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Indiana Bible College Perspectives

Apostolic Information Service

Vol. 5, No.9



Above: James Lashley has pastored Apostolic Tabernacle in Peoria, IL since 1966.

By Richard C. Brown

Numbers can be made to say whatever a person wants them to say. So goes the conventional wisdom concerning statistics, surveys, and graphs. However, it's difficult to get away from the impressiveness of Pastor James Lashley's numbers. Since taking the pastorate of Apostolic Tabernacle in Peoria, IL 26 years ago, Lashley has seen his congregation double its size five times. True, the church had a major setback a decade ago because of massive city-wide layoffs. However, after losing over 300 saints, the church has made a major rebound, and today averages 250 once again.

"Our growth has been a miracle growth, and we're thankful to God for being so good to us," said Brother Lashley.

A Vision on the 'Road to Doubling'

Still, miracle growth or not, the "road to doubling" has been a long one for Brother Lashley, and the struggle has been one that he has fought hard. The struggles themselves, though, have been an important factor in his life.

"I grew up in Mississippi and received the baptism of the Holy Ghost at the age of 13 under Pastor E. J. Ellard's ministry. The Lord called me to preach, but I was fearful of the call and ran from it. I found myself back out in a

DOUBLING the Blessing

The history of Apostolic Tabernacle in Peoria, Illinois, pastored by James Lashley, has been one of repeated doubling in size. At the forefront of his growth: a detailed organizational structure.

world of sin until I was 17 years old. During the last six months before yielding my life to the Lord, I had many near-death experiences—the last one was just before returning to the Lord. I was under a bridge with some guys on a Saturday night when I stumbled and fell. I slipped off the girders and fell about six feet before I was able to throw one hand up and over a beam. I found myself dangling under the bridge about 70 feet above concrete by one arm! It was there that my life really changed direction, because I was holding on to life itself!

"I cried out, "God, if you will spare my life I'll serve You. I'll do anything! I'll go anywhere! I'll be anything!" That's when I received strength from the Lord to grab hold with both hands and wrap myself around the braces.

"The guys finally got me up and took me home. The next morning, I went to church and received a renewing in the Holy Ghost."

Brother Lashley then began preaching, starting in 1960 at age 17, entering full-time

evangelistic ministry the following year. That same year, Lashley married his wife, Alice Faye Grant. He continued evangelizing for four years. Then, Lashley recalls that a vision from God changed the course of his ministry and led him to what would become a life's work.

"I was lying in bed, when suddenly, I saw a church building suspended in air. I sat up in bed, but it didn't move! I watched as people came out of the building: mothers with babes in their arms, teenagers, and elderly adults. I looked and saw buses in the parking lot all lined up. What's amazing is that, as far as I was aware, there was no such thing as bus ministry in those days. Yet I clearly saw white buses all lined up! As the sun rose, the vision vanished."

Later that year, while preaching a revival in Arkansas, a local pastor asked Lashley to consider going to Peoria, IL to preach a revival. "This pastor, Monroe Hull, said he had been praying when he sensed in the Spirit that God

(Continued on page three)



Seeing Double

An important key in doubling his congregation has been Brother James Lashley's (Seen left, baptizing a convert) emphasis on visitor follow-up and new convert care. "Make up your mind to follow up on every contact that you make," Lashley said. "The most effective tool for ministry would have to be the tool that helps people that you contact to stay in the church."

OUR NEXT OPINIONS TOPIC: "Use & Misuse of Spiritual Gifts"

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

Opinions



David F. Gray
Pastor Emeritus
San Diego, CA

Divorce is becoming an increasingly serious problem in our society. And much to my dismay, it is also a growing problem in Apostolic churches.

One big contributing factor to the divorce problem is that husband and wife are both working in many households. The result is that they now have little time to-

gether. Consequently, they begin to grow apart. Plus, the spirit of this age is every individual for him or her self.

According to the Word of God, the only instance for which God allows divorce is in the case of continued and unrepentant sexual unfaithfulness. The Greek word, "porneia" refers to sexual uncleanness and describes a continued course of action.

So what about leaders in the church who have been divorced? If the divorce was before the person was saved, it should not be held against him; it's covered by the blood. If the divorce was *after* being saved, the Scripture says there is a reproach that shall never be taken away. Therefore, if the divorce was caused by the leader's sin, he has forever forfeited his ministry. But if he is judged to be completely innocent of any wrongdoing, he should be allowed to continue with his ministry.



Dealing with the Divorce Question

AIS VIEW: *The Bible seems to indicate that divorce and remarriage after being saved is permissible only to the "innocent party," and in situations involving sexual infidelity. The "guilty" party can be saved, but is not free to remarry, and their leadership role should be limited. This would apply to both saints and the ministry.*

Many things have caused the increase in divorces in our society. The structure of the home, working mothers, and people's hectic lifestyles have all contributed. In addition we are sadly now more aware of cases of divorce even within Apostolic churches.

Concerning an individual who was divorced before coming to God, and who applies for a ministerial license. I believe the United Pentecostal Church is doing a good job of carefully scrutinizing the person's past to see if there was a legal right for remarriage. But as for people who divorce after being saved, I think these people can only be used in leadership in a very restrictive role. They ought not be put in strong leadership positions, because the role of a leader is a highly visible position.

Also, a man who has been divorced after coming to God should not be licensed as a minister. Paul emphasized that the bishop or elder must be the husband of one wife. If the preacher has divorced and remarried, it really waters down his role as a leader. How can a pastor who has been divorced counsel a young couple with marriage problems? Such a visible position demands this higher standard.



Johnny Godair
District Superintendent
Durham, NC



Donny Waits
Pastor
Sioux City, IA

Unfortunately, a lot of young people jump into marriage before they're ready. Plus, the fact that people today don't communicate well just adds to the problem. When it comes to licensing a person as a minister who has been divorced, each case would have to be handled individually based on the circumstances.



J.R. Sellers
Pastor
Ankeny, IA

The only Biblical grounds for divorce are sexual sins on the part of one's spouse. Still, if there's an opportunity to reconcile, that would be ideal. When it comes to people being licensed after divorce, I'd have to agree with the stand the UPCI has taken on the issue. They have done well in discerning each situation.



Don Martin
Pastor
Brownwood, TX

Divorce is a good indicator of the extent of the moral decay in our country. I would hope that in the church, it would be less of a problem. In reality, though, I think it's increasing, even in the church. I think that in a divorce, the innocent party has every right to be used as a leader or as a licensed minister and to be remarried.



Steve Willeford
Pastor
St. Louis, MO

Divorce and remarriage should not be given as a "loophole," or taught in a way to make it a common practice or to devalue the sanctity of marriage. Depending on the situation, though, which would have to be evaluated individually, there are many areas in which a person who has been divorced be used in the ministry.



Ray Parnell
Pastor
Lafayette, IN

The thing that causes divorce to be so rampant today is our refusal to adhere to God's Word. I think that if one member of a marriage is unfaithful, both divorce and remarriage could legitimately take place. It's the offending party who kills the marriage. I don't think any limitations should be placed on this innocent party.



T.R. O'Daniel
I.B.C. Exec. Vice Pres.
Indianapolis, IN

Divorce is only allowable in the case of sexual sin. And in that instance, divorce makes the marriage for the innocent party as though the marriage never was, and thus, remarriage is an option. In an abusive situation, I would not counsel the woman to stay with the man. She should separate, but I would never counsel her to divorce.

James Lashley: Doubling the Blessing



Above: The Peoria congregation worships on a Sunday night just before the preaching of Pastor James Lashley.

(Continued from page one)

wanted me to preach there." After making arrangements, the Lashleys visited a small home missions church in Peoria during the fall of 1964. "While I was there, I discovered within my spirit a burden for the city," the 52-year-old Lashley recalled. Two years later, after preaching for them, the church asked him to be their pastor. At the time, the congregation consisted of about 12 people.

Outreach on the 'Road to Doubling'

During the next 15 years, there was substantial growth at Apostolic Tabernacle - as mentioned, doubling the size of the congregation several times. By the mid-eighties, the church had reached a peak attendance of about 450. "Our attendance then began to drop because of terrible economic times in our communities. Massive strikes and lay-offs caused many to have to leave the area." After losing 317 of that large congregation, the church recovered and doubled once more: from little over a hundred to 250 today. And several outreach tools have served the church well along the way.

"We have tried everything. A vital key to growth was our bus ministry, just as the Lord had shown me in that vision so many years ago. Also very helpful have been the traditional ministries such as door-knocking, jail ministry, and ministry to shut-ins.

"The point is that you have to be evangelistic. The pastor of a growing, revival church must be willing to try every form of evangelism, as long as they are Scripturally sound, because all of them will work to some degree. It's just a matter of determining what works best in your particular situation."

Not surprisingly, Lashley has always focused heavily on home Bible studies. "From the beginning," he said, "I taught Search for Truth. When I started teaching them, the

completed teacher's manual wasn't even available yet; but Brother Wilhoite would frequently send me mimeographed copies.

"Home Bible studies have, by far, been the most effective tool I've ever used. I've found, though, that there are some important considerations to keep in mind with this outreach. First, try not to teach a large group at a time. Try to keep the study as small as possible. Otherwise, if you teach a large group, especially a large group that knows one another, they're going to have somebody in

that group who assumes a leadership role, and often, that person is going to feel threatened as

Lashley's Home Bible Study Tips:

- Teach them small: "Keep the study as small as possible." Lashley said this prevents a dominant personality from taking over a large group.
- Teach the Man: "If possible, teach the man of the house, or the man and his immediate family. It's much more effective."

the group begins to give the teacher their allegiance. So that one person will lead others in the study away, especially when you get to the subjects of the essentiality of the new birth message and holiness standards.

"Another thing: If possible, teach the man of the house, or the man and his immediate family. It's much more effective." Lashley reports that he has baptized about 70 percent of those to whom he has taught home Bible studies.

Principles of Doubling

Lashley is quick to point out that outreach methods alone are not enough to bring consistent church growth. Other forces must also come into play.

"It's important that a pastor learn to not try to do

everything himself. Instead, develop leaders to help you. The more leaders you develop the broader the base and the higher the edifice.

"Find some kind of system to help you in organizing a church structure. There are, no doubt, those men who are gifted with the ability to organize and implement, but for the most part we are not born with this gift. So find somebody or some program to help in this area. Brother Ron French, an expert in implementing 'Total Church Growth,' helped us tremendously."

The major departments operating at Apostolic Tabernacle currently consist of the Sunday school, youth department, Christian education department (which oversees ministries such as the Christian school), ladies' ministry, men's ministry, music department, home Bible study department, outreach ministry, and visitor follow-up department. "Also, there is a sub-ministry within the outreach department which we call our Hospitality Ministry," Lashley noted. "This includes both the ushers and hostesses. And finally, we also have a church growth secretary."

Brother Lashley has also instituted several checks and balances to keep the department leaders accountable. Each leader, for instance, has a detailed job description as well as a one-year plan for his or her particular ministry. "These plans take into account each season of the year, and what ministries will take place during that time, and takes the ministry through the year month-by-month. Those come right down to the weekly tag-in, at which time they report on their progress toward their goal." The church also has a monthly planning council to help organize church events. "During the

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Below: The Christian academy at Apostolic Tabernacle is an important part of the Peoria church's ministry.



RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

**The Christian Freedom Foundation Urgently Needs Your Help
In Fighting For The Apostolic Movement And Prisoner Rights**

UPC Board Approves Christian Freedom Foundation

The Christian Freedom Foundation is an educational and legal defense organization for key issues confronting the Christian community, and in particular, the United Pentecostal Church International. Owen Taylor, an attorney, feeling that the costs of litigation and legal protection of legal rights is prohibitive for the local church and ministry, approached Nathaniel Urshan, General Superintendent of the UPC, with the idea of founding a legal organization that would represent churches and clergy without charge. Individuals, churches and clergy would be asked if they would make small contributions to the CFF to fund the support staff for a legal arm of the Apostolic movement.

A presentation was made to the General Board of the UPC, and it overwhelmingly approved the concept and gave approval for fund raising within the constituency. It was decided by Bro. Taylor and the UPCI General Board that the Christian Freedom Foundation would be supported much like the Partners in Missions program. Then, in exchange for a church's monthly contribution, they are encouraged to contact CFF with any legal problems they might encounter.

Since its formation in 1988, the CFF has been performing many services for churches and the ministry. Bro. Taylor has conducted legal seminars in various churches, and has also helped ministers with questions concerning tax laws, church and state issues, and zoning problems. Bro. Taylor also writes a monthly legal column for the Apostolic Information Service.

What They're Saying About CFF. . .

• "I have been supportive of the efforts of Bro. Taylor and the Christian Freedom Foundation since 1988. I encourage the men and churches of the United Pentecostal Church International to be as financially and prayerfully supportive of this ministry as possible.

--Reverend Nathaniel Urshan,
General Superintendent, UPCI

• "The General Board approved the work of Brother Taylor and the Christian Freedom Foundation several years ago. We believe the work to be of extreme importance to our men and our churches. I heartily support this ministry."

--Reverend Jesse Williams
Asst. General Superintendent, UPCI

• "The work of the Christian Freedom Foundation is and will continue to be of great value to our movement. I hope our people will take advantage of the opportunity to advance this cause for prisoner rights.

--Reverend James Kilgore
Asst. General Superintendent, UPCI

• "Truth is priceless. We need to support the Christian Freedom Foundation as the legal arm of our movement and for these prisoner rights."

--Reverend Lee Stoneking
Evangelist,
Ballston Spa, NY

CFF To Take On New Prison Cases

"After I interviewed Larry Looker for several hours, I got to talking with him about the goodness of the Lord. Through tears in his eyes, Bro. Looker said that it had been over two years since any one had preached to him," said Attorney Owen Taylor. After receiving a call from Rev. William Bennett, he went to the Ross Correctional Institution in Chillicothe, OH to meet a potential new client. Learning of the complete absence of any reasonable accommodation for Larry Looker's beliefs the CFF has agreed, if finances permit, file suit.

The work of the CFF involves many types of cases. Unfortunately, prisoner rights cases are not new. Officials in most institutions fail to understand that Apostolic Oneness believers are a separate and distinct faith group from the traditional Protestant and Pentecostal churches. This issue forms the core of the case as it goes to court.

"It appears that in order to have the UPC and its teachings recognized as a separate faith group, we will have to convince them in court," observes Taylor. The CFF has agreed to help Larry Looker and is now preparing the necessary suit papers for filing when funds are available.

"At the same time we got the call regarding Looker, a call came from Indianapolis concerning an identical situation at the Indiana Reformatory regarding a Mr. James Ridenour."

These cases will be expensive and time-consuming. The present resources of the CFF are insufficient to pay for the costs of filing fees, discovery, depositions, etc., of the litigation. The support by the ministry and churches of the UPC is essential to going forward with these cases.

YES! We want to be a part of the Apostolic Law Association.

Please include our names as a contributor, and keep us informed of important legal issues affecting our church. Our monthly support will be \$ _____, or a one-time contribution of \$ _____.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Church / Organization: _____ Telephone: _____

Please remit to: **CHRISTIAN FREEDOM FOUNDATION, 1304 Harmony Lane, Annapolis, MD 21401.**

Information: (410) 757-8080

Keys Of Successful Revivals

AI S CONVERSATION
With Charles Mahaney

Editor's note: Charles Mahaney has been evangelizing for nearly a quarter of a century. A former pastor, much of Mahaney's current ministry takes him into the prisons of America as National Prison Ministries Coordinator for the United Pentecostal Church International. Recently, Brother Mahaney discussed evangelism and revival in America with Apostolic Information Service. Portions of the interview are printed below:

What Is Preventing Wide-Scale Revival in the United States?

I believe what hinders revival the most is a lack of faith. We've heard so much that "God is going to do it." We've been singing for 50 years, "the Pentecostal fire is falling." I think it's time for that fire to hit somewhere; but it won't happen without great faith.

What Has Been Your Background in the Ministry of an Evangelist?

I've been an evangelist for 22 years. I started preaching right after getting into church by going in to jails and nursing homes. We'd get up on street corners and preach; we'd go out to eat, and after we ate, I'd get up in the restaurant to preach. I had a house full of sinners, and they couldn't get up because they'd already ordered their meals.

I started out pastoring; I built a home missions church, where I stayed for some time. While there, I noticed there were no evangelists, so I started praying, "God, send some evangelists onto the field." And so He sent me.

Evangelism is a calling. I remember I was preaching for Brother Wayne Huntley in Raleigh, North Carolina, and I stepped to the pulpit and said, "I am just as called to this church, in the role of evangelist, as Brother Huntley is, in the role of pastor." Brother Huntley said that this statement impacted him more than any made by any evangelist.

The Bible says that God calls some evangelists. Because God has called me to this specific ministry, I don't try out for churches. An evangelist is what I am, because it's what God has called me to be.

What Have You Observed to be the Elements of a Successful Revival?

First, the people have to prepare. And to prepare for a successful revival, get the people fasting and praying. Also, start building excitement about the revival. Speak the Word in

faith, talking positively about what's going to happen. Speak as though something great is going to happen when the evangelist gets there.

If you can ever motivate the laity, and get them to feeling that this is their revival, you've taken a big step to making the revival a success. It's going to have to come from the saints. The saints can then talk to their friends and family, bringing them to the services.

What Brings Power and Anointing to a Minister's Preaching?

I've found that two things bring this anointing: prayer and a commitment to the Word of God. Pray and stay in the Word. When John the Revelator was on the Isle of Patmos, he heard a voice like a clap of thunder saying, "Behold, the Lion of Judah." He then turned around and saw a lamb slain. Thus, the more lamb-like we get, the more the lion will be in our lives.

Way back in Genesis, God set up the program of communion and dominion. Communion puts the character of God in us. A lot of young guys preach some camps or have some good revivals, but they don't have that communion; and the dominion messes them up, because they think they brought results instead of God. They think they did it by their singing or preaching ability. Communion with God brings back a proper perspective.

Are There Concrete Steps a Church Can Take to Bring Revival?

There are definite keys to having a growing, revival church. The most important thing is to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I know this sounds like a denominational concept, and like something of a cliché, but it's true. Knowing Jesus is of utmost importance.

It's easy for us Pentecostals to shout, because we're shouting and praising God for His acts. However, it's harder to worship when you worship Him for who He is. Worship is critical. A worshiping church will draw people.

Another practical step is to encourage the saints to discipline themselves to get into the Word. David said, "Thy Word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against thee." If I had things to do over again, I believe I would have spent more time in prayer and in the Word, and I would have encouraged others to do the same.

Still, it's not enough to pray and read the



Word, and then stay at the house and do nothing. You must put your faith into practice. I'd say any program is useful if it wins souls. Try anything, and if it doesn't work, try something else.

Jesus sent the disciples out one time, first instructing them not to take a coat or staff with them. The second time, though, He said, "Take your coat and staff with you." In other words, "Let's try it this way now." So be flexible in your approach to programs.

One important thing a pastor can do is to start discipleship courses. The pastor can sustain a revival after the evangelist leaves by discipleship training classes and by getting all new converts into new life classes.

What About the Future?

My goal for the future is simply to win souls. If I took a church, the first thing I'd do is to line up evangelists who would come in and not just preach sermons to bless us, but somebody who would dig us up and put us where we need to be in God.

Our problem today is that we want evangelists to come and preach sermons that will get us to shout. What we need, however, is for somebody to put us into that dimension where the anointing comes to touch our generation. An evangelist should not just give you goose bumps; he must win souls. That's what I want to continue doing - being a soul winner. **AI S**

Charles Mahaney is the UPCI's National Prison Ministries Coordinator and a well-known evangelist and 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

I realize the Biblical imperative that every church and saint has to win souls, but my question is how can I keep people involved in soul winning?

The easy and obvious answer to this question is to establish a training program on evangelism, or to preach soul winning. Because, as they say, you get what you preach.

It should go without saying that training and motivation are indeed vital. Do all of these things, of course, but experience and wisdom will teach you that not all activity or talk about soul winning spells real results. For this reason, there is another key element that you should not neglect. It's more important than any other element, idea, concept, or training program. That element is love.

We live by love. Love, and love alone, moves the world. Love gets people up. It causes saints to reach out to sinners.

Love awakens the slumbering Christian in the night and calls him to prayer. Love is in the touch of the mother's hand and in the father's gentle voice of admonition. Love creates longsuffering, patience, care, concern, and courage.

Love never gives up. It preaches on, sings on, fights on, and goes on. When people love souls, they tell them the truth and help carry their burdens. It's simple but profound.

No program will work unless people love souls - *period!* Real love will win souls *without* a program (though a program makes it easier). The power to witness is given to those who receive the Holy Ghost. Teach love, reward love, demonstrate love. Love fully and at all times. Love will make a way. Couple that love with a good soulwinning program and you're sure to be a winner at evangelism!



T. W. Massengale

■ Outreach

I've just taken a small church. From the church membership records, I see there are a large number of backsliders in the area. Any ideas on how to reach them? Or should I even try?

Yes! You certainly should try to reach them. In fact, I strongly believe that every church needs an ongoing ministry to pray for and consistently reach out to backsliders.

Let me begin by saying that it is never too late to reach out in love and compassion to a backslider. Churches often give up too soon. For whatever reason that they left the church,



Owen Taylor

■ Legal

What exactly are the benefits of filing as an employee instead of self-employed?

I assure you that your after-tax income will be substantially higher if you take advantage of the tax benefits afforded employees over self-employed persons.

First, the IRS is fully convinced that the vast majority of ministers are employees. If a minister files as self-employed, using schedule "C" for his deductions, and in a subsequent audit the IRS determines that he is an employee, when he refiles his return as an employee, he will lose most, if not all, of his deductions. Thus, he will be paying more tax unnecessarily which could have been avoided if he had filed as an employee in the beginning.

Now for some of the benefits to filing as an employee. As an employee, favorable "tax-deferred annuities" are available only to employees. Certain fringe benefits are excluded from the minister's income only if he files as an employee. Examples include medical insurance premiums paid by a church for its minister; group term life insurance up to \$50,000 for its minister and amounts paid to employees for sickness, accident or disability pursuant to an employer-financed plan. Another "benefit" of filing as an employee is that self-employed ministers face a much higher risk of audit on their returns. The IRS targets the self-employed, because it knows that the rate of misfiling and incorrect deductions is much higher among them. For more information, be sure to seek competent, professional tax assistance.

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.

within a year or two, the backsliders often realize they made a terrible mistake. However, the devil usually has them convinced the church doesn't care anymore, or that the embarrassment of returning will be too great. But if the church has been reaching out in a consistent manner, then like the prodigal, the backslider will eventually come to himself and know it is never too late.

The best way to help the backslider is, of course, to reach him *before* he backslides. A good new convert care program will help in this aspect, as will an ongoing program to involve all church members in ministry. But once a person leaves the church, the only method that has proven effective in reaching him is the personal contact. A church should set up a system of regular visitation to all backsliders.



O. C. Marler

■ Family

My husband I were recently married and are very much in love, but is it possible to keep our feelings for each other so fresh that we will still be in love 20, 30, or 50 years from now?

I would like to answer your question by quoting a poem by my friend, H.W. Addison:

The Early Days

*In the early days,
When our hearts were young,
And our bodies lean,
I loved you so much and dared to dream.*

*That some tomorrow,
Walking hand in hand,
We could share our lives,
And conquer the land.*

*Time sped by,
As I earned my bread;
Our children were adults,
When I raised my head.*

*I see you smiling. . .
Your face is still fair;
And all thru these years,
You have filled my aware.*

*My love has changed -
You called it a "phase;"
But I love you more now,
Than the early days.*

There's nothing like newly married love (unless it is love after 20, 30, or 50 years!). It is true that our emotions change, but love that is tempered by shared triumphs and defeats, joys and sorrows is the best love of all. Enjoy today, but look forward to tomorrow!

They should visit two or three times a year, inviting them to special programs and revivals. The visits should continue until the backslider makes it clear that he wants no more visits. Each backslider should also be placed on the church mailing list for flyers and special invitations. The pastor should plan to visit at least one time each year, and more if his schedule will allow it.

With a program like this, a church can see a good number of backsliders return. And while you will not see them all saved, you can be assured of God blessing, because you have fulfilled the Lord's command to reach for that one lost sheep. For more information on setting up a backslider ministry, get a copy of *Reopening the Back Door*, by Kenneth C. Hauck. To order, call (314) 725-1450.



PROPHECY

Anti-Semitism Flourishing in Russia

Prophecy buffs have been keeping an interested eye on Russia in recent weeks, as reports of increasing anti-semitism have been abounding. According to the eschatological teachings of many, Russia is the "Gog" referred to in prophetic passages that would ultimately turn against Israel.

Since the fall of Communism, Evangelical Press reports that thousands of Jews have fled Russia for Israel because of the rapid spread of persecution. Currently, more than 2.5 million

Jews remain in the country, while over 700,000 have left.

According to EP, the Jewish people suffer from increased physical violence, vandalism and desecration of their sacred structures. Also, more and more Russian publications are singling out the Jews as the cause of the nation's problems.

Leonid Stonov is the international director for the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews. UCJS monitors hate crimes perpetrated against the Jewish people in Russia and the surrounding republics. Stonov recently told *Charisma* magazine, "Russian leaders who [used to] receive orders from the state to limit the rights of Jews are still in office. Now, like in Germany, the underground street crossings are full of swastikas and anti-Jewish slogans. Jews are frightened because they have no protection under the system."

EP also reports that violence against Christians who support the Jews is increasing. They cite as an example the 800-member Cornerstone Church in Tatarstan, which recently had its pastor's home broken into and also threatened to kill one lady from the church.

Prophecy teachers cite such examples to show that Russia is nearing the point when attacking Israel would be acceptable.

By RICHARD C. BROWN

MEDIA

TV's Foul Mouth Getting Louder

The use of foul language on the air has increased over the past four years, according to research by Barbara Kaye of Southern Illinois University. She studied two weeks of ABC, CBS, NBC, and Fox programming from 1990 and 1994, and found that the incidence of vulgar language increased 45% during that period. On average, prime-time sitcom viewers now hear a profanity every five minutes.

This research supports the growing perception among the public that television is getting worse, so the Senate this summer approved an amendment to the telecommunications bill requiring television programs be rated for violence and sexual content. The amendment also requires that newly manufactured TV sets include the "V-chip," technology which would allow parents to block inappropriate shows. Many experts maintain that the best approach is removing the offending box completely from the home.

By RICHARD MASONER

RELIGION

Give Me That Old Time Voodoo

In an attempt to stop the spread of AIDS among Haitians, the United States Agency for International Development (AID) has trained 15,000 Voodoo priests to teach others to use condoms. "They are to me religious leaders, the same as Protestant pastors," said Eddy George of the AID office in Haiti.

By RICHARD MASONER

MORALITY

'Gay' Genetics Research Rigged?

Evidence is growing that recent research showing a link between genetics and homosexuality may have been rigged, according to a recent issue of *Pastor's Weekly Briefing*, published by Focus on the Family. According to FOF, Dr. Dean Hamer is under investigation for allegedly rigging his research to show that genes are at least partly to blame for homosexual orientation.

Pete LeBarbera of the conservative Lambda Report commented, "The sad thing about this is that most Americans will not hear about this investigation, whereas virtually the entire country was flooded with the story about the 'gay gene.'"

By RICHARD C. BROWN

AMERICAN FAMILY

Divorce Common Among Clergymen

A national survey by Hartford Seminary of Protestant clergy found that pastors are just as likely to be divorced as laity.

According to this study, conducted in 1993 and 1994, 25 percent of clergywomen and 20 percent of clergymen have been divorced at least once. The United States Census Bureau's most recent figures show 23 percent of all women and 22 percent of all men have been divorced.

The clergy interviewed ranged from the liberal Unitarian-Universalists, among whom 47 percent of women and 44 percent of men report being divorced, to conservative Southern Baptists, who report a divorcee population of four percent for men and 17 percent for women.

By RICHARD MASONER

RELIGION

Christian Cross Not Familiar Sight

Only 54 percent of people surveyed in six countries identified a Christian cross, fewer than those recognizing the McDonalds logo and the symbolic rings of the Olympic Games.

The survey, conducted by Sponsorship Research International, asked 7,000 people to identify as many of nine well-known logos as they could. Evangelical Press reports that, of those 7,000, 92 percent correctly identified the Olympic symbol, and 88 percent recognized the logos for Shell and McDonald's.

In explaining the results, Christopher Mayfield, the Anglican Bishop of Manchester, said, "The Olympic movement and McDonald's have a worldwide vision, so they are to be congratulated on getting their message across to the world. Christianity also has a worldwide vision, but we have not been so successful in communicating the faith, and we have better."

By RICHARD C. BROWN

News In Brief...

- ◆ The Supreme Court has left intact a Clay County, FL prohibition against selling alcohol on Sundays despite the protests of area businesses.
- ◆ A U.S. Department of Health and Human Services study concludes that programs teaching teens to postpone sexual activity are the best programs for fighting teen pregnancy.
- ◆ The District of Columbia Court of Appeals has ruled that homosexual couples may adopt children.

Children's Mansion Tackles Child Abuse Conference on the Family

SPECIAL EVENTS

By Richard C. Brown

Having seen first-hand the tragedy of child abuse for many years, Tupelo Children's Mansion is now tackling the problem head-on. At their first-ever Conference on the Family, scheduled for November 16-17, TCM will focus heavily on abuse and other problems associated with dysfunctional families.

Doug Ellingsworth, who is coordinating the conference, said there were two primary factors that caused the Mansion staff to see the need for a family-oriented conference.

"First, because of our regular contact with pastors and families wanting help, we have seen that there is a great need for issues pertaining to troubled families to be addressed. Too often, these issues have been neglected among us, and so we saw that there was a void to be filled.

"Also, there is so much emphasis today on protecting children from child abuse that we saw a real need for churches to protect themselves. Churches and people involved in ministry need to know how to protect themselves from being accused of child abuse. Plus, they also need to know the proper steps to take if they become aware of abuse happening. Therefore, we want to protect the children and we want to help churches protect themselves against accusations."



Doug Ellingsworth

Scheduled to be discussed at the conference are topics such as:

- "Child Abuse: How to Spot It, Deal with It, and Avoid It"
- "Positive Parenting and Discipline Techniques"
- "Counseling: Good Idea or Bad?"
- "How to Reach the Hurting Families in Your Community"
- "Family Breakdown: Our Generation"
- "Mandatory Reporting: How Does It Affect You and Your Church?"

Speaking at the night services will be Brothers Steve Cole and G.R. Travis.

Brother Ellingsworth said that teachers will be almost exclusively professionals connected with TCM. In the future, other Apostolics who work in the field might be brought in, though, he noted.

"It is our hope to make this an annual event, offering regular advice to churches on ministering to the family."

For more information on The Conference on the Family, or on dealing with child abuse issues, contact Tupelo Children's Mansion at (601) 842-6982. Or write: P.O. Box 167, Tupelo, MS38802.

SPECIAL NOTE:

For more information on this subject, request or download file **LTIN08.TXT** ("Protect Your Church: Safety Tips on a Sensitive Subject, Child Sexual Abuse") from Apostolic Information Service.

Apostolic Wins In Court

APOSTOLICS TODAY

By Richard C. Brown

An Apostolic man who was kidnapped and abused as a teen because of his religious beliefs was awarded nearly \$5 million last September because of his ordeal.

As AIS reported in 1993, Jason Scott had been kidnapped by the Cult Awareness Network after his mother alerted the group that her son was involved in a United Pentecostal Church. Scott was 18 at the time he was taken and held against his will, allegedly under orders of Rick Ross, a so-called "cult deprogrammer."

After Scott escaped and called the police, Mr. Ross and his associates were arrested.

However, Ross was later acquitted of the kidnapping charges, when his two associates refused to name him as the instigator of the incident.

Jason Scott, 22, then filed a civil suit against Ross, his associates and the Chicago-based Cult Awareness Network. The \$4.875 million judgment came from a Seattle federal court jury.

Harold Kern, the Apostolic minister who has pastored Brother Scott throughout the ordeal, was pleased with the decision.

"We feel pleased, because the church was totally vindicated. The judges in both cases, the original criminal case, and now this one, both concluded that there was nothing cultic in the church that warranted this kind of behavior. So we're very thankful to God."

(Continued on page 14)



Harold Kern

Charles Grisham Encourages Writers: Writer's Guild Digest

APOSTOLIC MINISTRIES

By Richard Masoner

Brother Charles Grisham, pastor of New Life Apostolic Church in Detroit, Michigan, has always been a prolific writer and one who encouraged people a round him to write. So when church member Sister Marjorie Kinnee proposed a magazine for writers, Grisham was enthusiastic. Thus *Writers' Guild Digest* was born in January 1994. Sister Kinnee received her inspiration to write from Sister Eleanor Grant while she was a stu-



Charles Grisham

dent at Apostolic Bible Institute in the early 1960s. "She has used her skills to for several Apostolic publications, including some UPCI position papers," Brother Grisham noted. "Thus, to encourage other Apostolics to write, we publish the *Writers' Guild Digest* which has a stated purpose of encouraging writing that will lift up the church."

To accomplish this, Grisham, the editor-in-chief, selects manuscripts from those he receives. A typist enters them into a computer and managing editor Sister Kinnee edits them for grammar and spelling. Sister Kinnee does the layout work on her computer and sends the proofs to a printer. The result is a monthly

periodical with a distribution of 200. Included in this distribution is a courtesy copy to every UPC Bible college, every district paper, and paid subscribers all over the world.

"The Digest," Grisham said, "which has a very informal set of writer's guidelines, accepts manuscripts from any saint who would like to be published. An introductory note from the writer's pastor is also helpful."

Subscriptions to the *Writers' Guild Digest* are \$20.00 per year. Subscription requests, manuscript submissions, and inquiries may be made by writing to *Writers' Guild Digest* c/o Pastor Charles R. Grisham, 21446 Schoolcraft, Detroit MI 48223.

New AIS Files

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)800-AIS). When ordering by phone, specify photocopy or computer disk, and have your User ID and Password ready. (A small photocopy/computer disk fee will be added to your monthly statement.)



new bible study files

NOTICE - AIS recently acquired a vast library of text file versions of early Christian documents, including the writings of the so-called "Apostolic fathers," apologists, etc. What follows is a portion of those documents. The careful student will notice from these documents that as the years progressed, the church doctrines "de-evolved" from Biblical Christianity to a state of more and more false doctrine. We offer these files not as endorsement of particular doctrinal stances, but for the sake of reference and information.

THCH01.TXT	65705	First Epistle of Clement. Document of one of the Ante-Nicene Fathers.
THCH02.TXT	70272	Epistle of Mathetes. Various thoughts from another Ante-Nicene Father.
THCH03.TXT	46837	Epistle of Polycarp. Epistle of a man thought to have been a disciple of John.
THCH04.TXT	49224	Epistle of Ignatius. Random thoughts from one of the more prominent theologians of his day.
THCH05.TXT	67845	Epistle of Barnabas. Letter attributed to Barnabas, but probably actually anonymous.
THCH06.TXT	79508	Epistle of Papias. Church doctrine from an Ante-Nicene Father.
THCH07.TXT	69172	Justin Martyr. Justin mixes Christianity with philosophy in this epistle.
THCH08.TXT	55210	Writings of Irenaeus. A prominent theologian offers his views of Christian doctrines.
THCH09.TXT	71428	Shepherd of Hermas. A classic document of its day seems heavily "Oneness."
THCH10.TXT	67680	Epistle of Tatian. Another church "father" offers random doctrinal analysis.
THCH11.TXT	53200	Theophilus. Not-so-well-known father, but his thoughts on redemption are good.
THCH12.TXT	71428	Shepherd of Hermas. A classic document of its day seems heavily "Oneness."
THCH13.TXT	67680	Epistle of Tatian. Another church "father" offers random doctrinal analysis.
THCH14.TXT	64190	Athenagoras. Various exhortations to godliness by a church "father."
THCH15.TXT	29921	Clement of Alexandria. Another prominent writer of early Christianity on various doctrines.
THCH16.TXT	89906	Tertullian's Apology. The father of the Trinity doctrine expounds his strange views.
THCH17.TXT	61504	Tertullian's <i>Anti-Marion</i> . More strange thoughts from the father of the Trinity.
THCH18.TXT	30531	Tertullian on Ethics. A man later deemed by most as a heretic talks about Christian ethics.
THCH19.TXT	60120	On the Apparel of Women. Still evident in the third century was an emphasis on modesty.
THCH20.TXT	50531	DeFuga in Persecution, by Minucius Felix. Thoughts on Christian persecution.
THCH21.TXT	60120	Origin's <i>De Principiis</i> . Random doctrinal notes by a noted early Christian thinker.
THCH22.TXT	53200	Hippolytus. In his most well-known work, this church father refutes heresy.



new church management files

LTIR32.TXT	5415	IRS Announcements for Ministers. Tips to remember as tax season approaches.
OPSW41.TXT	7715	Breaking Down Racial Walls. Practical steps to fighting racism in the church.
JDAP14.TXT	6628	The Sunday School Link. Tells how Sunday school brings church and family together.
OPGP11.TXT	2815	Call to Action. The need for zeal in our outreach efforts.
OPGP12.TXT	9525	Personal Witness Training. Excellent strategy for reaching skeptics.
LEGE32.TXT	3777	Church Buildings & the Bible. Great study showing the Biblical case for church buildings.



new controversial issues files

ISAM17.TXT	2628	Should Christians Boycott? Thought-provoking article that says we should get involved.
THCR22.TXT	26509	17 Evidences Against Evolution. Good article giving strong reasons to believe in Creation.
THCR23.TXT	3808	Was the Flood Worldwide? Biblical reasons why the Flood had to be global.
THCR24.TXT	3776	Word Study on "Create." Study of the meaning of "create." Great for students of Creation.
CUCH12.TXT	44777	Kingdom Theology. Intriguing analysis of an aberrational view within "Pentecostal" churches.
CUCH13.TXT	10461	Taking Dominion. Agree or disagree, this treatise against "taking dominion" will make you think.
CUGE12.TXT	107473	Cult Catalog. Exhaustive listing of most American cult groups, with brief descriptions of each.
CUHU01.TXT	22319	Forbidden Fruit. Informative look at the ethics of secular humanism.



new computer software files

HPMP14.ZIP	882662	Birthday Chronicle. Make birthdays for church kids special with customized certificates.
GRPR17.ZIP	126447	Poster for Windows. Simple program that makes it easy to create flyers for church events.
BIBS57.ZIP	661457	What's in the Bible? Great program to teach young people the basics of the Bible's message.
BICM33.ZIP	429886	Sermon Tracker '95. Very nice sermon indexer for Windows '95.
BIBS45.ZIP	68651	Life After Death. Computer-aided study of what the Bible says about man's ultimate destiny.

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

Grace, Faith, and Works

OPINION: True faith, grace and works are complementary, not contradictory.

Grace, faith, and works - Could all three be necessary for salvation? Some theologians say no. What does the Bible say? In our efforts to make sure God gets the credit for our salvation, some Christian ministers and writers have oversimplified the Biblical teaching of salvation through grace, while others have complicated the issue of "working out your salvation with fear and trembling," causing many to live in guilt over past failures that even God has forgotten. One accuses the other of promoting a cheap grace; while the grace lovers accuse some of trying to earn salvation by works. Who's right? Who's wrong? Let's look at it from God's perspective.

Grace & Works Are Complementary

The misunderstanding arises when we teach about grace and works that cancel out each other rather than as viable teachings, both having a place in the Christian experience. Grace has to do with God's dealing with us to bring salvation. Works has to do with our dealing with God and our fellow man because of our relationship to Him after grace has saved us. *Both* must incorporate *faith*. If isolated, either teaching brings misunderstanding and incompleteness.

When we say we are saved by the grace of God, this should not cancel out the importance of the teaching of James regarding works. Likewise, when we teach from James's writings that faith is manifest by good works, this does not contradict the teaching of Paul that salvation is by grace. Grace, faith and works go together.

Grace Comes Through Faith

"Justified by faith" is the cry of the Reformation that has steered the Protestant church for centuries. However, faith is more than words. Because of my faith in the atoning acts of Christ through His death, burial, and resurrection, I die to my sins by repentance, and I am buried with Him through baptism, and I resurrect a new man through the infilling of His Spirit. It has something to do with the heart - the seat of our emotions from which actions arise - which involves what James wrote about. We can call it emotions in action, or we can be criticized by daring to call it works. But even the grace of God takes something else - faith on our part - to be activated in our lives. Yet our faith, by itself, does not save us. Grace saves us - but not apart from faith. For I can prevent the grace of God in my life through unbelief and through disobedience.

How then does Paul say we are saved by

grace, and not by works, while James says we are justified by works, and not by faith only (Compare Titus 3:5 with James 2:24)? Aren't these contradictory statements? If so, who then is right?

When we look at these subjects extensively, without iso-

wilderness possessed no miraculous nor medicinal means of healing those Israelites bitten by the poisonous serpents. It was God's mercy that healed them. However, they had to look upon the serpent, believing in their hearts, before God healed them. It was not their works that spared their lives, but God's mercy. How-

ever, had they not been obedient through faith, the grace of God would not have spared them. Likewise, it is our looking to Christ in obedience that brings us salvation.

Obedient Faith is Necessary

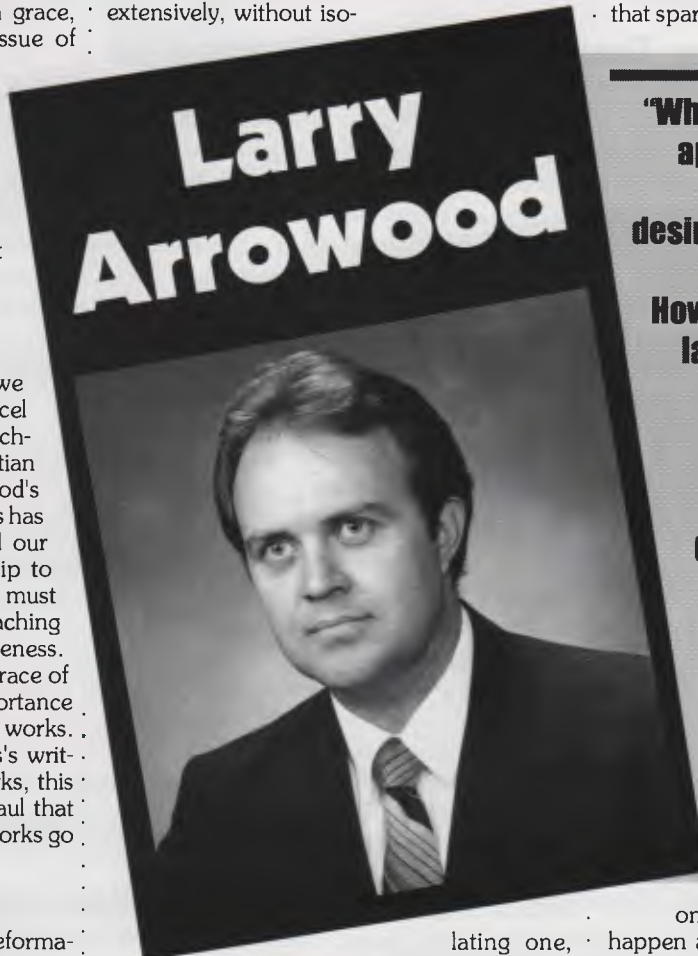
The acts of repentance, baptism, and the receiving of the Holy Ghost are acts of obedient faith, and enact God's grace in our lives. So, we understand from whom and where salvation comes - God and His grace. Likewise, we understand that faith activates this grace. These acts, then, become the manifestation of active and obedient faith which activates God's grace in our lives.

If we have experienced salvation, it is

only by God's grace. But, this did not happen apart from faith. Further, if we have denied our faith, we have rejected God's grace.

And, if we walk in disobedience, we are running from God's grace. Yet the best that I could ever be does not make me good enough for heaven. Grace does. And I'll be there by His grace. In the meantime, I want to live as pleasing to Him as possible. I might fall into someone's definition of legalism, though I'm not trying to merit salvation. We understand that to stop sinning and start doing good deeds still does not qualify us for heaven. Grace does. But when grace appears, it brings a desire to stop sinning. However, my lack of sin does not save me; the grace of God does that. ■

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Larry Arrowood, pastor in Seymour, IN, is the director of Prince of Peace Ministries. Brother Arrowood is also the author of several books as well as an instructor at Indiana Bible College.



"When grace appears, it brings a desire to stop sinning. However, my lack of sin does not save me; only the grace of God does that."

lating one, we see that all are essential. From beginning to end, we are saved by grace. From the beginning to the end of our Christian journey, we must have faith. And from beginning to end, faith is never passive. Rather, faith is always active, and always demands obedience. Even if we are obedient out of fear, it incorporates faith, for we believe that there is a God who will punish us.

But our obedience (works of righteousness) does not save us. Nor does our faith save us. Only grace saves us. However, grace is activated in our individual lives through faith. "For by grace are ye saved *through faith* . . ." (Ephesians 2:8). And the grace of God demands and motivates righteous living by the saint of God.

The brass serpent lifted up by Moses in the

Recommended Reading

Surviving the Storm of Suffering, by Larry Arrowood, Prince of Peace Ministries, \$8.00, 109 pages, paperback.

There are some authors who, rather than delving into deep theological mysteries, have the ability to just offer comfort through the written word. Among denominational authors, Max Lucado is one which comes to mind.

In his newest book, Pastor Larry Arrowood shows himself to be the Apostolic church's answer to Lucado. A Christian counselor himself, Arrowood uses the story of Job to show why Christians go through crisis situations. He also offers easy-to-digest advice on how to be comforted in one's mind throughout times of suffering.

A theological treatise this is not. Nor does the author offer much in the way of practical steps to take in times of crisis. What he *does* offer is understanding - understanding of the benefits and necessary of dark times in each of our lives. And often, understanding is the best answer to problems. In this sense, Arrowood's short work is a much-needed answer book for life's tough questions.

(This book is available by writing Prince of Peace Ministries, P.O. Box 863, Seymour, IN 47274.)

• • •
Certain Trumpets: The Call of Leaders, by Gary Wills, Simon & Schuster, 336 pages, \$23.00, hardcover.

For the diligent student of leadership principles, Gary Wills's book serves as "meat to eat." Drawing from several historical figures, Wills gives simple principles of leadership, focusing particularly on the risks associated with being a leader. An excellent resource for ministers and lay leaders!

■ **MORTALITY AND FAITH**

"Facing up to Mortality and Faith," an article in a recent *USA Today*, probed why many baby boomers today are asking questions about God and faith. The conclusion: the aging and death of their parents is leading many boomers to question their focus on self and material goods. The reality of death seems to lead many on a spiritual search. Steve Pettit of Commission Ministries says "We fear being erased forever. You can't eliminate the fear. You either deny it, suppress it, project it onto something else or find some way to live with it. Faith ... is a solution you can rest in."

■ **TRAITS OF EFFECTIVE EVANGELISM**

The church in America spends 80% of its evangelistic efforts trying to reach adults when statistics show that two-thirds of all Christians claim they became such before they turned 18 years old, according to church researcher George Barna. According to Barna, the most effective churches have a strong focus on youth ministry and spend five to ten times the money on evangelism than the average congregation. Furthermore, many of them have an evangelistic culture driven by the senior pastor; a philosophy of ministry with evangelism at its core; a mission and vision which emphasize evangelism; frequent and strategic evangelistic events; a senior pastor who spends one to two hours each week creatively planning outreach; a congregation which is networked to non-Christians; cooperation with other churches in the community (verses a mentality of "protecting my turf"); programs that are innovative, risk-taking, and aggressive; effective evangelism training for the laity; and a willingness to borrow the best ideas from other churches (a fact that AIS and *IBC Perspectives* try to keep in mind while presenting ideas that have worked for other churches).

■ **POPULAR PREACHING TOPICS**

The Search Institute surveyed 500 clergy in five mainline Protestant denominations about how much emphasis they placed in the past year in several topics. The percentages who answered "quite a bit" or "a great deal":

Christian values	89 percent
Teaching the Bible	79 percent
Church doctrine or theology	50 percent
National social and political issues	10 percent
Local social and political issues	6 percent

While Apostolic pastors are not seeking to imitate denominational churches, this does give an idea of what some of the larger groups perceive to be great needs within their churches. It also gives Apostolic pastors something to think about concerning which needs should be addressed in their own churches.

■ **THE BIBLE, THE CHURCH, & THE WORLDWIDE WEB**

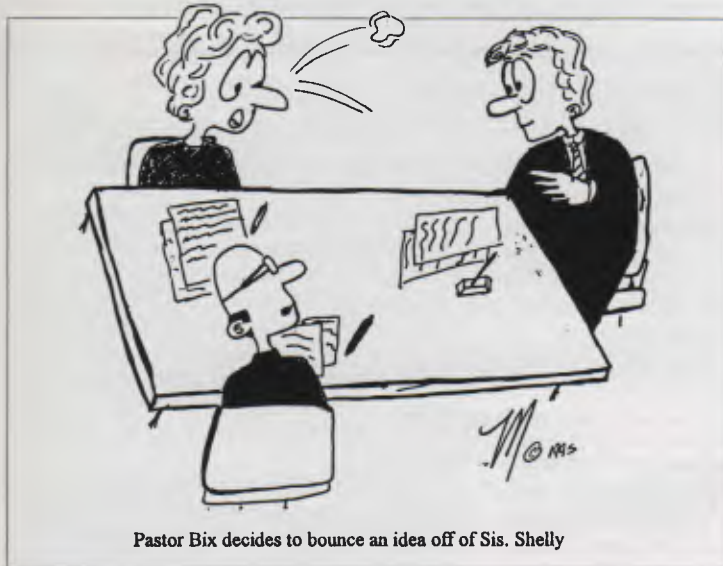
One of the fastest-growing portions of the giant computer network known as the Internet is the Worldwide Web. Put simply, the Web is an Internet resource which allows organizations or individuals to place their own "home page." This page contains information pertaining to the organization, and hypertext "links" to other documents, multimedia files, or computer programs. The result is a very user-friendly research tool that makes it easy to access a lot of information. Keeping up with this trend, many Christian ministries have now developed their own pages on the Worldwide Web. Following are some of the better, or more useful, Christian resources you'll find on the Web, complete with their Internet addresses:

- Center for Biblical Literacy: A "virtual campus" created by the Center for Biblical Literacy's School of Theological Studies. (<http://www.cbl.org/cbl>)
- Christian Classics: A collection of classical Christian books compiled in electronic format. (<http://www.cs.pitt.edu:80/~planting/books/>)
- Brother Mark's Christian Material: Materials related to revival and Christian living. Nice section on the lighter side of Christianity. (http://www.tit.fi/~mark/xian_1.html)
- Focus on the Family Newsletter: Web page containing copies of Dr. James Dobson's monthly newsletters. (<http://www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/text/Focus.on.Family/fofn.html>)

By RICHARD MASONER and RICHARD C. BROWN

WORD TO THE WISE:

*"Master yourself, master your content,
master your delivery, and let God master your people."*



Pastor Bix decides to bounce an idea off of Sis. Shelly

A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER was teaching his primary class about the doctrine of sin. "Now tell me," he said, "what are the sins of omission?"

"I think," said one of the girls, "they are the sins we *should* have committed, but didn't!"

ANOTHER SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER had been telling his class that they ought to aim high, and achieve something worthwhile with their lives.

"Just think," he said, "what would you like people to say about you a hundred years from now?"

One young man piped up: "I'd like them to say, 'My, doesn't he look good for his age!'"

U. S. REPRESENTATIVE LYNN MARTIN once noted, "No matter what your religion, you should try to become a government program, for then you will have everlasting life."



PORTLOCK

"MUMMY," said a little girl, "The Sunday School teacher told us this morning that we came from dust, and we are going back to dust. Is that true?"

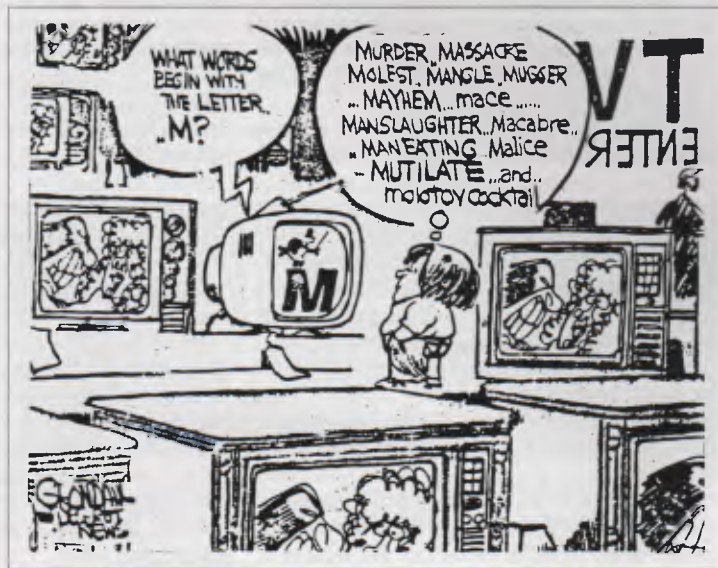
"Yes, dear," said her mother, "that's quite right."

"Well," said the little girl, "I just looked under the bed - and either someone is coming, or they're going."

TWO SAILORS were adrift on a raft in the ocean. They had just about given up hope of rescue. One began to pray, "O Lord, I've led a worthless life. I've been unkind to my wife and I've neglected my children, but if You'll save me, I promise..."

The other shouted, "Hold it! I think I see LAND!"

SEEMS A LAWYER found himself standing at the pearly gates. He had mixed emotions. When he got to St. Peter, he said, "Glad to be here and everything - but I was only 47. I didn't think my time was up." St. Peter scratched his chin, checked his paperwork, and said, "That's funny. According to your billable hours, you were 93!"



MISSIONARIES OFTEN NOTE that languages don't always translate perfectly between the native tongue and English. For instance, a safari park in Kenya once inadvertently posted the following sign in English: "Visitors who throw litter into crocodile pit will be asked to retrieve it." Some other signs:

A Hong Kong dentist: "Teeth extracted by latest Methodists."

And a tailor in Jordan: "Order your summers suit. Because is big rush, we will execute customers in strict rotation."

An elevator in Belgrade, Yugoslavia: "To move cabin, push button for wishing floor. If the cabin should enter more persons, each one should press number of wishing floor. Driving is then going alphabetically by national order."

The always-polite Japanese posted this sign in a hotel room: "Is forbidden to steal the hotel towels please. If you are not person to do such thing please not to read this."

And we're vaguely certain we understand this Tokyo leaflet on leasing a car: "When a passenger on foot heave in sight, tootle the horn. Trumpet at him melodiously first, but if he still obstacles your passage then tootle him with vigor!"

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James Lashley: Doubling the Blessing

(Continued from page three)

monthly planning sessions, I try to take some time to share various aspects of leadership with them. I give them books on leadership to read, and I make available to them various tapes as well.

"And in addition to all of that, we hold a yearly retreat as well. It is during that time that we brainstorm. We take hold of the year before it takes hold of us. During these yearly meetings, we make a detailed map of where we've been and where we hope to go."

Doubling the Involvement

Lashley is intimately aware of the fact that his church growth has come largely because of committed saints. He reports that at least 70 percent of the congregation is actively involved in some form of evangelism.

"They are just so good about getting involved," Lashley commented. "I have no doubt that if we had not had such a setback in the early eighties because of the economic situations, we would already be running 500!

"I promote and encourage involvement by keeping it before the people continually. I like to use positive motivation, so I praise their results a lot. If somebody is teaching a Bible study, I talk to the whole church about it from the pulpit or from the baptistry when a Bible study graduate gets baptized. I also don't mind speaking to people individually, to let them know I've been praying for them and have perceived a potential expertise in a given area. Then I ask them if they've considered working in that area, whether it be on the buses, in home Bible study, or some other area. We actively recruit these people to get them in-

olved."

Not only that, but Lashley praises various departments as well. And to further encourage involvement, he has a quarterly commitment service and an annual talent-search commitment service for what he calls "in-reach."

"I urge people to be a part of the miracle of growth," Lashley said.

More Doubling to Come

Neither Brother Lashley nor Apostolic Tabernacle likes to be satisfied with past successes. For that reason, they hope to again double their attendance in the near future. "During the past year, we've seen 42 baptized and receiving the Holy Ghost, so we expect to need new facilities soon. We want to relocate eventually, though I'm certain there's going to be an intermediate step. We would like to put a sixty by one hundred twenty foot building across the back of what we've got, because we've outgrown everything but our sanctuary. We're poised for harvesting!

"When we do this, we will remove the wall that currently separates our fellowship hall from the platform and take the platform back sixteen feet. Then we will have an L-shaped sanctuary. Right now, we can seat 350, but an addition of that sort would take us up to 500, which is our goal - to double in five years. Then we've set a goal to build a fan-shaped building which would let us double again, to a seating capacity of 1,200." And with doubling on their minds, doubling is what they will no doubt continue to do.

(Special assistance on this article by Ron French and Pamela Taylor)

Apostolics Win Suit Against "Cult Deprogrammers"

(Continued from page eight)

that Jason will likely never see the full \$5 million. Under the terms of the judgment, Cult Awareness Network was liable for \$1,875,000. Ross was to pay \$2.5 million, and his two associates, \$250,000 apiece. "The Cult Awareness Network," Kern noted, "has filed for bankruptcy to protect themselves from some of their share of the award. However, that will only protect them to a certain extent. They will eventually have to pay something. And besides that, they've lost their tax-exempt status.

"Also, one of Ross's associates who did the actual kidnapping has fled the country to Mexico, and taken most of his assets with him. The other associate settled for paying a lesser amount. Rick Ross, on the other hand, probably just doesn't have the assets to pay, and what he does have, he's probably hiding. Still, the significance of the judgment is the statement it made about the church - that our doctrines and standards of holiness are not cultic."

Feedback



To the editor:

I feel that the Perspectives magazine is a very valuable piece of a revolution that is attempting to overtake the modern day Pentecostal movement. With communication across the nation limited in many ways, it is imperative that some publications share the "cutting edge" of Apostolic church growth methods with those who have a desire for a revival in this generation.

You will doubtless be criticized by some as being too conservative or too liberal. Remember that multitudes who first stepped out in the Pentecostal way were accused of many things as well, but the revival continued.

Don't stop now! There are enough "conservative" or "liberal" magazines among us; we need more stories of progressive revival churches. Sow the seed, and in days to come we will reap the harvest.

Rick Craft
Athens, AL

To the editor:

Re: "Increasing Church Name Recognition" (Vol. 5, No. 8, "Opinions").

Since starting our church in 1988, one of our first decisions was the name. We asked ourselves, "What would be very familiar to those moving to our area from other areas of the country? What would people recognize?" Our decision: Stick with the organization. For us, that means, "First United Pentecostal Church." I can't tell you how many times someone called looking for a "United Pentecostal Church," but because of a different name, couldn't find one.

R. Phillip Hofstetter
Bartow, FL

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

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