



page 5

PLAINLY SPEAKING:
T.L. Craft talks about Bible colleges and "Training for the Ministry."



page 11

GUEST PULPIT
B.J. Wilmoth presents a selected sermon and outline: "The Things Hell Hates."

also in this issue:

Cover Story	1
Talmadge French: 18 Million Apostolics Worldwide	2
Opinions: "Anger, Stress & Frustration in Ministry"	5
Plainly Speaking: T.L. Craft	6
Q & A Forum	7
World News	8
News You Can Use	9
Guest Pulpit: B.J. Wilmoth	11
New AIS Files	12
Smiles	13
Pentecostal Market	15

Indiana Bible College Perspectives

Apostolic Information Service

Vol. 6, No.12

AIS EXCLUSIVE:

Apostolics Number Up To 18 Million Worldwide!

AIS Interview with Talmadge French

Interviewed by Tim Massengale

Written by Richard C. Brown



If you were to take a trip to mainland China, unsupervised by its Communist leaders, you'd find a country with several distinctives. Population there is at uncomfortable levels, with more than 1.1 billion people crowding the nation's houses, apartments, streets and markets. It is one of the world's leading coal producers (The nation boasts one of the world's largest open pit coal mines), and it also holds the dubious distinction of being one of the few places where abortion is not only allowed, but expected. But one other distinction dwarfs all these: Contrary to previous misconceptions, the People's Republic of China is home to the world's largest organized group of Oneness Pentecostals.

According to new research by Talmadge French, a theology instructor at Indiana Bible College and pastor in Wheaton, IL, the True Jesus Church, headquartered in China, claims 3.3 million members around the world (with 3

million of those in China itself). "Everyone knew the Chinese movement was large," said Brother French, a student at Wheaton College Graduate School, where he is completing his Master's Degree in New Testament Theology. "I simply have gone to bat and put all these scholars in one volume so people can see all the work put together. It's ironic, because in my research, I started with Asia, because I thought it would have the smallest representation of Oneness believers. However, it turns out that among Oneness Pentecostals, this group in China is the largest."

Oneness: A Viable Alternative

Brother French is himself a former Trinitarian Pentecostal, coming from the Church of God. After converting to the Oneness view, he attended and received his three-year diploma from Apostolic Bible Institute in St. Paul, MN. He then took these credits and transferred to

Wheaton College, where he received his Bachelor's degree in Greek. He has now completed the work for his Master's from Wheaton; the research into the size and scope of the Oneness movement is all part of work he has been doing for quite a while now on his thesis. French recalled that several forces came together as the motivation for the research.

"Since starting the Wheaton church, I was answering numerous questions from newcomers about the distinctives of our Oneness teachings. Also, at Wheaton, I was running across discussions of modalism and the Oneness of God. On top of that, I had previously begun a research project with Dr. Edith Blumhofer, a historian for the Assemblies of God. She was convinced, as was I, that the Oneness movement had never been adequately studied; most research shies away from it. Religious scholars have tended to regard it as some small fringe

(Continued on page three)

Apostolics Around the World

NOTE: With about 500 Oneness groups around the world, representing between 15 and 20 million people, there's no way in this short space to show every group in every nation. Below, however, are some of the Apostolic "hot spots," according to Talmadge French's research.

THE AMERICAS

- 5 to 6 million in the U.S.
- Mexico / South America, almost a million in the Light of the World Church alone.

AFRICA

- Ethiopia near 1 million Apostolics (fastest growth anywhere)
- 250,000 in Reformed Christian Church of South Africa

ASIA

- 3 million Apostolics in mainland China
- China is home to world's largest Oneness group, the True Jesus Church
- 1 million Apostolics in Indonesia

OUR NEXT OPINIONS TOPIC: The Pros & Cons of the Internet

If you have an opinion on this topic, send it along with a photograph of yourself (with your name, address and phone number) to: AIS, P.O. Box 47917, Indianapolis, IN 46247. Or call (800) 8000-AIS.

Opinions Interviews by Aaron Adkins and Linda Massengale



J. Mark Jordan
Pastor
Toledo, OH

A major cause of burn-out in the ministry today is dealing with anger, frustration and stress. For the person experiencing these things, I would offer the following counsel:

First, a consistent spirit of anger does not belong in the pastor's life. I can imagine anger rising up on occasion, but on whole, the pastor needs to practice what he preaches. If he's not able to keep his anger at certain saints or situations in check, perhaps he needs to find another line of work.

As for frustration, it seems that if you're making progress in your ministry and you feel like your dreams and goals are coming to pass, this tends to energize you. However, when you feel you're just spinning your wheels, you're only going to cause friction. To avoid this, as one person said, you need to divert daily and withdraw weekly. In other words, you need to measure out your life and plan for times to get away from things. Beyond that, attend seminars; continually educate yourself so that you can reinvigorate your dreams. Finally, I would advise people not to take on more than they can handle. God is not going to put on us any more than we can bear, so if it seems that your load is too much, you need to learn to say "no."

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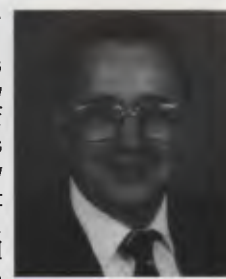
Anger, Stress and Frustration in Ministry

AIS VIEW: Most instances of frustration and stress in ministry have a common root. Usually, it comes from a minister striving to be too many things for too many people. Often, the solution is as simple as knowing your own limits and refusing to go beyond them. Learn to say "no" and to delegate authority so others can help you shoulder the load. And plan specific times when you can take a break from demands of the ministry.

There is a certain amount of anger, frustration and stress involved in the ministry today. My own way of dealing with these is fairly simple: First, I try not to get angry at people, and second, during times of stress, I try to do something to get my mind off the situation. But realizing it's not always as simple as that, let me offer the following:

First, I was talking with a minister a few years ago, and he said that the day he realized he was nobody's savior, that realization took a lot of stress off of him. So I try to remind myself that it's my responsibility to pray for the sick, not to heal them; and to preach the Gospel, not to save them. There are limitations to what I can do; that realization has helped me as much as anything.

Finally, we must look at each day as a new day. I heard a story about one minister who told about a board meeting he once attended; he said it was the worst board meeting he'd ever had, and he was totally frustrated over it. The next morning, his wife saw him singing and happily working out on the exercise bike. She asked what had gotten into him; he responded, "That was yesterday. Today is another day." It comes down to this: We can't dwell on yesterday's failures; we must instead focus on today's possibilities.



James Merrick
District Superintendent
Duluth, MN



D.G. Stucki
Pastor
Thousand Oaks, CA

Burn-out is a problem, because we deal with people on a deeper level than in any other profession. My advice: Learn to laugh! Don't take everything so seriously. Next, don't let individual problems overwhelm you. See the larger perspective. And finally, know your frustration threshold. When you feel you're reaching your limit, take a break.



W.L. Tullis
Pastor
Tylertown, MS

The ministry has its share of frustration, but a lot of it we create ourselves. You must learn that when you have done all you can do, to leave the rest in God's hands. Don't try to make things happen. Don't set unrealistic goals. Remember that success is not always determined by results. Most important, pray and trust God.



Kenneth Solberg
Pastor
Medford, WI

People in general tend to lack commitment. For this reason, the frustration and stress level in the ministry is high. I tend to lean a lot on the Word of God to counsel me in times of stress. It helps give me the proper perspective with my problem. Also, I'm careful not to take on too much and to give myself the time needed to unwind.



James Schumacher
Pastor
Racine, WI

I have a personal policy that I never respond or deal with anything that makes me angry for 24 hours after it happens. I have found that if I try to deal with it sooner, I will tend to deal with it in a carnal mind rather than a spiritual mind. The job of the minister is to help people with problems, and you must learn to deal with this stress.



C.D. Thornton
Pastor
Lake Charles, LA

The best way to deal with stress is through prayer. Next, I would encourage a pastor to have an outlet, hobby, or diversion that he enjoys, where he can get his mind off the problems of the ministry. My greatest source of frustration is that some people don't want a pastor, they just want a preacher. They don't truly want to change.



L.L. Stevens
Pastor
Lake Jackson, TX

Most stress and frustration is brought on by ourselves. We set goals too high and expect too much of ourselves. You need to pray and let God set your goals. He knows what you can accomplish. It's also important to spend time with other preachers. Attend conferences and seminars. Learn to trust the counsel of other men of God.

Research Shows More Than 15 Million Apostolics Around the World

Cover Story

group not important enough to warrant study. But having been a Trinitarian for many years, I felt a desire to study the movement and doctrine in terms of how it had been fleshed out in various organizations and groups. I wanted to show that Oneness is a viable alternative to Trinitarianism in the world of conservative Pentecostalism." Thus, Brother French approached the powers-that-be at Wheaton, and after some arm-twisting, convinced them to allow him to do the research.

Brother French's research took him, in a symbolic sense, around the globe, as he interviewed experts, devoured obscure documents, and updated numbers that were often decades old. He encountered hundreds of Oneness groups, both large and small, in literally every part of the world. His conclusions show numbers of Oneness believers that dwarf any previous estimates. For instance, Brother French documents over 15 million Apostolics throughout the world, with there being perhaps as many as 18 million. What follows are some of the "hot spots" of Apostolic activity around the world. Consider this a personal missionary tour:

Land of the Rising Sun

We start the search for Apostolics where many would expect to find few: in Asia and the Orient. But as mentioned, Brother French's research shows this to be a hotbed of Oneness belief.

"When you go through Asia, you find that there are literally dozens of Oneness groups, especially in the Philippines. There's also a very sizable group in Japan known as the Spirit of Jesus Church. This group was started in 1917 by a fellow named Jun Murai. He was a Methodist who was exposed to Pentecostalism in 1917. He was going to commit suicide, and was ready to jump off a ship, when the Lord spoke to him and told him to try the book of

says, is nearly identical in doctrine to other Oneness groups.

As for the world's largest Oneness organization, the True Jesus Church, Brother French said this movement had clear roots in the early Pentecostal revival in the United States.

"As people were leaving Azusa Street," French recounted, "they felt this huge burden for all the nations of the world. Thus, there was a massive missionary endeavor that started. A number of people left and went to China in

Oneness Apostolic Research Files

A considerable amount of scholarly research has been done on oneness Pentecostals, both by Bro. French as well as other authors. Below is a listing of some of the best papers published. These files are free to AIS subscribers. Nonsubscribers can order them on disk for \$5.95 (pure text) or in photocopy format (call for price: 1-800-8000-AIS).

- *Origins of Oneness Pentecostalism*
- *The People of the Name*
- *By Water and Spirit*
- *Oneness Pentecostalism - Global Perspective*
- *The True Jesus Movement*
- *A Plea for Black British Theology*
- *Jesus Name Pentecostalism in Mexico*

David Reed
Joseph Howell
R.C. Richardson
Talmadge French
Murray Rubenstein
Roswith Gerloff
Ken Gill

1907 and established the Apostolic Faith Missions. Within six years, the Oneness message began to spread like wildfire, and one of the places where Oneness came down like a bombshell was in China. By 1920, they were baptizing missionaries in Jesus' name so fast that we had more missionaries in China for the Oneness message than in any other nation.

"In the process of this, a fellow named Chang Ling Sheng came out of a Presbyterian background and joined two other men in leaving the Trinitarian Apostolic mission to be baptized in Jesus' name. These men established their own church, taking the name "True Jesus," because he felt that the Jesus of the

The U.S. Top Ten

Following is a list of the 10 largest Oneness Pentecostal groups in the United States, according to research by Brother Talmadge French:

1. **United Pentecostal Church Int'l.** 600,000 in the States; nearly 4,000 churches; 2.5 million worldwide constituency.
2. **Pentecostal Assemblies of the World.** Approx. 300,000 in the States; 1,200 churches; Over 500,000 worldwide constituency.
3. **Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith.** Approx. 200,000 in the States; 500 churches; 300,000 worldwide constituency.

4. **Bibleway Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.** Approx. 150,000 in the States; 300 churches; Over 250,000 worldwide constituency.
5. **Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ.** Approx. 60,000 in the States; 339 churches; 100,000 worldwide constituency.
6. **Apostolic Church/Assemblies of the Faith in Christ Jesus (Hispanic organization).** Approx. 200,000 in Mexico. 100,000 in the States; 200 churches; About 300,000 worldwide constituency.

7. **Pentecostal Churches of the Apostolic Faith** Approx. 50,000 in the States; 200 churches; About 95,000 worldwide constituency.

8. **United Church of Jesus Christ (Apostolic.)** Approx. 25,000 in the States; 150 U.S. churches; 100,000 worldwide constituency.

9. **International Ministerial Association.** Approx. 50,000 in the States; 300 churches; 95,000 worldwide constituency.

10. **Church of the Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith.** Approx. 25,000 in the States; 100 churches; 50,000 worldwide constituency.

"I thought Asia would have the smallest representation of Oneness believers. It turns out that among Oneness Pentecostals, this group (True Jesus Church) is the largest."

--Talmadge French

Acts. He knelt down and received the Spirit." Brother French said it's a "little known secret" that this group has approximately 1,000 churches in Japan.

Another interesting Asian study is the Indonesia group Geredja Pentekosta di Indonesia. While preferring to use the term "tri-unity" instead of Oneness, this group, Brother French

Trinitarian world was only part of the picture of who Jesus is."

Europe & England

The next stop on French's Apostolic World Tour is Europe: "I was told that I would find very few Oneness people in Europe," French
(Continued on page 14)

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Training For The Ministry

**Exclusive AIS Interview
With T.L. Craft**



Editor's note: For three decades, Brother Tommy Craft was involved in Bible college work, first teaching at Pentecostal Bible Institute in Tupelo, MS, and then serving as president when the college moved to Jackson and became Jackson College of Ministries. In addition, Brother Craft currently is pastor of First Pentecostal church in Jackson. Recently, AIS spoke with Brother Craft about Bible colleges and the need for training for ministers. Portions of the interview are printed below:

.....
First, Brother Craft, give us an idea of your history at Jackson College of Ministries.

The college began in Tupelo, Mississippi 53 years ago, as Pentecostal Bible Institute. Then 23 years ago, it moved to Jackson. The district owned it prior to that time, but because of financial difficulties, we took the school and named it Jackson College of Ministries. I served as president of the school for 23 years.

What do you perceive as being the primary need of our Bible colleges?

I think our schools need to continue doing what they do best, and that is training men to preach the Gospel. When we took the oversight of JCM, we diversified the college to include other areas, because at the time, the college was already an established theology school. But we need to continue focusing on the ministry. Throughout our Bible schools, the focus needs to be on staying true to our Apostolic commission, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel." We should focus on producing young men and women for ministry in the United Pentecostal Church.

Traditionally, some Apostolic pastors have been skeptical of Bible colleges. Do you see this changing?

Sed to say, but I don't see that attitude changing nearly as much as I would like to see it change.

Is there any way of changing this?

Continued faithfulness in what we've been doing is one of the best ways of changing it. I think that if we who are involved in Bible college work will stay faithful in what we're doing, then our day will come; in fact, it's right around the corner. The Bible colleges are gradually coming to the forefront.

Anything else?

On the national level, we need to put more emphasis on our colleges. What we see repeatedly is that our Apostolic young people will go wherever the spotlight is. Therefore, if everyone from Headquarters on down to our sectional level would put an emphasis on Bible college training, young people would gravitate to them, because that's where the spotlight is.

It would shock people to realize that 75 percent of the General Board of the United Pentecostal Church International has attended Bible school, and yet Bible school is still not emphasized very strongly among us. There is a great need to correct that, for people from the national level down to the district and sectional level to start emphasizing this need for Bible school training.

What else can the organization as a whole do to show its support for Bible colleges?

Currently, the Division of Education has no representative on the UPCI's General Board, and yet our Bible schools have a more profound effect on our movement than almost any other force.

Here's the paradox: We have districts with only 10, 15 or 20 churches, and yet those districts have a district superintendent on the General Board. However, our Bible schools, which represent hundreds of students and churches, are not represented on this board.

So your suggestion is that the General Board put the director of the Division of Education on the General Board?

I've been wanting that to happen for the last 15 years. This would dramatically raise the profile of the schools. The Sunday School Division, Youth Division, Home Missions Division, all have representation on the Board, while our Bible schools have none.

In other Pentecostal movements, it's not this way. It's automatically assumed that the head of the organization's Education Division will be on the General Board. In addition, the presidents of all of their Bible colleges have a voice on the Board (although they don't have a vote). A similar type approach for us would help give a better profile to our Bible schools.

What kind of education, if any, do you think should be required for a person to get his general license?

First, I don't think it's sufficient to just have the reading requirements that districts have. A

person can get those books that are required and just read through them really fast. I don't know how all districts do it, but I've seen some that give a test, so that ministerial candidates have to answer well over a hundred questions. This is a good step.

Should some kind of Bible school education, whether on-campus or correspondence, be required?

I wouldn't say that Bible college should be a necessity. However, I think we're coming to the place that more district boards are recognizing that a Bible college education is a valuable stepping stone to get a person his general license quicker.

I do wish that everyone who wants to be involved in the ministry would try to avail themselves of Bible college training, either through correspondence study or on-campus attendance. You wouldn't want to have a brain surgeon operating on you who hasn't had adequate training. So there needs to be training from somewhere. Bible college is an excellent option for that, because in a good Bible school, you can pack 30 years of experience into three or four years of training. That sounds a little farfetched to some people, but it's true.

The best solution is an on-campus Bible college education. There are things you can get on campus that you can't get through a correspondence study. But regardless of which approach you take, proper training is a necessity for ministers to be effective. AIS

.....
Brother Craft was interviewed by AIS correspondent Linda Massengale.

IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION...

for any of these columnists, please address it to AIS Managing Editor, P.O. Box 47917, Indianapolis, IN 46247. Or call (800)8000-AIS.



Paul D. Mooney

■ Ministry

Like most young ministers, I desire to be married some day, and I know that picking the right companion is important. Can you give me some guidelines to keep in mind?

You are right to recognize that choosing the right companion is important to one's ministry. Many men and women have short-circuited their potential in the ministry by not having companions who are sympathetic to their calling. Let me offer you the following guidelines:

Priority number one is to choose someone that you truly feel comfortable with and can easily communicate with. It is vital that you share a deep and real love for each other.

Secondly, recognize that in many cases, your companion does not directly share your specific call into the ministry. Therefore, you must respect his or her individual needs and ambitions.

It's easy for a minister to demand too much of a companion and lose sight of the fact that marriage is a partnership in which love and concern must flow both ways. Be certain you recognize this tendency and fight against it.

Thirdly, you should pick a companion who loves people and is comfortable sharing his or her life. This would involve such things as personality, animation, spirit, and general disposition.

Finally, any companion serving with a minister should have genuine convictions concerning the truth and the Christian life-style. A house divided in this area will not stand.

Note that I have not mentioned talent such as music as a criteria. Choosing someone just because they're talented is a huge mistake. The other things I mentioned should take priority.



T. W. Massengale

■ Outreach

I'm getting ready to set our outreach goals for the new year. Do you have any advice for me?

Goals come in two forms: Numerical and quality improvement. You need both, because to reach greater numbers, you need to improve the quality of your operation and program. Consider the following seven steps:

1) *After much prayer, set your faith goals.* Remember, these are not just your goals, they are the Lord's; they are what He wishes you to achieve. So much prayer should be behind these goals.



T.R. O'Daniel

■ Theology

In I Corinthians 13:8, it says that tongues shall cease. Some of my friends say that this has already happened and that I should not speak in tongues. How should I answer them?

With love! It is certainly Paul's argument here in the love chapter that tongues-speaking, prophecies, knowledge and miracles without love are of no value. Even philanthropy that is not motivated by love will not profit. However, while love should have the preeminence in the Christian's life, the gifts of the Spirit are still in operation.

Verse 10 gives us the timing of when they will no longer be needed: "But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away." "That which is in part" refers to the gifts of the Spirit (including tongues), which the Corinthians had been operating in ignorance (see 12:1).

The controversy centers on what is meant by "that which is perfect." Your friends may be of the school of thought that teaches this refers to the Word of God or New Testament, and maintain that when the New Testament was completed, the gifts of the Spirit became obsolete. Others make a strong case for "that which is perfect" being the love that is accentuated here in the 13th chapter.

However, the Apostle Paul explains what he is referring to in I Corinthians 1:7, "So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." Jesus is "that which is perfect," and the gifts were to remain until His return. After the Rapture, there will no longer be any need of the Gifts, as we will then see face to face and know as we are known (13:12). To quote one scholar, "Because the sun rises, all lights are extinguished."

2) *Break the faith goal into progression points.* First into yearly steps, then into monthly steps. For instance, to grow from 100 to 300 in five years is only three people per month. Yard by yard, life is hard — inch by inch, it's a cinch.

3) *Develop a plan of action to reach your faith goal.* A plan of action should include both offensive and defensive strategy. First, the offensive: Make a step-by-step plan to take you from where you are to where you want to be. Then second, the defensive: List your barriers or problems, those which will hinder you from reaching your goal. Then develop a strategy to overcome each one.

4) *Develop the resources and people needed to obtain your faith goal.* What and who will be needed to reach that first step or solve that



O. C. Marler

■ Family

We are new parents of a boy. As he grows up in a society that views homosexuality as an alternate life-style, what can we do to ensure our child is secure in the knowledge of who he is as he becomes a young man?

Sexual identity has become a vital issue in our society. The world would have us believe that homosexual behavior is acceptable, but the Bible is clear that homosexuality is a sin. As parents we have the responsibility of ensuring that our children grow up with a clear concept of what it means to be a male or a female.

To begin with, don't attempt to make your son "all boy." Trying to toughen him up by rubbing his face in the mud or leaving him out in the cold is definitely not the answer. Fathers should reinforce appropriate behavior and involve themselves in "male" activities with their sons. A parent's genuine love and concern will do more to make that child secure in his identity than a constant onslaught of "macho" lessons ever will.

Also, guard your son against negative influences. Don't allow him to be involved with men or women who act questionably concerning their roles as a man or a woman.

Most importantly, parents must be role models for their children. Men that physically or emotionally abuse their wives can have a severely negative effect on the child. Likewise, if a wife is domineering, a child can be affected. Parents must have clearly defined roles as set forth in the Word of God. A stable home is one in which the father is a leader, the children are disciplined and respected, and the parents have a mutually satisfying commitment to each other. It is highly unlikely that a child will become a homosexual when he has had a good relationship with each parent in a healthy home.

first problem? Share the dream and commit your people. An army poorly equipped is an army doomed to fail.

5) *Periodically evaluate your progress toward reaching your faith goal.* Systematic evaluation is important. We must periodically assess and ask how we're doing.

6) *Testify and talk about your goal.* From the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. If the goal is really in your heart, you'll talk about it, preach about it, and testify about it.

7) *Fast and pray about your faith goal.* All things are possible to them that believe. Commit to pray for your goal every day.

These practical steps are solid in principle and biblically based. With this outline, you can accomplish God's perfect will for your church in the new year.



National & International Events From An Apostolic Perspective

MORALITY

Statistics Refute Value of "Safe Sex"

A new report by the Centers for Disease Control casts doubt on the effectiveness of the "safe sex" message communicated through public schools and the media.

The October 17 report by the CDC listed the top 10 most frequently reported infectious diseases in 1995. The top three are sexually-related diseases that supposedly could be eliminated through "safe sex" measures: chlamydia, gonorrhea and AIDS. Further, 87 percent of instances reported on the CDC's list were related to sexual acts.

Dr. Richard Tompkins, educational director of the Medical Institute for Sexual Health, noted the real significance of the report: "The CDC's list is incomplete because they don't collect data on all the major diseases, particularly STDs [sexually transmitted diseases]. For instance, you don't see herpes or the

human papiloma virus on the list, HLPV, which causes genital warts and is linked to cervical cancer, is one of the most common sexually transmitted diseases."

In addition, the study does not take into consideration other communicable diseases passed on because of the immune-deficiency brought on because of AIDS.

INTERNATIONAL

British Clash Over Religion in School

Government schools in England find themselves embroiled in a battle familiar to America's public schools. Since 1980, English schools have allowed children to worship and pray, and have allowed teachers to include Christian teachings in the curriculum.

However, Anglican archbishop Dr. John Habgood has joined with other Christian leaders to attack the practice of religion in school. According to Evangelical Press, these leaders feel teachers are reluctant to lead students in prayer, and many churches are concerned about the impression they are trying to proselytize in schools.

One possible answer: The Christian Education Project of the Order of Christian Unity has developed the Schools Support Group, a pilot program training volunteers to foster links between churches and schools.

MORALITY

Poll May Explain Election Results

In pursuit of answers as to why voters returned Bill Clinton to the White House in November, a recent Newsweek poll may have an answer. According to the poll, only 35 percent of Americans consider an extra-marital affair a good reason to vote against a politician, making it less of a reason to vote for somebody than taking drugs.

CHURCH TRENDS

Church Giving in Two-Year Decline

A study conducted by Empty Tomb Inc. shows that giving by church members has declined for two consecutive years - the first time this has happened in a quarter-century.

The study of 29 denominations analyzed 100,000 of the 350,000 congregations in the United States. Some of the study's findings:

- When considering inflation, gifts to churches decreased from 1991 to 1992.
- Gifts to missions and missions-related areas declined faster than gifts to the ministry of the local church.
- On a per member basis, dollar gifts to benevolences were lower in 1992 than in 1968. Based on 1987 dollars, giving in 1968 was \$65.07 per member; in 1992, the amount was \$63.92.

The authors of the study project that if this trend continues uninterrupted, benevolence giving will disappear completely by 2050.

RELIGION

Cult Rejects Past, Heretical Doctrine

The Worldwide Church of God, a cult founded by Herbert W. Armstrong, has publicly recanted its teachings that set it apart from mainstream Christianity.

Formerly, the WWG had held to British Israelism, and said that strict adherence to the Old Testament Law and the Sabbath are essential for salvation, all of which current president Joseph Tkach has abandoned. However, while this brings the group more in line with Biblical Christianity, they have also now accepted the Trinity doctrine, taking them one step back.

STRANGE WORLD

Download Death from Internet

Some more examples, from the world of the weird and bizarre, that we live in a fallen and strange world:

• Now, not only do computers make life easier, but also death. A computer program called "Self-Deliverance" will soon be available on the Internet and make it easier to commit suicide. Doctor Philip Nitschke, who wrote the program, says the software is part of a death package that includes a machine which delivers lethal injections. The program will not be available for download through AIS.

- A survey conducted by a Pittsburgh

newspaper finds that, in the event of being on an ocean liner that is sinking, only 35 percent of men would give up their seat on a lifeboat to children or women other than their own wives. One-third would not relinquish their place for their own wives, and only 54 percent would give up their seat to their own mothers.

- And on an even darker side of this "strange world," one of the most popular albums in America in October was "Antichrist Superstar," by Marilyn Manson. Among the lyrics on the album: "I will bury your God in my warm spit," and "Let's just kill everyone and let your God sort them out."

News In Brief...

♦ Pope John Paul II told scientists in October that Christians may legitimately accept the Darwinian theory of evolution. "New discoveries lead one to acknowledge the theory of evolution as more than a hypothesis," the pope said.

♦ Senators John Ashcroft (R-MO) and Byron Dorgan (D-ND) have introduced a bill that would prohibit the use of federal funds to pay for assisted suicides.

♦ The American Family Association claims success in a boycott of the Walt Disney Company. Since the boycott, the Disney Channel has lost 37 percent of its subscribers.

Canadian Pastor Gives His City a Sign: Apostolic Billboard Ministry

EVANGELISM

By Rick McGee

In this fast-paced society, Brother Daniel T. Mena, pastor of First United Pentecostal Church of Edmonton, New Brunswick, Canada, has developed a unique outreach method — a way of slowing people down enough to take note of the church. His church has started a billboard ministry, and has garnered impressive results.



Daniel Mena

Brother Mena got his inspiration during a trip to Louisville, KY. "On the trip, we saw hundreds of billboards," he said. "There were billboards advertising alcohol, cigarettes, immorality, and using crude words. Throughout

the entire trip, we only saw one small sign about Jesus." Such blatant commercializing of carnality were what challenged Mena to get involved.

"I brought the proposal of this new outreach program before the congregation, and they accepted the challenge," said Brother Mena. Monthly pledges were taken and the billboard ministry was born.

For over a year now, the nine signs that the church rents have stood, offering hope and deliverance from the alcohol, cigarettes and worldly life-styles that the other signs offer.

One saint in the church knows firsthand the effectiveness of the ministry. Brother Mena said that the lady's daily drive to school always took her by one billboard that proclaims, "Jesus can set you free." She soon visited the church and received the Holy Ghost and deliverance from drug addiction.



One of nine billboards that Brother Mena rents.

Other signs are scattered about town: two are on the freeway, one in downtown, and the others along main highways. "One local newspaper has given extensive coverage to the signs," Mena noted, "and several denominational pastors have thanked us for the positive advertising."

So effective has been this ministry that Pastor Mena has expanded it. The church has, for instance, rented ad signs on the sides of the city buses, which Mena estimates are seen by about 150,000 people. Each billboard costs about \$800 a month, but, Mena says, it is well worth it. "I highly recommend this outreach to other pastors. It absolutely works. Several people now attending here testified that they first became aware of us because of one of the signs."

Apostolics Develop Christian School Accreditor

By Rebekah Blanton

Each year, horror stories are told of Christian parents who, for whatever reason, are forced to take students out of a Christian school and enroll them in a public school, only to find that the student is put in a lower grade level. The reason: the inferior quality of the prior, Christian school. Such a scenario is exactly what Brother Sidney Poe from Jackson, MS has tried to prevent by forming the Inter-

CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

national Non-Public School Accreditation Association.

The accrediting association operates under the Association of Christian Teachers and Schools (ACTS), the UPCI's Christian school arm. ACTS was established in 1988, but was allowed to lapse for a period of time. General Superintendent N.A. Urshan urged Brother

Poe and others associated with the program to put it back on its feet. This motivated Poe to consider an accreditation process.

"The primary purpose and benefit of the accreditation program is to ensure the quality of our schools' instruction," says Poe. The ISPA works to accredit Apostolic schools, certify teachers and establish a uniform quality for the school's curriculum. Brother Poe said accrediting is important to guarantee a quality education and to make schools eligible to receive aid from funding and granting agencies.

Prospective schools must first apply for membership with ACTS. After that, they may work toward accreditation. "Schools are evaluated on a set of standards, or 'norms,'" said Brother Poe. "These include curriculum, quality of teaching, instruction, purpose and goal, benefit of community, and others."

"Our ultimate goal is to see to it that Christian schools offer the best quality education, both spiritually and academically."

For information about qualifying your school for accreditation, or just general information about becoming a member school in ACTS, write: Association of Christian Teachers and Schools, 8855 Dunn Road, Hazelwood, MO 63042. Or call Brother Poe in Jackson at (601) 857-9967.



Sidney Poe

Pastor's Prayer Support Team

APOSTOLIC MINISTRIES

By Richard C. Brown

Pastor Steven Spears of Blytheville, AR has his share of crises associated with his ministry. But what he also has to carry him through such time is support—prayer support.



Steven Spears

"We've developed in our church a Prayer Support Team," said Brother Spears. "When we started, we selected seven men. Each man took one day of the week. I then made up a list of needs I have in relation to my ministry, my wife and my children. Each person then pledges to spend an hour sometime during that day to pray for the needs on that list."

Brother Spears said he actually has little to do with the operation of the Pastor's Prayer Force. "I have a coordinator, a good man by the name of Bill Bell who handles the practical aspects of it."

Spears said one important aspect of the program is a prayer reminder card. The card, which is laminated, much like a driver's license, has each person's schedule for praying. "I keep one of those cards as well," said Spears. "This way, when I'm going through a difficult time, I can look at that card and realize that such-and-such person is praying for me. It's a real comfort."

As part of the program, the Prayer Force ministry has developed a manual entitled A Handbook for Pastor's Prayer Force. For information, write: First UPC, P.O. Box 473, 1501 E. Moultrie, Blytheville, AR 72315. Or call (501) 762-1214.

- Churches may have to adapt their singles' ministries to fit the times.
- As more Americans leave big city areas, small-town churches will have more opportunity to grow.
- Book on Romans by Daniel Segraves offers profound insight into a profound book.

PREACHER'S PICKS

We've asked various ministers across the country to give some books they would put on their "recommended reading lists." Following are some of the responses:

- Jesus C.E.O. by Lloyd Jones (Pastor Mark Jordan, Toledo, OH)
- The Master's Plan for the Church, by John F. MacArthur, Jr. (T.W. Massengale, Director, AIS, Indianapolis, IN)
- The Purpose-Driven Church, by Rick Warren (Pastor D.G. Stucki, Thousand Oaks, CA)
- Be a People Person, by John Maxwell (Pastor Kenneth Solberg, Medford, WI)

■ **the changing face of singles ministry**

More Americans today are single than at any time in the nation's history. Consequently, there are some important changes happening in church singles' ministries. From the February Single Adult Ministries Journal come seven of these changes: 1) Divorce Recovery: With less trauma accompanying divorce today, churches are finding that divorce recovery groups are not as effective as outreach tools any more. 2) Substance: More singles are indicating that they want deep study of the Bible, and not so much emphasis on social events. 3) Community: Singles prefer small group intimacy to large group social events. 4) Time: With the fast pace of society affecting singles as much as anyone, they prefer attending events where they can get a number of needs met all at once. 5) Age: By 2020, 25 percent of the nation's population will be over 65. Further, older singles are projected to be the fastest-growing population for the next quarter-century. 6) Single parents: As the previously-mentioned divorced people begin coping with their circumstances, they will still struggle with parenting alone. Thus, single-parent family ministry will replace divorce recovery in growing churches. 7) Small churches: More smaller churches will develop singles' ministries.

■ **book review**

Themes From a Letter to Rome, by Daniel L. Segraves, 1995 Word Aflame Press, 269 pages, paperback, \$8.00.

Daniel Segraves's new book on the epistle of Romans is different from most, in that it takes a topical rather than an expository approach. The author discusses in some detail seven major themes from the book: justification, law, grace, faith, holiness, Jews, and Gentiles.

It's a book that can at times be a challenging read, with a generous supply of the Greek language and lofty theological concepts. However, it is a meaty work that, if you can wade through it, will leave you with a much deeper understanding of Romans.

■ **big-city exodus**

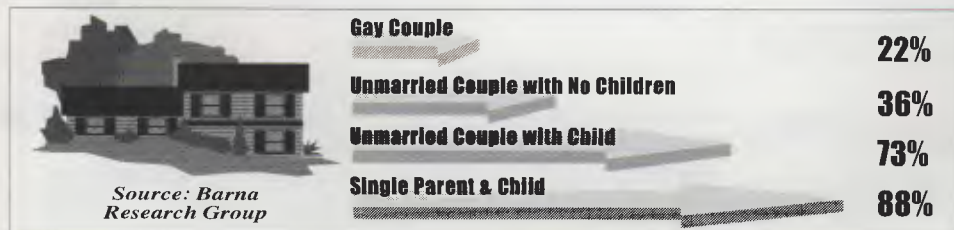
If you're pastoring in a small town, the next decade may represent unprecedented opportunity for your church to grow. Consider the following numbers:

- 25 percent of Americans reside in a town of 2,500 or fewer inhabitants (Many of whom are "rurban," i.e., people living in a rural area who still have an urban mind-set).
- Small towns are growing at an annual rate of 4.9 percent in the United States.
- In contrast, the annual urban growth rate is only 2.4 percent.

The challenge for pastors will be incorporating programs that will appeal to the "rurban" people who still have the big-city mind-set.

■ **American Pulse: What Is a Family?**

The "family" has taken on many shapes and definitions in the 1990s. The following numbers show what people do and don't accept as a legitimate "family."



Church Law

By Owen Taylor

On September 19, members of a Pentecostal church in South Middleton Township, PA who were kicked out and banned from church property were told by a county judge that they can attend services again. Twenty-seven members of the church filed a suit against the pastor and church officers saying they were wrongly dismissed.

Earlier in the year, three deacons were dismissed because the pastor said there were meetings behind his back and in violation of church bylaws. About half the church stopped making financial contributions in protest of the dismissals. The pastor then dismissed those members, too. The court thus ruled that the members' rights were violated because they didn't receive a hearing before their dismissal.

The pastor had maintained that the matter was an internal dispute and not subject to civil law. The judge didn't buy it. Considering an appeal, the pastor said, "The judge has stepped in and interpreted our church bylaws. It's bad for churches everywhere."

The issues behind this case highlight again the necessity for clear and enforceable bylaws. It is well-settled that the courts will not review church membership expulsions unless the members have exhausted all available procedures within their church. Thus, if a member of a local church has not exhausted all remedies provided, the courts will not intervene. Clear, unambiguous bylaws are the pastor and church's best protection from unfortunate results in the event of civil litigation. Requiring strict compliance with the bylaws is binding on members and an effective means of avoiding the problems in this church.

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



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--Paul D. Mooney,
Indiana District Superintendent

"During the darkest hours of World War II, prior to the entrance of U.S. forces into the conflict, Winston Churchill said to the U.S. people, 'Give us the tools, and we will finish the job.' The job is the harvest. AIS provides some of the finest tools to enable the harvesters to finish the job."

--T.F. Tenney,
Louisiana District Superintendent

"Although we are clearly right doctrinally, our churches sometimes lack the tools to equip the church to spread this truth. AIS helps the church to do this."

--Vaughn Morton,
Fresno, CA

"I don't use a computer, yet I belong to AIS. Why? Because my computer-literate staff *does* use the AIS Computer Network. And me, I look forward to the timely magazine, *Perspectives*."

--Larry Arrowood, Pastor
Seymour, IN

"AIS has been very interesting and informative to me. The magazine is always full of inspirational material, and the "Idea Sheets" are always full of good information as well. I also enjoy the monthly cassette tape. I wholeheartedly recommend this ministry to preachers in the United Pentecostal Church."

--Ron Libby, Pastor
Gaithersburg, MD

"The ministry of AIS will keep ministers on the cutting edge of revival and growth with the constant flow of ideas and helps available."

--Jesse F. Williams
Assistant General Superintendent

The Things Hell Hates

Selected Sermon Outline by B.J. Wilmoth

TEXT: Job 1:1-8; 2:1. "... And the Lord said to Satan, whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it". . . (Job 1:7).



B.J. Wilmoth is pastor of First United Pentecostal Church in Redlands, CA.

Our text shows us clearly that there is a spirit world and that this spirit world is comprised of two different teams: the forces of God, battling for good, and the forces of the devil, battling to take your soul to hell. Thus, for whatever move God makes, Satan tries to have a counter move.

It's like a cosmic chess game. And as we look at this chess board, we understand that as the opponents stand against one another, they will snarl at each other; they will try to intimidate each other. They attack each other with a vengeance. There is not a lot of love between heaven and hell. Indeed, in Satan's quest to destroy men's and women's lives, we see that there are things hell hates with extreme measure. Let's look at some of these things that hell hates.

FIRST, ONE OF THE THINGS hell hates more than anything is prayer. Hell hates when men and women get down and begin to call upon God. Hell hates everything that prayer does, because prayer has the ability to move mountains. It has the power to open up the gates of hell and set captives free.

And prayer has the power to forgive people when they confess their sins. God says that if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us. Consequently, you need to keep praying for your lost husband, wife, or child. Keep praying for your church, your pastor, your country. There is no doubt about it: If we humble ourselves and pray, He will heal our land.

NOT ONLY DOES hell hate prayer, but the forces of hell hate the blood of Jesus. Hell trembles just to think of Calvary. The demons of hell understand that man is not redeemed by corruptible things like silver and gold, but rather, by the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

When sin comes, it brings depression, despair and doubt; and hell knows this. Hell knows that when sin comes, it brings despair, depression and doubt. But when the blood of Jesus is applied to a person's life, that person gets rid of all that junk.

And ultimately, he gets the Holy Ghost, which brings joy unspeakable.

THERE'S ANOTHER THING that hell hates: It hates the Word of God. Hell and its minions do not want you to crack open this good book. The devil and his angels don't want you to teach home Bible studies, and they don't want you to have a true understanding of Apostolic doctrine.

Why does hell hate the Word so much? It's because Satan and all his angels know that they have already been defeated by the Word of God. It was the Word of God that Jesus used to defeat him when Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness. And it's the

set myself up."

What this means is that when Satan hears praise, all he can do is leave. After all, God Himself lives in praise, and God and the devil cannot live together.

I've seen it happen so many times: When folks begin to praise God, good things begin to happen. When we praise God, miracles happen and revival breaks out.

Consequently, because hell hates praise, I'm going to praise the Lord. Because Satan and his minions hate praise, I'm going to lift up my hands, my voice, and I'm going to praise God with a voice of triumph.

Psalm 149 shows us the real reason Satan hates praise. It says, "Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand; to execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people; to bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron."

The Lord is telling us that when we begin to praise God, we bind up the enemy with chains and fetters of iron. That's why hell hates praise: Because when we praise, they can't work.

"In Satan's quest to destroy men's and women's lives, we see that there are things hell hates with extreme measure."

Word that prophesies their ultimate demise. Nevertheless, because hell hates it, I'm going to study to show myself approved unto God!

AND NOT ONLY does hell hate the Word, it hates the name — the name "Jesus." Why is this? Because it was the name of Jesus that represented the man Christ Jesus who walked to the center of Satan's own operation and grabbed the keys to death, hell and the grave.

Hell wants people to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Satan and his demons tremble when you speak the name of Jesus; that's why I love to say that name!

THEN ALSO, hell hates praise. First, Satan has an ego problem; he wants praise for himself. It was Satan who said, "I will ascend to the heaven, I will

BUT LET ME TELL YOU the thing that hell hates most: Hell hates a righteous man. We see this clearly in our text in the book of Job. What is Satan doing as we see him in this book? He's walking to and fro on the earth, frustrated by the righteous life of an upright man.

You can study the Word for years, pray 24 hours a day, but more than these things, a righteous man frustrates the devil. People love to talk about how much they pray and how much they shout and how much of the Bible they know. But that means so little in comparison to living a righteous life. Too many people start off right, but gradually slip in their commitment to righteousness and holy living. However, hell is not afraid of the carnal, but Satan and his angels hate the righteous man. God give us men and women who don't care what Satan wants, but who love the things hell hates.

OUTLINE

I. Introduction - The Bitter Match Between Heaven & Hell

II. In Its Battle with Forces of Righteousness, There Are Things Hell Has Learned to Hate:

- A. Prayer**
- B. The Blood**
- C. The Word of God**
- D. The Name of Jesus**
- E. Praise**
- F. A Righteous Man**

III. Conclusion: The Need for Saints Who Love What Hell Hates

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 (AIS members only, please) 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

INSD16.TXT	3169	He Gave the Very Best. Article about the ultimate Gift that God gave – Himself.
INSD61.TXT	2412	Encouragement. The value of being an encourager.
BSLV17.TXT	8408	Love Casts Out Fear. Good article about the battle between love and fear.
BSPR119.TXT	10745	Pray or Else. Study on why prayer is an urgent affair.
BSRP29.TXT	17677	A Perfect Heart. This author talks about the process of purifying your heart.
BSVL81.TXT	22608	The Passionate Bride. Another good Bible study about the church as the Bride of Christ.
BSWP08.TXT	4878	Was That Worship? T.F. Tenney discusses the difference between real and counterfeit worship.
BSAT18.TXT	3766	The Flaming Sword. Study by G.T. Haywood on the Tree of Life.
BSFA44.TXT	15104	The Silent Savior. This author says that even when you can't hear Jesus, He is with you.
BSFR39.TXT	23548	Taking Up the Towel. Study about passing on the spiritual blessings given to us.
BSGC23.TXT	24030	The Awful Consequences of Backsliding. Powerful study on the danger of turning back from God.
EVGE49.TXT	24047	Good Things That Keep People From Heaven. Study that says that nothing is worth losing heaven.
EVPR73.TXT	10514	Revelation Step-by-Step. This author answers the question, "Is Revelation in chronological order?"



new controversial issues files

CUJW07.TXT	27777	An Alarming Watchtower Situation. Powerful arguments to use against Jehovah's Witnesses.
CUCH13.TXT	10461	Dominion Theology. Is "Taking Dominion" Biblical? Interesting study.
ISMD10.TXT	5743	Pornography or Business? Article that draws a line between pornography and "free speech."



new apostolic doctrine files

ADBA23.TXT	9296	Baptism & Salvation. Discussion of Peter's words, "baptism doth also now save us."
ADBA24.TXT	9200	Infant Baptism. Article that shows why infant baptism is not acceptable.
ADGH56.TXT	14832	When Did Jesus Become God? Gordon Mallory discusses an important Godhead question.
ADGH61.TXT	9296	Jesus, Jehovah, Savior. A study of Jesus as "God, our Savior."
ADHG34.TXT	5200	God is Spirit. Discussion of the Spirit-and-Flesh distinction in the Godhead.
ADHG38.TXT	33832	10,000 Windmills Can't Be Wrong. Sermon by Paul Mooney on the work of the Holy Spirit.
ADHG39.TXT	8296	Sinced You First Believed. Study of the verse in Acts, "Have you received the Holy Ghost. . ."
ADHS83.TXT	4116	My Reward. The rewards that come when living for God.
ADNB34.TXT	9296	What Does It Mean to Believe? Tells how belief relates to Acts 2:38 salvation.
ADNB35.TXT	5916	Ye Must Be Born Again. Good Bible study on salvation as it relates to John 3.
ADTC23.TXT	8716	Belief. . . Does It Matter? This author answers, "Does it matter what you believe?"



new church management files

OPSW57.TXT	12342	The Necessity of Renewal. Why renewal is the most important part of outreach efforts.
OPSW58.TXT	10872	From Glory to Glory. Discussion of reaching people during times of crises.
OPSW59.TXT	14865	Wells and Cisterns. Material to share without outreach workers about "giving" of yourself.
OPSW60.TXT	12536	Love Finds a Way. Combatting people's excuses for not getting involved in outreach.
OPSW61.TXT	22536	Understanding the Power Within You. Study on the power to witness we each have within us.
OPSW56.TXT	10228	Renewal of the Holy Ghost. Article to share with outreach workers about the Holy Ghost.
GGFP42.TXT	25536	Keys to a Growing Church. This author gives eight principles for growing your congregation.



new computer software files

The following files, from our CD-ROM collection, are available only for request via mail order or our "800" number voice line, but are not available for direct download from AIS.

CD-ROM	439444	Kids' Chore Tracker. Great program to define, track children's chores, good and bad deeds.
CD-ROM	44437	Envelope Maker. Windows software to make your own church envelopes and stationery.
CD-ROM	142954	Card Me. Program that makes it easy to make professional-quality business cards.
CD-ROM	451526	Astronomer's Telescope. Educational program for Christian schools to teach about astronomy.
CD-ROM	73437	My Tutor. This Windows-based program drills you in four foreign languages.
CD-ROM	142954	Read-It. Improve your reading skills with this easy-to-use program.

The following files are available for direct download from the AIS Database:

BIBS50.ZIP	169257	Wonderful Grace. Computer tutorial on grace, works, and salvation.
BIBS51.ZIP	367145	Exploring Judaism. Excellent program that takes you through the origin, beliefs of Judaism.
BICM35.ZIP	118651	Church Treasurer. Program that makes it easy to track church finances.

AIS Subscribers: Receive all text files on this page for only \$3.95!

WORD TO THE WISE:

“Faith goes up the stairs that love has made and looks out of the windows which hope has opened.”
 —Charles Spurgeon



“IT’S ALWAYS A CHALLENGE TO KEEP JEREMY OCCUPIED DURING THE SERVICE.”

A worried mother visited her pastor out of concern for her son, Billy. “Pastor,” she said, “my son is running with a rough crowd and lies about everything.”

“Send him over to my office,” said the pastor. Just before the boy came, the pastor trashed the room.

As Billy entered the office, he exclaimed, “Pastor, what happened to your office?!?”

“Well, I was sitting at my desk when I heard a loud roar. The window flew open and a giant polar bear climbed in. Just when he was about to slash me with his claws, I heard this tiny bark from outside. Just then, this puny, wormy little poodle jumped through the window and snatched that old bear by the scruff of the neck. That poodle shook that bear all around and then dragged him out that window and ate him whole.” The pastor asked the boy, “Now Billy, do you believe that story?”

Billy looked up at the pastor with confidence and said, “Believe it?! That was my dog!”



“I’VE DATED GUYS WHO CARRIED BIBLES BUT NEVER ANYONE WHO CARRIED A TWELVE-VOLUME COMMENTARY.”

The Top 10 Reasons Adam & Eve had it made:

10. Not much danger of a church split.
 9. Adam: No house repairs; Eve: No laundry!
 8. No arguments on how to split the paycheck.
 7. At first, they didn’t know the meaning of the word “children.”
 6. Adam had no fussy mother-in-law.
 5. Eve didn’t have to hear what a great cook Adam’s mother was.
 4. Adam didn’t have to hear about all the great guys Eve “could have married.”
 3. Neither could blame their troubles on a bad childhood!
 2. The news media couldn’t exploit their expulsion from Eden
- And the number one reason Adam & Eve had it made:
1. Plenty of time off work.
-

A minister was matching coins with a member of his congregation for a cup of coffee. When asked if that didn’t constitute gambling, the minister replied, “It is merely a scientific method of determining just who is going to commit an act of charity.”



One particular minister felt his calling to reach into various American Indian tribes in North America. One day, as he was walking along the road not far away from a reservation, he saw one of those American Indians lying with his ear to the ground. He went over and listened.

The Indian said, “Large wheels, Ford pickup truck, green color, man driving with large police dog next to him, Colorado license plate and traveling about 75 miles per hour.”

The minister was astounded. “You mean you can tell all that just by listening with your ear to the ground,” he asked.

“Ear to the ground, nothing,” said the Indian. “That truck just ran over me.”

.....

Heckler: “Christianity hasn’t done much good. It’s been in the world for 1900 years and look at the mess we’re in.”

Preacher: “Soap has been in the world longer than that and look at the dirt on your face.”

.....

An actual traffic sign reads: “Clinton Next Left. Prosperity Next Right.”

Indiana Bible College Perspectives

Page 14

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Apostolics May Number Up to 18 Million

(Continued from page three)

recalled. "So I decided to use it as a test case. I was able to contact a German theologian over there who has for 20 years studied the Oneness movement. When we started, we thought we knew of four or five groups. When we finished the study, there were dozens and dozens of groups in Europe, all of whom came from a group of Apostolics that migrated from North America." So prominent is the Oneness message in Europe that in England, "the largest group of Pentecostals baptize in Jesus' name."

The Dark Continent

Next we come to the Dark Continent. Africa has long been a prime target for missionaries of all denominations. Oneness groups also have targeted this area heavily. And at the forefront of the Africa revival is the United Pentecostal Church International.

"The Africa region is by far the fastest-growing region in the world," said Brother French. "Every Apostolic group headquartered in the U.S. is working in Africa; and all your black Apostolic groups are working in Africa.

"Probably the fastest growth anywhere is in Ethiopia. Nothing anywhere in the world com-

people in the United Pentecostal Church in the United States. However, the total number of Oneness believers in the States is probably between five and six million. This is about one-third of the total Oneness constituency throughout the world," Brother French said. Other large groups in the States include the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World and the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith (See sidebar on page three).

Meanwhile, in recent years, the Oneness message has also exploded in Latin America regions. The UPCI, for instance, has seen significant growth in Central and South America. "The largest group, however," said Brother French, "is The Light of the World Church, a split off the Mexican Apostolic Assemblies. This one organization alone has almost a million members."

By the Numbers

When Brother French put all his research and statistics together, he came up with some unheard-of numbers. For instance, he has uncovered approximately 500 different organizations holding to the Apostolic message. "And I know without any doubt that there are many more times that," he said. French's numbers have already far surpassed 15 million Oneness believers worldwide; they may go as high as 18 million. Some other

conclusions based on his numbers:

- The vast majority of Oneness believers in the United States come from the African-American community.

- The Oneness movement, as a group, would constitute the fastest-growing Christian movement in the world.

- The UPCI is planting churches faster than any other major Pentecostal group. "I had a mathematician show me a formula to determine a rate of growth," said Brother French. "When I did the formulations, the Assemblies of God began to slow around the early 1980s, but the UPCI showed no significant decrease in the rate of church planting. The Church of God showed a slowdown in the late 1980s, but the UPC continued to grow, and continues to grow even now." From 1959-1992, the AOG grew at 40 percent, the COG at 54 percent, while the UPC grew at about 123 percent.

"It was said of us during the early days of this century, 'Don't worry: It will blow over.' And they were right -- It blew all over the world."

--Talmadge French

pires to it. The church there is rapidly approaching a million constituents. The UPC is the largest single group there and is growing phenomenally."

In addition, French's research shows a group called the Reformed Christian Church of South Africa that is Oneness in theology. The group, he said, has about 250,000 members.

Last Stop: The Americas

Not surprisingly, as we travel to South America, Central America, and head up to North America, we find phenomenal growth in the Oneness movement. The United Pentecostal Church, as the largest Oneness group in North America, largely spearheads the Apostolic movement in the Americas. Still, in North America itself, the UPCI accounts for only a small portion of Oneness believers.

"We have a maximum of about 700,000

Feedback

To the editor:

My son loves your "Smiles" page. In fact, as soon as my AIS packet comes, the Perspectives magazine disappears. What he then does is photocopy the page and adds it to his growing collection of "Smiles" pages. He then memorizes some of the jokes to use on his family and friends.

So what I'm saying is your humor page seems to hit the nail on the mark. Thanks also from myself for always bringing a smile to my own face through some of the funny lines. "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine" (Proverbs 17:22).

*--Ken Coffman
Winchester, IN*

To the editor:

The IBC Perspectives is an inspiring magazine! I have used information from this publication at many ladies' prayer meetings. Thanks and God bless.

*--Sister Dickson
Winchester, IN*

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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.

The Third Pentecostal Force

Just what is the true significance of these numbers? How do they impact the Oneness believer's life?

"For me, it strengthens my faith. Yes, I would believe this message if there were only five of us, but to think that there are millions and millions around the world who have made this same journey and discovered this truth for themselves boosts my faith tremendously," French said.

Also, he noted that if such research were to be widely circulated, it may help fight the notion of Apostolics as cultic; such a significant force within Christianity could not that easily be brushed aside.

"Pentecostalism has been called the 'Third Force' in Christianity; likewise, I call the Oneness belief the 'Third Force' in Pentecostalism. It really is an entity unto itself. And it's something that needs to be taken seriously by evangelical Christianity. It was said of us during the early days of this century, "Don't worry: It will blow over." And they were right - it blew all over the world."

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Frank Tammel	1-1
Jack Cunningham	1-2
Ron Libby	2-1
Ben Maracich	2-2
Jay Stirmemann	2-3
David Waddell	2-4
Lenord Westburg	2-5
David Elms	2-6
Donald Knight	2-7
Thomas Suey	2-8
Kenneth Haney	3-1
Mark Foster	3-2
Rick Robertson	3-3
Gary Howard	3-4
Phil White	3-5
Steve Willeford	3-6
Christian Ed.	3-7
Mile Chance	3-8
Scotty Teets	3-9
Ron Garrett	4-1
Mike Schmalz	4-2
Radio Pentecost	4-3
Fred Foster	4-4
Rick Pavlu	4-5
Art Hodges III	4-6
Chuck Welch	4-7
Tim McClure	4-8
Wayne Mitchell	4-9
Chuck Patterson	4-10
Bible College Acc.	4-11
Tim Bolin	4-12
Johnny Godair	5-1
Marrell Cornwell	5-2
David Stephens	5-3
John McDonald	5-4
Larry Sims	5-5
Call Ministry	5-6
David Robinson	5-7
Ray Cole	5-8
James Lashley	5-9
Doug Davis	5-10
James Carney	5-11
T. W. Barns	5-12
Micheal Mitchell	6-1
Pentecost 2000	6-2
Nate Wilson	6-3
Robert Henson	6-4
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--Brett Healey, Sophomore



I came to Indiana Bible College after being introduced to it on a trip to Indianapolis. I had been praying that God would give me direction, and He began dealing with me about going. After I came, everything just started working out for me. What I've found that's really affected me has been the friendly and exciting atmosphere at IBC. This college has the right personality for me.
--Rob Beckwith, Junior



Our daughter Melissa Schnitzer, we firmly believe, is in the will of God in attending IBC. There are processes taking place in her life that cannot be measured in academic equivalents alone. To hear her stories about various outreach trips and chorale tour stops is always a great joy. IBC was the right choice for us.
--Art Schnitzer, father of
Melissa Schnitzer, Junior



We owe thanks to IBC for their commitment to excellence and their call to train the next generation to carry this message of truth. We personally were given a solid foundation to build our ministry upon. IBC was the right choice, because we were exposed to different needs of our world, and from this came our burden for missions.
--Brian, Lakelie Williams
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Interviews by Rick McGee & Joel Richardson

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