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# Indiana Bible College Perspectives

Apostolic Information Service

Vol. 5, No.10

## THE DOUG DAVIS FAMILY

**FOCUSING ON**

# The Tried & True

By Richard C. Brown  
and Richard Masoner

No generation gap interferes with church operations in Oyster Bay, New York. There, at Bethel United Pentecostal Church, Doug Davis pastors a growing revival church, with his son, Doug Davis, Jr. actively involved as associate pastor. With such

a father-son combination, one might think there would be conflicting philosophies involved. Not so. The Davises agree that even the most modern methods of outreach can be successful, but only when they are undergirded by the tried and true evangelism efforts that have been the foundation for growth at Bethel.

"I've been in the ministry long enough to not be overly impressed with programs, ideas and plans," said the younger Davis. "So my father and I are always careful about jumping onto every bandwagon or fad that comes along. Exciting new programs and plans will do

nothing if there's no power behind them. Stick with the basics."

Certainly these basics have served the church and both of the Davises well. Last year, 52 converts were added to the church, 37 of which are still attending. Today, Bethel runs in excess of 325.

### A Family Experience

Church and a commitment to the work of God have always been the family focus around the Davis household. Brother Davis and his wife, Betty, lived for many years in Texas, where they raised their children while building a church, with a deep devotion to putting the kingdom of God first in their lives. They also encouraged the younger Davis, along with the other children, to develop musical talent.

"Being involved in music and children's ministries played a big part in my life," Doug Jr. said. The younger Davis received the Holy Ghost in 1966 at age 12. A couple of years later, the Davis family moved to Long Island to start a home missions work. For the next six years, Davis Jr. had two major teachers: He studied classical piano under the tutelage of a college professor and studied under his father to become an effective minister. "My father, the real pastor of Bethel, is one of the wisest men I've ever met," Brother Davis said. "So under his encouragement, I began my pulpit ministry at age 19 there at the Long Island church."

Several years later, at age 27, the Davis men began a joint venture at Bethel. In 1991, the younger Davis became associate pastor of the congregation, taking many of the ministerial duties upon himself. The youngest Davis

*(Continued on page three)*



LEFT: Brother D.D. Davis, Sr. and his wife, Betty, pastor of Bethel United Pentecostal Church in Oyster Bay, Long Island, New York. BELOW: Sunday night service at the Long Island church always brings a special time of communion with the Lord.





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that you would like to see addressed on the "Opinions" page, send your suggestion to: *Apostolic Information Service, P.O. Box 47917, Indianapolis, IN 46247. Or call (800) 8000-AIS.*

## Opinions



Charles Grisham  
Pastor  
Canton, MI

Unfortunately, in many instances, people aren't being instructed in the proper use of Spiritual Gifts. As a result, there are many instances of misuse, which reinforce negative views of the Gifts. The answer, then, is in frequent instruction in the area.

I teach my saints on the subject often. I tell them how the Bible says Gifts are to be used and to respect proper lines of authority. For instance, if a saint who is used in the Gifts is in a meeting with several ministers who are used in the area, they should usually defer to those higher authorities. On the other hand, if a message is given in tongues in my church, and I don't think I or any other minister have the interpretation, I usually remark, "Obey the Lord." This gives them the liberty, then, to exercise the Gift God has given them. Also, I tell my saints that if a person ministers to them individually in the Gifts, it will usually be a confirmation of an area in which God has already been dealing with the person. This helps them discern between the true and false.

We can't allow ourselves to be driven away from Spiritual Gifts because of somebody's negative experience with them. For this reason, proper instruction is a necessity.



## Use and Misuse of Spiritual Gifts

**AIS VIEW:** *The Bible is clear that the Spiritual Gifts are for the edification, exhortation and comfort of the Church. Any use of the Gifts for any other reason is simply wrong. Pastors should teach their people on the correct use of the Gifts often, and encourage the Gifts as the Spirit directs. We must not allow any misuse to discourage us from their proper and rightful use.*

Back in the 1950s, the Latter Rain Movement, or the "Latter Splatter," really devastated Pentecost. People were into all these Gift ministries, and they let them supercede the preaching and interrupt services. They got really carried off. Consequently, with that kick in the shins, we really got set back in trying to exercise Spiritual Gifts.

Now, I guess a lot of people are talking about abuses of the Gifts. And there might be some of that in some areas of the country. On a personal level, I don't know what these guys are talking about. We don't have misuses in our church. Where I've been, I've seen unbelievable miracles, and there's never been any hanky panky where I've been involved. But then, I'm not one to keep a scorecard.

I've been asked before about the Scripture that says if you give one false prophecy, you're a false prophet. But it doesn't say that; it says one false prophecy *in the name of the Lord!* They had these jokers claiming to represent Jehovah when they really didn't. But the Gifts of the Spirit are gifts of faith; they're not required to be used in perfection.

But then, that's just me. Like I said, I don't keep a scorecard.



Jeff Arnold  
Pastor  
Gainesville, FL



David Johnson  
Pastor  
Albany, OR

From what I've seen in my area, the use of the Gifts of the Spirit is on the rise, particularly the utterance of Gifts. And this is a good thing, because it helps people to be aware that God is in their presence and moving in their midst. The best way to ensure that saints don't misuse the Gifts is through teaching and follow-up counsel.



Louis Edday, Jr.  
Pastor  
Eminence, KY

I have not seen the Gifts used too much in an inappropriate way. I teach frequently on their proper use, and that they are to glorify God, not man. Anytime they're used for any other purpose, they're misused. If I hear about some evangelist using the Gifts in a way as to promote himself, he doesn't get invited to our church.



Larry Baitinger  
Pastor  
Mexico, MO

An example of an inappropriate use of the Gifts would be for an evangelist to use them in such a way as to demean the authority of the pastor. Also, I've seen people give so-called prophecies that didn't come to pass, causing a mistrust. If I saw an evangelist misusing the Gifts in my church, I'd talk to him about it after the service.



Paul Bennett  
Pastor  
Eau Claire, WI

The Gifts are to be used for the edifying of the body, so any time they're used in another setting, such as in a private home or prayer meeting, when it does not come from the leadership to edify the body, that could be a definite misuse. If I witnessed a misuse in my church, I would counsel the person to follow the Biblical guidelines.



Alexander Kloster, Jr.  
Pastor  
Keokuk, IA

Because of our human element, we will inevitably misuse a Gift from time to time. Some point out that under the Law, if a man uttered a false prophecy, he was stoned. But now, we're under grace. We're taught to forgive. Therefore, if a man gives a prophecy that does not come to pass, recognize it as a mistake and forgive it.



C.R. Hurst  
Pastor  
Bangor, ME

There will always be some misuse of the Gifts, but I like to think that it's done in honesty. It's a learning experience, much as you learn to ride a bicycle. You may fall a few times, but you pick yourself up and go on. The Gifts of the Spirit are an important part of reaching our world. They're what drew multitudes to the early church.



# The Doug Davis Family: Focusing on the Tried and True

(Continued from page one)

## Cover Story

son, Curt, joined the staff within the next couple of years as well.

"The church was growing rapidly," the senior Davis recalled. "There was a real need to develop a team ministry in the church, and we both felt that this was the direction the Lord wanted us to take."



At the center of the Oyster Bay growth has been a ministerial staff which has given itself strongly to prayer and fasting. Said Davis: "In any revival church, there needs to be a strong canopy of prayer built in the area. I'm a firm believer that revival comes from an accumulation of spiritual warfare within your community. And it's not just a one-time thing. You don't just pray a prayer and win a spiritual battle. Weeks, months, and even years of prayer are needed in a particular area to defeat the powers that work against the church. This type of prayer is what causes the church to be able to be more victorious."

### Responsible Leadership

Not only do the Bethel leaders engage in regular spiritual warfare, but they are also actively involved in practical aspects of ministry as well. Both Davises are

ods with caution, they prefer using those outreach methods that have proven themselves. Care groups, for instance, are a staple at Bethel. Brother Davis, Sr., calls it "the best, most effective of our programs."

"Some people call it a cell ministry," said Brother Davis, "but whatever you call it, this has been the number one factor contributing to our church's growth."

And, dovetailing with Brother Davis's commitment to delegating responsibility to others, Bethel's Care ministry allows him to develop leadership skills in others.

"The primary focus of my personal ministry is the development of the ministry and leadership of others," Brother Davis commented. "Small group ministries such as we operate allow you to use new leaders where you couldn't otherwise."

Other programs have also proven themselves effective for the Long Island church. "We participate in a community event called 'Oyster Festival,' which draws approximately 100,000 visitors into the town annually. On that day, we advertise heavily and our choir gives a special free afternoon Gospel concert. Many new contacts have been made through this endeavor."

In addition, the choir performs concerts throughout the area at malls, train stations and

### History of Bethel

The first public church service at Bethel was held in December, 1968 in a rented storefront. In attendance were nine people. The small number was not to last long, however, as the church averaged about 70 only seven years later. This prompted the congregation to find a larger meeting place. "We bought an old farmhouse and turned it into a church," recalled Brother Davis. In another seven years, the church had doubled to 120, so they remodeled the building to accommodate the people. And in another seven years, the congregation grew to 200 people. They then purchased their current meeting place, a 100-year-old Methodist church building in Oyster Bay.

The setting for the Oyster Bay church is almost postcard material. A salt breeze blows in from the beach a few blocks away. Passersby cannot help but notice the tall white building near the city center. The quaint structure is a wooden, New England style building, complete with a functioning bell tower.

### The View From Inside

It's the view from inside the century-old structure, however, that really matters to the Davises. They're thankful for the current congregation of 300-plus.

And getting there was half the fun.

"We enjoy doing the Lord's work," said Brother Davis. When you know you're doing the right thing - what God wants you to do - that in itself lends itself to results."

**The primary focus of my personal ministry is the development of the ministry and leadership of others.**  
--Doug Davis

strong believers in delegation. And this delegation of responsibility has resulted in a high amount of involvement among the saints. "We probably have about 75 percent who are involved in some kind of ministry in the church. And I would say that about 40 to 50 percent are active in evangelism," Davis noted.

To help manage these activities, Bethel has organized the various ministries into departments. Every leader has a job description; everyone on the church staff attends regular planning sessions and monthly leadership training classes.

### Proven Evangelism Methods

Because the Davises use new "fad" meth-

*UPPER LEFT: The Bethel Choir lifts up its voices in song and worship during a Sunday night service. BELOW: Brother Doug Davis, Jr. and his wife Vickie, Associate Pastor of Bethel United Pentecostal Church, Oyster Bay, Long Island, New York.*



various island community events during the Christmas season. "We had over a thousand guests at last year's performances of the drama," said Davis, Jr.

"We also enjoyed a 'Friend Day' this year, plus a prayer vigil that worked well for us." In  
(Continued on page 12)

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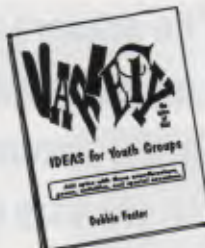
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# Hospitality And Soul-Winning

**AIS INTERVIEW**  
*With Edwin Harper*



**E**ditor's note: Edwin Harper is pastor of Life Cathedral in Huntington, West Virginia. Brother Harper is known as a man consumed with the need for church growth and revival. A frequent speaker at various church growth events, Brother Harper's wisdom is also highly regarded concerning outreach and soul-winning. Recently, Brother Harper spoke with AIS about the connection between hospitality and winning souls. Portions of his remarks are printed below:

.....  
**Where do you see room for improvement in the Apostolic ministry today?**

Without a doubt, the most ignored part of Apostolic ministry, at least on the North American continent, is that of relating well with our communities. We have not equipped our ministers with what is necessary in a 20th Century, and almost a 21st Century, society.

**Relating well in what way?**

By that, I mean that we have not trained ourselves to go into a community and build relationships with the community and to make friends with them as a way of building a wide network of influence within the community. One of the things we're very good at doing is turning our churches into convents and monasteries, whereas they really need to be an open door to the community. This way, we could better serve them in every way possible.

**How do we correct this?**

We have to learn the art of hospitality. In what I have observed, we don't take time helping preachers learn the knack of entertaining folks and making them comfortable in the church house.

**Is the ministry responsible to entertain?**

The Scripture says we should be given to hospitality. Many think that this means just entertaining people in the privacy of our homes, but hospitality means much more than that. It means that we need to be able to entertain people.

By "entertain," I mean the most literal meaning of the word. This literally means doing whatever it takes to hold people's attention, in order to communicate with them. We have many men who are very adept at preaching sermons, or who at least have a knowledge of the Bible. However, one of the things they don't understand is the need to "entertain"

people today, or to do what is necessary to keep their attention. We have to do that to communicate our ideas.

**What ideas should we be communicating?**

There are three very important things we have to communicate to people from our communities. Number one, you have to communicate to them that you love them. Number two, you have to communicate to them the message of Jesus Christ. And the third thing: You have to communicate that they belong in the family of God. If we don't communicate these things, then we ultimately miss out.

**Expand more on this need for hospitality.**

Something that I don't think we understand like we should is that everybody on the North American continent is in a time crunch. So it's easier to get their money than it is to get their time. They'll give you money to buy a bus, but they often won't give the time to work a bus route. When people do give you their time, they are giving the most precious commodity they've got.

This is why it's so necessary to appeal to people through hospitality and good public relations. If we get some of their time, we need to show that we respect it enough to hold their attention.

We also need to take the time necessary to learn about the needs and desires of the people in our area. We owe it to our cities to understand the people living there. If we don't understand them, we won't be effective.

Let me be blunt: We don't belong in front of an abortion clinic making enemies. We should fight the battle on a different level. If we reach the lady, she won't be at the clinic.

Likewise, we don't need to be at civic centers protesting rock groups singing there. We should instead be reaching youth and then they won't be at the concert. Again, hospitality - relating with the community in a positive way - is the key.

**How can our Bible colleges help in this area?**

We need to spend more time with our preachers coming out of Bible college giving them the technical side of building a church, and not focusing exclusively on the ability to understand the Scripture. We should teach them not just theology, but about public relations, civic law, the art of preaching, all of these things.

If you understand all about chemistry but

never learn how to use this knowledge in a laboratory, it doesn't do you any good. In the same way, if you know the Word but you don't know how to apply it in the laboratory of life, you're not going to be effective.

**What other challenges face the Apostolic ministry today?**

We need to have a greater consecration to God and a greater devotion to the work of God. I put those two together because there's a vast difference between loving God and loving the work of God. We have people who tip the scale in both directions, but what we need is a balance.

**How do you achieve this balance?**

The Bible says that whatever is not of faith is sin. So whatever I am in my life, if I'm doing it for the sake of an organization or so I can teach a Bible class or have a part in the choir, then it's sin to me, because I'm doing it for the wrong reason. I'm not doing it out of faith. But if I'm doing these things as a public testimony that I love God, then it is of faith. This, then, becomes the measure of whether or not you have achieved a proper balance.

**Any parting exhortations?**

Each minister needs to have a deep love for God, and he needs to let that love affect his work for the Kingdom. We each need to let a love for the work of God dictate our lives. This is the thing that makes us sacrifice. What we need is people who are willing to dive into the work of God regardless of what it costs, because if through our work, we can reach people while they're still spiritually alive, it will all be worth it. AIS

.....  
*Edwin Harper is pastor of a growing church in Huntington, WV, and is frequently in 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)8000-AIS.



Paul D. Mooney

**■ Ministry**

*As a young man, when can I be confident that I am ready for a full-time ministry?*

You should always ask yourself some hard questions. It's very easy to become intoxicated with your personal desire to preach or minister and get ahead of God's timing for your life. Let me suggest a few hard questions that you should ask yourself about your ministry.

- 1) Have you been loyal over a substantial period of time?
- 2) Have you been faithful, which is required to serve in the ministry?
- 3) Are you morally clean?
- 4) Have you established an active prayer life?
- 5) Are you competent to teach and preach? You'll need an honest evaluator to help you understand your actual skills.
- 6) Do you love people? Your motivation must not be to "just preach," but to help people.
- 7) Are you financially responsible?
- 8) Have you prepared yourself educationally?
- 9) If married, are you properly caring for your family in all things?
- 10) Do you have a good attitude toward life, people, and family?
- 11) Can you identify a distinctive time or period in which you knew you were actively called into the ministry?
- 12) Are you anointed? There is a difference between being a prolific speaker and having a true anointing. You need to understand the difference.

Candid answers to each of these questions will help you discern if and when God has truly called you.



T. W. Massengale

**■ Outreach**

*What outreach methods work best?*

There are many methods we could employ to reach people. From door-knocking to city-wide crusades, Pentecost has tried them all. The real question is, "What methods are the most effective?"

All will agree that people win people, not programs or activities. The concept that "the more programs you have, and the more methods you use, the more people you will reach" is a myth. The truth is, the more thinly we are spread and the more divided our focus, the more ineffective we become. It is better to



T.R. O'Daniel

**■ Theology**

*In Acts 2:38, is it possible that the word "for" in "for the remission of sins" means "because of"?*

Some who deny the necessity of baptism in the salvation process interpret it to mean "because of." While they are correct that in some instances, in both English and Greek, "for" could mean "because of," that is not what it means in this context.

I am just a beginning Greek student, but even in a beginning Greek text, when you study Greek prepositions, you will encounter *eis*, which is translated "for" in Acts 2:38. Ray Summers in *Essentials of New Testament Greek* gives "into, to, or in" as definitions for *eis* with "into" being the primary definition. After explaining that prepositions show direction and location of action, he gives a diagram as a learning aid. In it, he shows a box with arrows going toward, into, through, out of, and away from the box. These all represent a direction or location of a Greek preposition. The arrow aiming at the box and preparing to go into the box represents *eis*. In Acts 2:38, the box would represent remission of sins and baptism takes us into the remission of sins.

Dr. Spiros Zodhiates, a recognized authority on the Greek New Testament says of *eis*, "with the primary idea of motion into any place or thing." Ultimately, the context determines the meaning of a preposition, however; the prudent will look to the primary meaning and only look for an alternative if the context (and not the will) demands it.

Baptism in Jesus' name is necessary to receive remission of sins. Peter confirms its direct connection with salvation in I Peter 3:21. The apostles consistently baptized repentant sinners in the name of Jesus to remit their sins; we must do the same.

focus on a few areas and do them well than to attempt to do everything and do them poorly.

It is for this reason that your methods of evangelism must continually be evaluated to see if they are being effective. If a certain outreach program or ministry is not helping you draw closer to your goal of reaching your city, then it should either be revamped to make it productive or abandoned altogether.

Research has shown that there are four methods of reaching people with the Gospel that have been more effective than any other. These are as follows:

1) Bringing a Guest to Church. More people have been saved by being brought to an evangelistic, Holy Ghost filled service than by any other method. It is no coincidence that this was also the most common and effective means



O. C. Marler

**■ Family**

*Our close friends in the church have a daughter who is good friends with our teenage son. Both the girl and her parents are anxious that she be popular and date frequently. Even though our son likes the girl,*

*he has other friends he likes to spend time with. We are glad he has not committed himself to one person at this time, but how can we handle this situation? We do not want to offend the family, and we want to remain friends.*

The most important thing in this situation is that both sets of parents remain objective. There is something to the old adage that "kids will settle their own squabbles if the parents will stay out of it." Try to treat the girl as you always have - a family friend - not a girl your son is dating.

You do need to help your son deal with the situation as a Christian, in a polite and gentlemanly way. Sometimes a boy caught in this kind of trap will abruptly dump all his resentment on the girl all at once. This hurts the girl, her parents, and causes problems for you. On the other hand, he may fear facing the problem and lead the girl on. Since she will assume the relationship is much more serious, great pain will follow.

Talk to your son about strategy. He should be nice, but at some time, explain to the girl that even though he enjoys seeing her, that he wants to spend time with his other friends and does not want to limit his dating just to one girl. Even though she will not want to hear it and will shed tears, it is all a part of growing up. You, again, can make it much easier on both teenagers if you maintain a good relationship with the girl's family. Better a few tears shed now than a bitter divorce later, dividing friends and causing church strife.

of evangelism in the New Testament.

2) Home Bible Study. If the lost won't come to us, we must go to them. Home Bible study has been the most effective outreach method developed in the last 20 years.

3) Personal Witnessing. The most powerful tool a person possesses is his testimony of how God saved him. People may argue with your interpretation of Scripture, but they cannot argue with what the Lord has done for you.

4) Sunday School. This last method might shock some, but for the church that is growing it is no surprise. The ten largest churches in America all have large, thriving Sunday schools.

These, then, are your outreach keys. These four methods have brought more solid results for the amount of effort expended, than any other ministry or program.





MEDIA

## Kids Say TV Causes Negative Behavior

Most children say that what they see on television encourages them to take part in sexual activity too soon, to show disrespect for their parents, to lie and to engage in aggressive behavior, according to a recent nationwide survey.

AMERICAN FAMILY

## Divorce Increasing Around the World

Prophecy watchers have long pointed to the rapidly increasing divorce rate as a strong indicator of endtime moral decay. But until recently, the trend has been confined to the United States. However, a recent Population Council report released this last month reveals the same alarming trend is spreading around the world, placing the traditional family in trouble world wide. Among the survey findings:

- Divorce rates have more than doubled since 1970 in Canada, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.
- More than 40% of women in their 40s surveyed in the Dominican Republic, Ghana and Indonesia had first marriage failures.
- Japan had the lowest percentage of single-parent households with 4% Women head 20% of households in the former Soviet Union, 25% in Hong Kong and 29% in Trinidad.

CHURCH & STATE

## Mom Arrested for Homeschooling

A Nevada municipal judge dropped all charges against Lynn Thomas, who had been arrested for no reason other than homeschooling her children.

The case began as police broke their way into the home and arrested Mrs. Thomas in the presence of her four children, charging her with promoting truancy. The Rutherford Institute defended the family. The Institute's local coordinator commented, "we believe that parents have a constitutional right to direct their children's education, and that this is a right worth fighting for."

Local officials remain silent as to why such an arrest was made in the first place.

The poll, conducted by Children Now, a national children's advocacy group, asked 10-to-16-year-olds how television shapes their values. More than two-thirds of the 750 children surveyed said they are influenced by television negatively. 76% said there is too much sex before marriage depicted and 62% said sex on television and in movies influences them to have sexual relations too young. Two-thirds said that shows such as *The Simpsons* and *Married With Children* encourage them to disrespect their parents. A vast majority of the young people polled also said that TV should help teach them values, but instead showed people getting away with - and often triumphing by - deceitful behavior or physical aggression.

"We ought to listen to what kids themselves are saying," said James P. Steyer, the president of Children Now, "and 82% of them say the media encourages them to participate in antisocial behavior."

RELIGION

## People Ignorant of Spiritual Gifts

A new survey by Barna Research Group conducted nationwide on church-going adults has found that most have no idea what their spiritual gifts might be. Although 71% have heard of spiritual gifts, less than one out of four can identify a single spiritual gift which they might possess.

Of those surveyed, 39% could identify at least one potential gift they might have, while nearly a third (29%) listed a "gift" not included in biblical passages on the subject. Among the common "non-gifts" mentioned were being a good person, having a sense of humor, being in good health, and having a nice personality.

The report concluded with the authors encouraging pastors nationwide to help their parishioners identify their individual gifts and to teach on the importance of using these for the work of God.

*[Editors note: An excellent book and teachers guide has been written by Jack DeHart on this subject entitled, "So You Want To Serve." Included with the material is an excellent gifts analysis quiz. To order call the Pentecostal Publishing House at (314) 837-7300. Or write: 8855 Dunn Road, Hazelwood, MO 63042.]*

MORALITY

## Gay Rights Agenda Still Advancing

Further evidence of the ever advancing Gay/Lesbian agenda is springing up. Here's just a sampling:

The National Education Association recently passed a resolution declaring October as "Gay/Lesbian History Month. In their annual convention, the resolution supports a month-long celebration, "as a means of acknowledging the contributions of lesbians, gays and bisexuals throughout history."

The celebration was the brain child of Rodney Wilson, a gay high school teacher from St. Louis. The plan includes having public high schools focus on a gay curriculum detailing the history of homosexual persecution.

As would be expected, the resolution has caused quite a stir. Hundreds of teachers threatened to quit when the resolution passed. "There has been quite a groundswell of outrage," said Richard Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission. "This is a graphic demonstration of the NEA's left-wing social agenda.

On a similar note, two teachers at San Francisco's Everett Middle school were fired for bringing two guest speakers into class to give sixth graders an "explicit and graphic description of gay sex," said Bruce Budnick, who filed the original complaint in 1993. "They were basically proselytizing these kids and saying how good it was to be homosexual."

Finally, H. B. London, editor of the Pastor's Weekly Briefing noted that the "gays are coming out all over" in the fall television program lineup. Both major and minor roles have been given to actors depicting homosexuals in *Melrose Place*, *Northern Exposure*, *Friends*, *Roseanne*, *NYPD Blue*.

In addition, the new fall shows entitled *Pursuit of Happiness*, *The Crew*, and *Courthouse*, all feature gay men and women in leading roles.

### News In Brief...

- ♦ "Worldwide weirdness" is down according to experts that monitor reports of monsters, aliens, UFOs and other hoaxes. Reports of miracles are up slightly.
- ♦ The Federal Communications Commission has ruled that Christian radio station KFUE in St. Louis does not employ enough non-Christians in its operations.
- ♦ Marijuana use among eighth-graders is up from 6.2 in 1993 to 13 percent in 1994, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.



# New Home Bible Studies Available for Apostolics

## Apostolic News

### Search for Truth # 2

By Richard C. Brown

The publisher of the original Apostolic home Bible study course has released a new, 12-week course which promises to outdo its predecessor. Search for Truth Publications finished work on their *Search for Truth #2* study this fall, complete with full-color glossy charts and a user-friendly teacher's manual. And, according to general manager John Shivers, this new course will usher in a new era for HBS ministry.

"This is a new Bible study for the 1990s," Shivers noted. "It's a 12-lesson home Bible study with full-color illustrations. Our teacher's manual is over 288 pages and in a three-ring binder format. It contains a picture of each chart as well as a section of lesson objectives for each lesson."

The chart features 42 flip charts and 325 color illustrations, all on glossy paper. The new study originated with a course published by Search for Truth several years ago before being purchased by Christian Life Center in Stockton, CA, pastored by Kenneth Haney. That course, called *Light for Living*, was almost identical to the current *Search for Truth #2*; however, some slight modifications have been made to this recent incarnation.

"That *Light for Living* course was found to have some doctrinal problems," said Shivers. "So we took the illustrations and then rewrote the Bible study, correcting the doctrinal problems and conforming it to the teachings of the United Pentecostal Church. We received ad-



John Shivers

vice from Brother J.L. Hall and others at Headquarters in St. Louis on how to correct the previous problems and produced this new course."

Despite the abundance of home Bible studies currently available in the Apostolic movement, Shivers anticipates continued growth for both Bible studies that Search for Truth now publishes. "The original Search for Truth has been around since 1965, and it's been a proven soul-winning tool. The vast majority of churches in our fellowship have been built on home Bible study, and *Search for Truth* was the original pioneer in this area. We expect it to continue being so, along with its newer counterpart."

*Search for Truth #2* is available by calling the ministry at (209) 469-2210. Costs are as follows: \$79.95 for the chart and manual; \$25.95 for a small chart without the manual; teacher's manual, \$21.95.

### Understanding the Endtime

By Richard C. Brown

Photo-realistic graphics and a proper emphasis are the two things that separate *Understanding the Endtime* from other home Bible study courses. Brother Irvin Baxter, of Endtime Ministries released the new study earlier this fall as a new soul-winning tool of the ministry.

"Understanding the Endtime is a study of Bible prophecy designed to show, in stunning color and amazing graphics, what future events are about to take place," said Baxter, who pastors in Richmond, IN. Each page in the chart is printed on high-gloss paper. Many illustrations are actual photographs, computer-enhanced to achieve various special effects.

"God intended for His people to know and understand the signs of the last days," Baxter said. He noted also that prophecy has been a proven method of getting people interested in the Bible.

*Understanding the Endtime* can be ordered by calling Endtime at (800) 541-4256. Or write: Endtime, P.O. Box 2066, Richmond, IN 47375-2066. Costs are as follows: \$49.95 for the flip chart; \$9.85 for the teacher's manual; \$24.95 for the carrying case; \$5.00 for ten sets of lesson outlines; and \$5.00 for ten certificates. The course is also available on slides for \$60.00.



Irvin Baxter, Jr.

## Indiana Bible College to Host Annual Training Program: School of Home Missions

### HOME MISSIONS

By T.W. Massengale  
(Assisted by Richard Brown)

Indiana Bible College will be hosting an annual training program for home missionaries, the General Home Missions Division has announced. The School of



Paul Mooney

Home Missions is scheduled to begin operation this summer on the IBC campus, where Paul Mooney is president.

The program will be a joint project of Home Missions and IBC. While instructors for the three-week training program are still being selected, both IBC and Home Missions promise that

they will be some of the finest missionary experts in the Apostolic movement. The course can be taken for college credit and applied toward an external or traditional degree.

The School, which is tentatively scheduled for June, will involve home missions pastors in five hours a day of intensive, in-depth study for three weeks. Total time of instruction will probably be in excess of 70 hours.

Several home missions experts will form the core of the teaching staff, while several special speakers will also be brought in from the outside to lecture from their own material for three to five days during the School.

The School directors are encouraging home missions pastors, ministers who hope to daughter churches, Bible college students, and po-

tential home missionaries to attend the School. They also emphasize that these ministers' wives are encouraged to come as well.

The hope of the staff is that each district will develop at least one scholarship to send a home missionary to the School of Home Missions. While cost is still being determined, it is expected to be around \$800 for room, board and tuition; \$1,000 for the missionary and wife both to attend. For more information, contact IBC at (317) 784-8069.



Jack Cunningham



- Jonathan McNair recommends *Bible Exposition Commentary*.
- Owen Taylor says public schools are becoming aware of public school students' rights.
- Four crises threaten the very structure of the American family.

**PREACHER'S PICKS**

Brother Jonathan McNair, who pastors in Stellarton, NS, Canada, offers the following recommendations for a pastor's reading list:

- Recommended Reference Work: "I would suggest that every minister have in his library the *Bible Exposition Commentary*, by Warren Wiersbe. It is a very concise commentary on the New Testament with a lot of valuable input."
- Favorite Magazines: "Next to *Perspectives*, I will most likely read the *Pentecostal Herald*, and then probably *Endtime* magazine, published by Irvin Baxter, Jr. I also read a lot from *Ministries Today*."

# Church Law

**By Owen Taylor**

A caller asked me recently if the local public school can penalize their young people for going to the "Rally at the Pole" prayer meeting. Several of the pastor's young people attended the school and attended an early morning band practice. They asked the director if they could leave for a few minutes to attend a 7 a.m. prayer meeting as part of the national effort for students to meet at the flag pole for prayer.

The director gave permission, but he said he would penalize their grade 10 points if they went. The pastor was very upset and scheduled a meeting with the band director and principal.

The pastor realized that he must back up the young people in their efforts and that the actions of the director were another effort to thwart the lawful and proper assembling of Christians for spiritual activities. I prepared a letter for the pastor, and he took it for his meeting with the principal. The letter outlined several key issues concerning the improper interference with the constitutional rights of students. In particular, we identified the freedom of speech and free exercise of religion guaranteed by the Constitution. Additionally, since the activity was outside of the academic school period, it was explained that the consent for the students to participate would not be considered as being sponsored by the school. In other words, what the students were asking was not only legal but constitutionally mandated that the school cooperate.

The pastor called back to say that he was victorious in his meeting with the principal and band director; all penalties were removed and he was told there would be no problem in the future. Praise God for His victories!

Owen Taylor is an Apostolic attorney. Call him at (410) 757-8080, or write: Christian Freedom Foundation, 1304 Harmony Lane, Annapolis, MD 21401.



**four family crises**

A noted family counselor reports that four American crises threaten to destroy family life in this nation: divorce, poverty, absentee fathers, and television viewing habits. Stephen Sumerel, director of Family Life and Substance Abuse for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina presented a paper on "Family Trends" last July. According to Baptist Press, Sumerel noted that "too many families live in poverty. Too many children have no father present in their lives. Too many marriages end in divorce, and too much violence and depersonalization have robbed us of our hope." He also said, "television viewing is the second most time-consuming activity in our nation," and decried its effects on the family, as it involves no interaction between family members.

**book review**

*United We Stand: Jubilee Edition* by Arthur and Charles E. Clanton, 1995 Word Aflame Press, 336 pages, hard cover, \$14.99.

The classic history of the United Pentecostal Church has recently been updated by Charles Clanton, son of the original's author, Arthur. While much of the added material reads like an encyclopedia, the information it contains is invaluable. And like his father, the younger Clanton is quite candid in his description of the forces contributing to decisions made by the organization. Of particular note in this Jubilee edition is "Profiles in Pentecost," an enthralling biographical look at some of the pioneers of Pentecost. Reading some portions of the book can be laborious, but still ultimately a rewarding experience.

**by the numbers**

**PASTORS' PAY:** What percentage of Americans think pastors should make at least \$40,000 annually as compared to other public service occupations.

*From January-February, 1991 Leadership Journal*

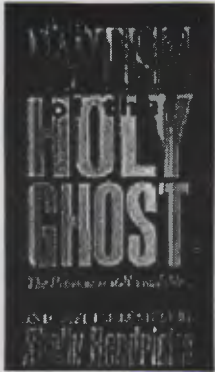


**making sermons fresh**

In the latest issue of *Leadership Journal*, Craig Larson offered the following preaching / teaching tips for the congregation who has "heard it all before":

- 1) Round out Bible characters. For many, familiar Bible characters are one-dimensional, either good or bad. But saints have their selfish moments, and when a preacher portrays that, weary listeners take interest.
- 2) Make application specific. There's a world of difference between telling someone that prayer changes things and sharing a fresh example of a situation transformed by prayer. Be specific about what you want people to do.
- 3) Address the tough questions. Raise and then address an issue that longtime listeners want to understand





## ***"The Baptism of the Holy Ghost"***

**Bro. Shelly Hendricks**

This is a 30 minute video that answers many questions individuals have concerning the Holy Ghost. It has been an evangelism tool that has persuaded people of all demoninations to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Over 1,500 people have received God's Wonderful Promise through the use of this unique tool.

**\$15.00**



## ***"Man's Approach to God"***

**Bro. James O. Russell**

James O. Russell began his ministry at age thirteen. He was a pastor for 32 years before his retirement in 1982.

In his unique teaching style Brother Russell explains the tabernacle and furniture using replicas he has built. In Tape I he relates the furniture to repentance, baptism and the Holy Ghost. Tape II relates the table of shewbread, the altar of incense and the candlesticks to modern day worship.

**\$25.00**

These tapes will be a great help in understanding and teaching the tabernacle plan.

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To order please send a check or money order (including \$5.00 shipping and handling fee) to:

Harvest Ministries  
632 Suthard Drive  
Madisonville, KY 42431

\_\_\_\_\_ "The Baptism of the Holy Ghost"  
(\$15.00)

\_\_\_\_\_ "Man's Approach to God" (\$25.00)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_



# The Jewish Marriage

Classic Sermon Outline by Lee Stoneking

**TEXT: Matthew 25:6. "Behold, the bridegroom cometh: go ye out to meet him."**



Lee Stoneking is an evangelist for the United Pentecostal Church International, currently living in Ballston Spa, New York.

I am very interested in the things of Judaism. In the Old Testament, man was a type of sovereign power, a ruling force, a type of New Testament Christ; the woman is a type of the Bride of Christ. I have always known from the time I began studying the Bible, the Jews had a covenant of circumcision. The man-child was circumcised on the eighth day. But have you ever wondered if there was anything the Jewish women or the girls had to do to get involved in the covenant, or were they automatically covered because the men had a covenant relationship?

So I procured a set of Jewish law books from the orthodoxy. I have discovered that when an orthodox Jewish bride and her bridegroom are required to come before God, they are required to thoroughly repent of all their sins before the God of Abraham.

Then, the bride must go to a place called the bathhouse. There is an immersion tank there, and the maiden must let her hair down, and all tangles must be brushed out. Her fingernails and toenails are manicured so that no particles of dust exist under them. There is to be no intervening dust on her body anywhere between her and the water. Her feet are washed just in case she picked up dust on the pathway to the bathhouse.

**AN OLDER WOMAN** from the community assists this young maiden to perform this ceremony. When the Jewish girl is placed in the tank and immersed, her eyes cannot be squinted because it would cause wrinkles to form; there cannot be any place on her body where the water does not touch. She cannot purse her lips because in so doing, there may be places that the water cannot touch. Her lips must partly be opened so that the water can go through and touch her teeth. When she is immersed, her hair is not allowed to float on the surface in the water. The older woman forces her hair down so that she is totally below the water. Every part of the ceremony is meticulously carried out.

**THE MAIDEN IS LIFTED** out of the tank and at this betrothal, she takes the name of the bridegroom. This is

not true among Occidentals, but it is true among the Orientals. She then legally uses the bridegroom's name as if she were married to him. It is valid in transactions. She can use the name of the bridegroom to be. That's one reason Joseph was so concerned when Mary was found with child. He had not yet married her, but it was nevertheless binding. He couldn't just walk off and leave her.

**WHEN THIS BRIDE-TO-BE** exits the bathhouse, she is clothed in her wedding attire and she walks down a pathway. Her garment must be without spot or wrinkle. She is looking for the bridegroom to step out of the shadows or bushes along the pathway, but she does not know where or when. Suddenly, in front of her, he will appear. She knows by faith that he is there! She walks on that path with great expectancy and with great joy. He suddenly steps from the shad-

## Is it not true that we will rise to a marriage supper of the Lamb and have a private affair with Him?

ows and receives her with open arms.

The two of them go to a marriage feast and are ushered into a beautiful dining area prepared especially for the two of them; no one else is allowed into this banquet hall. Everything imaginable that is pleasurable to eat has been prepared. They eat in privacy with guards posted at the doors so that nobody can interrupt the marriage feast. The entire community rejoices seven days and sings her praises.

**THE PARALLEL IS UNCANNY.** Orthodox Jews do this in blindness. Is it not true that we will rise to a marriage supper of the Lamb and have a private affair with Him? Will there not be rejoicing decreed and declared over there? Will there not be a Marriage

Supper of the Lamb at which you will have a chair with your name?

When we came to this new relationship with the Spirit of Christ, we fell in love with Him and agreed to be His espoused bride. We became ceremonially engaged to Him through water baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I have never seen Him, except from the word picture from His Holy Writ. I have looked upon His face through the witness of His Word. I know Him intimately through His Spirit. I can hardly wait to fasten my attention on His face.

There is something in me that wants to see Jesus, something that wants to go to meet Him. I have been to the bathhouse of baptism and I have climbed out of there with robes of righteousness. I have put down my filthy rags and have been washed clean, with no intervening particles, by the power of the blood of Jesus Christ. I have His Name.

**THE MARRIAGE** is not consummated yet. But, I have His Name and I have permission to use His Name before the marriage takes place. He told me (in His Word) that I could speak His Name over sickness and the disease would depart. I can do it! I have done it. Devils are subject to us when we use His Name.

I have used His Name in thousands of business transactions called prayers. I have cast out devils. Miracles have occurred because I have used His Name. It is the power of attorney to me. His name defends and protects me, and I feel eternally protected by His Name. I have the power to use His Name and nothing can stand against it. His Name has become my Name and my Name has become His.

Tonight, we are somewhere outside the bathhouse, running down a pathway, expectantly waiting for Him to leap out of the shadows. We don't know when He will come, but we do know He will. The angels promised it just before all of this began. "This same Jesus will come again in like manner." When He appears on the clouds above this earth, we will go up to meet Him in the air!

MS

### OUTLINE

- I. Introduction - Women's Duty Under Jewish Covenant
- II. Jewish Marriage Rituals:
  - A. Ritual Cleansing
  - B. Taking of the Bridegroom's Name
  - C. Clothed in Wedding Attire
  - D. Waiting for the Bridegroom
  - E. Bridegroom Appears
  - F. Marriage Feast
- III. Application to Us
  - A. Cleansed in Baptism
  - B. Taking on Jesus' Name
  - C. Making Ourselves Ready for the Rapture
  - D. Waiting for Christ's Return
  - E. Marriage Supper of the Lamb



*I*ndiana 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 ((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.)

# AIS TOP 40!

*NOTE: Each month, literally hundreds of research files are downloaded or requested from the Apostolic Information Service library of files. Of the thousands of files AIS maintains in its electronic library, the following 40 files are the most popular, determined by the number of times each file has been downloaded or requested from the database. All of the following text files may be obtained on two disks for only \$7.95 (the cost of the disks). Non-subscribers may also order these files as a sample of what AIS has to offer.*



## top bible study files

· INIL04.TXT	5705	Others Can, You Can't. Good article on the higher standard expected of Christians.
· INIL37.TXT	9272	Broken Dreams. God is the Healer of broken hearts. Very inspiring!
· INIL49.TXT	6837	Missing Heaven by 18 Inches. Sermon illustration on making sure of your salvation.
· INIL52.TXT	9224	Sermon Quotes. Nice collection of quotes to sprinkle into your sermons and Bible studies.
· EVGE05.TXT	7845	When God Builds a Prayer Room. Fred Foster talks about making prayer a priority.
· INIL21.TXT	6508	The Burglar. Hilarious illustration about God's watchful eye.
· BSFA01.TXT	9172	You Have Need, I Have Have God. Study on the provision of God.
· EVHE01.TXT	5210	Hell. Nathaniel A. Urshan gives a stirring message on Hell.
· EVPR12.TXT	7428	Growing Cold on the Eve of Destruction. This message challenges us to stay on fire for God.
· BSAT01.TXT	7680	The Voice of the Blood. Fascinating of "innocent blood" found in Scripture.
· BSWP01.TXT	3200	Ministry of the Wind. R.E. Johnson likens the wind to God's Spirit.
· BSAT02.TXT	7428	The Agony of Calvary. Interesting medical analysis of what Christ endured at Calvary.
· EVGE02.TXT	7680	To Cross a River. This sermon talks about the leading of God's Spirit.
· BSAT05.TXT	4190	Pathology of Christ's Death. Another medical evaluation of Calvary.
· EVPR12.TXT	8699	Destruction. This message challenges us to stay on fire for God.
· BSPR02.TXT	9906	Revival Praying. Vesta Mangun offers a stirring message on the need for prayer.
· EVPR06.TXT	8504	The Jewish Marriage. The Jewish marriage ceremony is compared to the Rapture.
· EVGE04.TXT	3531	He Loves Too Much to Leave You. This sermon talks about God's ever-abiding presence.
· BSAT07.TXT	9120	The Need for the Blood. Inspiring study about the place of Christ's blood in a Christian's life.
· BSVL03.TXT	5531	Things Hell Hates. Good Bible study on overcoming the forces of hell.
· EVHE02.TXT	6120	Hours in Hell. This is a great tract on the tragedy of going to hell.
· INIL18.TXT	5320	The Waiting Eagle. Good sermon illustration comparing the eagle with a Christian's life.



## top church management files

· LAMA02.TXT	5415	Ladies' Ministry Ideas. Thirty great ideas for ladies' meetings and fund-raisers.
· OPAW01.TXT	7715	Soul-Winning at Church. Tells why Christians should be involved in soul-winning.
· OPAW02.TXT	6628	Helping People Receive the Holy Ghost. Advice for praying with seekers.
· OPAW03.TXT	5415	Altar Workers' Seminar. Good training material for working at the altar.
· OPAW04.TXT	7715	Training Altar Workers. Another good program for training people to work at the altar.
· OPEM10.TXT	6315	Bearing Fruit. A powerful outreach program that most any church can implement.
· VFLE01.TXT	9015	Welcome Letters. Good letters to reach visitors and backsliders.
· HBAC01.TXT	7805	Getting More HBS Than You Can Teach. Good methods for getting home Bible studies.
· USGT01.TXT	6429	Guidelines for Greeters. Practical advice for greeting visitors to the church.



## top apostolic doctrine files

· ADHS09.TXT	2662	Holiness & Standards. The need for churches to maintain strong standards is emphasized.
· ADHS02.TXT	6447	Make-up & Christian Women. Biblical reasons for teaching against make-up.
· ADHS01.TXT	1457	Biblical Holiness. Good definition of what constitutes true holiness from God's perspective.
· ADAH02.TXT	9886	Oneness Pentecostal Origins. Very good article on the history of the Oneness movement.
· ADHG05.TXT	8651	Praying with Seekers. Royce Elms talks about working with people during altar calls.
· ADHG04.TXT	5372	How to Receive the Holy Ghost. Helpful instructions for sinners.
· ADAH01.TXT	9037	Oneness Origins. Three more good articles on Pentecostal history.
· ADGH01.TXT	6559	A Study in the Oneness. Well-researched Bible study on Oneness doctrine.
· ADHG02.TXT	9540	Holy Ghost Baptism. Article that does a good job of teaching about gift of the Holy Ghost.
· ADHS05.TXT	6515	Hair Length. Eight good articles on the question of hair length.

**Now receive all text files on this page (2 disks) for only \$7.95!**



**WORD TO THE WISE:**

*"Don't be so open minded that your brains fall out."*

**Smiles**

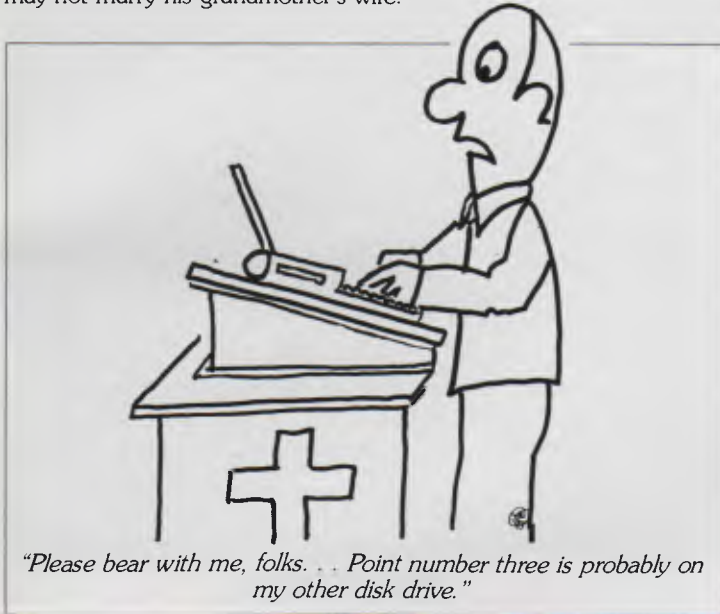


**Embarrassing errors** in typing or sentence construction have even cropped up in the Holy Scriptures. In 1632 there appeared what became known as "The Adulterous Bible." Seems the typesetters mistakenly left out the little word *not* from the seventh commandment, making it "Thou shalt commit adultery." The careless printers were fined 300 pounds, a fee that put them out of business.

Then in 1732, 8,000 copies of one Bible were printed before it was discovered that the Lord's commandment to the adulterous woman to "sin no more" had been printed as "sin on more," a letter reversal with considerable appeal to chronic transgressors.

An 1810 Oxford edition of the Bible became known as "The Ears to Ear Bible" thanks to a mangled line in the book of Matthew which read, "Who hath ears to ear let him hear."

Finally, a more recent typographical mix-up in 1923 produced several thousand copies that contained this stern admonition: "A man may not marry his grandmother's wife."



**A Traffic Cop** pulled over Pastor Jones one bright Sunday morning and the following conversation took place:

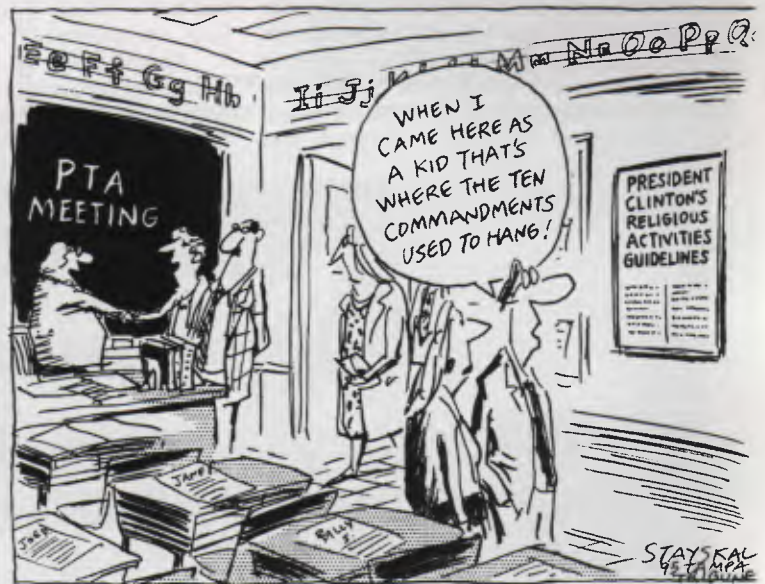
Traffic Cop: "Reverend, your driver's license says you should be wearing glasses."

Pastor Jones: "I've got contacts."

Traffic Cop: "Look, I don't care who you know."

**As always**, as they reached the door of the Sunday school class, Mother opened her purse and handed five-year-old Jean a dollar for the Sunday School offering. Jean stood for a moment and looked at the dollar until Mother asked if something was wrong. "Well," she mused, "I was just wondering how many more years I have to pay to get into Sunday school."

**Sign in front of the church:** Where will you spend eternity? Smoking or nonsmoking?



**Question:** How many pastors does it take to change a lightbulb?  
**Answer:** Only one, but the lightbulb has to want to change.

**THE 23rd Channel:** The TV is my shepherd, I shall not want. It makes me to lie down on the sofa. It leads me away from the faith. It destroys my soul. It leads me in the path of sex and violence for the sponsors sake. Yea, though I walk in the shadow of the Church, there will be no time to attend, for the TV is calling me. It's cable and remote control, they comfort me. It prepares a commercial for me in the presence of my worldliness. It anoints my head with humanism and consumerism, my coveting runneth over. Surely, laziness and ignorance shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house watching TV forever.

**Man talking to pastor:** "You are right, pastor, reincarnation doesn't make any sense. Who could afford to live twice?"



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## The Doug Davis Family: Focusing on the Tried and True

(Continued from page three)

addition to all of this, one old standby "program" continues to spur growth at the Oyster Bay church: friends reaching friends.

"With all of the activities we've used over the past 25 years," Davis noted, "we have concluded that one of the best ways of reaching our suburban area is one-to-one personal evangelism. In fact, all of the methods that we have found to work well are things that have been proven over and over again to be effective.

### Projected Growth

Neither of the Davises is content to rest on accomplishments of the past. Rather, they are excited about the possibilities of future growth at the Oyster Bay assembly: "We've outgrown every building we've moved into. It seems like every time we turn around, we're out of space. And once again, we've almost reached that point at our current building."

After six years in the current facilities, Bethel is fast approaching the limits of the

sanctuary's capacity of 350. "The building is now packed on Sundays. We have an extremely active youth and children's department, and it's becoming extremely difficult to have space for everyone. Because of that, we will probably have to move within a year, or else start conducting multiple Sunday services."

True, it's a problem, but it's a problem that the Davises welcome to a certain extent.

"We don't ever want to get to the point that we stifle our church growth; that's what keeps us alive," Brother Davis commented. As I mentioned, no new program that comes along will, by itself, work. On the other hand, any method s, when implemented by anointed men, will succeed."

Almost daily, the Bethel mailbox is filled with ideas for new outreach methods. However, their experience has shown them that new programs will never substitute for the old paths that continue to bring tried and true revival to the church in Oyster Bay, Long Island, New York.

## Feedback

To the editor:

Concerning your article in Vol. 5, No. 7 of Perspectives on professional counselors: I believe that a minister can reach out to a wide range of needs. If a person is affected with disease, he can pray for the person's healing. If a person needs counseling, he can present Scriptural answers to their problems.

There are times, though, when a specific need is outside the area of a minister's ability. A minister can pray for a diabetes problem, but he would need a physician to diagnose and prescribe medicine. In the same way, there are some mental and emotional problems that a minister is not equipped to deal with. Some of these problems require the help of professional counselors who understand their cause and treatment. A professional counselor may also provide objectivity that is difficult for a pastor to have because of his long-term involvement with the problem.

This is not to say a church should shy away from involvement in ministering to emotional needs. But it is important that we take an eclectic approach that recognizes that, although God can do all things, as men, we cannot.

—Rex Deckard  
 Hohenwald, TN

To the editor:

I have found Perspectives to be a great tool for ministry. I think too many in the media today are tending toward the liberal side of things. As a conservative, it is quite refreshing to see articles written in the proper "perspective," i.e., from a conservative vantage point. Being a conservative myself, I would be quite disappointed to find an organ such as yours going any other way.

Thank you for doing a great job!  
 —Jerry Stafford  
 Paris, TN

Address letters for publication to:  
 Editor, AIS, P.O. Box 47917, Indianapolis, IN 46247.  
 Include name, address and phone number. Letters may be edited for space. If you prefer, initials may be used instead of your name. You can also reach us via FAX at (317)781-7711. Or you may leave your "letter" on our answering machine at (317)781-7712. One other option is to send your letter via E-Mail on the AIS computer network. Send the message to the User I.D. "Perspectives." Our e-mail address on the Internet is ibc01@aol.com.

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## Spirit-Filled Lawyer Leaves Practice to Study **WORD**



Doug Crawford

After having been baptized in the wonderful name of Jesus and filled with His Spirit, I prayed to the Lord that I might attend Bible college. I prayed that prayer in 1988 and in 1994 God answered my prayer. At 34, I closed my law practice in South Bend, Indiana and moved to Indianapolis with my wife, Shelley, and our four children, Jennifer, Carly, Mary, and Allison. Only God could make it possible for me to return to school after eight years in the practice of law and with a large family.

It was my desire to learn

more of God, His ways, and His word in order that I might be prepared for what lies ahead for me and my family in these last days. After seeking the advice of my pastor and other friends in the ministry concerning schools, the consensus was that IBC would be the best school for me. I haven't been disappointed.

In only a year and a half at IBC, I have had a whole new world open up to me. Thanks to the instructors, and students I have come to know God more fully. Through the study of the Bible, His plan of salvation means more to me than ever before. He means more to me than ever before and it is my desire to

make myself available to Him.

The instructors at IBC excel at what they do. They work tirelessly and sacrifice to develop those who will minister into the next century. They offer not only their knowledge in the classroom, but also their experience and their example. IBC has a vision for world evangelism and education on the foreign field. I shall never forget my trip to Russia with IBC students in March, 1995. It changed my life forever. I thank God for Indiana Bible College.

*Doug Crawford is a practicing attorney in the city of Indianapolis and a full time student at Indiana Bible College.*

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