



Jeff Farmer,  
President of Open  
Bible Churches

# Jeff's JOURNAL

Insider Notes, News, Trends, and Resources from the President's Office

## The Mentoring Man

In 1990 Open Bible president Ray Smith retained Bobb Biehl to serve as consultant for Open Bible's first strategic planning event. When the dust had settled after the 1991 national convention in Colorado Springs, significant changes were implemented. Additionally, certain priorities were identified as primary objectives yet to be addressed – front burner items that required specific, strategic goals if Open Bible was to move forward. One of them was leadership development.

When Ray Smith passed me the baton of presidential leadership in 1995, he privately counseled me with a fervent heart and focused eyes, "Give priority to leadership development. With the merging of the colleges, we must find ways to identify and train more leaders." A few years later, while purging records in preparation for annual storage, I found a sheet of paper – a personal note from Biehl to Smith dated after the strategic planning consultation was over. Biehl listed the top ten things to which he would give priority attention if he were president. Number one on the list was leadership development.

Robert Coleman's classic, *The Master Plan of Evangelism*, defends the Biblical premise that it was God's plan for Jesus to deliberately select a handful of men to disciple and then release them into the harvest. In turn these disciplined leaders would each choose and intentionally mentor their own group of called, emerging leaders, thus creating a succession of primary leaders in the Church.

Professor J. Robert Clinton of Fuller Seminary has spent a lifetime studying and applying this leadership development principle. More than an academic to thousands of unnamed students, however, Clinton has intentionally and faithfully continued to invest in approximately 20

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### OPEN BIBLE HURRICANE KATRINA/RITA RELIEF EFFORT:

September	\$32,879
October	\$22,818
November	\$10,614
December	\$ 5,987
Subtotal	\$72,298
Foundation Match	\$10,614
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$82,912</b>



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Teri Beyer, Secretary/  
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# CAN WORSHIP BE TOO LOUD?

Ears contain fragile hearing mechanisms that can be seriously compromised by loud noises. Music with drums, keyboards, electric guitars, basses, brass and string instruments and singers can be quite loud – loud enough to cause damage to hearing in band members and

## CHURCH LAW

in the congregation. (A symphony orchestra produces 110 decibels of sound in general and between 120-140 at its peak, a rock band between 110-140 in general and 150 at its peak.) OSHA requires monitoring of all sounds above 90 decibels. An unshielded drum produces 120 decibels of sound at its source, a piano, between 92-95 decibels. Even when shielded, the drummers, pianist, and other band members are at risk without hearing protection.

Music has great Biblical significance and

is central to most church services. However, even in youth services and particularly for the protection of worship band members and those sitting closest to the front, a reasonable sound policy should be developed and followed in all churches. This can be accomplished two ways:

1. Obtain an audiometer

and measure noise levels continuously both during practices and worship services at various places in the hall.

2. Utilize engineering and administrative controls like shields for drums, hearing protectors for band members, etc., and having a sound engineer who lowers noise levels when the sound level goes above 90 decibels.

Such monitoring need not diminish either the enthusiastic or Spirit-led nature of the worship, but will provide much-needed protection for band members and congregants.

This article is designed to provide accurate and authoritative information in regard to the subject matter covered. It is presented with the understanding that neither the author nor the publisher is engaged in rendering legal, accounting, or other professional service. If legal advice or other expert assistance is required, the services of a competent professional person should be sought. (From a Declaration of Principles jointly adopted by a Committee of the American Bar Association and a Committee of Publishers and Associations.)

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men and women over the years, all of whom are now significant leaders in the Body of Christ. One of those is Dr. Paul Leavenworth, a servant leader whom God sent to Open Bible in 1992.

With Paul came the mentoring model, woven into the DNA of who he is and how he lives. At early morning breakfasts, on fly fishing trips, or out on ministry assignments, one rarely sees him without a called, emerging young leader at his side. If required he and his wife, Leslie, will even welcome them into their home to live for a season. Rough at times on the outside, but broken clay in the Potter's hands on the inside, this "mentoring man" modeled and taught this master plan of evangelism at Eugene Bible College, and continues to do so as a national OBC officer.

Silently, quietly...somewhere just below the

radar screen...the landscape and culture of OBC is gradually changing. Among the reasons? "Dr. Paul," as his students and mentorees often call him, has chosen his own circle of called, emerging leaders, depositing into their lives all that Christ, His Word, and life experience has taught him. They are his disciples. Paul believes in them, prays diligently for them, gives them his time, and insists they, too, must discover, disciple, and deploy those whom the Holy Spirit identifies for leadership in the Church.

Among my national network of church leaders, I know of few individuals more sacrificially committed to fasting and prayer, more passionate about the harvest, or more intentional about raising up the next generation of church leaders. Right now I can think of 20 young leaders in and outside our movement who would "go to the wall"

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## Resource Recap

[www.worshipfilms.com](http://www.worshipfilms.com)

– Five minute video clips.

If you are looking for ways to reach people more effectively, increase sermon retention, and make your services more relevant to the people in your community, check out this Web site.

Worshipfilms.com is a

Christian company dedicated to spreading the gospel through the use of powerful video images that speak the language of today's generation.

Several types of original products are created: sermon illustrations, animated backgrounds for praise and worship, and meditative videos for church services.

[www.sermonspice.com](http://www.sermonspice.com)

– A fast growing website dedicated to providing affordable sermon media for pastors or ministry leaders. Sermonspice.com is a virtual video library, with more than 300 video illustrations, intros, and teasers that average five minutes or less in length.

From Central Region's  
*Fire on the Prairie*

# Prayer & Evangelism

There is a mighty lot of difference between saying prayers and praying.

*John G. Lake*

You may pray for an hour and still not pray. You may meet God for a moment and then be in touch with Him all day.

*Fredrik Wisloff*

One can believe intellectually in the efficacy of prayer and never do any praying.

*Catherine Marshall*

Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?

*Corrie Ten Boom*

Of all the duties enjoined by Christianity none is more essential and yet more neglected than prayer.

*Francois Fenelon*

You have to watch carefully and work hard, if you are to serve God. Ask yourself, all the time, what you came here for; why it was that you left the world behind.

*Thomas A. Kempis*

If your Gospel isn't touching others, it hasn't touched you!

*Curry R. Blake*

We talk of the Second Coming; half the world has never heard of the first.

*Oswald J. Smith*

Sympathy is no substitute for action.

*David Livingstone*

Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us daily.

*Sally Koch*

## Health Hints

### Recognizing a Stroke.

A neurologist says if he can get to a stroke victim within three hours, he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke...totally. He said the trick was getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed, and getting to the patient within three hours, which is tough.

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms.

Doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

1. Ask the individual to SMILE.
2. Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.
3. Ask the person to SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (coherently, i.e., It is sunny out today.)

If he or she has trouble with any of these tasks, call 9-1-1 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

After discovering that a group of non-medical volunteers could identify facial weakness, arm weakness, and speech problems, researchers urged the general public to learn the three questions. Widespread use of this test could result in prompt diagnosis and treatment of the stroke and prevent brain damage.

*American Stroke Association*

## Book Briefs

### *The DaVinci Deception*

by Erwin Lutzer

Tyndale House Publishers, 2006

160 pp

Was Jesus really married to Mary Magdalene? Did they actually have children who intermarried with the French royal family? Has the church been hiding the truth for centuries?

In his bestselling work of fiction, *The DaVinci Code*, Dan Brown blurs the lines between history and fiction giving the impression they are one and the same – and that Christianity is based on a lie. In *The DaVinci Deception*, renowned theologian and pastor of the world famous Moody Church in Chicago, Dr. Erwin Lutzer examines the “facts” behind the bestselling novel, clarifies the issues involved in the deception, and equips readers with the truth.

### *Leading from the Second Chair*

by Mike Bonem and Gary Patterson

Jossey-Bass, 2005

208 pp

It's lonely at the top, and can be even lonelier when you are almost at the top. Church leaders who hold “second chair” positions are under tremendous pressure. They are expected to provide leadership – but defer to a supervisor. They must have deep expertise – but wide perspective. It's a demanding balancing act.

In *Leading from the Second Chair*, Bonem and Patterson share their own experiences of failures and successes. They offer practical advice for reshaping the way second chair leaders can serve well and improve overall performance of their church.

An invaluable resource, this book equips readers with the positive attitudes, skills, and strategies needed to become influential leaders who will excel in leading and following in a God-honoring way.



Jerry Lambert,  
Executive Director  
of Planned Giving  
& Advancement

## Merry Makers

*Walking in downtown Chicago, three young boys were engaged in one-upsmanship...each trying to outdo the other.*

*Passing an apartment building the first boy said, "My dad is a doctor. He owns that building and we are rich."*

*A block farther they passed a huge office building. The second boy exclaimed, "My dad is a lawyer. He owns that skyscraper and we are very, very rich."*

*The third little boy was a PK. As they neared the end of the block he confidently asserted, "My dad owns hell!"*

*"No way," the other two shrieked.*

*"Oh yes he does," the preacher's kid insisted. "Last night when Dad came home from church I heard him tell Mom the board gave it to him."*

# IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS

After a loved one dies, family feuds are more likely to erupt over treasured personal possessions than over money.

You've finally done the responsible thing and finalized an estate plan. You wrote the will, spelling out who gets the house, the bank accounts, and investments.

But did you stipulate who inherits the watch your grandfather gave you? Or your mother's wedding dress? Did you make provisions for the family photo albums, or that favorite book you used to read to each of your kids at bedtime when they were small?

If you're like most people, the answer is probably no. You focused responsibly on the big stuff – the financial assets and other valuables and didn't give much thought to the small stuff, which often causes the most contention when a loved one dies. "The fundamental problem is

that personal possessions often can't be distributed equally to more than one heir." Money can be split in thirds, but a painting cannot. Plus, people have far more emotional attachment to personal items than to money, which makes the dividing process more traumatic.

The result: Siblings may squabble over who gets what, sparking tension or re-kindling long-simmering rivalries. Hurt feelings develop which can potentially end in family feuds.

I have prepared a brochure, *It's All in the Details*, with practical insights for your use. If you would like to obtain a PDF file simply e-mail me at [Jerlambert@aol.com](mailto:Jerlambert@aol.com). Be sure to put "It's All in the Details" in the subject box.

## ESTATE PLANNING



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for Dr. Paul. Many of them are already very successful, fruitful leaders in the local church. Some of them display extraordinary faith. Most are engaged in intentional discipleship of young leaders – the same DNA deposited into them by Paul.

Leavenworth is also a brilliant thinker... deeply insightful...at times prophetic. He often gives birth to creative ideas, resulting in what we call pilots. These are innovative ministry initiatives, some of which die (from which we learn valuable lessons), while others thrive. Yet I doubt

anyone will remember Paul for programs he implemented, because Paul is not about programs. He is about people. His legacy will be a continuing chain, over many generations, of leaders discipling leaders discipling leaders.

