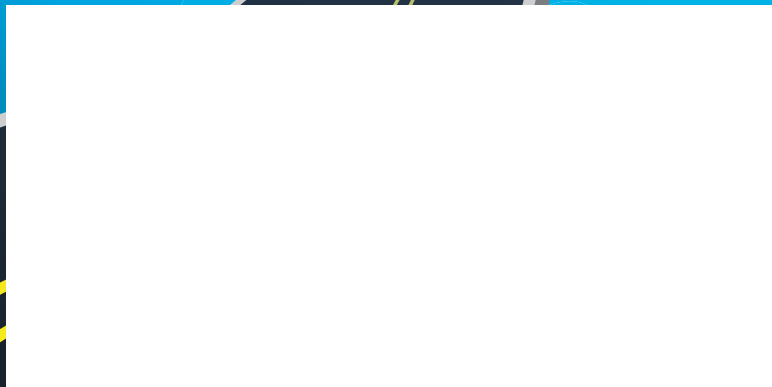


FORWARD

A MAGAZINE FOR UPCI MINISTERS

The Path of a CALL



The Call

by P. Daniel Buford

Sometimes I wonder. Did Prince Charles really know what he was talking about? People have often quoted him, but I have only read of one person who questioned him. After reading the logic behind the questioning, I think I still agree with Charles, with perhaps with one caveat.

Prince Charles, well some people called him a prince, was adamant about the validity of his statement. He declared, “If God calls you to be a minister, don’t stoop to becoming a king.” Charles Spurgeon, whom some called the “Prince of Preachers,” understood the role of a minister, valuing it highly. Born in 1834 and dying in 1892, he lived all but the first three years of his life, not under the rule of a king but under that of a queen, Queen Victoria, which does not negate his statement.

The work of a minister in God’s kingdom is preceded by a call from God to the high and holy work of the ministry. The source of the call serves in part to separate the called. While the called individual remains a human being after the call with no claims to deity, the work to which he or she is called has eternal consequences. The minister’s work done in this temporal world has ramifications in the eternal world.

The magnificence and the seriousness of the call weighed heavily on me as a young teenager. The importance of the Apostolic preachers and teachers in my life caused me to feel dwarfed in their presence. It was as if their role, while desirable, was unreachable for me. Since I felt I couldn’t reach that lofty and sacred field of labor, I pursued the honorable goal driven by my personal interests of being a veterinarian. In my senior year of high school and the following summer of 1972 I researched colleges that offered the necessary programs and settled on Texas A and M. I applied and awaited their response. Meanwhile I went to Louisiana’s senior youth camp. God dealt with me in a mighty yet humbling way night after night at the camp. Late at night while laying on a bunk bed in one of the camp dorms weeping and praying in the Spirit, I submitted to the call of God as the peace of full surrender finally flooded my mind and soul.

I returned home and called my pastor, T. D. Cardwell. I asked if I could meet him at his office and talk with him. He invited me to come, and I rode my bicycle across town to the church. As we met, I poured my heart out to him, making myself vulnerable to him and his wisdom. He had already recognized the work of God in my life and encouraged me to pursue God’s call, helping me both to identify the call and to formulate a way forward to obey it. And now, fifty-two years

later, I am still seeking to obey that heavenly call.

Almost immediately, the call led me to study at Texas Bible College. Afterwards, along the way I served various churches as Sunday school teacher of children, teens, college and career, and adults, Sunday school superintendent, assistant pastor, music director, youth pastor, interim pastor, and pastoral elder. I served as editor of Sunday school curriculum with Word Aflame Publications, as editor of books, and as an editor for the United Pentecostal Church International for the *Pentecostal Herald/Life* and *Forward*. While there have been various roles to fill, there was still one over-riding call to be a minister of the gospel.

With a nudge here and an open door there, God’s call led me to continue my formal education, finishing with a PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision, while along the way becoming a Licensed Professional Counselor, ministering to individuals inside the church as well as outside the body of Christ. The journey of ministry was continually preceded by a divine call.

God’s call to ministry is identified in Scripture in both the Old and New Testaments. Abraham was called by God out of Ur of the Chaldees. Prophets were called by God; they did not just assume the role. Jeremiah was called. “The word of the Lord came unto me, saying, before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. The said I, Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. . . . And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth” (Jeremiah 1:4-9).

In the New Testament, God called individuals to serve as ministers in the body of Christ. Consider the calling of Barnabas and Saul (Acts 13:1-3). This pattern of divine calling to ministry is still being experienced today. The awareness of a divine call enables a discouraged minister to remember that original call, receive strength, and continue pursuing it. It helps one to never give up, as Sir Winston Churchill so ably said.

So, I think Prince Charles was right. Don’t stoop to be a king when God has called you to minister in His kingdom.



P. DANIEL BUFORD

Editor | *Forward* | UPCI

Vice-President | Publications

Pentecostal Resource Group | UPCI

“The purpose of the United Pentecostal Church International is to carry the whole gospel to the whole world by the whole church; to establish an effective organized effort; to encourage the opening and establishing of new works; to evangelize the world by every means possible; and to produce and maintain a clean ministry and fellowship.” —*Manual, UPCI*

Fall 2024
Vol. 55, No.3



The FORWARD

A magazine for UPCI ministers. Published quarterly by the United Pentecostal Church International.

Editor in Chief Robin Johnston

Editor P. Daniel Buford

Design Savannah Sullivan,
Tim Cummings

Periodicals postage paid at St. Charles, Missouri, and at additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to FORWARD, 36 Research Park Court, Weldon Spring, MO 63304.
USPS 206-800

All Scriptures are King James Version unless otherwise noted.

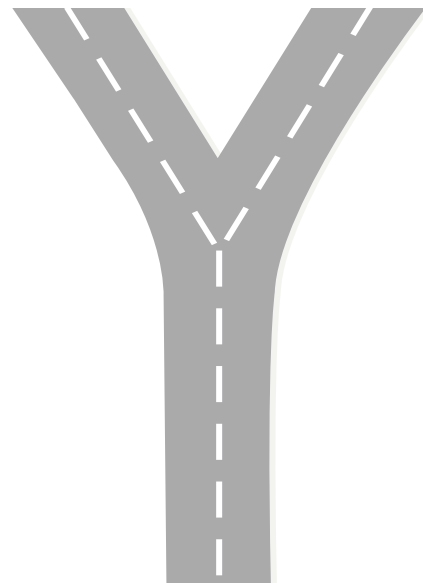
TALK TO US



forward@upci.org

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UPDATE FROM THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

General Conference Resolutions

The resolutions that the Resolutions Committee has voted to present to the 2024 General Conference in Long Beach, California, are available online at UPCIMinisters.com and on pages 6-7 of this issue. They also have been posted in the UPCI ministers' Facebook group Forward. (Look under the Files tab.) Please bring a copy of the resolutions with you to the conference, as none will be distributed at the meeting. If you have trouble accessing these documents, you can email my office at rmorley@upci.org to request a PDF.

Each year resolutions may be submitted by individual ministers, districts, and the Executive/General Board. All resolutions are passed on to the Resolutions Committee, which is comprised of ministers from across the United States and Canada. This committee alone decides which resolutions will be presented and the form in which they are presented to you. Please keep in mind that the General Board, in session, may submit other resolutions to the Resolutions Committee, which, if approved, will also be presented.

The business session will be held Wednesday, October 2, at 9 AM at the Long Beach Convention Center, located at 300 East Ocean Boulevard, Long Beach, CA 90802. The ministers session will be held on Thursday at 10:30 AM in the same location. You can access the General Conference schedule at upcigc.net/schedule. The seminar schedule is available at upcigc.net/2024-seminars.

We are anticipating a great conference in Long Beach. We hope you can attend!

Church Growth Resources

The Church Growth and Revitalization Committee, under the direction of the Strategic Growth Initiative, has two new resources to assist you in strengthening and growing your local church.

The Church Health Checkup is an evaluation which uses survey questions to obtain a clearer picture of your church's overall health. After completing the Church Health Checkup, you will receive an electronic report showing your church's score for various growth categories. The report will highlight your congregation's current strengths and help you identify areas which may need improvement.

The second resource is the Church Growth Track, which is designed to help you strengthen the areas of weakness identified by the Church Health Checkup. The Church Growth Track features video sessions addressing some of the most important topics related to church growth and health. The lessons are taught by Apostolic pastors and leaders with a proven track record of helping churches attain healthy growth.

Visit MinistryCentral.com to access both resources and click on "SGI (Church Growth)" at the top of the home page. Our prayer is that, after utilizing these tools, your local church will experience the health and growth God intended.

UPCI Directory and Manual

The mid-year updated versions of the Directory and Manual are available on UPCIMinisters.com.

Spanish Ministerial Application

Church Administration launched a Spanish version of the digital ministerial application at the Spanish Evangelism Ministry (SEM) conference on June 19. This Church Administration Ministerial Application (or CAMA) is the digital process for pursuing UPCI credentials, and it is now fully available in Spanish. Links to initiate both English and Spanish applications can be found at wa.upci.org/CAMA. This page also includes links to instructional documents and training videos in both English and Spanish.

Ministerial Dues Committee Report

The UPCI has not increased ministerial dues since 2007, despite considerable inflation during the intervening years. During this period, annual life insurance premiums have risen to \$124 per minister, or approximately 30 percent of total dues collected. In addition, we also eliminated the 4 percent administrative fee on ministry offerings to ensure that donor contributions were used for their intended purpose. Regardless, we have been able to delay an increase in dues through a combination of careful financial stewardship and an overall increase in the number of credentialed ministers.

Last year, the General Board asked me to appoint a ministerial dues committee to consider whether an increase in dues was warranted at this time. The committee, which was chaired by South Central Texas District Secretary David Caruthers, was tasked with answering two questions. First, should UPCI ministerial dues be increased, and if so, by how much and when? Second, should a mechanism be established for the regular review of ministerial dues?

That committee determined that an increase in dues is necessary to offset rising costs. After careful study, including a review of the impact of inflation on purchasing power since 2007, the committee recommends an annual increase of no less than \$100 for all levels of ministerial credentials. The committee also recommends implementing a process to review ministerial dues every four years. The purpose of this review will be to make incremental adjustments in dues when necessary while avoiding dramatic increases.

Considering these recommendations, a resolution to increase ministerial dues will be presented at this year's General Conference. You can read the full resolution on page 6 of this issue or access it online at UPCIMinisters.com, as well as on the Forward Facebook group for ministers.

Finally, thank you to each member of the Ministerial Dues Committee, including Brother Caruthers, Nate Smith, Jay Stirnemann, and Andrew Suarez, for their diligent work in addressing these difficult questions.

DAVID K. BERNARD

General Superintendent | UPCI

New from

WORD AFLAME PRESS



A FEW GOOD MEN

Recovering the Goodness of Biblical Manhood

STAN O. GLEASON

In this book, Stan Gleason has adapted eight of his finest messages from his extensive experience ministering at men's conferences. He extols principles of biblical manhood, encouraging men to act right, live right, and do right. By reading this book, men will find a renewed sense of purpose and fulfillment in their roles in their families and in their churches.

\$9.99

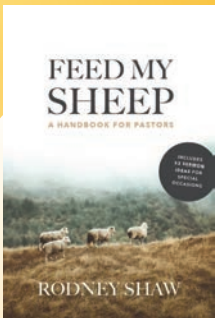


NEXT-LEVEL LEADER

EUGENE WILSON

After reflecting on his own journey, Eugene Wilson tackles questions by challenging readers to grow key skill sets essential for next-level leaders. He addresses the importance of being stretchable, resilient, and adept at managing chaos. He highlights the value of deferring affirmation, embracing loneliness, and establishing new rhythms. And he delves into relinquishing the need for control and the power of active listening. By mastering these skills and others outlined in this practical, principle-driven book, you will find yourself better equipped not only to lead but to do so at another level.

\$17.99



FEED MY SHEEP

A Handbook for Pastors

RODNEY SHAW

It is a high and holy calling to be entrusted with the care of souls, the flock of God. The pastoral task is all-encompassing and can be overwhelming at times. From phone calls in the middle of the night to the pressure of finances to the burden for souls in a spiritually starved community, the load can seem unbearable.

Having a trusted guide to come alongside and speak wisdom in critical moments is like a breath of fresh air. And that's exactly what this book aims to do. The author shares from his extensive personal experience, offering practical insight and strategies on key areas.

\$19.99



THE 3-R METHOD

A Guide for Ministry Longevity

JATHAN MARICELLI

From the author of *Better after Burnout* comes a blueprint to navigate the pressures of ministry. *The 3-R Method* is simple: Retreat, Renew, and Re-engage. Throughout this book, the author uses each of these steps to share his personal experience of being overwhelmed by the burdens of leading and to offer hope to those who find themselves in similar situations. The book also includes questions to provoke self-reflection, application, and opportunities to recharge and grow.

Every leader who wants to have a ministry defined by health and longevity will benefit from the wisdom found in *The 3-R Method*.

\$17.99

AVAILABLE FOR PREORDER OR PURCHASE AT PENTECOSTALPUBLISHING.COM



2024 General Conference Resolutions

Resolution #1

Whereas, The annual Father's Day offering has increased over the last several years; and

Whereas, Men's Ministry endeavors in our districts have also increased; and

Whereas, The General Men's Ministries Committee feels that each District Men's Ministry could more effectively allocate the proceeds from its Father's Day offering to help with its Men's Ministry efforts in its district; therefore

Be it resolved, That the General Constitution, Article XVI MEN'S MINISTRIES POLICY, Section 9 Finances, be amended as follows:

Section 9. Finances

Revenue for UPCI Men's Ministries shall be obtained through an annual Father's Day Offering, as approved by the UPCI General Board, ~~60 percent~~ 50 percent of which will be used to fund General Men's Ministry efforts, and ~~40 percent~~, 50 percent of which will be used to fund District Men's Ministry endeavors. In addition, special contributions will be accepted to help underwrite the costs of both Global and North American Missions building projects undertaken by Men's Ministries teams worldwide.

Be it further resolved, That this resolution will go into effect with the 2025 Father's Day Offering.

Submitted by the General Men's Ministries Committee

Resolution #2

Whereas, The annual ministerial dues of the UPCI is the support basis of the Administration of the United Pentecostal Church International; and

Whereas, The annual ministerial dues of the UPCI were last increased to their present level in 2007; and

Whereas, Annual inflation since the 2007 increase has raised expense ratios and diminished dues income cost effectiveness; and

Whereas, recent professional evaluations of the UPCI Church Administration budget project up to a one (1) million dollar annual deficit at the present dues rates; therefore

Be it resolved, That the annual ministerial dues of the UPCI be changed as follows:

Local License Dues:	\$474 annually
General License Dues:	\$496 annually
Ordination Dues:	\$518 annually

Submitted by the General Board

Resolution #3

Whereas, The Military chaplaincy is a specialized professional ministry to our nation's heroes and their families requiring certification of highly qualified chaplains endorsed by an endorsing agent from a religious organization recognized by the U.S. Government; and

Whereas, The U.S. Government recognizes only one endorsing agent for each religious organization and requires an annual certification of that individual by the religious organization; and

Whereas, There needs to be clarity and consistency in the *Manual* identifying the Military Chaplaincy Endorsing Agent as the official Endorsing Agent for the UPCI for the endorsement of military and Department of Veterans Affairs chaplains; and

Whereas, Currently, Article IX, Section 2, Paragraph 4(b) identifies the Office of Education and Endorsement as the endorsing agent and not the Military Chaplaincy Endorsing Agent; and

Whereas, There needs to be alignment within the *Manual* of the authorities, duties, and responsibilities pertaining

to the endorsement of military and Department of Veterans Affairs chaplains with the Military Chaplaincy Endorsing Agent to better empower the Military Chaplaincy Endorsing Agent to perform his/her mission and responsibilities; and

Whereas, There needs to be clarity and consistency throughout the *Manual* regarding the terminology used for the Military Chaplaincy Endorsing Agent, and currently, the *Manual* uses three different terms for the Military Chaplaincy Endorsing Agent, namely Endorsing Agent for Military Chaplaincy, Ecclesiastical Endorser, and Endorsing Agent; therefore

Be it resolved, That Article IX – Office of Education and Endorsement, Section 2. Structure and Offices, Paragraphs 4(a) – 4(c) be changed as follows:

4. The Endorsing Agent for Military Chaplaincy ~~Military Chaplaincy Endorsing Agent~~

(a) The Endorsing Agent for Military Chaplaincy ~~Military Chaplaincy Endorsing Agent~~ is appointed by the General Board.

(b) All military and department of Veterans Affairs

~~chaplains are to be endorsed by the Office of Education and Endorsement, Military Chaplaincy Endorsing Agent, which who is recognized by the United States government as the official endorsing agent of the UPCI. To receive endorsement, a letter of approval is required from the District Superintendent and the Pastor of the applicant. To receive said endorsement, all military and Department of Veterans Affairs chaplains shall meet the professional qualification requirements for appointment as military or Department of Veterans Affairs chaplains as outlined in the UPCI Manual, Department of Defense Instruction, Department of Veterans Affairs Regulation, and the regulations of the respective service to which the chaplain is seeking appointment. Additionally, a letter of approval is required from the District Superintendent and the Pastor of the applicant.~~

(c) The Endorsing Agent Military Chaplaincy Endorsing Agent is appointed for a two-year term concurrent with the General Superintendent.

*Submitted by Rev. Raymond A. Robinson, Jr.,
Military Chaplaincy Endorsing Agent*



2024 MINISTER SURVEY

Presented by the UPCI office of Research & Development

MINISTERS, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

For the last three years, the UPCI office of Research and Development has surveyed the senior pastors of self-governing works to get a pulse on the health of local churches. In 2024, this survey has been expanded to include all credentialed ministers of the UPCI. This larger audience will allow for broader topics of interest outside of church health and pastoral experience.

If you are a credentialed minister with the UPCI, scan the QR code to participate in the first-ever UPCI Minister Survey.





CALLING

BY ROBERT OLPHIN



Calling identifies an individual's God-given purpose in living out his or her life for the glory of God. We are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). The journey or path of one's calling embodies a lifetime of pursuing His will and aligning one's life to do His will in fulfilling your God-given, God-ordained calling. The journey of living out one's

calling encompasses three characteristics: service to God, service to the man or woman of God, and service to the people of God. The foundation and success of one's journey to live out their God-given calling or purpose is firmly rooted in their service to God. The prerequisite or foundation for serving the man or woman of God and ultimately the people of God is one's service to God. The privilege of

serving the people of God is built upon the preparation or equipping that one receives in serving the man or woman of God—his or her God-ordained pastor. All three characteristics are vital—even required—for living out one’s calling for the glory of God. My journey of living out my God-given calling or purpose demonstrates the significance of all three characteristics to living a life that brings Him glory and expands His Kingdom.

Service to God

Calling originates with service to God. The inauguration of calling coincides with one’s new birth experience: “Who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.” (II Timothy 1:9, ESV) Calling requires that one commits his or her life to live out their God-given purpose for being saved. The journey of living out one’s calling begins with embracing the call to be His—the call to be His saints (Romans 1:7; I Corinthians 1:2). Paul admonishes us to pursue this call (Philippians 3:12–14). One’s pursuit of this call results in becoming like Him through personal relationship. The specifics of one’s calling is further revealed in the context of relationship.

My relationship with Him brought clarity to my calling. Calling is more than a feeling. Other factors (e.g., family, education, natural giftings, etc.) may contribute to understanding our calling but our relationship with Him and His Word is the primary lens that brings our calling into focus. The forward progression of my journey has always been connected to living in right relationship with Him and His Word. Paul admonishes everyone on this journey to “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (II Timothy 2:15, NKJV). The journey of one’s calling is the continued approval of God—“Well done, good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:21, NKJV).

Service to Pastor

Calling involves service to one’s pastor—the man or woman of God in their life. The journey of living out one’s calling involves submission in serving the God-ordained leader or pastor in his or her life (Hebrews 13:17). Submission and accountability will always be par for the journey. Submission and accountability occur in the context of relationship. The Scripture demonstrates the priority of this relationship to one’s calling (e.g., Moses/Joshua; Elijah/Elisha; Jesus/the Twelve; and Paul/Timothy and Titus). Re-

lationship facilitates learning, correction, and growth. The great men of God whom I have had the privilege of calling pastor have been instrumental in ensuring that I was equipped to live out my calling. The relationship with my pastor affected the progress of my journey. The man of God in my life has always been critical to living out the God-given calling upon my life.

Service to the People of God

Calling ultimately extends to serving the people of God—the body of Christ. There are no short cuts to serving the people of God. His mission must take priority over personal ambitions and aspirations. Calling embodies another’s first mindset that permeates one’s journey. The training of The Twelve demonstrates that through preparation and the empowerment of His Spirit, they were entrusted with serving the people of God. Calling becomes all about equipping the body of Christ to continue His mission (Ephesians 4:11–12). The joy and privilege of serving God’s people is intertwined with serving God and serving the man or woman of God. The journey of one’s calling demonstrates how these three characteristics are inseparable.

Calling Never Stops

Calling never stops! The journey is perpetual until you hear Him say, “Well done!” The journey teaches you and continues to remind you that the calling is not about you—never about you! Calling is all about Him and His mission. My journey has taught me that my relationship with Him is critical to living out His calling upon my life—living a life that brings Him glory. Many of the lessons learned on my journey were through great men of God that I had the privilege of calling pastor. My journey would never be what it has become without their voice. This journey has afforded me many great opportunities to serve God’s people. After thirty-nine years, I find myself still on a journey to live out His calling upon my life in a way that brings Him glory. Does your journey bring Him glory?

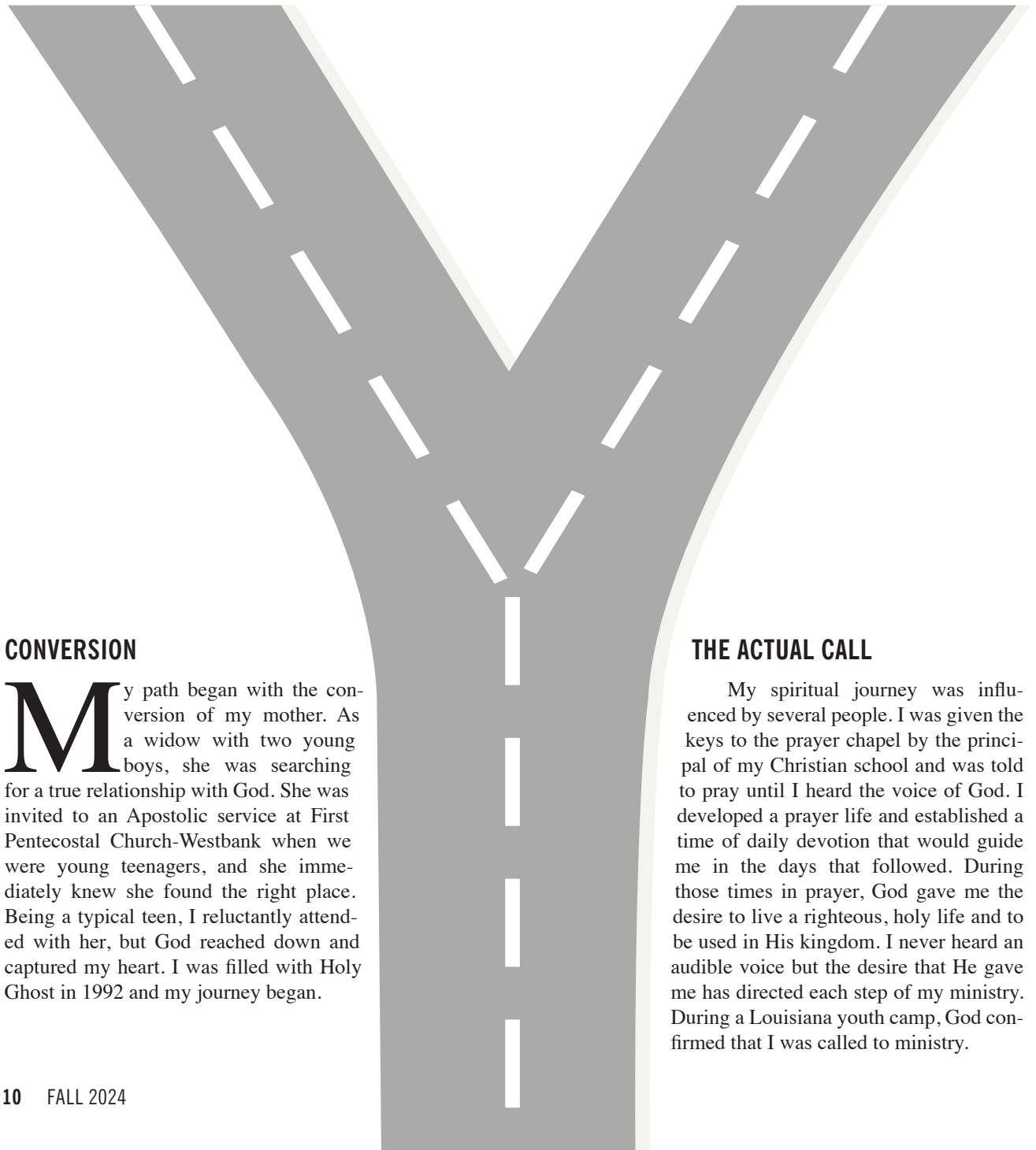


ROBERT OLPHIN

Ordained Minister | Lighthouse Church | O’Fallon, Missouri | Pastor Brandon Buford

THE PATH OF MY CALLING

BY CHRISTOPHER GONZALES



CONVERSION

My path began with the conversion of my mother. As a widow with two young boys, she was searching for a true relationship with God. She was invited to an Apostolic service at First Pentecostal Church-Westbank when we were young teenagers, and she immediately knew she found the right place. Being a typical teen, I reluctantly attended with her, but God reached down and captured my heart. I was filled with Holy Ghost in 1992 and my journey began.

THE ACTUAL CALL

My spiritual journey was influenced by several people. I was given the keys to the prayer chapel by the principal of my Christian school and was told to pray until I heard the voice of God. I developed a prayer life and established a time of daily devotion that would guide me in the days that followed. During those times in prayer, God gave me the desire to live a righteous, holy life and to be used in His kingdom. I never heard an audible voice but the desire that He gave me has directed each step of my ministry. During a Louisiana youth camp, God confirmed that I was called to ministry.

AFTER THE CALL

For my ministry to evolve, I had to get involved. I was inspired by a compelling testimony at North American Youth Congress 1995 (Power '95!) to begin teaching Bible studies. My pastors, beginning with M. K. Sartin and William Ray Johnson Sr., entrusted me with ministry moments in Marrero and Denham Springs, Louisiana. I was not qualified but they recognized the call of God on my life. Teaching a junior high Sunday school class for many years, leading worship services, and preaching youth services gave me the confidence and the experience to reinforce my calling. Youth ministry was a catapult and training ground that I value to this day. These ministry moments were mile markers on my path. During this time, I married the woman who would become my ministry partner and we were blessed with three amazing sons. Simultaneously, I obtained my credentials with the UPCI, culminating with ordination in 2019. During a North American Missions service at General Conference 2013, we felt God calling us to plant a church. In 2014, we were presented with an opportunity to start a daughter work. We moved to Chalmette, Louisiana, and held Bible studies and worship services in our home that planted seeds for the established work there today. We cherish those moments when God swept into our home and several souls received the Holy Ghost. This is also when we learned to hear the voice of God and trust that He orders every step (Psalm 37:23).

In 2017, God opened a door to pastor the congregation in Berwick, Louisiana. God used us in unique ways to enhance and prepare this congregation for the larger transition of a church merge with a neighboring congregation. We pastored during unprecedented times, such as the pandemic, and experienced many tests and trials of faith in both our family and in our congregation.

To anyone that has recently felt the calling of God to ministry, the most important advice I can give is to get involved.



As any pastor can attest, I will summarize those years by saying that God shows His faithfulness through every mountain top experience and every low point. After celebrating five years of pastoring this church, God began to speak to us about a new season. It was during this time that God orchestrated the merger of the two congregations, and we received a new assignment. Time will not permit me to paint the whole picture, but God was in the details. There was a congregation in Eunice, Louisiana, that needed a pastor and God entrusted us to lead them through a difficult season. It was a short season for our family, but it was evident God had a purpose. We learned that God's ways are higher than our ways (Isaiah 55:9), and He does not unfold His entire plan at once. However, in His timing, He always shows us the next step.

After six months, we were certain we heard the voice of the Lord lead us to continue our path. This was confirmed when I was asked to fulfill my current role of campus pastor at The Boys Ranch. This ministry opportunity looks quite different from pastoring a church congregation, but I draw from my pastoral experience every day. I try to lead with faith, hope, and love and make a difference in the lives of young men as a pastor should. It is a great honor to serve in this capacity and God is doing wonderful things on The Boys Ranch campus. My wife and I have been unofficially labeled as restoration pastors and this does describe our path so far. God orders the steps of a righteous man, and I humbly present myself before God each morning, knowing that my path is in His control.

ADVICE TO THE RECENTLY CALLED

To anyone that has recently felt the calling of God to ministry, the most important advice I can give is to get involved. Volunteer your time and talents to your local church. My wife and I have been bi-vocational during each step of this path. God provides but it has taken effort on our part to balance ministry and His provision. My path is unique to me, but your path might be similar. Daily devotion, prayer, and involvement where God places you are key elements to walking the path of ministry. Allow God to open every door and learn to recognize His voice. I have lived Romans 5:3-4, "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope." God forms us, sanctifies us, and ordains (calls) us. He gives us the path to take and the words to speak (Jeremiah 1:5, 7).



CHRISTOPHER GONZALES

Campus Pastor | Lighthouse Ranch for Boys |
Loranger, Louisiana | UPCI



My Calling, My Purpose, His Path

BY SAMUEL MENDIZABAL

Everyone's path to answer God's call has a distinct route. As much as we would like to control that path, only God can do so. I wanted to control my life and my purpose, but God put the call on my life that gave it the drastic turn that has brought me where I am today.

From a small village of Zongo in Bolivia, South America, the Lord had His purpose for my life. There was a time when I felt like Jonah and tried to run from it, but the call-

ing God had on my life was stronger than my own will. My plan after high school was to go to Europe where I had family and to study medicine. Being the son of Pastor Jorge Mendizabal, renowned theologian in the Latin countries, I knew that this was not my purpose. Don't get me wrong, I knew every and any way to explain the Oneness of God and baptism in Jesus Name; I had heard it all and had it memorized, but the passion wasn't there. So, I was on a literal soul search.

It was because I answered His calling and enjoyed the ride along the path He chose for me. I wouldn't trade it for anything in the world.

After applying for various colleges and scholarships, I got an acceptance letter and scholarship for Texas Bible College in Houston, Texas. Although I was still a little apprehensive about going, once I stepped foot on the plane to the United States, my mind shifted, and I knew this was my purpose. I had made up my mind that I would put my all into my purpose, knowing that God was calling me.

When I completed Bible college, I went on to get my bachelor's in Counseling and then a master's in Education and another master's in Clinical Psychology. I love the mind and how the brain works, and I love to study people. I also realized that people started coming to me and were able to talk about their problems and open up, even though I didn't know them. It felt normal to help people through marital problems, family issues, and mental health problems.

As I began my journey in my calling, the Lord opened amazing doors that only He could do. My wife, Maribel, and I started a foundation, Restoring Families, and held an annual family conference where we talked about topics others hesitated to talk about. We knew we were sailing in uncharted water, but the calling was stronger than what we imagined and together we decided to run with it. People started coming to our Family Conference and it grew tremendously. We talked about abuse, domestic violence, and marriage problems—and then the calls started coming in—Argentina, Bolivia, England, Spain, Puerto Rico, Italy, and others. Everyone wanted to have this conference. So, we understood God's purpose for our lives, and we were up for the challenge.

My wife has always been one to push limits and reach for the unreachable and one day we were talking about our annual conference, and she said, "Why don't we invite the governor of Texas to come?" I jokingly responded, "Why don't we invite the president of the United States?" And she said "Okay" with a serious face. I immediately knew this is what we had to do. So, the letter writing started. We immediately wrote a letter of invitation to President George W. Bush in September of 2008 to attend our Family Conference. Then we thought, *Let's just invite his father too.*

Although neither one could attend, they sent letters of congratulations for what we were doing in our community. Then, something incredible happened.

One early Thursday morning, the phone rang, and my wife answered. Someone from the president's office was on the line and asked if they could speak to Mr. Samuel Mendizabal. She passed the phone to me and said, "Someone is playing a joke on you." She passed me the phone and turned around back to sleep. Once, I got the phone, someone said, "Can you please hold for a secure line?" After a few moments of silence, President George W. Bush came on the phone and congratulated me for my conference and then asked if he can do anything for us. Of course, I had a list. That year not only did President George W. Bush make an official presidential proclamation in honor of our organization, but we had NBA mascots come to our conference, NASA astronaut Don Thomas, a representative from the governor's offices and much more. Then doors started opening everywhere.

Since then, I have been with President George H. Bush and Barbara Bush, Presidents Vicente Fox (Mexico), Felipe Calderon (Mexico), Alvarado Uribe (Colombia), Evo Morales (Bolivia), Jorge Quiroga (Bolivia), and Donald Trump.

Through this process, I learned not only to trust God and the calling that He has on our lives, but to surrender to the purpose that He has for us as well. I have lived Jeremiah 29:11–13 because He has shown me that He has plans that I never thought possible for myself. I know that He listens and has given me a future of hope and peace. His purpose was beyond what I ever imagined it would be. Did it require sacrifice on our part? Yes. Was it always easy? No. But through it all, I learned to trust Him through the process. To surrender my will to His. I learned that if God chooses to take a small Bolivian boy from the Valley of Zongo in the jungles of South America, and bring me to where I am today, it was because I answered His calling and enjoyed the ride along the path He chose for me. I wouldn't trade it for anything in the world.

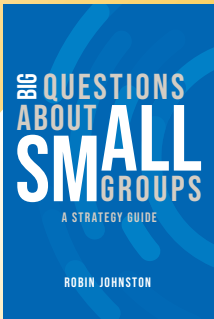


SAMUEL MENDIZABAL, M.A., M.ED.

Founder and CEO | American Society of Family Counseling, Inc., Restaurando Familias
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The Final Frontier, Walking out of Your Comfort Zone!

BY CHANE THOMPSON

In the 60s and 70s there was a sci-fi series called *Star Trek*. In each episode was a prologue in which was said, “Space—the final frontier.” That may be so in the fictional world of sci-fi, but in the real world we can say, “Walking in the Prophetic—the Final Frontier.”

For my family, our “Final Frontier” began approximately eight years ago. My wife, Selene, and I, with our three children were living in Moss Bluff, Louisiana, going to Moss Bluff Pentecostal church under Pastor Jared Pugh. We were on the ministry team trying to follow God’s will while both of us were still working and living our normal everyday lives.

It was during this time God began moving on us with a burden to go beyond where we were. We began fasting

and praying more earnestly while planning and preparing for whatever transition to which God would be calling us.

Selene and I would have private talks of where we felt God was leading us. We both felt God leading us to one day plant a church or relaunch a church. We continued seeking direction from the Lord as well as our pastor and others in whom we trusted would help us seek God’s direction. However, direction did not come overnight. Normal life continued and with it came unexpected change, challenges, discouragement, and questions.

I had good career working six years for a company when God decided to shake things up and I lost my job. Within no time God opened another wonderful opportunity for me just minutes from home. One year into this job



while on vacation I received a call from my boss who said, “Chane, bad news, we are closing the doors to the company; don’t come back to the office.” I was stunned. We continued with our trip all the while trusting in God. The next week I received a call about a job in west Texas. This new job was a great opportunity, but eleven hours from home. I didn’t want to take it, but work around home was drying up fast, so I went, continuing to trust God’s direction.

Prior to all the job transitioning, God began moving on us about looking eastward. We weren’t sure where, so we began praying over east Louisiana as well as the east coast. We began to travel to cities in east Louisiana and different locations on the east coast praying over those cities we visited. It wasn’t a fast process; it was years in the making. The ups and downs, the hurts, and disappointments.

I continued working in west Texas and Carlsbad, New Mexico. So yes, the conversations with God were, “Ok God, how are we supposed to be involved in ministry in this vast desert in the middle of nowhere America?” Selene and I would lay in bed staring at the ceiling crying because we had no clue why we were here. We were missing family, feeling like suddenly we had no ministry, struggling to see God’s plan, when previously our future seemed so big and bright.

One morning while in prayer during an extended fast God began to speak to me. “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” (Hebrews 13:5). I said, “Ok God, I hear you.” I felt what God spoke to me was, “Where you were, was what you coveted. After all, it was your own little ‘paradise.’ I had to move you, to move you.” We had all we could ever want, but God was asking for more. At that point I began to thank God for the desert place to which He had sent us. We began to pray over the local church we attended while we were in Carlsbad, New Mexico. When that happened God then placed the following on my heart, “And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat” (Mark 6:31). I learned that God was removing us from our complacent life in Moss Bluff to prepare us for the work that he was leading us to. As I studied Mark 6:31, I realized the desert place is a place of separation, and a place of preparation to have a more effective ministry to which God is calling you. Little did we know what this calling was going to bring, and how much we truly needed that desert time.

Our “comfort zone” was not strengthening us to face the challenges that would lie ahead. I remembered reading somewhere, “Your calling will come with cuts, thorns, and sifting that is necessary for your mantle to be authentic, humble, and powerful. Your crushing will not be easy because your assignment is not easy; your oil is not cheap.” This began to ring loud in my mind.

We were at Because of the Times in Alexandria, Louisiana, that same year when “Walking in the Prophetic—the Final Frontier” truly began in our lives. I prayed prior to attending for God to send someone to us whom we had never met to tell us “Thus sayeth the Word of the Lord.” It happened. Bishop Jerry Dillon, whom I had never met personally, sat down in front of me at breakfast at the hotel and began speaking to us. He prophesied of what God was leading us toward and spoke exactly what Selene and I had been praying about. It was then we knew God was leading us to South Carolina, a place where a burden had previously begun sprouting.

We felt at first we were going to plant a church, but God called us to a relaunch the work of a small church that had gone through more difficulties than any church should ever have to. Through many twist, turns, ups and downs, more nights of crying and asking God why, (don’t judge, you have done the same if you are in any type of ministry), as well as a new unexpected foster child, who, as we say, came with the church. We know that God placed us where he was preparing us to be.

Fast-forward, we are now in our third year of pastoring Life Pentecostal Church in Greenwood, South Carolina. We were voted in by fourteen people, some of those are now gone. Sometimes sifting is needed for revival to take place. We still pray for those who left. The leaving did hurt, but we have continued to be reminded of the preparations that God allowed us to go through to strengthen us for this journey. What the enemy steals, God refills bigger and better. We are now at a place when any given Sunday we can have forty-one to sixty in service. We have seen twenty-four total baptized and seventeen new saints filled the Holy Ghost. God has opened a door to do prison ministry at the state women’s prison in our city where forty-four have been filled with the Holy Ghost.

Walking out of our comfort zone into the “Final Frontier” of God’s work was the hardest, yet greatest journey we have ever faced. These are new and unprecedented times for the Apostolic church. God is giving clear vision for the church’s future, and direction for where He wants the church to go. Do not be afraid to be moved out of your comfort zone, because to God every situation is in His comfort zone.



CHANE THOMPSON

Pastor | Life Pentecostal Church | Greenwood, South Carolina

Reporting Child Abuse

BY ERIC MORLEY AND GREG WILHELM

This is part of a series of articles by members of the Apostolic Legal Association on topics of law and ministry.

Imagine a trusted member of your church comes to you and confides that a child in your congregation is being abused at home. The news you are receiving weighs heavily on your heart and at the same time, there are many questions flooding your mind. Questions like: What should I do next? How do I protect the child? What are my legal obligations now that I've been made aware of the abuse?

As ministers and pastors, we are not only shepherds of a flock, but we are also mandated reporters, entrusted with the incredible responsibility of providing safety for those who are most vulnerable among us. Having a clear understanding of your state's mandatory reporting requirements isn't just about compliance, but is also about compassion, empathy, and justice.

Every pastor and minister wants their church to be a safe place for all, especially children. The church should be a place of refuge and free from as much potential harm as possible. However, despite our best efforts, the harsh reality is that abuse can occur anywhere. Regardless of how much we try to shield our churches, we must be prepared for the gut-wrenching possibility that abuse may be happening behind closed doors. Children oftentimes find the church a place to seek out compassion and support, from those they trust. It is in those times where our roles start with the spiritual while at the same time reaching beyond to become lifelines of hope and justice. It is our responsibility to be vigilant, educated, and ready to act.

In 1962 a groundbreaking article titled "The Battered-Child Syndrome" was published in the *Journal of American Medical Association*. This study began to lay the framework of how physicians consider and evaluate child abuse cases. This publication asserted that abuse was far more common than many realized and that physicians should properly identify and report suspected abuse and maltreatment. Now some sixty years later, child abuse continues to remain relatively common, and unfortunately, is not only a recurring aspect in family life, but something the church must deal with routinely. As both time and abuse cases rise, the laws of our nation continue to evolve requiring adults to report any expected or known abuse and neglect cases to the authorities.

While every state in the United States has statutes for

mandatory reporting, currently only twenty-eight states have language specifically for clergy. For example, in the state of Illinois, mandatory reporting laws are governed by the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA). This Act requires a number of specific professionals, which include medical professionals, educators, social workers, and childcare providers to report any suspected or known cases of child abuse or neglect to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) or their local law enforcement agency. Illinois defines that when there is reasonable cause to believe a child known to them may be abused or neglected, all mandated reporters must report. Sect 325/Stat Ann 5/4 in Illinois clarifies that when a mem-



ber of the clergy has reasonable cause to believe abuse or neglect is active, they must report.

Missouri's version of the mandatory reporter law specifies that a variety of professionals must immediately report when they have reasonable cause to suspect a child has been abused or neglected. Mandatory reporters include doctors, medical staff, daycare providers, teachers, school staff, and ministers. Missouri law does state that if information comes to the minister as a privileged communication in her or her professional capacity then a report is not required. Privileged communications would be confidential (meaning no third parties present) conversations between a minister and someone seeking religious counsel for the purposes of spiritual counsel. Therefore, if a pastor receives a report from a third party such as a daycare provider or a Sunday school teacher, it is not going to be considered a privileged communication and must be reported to the authorities.

If a pastor or minister has information that should be reported but does not do so there are several potential consequences. From a legal standpoint, the pastor or minister could be prosecuted. While criminal prosecutions are rare, they may occur especially in egregious situations where the failure to report resulted in ongoing abuse, neglect, or

exploitation. Another legal consequence is being sued by a victim for failure to report. In the past, victims have sued those who failed to report and argued that their inaction was unreasonable and directly resulted in ongoing harm.

Other consequences could include insurance companies not wanting to renew liability coverage for a church that failed to report known abuse. Also, the church could lose credibility in the community and be unable to effectively minister to those in need.

The greatest risk though is that a child in danger might not get the help he or she needs. Children that are being abused, neglected, or exploited rarely experience it as a one-time event. In fact, children that are being harmed are typically subjected to increasing abuse and harm as time goes on. Having a concerned adult speak up for them may be what is needed to stop a vicious cycle of wrongdoing against them.

While reporting suspected abuse may be uncomfortable it is important to remember that the law protects those who report in good faith. In other words, if a minister reports because he or she is honestly concerned a child is in danger then the law does not allow for prosecution or liability against the minister even if it turns out the child was not being harmed.

Churches and ministers should actively take steps to prevent and deter abuse. For example, churches can conduct training for their children's ministry and youth ministry staff and volunteers on awareness and procedures if a situation arises or is reported. Having a church policy that abuse disclosed to a pastor or church leader will be reported to law enforcement or social services is also a good idea. Finally, the lead pastor should know what the law is in the state in which their church resides. Each pastor should strive to develop a good professional relationship with a licensed attorney in their state that can provide advice or guidance on these issues and related issues.

While the requirement to report abuse is a legal obligation, we should instead see it as a ministry opportunity. The opportunity to break a child out of a cycle of harm is a great opportunity to live out the gospel, whatever the cost.



ERIC MORLEY, LICENSED ATTORNEY
Chair | Apostolic Legal Association | UPCI
Vice-President of Operations and Finance
Pentecostal Resources Group | UPCI



GREG WILHELM
Executive Pastor | First Apostolic Church | Aurora,
Illinois | Pastor Brent Coltharp

Ministerial Statistics

April - June, 2024

New Ministers

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Barker, Billy

Arizona District

Vanderhoff, Julia

Arkansas District

Hollingsworth, Robin, III

Johnson, Kurt

McCall, Rocklan

Melton, Rhett

Meza, Luis

Robertson, Marcus

Smith, Craig

Thomas, Dustin

Atlantic District

Bowman, Brody

Collins, Matthew

Goodine, Russell

Mills, Evan

Noye, Ryan

Rossiter, John

Ward, John

British Columbia District

Green, Dylena

Canadian Plains District

Alexander, Caleb

Bandy, Jeiel

Lopez Villa, Kebin

Maata, Ian Dave

Ramos, Luis

Colorado District

Appenfelder, Blake

Mansfield, Michelle

Mansfield, Matthew

Connecticut District

Andree, Victoria

Ocasio, Marlene

Ocasio, Alyssa

Detroit Metro District

Thomas, Jeffery

Florida District

Hall, Danielle

Herbst, Michael

Georgia District

Howell, Avin

Roughton, Leon

Global Missionary District

Herron, Taylor

Illinois District

DiPlacido, Mark

Gaytan, Jesus

Guenther, Patrick

Indiana District

Cung, Van Tha

Iowa District

Doland, Brayden

Willhouse, Laurie

Kansas District

Leonard, Nathaniel

Nguyen, Chelsea

Nguyen, Long

Waits, John

Kentucky District

Carter, Maurice

Carter, Aneya

Creech, Larry

Crump, Matthew

Densmore, Timothy

Espinosa, Fermin

Evans, James

Ferguson, Heath

Ferguson, Aimee

Gamboa, Miguel

Graves, Joshua

Gribbins, Austin

Jones, Zachary

Morrison, Jonathan

Neal, Daniel

Sanchez Vanterpool, Elizabeth

Smith, Cody

Ware-Pratt, Eric

Louisiana District

Galatas, DeWitt, III

Gaspard, Seth

Gatte, Fralan

Johnson, James

Kennerman, Kenan

Melancon, David

Riddick, Todd

Serrano, Oscar

Smith, Bradley

Smoak, Gordon

Smoak, Rachel

Strain, Jonathan

Wilson, Woodrow

Maryland-Washington DC District

Hromcik, Michael

Mitchell, Andre

Umanzor, Saul

Michigan District

Beasley, Noah

Slavings, Jason

Thompson, Larry

Young, David, II

Minnesota District

Collins, Jacob

Minnesota District

Joyce, Warren, II

Langer, Timothy

Langer, Molly

McGowan, Roger

Moreno, Andres

Slabaugh, Gideon

Soto, Maria

Soto, Francisco

Wallace, Nicholas

Mississippi District

Adcock, Gregory

Card, Jeremy

Carney, Holly

Carroll, Billy, III

Cooper, Matthew

Cooper, Kathryn

Evans, Jonathan

Evans, Laura

Gray, Hunter

Hammaker, Teresa

Heair, Jeffrey

Hood, Clinton

Marshall, James

Marshall, Jeremy

Miller, Jamison

Robbins, Jonathan

Robbins, Kade

Rountree, Nathanael

Thompson-Smith, Jayshawnda

Wiginton, Jordan

New York District

Damuth, Candace

Hutchison, Carl

LaPlante, Zachary

New York Metro District

Ashley, Danielle

Ashley, Kavoy

Bellinger, Peterson

Castro, Ana

Farez, Romulo

Graham, Stephen

Haro Guashambo, Oscar

Johnson-Gayle, Sabrina

McKain, Nikeisha

Munoz, Allan

Webster, Tawana

North Texas District

Martinez, Sergio

North/Central Jersey District

Becker, Sonny

Buezo, Maycol

Mowassee, Rick

Sarmiento, Elizabeth

Wilson, Ayawlae

Ohio District

Cline, Michael, Sr.

Crowder, Mark

Escobedo, Aaron

Marin, Jose

Pamer, Natalie

Rasor, Timothy

Reed, Marcus

Robertson, Allison

Saunders, Rodney

Williams, Timothy

Oklahoma District

Bowman, Zathan

Ontario District

McCleary, Richard

Peel, Lucy

Rocky Mountain District

Paris, Zach

Perez, Nicholas

Roe, Michael

South Central Texas District

Clark, Stephanie

Lyman, Matthew

Rocha, Juan

Rodriguez, Isaac

Sanchez, Eric

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Bumgarner, Micah

Collins, James

Jaimes, Omar

Mayorquin, Carlos

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Parra, Juan

Pastora, Carlos

Smith, Preston

Woodrow, Jess

Tennessee District

Revalee, Joel

Texas District

Benitez, Javier

Brown, John

Flowers, Glenn

Grindle, John

Martinez, Cruz

McKnight, Kyle

Miller, Joseph

Reves, Prentiss, II

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Bryant, James

Dauenhauer, Krysten

Sanchez, Irving

Seagraves, Sarah

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Adkins, Terina

Gussler, Caleb

Kirchner, Robin

Miller, Elizabeth

Western District

Cordova, Jose, Jr.

Wisconsin District

Lechinger, Timothy

Stone, Joshua

Promotions to General

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Gardner, Brady
Kyle, Jeremiah
Mixon, Brent
Pierce, Sylvester, III
Reddin, Allen
Remington, Sarah
Treat, Larry

Atlantic District

Berdan, James
Calunsag, Donnie
Kennedy, Charles
Mills, Miranda
Tompkins, Jordan
Waddell, Charles

Connecticut District

Dyke, Darren
Jones, Clovis
Rosado, Kristian

Detroit Metro District

Burmeister, Nathaniel

Illinois District

Bozeman, Brent
Mayoral, Irving

Kentucky District

Brewer, Ryan
Eaves, Nathan
Luttrell, Michael
Storey, Anthony, Sr.

Louisiana District

Coley, Dawnette
Montgomery, Rachael
Naquin, Daniel
Reeves, Byron
Rippy, Keith, Jr.
Wingo, Scotty

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Baldwin, Nanci
Burgett, Nathanael
Echartea, Andrew
Gonzalez, Eluterio
Gonzalez, Anthony, Jr.
Madrigal, Edmundo
McCool, Austin
Stephens, Robert
Taylor, Jeffrey
Zimmerman, Jerry, III

Minnesota District

Braam, John
Osland, Beatriz
Osland, Matthew
Schettler, Brandon

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Culpepper, Kory
Fortenberry, Jeremy
Killman, Kelcie
Martin, Allen
Parrish, Nathan
Sharp, David
Smith, Eric

Nebraska District

Miller, Jeremy

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Francis, Justin

New York Metro District

Chung-Ying, Nerrick
Merino de Gonzalez, Alejandra

North Carolina District

Fowler, Mark, II
Propst, Darrell

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Diaz De La Vega, Diego
Duran Moncada, Ricardo
Martinez, Gilberto

Ohio District

Ferguson, Scott
Tacker, Michael

Oklahoma District

Shrum, David

South Texas District

Bourn, Rhonda
Colbert, Terrill

Texico District

Rodriguez, Damian

Virginia District

Teal, Justin

Washington District

Barrera, Pablo
Brown, Jereme
Lacsamana, Miko
Lopez, Elias
Naikar, Newasun

West Virginia-Western Maryland District

Martin, Matthew

Western District

Medeiros, Emanuel, Sr.

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Strader, David

Canadian Plains District

Blaedow, Marcus
Griffiths, Cherene
Ryall, Kent

Detroit Metro District

Ritter, Kent

Florida District

Smith, Kevin
Webb, Jonathan

Global Missionary District

Carver, Richard
Gray, Bradley
Merritt, Stephen
Zenobia, Samuel

Indiana District

Cooper, Darryl
Lutz, Joshua

Kentucky District

Lee, Mason
Uzzle, Jonathon

Louisiana District

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Grissom, Jerod
Hines, Thomas, Jr.
Textor, Clifton

Maine District

Hutchins, Laura
Marsh, Darrell
Rafferty, Leonard, III

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Longoria, Lucas
Longoria, Isaac
Parker, Carolann

Minnesota District

Brooks, Jason
Kaske, Kirk

New Hampshire-Vermont District

Hinton, Renee

North Carolina District

Arthur, Winston
Burch, Shawn

North/Central Jersey District

Aguirre-Lainez, David

Ohio District

Cobb, Michael
Himes, Richard
Post, David
Sjostrand-Post, Sheena

Oklahoma District

Wright, Rick, Jr.

Rocky Mountain District

Ashworth, Christopher
Kessler, Gregory
Wheeler, Joshua

South Texas District

Emerson, Shane
Mendizabal, Maribel

Texas District

Adams, Aaron
Crider, Jeffrey
DeBarge, Lewis, Jr.
Dool, Brittney
Gilliam, Jeremy
Lightfoot, Derrick
Ratliff, Jesse, Jr.
Ratliff, John
Reep, James, III
Summitt, William
Williams, Seth
Witmer, James

Texico District

Loera, F. Javier
Martinez, Antonio

Western District

Palma, Gabriel
Rodriguez, Jonathan

Deceased

Arkansas District

Wahnon, Albert
Whittington, Richard

Connecticut District

Hardt, Terry

Detroit Metro District

Hoffman, Harold

Illinois District

Larson, Douglas

Iowa District

Rutter, Charles

Louisiana District

Blackwell, Perry
Nordan, Bobby
Rhymes, Bobby

Michigan District

Shutes, James

Missouri District

Jenkins, Robert
Martin, William, Jr.

Ohio District

Bennett, William

Oklahoma District

Lamastus, Virgil
Sanchez, Roman

Ontario District

Harwood, Reginald

South Texas District

Blackburn, Roger

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Barry, Paul

Tennessee District

Tharp, Jack

Texas District

Hart, H. L.

Virginia District

Lyons, Gerald

Western District

Silva, Cesar

Disaffiliated

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Huff, Tommie

Atlantic District

Mitton, Keith

Idaho District

Anderson, Lowell

Florida District

Jackson, Victor

Maine District

Tarr, Phillip, Jr.
Mann, Danny, Jr.

Tennessee District

Maness, Danny

Texas District

Looney, Brandon

Western District

Flores, Jorge
Salgado, Phillip
Grayson, Timothy

2024 UPCI

GENERAL CONFERENCE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2024

5:00 PM Exhibits Open
6:00 PM Doors Open
6:30 PM WNOP Prayer Service
6:45 PM Worship



7:00 PM
Global Missions Service
Speaker: Adam Hunley

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2024

9:30 AM – 11:20 AM Seminars
10:00 AM Exhibits Open
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM Ministers Session
The Priesthood of Believers: Panel Discussion with Stan Gleason



Noon – 2:00 PM
Children's Ministries Service
Speaker: Doug White

4:30 PM – 6:20 PM Seminars
6:00 PM Doors Open
6:30 PM WNOP Prayer Service
6:45 PM Worship



7:00 PM
General Superintendent's Message
Speaker: David K. Bernard

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2024

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM Business Meeting
10:00 AM Exhibits Open
10:00 AM – Noon Ministers' Wives Breakfast
6:00 PM Doors Open
6:30 PM WNOP Prayer Service
6:45 PM Worship
7:00 PM North American Missions Service

Speakers: David McGovern, Donny Willis, and Art Wilson



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2024

8:30 AM – 11:30 AM Just Between Us (for ladies)
9:30 AM – 11:20 AM Seminars
10:00 AM Exhibits Open



Noon – 2:00 PM
Youth Ministries Service
Speaker: Luke Levine

5:00 PM Doors Open
5:30 PM – 6:15 PM Memorial Service
6:45 PM Worship
7:00 PM General Conference Service
Speakers: Doug Klinedinst, Daniel Ramos, and Joel Urshan



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October 1-4, 2024
 Long Beach, California

2024 SEMINARS

Etiquette for Young Ministers

Aaron Batchelor

Lidiar con la ansiedad (Dealing with Anxiety)

Alphonse Muro **this seminar taught in Spanish*

How to Develop a Multicultural Culture in Your Local Church

Brocc Chavis & MCM Ministry Leaders

Reaching the Chinese People in Your Community

Caleb Tan

Gender Identity: Ministering to a World that Has Lost Its Way

Carl Wilson

Intentionally Impacting the Arriving Generations

Carlton L. Coon Sr.

Media and the Family

Chad Parker

What's in Your Atmosphere

Darrell Sparks

Holiness

David K. Bernard

Team Building

David McGovern

Faith, Freedom, and Politics

David Tipton

Church Growth and Revitalization

Derald Weber and Rob McKee

Be a Better Bible Reader: Improving Our Devotional Reading

Jared Runck

Angels Working in Our Lives

Jason Sciscoe

How can UPCI Music Ministry help my church?

Jeromy Hoffee

Teaching Oneness in Today's Culture

Joel Urshan

Parenting in the Current Culture

Jon and Cindy Mullings, Jonathan and Stephanie McDonald, Nelson Rivera

The Samuel Project

Justin Hamby

Research and Development – A Catalyst for Growth

Kathryn Groves

Widows Ministry

Kelly Middleton

Healthy Churches

Ken Gurley

How to Manage Stress Without It Managing You

Kerri Wilson

First In Battle – Preparing for the Worship Service

Laird Sillimon

Mentoring Ministers

Larry Romero Sr.

How the Church Can Support Abuse Survivors and Their Families

Lisa Reddy and Ross Roberts

The Church of Our City

LJ Harry

Branding Your Church

Martin Libby

When Addiction Hits Close To Home

Mickey Mangun, James and Jelaine Lumpkin

The Building Blocks of Healthy Homes

Mitchell Bland

Power of the Written Word

Moderator: Julie Long, Panel: Dinecia Gates, Rachel Coltharp, Aimee Myers, Jennie Russel, and Cindy Miller

A Conversation about Small Group

Moderator: Paul Records, Panel: Jody Wells, Ryan Crossley, Kris Dillingham

Faith, Healing, and the Miraculous: Practical Teaching and Application

Nathan Harrod

The Pastor's Responsibility in Abuse Prevention

Paul Pamer

Apostolic Influence

Raymond Woodward

Thriving During Economic Uncertainty

Rick Lovall

Deliverance: Freedom in Christ

Ryan Allmon

Going to the Next Town – Next Steps

Scott Sistrunk and Jimmy Toney

Win Your World

Seth Boyte, Murrell Cornwell, Daniel Bernard, Dusty Young, and Imani Nangoma

Pros and Cons of A.I.

Shane LaPierre

The Fivefold Ministry: Equipping the Saints Part 1 and Part 2 (Forum)

Stan Gleason

Beyond the Pulpit

Tere De La Rosa

And the Two Went On

Tim Gaddy

Ministering to Those Who Have Lived Through the Unspeakable

Tina Royer



WHAT'S MISSING
IN YOUR
ESTATE  PLAN?

BUILD YOUR FUTURE  PLAN YOUR ESTATE

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