

MIDWEST

Pilgrim News

Summer 2025

Publishing Holiness Since 1964





From the Editor

Are you dissatisfied with the current state of your church or conference? Do you wish things could be better? The answer may be right under your nose. Literally. You are part of the solution to a better situation. If you will get dissatisfied with being dissatisfied, a tangible difference can be made today. Consider four things you can do to make your organization a better place.

Start Praying for Your Organization

It has been said that there is “power in prayer,” and “prayer moves the arm that moves the universe.” These are more than cliches. They are facts; so start praying for your pastor, Sunday School teachers, congregation, and conference leaders. We are not talking about making prayer requests, or the two-minute corporate prayers during a church service; we are talking about deep, earnest, sacrificial, prevailing prayer. Become an intercessor. Stand in the gap and contend with the enemy until the answer comes. This may be hard work, but God will honor the sacrifice and a difference will be made.

If you are a senior citizen, I remind you that your days of ministry are not over. You could still do more from your arm chair than the rest of the church put together as they are knocking on doors and teaching their Sunday School classes. In fact, you can be the reason for their success.

Encourage Your Spiritual Leaders

There are few things more demoralizing to spiritual leaders than constant complaining, unfair criticism, and the outright undermining of Kingdom work. This type of behavior produces stress, discouragement, disunity, and a sense of futility. What is the point of working hard to go forward when people refuse to cooperate or support the vision? Remember, if Moses was discouraged by criticism and complaint, your leader can be as well.

Find some things your leaders are doing well and thank them. Do your best to assist them in their vision. Some warm support can boost their morale and improve their performance across the board. You do not have to like or agree with every aspect of leadership, but you are called to love, encourage, pray, submit, and assist your leaders in the work of the Kingdom.

We think of “Jim”, a lay member who vehemently opposed the proposed building project at his church. He had a list of reasons why he thought it was a bad idea and was not shy about voicing his opinion at every opportunity. He was naturally disappointed when the vote went against him, but guess whose work truck was the first to roll into the church parking lot at the groundbreaking? Jim worked harder than anyone, using his expertise to make the building project a success and no one heard

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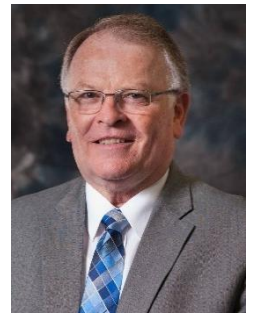
Mission Statement: The mission of the PNN is three- fold: 1.) We desire to glorify God and facilitate the worship of His person. 2.) We seek to promote the Gospel of Christ with its beautiful message of heart holiness. 3.) We seek to be an encouragement to our readers spiritually, as well as an informative source of information to those who are connected with, or interested in, our Conference.

Direct comments to the editor:
pnnphc1@gmail.com@gmail.com



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our social
media sites.

The President's Page



Youth Camp is less than a month away and we are trusting God for a great group of campers and a wonderful time together in the presence of God.

Our Conference Youth Director, Pastor John Forsee, and his team have been hard-at-work getting all of the preparations made. Registrations at this writing are about twice the number as were recorded by this time last year. Youth are to be recommended by their pastor and prepared to spend Monday through Friday on the Frankfort Camp Ministries campus, seeking God and enjoying fellowship with other campers. Team leaders, team members, support staff, and the Conference church family are encouraged to spend time fasting and praying for a great move of the Holy Spirit among our youth this year. If your church can send an offering to help with PYC expenses that would be great. Or you may want to give money to your church youth to help them attend.

Family Camp always covers the last two Sundays in June. We are happy to have Dr. Paul Kaufman, Dr. Adam Buckler, and The Rob Ryan Family Singers, serving as our preaching and singing evangelists. Pastor John Forsee will oversee the youth services and Mrs. Sarah Rundell, and family will minister to our children. A major change in the schedule will place the Pilgrim Missions service on Thursday evening, led by Missionary Maurice Roll and the Mission Board. You will hear how God is blessing the work in the Caribbean. An opportunity to contribute toward the funding of the Missions department will be given.

An ordination service will be held the last Saturday morning. The dining hall will serve meals on schedule, and you are invited to get involved in helping to make it happen. Whether in the serving line, cleaning tables, washing pots and pans, vacuuming or mopping the floors, cleaning restrooms, or any other job, your cheerful participation is expected and deeply appreciated. Time for prayer is scheduled each morning and encouraged at other times during the day. We plan to have a healing service, knowing that God answers prayer and the needs are many. The fervent prayers of righteous people accomplish much. We are contending for the glory of God on the services. Like Moses, we have seen a portion of His glory many times over our 59 years at Pilgrim camp. We want to experience it again. We want our children to witness it. There is nothing to compare to the manifest Presence of God.

I challenge you to put yourself whole-heartedly into this camp. Come prepared to be a blessing. God will meet with us! And we will leave at the close, reminded once again of God's hand upon our Zion.

President Don Nichols

Rev. Don Nichols lives in Lima, Ohio, and pastors the Pilgrim Holiness Church there. He also serves as the Conference President of the MPHC Inc.

News From Our Churches



Evangelist Listing

Joe and Janelle Carey: Phone: 317-671-3340; E-mail: jcarey@ubca.org
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Jerald and Becky Glick: Phone: 317-796-5307; E-mail: glickmusic.jg@gmail.com

Rev. Mark Ranke: Phone: 812-267-3551; E-mail: mrانke@juno.com

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Rev. Don and Fayerene Walden: Cell: 765-318-5557, Home: 317-341-5237 E-mail: donandfay@embarqmail.com



Above: Daniel, Nan and Autumn Forsee. **Left:** Roger Russell and great-granddaughter, Jessie Buzzard.

Youth Camp

June 16-20
Frankfort, IN
Speaker: Jaime Becerra
Singers: Bible Colleges



Pilgrim Family Camp

June 20-29. Frankfort, IN, **Speakers:** Rev. Adam Buckler, Dr. Paul Kaufman
Singers: Rob and Stephanie Ryan Family

*Annual Conference: June 23-24

*Conference
Family Retreat
Coming Soon:
Don't Miss Out!
Worship! Fun for
all ages. Refresh
& renew with
friends. Bring the
whole family!*

*Contact Chris &
Constance
Dewhurst for any
questions. (740)
818-5644*

*Left: Gary and
Brenda Fish*



News From Our Churches



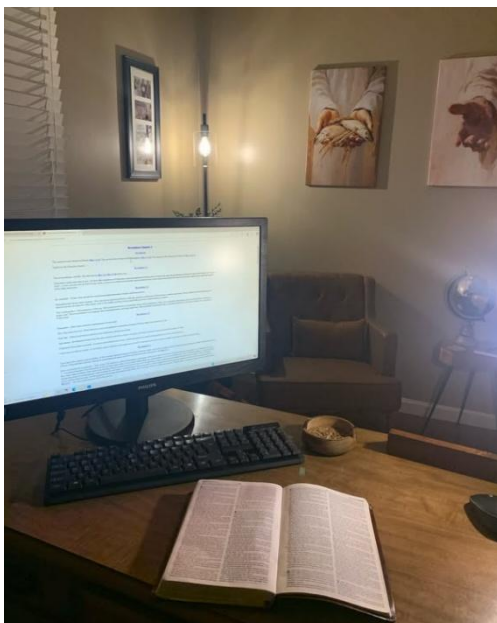
Noblesville, PHC

One of the most beautiful words in our language is the little word HOPE. The Hebrew writer, in 11:1, stated that, “Now faith is the substance (assurance) of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” We, as God’s children, have a glorious hope that we will overcome this world and dwell with Jesus one day! Yet even now, we have the earthly hope that winter is over and spring has arrived. Warmer days, melting snow, and sunny skies lift our spirits and give us hope. February was a reminder that better days are coming. During this month, the Ladies’ Committee sponsored a fun Valentine evening. The food, fun, and fellowship were really great.

The first Sunday in March proved to be a very exciting day. Two new babies were introduced. Byron and Jaimie Russell are the proud parents of Alexander “Zander” Keith Russell, born February 15, 2025, and Trent and Rebekah Welbaum welcomed Everett Joseph into their home February 24, 2025. We congratulate these families. In addition, Pastor Forsee was excited to have two other baby dedications on the same Sunday.

What a joy to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord! Easter Sunday began with a sunrise service followed by breakfast together. Morning worship was permeated with the Presence of God. The choir sang so beautifully, “He Still Reigns.” Sunday evening ended with a communion service commemorating our wonderful Savior, Jesus Christ. We serve a Risen Savior. Later that week, we celebrated a Couples Night Out which was a fun night of food, chatter, and laughter. We thank the Lord for a wonderful church family. We express great appreciation for our pastoral team and their families, the Forsees, the Modlins, and the Careys.

Dianne Campbell, Church Reporter



Evansville, PHC

Greetings from Evansville PHC! The Lord is moving here! We have seen souls saved, growth in the church, and services marked by the presence of the Holy Ghost. The only one to attribute these things are to God. We have been praying much and He has been blessing! Stay encouraged God is still on the throne!

“Sermon Prep is a favorite part of being a pastor. It is a privilege to dig into the truth of God’s Word and to be used to relay those truths to His people. I am thankful for God’s call upon my life; there is nothing I’d rather be than a minister of the gospel!”

Pastor Mitch Garrett



TAMING THE TONGUE



Do you want to be more like Jesus? If so, ask God to help you incorporate the following principles into your behavior. Holy conversation is a must for the child of God.

1. **Our speech should be holy: Eph 5:4** Nor is it fitting for you to use language which is obscene, profane, or vulgar. Rather you should give thanks to God.

We must notice the context of moral appeal. (See verse 3) Thus, our speech should be free of vulgarity and sexual innuendo. We are God's children and should act like it. Marital intimacy, of course, is a gift from God and should be enjoyed with thanksgiving.

2. **We should not criticize others: Jas 4:11** Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law:

Being right with God involves being right with people. Being right with people shows in the way we talk about them. Criticizing others and ruining their good name and influence violates the law of love and takes the right of judgement that God reserves for Himself. We are called to build people up, not tear them down. This applies to all people but especially Christian brothers.

3. **We should speak the truth in love: Eph 4:15** But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

We all know people whom we would like to "give a piece of our mind," we just need to make sure its not a piece of the old, carnal mind, but the mind that has been renewed in Christ. Our goal is to connect with and bless people, not try to compete with or pay them back for something they have done. A kind, winsome spirit carries the truth a lot farther than an angry self-centered one.

4. **We are accountable for our speech: Mat 12:36** But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

Sins of the tongue are real sins too and we cannot afford to treat them as something innocent. God is keeping the records and we will face our speech sins on judgement day. Our prayer today should be for God to help us become as much like His Son as we can in the time given us. If our heart is set on being like Christ, we will not be satisfied with an untamed tongue.

~Selected

Psalm 141:3

*Sèt a guard, O
Lord, over my
mouth; keep
watch over the
door of my lips!*

3 Duties Toward Authority

1.) We should pray for our spiritual leaders:

1 Tim 2:1-3: First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, requests, and thanksgivings be offered to God for all people; 2 for kings and all others who are in authority, that we may live a quiet and peaceful life with all reverence toward God and with proper conduct. 3 This is good and it pleases God our Savior,



Our spiritual leaders carry a heavy weight of responsibility given to them by God. This responsibility directly affects the Kingdom, as well as our personal lives. It is our duty to pray for God to give them protection, wisdom, strength, grace, and success. It is difficult to pray for our leaders when we are constantly criticizing, mocking, and undermining them.

2.) We should submit to our leader's authority:

Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

The writer, in verse 7, encourages the reader to imitate the faith of their past leaders, now he says to obey and submit to their present ones in all matters of doctrine and discipline. One reason for this is because they are accountable for the souls of their flock. The word “watch” indicates sleeplessness and speaks of a leaders love and faithfulness to his people. This command stands in contrast to the insubordination we often see toward spiritual leaders.

3.) We should honor our leaders and not tolerate slander against them:

1 Tim 5:17-19 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. 18 For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward. 19 Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. 20 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.

Leaders that rule well are worthy of double honor and we should not listen to slander, believe it, or accuse them of wrongdoing unless there are multiple witnesses to verify the truth. Our leaders are on God's staff and should be appreciated, supported, and defended.

~Selected



Pilgrim Holiness Missions Service
Family Camp, Frankfort, Indiana

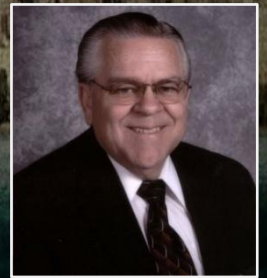
Thursday, June 26

7:00 P.M.

Come and hear what God is doing
on our mission fields.

The End Times

What We Need To Know



By Rev. Steven E. Hight

About fifteen years ago, Harold Camping, CEO of Family Radio, predicted that the rapture of the church would take place on May 21, 2011. He posted his message on large billboards across America and on trucks that circulated in our large cities. When it didn't happen, he said, "I must have calculated wrong. I spent the day praying, 'Jesus, what went wrong?'" Thoughts, ideas, questions, fears, and speculations about the last days fill the minds of millions of people. This is especially true when there are major events in the Middle East, such as the Israel-Hamas conflict and the sudden fall of the Assad dictatorship in Syria in December 2024. What will happen? When will the end come? Who will be the Antichrist? What will the mark of the beast look like? Who will be the Beast and the False Prophet?

Do you remember when the Beast was purported to be a giant computer in Belgium (1972) that had the capacity to store all the data of all the people in the world? Do you recall that many thought that Henry Kissinger, at the height of his peace-making efforts (1974-75), might be the Antichrist? And I remember a man in Guatemala. . . . And we could go on. People have numerous questions about the end times. So, what can we really know? What do we need to know about those days that will surely come? I would like to suggest at least five things that should be front and center in our teaching about the last days.

JESUS WILL RETURN IN PERSON TO THE EARTH

Scriptures are filled with this promise which has been called "the bright hope of the Christian." John 14:3 is one of the best-known pledges of Christ: "And if I go and prepare a place for you [and He did!], I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also." Acts 1:11 reports the famous words of the angels who told the watching disciples, "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen him go." This report sent the twelve back into Jerusalem to pray in the upper room, waiting there until the Holy Spirit filled them at Pentecost.

ALL MEN SHALL BE RESURRECTED FROM THE DEAD

Some will be raised "to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt," said Daniel (12:2). Paul wrote in I Corinthians 15:22-23 that, as all men died (death came into the world) in Adam, "even so in Christ shall all be made alive, but every man in his own order." Christ is the first, then those who belong to Him, and finally the end will come. Revelation. 10:13 indicates

End Times: From Page 8

.....that, at that point, the rest of the dead will be resurrected for final judgment. I'm sure we all want to be in the resurrection of the righteous dead! Here's a positive message from the doctrine of resurrection: God values us as people, including our bodies. He will resurrect them to new physical life and vitality, and they will be part of our ultimate glorification.

GOD WILL JUDGE THE INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH

Ready or not, judgment day is coming, and God will pronounce the final destinies of all men. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ," proclaims Paul in II Corinthians 5:10, to be assessed according to all we have done in the body. In Romans 2:6 he tells us that God "will render to every man according to his deeds." Some have argued over how many judgments there will be and who will appear at each one. The main thing for us to remember is that we will be judged (Romans 14:10, "we shall all stand before the judgement seat of Christ") and we must be ready.

SATAN SHALL BE TOTALLY OVERTHROWN FOREVER

Jesus defeated our enemy through the cross and in His resurrection. But as someone has stated, "Satan has been defeated, but is not now confined." We can have victory over him and over sin through the power and grace of God, but he is still "walking about like a roaring lion" (I Peter 5:8) seeking to devour us. But the day will come when he is cast into the Lake of Fire to "be tormented day and night for ever and ever" (Revelation 20:10). Hallelujah! We will be totally free of him and his temptations!

GOD WILL ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM AND REIGN UNOPPOSED FOR ETERNITY

The day is coming when an angel shall loudly blow his trumpet and announce, "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever" (Revelation 11:15). The promise of the Father to Jesus in Hebrews 1:8 foreshadows this: "But unto the Son he saith, 'Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom.'" The everlasting kingdom of God will be established without opposition. Final victory is coming!

These are things we can know for certain, and they are truths that bring hope and encouragement to the Christian. We may not know who the two witnesses will be (Rev. 11) or if the mark of the Beast is a tattoo or an electronic chip, but we may be sure of the five truths above. Let's rejoice in them and let's be counted among those who "follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth" (Rev. 14:4b).

Rev. Steven Hight is an ordained minister with the MPH. He and his wife attend the PHC in Noblesville, IN.



Titus 2:11-13 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, ¹² Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; ¹³ Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

While the world might fear the end times, the Bible encourages believers to live in hope. Christ's return is something to look forward to, as it means the fulfillment of all His promises and the beginning of eternal peace. If you are not looking forward to Christ's return, you are missing out on joy that belongs to you. Why not pray and ask God to give you the perspective of the song writer?

*"But, Lord, 'tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait, the sky, not the grave, is our goal;
Oh trump of the angel! Oh voice of the Lord! Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul!"*

*"And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend, Even so, it is well with my soul." ~Horatio Spafford*

Libel and Slander Claim

Responding to Slander

Slander is an incredibly destructive sin. The bible says it “lies in wait for blood” (Prov 12:6), “destroys neighbors” (Prov 11:9), and “separates close friends” (Prov 16:28), which is why Satan instigates it as often as he does. He knows that pastors and ministry leaders are easy targets for slander and does his best to undermine their influence and work for the Lord. How hurtful it is for them to hear people they have trusted, slandering their character or readily believing the worst about them. Such unjust action does great damage to the Kingdom of Christ and leads them into temptation and discouragement.

How should ministers respond when slander comes their way?

1.) **Do Not be Surprised: 1 Peter 4:12** “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:”

When we are attacked unjustly it can be easy to “fall apart”. We are so hurt that people would accuse us of something untrue, we become depressed and disillusioned with the ministry. We can even be tempted to think that ministry is not worth the effort, which is what the enemy wants us to think. We must keep our eyes on Jesus and expect to be slandered. That way we will be prepared when it happens.

Jonathan Edwards, **Charity and Its Fruits.**

“Men that have their spirits heated and enraged and rising in bitter resentment when they are injured act as if they thought some strange thing had happened to them. Whereas they are very foolish in so thinking for it is no strange thing at all but only what was to be expected in a world like this. They therefore do not act wisely that allow their spirits to be ruffled by the injuries they suffer.”

2.) **Give Thanks to God: Matt 5:11-12** “Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”

This principle may sound strange to the world for they see nothing beneficial about slander. They only want to complain about injustice and possibly get revenge on those who have hurt them. However, the Christian looks at such mistreatment differently.

Not only is there great reward in Heaven for suffering for Jesus’ sake, persecution helps us attain our objective of being made in the image of Christ.

We can thank God knowing that every false accusation, slander, or ill words spoken about us is being used for God’s glory and our spiritual benefit. If the end result of something is for our sanctification, we must thank God for it.

3.) **Be Slow to Speak: James 1:19-20** Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: 20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

When we are slandered it’s usually tempting to retaliate by defending oneself or discrediting our attacker, however those responses can backfire. Retaliation can lead us to say or do things we may regret and make the situation worse. We should have a greater fear of acting unrighteously rather than fearing our name be tainted in the eyes of man. It is okay if some people misunderstand us. God loves us and is not passive in our defense. We should trust Him to be our defender. He will exonerate us in His time and way.

“Let the name of Whitefield perish, but Christ be glorified. Let my name die everywhere, let even my friends forget me, if by that means the cause of the blessed Jesus may be promoted. . . I am content to wait till the judgement day for the clearing up of my reputation; and after I am dead, I desire no other epitaph than this, “Here lies G. W. What sort of man he was the great day will discover.” ~George Whitfield



Sanctified Selections

Dating back to the beginning of known civilization, music has been an important part of humanity's existence. As early as Genesis chapter 4, Jubal is mentioned as a musician, and conjecture exists that Adam sang to Eve in Genesis 2. Furthermore, scholars agree that in Heaven, Satan was the worship leader, which most likely included music. The Levites, who were some of the most esteemed leaders of God's people, were given the revered responsibility of leading the worship music, as mentioned in I Chron chapters 8, 16, 23, and 31.

While there seems to be a lot of discussion in the church world concerning what music is appropriate either in the worship service or in involvement in one's personal life, an important question should be considered: If we as Wesleyan Methodist Christians believe in *entire* sanctification and separation from the world, would this not also include our music? John Wesley, who we consider to be the founder of the conservative holiness movement as we know it, believed that music was powerful enough to influence and should be unifying to the congregation and not cause division by the flashiness of a performance in the worship service. The music director of conservative holiness churches should prayerfully and carefully consider what songs are being sung in the worship service and what purposes are behind them.

When it comes to one's personal choices of music, if we still believe that a radical change occurs at conversion (salvation) and an even further solidification of one's walk occurs at sanctification, would not one's choices of music eventually align with all choices: Only that which pleases God? It seems as though any music choice that

has lyrics contrary to sound biblical doctrine and instrumentation that seeks to glorify the flesh would not be in accordance with I Corinthians 10:31: "...Do all to the glory of God." Another consideration would be to ask ourselves, Do the musicians on the recordings live godly, holy lives? Would I want me or my children or those under my influence patterning our lives after theirs?

Our choice of music for both use in the worship service and our personal lives should be considered with much prayer and comparison to God's Word. Our lives should speak loudly of the message of holiness, even in our participation in music, so that the world knows that we know Someone Who can change them from who they are. Our music should testify to I Peter 1:15-16, "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."

Charles Norfleet grew up in Frankfort, Indiana. He graduated from Penn View Bible Institute twice and has a Master of Education degree from Bob Jones University. He will begin teaching at Salem Wesleyan Academy in Salem, Ohio, this fall. Some of his hobbies are collecting books on various teachable topics or areas of interest to him (usually history, music, or biographies), playing piano and organ, and uploading old cassettes and record albums to his YouTube channel: Conservative Holiness Media.

4.) **Be Honest with Those Who Ask: Ephesians**

4:15: But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Sometimes silence about slander is not an option. People come and ask directly about things people have said about us. Such requests deserve an honest answer. In fact, it is sometimes important to set the record straight. While Jesus “opened not His mouth,” the apostle Paul did exonerate himself when necessary. (2 Cor 12:11-12) Just make sure you are not gossiping or slandering the person who was slandering you. Speak the truth in love and trust God with the rest.

The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe. (Proverbs 29:25)

SLANDER DESTROYS CHURCHES

About 20 years ago, I said something impromptu to the new members standing in a row across the front of the church. As we received them, the Holy Spirit prompted me to add, "And now, I charge you that if you ever hear another member speak an unkind word of criticism or slander against anyone—myself, an usher, a choir member, or anyone else—that you stop that person in mid-sentence and say, 'Excuse me—who hurt you? Who ignored you? Who slighted you? Was it Pastor Cymbala? Let's go to his office right now. He'll apologize to you, and then we'll pray together so God can restore peace to this body. But we won't let you talk critically about people who aren't present to defend themselves.'

"I'm serious about this. I want you to help resolve this kind of thing immediately. And know this: If you are ever the one doing the loose talking, we'll confront you."

To this day, every time we receive new members, I say much the same thing. That's because I know what most easily destroys churches. It's not crack cocaine, government oppression, or even lack of funds. Rather it's gossip and slander that grieves the Holy Spirit. ~Pastor Jim Cymbala, Brooklin Tabernacle

THE POWER OF GOSSIP

At the start of the McCarthy era, Floridian Claude Pepper, one of the Senate's most outspoken liberals, was on the conservatives' "hit list" along with many other senators. George Smathers lashed out with some right-wing invective -- he called his opponent "the Red Pepper" -- and he launched a campaign to expose Pepper's secret "vices." Smathers disclosed that Pepper was "a known extravert," his sister was a "thespian," and his brother a "practicing homo-sapien." Also, when Pepper went to college, he actually "matriculated." Worst of all, he "practiced celibacy" before marriage. Naturally, rural voters were horrified, and Pepper lost. ~sermonillustrations.com

another word about his opinion on the project. Our organizations could be transformed if people would follow Jim's example.

Get Involved

One of reasons a church or conference seems “boring” or “sub-par” is a lack of enthusiasm and participation on the part of its members. When people routinely skip services, fail to use their gifts, support church functions, and neglect camp meeting, youth camp, and other conference activities, the organization naturally suffers. Who wants to join an organization whose own members are lacking in interest and dedication? What a difference it makes when people are excited enough about their organization to commit to it with their time and energy. Their enthusiasm is a like a magnet that draws people to them. Their church or conference becomes the place to be.

If you are not actively doing your part, do not blame your pastor or Conference leader for a failure of leadership. Accept the leadership they are already offering you and watch your organization grow. The solution to a better church and conference is in your hands.

Get your Heart Right with God

Sometimes the reason people are so dissatisfied with their church, conference, or life in general is an unsanctified heart. They are not at peace with God so they are not at peace with themselves or those around them. Jealousy, competition, selfishness, bitterness, unholy ambition, a spirit of contention, or simple immaturity robs them of the rest God wants them to have.

This is unfortunate and unnecessary because dying out to self and being filled with the Spirit transforms the world we are living in. When this happens, we do not look at our world in the same way again. In fact, we are amazed at how grievances fade away and people we once resented become sources of encouragement and appreciation. We are content in the place God has given us.

Conclusion

Of course, this is not just about the laity. A strong church and conference are also dependent on godly, competent leadership. Church leaders have been given a great responsibility to lead God's flock and are held to a higher standard. Leaders should always be praying for the wisdom to live and lead well, the courage to break away from comfort zones, the humility to see where we have failed, and the ability to readjust as necessary. May God help us all to work together in harmony for the glory of God and the Kingdom. The world needs us to be at our best.

~Editor

Questions to Consider

Am I satisfied with the vision, excellence, and spiritual vitality of my church and conference? Why or why not?

What am I doing to make my organization a better place? Am I being faithful in my attendance, gifts, finances, and prayers?

If I am not being faithful, is it fair for me to criticize and oppose those who are being faithful?