



PLAINLY SPEAKING:
AIS interview with
William E. Gamblin of
Orange, Texas.



APOSTOLIC NEWS:
Art Hodges discusses his
audio magazine on church
growth, "Impact."

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Indiana Bible College Perspectives

Apostolic Information Service

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VISITOR FRIENDLY

Hometown hospitality is an important part of church growth in the rural community of Columbia, Mississippi.

By Richard C. Brown

The friendliest church in town?" True, it's become something of a cliché; it seems that half of America's churches have at one time posted that slogan on their church signs. Still, cliché or not, that has not prevented Pastor James E. Carney from striving to obtain that status for his church, Woodlawn United Pentecostal Church, of Columbia, Mississippi. Maybe hometown hospitality just comes naturally in a rural setting such as Columbia. Or maybe it's the "visitor-consciousness" that Carney strives to instill in his saints. Whatever it is, Brother Carney and his congregation have produced - and are still producing - a true "visitor friendly church." And the result is an assembly where hundreds feel welcome each week.

Four hundred, to be exact. This is quite an accomplishment for a church in a rural setting. After all, Brother Carney started his pastorate at the church just eight years ago with approximately 180. But then, as Carney himself explains, his constant emphasis has always been the visitor and good old-fashioned friendliness.

"We like everything we do to tell people, 'Hey, we're glad you're here.' So we get as much information as possible from visitors, and we follow up on every one of them. We greet them when they come in the church. Every way that's possible, we make it known that they're important to us."

Hometown Hospitality

Friendliness and hospitality come naturally to the 47-year-old Carney. The smile that seems forever a part of his countenance comes

as much from his upbringing as anything else. Raised in a rural setting by Christian parents, Carney recalls that his family instilled within him from an early age "old-fashioned" values like reverence, respect and, yes, hospitality.

"What a tremendous privilege I had," Carney notes, "coming from the home I did. Probably some of the greatest influence on my life was not only the church that my dad pastored, but the home atmosphere I grew up in. My family taught us early to be considerate of others."

Indeed, Carney grew up on the outskirts of Tylertown, MS, in what he calls a "strong country church." All during his youth, Carney was the "pastor's kid" of that strong revival congregation.

"It was tremendous being able, as a child, to sit around listening to ministers talk about revival. I remember the stories of how revival first came into that community back in the 1940s."

After his high school graduation, Carney attended the University of South Mississippi, where he received his Bachelor's degree. During his later adult years, Brother Carney attended two other rural churches, one in north Louisiana and the one in Columbia which he now pastors. "I was fortunate," Carney said, "because in all my life, I was never part of a church that had any kind of church trouble. There was always such unity and friendliness toward one another."

It was at age 35 that Carney, who had since
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TOP: The modern facilities at Woodlawn include a spacious platform area for the ministerial staff during service. MIDDLE: Pastor James E. Carney of Columbia, MS. BOTTOM: Using a bus that was donated to them, Woodlawn UPC operates an effective ministry for senior citizens.

OUR NEXT OPINIONS TOPIC: "Reaching Your Unsaved Children"

If you have a topic 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) 800-AIS.

Opinions



*Murrell Ewing
Pastor
Lake Charles, LA*

Our church family in Lake Charles has been so kind about sharing my wife and me with other districts and other countries. The church has even been a part of this ministry with their prayers. However, I have personally wrestled with the idea: Have I stayed home enough to be an effective pastor

here? When have I shared myself enough with the rest of the world?

I have concluded that it is a tightrope to walk, and it's something we need to wrestle with. However, I don't think we can ever cut ourselves off from the rest of the Body of Christ. We can never stop the feeling of compassion we have for the rest of the world or the church beyond our borders.

Jesus mandated through the Great Commission that we go into all the world and preach the Gospel. He also mandated that we be His Body, strengthening each other worldwide. Thus, we do have an obligation to make ourselves available to one another. We need to be open to sectional, district, and even national relationships. Our togetherness should be a source of strength and encouragement. For when we isolate ourselves, we take away from the Lord's plan for us to be a strength to each other.



National & District Functions:

What is Your Responsibility?

AIS VIEW: *The local church has a responsibility to join with the church on a national level as much as possible in finance and personal support, because God demands that we strengthen and encourage the whole body, not just our local assembly. However, this should never be done to the extent that the local body is neglected.*

The worst thing a church can do is to become self-centered. When a pastor fails to expose his church to other ministries or preachers, the congregation suffers great loss. The church can benefit greatly by fellowshiping with other Christians and by becoming a part of the larger church around the world. A pastor owes it to his congregation to allow his people to become involved with national and worldwide fund-raising, evangelism and special functions.

Unfortunately, in some cases, churches do not become as involved as they could. It's not something they do intentionally; for a lot of churches, they just don't know the importance of involvement. Or sometimes, the section or district doesn't publicize the event far enough in advance. And since the church often plans its calendar a year in advance, a conflict develops.

So what can be done? Districts and sections need to give the pastor ample notice of future events so he can put them on the church schedule. And the pastor must realize that a self-centered family is not a healthy family and encourage involvement in the larger worldwide Body of Christ. "A fair share from everywhere" is still a concept that works.



*C.M. Becton
General Secretary, UPCI
Hazelwood, MO*



*John Hatch
Pastor
Batavia, NY*

As a part of the organization, each pastor is responsible to support the various organizational functions, including fund-raising. I also think that, depending on their schedule, the pastor should do his best to support any sectional or district meetings. He may be the only one able to go, but there should be some representation.



*Anthony Trapani
Pastor
Cardington, OH*

If the pastor wants his people to realize that they're part of something greater than themselves, it's important he involve them in some of the larger meetings. Unfortunately, some districts become very much political entities, and smaller churches don't feel like they're an important part of it, so they don't participate as much.



*H.M. Lewis
Pastor
Andover, NB, Canada*

I have always believed that the various programs that come to us from the organization come from the hearts of men chosen by God. So it's very important that we give consideration to these programs. If we don't support them, we may find that we reap what we sow when we ask our congregations to cooperate with programs we institute.



*J. Morgan
Pastor
Greenville, MO*

I don't think pastors can be 100 percent involved in every effort. I do believe, however, in at least trying to cooperate to some extent. Some projects may appeal to certain congregations more than others. Sometimes I think maybe we have too many programs going, and as a result, we tend to get lost in the middle of it all.



*Gordon Alexander
Pastor
Bloomington, MN*

Many pastors don't become involved in functions beyond the local level because they are too insecure about letting their saints mingle with others; they're afraid the saints will find a minister they like better. We need more prayer conferences to call the ministry back to prayer until they develop a greater trust for each other.



*Mark Christian
Pastor
Winston-Salem, NC*

Fund-raising for the church on a worldwide level is important. People who give themselves to a cause greater than they are will themselves benefit. Participation in district functions is helpful too, especially for a home missions church. It benefits newer people who are just coming to an understanding of what the church is about.

V James E. Carney: VISITOR FRIENDLY

(Continued from page one)

married his wife, Jean, first felt his call to preach. However, it wasn't until three years later that he acknowledged that call. At the time, he was working in the church under Pastor Floyd Odom.

"I had been attending this church for 13 years as a minister. When Brother Odom resigned in 1987, I was then elected pastor."

Small Town Ministry

In a rural community like Columbia, hospitality and friendliness from a church family are not only helpful - they are imperative. As a conservative community within the "Bible Belt," Carney says, everybody belongs to a church, and so any church lacking in concern for the individual will not make it.

"Everybody around here is tied to a church. Only a very small percentage are not a part of some denomination.



ABOVE: Exterior view of Woodlawn United Pentecostal Church in Columbia, Mississippi.

"Also, because this is a rural setting, we sometimes get the feeling that people are intimidated by folks coming and knocking on their doors and interrupting their schedules. So I strongly feel that in a setting like South Mississippi, you have to first get exposure. If we can somehow get them to attend a church service, the walls will be broken and barriers will somehow be penetrated. They will see that a Pentecostal service is not the dead, dry formal church setting to which they are accustomed. Also, a young pastor should get involved in his community. We have isolated ourselves too much from getting involved in civic affairs. But you have to get out there and get known. Exposure is vitally important."

One way that Woodlawn will be getting exposure, for instance: "We will be having our second annual singing at our church which involves only talent within our congregation. Last year, we had to put out a hundred chairs

The Importance of Visitor Follow-Up

Q. Was visitor follow-up always an important part of your strategy in Columbia, Brother Carney?

A. Oh, yes. I would say that during my entire eight years here, in addition to home Bible study, following up of all visitors who attended the church has always played an important role in our growth. For most of our time here, we didn't even do door-knocking; all we did, really, was visitor follow-up.

Q. On a scale of one to ten, how do you feel that visitor follow-up would rate in your church?

A. I would say a strong eight or nine. I'm not saying we were always the very best at it, but we have always striven to get as much information as we possibly can from all first-time visitors, and then target ministries toward them.

to seat the people. The city has asked us to do it again, so this July, we're going to do another singing."

Visitor-Friendly Outreach

Small-town hospitality also guides much of the evangelistic effort of Woodlawn UPC. In fact, an important program at the Columbia church has been the annual "Friend Day." On this day each year, saints are invited to bring acquaintances to a special service, complete with special singing and refreshments. So far, Woodlawn has had two Friend Days, and both times, they broke their previous attendance record.

Other visitor-friendly outreaches:

- *Home Bible Study:* "The greatest evangelistic tool of the 20th Century church is home Bible study. For the past 20 years, here in Columbia, it has been our greatest arm of outreach. Because of this, during the past several years, we have had a full-time outreach director who has totally committed himself to teaching home Bible studies. We have seen our church double in my eight years of ministry here, and I credit most of it to home Bible studies."

- *Door-knocking:* "This year is the first year we've ever knocked doors in my eight years here. And when we do it, we do it with the intent of getting people interested in other ministries."

- *Taste Fair:* "In an effort to increase our exposure to the community, every year on the Friday before Thanksgiving, we bring our city in for an annual Taste Fair. Our ladies' department makes up a huge amount of baked goods and we invite the community to come in and sample them."

"For the past two years, we have had to cut it off at 800 for lunch."

- *Bakers of Men:* Naturally, visitor follow up is one of the most important aspects of outreach at Woodlawn UPC. One unique aspect of their visitor ministry is something they call "Bakers of Men."

"For all first-time visitors," Carney said, "we try to get as much information as we possibly can for the Bakers ministry. After those people attend a Sunday morning or a Sunday night service, we have somebody knocking on the person's door sometime by Tuesday night, delivering a fresh-baked loaf of bread. We have three ladies in our church who make bread daily, depending on the need. This is just a token of our appreciation to them for coming, representing the Bread of Life. This ministry has had a tremendous impact on the people we have visiting."

Another important part of visitor follow-up at the Columbia church is an active letter-writing ministry. Saints volunteer their efforts to write personal messages to people who attend the church for the first time.

Philosophy of Ministry

This emphasis on visitors is a key part of Brother Carney's philosophy of ministry. There

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Fountain of Life Ministries presents...

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E. R. Snyder, Consultant/Evangelist



...offering various seminars and workshops that will stimulate your church's growth!

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2 Sessions

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Effective Home Bible Studies

3 Sessions

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2 Sessions

Training your people in altar work, which includes how to be sensitive, sensing their spiritual location, and things to avoid.
Very effective!

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2 Sessions

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What other Pastors say about the seminars:

"I feel that Bro. Snyder's work is vitally important. Church Growth is a definite need in this day and hour. His ministry here at Christian Life Center has already been motivating, inspiring, and effective. If you're interested in church growth, he will equip you with the tools and motivation you've been looking for."

Pastor Kenneth F. Hancy, Stockton, California

"The Snyders came to us highly recommended. As they ministered in the areas of church growth and evangelism, we received tremendous reports from all across Nova Scotia. I would highly recommend him to any of my brethren who are interested in Church Growth."

Rev. John D. Mean, District Supt. Nova Scotia, Canada

"Bro. Snyder's Home Bible Study Seminar was very inspiring and informative. I would recommend him to any of my ministering brethren who are serious about implementing the Home Bible Study Ministry in their church. He is a dynamic and anointed speaker in his seminars or by simply preaching the gospel."

Pastor Victor A. Bentley, Ohio Home Missions Secretary, Marietta, Ohio



9025 N. West Lane, Stockton, CA 95210 (209) 476-7891 or 476-7879

Apostolic Preaching Now & Then



AIS INTERVIEW With W.E. Gamblin

Editor's note: Bro. W. E. Gamblin is a well known campmeeting and conference speaker, having preached for over 26 district campmeetings across the nation. He has declared this Apostolic message for over 65 years, beginning in 1930 at the age of 17. At 83 years of age he is, in his words, "still goin' strong." Bro. Gamblin founded the First Pentecostal Church in Jackson, Mississippi, where he pastored for over 12 years. He also pastored the First United Pentecostal Church of Orange, Texas for 27 years. Recently, Brother Gamblin spoke with AIS about the importance of doctrinal preaching. The following are portions of his remarks:

.....

How has Apostolic preaching changed during your lifetime?

There's not as much preaching of doctrine today as there used to be.

How so?

I've been teaching for 65 years. In the beginning, when we went to places, we went there and preached doctrine. But it seems to me that there has been a letdown among the younger preachers today in preaching so much about the Apostolic doctrine.

How much of a problem is this?

It's a critical problem. Sound doctrine protects our churches. Some of our oldest, most established Pentecostal churches today are established on doctrine. And because of that, they seldom have a problem with false prophets or false doctrine.

In fact, I'd say the church is now living in its most dangerous time. An abundance of false doctrine makes it imperative for us to preach a strong Apostolic message.

Is the church at risk because of this?

Well, the church as a whole is not, but clearly the devil is attacking us. In the beginning, the devil tried to destroy the church by killing Christ at His birth, but he failed. Then he tried to destroy the church itself by persecution. He also failed in that endeavor. Now he is trying to destroy the church by getting people not to preach the standard of holiness and by convincing them to leave off the name of Jesus.

Is this happening even in Pentecostal churches?

Most definitely! The church world has determined that it's all right to be some kind of Pentecostal, but not an Apostolic Pentecostal. But in my estimation, to be a real Pentecostal, you have to be a Biblical one. And you have to go to the book of Acts to find that.

What do you miss most about early Pentecost?

One thing I miss is the conviction we had present in our services back then.

Could you expand on that?

In the early days, we had revival services, and there was great conviction during and following the preaching of the Word. It was common to see people weeping and praying.

So there was much more emotional involvement?

There was much more a sense of conviction for sin. We had services beginning in early evening and they often didn't get out until midnight or two the next morning. During those services, we would have people coming down the aisles, crying, lifting their hands, and calling out to God.

And you don't see that so much today?

I'm afraid that you don't find that as much now as you did in the beginning. I really miss the power of God we felt.

Now I know that when you start talking about how it used to be, the first thing some of the younger ones say is, "Yeah, older men just like to remember the old days nostalgically." But whatever they say about it, we had revivals and conviction was there.

How can we get back to that conviction that there used to be?

That is mostly in the hands of the local pastor, but the thing that's going to bring us back to old time Pentecost is getting down to the grass roots, down to the people, and getting them involved in praying and fasting. And then the pastor has to start preaching more about the Apostolic doctrine—things like repentance, baptism in Jesus' name, and a dedicated and consecrated life to God.

How did the New Testament church solve this problem?

The Bible said in Acts 2 that Peter preached

a sermon full of doctrine. As a result, the people were convicted in their hearts.

What about campmeetings years ago? Were they different than today?

Yes, there were differences. We have nice campgrounds today. They're usually air conditioned, with no saw dust. Everything is clean now.

Is that bad?

No, it's just the way it is. But in the past, I remember that campmeetings were places where a lot of people got saved. Now, though, it seems that the campmeetings are mostly for the saints and preachers to fellowship. This is not to say that campmeetings today are not good. I think they're very good and good for us. We just don't have the outside attendance that we used to have with sinners being saved.

What about youth camps?

Youth camps are something of a new phenomenon; we didn't have too many of them in the beginning. However, I must say that they have been a real blessing to the Pentecostal people. I hope and pray they don't go the way of other organizations that started with campmeetings and youth camps only to have them go down the drain. But as of right now, I think we're on the right track.

How do you think we can get greater exposure for the Apostolic message?

Again, this is pretty much up to the pastor to decide how he will relate to his local city. I think ministries like Harvestime are doing a good job of relaying the One God message on a national level. But as far as on the community level, probably the best way is to teach more home Bible studies. These are full of Apostolic doctrine, and it communicates our message in the most effective way—in individuals' homes, on a one-on-one basis. **MS**

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Bro. W. E. Gamblin lives in Orange, Texas where he serves as Pastor Emeritus of the First UPC, Bro. David Fauss, pastor.

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.



Paul D. Mooney

■ Ministry

I feel a tremendous burden for the work of God, but I don't really know how to get involved. In your opinion, what is the best way to get started in the ministry?

Let me put it succinctly: Get Busy! Stay Busy! Rise up early! Work hard! In short, find something to do and then do it with all your might.

God has never called lazy people into the ministry. He has never called indifferent people into the ministry. So keep in motion.

When God wants someone for a special purpose, He's more likely to call us while we're doing our regular work. This is a Bible pattern! God can use you if you're in motion.

.....

- Moses was herding sheep.
- Gideon was threshing wheat.
- Samuel was guarding the ark.
- David was tending sheep.
- Elisha was plowing with oxen.
- Nehemiah was serving the king.
- Simon was fishing - his daily work.
- James and John were also fishing.
- Matthew was collecting taxes.

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You won't miss out on God's call by staying busy with whatever your hands find to do! On the other hand, if you're just sitting around waiting for "the call," you'll probably be overlooked.

Don't worry: If God needs you, He'll interrupt.



T. W. Massengale

■ Outreach

People have told me that visitor follow-up is an essential outreach program for our church. What makes it so critical?

Visitor follow-up is important for two reasons: First, 92 percent of all who receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost receive it during a church service of some kind. Only eight percent or less receive the Spirit somewhere else. Secondly, 95 percent of those who receive the Holy Ghost have come at least three or more times before they receive it. So, what does this mean? It means that if your visitors don't return to at least two more services, you



T.R. O'Daniel

■ Theology

What did the Apostle Paul mean when he said, "The just shall live by faith"?

Paul quotes this passage from the Old Testament prophet Habakkuk (2:4) in both his epistle to the Romans (1:7) and to the Galatians (3:11).

It is important to understand that in both instances, he is speaking to saints whom he refers to as "just" because they have been justified. God has judicially removed the condemnation of sin and declared them to be righteous (or imputed righteousness to them according to Romans 4:24-25), not because of any works they had done (Titus 3:5), but because of the atoning work of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary (Romans 5:15-19).

In his first epistle to the Corinthians, Paul states that the wicked would not inherit eternal life and then lists who the wicked are. Paul then reminds them that "such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (6:10-11). Their washing, sanctification (at least at the beginning of the process), and justification had been accomplished when they were baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost (Acts 2:38).

They had believed and obeyed the Gospel that Paul preached (Acts 19:1-6) and were being admonished by Paul that nothing more was required for salvation. They must just continue to walk in the faith that had brought about their salvation and not put confidence in works of the Law.

Salvation only comes through faith in Jesus Christ. There is no substitute for a personal relationship with Him either before or after salvation. However, to know and love Him is to obey Him (1 John 2:3-4).



O. C. Marler

■ Family

My husband and I both have to work. His salary is low compared to others in his field, and it is all we can do to make the monthly bills. It bothers him that I have to work, and I will admit that it

bothers me to face a pile of bills every month. My getting discouraged about the bills causes him to become even more discouraged about his salary. What advice can you give us?

First of all, count your blessings - especially that you have a job. You are better off than many, even if your income is small. Whether you make \$100,000 a year or \$10,000, most people talk about all the bills they have to pay.

To solve a cash-flow problem, you must either make more or spend less. Since you did not mention that your husband might be able to transfer to another company for a salary increase or earn a promotion, I presume this is not an option. If so, then you need to set a budget to cut your expenses below your income to stay afloat. The real test will then be to have the discipline to stick to it.

You must be realistic about debt. It is good to be out of debt, but nearly everyone owes for large items like a house or car. If you are meeting your obligations, you do not really have a problem. Do not let debt worry you to the point that your home life suffers.

Money does not seem to be your only problem. Your husband's feeling that it is unfair for you to work comes from different economic times with different expectations. Most American families today have working wives who do so because they need the money. This should not be embarrassing. Most women enjoy their jobs. If you let your husband know you enjoy yours, then maybe he will feel less guilty about your having to work.

will have very few receive the Holy Ghost. The most effective way of encouraging your visitors to return is with a good follow-up program.

There are four basic steps to good visitor follow-up which even the smallest church will be able to perform. These are:

1) *A phone call.* Every visitor should be telephoned the day after their visit. The intent of the call is simply to leave a warm feeling in the heart of the visitor. It should be low key and not pushy in any way. The visitor should put down the phone thinking, "My, that was considerate of them."

2) *A personal letter.* The pastor's personal letter should arrive a few days later. It should also be warm, caring, and not give the impression of being a "form letter."

3) *A personal visit.* This visit is the most

important part of the follow-up strategy. And those who do the visiting must be trained in how to do it properly. They must not be pushy or offensive in any way. It is during this visit that a home Bible study will be offered. You also should visit them four times during the following year (offering a Bible study each time), putting at least two months between each visit.

4) *A church bulletin for one year.* All visitors should be placed on your church mailing list. If your church has a bulletin or newsletter, this should be mailed to them each month. This will keep some kind of contact with them for an extended time.

A visitor follow-up ministry, in short, has to show we care. In the long run, that's what will keep the person coming and what will determine the success of our evangelism efforts.



RELIGION

JW's Call for End of Predicting End

The Jehovah's Witnesses, infamous for predicting when the end of the world would be, are now calling for an end to the practice. According to the November 27 National & International Religion Report, JW leaders are calling for a re-examination of the cult's prior interpretations of their eschatological beliefs.

While the Jehovah's Witnesses have revised their prophetic teachings many times over the years, current doctrine says that the generation alive and "aware" of Christ's spiritual return in 1914 would not pass away before Armageddon. However, recent articles in the Watchtower magazine have conceded this might not be accurate.

"The sect's leaders . . . now say that re-examination of Scripture prompted them to see 'this generation' as the people of a historical era rather than the lifespan of certain individuals," according to NIRR.

TELEVISION

TV Portrays Bad Youth Role Models

A study of prime time television programs by Children Now has concluded that young TV characters often portray negative social behavior, but benefit by it. According to the study:

- 40 percent of all child characters engage in negative social acts.
- Although most anti-social behaviors do not pay off for TV children, violence is frequently seen to benefit the child.
- Deceitful behavior is seen as effective about half the time.

News In Brief...

◆ A Cincinnati federal appeals court has ruled that the U.S. military cannot prevent daycare providers from reading Bible stories or saying prayers over meals.

◆ The Chicago-based Cult Awareness Network has paid a high price for its alleged involvement in the kidnapping and persecution of a Seattle Apostolic man. The organization, which purportedly assisted cult "deprogrammer" Rick Ross in kidnapping Jason Scott, a member of a Seattle UPC (See Vol. 5, NO. 9 of *Perspectives*). Unable to pay the \$1.9 million judgment, CAN has filed for bankruptcy.

AMERICAN FAMILY

Divorce Now Done by 'Automatic Teller'

Divorce without the hassle - that's the promise the Superior Court of Arizona has made with the introduction of its "Quick Court" machine.

According to CNN Interactive (an online service of Cable News Network), the state of

Arizona introduced the automatic-teller style machine last year to make getting a divorce quicker and easier. Quick Court is an interactive kiosk that allows people who represent themselves in divorces to prepare the necessary papers and present them to the court instantly.

Judge Robert Myers of Maricopa County Superior Court dismisses ideas that instantaneous divorces may prevent reconciliation between the spouses. He told CNN, "This gives the unrepresented litigant an opportunity to present to the court forms and papers that are properly completed, so there isn't any delay. There is no waiting period."

The popularity of "divorce by ATM" is soaring in Arizona. People now have to make appointments to use them. Arizona authorities plan to have 150 of the units in place by August 1996, in various spots around the state.

CHURCH & STATE

California Allows School Bible Study

A California court has ruled that public high schools that allow other noncurricular activities during lunch hour must also permit Bible study groups to meet at the same time.

In the case, Melony Cenicerros sued earlier this year under the Equal Access Act, when San Diego's University City High School prevented her Bible club from meeting during lunch. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals heard the case and found in favor of Cenicerros, who is a student at the school.

Most lawyers say that the ruling will be binding in nine western states and will possibly influence judges in other states as well. Brad Dacus of The Rutherford Institute told reporters with National & International Religion Report that the ruling "makes it clear to school districts that they cannot discriminate against religious clubs that meet before school, after school, or during lunchtime."

PROPHECY

Do Marines Have 'MARC' of Beast?

It turns out that credit cards or debit cards are not the Mark of the Beast after all. At least not according to some prophecy gurus who now see prophetic fulfillment in the new MARC identification card held by the nation's Marines.

Captain Joel Kirk, a 26-year-old Marine pilot, is one such Christian leery of the new military i.d. MARC is a "multitechnology automated reader card" that Marines are now required to wear at his base in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. The MARC card contains a two-kilobyte computer chip which carries any records that the military deems appropriate. It also has the conventional i.d. items printed on it, such as name, rank and serial number.

Captain Kirk (no joke) said he is fearful that the card will eventually be required for every kind of transaction. He told Christianity Today, "When you take that card and they put the reader scanners into the commissaries and exchanges and weapons draw, you become a slave to that system." He said there's little difference between taking the card and taking a mark on your hand or head.

Tim LaHaye, and other prophecy scholars, dismiss Kirk's notions. LaHaye said that the MARC card shows technology is in place for the eventual "Mark," but as long as it doesn't have 666 on it, there is nothing wrong with it.

MORALITY

Ireland Hit by Anti-Family Forces

Some of the same anti-family forces that have attacked the United States during the past two decades now seem to be at work in Ireland. In December, voters narrowly voted to repeal the law forbidding divorce in the republic. Pro-family forces, however, vowed to fight to get the ban reinstated.

Also in Ireland this past fall, Evangelical Press reports that the governments has overturned a ban on Playboy magazine which has been in place for 34 years. The government's Censorship of Publications Board has banned several books and magazines over the years, but approved Playboy for distribution in the Roman Catholic-dominated country.

Hodges Presents Church Growth Resource: Impact Audio Magazine

CHURCH GROWTH

By Richard C. Brown

It's the "Catch-22" of a revival pastor: He wants to stay up-to-date on the newest church growth methods, but has little free time to do so. Filling that need is the purpose of the newly-launched revival resource, *Impact Audio Magazine*.

Pastor Arthur Hodges III of Chula Vista, CA, sponsors *Impact* through his Church Growth 2000 ministry. The contemporary radio-style magazine is designed particularly to appeal to the pastor on the run.

"The average pastor in North America subscribes to more periodicals than he finds the time to read," Brother Hodges noted. "On the other hand, the average commuter in North America could receive the equivalent of a two-year college education in four years if he listened to audio tapes while driving, redeeming time otherwise lost. So *Impact* helps the

busy pastor keep informed about things that could help his church to grow."

Impact is produced in a "live style" radio format, copying radio techniques made popular by current Christian talk shows. Each month's program has several contributors on a variety of topics, but all related to a common church growth theme. A typical episode would feature an innovative outreach ministry, news of revival at a particular church, and a review of a church growth book. "In addition," said Hodges, "a stimulating one-on-one up-close and in-depth interview with a dynamic church leader is conducted monthly."

Brother Gary Harding serves as co-host of the program, interacting with Hodges as they interview their various guests. Harding has worked for 25 years in radio and is largely responsible for the magazine's professional



Arthur Hodges III

packaging. Harding said their goal was to produce "a new and innovative concept filled with ideas, interviews and information to keep [ministers] on the cutting edge of church growth. It's designed to inspire, encourage and motivate every pastor and lay leader." To receive a free demo tape of *Impact*, or to subscribe, write: *Impact*, 395 D Street, Chula Vista, CA 91910. Or call (800) 76-IMPACT. Cost is \$10.00 per month or \$100 for 12 episodes.

'Worth the Wait' Youth Video Filmed at IBC

As a moral epidemic of teen promiscuity sweeps the nation, the UPCI's General Youth Division is poised to tackle the problem with its new "Worth the Wait" program.

"'Worth the Wait' is an abstinence curriculum that encourages moral purity among our young people," Brian Kinsey, General Youth President, said. "Its purpose is to show young people from the Word of God the need to abstain from sexual activity until marriage."

PENTECOSTAL YOUTH

"Worth the Wait" was introduced to the UPC's young people at the North American Youth Congress last August in Little Rock, AR. Kinsey said that service stirred him about the need for this type of effort among Apostolic youth.

"Brother Ken Gurley, who wrote this curriculum, preached at that service and asked

the youth to write down a pledge to remain morally pure. Then he gave them a ribbon as a symbol of their vow to remain true to the principles of God's Word. It was unbelievable how many young



Brian Kinsey

people made commitments after that service. "We feel it's our obligation to provide the type of materials that would hold young people's attention, and still impart this kind of teaching. Because the church is the only segment of society that is going to give it to them," Kinsey noted.

A training video, Kinsey said, will be an important part of the "Worth the Wait" efforts. Brother Gurley, who pastors in Pearland, Texas, filmed the video at Indiana Bible College in December. During the video presentation, Gurley talks to ministers about how to reach youth with the message of abstinence and moral purity.

Prices: \$7.00 per teacher's manual, \$3.00 for student books, \$2.00 for posters, \$6.00 for cassette tapes, \$10.00 for t-shirts and \$30.00 for banners. Or order a \$23.00 package containing a leader's guide, five student books, a poster and five "pledge" ribbons. The price for the training video was tentatively set at \$15.00. For more information, write the Youth Division at 8855 Dunn Rd., Hazelwood, MO 63042. Or call (314) 837-7300.

Jordan Offers 'Healing Evangelism'

APOSTOLIC MINISTRIES

Some approach outreach as a warrior; Mark Jordan approaches it as a spiritual doctor. And through his "Healing Evangelism" course on compassionate outreach, he is teaching others to do the same.



Mark Jordan

Jordan, who pastors in Toledo, OH, wrote "Healing Evangelism" last year as part of the answer to the hurts plaguing American society. Said Jordan: "We began to notice that most people were being saved as a result of a compassionate, healing touch. We saw that so many people were in some kind of trouble; they were 'sick' and needed help."

So Brother Jordan produced "Healing

Evangelism" as a kind of spiritual first-aid course. "Just as with natural first aid," he said, "it revolves around the letters A-B-C. First we clear the *airway*. Spiritually, this means we try to get people into a state that they can receive what we're giving them. Then we resuscitate their *breathing*. This means we help them to start spiritually receiving the Word, by first praying with them. And third comes *circulation* of the blood. That is, we introduce them to the saving blood of Jesus Christ. Then in the last part of the course, we go into the therapeutic value of salvation. We present it not as something we do just to avoid hell, but as something that leads to healing."

To order the spiral-bound, 160-page manual, write: Pentecostal Publishing House, 8855 Dunn Rd., Hazelwood, MO 63042. Or call Brother Jordan at (419) 885-1842.

- Several Apostolic ministries can now be found on the World-Wide Web.
- David K. Bernard's new Apostolic history book is the most exhaustive on the subject.
- Teen church attendance is on the increase among U.S. congregations.

PREACHER'S PICKS

Pastor J.G. Thompson offers a unique perspective on reading resources available to ministers:

- Recommended for Inspiration: "If the Sheep Could Speak is a helpful book on pastoring. And Max Lucado's books are always favorites for dealing with pain and loss."
- Favorite Magazines: "I read *Time*, *U.S. News & World Report* and *People* regularly. It's good to read this kind of material for world information and just to keep up with what's going on and with basic information on life."

Church Law

By Owen Taylor

At tax time, the issue of gifts and income for ministers becomes an important issue to consider. This area is very delicate, and as such, I'll try not to tread on any toes.

Gifts are not usually considered as income. Thus, where a minister receives a gift that is not in exchange for any service, such as a wedding or funeral, it is not reportable as income for tax purposes. On the other hand, where as the result of some service, whether large or small, the payment is not a gift but income - even if it is made in cash and the donor is not seeking any tax benefit. Unfortunately, as clear as these basic rules may seem, the IRS and the courts have muddied the waters pretty well. For instance, in a recent case, *Goodwin v. U.S. No. 94-379* (Eighth Circuit, 1995), the federal court of appeals ruled that certain gifts were taxable. In this case the court decision affirmed a lower court decision to tax special occasion gifts made by a church to its minister and his wife. The gifts were made anonymously three times a year through special offerings collected by church officials. The Circuit Court said regular, sizable payments made by persons to whom the taxpayer provides services are to be regarded as taxable compensation.

Notice that the court mentioned "large," "regular" and "provides services" as being key factors to change the "gift" into income. Presumably, this ruling does not affect the general rule that smaller, spontaneous gifts for love and affection are not a problem and are not reported as income. As always, consult with a tax person knowledgeable in church and clergy tax issues, when in doubt.

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



apostolics on the world-wide web

The World-Wide Web, the most user-friendly portion of the Internet because it features point-and-click access to various features, now hosts several Apostolic ministries. Here are some addresses to access with your web browser: 1) Apostolic UPC, Norfolk, VA, pastored by Michael Blankenship has a page. Significant features are Brother Blankenship's home

Bible study, "The New Birth Experience," and links to several Apostolic church pages. (<http://www.starsman.com/aupc/.htm>) 2) UPC Bible Studies is a page with numerous articles in defense of various Apostolic doctrines. (<http://www.upci.org/vadist/bstudies.htm>) 3) Endtime magazine also has a page for its various prophecy ministries. (<http://www.webcom.com/~endtime/upc.html>)

book review

A History of Christian Doctrine, by David K. Bernard, 1995 Word Aflame Press, 8855 Dunn Rd., Hazelwood, MO 63042, 352 pages, paperback, \$14.99.

Finally, there is a truly exhaustive work on church history from an Apostolic perspective. If this sounds like overblown hyperbole, you owe it to yourself to read David Bernard's newest history work.

A History of Christian Doctrine traces the development and deterioration of Christian doctrine from just after the New Testament era to the 16th Century. What is particularly refreshing about this (and the author's other history works) is that Bernard never appears to be writing from a defensive posture. Rather, he allows the facts to speak for themselves; and the facts usually support well the belief that the early church had a Oneness concept of God. Seven well-researched appendices round out this, the most thorough Oneness history book to date.

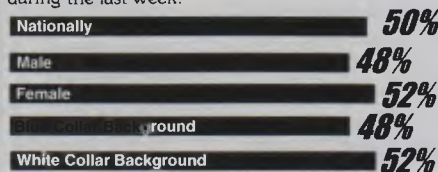
effective church plants

Pastor Edwin Harper of Huntington, WV, offers these attributes of effective church planters:

- 1) Must be self-motivated
- 2) Must be self-disciplined
- 3) Must be a self-encourager
- 4) Must have a strong relationship with God
- 5) Must be a proven soul winner
- 6) Must be able to make disciples
- 7) Must be patient with God's people
- 8) Must be resilient
- 9) Must be determined
- 10) Must have a positive attitude

american pulse: teen church attendance

Churches not actively reaching for teens might be missing an ever-ripening field. Recent statistics show that teen church attendance is on the rebound. A look at teens who said they had attended church or synagogue during the last week:



Source: Princeton Religion Research Center

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S. A. Carley, Pastor

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a reality! Learn how to channel your burden into winning people to God! (Notebook with 3 cassettes)



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The View From the Wilderness

Selected Sermon Outline by Paul Mooney

TEXT: Leviticus 23:39-42. "Behold, the bridegroom cometh: go ye out to meet him."



Paul Mooney is Superintendent of the Indiana District UPCI and president of Indiana Bible College. He pastors Calvary Tabernacle in Indianapolis, IN.

God has always been very concerned about attitudes. One of the greatest offenses that the Bible makes reference to, and one of the things that God despises most, is the pride of humankind. He hates even a proud look. He despises arrogance; men walking about with no humility whatsoever; mortal corruptible men acting as if they are immortal; unholy men pretending to be holy; and Godless men pretending to be God. This kind of human arrogance, the Lord hates.

For that reason, I want to talk to you about "The View from the Wilderness," because in the interest of humility, God has always tried to build into His people an attitude, a concept, a particular way, that He wants them to look at things. God wants you to see things in a particular way. To put it in simple terms, He wants you to see it His way, because His way is the right way.

You can't be what God wants you to be unless you think like God. I've got news for you: Before you'll ever get to heaven, you'll have to go God's way. This means you'll have to start looking at things from His perspective. How arrogant of you to imagine that you could conceive your own way.

You need to think like God. The problem is that we humans, in our arrogance and self-will, often prefer our own minds to His mind. Men and women today are in love with their own thoughts; however our thoughts are not His thoughts. And God recognizes this, so He has struggled with the human race to get us to think right. He has striven to get us to think from an attitude of humility, so that we can become what He wants us to become.

LET ME GIVE you an example. In Leviticus 23, God imposed on His people an exercise that was intended to get them to surrender and humble themselves. In this passage, the Lord had been talking about keeping the Sabbath and shutting things down for a day. Now watch this exercise:

"Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the Lord seven days:

on the first day shall be a Sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a Sabbath. And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days. And ye shall keep it a feast unto the Lord seven days in the year. It shall be a statute forever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month. Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths."

The Lord commanded the Israelites to build a booth or tent and live in it for a week. He wanted them to remember who they were and where He had brought them from. He wanted them to remember how they got into those beautiful houses, and that they did not do this by themselves.

"You will never get anywhere with God until you humble yourself, because if you exalt yourself, you shall be abased."

God says, "I don't want you to get lifted up in your own eyes, but I want you to sit in that tent for seven days and remember who brought you, who kept you, and who delivered you.

PENTECOSTALS, I SEE tremendous attacks on the church today. We have a lot of people who want to try and alter the Word of God and to pull you away from the grace of God. Not everybody likes the word grace or understands the mercy of Jesus Christ.

We've got too many folks who don't want to get in the booth. They don't want to admit their nothingness. Yet I promise that you will never get anywhere with God until you first humble yourself, because His Word says that if you exalt yourself, you shall be abased.

IF YOU THINK for one minute that you can ignore the precious, holy Word of God, you've fooled yourself. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one Gospel plan. Everyone must submit to it.

Who are you to go around and tell people they don't need the Holy Ghost? Or that they don't need to be baptized in Jesus' name? Who is your father, and to whom do you belong?

What's more, who told you that holiness doesn't matter? You better get back in the booth and remember the things that brought you to where you are.

God is not impressed by men's pseudo-intellectualism. He is not impressed with your accomplishments, because if any man has anything to boast of, it is only because of Jesus.

ONE BIG PROBLEM we have in the church today is people who had once tasted the Holy Spirit for themselves, but because they've gotten cross-ways with God and out of sync with His agenda, now they don't want anybody else to get it. This Holy Spirit interferes with their life-style.

Others say, "Well I believe in getting the Spirit of God; I just don't believe in the speaking in tongues thing." Well, aren't you just advanced and sophisticated? You're so intellectual that you have advanced beyond the prophet's words when he said, "with stammering lips and another tongue will I speak to this people."

You cannot get to God through religious ideas. You can't get to God by some kind of human sophistication. You can't even know God by human knowledge. The Bible says that the world knew not God by wisdom. Friends, if the Holy Ghost does not give you a revelation, you can't even recognize the presence of Jesus Christ.

IT IS THE SPIRIT that opens you up; it is the Spirit that anoints you; it is the Spirit that excites you. And it's only by the Spirit that you can call Him Lord. That's what the view from the wilderness will do for you. It will make us alive. It will help us to once again remember where we came from and who brought us here.

AS

OUTLINE

- I. Introduction - Seeing Things From God's View
- II. Remembering From Whence We Came:
 - A. Israel commanded to dwell in booths for seven days
 - B. Purpose was to remember who was the source of their blessings
 - C. Only God's grace brought us to where we are
- III. Dependence on God
 - A. We're nothing without God
 - B. Holy Ghost needed
 - C. Jesus' Name baptism needed
 - D. Holiness Needed
 - E. Man's Intellectualism No Substitute

*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)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.)



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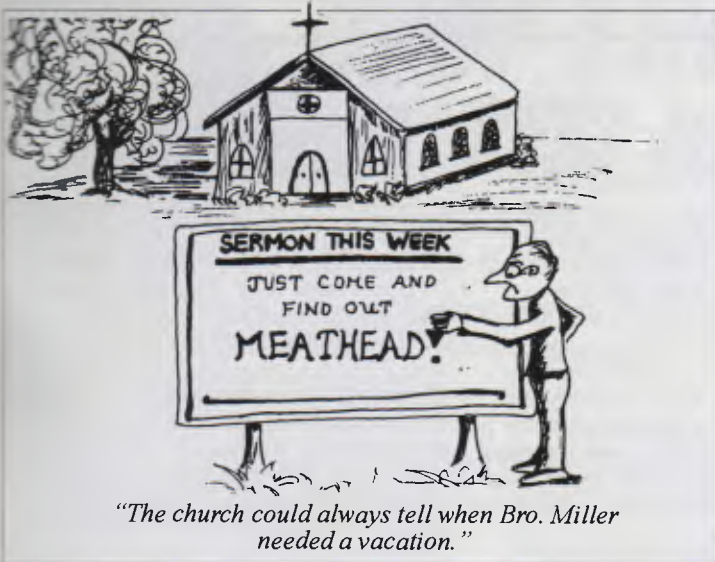
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WORD TO THE WISE:

"The tragedy of this late hour is that we have too many dead men in the pulpits, giving out too many dead sermons to too many dead people."

--Leonard Ravenhill



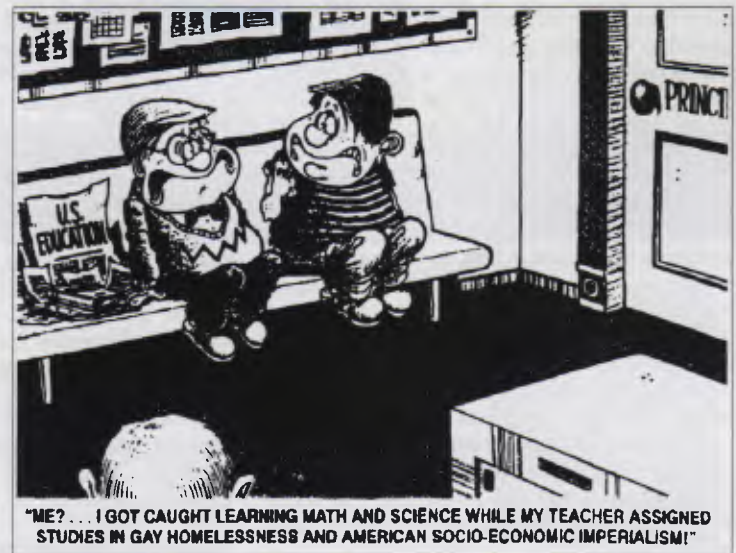
The need for Christian counseling has never been greater, as this answering machine message from a psychiatrist's office demonstrates:

- "If you are obsessive-compulsive, please press 1 repeatedly. . .
- "If you are co-dependent, please ask someone to press 2. . .
- "If you have multiple personalities, please press 3, 4, 5, and 6. . .
- "If you are paranoid-delusional, we know who you are and what you want. Just stay on the line so we can trace the call. . .
- "If you are schizophrenic, listen carefully and a little voice will tell you which number to press. . .
- "If you are manic-depressive, it doesn't matter which number you press. No one will answer."

One lady tells the story of a service at her local church during which someone handed the pastor a note. He promptly read it aloud: "At the close of service today, there will be a short ladies' meeting in the choir room." Then he quickly added, "O.K., all you short ladies, please don't forget this announcement."

Top Ten Signs that your church might be turning into a cult:

10. Everybody wears screaming day-glo orange.
9. Minister preaches out of the "New Revelation Version."
8. Deacons send hit squad to make sure they get your 10 percent.
7. Baptistry is filled with Perrier.
6. Preacher throws Bible out in the middle of sermon and declares that he'll just "make it up as he goes along."
5. You discover that the pews have been bugged.
4. Discounts on sin. Fifty percent off, this week only. . .
3. Communion crackers look like Tic-Tacs.
2. Choir keeps singing, "Draw Me Nearer" with that glazed look in their eyes.
1. Prays to Rush Limbaugh.



The Bible commands "Be ye perfect," but the closest we come to perfection in this life is on job applications.



A Christian hunter decided to go into the woods one day to see what he could track down for supper. As he was going deeper into the woods, he became aware of sounds trailing behind him. Sure enough, he was being followed. Slowly he turned around and was suddenly face to face with this huge bear. "Oh Lord," the men prayed aloud, "Please let this bear be a Christian bear."

Immediately the bear looked up to heaven and prayed, "Thank you, Lord, for this food I am about to eat."

Actual announcements from church bulletins:

- "Don't let worry kill you - let the church help."
- "Thursday night - Potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow."
- "Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community."
- "For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs."
- "The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Alan Belzer, the sin of Rev. and Mrs. Belzer."

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James E. Carney: Visitor Friendly

(Continued from page three)

are, however, other equally-important elements to growth at Woodlawn. Brother Carney incorporates them all into his own personal philosophy of ministry.

"First, for the pastor himself, I think there has to be a commitment for a long tenure there. A man cannot go into an area, particularly a rural area like Columbia, and stay a year or two and then be gone. The church has to be committed to that pastor and to let him become a part of that community. And for his part, the pastor has to become committed to both the church and the community, becoming a fixture in that community for many years. This is the only way that a church will reach its full potential." Indeed, Brother Carney himself has become well-known in his community. Having been in the area for over 20 years, residents have known him as both a business person and a religious leader. And they respect him for the length of his tenure.

"I'd say 95 percent of the pastors in this area are short-term pastors. They stay one, two or three years and then leave; they don't even get to know their churches."

Another important part of Carney's pastoral philosophy is the need for training people to be effective leaders. He notes that a church's long-term success hinges on this type of leadership development. "A church should do as much training as it can financially afford," Carney stressed. "A pastor has got to develop leaders, and his leaders have got to develop people under them. In fact, I'd go so far to say that as a church grows into it, the pastor needs to spend more time with his leadership and less time with the congregation overall. This doesn't mean you isolate yourself from the congregation. You cannot put your people where they can't touch you. However, when it comes to ministry, the pastor has to involve himself with that leadership team and duplicate himself through those people."

Brother Carney's leaders oversee 10 separate departments in the church: the ladies' auxiliary, youth ministry, the "Brotherhood" men's ministry, new convert care, music department, Christian education department, home Bible study department, the visitor follow-up ministry, hospitality ministry, public

relations department, and the Sunday school.

"I meet with the leaders of these departments once a week on Wednesday night, just prior to church," Carney said. "During those five or ten minutes, I touch bases with them on everything coming up during the next four weeks, making sure everything is being planned." He also said he conducts monthly meetings, which normally last around two hours. And an annual planning retreat rounds out the leadership organization at Woodlawn. "This retreat is something new for our church," said Carney. "But it's been very effective. We take all of our department leaders, along with their staff and their spouses. This year, for instance, we're going to Mobile, AL. We'll be down there from Thursday to Saturday, planning our activities for 1996."

One other part of Carney's pastoral philosophy is the need to motivate his congregation, particularly the ministry leaders. "The biggest problem that any pastor faces," he noted, "is somehow getting it into the minds of key people that they can be productive Christians. And until you can get them to get out there on the playing field and involved in soul-winning, your church will never reach its full potential. You have to motivate them to assume the ministry that God has for them."

The Future: Making Room for More Friends

The Woodlawn congregation is always ready to welcome new visitors into their family. Consequently, they are eagerly preparing for continued growth at the church. Brother Carney said, for instance, that they hope to build in the near future.

"We have a very modern facility right now. People tell me that our Family Life Center and gymnasium are the most up-to-date they've ever been in. We have in our Family Life Center 33,000 square feet. Half of this is designed for the educational purposes of our church. The other half is for recreational purposes.

"We're now in the drawing up plans to erect a new sanctuary. We've completely maxed out the present one. So we're hoping to build and complete a new one in 1996. We want to always create a comfortable atmosphere for our guests. After all, that's what this whole thing is all about - bringing in new people."



The Woodlawn youth group poses in the church's modern gymnasium.

Feedback

To the editor:

Concerning your "Opinions" page in Vol. 5, No. 9 of Perspectives on the divorce question: feel that many problems with marriage today are due to a lack of communication. However, the pastor should only discuss divorce with the couple in the case of adultery, the only reason allowed for divorce given in the Bible. Then, if the divorce is for the appropriate reason, the innocent party should be allowed into a leadership position. But even this should only come after a period of possible reconciliation with the spouse and then a period of reconciliation with the church.

—Jon Pickens
Indianapolis, IN

To the editor:

Christian Greetings! I read Perspectives on a regular basis and I do like the magazine. I always photocopy the AIS New Files page and store them. I also like the controversial topics that you explore, such as the divorce question addressed on this month's "Opinions" page.

A couple of suggestions, though: I would like the magazine to capitalize on its unique perspective as a magazine sponsored by a Bible school. How about some articles by the staff of IBC relating to the subject areas they teach? And is there any chance for some articles showing some good books to buy? Pastors out in the boondocks like myself cannot afford the time or money to go to a lot of seminars. so is it possible to use this magazine to bring the resources of IBC to me? Please think about it and keep up the great work!

—J.D. Ward, Fort Frances
Ontario, Canada

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