



Jeff Farmer,  
President of Open  
Bible Churches

# Jeff's JOURNAL

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

## YOU'VE GOT MAIL (restructure)

Does that title sound familiar? It should...from a couple of different places.

Every time you venture into cyber space to sign on the internet and check your email, a charming electronic voice – complete with background musical chords – rings out, “You’ve got mail.”

Or maybe you saw the romantic comedy made famous by Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan, *You’ve Got Mail*?

My reason for using this well-known phrase is to announce to Open Bible credentialed ministers and churches that in a very few days YOU’LL GET MAIL – very important mail regarding the current restructure process in which we are engaged.

Keep reading! It will be a very large mailing – perhaps overwhelming at first glance. Your temptation may be to set it aside, or worse yet...to toss it!

But here is my “You’ve Got Mail” **warning** and plea:

1. If you are going to be at the national convention in **Spokane**, **you must have this mailing with you**. It is too large, too complex and too expensive to reproduce again. Somehow it has to end up in your luggage.
2. Even if you are not going to be in Spokane, **everything you want to know about the Open Bible Churches’ restructure** process is in this mailing: what we are going to do, how we are going to do it, and when we are going to do it.

The primary piece in your mailing, a comb-bound booklet about 30 pages long, contains several very important documents, the most significant of which is the proposed merger and revision of the Association’s constitution and bylaws.

**P** *rayer & Intimacy with God*  
**L** *eadership Development*  
**A** *dvancement Funding*  
**N** *etwork: Communication & Technology*  
**T** *he Great Commission*  
**E** *thnic Ministries*  
**R** *esource Churches & Leaders*  
**S** *ingleness of Purpose*

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Teri Beyer, Secretary/  
Treasurer

# COPYRIGHT LICENSING

Sometimes churches unknowingly fall afoul of copyright law in the use of songs and movies. The purchase or rental of a movie is for private, home use, not for public use. Just because you own a music book with printed music in it, doesn't give you the right to copy that music and pass it out to others. Just because you know the words to a song doesn't give you the right to type and display them in a song service.

Artists have rights to remuneration for the use of their intellectual creations. Those rights are protected by copyrights that legally determine how an artistic creation can be used. Anyone who authorizes a violation of a copyright (even for church use) is subject to penalties, fines, and even imprisonment.

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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In simple terms, it is the new proposed bylaws. And importantly, the ten restructure recommendations with which you should now be familiar (see our web site to review if interested), are integrated into these bylaws. The proposed bylaws are printed for you in side-by-side vertical columns so you can compare the old with the new and see our rationale for the changes.

Prayerfully and carefully read the booklet. It represents over three years of earnest prayer and strategic planning regarding the future of our movement. Many pastors and leaders have provided input and have been involved in the process. And this is the actual booklet that shall guide most of our business meeting agenda.

Not to confuse you, but there will actually be two nearly identical mailings – one to

Churches can easily and cheaply purchase licensing agreements from Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI). When a church pays for the license to use the songs and movies covered by the license, the artist who made the creation is remunerated by CCLI.

Many pastors use movie clips to illustrate their sermons and movie nights are an increasingly common outreach tool used by churches. If your church is showing movies in a public arena, even if there is no charge to those who watch the movies, unless the church owns a license to show the movie, the church is in violation of copyright law. Please go on line to [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com). For a very reasonable fee you can have legal access to huge amounts of worship songs and movies.

churches and one to credentialed ministers.

**Attention local church pastors:** The mailing addressed to churches is designed to facilitate the appointment of church delegates to the biennial business meeting and to provide a booklet for their education and use in Spokane.

Now – what's inside of this "too large, too complex, too expensive" booklet to reproduce? There is a table of contents to guide you, but I would like to highlight just three documents so you don't miss them.

First, find the *Business Meeting Process Sheet*. It will provide you with a chronological sequence and description of how the president, as chairperson of the association biennial business meeting, will proceed through the bylaws and other documents to bring us to the conclusion of the meeting.

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## Passion for Transformation

The Sentinel group brings cutting edge media, training, and outreach to the body of Christ. Their mission is spiritual revival and societal transformation. The three most recent videos documenting transformation in Fiji and Uganda are *Let the Sea Resound* and *An Unconventional War*. *The Quickenings* offers teaching on core principles and common obstacles related to genuine transformation.



**For Resources & Information – email:**  
[media@sentinelgroup.org](mailto:media@sentinelgroup.org)  
or [www.sentinelgroup.org](http://www.sentinelgroup.org)  
Phone 800.688.5657

# Prayer & Evangelism

If we cannot go to the house of the Lord we can go by faith to the Lord of the house.

*Matthew Henry*

The great secret of a right waiting upon God is to be brought down to utter impotence.

*Andrew Murray*

Prayer is not eloquence but earnestness.

*Hannah More*

Prayer as it comes from the saint is weak and languid; but when the arrow of a saint's prayer is put into the bow of Christ's intercession it pierces the throne of grace.

*Thomas Watson*

He who runs from God in the morning will scarcely find him the rest of the day.

*John Bunyan*

The Church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, and sermons are simply a waste of time. God became Man for no other purpose.

*C. S. Lewis*

The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become.

*Henry Martyn*

It is now possible to live a "Christian life" without doing the things Jesus commanded. We have hired people to go into all the world. The average Christian doesn't have to do it.

*Cal Thomas*

In the vast plain to the north I have sometimes seen, in the morning sun, the smoke of a thousand villages where no missionary has ever been.

*Robert Moffat*

## Book Brief

### *Dear Church: Letters from a Disillusioned Generation*

Zondervan, 2006

Sarah Cunningham, author of *Dear Church*, is a 28-year-old high school history teacher. She grew up in a preacher's home and is a former megachurch staffer. But she left the church, at least in the traditional sense. Now part of a house church in Jackson, Michigan, Sarah ventures into the publishing arena by writing letters to leaders of the church on behalf of a disillusioned generation.

In an interview with *Leadership Journal* (Winter, 2007), Sarah says "faith systems that

don't compel transformation are empty. It's not that people have bad intentions ... but few people see Christianity as a shift of allegiance that prompts us to make personal changes in beliefs, habits, and lifestyles. We must ... examine our churches to make sure our message is one that requires transformation."

Sarah's on to something that pastors need to hear. Young adults resonate with the idea that traditional, institutional churches fail. Barna says there are 24 million teens in the U.S. Though 81 percent have attended church for a period of at least two months, the percentage of young adults who maintain active spiritual lives consistent with their high school years is 20%.

## Health Hints

### Blood Pressure – Just the Facts

*A lot of misconceptions about blood pressure are floating around.*

**Myth:**

High blood pressure causes such symptoms as nervousness, sweating, and trouble sleeping.

**Fact:**

High blood pressure often has no symptoms, so you won't know if yours is high unless you have it checked.

**Myth:**

Only older people need to have their blood pressure checked.

**Fact:**

Even children can have high blood pressure, so it's best to start having regular blood pressure checks early in life.

**Myth:**

Only men should worry about high blood pressure.

**Fact:**

High blood pressure can develop in anyone. Women account for nearly half of those affected.

**Myth:**

People can cut back or quit taking blood pressure medicines if they're feeling OK.

**Fact:**

Take them as ordered. Cutting back or quitting can be dangerous to your health. Also maintain any lifestyle changes your doctor suggests to help keep this lifelong disease in check.

**Make sure you have routine checkups with your family physician to monitor your blood pressure.**



Paul Canfield, Executive Director of International Ministries, retiring after 28 years in office.

## Merry Makers

### Caution ... They Walk Among Us

One day I was walking down the beach with some friends when someone shouted ... "Look at that dead bird! The guy next to me looked up at the sky and said ... "Where???"

### They Walk Among Us

I couldn't find my luggage at the airport baggage. So I went to the lost luggage office and told the woman my bags never showed up. She smiled and told me not to worry. She was a trained professional. I was in good hands. "Now," she asked me, "has your plane arrived yet?"

### They Walk Among Us

I observed a man ordering a small pizza to go. He was alone and the cook asked if he would like it cut into 6 or 4 pieces. He thought about it before responding. "Just cut it into 4, I don't think I'm hungry enough to eat 6 pieces."

### Yep, They Walk Among Us

# POSITION OPENING

Open Bible Churches is receiving resumes for the office of Executive Director of International Ministries. The current director, Paul Canfield, has announced his retirement effective August 31, 2007.

### Minimum Qualifications:

- Willing to fully embrace and support the Open Bible Churches' statement of faith
- Christian character and integrity – a history of living and serving above reproach
- A strong sense of calling to missions and this specific position
- Experienced and mature leadership skills
- Understanding of and commitment to the local church
- A history of proven successes
- Strategic planning and management skills
- Strong oral (public speaking) and written communication skills
- Willingness to travel (domestic and overseas)
- Fund-raising experience
- Board of directors experience
- Organizational, financial management, and administrative skills

### Desirable Qualifications:

- Missions (missionary) experience
- Fluent in Spanish
- Bachelor's level college education or greater

Applicants are asked to submit: (1) a two-page "Personal Philosophy of World Missions" statement, and how that might relate to leadership of the International Ministries Department; (2) a resume that includes at a minimum an unbroken timeline of ministry / career experience, education, a short list of professional strengths and primary spiritual gifts, current references and a recent family photo; (3) a very brief cover letter which includes this statement: "With the submission of this resume, I authorize Open Bible Churches to investigate my credit rating and conduct a full background search."

Deadline for applicant information: April 27, 2007. Mail the packet of information to Jeff Farmer, President, Open Bible Churches, 2020 Bell Ave., Des Moines, IA 50315, or email it to [jeff@openbible.org](mailto:jeff@openbible.org).

Worldwide outreach is in the DNA of Open Bible, and is woven into the fabric of our mission statement. There are still lost to be found, tribes to be reached, and nations to come to the Lord of the Harvest. Please join us in prayer.

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Second, look at the *Standing Rules*. If you have been to other OBC association business meetings, these will be familiar to you. Standing rules are approved by the national board for recommendation to the floor. They guide the requirements and conditions of taking motions and conducting floor debate.

Finally, notice the *Provisos*. Everyone asks, "What are provisos?" In laymen's terms, and for our purposes, they are time dated exceptions to the final approval of the

revised bylaws. For example, while the new bylaws may go into effect January 1, 2008, certain provisions, or provisos, exempt something specific in the bylaws from going into effect until a later date.

I close with this: Keep your eyes on the harvest...and keep your eyes on the mailbox...for you've got mail.

