



Hodgenville
Pentecostal Church

The Levite

A quarterly publication from Hodgenville Pentecostal Church

"Pentecostal by Experience"
"Holiness by Choice"

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PASTORS MESSAGE: *"OUR CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOR"*



Pastor David Webb

A group of expectant fathers were in a waiting room while their wives were in the process of delivering babies. A nurse came in and announced to one man that his wife had just given birth to twins. "That's quite a coincidence" he responded, "I play for the Minnesota Twins!" Later a nurse came in and an-

nounced to another man that he was the father of triplets. "That's amazing," he exclaimed, "I work for the 3M Company." At that point, a third man slipped off his chair and lay down on the floor. Somebody asked him if he was feeling ill. "I'm starting to," he responded, "I happen to work for the 7-up Company." As I begin this article, I must admit, although I have four wonderful children who are all saved and baptized in the Holy

Ghost, I do not have it all figured out and they are not perfect. As John Wil-

mot, Earl of Rochester said...
"Before I got married I had six theories about bringing up children; now I have six children and no theories."
Children are naturally restless, wigglers, unruly, independent and selfish. The first thing they learn to say is "mine".

..... point the child's feet toward the North Pole and his head toward the South Pole and warm up the Equator.

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The Healing Power of The Lord Jesus Christ — My Eyes!

Brother Boliver Toro

I began losing vision in my right eye in August of 2013. By the end of September, I could only see color, motion and shapes. Bro. Webb and the church began praying for my healing. Often times Bro Webb would show me John 3:16 during prayer, I couldn't make it out. In October the doctor immediately started steroid treatments. The tests and treatments continued the next three months with no success. The vision in my right eye continued to get worse. In mid December I went for an eye exam and the optic nerve

was pale grey which meant it was dying. The decision was made to have a craniotomy to obtain a biopsy in hopes that they'd be able to diagnose the cause of vision loss. My left eye vision immediately started blurring. On January 6, 2014 I had brain surgery. They removed three samples of tissue. Two from the lining and one directly from the optic nerve. The Neurosurgeon informed me that the third sample would cause permanent loss of peripheral vision. After that day the vision in my right eye was much worse. You could stand in front of me and I could not tell who you were. I could not see color, motion, shapes or anything from that point.

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A Youth Encounter

Brother Ethan Hedgespeth

In the society we live in today, more and more people are being molded by influences all around them. These influences range from friends, to parents, to careers, etc. Young people feel the pressure from these influences constantly. Even if they are not with what is influencing them, it can be on their mind. When I began to prepare for this entry, the phrase **“Break the Mold”** kept going through my mind. I truly feel we must be a **“Break the Mold”** generation that lives out *Romans 12:2- “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God”*. The world has always built a mold of the ideal citizen, and more and more, that ideal citizen has no clue about God. The world has built a mold centered around me, myself, and I. It is all about me, my personal gain, and pro-

“BREAK THE MOLD” and be conquerors for the Kingdom of God.”

motion of me. The world has pushed in success, all the while pushing out God. The mold the world has made and continues to make has led to a weak spineless generation that flows wherever the wind blows. Whatever everybody else is doing, that is what they are going to do. We cannot let the mold the world has built hinder or mold us. The enemy is constantly trying to put molds on our lives. He tries to mold some by their past. Paul’s past could have hindered him from doing something for God, but he knew he had to forget those things which were behind and press toward the mark. The Enemy may try to mold you because of your age. He may say you’re too young, your family may say you are too young. Some would look at David, the little shepherd boy, and say he could never do anything; he is just too small and too young. David could have listened to that and let those things hinder him, but he did

not. We all know David went on to kill Goliath and did other great things. David knew it was not in his own power, he was the Lord’s. In closing, I would like to say, do not let the thoughts and the cares of this life mold you.

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Editor’s Note: *Brother Steve Dalton*

Thank you for reading The Levite. This publication is not intended to promote a doctrinal agenda but rather offer a Biblically sound positive message for humanity. As I’ve joined this group of brothers and sisters I find myself humbled to be able to contribute in some way to promote this paper. Among these pages are words that can simply be described as a **buffet of wisdom**.

I have gathered messages of: instruction, warning, stewardship, commitment, contentment, sacrifice, purpose, encouragement and hope. But as with any buffet, there are items that may not suit your taste. I think of occasions in my life that I have been told “eat it, it’s good for you”. At times food is provided for my healing, or for my natural growth. I’ve mostly eaten to sustain my existence or simply to enjoy the blessed bounty from the Lord (yes even to the excess).

The contributors for this publication have exhibited a prayerful dedication and desire (as I’m sure you will agree) to promote the gospel of Jesus Christ. I urge you to read and reread these articles and to share with others. Pray for those who contribute and those who read. We will never know the effect our efforts may have on others as we labor for the Lord. There is work to do!

1 Corinthians 3:9: For we are labourers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building.



Usher Chronicle: God has a Job for You!

Brother David Whelan

At my place of employment, I recognize that each person I work with has a specific job to do. I work with a lady who organizes and handles material and tools in the warehouse, another who does payroll, several men who do electrical work. Even within the group of men who do electrical work, there are those that are talented at organization and leading men to accomplish large tasks, while others are gifted at troubleshooting and figuring out the source of a problem. **All of us have different roles.** It is no different in the Kingdom of God. Perhaps we have become convinced that the only way to serve is to have a micro-

phone in hand and be called to preach. How sad and untrue! The truth of the matter is that there are as many ways to serve God as there are people. Yes, there are the mundane things like taking out the trash; and, while that is technically serving God, I doubt you are called to it. You are just cooperating and making the organization of the Church run well. What I am steering toward is truly finding out why God put you here on this earth, in this place, and at this time. **What are you called by God to do?** In Exodus 17, we find Amalek attacking Israel. Moses sends Joshua and a host out to join Amalek in battle, while he, Aaron, and Hur head up on an adjoining hill to watch.

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HPC Kidz: "Our Purpose" Brother Don & Sister Debbie Woolett - Kidz Church Directors

Greetings from "Transformation Junction"



The HPC Kidz Church Ministry is a unique ministry with a unique purpose. Our primary purpose, other than salvation, is to de-program Kidz from thinking like the worldly system into thinking the way God would have them to.

The devil has so many factors working against Kidz and young people today. Distractions are abundant at every turn in life. Anti-Christian educational values are capturing the minds of many of our youth, causing them to doubt God's Word.

We will succeed in our mission with God's help

A Barna study shows that:

- ◆ 27% of the people attending evangelical churches, including children and youth, do not even believe in absolute truth.
- ◆ Between the ages of 5-14, people have a 32% probability of being saved.
- ◆ After the age of 14, people have a 6% probability of being saved
- ◆ By the age of 13, your spiritual identity is largely set in place.
- ◆ On average, children spend 1200 hours a year in school (mostly secular institutions) yet less than 50 hours in church.

As you can see, our job is certainly cut out for us, but we know we can succeed by being diligent and relying on the Divine help and guidance of the Holy Ghost. Children need stability which only comes from guidance by responsible, spiritually mature adults.

The "home" and "traditional family" is under attack. We at HPC Kidz Church realize that the Lord does not want the church to replace the home, but be a "support" to the home.

By working together much can be accomplished in the Lord.

Kidz Ministry teachers must be skillful enough in the Lord to capture our children's attention span in ways that are fun, exciting, and memorable while teaching them God's truth and way of life. Many times the approach may be different from teaching adults, but the Biblical principles and truths remain the same.

We will succeed in our mission with God's help and parent's cooperation without which we, as teachers, would be spinning our wheels and getting nowhere. Thank you HPC parents, church family and staff for your support and belief in what we are trying so diligently to accomplish at "Transformation Junction".

"...Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." Luke 18:16



....from cover **The Healing Power of The Lord Jesus Christ — My Eyes!**

I was nearly legally blind in the right eye and struggling with blurred vision in the left eye. I was diagnosed with Neurosarcooidosis. All of the specialists had written off my right eye believing the damage was too far progressed, irreversible, and permanent. There was nothing medical science could provide to bring back my vision in the right eye. They believed I would eventually be permanently blind in both eyes and began scrambling to save the left eye.

On March 10, 2014 I was admitted to the hospital to get another high dose steroid treatment for my left eye. I was discharged March 13, 2014. The doctor wanted to see me after this treatment to evaluate if any progress had been made. He saw no change and confirmed with the assistant that the optic nerve in the right eye was still pale grey.

Sunday night March 16, 2014 my Pastor

preached on **"Praise The Lord No Matter the Problem"**. During the altar call I went to the corner of the altar as always. The disease caused constant pain and this corner is easier for me to get up and down. After I finished praying I was sitting and meditating on The Lord. I felt like The Lord was asking me to do something and I was silently asking Him; "What do you want me to do?" While I'm asking this I'm scooting to the edge of the altar and I asked Him again.

.....the damage was too far progressed, irreversible, and permanent.

This time I open my eyes and I see my son shouting. I turn behind me and I see Bro. Ethan shouting and I look to the right and I see elders shouting and I close my eyes and I say to The Lord "You don't want me to do that. I don't have the strength and can't even hold myself up". But I had to be obedient so I stood

up with the help of one of my brothers. As I stood, Bro. Gary Taylor came and placed his hands on my head to pray. Suddenly the power of the Holy Ghost came inside me like never before as if I had a new body and I started to shout! Once I finished shouting I landed on the floor but it was as if I landed on a soft pillow. After the altar service I walked to

my pew just enjoying what The Lord had done. I had been wanting to shout for so long! One of the elders came up to me and said that I got a good

touch of The Lord and shared that she got touched like that once and she started to get healed. My HPC-mama told me that she never ever saw me shout like that. She said that it was of The Lord; it was so powerful that I would have otherwise gotten hurt.

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.....from cover **Pastor Message: "Our Children's Behavior"**

May I offer to you the "Property Laws of a Toddler": (some might say that this is evidence of Original Sin.)

1. If I like it, it's mine.
2. If it's in my hand, it's mine.
3. If I can take it from you, it's mine.
4. If I had it a little while ago, it's mine.
5. If it's mine, it must never appear to be yours in any way.
6. If I'm doing or building something, all the pieces are mine.
7. If it looks just like mine, it's mine.
8. If I saw it first, it's mine.
9. If you are playing with something and you put it down, it automatically becomes mine.
10. If it's broken, it's yours.

It may seem harmless and cute when they are two but if you don't get it under control then they will remain selfish and self centered at twenty two. May I offer you 3 points that I feel are important for parents.

1. Be Aware

A young mother paying a visit to the home of friends who were both scientists, made no attempt to restrain her five-year-old son, who was ransacking an adjoining room. Finally, an extra loud clatter of bottles did prompt her to say, "I hope you don't mind Johnny being in there." "No," said the chemist calmly, "He'll be quiet when he gets to the poisons."

Sometimes our children surprise us and catch us off guard by acting up at an inopportune time. We must depend upon the Lord to give us patience, wisdom, and gumption to get up and do something about it in those moments. It is commonly spoken among restaurant staff that church people offer the most complaints, make the most demands, and tip the least. The other thing that is usually passed over (because it is so touchy) is the unruly children of so called church parents climbing over booths, spilling drinks,

We must make sure in our discipline that, as parents, we never let the child play on our sympathy.

food in the floors, throwing screaming at rude levels while there sets mom and dad *oblivious*. Their children leave more food on the floor than on the table. We put our \$2 tip on the table (i.e. 10% of ticket) - shame on us - and leave the remnants of our little "Hurricane Katrina" for a waitress/waiter to pick up... and then have the audacity to invite them to church? *If you were the only example of Christ that they would ever see What would they think of Him?*

2. Your responsibility

A pastor once had an evangelist and his family in his home for a time of fellow-

ship. He had just had the house painted for his wife. One of the evangelist children uses a baseball bat he is playing with and proceeds to denting in the walls. The evangelist looks at the pastor and says, and I quote "Whatever he tears up, I'll pay to have repaired". Ladies and Gentlemen, may I submit to you that there was something else that needed to be torn up! Dad needed to point the child's feet toward the North Pole and his head toward the South Pole and warm up the Equator. Christian parents ...

whatever your kids tear up, mess up, break or borrow; make sure it is taken care of.

We must make sure in our discipline that, as parents, we never let the child play on our sympathy. If they get in trouble with mommy.... they should also be in trouble with daddy and vice versa. We should never let a child undermine the authority of the parent who is disciplining at the moment because next time it may be you.

The story is told of a little boy sitting on his front steps with his face cradled in his hands, looking so forlorn. His dad came home just then and asked him what was wrong. The little boy looked up and said, "Well, just between us, Dad, I'm having trouble getting along with your wife, too!"

Owne Wister, an old college friend of Theodore Roosevelt, was visiting him at the White House. Roosevelt's daughter

continued page 5.....

.....from page 2 **A Youth Encounter**

Do not let people's thoughts about you mold you. Do not let past failures mold you. Do not let your inabilities mold you. Remember we are not our own, we are bought with a price. We are powerless without Him. Trust Him and let God almighty mold us into what He would have us be. He will give us the power and strength we need in this last hour to be a generation that will truly turn this world upside down for the good. Lastly, remember, you have to be pliable to be molded.

If you are solid and sure in your beliefs and convictions, you can stand and not be molded by this world. The World's mold will break when it tries to press someone solid into it. **Break The Mold young people.** There are heights and depths that have never been reached, land still to be conquered in the enemy camps. Let nothing hinder you.

"BREAK THE MOLD" and be conquerors for the Kingdom of God.





Brother
Gary Taylor

Praise from the Prison

I am honored to share with you some of the wonderful things the Lord Jesus is doing in lives of men and women in the prison. They say so many times we preach and minister to a captive audience, but that is not true. They come by choice, as they also choose to come to Christ by choice. This has been a very blessed year for the ministry; as there has been over 30 men and women saved at LarRue County Detention Center.

The prison ministry team consists of Sisters Kim Smith (Full Gospel), Joyce Grant, and Debbie Reed and Brothers Randy Schmidt, Dana Smith (Full Gospel), Brad Lovall, Dale Yates, Lucas Hedgespeth, Josh Clayton, and Gary Taylor.

On the men's side of the prison, there is an older man named Melvin who used to sing in his church choir, but things in life got him down and got his eyes off of Jesus. He got involved in drugs and alcohol. During one of the services, we were ministering on "The Blood of Jesus Still Works" using the scriptures from 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. That night the Lord Jesus

She rallied her cellmates to come to service and wrote letters.....

walked into the prison in a mighty way, conviction fell powerfully and dealt with many souls, and many prayed and got saved. Melvin was one of them. Since then, God gave him back his joy and peace in Christ. He has a song in his heart again and is very faithful and an encouragement to others.

Not long ago there was a man named Steve that came to service with us. As I was preaching a message on "There Is Still Hope", I dealt with adultery, fornication, and unfaithfulness. Steve began to pray and seek God. He said that I told him everything he was doing and wanted to know how I knew. I told him I did not know, but Jesus knows everything. That shows how much Jesus loves us and wants to forgive us of our sins. Steve kept praying, and Jesus gloriously saved him! Steve left with great peace and joy. That is what I want for the sinners and us all – to know that whatever our situation is "There Is Still Hope" through Christ Jesus.

On the ladies' side of the prison several months ago, Mary

came to one of our jail services. She was 23 at the time. Mary had never attended a church service or read a Bible until she was in jail. Bible stories like the story of Jonah and knowing how to pray were foreign to her. Apparently, the Lord did not want any distractions the evening we met Mary, because she was the only one at service that night. The inmates usually enjoy choosing the hymns and singing, so we asked Mary if there were any songs she liked. The only thing she could remember hearing was something like washed by the blood. After singing "Washed in the Blood", we asked her if she knew of what the song was speaking. Her reply was, "No. I just like the way it goes." We left that night without knowing if Mary had a true experience and wondered if we had somehow missed it.

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.....from page 4 **Pastor Message: "Our Children's Behavior"**

Alice kept running in and out of the room until Wister finally asked if there wasn't something Roosevelt could do to control her. "Well," said the President, "I can do one of two things. I can be President of the United States or I can control Alice. I cannot possibly do both." It would be easy to pawn our responsibilities onto someone else. I fear many of our young parents make an excuse that we cannot control our children's actions because we have *much greater responsibilities*. Dear mom and dad, there is no job that needs to be completed, no music that needs to be played, no song that needs to be sang, no message that needs to be delivered above the God called duty to teach our own children. As the word teaches us.... **What would it profit a man if he gained the whole world and lose his own soul?**

According to psychologist William Damon, respect for the parent who exercises proper authority leads to respect for legitimate social institutions and to respect for law. In his book The Moral Child, Damon writes, "The child's respect for parental authority sets the direction for civilized participation in the social order when the child later begins assuming the rights and responsibilities of full citizenship." Damon calls this respect "the single most important legacy that a parent can give a child".

Also, it is not in our child's best interest to give them their way every time. A Danish proverb notes, "Give to a pig when it grunts and a child when he cries, and you will have a fine pig and a bad child." **God help us to raise good upstanding law abiding citizens, not pigs.**

We should teach our children to treat their sibling's right. A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to 'Honor thy father and thy mother,' she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

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SUNDAY SCHOOL NARRATIVE: "CHURCH BEGINS AT 10"



Brother Danny Compton

DEUTERONOMY 6:5-9

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

I would like to encourage you to allow the Sunday school dept. at H.P.C to partner with you in your endeavor to teach your children. We should do everything within our power to teach our children what it means to live for God, and after you have done all you know to do thru the week.....



REMEMBER CHURCH BEGINS AT 10!

They will learn:

- to sit down and be quiet
- to get along with others
- that they don't always get their way
- about Daniel & the lions den
- the 3 Hebrew boys
- Noah's ark

and I could go on and on.

I am asking every Mom & Dad every Mamaw & Papaw to show our children how important Sunday school is not only by coming to Sunday school but also by being on time for Sunday school.

CHURCH BEGINS AT 10!

If Mom & Dad are excited about Sunday school Johnny & Susie will be too.

Psalms 122: 1

I WAS glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.

I say: **"CHURCH BEGINS AT 10!"**

I'll see you in Sunday school.

Sunday School - 10:00 am

Sunday Morning Worship - 11:00 am

Sunday Evening Worship - 6:00 pm

Wednesday Night - 7:30 pm



.....from page 2 **Usher Chronicle: God has a Job for You!**

(Keep in mind that this is the Israelites first test in battle.) As they watch, while Moses holds up his hands, the Israelites prevail; when he lowers them to rest, Amalek prevails. So, they resolve the problem by propping Moses' arms with stones and by Aaron and Hur holding them up. Ultimately, God builds the Israelites confidence in Him, and cements Moses' position as His anointed through this simple demonstration of His power. Now my point: God could have made it where Moses only had to hold up his finger, or stay awake, or any other thing that he alone could have kept up for hours, but he made circumstances where Moses needed help and where Moses' actions were visible. There were other people besides Moses that were necessary for the army to succeed. I wonder about the calling of Aaron and Hur?



Aaron was Moses' brother. When God sent Moses to confront Pharaoh, it was Aaron who was called on to be Moses' spokesman. Hur, on the other hand, is an unknown. Why was he there? Who was he? Was he just someone they grabbed on the way up the hill? I don't think so! Something of this consequence in the story of the Israelite people was not by chance. I would guess that Hur had a calling on his life and a role to play in assisting Moses from day to day. I believe it is the same today. The folks out front (the preachers and pastors) have their job to do, but **God always surrounds them with people that are called to other tasks in the kingdom.**

Already some folks come to mind that have the calling to preach or pastor. Sure, there are some false starts on that, but we can all agree that we have folks in our midst that are truly called to this

task in the Kingdom. There are also those called to teach Sunday school, to prayer, to fasting, to caring for the place where we meet as a family, and a hundred other things. Some folks are called to tasks in the Kingdom that may not even seem to be related to church at all, such as being an employer, being a doctor or nurse; so, your vocation can be your calling.

If God has not given you a direction in life, your purpose for being here, I urge you to pray about it. Ask God to open doors for you and show you that thing which will give your life purpose. I doubt that age matters. For myself, I feel like the Lord only made clear to me my life's calling in the last 10 years, and he continues to call me both to long term and short term roles.

God is raising up an army of lay people that have the same dedication to Christ's work as the preachers and pastors. No organization or church can long succeed strictly on the merits and labor of the pastor.

continued page 7.....

.....from page 6 **Usher Chronicle: God has a Job for You!**

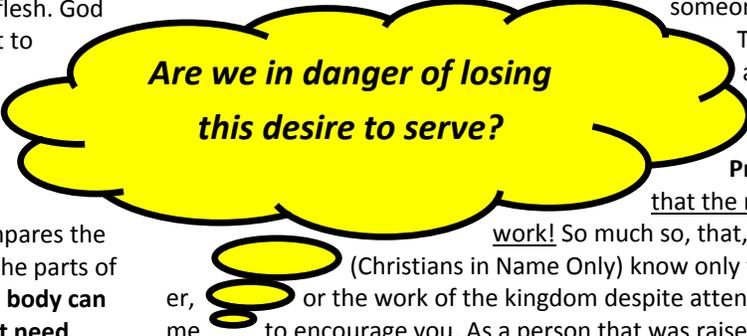
Jesus intended for all of us to have a role. Would it be healthy or wise for God to invest all the tasks and all the power solely into the hands of the clergy? No! We all pray for the Gifts of the Spirit, most of us have had limited success in that area simply because we would become lifted up in our flesh. God is not going to allow that to happen. By the same token, he is not going to bless a system where only a few Christians are carrying the weight. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul compares the roles in Christian life to the parts of the body. **No part of the body can say to the other, "I don't need you."** All have a job to do. To be missing a part of the body is to be impaired.

Too long the nominal church has trained its membership to let the organization or the clergy take care of the needs of the body. I am not sure why, but I would say that blame lies mainly on two fronts:

1. Apathy of the laity and the feeling that they are paying to have the clergy perform the work of the church, and
2. The desire for control or power by the clergy and/or their desire to show their value to the laity.

This has led to the decline of spir-

itual life, the rise of churches that use our Savior for a logo and a fund raising tool, and the extinction of any desire to seek out the things that the Lord would have them do. Many of you have heard me recount my first exposure to the work of the laity in our movement. Bro. Webb had given my name to Bro. Tyler Luck to help collect the offering at PFYC a number of years ago. By the time I got in touch with Bro. Luck, he had filled all the positions and was taking alternates. He was so apologetic that he did not have a spot for me. Coming from my background, I was thinking, "What is wrong with this guy? Why is he so apologetic?" He did ask me to show up at the time offering was taken in case someone backed out, which I gladly did.



There was still no position, and he again apologized and I thought for the second time "What is wrong with this guy?"

Praise the Lord! He was unaware that the rest of the world runs from God's work! So much so, that, when called on, most CINO's (Christians in Name Only) know only the least bit about scripture, prayer, or the work of the kingdom despite attending church their entire life. Allow me to encourage you. As a person that was raised outside of the Holiness Movement, I am accustomed to not being asked. I am used to it being a big deal to call on me. I found that, inside the movement, things work differently. It is an honor to be asked; folks expect to serve. **How refreshing!**

Are we in danger of losing this desire to serve? Have our lives become so crowded that we no longer seek the job that God has for us to do? Have we become so enriched with worldly goods that we now hire our spiritual work done? Well, **Praise the Lord** if he is giving us the means to earn a living and is blessing us in a material way. However, shouldn't we also be careful not to allow ourselves to fall into the same trap that the nominal church has fallen into? The example with Brother Luck above was a very simple and limited task, but consider how the wrong attitude toward this has impacted the Christian's search for God's calling on his/her life. If I am unwilling to take up the offering, am I willing to seek out the big thing that God wants me to do?

I pray that our movement will continue; that we all will find our niche and our role in God's kingdom. I urge you to pray about your calling. Don't wait for the pastor - find him, move a stone under his arms, support his hands. Support the preacher. Find on-going ministry and support work and volunteer yourself to those in charge. Most of all, dig in and resist the plan of the enemy to make us all bench warmers!



.....from page 4 **Pastor Message: "Our Children's Behavior"**

3. Your home should be a haven from animosity.

If a child lives with criticism, HE learns to condemn.
 If a child lives with hostility, HE learns to fight.
 If a child lives with ridicule, HE learns to be shy.
 If a child lives with shame, HE learns to feel guilty.
 If a child lives with encouragement, HE learns confidence.

If a child lives with praise, HE learns to appreciate.
 If a child lives with fairness, HE learns justice.
 If a child lives with security, HE learns to have faith.
 If a child lives with approval, HE learns to like himself.
 If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, HE learns to find love in the world.
 - Anonymous

Is there a home in your house?
2 Samuel 12:14 tells us... **Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme....**

Could it be, because of some of our children's behavior, that we have given the enemies of the Lord occasion to blaspheme?





Sister Beverly Whelan

"Money Matters"

When the subject of money is raised in church, most people immediately think of tithing.

Whereas tithing is a vital part of money matters in Biblical stewardship, the management of all financial resources given to you by God, not just your 10% tithe, is of extreme importance.

What exactly is Biblical stewardship? According to Wikipedia, stewardship is "managing everything God brings into the believers' life in a manner that honors God and impacts eternity." Wow! That is certainly more than simple tithing! Biblical stewardship, then, begins with **Psalm 24:1: "The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."** In other words, God has *absolute* ownership rights over *everything*. As stated by S. Michael Houdmann, "to miss starting here is like misaligning

the top button on our shirt or blouse – nothing else will ever line up." We are simply acting as His appointed managers of the resources, abilities, and opportunities He has given to us.

Contrary to popular belief, we do not produce wealth for ourselves. **Deuteronomy 8:18 states that "thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth."** God gives us our ability and opportunity to produce wealth. We do not have this ability in and of ourselves. So, again, since everything we have belongs to God, He, as owner, has all "rights" to it. We, as managers (stewards), have only responsibilities – responsibilities to treat it right and to be trustworthy what God has given us according to His will and purposes, not our own. We are also, as stewards, accountable to God for how we manage the resources He entrusts to us (Luke 19:11-27 – the parable of the talents).

So consider what the responsibilities of

Biblical stewardship entail. Obviously, first and foremost, you are to tithe 10% of all you are entrusted with back to God. Aside from tithing, though, what constitutes acting responsibly with the resources God has placed in your charge? The Bible speaks plainly about managing money. **Proverbs 27:23 says, "Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds."** and **1 Timothy 5:8 says, "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."** Budgeting and saving the money God provides for you demonstrates good stewardship in accordance with these scriptures. It allows you to be prepared for the future. This requires one of the most important disciplines of responsible Biblical stewardship – restraint from overspending. Overspending is a symptom of the carnal illness of instant gratification. Society has fallen into the bad habit of buying on impulse, often by means of debt (credit), to satisfy a lust. People see something they want – whether it be clothes, shoes, furniture, a car, a home – and they buy it without

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Being content will allow you to put away covetousness.....

Associate Pastors Pen: *America* Needs a Miracle!



Brother Zane Estis

Psalm 80:1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth.

Psalm 80:2 Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh stir up thy strength, and come and save us.

Psalm 80:3 Turn us again, O God, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.

Psalm 9:17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

Allow me to be somewhat devotional, if not outright preachy, in this issue of *The Levite*, please. I would only be understating my emotions if I were to tell you I feel grave danger for this nation of ours. I am not an alarmist, nor am I interested in partisan politics; however, any serious student of God's Word must raise an eyebrow and feel consternation

when he or she simply surveys the drastic results of a nation that knows God and yet turns their back on God.

America is experiencing an unprecedented crisis. Only God knows what the next few days, weeks, months or years will bring. It is time to seek God and ask Him for a **Miracle for America!** It's our only hope.

I believe with all the unction and function of my soul that **America needs a Miracle.** Now, does that mean we start looking for a man who has all the answers to pull us out of the domestic and international problems we face? No. Our help must come from above—and O' how humiliating for America to bow her knee and confess such a statement.

In late April, I went with my father-in-law one night to Cincinnati to hear author and renowned Apologetics instructor Ravi Zacharias speak. His opening statement, complete with his native accent from India, went something like this: Two things that puzzle me about America is that this nation actually had the gall to say "God is Dead" and even

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.....from page 8 Associate Pastors Pen: *America* Needs a Miracle!

greater, that this nation has the audacity to be content living with the outcome of that statement. --Think about it: We are more content trying to deal with the problems of teen expectancy than we are teaching abstinence until marriage. We evidently feel more comfortable throwing billions of tax dollars at G.R.I.D. (Gay Related Immune Deficiency), now commonly referred to as A.I.D.S., we are simply preaching with the results of our sinfulness, than we do turning to God and solving the problem!!! What is wrong with this picture!?!

Has there ever been a nation as blessed as America and yet turned so defiantly? Indeed there has. The nation Israel has a glorious heritage very much like America. And we, like Israel, have had very similar paths. I want to thank Bro. D.C. Marcum for helping me obtain the following facts. I think you may find the parallel of our two nations interesting.

1. Both nations were born out of a Divine plan of God.
2. Both Nations crossed the sea to get to their promise land.
3. Both Nations had the land divided into 13 sections: Israel had 13 Tribes, when you include Levi and America had 13 original colonies.
4. Both Nations were born in a land controlled by other tribes.
5. Both Nations were required to remove those tribes in order for them to possess their land.
6. Both Nations had a city that belonged to no tribe: In America, it is Washington D.C.. In Israel, it was Jerusalem.
7. Both Nations had a cultural and philosophical difference between the North and the South, although they saw themselves as one family.
8. Both Nations have had to deal with the Country of Babylon. Today it is called Iraq. In Israel's day it was simply called Babylon; but they are the same decedents of the same people.
9. Both Nations based their founding Laws on Scriptures. (The idea of Land, Law, Lord comes from the Hebrews. You don't find that in the bush of Africa. You

don't find that in the mindset of the Indigenous South American Indian. In fact, we weren't that smart to come up with it on our own. We were smart enough, at least in the beginning, to ask, "How does the Bible say do it?" The Bible says it takes a family; today we say it takes a village. The Bible says the hand of the diligent shall be rewarded; today we say the hand of the diligent shall be taxed.)

10. Both of them had the same curse of the Law if they disobeyed God. In her day, Israel was the wonder of the world. This nation rose up through the tormenting chains of Egyptian bondage and became a nation so wonderful that all other nations stood astounded by what God had done for her. But what did Israel do as a result? **SHE FORGOT GOD.** And God responded with Divine Judgment.

There are principles and parallels in our heritage that the discerning eye can see and the ready heart can apply:

Divinely Planted

Psa 80:8 *Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt: thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it.*

The "vine" the Psalm is referring to is Israel. We, too, have been Divinely placed. The pilgrims who came to our shores in 1620 were seeking religious freedom. (Thanksgiving, regardless of what revisionary historians want to say, is not about learning the multi-cultural practices and worship of the Plains Indians.) In fact, The Mayflower Compact begins with these words: *"In the Name of God, Amen."* The second paragraph explains why they wrote it: *"Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith, and the Honour of our King and Country."* O' friend, America was Divinely planted!

Divinely Prospered

Psa 80:10 *The hills were covered with the shadow of it, and the boughs there-*

of were like the goodly cedars. Psa 80:11 She sent out her boughs unto the sea, and her branches unto the river.

America is experiencing an unprecedented crisis. Only God knows what the next few days, weeks, months or years will bring.

The prophets of old taught honest work, the right of ownership, and the responsibilities of personal property. And as America has adhered to God's Word, we, too, have been blessed and prospered as a nation. Sure we have poor people, but speaking as someone who has preached in Central America, South America, Eastern Africa, and Northern Europe, let me assure you, our "poor people" are rich compared with most. (It's hard to call yourself poor when you have a cell phone, and Little Debbie Snacks in the kitchen.)

Divinely Punished

Psa 80:12 *Why hast thou then broken down her hedges, so that all they which pass by the way do pluck her?*

Psa 80:13 *The boar out of the wood doth waste it, and the wild beast of the field doth devour it.*

Psa 80:14 *Return, we beseech thee, O God of hosts: look down from heaven, and behold, and visit this vine;*

The hedges are broken and we are becoming numb to devouring beasts! The greatest sin in our country today is to call sin a "sin". The worst thing you can be called today is "intolerant". If you believe the Bible, you are called a "fundamentalist". And if you preach the less palatable Scriptures of the Bible concerning personal holiness you will be labeled "legalistic".

America is in trouble today, and what America needs is not more negotiations with terrorists, nor talks with the Taliban. How foolish to think you can borrow your way out of debt! Currently, the national debt is above 17 trillion dollars. Now, what this generation does not understand is that

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.....from page 8 **“Money Matters”**

consideration of whether it is in accordance with God’s will for their finances. Just because you *can* buy a thing doesn’t mean you *should* buy it. Often people buy things beyond what they *need* simply because they *want* it and feel they have the means to buy it, when, in fact, they can get by with much less. God may intend for you to give to missions or take care of some special need the Holy Spirit lays upon your heart. But if you have irresponsibly satisfied your want (lust), you may no longer be able to “afford” to give to that mission or need.

.....avoid the snare of overspending to satisfy fleshly lusts,.....

Living within your means and responsibly managing the resources God has entrusted to you most likely will mean that you will have to curb or adjust your standard of living to resist the temptation to overspend.

Overspending also frequently results in producing debt problems. The Bible has much to say about debt. Generally, God’s Word advises against any kind of debt. You see, debt essentially enslaves us to the lender (**Proverbs 22:7** **“The rich ruleth over the poor, and the**

borrower is servant to the lender.”) In today’s society, acquiring some debt is almost inevitable (i.e., mortgage debt to buy a home). However, most debt is avoidable IF you discipline yourself to live within your means. This may mean that you don’t have the latest fashion to wear or drive the car of your dreams. You may have to be content with clothes that are nice looking but from EBay or Goodwill rather than the department store. You may have to be content with a used car. You may have

to be content with a 900 square foot home with one bathroom instead of that 4000 square foot mansion of your dreams. Practice self-control and patience. Save for those purchases; buy only what you can without going into debt. Resist the urge for instant gratification to satisfy your impulses. The wisdom of God’s Word clearly teaches that it is not usually a good idea to go into debt, so don’t!

In closing, the two biggest keys to fulfilling our responsibilities as good stewards of God’s resources, first, be-

ing content, and, second, being wise. As said by the Apostle Paul in **Hebrews 13:5**, **“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I WILL NEVER LEAVE THEE, NOR FORSAKE THEE.”** Being content will allow you to put away covetousness, to avoid the snare of overspending to satisfy fleshly lusts, and to avoid debt. Being wise with your money sums up Biblical stewardship. “We are to save money, but not hoard it. We are to spend money, but with discretion and control. We are to give back to the Lord, joyfully and sacrificially. We are to use our money to help others, but with discernment and the guidance of God’s Spirit. It is not wrong to be rich, but it is wrong to love money. It is not wrong to be poor, but it is wrong to waste money on trivial things. The Bible’s consistent message on managing money is to be wise.” (S. Michael Houdmann).

Money really does matter. Managing it responsibly demonstrates our obedience to God’s sovereignty and makes manifest by our deeds our belief in Christ.



.....from page 5 **Praise from the Prison**

Questions of Mary’s conversion were answered over the next few months. We were seeing someone different. She rallied her cellmates to come to service and wrote letters to a young lady that at one time was in HPC’s youth group encouraging her to get back in church. She had even commented about starting a prison prayer group. Our last visit with Mary was May 16th. She brought her Bible, and inside was several pages of folded notebook paper filled with her handwritten prayers. After singing “Washed in the Blood”, we asked, “So, Mary, are you washed in the Blood of the Lamb?” With a big smile face she answered, “Yes! I believe I am!” Only God could do such things as this! We are so thankful to have witnessed this amazing transformation!

I would like to close with this story. Several years ago a very rich man was building a house. In one of the rooms, all the walls were to be made of colored glass. When the glass came in and was unpackaged, the glass was all shattered. All the

workers stood looking at the glass saying it was ruined, but the Master Builder looked at the glass for a long while and finally told all the workers to go back to work, and that he would take care of it. So they closed that area off and went back to work.

After days of working on this room, the Master Builder called in the owner of the house along with all the workers to show them the room. To everyone’s amazement, as they entered the room it shined with so many colors upon the ceramic and walls that it was beautiful. The Master Builder told them to look up at the ceiling. As they looked up, they saw that the ceiling was made up of all different colored glass. He told them that he took all the broken pieces of colored glass and used them to make the ceiling into something beautiful. **That is what He can do with broken lives if we put them in the Master’s hands.**



.....from page 9 **Associate Pastors Pen:** *America Needs a Miracle!*

40 years ago the only people that used the word “trillion” would have had to have worked in the U.S. Space department. It is such a huge number that it would have been in reference to the distance between one galaxy and the next. To have used it in everyday language back then, people would have viewed you as ludicrous or kind of “off your rocker”. It would be like two little children today rudely snapping at each other saying: “You owe me a gazillion dollars”. Followed by, “Oh yeah, well you owe me a bazillion-gazillion dollars.” Those terms don’t really make since to us because they are so far-fetched. Unfortunately, “trillions” are now everyday

numbers that we kinda shrug our shoulders at.

The world, for the first time, sees this nation afraid of her own shadow. We are ripe for an attack—both economically and militaristically. In times past, we have bailed other nations out. I feel they will only watch with glee if America drowns in the debt she has acquired or fails to respond to a global backlash of American dominance—the nations will view it as a quick fireworks show only to be smiled at and forgotten.

No, America needs something more. America needs Someone more. **America needs an alliance with the Almighty, a peace conference with the Prince of Peace—a league with the Lord.**

Now, I don't expect our government officials to begin to cry out for help—that's where you come in. That's where we begin to take seriously the offense we have made against the Lord. Let's put into practice the promises of God: **2Chronicles 7:14** *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

The Psalmist closes with these words: **Psalms 80:19** *Turn us again, O LORD God of hosts, cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.*
O' America, we need a Miracle!



....from page 3 **The Healing Power of The Lord Jesus Christ — My Eyes!**

On Tuesday my wife and I were heading to Elizabethtown on the parkway. As always, I was closing my right eye to see how my left eye was doing, since I had the steroid the week before. I kept my right eye open and I saw the red barn that's on the parkway and I looked over to my wife and I say "Honey I can see that red barn." She replied "With your left eye?" I replied "No with my right eye!" Keep in mind I haven't been able to see anything out of my right eye in three months. My wife pulls to a stop light and I lean up and read the license plate on the truck in front of us. My wife said, "Are you going to call the Pastor and tell him?" I said "NO! This could be a fluke! I was blind just two days ago."

On Wednesday we were sitting at the kitchen counter with my HPC-Papa and Mama talking about my eyes. I have a plate on top of the kitchen cabinets and I was telling Papa that with my right eye I couldn't make out the writing. Mama was on the other side of the kitchen counter and she started to wave her fingers at me and at that point I said, "Mama I can see you." I could make her out face, hair, what she was wearing. I told her "You're wearing a pink shirt." It took us by surprise! This was the third

day since The Lord had touched me on Sunday. At that point I was going to put the right eye to the test. I went to my iPad. I had increased the font larger than any bible. I closed my left eye and opened the Bible to John 3:16 and I read it with my right eye! I still wasn't satisfied so I went to the bible my wife had bought me when my left eye started to go bad, that was giant print and I went to John 3:16 and with the right light I read it! We all started to Praise The Lord. I still doubted that this was really happening. I was blind on the right eye 3 days ago. I ran to get another Bible with smaller print and tuned to the book of John. I said to myself I'm going to read something else because every Christian knows John 3:16. So I read John 3:3 and with the right light. Once I was done I asked Mama to confirm the scripture. Shouting started in my kitchen and I started to ask for forgiveness. I knew that I had doubted miracle that The Lord had done in 3 days. **PRAISE THE LORD!!!!**

April 10th, I had a Dr. Appt with my Optic Neurologist. We were skeptical of what his thoughts were going to be, expecting him to take the credit for the healing of my eyes. To our surprise he

was amazed after seeing the MRI that I had on April 1st. The very first thing he did was sit down and say that **what he saw on the MRI was a miracle.** He hadn't expected the right eye to surface. The Dr. said that when the decision was made in December to go with surgery, he knew I would never get vision on the right, stating “no hope ever to see out of it”. He was amazed that he couldn't pinpoint the healing to the medicine but that it was amazing and miraculous. Praise the Lord!!

On April 17th I received the comparison of two MRI's, one taken in November and the other April. The MRI that was taken in November showed my left eye at normal size and my right eye had swollen almost double the normal size. On April 1st, two weeks after the Lord healed me, my right eye measured smaller than the left eye!!

Today because of the healing power of my Lord Jesus Christ, I have 20/20 vision on both eyes with corrected lenses.

The miracles that Jesus did 2000 years ago, He is still doing today.

PRAISE THE LORD!





Services and Times

Sunday School - 10:00 am

Sunday Morning Worship - 11:00 am

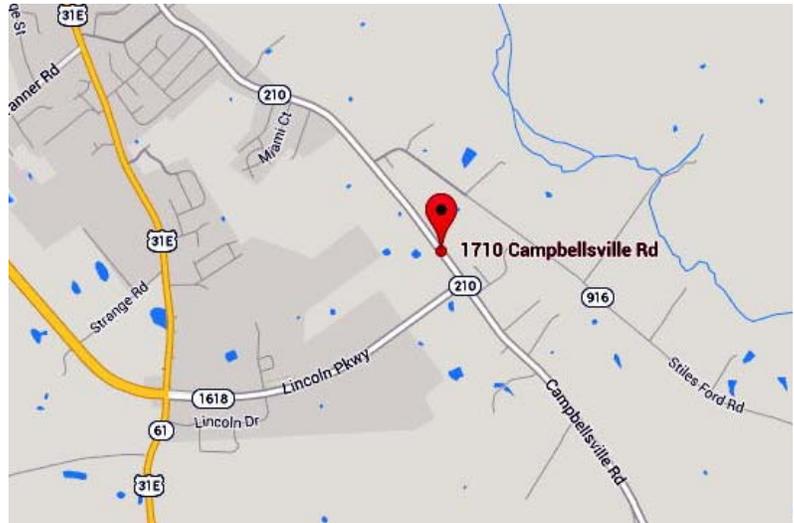
Sunday Evening Worship - 6:00 pm

Wednesday Night - 7:30 pm



Come expecting:

- ◆ A powerful message from the Word.
- ◆ Anointed singing.
- ◆ A warm welcome by our church family.



Sister Genell Webb

HPC First Lady: The Importance of Music in Church

Psalms 150: 3 – 5 ...Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.

Martin Luther said, "The devil takes flight at the sound of music, just as he does at the words of theology, and for this reason the prophets always combined theology and music, the teaching of truth and the chanting of Psalms and hymns." He also said "After theology, I give the highest place and greatest honor to music."

I love preaching. I also love singing and music. When we peer into the future of eternity, we see no biblical foretelling that there will be preaching in heaven. As a matter of fact, singing and playing music is some of the only things that we do here on this earth and will also do in heaven.

Someone has said that music is not a ministry, it is strictly entertainment. Music can be entertainment when the focus is on people. Music can also be ministry. My mind goes back to the example in the Bible when David played cunningly on

his harp and drove the evil spirits away from King Saul. I have seen many hardened sinner, who would not break after hearing a sermon, come weeping down the aisle when hearing a good old gospel song.

Our music / singing must lift up Christ. Bro. Gary Hampton said, "If music appeals to your flesh before it does your spirit, it cannot be Godly."

The great composer Johann S. Bach said, "All music should have no other end and aim than the glory of God and the soul's refreshment; where this is not remembered there is no real music but only a devilish hub-bub."

He headed his compositions: "J.J." - "Jesus Juva", which means "Jesus help me."

He ended them "S.D.G." - "Soli Dei gratia", which means "To God alone the praise."

"If music appeals to your flesh before it does your spirit, it cannot be Godly."

Gold City came out with a song a year or so ago. The words went like this ...

*"Somebody sing me a gospel song
Tell me again that God's love is strong
And I'm forgiven for what I've done wrong
Somebody sing me a gospel song!
I need to hear a sweet melody,
with words about the hope He's given me.
And that this world is not where I belong
Somebody sing me a gospel song!"*

