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PLAINLY SPEAKING:
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Charleston, WV, speaks
about "The Coming Last
Days Revival."



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GUEST PULPIT
Evangelist Lee Stoneking
presents a classic sermon
and outline. "Taking Up
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Indiana Bible College Perspectives

Apostolic Information Service

Vol. 6, No. 4

Robert Henson:

BREAKING

the Barriers

By Richard C. Brown

The waiting room at the Genesee County Jail in Flint, Michigan, is not a particularly happy place. Smiles are rare; chit-chat is practically nonexistent. Hanging on the wall is a sign declaring, "No Baptisms In This Jail."

The irony is not lost on Robert Henson, pastor of South Flint Tabernacle: "We have a baptismal service at this jail every month. The week before last, they baptized 17 and had two get the Holy Ghost in the baptistry!"

Henson explains that the jail's head chaplain had the "no baptisms" sign made, apparently trying to put up a spiritual barrier to match the physical barriers of bars and concrete.

But barriers were made to be broken. And Brother Henson and South Flint Tabernacle are happy to be the ones to break them (And, in the case of Genesee County Jail, the sheriff was glad to help, granting the church permission to baptize).

Such has been the history of Robert Henson during his 17 years in Flint. Barrier after barrier has arisen, attempting to stamp out revival in the city. But barriers were made to be broken - and one by one, South Flint Tabernacle has seen them fall. Just consider some of the results that no barrier has been able to contain:

- Despite a couple of instances in which

Henson lost a number of saints, the church has grown from 400 to well over 600 since 1979.

- Last year the church baptized approximately 400, with about 300 receiving the Holy Ghost.

- This past Easter, the church reached a record attendance of 1,227.

No barriers: "The Lord has always helped us over the hump," Henson says. "We haven't experienced explosive growth, but we have seen steady growth."

No Holds Barred

A great impetus for Brother Henson's "no holds barred" philosophy comes from his own personality. Talking with him, one gets a clear sense of determination and boldness. He speaks forcefully, with little hesitation.

Even as a child, there was a boldness for the ministry. Henson grew up in church in northern Indiana. Baptized at age eight, he received the Holy Ghost two years later - and already had a passion for preaching.

"Much of my time in the house was spent by myself. I used to go in the basement of my home, set up a small ironing board and make it my pulpit. I would then preach to the cement block walls of my basement, and, as incredible as it may sound, there were times that I really felt a special touch of God in that basement."

(Continued on page three)



ABOVE: Brother Robert Henson, pastor, and his wife Shirley, of South Flint Tabernacle, Flint, Michigan. The 49-year-old pastor has been at the South Flint church since 1979, during which time, they have seen the congregation grow from 400 to over 600. In addition to his duties as pastor, Brother Henson has been a district presbyter for 12 years.

Opinions

OUR NEXT OPINIONS TOPIC: "Can a Christian Have a Demon?"

If you have a comment or response to this topic, please send it to: Editor, Apostolic Information Service, P.O. Box 47917, Indianapolis, IN 46247. Or call (800) 8000-AIS.

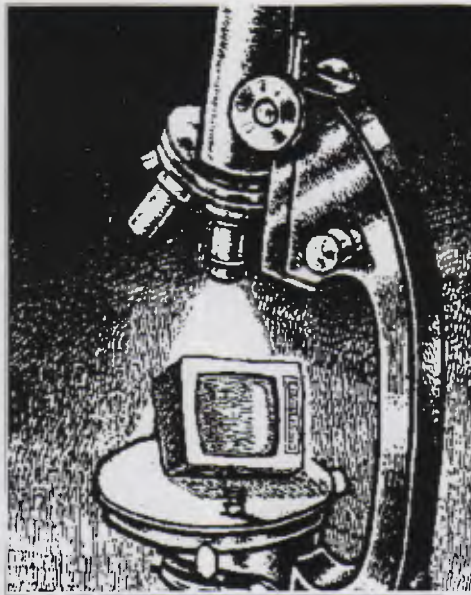


Gordon Mallory
Pastor
Sacramento, CA

I conduct family marriage retreats all over the country, and as such, I produce videos as part of that ministry. Nevertheless, I have concerns about the technology. Ultimately, the video question has to be decided by the pastor and the saint's individual convictions.

I will, however, tell you what my wife and I have decided for ourselves. We do not and will not have a video system in our home. In such an undisciplined society, it is terribly difficult to control video. You find yourself getting one innocent-looking title, which leads to another, and so on, in a continuous downward cycle.

And in the majority of places I've visited, this is the case! Video is used, not so much as an educational tool, but to entertain. And my belief is that we need to keep Hollywood out of the home. We don't do the Disney thing or anything else. It's just too dangerous. A church setting is a different matter. As I said, I make videos of my family seminars; when used in church for education and edification, it can be used positively. And in some few cases, people are able to control it in the home; that's why ultimately it has to be decided by personal conviction. But for us, it's an area we just don't want to get into.



The Positives & Negatives of Video

AIS VIEW: *The position the UPCI took on use of video is a correct one when followed in the way it was intended. That is, video can legitimately be used for educational and inspirational purposes. However, we create potential spiritual hazards when we fall into the trap of using video for nothing more than entertainment purposes.*

Video technology is an excellent tool for training, education, soul-winning, and the recording of home events. But for those considering the use of this technology, I would have to sound a word of caution to be careful and make sure your heart is in good spiritual condition.

Let's be honest: For the most part, video technology is misused by doing more than watching for edification, i.e., watching Hollywood videos for entertainment purposes. While I could not honestly say that every thing that's on a video is sin, there is so much New Age philosophy that has infiltrated the entertainment industry that the vast majority of it is dangerous. And then there's the television connection. While it's possible to watch videos without it inevitably leading to watching television, it's a hard thing.

Ultimately, it's a question of the heart. The Bible teaches in Proverbs 20:7 that the eyes of a man are never satisfied. Also, Matthew 7 says that an evil eye proceeds from the heart and defiles a man. Much of secular entertainment, video and otherwise, caters to this. A person with a VCR has to have a pure heart before God, otherwise it becomes the single greatest danger he can have in his home.



Michael Chance
Pastor
San Antonio, TX



Ronald French
Evangelist
Memphis, TN

If video technology is used to watch church videos, it's a wonderful thing. Even if it's purely entertainment, but clean, I don't see anything wrong with it. True, there are dangers if you get the wrong videos, but if you use it to watch things that promote good morals, it's good. If you use it to watch things that promote bad morals, it's bad.



Bernard M. Elms
Pastor
Los Angeles, CA

I think video is a very dangerous thing and has to have some very strict controls. Really though, it's not video that's the problem anymore. With the computer and Internet explosion, we have television and video coming at us. With all of this, we're going to have to redefine things in the manual pertaining to entertainment.



Mark A. Abernathy
Pastor
Muncie, IN

We homeschool our kids, so video has been a positive thing for that purpose. The main issue with video, like anything, is control. Video technology in itself is not bad, but just like anything else, it can potentially become bad if control is not exercised. We waste valuable time by dealing with a machine rather than with hearts.



Stanley O. Gleason
Pastor
Kansas City, MO

The parameters established by the organization concerning video are sufficient. My feeling is that Jesus knew Judas' weakness for money, but he did not take the bag away from him. It comes down to this: As Apostolics, we have to make righteous choices. Holiness has to be something that's in the heart and not legislated.



Michael J. Schmalz
Pastor
Appleton, WI

Video, when used for educational and inspirational purposes, is beneficial. We use it for training the saints as they enter various ministries. Also, sometimes we'll show videos from conferences for new converts who have questions about particular issues. Watching videos purely for entertainment, though, can be dangerous.



T.R. O'Daniel
IBC Exec. Vice President
Indianapolis, IN

There is the potential for good and bad with video. It can be good for educational purposes and for records of family and friends. On the negative side, there is a lot of material that would be inappropriate for Christians to watch. For that reason, we need to be careful about using video for entertainment rather than education.

BREAKING

the Barriers

(Continued from page one)

At age 16, Brother Henson for the first time preached from a real pulpit: his home church's. Following high school, Henson attended Texas Bible College. During his second year at TBC, he pastored a small home missions church in El Campo, TX, and between summers he evangelized. From 1968 to 1979, he served as pastor of the Portage, Indiana, United Pente-

main tool for putting people on the pews. Nearly everything else is a 'feeder' ministry for it." Some of those "feeder" outreaches include bus ministry, visitation, youth ministry, and others.

Henson is careful to promote home Bible study regularly, especially to visitors. "Every Sunday morning and night, we take about two minutes out of our service for a direct promotion to our guests. We do one presentation on home Bible study and one on the Holy Ghost video developed by Brother Shelly Hendricks. We promote one of them in the morning and one of them at night. We sign up many people for Bible studies or for videos this way right at church."

In recent years, Henson has felt a particular burden for reaching out to people of other denominations. He points out that people in other denominations have erected a natural wall in

Henson met with the gentleman, a black Trinitarian Pentecostal pastor, for lunch. Henson immediately detected a sincerity about the minister: "We went on with a pleasant conversation and left on friendly terms. I did not feel to contact him again, and so we went for six months without any contact. At the end of six months, he called and said, 'Would you be willing to come to my office and give me a private Bible study on the Oneness of God and Jesus' name baptism?' So I met with him and gave him a simple Bible study. I was quite a ways into that Bible study when he looked up at me with a smile and said, 'I see it!'"

The result of the encounter was that the minister and his entire church were eventually baptized in Jesus' name and received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Today, the church is a United Pentecostal Church, and the minister a UPCI pastor.

A similar incident happened recently when Henson and his wife, Shirley, went to Because of the Times in Alexandria, Louisiana. After service one night, the Hensons met a couple at an area restaurant who turned out to be a Nazarene pastor and wife. Brother Henson, who was sitting with a group of Apostolic ministers, invited the Nazarene couple to join them. There, they discussed their Apostolic beliefs and found out that the man had already



costal Church. Then, in October, 1979, he was elected pastor of South Flint Tabernacle.

Easy Access

Reflecting the church's "no barriers" philosophy, the facilities at South Flint Tabernacle are quite accessible. They cover an entire block of Saginaw Street, one of the major roads going straight through the heart of the city. The main building covers 30,000 square feet, and features a sanctuary that is at once majestic and yet conducive to worship. Also in the main building are numerous Sunday school rooms and two large fellowship halls.

"We have remodeled the building as growth has dictated. And we expect to do more in the future.

"At another location," Henson says, "we have 23 acres where we have located our Christian school and a Family Life Center with a full size gym and a commercial kitchen."

Breaking Down Walls

During his time at South Flint, Brother Henson has tried a variety of outreach methods. Not all have worked that well. Case in point: telephone ministry.

"I know it has worked in other places, but we tried telephone ministry rather extensively for a while. It just was not real successful for us. We still do it occasionally, but we've never had real strong results."

And what has worked? The old stand-bys. "Everything feeds home Bible study," Henson says. "We consider home Bible study to be the

"It's been months now since the last time we didn't have somebody pray through in some of our extension ministries."

their minds against the Apostolic message.

But barriers were made to be broken. And this is a mission that Brother Henson gladly tackles.

"I've spent a lot of time having lunches with other ministers and, where they will allow me, teaching them Bible studies. Also, through our choir and church ministries, we've endeavored to reach out into our community to influence people in denominational churches. And the Lord has rewarded our efforts. For instance, back in 1988, I contacted a minister in Detroit whom I had heard on the radio. I wrote a letter, he responded, I sent some information, he responded. Back and forth it went like that."

UPPER LEFT: The multicultural choir of South Flint Tabernacle in Flint, MI, worships in song during a Sunday night service. BELOW: The congregation of South Flint Tabernacle in worship during a Sunday night service.



received the Holy Spirit.

Brother Henson invited the couple to come to the next day's service and sit with them. "Toward the end of the night, after Brother [T.F.] Tenney finished preaching, while Brother [Anthony] Mangun was speaking, I turned around

(Continued on page 14)

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Why Joseph Palacios Founded Autofinders: Autofinders of America Founder Joseph Palacios is an ordained UPCI Evangelist, and has been in the auto industry for the past 12 years. For years Joseph has been dissatisfied with the traditional buying process. Being a sales consultant with Chrysler the past three years, his clients have expressed that if there was a simpler way to purchased a car, they would try it. With an open ear to his customers he has developed a buying system with the customer being number one in the buying process. He has made buying a car so easy and simple, that any one can purchase a vehicle and know that he has received the best price and service in the market. This concept will revolutionize the way people purchase their vehicles in the 90's.

The Coming Last-Days Revival

AIS INTERVIEW: With Billy Cole



Editor's note: Billy Cole has been a key part of what have arguably been the greatest revivals in the history of the Apostolic movement. Only a few years ago, 78,000 people claimed the baptism of the Holy Ghost during one service that Brother Cole preached in Ethiopia. Other crusades have reported similar results.

Currently, Brother Cole pastors the North Charleston Apostolic Church in Charleston, West Virginia. He preaches conferences and camp-meetings around the world and has produced several ministerial tape sets. Recently, AIS talked with Brother Cole about how to bring the great revivals taking place overseas to the United States. Portions of this interview are printed below:

.....
Brother Cole, why is there such a struggle to have revival in North America?

I don't know exactly, but I have a feeling that sometimes it's because of a lack of sufficient burden. Other times, it's just a lack of know-how. Then there is our culture that is so anti-Apostolic.

What kind of know-how?

There are some churches that don't have the least bit of knowledge about how to pray folks through to the Holy Ghost. They can bring them to a place of repentance, but they don't have the least idea of how to work with them beyond that point. We have to begin training people in the do's and don'ts in this area.

Anything else that keeps revival from America?

Of course, one of the most important elements we have to have operating within our movement is that of establishing people in the church. We live in a culture where there is so much extreme independence in people's minds that it's sometimes hard to establish them in our churches. It's difficult to get some of them to abide by the guidelines that we have to go by. Everybody prefers to do his own thing. For that reason, a regular system of establishing new saints is important.

What can we do to bring greater revival?

We have to put petty differences aside and strive for greater unity among ourselves. Brethren have to begin loving and respecting each other.

If brethren get united, then revival is automatic. You don't have to preach revival among brethren that are united. They never preach revival in Ethiopia; they preach unity. And the revival there is the most massive revival in the history of the world.

Anything else?

We also have to have the anointing of God back into our services and back into our preaching. Plus, we need to have the miracle power of God manifest among us. Along with that, we need to get people's attitudes right; they need to develop a zeal and burden for the work of God. And last, but not least, we need to become a very united people that genuinely respect each other.

What can pastors and church leaders do to encourage saints to be more involved in the revival process?

They have to be taught that every Spirit-filled person is a minister. This is not something that's reserved just for the preacher. Everybody in the church is called to church work and to serve in a ministry of some form or another.

Why do some pastors not already encourage this?

In some cases, it's jealousy. Leadership must learn not to be jealous when God uses people in ministries like this. There must be room given to them so that they can minister. And they need to understand that when they succeed, people are going to compliment them; leadership must be mature enough to tolerate that.

You've seen tremendous results in your crusades. How do you think this all relates to the end-time?

We as a church are seeing a greater revival than the Apostles ever saw. I know we're seeing a lot of it in conferences where I preach. And Jesus said that would be the case. The Apostles never saw 78,000 receive the Holy Ghost in one service, but that's the kind of thing we see happening in the world today.

Are there ways that our Bible colleges can help encourage this worldwide revival?

Absolutely. Our colleges need to have classes on the Acts of the Apostles that emphasize the Apostolic method. True, they already teach the book of Acts, but they need to have classes emphasizing the miracles, inspiring the students' faith. They need to show them that this kind of thing will happen today, but in a greater measure than it happened in the time of the Apostles.

And, our Bible schools need to give students the opportunity to practice this kind of ministry. They need to practice praying for the sick and praying for miracles.

What do you see for the future of the Apostolic church?

I see a greater unity among our brethren than ever before - we're united and focused on revival. Also, I honestly believe that there's a greater zeal and a greater excitement coming to the United Pentecostal Church in North America than ever before. This is something for which I'm very thankful.

This kind of zeal cannot help but produce great crusades and great moves of God, provided we keep our attitudes right. We need to keep down jealousy among ourselves and stop all the bickering and fighting over things that ultimately are of no importance. If we do that, we will see great things here just as they have in other countries. AIS

.....
Brother Billy Cole was interviewed by AIS Correspondent Aaron Adkins.

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

In the dysfunctional 1990s, with the great stress on our society and Christian counseling in a boom, how important is it that I take some training in Christian counseling?

First of all, let's understand that there is a difference between psychological counseling and ministering the Word to another person. Also, some who call themselves Biblical counselors are, in fact, more into psychological therapies than they are into the Word of God. Let's explore the difference between the two.

All ministers should be given to teaching people about the Word and the Spirit. If you want to call this counseling, fine, for we counsel men with the Word of God. Train yourself in these areas first so that you can distinguish the difference between real Biblical teaching and the world of psychotherapy.

A minister's first responsibility is to be a minister, pastor, Biblical advisor, and teacher of the Word of God. He must avoid being indoctrinated (and indoctrinating others) with certain psychological models used by the world.

On the other side of the equation, there is a growing belief among some Christians that to get real problems solved, one must go to psychological therapists. However, ministers should be aware that they can trust the Word of God. They, as men who have been entrusted with other men's souls, are already empowered by the Lord to practice Biblical theology. It is a grave mistake to think that we must substitute God's truth for other methods, particularly the humanistic methods conceived of by the world.

Yes, by all means, be a counselor; but counsel to minister.



T. W. Massengale

■ Outreach

All the emphasis on establishing new converts is great, but what about seasoned saints? I'm seeing more and more backslide.

Sometimes, identifying the cause of a problem can be half the solution. Pastors have long observed several distinct steps when a person begins to backslide. If we are to strengthen the faltering Christian, we need to be aware of what these steps are, and then we need to warn saints before they go too far!

The following steps do not necessarily happen in this exact order. However, experience has shown that all individuals tend to



T.R. O'Daniel

■ Theology

Is there a difference in belief in the infallibility and inerrancy of Scripture?

While infallibility and inerrancy are basically synonymous, there are liberal theologians that differentiate between the two. They maintain that the Bible is infallible as to theology and doctrine, but not inerrant as to history and science. They basically assert that the Bible was never intended to be a textbook of history or science, and since God used human instruments to pen His Word, that mistakes relative to scientific or historical matters may have been inserted due to the ignorance of the human authors. They contend this does not change the fact that you can consider the Bible to be truth in its salvific references.

However, they, rather than the Scripture, are in error. The Bible is both infallible regarding religious truth and inerrant (contains no errors in the original writings). II Timothy 3:16 states, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God." The word here for inspiration literally means "God-inspired" or "God-breathed." The original source for the Word of God is the omniscient God in whom there is no error.

The correct view is verbal plenary inspiration of Scripture. God did not just illuminate the human author with thoughts or concepts he should write.

The direction of the Holy Ghost, while not always dictating the words, did cause the writer to choose from the writer's own vocabulary the words that God wanted him to use to convey the exact message God wanted delivered to His people. While this does allow the Bible to correctly report false statements by others, it prevents any interjection of errors as statements of truth by His chosen instruments.

experience them in some order during their journey out the "back door."

1) *Loss of consistent prayer life.* This is by far the greatest danger point in any Christian's life, for when a person stops praying, he begins drifting.

2) *Loss of spiritual joy.* While prayer is often the first inward sign of backsliding, the first outward sign of spiritual problems comes when the joy of living for God begins to fade. The Bible says that "the joy of the Lord is our strength." When this joy is lost, we grow discouraged and listless.

3) *Lack of heartfelt worship.* When our joy leaves, our worship is soon affected. Instead of spontaneous and natural, we have to force ourselves to worship.

4) *Drop of ministry involvement.* The slip-



O. C. Marler

■ Family

How can a wife help her husband be the leader he is not?

If you wanted a leader-type husband, why did you marry a man who is passive? Many think that when vows are exchanged, the wave of a magic wand will make everybody "live happily ever after." Perhaps you thought, "I'll change him." Often we try to force a person into a personality mold not their own. However, sometimes a person does need help to use his leadership skills.

Begin by asking him for input on only major decisions. Don't pester him with daily problems. Since out-front leadership is not his nature, he could be feeling overwhelmed. Place all the fats on the table and then seek his judgment. Learn to abide by his decisions. Never say, "Boy, you blew that one!"

Success will come by building his confidence. There's a story told of a certain third world country where it's customary for the groom to pay the dowry rather than the bride. A man of substance chose his bride - not the most beautiful or talented on the island - but the bride of his choice. Since the island's main industry was agriculture, the dowry was often paid in cows; and a bride usually brought a cow, or two, as her price. A chief's daughter would bring three cows and a bride of unusual beauty and talent sometimes brought four. To everyone's surprise, however, the man paid eight cows for his bride!

Now, as time passed the islanders noticed that this bride grew to be the best-groomer, the best cook, mother and housekeeper on the island. You see - she was an eight-cow bride! Soon the other wives began to emulate her and the quality of life on the whole island improved - all because a wise man was willing to invest eight cows for the bride of his choice!

ping Christian soon drops out of involvement, choir, teaching Sunday school, ushering, prayer meetings, or any other church activities. This is why we must stay active. God needs instruments, not ornaments.

5) *Becomes critical.* Everything seems to upset the backsliding Christian. The music is too loud, the preaching is too long, etc.

6) *Begins to miss church services.* They look for any excuse to miss. Church becomes boring. Christian friendships begin to wane. They must "force" themselves to go to church, and will leave as soon as it's over.

7) *Becomes indifferent to the Word of God and the pastor.* This is the most dangerous place of all. It's only a matter of time before they are completely gone. Warn them before it's too late.



TELEVISION

Despite Ban, TV Indecency Continues

In January, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review a decision of the Washington, D.C. Federal Court of Appeals which banned indecency on television between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. However, pro-family advocates are concerned that the indecency seems to be continuing:

- A recent study by the American Family Association shows an increase of 31 percent of incidents of television sex; profanity is up

26 percent.

- A February report from the Media Research Center of Alexandria, VA, found that family values between 8 to 9 p.m. have been replaced by "sexy sitcoms and steamy soaps."

- In the way of specific examples, in February, two lesbians "married" on the NBC prime-time situation comedy, *Friends*. "It was an in-your-face attempt to legitimize same-sex marriage," noted Morality in Media.

Another program, *NYPD Blue*, is planning to air syndicated reruns of the show during daytime hours. The program is noted particularly for its R-rated language, sexual situations and nudity. Meanwhile, series star Jimmy Smits has said he wants more nudity and "salty language" on the program, according to the March 2 *TV Guide*.

CHURCH & STATE

CIA Says It May Use Missionaries

A mini-controversy erupted last month when the CIA said in times of crisis, it could legitimately use journalists as operatives. However, hidden in the furor was the fact that they also said they could recruit missionaries in times of "special threats to national security."

Congress passed legislation in 1977 barring the CIA from recruiting journalists, clergy and missionaries in their operations. Nevertheless, CIA director John Deutch told the Senate recently that the agency might waive that ban in "unique" circumstances.

The National Association of Evangelicals, meanwhile, has adopted a resolution condemning such collaboration between missionaries and intelligence agents, according to *Christianity Today*. "For intelligence agencies to seek any relationship whatsoever with our religious workers must be unequivocally prohibited," said NAE president Don Argue.

MORALITY

Airlines to Offer In-Flight Gambling

If it's good for riverboats, it must be good for airliners. With that philosophy, two international airlines are planning to install gambling machines on some jets, according to the Religion News Service.

Both British Airways and Singapore Airlines plan to make poker, blackjack and slot games available to passengers within the next year. Travelers, who must be 18 to play, will be able to use credit cards to gamble right from their seats.

HEALTH

Second-Hand Smoke Dangerous

A study in the January *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine* reports that children exposed to secondhand smoke in the home are 70 percent more likely to have "wheezing colds," and are 40 percent more likely to suffer from persistent wheezing. This is only one of several recent studies confirming the danger to young people of being raised in smoking homes.

A similar study conducted by researchers at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney, Australia, found that young adults exposed to passive smoke are more likely to show early signs of heart disease than are their peers who are not frequently around smokers. Further, damage to blood vessels appears to be similar for both active smokers and those around smokers.

RELIGIOUS TRENDS

Paper Censors Easter Comic Strip

A usually liberal California newspaper found itself not knowing what to do with an Easter-week comic strip heavily promoting the Christian view of the Resurrection.

During the week leading up to Easter, Johnny Hart's "B.C." strip put forth the Christian cartoonist's belief that Jesus Christ had, indeed, risen from the dead. The Los Angeles Times pulled the strip scheduled for Palm Sunday (March 31), and at first threatened to pull the Good Friday and Easter Sunday panels. Reader backlash prompted them to reconsider the decision, however, rather than placing the Easter strip on the comics page, editors relocated it to the religion section.

STRANGE WORLD

Fries With Your Communion?

The weird and unusual are not confined to the secular society. Even Christian groups sometimes make their own bizarre contributions to this strange world:

- "Fast-food communion" is how some are describing Compak Corporation's new ready-to-use, hermetically sealed Communion packages. Introduced in February, *Christianity Today* reports that each "Celebration Cup" packet contains a plastic cup of juice or wine and an unleavened bread wafer. Compak president Jim Johnson dismissed criticism of the "fast-food" approach to the

Lord's Supper: "Jesus provided the first fast-food meal when he fed the multitudes."

- Concerned about managing your property and finances after the Rapture? Attorney Dennis Watson from Southern California has drafted what may be the first "Rapture Amendment," according to the *Southern California Christian Times*. The document specifies how one's assets are to be used following the Rapture. "It also attempts to prevent property from being tied up for five years waiting for the Antichrist to figure out a way to confiscate it all," Watson said.

News In Brief...

- ♦ New Jersey teenager Michael Brown tried to destroy a church in February after watching a rock music video denouncing churches as greedy, according to state prosecutors.
- ♦ A *USA Today* / *CNN* Gallup poll released in March shows that 44 percent of Americans think homosexuality is acceptable.
- ♦ A mistrial was declared in April in the trial of a doctor accused of murdering his wife, after jurors heard a minister's opening prayer calling for guilty parties to "step up to the plate of justice," according to Evangelical Press.

Apostolic Doctor Offers Prayer With Medicine

APOSTOLICS TODAY

Is he an Air Force doctor - or chaplain? Perhaps a little of both. Officially, Andrew Scanameo is a physician with the Air Force, specializing in geriatrics. However, this Apostolic doctor, who is stationed in Landstuhl, Germany and attends Brother Dan Richins's church, is not afraid to bring God into his practice.



Andrew Scanameo

"I actually have had complaints lodged against me because of it," Scanameo says. "There was one lady who came to see me who was clearly mentally ill. She'd gone to psychologists, and I told her, 'You're getting all the help that man can offer. The only thing you haven't tapped into is the Holy Spirit.' So she wrote a two-

page letter of complaint to my supervisor."

Scanameo gave his life to the Lord in 1984, about the same time he started medical school. After graduation, he joined the Air Force, where he has practiced medicine ever since.

Scanameo incorporates God into every aspect of his practice. He recalls unashamedly times when God has helped him diagnose, counsel, and even heal patients.

"One time, the secretary of the department of medicine came into Intensive Care, very sick. Before I went to see her that morning, God gave me a vision of one of her kidneys with a big bulge coming out of it; I thought it was an abscess. Right then, I knew her situation was more complicated than it first appeared. So a few days later, when the chief of the ICU wanted to downgrade her status, I said, 'Listen, this girl's still sick, and something's wrong with her kidney.'" Scanameo insisted on getting an MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) of her kidneys,

and the test confirmed his diagnosis. "With that information, we were able to treat her, and she recovered several days later."

In another situation, a man was admitted to ICU under Scanameo's care. While two pulmonary specialists said no special tests were needed for the case, Scanameo prayed, and felt that God told him the test was necessary. "So I ordered it, and while at church that night, I got a phone call from one of the specialists who said the test showed something significant. He said I had been right about the need for the test; the outcome was that the heart therapy that the test recommended saved his life."

Scanameo said he not only prays in his practice, but as much as possible within confines of military regulations, he witnesses on the job. "Either I directly talk to them about Jesus or they see a Bible on my desk and they bring it up."

"In my way of thinking, every time I write an order on a patient, God has a hand in it. Everything I do is Jesus working through me."

Gordon Mallory Has Vision for Home Missions:

Vision 2000

HOME MISSIONS

When Brother Gordon Mallory went to the Philippines several years ago, there were 15 Apostolic churches in the island country. Today, there are well over 1,000. The secret, according to Brother Mallory, was what is now known as the mother-daughter church concept.

Today, Brother Mallory has brought his burden for the concept to North America in the Home Missions Division's "Vision 2000" program.

"Our vision," says Mallory, "is to have 3,000 new church plants by the year 2000. Today, we are at about 1,500-1,600 new plants, and we're about halfway into the program. So we're well on our way."



Gordon Mallory

Vision 2000 started several years ago with a burden that Brother Royce Elms had concerning church planting. When Brother Jack Cunningham became General Home Missions Director, he approached Mallory about coordinating the effort to establish 3,000 church plants. "Some folks feel like we've already satu-

rated the North American continent with churches, but we've far from done that," Mallory said. "We feel like now is the time to plant churches and get back to that pioneering spirit that made this organization great to begin with."

A worrisome trend within home missions is the growing cost of establishing new churches, both in financial and human terms. For that reason, Mallory noted that one of the most efficient ways to start them is by having established churches start a daughter work. "My job is to try to let everybody know about this program by letter, by attending conferences, and by encouraging pastors on a one on one basis to mother a daughter church. We're trying to get every church pastor to establish one."

Mallory conceded that not every church plant would become an established church; however, he said, that is not the point.

"The point, quite simply, is to get more works out there spreading the Gospel. These plants might become just an extension Sunday school work, or a special ethnic work. So when we mention church plants, we're not really talking about established churches. We're talking about the very beginnings - something that will assist established churches in the cause of evangelism."

For more information about Vision 2000, call Brother Mallory at (916) 686-2600.

The 'Roundtable'

APOSTOLIC MINISTRIES

The Indiana District UPCI hopes a new project called The Minister's Roundtable will give ministers and teachers fresh insights into dealing with the challenges confronting the church into the 21st century.

"Ministers have never been more challenged than they are today by the task of strengthening the church with sound doctrine and spiritual knowledge," District Superintendent Paul Mooney said. "Ministers must first, however, equip themselves with the right answers and approaches to the pressing issues we are facing, many of which are unique to these times."



Paul Mooney

The 1996 Roundtable discussions were held on several dates throughout March. The format was informal, inviting all present to discuss how to meet special challenges. Some of the discussions concerned single parenting, government interference; strengthening doctrinal positions on the Godhead, baptism, and separation; family stress; finances; education. Biblical illiteracy doctrinal deception; and several others. "These discussions initiate dialogue on many important issues and provide a wonderful opportunity for us to sharpen our approach to the world," Brother Mooney noted.

- Campaign started to fight same-sex marriages
- Owen Taylor talks about the difference between "confidential" and "privileged" communication
- Pastors stay in their vocation longer than many other "professionals"

PREACHER'S PICKS

Brother Jeff Arnold, who pastors in Gainesville, Florida, offers the following recommendations for a minister's reading list:

- *The Crisis of the Christ*, by G. Campbell Morgan: "I think everybody ought to read it, ministers and laity both."
- *Practical Truths from Israel's Wanderings*, by G. Wagner. "I've read it eight or nine times."
- Anything by F.B. Meyers. "Don't let anybody tell you any different - he's the best character writer out there."

Church Law

By Owen Taylor

Although some are not aware of it, there is a difference between privileged communication and confidential communication. It's an important distinction, and one that can affect your ministry.

"Confidentiality" is commonly expected by persons who have entered into a special relationship that requires secrecy and / or special care in maintaining confidences. Anyone might have such a relationship and expect the other person to abide by their agreement to keep what they say confidential. You can have a confidential communication with anyone - in or out of the ministry. Either party might breach this agreement and be forced to testify in court regarding the statements of another.

"Privileged" communication is a conversation that cannot be repeated, even in court and under subpoena. Without permission of the person making the statement, it would be a violation of the privilege to make any comment about the issues that arose during the communication. Different states define a privileged communication in different ways, but basically, any statement that is made to clergy, minister, priest, etc., in the course of spiritual counseling or confession is privileged. Thus, if a minister is told about child abuse during a time of privileged communication, he cannot be made to repeat it in court, and further, the state laws concerning the report of child abuse specifically exempt a minister from reporting the content of privileged communications. On the other hand, any communication received by a pastor that reveals child abuse that is not a privileged communication must be reported. For more information, it would be wise to get a copy of your state's child abuse reporting law and the law concerning privileged communications.

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



fighting same-sex marriage

As reported last month by AIS, Hawaii is in the midst of a bitter fight over legalizing homosexual marriages. Conceivably, if this passes, gay couples could travel to Hawaii to "marry," and then request that these marriages be legally recognized in their home states. However, Focus on the Family reports that there are practical steps that people opposed to same-sex marriages can take: 1) Contact The National Campaign to Protect Marriage,

11175 Reading Road, Suite 103, Cincinnati, OH 45241. Telephone: (513) 733-8908. They are leading an effort to block legalization of gay marriages and have guidelines for Christians interested in helping in the fight. 2) Focus also says to "encourage your congressmen to co-sponsor a 'defense of marriage' act. Address your correspondence to: The Honorable (your U.S. representative), Washington, DC 20515, and to The Honorable (your U.S. senators), Washington, DC 20510; or call the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121."

how teachers win friends

From Norman Vincent Peale come these 10 suggestions for winning friends among your Sunday school or Christian school students: 1) Learn to remember names. 2) Be a comfortable person. Be sure there's no strain in being with you. 3) Acquire the quality of relaxed easy-goingness. 4) Don't be egotistical. Guard against giving the impression you know it all. 5) Cultivate the quality of being interested. 6) Work to get the abrasive elements out of your personality. Ask a friend if you have any "blind spots." 7) Sincerely attempt to heal. Drain off your grievances and heal, heal, heal. 8) Practice liking people. 9) Never miss an opportunity to congratulate someone's achievement. Also never miss a chance to express sympathy in sorrow. 10) Get a deep spiritual experience. Then you will have something to give people that will help them meet life more effectively.

(The Power of Positive Thinking)

book review

Orchestrating Revival, by T. Wynn Drost, 1996 Word Aflame Press, 8855 Dunn Rd., Hazelwood, MO, 132 pages, \$6.99.

Brother Drost's book tracing the history of missions in Mexico does more than just offer a series of testimonies of church growth in the populous country. Rather, the author skillfully blends history and geography of the country with personal anecdotes to create a compelling, albeit brief, work.

American Pulse: Pastors' Tenure

Pastors, on average, stay at their "vocation" (i.e., in the ministry) longer than workers in nearly any other profession. A comparison between the average pastor and other workers:



Clergy	15.8 years
Elementary Teachers	12.4 years
Physicians	10.7 years
Lawyers	10.1 years

From U.S. News & World Report, Jan. 23, 1989



"What does our logo signify?"

The word "Ω mega" as used in the book of Revelation is meant to convey God's timelessness and all-inclusive power and presence. He is "All in All", "the First and the Last", and the "A to Z" or the "Alpha and Ω mega".

The Bible, and indeed logic, tell us that the Creator must be greater than His creation. We, therefore, only need to look around us to get a hint of the greatness of God. The starfield of the logo reminds us that God has written in the heavens for all to see, as clearly as with words, that He is the omnipotent Creator, the "Alpha and Ω mega", who exists outside of space and time....

Psalm 19:1,2 "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge."

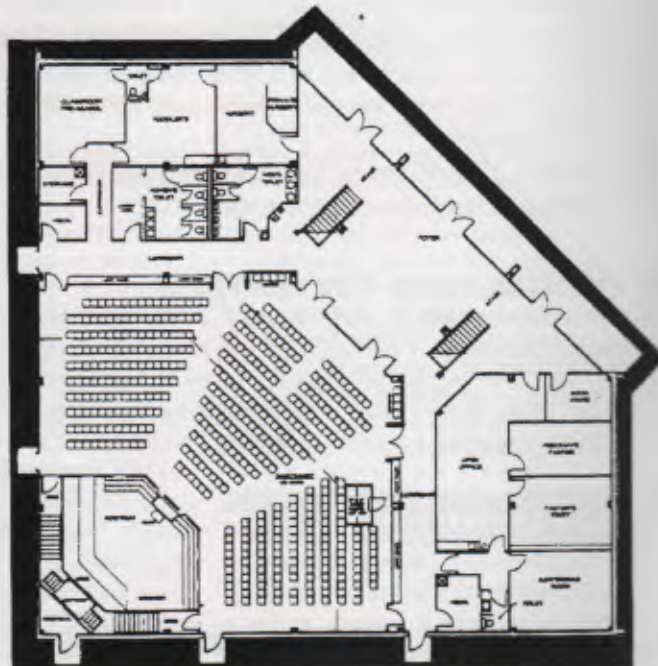
Isaiah 40:26 "Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth."



The Thomas family created Ω mega Church Consultants, Inc. in 1990 for many reasons, but the primary reason was to serve the Lord by assisting growing churches with counsel, design and construction management

services. The Thomases have labored since 1970 designing and building custom homes, commercial buildings and churches throughout the nation. As the logo illustrates, Ω mega offers a comprehensive system to take the project from "concept to completion", "Alpha to Ω mega".

- Ω mega offers these and other services:
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The Ω mega system is proven and has resulted in significant, verifiable savings to many church clients. The Ω mega system results in less risk and less cost because feasibility and budgets are established before proceeding with construction drawings. In essence, our clients are offered an additional and very valuable service, at no cost, when the design is halted at the bid plan stage and the project is bid by subcontractors and suppliers local to the church. This service is included in the low architectural fee.



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Taking Up The Mantle

Classic Sermon Outline by Lee Stoneking

TEXT: Matthew 25:6. "Behold, the bridegroom cometh: go ye out to meet him."



Lee Stoneking is an evangelist for the United Pentecostal Church International, currently living in Ballston Spa, New York.

A "double portion." So impressed was Elisha by his spiritual mentor, Elijah, that he requested a double portion of Elijah's spirit. And so, when the day came that Elijah was taken up from him, Elisha rent his own clothing into two pieces and took up the mantle of Elijah.

ACCORDING TO the Bible almanac, the mantle was an outer garment which covered the whole body. It protected the wearer from the weather and also was used for sleeping. Exodus 22:26-27 says, "If thou at all take thou thy neighbor's raiment to pledge, thou shalt deliver it unto him by that the sun goeth down; for that is his covering only, it is his raiment for his skin: wherein shall he sleep? and it shall come to pass when he crieth unto me, that I will hear; for I am gracious."

The mantle had value! It was indispensable to its possessor. The Holy Land is a desert climate; when the sun goes down, the chill of night requires a mantle or a wrapping. So the Law of God said a person could not withhold that wrapping or mantle from his neighbor, because he would then have no bed clothing.

THE MANTLE IS A GARMENT of distinction. In II Kings 1, after the death of Ahab, Moab rebelled against Israel, and King Ahaziah fell through the lattice of his home to the floor below and became sickened. He thus lay upon his bed. From his bed of sickness, he wondered if he would ever rise to health again. So Ahaziah called messengers to his bed side and Ahaziah sent them to Ekron to inquire of Beelzebub if he would be healed or if he would die. The Spirit of the Lord came upon the prophet Elijah, and Elijah went out to intercept the messengers of the king.

When Elijah came into their presence, he said, "Is there no God in Israel, that you have to inquire of the gods of Beelzebub to hear something divine?" Because the king had inquired at the feet of heathen gods, Elijah pronounced that he would die. When the messengers told the king what the prophet had said, the king asked, "What does this man look

like?" Their response, in the literal Hebrew translation, was, "he is a man with a garment of hair." The messengers described Elijah in terms of how his mantle looked. Elijah was known by the mantle he wore!

CONSIDER ALSO JOSEPH. Joseph had a coat of many colors. It was his mantle, for the word used for "coat" here is elsewhere translated "mantle." This was Joseph's garment of distinction. His brethren recognized it as so, for the special favor their father showed Joseph in bestowing on him this coat only intensified their jealousy of him. His brothers took his mantle, and in so doing, they left him naked.

EVERY TYPE IN THE BIBLE has an anti-type; every shadow has a fulfillment. So what is the fulfillment of the

"The garment was a distinction; and the anti-type for us is our righteousness, which separates us from the world."

mantle?

Leviticus 16 says of the priesthood that he should put on the holy "linen coat." What is the significance of linen in the Bible? According to Revelation, it is the righteousness of the saints. Furthermore, the very word "linen" means "divided fibers." Therefore, there is a separation even in the fibers of the garment. The garment was a distinction; and the anti-type for us is our righteousness, our holiness, which separates us from the world and brands us with a mark of distinction.


ELISHA HAD A QUESTION: "Where is the God of Elijah? But what he found is that the God of Elijah was in the mantle. Elisha was to pick up that mantle, and he dare not ever discard it. For in the day that he did, the God of Elijah would manifest Himself no

more. Notice that Elisha first rent his own garment. He had to get rid of his own covering and take on the mantle of God. We can never have the power of God and the righteousness of God until we are willing to surrender our own self-righteousness.

JESUS ALWAYS went after the hypocrites. What is a hypocrite? He is someone who appears to be someone or something he is not. The Pharisees were never criticized for their outward appearance, for just as today, their dress marked them as distinct. They were criticized because they appeared to be holy when they were not holy. For those who say outward holiness does not matter, and yet claim to be holy on the inside, they are just as hypocritical as the Pharisees of old, for they appear to be what they say they are not. They dress like the world, and yet with their lips proclaim to be holy on the inside. They are hypocrites!

Some people, who like to leave out holiness, are quick to say, "God looks on the heart; man is the one who looks on the outside." Don't they realize that because man cannot see my heart, we must express on the outside what God has done on the inside? We can't leave out the distinctives!

JEFF ARNOLD once told me that he's spoken in the past with those who have left us and claimed to have found some great new freedom by giving up holiness standards. Brother Arnold said he has told those people, "Since you have gained your freedom, sit down with me and tell me about the great revelations you have received since you got your freedom. And talk to me about the miracles that are happening in your churches since you've gained this freedom." But in truth, they don't have it; the power is gone.

We who believe in the holiness of God and holiness of self-presentation are not outdated, nor are we out of step with the times. We are the most up to date in the eyes of God. We know that the power is in the mantle, and we dare not lay it down. 

OUTLINE

- I. Introduction - The Value of the Mantle (Garment of Distinction)
- II. Elijah's Mantle
- III. Joseph's Mantle
- IV. Fulfillment of the Type
 - A. Linen = "Divided"
 - B. Separated by Holiness
 - C. Hypocrisy of Those Who Don't Hold to Standards
- V. Conclusion: Hold on to the Mantle (Our Holiness Distinctives)

New AIS Files

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



new bible study files

INIL108.TXT	1669	To My Grown-Up Son. Message from a dad on how a son should conduct his life.
INIL109.TXT	1212	His Example. Inspirational poem regarding a parent's example to his / her children.
INIL110.TXT	1208	To My Dad. Poem written to a dead father.
FACR40.TXT	8145	Four Things a Parent Should Know. Advice to moms and dads about raising godly children.
FAMA16.TXT	6977	Should Divorced People Remarry? This article weighs pros and cons of remarrying a former spouse.
BSAT15.TXT	16608	The Blood Covenant. Excellent study of the blood that was shed to cover our sins.
EVPR67.TXT	92478	"Secret" Rapture? A minority view that the Rapture & Second Coming are synonymous.
INIL107.TXT	4366	The Race. Inspirational article that encourages endurance to the end.
INSD55.TXT	4104	Without the Camp. Study on living apart from the world and all its pleasures.
INTE03.TXT	14548	My Revelation. Tale of how a young boy realized the Oneness message.
BSAT14.TXT	7430	Two Sides of Calvary. Old Testament and New Testament views of sacrifices.
BSFR35.TXT	11047	The Golden Rule. Excellent Bible study on the power of ill-spoken words.
BSGW43.TXT	17514	Asleep on a Pillow. Classic message by Charles Spurgeon about the times when Jesus slept.
BSMS69.TXT	4814	We Need Each Other. Article on the need for brotherly love.
BSPR100.TXT	6625	Power of Faithless Prayer. Praying out of duty rather than out of "want-to."



new apostolic doctrine files

ADGH53.TXT	45775	Oneness Christology. David Bernard gives a concise, easy-to-follow outline of Oneness theology.
ADBA22.TXT	32484	History of Trinity Baptism. Good article that traces the beginning of the Triune baptism formula.
ADHS66.TXT	27804	Holiness of Pentecostal Pioneers. Doctrinal views of early pioneers on holiness issues.
ADHS67.TXT	47516	The Theology of Holiness. Doctrinal basis of holiness standards.
ADHS68.TXT	27586	Hair in the Structure of Authority. Helpful article on the symbolism of long and short hair.
ADBA21.TXT	3764	Baptismal Compromise. The author here asks, "Should we accept a baptismal compromise?"
ADGH54.TXT	5712	The Trinitarian Nightmare. How to combat Trinitarianism with Scripture.
ADHS69.TXT	9712	Spiritual Mutilation. Excellent Bible study on the things we do to destroy ourselves spiritually.
ADHS70.TXT	5375	How Long Will You Sleep? This author challenges us to get up and start working for God.
ADHS71.TXT	5584	Stokers and Sirens. Warning of spiritual danger while at the same time loving.
ADNB30.TXT	4504	Spiritual Placebos. Good article about those who pacify saints instead of healing them.
ADNB29.TXT	66516	Priority of Oneness Doctrine. This article shows the place of Oneness theology in salvation.
ADTC20.TXT	5686	Spiritual Preservation Society. Article that shows the church as a spiritual "life-saver."
ADHG33.TXT	20264	The Witness of the Spirit. Article about the Spirit's role in teaching us.
ADTC19.TXT	8604	Like Precious Faith. Classic message by Frank Ewart, one of the original Pentecostal pioneers.
ADAH16.TXT	15516	The Miracle of Azusa. Excellent article that traces the Pentecostal movement during its early days.
ADNB25.TXT	5086	Is Being Good Enough? Pentecostal perspective of grace and good works in relation to salvation.
ADNB27.TXT	6564	No Other Gospel. This author emphasizes that the Apostolic way is the <i>only</i> way.



new church management files

CFFC06.TXT	11662	How Big a Nest Egg? Article that answers how much planning ministers should do for retirement.
JDYU08.TXT	9892	Youth Committee Advisor. Job responsibilities of this important youth ministry position.
SSTT22.TXT	7936	ABCs of Teaching. Great article on teacher training from Jesus Himself.
CMCB10.TXT	2036	Saints' Questionnaire. Annual survey for the pastor to use to determine saints' needs.
CMCB11.TXT	3236	Statement of Mission. Sample outline of a church's purpose and goals.
SSGR26.TXT	3146	More Than Just a Numbers Game. The importance of increasing Sunday school attendance.
JDYU07.TXT	2624	Youth Fund-Raising Director. Job Description for the youth ministry fund-raiser.



new computer software files

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

CD-ROM	83662	Verse-a-Day. Computer program that starts your day with a Scriptural thought.
CD-ROM	139444	Bible-Q for Windows. Classic Bible quiz program now available for Windows.
CD-ROM	244437	Land of Promise. Excellent slideshow presentation of the land of Israel.
CD-ROM	142954	Bible Quiz for Kids. Cheerful little program that helps kids learn Bible facts.
CD-ROM	58943	KJVocabulary. Program that helps you decipher obscure KJV English.
CD-ROM	251526	Paul's Adventure. Fun text adventure featuring the Apostle Paul and set in the book of Acts.
CD-ROM	473437	Gospel Godspeed. Program that makes searching the four Gospels a breeze!

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

WORD TO THE WISE:

"Every potter knows God's method of shaping workers for His Kingdom; that is, He has to break us to make us."



"Anyone who would like to volunteer to clean the church this week, please signify by coughing, yawning, or fidgeting during my sermon."

Top 10 Rejected New Innovations for Churches:

- 10) "Wake'em Up!" Brand Electric Pews
 - 9) Etch-a-Sketch Guest Registry
 - 8) Personal little juke box at every pew so you can pick and play your own favorite songs
 - 7) "Li'l Pharisee Judgment Room" for the little ones
 - 6) Self-serve Communion Island
 - 5) Drive-thru window to order a message and fries
 - 4) Smoking and non-smoking sections in the sanctuary
 - 3) Personal ATM machines in each pew
 - 2) New Pastor of the Month Club
- And the number one rejected innovation: Jacuzzi Baptistry!

A true story from The Christian Reader: "One day my four-year-old son asked me about God's name. I explained God had many names including Father, Lord, and Jehovah. After listening to my long explanation, my son asked, 'Can I just call him Steve?'"



"I was going to leave a message on the church answering machine, Pastor, but then I thought, 'Hey, I can probably reach him at home at this hour!'"

TWO BROTHERS had terrorized a small town for decades. They were unfaithful to their wives, abusive to their children, and dishonest in business. The younger brother died unexpectedly.

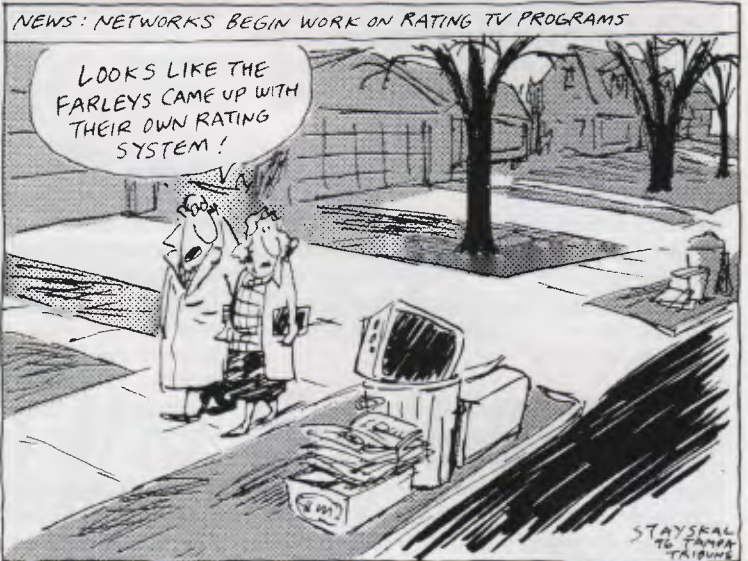
The surviving brother went to the pastor of the local church. "I'd like you to conduct my brother's funeral," he said, "but it's important to me that during the service, you tell everyone my brother was a saint."

"But he was far from that," the minister countered.

The wealthy brother pulled out his checkbook. "Reverend, I'm prepared to give \$100,000 to your church. All I'm asking is that you publicly state that my brother was a saint."

On the day of the funeral, the pastor began his eulogy this way: "Everyone here knows that the deceased was a wicked man, a womanizer, and a drunk. He terrorized his employees and cheated on his taxes." Then he paused. "But as evil and wicked as this man was, compared to his brother, he was a saint!"

Man talking to pastor: "You are right, pastor, reincarnation doesn't make any sense. Who could afford to live twice?"



A Sunday school child slipped in the hall and skinned his knee. "remember, big boys don't cry," called his Sunday school teacher. "I'm not going to cry," the boy replied. "I'm going to sue!"

The children's Sunday school class was holding a birthday party for one of the students. When it came time to serve the cake, one little boy named Brian blurted out, "I want the biggest piece!"

The teacher quickly scolded him: "Brian, it's not polite to ask for the biggest piece."

The little boy looked at her in confusion. "Well then, how do I get it?" he asked.

Two Pentecostal preachers were walking down a city street. On the other side of the street was a Catholic priest who was notorious for his anti-Pentecostal rhetoric. As he passed the other ministers, the priest muttered, "Oh ye sons of the devil!"

To which they replied, "Hello Father."

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ROBERT HENSON: Breaking the Barriers

(Continued from page three)

and saw this lady with tears streaming down her face. She was really weeping. Several of us gathered around her, and in just a few minutes, she received the baptism of the Holy Spirit."

The Hensons took the couple back to their hotel and had a Bible study with them on the Godhead and Jesus' name baptism. After the end of the conference, the Nazarene couple made a decision to follow the Hensons back to Flint. They were baptized and the Hensons put them on the church staff, coordinating the home Bible study ministry.

"Also, about two months ago," Henson continues, "a black lady pastor called me, saying she had changed church buildings, and her new building did not have a baptistry. She wanted to bring people over to our church to baptize them." Henson explained to the pastor that they would be happy to perform the baptisms, but that it would have to be "in Jesus' name."

"The pastor and her assistant asked me on the spot to give them a Bible study on Jesus' name baptism. So not quite a month ago, that lady and several members of her church were in our Sunday night service. She and her assistant said they have started Jesus' name baptism and that, before it's all over with, she feels like her whole church will be baptized in the name of Jesus."

Institutional Barriers

As mentioned earlier, an important part of South Flint Tabernacle's total outreach effort is their ministry to institutions such as jails, prisons, and convalescent homes. But like most churches, for many years, they saw few positive results; they ran into spiritual barriers.

But barriers were made to be broken: "For a number of years, including the first few I was pastor here, we had few results with these ministries. We went and had service, and once in a while, someone would get the Holy Ghost, but not very often. But then, we had a revival in our church, and the evangelist talked about praying people through to the Holy Ghost. The greatest benefit of that meeting was that people in our church got a new faith about praying people through to the Holy Ghost. We went back to all of those various institutions with that brand new faith and confidence. From that revival on, you could literally chart the results and see where we started praying through. It's been months and months now since the last time we didn't have somebody pray through in some of our extension ministries."

Also concerning outreach, Henson spoke

excitedly about their recent Easter promotion: a Living Easter Basket: "We wanted the children to remember Easter for something more than just an Easter egg hunt or getting candy. So we took a fellowship hall and made it look like you were actually inside of an Easter basket. There was a maze that went through that basket which we walked the children through. There were people dressed as Bible characters, and they would walk a few steps and there would be another scene. The whole maze was designed to tell them the true story of Easter. Henson points out that, because of this promotion, the local newspaper had four articles about the church in a two-day period.

Leadership Training

In his quest to break spiritual barriers in his community, Brother Henson emphasizes the importance of leadership training.

"First, we try to encourage everybody to be a soul-winner; it should be almost as natural as breathing. But there are certain ones we train for leadership roles. Once a month, we have a staff training class for full-time staff members. Then, once a month, we have a prospective ministers' class for those who feel a call to service, but who have not publicly acknowledged it yet. Also once a month, I have a licensed ministers' class. And finally, once a month, I have a leadership training class for all the men in my church, on being a better leader at work, at home, or even as a layperson in the Kingdom of God.

"I use organizational charts with my leaders to some extent, but I'm not real heavy on that. I am, however, heavy on job descriptions, because I think the only way a person can do a job with satisfaction is if he knows what he's supposed to do." And Henson's philosophy of leadership? "I don't like the use of coercion. I believe that pastors have to lead by influence and persuasion. If a person tells me he doesn't want an assignment, I don't try to coerce him into staying in it."

Breaking Into the Future

Brother Henson's hope for the future is to make an even greater impact on the Flint community. He wants to make them see South Flint Tabernacle as a friendly place to worship. Yes, he says, new barriers, new obstacles will arise.

But barriers were made to be broken. And as long as he is pastor there, Robert Henson intends to keep South Flint Tabernacle in the barrier-breaking business.

Feedback 

To the editor:

I really enjoy Perspectives and the "Opinions" page. However, I think it would be nice to see a forum for two opposing opinions. I feel that it would be interesting to see some issues that are not entirely settled in Pentecost to be discussed by two people who sincerely believe in their viewpoints. This would supply some nice balance.

—John Reed
 Rapid City, SD

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To the editor:

I appreciate your publication and read it from cover to cover. The only thing I would like to see more of are articles pertaining to ladies' ministry. Thanks again for your magazine.

—Lee Steward
 Rockford, IL

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