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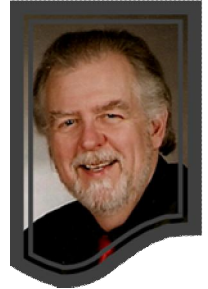
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YOU HAVE More Than Enough



**By Pastor C. Steve Johnson
Burlington, Indiana**

Sometimes we may feel we have been cut off at the knees, shot down, plowed under. But even if you feel like you have lost everything, there is one thing you will always have and that is God's purpose for your life. God will always see that you have what you need to accomplish his purpose in your life.

In 2nd Kings Chapter 4 we read a story of a woman who had lost everything. Her husband had died; she was in debt and could not care for herself and her two sons. The court was about to sell her sons into slavery to cover her debts. She came to the prophet Elisha, telling him of her woes. He simply asked her what she had to work with. All she had was a bottle of oil. He promptly sent her and her sons to gather and borrow all the containers she could find then he instructed her to fill them with the oil from the bottle. The oil in the one bottle filled all the containers. She was able to sell the oil and pay her debt and have enough left over to live on. When things are tough, we need to take a look at what we have and offer it to God. Then step back and watch the miracle.

The miracle does not come according to what you have lost but it comes with what you have left.

On one occasion Jesus and his followers were faced with a hungry crowd of folks with no way to feed them. The disciples were trying to count their pennies and see what they could do. Jesus asked them what they had to work with. Only two small fish and five little loaves, but we know what happened. Jesus blessed it and broke it and gave it to his disciples and they served the people. In Matthew's version of this story he says there were five thousand men fed that day besides women and children and there were twelve baskets full left over. What a miracle! They started out with not enough and ended up with too much.

Often times we try to keep God inside our lines of logic. But God colors outside the lines. I once heard it said that when God wants to paint miracles like these, sometimes he has to start with some dark colors. So when you give it over to God and it still seems dark, just wait. He's just getting started.

A.W. Tozer said, "God is looking for those with whom he can do the impossible – what a pity that we plan only the things we can do by ourselves."

So, we've all lost something, maybe it was your job or your house. Maybe it was your integrity or your spirituality. Possibly you've lost your compassion. But God is ready, to reach into the ashes of what was, and come out with an ember you did not even know was burning and fan it into a roaring flame.

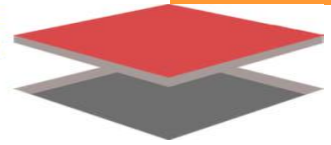
The miracle is not in what you once were, but it is in what you are now. What you have lost may have been painful, but what you have left is powerful. Where there is life there is hope and whatever you have is enough for God to work with.

As the old hymn say's "Little is much when God is in it, labor not for wealth and fame; there's a crown and you can win it, if you go in Jesus name."



Dr. Tim Warner

CHAIRMAN'S Corner



Take a Fresh Look at Your Preaching Style

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts as your thoughts. Isaiah 55:8-9

Every once in a while it does the preacher and his congregation a very good turn to take fresh stock as to how he does in his preaching. IMA preachers are some of the best I've ever heard. Why? Is it because they're anointed by the Holy Spirit? Is it because a great gifting? Yes, but also because they take time to evaluate themselves as to effectiveness, communication, and accuracy in articulating the very thoughts of the Almighty. Just like a vehicle needs oil changes and maintenance, so at certain intervals, the preacher must do some research on the art of preaching itself and analyze how he's doing at this art.

There are a multitude of sermon styles that range from the old fashioned verse-by-verse form to expounding on a heavenly vision received by an Old Testament prophet. Amongst the variety of homilies, however, there are five major kinds of sermons from which a preacher may choose. They are Topical, Textual, Expository, Doctrinal, and Illustrative. I will briefly comment on each:

1. **Topical Sermons** usually reflect a current phenomenon in society, address a contemporary theme, or will answer a question that is on a majority of peoples' mind in a congregation. For example, if there's a national disaster like a flood or earthquake, the preacher may want to speak on the biblical view of pain, suffering and how God deals with people groups. It may be a Special Day Event such as Mother's Day, Thanksgiving, or Christmas and the preacher must gather certain Scriptures in order to communicate the Christian perspective on such celebrations.



2. Next, we'll consider the **Textual Sermon** which is to take a passage of scripture, usually one or two verses, and expound on the various points within that passage. An example of this is in John 3:16-17 where Jesus is instructing on how a man is born again and personally receives the gift of eternal life. There are twenty five words in John 3:16; the first 12 speak about God and His love; the last twelve describe the sinner's demise apart from salvation. What about the middle word? It's SON, the ONE that brings Holy God and sinful man together. The textual sermon expands on original text, though other thoughts may be added to it. They are sub points to the main points.

3. Thirdly is the **Expository Sermon** which is similar to the textual style, but normally a longer passage of scripture is used. A parable, discourse of Christ, or bible narrative (story) may be used here. For instance, the parable of The Prodigal Son could be preached on in the expository style. An outline could be developed about the *loving father, the lost son, the even more lost brother, or even the time factor involved in redeeming a lost son or daughter*. Points may come straight from the narrative or the preacher may synthesize the theme to fit the overall truth he is proclaiming.



4. The fourth kind of sermon the preacher may use is the **Doctrinal Sermon**. This type of sermon specifies a particular doctrine or teaching from the Bible like Salvation, Water Baptism, Spirit Infilling, Inspiration of Scripture, Tithing, etc. This type should not be used too often as this type can quickly become wearisome to the hearers. Doctrines are important, especially if they are challenged.

5. The final kind of sermon is the **Illustrative Sermon** and this one takes much preparation to be effective, but is indeed deemed appropriate at times. Illustrative simply means the preacher will use an object lesson or living example to express what he wants to portray in his message. One time I bought a bunch of grapes at a grocery store (witnessed to the checkout lady) and brought them into the service at my preaching time. I used the text of the Twelve Spies that went into Canaan. I ate grapes throughout the sermon indicating how good things were going at church, pointing out that we must focus on the fruit (good report) as did the (two of the twelve) spies in the bible story.

(See **PREACHING** Pg.4)



Dr. Charles & Joan Dewing

FINISHING The Unfinished Work

By
Dr. Charles B. Dewing
Christians United in Action
Foreign Missionary

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. Matt. 24:14 KJV

Last month Rev. Richard Reneau in his challenging article -TETELESTAI-stated that, "God is not yet finished with the church". God's finished work on the cross demands us to pay close attention to the unfinished work of His great commission. This command has five aspects as I see it.

1. The discipleship commission

Matthew 28:18-20

2. The evangelistic commission

Mark 16:15-20

3. The teaching commission

Luke 24:13-32

4. The sending commission

John 20:21

5. The global commission

Acts 1:8



Before the cross Jesus makes some remarkable predictions recorded in Matthew 24:1-14. It's like reading today's headlines. Notice in verse 14 how He reveals that the church is to finish the unfinished work. "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations (peoples), and then the end will come." Matt. 24:14 (NKJV).

Let's rejoice in the finished work of the cross, but let's take the limits off and put all our efforts, (time, treasures and talents) into finishing the unfinished work of Matthew 24:14. God is still speaking. He has given us everything needed. The Spirit and the gifts are ours. Martin Luther wrote, "A mighty fortress is our God." Let's finish the unfinished work! The best days for the I.M.A. are ahead! We must move forward and do the work that the Lord has called us to do.

Financial Support for Christians in Action may be sent to the IMA Missionary Department at the address on page 4 .

Latin Herald Missions

From
Pastor James Heard
Church of Life & Praise
Ellsworth, Maine



Rev. Don & Connie Vickery

Rev. Don and Connie Vickery have over 30 missionary outreaches— churches, home missions, hospital and evangelistic programs covering a 350 mile area in Northern Mexico.

After graduating from International Bible College, San Antonio, Texas, in 1976, the Vickery's went immediately to pioneer a church in Piedras Negras, Mexico. They established Iglesia Pentecostals Emanuel and are registered with the Mexican government which gives them government recognition and coverage for all their outreaches.



After working in Mexico for over thirty years, the Lord extended the Vickery's ministry into the country of Peru in 2005. Their outreach in Peru is in the deep Amazon Jungle areas that are extremely remote and mostly untouched by the Gospel. The Lord has enabled them to plant jungle churches in four tribal areas. This church has now planted another missions church about an hour upriver from their tribal area, and have sent out a missionary couple to start a home mission in Venezuela.

The Amazon Jungle is larger than Spain, France, and Germany combined. There are over 10,000 Indian tribes living in the jungle of Peru. Of these, 7000 tribes have had some evangelization, but 3000 tribes have yet to be touched with the Gospel. The deep jungle people are extremely primitive and have nothing of this world's goods.



The Vickery's are known to go into the jungle for months at a time, only to come out for needed supplies. They function in the apostolic anointing and minister directly to the needs of those with whom they are in contact.

Rev. Don and Connie Vickery are ordained ministers with the International Ministerial Association. Their work speaks for itself. They have a heart and calling for missions.

Please take time to pray for their mission work and consider them for financial support. Financial support for the **LATIN HERALD MISSIONS** may be sent to the IMA Missionary Department at the address on page 4 of this IMA **HEARLD** Newsletter .

(PREACHING continued from Pg. 1) Though each type of sermon has its own place and time to be used by the preacher, the Expository Sermon is proven to be the best for hearers in the long run of ministry. Experts in ministry and those who analyze preaching professionally will verify this time and again. So, my recommendation is to use Expository-type messages as often as you can and preach on series as much as possible. The main thing is to use a variety of styles as is fitting for the occasion. Make yourself listen to your own sermons occasionally (but not too much). Finally, remember the words of Jesus who, in effect, told preachers of all times that they have a “treasure” of truth and must bring forth out of that treasure [variety] things new and old (MT 13:52).

CENTRAL DISTRICT YOUTH CONFERENCE OCTOBER 14, 15



GRACE & MERCY MINISTRIES
PASTOR NATHAN & PEGGY MILLER
CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

765-361-1531 765-447-8758

INFORMATION AND DIRECTIONS

PASTOR SCOTT LEHR 765-479-0529

MERRY MEDICINE

From Various Sources

Here are some interesting stories about what people learn in church.

The minister, in his Sunday sermon, was saying that God knows what is best for us. “We are like flowers.” He said philosophically, “You know that roses grow best in sunlight, and fuchsias require shade to grow.”

A woman came up to him, after church, bubbling over with praise.

She said, “Pastor, that was just a wonderful sermon. I never could figure out just what was wrong with my fuchsias!”



The pastor, walking toward the church one Sunday morning, met a couple of teen age girls, Megan and Julie, headed in the same direction.

He smiled and said, “I ’m so happy that you are both going to Sunday School today.”

The girls giggled, but didn't say anything. So he ask a question that they would have to respond to.

Pastor continued, “What do you expect to learn this morning?”

Julie eagerly spoke up. “The time of the youth party next Saturday night.”

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The views expressed in the Herald Newsletters do not necessarily reflect the consensus of IMA members