



THE EVANGELISTS' **Perspective**

SUMMER 2016

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**ANN
DOWNING**

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THE EVANGELISTS' *Perspective*

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Executive Editor, **Gary Bond**

FROM THE EDITOR

One day I was going through some books that a pastor friend had given to me. Most of the books were old Holiness classics that had long been out of print. I was leafing through a booklet written by C.W. Ruth when a small slip of paper fell out. It was a 5-point outline on the scripture found in II Peter 2:20-21. I placed the small piece of paper in my Bible and moved on to some other books in the box. Sometime later the small note fell out again and I took the time to see how the outline would fit the scripture.

“For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them.” (2 Peter 2:20-21 NASB)

The five points at once became very obvious to me: 1) There is an escape from the defilements of the world. 2) The escape comes through knowing The Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 3) Holiness is a commandment. 4) After knowing Jesus we have the choice to receive the holy commandment or turn away. 5) For those who turn away from the holy commandment it would have been better for them not to have known Jesus.

Backsliding is not very often spoken of throughout the church world today. In my estimation the overwhelming response of the modern church world today would be that backsliding is inevitable and God's grace covers each offence. Perhaps we need to be reminded that while grace can be defined as unmerited favor it is also defined as strength to do God's will. “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,” (Titus 2: 11-12)

While there are many reasons not to backslide, point number five especially caught my attention. What could be worse than never

knowing the Savior Jesus Christ? As I thought about the implications of this, my mind went to what Jesus said about those in hell. Jesus is quoting father Abraham who says to the rich man, “Child, remember that during your life...” (Luke 16:25 NASB) Evidently those in hell can remember things in their past. The rich man in hell remembered that his five brothers were heading to this place of torment and he was troubled. Perhaps those who live a Christian life and influence others to accept Christ as Savior, only to backslide and spend eternity in hell, will be haunted by the fact that their turning back has caused others to miss heaven.

Early in my ministry my wife and I were holding a revival meeting in a small farming town in Illinois. One night after everyone had left the church, I was making some adjustments to my sound system when I saw a car pull up to the church and a young mother came running in. She said, “Oh, you are still here. My husband and I and my five-year-old son were halfway home when from the back seat my son said, “Momma, one of these days I'm gonna be just like that preacher in there tonight.” When I looked at my husband there were tears running down his cheeks and when I said, “We need to go back to the church,” he did not question. Then with tears in her eyes she also said, “Whatever you do please don't let him down.” She smiled and walked back to her son and husband. As they drove away her words continued burning into my soul and spirit.

For me, the little five point sermon outline is accurate. Early in life I experienced the escape from the defilements of sin. That escape came by being born again and believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. I was taught that holiness and holy living is a command from God Almighty. It was explained to me that now that my sins were forgiven I needed to be cleansed and sanctified through and through. I can enjoy full fellowship with the Lord as long as I continue to walk in the light as He is in the light. If I choose not to walk in the light, there are consequences that affect me as well as those looking at me.



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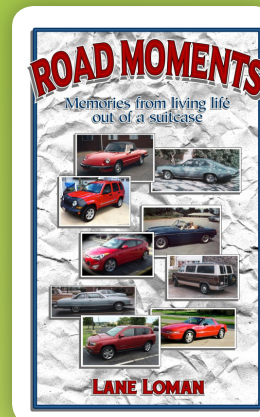
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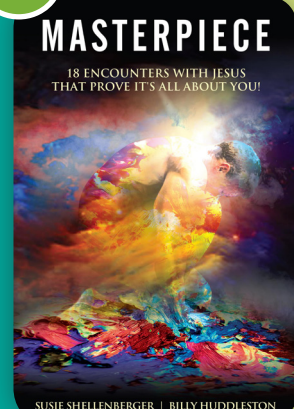
laneloman@me.com

Lane Loman, the son of Dr. and Mrs. J. Harold Loman, grew up traveling through the summer, attending the campmeetings in which his father preached. In 1971 Lane accepted his own call into full-time evangelistic work. In *Road Moments* Lane draws from a treasure trove of memories, some humorous and some inspiring. For anyone who has loved campmeetings, evangelists, or has coped with "planes, trains, and automobiles", this book is highly recommended. Cost is \$10.00 free shipping.

The Master Artist came to restore you, to heal you, to make you whole, and to breathe fresh paint into your weary soul. When you become a genuine Christ-follower, something shifts. Beginning deep in your soul, it becomes all about Him. He's your reason for living. He's your heartbeat and the blood flowing through your veins. He is the marrow in your bones. He's not simply an important part of your life. He becomes your life. The created now desires to please the Creator. The canvas is now reflecting the image of the Artist. Inside this book are 18 encounters that bring the Master Artist and his masterpiece together in love, harmony, and eternal change.

Rev Billy Huddleston is a tenured Nazarene evangelist that travels extensively singing and preaching the Gospel throughout the world. Billy has several recordings and ministry materials available. You may order this new book from him online at www.billyhuddleston.com. You also may send your request to Billy Huddleston, P.O. Box 40329, Cincinnati, OH 45240-0329. Price is \$10.00 plus \$2.00 shipping.

Rev. Susie Shellenberger is a tenured Nazarene evangelist and former public high school teacher and youth pastor. She created *Brio* magazine for Focus on the Family and served as editor for 20 years. She currently lives in Bethany, OK and continues to travel extensively fulfilling her demanding speaking schedule. You may order this book from her at www.susieshellenberger.com for \$10.00 plus \$2.00 shipping.



ANN DOWNING



Life is precious. Life is difficult.
Life is serious enough.

Growing up on a cotton farm in northern Mississippi lent itself to becoming an endless classroom for these lessons, and Ernest and Lillie Sanders, my parents, also made sure I had ample teaching. Daddy tended to worry himself, pacing the floor when there wasn't enough rain, pacing the floor when there was too much rain, but he'd always work things out in his mind and usually settle into his chair with the declaration, "The rains have always come; they will again. The sun has always come back out; it will again," whichever fit the circumstances. Mama was steady, a strong help to Daddy. She worked as hard as he did and prided herself in having the heaviest cotton sack at the end of the day. Both my parents were practical, but they enjoyed life and believed firmly in their convictions. Mama was as serious as could be, but every now and again, she'd make sure we weren't so serious. It was at these moments she'd decide to sneak outside, light packages of firecrackers, and toss them right under the den window where Daddy and I would become abruptly aware that Mama was no longer in the house. Through our shouts of fright and the thud of our feet returning to the old farmhouse floor, you could hear Mama's laughter ringing through the countryside, quickly followed by Daddy's standard response, "Awwwww, Lillie!"



I didn't know it then, but those days were great preparation for the years ahead. To be honest, I didn't set out with ministry in view. As a little girl walking from one end of the cotton rows to the other, I promised God that if He'd get me off the farm, I'd sing just as long as He didn't make me pick cotton ever again. Secretly, Mama and Daddy must have wanted that for me, too. They went out of their way to make sure I had every opportunity, with Daddy even going so far as to leave the fields early so he could take me an hour one way for practice with a little trio that was seldom, if ever, asked to sing. We were smart, though. We'd sponsor concerts and bring groups in so we could open for them. One group was the Oak Ridge Quartet (which later became the Oak Ridge Boys). That night, Ronnie Page, who was singing with them at the time, suggested that I audition with the Speer Family. He knew their girl singer was getting ready to leave, and they'd be needing a replacement. To my advantage, The Speer Family was one group to whom I was allowed to listen. Their latest record was stored in my memory so that I didn't really even have to play the record to hear it. Some months later, that little trio was sponsoring a concert with none other than The Speer Family. They were able to hear me that night and invited me to audition for the group. The rest is history. I soon found myself sitting on a Trailways bus headed for Nashville, TN.

I learned so much during those years with the Speers. When they hired me, I had only been out of my home



county a handful of times. I literally went from the cotton field to Los Angeles, CA! I knew very little of the world. Mom and Dad Speer and Faye were gentle in their teaching. No doubt I tried their collective patience a time or two, but it was a pleasant experience I was content to continue for years unending. My dreams were completely fulfilled. Then, I walked into a restaurant in southern Georgia. Hearing the words, "There she is, Miss America" sung to you in the biggest bass voice imaginable has incredible sway over one's dreams!



A quick 1+1 brings you to the obvious. That big bass voice belonged to Paul Downing, and after probably not quite enough time dating, I was engaged and preparing myself for the only life I'd ever really thought I'd have, life as a housewife. By this time, Paul was no longer singing in a group. He'd gone into business some months earlier so he could be in Nashville. His job in sales training took him across the country. After we married, I told myself I was content to dust and mop and sing in the choir, but Paul knew better. One weekend, he returned to our little apartment having made the decision that I needed to be singing. He bought a bus, bought a sound system, hired a band, hired singers, and The Downings began the ride of a musical lifetime. As often happens with quick success, we had several wonderful years. I loved Paul. He loved me. We purchased the house of our dreams, won awards, received many honors, sold out some of the country's biggest concert halls, and reveled in all our glories. No doubt you've probably figured out where we were headed.

As a group, we began to make changes in our music, and honestly, God knew we'd gotten ahead of ourselves. The money and glory were really His, but Paul and I forgot to figure that into the equation. We both loved the Lord, but we



began to focus more on the blessings than the Giver of them. I am thankful our Father God loved us enough to step in and discipline where it was needed because we needed it. Paul blamed me. I blamed Paul. The group came off the road and the house on the lake went back to the bank. We lost it all. For several years, our relationship was so icy we put winter to shame, and our holy matrimony seemed wholly doomed. Paul fell into habits his family for generations back relied upon in hard times. I tried to keep the good little Christian ministry couple front rolling, but with each passing Sunday that I entered church alone, eyes askance let me know my attempts were futile. Interestingly enough, if I were to identify a starting point for my ministry, it would be during those dark days. My ministry began in my own home and I wasn't even aware it was happening.



As days turned to weeks and weeks turned to months, I grew more discouraged. I'd prayed and prayed for God to help Paul, but I failed to see that I was hindering all His efforts. After all, wasn't it my job to leave notes in lipstick on the bathroom mirror and make sure Paul had plenty of reading material about men in midlife crisis? Early one morning, I couldn't sleep. All I knew to do was pray. I sank, face first, into the gold shag carpet and pled with God on Paul's behalf. By the end of that vigil, the only words I could find were, "I quit." With the intensity of the circumstances and the hallowed nature of those hours, I didn't notice that Paul had stepped into the hallway to find me on the floor praying for him.

Several days passed. There weren't any notable changes and I went about my daily routine with the same sense of duty as before. Get up at the crack of dawn, make the hour long trek to Nashville, work in the law office where I'd been able to get a job as a legal secretary, trek back home, sleep, repeat. One morning, the office phone rang and the voice on the other end boomed, "Hey, Babe!" Wow! Who was this and what had he done with my husband? Paul went on to reveal that he'd overheard me praying a few



nights before. He said I had changed; my demeanor toward him was kinder and my

expression was gentler. He said he suddenly became aware that I really did still love him and that if I still loved him after all he'd done, he knew God still loved him, too. He'd knelt and prayed that morning and wanted me to know that if I'd still have him, he was ready to make changes, both of us together. And we did.

So, why go back through all of that for an article about present day perspective? For that, I have to credit Karissa, my assistant of seven years. She often talks about the power of altars in the life of a Christian. Not the altars at the front of the church, though they are equally important. I'm talking about those places along the way where God shows up and changes the circumstances or our perspective of them. Scripture is full of accounts where something significant happened and then an altar was built or some marker of remembrance erected. Why? **"Build altars in the places where**



I remind you who I am, and I will come and bless you there." (Exodus 20:24) These altars, like the altars in our churches, were built in conspicuous places for a reason. **Deuteronomy 4:9** says, **"But watch out! Be careful never to forget what you yourself have**

seen. Do not let these memories escape from your mind as long as you live! And be sure to pass them on to your children and grandchildren."

Altars are reminders. They are places, markers, milestones... a given point in time, a fixed place where we know for sure we met with God and He reminded us exactly Who He Is. I didn't know I had changed. If Paul had only known some of the thoughts and feelings I still harbored, he'd have surely wondered if he'd only dreamed that I was kinder. (We talked all that out later on!)

As Karissa and I travel each week, we see more and more that people are desperate for honesty and

truth. Not only are they desperate to know who God is, but also how He's worked in the lives of His people. Sadly, most of us are afraid to share our specific mistakes— and it's a shame. It's a shame because our unwillingness to alter our egos, to sacrifice that part of ourselves before Almighty God, to surrender it for His use for His glory, forfeits His power to use our altar moments in the lives of others. Something about my story, or your story, may help someone else better understand his or her own. Our ego trips also cause us to forfeit God's power to use our own altars as reminders in our own lives. Sharing keeps things fresh in our minds and serves to keep us encouraged that God is the same and just as able now as at any time in history. The awesomeness of God, the character of God, the merciful nature of God are all communicated to others through our testimony of His goodness. If we aren't willing to risk everything at the altar of remembrance, who is left and of what or whom will they testify? May I encourage you to go read **Psalms 78:1-8**? Karissa told me that's her "Energizer Bunny scripture" when the miles grow long, the body grows weary, and the mind begins to hear things about effectiveness that simply aren't true. I have adopted it myself.

It is impossible to know ahead of time exactly what God will do with our obedience. Several years ago, I shared some of the story I've relayed here while in a songwriting session with Marty Funderburk and Jeff Silvey. Here's part of what we wrote that day:

*"For me to truly live, I first must die
and know that I am crucified with Christ.
Then live each day by simple faith
in the power of the Cross,
and count my every earthly gain but loss.*

*I quit. I give up. I give everything to You, Lord.
Take my heart. Do what You and You alone can do.
I'm ready to surrender. I'm willing to admit.
I cannot begin again until I quit."*

But I'll never quit singing. After the restoration of our marriage, Paul and I enjoyed ten years of married



life... as God intended it. When he unexpectedly moved to Heaven, I had some major choices to make. Remembering my promise to the Lord and the lessons I learned back on the farm, continuing in solo ministry was the obvious path. Now, as a well past middle-aged, widowed soloist traveling up and down America's highways and byways, I am more aware than ever that each day arrives complete with an altar or altars that only I can build. Not the least of which is the one reminding me that in the last 53 years, I've pricked not a single finger on a cotton boll!

★ ★ ★

Dr. Stan Toler Tribute

It was my joy to be Ann's pastor for a few years. Her constant encouragement and faithfulness to the local church modeled for everyone the importance of connecting to a church family.

Further, as a youthful pastor, it was my honor to host Ann when she was a member of the famed singing group known as the Downings. She instantly became my favorite singer in the group because of her passionate singing and testimony of faith in Christ.

From that moment forward we have scheduled Ann to speak or to sing at every church where we served. Her outstanding ministry has blessed many souls around the world. Linda and I have enjoyed fellowship and many laughs over the years with Ann. She is indeed a Road Warrior for Christ! We value her friendship and ministry.



*Dr. Stan Toler
General Supt Emeritus
Church of the Nazarene*

★ ★ ★

Kevin Ulmet Tribute

I first met Ann when the Speer Family was singing at my father's church in Oskaloosa, Iowa in the early 1960's. I was in awe, at the young age of 5 or so, as after the Sunday evening service I got to help my mother serve them grilled cheese sandwiches. As

a child, I loved Ann's singing and her spirit was so evident.

Some fond memories of my teen years included enjoying the then cutting-edge "contemporary" Christian music of many groups, including The Downings, led by Ann and her late husband, Paul. Who can forget Dony McGuire singing "It's My Desire" and the full-throated harmony of the rest of the group pulsating behind him. Ann's sweet solos would speak to the deepest soul, and again her spirit came through every song.

My college years at Trevecca Nazarene University were very meaningful partly because of my experiences attending Nashville First Church. Dr. Millard Reed was my pastor, and became a strong mentor in my life. These were tough years for Ann, as Paul was living a backslidden life, and Ann, as we would later learn, was living through hell on earth in those years in her marriage. She paid a personal price for her strong faith in Christ, and she refused to leave Paul, even though she would have been justified in doing so.

I observed Paul Sunday after Sunday sitting on the front left pew at First Church, the smell of alcohol and smoke reeking from clothes and wafting up to my left-front balcony seat. Pastor Reed would come in the left front door of the old sanctuary to begin the service, but he always went directly to Paul, hugged him close and expressed his love for him, then would begin the service. It was a powerful thing to see every week.

After becoming a Pastor myself, Ann and Paul came to our church in Kentucky with Paul now reclaimed and restored in the faith, where they shared their testimonies of those awful years, and God's redeeming grace. Ann had never sung with more anointing than in those years, as they traveled across the country sharing the truth that NO ONE is beyond the grace of God and no marriage is outside of God's power to restore! Shortly thereafter her beloved Paul went home to heaven.

I would see Ann occasionally at Nazarene events, and we always laughed and hugged, shared an opinion or two with each other as Ann and I are

wont to do, and the warmth of our friendship never wavered. Little did I know that in God's providence Karen and I would come to pastor Nashville First Church, where Ann had been a member so many years, but now was elsewhere.

It wasn't long before Ann "came back home" to our church, along with her outstanding assistant Karissa, and our friendship was renewed! She's faithful to her church every week she's home. She loves and supports her Pastor and wife, and is the essence of what an exemplary member should be. She has my highest admiration for her walk with Christ, and her determination tested by painful experience, to stay true through it all. She sings for events in our church occasionally, and it's always a special time. And just recently she joined a new Sunday School class Karen and I are leading. What a privilege!

No one believes in Ann Downing more than we do! Every time we're together raucous laughter ensues, and her spirit brightens our lives. I commend her to our Nazarene family. It's a privilege to be her Pastor!



Kevin M. Ulmet, D.Min
Senior Pastor, Nashville First Church of the Nazarene



Chuck Millhuff Tribute

I first met Ann in Nashville, Tennessee years ago when I was holding a revival in the First Church of the Nazarene. Dr. Ted Martin was the pastor of this great church known as the Mother Church of the South among Nazarenes. I had come to know the Speer Family, members of First Church, in numerous camp meetings and revivals. While in that meeting, Brock Speer invited me to go with them the next day to the RCA Recording Studios where among other folks Chet Atkins the famous guitarist was recording. That morning we went into the darkened room behind the glass of the studio. Ann was already there with Paul Downing whom she was to marry later. Paul, a giant of a man, had a bass voice that rattled the room. He shook my hand and gave me that huge smile of his. Ann greeted me the way she greets everyone to this day. She gives you a wonderful smile, draws you into her space, and makes you feel as if she has known you

all of her life. Later as I heard her with the Speers, I realized here was a remarkable talent. Her singing and her keyboard work were a great addition to the group. But as time went on I realized that she really knew what she was singing about. These Gospel songs had words that related to her life.

Raised in the hot, dusty cotton fields of Northern Mississippi, it is hard to ever think of Ann pulling a big long cotton bag behind her, picking the cotton, her little hands bleeding trying so hard to keep up with her mom. All that time she longed to play and sing Gospel music. Her folks recognized early their daughter's talent, got her involved with music lessons, and encouraged her to perform. Well, her dreams of being a Gospel music artist did come to pass. Ann was a natural. In her early teens she created a trio that was well received in those parts of the state. As is the practice, her trio one night sang before the famous Speer Family in concert. Though she was young and barely out of high school, the Speers could see and hear her talent. Not only was she striking in appearance with her smile and her long hair, but her singing and natural ability was what they were looking for. They gave her a chance.

There is a lot in the history that followed which includes the establishment of The Downings , a mixed quartet; a career in television; and her own development as an outstanding female artist in the Gospel World. She has received Gospel Music's highest honor, The Dove Award for Female Vocalist, and is a member of The Gospel Music Hall of Fame. Many of you have seen her as a regular on Gaither's Homecoming Videos. She has written numerous songs and become an anointed speaker at seminars and retreats across the nation.

Today, she is traveling the country holding concerts and seminars drawing on a life with no small amount of sorrow and joy. She is a loyal Nazarene Evangelist and really proud of it. As the Revivalism Coordinator for eight years, it was such a blessing to see Ann there at our yearly Evangelist Gatherings as a team player in so many ways. Any church would benefit greatly from the depth of her ministry.



Chuck Millhuff



Fires of Revival

December 20, 2015

Hello Mr. Loman,

My name is Bruce Bowen and I met you in January 2015 at Salem Fields Community Church in Fredericksburg Virginia. I have been meaning to write you and thank you for your work in The Lord's service. Pastor Buddy also told me I should write you.

I came home from work on a Saturday, January 24, 2015 evening. My wife Grace said, "Honey do you want to go to church tonight?" We got into the parking lot and wondered why there were so many cars there. I seemed to remember something about a revival. That night, The God bomb dropped from the Holy Spirit via visiting Reverend Lane Loman. You brought the message, and God brought the Holy Spirit down on greatly. Grace and I were in tears through the message. We went forward kneeling at the altar and deeply prayed for forgiveness. I was ashamed of living duplicitously. I prayed "all in" for Christ, and that his will be done in my life from here on. The tears were just flowing out with such a feeling of love and release. We

attended church for five days in a row filled with the Holy Spirit. I have been a completely changed person.

Well since then I have just been on fire for the Lord. I have been tearing deep into the Bible and it seems brand new. Things have been revealed I never saw before. My prayers have been growing deeper and I realize how God has answered prayers so many times in life. I want to be worthy of God's love, and to share the gospel with others.

Within a few weeks, I felt God calling to ministry. My parents suggested talking to my cousin Matt Palm, a Nazarene Pastor in San Diego for some advice. He gave me some great advice to slow down, breathe, and get plugged into the church. He explained the Nazarene church has a system for developing Pastors that they have been perfecting for over a hundred years. You will find and develop your specific calling along the journey.

I took the good advice and I am patient, plugged into church classes, events, serving wherever needed. I deeply enjoy working with the Middle School & High School kids. It has been a blessing to see and

be a part of the kids catching fire for Jesus. There is nothing more exciting than to pray with a child to receive The Lord Jesus as their personal savior. It is a very tough world out there for children. It is God's will for us to give them hope, help, and direction wherever we can.

Life in God's service and love is amazing. I am 52 attending the Nazarene Bible College for Ministerial Leadership. I was awarded a Local Pastors license in August. I have been redeemed and returned to my first love, Jesus. Blessings are given even deeper every day.

I want to say thank you again for obeying God's calling in your life Lane. Please stay encouraged because you are doing a great work in the hearts of others and it will profoundly influence the world in ways you will never know on this earth. God Bless you and your wife and I hope to see you again some time further down the path.

In Love and Christ's service,

Bruce Bowen



Perdue's Pen

"Holiness: Indispensable to Worship"



Nelson Perdue

When man was created God breathed His Spirit into him and he became a living soul. He was the only created being that could communicate and commune with his Creator. From the very beginning he was created to worship. Worship, the highest exercise of which man is capable, is a moral imperative. It means to 'bow down, fall prostrate before, make obeisance to,' because He alone is 'worthy'.

"Worshipping God is the great essential of fitness. If you have not been worshipping, when you get into the work you will not only be useless yourself, but a tremendous hindrance to those who are associated with you."

-- Oswald Chambers

A. W. Tozer said: "worship is the missing jewel in modern evangelicalism." One of the reasons for a lack of 'true' worship is because we have such a faulty concept of God. Holiness is necessary to His existence as God and His blessedness is in His holiness. His glory is the outshining of His holiness, the same glory He desires to share with man. His holy character is the standard for His children and that standard is necessary for man to "worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." True worship requires that some things be held in common, hence the admonition, "As He which has called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, be ye holy; for I am holy." The Psalmist cried, "let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us." Until we are willing to make a full and complete surrender of our total being to Him we can never realize the real purpose of our creation. It was when Isaiah went into the Temple and saw God high and lifted up and heard the creatures saying, "holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts," that he realized that he was undone. It was then that the seraphim flew unto him with a live coal, touched his lips, took away his iniquity and purged his sin that he was then enabled to worship Him out of a pure heart. Alexander Maclaren said: "there must be the inward worship within the shrine (heart) if there is to be outward service." Isaiah realized this fact and following the purging of his heart he heard the "voice

of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, here am I; send me."

William Temple defined worship as:

"The submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of the conscience by His holiness, the nourishment of the mind by His truth, the purifying of the imagination by His beauty, the opening of the heart to His love, and the submission of our will to His purposes. All of this gathered up in adoration is the greatest of human expression of which we are capable."

The thought of worship, its true object and its only acceptable mode, is expressed in the burning heart of the Psalmist when he cried, "Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name; bring an offering and come before Him. Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!" To enter into worship one must have a true (unhidden) heart.

It is impossible to truly worship God without a personal relationship with Him. We can administer our rituals, go through the forms of religion and even quote our creeds but Christianity is more than the rehearsal of a creed. It is a vital relationship with Christ. C. S. Lewis says: "It is in the process of worship that God communicates His presence to men." That relationship is maintained by having a clean heart and "walking in the light as He is in the light." Light is as exclusive of darkness as holiness is to sin.

Satan doesn't care how much you exercise your religiosity such as joining the church, practicing your liturgy, paying your tithes and offerings, singing songs, saying prayers etc., as long as you do not abandon your total being to Him. Satan knows man was created to worship and so he offers a substitute for true worship. In creation man was made in the image of his Creator. The fall brought about a severance of that relationship and a loss of that image. Since then sinful man has been trying to return the favor and make God in his image. He has turned inward in himself. God has been dethroned and his 'ego' is seated on the throne. He now bows at the shrine of self-interest and self-indulgence.

When man rejects the true and living God he will make a god of his own and the god that he bows to will not condemn the sin that he loves. The worship he practices, be it formalism or fanaticism, is nothing but a sham. The devil is pleased to see people worship as long as the element of holiness is absent. He is the great deceiver and always is ready to offer a sense of false security. Satan is not only the accuser, but the distorter of the brethren.

True worship will always conform the worshipper to the image of Christ and any religious activity that does not accomplish this blessed result is counterfeit. The purpose of redemption is to restore man to the image of Christ that was forfeited in the fall. Jesus speaking to the woman of Samaria at Jacob's well said, "Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship; for salvation is of the Jews. The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him."

We can honor God with our lips but we worship Him with our heart. Our service is preceded by our worship. This truth is illustrated by an incident that occurred in the life of A. W. Tozer. After being invited to speak at Wheaton College he turned down the opportunity to speak to inquiring students. The reason for his reluctance was because he required two and a half hours of prayer for every hour that he preached. As he would be preaching two hours daily, he would need five hours in prayer. When you listen to his messages or read his books, as it was with Peter and John, "they realized he had been with Jesus." Realizing that it is "Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever," let us with great adoration take the time to worship Him "in the beauty of holiness." Let us seek to live our lives "holy, acceptable unto God" so that holiness of heart and life will shine forth to the glory of God our Creator.

★ ★ ★

*Dr. Nelson Perdue
Tenured Nazarene Evangelist
Urbana, Ohio*



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Juneman, John	lifemessageinternational.org	Whitworth, Marcus	nazchurch.com/renewal/
Kearce, Doug and Darla	wnaz4kids.org	Wilkerson, Bob & Jennifer	bobandjenniferwilkerson.com
Leckrone, Larry	leckroneministries.org	Williamson, Chris	stayingthejourney.com
Leidy, Arnold	nazarene.ch/upwardcall		

**ADAMS, MICHAEL (T)**

- Apr 17-20 Tennille, GA (Good Shepherd)
- Apr 24-27 Shelbyville, IN (First)
- May 1-4 Ashland, OH
- May 8-11 Warren, IN (Hillcrest)
- May 15-18 Berne, IN
- May 22-25 Campton, KY (Bear Pen Community)
- May 27-29 Jackson, KY (Community)
- Jun 5-10 Cleburne, TX (West Texas District Camp)
- July 8-15 Bentleyville, PA (Bentleyville Camp)
- July 29-Aug 7 Jackson, KY (KMHA Camp)
- Aug 14 Charlotte, NC (Pineville)
- Aug 21-24 Big Laurel, KY (Pine Mountain Community Revival (Little Laurel Bible))

**BOLICH, JEREMIAH**

- Apr 17-20 Anna, IL (First)
- Apr 22-24 Mount Pleasant, MI (First)
- May 1-4 Jefferson, OH
- May 6-8 Sheffield, AL (First)
- May 15-18 Whitney, TX (First)
- May 20-22 Sparta, TN
- Jun 13-19 Lebanon, TN (Training Camp & Conference)
- Jun 20-24 Bellefontaine, OH (North Central Ohio District Camp (Camp Cotubic))
- July 8-15 Kane, PA (Highlander Christian Camp)
- July 20-29 Johnson, VT (Ithiel Falls Family Camp)
- July 31-Aug 6 Brown City, MI (Missionary Camp)

**BOND, GARY (T)**

- Apr 17-20 Elkins, WV
- Apr 24-27 Grafton, WV (Blueville)
- May 1-4 Charleston, WV (Valley Grove)
- May 8-11 Tidewater, VA (Central)
- Jun 13-19 White Springs, FL (Suwannee Holiness Camp)
- Jun 20-26 Normal, IL (Camp)
- Jun 27-July 3 Sharon, OH (Camp)
- July 21-31 Toronto, OH (Hollow Rock Holiness Camp)
- Aug 7-12 Newfield, NJ (Malaga Holiness Camp)
- Aug 19-24 Golden Bell, CO (CO District Senior Retreat)

**BURKHALTER, PAT (T)**

- Apr 17-20 Fort Wayne, IN (Elmhurst)

**GALLIMORE, DAVID**

- Apr 17-20 Cleveland, TN (First)
- Apr 24-27 Leavittsburg, OH (First)
- May 1-4 Oak Hill, WV
- May 8-11 Montrose, IA
- May 15-18 Burlington, IA (First)
- May 22-25 Bennettsville, SC (First)
- Jun 5-8 Albany, GA (Grace)

**GESSNER, DON & SHIRL**

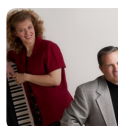
- Apr 15-30 Brownsburg, IN (Discipleship Focus)
- May 1-4 Mitchell, IN (Wesleyan)
- May 5-31 Brownsburg, IN (Discipleship Focus)
- Jun 1-30 Brownsburg, IN (Discipleship Focus)
- July 1-31 Brownsburg, IN (Discipleship Focus)
- Aug 1-31 Brownsburg, IN (Discipleship Focus)

**GREENWAY, KENNETH (T)**

- Apr 15-20 Hillsborough, NC (Wesleyan)
- Apr 22-24 Robbins, NC (Prosperity Friends)
- May 1-4 Greensboro, NC (Emmanuel Wesleyan)
- May 8-11 Alapaha, GA (The Open Door)
- May 15-18 Eagle Springs, NC (Rock Hill Evangelical Friends)
- May 22-Aug 1 Alapaha, GA (The Open Door)
- Aug 7-10 Gloster, MS (Union Church)
- Aug 14-17 Gloster, MS
- Aug 19-21 Asheville, NC (First)
- Aug 28-31 Cherryville, NC

**JACOB, THOMAS**

- Apr 23-24 Westlake, OH (Parkside)
- May 14-15 Lisbon, OH
- May 21-22 Syracuse, OH (Riverside)
- Aug 6-7 Columbus, OH (Whitehall)

**LECKRONE, LARRY (T)**

- Apr 16-20 Anderson, IN (Southdale)
- Apr 23-27 Churubusco, IN
- Apr 30-May 4 Fairmont, WV (First)
- May 7-11 Pylesville, MD (Fawn Grove)
- Aug 12-14 Malawi, Africa (Crusade)
- Aug 15-24 Africa (Local Revivals)
- Aug 27-Sept 1 Monroe, IN (Adams County Holiness Camp)

**LOMAN, H. LANE**

- Apr 17-20 Florien, LA (Cenchrea)
- Apr 24-27 High Point, NC (Charity Baptist)



- Apr 28-May 1 Archdale, NC
- May 5-8 Lakeview, OH (Indian Lake Northside)
- May 15-18 Sharpsburg, GA (First)
- May 22-25 Jumping Branch, WV (Tabernacle)
- Jun 5-8 South Lebanon, OH (Crossroads)
- Jun 11-19 Douglas, GA (Gaskin Springs Camp)
- Jun 24-July 3 Wadsworth, OH (Sharon Center Camp)
- July 9-10 Bellefontaine, OH (First Church of God)
- July 16-19 Jayess, MS (Sartinville United Methodist)
- July 20-24 Pineville, LA (LA District Camp)
- July 25-31 Butler, PA (Pittsburgh District Camp)
- Aug 21 Charlotte, NC (Pineville)



MANLEY, STEPHEN

- Apr 20-24 Myrtle Beach, SC (The Connection)
- May 11-15 New Cumberland, WV (Newell Glendale)
- Jun 13-19 Lebanon, TN (Cross Style Training Camp)
- Jun 22-26 Marion, IN (Northeast Indiana District Camp)
- July 4-10 Brooktondale, NY (Upstate New York District Camp)
- July 11-18 Harrisonville, PA (Pleasant Ridge Camp)



MITCHELL, ROYCE

- Apr 22 Fallon, NV (Oasis Community)
- Apr 23 Escalon, CA (First Baptist)
- Apr 24 Vacaville, CA (Trinity Baptist)
- Apr 24 Chico, CA (Butte Bible Fellowship)
- Apr 28-30 Visalia, CA (Great Western Fan Festival)
- May 1 Reno, NV (South Reno Baptist)
- May 13 American Falls, ID (Christian Fellowship)
- May 15 Boise, ID (New Hope)
- May 15 Caldwell, ID (Deer Flat)
- May 22 Butte, MT (First Baptist)
- Jun 2 Post Falls, ID (Ross Point Camp & Conference Center)
- Jun 3 Moscow, ID
- Jun 4 Cascade, ID (Chapel in the Pines)
- Jun 5 Nampa, ID (Bethel)
- Jun 5 Lowman, ID (Community)
- Jun 11 Langley, BC (Christian Life Assembly)
- Jun 12 Camano Island, WA
- Jun 12 Lynden, WA (Faith Community)
- Jun 25 Fair Oaks, CA (New Life Community)
- July 3 Meridian, ID (Valley Shepherd)
- July 8 Visalia, CA (Calvary Worship Center)
- July 9 Mt. Hermon, CA (Mount Hermon Christian Conference Center)
- July 10 Rio Linda, CA (LifePointe)
- July 16 Hunters, WA (Cedonia Community)
- July 17 Moses Lake, WA (First Baptist)
- July 17 Ritzville, WA (Menno Mennonite)
- July 22 Island Park, ID (Little Church in the Pines)
- July 30 Myrtle Creek, OR (First Baptist)
- July 31 Albany, OR (First Assembly of God)
- Aug 12 Rice Lake, WI (Maranatha Evangelical Free)



PERDUE, NELSON (T)

- Apr 17-20 Caro, MI (Tuscola County Holiness Camp)
- Apr 24-27 Monticello, IL
- May 1-4 Sabina, OH (CCCU)
- May 15-18 Catlettsburg, KY (Twin Fork)
- May 20-22 Lombard, IL
- May 29 Garrison, KY (CCCU)
- Jun 22-26 Circleville, OH (CCCU Mount of Praise Camp)
- July 3-10 Hendersonville, NC (Camp)
- July 13-24 New Paris, PA (Bethel Park Holiness Camp)



SHELLENBERGER, SUSIE (T)

- Apr 15-17 Anderson, MO (Goodman Banner)
- Apr 29-May 1 Yukon, OK (First)
- May 6-8 Independence, MO (First)
- May 13-15 Sterling, IL (First)
- May 20-22 Wooster, OH
- May 28-Jun 4 Galveston, TX (Cruise with Susie Shellenberger Ministries)
- Jun 8-12 Tishomingo, OK (SW Oklahoma District Camp)
- Jun 17-19 Detroit, MI (Grace)
- July 11-17 Vicksburg, MI (Michigan District Family Camp)
- July 20-24 West Harrison, IN (SW Indiana District Family Camp)
- Aug 1-7 Capitan, NM (New Mexico District Family Camp)
- Aug 12-14 Lubbock, TX (First)
- Aug 23 Watonga, OK
- Aug 26-28 Roswell, NM (First)



WHITWORTH, MARCUS

- Apr 23-27 Joplin, MO (First)
- Jun 9-12 Vancouver, BC (Million Dollar Round Table Christian Conference)



WILKERSON, DR. BOB & JENNIFER

- Apr 15-17 Marville, TN (Foothills Camp and Retreat Center)
- Apr 23 Shelbyville, IL
- April 24-27 Rushville, IL
- May 7 Belleville, IL (Emmanuel)
- May 12-15 Millbrook, AL
- Jun 5 Scottsburg, IN (Turning Point)
- Aug 18-21 Roseville, IL
- Aug 28-31 Altus, OK

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NEWS

Revival At Sea – Missions on Land

On January 23, 2016, I boarded the Carnival Cruise Ship, Valor. But this was not a pleasure cruise. It was a first for me and my wife, Gretchen, who flew down from our home in Indiana to join me. Fellow evangelist, David Adams of Adam's Voice, had contacted me about joining Work and Witness Leader Tom Govin, pastors, and lay people of the Northeast Indiana District for an eight day cruise to four ports of call. At three of the four ports of call, these Hoosier travelers would connect with Nazarene missionaries. A variety of projects and witness opportunities had been arranged.

My primary role would be speaking at the evening worship services once the team returned to the ship. What an honor to share The Word in a most unusual setting with a great group of people who have a heart for souls. Working with and enjoying the music of Nazarene evangelists, Adam's Voice and Mark Murphy, was such a blessing.

The highlight of the trip for me was Wednesday. We arrived at Mahogany Bay, Honduras. After docking, the group, clad in our orange tee-shirts were bussed to a school in a small community on this small island of Roatan. The school was in extreme disrepair. The local government had little or no money for maintenance. While children's workers made balloon hats and swords for the children, others got busy painting and repairing walls, rooms, a stage, and stairs. By 1:00 p.m., the school had a fresh coat of paint and the stage and stairs were repaired.

Small bags of flour and corn meal were distributed and many of the team members went door to door sharing Jesus with young and old alike. I do not speak Spanish. I was teamed with a local matriarch of the community and two Brazilians who spoke the language. I stood on the porch of one home while the Gospel was shared. The three couples and one young man listened attentively. I was then asked to pray. For a moment, I couldn't speak. I was overwhelmed with emotion as I thought of what was happening on the porch of this simple home that housed three families. I began sharing a simple prayer that was interpreted as I prayed. When I finished praying, I looked up and saw tears in the eyes of one of the young men. God was working.

The images of the children and adults of Honduras will forever be etched in my mind.

Lane Loman, Evangelist

2016 MISSION CRUISE

January 23-30, 2016



Work and Witness: Mission On Land
Spiritual Renewal: Revival At Sea
Aboard the Carnival Valor
Spiritual Renewal: Finding My Mission! **FEATURING:**



Lane Loman
Evangelist



adams voice
in concert



Mark Murphy
Vocalist

REACHING OUT TO OTHERS



We will be working with Nazarene Missionaries in Cozumel Mexico, Costa Maya Mexico, Belize, and Roatan, Honduras. We will be working in local schools, neighborhoods, churches, holding Bible Schools, painting and other mission activities.

COST: The Cost of the trip begins at \$799.00 plus \$94.00 gratuity if paid in full by July 1, 2015. Cost after July 1, 2015 is \$859.00 plus \$94.00 gratuity, full payment due no later than October 1, 2015. Minimum of \$300.00 deposit due upon registration to secure your cabin on the ship. Cruise dates: January 23 through January 30, 2016. Everyone is responsible for their own expenses to Port Canaveral, Florida. We will be sailing on the Carnival Valor.

Make payable to: NEI NMI

Register and pay online at:
<http://nelnazarene.org/mission-2/work-and-witness>

Contact Thomas Govin at: (765) 874-1414;
tjgovin@gmail.com



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SYNERGIZE 2016

PASTORS & LEADERS CONFERENCE / JANUARY 19 -21, 2016 / ORLANDO, FLORIDA



Synergize 16

In February of 2001, two leaders met to discuss how they could help the Global Church get in position to complete the Great Commission by winning a billion souls to Christ.

In 2010, under the leadership of co-founder of The Billion Soul Network, Dr. James O. Davis, pastors and church leaders from all over the world gathered in Orlando, Florida. The goal of this fourth gathering since 2010 was to strengthen the already established network of denominations, churches, pastors, and lay people for the purpose of reaching a billion souls for Christ by the end of the decade (2020).

January 19-21, 2016, Synergize 16 was held at The Doubletree Hotel in Orlando, Florida. Influential denominational leaders, pastors, and educators comprised the list of speakers for this three day conference.

Featured speakers included Dr. Jerry Porter, General Superintendent of The Church of the Nazarene, Dr. Elmer Towns, Co-founder of Liberty University, Ravi Zacharias, Apologist, Dr. Leonard Sweet, Author and Education, Ron Luce of "Acquire The Fire" and Dr. James Merritt, President of The Southern Baptist Convention, to name a few.

"The Young Messiah," a movie depicting the childhood of Jesus was premiered on Wednesday night of the conference. It was also reported that the goal of reaching a billion souls for Jesus by 2020 was at 60%.

[Additional information about the Billion Soul Network can be found at Billion.tv.](#)

The following quotes were taken from a few of the keynote speakers:

"We jump from Constantine to Azusa Street, forgetting all that is in between. We know so little of what got us here." -- Dr. David Beacham, General Moderator of The Pentecostal Holiness Church

"We are either selfish or cruel if we do not share Christ." -- Dr. Ephraim Tendoro, Worldwide Evangelistic Association

"There is a good that leads us away from God. Grace empowers me to live the life of holiness... to do what I couldn't do in my own strength." -- John Bevere

"How do we reach a world that listens with its eyes and thinks with its feelings? They must see mercy and hear proclamation, hear an argument that is not only stated but also a conviction that is felt, and we must get back to eternal truth." -- Ravi Zacharias

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Dr. John Bowling
President of Olivet Nazarene University
Olivet Holiness Summit 2008



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