AIS Perspectives

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Steve Willeford: Serious About God's Work!

By Richard C. Brown

Catch him if you can! Pastor Steve Willeford of St. Louis is a man on the run. A persistent person - such as an AIS reporter - can occasionally catch him for an interview. But for the most part, Bro. Willeford stays on the move. But this is no idle running that Bro. Willeford does. From his work as the newly-elected Missouri district secretary, to his role as a Christian school administrator, to his pastoral duties, to his various outreach endeavors, Bro. Willeford's is serious business. And, as Bro. Willeford himself often points out, "God's business requires serious-mindedness and diligence."

"I've had ministers tell me that they observed a serious-mindedness in me concerning the work of God. But God's work *is* serious business, and I often try to convey that seriousness to others, particularly my congregation."

There's little doubt that Bro. Willeford has, at least to an extent, communicated this attitude to his church. Apostolic Pentecostal Church in St. Louis, Missouri is experiencing solid growth, currently averaging about 365 in attendance and about 415 when adding their various "extension" ministries. Bro. Willeford attributes their success to the saints' individual burdens.

"I'm encouraged by the fact that the congregation has a vision for revival. It's not something I have to continually pump into them," he said.

"We have an annual dinner for those people in the church who are actively involved in ministry. At a recent dinner, I was pleasantly surprised to find that over 100 people attended. The fact that about one-third of our congregation is involved in reaching out, I think is a pretty good average."

Above: *Bro. Stephen T. Willeford, pastor of Apostolic Pentecostal Church, St. Louis, Missouri.*

Bro. Willeford's no-nonsense approach to ministry is nothing new. It has stood him well throughout his life and especially throughout his church experience. Practically his entire life has been spent at the church he now pastors. Bro. Willeford grew up in this church, having received the Holy Ghost there at age 10. During his youth, he attended the University of Missouri for a year and then received his B.A. from Gateway College of Evangelism in St. Louis, Missouri.

"Bro. W.C. Parkey, who was the Gateway president while I was there, was one of the most influential men in my life. He had a great concern for young people, especially young ministers," Pastor Willeford recalled. "Also, my former pastors, Harry Branding and Winfred Black, had a tremendous impact on my ministry. Bro. Branding influenced me because of his strong leadership skills, and Bro. Black's positive revival attitude impressed me."

It was also during his youth that Bro. Willeford's seriousness concerning the ministry first began to develop. He was always actively involved in the church's various outreach ministries, such as bus ministry and door-to-door visitation.

Eventually, Bro. Willeford was asked to serve as the church's Christian school supervisor and principal. He later served as assistant pastor.

"It was in March, 1981 that [former pastor] Louis Green indicated his desire to resign. Upon his resignation, the church considered my name and voted me in as the new pastor."

Since that time, growth has been the agenda at 13th & Gravois. "And," Bro. Willeford stressed, "we are anticipating further growth."

"We're right now bordering on the 400

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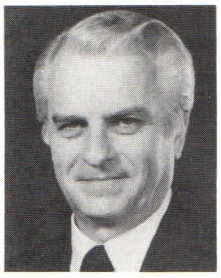
Finding Time To Pray



Bro. C.M. Becton
UPC General Secretary
St. Louis, MO

Prayer is like breathing. We have to breathe to live. The pressure of the atmosphere on our lungs makes it easier to breathe than to not breathe. Likewise, the pressures of day-to-day life should make it easier for us to pray than to not pray. You can't survive without prayer!

Yet there are too many Apostolics who get sidetracked from their prayer time. For example, let's assume that you finally decide to pray. But all of a sudden, the thought comes: I must do this thing first. Then you do the thing you have in mind. And when you have done it, your mind has become distracted. One thing after another will clamor for your attention if you don't determine that your prayer time takes priority.

I think it's best to start the day with prayer. I realize that not everybody is a morning person, and this is not always possible. But if it is possible, the morning works best because everything is quiet then.

Finally, keep focused in your prayer. Many things can interfere with a preacher's prayer time. For instance, if I let my mind dwell on my day-to-day problems, it shortens the amount of quality time that I spend with God. And a lack of prayer weakens you.

Prayer brings fortification and strength. As surely as we breathe, *we must pray!*

Bro. James Richards
Evangelist
Carrolton, MO

A minister's life is a busy one. He's on call 24 hours a day. Emergencies crop up fairly often that require his attention. And even home Bible studies can put a drain on his time. If he's not careful, these and other church functions can actually put such a drain on the minister's time that he fails to make time for personal prayer.

With that in mind, let me offer some tips for finding time to pray:

First, make it a priority. You'll never *find* time to pray; you've got to shove something out of the way and *make* time.

Second, get a regular routine, a regular place and a regular time. Finding time for prayer is easier if you make it into a consistent habit.

Finally, be an example for your church in prayer. Like begets like; an apple tree does not bring forth grapes. When I was a pastor, I asked my saints to be in the prayer room a half-hour before church. And if I would go in the church and find somebody not praying, I would walk up to him, shake his hand, ask how he was doing, and then tell him, "Let's go pray." I also preached on prayer a lot and did seminars on the subject.

We Apostolics know how to sing and shout and speak in tongues. I hope that we can also learn the art of effective prayer.

Bro. Mark Abernathy
Pastor
Muncie, IN

I like to pray first thing in the morning, but I've found that being out of town can make it hard. It's just not as easy somewhere else as it is at home. But it's important that we not give up, since it's hard to keep from being carnal if you don't pray. Remember: The praying man stops sinning and the sinning man stops praying.

Bro. Dennis Allman
Pastor
Seymour, IN

A preacher who fails to pray risks losing the dimension of the supernatural in his ministry. He starts operating with his own head knowledge rather than depending on the Spirit. The best way to assure that you pray is to go directly to the church first thing in the morning, or wait until everybody in the house is asleep.

Bro. William Sciscoe
Pastor
Columbus, OH

Satan will never tell you not to pray; he will always tell you to pray tomorrow. He only has a certain amount of time left, so he wants to stop us from praying in order to destroy our source of spiritual life.

Bro. W.E. Gamblin
Pastor Emeritus
Orange, TX

The best time for me to pray is early morning and late at night. But keep in mind that you must balance your prayer time with praise. Some are good "pray-ers," and others are good "praisers." Yet we should make time for each equally.

Bro. Gerald Adams
Pastor
Hopkinsville, KY

I think our Apostolic preachers pray, but too many times it becomes a ritual. We've developed tools like the "Prayer Clock," which are helpful when a person first starts praying. But there's a danger of getting locked into praying five minutes in each category and not listening to the voice of God. It becomes a ritual.

Bro. Denzil Holman
Pastor/Author
Farmingdale, NY

The pastor needs to not be in a big hurry when he prays. If necessary, divide your prayer into several segments and pray two or three times during the day. Also, make time in your church for prayer. Some ideas are a weekly men's prayer meeting, prayer chains, all-night prayer and "prayer revivals."

Next Month's Topic:
Solving The Church-Hopping Problem
If you would like to give your opinion on this topic, send comments and photo to: A.I.S., P.O. Box 47917, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46247

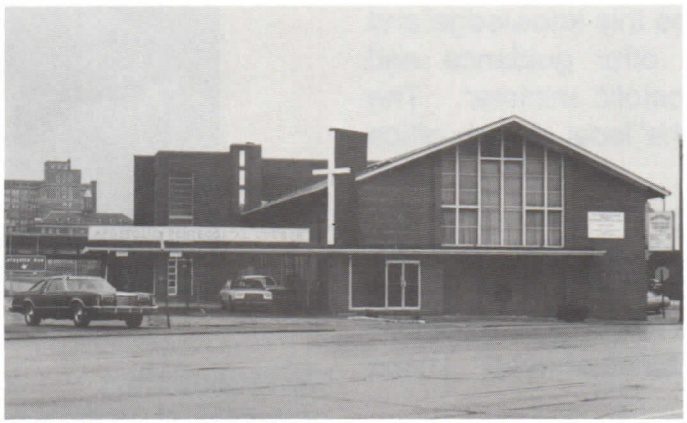
Steve Willeford: Serious About God's Work!

(Continued from page one)
mark in attendance. Our current facility only holds about 400-450 comfortably. So we are in the early stages of projecting for growth and starting a building project. We anticipate the new building will hold about 700-800 people.

"Up until now, we've managed to get by with minor remodeling, such as knocking out some walls and re-doing the Sunday school layout. This will be our first major expansion since I've been pastor. We're talking with a builder and hopefully, by the end of this year, we'll be fully into the actual building program."

Bro. Willeford said the one obstacle he has fought during his pastorate is communicating the passion and vision he has to his congregation. "Sometimes I seemed to have trouble getting the vision across to the people -- getting them to see that it takes time and getting them to see what actually needs to be done. I think maybe I had some difficulty communicating the seriousness of this vision, and then, getting them to cooperate with that vision.

"Cooperation is a key," Willeford emphasized. "The church is a team, and growth requires team effort."



Top: *A full house during a recent Sunday evening service.*
Middle: *The Apostolic Pentecostal Church facility.*
Bottom: *Bus ministry plays an important part in growth.*

"The church is a team, and growth requires a team effort."

Lately, though, Bro. Willeford seems to have organized his "team" effectively. He has several departmental ministries operating at peak efficiency.

"We have a youth department, a Christian school, a music department, a Sunday school department, and an outreach department. I try to keep the leaders in these departments informed and motivated. I have an annual planning retreat for them, and we also have monthly planning sessions for the church's ministers. I also try to teach them leadership principles about once a year.

And of course, Bro. Willeford tries to keep himself informed, as well. "I go to seminars, I read a lot of books, and just feed my mind with new ideas. These are things that lead to positive church growth," he stressed.

But if the organizational structure is effective, the outreach program at Apostolic Pentecostal Church is more so. "Basically, the programs we use," Willeford said, "are bus ministry, Spirit of Freedom ministry to alcoholics, home Bible study, nursing home, prison ministry, and one of our most effective programs: Enroll To Grow.

"It was about 1986 when we first started using the Enroll-To-Grow program. We have called it Prayer And Outreach Revival." Enroll-To-Grow entails workers going to neighborhood homes and offering them the services of the church; they become "members" of the Sunday school, entitled to all the privileges of being a S .S. member.

Willeford continued: "Enroll-To-Grow has really increased our average attendance significantly. Although I'm not sure of the exact number, we graphed it out. And from the year that we first implemented the program, we saw a definite rise on the graph.

Bro. Willeford said that there are other keys to having revival besides good outreach methods. He said that having a strong move of God is also crucial.

"To have revival, you need to have strong spirituality in your church's worship services. That's one of the things that people see that is different about our church. They see spiritual, power-packed services, along with people who convey a family atmosphere. Then, on top of that, you need to have solid Bible teaching.

"Beyond that, you also have to prepare for growth by setting goals and organizing your church structure. You must have short term and long term projections."

Plus, said Willeford, there are important things that only the pastor can do to facilitate revival: "A revival pastor needs to keep himself open to new ideas. Read and attend seminars and conferences to obtain fresh ideas. But most of all, the pastor himself needs to be spiritually strong. He must maintain his own prayer time and Bible study."

Bro. Willeford, as business-minded as he is, stresses the need for balance in one's life. He said that a pastor cannot allow himself to become overwhelmed. "The minister must place a priority upon his own spiritual well-being. Don't get so caught up in church activities that you ignore prayer. And of course, if he has a family, he also must balance his time between church work and his family."

Bro. Willeford also advised pastors that they be tolerant of flaws in his church. He said, looking back, "If I could have changed anything about my early years as a pastor, I would have been more patient. A pastor needs to be patient of his people's shortcomings." He said that it sometimes takes awhile for the congregation to catch the pastor's vision for growth and revival.

Any final advice to other pastors hungry for growth and revival? "Yes. I would simply encourage them to be patient and stay the course. Don't give up too soon. Be positive, and preach a positive Gospel."

As for Apostolic Pentecostal Church, they seem to have clearly caught Bro. Willeford's vision of being 'serious about God's work.'■

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Prince of Peace Ministries

Ministering To The Needs Of The Apostolic Minister and Family

Seymour, Indiana Pastor Larry M. Arrowood

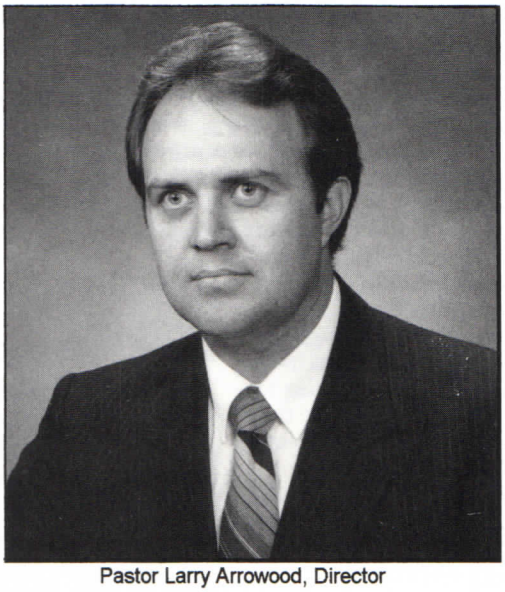
Prince of Peace Ministries is a unique ministry that is designed to minister to the Apostolic Minister and his / her family. The ministry is operated by Larry Arrowood, who also pastors the Apostolic Tabernacle in Seymour, Indiana. Brother Arrowood knows first hand the hurts and stresses of ministry. He has studied much in the area of counseling and uses this knowledge and experience of ministry to offer guidance and support to the hurting Apostolic minister. The ministry is operated from the local church office in Seymour.

Purpose: Where does a minister turn for counsel and confidentiality? Prince of Peace Ministries is designed to assist the Apostolic minister and family in such times of need. These areas include:

- Improving communication in the home and church
- Coping with stress, loss, depression, anger, guilt, etc.
- Referrals
- Burnout
- Pastoral problems
- Reading material

Professionalism: Brother Arrowood is a member of the American Association of Christian Counselors. He has been instrumental in helping a host of Apostolic ministers and families. Prince of Peace Ministries does not claim to be qualified in all areas of professional counseling. In such cases, we would help find a professional with whom the person in need can feel comfortable, all the while offering prayer, support, and spiritual guidance.

The Counseling Process: Counseling is often instrumental in helping Christians become what God intends for them to be. Fortunately, many ministers have a friend within whom they confide. However, some do not. Prince of Peace Ministries is designed to help in such situations. The process may take one or several meetings or phone calls, depending on the situation.



Pastor Larry Arrowood, Director

Confidentiality: Information is held in professional confidence.

Getting Started: By calling 812-522-7687 during office hours, you may set an appointment or you may talk with Brother Arrowood by telephone.

Cost: This ministry is a helping ministry that derives its existence from needs. We feel God has called us to help other ministers. So long as there is a need for our existence, we feel the Lord will provide the needs of the Prince of Peace Ministries. We do not demand a fee, but we do have an affordable suggested cost for services. Call Brother Arrowood to schedule an appointment or discuss your particular situation and needs.

Prince of Peace Ministries

Hours: 9am - 3:30pm Monday thru Thursday

812-522-7687 Office

Larry Arrowood, Director

812-523-6128 Home

A member of the American Association of Christian Counselors

The Truth About Labels

Thou shalt not label!"

Some people use their best stained-glass voice when speaking of labels, as if their condemnation of them constituted an 11th commandment. The Bible, however, still lists only ten.

Pros and cons can be offered about labels, but they must be dealt with realistically, not idealistically. Most discussions held about them are couched in idealism - the way things ought to be. Since things won't be that way until Jesus comes, we have to cope with the way they are. And labels are a present reality.

Labels are inevitable. Virtually every Jewish or Christian leader in the Bible was "labeled" and used labels. They are not inherently good or bad. They can be useful and appropriate if managed in an ethical way. If abused, they can hurt and confuse others. Very few, I feel, intentionally try to destroy someone's character by putting an unpopular or knowingly incorrect label on them.

The most widely used labels are *conservative, moderate, liberal* and sometimes *radical*. The latter term may be employed to refer to either end of the spectrum (though its literal definition pertains only to the liberal side). The big question: What are the criteria by which one is judged to be "conservative" or "liberal"? Whose definition is to be used? The truth is, none of us establishes such criteria unilaterally or individually. The philosophies of conservatism or liberalism in any age (and definitions do vary somewhat from age to age) are usually determined by societies, or nations - even groups of nations - rather than a narrow segment of a small organization. So the matter is basically beyond our control.

By: J.R. Ensey

In The Political Arena

In the latter half of the 20th century, political liberalism in America generally espouses big government, excessive federal spending, a welfare state, abortion on demand, de-emphasizing of Christian principles, socialistic programs, a feminist agenda, homosexuality as an acceptable alternative lifestyle, and an amoral climate in public education. Let's say, for example, that Ted Kennedy generally represented these views in Congress. He would be labeled a "liberal." Those who align themselves with him on such issues would also become known as "liberals." Even if he denied being a liberal (nearly everyone prefers to be thought of as "moderate"), it would still be correct to categorize him that way.

Constituents need to be aware of where their congressman stands on the issues so they will be able to vote intelligently. The media, or some other group who study such things, may apply a label which will assist in that objective.

Conservatism, on the other hand, generally centers on fiscal responsibility, places a higher value on human life (expressed in a pro-life stand on abortion and euthanasia), esteems free enterprise and entrepreneurial opportunities, encourages morality in public life, eschews federal controls, and promotes a greater focus on traditional family values. Those who support these views become known as "conservatives.) The media and one's political colleagues (not necessarily his philosophical enemies) automatically provide the label. It's usually not something he initially applies to himself.

Labeling The Religionists

In the non-Pentecostal religious world, a liberal is generally considered to be one who casts doubt on the inerrancy of Scripture, embraces humanistic values, wants to appear "inclusive," and is apt to perceive art and entertainment as essentials of spiritual life. He usually espouses a "broad-minded openness" toward other religions, often interacting with Hindus, Buddhists, and Muslims. If one aligns himself with such liberal causes, he should not mind wearing the label of *liberal* - otherwise, it would appear that he is ashamed of what he is and what he believes.

On the other side of the coin, religious conservatives are known as those who press for the inerrancy of Scripture, promote the principles and values taught in the Bible as they see them, and believe Christ is the only means of salvation. They disdain homosexuality as sin, and have a lesser regard for the arts as an integral part of worship.

What About Pentecostals?

In either the secular political field or in religion, the vast majority of Pentecostals stand squarely on the conservative side. The media call us *conservatives* - and we should consider it a compliment - because we espouse conservative values. That should not be difficult to understand. We should never mind being called "conservatives." That's really a very positive compliment.

In the smaller context of our own organization, those who espouse traditional lifestyle values, apostolic doctrines (essentiality of the new birth, baptism in Jesus' name, Oneness, etc.) and pro-life positions on abortion and euthanasia, are known as conservatives. This is totally in line with definitions established in the political and religious worlds. Conversely, those who want to shift toward the relaxing of lifestyle codes (modest attire, women's uncut hair, no television or movies, and other particulars mentioned in the Articles of Faith), seek more fellowship with those of other faiths, and push for more "inclusiveness" by easing our positions on fundamental doctrines and holiness, are "labeled" as liberals.

No one has to stand up and proclaim himself to be a conservative or a liberal; he merely has to align himself with certain issues and it is automatic. To denigrate someone for using an appropriate label is not only recrimination but is excusing in oneself what he condemns in others.

New Testament Labels

In Antioch (Acts 11:26), the young church got its first major label: "Christians." The name stuck. They accepted the label because it aptly expressed their discipleship, their faith, and their commitment to Christlike living. Jesus labeled the religious phonies of His day as "vipers... hypocrites... thieves... whited sepulchres." Paul railed against Judaizers and Gnostics, warning believers of "the concision... [and] dogs." Other New Testament writers were also quick to identify dangerous persons and doctrines by labeling them.

(Continued On Page 14)

Bro. J. R. Ensey is the president of Texas Bible College in Houston, Texas. He is also a prominent conference and campmeeting speaker and author of several books.

T. R. O'Daniel

■THEOLOGY

Why did Jesus say that loving God with all your heart, soul and mind was the first and great commandment when this is not one of the Ten Commandments?

The question of the Great Commandment was put to Jesus in Matthew 22 by a lawyer of the Pharisees with a motive of getting Jesus to make a statement that they could use against Him. Basically the same question is put to Jesus by a scribe in Mark 12:28 concerning what is the first commandment. Jesus answered him a little differently by quoting the Shema from Deuteronomy 6:4 (Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord) before stating the necessity of loving Him with all our hearts, souls, and minds. Incidentally, here He also adds "strength." Then Jesus proceeded to add the second commandment as He did in Matt. 22. "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

In Matthew 22:40, Jesus states that upon the two commandments of loving God and loving our neighbor hangs all the law and the prophets. Upon examining the Decalogue (Ten Commandments) in Exodus 20, you will note that the first four commandments have to do with our relationship with God and the last six have to do with our relationship with our fellow man. Jesus, rather than choosing one or two of the ten to take precedence over the rest, states the two principles upon which the ten hang. If we love God with all of our hearts, souls and minds, and our neighbors as ourselves, we will obey all of the moral law of Moses.

The principle of love is not a substitute for obedience but a foundation for obedience. John 14:21-24 expressly teaches that the proof of existence of the foundation of love is our keeping His commandments. When we love God as we should, we do not have a problem doing what He asks of us.

Paul Mooney

■MINISTRY

I heard you say recently that it's never been harder to be a pastor. What do you mean by that?

Your question is a very important one for our time. With ministers falling by the wayside in denominational churches, and sadly even in Apostolic churches, this is an important issue to examine. I want to give you three main reasons why it's so difficult these days to pastor a church.

Number one, it has been noted that we are living through the de-Christianizing of our society, and that this has become, in effect, the post-Christian era. I believe this is true. It is very difficult to minister in society without understanding the anti-Jesus sentiments that are developing in our world.

Secondly, along with the de-Christianizing of society there is a broadening anti-authority attitude that affects the way we deal with people. You simply cannot say, "Do this because I say so." Leadership and direction has got to reflect an understanding of this anti-authority phenomenon.

Third, I would cite the loss of the servanthood principle as one of the things that makes it very difficult to pastor today. When I say "difficult," I do not mean impossible; I simply mean it is difficult unless we are willing to appreciate the new challenges that the ministry must meet.

And this third reason is one of those challenges. People have lost the servanthood principle of life. Churches have become places where people expect to be served or "blessed." Also, the product/marketing approach to church has placed new pressures on ministers.

There might be many other things that we could put on such a list as this, but I think these are the primary areas that challenge us in these times. Pastors must be on guard for these pressures.

O. C. Marler

■FAMILY

Where can I get a book that will guide me step-by-step in raising my family?

You will find neither one nor 100 books. Manuals have been published explaining how to use machinery, and all computers come with books telling you which button to push. But the rearing of children is a completely different field. No two children are alike and neither are any two situations identical.

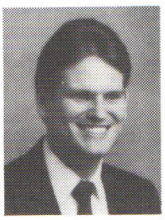
Over four decades ago, Dr. Benjamin Spock wrote a "child rearing" manual. The results of widespread adherence to this book were generations of permissive parents and rebellious children. These generations became so out of control morally and socially that Spock is reported to have said, "For goodness sakes, throw that book away and grab a paddle. We have already lost several generations over it."

Yes, there are many books written today by Christians that give sound, moral advice on family matters. But still, they cannot give you all the answers to every problem that will arise.

Friends and family members can tell you what they did with their children and what they would do with yours. But if I told you what I had done in rearing my family, it would still not be custom made for yours; for my children and their problems were their own. No two are ever the same.

The one book that will most nearly meet your needs is, of course, the Bible. It will not give you steps one, two, and three, but it will give you principles to live by. And these are the same principles you will want to instill in your children.

Your child will learn more from you than it will ever learn from rules you have applied from a child-rearing manual. Your sincere love and Godly living are the best guide you could ever find.



T. W. Massengale

■OUTREACH

How can I make our Sunday School more evangelistic?

The primary responsibility of the Sunday school is to reach children. But when the children of unsaved parents reach their teen years and have still not made a decision to live for the Lord, it becomes increasingly more difficult to reach them. It is no longer "cool" to go to Sunday school or ride the church bus. Now they are "grown up" and "grown-ups" don't go to Sunday school (just look at dad!). The opportunity to give their hearts to the Lord and receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost needs to be offered on a regular basis while they are still young. One suggestion is the concept of a monthly "Holy Ghost Sunday."

This idea was first conceived out of one teacher's frustration at the traditional "Baptist" method of having Sunday school (i.e. - presession time, followed by worship, the lesson, craft, a snack, and finally, going home). The teacher noticed that something was often lost during "craft" time. After the snack, the feeling often totally died.

So this teacher decided to switch things a bit. That next Sunday, he skipped his presession time and had a quick craft. Then he went directly into an extended time of worship and singing. After this, he taught his lesson under the burden of the Holy Ghost. It was a short lesson and at the end he gave a simple altar call. Several received the Holy Ghost that Sunday morning. He followed the same pattern the next several weeks, and over 40 received the Holy Ghost. They had, in essence, a Sunday school revival - but without an evangelist.

He realized, of course, that this could not go on indefinitely. After a while the altar call becomes "old hat." But it could be done very effectively once a month - and effective it is! This concept is simple; but the results are consistent. For more information, request file SSCE-04.TXT from A.I.S.

If you would like to send in a question to one of these ministers for their consideration, please address it to:

News Editor-AIS Perspectives
P.O. Box 47917
Indianapolis, IN 46247

■TELEVISION

Explicit Television Shows Increasing

Television "experts" report that this past TV season was especially offensive to those favoring more family-oreinted viewing fare.

"This fall's TV season," reported an *Entertainment Weekly* writer early in the season, "is shaping up as one of the most sexually explicit ever. Nudity and racy language have been slinking onto the airwaves for years, but lately TV's sex drive has shifted into high warp speed."

One recent study by Florida State University concurred. The study reported that a typical hour on prime-time TV consists of 1.6 references to intercourse, 1.2 references to prostitution and rape, 4.7 sexual innuendos and one suggestive gesture. The study concluded that TV characters either talk about sex or display sexual behavior once every four minutes.

In its article, *Entertainment Weekly* cited the following reasons for this years dramatic increase in sexually explicit shows:

1) Sex sells, boosting a show's ratings.
2) Networks are competing with an increasingly explicit cable system.
3) The FCC has recently loosened broadcasting restrictions even more.
4) Sponsors are not as hesitant to advertise on controversial shows anymore.

■PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Abstinence Education

Teachers in Jacksonville, Florida are bucking the trend toward teaching "safe sex" in public schools. Rather than handing out condoms, these teachers are telling students that only abstinence is "safe."

Key elements of the abstinence-based curricula: 1) Students are informed that the best deterrent to sexually transmitted diseases is to wait until marriage for sex. 2) Teachers point out that 50 percent of condoms break when used.

Planned Parenthood is not happy with the program, saying it endangers students and is "a little bit like howling in the wind," because one survey says that 61 percent of all high school students and 79 percent of high school seniors have had sexual intercourse at least once.

School board member Nancy Corwin, however, says the program sends the right message to children. "We are tired of trash in this school system. This is a conservative community. We do not have our heads in the sand, but we like to think there is something left of a moral society."

■MORALITY

School Sexual Harassment

A survey by Seventeen Magazine found that 89 percent of girls from age nine to 19 reported "inappropriate sexual comments, gestures, and "looks" from their male peers at school. Eighty-three percent said they had been touched, pinched or grabbed inappropriately. "There are assaults going on right in front of adults' eyes," said one researcher.

■RELIGION

Pigs Recruited In Israeli Army

Talk about fighting dirty. The Israeli military may soon start fighting Islamic terrorism using - of all things - pigs. Both Orthodox Jews and Muslims believe that pork is unclean. Muslims, however, take this further and believe that contact with pork can doom a person's soul.

Chemist Rabbi Moshe Antelman has invented bullets made of pork lard as well as rocks composed of dried, ground pig bones. Antelman, who is chief advisor for the Department of Nuclear Physics at the Weizanown Institute, said that Muslims believe that "contact with swine kills the soul." Thus, pork bullets will theoretically offset the Muslim's fanatical willingness to die for his beliefs.

Antelman got his idea after reading about a former U.S. colonel, Samuel E. Driben. Driben encountered a group of Muslims in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War. He soon discovered that they had a fear of pork. As a result, Driben would wrap any Muslim prisoners in pigskins and bury their dead the same way. Driben found that this squashed the enthusiasm of the Muslims for their mission.

■MORALITY

Lesbian Adoption Okayed By Court

A lesbian may adopt her girlfriend's sons, the Vermont Supreme Court ruled last month. The court overturned a previous lower court ruling that prohibited Deborah Lashman from adopting the boys.

"We are not called upon to approve or disapprove of the relationship," wrote Associate Judge Denise Johnson. The boys were the biological sons of Jane VanBuren who was artificially inseminated.

Similar cases are pending in Massachussetts and Wisconsin. The cases have significance for those in other states as well, because adoptions must be recognized as legal regardless of the state in which they took place.

■AMERICAN LIFE

Less Time Spent At Church

Young adults don't have as much time for church as they used to according to one survey. The poll, conducted by Barna Research, found that 46 percent of those age 18-25 spend less time at church or church activities than they did just one year ago.

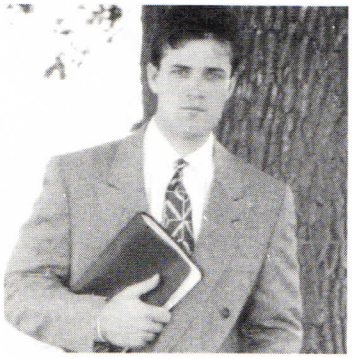
In fact, the survey found that all age groups reported less time spent at church. However, people age 55 and older reported a less-significant drop in church attendance and ministry participation.

Ironically, another study (by the Princeton Religion Research Center) says that 58% of Americans cite religion as being "very important" in their lives. This was the highest mark since 1972.

■MEDIA

Washington Post Slams Christians

Those who think the mass media is hostile to Christianity have new evidence for their argument. The February 1st issue of the Washington Post contained an aggressive attack on the Christian faith by reporter Ron Weisskopf. Weisskopf wrote that "corporations pay public relations firms millions of dollars to contrive the kind of grass-roots response that Falwell or Pat Robertson can galvanize." He then characterized Christians as "largely poor, un-educated, and easy to command." The next day, the Post printed a concessionary remark that "there is absolutely no factual basis for that statement."



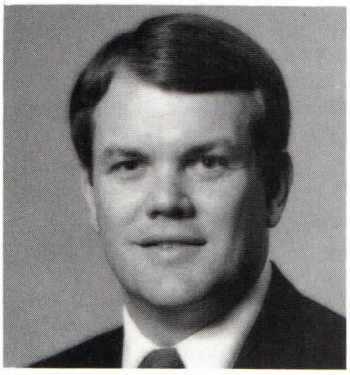
Bro. Nathaniel Haney

MINISTRIES

Warriors Of Faith Magazine

Bro. Nathaniel Haney said his *Warriors Of Faith* magazine differs from most in that it is "a magazine full of pure faith and stories of old timers that lived by faith. It's a magazine with a good report of what God is doing around the world."

Warriors Of Faith is published by Christian Life Center in Stockton, California, pastored by Bro. Kenneth Haney. Bro. Haney's son, Bro. Nathaniel, serves as the editor of the magazine. A bi-monthly subscription (six issues) can be obtained by sending $11.95 to *Warriors Of Faith*, 9025 N. West Lane, Stockton, CA 95210. Or call them at (209) 957-4027.



Bro. Aubrey Jayroe

APOSTOLICS TODAY

Jayroe Financial Services

There is a tremendous need among churches to get their financial houses in order," said Brother Aubrey Jayroe of Forrest City, Arkansas. "Laws, such as tax laws, are changing all the time. And churches need to stay up on these changes, and how they affect their ministries."

Bro. Jayroe's solution was to start an accounting ministry aimed specifically at Apostolic churches. Jayroe, who is a certified public accountant and an accredited tax advisor, gave up his church of 13 years to begin the ministry of Jayroe & Company. He began the service in 1971.

"This is a ministry," Bro. Jayroe emphasized. "We do some work with people in the secular community. But our largest clientele is from the Apostolic ministry."

Services offered by Jayroe & Company include estate planning, income tax pre- paration, computerized payroll preparation, review of church records and data, and assisting the church or minister to comply with tax laws. Bro. Jayroe is also available for financial management consultation.

"We even publish a newsletter for our clients," Jayroe pointed out. "We're one of the few accounting services that does this anymore."

Bro. Jayroe said his accounting ministry has recently teamed with other Apostolics, including some Pentecostal lawyers, to form *Ministry Resources*. "Now, we can meet churches' legal and financial needs both at the same time," he said.

For more information about Jayroe & Company or *Ministry Resources*, write P.O. Box 1217, 1338 N. Washington, Forrest City, AR 72335. Or call (501) 633-6045. They can also be reached by fax machine at (501) 633-6500.

RESOURCES

Alpha Bible Publications

Nearly 30 years ago, Bro. Ralph Reynolds began training people in the Word of God through his Alpha Bible Correspondence Course. Today, Alpha continues its Bible-training mission. But now it does so through an entire book publishing and selling ministry.

Alpha Bible Publications is a ministry of the United Pentecostal Church of Hood River, Oregon. Pastor Raymond Sirstad and his son Bro. Daniel Sirstad operate ABS.

Bro. D. Sirstad

And what is the function of Alpha in the 1990s? "We continue to publish the Alpha Correspondence Course," Brother Raymond Sirstad said. "And we publish other books as well. Of course, we publish many of Bro. Reynolds' books. Also, we have published three of Bro. David Ward's books, for instance." In addition, Alpha Publisher's newest book is *Handle With Care*, a child-rearing book by Bro. David Reynolds.

Bro. Sirstad said they are receptive to new book ideas by prospective Apostolic authors. However, costs and payment arrangements may vary for each author.

"It depends on the book and the author," Brother Sirstad pointed out. "We've gone different directions with different individuals. It's something that needs to be worked out with each author."

For a current Alpha catalog or for information on book-publishing, write Alpha Bible Publications, P.O. Box 155, Hood River, OR 97031. Or call Bro. Sirstad at (503)386-5454.

APOSTOLICS TODAY

Omega Consultants

While Kent L. Thomas and his son Jeff have been active in commercial, residential, and church construction since 1975, they began to see that Apostolic churches had unique needs which were, for the most part, not being served by the conventional methods of design and construction. In order to address these needs, the Thomases formed Omega Church Consultants, Inc. in the spring of 1991.

In April, 1991, Kent and Jeff presented to the Executive Board of the UPC their vision of a package of programs and services designed to assist churches with building. The Executive Board unanimously agreed that Omega should promote its services at the 1991 General Conference in Indianapolis. "Our contacts with UPC pastors at the conference further underscored the need for these services," said Bro. Jeff Thomas.

Bro. J. Thomas

The services offered by Omega Church Consultants, Inc. are comprehensive and can take a project from concept to occupancy.

"One of the unique approaches offered by Omega," he explained, "is that individual services are contracted in 'bite size' phases. The church doesn't fall into the trap of contracting for an architectural design which later comes back over budget.

"Another important element of the Omega approach is the construction experience which goes into the architectural design. This greatly reduces the likelihood that 'over-engineered' or unnecessarily costly products or methods are specified in the project."

Kent and Jeff, who attend Calvary Tabernacle in Indianapolis, see their work as a ministry. "Our desire," said Bro. Jeff, "is to help reduce costs and therefore be a catalyst for growth."

Indiana Bible College maintains a growing electronic database of research and Bible study files to assist pastors, students and church leaders. All files in the database are free to AIS subscribers and can be accessed by modem (dial (317) 781-7700) or by voice telephone (1-800-8000-AIS). When ordering by phone, specify photocopy or computer disk, and have your User ID and Password ready. (A small photocopy/computer disk fee will be added to your monthly statement.)

NEW BIBLE STUDY FILES

THAN01.TXT	6144	**Angels: Pt. 1.** Exhaustive study of angels and demons.
THAN02.TXT	5888	**Angels: Pt. 2.** Angels study, continued. "The Order Of Angels."
THAN03.TXT	9600	**Angels: Pt. 3.** Angels study, continued. "The Ministry Of Angels."
THAN04.TXT	14464	**Angels: Pt. 4.** Angels study, continued. "The Origin Of Satan."
THAN05.TXT	8448	**Angels: Pt. 5.** Angels study, continued. "The Objective Of Satan."
THAN06.TXT	8320	**Angels: Pt. 6.** Angels study, continued. "Satan's Occupation & Oppression."
THAN07.TXT	8448	**Angels: Pt. 7.** Angels study, continued. "Satan's Eternal Doom."
THAN08.TXT	8064	**Angels: Pt. 8.** Angels study, continued. "The Angels Of Satan."
THAN09.TXT	12416	**Angels: Pt. 9.** Angels study, continued. "Details Of Demonology."
THAN10.TXT	4608	**Angels: Pt. 10.** Angels study, continued. "The Demise Of Demonology."
THAN11.TXT	4864	**Angels: Pt. 11.** Angels study, conclusion. "Defense Against Satan."
ADTG10.TXT	17664	**Tongues Throughout History.** This article shows that tongues have existed all through history.
INSD34.TXT	5888	**The Eleventh Hour Request.** Inspirational look at God's grace for the thief on the cross.
BSRP10.TXT	95744	**God's Righteousness In Romans.** Detailed commentary of Romans 1-8.
BSSP36.TXT	10880	**Why Lie?** Shows the reasons and effects of lying, and why honesty really *is* the best policy.
CUSA54.TXT	9088	**Halloween.** Details the origin and development of this pagan holiday.
ISCH01.TXT	16640	**Weep For Your Children.** Dave Hunt exposes the spiritual dangers facing our children.
CUNA13.TXT	12160	**A Course In Miracles--EXPOSED.** Critique of a subtle New Age course. Very helpful!
EVGE22.TXT	46464	**Sinners In The Hands Of An Angry God.** Jonathan Edwards's classic sermon.
BSMS41.TXT	5888	**Principles Of Christian Giving.** Nice outline giving Scriptural principles of tithes, offerings.
CUSA12.TXT	20224	**Questions & Answers On Witchcraft.** Comprehensive look at the beliefs of WICCA.

NEW COMPUTER SOFTWARE FILES

HPMF05.ZIP	124662	**Retirement Planner.** Helpful program that develops a retirement plan just for you.
HPMP03.ZIP	253226	**News Of The Past.** Create certificates that show what was making news when you were born.
BIBS22.ZIP	97609	**Israel Slide Show.** Good Bible study program that gives visual look at Israel's history.
BICM07.ZIP	116771	**Business Card Creator.** Easy way to make attractive church & ministerial business cards.
BICM06.ZIP	173273	**Church Plan Creator.** Program that allows you to make & print your own church blueprints.
EDEL07.ZIP	180871	**Zpeller.** Nice flash-card-like program that teaches young children to spell.
EDHS09.ZIP	174560	**Find-A-College.** If for some strange reason your youth choose NOT to attend IBC, use this.
GAAA13.ZIP	1210112	**JESUS Arcade Style Game.** Good Christian game, but requires expanded memory.
HPMF04.ZIP	202247	**Credit Help.** Examine your credit report and remove incorrect entries.
ACGA07.ZIP	116850	**KD-Graf.** Program that helps you graph out your finances or success of various ministries.
ACGA08.ZIP	138559	**Chartist.** Good software that helps you to make organizational charts for church departments.
EDGE09.ZIP	170282	**Chronos.** Timeline program that lets you look at history from various perspectives.
EDGE10.ZIP	121698	**Atlas For Windows.** Nice U.S. map program that features point & click information.
HPMP04.ZIP	200223	**PC Travel.** For the travelling minister, this program contains information on most major cities.
EDEL08.ZIP	83442	**Math Helper.** Cute program to help kids master basic math skills.
EDEL09.ZIP	129320	**Math Worksheets.** Christian school teachers will find this an easy way to make math worksheets.
DBSP01.ZIP	53886	**Songbase.** Music directors will love this powerful way to organize your songs and programs.
EDHS11.ZIP	287831	**Skyglobe.** Excellent program for Christian schools! Gives graphic view of stars, planets.
HPMP06.ZIP	195348	**Dynamind.** Intriguing problem-solving software. Analyze problem from various angles.
WPUT51.ZIP	95586	**PC-Style.** Helpful program that analyzes your writing style and tells you how to improve it.
WPUT52.ZIP	20696	**Preview.** For users of PC Write, allows you to preview what your final copy will look like.
GASM10.ZIP	310590	**Wild Pitch.** Simulation that puts you in charge of a baseball team. Really challenging!
WPUT53.ZIP	9828	**Word Frequency.** Useful utility that tells you how often a word is used in your document.
WPUT54.ZIP	11008	**PC Write Convert.** Now you can convert your PC Write files to desktop publishing format!
ACGA09.ZIP	88021	**CHEX.** Program that makes organizing your checkbook a breeze.
GAAR24.ZIP	32929	**Block Breaker.** Fun game in which you knock out a wall of colorful bricks with paddle, ball.
BICM08.ZIP	41527	**Daycare.** At last, a program for the church daycare! Organize students, teachers, duties, etc.
EDEL10.ZIP	18714	**Archie.** Good program for Christian schools that teaches children about computer programming.
ACGA10.ZIP	207178	**Personal Budget Tools.** Various financial tools including budget, calculator, etc.
BICM09.ZIP	234030	**Easy Project.** Nice software that helps you plan major projects (such as building programs).

Apostolic Coalition

APOSTOLIC COALITION
CHRISTIAN'S ACTION NETWORK

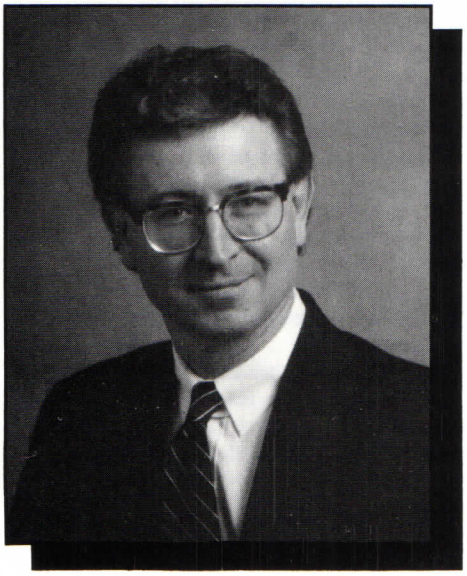
"Your Voice For Apostolic Values in Washington, D.C."

"All that is required for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing"

Who Are We? We are a National Coalition of Christian believers (many of whom are clergymen) who have joined together to advocate Bible based values within our government. We believe that by joining forces we can truly make a difference in our present society. We are committed to promoting the ethics of Biblical decency in the American community.

What Do We Do? As the Coalition director, Jeff Snyder coordinates with other pro-moral groups, networking together to accomplish common goals. We lobby the White House, Congressmen, and Senators. We track legislation and inform our constituents of when and how to act on specific issues, as well as to provide the tools with which to follow through (i.e. form letters, cards, petitions, etc.) We produce a quarterly News Digest, a weekly Legislative Status Report and intermittent mailings as necessary.

What Are Our Goals? To continue to educate people and promote awareness and involvement within our Nation on issues that directly involve this generation's lifestyles. To arrange meetings between mainstream, pro-family Americans and top elected political leadership so that a pro-moral voice is heard on a consistent basis.



Rev. Jeff Snyder, Director

Subscribe to the *Apostolic Coalition News Digest*,
a quarterly devoted to alerting Apostolics
to how they can make a difference !
$25.00 per year.

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Rev. Jeff Snyder
P.O. Box 13454
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Frustration Over Church Growth

OPINION ■ Church growth depends on how well you handle obstacles.

The lack of church growth is high on the frustration chart for church work. Somewhere close on the chart is the extended frustration that comes with church growth. But probably worse is the heart rending feeling you get when one you've helped find the Lord walks out of your church. So, pastoring becomes a merry-go-round of tremendous effort toward growth, hard work in keeping up with the demands of new members, and the down side of seeing others leave.

There is seldom enough numerical church growth to bring us satisfaction. Often, growth is too long in coming and too small once we experience it. Like a besieged fortress, when reinforcements finally arrive, we express, "I thought you'd never get here! Appreciation and dissatisfaction are often wrapped in the same package. Needless to say, church growth can be a very frustrating part of ministry.

There are certain factors of church growth that, when understood, and properly applied, can help prevent frustration. Let's consider these factors:

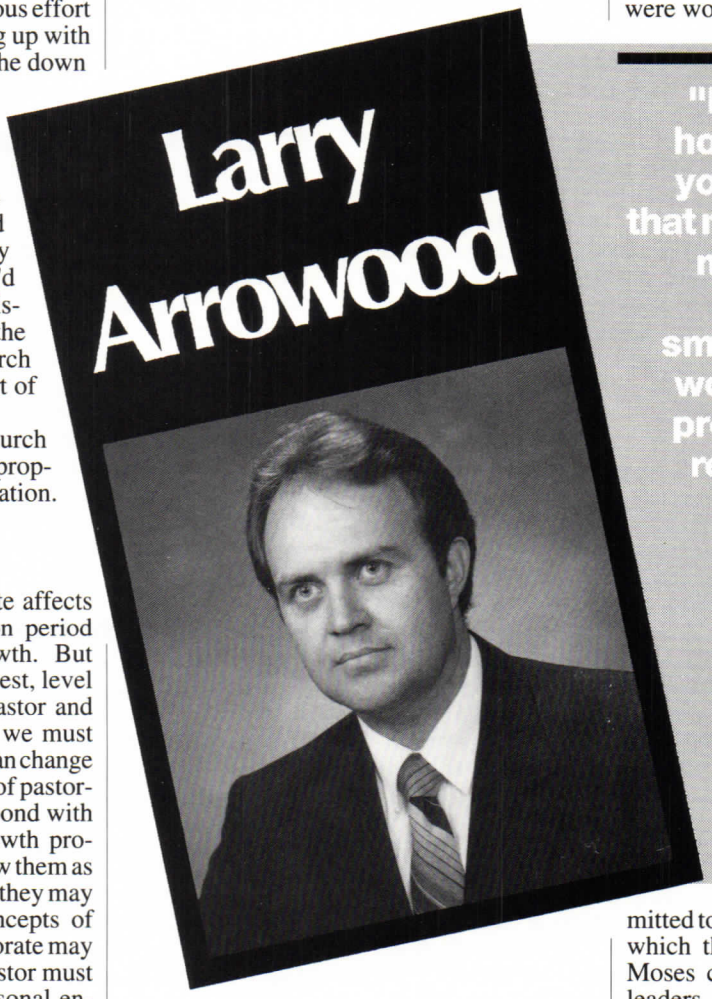
Length Of Pastorate

The length of time of a pastorate affects growth. Normally, the honeymoon period (the first year or so) will bring growth. But this growth can stop abruptly or at best, level off, once the enthusiasm of both pastor and parishioners wanes. At this point, we must reevaluate. Growth will probably mean change - not of pastorates - but of principles of pastoring. The people may no longer respond with enthusiasm to our "new pastor growth program" (contests, prizes, etc.), but view them as just another growth scheme. Rather, they may have to be taught the Biblical concepts of caring about the lost. A lengthy pastorate may bring burnout. In such cases, the pastor must re-group, refreshen, and regain personal enthusiasm. This can be done in a number of ways, such as: seminars, conferences, books, a break in routine, or a lengthy vacation. Never resign until you've taken a couple of weeks off and talked at length with a confidant and your spouse. You may change your mind, but if not, at least you get a well-deserved vacation.

Age And History Of The Church

An older church will already have its "influencers" (people who were in charge before you came). We must understand that the term, "pastor" is just a title. It doesn't give you the influence you need to cause a church to grow. This is something you must earn. People may submit verbally, but they are not ready to follow a "newcomer pastor" into the heated battle of soul winning.

A young church, especially if you are the founding pastor, may be more willing to follow than an older church. An older church may have to be re-trained and then grow spiritually (for age doesn't necessarily equate maturity) into the area of soul winning. Too often people allow past history to dominate the present. They never grew beyond a certain attendance before, therefore, they think they can't now, so why waste time trying? This attitude can be changed, but time is a factor.



"It is not how hard you work that matters most. It is how smart you work that produces results."

Leadership Principles

The question is not, "Should we evangelize our community?" It is, rather, "Who will evangelize?" The answer to this question is a key factor in church growth. Will it be a solo flight for yourself, or will the church get involved? Exodus 18:17-27 is an interesting Bible lesson. Here, we find that Moses was the solo leader. All came with their problems to him alone. When Moses's father-in-law, Jethro, came for a visit, he observed Moses's style of leadership and concluded that it was not good. For not only was Moses burning out from the morning until the evening work schedule, but his family was left out. And the people were worn out from waiting in line to talk to Moses. The solution? Change leadership style. Moses changed the way he led.

Also a change in style is reflected by the Apostles in Acts 6:1-4. They divided the tasks, committing themselves to prayer, fasting, and to preaching the Word.

Moses's style change not only benefited Moses and his family, but the congregation of Israel as well. Notice the procession in this chapter. Verse 19 shows that Moses committed to more praying about the people's problems and to less talking to them about their problems. Verse 20 shows his commitment to group instruction. He told them how they should live rather than waiting to correct them after they erred. He also committed to share with them a vision of "the work which they must do." Then, in Verse 21, Moses committed to selecting and training leaders, while in verse 22, he committed to turning them loose to do the work.

Whether we have five or 500, these principles always work more effectively than the pastor doing all the work. Jesus did this with His disciples. He sent out 120 to evangelize. Did they do as well as He? I doubt it, but they reached many more people

Remember that it's not how hard you work that matters most; it is how *smart* you work that produces the most results. ■

Larry Arrowood pastors in Seymour, IN and is an instructor at I.B.C. He is also a member of the American Association of Christian Counselors and has written several books.

■ PASTOR'S STRESS ■ DEBT-FREE LIVING ■ PASTOR'S VIEWS ■ BIBLE SOFTWARE ■ NEW CHURCHES

■ PASTORAL STRESS

Twenty percent of America's 335,000 pastors suffer from long-term stress according to a study by the Alban Institute. The Institute pointed out that the Southern Baptist Convention alone paid out $64.2 million to pastors for stress-related illnesses. Roy Oswald, a senior consultant at Alban, commented: "When stress on the culture rises, people bring that pressure to their church, along with higher expectations of the clergy. As a result, clergy are trying to live up to these expectations by covering all the bases. They can't quit at the end of the day and feel they've done everything because there's always someone else in need." The Alban Institute offered this advice to churches for protecting their pastors from burn-out: 1) Be sure pastors get positive feedback instead of the usual complaints. 2) Have a special group monitor the quality of life of the pastor and his family. 3) Make sure the pastor is challenged by setting aside time and money for continuing education each year, and encourage longer leaves of absence every few years. 4) Be active participants in the church's projects.

■ DEBT-FREE LIVING

Christians who are spending themselves into debt can be freed according to Christian financial counselor Ron Blue. According to Blue, one key way of getting control of your finances is to determine that "there will be no additional borrowing for any purpose." He also offered the following recipe for debt-free living: 1) Lay your credit cards on a sheet of aluminum foil. 2) Put them in your oven at 450 degrees. 3) In just a few minutes, you'll have a brightly colored mass of plastic. 4) Hang this "art piece" in a conspicuous place to remind you of your decision to stop the debt steamroller.

■ PASTORS' VIEW OF THE MINISTRY

Pastoral work, according to the Barna Research Group, is a mixed bag, with many problems but many blessings as well. Barna conducted a survey of pastors around the country and published the results in a new book, *Today's Pastors: A Revealing Look at What Pastors Are Saying About Themselves and the Pressures They Face.* The book cited three areas of particular concern: 1) Many pastors, by their own admission, are neither gifted nor trained to be leaders and are frustrated with ministry. 2) In the eyes of pastors, many, if not most, lay people are spiritually unprepared and lack the motivation to evangelize the communities in which they live. 3) Churches often fail to objectively evaluate their ministry efforts and to react intelligently to a changing culture. On the positive side, the book said that the typical church is larger than most people believe, most pastors succeed in balancing church and family, and most believe revival in America is possible, if not imminent.

■ FIGHTING PENTECOSTAL FLAB

Apostolics tend to be - ahh - shall we say, "well fed." All those meals eaten after church do take their toll after awhile. One way to fight the Pentecostal bulge, according to a recent medial report, is to eat breakfast. People who skip breakfast tend to consume more than necessary in later meals. On the other hand, people who began eating breakfast will lose an average of 17 pounds in a 12-week period of time. Further, those who eat breakfast generally keep the weight off longer. The reason: Breakfast-eaters consume less fat and more carbohydrates, and they snack less.

■ ONE-MINUTE BIBLE

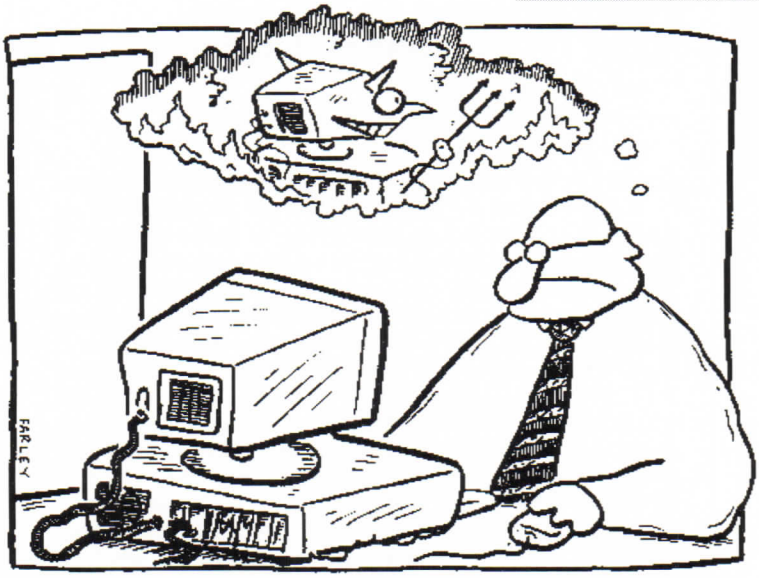
To make Bible reading almost instinctual, wouldn't it be great to have a brief selection pop up on your screen when you boot your computer? Like a tithe, the first minutes of any work session could belong to the Lord. *The One-Minute Bible For Windows* makes this both available and visually appealing. Based on the popular book *The One-Minute Bible,* this PC-based program provides not only daily NIV Bible readings but also maps, a topical index, references for extended reading, an electronic notepad, and more. The cost is $49.95 and is available at many major software outlets and Christian bookstores. You can also buy the software by writing to Colonnade Technologies, Inc., 11820 Northup Way, Ste. 200, Bellevue, WA 98005. Or call (800) 848-5480.

■ NEW CHURCHES NEEDED

Population in the United States grows by more than 5,000 persons each day according to the Census Bureau. This is the number of births and immigration minus deaths and emigration. The problem for the church, though, is that most of this growth happens more than 15 minutes beyond the nearest church. And studies show that people don't like attending church if it's more than a 15-minute drive away from home. Add to this the fact that Apostolic churches are not as numerous as denominational churches, and you have a dilemma because most church organizations have not keep pace with todays population expansion. The solution to this dilemma: Establishing *new* churches. New churches will also add to an organization's growth for another reason. Statistically, young churches grow at a greater percentage rate than older, more established churches. Thus an increase in new churches will increase the overall average attendance throughout that organization.

■ LATIN PROTESTANTISM SOARS

Protestant churches in Latin America are experiencing rapid growth: From 18.6 million to 59.4 million in the past decade. *The National and International Religion Report* said that this growth has been largely among Pentecostal groups.



Not everyone was pleased with the church computerization.

Send Down The Rain, Lord!

A hillbilly, lying in the shade of a tree, was told by a passerby that his cabin was on fire. He replied, "I know it." "Then why don't you do something?" he was asked. His answer: "I am doing it. Been praying for rain ever since it started.

The Dream

I dreamed that the Lord took my Sunday contribution and multiplied it by ten and this became my weekly income. In no time we ran out of food, and had to give up our car. My family was wearing rags, and I couldn't make my house payment! *After all, what can a fellow do on $10.00 a week?*

Stars And Stripes Forever

A Dutch pastor was explaining the red, white and blue Netherlands flag to an American pastor. Said the first pastor, "Our flag is symbolic of our taxes. We get red when we talk about them, white when we get our tax bills, and blue after we pay them." The American nodded his understanding. "I know what you mean. It's the same in the U.S.A., only we see stars too."

Behavioral Problem

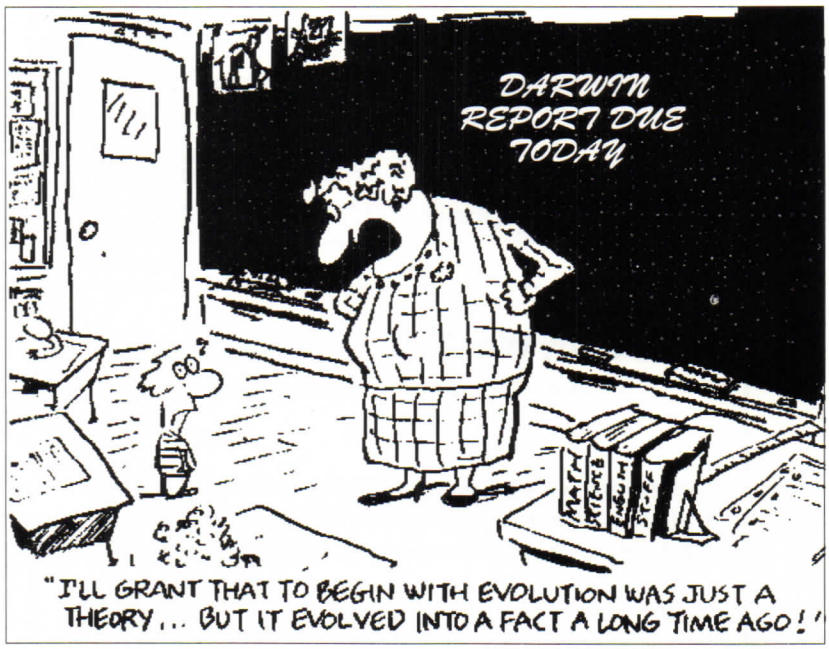
"Did you behave in church?" asked Junior's mother. "I sure did," Junior proudly responded. "You should have heard the lady sitting behind me say, 'I never saw a child behave like that before in all my life."

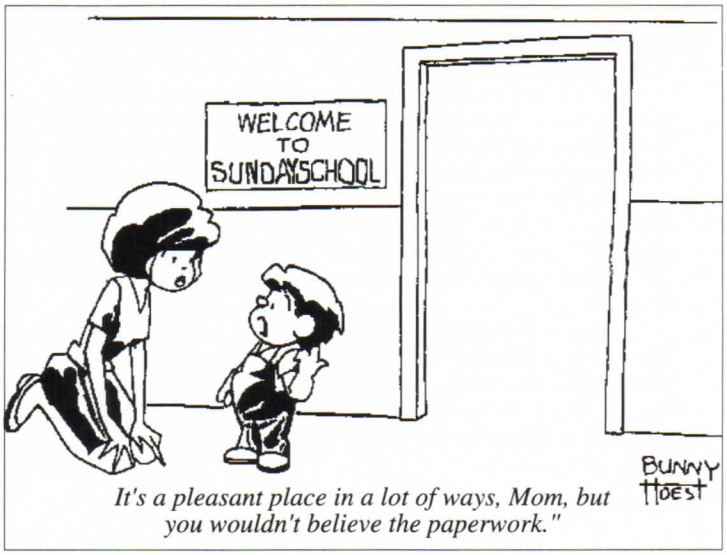
A Closer Walk

Uncle George, Aunt Sara and Mrs. Wood were sitting on the porch one summer afternoon. The two women began carrying on a long conversation, trying to impress each other with how religious they were. "I haven't missed going to church on Sunday for 40 years," said one. "Every night since I was a little girl, I've gotten down on my knees to pray before I go to sleep," said the other. They droned on and on until, finally, Aunt Sara turned to Uncle George and said, "We both know that Mrs. Wood is a good religious person, but don't you think I live a little closer to the Lord?" To which Uncle George replied , "I don't think either of you are crowding Him any."

Cleanliness Is Next To Godliness

A Sunday school teacher had been lecturing her class on spiritual and mental cleanliness. "You must keep your minds as clean as your bodies," she said. Then, to emphasize the point, she held up a bar of soap. "Uh-oh," whispered one lad to another. "Here comes the commercial."





It's a pleasant place in a lot of ways, Mom, but you wouldn't believe the paperwork."

God Likes Prunes

There was a little boy whose mother, when disciplining him, used to say, "God would not like that." And when the little boy really got out of hand, the mother would say, God will be angry." Usually these reminders were sufficient. But one evening at supper the youngster rebelled. He would not eat the prunes provided for dessert. He would yield neither to persuasion or warnings. Finally he was sent to his bed with the reminder that "God will be angry." Soon after the child had gone to bed, a violent thunderstorm arose and the mother went to her son's room to quiet him. She found him at the window, looking out at the terrible storm. "It's an awful fuss for God to make over a few prunes," the boy said.

A Woman's Place?

A young man went to work in a small town book store. The owner had a surplus stock of a certain book which he couldn't sell. The new clerk placed an ad in the local newspaper which advertised "an exciting book that every young woman should read, especially before she marries." The title was withheld for obvious reasons, but for only $10.00 the book would be sent in the mail. In less than a week, 46 eager patrons received a very good edition of The American Woman's Cook Book.

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Plainly Speaking: By J. R. Ensey

The Truth About Labels

(Continued from page five.)

labeling them. Jude especially waxed eloquent with labels.

Labels would not be necessary if we all walked by the same rule and minded the same thing, as Paul suggested in Philippians 3:16. But that was not the case then, nor is it now. The apostle went on to say, "Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. For as I have often told you ... many live as enemies of the cross of Christ" (Philippians 3:17, 18 NIV). To the Romans he wrote, "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them ... for by good works and fair speeches [they] deceive the hearts of the simple" (Romans 16:17, 18). Would "mark" involve labeling? Paul certainly did that when he called them "enemies." Have we been so reticent to do what he commanded, reveling in our diversity and pluralism, that it has contributed to the present dilemma?

Summary And Observations

Anyone can tolerate some shade of difference. Approach to evangelism or response to certain trends, even some lifestyle specifics (e.g., exact length of sleeves or certain recreational activities) may differ, but we ought to be unified at least on the stipulations of the UPCI manual.

This need for unity really becomes apparent when lay families are transferred to other cities. If there are several churches in that city, which will he recommend they attend? Theoretically, if they are all UPC churches, it shouldn't matter. But what pastor, be he liberal or conservative, believes that it *doesn't* matter? A pastor may pour himself into winning and discipling a family only to have them pick a church where TV's are allowed, the women cut their hair, the youth frequent professional ball games, and Christian rock is the music style in the services. Years of pastoral investment can become fruitless. What most pastors do is inform themselves about the churches and pastors in the new town so he can recommend one he feels will be consistent with his own teachings. At this point a label is apt to be used. That's not right or wrong, merely a fact of life. Everyone, without exception, uses labels when they are necessary or convenient.

We're all glad that pharmacies label medicines. They tell what's in the bottle - otherwise we may be exposed to grave danger. And if music tapes had no labels, one might not know if he was buying rock, country or gospel until he heard it.

I've often wondered if those who denounce labels the loudest do so because they do not want their views and positions to be commonly known. Are they out of step with the majority of the fellowship but do not wish to be perceived that way? Do they want the game but not the name? It's like the guy who says, "I want to gamble, but don't call me a gambler." Wasn't it Shakespeare who wrote, "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet"? Call it what you will, it is still a rose.

Labels are like the poor - they will be with us always. They are inevitable. We must be careful, however, to let ethics guide such judgments. Their use must ultimately serve the cause of truth and righteousness. We must not forget to be truthful and honorable when dealing with another man's name or reputation.

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