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Bro. A.D. Spears gives advice on having "Spirit-Oriented Church Services."



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APOSTOLIC NEWS:
Bro. James Larson reports phenomenal success with a video outreach. Plus other "Apostolic News."

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I. B. C. PERSPECTIVES

Apostolic Information Service

Vol. 5, No. 5

Naples' Team Church

Pastor Larry G. Sims of Naples, Florida says the key to growth at First United Pentecostal Church has been his focus on getting others involved.

By Richard C. Brown

If you're looking for a church where one man has been solely responsible for its growth, Pastor Larry G. Sims will quickly tell you to look elsewhere. But if you're interested in finding a church that practices teamwork, and that works together to bring growth and revival, look no further than Sims' Naples, Florida congregation. There, at First United Pentecostal Church, coopera-

tion is the unofficial church credo.

"I look back now to my early years here, and I realize that I didn't focus as much on the teamwork concept as I should have. If I knew then what I know now, I would have spent much more time developing those people who could together help the church grow. I would not spend as much time trying to do everything myself. Instead, I would have started years ago training people to help me do it," The 46-year-old Sims said.

Indeed, Brother Sims was not too long in Naples before he started instituting team concepts. And it seems the First UPC team is now winning the game: Despite frequent move-away's, the church has grown from eight to 250 since 1976.

Not An Easy Lesson

Because of his early family life, the concept of teamwork was not something that came easy to Brother Sims. After his father died early in his youth, the Sims family went through three step-fathers, none of whom were in the church. Going strictly on his own, he began attending a Baptist church in Marianna, FL at age 16. While there, he



Above: The congregation at First United Pentecostal Church, Naples, FL.

started feeling a call into the ministry.

During the next year, Sims' life underwent some major changes. He married his wife Patricia at age 17, and soon after started attending a local Apostolic church.

"My third stepfather had an aunt who was in Oneness Pentecost at the time," Sims explained. "All of my other uncles, as well as my own personal background, were in Trinity Pentecost. So this aunt began to pray for my wife and me to come into the church. My wife had already received the Holy Ghost at age 13; so she already knew about it. Ultimately, she was a great influence on me to go to Pentecost."

Immediately after receiving the Holy Spirit at Brother Harold Biggs' church in Marianna, Sims began preaching the Apostolic message - or trying to preach it.

"The first message I preached there, I
(Continued on page three)



Above: Brother and Sister Larry G. Sims, pastor of First United Pentecostal Church in Naples, Florida.

Our Next Opinions Topic: Increasing Name Recognition

Opinions

Send your comments on this subject to: Apostolic Information Service, P.O. Box 47917, Indianapolis, IN 46247. Or call (800) 8000-AIS.



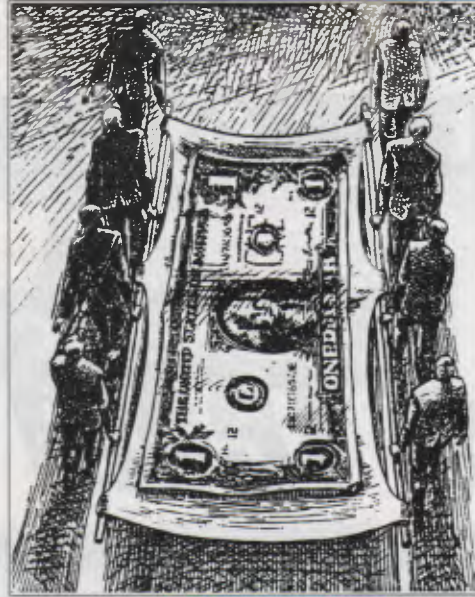
Aubrey Jayroe
Pastor/Accountant
Forrest City, AR

If a church does not have some financial checks and balances in place, there is a danger of an appearance of impropriety. Here are some tips to avoid that.

First, there has to be a separation of the pastor from the book work. Even the IRS frowns on a pastor doing all of this, so he should have a secretary or treasurer to take care of this.

Also, the church should have a good, clear set of by-laws written up that detail who is responsible for the money, not only from a management stand-point, but also from a daily, hands-on perspective. Along with that, the pastor's church board or a financial committee should review the church finances periodically. In our case, our board of directors reviews the financial data twice a year.

Finally, at least every other year, it's a good idea for a church to have an independent review conducted of its finances. This would entail an accountant looking at all records and financial statements, making sure all accounts reconcile, making sure contribution records for church members are done, and that the money flows back and forth correctly like it should.



Financial Checks And Balances

AIS VIEW: Churches placing all financial responsibilities on the shoulders of one person are looking for trouble. Pastors should put in place several steps of financial accountability.

It's unfair to place only one person in charge of the finances. Whether there is any impropriety or not, there can be an appearance of impropriety. To avoid this, I recommend these steps:

At minimum, make certain that bank reconciliations are performed by a second person who can look over the situation. Also, all monies should be immediately deposited.

Next, maintain a small petty cash account to take care of minor purchases, keeping an accurate record of the account. Another thing: When the offerings are gathered, the chief usher should do a preliminary count, with a second person there as a witness. That count should then be given to a party of the pastor's choosing. Finally, you absolutely must not use signature stamps for checks. This has caused problems in many churches, because you're bypassing all points of control and authority when you use them.

These are just a few steps to take. The point to remember is that in the multitude of counsel, there is safety. Even in finances, therefore, we must always make ourselves accountable to others.



Ken Gurley
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It's important for pastors to be quite open, honest and straightforward with all financial matters. This helps to protect the church against financial indiscretion. Also, church finances should be subject to scrutiny by people in the church. However, a pastor needs to have a strong control on all spending.

A young pastor just starting out with a new church should consider getting a good certified public accountant to help him handle his books. Also, to ensure that no financial indiscretion takes place, double signature checks should be used, and there should never be just one person who handles the money.

A young pastor would do well to set up his books with the church board. Then a secretary should keep the records and pay the bills. The pastor should have nothing to do with the bookkeeping other than making sure the books are open to people. Good records must be kept, and more than one person involved.

A young minister just starting out might use "Simplog," which is a bookkeeping book that can be obtained from World Evangelism Center. To ensure against financial indiscretion, make certain that a financial report is given every year. And of course, the general books should always be open to the trustees

To guard against financial indiscretion, appoint two people to sign checks and count all money. One of these people should take care of deposits, while the other will take care of reconciling the bank statements. One other idea: Large churches might benefit from having independent audits conducted on a yearly basis.

One of the best ways to guard against accusations of financial indiscretion is to establish a finance committee. Or, if the church is too small to establish one, he should ask fellow ministers to act as trustees. As far as keeping the books, if a pastor has a good business head, he should be able to take care of them himself.

LARRY G. SIMS: Naples' Team Church

(Continued from page one)

used the word 'Trinity' in it, so Brother Biggs came and took me aside and said, 'We need to have Bible study.'"

Despite that, Brother Sims continued preaching. In 1971, he moved to Highland Park and started working in the church there. While there, he started learning the value of teamwork. Later, Sims went to Bible college at Apostolic Bible Institute in St. Paul, Minnesota. The school graduated him in 1976.

A Small Team in Naples

It was three months after his graduation that Brother and Sister Sims took the pastorate in Naples, Florida.

"The church in Naples was a home missions church about two and a half years old. The district superintendent called me and said the church was open and wondered if I wanted to try out for it. So I went down and preached for the people; there were only six or eight people there, but when I left there, I realized that this was where God wanted us."

The small congregation voted in the Sims

Putting Together a Winning Team

That summer, when so many people moved away, was when Sims decided he had to depend on a team of dedicated workers. "At that point, I had to change my philosophy," said Brother Sims. "There were so many people moving away to start churches that I recognized a need to keep somebody at home to help me. So I started immediately to train lay people as well as ministers.

"My new philosophy for ministry is to train leaders and pour myself into them. We have five ministers now that we are



Above: Brother Sims baptizes a new convert at First United Pentecostal Church in Naples, FL.

dealing with."

Because of this philosophy, formalized

training is an important part of the ministry of the Naples church. Sims meets with his staff every Sunday morning at 8:30 for a 45-minute time of leadership instruction. Sims said he has found John Maxwell's

Everybody On the Team

The department leaders are just part of the story, however. Brother Sims strives to include everybody in the church on the team.

"I try to encourage everybody to be involved in some area of ministry. I do this by leading them and showing them how it works. I've discovered something about myself: I like to lead my people! I've decided that whatever we are going to do, I have to be the first projector of it. If it's teaching home Bible studies, then I teach home Bible studies. To lead them in worship, I worship. In fact, I don't allow anyone on the platform in any kind of leadership role who will not worship. So I lead them by doing, giving, working - I do it all by example."

And apparently, the congregation is willing to follow his example. Brother Sims said around 60-70 percent of his congregation is

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"You don't change the doctrine or the heliness standards. But if you are still doing the same things and they're not working, then you change your methods."

--Larry Sims

family, who held their first service on October 31, 1976.

And although it was a small team, it was a unified one. The Naples congregation soon learned that they had to depend on one another.

"Even our first building required a unified team effort," Sims noted. "We started off meeting in a one-car garage at one of the saints' homes which had been converted into a church."

That little church served them well until 1983. "We grew until we were running about 70 people in the garage," Sims noted. "Then, in 1983, we started construction on a 50 by 100 building to have Sunday school and church in; we moved into it in 1984."

By 1987, the little church was not so little any more; they had grown to 150-160. However, "that summer, between 50-60 people moved away, and we dropped back to around 120. That was a real psychological downer. However, we turned it around and started growing again."

book, *Developing the Leader Within You* to be particularly helpful. Also, leaders at First UPC are trained in making themselves accountable. As part of this, Brother Sims said he requires them to hand in both weekly and monthly reports. In conjunction with them, Sims conducts both weekly and monthly meetings with his leaders.

"The weekly one is for the purpose of allowing us to make sure that everything is ready for Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night. We fine-tune everything. Then the monthly meeting and report allows us to go over all the month's activities, including any special events coming that month."

Sims explained that in his weekly staff meetings, he has in attendance "those people that are directly responsible for the service to happen," such as Sunday school teachers, musicians, ushers, the secretary, and outreach director. "These people understand that they are to report back to me frequently about what's happening in the various church departments."



Above: Brother Sims preaching during a Sunday night service.

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Spirit-Oriented Church Services

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AIS CONVERSATION With A.D. Spears

Editor's note: During his many years of ministry experience, Brother A.D. Spears has gained a reputation for being a revivalist, as well for being a minister to whom others could turn for wise counsel. Recently, AIS caught up with Brother Spears to ask his opinion on subjects pertaining to maintaining a revival church. Portions of his remarks are printed below.

.....
**On the Greatest Needs
of the Apostolic Ministry**

It seems to me that there are three basic needs prevalent among the Apostolic ministry. They are: 1) the need of prayer; 2) the need to conduct Spirit-oriented services; and 3) the need to gear church services to the needs of those in attendance.

First of all, Apostolic ministers need to emphasize a prayer commitment that his saints can realistically accomplish. It's great to ask people to pray for two or three hours at a time, or to have all-night prayer meetings.

However, most people can't pray like this on a normal, day-to-day basis. So as a normal practice, it's best to ask people to commit themselves to an amount of prayer that might be smaller, but which they are more likely to be able to accomplish. It is more effective to have consistent prayer among your people than to have an occasional push where all the people wear themselves out.

I can't over-emphasize the fact that you will have a better church if you have people who pray consistently, every day than if they pray all night once a month. Consistency is the key! In my opinion, with these sporadic, inconsistent pushes for prayer, you are less likely to realize your desired result. Consistent prayer, on the other hand, brings revival.

Secondly, the ministry needs to be careful to conduct Spirit-oriented services. The Spirit-oriented service is not one during which a program or "production" is presented. While I certainly have no problem with programs or church productions, the program must never be given pre-eminence over a genuine move of the Holy Ghost.

So, the Spirit-oriented service is one in which the spiritual elements are stressed more than anything else. Worship, prayer, and the preaching of the Word are always vital elements.

And finally, it is vitally important that the Apostolic ministry be geared toward meeting the needs of those who are in attendance. This holds true, not just for the pastor, but for all who are involved in church ministry. It's true for singers, teachers, or just saints who are trying to demonstrate warmth to visitors. They must always be conscious of the needs of those present.

There are times, for instance, when the emphasis should be on the abused, the alcoholic, or the hurting. At other times, the emphasis might need to be on youth or on the family. We must be sure to meet the needs of the people present in each particular service.

**On Enhancing the Effectiveness of a
Scheduled Revival**

Communication is an important key to having the most effective revival services. In order for the effectiveness of a scheduled revival to be enhanced, there must be a clear understanding between the pastor and the evangelist.

This is particularly true of an evangelist who has some sort of specialty ministry. The pastor must be comfortable with any evangelist who may come into his church with this type of specialized ministry, since the evangelist will be ministering directly to the people in the pastor's church. The evangelist must be sure what role the pastor wishes to take during the services. Conflict can be avoided if the role of each man is clearly understood before the scheduled revival begins.

**On Ways to Foster a
Greater Move of God**

Much of the responsibility for bringing about a genuine move of God in your assembly must be born by the congregation. The saints themselves have to convey the fact that they have found the answer to their problems in Jesus Christ. And they must not only believe it for themselves, but they must always be careful to communicate this fact to visitors and to their acquaintances.

Visitors must be able to leave any church service feeling encouraged. And they will leave encouraged if the saints have projected a "Christian image." They must not appear to outsiders as people who come to church simply because they have nothing better to do.



Instead, they have to present themselves as people who have found all the answers to life's dilemmas through the Lord.

Our people are the greatest salesmen we have in our Apostolic churches. Consequently, if the saints leave with frowns on their faces, it doesn't matter what kinds of programs we have or how pretty our music is, our visitors will not have a good witness of what Christ has done in people's lives. As a result, these visitors will have no clue about what Christ can do for them.

A pastor must be revival-minded. And, of course, a growing church should be careful to maintain an aggressive outreach program. However, none of this detracts from the fact that ultimately, encouraging and fostering a greater move of God begins, not with programs or methods, but in the hearts of the saints. AIS

.....
A.D. Spears is currently the pastor of Calvary Christian Tabernacle in Longview, Texas, and also travels the country as a well-known conference speaker.

IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION . . .

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



Paul D. Mooney

■ Ministry

What do you believe are the keys to success in the ministry, particularly from God's point of view?

While driving through Arizona recently, I stopped at a gasoline station and happened in on a group of gold prospectors who were having breakfast. Thankfully, their gentle, western manners prompted them to include me in their meeting. The miners had many interesting things to say; and I was surprised to learn how much philosophy is involved in their formula for success. Three things I drew from their conversation which I believe represent the simple things that Jesus taught us about success:

1) You have to be hungry! "Why be here," one old man asked, "if you don't want to make it." Likewise, Jesus said that he that hungers after righteousness shall be filled (Matthew 5:6). Why be here (in the ministry) and not desire the things of God?

2) Be sensitive. One of the gold prospectors talked about how very klutzy some guy had been doing his work, and mentioned that one has to be sensitive to get gold. In the same way, Paul challenged the church to "feel after God" (Acts 17:27). This speaks of need for spiritual sensitivity.

3) Self-examination. Another crusty-faced man said, "At some point you gotta stop and figure out if you're gettin' anywhere." That is the third great philosophy I heard: self-examination. Similarly, far too many people travel on for years without self-reflection or examination as to their direction or accomplishments. At some point, we must stop and think about how well we're doing in the work of God. If we're going to be here and do this, then let's get the gold!



Owen Taylor

■ Legal

Years ago, when we first started our church, the title to the property was put into the names of the Trustees. Now they are all gone or dead, and we want to sell or refinance the property. What do we do?

This question raises some interesting real property issues. The former Trustees, who are dead, moved away or are no longer members, have no legal interest in the property. Their names appear on the deed because they were the Trustees at the time the deed was drawn, but their interest was solely in trust and conveyed to property interest to them.

As the years went by and they died or moved on, the replacement Trustees took their place and would be able to sign the deed when the closing takes place. Also, if the church has become incorporated, the use of trustees is no longer necessary to the titling of the property; the title should be placed in the name of the corporation. Then, when closing takes place, the Pastor / President, upon authority from the Board, can sign the deed. Be sure to keep your corporate status active with the State so there is no last minute hang-up at closing.

I might note that church membership is not always necessary for membership on the Board of Trustees. Where the church has Board members who are not church members, the issues get a lot more critical, and I strongly recommend corporate ownership to avoid problems.

Owen Taylor is an attorney specializing in church related issues. Write: Apostolic Law Association, 1304 Harmony Lane, Annapolis, MD 21401, or call (410)757-8080.



O. C. Marler

■ Family

My husband and I were married eight months ago. We moved far away from family and friends. I never imagined how lonely and depressing this could be. My husband had to work long hours. We have very

little time together, and I don't know anyone I can really talk to. I write many letters to my old friends, but they don't usually write back. While growing up, I had to cope with loved ones dying, and my parents divorced. Maybe I am expecting too much. Is there anything I can do?

I can see your difficulty. Being married only eight months, you are still in the difficult "early adjustment" period of marriage and moving a distance from home would only add to your upset. Few things are worse than homesickness, but time has a way of easing pain. I am far more concerned with your depression.

A person must deal quickly with depression before it becomes a neurosis, and the best antidote for depression is forcing yourself to stay active. You mentioned a lack of friends. In this day and time, the best place to find friends is at church. If the church is not putting out the welcome mat like you think they should, let me say that few churches do. You see, they are "home," and they don't realize your predicament. So you must reach out to them rather than waiting for them to reach out to you. *You* make the first move. Secondly, pray that your husband's work schedule improves; but in the meantime, make the time you *do* have together quality time. Thirdly, try expanding your education. Fill your mind with fresh thoughts and ideas. And finally, get involved in the work of God!



T. W. Massengale

■ Outreach

I'm wanting to encourage my Sunday school staff to greater faithfulness in absentee follow-up, attendance, prayer, and so on. I'm also wanting them to work to make their classes grow. Any suggestions?

Pastors and Sunday school superintendents often ask this question about how best to motivate teachers. They often struggle with getting the teachers to come early for prayer, to do absentee follow-up, to keep their rooms clean and decorated, and to reach attendance goals. The problem comes in

trying to effectively encourage them without nagging or embarrassing them.

Is there an effective way of motivating and challenging the staff to quality and excellence in their ministry? Yes, it's called "Aim For Excellence." It is a way to give recognition and "honor to whom honor is due." Everyone appreciates being appreciated. No one likes to be taken for granted. Aim For Excellence allows every teacher to set their sights on a basic "standard."

Each week, the teachers and staff evaluate themselves in the areas of: punctuality, attendance at Sunday morning teachers' prayer, completion of absentee follow-up, praying for their students daily, lesson preparation, and decoration and cleanness of their rooms.

They also list their attendance that week and what their class attendance goals are for that month. Extra points are given for reaching their attendance goals. The best part of Aim For Excellence is that every teacher can reach this basic standard of excellence each month and then be recognized for their achievement.

You will find that once your teachers are accustomed to reaching their goals consistently, they will hate to miss it. And as they stretch themselves to improve the quality of their classes, the entire quality of your Sunday school will improve as well. For more information on implementing the "Aim For Excellence" program, request or download file SSMA10.TXT from the Apostolic Information Service.

RELIGION

National "Revival" Disputed By Polls

The Christian community across America is abuzz with reports of unprecedented revival. Stories of colleges experiencing spiritual renewal, reports of extended prayer meetings, the so-called "Toronto Renewal," and the growth of groups such as the Promise Keepers men's ministry, have been seen by many as signs of revival spreading throughout the nation. However, research by the

Barna Research Group suggests that if there is such a "revival," it is having little effect on churches. One Barna survey of 600 pastors, for instance, found the following:

- The average church's weekend adult attendance is 92, down from 102 in 1993.
- The proportion of the church budget set aside for evangelistic efforts has remained constant since the late 1980s. Currently, about 14 percent of the church budget is used for outreach, approximately the same as a decade ago.
- Meanwhile, a second Barna survey, this time of 1,006 adults concerning their religious views, showed similar results. Only 42 percent said they go to church on a given weekend. This is the lowest recorded church attendance in a decade. Bible reading is also at a new low, with only 31 percent saying they read the Bible outside church services. Said George Barna: "The significant spiritual events of the day have been mislabeled 'revival.' It is perhaps more accurate to call these events 'renewal,' since they generally involve people who are already Christians."

By RICHARD C. BROWN

SOCIETY

Return to Morality Sought By Voters

What did post-election polls by the conservative Family Research Council and the liberal People for the American Way show that the two groups have in common? A desire for future elections to bring to office those candidates who have as a priority a return to "traditional moral values."

Family Research Council's Wirthlin Group found in its survey that 61 percent of voters feel that since the election, things have "pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track." Sixty percent are under the impression that the country is facing problems that are "primarily moral in nature," and 65 percent would support "a political party or candidate whose chief priority is to reverse the moral decline in America."

By PAMELA TAYLOR

POLITICS

Budget Cuts May Impact Churches

While most conservative Christian groups support Rep. Newt Gingrich's efforts to curtail welfare spending, some statistics might give churches cause to worry. According to the June 12 *National & International Religion Report*, to compensate for the \$60 billion dollar reduction in spending proposed by the House of Representatives, each American church would need to raise an additional \$190,000 during the next five years. House Republicans might need to start including other charities besides churches in the budget equation.

By RICHARD C. BROWN

EDUCATION

Colleges Debate Online Pornography

Morality in Media magazine reports in its March/April, 1995 edition that universities that make unlimited access to the Internet available to their students are also making computer pornography available. While Congress debates similar issues via the proposed Communications Decency Act, a debate has arisen between universities on the east coast.

University officials at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh fear that the university could be subject to laws against knowingly distributing sexually explicit materials to minors. Some freshmen are under 18. One official from Northeastern University in Boston, however, told reporters, "We really don't want to get into electronic censorship."

Another question has been raised by this dispute: Do taxpayers want public universities to spend their computer resource tax dollars on pornography?

By PAMELA TAYLOR

CHURCH TRENDS

Church Beats Out Sports Attendance

Newspapers and broadcast journalism might be missing something here. Most journalistic outlets spend more resources on sports reporting than on religion. However, recent numbers suggest that religion is more important to the average American than sports. Total attendance at church services during 1993: about 5.6 billion. In contrast, the total attendance of all professional basketball, football, and baseball games was only 103 million.

By RICHARD C. BROWN

MORALITY

NEA Arts Spending Under Scrutiny

Although the controversy of a couple of years ago has somewhat diminished, the National Endowment for the Arts continues to spend tax money in a way criticized by conservative groups. Christian talk show host Marlin Maddoux, for instance, recently told his audience that the federal government is providing the NEA with \$178 million each year. These funds have recently supported the following:

- \$20,000 went to aid a museum which was showing a film entitled "A Spy," depicting Jesus as a bare-chested woman.
- \$6,000 helped sponsor the publication of "Queer City," a book that characterizes Jesus Christ as a child-molesting homosexual who also seduces Judas Iscariot.
- \$19,000 supported the 11th annual Chicago Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, at which "Stop the Church," an anti-Christian propaganda film, was shown.
- Additional tax dollars went to a "performance artist" who publicly urinated into a toilet in which a representation of Jesus had been submerged.

By PAMELA TAYLOR

News In Brief...

- The National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine has reported that 60 percent of U.S. pregnancies are unintended. "Unintended," according to the report, means mis-timed or unwanted, and half of these pregnancies end in abortion.
- Christian groups were shocked to learn that June 1-5 was designated by homosexual activists as "Gay and Lesbian Week" at Orlando, Florida's Disney World.
- Israeli archeologist Yitzhak Magen has discovered the remains of what he says is a first century replica of Herod's Temple.

Video Leads to Enormous Church Attendance

While Apostolic churches were eagerly anticipating Pentecost Sunday for spectacular church growth, Brother James Larson of San Diego, California decided not to wait. In the spring just prior to that June event, Brother Larson was able to report having over 10,000 visitors in eight-week's time at Revival Tabernacle in San Diego.



James Larson

"During the Easter season each year for six-weeks," Larson explained, "we do twelve presentations of 'King of Kings,' a passion play written by Sister Larson. This year, we had over 10,000 visitors in attendance. And of those families, approximately 65% of those were first-time visitors!"

This year was also different because of a method Brother Larson used to try to take advantage of the large turn-out. With knowledge that there are 100 million VCR's in America, Larson explained, "This year we gave every visiting family a free, 30-minute video entitled 'How to

Receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost' by Shelly Hendricks. Each evening, at the conclusion of the drama, a member of the cast of 250 walked into the audience to present a free video to every visiting family. The cast member then asked the recipients to view and critique the video. We were able to get this video to over 2,000 families!"

Inside the video was a postage-paid, pre-addressed postcard to make critiquing the video easy. They also told the families that the man on the video would be holding revival services at the church the next week. "Without putting the least bit of pressure on them, we asked them to come back and hear Brother Hendricks if they liked his tape."

Brother Larson stressed that he is completely "against Hollywood," including Hollywood videos. However, he said, "if we're 100 percent against using video in any form, even for our own Apostolic materials, then we must be 100 percent against using computers as well. Because the same kinds of things you can see on video, you can also see on computers." Return postcards on the video are still coming in

daily, and revival services with Brother Hendricks broke attendance records. Larson said, "After seven revival services, 102 people had received the Holy

Ghost; we've had more visitors than at any time during my seven-year history at Revival Tabernacle!

By PAMELA TAYLOR

RESOURCES

Holy Ghost Video

How to Receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost," a videotaped Bible study written and produced by Evangelist Shelly Hendricks, has proven to be an invaluable soulwinning tool in many churches, including Bro. James Larson's in San Diego. Thousands of copies have been purchased by churches, and individuals; and, through their efforts, hundreds have been introduced to the plan of salvation and received the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

The idea of producing a videotaped Bible study, Brother Hendricks explained, came after having seeing "hundreds of hungry souls in the Philippines receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost. I was burdened to see the same type of outpouring in America but noticed that some

saints lacked self-confidence when it came to teaching Bible studies and others didn't have the time needed to teach Bible studies due to their work schedules. So I began to pray. It had been inspiring to see hundreds in the Philippines who wanted the Holy Ghost; they were really hungry for it! Surely there had to be a way to get hungry Americans who wanted the baptism of the Holy Ghost into Pentecostal churches!"



S. Hendricks

It occurred to Brother Hendricks that the telemar-
(Continued on page 14)

MINISTRIES

ACTS Net Computer Link for Apostolics

The Apostolic presence in Cyberspace continues to grow, and as it does so, "ACTS Net" is attempting to bring more and more Cyber Apostolics together.

ACTS Net ("Apostolic Crossroads To Salvation") is a computer bulletin board network for Oneness Pentecostals founded by Glenn Ritter of Apostolic Tabernacle in Wilmington, North Carolina. With 270 nodes (or computer bulletin boards) on this year-and-a-half old network, thousands of people now read its messages about the Apostolic faith.

Originally, Brother Ritter founded ACTS Net as a way of combining several of his interests: computers, bulletin board services (BBS's), and theological study.

"Because of a tremendous interest in the Word," Ritter said, "I used to write a lot. I would write forty to fifty pages about the truth, about the Bible, or commentaries."

Then, when Ritter joined the bulletin board community about five years ago, he learned that "there's a lot of junk out there—people use it to spread a lot of false stuff. I was seeing all kinds of tracts from other boards. They really spread a lot of garbage out there, putting all Oneness movements down and calling them cults

and everything."

So in 1993, he started ACTS Net, which now has nodes in the Netherlands, Belgium, Hong Kong, Canada, and all throughout the United States. The network has several discussion areas, including Theology, Bible Salvation, Prophecy, General Bible, Origins of the Church, and Bible Debate. ACTS Net is open to everyone, but forum moderators, who are required to be in an Apostolic church, have the ability to limit posts by people sending non-Biblical information. Just like with a cork board in a supermarket, a moderator can remove messages that do not follow the guidelines of ACTS Net.

Brother Ritter believes Pentecostals should consider using online services as an outreach. "There are people in your city that might never hear the truth otherwise. With a local BBS, you can go right into their home with your message." For churches interested in establishing their own BBS, Ritter makes available the software to complete the project and to connect with ACTS Net. Churches interested in seeing an ACTS Net node operating may call (910) 452-2914.



Glenn Ritter

By RICHARD MASONER

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



new bible study files

| | | |
|-------------|-------|--|
| BSGW37.TXT | 21751 | God Wants You to Know His Voice. Article on how to listen to God during prayer. |
| BSSP44.TXT | 6234 | Beware the Sin of Joab. A challenge to Christians to be merciful to each other. |
| BSVL53.TXT | 21804 | The Blessing of God. David Wilkerson tells us that righteousness gains God's favor. |
| FACR27.TXT | 2990 | Does Standing in the Corner Help? Helpful advice on developing good discipline techniques. |
| PRBS14.TXT | 8789 | Speaking and Hearing. Study on a proper listening attitude in prayer. |
| BSFS06.TXT | 10888 | Fasting. Exhaustive Bible study on the benefits and proper approach to fasting. |
| BSFA29.TXT | 8306 | Positive Confession. Carl Trapani discusses what the Bible says about positive confession. |
| BSFR29.TXT | 38631 | Overcoming Hurt Through Forgiveness. Good article on the spiritual benefits of forgiveness. |
| BSFA28.TXT | 13533 | How to Multiply Your Resources. Study that encourages faithfulness in giving. |
| BSFA30.TXT | 4823 | Do Not Panic. A Bible study that tells the Christian that God gives victory over fear. |
| BSFA31.TXT | 10451 | Faith That Moves God. Good study on the power of faith. |
| BSFA32.TXT | 12323 | Faith That Will Keep You Afloat. Inspiring article on how faith can carry you through trials. |
| BSMFR30.TXT | 23224 | Release of the Spirit. This author tells us that spiritual power comes through brokenness. |
| BSFR31.TXT | 11830 | An Honest Heart. Great Bible study on the need for honesty in all areas of a person's life. |
| BSPR87.TXT | 5892 | Power of Prayer. R.A. Torrey looks at the power of prayer as evidenced in the book of Acts. |



new controversial issues files

| | | |
|------------|-------|--|
| THQU44.TXT | 6961 | Annihilation of the Wicked. This author shows the Biblical basis for eternal punishment. |
| CUJW05.TXT | 4929 | False Prophecies of Watchtower. List of Jehovah's Witnesses prophecies that never happened. |
| THNT06.TXT | 49544 | Exposing the Jesus Seminar. Well-done rebuttal to 74 liberal scholars' views of Jesus' words. |
| THQU45.TXT | 19443 | After the Laughter. Balanced examination of the "Holy Laughter" phenomenon. |



new apostolic doctrine files

| | | |
|------------|-------|---|
| ADBA15.TXT | 17951 | Necessity of Baptism. Well-reasoned discussion of why baptism is necessary for salvation. |
| ADAH13.TXT | 14314 | Rise of Pentecostalism. A news reporter's view of the Pentecostal movement. |
| ADRE04.TXT | 3593 | Let's Talk About Apologies. T.F. Tenney talks about Christians' need to seek forgiveness. |
| ADTC17.TXT | 14391 | What's in the Wagon? T.W. Barnes discusses the blessings God gives the true church. |
| ADTH33.TXT | 21280 | Rewards of Almsgiving. This is a good study on the blessings of having a giving attitude. |
| ADNB20.TXT | 9038 | The Great Deceptions. This author sounds an alarm to watch out for three great deceptions. |
| ADNB19.TXT | 8878 | What Pentecost Was. Good historical and Biblical background for Pentecost. |
| ADRE05.TXT | 10713 | Repentance. Thorough discussion of what it means to truly repent. |
| ADTG12.TXT | 12755 | The Value of Tongues. Excellent Bible study on why speaking in tongues is important. |
| ADTV22.TXT | 10173 | Who is Leading Your Church? This author says TV may influence more than the pastor! |
| ADTV23.TXT | 3458 | The Children Are Watching. The only sure way to keep kids from TV is to not have one! |
| ADTV24.TXT | 5321 | Television: Why Not? This author gives 26 reasons a Christian should not have a TV. |



new computer software files

The following files are from our CD-ROM collection. Since these don't have the normal AIS file name, give the program title printed in bold below when ordering these programs. Note: These files are not available for download.

| | | |
|--------|--------|---|
| CD-ROM | 206457 | Debt Analyzer. Nice program to help you analyze, reduce and eliminate your debt. |
| CD-ROM | 360886 | Project Vision. Software package that helps you to plan, implement major projects. |
| CD-ROM | 186308 | Notebook. Great replacement for Windows' Notepad program. |
| CD-ROM | 72266 | Data Cards. Replacement for Windows' Cardfile that is much easier and more powerful! |
| CD-ROM | 17558 | Smart 'n Sticky. A Windows program for creating and printing labels. |
| CD-ROM | 100550 | Wildlife Screen Savers. Very nice African pictures to use as screen savers. |
| CD-ROM | 221662 | Paper Airplanes. Mindless fun that lets you play around with various airplane models. |
| CD-ROM | 419444 | Cash for Kids. Good program for Christian schools training kids to handle money. |
| CD-ROM | 206457 | English Vocabulary Drills. Educational program for Christian schools' English classes. |
| CD-ROM | 360886 | Sunday School Colors. Neat program that allows Sunday school kids to color electronically. |
| CD-ROM | 386308 | Lazer Chess. Fun, chess-like program that features high-tech special effects. |
| CD-ROM | 372266 | Rebel. Excellent spreadsheet program that makes church bookkeeping a snap! |
| CD-ROM | 117558 | Answering Machine Messages. Program for making creative answering machine messages. |
| CD-ROM | 145437 | Win List. Read AIS text files by dragging them onto the Win List icon. Fast and easy! |

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Total Church Growth was written and developed by Tim Massengale, a graduate of Christian Life College, and currently a full-time Evangelist for United Pentecostal Church. He also holds degrees in Business Management and Administration from Hartnell College and Fresno Pacific College.

This program is the result of three years extensive research by Bro. Massengale in the area of Church Growth, conducted at the request of Bro. Paul Price and the Western District Sunday School Board. Upon completion, Bro. Massengale further refined the material with three years practical use throughout California, Texas, and Louisiana.

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The Feast Of Pentecost

OPINION: Churches should share the Pentecostal heritage with those in their communities.

Charles H. Spurgeon, one of England's renowned preachers, had a great compassion for the poor. He had almshouses built near the tabernacle where he fulfilled his ministry. Once, as he visited an elderly resident, he showed interest in the few possessions she had brought with her. A framed piece of paper attracted his attention. When he asked about it, the woman explained that years ago, an elderly man had given it to her in appreciation for her devoted care.

Because she had regarded his signature with great sentiment, she reluctantly gave Spurgeon permission to remove it from the frame and take it with him. At a bank, officers explained the check was valid. They had been puzzled why a vast sum of money had remained in the account of the deceased for so long. When Spurgeon returned to the almshouse, he explained to the woman that she had more than enough money to live out her years in comfort. Sadly, though, she had lived in poverty for years because she was unaware of the meaning of the check in her possession.

What a picture of Pentecost! How sad to know that the world has access to the greatest gift of all time, yet they, for ignorance of its worth, have failed to utilize this gift sent from God two thousand years ago.

We could ask, "What does Pentecost mean to us?" and eloquently describe the wonderful treasure we hold in earthen vessels. But what's vastly more important is, "What does Pentecost mean to God?" What is it about this day that makes it such a commendable event, perhaps the most important event this side of Calvary?

The Gospel is pictured, or foretold, in the Old Testament in the three feasts that Israel was commanded by God to celebrate every year. These feasts were known as Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles.

In Exodus 23:14-16, we read, "Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year. Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread [Passover]: . . . And the feast of harvest [Pentecost], the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering [Tabernacle], which is in the end of the year; when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field."

Each of these feasts represents a different aspect of God's plan for mankind and for each of us today. The first feast required by God was that of the Passover. This was a celebration of God's deliverance of Israel from the Angel of Death that killed the firstborn children of the Egyptians. Paul told us in I Corinthians 5:7-8 that this feast was fulfilled in

Jesus Christ, for ". . . Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast. . ."

If you are saved, my friend, it will be because the blood of the Lamb of God has been applied to the doorposts of your heart, thereby freeing you from the death in

obey His voice.

This was a direct fulfillment of the promise of Jeremiah 31:33, "I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts." The picture we see in the first Pentecost - when God by fire made His first covenant with man by the Law - is but a shadow of the fullness that would come to the early church. God truly put

His "law" in their inward parts, by filling them with His Spirit.

At the first Pentecost, when Moses returned to the camp, he saw the sin of a rebellious people, and 3,000 men lost their lives because of it. But when the Day of Pentecost had fully come, 3,000 did not perish, but were given new life.

In Exodus 23:16, Pentecost is called "the feast of harvest of the firstfruits." We must realize that God is harvesting a mighty church in these last days. But the greatest feast is yet to come. We must prepare ourselves for the last and final feast, that of the "Feast of Ingathering" [Tabernacles]. Commanded by God in

Deuteronomy 16:13-15 and Leviticus 23:40-41, this was to be a feast of great joy and rejoicing. It was the great endtime harvest celebration.

We stand today at the final hour of God's final feast. How about those in your city? Are you doing all you can to help them experience their own Passover and to have the blood of the Lamb applied to their hearts? Are you helping them experience their own personal Pentecost? Time is running out; won't you make a new commitment today to reach them and make them partakers of the power of Pentecost? **ATS**



"Fifty days after the death of God's Pass-over Lamb on Calvary, God again visited man by fire. This time He wrote His law upon the fleshly tables of our heart."

sin that will come upon all mankind.

The second feast required by God was the Feast of Pentecost. This feast has also been fulfilled in Christ. "Pentecost" means "fifty" and took place 50 days after the Passover. Fifty days after the Angel of Death passed over Israel, Moses ascended Mt. Sinai and received from God the Law, written by the hand of God with fire upon tables of stone. This event marked a covenant between God and Israel; it sealed them with a promise of eternal life as long as they kept the law of God.

Fifty days after the death of God's Pass-over Lamb on Calvary, 120 men and women sat waiting in an upper room. God once again visited man by fire. But this time, God wrote His law - not on tables of stone - but upon the "fleshly tables of our heart," sealing us yet again with a promise of eternal life if we will

Tim Massengale is Director of Apostolic Information Service and an instructor at Indiana Bible College. In addition, Brother Massengale is also the author of Total Church Growth.

Recommended Reading

In the Name of Jesus, by David K. Bernard, Word Aflame Press, 87 pages, \$4.99, paperback.

In a movement that so strongly emphasizes the name of Jesus, it's surprising that there has been no authoritative book written on the subject before now. David Bernard's *In the Name of Jesus* fills that void nicely with this collection of previous articles he has written on the subject.

Just about any issue related to the Jesus' name issue is addressed in this book. Naturally, Bernard spends a great deal of time talking about baptism in Christ's name versus the Trinitarian formula. And as is the author's style, he often uses Trinitarians' own sources to prove his points.

Bernard also goes into considerable detail about the meaning of the name *Jesus* as compared with the Old Testament name of God, *YAHWEH*.

At times, the transition from chapter to chapter can be somewhat disjointed. In one chapter, the author seems to write more on a layman's level, while in the very next, he delves into the intricacies of the Greek language. Much of this is due to the fact that, as mentioned, the material comes from several articles and several magazines. Still, none of this detracts from Bernard's impeccable scholarship or from the fact that this book will help any reader better understand the power of the saving Name.

(Note: All Word Aflame books may be ordered directly from the Pentecostal Publishing House, 8855 Dunn Rd., Hazelwood, MO 63042.)

■ **CHURCH PROPERTY**

If your congregation owns property, check the fine print in legal documents related to the real estate. In a recent case of a Baptist church moving to another location, the Georgia Supreme Court ruled that the church's property revert to the previous owner. The property was given to the church in 1947 with a clause specifying the lot would revert to the previous owner if the lot's use changed. To prevent a similar situation from happening to your church, check for conditions in the deed or deeds to the church property. It may be possible to negotiate a release of this condition if the previous owners are willing. Note that if the previous owners are not living, the release is valid only if all legal heirs of the deceased owner agree to it.

■ **YOUTH MINISTRY RESOURCE**

In the confusing decade of the 1990s, youth ministers are finding that their young people need more than shallow teaching; they need instruction in the difficult life issues that they face. A good resource for youth ministry in this area is the "Life on the Edge" video series from WORD Ministry Resources. In seven 50-minute sessions, Dr. James Dobson speaks candidly with youth about launching into life on their own. Titles include "Finding God's Will for Your Life," "Myth of Safe Sex," "Love Must be Tough," "Keys to a Lifelong Love," "Emotions, Can You Trust Them?," "When God Doesn't Make Sense," and "Pornography: Addictive, Progressive, and Deadly." For more information, call (800) 933-9673 ext. 2037.

■ **COMPUTER PURCHASES**

Is your church contemplating the purchase of a computer? A used system may be an economic alternative to spending thousands on new system. If purchasing a 386 or 486 clone, most computer consultants say you should get one with at least a VGA monitor, extended keyboard, and 4 MB of memory (RAM). Here are recent purchase prices for various systems as reported by the United Computer Exchange, a company which deals with used computer equipment.

DESKTOP SYSTEMS

| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Clone 286 (20 Mb) | \$ 200 |
| Clone 386sx/16 (40 MB) | 525 |
| Clone 386/25 (40 MB) | 550 |
| Clone 386/33 (40 MB) | 575 |
| Clone 486/25 (80 MB) | 700 |
| Gateway 486/33 (120 MB) | 900 |
| Macintosh SE/30 (40 MB) | 550 |

NOTEBOOKS AND LAPTOPS

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Clone Notebook 386sx (40 MB) | \$ 650 |
| Clone Notebook 486SL (120 MB) | 900 |
| Powerbook 140 (40 MB) | 750 |
| Powerbook 170 (80 MB) | 1350 |
| Toshiba T2000 (60 MB) | 550 |
| Toshiba T3100sx (40 MB) | 400 |
| Toshiba T5200 (100 MB) | 675 |
| Toshiba SLT/386 (60 MB) | 1150 |

The point here is that these are the going street prices for these systems. If your ministry is considering buying a used system which greatly exceeds the above prices, consider looking elsewhere.

■ **CD-ROM BIBLE**

As computer systems grow more sophisticated, Bible study software also is becoming more advanced. Among the many CD-ROM Scripture study aids you might want to consider is the \$97 Kingdom Christian Scholar Library CD-ROM for Windows. This software has fourteen translations of the Bible, including KJV, Darby's, Young's, the Greek New Testament, NIV, ASV, NKJV, NRSV, and others. The CD-ROM also includes nineteen commentaries and reference works such as the 1917 Scofield Notes, Strong's Numbers/Lexicon, 1917 Thompson Chain references, and more. The CD-ROM also includes an easy-to-use point and click user interface. For more information, call (800) 488-1122 or (717) 662-7515. Or write: Kingdom Computers, Lambs Creek Road, P.O. Box 506, Mansfield, PA 16933.

News By RICHARD MASONER Reviews By RICHARD C. BROWN

WORD TO THE WISE:

“God forbid that we should emphasize educational preparation above spiritual; but God pity the man who has an ax without a handle.”



“They both wanted to use the church van next Saturday . . .”

TEN REASONS a pastor stopped going to sports events:

- 1) Every time I went, they asked me for money.
- 2) The people with whom I had to sit didn't seem very friendly.
- 3) The seats were too hard and not comfortable.
- 4) The coach never came to call on me.
- 5) The referee made a decision with which I could not agree.
- 6) I was sitting with some hypocrites - they came only to see what others were wearing.
- 7) Some games went into overtime, and I was late getting home.
- 8) The band played some numbers that I had never heard before.
- 9) The games are scheduled when I want to do other things.
- 10) I don't want to take my children because I want them to choose their own sport.

TWO FELLOWS WERE TALKING about religion. One said to the other, “Sometimes I'd like to ask God why he allows poverty, famine and injustice when He could do something about it.”

“What's stopping you?” asked the second.

The first replied, “I'm afraid God might ask me the same question.”



When I was a kid I would go up to someone's porch, ring the doorbell, and run. I still do it, except now it's called 'Outreach Training'.

HENRY WARD BEECHER, the famous New England minister, was entering his pulpit one Sunday. Awaiting him was an unmarked envelope. Opening it, he found a single sheet of paper on which was written the single word *FOOL*. After chuckling to himself, he held the paper up to the congregation and said: “I have known many an instance of a man writing letters and forgetting to sign his name. But this is the only instance I've ever known of a man signing his name and forgetting to write his letter.”

OUT ON HIS SATURDAY VISITATION, Pastor Brown was walking down the street when he passed a house and noticed a child trying to reach the doorbell. No matter how much the little girl stretched, though, he couldn't make it. So finally, the pastor called out, “Let me get that for you,” and he bounded onto the porch to ring the bell. “Thanks, mister,” said the kid. “Now let's run!”

ARRIVING FOR A VISIT, Pastor Barnett asked the Smiths' six-year-old girl, “Megan, how do you like your new baby brother?” “Oh, he's all right,” the child shrugged. “But there were a lot of things we needed worse.”



A PASTOR AND A SOAP MAKER went for a walk together. The soap maker said, “What good is religion? Look at all the trouble and misery of the world! Still there, even after thousands of years of teaching about goodness and truth and peace. If religion is good and true, why should this be?”

The two continued walking and noticed a child playing in the gutter. Then the pastor said, “Look at that child. You say that soap makes people clean, but see the dirt on that youngster? Of what good is soap? With all the soap in the world, over all these years, the child is still filthy. I wonder how effective soap is, after all!”

The soap maker protested. “But, Pastor, soap cannot do any good unless it is used!”

“Exactly,” replied the pastor. “Exactly!”

A LESSON FOR CHRISTIANS: A father was watching his young son try to dislodge a heavy stone. The boy couldn't budge it. “Are you sure you are using all your strength?” the father asked.

“Yes, I am,” said the exasperated boy. “No, you are not,” the father replied. “You haven't asked me to help you.”

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Larry G. Sims: Naples' Team Church

(Continued from page three)

involved in ministry, with up to 50 percent actively involved in outreach. Further, in the past year alone, around 40 people came to the Lord through the church's ministry. As for particular outreach methods, traditional one-on-one witnessing is the preferred method in Naples. "There are some areas around here that do not respond well to door-knocking, or to anything for that matter, except one-on-one evangelism. So I would say that this one-on-one approach of bringing friends and relatives to church works excellent in our area. Then we follow up with home Bible studies for these people.

"But beyond that, I would say that a church needs to be willing to change in its methods. If door knocking is not going to do it, then you change and do 10 or 12-week home Bible studies. If that doesn't work, then go with the "Into His Marvelous Light" one-hour Bible study. Just don't narrow yourself down so that all you're willing to do is Bible study, door-knocking, crusades, or anything else. Try everything and then stay with what works. Then, refine it until it *really* works.

"For instance, I have personally been successful in using weddings as an outreach. That sounds strange, but we have won a lot of people by me availing myself, doing marriage counseling, and so forth. They don't have any other place to turn, and they don't feel like they belong any place. I've helped them in this area, and many of them are in the church today because of that. It's just a matter of availing yourself for simple ministry."

An Innovative Team

Brother Sims said that an important key in maintaining a growing church is a willingness to change and to innovate. He has tried to instill within his church this attitude, particularly his leaders.

"Most of our churches and pastors fight change," Sims said. "To have the courage to say that something's not working, and that we've got to try something different is an important characteristic. It's up to the pastor to create this attitude within his congregation. He has to show them that they can do it so that the people will follow him. You don't change the doctrine or the holiness standards. But if you are still doing the same things and they're not working, then you change your methods."

And, said Sims, strive diligently to keep everybody on the team. "Through the years, I have found that I cannot do it all. I have to delegate, so that we can really multiply and grow. And to do that, I have to train others to help. I have to keep them on the team."

Video: "How to Receive the Holy Ghost"

(Continued from page eight)

keting tools he had utilized while working as an insurance salesman could be used to spread the Gospel; and, to his approval, he has found it works.

"A saint can actually teach a Bible study everyday," said Hendricks. "In 30 minutes, a hungry soul can learn about repentance, baptism in the Name of Jesus and the gift of the Holy Ghost. I cover every question that a person could have about the Holy Ghost, and then I teach about worship and what people can expect during an Apostolic church service. Then, I build

their faith. When they walk in the door, they've been prepared and they're ready! We've had people enter the building saying, 'I'm coming to receive the Holy Ghost!'"

Hendricks said the video can be used in many ways. "We've even handed them out while knocking doors before a revival begins—and it works!" Videos in an attractive four-color case can be purchased for \$15 per video by phoning Bro. Hendricks at (502) 821-8263 or by writing to Harvest Ministries, 632 Suthard Drive, Madisonville, KY 42431.

Feedback



To the editor:

I just wanted to let you know I am enjoying the great work you are doing with AIS. Going worldwide with the missionaries, providing local nodes, and getting on the Internet - these are services that Apostolics needed years ago. Also, I'm glad you've chosen to write about the Communications Decency Act being debated in the Senate. Now, I hear word of the 100,000 or so standing up to call their congressmen to say that they are against "censoring" the Internet. Couldn't we as Apostolics stand up, and show a great, united party against the obscene materials often distributed online? I think this is something we should consider. Anyway, I applaud you and pray for you. May the Lord bless you, and again, thanks for all the work you and others are putting into the work of the Lord.

-- Allen Bourriague
Saucier, MS

To the editor:

Re: "Apostolic Killed in Oklahoma Bomb Attack," Vol. 5, No. 4:

Thank you so very much for your article on Sister Jenkins who was killed in the Oklahoma explosion. I must tell you that before this tragedy, I found myself running about to perform and fulfill my duties and responsibilities, passing right by my brothers and sisters. However, today I march to the beat of a different drummer, taking the time to stop and hug my sisters and tell them I love them, and shaking the hands of my brothers, giving an encouraging word. I do that now, because they just may not be around tomorrow. Again, thank you, and Lord bless you.

--Linda Dieckman
Edmond, OK

Address letters for publication to:
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of the
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