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**PLAINLY SPEAKING:**  
Bro. Charles Grisham speaks out on the subject of "The Ministry of Reconciliation."



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**APOSTOLIC NEWS:**  
Bro. Talmadge French joins the teaching staff of Indiana Bible College. Plus more Apostolic News.

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# I. B. C. PERSPECTIVES

Apostolic Information Service

Vol. 4, No. 9

**Wayne Mitchell:**

# Suffer

# The

# Children



*Above: Children are a key focal point of the ministry of Bro. Wayne Mitchell at Whole Truth Tabernacle in Silvis, Illinois. Bro. Mitchell's philosophy is that children should be reached for the sake of their own souls, and not just as a way of reaching adults. However, Bro. Mitchell stresses that if we take care of reaching children, often the other areas - such as parent evangelism - will take care of themselves. Seen in the above picture are member's of the church's Boy Scout troop, one of many children's ministries operating at Whole Truth.*

*Left: Bro. Wayne Mitchell, pastor of Whole Truth Tabernacle in Silvis, Illinois. Bro. Mitchell is well-known through the Apostolic movement for his unique Sunday school program and is recognized as an expert on church growth.*

By Richard C. Brown

I have always believed, and I still believe, that an important key to revival and growth are children." Pastor Wayne Mitchell of Silvis, IL makes this comment with conviction. Indeed, as one discusses church growth with this pastor who is forever behind a bow tie, one senses that children are a vital part of his evangelistic philosophy. Or, as he himself says, "If we don't reach the children, we've lost the battle. That's why our emphasis ought to be first on kids; the other areas will often take care of themselves."

### A Heart For Children

Bro. Mitchell has always had a heart for children, and this love of kids has served him well. Largely because of his Sunday school, Bro. Mitchell has taken the congregation at Whole Truth Tabernacle in Moline from a size of 36 to about a thousand during his 30-year tenure.

Perhaps his burden for children stems from Bro. Mitchell's own background. Coming from a home missions pastor's family, Mitchell understands the value of an early influence by the church. "My father started twelve home missions churches, so I lived in 14 states before I even got married. What's more, the Lord called me to preach when I was just a boy. I preached my first sermon when I was just fifteen." As a result, the Missouri-born preacher's kid saw first-hand the need to reach people during their youth.

Later in his youth, Bro. Mitchell attended Apostolic College in Tulsa, OK, and later went to Apostolic Bible Institute in St. Paul, graduating in 1957. From there he went straight into evangelistic work. Not surprisingly, during that time, Mitchell's evangelistic work focused somewhat on youth. "I was into children's work, vacation Bible schools, that kind of thing. And then I'd preach revival services every night."

Mitchell then started a church in Gadsden, AL, and later, in 1959, he and his brother, Charles, went to Quincy, IL. "As soon as we got that church to where it was running about sixty, we left. While I was there, I went into business for myself operating a truck stop. We sold no tobacco, had no pinball machines, no jukeboxes, and we were closed on Sundays. Yet in six months, we were still number one out of fifty stations.

"But finally, God spoke to me and told me to go to Moline [where the Silvis church was originally located]. The Lord had originally spoken to  
*(Continued on page three)*



Royce Elms  
Pastor  
Amarillo, TX

There are two sides to the issue of "closed cities," both of which need to be considered. First, if an individual is pastoring in a city with a million people and he doesn't want any more churches coming in, he does not have a proper Scriptural understanding regarding reaching the lost.

Even when you get down to a city of about 100,000, a city can still use four to 10 churches.

Unfortunately, what happens is that some pastors develop a protectionist type of attitude. These pastors want to protect their territory either from unqualified men or from qualified men who might outshine them. In these instances, we need to begin to educate our young men to be open to others coming into the city and everybody working toward the same goal.

But there's another side, too. One problem you encounter many times is to have unqualified individuals who want to go into a city. Those people then become more of a detriment than a blessing to the Kingdom. And sometimes these new churches become a haven for disgruntled saints of other area churches.

Normally, if I'm a home missionary going  
*(Continued on page 14)*



## Closed Cities: Is One Church Enough?

**AIS VIEW:** Most larger metropolitan cities could easily use several Apostolic churches to win the area residents. Pastors in these cities should welcome other God-called ministers to help reach the lost.



Curtis Young  
Pastor  
Baton Rouge, LA

From my perspective, I sometimes wonder why a man would want to go into a city to start a church if the city already has an Apostolic church. There are many, many cities without an Apostolic witness. And so, in light of the soon-coming of the Lord and the need to get out the Gospel, I can't believe it is the will of God for us to nest in one area. Instead, we should go into one of those places that don't have any Apostolic church at all.

It is counter-productive to pool all of our resources in one place. After Pearl Harbor, five congressional investigations determined that our major mistake that allowed the Japanese to catch us by surprise was to put so many of our battleships in one place. Likewise, in this endtime, rather than pooling all our energy in one place, we should be spreading ourselves around the world. There are hundreds of cities on the east coast alone - with sixty to a hundred thousand people - without a church!

I am absolutely in favor of spreading the Gospel, but I am in favor of putting our people where the witness is needed. If somebody tells me that he has a burden for the Kingdom of God, but that he is going into a city that is already well-reached by another church, I have to wonder where his vision is.



Tim Bailey  
Pastor  
Anderson, IN



Scott Carley  
Pastor  
Lubbock, TX



Danny Russo  
Home Missions Director  
Lufkin, TX



Donald Hanscom  
Pastor  
Kingston, ON, Canada



Tracy Noel  
Pastor  
Bloomington, IN



Wayne Huntley  
Pastor  
Raleigh, NC

I haven't heard of too many instances of pastors refusing to let other pastors start churches in their cities. But if this is happening, they need to remember that our mission is to reach the lost. There should always be an open door to do this. We have to look at the big picture. But the new pastor needs to be ethical and not build a work from another man's labors.

I wouldn't want a district to close a qualified minister out from being able to go into a city. If a man has been called by God to a particular city, we shouldn't negate that. But that minister must use proper ethics and not steal saints. Ultimately, the district must have the right, however, to encourage a minister to go to a different city.

We went at this issue by looking at our district with a church-to-population ratio. We found that the average for Texas is one church for about every 30,000 people. But then we showed through statistics that we had some cities with one church for every 97,000. That caused men to start thinking about which areas really need a church.

Often pastors are afraid they will lose some of their congregation to a new church opening up. But my experience has been that if you have people who want to leave, you're better off to let them. If everybody would be conscious of maintaining proper ethics and communications with each other, that fear of new churches would be gone.

Five years ago, I heard of a situation where an older, established church really disliked the thought of another church being started in its city. This usually happens because people are fearful of newcomers and don't properly understand God's Kingdom. Pastors need to communicate better and develop a greater awareness of the needs of the city.

If a man is turned down by the district board for starting a church in a city, he should submit himself to the board and ask the Lord to redirect him. Often the board knows of certain factions within the present church that might migrate to a new church. The best answer to the problem of closed cities is for the current church to mother a new work.

# Wayne Mitchell: Suffer The Children

(Continued from page one)

me about Moline back when I was only 16. So finally, in 1964, we took the church there."

## Rough Around The Edges

When Bro. and Sis. Mitchell first arrived in Moline, they did not exactly find a glamour church. "They owed a lot of money, and were desperately trying to get out of debt. We had no parking lot and we had to finish the pews ourselves. We had about 36 in Sunday school the first Sunday, and many of those people left as soon as we got there."

Immediately, the Mitchells started planning. "We worked out a whole prospectus - a plan to become debt free. People started giving fifty cents a week until we could get ourselves loose from our debt. Suffice it to say that revival started, and by the end of that first year, we were operating in the black. We stayed that way almost four years, and during that time, brought Sunday school attendance up to about two hundred."

During the years, the facilities at Whole Truth Tabernacle have shown the evidences of steady growth. The auditorium in their first building held about 150 - 200 people. "Eventually we gutted it out clear to the back wall so that it would seat about three or four hundred. Then we bought five houses behind us, and filled them up with Sunday school classes."

In only a few years, Mitchell's congregation outgrew the expanded auditorium. They built a new facility in 1978. "We have 17 acres here. We came here averaging about 400, and we've more than doubled our attendance since being here. In this facility, our whole downstairs uses an open classroom concept with moveable petitions. We currently have about fifteen classes there. Our current facility will seat about 1,000 comfortably; we've had as many as 1,250."

## Sunday School: A Key To Growth

Not surprisingly, Bro. Mitchell credits his Sunday school for much of his growth. But Sunday school at Whole Truth Tabernacle is unlike most any other church.

"The whole structure of our church is built on the Sunday school. We divide our church kids from the Sunday school kids. So now we have a Child Development program geared toward the church kids. In there, we teach them practical Christianity. But the unsaved bus ministry kids, every week, they learn about the plan of salvation."

To the casual observer, it

might appear that the bus children are just playing. But Bro. Mitchell stresses that something far deeper is taking place.

"We have an open concept in our Sunday school. If you got up on a ladder, you could then see into each classroom area. Because what we have is one large open area with many learning



Above: Evangelism is the thrust of most of Bro. Wayne Mitchell's Sunday sermons.

centers operating at the same time. Each area has a particular activity theme that is somehow tied into the lesson theme. So we put the child in one area and he stays in that area for the lesson. Then he later comes out for crafts, worship, or what-

ever. We make the Sunday school process so exciting that once a child comes, he wants to come back.

"For example, we might have an Indian theme with Indian tents and tools. The kids would then have class in the tent, and the teacher would come to class dressed like an Indian. Or we might have a class in the boys' area where we have a partly assembled car. You see, each center's theme changes every three months. What we are doing is getting into the child's world."

Evangelism, Mitchell said, is the constant thrust of this Sunday school program. "Every Sunday morning, we have a lesson climax and prayer time. The whole group of Sunday school students are praying at one time. The teachers have got everything timed so that prayer breaks out simultaneously in every area. Then, we fish out of that group those kids who are touched, and the teachers bring them to the altar upstairs."

"In many churches, Sunday school teachers feel like they own their classes. Our teachers don't feel that way. To us, it's like a football team with everybody working together."

## Is Your Car Saved?

If Sunday school has been Mitchell's key to growth, then his bus and car ministry has been the key to the Sunday school's success.

"Immediately upon coming here, we started making personal contacts. That's been our path to growth. We divided the city up into different areas, and we put a captain over each area, and we began knocking doors every week. We started with about five workers on Saturday morning. By the end of the second year, we had 95 workers."

Now, Mitchell said, the city has been divided into ten areas. And through time, the "bus" ministry has evolved into a car ministry.

"We were condemned in our area by other religious movements that had used the bus ministry for their advantage, and we were out-doing them. Consequently, since they had people working at vehicle inspection stations, they started condemning our buses for minor infractions. They shut me completely down one night, but I had the mayor make some telephone calls, and by seven o'clock, we were back out there scraping off those red 'condemned' tags from the windows."

Still, this brought to Mitchell's attention the need to begin using individuals' cars to bring people to

(Continued on page 14)



Above: At the conclusion of Sunday school sessions, all the children and youth gather for a time of group worship with the adults.

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# The Ministry Of Reconciliation

AIS CONVERSATION With Charles Grisham

**E**ditor's note: Pastor Charles Grisham of Detroit, MI has served the Apostolic church in many capacities during his lifetime of ministry. Going from home missions pastor to revival pastor, his wisdom is in frequent demand on subjects ranging from soul-winning to solving church conflicts. Recently, Bro. Grisham spoke with AIS on a variety of ministry-related topics. Excerpts of his remarks are printed below:

## On Where A Minister's Focus Should Be:

The place we need to focus our attention is on reconciliation. The ministry needs to understand what the ministry of reconciliation is and how it is to be exercised. The Gospel is supposed to reconcile me to God, and it's also supposed to reconcile us to each other. Remember that Jesus said others would know us as His disciples by the love we have for each other. If people don't see that love in us, then the Gospel will have little, if any, effect on anybody else.

This then sums up our whole ministry. Our purpose is to try to get people to God. We reconcile people to God. And then we bring others to ourselves; that is, we must continue to be reconciled with one another.

## On His Philosophy Of Ministry:

There is a principle I try to live by, which involves three areas. I try to do these three things every day.

First, I try to touch God every day. This means I spend time in prayer and in Bible study. It's of the utmost importance that we have this daily communion with the Lord.

Second, each day I try to work on a project that will help others or that will communicate the love of God to others. This could be anything from a sermon, a tract, or a booklet. It's a project that I think will have a lasting effect on people and will benefit them in some way. Even when I'm dead and gone, a project such as this can continue to minister to people. So I try to make this one of my daily goals.

Third, I try to touch people every day. I personally write between five to 20 letters every day. Plus I make a lot of phone calls. I do whatever is necessary to stay in touch with others. If we can touch people every day with kindness, love, friendship and the Gospel, we are helping to fulfill our calling to a ministry of reconciliation.

To sum it up, I focus on these three areas in an effort to build relationships with others and with God. It's all part of that ministry of reconcili-

ation that we strive for.

## On Motivating Saints To Win Souls:

The first step in motivating people is to get them to look away from themselves and their own needs and looking instead to Jesus - His person, His life, His purpose. The more we get our eyes off of each other and onto the Lord, the more we will be able to draw others to Him. In the process, we'll draw ourselves nearer to Him.

Second, the pastor has to be involved in evangelism with the saints. Lead them into it. When I was a home missionary pastor, I would have an informal get-together with those saints who were interested in teaching home Bible studies. I'd set up a tape recorder and play a tape of a lesson I'd taught recently. I would serve cookies and coffee and let these people hear how to teach. We'd do that for about a half hour and then I'd pray with them. I'd also pass out prospect cards of those who were interested in home Bible studies and give each of them an assignment. Then the next week, I checked on each of their results.

This, after all, was Jesus' master plan of evangelism. He would first show the disciples how to do it. Then He sent them forth on their own, but even then, He made them come back and report to Him personally on their results. He didn't just tell them to go. He gave them simple assignments and demanded accountability.

One of the best management techniques I know of is called *The One Minute Manager*. It's a technique that works well for pastors and church leaders. It's based on short, simple assignments and quick rewards. Using this approach, if you give somebody an assignment Tuesday night, they would then check back with you on Friday. The idea is to let only a short time pass between the time when you make the assignment and when you check up on its progress. When it's completed, you give the person recognition in the form of either a concrete reward, a pat on the back, or just a verbal word of recognition. If you don't use an approach similar to this, you might give an assignment and yet never know if the person ever did it.

## On Methods Of Evangelism:

The best outreach methods are those that utilize a one-on-one approach. That's why home Bible study and tract ministry work so well.

A few years ago, some statistics found that 47 percent of those who became members of evangelical churches were won through one-on-one evangelism. It wasn't through radio or television,



but through individuals reaching other individuals. And 62 percent of that 47 percent were either close friends or relatives.

So usually, those who are not making new friends will never win souls. If you want to win souls, never stop winning friends.

## On The Need For An Evangelistic Plan:

The pastor needs to have a plan within the church concerning his services. Here's what I've found works in most situations.

First, Wednesday night Bible study is often the best time for a long-range schedule of things to teach. In other words, you should have a plan of subjects that will be taught several weeks or months in advance. This way, rather than responding to immediate needs, you're heading off problems and serving people's long-term spiritual needs. An approach like this forces the preacher to study and the people to follow.

Then, Sunday morning is usually the best service to win new people, since more people will be there Sunday morning than at any other time. And Sunday night is often a good time to strengthen the local church. Now this approach doesn't mean that God can't move in a sovereign way and use one of the services how He wants. It just means you should always have a plan. This approach keeps you from focusing too much on an isolated problem that comes up in the church. You can't spend your time fighting every single problem that comes up one at a time. All things can't be resolved in a church, but all things *can* be reconciled.

AIS

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Bro. Charles Grisham is the pastor of New Life Apostolic Church in Detroit, Michigan. A pastor of a revival church, Bro. Grisham is in frequent demand as a conference speaker.

**IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION:**

for any of these columnists, please address it to AIS Managing Editor, P.O. Box 47917, Indianapolis, IN 46247. Or call (800)800-AIS.



Owen Taylor

**LEGAL**

*Some recent court rulings have me confused. Could you please fill me in on the current rulings concerning the contributions of persons who go bankrupt. Should my church be concerned about this issue?*

This issue is very disturbing to me and other lawyers in the field and should disturb you as well.

Basically, the issue has come up in a few scattered cases. Most notable has been a case in the Midwest that concerned a parishioner who had paid tithes on his income and then filed for bankruptcy. The court ruled that the tithe paid was to be paid back into the bankruptcy estate by the recipient church. The case is under appeal. In other cases seven charities have been ordered to return over \$500,000 given by a bankrupt individual.

Under bankruptcy laws debtors may not give away their property to avoid paying debtors. Such transfers are acceptable, however, if the debtor receives something in return. The court ruled that the argument by the charities that they used the money for charitable purposes did not count.

The implications of these decisions is sobering. Must churches and charities put aside money that may have to be given back? Must the church conduct a background check on contributors to see who may be going bankrupt? What if the money is already spent? These cases are all under appeal and the law is, therefore, unsettled. Pray for the wisdom and good sense of the appeals courts.

Owen Taylor is an attorney specializing in church-related issues. For specific legal advice, you can reach Bro. Taylor at (410)757-8080 or by writing Apostolic Law Association, 1304 Harmony Lane, Annapolis, MD 21401.



Paul Mooney

**MINISTRY**

*What should be the church's response to the rapidly-changing technologies of the so-called "Information Age?"*

"Your mind is going to be re-invented!" So stated the over-bright promotional letters on the side of a package I saw recently. The box held the latest release of yet another multi-media CD-ROM disk for the computer. Targeted at young people, many of these new, sophisticated programs are indeed dedicated to re-inventing the mind.

Like a flash of lightning, whole new worlds of communication have exploded upon our world. Intricate games using advanced graphics are now pulling the minds of millions of young people into a world of mystical, strange, and supernatural creatures who are living in "other worlds" where the rules are drastically changed. These super personalities propose new concepts of ethics and religion. The computer allows the player to interact with profound minds (unknown to the user) who have clear agendas that challenge the values of the user.

The point is this: Numerous and amazing tools are now being employed by the world to attract and, as the promo suggested, to re-invent the mind. So what shall we do? The only way the church can compete and impact this increasingly complex world is, in my opinion, to remain proactive in every area, especially in our emphasis on the Holy Ghost. We must get on the offensive in proclaiming our message rather than remaining constantly on the defensive. Backward, narrow, or fearful attitudes, if I may be so bold, simply won't get it done. The Spirit is our power, hope, joy, peace and righteousness. Either Jesus leads or we're lost. The people of God must relinquish all self-interest. By this Spirit alone can we hope to give our children a future guided by Christian principles and Christian hope.



O.C. Marler

**FAMILY**

*It seems like my wife and I are forever arguing about money and how it should be spent. Doesn't the Bible clearly say that the man is the head of the house? My wife works and brings home a substantial percentage of our income. For this reason she thinks she should have an equal voice in how it is spent.*

In answer to your question: Yes, the Bible places this responsibility upon the husband. However, along with this announcement the Apostle Paul gave a charge to husbands. Ephesians 5:23-25 states that in order for the husband to be the head, he must love his wife "as Christ loved the church."

Possibly a good place to start learning about how to be the head of the house is to read the account of Calvary. But the Biblical instructions go further. Paul said that Christ "gave himself for [the church]." A man cannot be selfish. He must give himself for his home.

Christ is the head of the husband. The husband is the number one channel for the authority of God to flow down through to the wife and then to the children. If the husband cannot accept God's authority over him, then he cannot expect those under him to accept his authority over them.

Actually the man becomes a leader - not a dictator. All good leaders have a goal, or a destination, in mind. A leader should be taking his followers somewhere. He has a vision to impart. He helps mold people, not into what he wants, but into what God wants.

So, based on the Scripture, a man will take into consideration the fact that his wife is also a bread winner, and his respect for her will be so great that he will not make so many demands upon her. That is all a part of his leadership adjustment.



Tim Massengale

**OUTREACH**

*I've heard you say many times that the most successful evangelism is friends witnessing to friends. But how can I motivate my saints to witness more?*

Good question! You might try a simple little ministry called Constant Contact Consciousness (or the "CCC" ministry for short).

Constant Contact Consciousness means exactly what the name implies: being constantly conscious of the need to contact people for the Lord. It is a simple, yet highly effective method to encourage your people to give their personal

testimony and share the Word of God.

The ministry of CCC is quite simple. Here's how to make it effective:

1) Constant Contact Consciousness should not be a separate department, but should come under the Outreach Department. You may, though, wish to appoint a CCC coordinator to work under the outreach director.

2) Start the ministry by having a large supply of CCC slips printed and handing one out to all church members on a major service night. Then explain the following facts to the congregation. First, explain that involvement in CCC does not mean you are committing to witness to a certain number each week, but you are simply committing to fill out a CCC slip each week, whether you have witnessed to anyone or not. Next, tell them that nobody will ever say anything to them if they

have failed to witness. This is entirely between them and God. The Lord will convict them if and when they need it. Finally, tell them that a contact is more than just an invitation to church, but is rather the sharing of one's personal experience.

4) Each Sunday morning, the CCC coordinator will personally hand a slip to everyone involved in the ministry. They should then fill it out and drop it in the offering plate.

5) The pastor should be sure to take note of the total and comment on it regularly. This becomes an excellent gauge of a church's spiritual condition.

To have a "constant contact consciousness" should be the goal of every child of God. It is time we face up to the fact that millions will continue to die in their sins until we meet this challenge.

MORALITY

## Libraries Offering R-Rated Movies

Public libraries are becoming the primary source of videos for many children and teens according to the August issue of *Indiana Citizen*. The reason: Most libraries offer unrestricted access even to rated R and NC-17 films.

It was October of 1993 that Indiana and other states began looking at their policies

concerning loaning movies to kids. One concerned parent discovered a movie entitled "Erotic Celebrations" and expressed her concern to the library board, which promptly banned the movie.

Still, according *Indiana Citizen*, that's only the tip of the iceberg.

"Video stores and public movie theaters are held responsible for what they sell under Indiana law. However, libraries, public schools and museums are not." The result is that most larger libraries offer access to movies of all sorts. In fact, most states have laws exempting these institutions from prosecution for dissemination of harmful materials to minors.

While some conservative groups are challenging children's access to adult movies, civil libertarians argue that libraries should not censor the material available to their patrons, children or not.

RELIGION

## Anti-Oneness Group Under Fire

The Christian Research Institute, an anti-cult group which frequently attacks Oneness Pentecostalism, is under attack itself these days. According to the October issue of *Charisma*, CRI president, Hank Hanegraaff is under fire for alleged ethical violations. Among the alleged ethical problems:

- ♦ Former CRI employee Brad Sparks has filed suit against Hanegraaff, charging that the ministry's director withdrew from the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) in 1992 so that he could keep royalties from his bestselling book, *Christianity in Crisis*. ECFA guidelines do not allow ministry leaders to receive royalties from products that are used for fund-raising or promotional purposes.

- ♦ Several other former staff members have now formed the "Group for CRI Accountability." The group has asked Hanegraaff to resign from his position because he has allegedly misused ministry funds and taken CRI in a different direction from founder Dr. Walter Martin's intended direction.

- ♦ One allegation floating around by former CRI staffers, according to *Charisma*, is that Hanegraaff secretly borrowed money from CRI as a downpayment on his \$731,000 home. Hanegraaff denies the charges.

Hanegraaff is best-known as an anti-cult apologist. One of his favorite targets has been the United Pentecostal Church. The CRI director tells callers to his daily *Bible Answer Man* radio program to avoid the UPC because of its "cultic" tendencies and denial of the Trinity.

MORALITY

## AT&T Supporting Gay Marriages

Long-distance carrier AT&T is calling on employees to support laws making homosexual marriages legal. The call was issued at a recent conference of LEAGUE (Lesbian Bisexual and Gay United Employees at AT&T).

During the conference in Boston, company CEO Jerry Stead asked employees to help make a legal definition of marriage that would include same-sex partnerships. Concerning people who might object, John Mellor, an AT&T spokesman, said, "Anyone with that kind of attitude [i.e., objecting to homosexuality] has to lose it."

This is not the first time AT&T has actively supported gay rights. The company has through the years presented "homophobia workshops" to corporate managers and was also a major backer of the Gay Games IV and Cultural Festival held in New York last June.

CHURCH & STATE

## EEOC Won't Ban Religious Talk

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission voted 3-0 on September 19 to withdraw employment guidelines that would have banned "religious harassment" at the workplace. AIS reported in May that many felt the new guidelines could have made witnessing at work illegal.

The vote came after several weeks of pressure from conservative groups. The Family Research Council first made the proposed guidelines public to Christian groups, spawning thousands of calls and letters each week. FRC president Gary Bauer called the vote "a great victory for common sense."

MEDIA

## TV A Problem In Great Britain Too

If you think that America is alone in suffering the decaying effects of television, think again. Surveys show that, like in the States, British TV habits allow children to "detach themselves" too much from the family.

Recent statistics have given an idea of the extent of TV-viewing in the country. Five out of six British people claim to watch television every day, while only two percent indicate they never watch it. Average viewing time for Brits: three hours a day. Also, nearly half of all households report having at least two TV sets. Recently, Lord Young of Dartington, founder of the Economic and Social Research Council, commented on the TV phenomenon, "This disintegration has sometimes gone so far that the members of the family may rarely even eat together."

AMERICAN LIFE

## Warning: This Book Is A Bible

Don't be surprised if you find Bibles with a warning sticker attached at hotels in Madison, WI. As a protest, members of the Freedom From Religion Foundation are placing stickers on Gideon Bibles to send a message to hotel guests in the city.

One such sticker warns against taking the Bible literally, while another asserts that Gideon was a mass murderer. Commented FFRF spokesman Dan Barker, a former Pentecostal pastor: "We're offended to have these Bibles in our rooms." The Nashville-based Gideons International has warned the group to stop placing stickers on the Bibles, citing possible trademark infringement.

## News In Brief...

- ♦ The sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati has upheld a federal district judge's ruling that Bloomingdale (MI) High School can no longer display a portrait of Jesus in its hall.
- ♦ News Network International reports that five Christians were crucified in Sudan between July and September.
- ♦ U.S. District Judge Henry Wingate has struck down a Mississippi school prayer law, saying that prayer has no place in public schools other than at graduations.

## Merced School Of Theology

**P**reaching is not the only way to win souls and make your church grow. Through his School of Theology, Bro. William Yandris of Merced, CA has found that teaching the Word is often the perfect recipe for winning people, particularly from other denominations.

Merced School of Theology is an outreach of First Apostolic Tabernacle, pastored by Bro. Yandris. Started last year, the School, when in session, meets each Thursday night from 7:30 to 8:30. During that time, in a straight lecture format, Bro. Yandris teaches on Bible topics designed to win people with a prior interest in the Bible. Because of the format, Yandris said, it's perfect for people from a religious background. And, he said, it is purposely a more academic style setting than most church outreaches.

"There is no pulpit or platform," Yandris said. "I go into a classroom. It's much more like a college atmosphere rather than a church atmosphere. The reason I do it this way is that it's non-threatening in this type of atmosphere. Also this way, it's easier for our people to witness to sinners. Instead of trying to get them to come to a regular church service, they just tell them to come to our school of theology."

The classroom is set up with tables and a worksheet by each chair, with a pencil nearby. "To eliminate questions," Yandris pointed out, "I have cards in the



William Yandris

corner of the classroom. That way, they can write out their questions and I can spend my time teaching."

Yandris starts his lessons on non-threatening subjects and gradually gets into those pertaining to Apostolic doctrine.

"In my lessons, I have a level one which people complete and then get a certificate. Then on level two, they get a certificate, and then there's a level three. On the first level, I start out with prayer and go for five weeks on that. This catches their attention. Then I go into eschatology and once they're hooked, I go into Monotheism, Jesus' name baptism and the New Birth. I start out with the not-so-controversial subjects and gradually move them into subjects pertaining to salvation."

Yandris and the congregation

promote interest in the School of Theology in several ways. He pins up a large sign every Thursday night to attract passers-by. Yandris also makes School of Theology business cards available for distribution. And he also requires each student to bring a visitor as a fourth of their grade in the class.

Bro. Yandris reports good results from the School:

"It has really boomed. At times, we would have 20 and 30 visitors every week, without even pushing the program. Every week, there were at least five or 10 newcomers." And, said Yandris, many are being saved as well. "These people start wanting to come to church after about the third or fourth lesson. It's just automatic."

"I can remember two young men who came from a Charismatic church. Somebody told them about the School of Theology, and they started coming. In the first four or five weeks, they were really contentious. As time went on, they started seeing that they were not right. Eventually, they were both baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. They in turn brought people that we've won since then. We've won many, many like that."

Anybody wishing to start a ministry similar to the Merced School of Theology may contact Bro. Yandris at (209)722-8704 for advice. Or write him at 1354 Tina Ave., Merced, CA 95340.

global expansion of Oneness Pentecostalism. I've attempted to defend its message from the vantage point that it is a growing, exciting movement. While that itself doesn't prove it's right, it does say a lot about it as a movement."

In addition, French has done a significant number of theological papers defending Jesus' name baptism and Oneness doctrine.

"I wrote a paper for the Symposium on Oneness Pentecostalism that was entitled 'Oneness Pentecostalism in Global Perspective.' It was a study of 350 Oneness organizations.

"Then I wrote another paper for them on the holiness position of the U.P.C." Currently, French is also writing a history of the Oneness movement in the 20th Century.

Still, said French, few of the things that he is involved in com-

### EVANGELISM

## WordNet

**D**on't look now, but Apostolic radio and publishing are about to meet the media-savvy 1990s. While much of religious media is becoming antiquated, WordNet is seeking to spark revival through contemporary radio broadcasts and their graphically appealing *Apostolic World Report*.

At its heart, WordNet is a group of Oneness ministers who have expressed

an interest in international radio evangelism. "Our goal," according to WordNet president Curtis



Curtis Young

Young, "is to see that the gospel is propagated all around the world in a national language radio program." Their first program is a 30 minute Spanish-language program with Bro. T.W. Drost speaking to a potential audience of over 200,000. "We hope eventually to establish a French speaking program to cover French speaking nations.

"This type of program," Young continued, "is designed to make it possible for our missionaries to be the speakers, so as to be another tool in their hands to reach their areas."

A bi-monthly color newspaper is the second tool of WordNet. "Apostolic World Report is styled after USA

(Continued on page 14)

pare to the challenge of Bible college work.

"I welcome the opportunity to train young people to be effective ministers, to start churches, to preach, win the lost, have integrity, and to make a mark for the Apostolic message.

"This is the most exciting thing I've ever done. It's exciting to be able to pastor and yet at the same time to come to Indiana Bible College and work with young people a few hours each week."

### BIBLE COLLEGES

## Talmadge French Joins Indiana Bible College

**A** man recognized as a scholar within the Apostolic movement has joined the teaching staff at Indiana Bible College in Indianapolis.

Bro. Talmadge French, who is teaching Bible and research classes, earned his masters de-



The French Family

gree in New Testament from Wheaton College in Wheaton, IL. Before that, he earned his B.A. in Language Studies from the same school.

Bro. Wheaton currently pastors First Pentecostal Church in Wheaton, a church he founded in 1983. He has gained nationwide exposure, however, for his research into Apostolic doctrine and history.

"Most of my academic writing has been on the Oneness movement," French said. "Especially the



**I**ndiana Bible College maintains a growing electronic database of research and Bible study files to assist pastors, students and church leaders. Access to all files in the database is free to AIS subscribers. Files can be accessed by modem by dialing (317) 781-7700 or by voice telephone at (800)800-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

EVGE19.TXT	23546	<b>This Is Your Year For Deliverance.</b> Great sermon on freedom from spiritual bondage.
EVPR30.TXT	14681	<b>Cities Of Israel.</b> Interesting study of cities in Israel and how they relate to the Second Coming.
EVPR31.TXT	4043	<b>The Woman And The Man-Child.</b> Prophetic message examining the Man-Child of Revelation.
EVPR99.TXT	7611	<b>Glory Of The Son Of Man.</b> Message about the glory that will be Christ's at His next coming.
INIL52.TXT	48564	<b>Sermon Quotes.</b> A good collection of quotes to use in your sermons and Bible studies.
INIL53.TXT	3867	<b>The True Worth Of A Pastor.</b> Stop to calculate the pastor's worth based on all his duties. Good!
INIL54.TXT	1553	<b>Who Is Responsible?</b> Illustration demonstrating the need for responsible Christians.
INIL56.TXT	3222	<b>Stupid Questions.</b> Hilarious collection of actual lawyers' questions. Great sermon illustrations!
INIL64.TXT	2697	<b>Helping Each Other.</b> The need to be brothers to one another is clearly spelled out in this article.
INIL65.TXT	6708	<b>Two Sides Of Success.</b> There is a negative aspect to success. This helpful article examines it.
INSD24.TXT	3902	<b>Don't Be What You Ain't.</b> God needs people to be themselves. Good inspirational material.
INSD25.TXT	1152	<b>Devotional Prayer.</b> Excellent prayer for encouragement.
INSD26.TXT	1756	<b>Commentary On Preaching.</b> The need for God-called preachers is examined.
INSD30.TXT	8356	<b>Seizing The Moment.</b> Good article that says spiritual things are too important to postpone.
INSD31.TXT	3625	<b>The Pastor's Heart.</b> Very interesting look inside the heart of a pastor in a poetic style.
PRDS01.TXT	12055	<b>Prayer Is Work.</b> Prayer is not a task to be entered into lightly, but with diligence.



### new controversial issues files

ISAB10.TXT	15761	<b>God And Abortion.</b> A proper understanding of Scripture shows that God hates abortion.
ISAB11.TXT	22759	<b>The Decision Of Life.</b> Compelling article that shows the stages of fetal development.
ISAB12.TXT	33870	<b>Crisis Pregnancies.</b> The church is responsible for helping those in crisis situations.
ISMD04.TXT	11904	<b>Warper Of Men's Attitudes.</b> Article that shows how pornography changes men's attitudes.
THBS22.TXT	9715	<b>Bible Translations: A Church Concern?</b> Analyzes the question: "Is It KJV Or Nothing?"
THQU26.TXT	31621	<b>Easter Errors.</b> Interesting study of some non-Biblical concepts associated with Easter.
THQU32.TXT	26092	<b>Christians And Politics.</b> A look at the pros and cons of Christians' involvement in politics.
THQU34.TXT	37958	<b>Women In The Ministry?</b> The author looks at the controversial subject of women preachers.



### new family life files

FAFA01.TXT	4727	<b>What Makes A Dad?</b> The ingredients for being a successful father.
FAFA02.TXT	44194	<b>Daddy's Home.</b> Article on a father's need to spend time with his children.
FAGE01.TXT	75598	<b>A Case For Adoption.</b> In-depth discussion of the benefits and need for adoption.
CSPA05.TXT	5506	<b>Are We Cheating Our Kids?</b> Our children are becoming theologically illiterate. Good article!



### new church management files

LTIR21.TXT	7358	<b>What To Do If You're Audited.</b> Helpful advice for surviving the I.R.S.
LTIR22.TXT	4250	<b>Dealing With The IRS.</b> Pastors' advice on lining up with tax guidelines.
LTIR23.TXT	4410	<b>Cutting Through IRS Red Tape.</b> Making effective use of the Problem Resolution Office.
LTIR24.TXT	5749	<b>Social Security Tax Traps.</b> Tips for avoiding problems with social security taxes.
PAGE12.TXT	1047	<b>20 Don'ts For Young Pastors.</b> Great list of ways to avoid creating problems for yourself.
PAGE13.TXT	19353	<b>Crisis Pregnancy Centers.</b> An excellent way to minister to troubled ladies in your area.
PAPM06.TXT	10014	<b>The Value Of A Brother.</b> How to avoid letting offenses destroy your ministry.
PAPM08.TXT	14400	<b>An Effective Ministry.</b> Traits that generally are present in a successful ministry.
PAPM09.TXT	12870	<b>An Effective Worship Leader.</b> Characteristics that should mark your service leader.
CTCC07.TXT	17983	<b>The Computer's Place In The Church.</b> Ways a computer makes a church run more smoothly.



### new computer software files

EDHS15.EXE	281188	<b>Career Planner.</b> Program that helps your young people learn about potential careers.
EDTT04.EXE	264581	<b>Grade Book Power.</b> "Power" is the key word in this outstanding teacher's gradebook program.
HPMP10.EXE	397777	<b>Zip Code Book.</b> Great tool for those who write a lot of letters. Requires VBRUN300 to run.
HPMP11.EXE	465617	<b>All Media Library For Windows.</b> Easy way to keep track of cassettes, CDs, books, videos, etc.
BICM19.EXE	101149	<b>The Phone Center.</b> Great program that makes telephoning an easier task in many ways.
BICM18.EXE	431741	<b>Executive Assistant For Windows.</b> Powerful address book with point-and-click ease.

CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS ONLINE!



# A.C.T.S. Computer Network



**W**e hear a lot of talk these days about the "Information Superhighway," and how it will revolutionize everything from science and industry to research and education. Now, the Association of Christian Teachers and Schools is pleased to announce that Christian school teachers, supervisors and administrators can get on the cutting edge of this information breakthrough. A.C.T.S. is teaming up with the Apostolic Information Service\* to provide the first nationwide computer network for Apostolic Christian schools. Principals, supervisors and teachers who are A.C.T.S. members will have unlimited access to a variety of educational resources via the AIS network. And they'll receive it all at a special rate of \$9.95 a month (plus .78 postage). Here's what you'll receive:

- ◆ 24-hour a day access to the Computer Network (via computer and modem), which features religious research files; a variety of Christian school help files; educational computer programs; group discussion forums; real-time teleconferencing with other Apostolics; occasional on-line guests (with real-time discussions); and more!
- ◆ *Perspectives*, a monthly magazine devoted to Pentecostal news, interviews, and contemporary issues from an Apostolic perspective.
- ◆ "Ministry Dynamics," a monthly cassette tape devoted to principles of church and ministry leadership.
- ◆ Ten "Idea Sheets," each giving advice on improving a specific ministry within the church, including Christian education ministries.
- ◆ An attractive binder listing files available on the computer network and describing the service.

*\*Apostolic Information Service is a ministry of Indiana Bible College*

"Yes, as a member of the Association of Christian Teachers and Schools (A.C.T.S.), I am interested in learning more about the special Teachers and Administrators' nationwide computer network. Please send me your free information packet."

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# The State Of Our Art

**OPINION:** The church should strive for excellence in all of its ministries.

**S**tate Of The Art" is a phrase used to describe what is considered to be the best piece of equipment, or the best technology in a particular field. It is the standard of excellence by which other things are compared and judged. To own a piece of machinery that is considered state of the art in a certain field is to own the very best piece of machinery that can be obtained for that particular job. It might be a recording studio with the very latest technology in acoustic design and recording gear. Or a state of the art computer system that runs the most sophisticated software in the shortest amount of time. Whatever it is, state of the art means quality.

This standard of excellence is constantly changing and must be monitored at all times by the persons or industries wishing to keep abreast of the latest innovations in their field. What is state of the art today may not be state of the art tomorrow due to a new invention or a break through in science and technology. For example, this is especially true in the case of a doctor who must constantly read and study to stay current with new discoveries and new treatments that become available in his area of practice.

Societies, unions, organizations, and corporations can lose sight of what is considered state of the art in their field by adopting the wrong attitude. For instance, a wrong attitude would be to assume that if some one in their particular group does something, it must therefore be state of the art; after all, it was done or accomplished by one of their own. This is a dangerous position to take, because it creates a false standard of excellence that may be far removed from that which is truly state of the art.

The question arises, then: *Are we maintaining a high enough standard in our Apostolic churches?* In our music or worship services, for instance, are we doing our best to maintain that state of the art edge, or are we developing a complacent "it's-good-enough" attitude?

The Southern Gospel music industry has in recent years fought this very syndrome. In the early years, groups such as the Blackwoods, The Statesmen, The Rambos, and others were known for their great talent and professionalism. Their standard of excellence at that time was based on the same standard of excellence as any musician, regardless of style used. As the industry grew and more people became involved, a unique environment was soon created. As this environment became more and more self-serving, groups began to emerge with a little less talent than in the beginning. Soon the entire standard of excellence was lowered because the industry lost sight of the standard of excellence outside of its own ranks. They had created their own state of

the art. A few years back, this began to be recognized by leaders in the industry, and a call for a return to excellence was made. As a result, the industry has been working to better itself over the last few years.

With these thoughts in mind, I must ask:

were good at what they did, but the standard by which they were judged was based only on what was considered excellent in their own local churches. Sometimes this is far removed from what is considered excellent in another local church. Yet a person will not realize the disparity until he moves to a different environment; every

time such a person moves up to a larger environment, the standard of excellence gets a little higher.

People will always speak and sing with varying degrees of excellence. God only judges us by our own abilities and talents. However this is not an excuse to become complacent in our attitude toward excellence. God always demands our best and always asks us to multiply the talents He has given us. To the speaker this means more study, training, and prayer than ever. To the musician this means more lessons, practice, and prayer than ever. To the teacher, this means keeping up on the latest and most effective teaching techniques. The church must never be still in its pursuit of excellence. It should not

**"God always demands our best and always asks us to multiply the talents He has given us."**



only seek to measure up to the standard of excellence set by the world at large, but it should seek to raise that standard even higher.

Jesus Christ was never behind the times when it came to meeting people's needs; He always gave His best for us. It is our duty to do the same for Him and for the people we are reaching. The state of our art should be the best art to be found.

What is the state of our own art, and how does it compare to the rest of the world around us? Have we created our own standard of excellence within the church by which we judge our singing, speaking, teaching, etc.? If we have, does it measure up to the standard of excellence held by the secular world in these same areas? Have we complimented ourselves among ourselves for so long that we believe we have arrived at excellence? The danger is that we will become so convinced that we have achieved excellence that we become unaware of the fact that visitors to our services have quite a different opinion.

Some students come to Bible school thinking they are good speakers, singers, or musicians, only to find after they arrive that there are people who can speak, sing, and play better than they can. These students have been told they

.....  
*Mark Carouthers is the founder of the musical group Carouthers & Company, which tours extensively across the country. A full-time music director for nearly a decade, Bro. Carouthers currently serves as Music Director at Indiana Bible College and at Calvary Tabernacle in Indianapolis, pastored by Paul Mooney.*

### Recommended Reading

*The Oneness View Of Jesus Christ*, by David K. Bernard, Word Aflame Press., \$7.99.

David Bernard has become the Apostolic movement's most effective writer of Oneness apologetics, and this book contributes nicely to his collection. *The Oneness View of Jesus Christ* is actually a compilation of previous Bernard articles on the Godhead from several publications. Of particular note are the two appendices, which are rebuttals to recent attempts to label Oneness Pentecostalism as cultic. While not as exhaustive as its predecessor, *The Oneness of God*, this volume handles many of the most-commonly used Trinitarian arguments in an easy-to-grasp style.

•••

*99 Reasons Why No One Knows When Christ Will Return*, by B.J. Oropeza, InterVarsity Press., \$10.99, paperback.

If you're reading this, Jesus Christ probably has not yet returned. Which means that Harold Camping, author of the bestselling *1994?* has been proven wrong in his prediction of the end of the world by September 27. Camping joins a growing list of false prophets whose dates for the Second Coming have not panned out. In this well-reasoned book, B.J. Oropeza dispels many of the rumors that pervade much prophecy teaching today (i.e., the fictitious "Beast" computer that supposedly exists in Belgium, the social security checks that were alleged to have been sent out requiring the mark of the beast - another false rumor). Before you teach on end-times topics, you would do well to read this book.

### ■ THE WELL-ADJUSTED PASTOR

Are there certain characteristics that make for a well-adjusted pastor or minister? Christian psychologist Dr. Clyde Narramore suggests that there are. In a recent issue of his *Special Insight*, he listed these eight traits: 1) *Objective*: The ability to think impartially, analytically, and dispassionately. 2) *Reasonable Dominance*: Self-assured, confident, influential with others. 3) *Tolerant*: Free from racial or religious prejudice, patient in attitude. 4) *Self-Disciplined*: Includes neatness, orderliness, ability to organize and plan, endurance and perseverance. 5) *Flexible*: Firm in doctrine, yet able to bend when needed. Being able to make changes when necessary without undue frustration. 6) *Healthy Self-Esteem*: Feeling comfortable about self rather than perceiving that you are inferior. 7) *Non-Manipulative*: Not seeking to arrange situations for your own benefit without due regard for the other person. 8) *Secure*: In most situations, feeling comfortable rather than being excessively apprehensive, nervous and threatened.

### ■ MOLESTATIONS POSE INSURANCE RISK

In the past, AIS has documented the disturbing trend within the "Christian" church of increased child abuse and molestation charges. One negative side-effect of these charges is that churches are becoming more vulnerable for lawsuits. Al Davidson, vice president of claims for Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Co. commented recently on church-related molestation charges. He said that these lawsuits typically allege negligent hiring, supervision or retention of a person who is accused of the abuse. Said Davidson: "Churches are refusing to do anything about [child sex abuse]. They won't suspect or confront anyone." Davidson, whose insurance company is based in Fort Wayne, IN, currently insures 21,000 churches in 21 states. He said he currently has 50 claims still pending related to sexually deviant behavior. And that's not the worst of it: A recent survey showed that in a nine-year period, about 35,000 lawsuits were filed against churches because of sexual abuse allegations. And if all this isn't disturbing enough, consider the financial aspect. The average settlement on these suits is \$1.1 million. And experts say that the settlement can be much higher for churches of 750 or more members.

### ■ INCREASING CHURCH PRODUCTIVITY

According to a recent issue of the *Win Arn Growth Report*, there are three categories of workers found in most growing churches. The pastor concerned about increasing his church's productivity, therefore, will recognize these three categories and match each person with the requirements of his job. These three categories: 1) *Visionaries*. These are gifted people, with bold, creative dreams of new advances for God. "Don't put these people in positions that perpetuate business as usual," said the *Report*. Rather, "find, or create, a place where they can use their gift of faith." 2) *Administrators*. These people can take an idea and figure out how to make it happen. They are best at decision-making, allocating resources, identifying alternatives, and monitoring. 3) *Workers*. They are most productive when given assignments, training and enough authority to achieve the task. "Don't reward 'workers' with a promotion to 'administrator,' the *Report* advises.

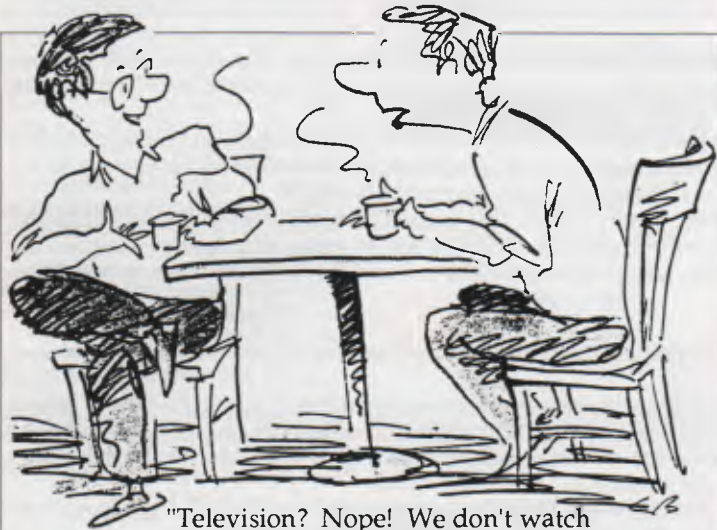
### ■ CHRISTIAN CHURCH PROFILE

How many "Christians" are really *Christian*? Interestingly, many people who call themselves by that title do not practice many of the characteristics normally associated with a Christian faith. A recent issue of *American Church Members* found the following:

- 95 percent of Christians never win a soul to Christ.
- 90 percent never have family devotions.
- 80 percent never go to prayer meetings.
- 75 percent never engage in any church activity.
- 70 percent never give to missions.
- 60 percent never go to church Sunday night.
- 50 percent never go to Sunday school.
- 30 percent never attend church.
- 25 percent never read the Bible.

WORD TO THE WISE:

*If a child misbehaves, the parents do not have the right to kill the child. So, why should the parents have the right to kill the unborn child when the parents misbehave?*



"Television? Nope! We don't watch it for the same reason we don't drink out of the toilet."

**THIS IS MY CHURCH:** it is composed of people just like me.  
 It will be friendly if I am;  
 It will do a great work if I work; it will make generous gifts to many causes if I am generous.  
 It will bring others into its fellowship if I bring them; its seats will be filled if I fill them.  
 It will be a church of loyalty and love, of faith and service, if I make it what it is, am filled with these.  
 Therefore, with God's help, I dedicate myself to the task of being all these things I want my church to be.

**THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER** was telling the boys and girls about creation. She asked her primary class, "Who can tell us the name of the first man and the first woman?"  
 Replied little Jerry: "Adam and Evil?"



I LIKE TO CALL IT A "TRAX-FAX."  
 IT'S THE 90'S WAY OF  
 NON-CONFRONTATIONAL WITNESSING

**AT THE CONCLUSION OF A REVIVAL** one disgruntled lady went forward to chastise the evangelist.

Said the woman, "I'll never come to hear you speak again. You have offended me terribly in your sermons. To be honest, you have just stroked my fur in the wrong way."

"No," replied the evangelist in his calm voice. "I didn't stroke the fur the wrong way. I stroked it the right way, but the cat was going in the wrong direction."

**A NEW PASTOR** had worked for hours on his first Sunday morning sermon, and the beginning of the message had started off well. However, the sermon was a bit lengthy, and as he approached the end, he noticed that he had lost most of his listeners.

"Well," the pastor finally added softly, "I hope it's true."

The congregation was startled and perked up their ears to listen to what he was saying. "I hope it's true," said the preacher again. "Because if it is true that you can learn while you sleep, I will have the best-informed congregation in town."



**A VISITING PREACHER** had preached for 90 minutes and was still going strong. Finally, noticing the congregation's restlessness, he looked for a clock, but found none.

"Does anybody here have a watch?" he asked.

An older lady on the front pew shot back, "No, but there's a calendar on the back wall!"

**THE CHURCH SECRETARY** told her pastor that several wallets and purses had been stolen recently, and that she was going to start keeping her purse in the filing cabinet.

"Perfect," said the pastor. "Nobody's ever been able to find anything there!"

**THE PASTOR WAS SHOCKED** one day to hear his seven-year-old daughter say a word that Christian girls ought not utter. Her dad told her gently, "Sweetheart, I will give you a nickle if you will never, ever say that word again."

"Oh Daddy!" she said. "I've got a word that's worth fifty cents!"

## Wayne Mitchell: Suffer The Children

(Continued from page three)

church. Today, Bro. Mitchell has replaced his entire bus ministry with an extensive car ministry, thus saving money and involving more people. "For anybody who doesn't have any money, the car ministry is great," Mitchell said. "Every Pentecostal needs to get his car saved. By that I mean to use it to bring people to church. I built two churches by hauling people to church. Any new church that hopes to grow will have to haul people to service, and a car ministry is a great way to do it. My 'bus' captains (as he still calls them)," said Mitchell, "will make seventy-five new contacts each week. During the winter, we'll contact about 5,500 to 6,500 a month. During the summer, we'll contact about 10,000 people each month."

### Other Evangelistic Tools

Bro. Mitchell said that home Bible study has also contributed to his church's growth. However, he has not always used the typical HBS program. "I have always believed in home Bible studies. However, we don't always use charts, although the chart can make it easier to teach. But the chart doesn't win people. Even teaching the Bible doesn't win people. It's a heart-to-heart burden that wins them."

Mitchell's advice for an effective home Bible study program: Approach it professionally. "I don't let just anybody teach them. You've got to pick out key people to be involved in home Bible study ministry. Remember, you reproduce what you've got. If a person has problems, he'll reproduce problems in the person he's teaching. I don't want to reproduce everything I've got in my church, so I don't let everybody teach."

Additionally, Whole Truth Tabernacle operates an extensive institutional evangelism program. "We go to all types of homes on Sunday afternoon," Mitchell pointed out. "We have about forty-five people who go to retirement homes, wayward children's homes, and nursing homes. We go to one place where they've got three floors of bed-ridden people. We have eight people who go into each room and read the Scriptures and pray with them."

### Advice For Growing Churches

Almost as important as your outreach methods, according to Bro. Mitchell, is having an effective organizational structure operating in the church. Mitchell's own structure uses a committee approach.

"In our church, we have no superintendents. We run everything from committees. We have an executive committee that runs the Sunday school, one for the youth department, one for the music department, one for the outreach department, and one that runs the total church. Then within the departments - for instance in the outreach department - we'll have directors over the sub-ministries, such as a home Bible study director." And important to making this structure work is an aggressive leadership training program.

"We have regular leadership meetings for training. We've had as many as 37 in these meetings. These are not just any people; people are in those leadership classes because I've asked them to be there. I hand-pick quality people." Each leader has a job description outlining what is expected of him. Bro. Mitchell requires reports from these leaders and meets with them on a frequent basis.

As for Bro. Mitchell's advice on having a revival church, he again stresses the need to focus on children. "Too often, what happens is that we have big revivals, but people come in the front door and go out the back. As a result, we poison the city with our own message. The point is that you've got to get them in the front door and hold them. That's why we've got to spend time with children. Kids have a way of growing up and, if they've been coming to church, of establishing themselves. Remember that if you get a child, you will often get the parent. In our church, a lot of our families were bus children at some point during the past 25 years. Building the kingdom is not always about reaching adults. Children need to be saved too. Jesus Himself said to 'suffer the children to come unto me, and forbid them not.'

## CLOSED CITIES: Opinion By Royce Elms

(Continued from page two)

into a city, the ethical thing is to not receive anybody from another church without the other pastor's permission. But this is the threat posed by an incoming pastor who is unqualified or unethical.

There is an ideal situation that would solve most problems on both sides of this coin: the idea of daughter churches. One of the finest things a larger church can do is to start daughter churches. This is a wonderful way to open up different parts of the city to the Gospel. One of the benefits of this is that there is almost always a good relationship between the senior church and its daughter works.

The ministry needs to be open to new churches starting, and we need to have an attitude of cooperation with one another. However, we must never over-do this situation and bring in someone who is incompetent or unethical. Ultimately, the timing in these matters is up to God. When it's His will, the thing will work and the church will grow.

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### WordNet

(Continued from page two)

Today," Young said. "My brother, Simeon Young is the editor of the newspaper. Its objective is to give a report of what God is doing within the Apostolic movement." Currently, circulations runs at about 20,000.

"We are mailing it out at no cost to every minister whose name and address we can get ahold of. We try to get churches to subscribe to bundles that they can pass out; it makes a great evangelism tool. It's good for hospitals, libraries, doctors' offices, and airports. Our goal is that when people pick it up they will be encouraged by its upbeat, positive revival report." Plans are to eventually go to a 16-page format.

For more information about any aspect of the WordNet ministry, write: WordNet Media Ministries, P.O. Box 690567, Houston, TX 77069.

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