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# Jeff's JOURNAL

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

## Evangelism War Room

“What is Campus Crusade for Christ doing with internet evangelism?” I asked Dr. Steve Douglass, president of CCC.

Steve’s eyes sparkled. “We have multiple web sites, each striving to achieve the maximum number of cyber contacts while simultaneously addressing the problem of language diversity.”

I could feel it coming. Steve still hadn’t given me the punch line.

“Last year we had over one million decisions for Christ on the net, and the number is growing. I project within five years we will lead more people to Christ on the information highway than we will on the ground with the ‘JESUS’ film.” (In 2004 the “JESUS” film netted 2,159,262 decisions for Christ from live showings.)

I was in Chicago spending the day with some of our nation’s most passionate evangelism leaders. They serve, as do I, on the Mission America Coalition (MAC) board. Gals and guys like Mac Pier, a brother who has spent the last 20 years uniting and mobilizing the churches in New York City to reach its millions. Last month he organized and led over 5,000 believers on a prayer walk that covered 200 of the 233 zip codes in New York City.

The Mission America Coalition now has 483 ministry partners committed to collaborative prayer and evangelism efforts in our nation. Board members commit time to attend these meetings because they know there will be measurable results. Currently MAC is partnering with nine strategically selected cities in an outreach called LC2C (Loving Our Cities and Communities to Christ). The intentional goal is to assist the pastors and churches of those cities in reaching their communities to Christ.

When the MAC board gathers, it is – by their own definition – an evangelism war room. Life and death are on the table. “The god of this age blinds the minds of unbelievers...” (2Corinthians 4:4). We intend to open them!

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Teri Beyer, Secretary/  
Treasurer

# WHAT CURRENTLY INTERESTS THE IRS REGARDING 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATIONS?

(Part 2\*)

The Internal Revenue Service is increasing its review of tax exempt 501(c)(3) organizations in the following areas:

5. Proper reporting and valuation of non-cash items. Reporting for cars donated to a charity was reformed in 2004. Filing a 1098-C form is required. Failing to follow the IRS rules can result in penalties to the charity of up to 35% of the claimed value by the tax filer.

The IRS's next target is donations of clothing, furniture, paintings, antiques, objects of art, jewelry and gems. It has proposed a very complicated record keeping system to account for the deductible value of these items. This system will probably be effective for all donations beginning in 2007. The IRS believes people are donating old, useless articles for which the recipient charity has no use and the people are still getting a charitable contribution. Expect such valuation and reporting issues to be IRS concerns

## CHURCH LAW

for some time to come.

6. Unrelated Business Income (UBIT). The issue is unfair competition. When a 501(c)(3) corporation runs a business that competes for clients or customers with a for-profit corporation, the 501(c)(3) can expand, advertise and cover the general administrative costs of its operation with profits that have not been taxed. A for-profit corporation has no such benefit. The IRS is determined to create parity between for-profit and not-for-profit corporations. Expect the IRS to ratchet up its auditing in this area.

7. Charitable contributions for payment of tuition at a religious school. This practice is absolutely forbidden. Several recent cases have upheld this prohibition. If your church also has a school of any kind, please do not allow charitable contributions for payment of tuition.

\*To review Part 1, go to [www.openbible.org](http://www.openbible.org), Publications & Resources, *Jeff's Journal*, Archives, April/May 2006 issue.

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We are dead serious about people dying and going to hell. We recognize rampant, nonchalant disobedience to the Great Commission by pastors and parishioners. When was the last time you heard a sermon on hell?

Crisis looms. We have heart disease. Yes, there are a few healthy reproducing churches in the USA...but they cannot turn the tide alone. It is our responsibility. A sobering 2004 research project by Thom Rainer reveals "it takes 86 church members in America one year to reach a single person for Christ." Rainer concludes, "The church is not reproducing herself...in one or two generations Christianity could be so marginalized that it will be deemed irrelevant."

The MAC meetings are good for me... they rake my heart over the coals. I roller coaster from the ache of brokenness to the exhilaration of hope. I ache when we consider the new statistics on the state of the Church in America. And I ache when I see the title of new books like Josh McDowell's *The Last Christian Generation* (2006). Then I rebound with enthusiasm and hope when I again grasp the compassion and action of these leaders.

Eleven years ago I was elected president of Open Bible Churches. At that time the Lord gave clear instructions for Open Bible to stay immovably focused on prayer and evangelism. I have stayed the course. Have you? Every issue of *Jeff's Journal* has had poignant quotes from each of these two areas.

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## Resource Recap

As a pastor or Christian leader who recognizes your responsibility to be a cultural leader for your congregation and within your community, you need the *Pastor's Weekly Briefing* delivered to your email inbox every Thursday evening. Presented from a conservative evangelical perspective, this complimentary resource will bring you relevant current-event news nuggets on the specific issues that face you, your family, your congregation and your community.

Sign up today for this dynamic and practical resource by visiting [www.parsonage.org/forms/PWBSub.cfm](http://www.parsonage.org/forms/PWBSub.cfm).

If you would like to help an unbeliever investigate the claims of Christianity, send them to [www.leestrobels.com](http://www.leestrobels.com) - the most extensive video-driven site designed to help people explore what Christians really believe - and why.

# Prayer & Evangelism

Prayer is not an exercise. It is the life of the saint.

*Oswald Chambers*

Pray without ceasing.

*1 Thessalonians 5:17 (KJV)*

Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance, but laying hold of His willingness.

*Marin Luther*

The greatest tragedy of life is not unanswered prayer, but unoffered prayer.

*F. B. Meyer*

What is it that moves the hand of God more than anything else? Prayer!

*Dr. C. Peter Wagner*

If your plan is not to gather the lost into the Kingdom, then it is "planned disobedience."

*Henry Blackaby*

If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our bodies. If they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees. Let no one GO there UNWARNED and UNPRAYED for.

*C. H. Spurgeon*

A study asked people to use single words to describe Jesus. They responded, "wise accepting, compassionate, gracious, humble." Then they were asked to use single words to describe Christians. They said, "critical, exclusive, self-righteous, narrow, and repressive.

*George Barna*

## Health Hints

### *Is Your Kitchen Making You Sick?*

An often overlooked area in the house that can be a source of germs causing colds and flu is the kitchen. The ever-present kitchen sponge is a likely culprit: its moist environment can breed bacteria, and contain millions of germs. Sinks and drains are also typically germ-ridden, as are handles on the refrigerator and microwave, cutting boards, and dish towels. Reduce germs with the following simple steps:

- Wash your hands before and after handling food.
- Microwave kitchen sponges frequently (moisten and heat for one minute), or run through the dishwasher weekly.
- Wipe down the sink, counters and other surfaces that are touched often with a very diluted bleach solution.

### *How Can I Manage My Weight?*

Your heart will be healthier if you reach and maintain a healthy weight, and don't go up and down the scale like a yo-yo.

What if I go back to old habits? A lapse is a small mistake or return to old habits. A relapse is when you go back to old habits for several days or weeks.

- Remember that having a lapse or relapse is not failing. You can get back on track.
- When you feel an urge, set a timer for 15 minutes and wait, or do something else before eating. This will teach you to delay your desire for food.
- Try to use other ways to respond to life's stresses besides eating. Take a brisk walk, start a new hobby or calm yourself through prayer.

## Book Briefs

### *The Azusa Street Mission and Revival*

By Cecil M. Robeck, Jr.  
Thomas Nelson, Inc.  
325 pages

Nearly twenty-five percent of the world's Christians count themselves among the charismatic and Pentecostal family of Christian movements, yet few know how Pentecostalism began. *The Azusa Street Mission and Revival* tells the story of the small racially-inclusive group that gathered in Los Angeles in 1906 and changed the world of Christianity. With little more than a printing press, a trolley stop and a powerful message, the revival that began at Apostolic Faith Mission on Azusa Street, rapidly crossed more than race lines – into Mexico, Canada, Britain, Scandinavia, western and southern Africa, India, and China – and began to change the landscape of Christianity. The complete story of the Mission has finally been recorded.

### *Fields of Gold*

By Andy Stanley  
Tyndal House Publishers, Inc.  
134 pages

This is a practical and inspirational book on the principle of sowing and reaping. This book moves the reader beyond fear and guilt about giving and into confidence, security, and excitement. Andy Stanley, son of popular author and pastor Charles Stanley, is a successful author and the dynamic pastor of the 12,000 member North Point Community Church in Atlanta. Andy unpacks our irrational fears about money, helping us to discover that generous giving is actually an invitation for our heavenly Father to get involved in our finances and re-supply us with enough seed to sow generously. The book features true stories of people who have sown generously even when they didn't have much to give.



Jerry Lambert,  
Executive Director  
of Planned Giving  
& Advancement

## Merry Makers

A magazine recently ran a "Dilbert Quotes" contest. They asked people to submit quotes from their real-life Dilbert-type managers. These were voted the top quotes from the Dilberts we work for in corporate America, circa 2005:

"As of tomorrow, employees will only be able to access the building using individual security cards. Pictures will be taken next Wednesday, and employees will receive their cards in two weeks." (This was the winning quote from Fred Dales, Microsoft Corp. in Redmond, Washington.)

"What I need is an exact list of specific unknown problems we might encounter." (Lykes Lines Shipping)

"We know that communication is a problem, but the company is not going to discuss it with the employees." (Switching supervisor, AT&T Long Lines Division)

"Doing it right is no excuse for not meeting the schedule." (Plant Manager, Delco Corporation)

## BEFORE THE OFFERING

For many pastors the thought of teaching stewardship makes their hearts do flip-flops. Talking about money is something they would rather not do. However, there is at least one opportunity to do so each Sunday. It's the offering.

Instead of having the ushers come forward, followed by an awkward prayer, why not put some effort into this

overlooked act of worship? The offering is an opportunity to "teach stewardship" in a variety of ways. One is to look for short illustrations that can assist you. The internet is a great source to build your illustration library.

Following is an illustration for your use...

### Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark...

**One:** Don't miss the boat.

**Two:** Remember that we are all in the same boat.

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In many of my Message "President's Perspectives," I have attempted to model evangelism by telling you personal stories of sharing Christ with unbelievers. I have elevated the importance of harvest prayer and leadership development (discovering, discipling, deploying laborers for the harvest) because the Church is never more than one generation from extinction.

Years ago Peter Drucker said leaders need to recast organizational mission and vision every 45 days. That is now outdated. Recently a former Fortune 100 CEO said mission and vision should be restated at least every 30 days. I now hear many suggest it is impossible to state our mission and vision too often. Mission drift happens. People lose sight of the main thing.

I am accountable to God for keeping our

**Three:** Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

**Four:** Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

**Five:** Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

**Six:** When you're stressed, float a while.

**Seven:** No matter the storm, when you are with God there's a rainbow waiting.

The reason God wants us to give is so we don't miss the boat...so we don't miss the blessings He wants to give us.

Luke 6:38 says, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." (NIV)

mission before you. That was the theme of my report to the convention floor last year, i.e., accountability to missional effectiveness. The local church is where mission is accomplished. Let's get it right! God is not the author of fear. Do outreach. Do evangelism. Do harvest. God will give increase. He has promised...and His promises are obligations He puts on His own character.

Start your own evangelism war room.



## STEWARDSHIP STORIES