1990.

I started out as a dad, not as some highly-trained expert. Instead of complaining, I chose to volunteer to minister to my daughter and her peers. Little did I know where that simple act of volunteerism would lead: 27 years later I'm still here, involved as ever in Children's Ministry!

If you are thinking about complaining, remember the words of my dear friend Arlo: consider volunteering to be a part of the solution. Who knows? A wonderful new journey may be just ahead.

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.

5 Markers of Welcoming Churches

By Greg Atkinson, Author and Founder of Worship Impressions

Many churches get it right when it comes to welcoming visitors properly. Here are five markers of especially welcoming churches.

1. *They place the right people in hospitality.* When I drive up to a church, I love to see three things right away. First, I like to see a parking team member smiling and waving as I pull into the lot. Second, I look for parking team members spread throughout the parking lot (not bunched up and talking to one another), directing me to the third thing: guest parking. When I see clearly designated guest parking, I know the church expects and values guests.

2. *They communicate intentionally and strategically.*

I appreciate churches that don't assume people know things. I can tell right away if a church values newcomers, because I see they have already answered every possible question a guest could have. On the website, I love to see an "I'm New" button or a "What to Expect" page—helpful resources for potential first-time guests. Also, churches that prioritize hospitality post clear and plentiful signage. Their signs use plain language, not insider jargon.



3. *They take security seriously.* Every church should prioritize safety for the people gathered on their campus—especially children. I recently visited a church with security team guys in black shirts scattered throughout their lobby and church campus. They each wore something I always look for: ear pieces. This is one of the best deterrents we have at our disposal. If someone up to no good sees a person wearing a black security shirt and an ear piece, they will think twice before doing something stupid or harmful.

4. *They have an efficient children's check-in process.* I love to see volunteers ready, willing, and able to assist new families as they check in their kids. The average person off the street has never heard of your church's database and check-in system, so whatever you can do to ease their nervousness and frustration will go a long way.

5. *They are intentional about following up with guests.* The churches I've seen retain the most guests have a simple and clearly defined discipleship process. It's all about helping people take next steps. Churches that do this with excellence don't overwhelm people with complexity. I firmly believe that you can accomplish more by doing less. It helped me understand this point. If you are strategic and intentional about your assimilation process, you will go a long way toward closing the back door of your church.

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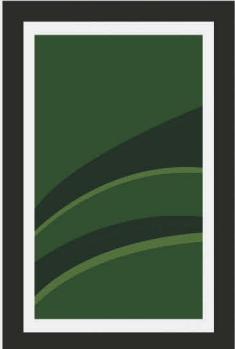
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CARLTON L. COON SR <> SPRINGFIELD, MO

Written by Angela Labunski



Pastor Carlton L. Coon Sr.
Springfield, Mo.

Bro. Carlton L. Coon Sr., tell us a little about yourself and your ministry.

Currently, I pastor Calvary United Pentecostal Church in Springfield, Missouri. God has allowed me to evangelize, pastor and serve my organization as a sectional

representative for home missions, presbyter, director of District Men's Ministry, chairman of Church Growth and as general director of North American Missions. Some of what I know about administration and leadership comes from years of secular employment, resulting in being regional director for the corporation and eventually sitting on the corporate board of directors. In community relations, it has been my privilege to be president of the local Chamber of Commerce.

What role does church administration play in church growth and ministry success? How important is it in the grand scheme of things?

Jesus gave two examples of strategic planning: building a tower and waging war. He taught, "If a person does not correctly administer, there will be loss." This same truth applies to a pastor, whether he is teaching a series on 1 Peter, developing leaders, organizing a Sunday school, or doing most anything else. Effective, sustainable ministry requires administration and management. Each and every preacher should learn and apply basic administrative principles. It is important to note that leadership and administration are two different things. Numerous leaders have proven ineffective because they never developed an understanding of how to administer their role.

What does Scripture say about church administration? Does this aspect of pastoring have a solid scriptural base?

Romans 12 lists some motivational gifts. Verse 8 says, ". . . he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness." The Cambridge Bible translates *ruleth* as "to preside whether in church or in any point of the work." The phrase *with diligence* means "with earnestness, with laborious and minute

attention to duty." Therefore, the Bible instructs a "ruler" or church leader to preside over the work of the church with hasty earnestness and attention to the duty for which he or she is responsible. What Paul describes in his theological masterpiece was the elementary, essential and practical behavior of effectively administering, leading and managing God's work. Hence, there is no doubt that Paul believed in, taught and practiced effective administration.

There are also numerous Bible examples of administration. Joseph managed Egypt's harvest during seven years of plenty. It is very common to preach on Joseph's telling of dreams but the practical work of preparing to gather the harvest is often overlooked. However, without administering the bumper crop, Egypt's harvest would have been lost. Second, consider Jesus Christ as a CEO, responsible to reconcile lost humanity to God. In that light, Jesus was an effective administrator. He helped His followers envision, then trained and empowered them. He not only delegated to the twelve but also established a level of accountability. All of those tasks involve administration. Without good administration, we can have a great vision but never accomplish anything meaningful. Thomas Edison once said, "Vision without execution is hallucination."

If you designed a course on church administration for a Bible college, what would be the primary topics you would cover? Explain each topic briefly.

A. Why Administration Matters:

Pentecostals are spiritual and tend to run to the emotional. This is wonderful but must be balanced with strategic and intentional work. Young preachers would benefit from gaining this concept early.

B. Biblical Examples of Leadership - Execution and Administration: This would focus on the leading without marrying the concept of leadership to administering the vision God has given.

C. The Administration Ministry: This

would include preaching, teaching and consistent outreach efforts.

D. Local Church Administration: The business of the church needs to be handled in a professional manner.

What, in your opinion, is the MOST important key to effective church administration?

The most important key is understanding the value and necessity of administration. Great churches are not built on the pulpit alone or on passion. I have dozens of acquaintances that are wonderful pulpits with a passion to reach the lost. However, in too many cases, neither the preaching ability nor having many converts has resulted in the growth of Christ's kingdom. Joseph had to plan, then established the work process to retain the harvest. Average pulpits who strategically plan to reach the lost and then consistently administer that plan tend to grow a church.



**THE DETAILS
MATTER**
Principles and Practice of Church Administration

Carlton L. Coon Sr.

Is church administration only for large churches?

That type of thinking is a mistake we often make. Administering for growth and progress needs to be relatively constant in a pastor's mind, regardless of the size of the church. Many administration issues (bank accounts, non-profit status) must be addressed before the first service of the new church. My vision for the church can be 500, but right now I need to administer to "break the 100 barrier." One of the things addressed in my book is the need to establish sustainable and repeatable systems. An effective system operates without having to constantly be redesigned.

How to purchase your book? Cost?

The Details Matter: Principles and Practice of Church Administration is available through Pentecostal Publishing House. The cost is \$12.99 for the hard copy and \$9.99 for the Kindle eBook. You can also visit carltoncoonsr.com for a wide array of blog posts dealing with life and ministry. A free eBook on Apostolic Evangelism is available for download there as well. Carlton Coon can be contacted by email at carltoncoonsr@gmail.com, by phone (314-497-9801), and by mail at 4521 North Farm Road 165, Springfield, Mo.

For information about these events, call the event coordinator. If you would like your event on this list, call (800) 8000-AIS. IBC Perspectives does not endorse any seminar or conference listed. This page is provided simply as a service to the greater Apostolic community.

apostolic calendar 2017

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SPEAKERS	CONTACT / INFO
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.cadenv.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 Sleeva, 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.truthabfresno.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
MAY 2018	Hope Corps Conference 2018 - 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	To be announced	Register now at hcmission.org

Theology: Redaction Criticism



Robert L. Rodenbush

Church Today

rrodenbush@earthlink.net

No One Ever Moves Just An Inch

The enemy of our soul seeks relentless accommodation, and is never sated. Sadly, over the past few decades we have witnessed fellow ministers and believers make slight concessions to the Apostolic message, incremental changes to doctrine, loosen up just a bit on holiness or separation from the world – but for the enemy it's never enough.

Through the years, I have heard my father lament, as once stalwart friends of the faith made this slight compromise or that little concession erroneously believing the result would be great revival, larger crowds or financial blessing. "Remember, Son," he would say, his voice breaking under the weight of his love for the Apostolic message and sorrow for those who were altering the course of not just their future but the heritage of their future generations, "*no one* ever moves just an inch."

How is it that in the face of repeated contrary historical evidence, Satan is able to convince some from every generation that they can bridge the gap, can compromise without cost, make concessions without loss of ground, believe that things haven't changed that much, that nothing of real spiritual value or eternal consequence is given up.

It is easy to hope that eventually it will all be okay, that we will be able to find the common ground. We pray that the subtle concessions are just superficial, that the core "message" won't be given up. But, time and again, history has proven that the first inch was merely the first outward display of a prodigious internal shift. The enemy has successfully argued and convinced too many that a small compromise for a greater good is noble, and that we can all eventually still end up on the same side.

As an attorney, I have sat many times at the negotiation table trying to mediate to settle a case. In such a setting, the best result is a mutually beneficial solution to solve the problem – where the goal of both sides is to find a win-win solution to the dispute.

But the current battle is not just a misunderstanding of opinion, an alternative interpretation or a different view of semantics. A win-win solution is impossible where the term is eternity, and the end result is heaven or hell. Satan knows this and has no interest in a win-win solution. His strategy is to drag as many as he can, our children and grandchildren, to hell for eternity.

The compromise Satan demands is not without consequence. It is not just some generational conflict about methodology, the timeless new versus old debate. We understand that the world has changed and that changes in method can be beneficial and may be necessary, but never at the cost or compromise of the message. This battle determines our eternal destiny, and whether we will be a part of the Apostolic revival that will take place in the last days. Remember, no one ever moves just an inch.



T. W. Massengale

Church Growth

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The Real "Secret" to Growth

After 40-plus years of working with pastors in church growth, I have come to the firm conclusion that church growth has more to do with attitude than

process. Oftentimes pastors will press me for the "secret program" or "process" that will make their church grow. They are then somewhat taken aback with my emphasis on the basics: a solid team ministry approach that is well organized and managed, a strong, consistent application of proven

outreach ministries actively embraced by a majority of members, and a comprehensive and aggressive assimilation ministry that retains your gains and makes soul winners of your new converts. These are the same fundamentals I was taught by well-known Apostolic leaders in our movement and the same principles I have seen in almost every growing church.

The real "secret" is not a program at all. It's an attitude. Revival pastors see their churches grow because of their bulldogged focus upon doing "whatever it takes" to reach souls. Not doctrinal compromise, not a watered-down gospel – for they stand strong in faith and doctrine. But they refuse to take "no" for an answer when confronted with



Bobby Killmon

Theology

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What is "redaction criticism" and why should we know about it as Apostolics?

Redaction criticism is a liberal method that attempts to "investigate" Scriptures to make judgments about their authorship, historical trustworthiness, and date of writing. This method is mostly used to destroy the credibility of Scripture. The reason we need to be aware of it is because of the growing influence of liberal critical scholarship in the books we read (even in typically more conservative evangelical scholarship), the teaching of all major universities and institutions, and the growing prevalence of these views dominating digital media and publications. I own books from many of these sources, but knowing the difference between "eating the meat" and "spitting out the bones" is critical to healthy theological digestion.

Redaction criticism questions the genuineness of Scripture by asking: When was it actually written? Who really wrote the text? The point to catch is redaction critics do not believe in the inspiration or inerrancy of Scripture, as Apostolics define these, and typically avoid using the terms. For instance, liberal critics believe the OT was compiled from oral traditions or sources, and not even written down in the form we have them, until after Israel was carried into captivity in Babylon (586 B.C.). However, Scripture says itself Moses is the author of "the Law" or the Pentateuch and quotes him as such (Exo. 17:14, 24:4, 34:27; Num. 33:1-2; Deut. 31:9-11; Jos. 1:7-8, 8:31-32, 23:6; 1 Kings 2:3; 2 Kings 14:6, 21:8; 1 Chron. 22:13; Ezra 6:18; Neh. 13:1; Dan. 9:11-13; Mal. 4:4; Mk. 12:26; Matt. 8:4, 19:8; Jn. 5:45-47, 7:19; Lk. 16:29, 24:27, 24:44; Jn. 5:46, 7:22; Acts 3:22, 15:1, 28:23; Rom. 10:5, 10:19; 1 Cor. 9:9; 2 Cor. 3:15). If Moses did not really do this, liberal critics could point out that these claims are errors in Scripture and justly dismiss Scripture's authority.

So, redaction criticism is an attempt to deny the possibility of a preserved, accurate written record of God's Word. Paul shows us how the Word was recorded (2 Tim. 3:16). God moved the writers of Scripture to record the very words He wanted written. Peter affirms the same in 2 Pet. 1:21. It was God who was behind the authorship and preservation of the Scriptures.

Though biblical writers arranged or commented on events, this is not the writer "breaking" or "reframing" the text. It is God inspiring the writer to say exactly what He intended. One can believe Joshua could have written the ending of Deuteronomy recording Moses' death. That does not destroy Mosaic authorship. Arranging the collection of the Psalms by putting them into categories doesn't affect their inspiration, integrity or inerrancy at all. Quoting outside historical references for factual data in no way reduces inspiration of Chronicles, or any part of the Bible. The inspired writer simply quotes other sources, though while not inspired were accurate. The point is if the original writings were inspired, no one would need to alter the text.

Harold Lindsell said this about using these methods, "This may be done, and often is, under the illusion that by this method the opponents of biblical inerrancy can be won over ... But practical experience suggests that rarely does this happen and the cost of such an approach is too expensive, for it gives credence and lends respectability to a method which is the deadly enemy of theological orthodoxy." In short, we must "spit out the bones" of these approaches lest redaction criticism destroy inerrancy and inspiration.

the obstacles that Satan will inevitably throw at them: leadership challenges, location problems, capacity struggles, financial deterrents, city government roadblocks, you name it. They meet every barrier with the confidence that God can solve any problem, and they go to their knees knowing that it's God's will for them to grow and God has a solution to every problem.

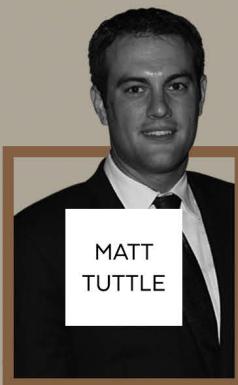
Attitude. A revival spirit. Faith to move mountains. A passion for souls. These are the real "secrets" to church growth. So what's holding you back? Why isn't your church growing? Make a list and tackle each obstacle one-by-one and refuse to be deterred from your God-given purpose.

SPEAKERS & SCHEDULE



PJ
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SERVICIO EN ESPAÑOL
FRI, AUG 4
7:00 PM



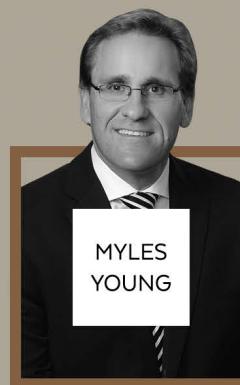
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SAT, AUG 5
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JOHNNY
GODAIR

SUN, AUG 6
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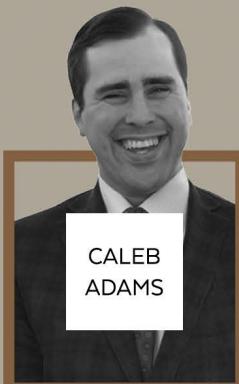


MYLES
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MINISTERS 1
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CALEB
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MON, AUG 7
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CHRISTY
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TONY
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ARI
PRADO

MON, AUG 7
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TIMOTHY
LACKEY

MINISTERS 1
TUE, AUG 8
10:30 AM



SHANDA
LACKEY

MINISTERS WIVES 1
TUE, AUG 8
10:30 AM



JONATHAN
ALVEAR

MINISTERS 2
TUE, AUG 8
11:30 AM



KATHY
SORAH

MINISTERS WIVES 2
TUE, AUG 8
11:30 AM



NATHANIEL
URSHAN

TUE, AUG 8
1:30 PM



CHARLES
ROBINETTE

TUE, AUG 8
7:00 PM

FOR MORE INFO: ARICM.NET



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ARKANSAS
INTERNATIONAL
CAMPMEETING
4-8 AUGUST 2017



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Spiritual Growth

carol@carolclemans.org

Words/Actions Reveal the Good or Evil Heart!

In my ministry of Bible teaching (50 yrs.) and counseling nationwide (25 yrs.), people contact me that are hurting emotionally, spiritually and relationally because of current or past painful events in their lives. This heartfelt brokenness is the result of grief issues, sexual abuse, divorce, porn addiction, anxiety, adoption, verbal and emotional abuse, depression, etc.

Why do bad things happen to innocent or good people? Sinful conduct comes from an unholy heart. Our words and actions reveal our hearts. People who speak evil will do evil. Critical people speak critical words that are emotionally damaging to children. Sin entered the heart of man from the choice to disobey God in the Garden of Eden.

If a person fills their eye-gate and ear-gate with unholy content, their heart, words and actions will be unholy. This unholiness bleeds into every relationship beginning with God. This is why God commanded us to love Him with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength. We are to purify ourselves even as He is pure. The Holy Ghost does not force us to be holy. Our words and conduct are by our own choice.

If you are in a marriage that has continual conflict, each person must search his/her own heart. Don't blame your partner. Ask yourself, "God, are my actions holy? Is my heart clean before you? Am I setting evil, wicked or worthless things before my eyes?" You must take ownership of your own conduct.

A person who is a porn user is filling his/her heart with the lust of the eye and flesh. This creates a tortured soul because of the broken relationship with God. Harmful anger and friction will flow to others because of this unholy heart.

My book: *God's Design for Marriage* (soft cover on website or eBook: amazon.com), addresses holy living. A holy heart must be in total surrender to God. Put off sin and put on a holy heart through God's Word and Spirit!

Carol Clemans provides nationwide teaching for churches plus counseling by phone/Skype (636) 448-012, www.carolclemans.org; read about ministry page, 380+ articles, marriage book, teaching products - carol@carolclemans.org. Ref: Pastor Daniel Batchelor, Dupo, IL.

Accounting & Tax

Reconciling Your Accounts



Delano Sherley

Timely reconciliations of all bank accounts are a critical function of your accounting personnel. It is necessary to verify that the account balances are correct and helps to detect any fraudulent activities as soon as possible. In order to strengthen internal controls, it is also highly advisable to have the reconciliations done by someone other than the person who makes deposits and/or writes checks.



Teaching With Variety

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Asking and Answering Questions

One of the chief tools of good teachers is the ability to ask and answer questions. The Gospels record over 100 questions Jesus asked. He also answered many questions. The disciples and the apostles asked and answered many questions. Philip asked the Ethiopian eunuch, "Do you understand what you are reading?" (Acts 8:30). Paul asked the Ephesians, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" (Acts 19:2). It is also interesting to note that Peter on the Day of Pentecost answered four questions including, "What shall we do?" (Acts 2:38). In your teaching, do you ask and allow questions?

Questions can increase interest, stimulate thinking, gear instruction to the ability of the class, provide an opportunity for the expression of attitudes, introduce student experiences, emphasize main points, test the effectiveness of the instruction, and drive home a truth. Good questions have a specific purpose, are brief, understood by students, emphasize one point, require a definite answer, discourage guessing and arouse curiosity.

There are different types of questions. *Contact* - arouse interest and attention, *Rhetorical* - for effect rather than reply, *Factual* - seek information, *Opinion* - seek personal opinions, *Application* - lead to a personal application of truth and *Faith strengthening* - help people to believe.

Use the following steps in order: 1. *Ask the question* to the whole class. 2. *Pause*, allowing time to formulate an answer. 3. *Call on the student* in an unpredictable way. 4. *Recognize the student's answer*. Even if he answers incorrectly, you should appreciate that he tried. You may then call on another student.

Consider the following additional suggestions. Don't read your questions. Ask questions in a conversational tone of voice. To avoid questions that gender strife you may offer to discuss the question after class. Don't allow one person to answer all the questions. Don't be afraid of questions you cannot answer. Perhaps someone in the class can answer the question, or if the student is sincerely interested suggest possible sources for the answer. Encourage questions, for this indicates interest and readiness for instruction. Plan to ask and answer questions; you will be pleased with the results.

*Arlo and Jane Moehlenpah taught Teacher Training at several Bible Colleges and seminaries. Contact them at moehlenpah@aol.com or 619-852-4979 to order their book *Teaching with Variety* or for them to come to your area.*

Any transfers between checking accounts that have not cleared during the month are an indication that either the transfer did not actually occur, or that the bank made an error. Uncleared transfers should be researched right away. The same would apply to uncleared deposits. Unless the deposit was made near the end of the month, it should clear in the month it was deposited.

If you have uncleared checks after a few months (or worse, years), research to see if the check is lost and needs to be reissued, or if it should be voided. Often we find that the check was reissued, but



CoonEctions

carltoncoonsr@gmail.com

Don't Be the Church That Makes Converts But Never Grows

While evangelizing we would see people converted. Sometimes, when we returned for another revival the church would be the same size. No convert remained. Some churches make converts but do not grow. *This is not God's will!*

Does the previous paragraph define you? It doesn't have to. What can be done to keep converts?

1. *Slow down.* Disciples are the work product of the church. But making disciples is not assembly line work. It is like the unhurried work of a skilled craftsman. Church leader, slow down. Ask, "What is being done to keep converts?" If the answer is, "Little," then slow further and design a sustainable approach to care for converts.
2. *Focus on a convert's needs.* Babies need a different diet - as do converts! Infants need much attention - so does a convert. Being unaware of the needs of spiritual babies means most will not survive.
3. *Welcome spiritual babies.* A church can be a "closed set." Such repels newcomers. Lack of retention is explained as, "Nobody wants to live right." This is wrong! Babies don't know how to live right. Remember dirty diapers and upchuck? Messiness happens in growing spiritual babies. Growing churches welcome dealing with the mess.

Tools are available to help you keep converts. The "Disciple-makers Packet!" at CarltonCoonSr.com can help. Don't be like a church that Evangelist Samuel Chadwick spoke of. He had sent converts to a certain church. The converts soon dropped out. Chadwick blamed himself. Of that church, he said, "It was like putting a baby in the arms of a corpse."

Don't be a church that has revival - but never grows!

Carlton L. Coon Sr. pastors SpringfieldCalvary.church (Springfield, Missouri). He is a past director of North American Missions for the UPC and author of 23 books. For a seminar or consultation on Disciple-making e-mail carltoncoonsr@gmail.com. Blog posts and resources are at carltoncoonsr.com. On the last Tuesday of each month (7:30 CST) join my Facebook Live Webinar at Carlton Coon Sr.

the original check was never voided in the system.

While your bank accounts can be "reconciled" if you have old, uncleared items, your cash balance is not properly reflected in your accounting software. We have seen account balances that are reconciled but which are over or understated by tens of thousands of dollars due to old transactions which need to be voided.

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

THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS**Abortion Clinic Offers to Euthanize 30-Week-Old Baby**

An undercover investigation into the practices of a New Mexico abortion clinic has revealed that the clinic has no qualms about aborting babies, even those who have reached 30-weeks' gestation.

Life-News.com reports that the Southwestern Women's Options clinic in Albuquerque, New Mexico is one of the last abortion clinics in the U.S. that will abort babies through all nine months of pregnancy.

Recently, the pro-life groups Priests for Life and Abortion Free New Mexico conducted an investigation into the clinic's abortion practices to see how they handle a late-term abortion situation.

One of the investigators called the clinic, posing as a 26-year-old woman who was seeking an abortion. She told the clinic she was 30 weeks pregnant.

"We will euthanize the fetus on the first day," the staffer told her. "On the following day, the staffer continued, "we dilate the cervix and then we induce labor. So you will be going through the act of labor and delivery of a stillborn fetus."

The undercover call also revealed that tax dollars pay for abortions since the staffer also said she would check for the woman to see if Medicaid would pay for the procedure.

LEGAL TRENDS**Football Coach Under Fire For Tweeting Bible Verses**

An atheist group is arguing that a University of Mississippi football coach should be banned from posting Bible verses and other faith-inspired content on social media.

Relevant Magazine reports that Coach Hugh Freeze often tweets out Bible verses and uplifting, faith-filled content. Although such tweets may seem harmless, atheist organization Freedom From Religion Foundation issued a press statement saying that Freeze should not be allowed to post such content as an employee of the university. "Though we respect Freeze's right to tweet as a private citizen," the statement read, "he may not promote his personal religious beliefs while acting in his capacity as a university employee."

**Uproar Over Trump's Plan to Move Embassy to Jerusalem**

There is no controversy like the controversy that surrounds the city of Jerusalem, the most divided city on the earth and the most coveted city on the earth.

The Bible predicted this more than 2,500 years ago, describing the day when Jerusalem would be "a cup that brings dizziness to all the surrounding nations" (Zech. 12:2, NET), even declaring that one day, the whole world would be in uproar over Jerusalem.

Stop and think about it for a moment.

Why does the whole world get so exercised over Jerusalem? Is there any other city on the planet that evokes such intense emotions and polar views?

And why does every nation put its embassies in the city that the host country identifies as its capital, except for the city of Jerusalem, identified as Israel's capital in 1950? Why do virtually all embassies remain in Tel Aviv?

There is something of spiritual significance to this ancient city that simply cannot be denied.

The Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995, "passed by overwhelming bipartisan majority in both the House and Senate," states that "Jerusalem should be recognized as the capital of the State of Israel and the United States Embassy in Israel should be established in Jerusalem no later than May 31, 1999."

Then why didn't President Bush or President Obama move the embassy? As explained by Rabbi Shraga Simmons, "since the congressional act allows the President to implement a waiver at six-month intervals, that's exactly what has happened every six months since 1995."

Now that Donald Trump has insisted that he will, in fact, relocate our embassy - in accordance with the 1995 act - the controversy is hitting the fan. In the words of Sheikh Ekrema Sabri, imam of the al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, moving the embassy would be as good as a "declaration of war."

President Trump has experienced recent opposition to his appointee for Ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, a strong supporter of Israel who speaks of imminent relocation of the embassy. "I intend to work tirelessly to strengthen the unbreakable bond between our two countries and advance the cause of peace within the region, and look forward to doing this from the U.S. Embassy in Israel's eternal capital, Jerusalem," said Friedman.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ Kentucky is on its way to becoming the first state with no abortion clinics. There is only one abortion clinic left in the state and officials say that the clinic has not complied with basic safety standards. Kentucky's conservative Christian Governor Matt Bevin is working to end access to abortion in the state. Bevin says that he is "unapologetically pro-life."

■ A Taiwanese pastor was de-

tained in China for the crime of singing "Jesus Loves You." Christians in China have continued to face increased persecution for various displays of Christian faith. According to *The Christian Post*, the current incident occurred in Zhengzhou, Henan. Officials in this province have reportedly included singing "Jesus Loves You" in their list of "illegal religious activities."

SOCIAL TRENDS**Cashless Society Getting Closer, Survey Finds**

More than a third of Europeans and Americans would be happy to go without cash and rely on electronic forms of payment if they could, and at least 20 percent already pretty much do so, according to a recent study.

The study, conducted in 13 European countries, the United States and Australia, also found that in many places where cash is most used, people are among the keenest to ditch it. Overall, 34 percent of respondents in Europe and 38 percent in the United States said they would be willing to go cash-free, according to the survey conducted by Ipsos for the ING bank website eZonomics.

Twenty-one percent and 34 percent in Europe and the United States, respectively, said they already rarely use cash.

The survey also showed that, in general, countries where cash is much in use were most likely to want to go cashless. Only 19 percent of Italians said they rarely used cash but 41 percent said they would be willing to go cashless. There was a similar trend in Turkey, Romania, the Czech Republic, Spain and even Germany.

Prophecy scholars have long believed that the cashless society will be a fulfillment of the One World Government of the Antichrist and the mark of the beast referenced in Rev. 13:16-18.

**LEGAL TRENDS****Atheists Complain After Pastor Prays for Injured Player**

An atheist group filed a complaint against a Tennessee school district after a pastor prayed with a high school football player who was seriously injured.

OneNewsNow.com reports that when a high school football player at the Tennessee school was severely injured, youth pastor Eric Dill of Bayside Baptist Church was asked by another student to pray for the injured player, who reportedly received a hard blow to his neck and was unable to move his legs. Dill recalls the moment: "A neck injury is the scariest part of football. It was almost dead silence ... about the only thing I could hear on the field was players getting emotional."

Upon hearing that Dill prayed with the student and that some teachers and coaches had bowed their heads in prayer, the FFRF filed a complaint against the district, alleging that "coaches cannot participate in prayer in school, and even that student-led prayer at football games is unconstitutional."

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INDIANA BIBLE COLLEGE CLASS OF 2017

This year, Indiana Bible College graduated 39 students. Commencement exercises were held May 5, 2017 at Calvary Tabernacle, Indianapolis, IN.

Degrees awarded include three major areas of study: Biblical Studies, Missiology and Worship Studies. Additional concentrations include Communications & Media, Religious Education, Social Science, Theology, Youth Ministries and Urban Missions.

Many of the graduates will leave IBC to pursue full-time work or internships in many different areas of ministries, some as pastors, youth pastors, ministers of music, outreach coordinators and missionaries. Short-term missions assignments (AIM program) have been planned to the following countries: Latvia, Norway, North America, Malawi, Africa and Japan.

Join us in prayer for the class of 2017 as they change the world with the Gospel of Christ.

"IF YOUR VISION DOES NOT SCARE YOU, YOU NEED A NEW VISION"
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2017 Commencement
Speaker

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THE CHARACTER OF A PREACHER

Ronnie Mullings // Bakersfield, CA

When we think of ministry, preaching and oratorical skills are relatively important. You preach the Word but minister your spirit and character. We worship the Lord in Spirit and in truth. The truth is the right information, and the Spirit is having the right attitude toward that information. If the character of the preacher is not right, it eventually will be irrelevant how great a grasp he has on truth, because it will be presented in such a way that will create Pharisees rather than disciples.

A Code of Conduct

Proverbs 20:7 says, "The just man walketh in his integrity." Before you understand what integrity is, you must understand what it is not. Integrity is not a code of conduct, but it will lead to one. You can have the right code of conduct but no integrity. Integrity is not how you treat others, but if you have integrity, you will treat others right. For a season of time, you can discipline your conduct and attitude to where they are appropriate, but you still might not be a person of integrity.

The Hebrew word for "integrity" in Proverbs 20:7 speaks of personal innocence or purity of character. Proverbs 23:7 states, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he." This parallels with Luke 6:45, which says that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. The Greek word *speak* means "to put forth or give out." Everything we do must originate from a righteous character and integrity, or the ministry will eventually reveal itself as an empty shell.

Situational Ethics

Job suffered the loss of wealth, children and health. His wife posited the question to him, "Dost thou still retain thine integrity?" The word *integrity* means to be cleaned morally, spiritually, mentally and physically in such a way that it dictates your actions and your code of conduct. It stems from core principles that a man or woman establishes in their life that do not waver. Integrity, therefore, is not a situational thing. Situations may be affected by your emotions or even your thinking for a while, but true integrity is unaffected by situations or circumstances. It is who you are. There is never a question on how people of real character are going to conduct themselves because it doesn't matter what the situation is. They will be the same all the time. It has nothing to do with what people know or think about you. It has to do with core values and principles that override every single aspect of your life. Matthew 6:21 says, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Your heart is the core of your person and dictates your thought, conduct and longings.

In Ephesians 4:17-19, Paul makes the appeal to not walk as Gentiles, who are past feeling and work all uncleanness. He says the principle reason this happens is when people walk in the vanity of their mind. The Greek word for *vanity* is "transient." A transient is a hobo or wanderer who has no fixed living or dwelling place. They wander here and there. People get in trouble when their minds become transient. They don't have fixed principles. There is not a core set of

values that will override every other circumstance or situation in their life.

The Cost of Character

If you don't have these core principles, you will operate under situational ethics and do what is most advantageous for you. The problem with situational ethics in ministry, as in real life, is that doing the right thing is not always going to be the best thing for you. It will not always advance your person or purpose the most or bring the most accolades. There will be seasons of time that being a person of integrity and operating with core principles and fixed values will be expensive. It might cost you financially or the esteem of others. The cornerstone of integrity has fixed principles that are unaffected by circumstance, people, profit or situation. These fixed principles are founded on the Word of God. Psalm 119:11 states, "Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee."

The Natural Man

The life of David reveals integrity. It didn't matter what was done against him, the Word was hidden in his heart and dictated his conduct. Proverbs 16:25 says, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." The translated word *man* speaks of the natural or carnal side of a person. When you are operating in the physical side of a man, you cannot help but operate in situational ethics. It is dictated by the circumstance you find yourself in. It will seem right to you. Absent integrity and core principles, the natural man will always be able to find a way to justify itself. This is how Pharisees were created. As Matthew 15:8, 9 states, "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth . . . But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." They took their prejudices, opinions and ideals and put their convictions on an equal standing with the eternal Word of God.

In the spiritual realm, we are subject to certain weaknesses. When God deals with us, He gives us convictions, and they are very powerful experiences. We have to be very careful not to equate them with doctrine. When the Word of God speaks, you cannot have an opinion. Jesus took a walk through the life of the rich young ruler and found something relative to materialism, prompting Jesus to tell him to sell all he had. For most of us, God will find something that will be an impediment to our spiritual growth, and we will have to lay it aside. It takes a lot of integrity and character to realize that your conviction does not necessarily apply to everyone.

The Temptation to Trade

In Abraham's day, God looked for a righteous man, not a talented or educated one. When you enter the ministry, you must understand that God does not and never will commit to talent or ability. God commits to character. If God had to choose, He would choose a righteous man over a holy man. A holy man can be bought but not a righteous man. Holiness

involves conduct, but righteousness involves character. It is possible to be holy and not be righteous, but not the other way around. The story of Joseph and the temptation of Potiphar's wife illustrates this perfectly. Who would know if Joseph gave in? Joseph would know, and he was the only one that really mattered. He had core principles. The outcome was not really about him, but that didn't sway his decision. An unethical man will take the eternal and trade it for the temporal. When David pled with the Lord to create in him a clean heart, he was pleading with God to restore right character within him. David did all the right things after he was found out, but he was still an adulterer and a murderer. His conduct was now holy but his character was not righteous. So he pled with God to create within him character. Proverbs 4:23 says that out of our heart are the issues of life. The translated word *issues* means to allow. Therefore, you will ultimately do whatever your core principles will allow you to do. The highest standard that you will answer to is your own conscience because despite what the Bible says, you will eventually do whatever your conscience allows you to do.

A Sacrifice for Integrity

Danger occurs when recognition and honor become your objective. In our world, wars have been fought over honor and dishonor. When people begin to crave honor and recognition, they will sacrifice integrity. Honor comes from without, but integrity and character is the product of your own heart. Honor has to do with what men think you are; integrity is what you know you are. It is possible to have honor and integrity, but it is not possible to pursue both honor and integrity. It is very sad because there are many men who are more enamored with honor than integrity. This will breed the philosophy in you and others under you that it doesn't matter if you are right or wrong but only what others think is right or wrong.

A Lasting Legacy

Deuteronomy 6:4 states the first and greatest commandment but it doesn't stop there. Following in verse 7, it states, "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children." Because of the commission that God gave us, when you become more intrigued with the world, you impart the value system to your children that it is more important to save face and have the esteem of peers than it is to be right with God. There will be seasons where if you are going to be right with God, it will cost you the respect of

someone. We don't always do everything right. The translation of *blessed* is to be right or honest. It's when you really are a person of integrity. The lasting thing you impart to your children is a spirit of righteousness and honesty. This is the most incredible legacy that could ever be left.

Galatians 4:19 talks about Christ being formed in us. True integrity is when we open ourselves up to the principles of God's Word and allow the Holy Ghost to so firmly affix those things in us that they become core values, regardless over us. The wonderful thing is about what is coming your way, how you will act. The story of Luke 10. Two holy men passed down in the ditch and sat with was going somewhere that won it. Sometimes integrity can be times where it would be more like The legacy a righteous man leave



*Pastor Ronnie Mullings
Bakersfield, Calif.*

Biography: Ron Mullings is the Bishop of Truth Tabernacle in Bakersfield, Calif. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from International Seminary and is known for his passionate preaching and wise counsel. He was the District Superintendent of the Western District UPCI for 12 years, overseeing more than 150 churches in California and Nevada. He continues to hold leadership positions within the UPCI and is an honorary general board member for life. He spends much of his time preaching and teaching at conferences nationwide. He is the author of the witty and inspirational book, *People are Pitiful...and We're All People*.



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IBC Graduate Pursuing a Ph.D. in Jerusalem

Matt Yeater, Blinded by a Meth Lab Explosion, Shares Story of Salvation/Deliverance

By William D. Turner



Bro. Matthew Yeater
Elkhart, Ind.

Four rabbis and a graduate of Indiana Bible College are sitting in a classroom together in Jerusalem. No, this is not the beginning of a joke. This

is the continuation of a real life miracle — just another day in the life of Matt Yeater, a 2013 graduate of IBC.

Did I mention that Matt is blind? Or that within three years after finishing at IBC he earned a Master of Divinity at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) in Elkhart, Indiana, where he collaborated on a nationally award-winning project of creating computer programs that can convert textbooks related to ancient Semitic languages and biblical Greek into Braille? That scholarly and technical achievement makes the study of biblical languages broadly available for the first time for blind scholars. In recognition of that work, Matt was part of a team that won the 2016 Dr. Jacob Bolotin Award of \$20,000 from the National Federation of the Blind.

Last year, Matt visited with instructors at Harvard University where he has been invited to pursue a Ph.D. In the meantime, he was accepted at Bar-Ilan University in Jerusalem. Presently, Matt is in Israel working on another master's degree in the study of modern Hebrew in preparation for his pursuit of a Ph.D. in Judaism and the Hebrew Bible.

It is that current scholarly endeavor that finds him these days sharing a classroom in Jerusalem with four rabbis, along with eight other students in his class who are studying to become rabbis. Matt is more than adequately staying up with his fellow Hebrew language students. Their study includes the Midrash or ancient commentary on the Hebrew scriptures. Not bad for a guy who, just a few years ago, had his first taste of Hebrew in a basic language class taught by IBC Instructor Jennifer Mast. During his master's degree program, he began his concentrated study of biblical languages, and became proficient in reading and translating Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. Later this summer in Elkhart, Matt plans to begin his study of Latin and German, and eventually French, in order to read scholarly texts in those languages.

On that basis alone, this would be a remarkable story. What makes it truly miraculous is that Matt's journey began in a life of drug addiction and prison time long before his life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ. He was raised in a home where both parents were bound by alcohol and drug addiction. His family followed that lifestyle from Idaho to Florida to northern Illinois.

By the time he was nine years old, Matt was smoking cigarettes, by 12, marijuana. He was using methamphetamine and cocaine by the time he was 15 or 16. He was in prison from age 18 to 20 for multiple counts of burglary and theft. He was, he said, "a horrible, horrible kid. When I got locked up, I deserved it." Soon after getting out of prison, he was back into selling illegal drugs, primarily meth. Before the year was out, he lost his eyesight when his home meth lab blew up in his face.

He was enrolled in schools for the blind but was kicked out for misbehavior. He married and had two children. By this time, he was living in Elkhart, when his life was about to go from very bad to even worse. He was taking care of his two children one evening while his wife was working. He placed his two-month-old daughter in the corner of an overstuffed living room chair, but when he attempted to sit down next to her, unable to see her, he accidentally sat on her leg, breaking it. Later, at the hospital, he was arrested for child abuse.

For months, he was in the Elkhart County Jail, awaiting trial. Because of his past criminal activity, he faced the real possibility of a 40-year prison sentence. "I never had any kind of relationship with God at all, but I just went into my cell, kneeled down by my bunk and said, 'God, if this is not what you want to happen, don't let it.' That was it." Nothing happened. In fact, the situation got worse. His attorney soon informed him that a plea bargain that would have reduced his sentence to 20 years had been withdrawn. The prosecutor's office had determined there was no reason for leniency in Matt's case. He became so depressed, he was determined to hang himself in his jail cell.

Then God did show up in the person of a ministry team from Life Tabernacle Church in Elkhart where Mark Johnson, Indiana District Secretary for the UPCI, is pastor. It was the first time any kind of jail ministry team had visited his cellblock, Matt said. Their only question was, "Does anybody here need to talk?" Matt did. For the first time, he no longer felt alone. More months went by as Matt awaited trial, but now he was spending his time listening to an audio Bible and attending Bible studies.

The real possibility of a 40-year jail sentence still loomed before him. "One night," he said, "I turned my face to the wall, weeping. I was facing 40 years. 'God, you know what happened,'" he prayed, knowing he had no intention of harming his infant

daughter. "There was no one in that cell but me, but I heard clearly an audible voice say, 'Get the medical records.'"

Matt called his wife and asked her to bring their daughter's medical records. The records revealed that the charges did not correspond to the actual medical records. In time, his attorney was able to prove obstruction of justice and falsification of evidence. Charges were eventually dropped, and Matt was released.

Key people at Life Tabernacle Church took him in, and Matt soon experienced his personal Pentecost. It was not an easy road, by any means. Matt lost his wife and, for some time, custody of his children. With help and guidance from his church family and pastor, he grew in his walk with God, and in time, was accepted at Indiana Bible College, although his financial resources were far from certain. He graduated debt-free in 2013.

"That's what I do," Matt said. "I dwell in the place of impossibilities. People think I'm crazy. I think I'm crazy." (laughter)

His pastor, Mark Johnson, agrees with Matt's description of dwelling in the place of impossibilities. "He lives a life of faith," he said of Matt. "He accomplishes more than most of us, in spite of his blindness."

An Indianapolis city sidewalk near the IBC campus is testimony to that statement. When Matt arrived at IBC, there was no paved sidewalk along the block of city street from the men's dormitory to the back gate of the campus, but Matt had managed to walk the unpaved route for over two years. One day he was confronted by a city official because of her concern for his safety on the uneven passage from the dorm to the campus. Matt was upset, since

he had been making that trek for over two years without incident. He made his feelings known in the office of Rob Rodenbush, IBC's executive vice-president.

Matt said Bro. Rodenbush told him, "If you need a sidewalk, get out and do something about it." So he did. Matt worked directly with the governor's office and city officials. He was the catalyst to push through a street improvement project costing several hundred thousand dollars and resulting in construction of a sidewalk from the entrance to the men's dorm to the back gate of IBC.

"The drive that you saw in him," Bro. Rodenbush said, "to never give up no matter what roadblocks or hurdles" was an attribute of Matt not soon forgotten. "To not be bitter or feel self-pity was an amazing thing. He was always positive and upbeat. To me, that was always remarkable. He never used his blindness as a sympathy card. He had an amazing, positive attitude about life and spirituality."



Matt Yeater at the wailing wall in Jerusalem

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Word To The Wise:

"The two most abundant elements in the universe are hydrogen and stupidity."

* * * * *

A husband has to go away on a business trip. His wife is about to deliver a set of twins. Sure enough, she goes into labor the minute his plane takes off. So his brother takes her to the hospital. She has a rough labor and it takes a long time to recover her communication skills.

But the hospital needs names for the babies before they can release them from the hospital. So it's up to the new uncle (who is known to be quite a prankster) to name them.

When the husband finally comes home, he is a bit worried about what his brother named his children. So he carefully asks his wife their names. She replied, "He named our daughter Denise."

"Hey, that's not so bad," he says and smiles.

"I know, but he named your son Denephew!"

* * * * *

Telling the Truth

I ate a salad for lunch today! Well, mostly croutons and tomatoes. Actually one big round crouton and tomato sauce. And cheese. FINE! It was a pizza. I ate a pizza for lunch!



"Nice try, but Disneyland isn't a foreign country."

Two trucks, loaded with thousands of copies of Roget's Thesaurus, collided as they left a New York publishing house last Thursday, according to the Associated Press.

Witnesses were stunned, startled, aghast, taken aback, stupefied...

* * * * *

The priest said, "Sister, this is a silent monastery. You are welcome here as long as you like, but you may not speak until directed to do so."

Sister Mary lived in the monastery for five years before the priest said to her, "Sister Mary, you have been here for five years. You may speak two words."

Sister Mary said, "Hard bed." "I'm sorry to hear that," the priest said, "We will get you a better bed."

After another five years, Sister Mary was summoned by the priest: "You may say another two words, Sister Mary."

"Cold food," said Sister Mary, and the priest assured her that the food would be better in the future.

On her 15th anniversary at the monastery, the priest again called Sister Mary in to his office. "You may say two words today."

"I quit," said Sister Mary.



"Sling shot, squirt pistol, tacks, rubber bands, spit wads, frogs ... YEP! I'd say we're well-equipped for Sunday school!"

I'd been working on my business degree for about a year when I finally got to take a popular finance course. I went to the bookstore to buy the textbook and was shocked to find out that it would cost me \$96. I asked how much it was worth if I sold it back at the end of the semester.

"You'll get \$24," said the clerk.

"This is insane," I protested as I wrote out the check.

"I know," replied the clerk sympathetically. "I've always thought that a person who buys a book for \$96 and then sells it back for \$24 should fail the course."

* * * * *

The teacher was giving her class of seven-year-olds a natural history lesson.

"Worker ants," she told them, "can carry pieces of food five times their own weight. What do you conclude from that?"

One child was ready with the answer: "They don't have a union."



"It makes baptisms a lot more fun for everyone."



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