


# Kentucky District News

Vol. 41, No. 11

November 2000



## **Kentucky Winter Youth Retreat February 9 & 10, 2001**

**Louisville, Kentucky  
at the Galt House**

**Speaker: Rev. Doug White**

## **Choir Fest**

**Seating for 2,501 People**

All groups must have adult chaperones.



The official monthly publication of the Kentucky District of the United Pentecostal Church International with headquarters in Hazelwood, Missouri. All materials for publication must be mailed to the editor by the fifth of the preceding month. Manuscripts and queries are invited. Manuscripts sent without a self-addressed, postage-paid envelope cannot be returned. Any pictures should be labeled on a separate paper and attached to the back of the pictures.

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**FUNDAMENTAL DOCTRINE**

The fundamental doctrine of this organization shall be the Bible standard of full salvation, which is repentance, baptism in water by immersion in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and the baptism of the Holy Ghost with the initial sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance.

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# Fishermen or Sportsmen?

by Rev. Gerald Adams, Pastor  
Hopkinsville, Kentucky

**Matthew 13:47: Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:**

America has always been a nation with open arms to all people who willingly accept both the invitation and the challenge to share its bountiful resources. The Lady of Liberty heralds it from her New York harbors; "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

This invitation has allured multiple millions from foreign soils into our cities. It is without doubt; that this factor has made America the great country it has become. A place was made, for everyone in this land of opportunity; thus, millions each year enter the Golden Door of Hope.

As the decades have rolled by, the church has now found itself in a precarious position. We are in a country with many cultures, but lack the ability to reach into these communities with the only saving message. America has made a place for everyone, but unfortunately, the church has not. It is a fact that the average Apostolic church in America reaches only for it's own kind. Our schools and workplaces have adapted, but our churches still reach for those of their own race and culture. The late Martin Luther King stated that the most segregated place in America was the church at 11 a.m. on Sunday Morning.

I am not much of a fisherman. I have a son-in-law that fishes for large mouth bass. All his tackle and efforts are to catch the big one. After he catches the fish, he takes pictures of it and quickly releases it. This is what I call a "Sportsman". He is just after one king or type of fish; however, Jesus said we are to be "Fishers of Men," all men.

In the opening verse, Jesus said the Kingdom was like a net being cast out and brought in "every kind" of fish. Are we Sportsmen or Fishermen? Are we reaching for one, or for everyone? If God has called us to our city, then He expects us to do all we can do to reach everyone in our city. Cast the net and make ready for a draught. Let us leave the qualifications of acceptance to God. He alone has the authority to grant someone a place in His Kingdom. At Calvary, we all stand even. Our job is to keep fishing!

# Are We Teaching Enough Bible?

Rev. J. Mark Jordan, Ohio District Superintendent  
Reprinted from *Ohio Apostolic News*

America's schools are in trouble. Plummeting literacy rates, lack of discipline, dilapidated buildings and social problems have turned many public schools into war zones. In recent decades, educators have experimented with basic subjects like reading, math and writing, but the results have been dismal at best. Everyone seems to point fingers of blame at others for all the failures, and politicians step up calls for more tax levies or federal money. Most of us wish that schools would simply become institutions of learning once again.

Society's ills often creep into the church. While our churches may not suffer many of the social problems that plague public schools, I detect an alarming decline of Bible knowledge among children, young people and even in our Apostolic adults. For a movement that owes its origin to a thorough and passionate study of the Bible, this trend is extremely troubling. Instead of going deep into the Word, we content ourselves with superficial synopses; instead of hard learning, we tolerate pat, scripted answers; rather than serious study, we opt for "Bible-lite" services.

I am old enough to remember minister-teachers who traveled the circuit with dog-eared Bibles and full-length charts, replete with pictures and diagrams. I remember Bible conferences that devoted hours to teaching and discussion of scripture. I remember revival sermons that were chock-full of scriptural references. Messages were not judged for their eloquence, clever slogans or shock value, but whether or not they were scripturally accurate. Young preachers who spouted off their own ideas without chapter and verse to back it up were often scolded by their elders. Ministers were taught to avoid using too many stories or illustrations and just preach the Word. To me, this is still good advice. I strongly oppose trends that lead us away from Bible teaching. Any component of our worship programs or services that becomes a substitute for teaching, no matter how powerful, will undermine the mission of the church. When we consign doctrinal teaching to a lesser role, we will operate under some shaky alternatives such as:

**Broad assumptions.** "Oh, people already know the Bible. Let's not bore them with the same old stuff." Make no mistake; Bible truths never bore true Bible believers! Familiar scriptures evoke faith and increase peoples' confidence in God, and new inspiration and fresh insight always accompanies the teaching of old truths.

Besides, people may not know as much about the Bible as we think they do.

**Random learning.** "Saints will pick up what they need here and there. It's too restricting to our schedule to commit to regular, systematic Bible study." But the Word of God is too important to leave to chance. Vital, foundational truths need to be fully explored, clearly explained and effectively taught. Haphazard teaching creates learning gaps that will become a source of weakness in the church.

**Entertainment.** "We want church services that people will enjoy." Services must never be reduced to occasions for amusement, pleasure or diversion. Eternal truths such as salvation, judgment and the identity of God may not evoke fun or make people laugh, but they will keep them saved. Enjoyment is the by-product of study, not its main object. The power of the church lies in the substance of its message, not in the charisma of its ministry.

**High emotion.** "I think people need to 'feel God' every time they come to church. We don't need dead, dull boring Bible studies." Worship and praise that have little or no basis in scripture, however, soon evaporates. All that's left will be fanaticism. Actually, when truth is taught with excellence and conviction, it will generate all the high emotion a church can handle.

**Silent witness.** "People will know what we believe by seeing how we live. Let's not drive them away through teaching harsh, divisive doctrine." Doctrine, however, must be articulated. The church was a mandate not only to live the word, but to "Preach the Word."

The Bible warns us of the dangers of a teaching famine. "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge ..." Hosea 4:6. When truth lies dormant in closed Bibles, error will eventually infiltrate the church. When we deem the systematic study of scriptures as stodgy and dull, we will lose reverence for core beliefs. One sign of the coming of Christ is the erosion of Bible teaching. "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." II Timothy 4:3-4. May God help us to exalt, not diminish, the enduring teaching of the Bible in the church.

# Don't Mess With Mercy!

by Rev. M. D. Crutchfield, Pastor, Decatur, Illinois  
Reprinted from *Illinois District News*

One night in 1935, Fiorello H. La Guardia, mayor of New York, showed up at a night court in the poorest ward of the city. He dismissed the judge for the evening and took over the bench. One striking situation involved an elderly woman who was charged with stealing, that she might feed her grandchildren. After hearing the evidence, the "judge for a night" said, "I've got to punish you. Ten dollars or ten days in jail." The gavel cracked atop the desk.

As he spoke, he threw \$10 into his hat. He then fined everyone in the courtroom 50 cents for living in a city "where a person has to steal bread so that her grandchildren can eat." The hat was passed around, and the woman left the courtroom with her fine paid and an additional \$47.50.

Someone wrote, "Grace is getting what you don't deserve, but mercy is not getting what you deserve!" Thank God for mercy, for all have been the recipients of mercy. A saint who forgets the mercy of God will soon lose the spark of thankfulness and the true spirit of worship.

I believe that many today have a misunderstanding of what God had purposed through the Law, much like the Pharisees of

Jesus' day. (Remember it was Haggai who first told us that "The Just shall live by his faith, and in Exodus 34, the first term God uses to describe Himself is MERCIFUL!) God intended to have mercy in the implementing of the Law. Unfortunately, the oft-rebellious Israel saw more of the judgement side of God, not because of what God desired but because of their propensity to sin. Jesus was fighting this misconception when He told the Pharisees that mercy was a weightier matter of the Law.

***"I believe that many today have a misunderstanding of what God had purposed through the Law, much like the Pharisees of Jesus' day."***

Note the construction of the central piece of furniture in the Tabernacle, the Ark of the Covenant. The Law (The Tables of Stone) were inside the Ark, underneath a lid called "The Mercy Seat". Praise the Lord! Even under the Old Covenant, the righteousness of the Law was covered with Mercy. When God spoke to Moses, he spoke from above the Mercy Seat, not from

the Law! The Law is good and right, but God's plan is that it is to rest under a buffer of Mercy.

The problem with removing the covering of Mercy is that the pure righteousness and judgment of the Law is exposed to all. In a sense, that is what happened when the Pharisees brought the adulterous woman to Jesus to be stoned. When they demanded that the judgement of the Law be performed upon her, they unwittingly exposed themselves to the judgement of the Law.

When the Ark returned from Philistia, the men of Bethshemesh were excited and foolishly looked into the Ark. (The Mercy Seat had to have been moved in order for them to look in at the Law.) God smote over fifty thousand men that day; men who had removed the mercy that covered the

Law! A cry rose from Bethshemesh that day, "Who is able to stand before this Holy God?" What they needed was a High Priest with blood, that the judgement of the Law would be satisfied. Today, we have such a High Priest carrying blood that has satisfied the demands of Justice upon a seat of Mercy. Jesus is our High Priest, and the Blood He carries is His own.

# Kentucky Bible College

## Winter Term:

December 4, 2000 thru March 5, 2001

## Centers:

Morehead, Nicholasville, Hopkinsville & Elizabethtown

## Classes for this term:

History of Pentecost, Exodus, Romans  
and Isaiah

## Registration Form

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Marital Status: Married (  ) Single (  ) Divorced (  )

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*Note: No registration will be received without the signature of the Pastor.*

## Send registration to:

Rev. Lloyd Dean  
6770 US 60 East, Morehead, Kentucky 40351

# The Carpenter

by Ron Schoolcraft

With sawdust-sprinkled hands and arms, and woodchip-frosted hair,  
And a fragrant smell of rough-hewn cedar wafting through the air,  
The Carpenter from Nazareth in backwoods Galilee,  
Dreamed of how His greatest work of art was soon to be.

He formed the worlds and framed them with the hammer of His Word;  
Now tabernacled in the flesh, He was the Carpenter.  
The One who measured out the seas and heavens with the span,  
Now knew the plan to save mankind lay in His chiseled hands.

Then a splinter pierced His finger, and the crimson slowly traced  
Along the beam of time until a shadow crossed His face.  
“Now son, that didn’t hurt that bad.” Dad sponged away the stain.  
“You’re gonna be a carpenter, acquaint yourself with pain.”

The Master Builder knew the cost for a building fitly framed,  
And trembled as He gently smoothed His hand across the grain.  
He longed to labor with His hands, to tarry longer still,  
But time was up: He had to move His workshop to the Hill.

Upon that Hill the Carpenter bowed low beneath the strain,  
And toiling there in silence, wrought with blood and sweat and pain;  
And once again He stretched His hands to build a new creation,  
And took the nails in deep travail of driven desperation.

At last He cried, “It’s finished!” His Masterpiece was through.  
Many were astonished at the visage now in view:  
For there was Love! With arms spread wide, uplifted from the earth;  
The Carpenter at Calvary unveiled His Crowning Work!

# Shall we Believe in God and the Bible?

by E.G. Moyer

Should we believe in God is a question we find ourselves asking many times as we start out in life. Most of us have been fortunate enough to have parents who did believe in God. It seems natural to believe. Centuries ago the Bible recorded, "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no god" (Psalm 14:1). There was a saying during the last World War, "There are no atheists in the fox holes." Some of the most renowned atheists have been known to pray before dying. It seems as natural for a person to pray in a crisis, as it is for a dog to bark.

The Bible cries out, "The heavens declare the glory of God and the earth showeth His handiwork" (Psalm 19:1). Have you traveled enough on this earth to observe its grandeur and beauty or beheld at night the twinkling stars and full moon or beheld the rising sun without exclaiming how could this be without a Supreme Being, though we don't fully understand?

We view the snow-capped mountain peaks, so majestic and placed so strategically that rives will still flow during summer months for the survival of agriculture and all of life. Did this just happen? How could the earth be so well formed as to provide river beds to carry water throughout the whole earth back to the oceans? How can the oceans contain enough salt to keep them from being putrid, and yet the fish life and vegetation are not salty to the taste?

We have gone through the California Redwoods and Sequoia National Forests where giant trees tower two or three hundred feet high, their trunks wide enough for cars to drive through. We have visited the eucalyptus trees, standing full of butterflies which go as far north as Alaska to lay their eggs which in turn hatch into butterflies that return south. What prompts this cycle and how do they know their way back?

What kind of feeling does one get when viewing the expanse of the great oceans of water or of Crater Lake in Oregon or the Grand Canyon or Niagara Falls or Yellowstone geysers that you can set your clock by or the beauty of Yosemite? Do we not say with the song writer, "How Great Thou Art," and stand in awe and wonderment?

In the past men have cried out, "Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me" (Psalm 139:7-11).

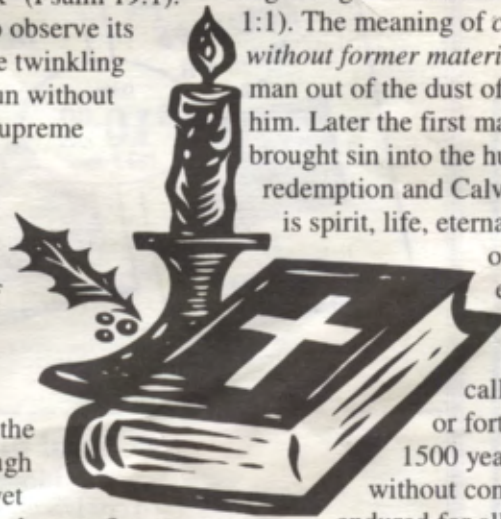
The very first verse in the Bible records, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). The meaning of *creation* is to bring into existence without former materials. Later we read that God formed man out of the dust of the earth and breathed life into him. Later the first man, Adam, fell into disobedience and brought sin into the human race which necessitated redemption and Calvary. The Bible also tells us that God is spirit, life, eternal, omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient and that He has always existed.

Yes, we must believe in God! We wonder, How could a book called the Bible, written by thirty-nine or forty different writers over a period of 1500 years, be so accurately written and without contradictions? And how has the Bible endured for all generations? Why did men and women choose to be thrown to wild beasts rather than surrender these writings in the third century during the reign of Diocletian?

We have the mental picture of a man during the first church period sitting in a prison cell writing. He had been thinking of the foreknowledge of God when he wrote these words: "Oh the depths of the wisdom and knowledge of God, how unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out" (Romans 11:33).

Dear friend, Make no mistake about it, the Bible is a very important and informative book that can change your life forever.

Yes, we must believe in the Bible!



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