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**PLAINLY SPEAKING:**  
Ronald Becton talks about the need for "Keeping the Church Relevant."



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**APOSTOLIC NEWS:**  
Michael Blankenship discusses his new Bible study, "The New Birth Experience."

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# I. B. C. PERSPECTIVES

Apostolic Information Service

Vol. 5, No. 6

**Is cell ministry still a viable option for Apostolic churches?**

# HOUSE TO HOUSE



**Cell Proponents**

*Above left: Brother Kenneth Haney, pastor of Christian Life Center, Stockton, California. Above middle: Brother Fred Foster, pastor of First United Pentecostal Church, West Monroe, Louisiana. Above right: Brother Jack DeHart, pastor of Christ Temple, Irving, Texas.*

By Richard C. Brown

**T**hat the early church worshiped in saints' houses is plain from the Scriptures: "And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house," Paul told the church in Acts 20:20.

Also clear is that denominational churches across the nation are quickly adapting this concept in a ministry known as the "cell church." What's not as clear is what the typical Apostolic attitude is toward cell ministry. Some say the concept poses the danger of splitting churches, while others extol it

as the most Biblical form of church structure. What, then, should be the Apostolic pastor's approach to cell ministry?

"For us, cell ministry has been an excellent thing," Pastor Fred Foster of West Monroe, Louisiana's First United Pentecostal Church commented. "One author cautioned that he had two big church splits because of this. Still, I believe the good so much outweighs the bad. You just have to be careful who your leaders are."

And it's precisely the problem with leaders that has some critics concerned about cell ministry. Stories of churches that have been irrevocably damaged by cell leaders abusing their authority are easily found.

"At the church where I was baptized and received the Holy Ghost," one source told

AIS, "the church completely lost its bearings and fell from its place of teaching and preaching authority, all because of cell ministry. I do think a cell ministry is a viable and useful concept if it is implemented correctly. However, a motive infected by thoughts of celebrity and fame can be the basis for unfruitful and ultimately corrupt work."

Indeed, a second source told AIS also that cell leaders' pride and desire for recognition often results in problems. This second source was a former cell leader of a California church.

"After our pastor asked us to get involved, my wife and I got into the cell concept with both feet. After several  
*(Continued on page three)*

## Our Next Opinions Topic: Pros & Cons of Professional Counselors

### Opinions

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Jesse Williams  
Asst. General Superintendent  
Fayetteville, NC

There have always been some saints who were committed to the work of God and some who were not. It does seem, however, that there was a greater percentage of those *deeply* committed than there are now. In fact, there is very little commitment about *anything* in society today.

My advice to the young pastor who might be struggling with a lack of commitment or among his church members would be to model it, preach it and teach it. Even though a pastor's primary responsibilities are in prayer and the Word, if he does those things that he asks other people to do, they'll know that he's not above making a commitment and being involved himself.

For instance, though I'm very busy, I teach two or three home Bible studies a week because I want to model it and because I love it! A pastor must not try to challenge the members of his church to commit themselves to become more involved through guilt. He must try to bring them to a level of inner, spiritual commitment. Their involvement must grow out of their own desire because of the relationship that they have with God through prayer.



## The Laity: How Involved Are They?

**AIS VIEW:** For far too many, church has become a spectator sport, with little active involvement. Apostolic churches must start implementing leadership training programs, involving the laity in active areas of ministry.

Over all, church commitment appears to me to be greater in many ways, especially in the area of soulwinning. The introduction of many home Bible study programs has been revolutionary! Home Bible studies married God's people to a method and style when it came to communicating God's Word. People long wanted to be soulwinners, but they didn't know exactly how. Bible study charts gave us a way and means to an end - winning people into the Kingdom.

Even though there seems to me to be a greater desire to be involved among church members today, the wonderful old principle of "modeling" still applies. A young pastor struggling with a lack of commitment or desire to be involved among his members in soul-winning and prayer must model these commitments. He should get out there with those charts and teach Bible studies and then take his experiences and share them with the church. He should do the same with prayer, for prayer is the heartbeat of a church, and modeling its dynamic power will cause people to want to become involved for themselves.



Michael Meadows  
Pastor  
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David Bayer  
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Norman Hamby  
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Roger Grohman  
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Dale White  
Pastor  
Clinton, IA



Thomas Foster  
Pastor  
Duncanville, TX

Commitment among church members is about the same as it was years ago, although, there is room for improvement. A minister needs to make sure that those watching him see where he has placed his priorities, i.e., in a dedication to prayer and to people. Also, challenge members by presenting *needs* rather than *wants*.

Our church has got some very committed people; but commitment among church members, in general, is less than it was years ago. People have trouble committing themselves to anything because they are so secular in their thinking. We must make sure they see commitment in the pastor.

I've found that when people begin to pray more, they begin to get more involved, so an important key is to emphasize prayer. Also, I tell our church to make their treasure where they want their hearts to be. Following that advice automatically generates more commitment. Also demand only what you would do yourself.

Years ago, there was an ability for a person to commit themselves to salvation and the church; but now there is so much "me-ism" that you have to retrain their thought processes. The church must take time to build individuals. When the church commits itself to this task, people will commit to the church.

I'd say there is less involvement today because it's very easy to get caught up in the fast paced lifestyles people are living. A lack of commitment might not be a conscious thing, but it can certainly hinder the work of the Lord. A pastor must demonstrate his own commitment to change this, and motivate his people to pray.

The average layman is more involved, because he is allowed more opportunity to become involved: there is more training and more equipping. If a pastor is struggling to get people involved, he should learn all he can about leadership. begin training people and develop job descriptions, and put them to work.

# House to House:

## Is Cell Ministry Still a Viable Option for Apostolic Churches?



*Above: Cell ministry is particularly effective in reaching ethnic groups.*

*(Continued from page one)*

weeks training three nights per week, we were ordained by the pastor as cell pastors, and we started holding services in our home one night per week and in another saint's home one night per week." The source reports that because church standards were not being preached consistently in the cell format, the church soon lost its bearings in holiness. Since then, the church has pulled out of its former Apostolic organization.

### A Panel of Experts

Despite the dangers, cell ministry *clearly* is working for many churches, both Apostolic and denominational. Even most critics of the program will concede that under the right circumstances, it can be made to work. How, then, does a pastor avoid the potential pitfalls to have a successful cell ministry?

To answer this question, AIS assembled a panel of experts on the subject of cell churches. These include pastors who have experienced both the positive and negative aspects of the ministry, yet have seen good results. The panel includes Kenneth Haney of Stockton, California's Christian Life Center (who prefers the term "sheepfolds" to "cells"); Jack DeHart of Irving, Texas's Christ Temple; and West Monroe's Fred Foster quoted above. Both Brother Foster and Brother Haney have not only pastored churches utilizing cell ministry, but written books on the subject as well, while DeHart has written books on church growth which include cell ministry, among other topics. As for their churches, DeHart has been involved in it for 15 years, Haney for 20, and Foster for "several," though he did not recall the precise number.

### Potential Dangers

The panel of ministers acknowledged potential risks in developing a cell ministry.

"I had a little apprehension about getting into it at first," admits Brother Foster, "because when I was a younger preacher, I was taught against it. Why? Because big churches had been split over this type of thing. Ultimately, you do have to be careful who your leaders are, but I've found that the good so much outweighs the bad."

DeHart echoed Foster's concern about picking right leaders: "In this type of ministry, there is the danger of people trying to take a little bit more authority than they ought to have. But that's so minor, it's really not worth talking about. The most important thing is in choosing quality leaders and making sure you train them well. I personally don't operate under fear; I don't worry about people undermining me. I just try to keep my leaders motivated and constantly receiving good training."

And Brother Haney went further. He said that most leadership problems can be avoided with open lines of communication.

"Lack of communication causes most of the problems in a ministry such as this," noted Haney. "Anytime you try to do something like this without establishing clear lines of communication, you're asking for trouble. So in our sheepfolds, everybody is made accountable. Nobody is turned loose to do his own thing. If a shepherd has potential problems, he's taught to contact somebody from the church's pastoral staff."

### Benefits of Cell Ministry

The cell panel was even quicker to point out the potential benefits of cell ministry. According to all three, the ministry is gaining in popularity in Christianity at large, and even within the Apostolic movement. This, they say, is because more pastors are understanding the potential that cell ministry holds. According to Brother Haney, the "shepherds and sheepfolds" concept makes the difference between a manageable and unmanageable larger church. "Years ago," said Haney, "when I saw our church begin to grow, I realized that if we were going to maintain this growth, we would have to do something. A church will never grow beyond the scope of its pastoral care, so we needed a way of caring for all of the congregation." According to Haney, breaking up into "sheepfolds," or cells, was an effective way of doing this.

Foster said the benefits of cell ministry fall into three main categories: fellowship, training and evangelism.

"Everyone needs fellowship, but in a larger church, they can't get it as easily. This type of ministry helps people better become acquainted with other Christians. Also, this is an excellent way of training leaders. There are always two leaders at every cell meeting, with one person in training. And number three, this allows for evangelism, because it allows people to invite friends to a nonthreatening atmosphere."

And an additional benefit: the ease of reaching backsliders.

"This is tremendous for backsliders," said Foster. "Sometimes backsliders are reluctant to come back to church, but they'll come to these meetings because they're less threatening."

Like Foster, DeHart also cited fellowship as an important benefit: "Our motivation was realizing that as the church grows, so does the need for fellowship. It is a law of church growth that for people to stay in the church, they have got to make new friends." Cell ministry helps in this area, DeHart said.

### Setting Up a Cell Ministry

The cell panel outlined a series of steps that make the difference between a cell ministry which fails and one which succeeds. The first step, according to Foster: "I would start with a cell in my own home. Then, as I made contacts and the cell became too large in my home, we would divide again. All the while, I'd be training someone to help start another one, and then we'd keep multiplying."

Foster said that currently, his cell program, or "small groups ministry," is an additional service. However, he said, a new pastor might do well to consider replacing a service altogether with it.

"We have an older church, so I didn't feel like we should rely totally on outside-the-church care groups, but starting a new church, I would probably do that and allow people to  
*(Continued on page 14)*

*Below: One of the "cells" from Pastor Fred Foster's church in West Monroe, LA.*



***"This is the way the early church evangelized the world. From the day of Pentecost onward, they met from house to house. We have got to get the Gospel outside of those four walls, and this is a great way to do it."***

***--Fred Foster***

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# Keeping The Church Relevant

.....  
**Special Commentary By Ronald Becton**

**T**he religious world is filled with churches that are no longer relevant. Look around you. More than likely, not far from where you are is a church that has become little more than a social or political institution. Churches have lost their power to meet contemporary needs in a contemporary world. If there is one great need crying out for attention in our Apostolic churches, it is the need for us to stay relevant to the culture we're living in.

## Relevance Without Compromise:

Relevance means that we must be willing to meet people at the point of their needs, not focusing so much on theory as on putting Scripture in practice. However, we must do this without compromising what we believe. We must always stay true to our Apostolic doctrine; the great challenge for the church is to be able to relate to our culture without compromising our standards. We meet people on their individual levels without partaking in their worldliness.

## Awareness of the Hour

Another aspect to maintaining a church with relevance is to live with an awareness of the time in which we live. Both the ministry and the laity need to constantly maintain a sense of the nearness of the Lord's coming. At the same time, we must learn to occupy and do quality ministry during the time that we have left here.

The Apostle Paul gave valuable advice about what our attitude should be concerning the time: "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15-16).

Paul's advice is that we be aware of the nature of the day in which we live, yet all the while working and redeeming the time.

## Ministries of Relevance

Part of maintaining a church of relevance is to operate ministries of relevance. We have tried to do that at our church in Nashville. We try to get into the community in as many ways as possible, meeting as many different needs as possible. For instance, through our evangelistic efforts, we have tried to help people with needs they might have in their parenting, in their finances, or whatever their needs are. We try to touch them where they need it, and then try to bring them in from there.

Crime is a big problem in our culture, so we touch people through prison ministry. Our culture is rapidly aging, so we touch people through nursing homes and retirement communities.

And we strive to maintain a consistent visitor follow-up program. Follow-up ministry is an important part of evangelism, because no ministry will be as effective as it can be if we don't follow up on prospects.

We are also aware of our limits; we cannot always reach all areas effectively by ourselves. Because of that, we are in the process of starting a daughter church. This is a Spanish work designed to reach the Hispanic community in our area. Right now, there are between 30 and 40 attending.

The point I'm trying to convey is that the church must be conscious of the specific needs in its area and design evangelistic methods to meet those needs. And then place qualified people in charge of those outreaches. The key is having people with a burden for souls and for the particularly ministry that they are overseeing.

## Training to be Relevant

Of course, much of the responsibility for creating relevance within the church is to train leaders. This means our Bible colleges must properly educate young ministers, and churches themselves must put in place effective leadership training programs.

Our colleges have, for the most part, done a good job of teaching theological matters to students. However, along with the Biblical curriculum and doctrinal studies, they need to have some special practical training. By this I mean that the colleges should offer instruction in subjects such as how to deal with people and how to deal with operating a church structure.

For instance, our schools could provide classes that give an understanding of the different types of temperament. This would help potential pastors to know how best to respond to the needs and challenges offered by different personalities. Some problems that arise aren't necessarily from the devil, and they aren't necessarily because the saint is a bad person. Often, they're just people sharing honest differences.

And of course, the schools should also deal with the practical considerations of setting up a church structure. This means: how to appoint and train leaders, legal considerations,



and taking care of the finances.

Speaking of leaders, this brings us to the next way of training people in the area of relevance: We must train leaders to help in the tasks of the church.

At our church in Nashville, we have an appointed leader over several departments. For those people, we have regular meetings with all of the leaders to discuss problems as well as to propose solutions for those problems. For others, at different times during the year, we have a series of leadership training session just for the people who are feeling some leadership leads in their lives. Perhaps they have felt a call to the ministry or a desire to participate actively in some ministry in the church. These sessions are designed for them. When they're finished with their training, the hope is that they will then be prepared to continue reaching people at the point of their needs.

These ideas won't get rid of the irrelevant churches with their political theories and social events. But they will help to put the power and effectiveness back into the Apostolic church. **AIS**

.....  
Brother Ronald Becton is pastor of First United Pentecostal Church in Nashville, Tennessee

**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 Mooney

**■ Ministry**

*Discouragement can be overwhelming in the ministry. How do you stay enthused about the projects you are working on when things had not come together as you had hoped?*

First, be consoled by the fact that you are not alone in your dilemma. I can assure you that anyone who has ever attempted anything has had to push through "the wall" of frustration. I think, however, that there are a couple of things one can do to keep himself motivated. Let me share with you my short list of three techniques.

1) *Break-Away.* Most all things take on a different perspective when we back off a bit. Things that have you completely baffled and at a standstill will suddenly seem solvable as soon as you get on the airplane or in the car to take a couple days off. So when you feel tired or have reached a mental impasse, just push everything back and try to get away for awhile.

2) *The Friend Factor.* There is nothing that has the potential of changing your life, concepts, thinking, more than your interaction with friends. Remember that as iron sharpens iron, so too do we sharpen one another. So when you're stuck or weary, plan some time with your friends. A little laughter and good fellowship will do much to refresh your spirit.

3) *A Mental Rest.* Mental rest is different than physical rest. You'll need deliberate action to accomplish this, and the best way, in my opinion, is to read material different from your normal required reading. Books on history or biographies are often inspirational and can bring a great restfulness to your mind.



Owen Taylor

**■ Legal**

*We have a school that is part of our overall church outreach. Do we have to file the annual IRS Form 5578?*

Yes. It is very important to maintain the separation of your church / ministries activities from other activities that might be considered non-church or not tax exempt. For several years, churches took a firm stand, and pastors were even willing to go to jail over the issue, when the government said schools were not part of the ministry. This particular filing requirement, however, is binding on all private schools - even those operated by churches.

Basically the requirement is to annually file, by the 15th day of the fifth month following the end of the school's fiscal year, IRS form 5578. Preschools fall into the definition of "school," and this requirement applies to them also. The form is very simple to complete. A church official simply identifies the church and school, and certifies that the school has "satisfied the applicable requirement of section 4.01 through 4.05 of Revenue Procedure 75050." This reference is to the following requirements: The school has a statement in its charter or other governing documents that it is racially nondiscriminatory; it has a statement of its policies in all of its brochures or catalogs dealing with student admission, programs and scholarships; and it makes its racially nondiscriminatory policy known to the community through the publication of a notice at least annually in a local newspaper.

*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**

*We were raised to believe that Godly principles were above all else. Nowadays, this does not seem to matter. What can I do to ensure my children have principles?*

To be certain, principle seems to be vanishing from the earth. Principle and self-ishness have been in a tug of war for ages. As long as church was at the center of people's lives, principle won the day.

Some would say that the schools are at the root of the problem, but I feel that this is not so. It is the lack of a strong church background. Church always has affected the schools.

To teach about God is to teach principle. Sunday school can never be replaced, for the Bible stories are told on a level that each child can understand. The child might, for awhile, have Moses killing the giant, but he learns that honesty and kindness to others pay off. For 36 years on my way to Sunday school, I have grieved for the children playing in the streets with no thought of the house of God. Some parents are getting over hangovers - others merely neglecting their children's spiritual training, with lame excuses such as, "I want my kids to make up their own minds about God." Parents are teaching and allowing them to be taught everything that is temporal and carnal, knowing that the natural direction for them to take is away from God.

So my advice to you is to teach your children the Bible stories. Carry them to church. You will be their most effective teacher for good or bad. Never let down your principles. Never run down the church. Your kids are worth the price.



T. W. Massengale

**■ Outreach**

*I'm having trouble getting my outreach ministry directors to do their jobs properly. What suggestions do you have?*

My suggestion is very simple: Job descriptions will work wonders in this area.

It is quite common to hear lay leaders cry over and over again: "I don't really know what I'm supposed to be doing," while pastors cry, "Why can't I get my directors to do their jobs?" Most often, the reason for this lies in one of two areas:

1) They do not know fully *what* to do. If

an individual does not know fully *what* to do, obviously, it is difficult for them to do it. For this reason, the written job description is very important. Your director will refer back to it repeatedly. A properly written job description will put teeth into an organizational structure. It will give it substance, strength, and clarity of purpose. It defines boundaries, and shows who is responsible for what and to whom. The best job descriptions: a) spell out duties and limits of authority in a particular church position; b) clarify relationships between jobs; c) provide the first step in actual job appraisal d) help identify future training needs; e) aid in introducing new people to their jobs; f) serve as a basis for establishing performance standards as they relate to the church goals; g) serve as a basis for recruiting

others for similar positions; h) serve as a contract between the pastor and director; i) provide definite goals and objectives for the director in the coming year.

The other reason ministry leaders don't do their jobs is that they do not fully know how to do it. It is not enough to tell somebody *what* to do; they also need training. They need a pattern, or example, to follow. In following another's example, they will learn the job and all its details. Then, after they have learned the job, they will often improve upon it (Incidentally, this pattern of "how to" needs to be in writing also. Some pastors have developed a basic "procedures manual" to help in this training process.). Only when the "what" and "how" of a job are covered is he capable of doing it properly.

**MEDIA**

**Time-Warner Criticized for Low Morals**

Secular media and politically liberal lobbyists have joined conservative organizations in confronting Time-Warner Corporation's willingness to push the envelope regarding morality in products they market. News-magazines such as *U.S. News & World Report* and *Newsweek* are decrying the lead Time-Warner has taken in the degradation of American culture through products such as "The Jenny Jones Show," Madonna's book on sex; the movies, "JFK," "Natural Born Killers," and "Batman Returns;" and nihilistic music from groups like 2LiveCrew, Metallica, Ice-T, Snoop Doggy Dogg, and Nine Inch Nails, which critics say glorify rape, murder,

torture and suicide.

On May 18, William Bennett of Empower America and DeLores Tucker of the National Political Congress of Black Women confronted Time-Warner executives on this issue. President Clinton has aligned himself with the anti-vulgarity movement, as have several Republican Presidential contenders.

Paradoxically, Time-Warner also owns Warner Alliance, a contemporary Christian music label with high-profile acts such as the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir, Steve Camp, Kim Boyce, and Russ Taff.

RICHARD MASONER

**POLITICS**

**Candidates Favor Family 'Contract'**

House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole have expressed support for a 10-point "Contract with the American Family" proposed by the Christian coalition. Dole is a 1996 Presidential hopeful, and Gingrich has hinted he might be interested as well.

The "Contract" includes: a religious equality amendment; ending public funding of abortions; abolishing the federal Department of Education; establishment of a school voucher program; a \$500 per child tax credit; restrictions on pornography on cable TV and the Internet; ending federal funding of public broadcasting and cultural institutions; increased tax deductibility of charitable contributions; passage of parental rights laws; and compensation of victims by criminals.

Other GOP candidates have voiced support for some parts of the Contract, as each tries to woo the Christian community.

RICHARD MASONER

**UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH**

**Clinton Praises UPC on Adoption**

President Bill Clinton praised the United Pentecostal Church's attitude toward abortion and adoption in a July 1 speech at Georgetown University.

In the speech, the President focused largely on the subject of responsible citizenship. Concerning the abortion controversy, Mr. Clinton said, "People who feel very strongly about one of the most contentious issues in our society, abortion, ought to look at the United Pentecostal Church. They'll adopt any child born, no matter what race, no matter how disabled, no matter what their problems are. This is a positive, constructive outlet for people who are worried about every problem in this country if they will go and seek it out. And there is nothing the rest of us can do that will replace that kind of energy."

The President has made numerous such overtures in recent weeks to win some of the support of the Christian community. Most notably, on July 12, Clinton issued a White House directive outlining what kinds of religious expressions would be allowable in public schools. The president said the U.S. Constitution does not make the schools "religion-free zones."

"There are those who say that values and morals and religions have no place in public education. I think that is wrong," he said.

Leaders of conservative Christian groups remained skeptical, saying the President's actions are politically-motivated.

RICHARD C. BROWN

**CHURCH TRENDS**

**Most Handicapped Don't Go To Church**

The church is doing an inadequate job of reaching the handicapped according to recent research. Steve Jensen of JAF Ministries reports that 95 percent of those with disabilities do not attend church, and that the church is "incomplete" without them. Further, *The Pastor's Weekly Briefing*, citing JAF figures, said that over 80 percent of marriages with a handicapped family member end in divorce. "We encourage churches to start a disability outreach team and a disability awareness Sunday," Jensen said.

RICHARD C. BROWN

**RELIGION**

**Forgiveness of Sin Offered Online**

A Carnegie Mellon University graduate student, Ken Lang, has made life, if not life in the hereafter, more convenient for those wishing to feel free of their sins. That's right: Now you need not even leave your house to go to church, because now the Internet's World-Wide Web offers Lang's "Confession Booth." If a Catholic has Mosaic software, he or she can even see the digital priest as he pronounces a penance after the penitent has typed in a list of sins. Mr. Lang has not yet figured out a way to offer either baptism or communion over the modem.

PAMELA TAYLOR

**PROPHECY**

**Israeli Peace Talks Going Forward**

Israeli Prime Minister Yizak Rabin, in Egypt for talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, declared last spring that Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization "have passed the point of no return" to peace. Rabin pledged to meet a July 1 deadline to withdraw Israeli troops from West Bank towns and hold Palestinian elections. Some Christians see this as a step toward the temporary Israeli peace prophesied in the Bible.

RICHARD MASONER

**News In Brief...**

- ◆ Support for a religious equality amendment, which would guarantee that religious expression is protected in all situations where non-religious expression is permitted, is growing in Congress.
- ◆ A recent poll of children ages 10-16, done by the Children Now advocacy group, shows that eight of 10 kids say there is too much sex on television.
- ◆ Premier, the first commercial religious radio station in Great Britain, went on the air in June.

## 'The New Birth Experience'

**P**icture a soulwinning tool responsible for 80 percent of the growth rate (40 - 200 in eight years) of a revival church in Norfolk, VA. Interested? The tool is "The New Birth Experience," a one-evening home Bible study that is bringing in positive reports from churches across the nation.

Pastor Michael Blankenship of Apostolic United Pentecostal Church in Norfolk created "The New Birth Experience" as an aid for lay members desiring to share their faith. "I had used many of the Bible study materials available, all of which are good. Yet I found that none of them seemed to click on my logic pattern. I had created my own version of a Bible study, which I put on index cards. I used it for years, and it was largely responsible for building my church here. After several years, the Lord impressed me to put it on computer and publish it."

Which he did. "The New Birth Experience", said Blankenship, is a booklet of about 11 pages and an optional cassette tape for \$3.00.



M. Blankenship

"It starts from the very first point, i.e., that we're all sinners, and it leads them right through Apostolic doctrine." At the end is a test which the student takes. The last question is, "Would you like to experience this new birth?"

Word of the study has spread worldwide, Blankenship noted. Blankenship stressed that his Bible study is designed as a layman's evangelistic tool.

"We've had pastors who said they have enjoyed it as a Bible study tool to teach the church. That's great, but it's not really where the power of this tool is. The power is in getting it into the hands of the saints. It's meant to give them confidence to teach others. Any question I've ever been hit

with while soulwinning, I address in this study. This is so easy, you don't even need a Bible to teach it. It has over 60 Scriptures already printed out in it."

The study costs \$3.00. For more information, call (800) 853-5599.

By RICHARD C. BROWN

MUSIC MINISTRY

## Sam Kelly's 'Notes of Joy'

**A** lifelong interest in music, computer technology, and ministry led Denver resident Sam Kelly, Sr. of Pastor D.E. Haymon's church, to develop the "Notes of Joy" music instruction program. With self-paced tutoring, a student can learn to play any of eight instruments, then move on with others in performing with a church orchestra.

A trombonist for 39 years, Kelly developed this program after many ministers requested him to start bands for their churches. By making the program self-tutored, money which would be spent on his travel can be invested in the program.

Brother Kelly realized that combining computer technology with music would enable one to create a system whereby individual students could each learn the same music; then these students could practice their parts on their own without having an entire orchestra with which to practice.

Brother Kelly made a commitment to put the program together. After five years and a personal investment of \$12,000 for equipment, he has made the "Notes of Joy" program available on cassette tapes.

Notes of Joy is a system with three phases. Phone one, or "QuickLearn," is a Begin-

ners' Band Method. Phase two is simple arrangements to play for church offerings. Phase three, called "QuickPlay," is a system for an orchestra to quickly learn an arrangement and perform it in church. Available are 99 songs.

QuickLearn teaches the student how to play one of eight different instruments: trumpet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, clarinet, flute, trombone, baritone, or French horn. The student learns from a book of 25 lessons with all exercises on audio cassette tapes. Each tape has emulated sounds of the instrument being studied.

"The violin, viola, and cello will be available this year," Brother Kelly noted.

Phase two was motivated by the fact that instrumental arrangements can be difficult to find, even in large cities. "Phase two sheet music," said Kelly, "can also be customized for your church."

For the QuickPlay phase three, Kelly has received permission from five music companies to make instructional cassette tapes of published sheet music. For each song title, there are 16 tapes, one tape for each instrument's sheet music. The tapes are passed out with the sheet music to practice at home. At the next rehearsal, the song is almost performance-ready.

QuickLearn is available for \$99.95 an instrument, with discounts for larger quantities.



Sam Kelly

"If you can find someone to give you lessons for \$15 an hour, which is about half price," Brother Kelly stressed, "that would cost you \$105 for seven lessons. However, with QuickLearn, you get 25 lessons and can play the lessons over and over."

QuickPlay is available for \$50 for 16 tapes in a vinyl folder. Each tape has three sections: 1) the instrument played slowly along with the piano and a metronome, 2) the same thing played at performance speed, 3) all 16 band parts playing. Each part is also sold separately at \$7.50 each. For information, call Notes of Joy at (800) 532-1703. Or you may reach him by FAX at (303) 755-9157. He may also be reached on the Internet by E-mailing: [samnoj@ix.netcom.com](mailto:samnoj@ix.netcom.com).

By RICHARD MASONER

CHURCH GROWTH

## 4 Kingdom Principles

**T**here is no one that God can't use," said Pastor Scott Carley of Lubbock, TX. That truth quickly becomes as valuable as Texas' black gold to every saint in attendance. Three nights later, Brother Carley's Four Kingdom Building Principles workshop has aided in turning desire into reality: People have been transformed from the ordinary into soul-winners.

Having traveled coast-to-coast and overseas as a church growth consultant, Bro. Carley said, "It became obvious to me that people want to do something for the Lord. I identified the four most important Kingdom-building ministries and tied those to characters in the New Testament." Brother Carley has helped make it possible for people to become a viable part of the soul-winning efforts of their local assembly. They might become a mighty prayer



Scott Carley

warrior, a gentle and kind encourager, a home Bible study teacher rightly dividing the Word of truth, or one who makes use of the most powerful soul-winning tool - their personal testimony. "As a result of taking part in this Four Kingdom Building Ministries workshop, Brother

(Continued on page 14)



## New AIS Files

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



### new bible study files

EVPR50.TXT	22633	<b>Trumpet of God.</b> Prophecy study of various trumpets in the Bible.
BSFA33.TXT	27383	<b>Bible Belief.</b> Study of true Bible belief versus "easy believism."
BSPR93.TXT	3488	<b>Prepare for War.</b> Excellent article on praying for more effective spiritual warfare.
BSGR07.TXT	24518	<b>License to Sin?</b> Article that says grace does not allow us to sin, but keeps us from sin.
EVPR51.TXT	21224	<b>A New World Coming.</b> David Wilkerson discusses the <i>true</i> "new world order."
BSMS61.TXT	4297	<b>God's Employment.</b> Qualities of a person in the service of the Lord.
BSMS62.TXT	5912	<b>A Place Called Wits End.</b> Very good study of Bible ships in times of storm.
EVPR54.TXT	27698	<b>Red Horse of the Apocalypse.</b> Intriguing article by David Wilkerson on part of Revelation.
EVPR52.TXT	8621	<b>Days of Noah.</b> Comparison of the sinfulness of Noah's day with today.
EVGE34.TXT	40536	<b>No Compromise.</b> Sermon by Charles Spurgeon on the need to stand on one's convictions.
BSHB29.TXT	38811	<b>How to Read the Bible.</b> Practical advice by Charles Spurgeon on effective Bible study.
BSHB30.TXT	8777	<b>The Old Testament Today.</b> Good article that shows why the Old Testament is relevant for today.
BSMS62.TXT	10461	<b>The Value of Hardships.</b> Article that shows how trials benefit the Christian.
BSMS63.TXT	10473	<b>Who Nailed What to the Cross?</b> Interesting study of how our sins were nailed to the cross.
EVGE35.TXT	13319	<b>Be Angry and Sin Not.</b> Leonard Ravenhill looks at the proper way of handling anger.
BSMS64.TXT	15891	<b>The Devil Will Get You.</b> Study of Satan's tactics to snare people in temptation.
BSPR94.TXT	18398	<b>The Gospel of Prayer.</b> Great study of prayer in the life of Jesus, by Leonard Ravenhill.
EVGE36.TXT	11052	<b>Zeal: Love Ablaze.</b> Article about the zeal of Jesus as applied to the passion we have for God!
EVGE37.TXT	8972	<b>Strength to Say No.</b> Good sermon by Billy Graham on Bible characters who learned to say "No."
EVPR53.TXT	3115	<b>The Falling Away.</b> David Wilkerson writes about the great endtime Apostasy coming on the earth.



### new controversial issues files

CUCH14.TXT	19887	<b>"Holy" Laughter in Other Religions.</b> Discussion of laughter in other, false religions.
CUGE13.TXT	40468	<b>Consequences of Cultic Behavior.</b> Intriguing study of negative effects of involvement in cults.
CUJW06.TXT	22716	<b>New World Translation on Trial.</b> Revealing study of the errors of Jehovah's Witness Bible.
CUMC68.TXT	12686	<b>Masonry, My Savior, &amp; Me.</b> Testimony of one person's deliverance from Freemasonry.
THCR25.TXT	15756	<b>Genetics &amp; Evolution.</b> This well-researched article shows genetics to be the enemy of evolution.
THCR26.TXT	17680	<b>The History of Life.</b> Excellent research article on how life began according to Biblical creation.



### new church management files

OPEM47.TXT	37648	<b>Building Strong Cell Churches.</b> Steps to take to strengthen the ministry of cell churches.
OPEM48.TXT	1843	<b>Advantages of Cell Ministry.</b> Catalog of benefits achieved by operating a cell ministry.
OPEM49.TXT	2214	<b>Cell Churches &amp; Conventional Meetings.</b> Article comparing normal church with cell meetings.
OPEM50.TXT	4647	<b>Cell Ministry Structure.</b> Practical advice on setting up a cell ministry within your church.



### new graphics files

BUCA40.PCX	288704	<b>Bible Character Clip-Art.</b> Various Bible characters, perfect for church publications.
BUCA41.PCX	310880	<b>More Bible Character Clip-Art.</b> Another collection of pictures of Bible characters.
BUCA42.PCX	218716	<b>Christian Family Art.</b> Several pictures of families praying, reading the Bible.
BUCA43.PCX	295385	<b>Pictures of Jesus.</b> Scenes from the life of Jesus for your church publications.
BUCA44.PCX	384916	<b>Pictures of Jesus #2.</b> More scenes from the life of Jesus for church bulletins.
BICA45.PCX	302550	<b>Families Around the World.</b> Nice pictures of families from various ethnic backgrounds.



### new computer software files

GAAA26.ZIP	1.2MEG	<b>Where's Noah?</b> Colorful puzzle game for kids with a Bible theme. Find the objects for Noah!
BIBS52.ZIP	99638	<b>I Peter Computer Tutorial.</b> Electronic study of Peter's first epistle.
BIBS53.ZIP	88630	<b>II Peter Computer Tutorial.</b> Electronic study of Peter's first epistle.
BIBS54.ZIP	72266	<b>Bible Memory.</b> Simple, easy-to-use Scripture memory program for DOS.
BIBS55.ZIP	817558	<b>Bible Knowledge Accelerator.</b> Program in Windows Help format giving a survey of the Bible
BICM30.ZIP	300550	<b>Lifetime Life Organizer.</b> Extremely user-friendly personal information manager for ministers.
EDGE22.ZIP	221662	<b>Home School Directory.</b> Good collection of resources for home school families.
EDGE23.ZIP	494447	<b>Gradebook for Windows.</b> Great help recording grades for Christian school teachers.
EDGE24.ZIP	260131	<b>Windows Test Aid.</b> Perfect tool to help Christian school teachers develop custom-made tests.
EDGE25.ZIP	221662	<b>Tester.</b> Another program to help Christian school teachers make tests, this one for DOS.
GAAR41.ZIP	549444	<b>XIXIT.</b> The strangest Tetris clone ever, requiring you to line up three weirdly-shaped objects.
BIGE17.ZIP	60131	<b>Faith Icons.</b> The finest collection of Shareware religious icons available!
BICM25.ZIP	192954	<b>Decision Maker.</b> Neat program that helps you to select the best choice in major decisions.

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**Total Church Growth** is more than just another theoretical textbook of evangelism principles — more than just talk and hype. It is best described as “practical, proven techniques that will help any size church.” Whether you are Home Missions status or averaging a thousand, **Total Church Growth** covers every essential aspect. Fourteen major chapters include:

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# The Danger Of Theological Illiteracy

**OPINION: We must re-introduce Christians to serious theological study.**

I was shocked not long ago when a young Apostolic man came to me and asked what the Biblical basis is for not excessively adorning one's body (with jewelry and makeup). As I explained the basic teachings I had heard since my teen years, this person looked genuinely surprised. Apparently, this was the first time he had heard this line of reasoning.

Now, ordinarily, this would not be so unusual. After all, every Christian is at a different state of maturity in his walk with the Lord. What seems to be basic Christianity 101 to some is still new material to others.

However, the shocking thing is that the person asking the question was a pastor's son who was raised in the church. During all of his years in the church, he had not learned the "why's" of the Apostolic message. This just serves to underscore an alarming trend in the church: We are raising a generation of theological illiterates, ignorant of basic doctrine and of the magnificent heritage of the church.

## The USA Today Generation

In a way, we should expect this trend. We live in the age of *USA Today*, microwave ovens and music videos. People today just do not like to spend much effort doing something that takes them away from their recreation. This is particularly true of something that requires mental activity.

And this has spilled over into the church. Ask yourself a couple of questions. Which of the following have the people in your church more likely read: the latest John Grisham novel or John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*? Can more of your saints name the 12 Apostles, or the members of their favorite sports team? And could your saints honestly give Biblical reasons for each tenet of their faith?

These are critical questions. The "orthodox" Christian church is more and more hurling the "cult" label at the Apostolic movement. Also, a new generation within the church is demanding reasons for our teachings on such issues as holiness. A theologically illiterate church will not be equipped to handle these challenges.

## The Wrong Solution

And just how are many in the Christian community handling the whole problem of theological illiteracy? By giving in to it!

Again, we get back to the *USA Today* trend. Consider the analogy. Journalists across the nation have surrendered to the fact that

people don't want mental stimulation. Their reasoning: "People's attention spans are so limited, we will mimic the *USA Today* style and offer small news-bytes more palatable to them."



Unfortunately, this appears to be the same reasoning many Christian leaders are using. Take a trip to your local Christian bookstore, and rather than finding material for young people that challenges them on a deep theological level, you're more likely to find shallow curriculum designed only to be eye-catching or to excite the emotions. Even the "study" Bibles produced today seem to want to appeal to people through splashy graphics, emotionalism, and shallow "fact-oids."

And yes, Christian magazines also have surrendered to theological illiteracy. Rather than presenting articles that provoke intelligent thinking about the Christian faith, many publications concentrate on tabloid style journalism that we usually associate with the secular media. "Antichrist Revealed" and similar types of stories are what we would expect

from the supermarket tabloids, but are sadly what we get from much of the Christian media.

## The Right Solution.

What, then, is the right answer for the problem of theological illiteracy? Should we

not try to reach people on their level, even if this means appealing to their short, emotion-based attention spans?

The solution is to attract people by approaching them on their level - but then take them higher. By all means, fill your Christian publication with attractive graphics to pull in the reader's eye. But then, once you have his attention, stimulate his mind with profound doctrinal truths. Use emotional illustrations in your sermons if you must. But use them to drive home a powerful theological point.

Finally, encourage those under your ministry to expand their theological horizons. Make

available to them good Christian reading material. Make sure that they read the Christian classics such as *Pilgrim's Progress*, or any of the works by C.S. Lewis. And of course, place in their hands the best Apostolic books addressing the principles of the doctrine. And most importantly, emphasize the importance of regular Bible study. This does not mean just Bible reading or even memorization. This means deep, thought-provoking study of various doctrines, Bible characters, or books. Emphasize this as often as it takes to motivate people to serious study.

The *USA Today* will still be there when they finish their study. **AS**

Richard Brown, a graduate of Gateway College of Evangelism, is managing editor for the Apostolic Information Service. He also serves as journalism instructor at Indiana Bible College.

**Recommended Reading**

*What if Jesus Had Never Been Born?* by D. James Kennedy, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 275 pages, \$15.99, hardcover.

In the multi-cultural 1990s, often the only acceptable bigotry is that directed toward Christians. But for those who are tired of the anti-Christian rhetoric in much of the media, *What if Jesus Had Never Been Born?* is a great read.

The author, Dr. D. James Kennedy takes an in-depth look at all of the positive contributions Christianity has made on the world since the time of Christ. His arguments are convincing as he sets out to prove that a world without Christianity would be a miserable one indeed!

Granted, Kennedy uses a broad definition of Christianity to prove his point. He praises Joan of Arc, for instance, whom even Trinitarian churches consider heretical in her beliefs. Still the author's point remains: The teachings of Christ have been responsible for untold good in the world.

• • •  
*A Study Guide for the New Birth*, by David K. Bernard & Neil Stegall, Word Aflame Press, 114 pages, \$6.99, paperback.

Back in print after several years, *A Study Guide for the New Birth* is perfect, not only for readers of Bernard's book, *The New Birth*, but for anybody involved in teaching the Word of God. Following *The New Birth* closely, this handy guide gives a very easy-to-follow presentation on salvation in outline form.

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

**■ PASTORAL TRANSITIONS**

Some interesting facts were revealed after assessing the responses of 758 pastors during a recent survey. In the May / June, 1995 issue of *Your Church*, John C. LaRue, Jr., writes that, based on his findings, pastoral tenure is on the decline. Mr. LaRue reported, "This means the typical pastor has changed churches three times and is nearing the midterm of his fourth pastorate. But not all pastors move this often - one in ten pastors have never moved, and another one-tenth have moved only once." The survey made it known that the "typical pastor" (46 years of age and in the ministry for 18 years) remains at the same church for approximately five years, with eight years being the longest stay and two years the shortest. In the mid-1970s, the approximate average was seven years at the same church, a decline of two years. In addition, it was found that pastors who are under the age of 40 are twice as apt to move. On the other hand, moves are less likely with pastors over the age of 50. In fact, eight percent of those pastors under 40 years of age have moved 10 or more times. According to LaRue, "the top four reasons pastors left their last place of ministry are: 1) he acquired a new vision or sense of call to a new place; 2) he had a feeling his ministry was complete or could go no further; 3) he received an advancement or promotion; and 4) he experienced ongoing tension or trouble in his church or ministry." During the period of time that came between pastorates, one in five pastors said they needed to take a secular job; some of these will never return to pastoring.

**■ THE NEED FOR LEGAL KNOWLEDGE**

It seems that there are many areas of ministry that have the potential of incurring the wrath of Caesar. It is becoming increasingly important that all those involved in any church activity become educated when it comes to knowing something of secular law in addition to God's law. "Rendering unto Caesar" these days entails everything from scrupulously careful bookkeeping procedures for anyone who might handle church funds to insurance coverage designed to protect against possible accusations of misconduct of church workers and the pastor alike. Authors Cynthia S. Mazur and Ronald K. Bulls (United Church Press, 1994) have written a 135-page pocket-sized book for easy reference entitled, *Legal Guide for Day-to-Day Church Matters: A Handbook for Pastors and Church Members*. There are also several legal software packages available that churches might consider purchasing. Regardless, legal experts agree that ministers should take concrete steps in educating themselves in the area of church law.

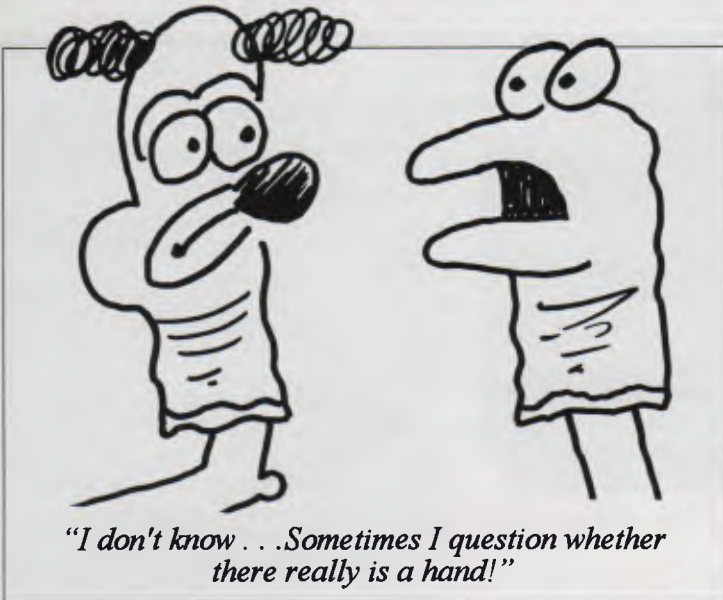
**■ MATCHING DREAMS AND VALUES**

Mid-life crisis is common even for ministers. Often, though, according to authors Stephen R. Covey, A. Roger Merrill, and Rebecca R. Merrill, mid-life crises comes because people have not properly matched their dreams with their values. This is particularly important for Christians, as they must learn to match their dreams with the truly important things in life. Thus, the authors have issued a challenge in their book, *First Things First*, to use your watch and find out in just a few minutes if your dreams and values match. 1) Take one minute and answer the following questions: If I had unlimited time and resources, what would I do? Explore all possibilities, and be sure to write down everything that comes into your head. 2) Take another minute and write down your values. For instance, are the things you consider valuable peace of mind, security, good health, close relationships, spiritual fulfillment, friendships, helping others, family, etc.? 3) Spend your third minute going through your personal values and your dreams. Notice any that don't coincide? The authors warn that you might be spending years living with self-deception and a subliminal impression that you're not attaining "the best." Getting your dreams and values more concrete in your mind by putting them on paper might help you to see inconsistencies, and you will, thereby, be able to take steps toward matching up your two lists. 4) Finally, look at your values as they relate to the four fundamental needs of every person: physical needs, social needs, mental needs, and spiritual needs. If your values do not reflect your needs, the authors warn that your list needs work. 5) One final step in gaining a better understanding of your values and dreams is to answer this question: What principles will produce the values on my final list? These, of course, should be based on Biblical principles. This final step will allow you to develop a concrete plan toward doing with your life those things that really matter.

News By PAMELA TAYLOR    Reviews By RICHARD C. BROWN

**WORD TO THE WISE:**

*"The true way to be humble is not to stoop until you are smaller than yourself, but to stand at your real height against some higher nature that will show you what the real smallness of your greatness is."*  
 --Phillips Brooks, 1872



*"I don't know . . . Sometimes I question whether there really is a hand!"*

**BULLETIN BLOOPERS:** Bloopers and blunders can pop up anywhere. For instance, a small publication called "Have a Good Day" reports these actual bloopers that have reared their mischievous heads in various church bulletins:

"This afternoon there will be a meeting in the south and north ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends."

"The Rev. Hamilton spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience."

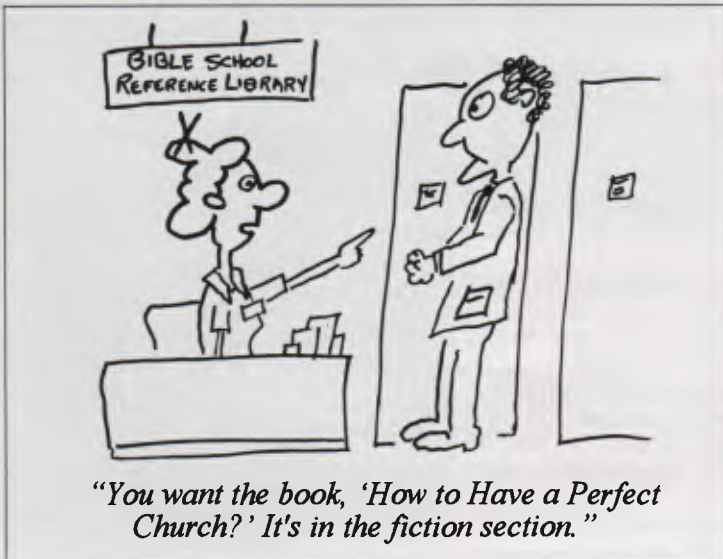
"The pastor will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing, 'Break Forth into Joy.'"

"The choir will meet at the Friesen home for fun and sinning."

"During the absence of our pastor, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J.A. Watts supplied our pulpit."

"Being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Brown to come forward and lay an egg on the altar."

"The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind, and they can be seen in the church basement on Friday afternoon."



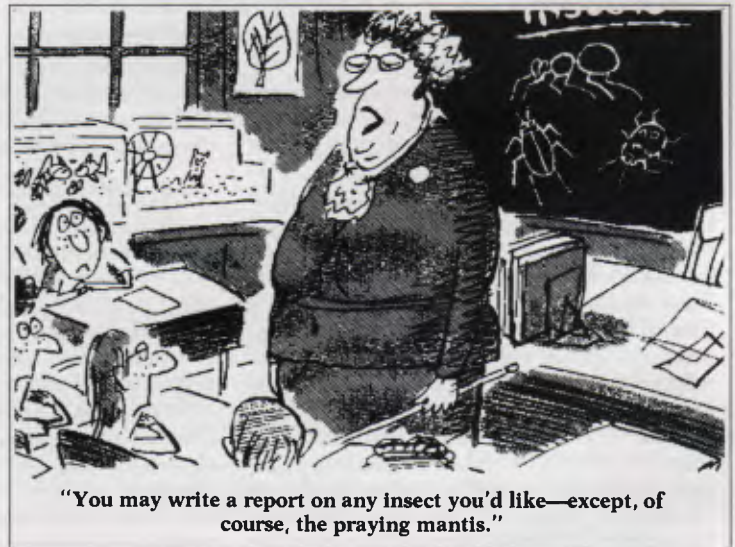
*"You want the book, 'How to Have a Perfect Church?' It's in the fiction section."*

**A LOCAL MINISTER** had made several pastoral calls at the community hospital, when he boarded an elevator, headed for the lobby. One young man, who was grinning from ear to ear, was passing around a photograph. One passenger asked about the weight. "Six-and-a-half pounds," the young man replied.

"Congratulations," the pastor said. "Boy or girl?"  
 "Bass," the young man said.

**WHEN VISITING** with the pastor one Sunday afternoon, a call came in from one the church's more opinionated members. As he listened to the voice on the other end, I saw him select an envelope from off of his desk, pull out the enclosed letter, and carefully fold it into a paper airplane. Then, as he prepared to sail it out the window, I heard him say, "Yes, Mrs. Jones, as a matter of fact, I have read your suggestion for improving my preaching. In fact, I'm just about to test it and see how it flies!"

**IF THE PHILIP MORRIS** cigarette company feels the need to recall its cigarettes because of tainted filters (which it recently did), shouldn't they feel the need to recall them for causing cancer?



*"You may write a report on any insect you'd like—except, of course, the praying mantis."*

**A MAN WITH A STUTTERING PROBLEM** had experience in several jobs but was not successful in any of them. He somehow stumbled into the job of selling Bibles. His first day was a hit! He sold 20 Bibles after approaching 22 houses. The second day, he sold 39 Bibles in only 41 house-calls. On the third day, he sold 50 Bibles out of 52 house-calls.

His company was astounded by his success, so they asked him his secret so other salespeople in their company might benefit and improve their sales. In front of key company people and the entire sales force, the super salesman shared his experiences of the past three days of sales: "I . . . I knock on the d . . . door and when they a . . . answer, I . . . introduce myself. I s . . . say, hi m . . . my name is J . . . John Smith. I have B . . . Bibles for s . . . sale. Would you like to b . . . buy one? Or would y . . . you like me to r . . . read it to you?"

**OVERHEARD:** One saint saying to another, "My greatest fear is that I'll be standing behind my dear old pastor in the final Judgment line, and I'll hear God tell Him, "You know, you really should have done more."

For subscription or advertising information, call (800) 8000-AIS, or write: AIS, P.O. Box 47917, Indianapolis, IN 46247. Subscription: \$12.95 per month for entire service, including IBC Perspectives magazine, "Ministry Dynamics" cassette, 10 "Idea Sheets, and unlimited access to the AIS Computer Service. \$22.95 per year for Perspectives magazine only. Apostolic Information Service and IBC Perspectives are registered trademarks of Indiana Bible College. All rights reserved. Indiana Bible College is affiliated with the United Pentecostal Church International.

## Four Kingdom Building Principles

(Continued from page eight)

Carley noted, "people are given tremendous satisfaction; they feel that they have a place in ministry, and that they can get involved. Also, it has helped us to diversify. I have people teaching Bible studies while, at the same time, I have people praying for those home Bible studies." As new converts come in the church, won by a saint's personal testimony, people are ready to help them. "I have an encourager that can help any new convert through that infancy stage into spiritual maturity," Brother Carley said.

Four Kingdom Building Ministries workshop is the most recent addition to Bro. Carley's Pentecostal Growth Dynamics material.

For more information concerning the program or other material that Brother Carley has developed during his 18 years of ministry, he welcomes inquiries. Call (806) 794-4158.

By PAMELA TAYLOR

## Cover Story: CELL MINISTRY

(Continued from page three)

get used to it." And finally, Foster outlined what he considers a good format for cell meetings: "We emphasize worship and singing in the beginning, setting the stage for what's coming. Then we have focused prayer; we pray individually for every request. During that time, we also have testimonies of what God has been doing. Then, after the prayer, we have a Bible discussion, with one leader, but in which everyone can become involved. Then we have prayer again at the end and a time of fellowship. We emphasize that these meetings should not last over an hour. This way, people will be less threatened by the time commitment."

Haney's recommended cell structure corresponds closely to Foster's. Like Foster, he said a new pastor should start by holding a "sheepfold" meeting in his own home, with four or five families. He stressed, however, the importance of keeping these groups small.

"We have sheepfolds in size anywhere from five people up to 35." Beyond that point, Haney said, the church begins looking at developing another sheepfold. "At this time, we probably have between 125 and 130 sheepfolds meeting every week."

For those not completely sold on the Foster and Haney model, Brother DeHart offered an alternative structure:

"This is a service in addition to our other weekly services, and we do not necessarily have these cell meetings every week. They are at different intervals.

"Also, there is no 'typical' meeting. All of them are different, because we have them defined under three broad categories. We have fellowship groups, some that are strictly Bible study groups, and some that are a combination of fellowship and Bible study. And

then we have them spread through various support areas, such as married groups, alcohol dependency groups, divorce recovery, and other areas. This way, people get to choose the type of meeting that they need the most."

### A Biblical Concept

Regardless of the structure, the cell ministers all agree that this is a more Biblical way of doing church. And they stress it's a way that more churches ought to consider, if not to bring growth, then to maintain it.

Said Foster: "I believe that from the Day of Pentecost onward, the church met from house to house. You'll find it even in Paul's writings. I'm not de-emphasizing the importance of church buildings, because today, we just about have to have them. At the same time, we have got to get the Gospel outside of those four walls, and this is a great, Biblical way to do it."

### Cell Ministry Resources:

- *So You Want to Grow*, by Jack DeHart. Cost: \$5.95. Order from Pentecostal Publishing House, 8855 Dunn Rd., Hazelwood, MO 63042.
- *The Jesus Leadership Principle*, by Fred Foster. Cost: \$7.95. Order from Twin Cities University, 700 Montgomery St., West Monroe, LA 71292.
- *Latter Day Shepherds and Sheepfolds*, by Kenneth Haney. Cost: \$5.00. Order from Pentecostal Publishing House, 8855 Dunn Rd., Hazelwood, MO 63042.
- *Cell Church Magazine*, published by Ralph W. Neighbour Jr. Subscription Cost: \$14.00 for four quarterly issues. Call (800) 735-5865. Or write: Cell Church, P.O. Box 19888, Houston, TX 77224-1988.
- Note also the AIS files on cell ministry on page 9 of this month's *IBC Perspectives*.

## Feedback



### To the editor:

Re: Child Abuse Articles (Vol. 5, No. 4, "Plainly Speaking" and "Guest Editorial"):

Although the topic of child abuse in the church is something we would like to see disappear, we have to admit that it is something we are facing. The problem can only be "eased" within our ranks if we expose the situation, so I commend your magazine for tackling the issue. Not that it has to be mentioned at great lengths, but we do need to get our heads out of the sand.

Keep up the good work and may the Lord richly bless.

-- Mark S. McKinney  
Indianapolis, IN

### To the editor:

Thanks for your recent issue on child abuse. The topic of child abuse in the church definitely needs to be addressed. After all, do we want godly counsel or worldly counsel to guide us? The answer is obvious.

--Brian Berger  
Manchester, NH

### To the editor:

I appreciate the recent issue of IBC Perspectives, in which you addressed the problem of child abuse for the ministry. My feeling is that this is a very important and timely issue. Unfortunately, due to the carnal nature of man, even a person who has the Holy Ghost, if he allows the carnal nature to once again rise up, could find himself in trouble. I personally feel that a person who has a history of this type of behavior should not be allowed to work with children again, even after being born again.

--Gary Evensen  
Hackensack, NJ

### Address letters for publication to:

Editor, Apostolic Information Service, P.O. Box 47917, Indianapolis, Indiana 46247. Include full name, address and daytime phone number. Letters may be edited for space. If you prefer, your initials may be used instead of your name on the published letter. You can also reach us via FAX at (317)781-7711. Or you may leave your "letter" on our answering machine at (317)781-7712. One other option is to send your letter via E-Mail on the AIS computer network. Send the message to the User I.D. "Perspectives."

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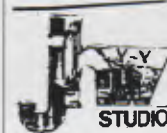
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