



APOSTOLIC NEWS: John Hatch discusses New Yorks "Church in a Day" program.



GUEST PULPIT "In Their Own Eyes" - A sermon outline by Brother Johnny Godair.

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Indiana Bible College Perspectives

Apostolic Information Service

Vol. 6, No.3

Nathaniel J. Wilson:

Power to Lead!



Above: Brother Nathaniel J. Wilson, pastor of The Rock Church, Sacramento, CA.

Editor's note: For Pastor Nathaniel J. Wilson of Sacramento's The Rock Church, growth is as simple as exalting the Lord and allowing Him to draw in souls (And, with an average attendance of about 800 after only 15 years, who can argue?) More critical to him than certain outreach programs has been his training of leaders. For, according to Brother Wilson, if he can get his leaders to share his vision about having a church centered on Jesus Christ, growth will come. What follows is a portion of an interview IBC's Brother O.C. Marler conducted with Brother Wilson:

Good morning, Bro. Wilson. How are things out there?

Well, we just got through with our six a.m. prayer meeting. I'm not trying to

sound super spiritual; we don't do this every morning, but we do it on a regular basis.

You mean to tell me that prayer is one of the things you have to do to build a good church?

(Laughter). Well, we don't do enough of it, but Jesus said to pray, so we pray.

Before we start, let me ask you, Brother Wilson: Do you really know enough to wobble through this interview?

No, I really don't (Laughs). But if you lead, then I'll try to follow.

What I want to do is talk about your early days. Tell us a little about where you grew up.

I have a long lineage in Pentecost, but I didn't know it until I was grown. I thought I was just from some weird, lonely kind of background, but I later came to find out that I'm just one of hundreds of Pentecostals on both sides of my family.

I was raised in a little country church where our pastors stayed an average of eighteen months each.

If they were lucky.

Well yeah, they didn't all stay that long. One stayed for six years, so he made up for all those who stayed only 60 days or whatever.

I was the only Apostolic in my high school when I got the Holy Ghost. When I got it, it was a short time afterwards that I heard Bro. Verbal Bean. My folks took me to his meetings every night they were in Fresno. Brother Bean dramatically affected my life when I was 14. The other two people who dramatically influenced me are my father, because of his character, and Brother Clyde Haney, who influenced me concerning the importance of the Word. Those three profoundly shaped my attitude."

When did you start preaching?

When I was about 16. I preached my first revival when I was 18 at my home church. We went for six weeks, seven nights a week.

(Continued on page three)



Above: The exterior facilities at The Rock Church in Sacramento, pastored by Nathaniel Wilson.

OUR NEXT OPINIONS TOPIC: "Positives & Negatives of Video"

If you have a topic that you would like to see addressed on the "Opinions" page, send your suggestion to: Apostolic Information Service, P.O. Box 47917, Indianapolis, IN 46247. Or call (800) 8000-AIS.

Opinions Interviews by Aaron Adkins

Opinions



John Cupit
Pastor
Metairie, LA

The main consideration in addressing the subject of interracial marriage is not skin color, but culture. You cannot prove Scripturally that marrying somebody of a different skin color is a sin. Therefore, when I counsel people, I always advise them of the culture shock they might experience.

It's interesting, for instance, that not all people that we call "blacks" welcome that label. The Jamaicans, for example, don't like to be lumped with the African-Americans because of vast cultural differences. Their skin color is similar, but they are of completely different cultures. These cultural differences often lead to conflict if they marry someone of the other culture - despite the similar skin colors. In fact, blacks from this country often have such drastic cultural differences from blacks in other countries as to cause problems.

There is also the issue of how society and family members are going to react. And these kinds of things are particularly difficult on children, who often struggle with just who they are. For all of these reasons, I normally try to discourage interracial marriages - for cultural purposes, not skin color. Yet always, we welcome these couples into our services.



The Church and Interracial Marriage

AIS VIEW: Since God's view on race is that all are equal, the church must welcome families of all racial compositions into the congregation, with no condemnation. Wisdom, however, would dictate that, because of societal pressures, Apostolic saints should proceed with caution in the area of interracial marriage.

I pastor a multicultural church, and I must say that in all my years here, I've performed only one interracial marriage. I'm not one to spout off my own personal opinions, but rather, to speak where the Bible speaks. And honestly, from a Biblical perspective, I could not stop a couple from marrying simply on the basis of skin color. Ultimately, skin distinctions are based on the amount of melanin in the skin, which is the chemical that protects certain races from the ultraviolet rays of the sun. But as for blood, all blood is the same.

I emphasize three Biblical points when I counsel people about marriage: 1) You can have only one spouse. 2) You can only marry the opposite sex. And 3) you can only marry a believer. You're free to marry who you will in the Lord.

So while I cannot Scripturally forbid interracial marriage, neither do I promote it. In as much as possible, I discourage it. The reason is because of the social implications. There is more to consider in marriage than your own preferences. You also have to consider your family's reaction. After all, marriage is a package deal.

Marriage is a lifetime relationship, and you ought to enter it with eyes wide open.



Trevor Neil
Pastor
McMurray, AB, Canada



Joe Ellis
Pastor
Canton, OH

There is absolutely no Bible that teaches interracial relationships are wrong. The Apostle Paul said we're all part of the one Body, Jew and Gentile. The battle the early church had was with prejudice against the Samaritans, who were half-breeds between Jews and Gentiles. But Jesus made all races equal and on the same level.



John Engelhardt
Pastor
Muskego, WI

I find no problem with a man and woman of different color being together. There is sometimes a problem, however, with the blending of cultures. In counseling such a couple interested in marriage, I would just advise them to pray about it and always be mindful of what their future family and friends might say and think.



John Allard
Pastor
Oskaloosa, IA

I think interracial marriage makes a hardship for the family. Where we're at in Iowa, it's not looked on very favorably, so in this area, it would make things difficult for the family. Of course, in the beginning, God did create a division between the races, and it seems that He wanted there to be some kind of distinction.



Lincoln Fry
Pastor
Superior, WI

I don't think interracial marriage is wrong. The Bible states that there needs to be separation between the world and the church, but it never states that the races should not mix. I would hope that they would understand that not everybody's going to understand their relationship, but by marrying, they've done nothing wrong.



Daniel Fritsch
Pastor
DePere, WI

I can't find any place in the Bible where color is to separate us. True, we're not to be unequally involved with non-believers, but separation of the races is not Biblical. You can go in the Old Testament and find commands to Israel not to marry other outside of their race, but in the New Testament, we're not bound to those physical laws.



Dennis Allman
Pastor
Seymour, IN

It's not Biblically wrong to be involved in interracial marriages, but if I were counseling such a couple wanting to be married, I would sit down with them and try to get them to see the possible repercussions of bringing children into this kind of family. While it's not necessarily wrong, it can be extremely hard on the children.

Nathaniel J. Wilson:

Power to Lead!

(Continued from page one)

Cover Story

When did Sister Mary come into the picture?

She came in the picture when I was 12 years old and I went to youth camp. She was 11, and when we saw each other, it was love at first sight. We didn't get married right away though; we waited until we were a little older.

Would you tell us a little bit about how you started The Rock Church?

There were only nine people here when I took the church. Three of them left within the first two weeks, so I lost 33 percent of my congregation within 14 days! But there was a little building which was in foreclosure. However, we were able to get it out of foreclosure and get it going. When we sold it, we used that money to get the property where we are now located. So there were two or three families who came with us here, and we have just worked at it all this time.

Can you remember your first service?

Yeah, it was pretty pitiful.

But you felt good, right?

No, I felt horrible. I felt horrible for months, but I didn't let the people know that. I'd go in and preach to empty pews. I'd tell the ushers to go out and tell the people to park their cars closer together. Of course, there actually were no ushers and there were no cars except two or three. But I was trying to keep my adrenaline flowing.

So how long have you been pastoring there?

That was in 1981, so it's been 15 years.

And you have a few more than two or three now, right?

Well, we've filled up our 800-person sanctuary. It's filled to the brim.

That's one of the things we were wanting to know about: the facilities you have now.

We have 15 acres and 14 buildings. Like I said, our current sanctuary seats 800, but not comfortably. We do have plans at the architect's right now to develop a 2,500 seat sanctuary. We are also just finishing up nine new classrooms, each about a thousand square feet, which is big for a classroom. So we're trying to do all the stuff that people do when they're growing.

What are some of the keys or steps a person needs to take in order to have a revival church?

Oh mercy! You might have the wrong person! I just try to live right, love people, keep my heart right, and preach the Gospel! Really, Jesus is the attraction.

But a lot of people try to live right and love God, but not everybody has a revival church.

You're making this interview difficult! True, the dynamics are sometimes more involved than we sometimes realize. However, it's in the simplicity of simply lifting up Jesus. We don't concentrate as much on outreach or door-knocking or home Bible studies here as some churches. Yes, we do those things, but I don't want people programmed into doing them. I

Right: Brother Wilson baptizes a new convert. Below left: Inside the sanctuary of The Rock Church. Below right: The altar service following a Sunday night message by Brother Nathaniel Wilson



No, I don't think so. For us, that organizational stuff was after the fact. You have revival and then it demands that you have organization to stack people in the right piles. Most of our organizational staff is maintenance. That is, they're there to maintain the people once they're drawn in. I don't want to give people the idea that if they have the right organizational structure, they'll have revival. That's backwards.

Your concept of leadership centers more around everybody being involved in the church somewhere, doesn't it?

I'm glad you mentioned that, because that's a critical point. In the New Testament way of

want saints to do them because they're so

absolutely blown away with Jesus that they can't help but go out there and turn the world topsy-turvy!

So instead, we concentrate our real efforts more on "in-draw" rather than outreach. Our philosophy is to follow Jesus' words, "If I be lifted up . . . I will draw all men unto me." So we just feel like we're in the drawing business. And it's working for us. We're not a real big church, but we probably average 300 first-time visitors a month.

So then, where should a revival pastor place his priorities?

On maintaining a good church where there is spiritual glory. People are hungry. I don't think people stay home from church

because they're not hungry. They stay home because there's not enough spiritual glory in the place they go. It's a natural tendency for people to want to come together. So if people don't want to come to your church, you're doing something wrong, because Jesus draws people. The key is getting people interested in ministry.

But you do you have departmentalization and organization of some sort?

Oh yeah, we have all that.

Well, that might be part of the key to your growth.

doing things, all Christians are called to be leaders. This is important for a church to function right. Every person is a leader in his own right; he just has to find out where his place of leadership is.

Find out who you are and what God wants from you?

I think that's a number one priority. If you look at the life of Jesus, before He ever started ministry, He went through the whole temptation experience, which was a discovery time in which He discovered His ministry and call. Repeatedly the devil was questioning His identity: "If thou be the Son of God. . ." So the child of God had better know who he is and what exactly that God has called him to do.

So where does the whole concept of charisma and personality come into play in the

(Continued on page 14)

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The Minister's Finances

AIS INTERVIEW With Carl Morgan



Editor's note: Carl Morgan is the Executive Assistant for Finance of the Foreign Missions Division, United Pentecostal Church International, where he's been serving for five years. Also a certified public accountant, Brother Morgan is frequently sought by Apostolic ministers for counseling concerning ministerial finances. Recently, AIS discussed with Brother Morgan various finance-related questions. Portions of the interview are printed below.

and the amount not deductible. This allocation must be based upon a percentage relationship of non-taxable ministerial income to total ministerial income. For example, if a minister's housing allowance is 40 percent of total ministerial income, 40 percent of that minister's business expenses are not eligible for deduction. The element of the tax law emphasizes the need to operate with a full accountable reimbursement policy.

Any idea what percentage of our ministers would be in trouble if they were audited?

Wow, that's a loaded question! I couldn't really say, except that there would be a considerable number that, if detailed audits were conducted, would find themselves having adjustments made unfavorable to themselves. Many have probably failed to include some items as income or forgotten to keep records for some of the deductions they've taken.

What have you noticed to be the problem areas for ministers filing their returns?

There are a variety of things. One thing I see a lot is a failure to utilize a ministerial housing allowance. There is a provision set aside in the Internal Revenue Code entitling them to compensation that would be tax-free as long as it's used for providing housing. We especially find evangelists not taking full advantage of this provision. This is unfortunate, because it can save the evangelist substantially.

Also, we frequently find pastors who fail to properly recognize everything that is actually accruing to them as income. Basically, we find an under-reporting of income.

Do you see the IRS scrutinizing ministers more today than in the past?

There have been indications that in the future, clergy members may be subjected to closer scrutiny, although it's not really come to pass yet. It very well could; the fact that many times when a pastor is audited, there is an adjustment made, gives the perception that there may be a lot of income to be collected from them. But right now, there hasn't yet been that kind of scrutiny.

Is it important for a church to make sure all funds (such as tithes and offerings) go to one general church account?

It's important that these funds all go into a single church record. We have many churches that compensate the pastor with a percentage

of the tithe income. I often see where that tithing income does not all go into the books and records of the church, but rather, as the members give the tithes, the tithing envelopes get turned over to the pastor, and he uses the money for whatever. As a result, there's no actual record entered into the church books. That leaves a wide gap open for IRS scrutiny. I'm not going to say how the pastor should be compensated, but it is extremely important that all finances go into the church books and records and can be clearly traced and identified.

Do you recommend that ministers opt out of paying Social Security taxes?

I personally don't recommend either way. There is a requirement that if you do opt out, you're certifying that you are conscientiously opposed to any kind of public retirement or assistance program, and I really question whether we can honestly sign a form requesting such an exemption. Practical experience shows me that most people sign the form because they just don't want to pay those taxes. If a person does elect to exempt out of the system, then that person needs to adequately prepare for retirement, disability, or death in some other way.

Speaking of that, how should a minister prepare for retirement?

He should try to establish adequate retirement funding through the use of Individual Retirement Accounts, participation in other qualified retirement programs, and through investment opportunities. The minister should try to project potential income needs in his years of retirement and make investments now into sound vehicles so that there is funding to take care of those needs when he reaches retirement age. Finances need not be a terror to the minister. He just needs to be adequately prepared. AIS

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Carl Morgan was interviewed by AIS Managing Editor Richard C. Brown.

Have there been any significant tax changes affecting ministers?

A few. The standard mileage rate has increased for 1996 to 31 cents a mile. Also, pastors, ministers and especially evangelists are able to use the meal and incidental allowance for their traveling away from home overnight. Most are not aware this exists. The allowances can be used regardless of the actual cost of their meals.

What advice do you have for preventing an audit or surviving one if it happens?

If you're a pastor, you should make sure to establish at the local church a full accountable reimbursement policy so that the church is actually reimbursing the pastor as much as possible for all ministerial expenses incurred. That keeps those expenses off the pastor's personal return and keeps his return clean and neat. This by itself does wonderful things in terms of preventing an audit. If there is an audit, the best advice is for the pastor to have and maintain proper records. One of the big problem areas we've seen regarding records is that pastors just don't like to keep mileage records. But if they don't have the record, it's very difficult to substantiate the mileage deduction.

What have you seen that often triggers a ministerial audit?

One of the big things that triggers an audit is a large amount of travel expense, including excessive amounts on meals, motels, or air fare. That tends to be a very large item of deduction on a lot of ministerial returns, and can by its very nature trigger an audit.

Also, housing allowance can occasionally trigger an audit, especially if it's large in dollar amount in comparison with their other ministerial income. Finally, one of the biggest areas of adjustment is the failure to allocate ministerial expenses reported on the minister's income tax return into the amount deductible

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

As an evangelist, what is the best way to get meetings or speaking engagements?

I've not kept records, but I would guess that this is the number one question that is asked of me by young ministers. Through the years, my answer has been pretty consistent, so I'll just state some of the basic things in this short column.

1) As in most of life, attitude (good spirit) is everything. Wherever you go and whoever you are with, always remember that your attitude comes through. You are building, consciously or unconsciously, a reputation or image by your actions and attitudes.

2) Develop good manners. As you expose yourself to others and are meeting people who can help you in your ministry, always exemplify good manners.

3) Without being a "holder-on," try nevertheless to be a mixer. Go to camps, conventions, seminars, meet people; but never be overbearing or too persistent. Being invited to be in the group is important, but sometimes knowing when to say no or when to leave can also be a reflection of your good character.

4) When given an opportunity to testify, do just that. Trying to be a 90-second prophet, attempting to solve all the problems in the world, is not a way to make a good impression. Speaking into the microphone confidently and courteously, however, is a good way to make an impression.

5) When given a chance to speak early on in your ministry, do not attempt to take too much authority. Speak boldly, fulfill the will of God, but at the same time remember that you may be a novice, and you should be careful not to get out of your place.

6) Finally, be helpful when opportunity presents itself. Having the spirit of a servant, if sincere, will open lots of doors for you.



T. W. Massengale

■ Outreach

I am constantly hearing about how great an outreach method that the home Bible study ministry is. While I'm sure it's worked well for some, it's been a total flop in my church. I just can't seem to get any of my people to teach them. What are other churches doing that has caused this ministry to work so well?

Without a doubt, home Bible study is one of the most effective outreach ministries that a local church can engage in. What's more, it seems to be an extremely Biblical form of evangelism as well; the Bible says the early



T.R. O'Daniel

■ Theology

Is using the baptismal formula, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, which is Jesus Christ" acceptable?

This is a tough one. To deny that the baptism would be valid is difficult, as this is the correct understanding of Matthew 28:19. However, I am not comfortable with those who are supposedly baptizing this way as it seems to be an attempt to compromise on the correct formula for baptism, which is some form of "in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ." This is the way the Apostles baptized in obedience to Matthew 28:19.

Christendom changed the formula for baptism to "quote" Matthew 28:19 in support of a Trinitarian view of the Godhead (one God in three persons). Trinitarian doctrine was basically a compromise position between the strict monotheistic teaching of Scripture and the early church and the polytheistic beliefs of pagan Hellenistic philosophy. They thus began an evolution away from Christ and the biblical truth that "in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 2:9).

In taking true-false tests, it is imperative to remember that if a statement is partially false, it is to be identified as false. Mixing truth with falsehood produces falsehood. While we are to speak the truth in love, that does not include mixing truth with error in order to compromise. The Apostles rejoiced that they were counted worthy to be persecuted for the name of Jesus. Jesus said that if we were ashamed of Him, He would be ashamed of us (Luke 9:26). I, for one, am not ashamed to be a Jesus' name Apostolic, and I stand in opposition to any doctrine or baptism that attempts to compromise with pagans or even other nominal Christians who omit the saving name of Jesus.

church went from house to house teaching the Word. But the key to making this ministry successful lies primarily in three areas: training, promotion, and example.

When you talk about home Bible study, many people envision someone getting up to teach lecture-style. They do not realize how informal, easy and enjoyable that a home Bible study truly is.

The way to overcome this mental block is with training. Use material such as, *The Home Bible Study Workshop*, by Scott Carley or *How to Teach a Home Bible Study*, by Search for Truth.

Teach your people *how* to teach. Emphasize the simplicity of the study and the power of the Word. You should plan to have several training workshops each year.



O. C. Marler

■ Family

The feeling that I have not treated my parents right has haunted me for years. Although I have never hit them, too often I "talk back" when my mouth gets the better of me and say things I later regret. I pray about it, but I just can't seem to control my tongue. My parents, whom I dearly love, tell me that I will pay for my wrong. I am confused and deeply frustrated.

The world today says that we should give vent to our frustrations - expressing rather than suppressing them. However, even though this sounds good, acting out our feelings often causes us to step outside our Christian responsibility.

When your parents say something that angers you, even though you cannot keep from feeling the anger, you can control your reaction. In Ephesians 4:26, the Apostle Paul said, "Be ye angry, and sin not . . ." There is an interval between the time you feel the anger and the time you respond to it. You have a moment to choose between snapping back or saying, "Lord, help me get myself under control."

Snapping back will continue to hurt yourself and your parents. Making a quick acknowledgment to God at the moment of anger will more likely cause you to answer responsibly and with love.

Respecting and honoring our parents is right. But our tongue - the unruly member - sometimes gets in the way of our good intentions. The Bible instructs us that the person who bridle his own tongue can control his whole being.

The secret in gaining such control lies at the moment of our anger. We need to season our response by obediently acknowledging God and then responding in love.

Secondly, successful home Bible study churches promote this ministry constantly. A week will rarely pass without Bible studies being mentioned several times. Try scheduling a specific time each week to promote the ministry. Keep it visible. For a complete set of promotional ideas, request or download file HBMA01.TXT from the Apostolic Information Service.

Finally, a pastor must be willing to consistently teach Bible studies himself. The church needs to see that the home Bible study ministry works and it will be the fruit of these studies that will show them. Plus, your most committed teachers are often those won from the Bible study ministry. If nobody else in the church will teach, the pastor and his converts will!



RELIGIOUS TRENDS

More Christians Doctrinally-Illiterate

Most people who claim to be "born again Christians" feel their religious beliefs are important to their lives. However, a significant number is ignorant concerning certain essentials of Christian belief.

This was the conclusion of a just-released survey of the Barna Research Group. According to the survey, 87 percent of Christians call their beliefs "very important." And yet, many strayed from traditional Biblical teaching in the following areas:

- 49 percent agreed that Satan is not a literal being, but rather "a symbol of evil."
- 39 percent believe they will go to heaven if he or she "is generally good or does enough good things for others."
- 30 percent called Jesus simply "a great teacher" who "did not come back to physical life after he was crucified."
- 29 percent said that when Jesus lived on earth, He "was human and committed sins, like other people."
- 29 percent said "there are some crimes, sins, or other things which people might do which cannot be forgiven by God."

• Finally, 26 percent disagree with the view that they personally "have a responsibility to tell other people" about the Lord.

Interestingly, in many cases, Christian views of the Bible mirrored non-Christian views. For instance, 81 percent of non-Christians thought the Bible teaches "that God helps those who help themselves," one percent fewer - 80 percent - of Christians thought the same thing.

The Barna survey involved 1,007 adults, each phoned randomly. The survey has a three-point margin of error.

PENTECOSTALS

Survey: Fewer Speak in Tongues

Despite steady growth in Pentecostal and Charismatic churches, the percentage of Americans claiming to have spoken in tongues remains at seven percent, a number which has been at the same level since 1979. This was the finding of a Barna survey released in January.

What this means is that, because a larger number of people claim to be Pentecostal, the percentage of people in those churches who have spoken in tongues has actually decreased dramatically. "This issue, as much as any other," said pollster George Barna, "divides the body of believers."

The survey comes on the heels of a declaration by Thomas Trask, general superintendent of the Assemblies of God, that only about half of his denomination's 2.2 million members have spoken in tongues. "We may be Pentecostal in doctrine," said Trask, "but not in practice."

MEDIA

Gospel Music Growing Rapidly

Gospel music sales are growing at a faster rate than all other musical genres, according to a new study by the Gospel Music Association. According to the study, Gospel music has averaged 22 percent growth a year, while other formats such as rock, jazz, alternative, and country have seen growth rates of five percent or below.

MORALITY

War for Same-Sex Marriage Heats Up

The battle over legalizing homosexual marriages heated up during March on several fronts. Last month, AIS reported on attempts to pass a law in the Hawaii legislature making gay marriages acceptable, and on efforts by California, Washington, and Idaho to invalidate those marriages in their states. Since then:

• A bill was introduced during the late weeks of winter in Colorado to define "marriage" as a union between a man and a woman. Colorado Governor Roy Romer vetoed the bill March 25, saying it is "mean-spirited," "divisive," and "unnecessary." Romer's office reported receiving 200,000 letters, faxes, and phone calls, 65 percent of which favored the ban on gay marriages. Romer's office, however, discounted them, calling them "an orchestrated effort" to sway him.

• On the same date as Romer's veto, 200 gay and lesbian couples participated in a "marriage" ceremony in San Francisco. Focus on the Family reported that the event "was prominently featured in every major liberal paper in the country."

Meanwhile, Capitol Resource Institute, a conservative think-tank, called for an end to the move to legalize homosexual marriages. The Institute's Randy Thomasson said that same-sex marriages "would mean homosexuality would be taught to children in state schools as a good and natural alternative to heterosexuality, and taxpayers would foot the bill for the homosexual life-style through state worker compensation systems."

The issue that most concerns Christians and pro-family groups is the clause in the Constitution that calls for all states to recognize "the full faith and credit" of other states, which has traditionally been interpreted to mean that each state should honor marriages performed in the others.

News In Brief...

- ◆ The U.S. Centers for Disease Control says the ratio of pregnancies ending in abortion compared to the number of live births has dropped to 334 abortions per 1,000 births, the lowest level since 1977.
- ◆ In Waynesboro, PA, atheist Carl Silverman has filed a complaint with the school board, saying that if Gideons are allowed to distribute Bibles to fifth-graders, he should be allowed to give an Atheist tract also.
- ◆ The Canadian Radio-Television Commission is calling for Christian broadcasters to provide "balance" in their programming.

STRANGE WORLD

SHOCKING BEER REVELATION

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

- At taxpayer expense, the University of North Carolina conducted and released results of a study last year of 12,000 who drink beer. The conclusion of the study: People who drink beer have larger bellies than those who don't.
- New Hampshire prosecutors in March dismissed marijuana charges against two Keene State college students when Judge Philip Mangones ruled that the two were too "stoned" to give legal consent to have their room searched.
- An occult veterinarian? Apparently so, as the *Arizona Republic* tells of Krista Cantrell, an animal psychologist who says her success with animals comes because she can communicate telepathically with dogs and is therefore able to get to the bottom of most owner-pet relationship problems.

Church Building Made Easy:

New York District Builds a 'Church in a Day'

HOME MISSIONS

Apostolic News

By Richard C. Brown

Just think of it as church building and expansion for the microwave oven generation. Right in time to meet the spiritual needs of a fast-paced world comes the New York District's "Church in a Day" program, which erects new places of worship in the time it takes most to get the building permit.

"The Church in a Day Concept," noted New York Home Missions Director John Hatch, "is the brainchild of New York District Superintendent David Robinson, and is the result of a desire to be of assistance to those who are searching, but with difficulty, to find an adequate building in which to worship



John Hatch

God and invite people."

Under the program, which Hatch says was borrowed from the Arkansas District, a set of church plans was designed for a facility that is almost 3,000 square feet. The building has seating for about 100, five Sunday school rooms, a small office, and a small storage room that could alternately be used as a changing area for the baptistry.

"It's then up to the home missionary and his congregation to get property. Then on a set day, we have men who have volunteered from throughout the District to come in and get the church up, ideally in one day."

Brother Hatch said the District has done the project once now, and is looking for other home missionaries to assist with a similar building.

"This first one was actually done right here at our church in Batavia," Hatch said. "We'd started the church seven years ago, in 1988. For seven years, we had met in the YWCA.

About a year ago, we were able to purchase property. From there, the 'Church in a Day' program took over. Ours was sort of the pilot program."

Hatch said a crew of about 15 started working at two o'clock Thursday afternoon; by Saturday night, the crew (now up to 60) had the building up, with 50 percent of the siding on, furnaces installed, about 75 percent of the duct-work for heating and air conditioning installed, and about 40 percent of the building's wiring run.

"We're doing this for one reason only," Hatch stressed. "That's to help the home missionary reach souls in his area. Many times, a home missions congregation cannot help themselves. They don't have the manpower, expertise or funds. We expect this program to be a great blessing from God for people in this situation." For more information about Church in a Day, you may contact Brother Hatch at (716) 343-8349.

Simeon Young Writes New One-Hour Bible Study: 'Seven Steps of Salvation'

OUTREACH METHODS

This Bible study is a response to the teaching of 'easy believism,' or what I call 'cheap grace.'" The study to which Brother Simeon Young Sr. refers is "The Seven Steps of Salvation," a one-hour Bible study which he and his son, Simeon, Jr., wrote.

"Seven Steps" is a 12-page study designed to be taught to an individual in a casual atmosphere, and then given to the person to keep. It addresses that doctrine of the mainline evangelical churches teach which they label "grace." From there, it springboards into the Apostolic message of Acts 2:38 salvation.

"I put together a Bible study which I taught the church several years ago to address that doctrine. I taught the Bible study and laid it aside. But my wife copied down the outline and several years later, Simeon Jr. came along and found it and taught it to some people he was witnessing to. Then he started

preaching it. He's the one who prompted us to put it together in this 12-page format,"

said Brother Young, who pastors in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Brother Young said the study is specifically designed in an easily-carried format and encourages participation by the church saints. Teachers carry the studies with them much like tracts. Each study takes from 30 minutes to an hour to teach, and can be taught in almost any setting.

"The response we've received has been overwhelming," Young said. "We've sold more than 1,500 of them so far."

While Brother Young said the Bible study is primarily designed as an outreach tool, he also sees other purposes for it.

"One of the purposes I'd like to see 'Seven Steps' fulfilling is to be a constant reminder for our own people of where we stand doctrinally. This provides a quick and easy reference for them, which is important. This matter of grace is a pivotal issue, because our view on it is what makes us really different from other Christian groups.

"For the same reason, it makes an excellent Bible study to teach on Bible study night or as a Sunday school lesson," Young continued. "We've had several pastors tell us they've taught it right from their pulpits."

Bible studies are available for \$2.00 a copy by writing Brother Young at P.O. Box 2125, Terre Haute, IN 47802. Or call (812) 894-2679.

About Your Copy of Perspectives

FROM THE PUBLISHER

By Paul D. Mooney

Thank you for your positive response to *Perspectives*. Originally, the magazine was available only as a part of the Apostolic Information Service packet each month. However, it captured so much attention that the request for separate subscriptions kept increasing each month.

The college then adopted the magazine from the AIS ministry making it our official college voice, sending it out periodically, as possible, and then finally offering it to anyone who subscribed. The subscription response was gratifying.

However, at a recent staff meeting I mentioned that I felt compelled to send the magazine to each UPCI pastor, and to as many others as possible, without cost. Although everyone looked at me a little funny at first, I felt strongly about it; the magazine is so unique, and offers such a fine monthly ad resource to people with good ministry products, and covers issues across a broad spectrum, plus exposes us to opinions from so many different people that -- well -- it would be a shame not to

(Continued on page 14)



Paul D. Mooney
Perspectives Publisher



Simeon Young

- A large percentage of fast-growing churches in America are African-American. Here's why.
- There is a right way to offer criticism to persons under your ministry.
- Owen Taylor tells what a board of trustee's legal liabilities are.

PREACHER'S PICKS

Recently we asked Bible college instructors what resource books should be in every minister's library. Brother O.C. Marler, Indiana Bible College Director of Public Relations, instructor, and author, offered these:

- *Wisdom on America*, by Richard C. Halverson (Vision House Pub.)
- *Facts the Historians Leave Out*, by John S. Tilley (Bill Coates, Ltd.)
- *10 Secrets for a Successful Family*, by Adrian Rogers (Good News)
- *Perilous Pursuits*, by Joseph M. Stowell (Moody Press)
- *The Natural Zone: Back Door to the USA*, by Don Marler (Dogwood Press, Rt. 2, Box 3270, Woodville, TX 75979)

■ black churches on the grow

According to Christianity Today, most of the fastest-growing churches in the United States today are predominately African-American in membership. In fact, as recently as 1991, of the 15 rapid-growers, nine were black churches. According to church-growth expert John Vaughan, several factors contribute to this trend: 1) Many of the churches have added to

their attendance by shortening their traditionally-long services; 2) some have grown by adding multiple Sunday morning services; 3) others have welcomed larger crowds by building larger church buildings; 4) and finally, many have begun offering special interest ministries such as family counseling, drug counseling, and divorce recovery.

■ book review

The Literal Word: 1 Corinthians, by Dr. Marvin D. Treece, 1995 Treasure House, Shippensburg, PA, 444 pages, hardcover, \$28.00. To order call: (800) 722-6774

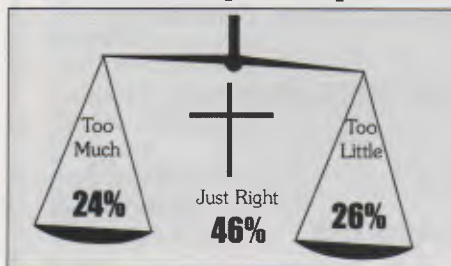
This third volume of Dr. Treece's *Literal Word* series provides an in-depth look at Paul's first epistle to the Corinthians. Further, it is the first truly scholarly work examining the book from an Apostolic perspective.

However, although Dr. Treece does admirably cover subjects such as the hair question and the subject of spiritual gifts from the Pentecostal view, to call this simply an Apostolic apologetic misses the point. Rather, in this large volume, the author demonstrates that Oneness theologians need not be considered second-rate. This work is a thorough exegesis of I Corinthians, giving detailed analysis of the book from the Greek text. It's not always an easy read, but for the serious student of the Word, it will always leave him feeling fulfilled in his study.

■ positive criticism

Most ministry leaders find themselves at times needing to be "helpfully critical" of those under their ministries. Here are ways that motivational experts say to do so: 1) See yourself as a teacher or coach - as being helpful. 2) Show you care in concrete ways. 3) Pick the right time to offer criticism (Not, for instance, during an emotional crisis in the person's life). 4) Avoid telling people they "should" do something. This makes you appear rigid. 5) Overuse polite phrases like "please" and "thank you." (Source: *How to Love the Job You Hate*, by Jane Boucher, Thomas Nelson Publishers).

■ american pulse: preachers and politics



Most preachers strive for a balance when it comes to political issues. They want to speak out on the issues, yet not be perceived as obsessed with the topic. Apparently, the public thinks most religious leaders do a good job in this area. To the left are the numbers of people who think religious leaders have too much influence on people's political views, too little, and just the right amount.

Source: The Gallup Poll

Church Law

By Owen Taylor

A common concern in many churches concerns the board of trustees. Specifically, if a trustee is not paid, is he liable for any judgments or other financial responsibilities?

Typically, a trustee of a nonprofit organization, including churches, has a measure of immunity from lawsuits. This immunity is under state statute where the individual serves as a volunteer, without compensation. The only payment such a person may receive would be reimbursement for actual expenses to attend meetings.

However, this immunity does not extend to the number of activities that many members find themselves involved with while acting as a member of the board. Also, a recent case ruled that the fact that a board member is not a resident of the state in which the organization is located is not a defense to being sued in the state of the organization. The areas of common liability for board members are nonpayment of withholding taxes by the organization, tort liability, contract liability, breach of duty of care, breach of duty of loyalty, violation of securities laws, wrongful discharge, exceeding the authority of the board, and situations concerning loans to board members. I can only address one of these areas in this response.

The law requires board members to perform their duties "in good faith, in a manner they reasonably believe to be in the best interests of the organization." "Good faith" requires the undivided loyalty of a board member and prohibits the board member from using this position of trust for his own personal gain to the detriment of the organization.



Call Owen Taylor personally at (410) 757-8080.



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--Rev. Jared Arango, Newport News, VA



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--Rev. Gary Howard, Tulsa, OK

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--Rev. Joseph Forbush, Richmond, VA

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In Their Own Eyes

Selected Sermon Outline by Johnny Godair

TEXT: Judges 17:5. "...every man did that which was right in his own eyes..."



Johnny Godair is pastor of the United Pentecostal Church of Durham, NC, as well as North Carolina District Superintendent.

It was a sad day in Israel's history. There was no king in the land, and consequently, according to the Scripture, every man sought after and did whatever he wanted to do. He did what seemed right in his own eyes; chaos and confusion were the results. Through many years of life without a ruling voice, the nation of Israel degenerated into more and more wickedness and sin. This is the legacy of a people left without a voice for righteousness!

SOMEONE TOLD THE STORY about a little hotel which entertained traveling preachers for free. And so a certain preacher went into this hotel. He stayed a few days, and when he got ready to leave, he was presented with a bill. He argued, "I thought preachers were entertained and kept free in this place!" The innkeeper said, "Sir, since you've come here, you have eaten your meals without asking the blessing, nobody here has ever seen you with a Bible, you have smoked big cigars, and you have talked about everything but religion and God. Pray tell me, Sir, how were we to know that you were a preacher? Instead, Sir, you have lived like a sinner, and now you're going to pay like a sinner."

There's a great deal of truth in that story, for there has never been a time when the need has been greater for men who know God and preach the unadulterated truth of God's Word. We don't need just professional pulpiteers; we need men who will declare unto us the whole counsel of God.

WE NEED TO NEED Paul's instruction to Timothy: "Preach the Word. Be instant in season and out of season. Reprove, rebuke, and exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lust shall they heap to themselves teachers having itching ears and they shall turn away their ears from the truth and shall be turned unto fables." Paul went on to say, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." Paul preached the Word and left a good example for Timothy!

God help us to follow in that example. Help us to be a church

willing to heed godly instruction and ready for the coming of the Lord.

AS I LOOK in the Old Testament, I see that God repeatedly raised up a voice to guide His people so that they were not left to their own vices. I look back and see that Amos preached for justice to roll down as waters and righteousness as a mighty stream. I see where Joel preached the promise of visions and dreams and the outpouring of God's Spirit. I see where Habakkuk cried, "Oh Lord, how long!" Obadiah preached and then slept with his fathers. Jonah the reluctant prophet finally went to Ninevah, and reached powerfully, and then he slept as did the prophets before him. Hosea preached with a broken heart while displaying a God-like love for a wife

"There has never been a time when the need has been greater for men who preach the unadulterated truth of God's Word."

and a stiff-necked people. All of these eventually had to move on, but God has always had a man. God has always raised up a man that would be a voice of God, and this end-time is no exception.

It's time for the pulpits of California, North Carolina, and all over the world to join these strong voices in preaching the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. We need to join Jeremiah the weeping prophet, who saw a hammer, Ezekiel, who saw a wheel in the middle of the wheel, Daniel who saw a stone hewn out of the mountains.

GOD HAS ALWAYS had a preacher. Even during the New Testament, after over 400 silent years with no priest, no preacher, and no prophet, the Bible says that there was finally a man sent from God whose name was John. After 400 years of silence, there came a voice of one crying in the

wilderness, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord and make His paths straight."

NOTICE WHAT HAPPENED in our text. Over and over in Judges 18 and 19, the Bible says there was no king in Israel - nobody to stir or to promote God's will. Then the Scripture says that the children of Dan sent five of their men to the country. When they got to Micah's house, they recognized the voice of the young man who was a Levite. This Levite told the men that he was priest to the household of Micah, but these men said, "We have a better offer for you. We have more money, if you will just come with us and speak good words to us." And the Bible says this Levite went with them. Micah lost his preacher because somebody came along and made a better offer.

I believe that God has preachers in this hour who cannot be bought! God's men, God's preachers are those who say, "I'm sorry friend, I'm not going to be bought with your money. I believe the truth, and I'm under Divine orders to preach it." Thank God for a quality of ministry that cannot be bought.

PATRICK HENRY said these famous words: "Is life so dear, our peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains in slavery? Forbid it Almighty God. I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death."

I can paraphrase that by saying church is life so dear, peace so sweet to be purchased at the price of compromise, worldliness, luke-warmness, indifference, and callous unconcern. I don't know what course you will take, but give me repentance or give me death. Give me baptism in Jesus' name, or give me death. Give me the Holy Ghost as evidenced by speaking in tongues or give me death. Give me this one God, Apostolic message to preach or I don't want to preach anything. This message has brought us this far, and it will take us to the Rapture; we must keep it, believe it, and preach it.

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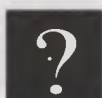
- OUTLINE**
- I. Introduction - They Did What Was Right in Their Own Eyes
 - II. The Need for Uncompromising Preachers
 - III. Paul's Exhortation to Preachers
 - IV. God Has Always Had a Preacher
 - V. Preachers Who Can't Be Bought
 - VI. Conclusion: Truth or Death

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.)



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BSPR96.TXT	14677	The Essence of Prayer. A nice study of the love relationship present in our prayer to God.
BSPR97.TXT	5608	Prayer That Is Pleasing to God. How to pray with the right motives.
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WORD TO THE WISE:

"There is only one quality worse than hardness of heart, and that is softness of head."

--Theodore Roosevelt



"I hear it's a really tough church to pastor..."

Here are some actual excuses that teachers at Christian schools have reported receiving from parents for their absent students:

- "My son is under a doctor's care and should not take gym class today. Please excuse him."
- "Please excuse Mary for being absent. She was sick and I had her shot."
- "Please excuse Tony being absent on Jan. 28, 29, 30, 32, 33."
- "May could not come to school today because she was bothered by very close veins."
- "Please excuse Donnie from gym class for a few days. He fell out of a tree and misplaced his hip."

Speaking of Christian schools, one Apostolic teacher reports that one day in her first grade classroom, she began to sneeze. A student said, "You're going to go through the ceiling!" Very calmly another added, "Don't worry, we'll be good until you get back!"



"Good news Pastor! We've decided to start a fundraising drive to get you a new office!"

The new home missions pastor was driving down the country road of the backwoods town that he now claimed as home. He spotted a pig with a wooden leg in a pasture. The farmer was in the field, so he stopped and asked the farmer how the pig got a wooden leg. The farmer said, "Well, about five years ago I was plowing and the tractor turned over on me. The pig dug me out and rescued me." The preacher said, "Is that when he lost his leg?"

"No," the farmer continued, "about three years ago my son was swimming in the pond and got a cramp. He was drowning and the pig jumped in and saved him." "Wow!" the pastor said. "Is that when he lost his leg?"

"No, let me finish," the farmer replied. "About two years ago my daughter hit a tree and was trapped in her burning car. The pig broke into the car and pulled her to safety."

"What a wonderful pig," the preacher said. "That must have been when he lost his leg."

"Well, no," the farmer replied. "Call us sentimental, but we just can't bring ourselves to eat him all at once."



The preacher was talking to the second-grade Sunday school class about heaven. After he finished describing how wonderful a place it is, he asked the class, "Who wants to go to heaven?" Everyone raised a hand except for a little boy sitting in front. "Why didn't you raise your hand?" the preacher asked.

"Because my mom told me to come straight home after Sunday school," the obedient lad replied.

Think it's difficult understanding people's grammar here in the United States? Imagine how missionaries must feel when they encounter these actual English translations of signs at airports, hotels and restaurants around the world:

- Bucharest: "The lift is being fixed for the next day. During that time, we regret that you will be unbearable."
- Paris: "Please leave your values at the front desk."
- Switzerland: "Our wines leave you nothing to hope for."
- Moscow: "If this is your first visit to Russia, you're welcome to it."
- Copenhagen: "We take your bags and send them in all directions."

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Nathaniel J. Wilson: **Power to Lead!**

(Continued from page three)

process of developing leaders?

It's interesting that you would ask that, because in all of the current leadership materials, the idea of charisma was something that came into vogue for a while and then went out. The leadership experts decided they didn't understand enough about that word for them to use it. A guy named Max Weber traced it back to a church historian named Rudolf Sohm. Sohm got it from a guy named St. Paul and the early Christian writers, and Paul got it from the Holy Ghost. Paul used that word in I Corinthians 12.

So in the world's eyes, charisma is something that a few have; they may be people who are slick but aren't deep. Yet in a Biblical sense, the word is actually a form of the word "grace." So "charisma" is a leadership giftedness that God gives to every saint. This is one of the great secrets to ministry - getting the revelation that you, by virtue of receiving the grace of God, automatically are not only saved, but are a leader. When everybody recognizes that the grace of God empowers them for leadership, the church becomes empowered for action.

So then, do you have a large percentage of your members involved in some form of ministry or leadership?

Yes, we do.

Okay, then, concerning the pastor as a leader, maybe you could talk some about what your philosophy of ministry is for him.

The leadership-oriented pastor has to have a concept of the church based on Biblical concepts. Conceptually, he has to think of the church as a sheepfold. There are different kinds of sheepfolds, so the pastor has to ask himself, "what kind of sheepfold do I have?" Also, the Bible says the church is like a building fitly framed. But is my church fitly framed? If not, what can I do to make everybody "fit" together better? And then, the Bible says the church is like a cultivated field. Is my church cultivated, or does it have a lot of weeds and junk siphoning off the nutrients from the good plants? If the latter is true, then the pastor has to start preaching hard and start "pulling weeds." So ultimately, we need all these different Biblical concepts of the church.

What does the future hold for you, Brother Wilson?

More of the same. Like I said, we're planning to build and keep growing and to keep living for God. For myself personally, I'm involved now with a group called Pentecom that sponsors radio outreach around the world as well as the Apostolic World Report. I expect to see that all expanding. I was at one time the national speaker and director of Harvestime, so that's an area where I see great potential.

To be honest, I love what I'm doing. I love the people of God. The work of God is not a big chore for me, so I just want to stay busy in it for as long as the Lord gives me strength - and maybe a little bit longer. **AIS**

Message from the Publisher

(Continued from page eight)
share it with everyone.

As long as it's possible, I want to keep sending you the Indiana Bible College Perspectives without cost. I'm proud of our editor, Brother Tim Massengale, whose outstanding work on the project is evident, and I trust the publication will be a blessing. Please share it with others, and pray for our work here at Indiana Bible College.

Thank you.

Paul D. Mooney, President
Indiana Bible College

Feedback

To the editor:

Re: Racial unity among Apostolics (See "Plainly Speaking" interview with Morris Golder, Vol. 6, No. 1):

According to the Scriptures, it is a very simple thing to show love one to another. The best way to do that is to tear down racial prejudice through teaching and preaching how God views us when we set racial barriers. The Lord said that this message is to "whosoever will."

--Kenneth Coffman
West Terre Haute, IN

To the editor:

The idea for the separation of white Apostolics from blacks was needful for its time. As I understand, it was done to help the evangelistic efforts because of the racial tensions of the day. Today the world is better educated and will be able to accept the unity of brethren of "like precious faith."

A possible answer to the question of unity could come from combined efforts in our national meetings. Then it would send a message to the world that we are all God's children. Our differences are not based upon color and / or doctrine, but on issues of holiness, and they could possibly be resolved through the afore-mentioned combined meetings.

--M.S. McKinney
Indianapolis, IN

To the editor:

We are all God's people. Our Father sees one color - the color of the crimson stream of blood. Can we as His children do any less?

--John Reed
Rapid City, SD

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Editor, AIS, P.O. Box 47917, Indianapolis, IN 46247.
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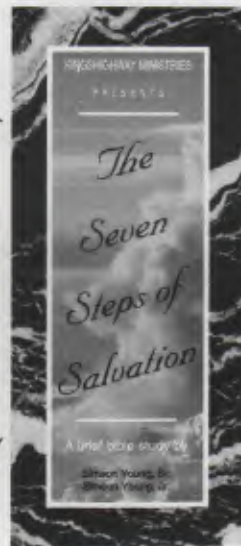
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