

the evangelists'

perspective

spring 2002



Wesleyan
Holiness
and the
PostModern
World



C H U R C H O F T H E N A Z A R E N E

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SPRING 2002

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CHUCK MILLHUFF

1) Revivalism and evangelism are, in and of themselves, more significant than the revivalist or the evangelist.

- The issue that is most important is the fact that there is an immense need for these events (crusades, revivals, awakenings) to take place.
- We, as evangelists, are not in competition with any other preachers. It is incredibly destructive to have a comparative spirit.
- I really don't care who claims to be called to be an evangelist—Young, old, retired, in and out pastors, etc. Any one of us creates a demand for our services.
- If we will seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, all the rest of what we worry about will be added unto us.

2) The Postmodern era is not our enemy—it is our reality to work with and to redeem.

3) We are not to create the need and then fill it; we are to discover the need and meet it.

4) Consideration does not equal compromise.

5) There is a Biblical office called evangelist. (Eph.4:11) It has been an evolving office since its conception in the mind of God, as are all things that God creates, in the sense that they grow and, thereby, change. We, as evangelists, must understand our culture, and adapt our style and approach. We must do as Jesus did when He ate with sinners and got "out of the box" of the temple and into their homes, fields and businesses.

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Comparing Commitments

During some of the highest tension of the cold war, I sat beside a young African communist on a flight from Paris, France to Nairobi, Kenya. He was returning from a communist indoctrination conference in Bulgaria. I prayed for wisdom to reach him for Christ. With a modest knowledge of Marx and Lenin, I attempted dialogue. Eventually, I made my move and witnessed for Christ. I was met by a bristling objection to Christianity and an especially strong resentment of Christian missionaries. He seemed obsessed with a confident vision of communism conquering the world. His utter devotion to this cause was chilling. This was the most direct and personal meeting I have ever had with evil. Afterward, as I reflected on my conversation with this Marxist-Leninist firebrand, a troubling question tormented me. How

does my zeal for Christ and that of other Christians compare with this zealot's commitment to communism?

That young communist's dream has largely faded from the world, but the depth of our devotion to Christ may soon be tested and laid bare. For as I write, another brand of brazen evil has appeared on the world scene. Emerging from the Middle East, it is intent upon the destruction of everything and everyone representing the Christian faith. A rising tide of anti-Christian expression is enveloping the world. Around the globe, persecution of Christians has reached pandemic proportions. Reportedly, in 1998 alone, 160,000 Christians were killed for their faith. This exceeds over 400 each day.

Long ago, alluding to His suffering and death, Jesus questioned His disciples, "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?" (Mark 10:38). Today, we should respond to this probing question and answer it honestly. If we face the ultimate test of faith, what will we do? As we join the other martyrs, we can say, "We do receive our Lord's cup and baptism of suffering, and we will not disappoint or deny our Christ." If this is not our answer, then we should consider the eternal consequences, which will be, "Depart from me...!"



Rev. G. Stuart McWhirter,
Corydon, IN
Evangelist, Church
of the Nazarene

LESSONS ON BEING CHRISTIAN

VERLA POWERS, Ph.D.



*Dr. Verla Powers Chairs
the Department of
Education at MidAmerica
Nazarene University,
Olathe, Kansas*

Lessons on being “Christian” were lessons I learned well. Schemas for “right things” were stored in my memory along with answers to 202 questions in the youth catechism. I understood the customs and habits of people of faith.

In our home, my parents used scripture as their child training guide. Dad led family worship, we prayed together, and we memorized scripture. There was little patience with the child who whined that memorizing was too hard. Mom directed our social lives. Our schedules included church activities and Christian friends, and excluded almost everything else.

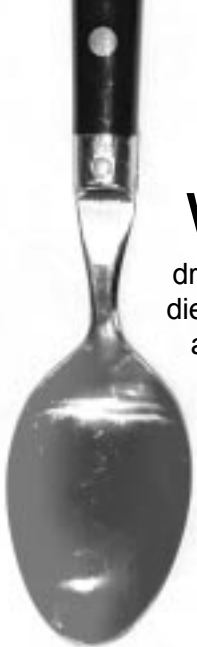
I married a minister and my training served me well. I enjoyed helping in churches he served, but I sought fulfillment in a career. Influenced by secular education, I came to view God’s commands as relative, not absolute, and general, rather than specific.

Eventually, my career path led to MidAmerica Nazarene University. I enjoyed teaching college students and resolved to support the university in fostering students’ spiritual growth. But this resolution was difficult to keep at revival time, and I found excuses for not attending. Scheduling five practicum evaluations on five mornings was my excuse for missing chapels during the Fall 1996 revival. And, for five evenings, I was too exhausted to leave home.

Then, Sunday arrived and the habit of church-going triumphed. Late for morning service, I found a seat at the top of the balcony and observed. But my attempt to be detached failed. During the sermon, Evangelist Chuck Millhuff recounted the story from II Kings of the woman who came to Elisha in distress. When Elisha sent his servant to ask if she was all right, she answered, “Everything is all right.”

The Holy Spirit spoke to my heart through that story. I had lived for self while saying, “Everything is all right” in my relationship with Christ. That morning I sought God’s forgiveness and my life was changed. Many Christians are uncomfortable when I tell them I was lost and my life was transformed. They insist that I had a renewal. But I know it was through repentance and restitution that I found forgiveness and hope for my life.

For five years I have experienced a peace and joy that is beyond anything I had imagined possible. Now, when a student says, “Wow! Like, isn’t God awesome?” I understand.



We live in a world of almost endless choices. The grocer offers us soft drinks any way we prefer them: regulars, diet, regular caffeine-free, diet caffeine-free, and cherry or lemon flavor added. Those last two flavors also come in regular and diet. All of these drinks come in a can, plastic, or glass bottle. At the checkout counter, you can have your drink sacked in paper or plastic. Those are too many choices to quench my thirst! Multiply that by the number of products and services offering variety, and you

begin to total the almost endless options afforded us. Society gladly makes us this offer with one requirement: do not pass judgment on these options making one better than another. Grant tolerance to all options; see all as equally valid. After all, who can say my soft drink preference is better than yours?

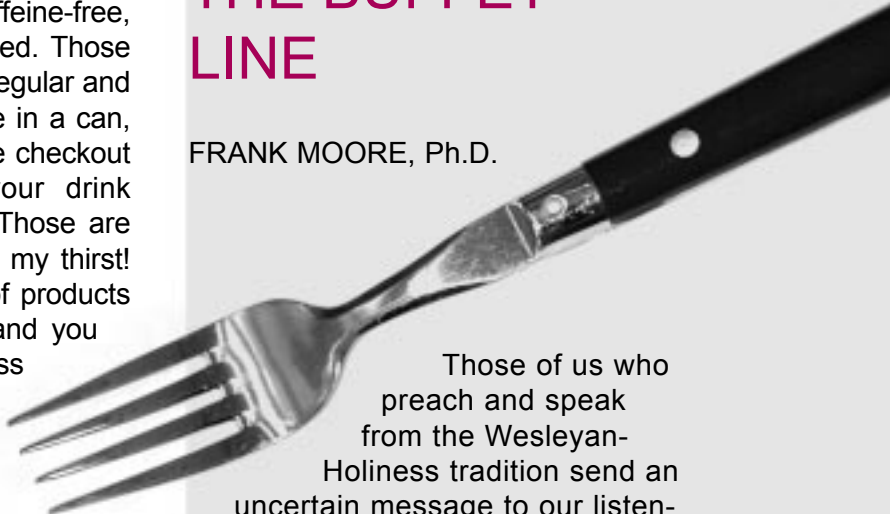
Not only are optional products and services placed before us, but religious beliefs also figure into the daily mix. We were reminded in the prayers and memorial services following the September 11 disasters that all sincere requests from every religion aimed toward gods with a variety of names should be considered equally valid. All are labeled worthwhile paths to the same divine being.

In actor Anthony Quinn's will, he distributed his estate and left this request for his 5 and 8 year-old children. "I want my minor children exposed to a variety of religions without preference for any one." A clear articulation of the post-modern mindset!

So, where does the holiness message sit on the postmodern buffet line of religious choices? Is it just one more path to vital piety? Are all views regarding timing, nature, and results of entire sanctification equally valid? I, personally, believe all ideas currently being taught about holiness are not equally valid.

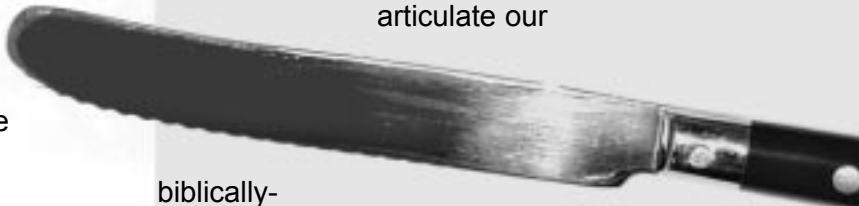
HOLINESS ON THE BUFFET LINE

FRANK MOORE, Ph.D.



Those of us who preach and speak from the Wesleyan-Holiness tradition send an uncertain message to our listeners when we make a variety of claims and present them as equally valid. We further confuse the gospel message when we present contradictory notions.

I strongly appeal for us to resist the postmodern call to compromise our holiness message. We must clearly articulate our



biblically-based, psychologically sound approach to holiness as delivered to us through the American Holiness Movement. That's who we are; that's what we believe. God's

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Dr. Frank Moore,
Olathe, KS
Vice President for Academic
Affairs and Dean, MidAmerica
Nazarene University

EVANGELISTS' SCHEDULES

See where your evangelist is going to be...

April, May, June 2002

ARMSTRONG, B., ARMSTRONG FAMILY MINISTRIES

Apr 2-7, Sandwich, IL
Apr 9-14, Churubusco, IN
Apr 16-21, Portland, MI
Apr 23-28, Confluence, PA
Apr 30-May 05, Homer City, PA
May 08-12, Meadville, PA
May 14-19, Jefferson, PA
May 21-26, Veedersburg, IN
Jun 10-16, Point Pleasant, WV
Jun 17-23, Timberville, VA
Jun 24-30, Lynchburg, VA

BAKER, JAMES

Apr 7-11, Grafton, WV, Grafton Blueville
Apr 14-17, Barrett, WV
Apr 26-29, Man, WV
May 19-22, Gap Mills, WV

BARKER, ELIZABETH

Apr 19-21, Ocoee, FL

BELZER, DAVID

Apr 2-7, Arcola, IL, Arcola First
Apr 9-14, Alma, MI
Apr 16-21, Orient, OH, Southwest Community
Apr 23-28, Wapello, IA
May 5-12, Wausau, WI
May 14-19, Aledo, IL

BEVILLE, W.

Apr 16-21, Connersville, IN, Connersville First
May 1-5, Batavia, OH, Batavia Community
May 14-19, Cory, IN, Cory Community

CANEN, DAVID

Apr 2-7, Shirley, IN
Apr 9-14, Wilkinson, IN, Warrington
Apr 16-21, McAndrews, KY, *
Apr 23-28, Fort Smith, AR, Fort Smith Trinity
Apr 30-May 5, Alma, AR, Maple Shade
May 7-12, High Point, NC, High Point Calvary
May 14-19, Hortense, GA, Waynesville Trinity
Jun 13-23, Meansville, GA, Meansville
Pine Mountain

COVINGTON, NATHAN

Apr 3-7, Sapulpa, OK
Apr 14-17, Hutchinson, KS, Hutchinson
Bethany
Apr 21-24, Augusta, KS
Apr 28-May 01, Moravia, IA
May 5-8, Shipshewana, IN, Anderson
Southdale
May 12-15, Oklahoma City, OK, Oklahoma
City Crown Hgts
May 19-22, Tahoka, TX, Grassland

DABYDEEN, ROBERT

Apr 7-10, Estill Springs, TN
Apr 14-17, Tullahoma, TN, Tullahoma First
Apr 21-24, Knoxville, TN, Knoxville First
Apr 28-May 01, Lenoir City, TN
May 5-8, Moundsville, WV
May 12-15, Summerville, SC
May 19-22, Orlando, FL, Orlando Metro West
May 26-29, Clendenin, WV
Jun 2-5, Fairmont, WV, Fairmont Central
Jun 9-12, Madison Hts., VA, Madison Height
Emmanuel
Jun 16-19, Galion, OH
Jun 23-26, Gurley, AL, Huntsville University

DELBRIDGE, OSCAR, JIMMY DELL

Apr 7-13, Reading, MI
Apr 14-17, Okemos, MI
Apr 18-21, Eaton Rapids, MI
Apr 28-May 01, Sumter, SC, Sumter First
May 5-8, Sheridan, WY, Sheridan, Wyo. First
May 9-12, Casper, WY, Casper, Wyo. First
May 15-19, Fort Smith, AR, Fort Smith
Southside
Jun 9-12, Yucaipa Valley, CA

DOROUGH, WILLIAM

Apr 23-26, Leesville, LA, Leesville First

DOVE, KENNETH

Apr 7-10, Portland, TN
Apr 16-21, Bedford, IN, Southwest Indiana
Apr 28-May 01, Jackson, TN, Jackson First
May 3-5, Ashland City, TN, Ashland City Faith
Community
May 12-15, Nashville, TN, Nashville Bell
Road
Jun 2-5, Alderson, WV
Jun 10-16, White Springs, FL, *

ELLINGSON, R.

Jun 10-16, Jacksonville, FL, North Florida

EVERMAN, RUSSELL

Apr 3-7, Catlettsburg, KY, Durbin
Apr 10-14, West Portsmouth, OH,
Portsmouth West
Apr 17-21, North Middletown, KY
Apr 24-28, Isom, KY, Whitesburg
May 1-5, Meridian, MS, Meridian First

GEE, C., PROMISELAND MINISTRIES

Jun 27-July 7, Tryon, NE, *

GESSNER MUSIC MINISTRIES, DON AND SHIRL

Apr 3-7, Martinsville, IN, Martinsville First
Apr 10-14, Indianapolis, IN, Indianapolis
Grace Pointe
Apr 17-21, Indianapolis, IN, Indianapolis
Grace Pointe
Apr 24-28, Mifflinburg, PA
May 1-5, Manhattan, KS
May 8-12, Indianapolis, IN, Indianapolis
Grace Pointe
May 15-19, Lenoir City, TN
May 22-26, Indianapolis, IN, Indianapolis
Grace Pointe
May 29-June 2, Indianapolis, IN, Indianapolis
Grace Pointe
Jun 5-9, Toms River, NJ
Jun 10-16, Estill Springs, TN, East Tennessee
Jun 18-23, Nelsonville, OH, IN, *
Jun 24-30, Camby, IN, Indianapolis

GREENWAY, KENNETH

Apr 1-5, Seagrove, NC, *
Apr 7-11, Harmony, NC, *
Apr 14-17, Unionville, NC, *
Apr 21-25, Stuart, VA, *
May 13-18, Hortense, GA, *
May 19-22, Lexington, NC, *

HICKS, JOHN

Apr 7-10, Des Moines, IA, Des Moines First
Apr 14-17, Davenport, IA
May 5-8, Shipshewana, IN, Anderson
Southdale
May 12-15, Boise, ID, Boise First
May 19-22, Orange, CA

WWW

WEB SITE showcase

Visit The Sites Of Your Evangelists

Adams, David & Charlene and Faithful	www.dcadamsmusic.com	Leckrone, Larry	www.leckroneministries.org
Benson, Michael	www.deeperlife.org	Loman, Lane	hometown.aol.com/L2Preach2G/myhomepage
Bond, Gary	www.bondministries.com	Lothenore, Bob	www.lothenoreministries.com
Bullock, Rex	www.dayspringradio.com	Manley, Stephen	www.crossstyle.org
Burkhalter, Pat & Donna	www.burkhalterministries.org	Millhuff, Chuck	www.milhuffministries.com
Busby, Paul	www.busby.20m.com	Miner, Scott	scottminer.homestead.com
Cervantes, Rudy	www.heavenlytrumpet.com	Mitchell, Royce	www.libertyquartet.com
Davis, James R.	www.bright.net/~dafam	Moore, Benjamin	www.iam.homepage.com
Dority, Randy	www.dority.net	Perdue, Nelson	www.perdueministries.com
Dove, Ken	www.kendove.org	Pettit, Elain	www.epm_holiness.homestead.com
Flint, Robert E.	www.bright.net/~reflint	Pickle, Robert	www.setfreerp.org
Gee, C. Eugene	www.networksplus.net/g2pray	Reed, Sherman	members.truepath.net/ShermanReed
Gessner, Don & Shirl	www.gessnermusicministries.org	Scrivner, Vickie	www.ihsministries.org
Hance, Larry	www.larryhance.com	Tharp, James W.	www.cmin.org
Hicks, John David	www.faithencounter.org	Ulmet, Bill	www.angelfire.com/1a/ulmetministry
Huddleston, Billy	www.billyhuddleston.com	Vecchi, Pete	www.petevecchi.com
Jackson, Paul & Trish	home.earthlink.net/~jetstreammin	Whitworth, Marcus	www.freeyellow.com/members7/seodist/renewal.html

To submit your web site for inclusion, contact Don Gessner at (317) 272-8261

HOGUE, CHAD

Apr 7-10, Myrtle Point, OR
 Apr 24-28, Canon City, CO, Canon City First
 May 1-5, Sparks, NV, Sparks First
 May 12-15, Show Low, AZ, Show Low New Life Community
 May 22-26, Brookville, OH
 May 29-June 02, Cedarville, OH
 Jun 10-16, New Baltimore, MI, Anchor Bay

JEWELL, KENNETH

Apr 10-14, Nicholasville, KY

JEWETT, PATRICIA, WINDS OF THE SPIRIT

Apr 11-13, East Liverpool, OH, *
 Apr 24-28, Indianapolis, IN, Southport
 May 5-8, Louisville, KY, Louisville Southside
 May 19-22, Indianapolis, IN, Indianapolis South Side
 Jun 4-9, Crowley, LA, *

LECKRONE, LARRY ☪

Apr 13-17, Wichita, KS, Wichita West Side
 Apr 20-24, Elkhart, KS
 Apr 27-05, Riverton, WY, Riverton First
 May 15-19, Scottsbluff, NE
 May 22-26, Wright City, MO
 Jun 5-9, Akron, OH, Akron East Liberty
 Jun 21-30, Franklin, PA, *

LEIDY, ARNOLD, UPWARD CALL MINISTRIES

Apr 3-7, Kittanning, PA
 Apr 17-21, Clarion, IA
 Apr 24-28, Hominy, OK
 May 1-5, Skiatook, OK
 May 8-12, Madill, OK
 May 15-19, Albuquerque, NM, Albuquerque South Valley
 May 22-26, Moriarty, NM, Moriarty Cross Roads

LOMAN, H. , LOMAN MINISTRIES

Apr 7-10, Summerfield, NC, *
 Apr 14-17, Sebring, OH
 Apr 21-24, Columbus, IN, Columbus First
 Apr 25-28, COLUMBUS, IN, *
 May 5-8, New Philadelphia, OH
 May 12-15, Warren, OH, Warren Morgandale
 May 19-22, CLARKSTON, MI, *
 May 26-29, ROANOKE, WV, *
 Jun 2-5, TALLADEGA, AL, *
 Jun 6-9, Archdale, NC, *
 Jun 10-16, Estil Springs, TN, *
 Jun 19-23, Wheeler, MI, *

☪ Tenured Evangelist is recognized by the church as a lifetime assignment. See *Manual* 407.3

* denotes non-Nazarene church

EVANGELISTS' SCHEDULES

continued...

April, May, June 2002

MANLEY, STEPHEN, CROSS STYLE PROCLAMATION

Apr 3-7, Flemingsburg, KY
Apr 10-14, Irvine, KY, Waco
Apr 17-21, Louisville, KY, Louisville First
Apr 22-May 07, Central America, *
May 9-12, Waverly, OH, *
May 15-19, Marysville, OH
May 22-26, Mount Vernon, OH, Mount Vernon Evangelical
May 29-June 02, Payne, OH
Jun 3-9, Fort Worth, TX, West Texas
Jun 12-16, New Baltimore, MI, *
Jun 17-23, Orlando, FL, Orlando Metro West
Jun 26-30, Thompson, OH, *

MILLHUFF, CHARLES, MILLHUFF MINISTRIES

Apr 7-10, Bethany, OK, Bethany First
Apr 14-17, Indianapolis, IN, Indianapolis First
Apr 21-21, Ashburn, VA, *
Apr 22-27, Clinton, TN, *
May 1-5, Alva, OK
May 8-12, St. Joseph, MO, *
May 30-June 2, Martinsville, VA, *
Jun 23-30, Marion, IN, Northeastern Indiana

MILLS, CARLTON, SECOND TOUCH EVANGELISM MINISTRIES

Apr 3-7, West Memphis, AR
Apr 9-14, Bruceton Mills, WV, Little Sandy
Apr 16-21, Pylesville, MD, Fawn Grove
Apr 28-May 1, Interlachen, FL
May 8-12, Uniontown, OH, Akron Trinity

MOORE, NORMAN

Apr 7-10, Harrison, OH
Apr 14-17, Hutchinson, KS, Hutchinson First
Apr 21-24, Kansas City, MO, Kansas City First

NAJARIAN, BERGE

May 4-5, Sharpsburg, GA, Sharpsburg First

PETTIT, ELAINE

Apr 7-10, Mexico, MO
Apr 14-17, Shawnee, OK
Apr 18-21, Colorado Springs, CO, *
Apr 25-28, Wichita Falls, TX, *
May 5-8, Baltimore, MD, Baltimore-Parkville
May 12-15, Hays, KS
May 24-26, Huntsville, AL, Huntsville First

PHELPS, PHILLIP

Apr 7-10, Gateway Community, OK, *
Apr 14-18, Rolla, MO
Apr 21-24, Ardmore, OK, Ardmore First
Apr 28-May 1, Caddo, OK
May 5-8, DeQueen, AR, DeQueen First
May 12-15, Hugo, OK
May 26-26, Duncan, OK, Duncan Heritage Oaks
May 26-26, Yukon, OK, Canadian Hills
Jun 2, New Castle, IL, *

ROSE, D., ROSE GARDEN

Apr 7-10, Crossville, TN
Apr 11-14, Marshall, IL, West Union
Apr 17-21, Lake Jackson, TX
Apr 24-28, Joplin, MO, Joplin Calvary
Apr 30-May 5, Nashville, MI
May 8-12, Crestline, MO, MO, *

ROTH, RONALD

Apr 3-7, Springfield, MO, Springfield Dayspring
Apr 10-14, Zanesville, OH, Zanesville First
Apr 15-16, Elried, PA, PA, *
Apr 17-21, New Castle, PA, New Castle First
Apr 23-28, Charleston, WV, Charleston North Side
May 1-5, Gordonsville, TN
May 7-12, Louisville, KY, Louisville Calvary

SMITH, DOYLE

Apr 3-7, Morristown, IN
Apr 10-14, Brownstown, IN

SMITH, DUANE

Apr 3-7, Morristown, IN
Apr 10-14, Brownstown, IN
Apr 17-21, Eureka, IL
Apr 24-28, Chillicothe, OH, Chillicothe First
May 1-5, Roanoke, VA, Roanoke East Gate
May 22-26, Elkins, WV
May 29-June 2, Fairmont, WV, Fairmont First
Jun 5-9, Saint Joseph, MI

SMITH, LARRY

Apr 6-10, Columbia, SC, Columbia Grace
Apr 13-17, Simpsonville, SC, Simpsonville Cornerstone
Apr 19-21, Myrtle Beach, SC
Apr 27-27, Summerville, SC
May 4-8, Jacksonville, NC, Jacksonville Faith
May 11-15, Havelock, NC, Havelock Coastal Beacon
May 18-22, Beaufort, SC, Beaufort New Direction Community

ULMET, WILLIAM

Apr 5-7, Berne, IN
Apr 10-14, Lexington, KY, Lexington Lafayette
Apr 17-21, Osgood, IN
Apr 24-28, Greensburg, IN, Greensburg Community
May 5-8, Louisville, KY, Louisville Southside
May 12-15, Sioux City, IA, Sioux City First
May 17-18, Colona, IL, Grace Community
May 19-22, Cedar Falls, IA, Cedar Falls Living Waters
May 29-June 2, Le Mars, IA
Jun 5-9, Timberville, VA

VERNIER, NICK, LION AND LAMB EVANGELISM INTERNATIONAL

Apr 12-14, Sand Springs, OK
Apr 21-24, Tulsa, OK, Tulsa Calvary

WARD, DALE, FREEDOM QUEST MINISTRY

Apr 7-10, Pullman, WA
Apr 12-14, Moscow, ID
Apr 21-24, Troy, ID
Apr 28-1, Iowa Falls, IA
May 5-8, Britt, IA, Britt Zion
May 19-22, Leavenworth, WA

WELLS, LINARD

Apr 3-7, Kansas City, KS, Kansas City Stony Point
Apr 9-14, Falls City, NE

WOMACK, PAUL, PPAP MINISTRIES

Apr 7-10, Tabor, IA, Tabor Weaver Memorial
Apr 14-17, Greenville, TX, Greenville Peniel
Apr 21-24, Seymour, MO
Apr 28-May 1, Newton, IA, Newton New Life Community
May 5-8, Burlington, IA, Burlington First
May 12-15, New Castle, IN, New Castle South Side
May 19-22, Macon, MO

WRIGHT, E.

Apr 2-7, Greensboro, NC, Greensboro Southeast
Apr 9-14, Stonewood, WV, Clarksburg
Apr 17-21, Orrville, OH, Orrville Harvest Hills
Apr 23-28, Logan, OH
Apr 30-May 5, Stonewood, WV, Clarksburg
May 8-12, Akron, OH, Akron Cottage Grove
May 15-19, Hudgins, VA, Gwynn's Island
May 21-26, Belington, WV
Jun 6-9, Winchester, VA, *
Jun 19-23, Minerva, OH

They Just Moved In NEXT DOOR

Yep! They just moved into the nice ranch style home with the pool right next door! We learned soon enough that they were two homosexual men. Now, how about that for a real addition to the neighborhood! I had suspected that I was homophobic; this proved it beyond doubt. I saw them unloading their stuff—big moving van with lots of fancy furniture—you know the kind of things those people have. I could just imagine them out by the pool in the moonlight. Well, it made me kind of sick.

I told Jeanne about them and do you know what she said? “How should we greet them to the neighborhood?” It was then that I realized that these were *my neighbors*, like it or not. So, I said, “Well, Jeanne, I guess you should do the usual... make the homemade bread and give them some of your frozen jam.” And that’s just what she did. We carried it over to them all hot and big like she makes it. We introduced ourselves. One of them said, “I went to a Nazarene College, and I’ve heard you preach.” And then with a look of slight terror, he said, “I knew you lived here.” Jeanne commented on the lovely front hall. At that, they invited us to see the whole house, including their bedroom. It was somewhere between that room and their front porch that God told me to act like an evangelist instead of a bigot. So I told them I had a garage full of tools, and offered to help them in any way I could.

That was about five years ago. I have come to know them as wonderful and kind neighbors. When they built a tall privacy fence, they put a heavy wrought iron gate on our side so we could use the pool. I have yet to hit them with “the four spiritual laws,” but I have invited them to come and hear me preach when I have been preaching in Kansas City. They act as if they might come, but have yet to show up. In spite of their life style that I abhor, I have come to like them as nice guys. How will I reach them for Christ ? Only God knows, but I plan to. Who knows! When life hits one of them really hard, they may come to the preacher that brought them the homemade bread and the frozen jam...the one who waves at them every time I see them in their yard...the one who, when I drive by their house, always thinks of them as becoming Christians some day.

They moved in right next door! I needed them to teach me a lesson. I pray some day they will need me to teach them, and that my life will have taught them something by some means.



Dr. Chuck Millhuff,
Olathe, KS
Evangelist, Church
of the Nazarene

An aerial, high-angle photograph of a dense city skyline, likely New York City, viewed from a high vantage point. The buildings are packed closely together, and the sky is a deep blue with some wispy clouds. In the top right corner, a portion of a globe is visible, showing the Americas. The overall color palette is dominated by blues and yellows.

POSTMODERN EVANGELISM

GERARD REED, Ph.D.



*Dr. Gerard Reed,
Professor of History and
Philosophy / Religion,
Point Loma Nazarene
University*

Vaclav Havel, the dissident playwright who moved from a prison cell to leading a liberated Czech Republic, says he's given himself to "living in truth." Such courage provides the stuff for martyrs and saints, as well as heroes like Havel. And the Church needs courageous speakers who call men to "live in truth."

In university classrooms professors may attempt to ponder the imponderable, to consider all sides to vexing questions. In the pastor's study, the priestly role of unconditional acceptance and love, comforting the comfortless, proves invaluable. But it's the prophetic evangelist who says "thus saith the LORD!" It's the prophet who proclaims absolutes, declares distinctives. He shares Ayn Rand's conviction, in *Atlas Shrugged*, that, "There are two sides to every issue. One side is right, and the other side is wrong, but the middle is always evil."

Prophetic evangelists remind us that sin is sin. Sin is

wrong. Sin damns. Thus, the evangelist, especially, has few hearers in a postmodern world, since the leading mark of "postmodernism" is cultural and ethical relativism.

Postmodernism pulsates with popular aphorisms bathed in the cologne of relativism. "Everything's relative," folks say, as if they were accurately reciting Einstein's famous theorem! Pundits and public school texts tell us "we all have different value systems, and none of which is right or wrong." We're often urged to "share" our opinions—as if hearing one another would magically resolve whatever separates us. Like amateur carpenters setting to work building a house without blueprints, everyone (in the postmodern mode) constructs his own version of reality.

In *The Death of Truth*, Dennis McCallum says postmodernism is mainly "a mood—a view of the world characterized by a deep distrust of reason, not to mention a disdain for the knowledge

Christians believe the Bible provides." It has its own unique "methodology," and has marshaled a militant "movement" that has marched throughout the corridors of our culture. Still more: "Postmodernism, as it applies to our everyday lives, is the death of truth as we know it," for it insists we create, rather than discover, truth—that reality is a social construct rather than a metaphysical given. Dismissing the objectivity of truth, postmodernists argue that we subjectively construct our own realities, that we "make up" what we'd like to have and then project them, like images on a screen, onto the "external world."

One need not examine the contemporary Church very long before detecting the influence of postmodernism in her teaching and preaching. We're often quite content helping people feel comfortable, inflating their self-esteem and excusing their

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World Changers

by Rex Bullock

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In 1983, John Sculley quit his job at Pepsico to become president of Apple Computer. He took a big risk leaving his prestigious position with a well-established firm to join ranks with an unproven little outfit that offered no guarantees, only the excitement of one man's transforming vision.

Sculley says he made the risky move after Apple co-founder, Steve Jobs, goaded him with the question, "Do you want to spend the rest of your life selling sugared water, or do you want a chance to change the world?"

The original disciples were a handful of unlikely misfits—nothing more than a "rather ragged aggregation of souls," as Robert Coleman puts it in his book, *Master Plan of Evangelism*. But the remarkable fact is that they were the same ones who later "turned the world upside down," according to the testimony of people in the First Century. There is only one intelligent answer: It was the arrival and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Do you have a passionate commitment to the task? Do you have a passion for the Holy Spirit? He wants to change you so that you can be a world changer.

Lucy, in the cartoon strip "Peanuts," says it again and again: "Good ol' wishy-washy Charlie Brown." Charlie Brown never denies the charge, unfortunately.

The need of the church is for men and women who will forthrightly and unashamedly declare their faith. Let's get off the fence! "Wishy-washies" aren't world changers. Sugar-water salesmen or world changers—which? "As for me and my house..."

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6) A major emphasis must be placed on the encouragement of students who are considering the field of evangelism and sense God's call in their lives. They must be known and encouraged by diligent follow up and support.

7) We must understand the mentality of the pastors and district superintendents we work with. They want results, and will define that word a thousand different ways. We are not to become their actors on their stages, but we must ask the Holy Spirit to make us aware of where we are and whom we are with.

8) We must not ruminate on the two or three hundred churches that will not have revivals, but on the some forty five hundred that will, if given a workable plan, allow crusades and revivals to take place in their situation.

9) We must become better in every aspect of our work. Self-evaluation and cross-evaluation among us must become the norm, and not a threat to our style or message. "Iron sharpens iron." We must start a Continuing Education Program for the Evangelist NOW !

10) Bivocational evangelism is not a disgrace, just as neither is bivocational pastoring.

11) We have rehearsed and proclaimed our problems well. We must stop, and begin the long process of expecting the best, in spite of the overwhelming obstacles—culturally, theologically and historically.

12) If God called us (and He did), then He will help us to overcome every obstacle—somehow, somewhere.

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provision to break us free from sin's grip today, in a moment in time, is real. Heart holiness, as we know it, does not make us perfect, as some would represent us. What it does do is make us perfectly capable of admitting we are not perfect. It is not that we cannot sin; it is that we need not sin in word and thought every day. The post-modern mindset of a compartmentalized life is heresy and an insult to Holy Scripture. Every part of our lives are radically changed. We are commanded, "Be Holy." (Eph. 1:5) So, let's proclaim the message of full salvation!

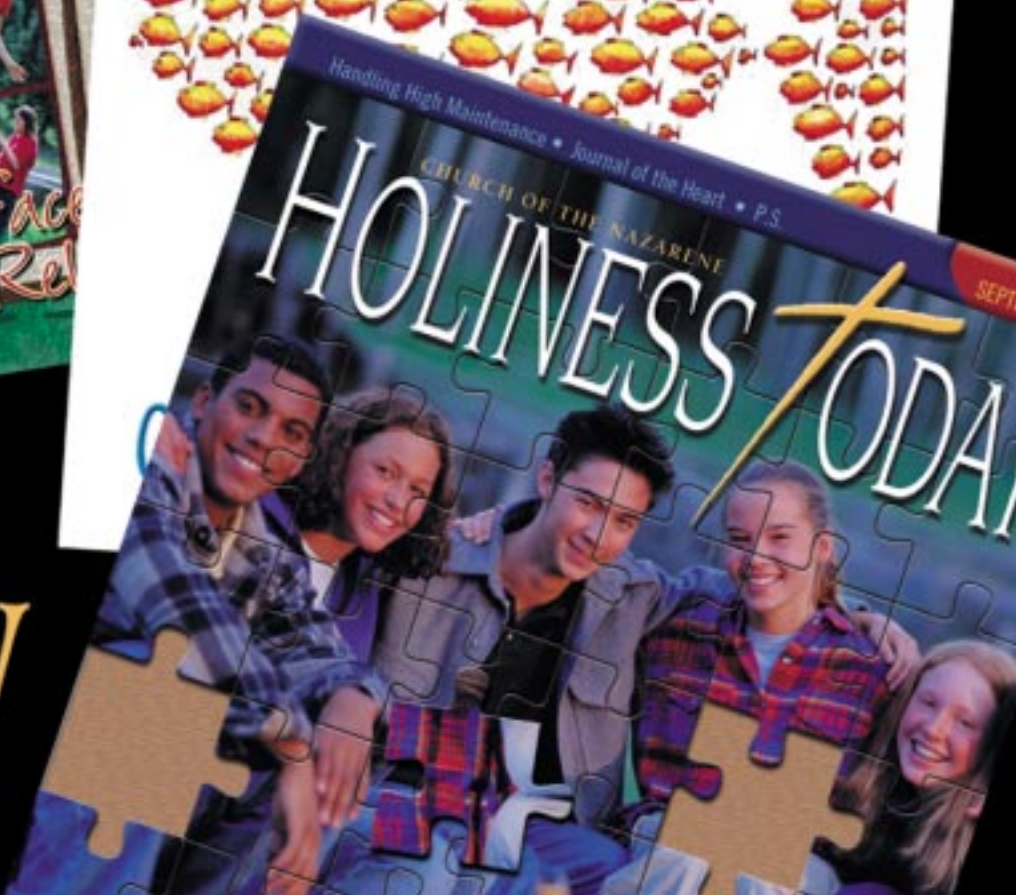
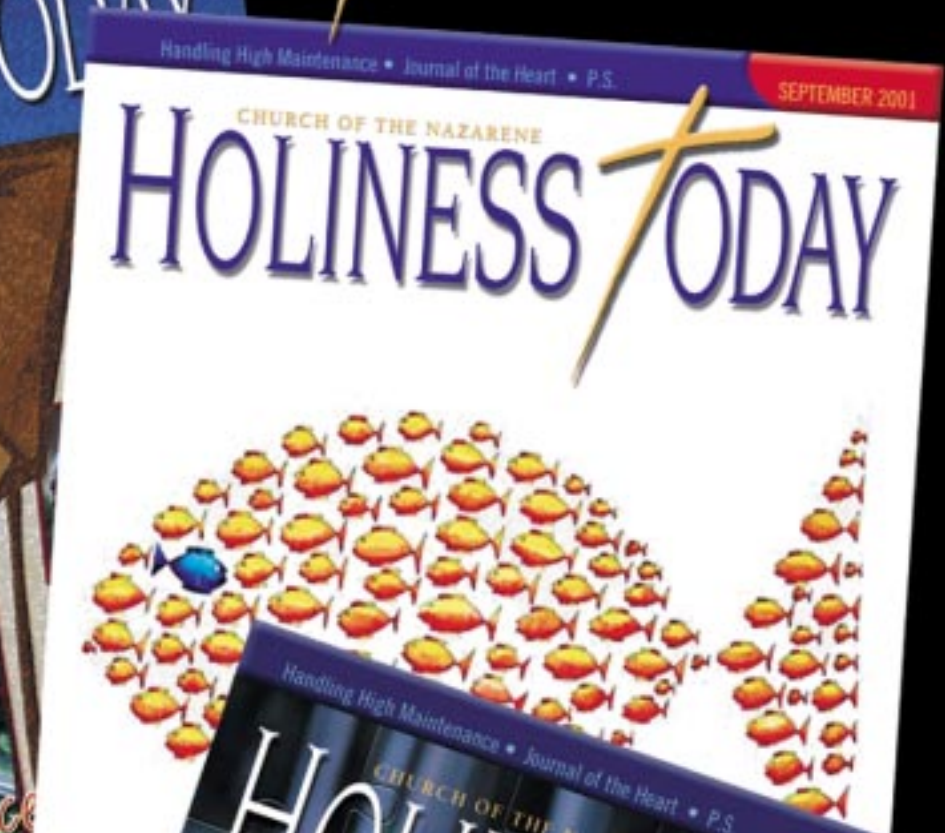
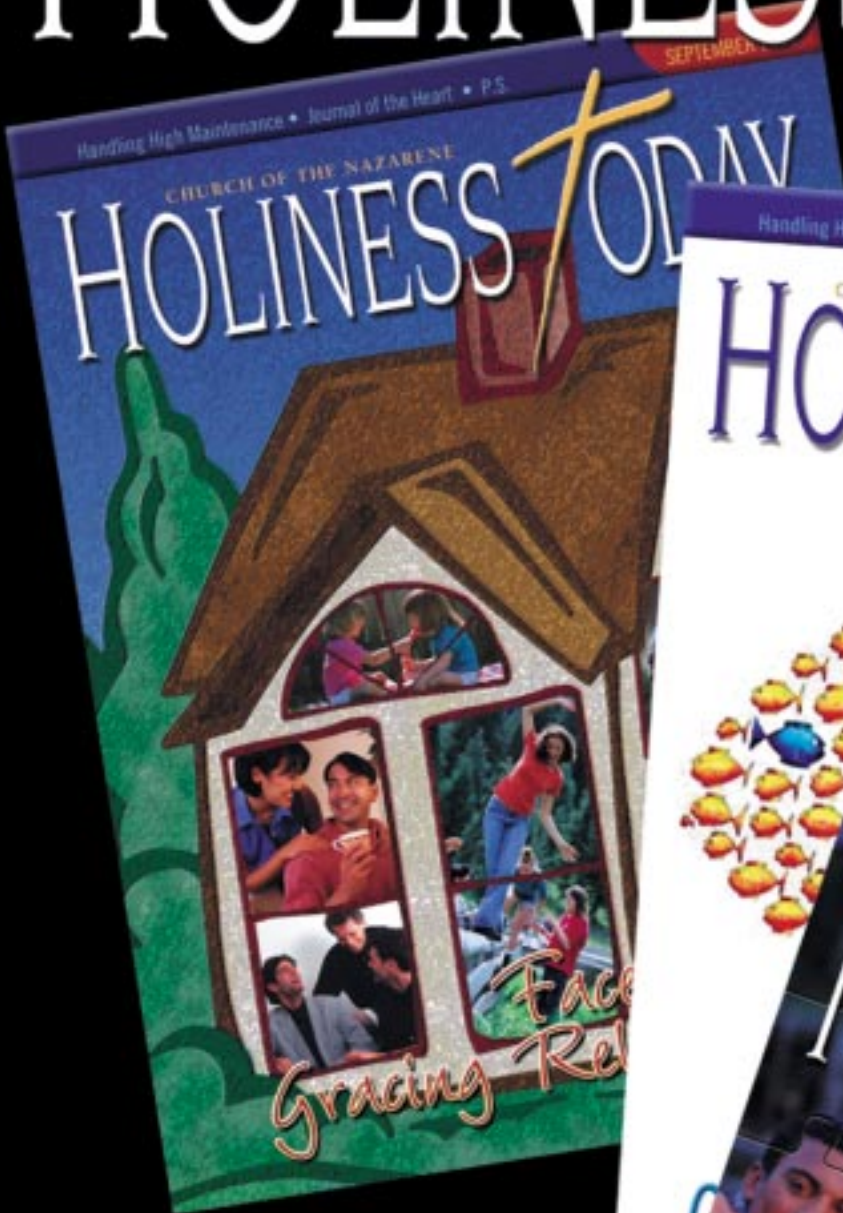
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"addictions." But, real Christians stand rooted in the objective reality of God and all that is eternal. Only what's eternal weighs much in the ultimate scale of things, and eternal realities exist quite independently of us time-bound creatures. So, if we're wise, we will look outside, rather than inside, ourselves. If we can know anything at all, apart from our own feelings, there must be realities independent of us which we discover and know as they are, not as we choose to define them.

So, we need evangelists—prophetic evangelists, countercultural evangelists—who speak for God, rightly declaring Who He Is: "a God of truth" (Dt 32:4) who lives "in truth" (Jer 4:2). To know "truth" about Him involves humbly submitting to the reality of His Being and the Revelation He has given us. Thus, evangelists, especially, should emphasize the objective reality of God, telling us Who He Is, highlighting those eternal realities with which our "truths" correspond. Truth-telling has never been "popular." But that, above all, is the assignment of evangelists—especially in a culture which denies that there is any "truth" at all!


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