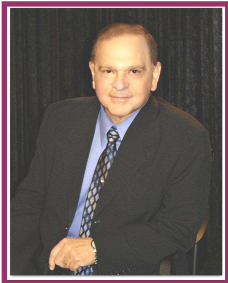


# the Informer newsletter



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | PCAI FELLOWSHIP  
PARAGON CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL  
JUNE 2018 – VOLUME 6

## IMPORTANT ROLE OF A FATHER



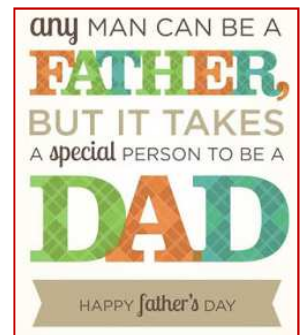
*By Dr. Henry Harbuck / PCAI General  
President & Int'l Overseer*

The United States of America has drifted far from its founding principles where fathers played a significant role in both the home and the church. Today there are few homes where fathers teach their children to reverence God. Even worse, too many youngsters are reared by a single female parent, growing into adulthood without the faintest idea of what a father really is. America will never again be great unless its fathers return to their rightful place of responsibility. Only then will individual and national respect be regained, and the greatness of past years recaptured as, once again, fathers become prominent figures within the family unit.

Men play an integral role in providing love and stability for their children beyond that of just “bringing home the bacon.” Youngsters need to be loved

unconditionally by a Christian father – learning to see Christ through their father’s example. Paul the apostle said, “Imitate (or copy) me, just as I also imitate Christ” (I Corinthians 11:1). When a father genuinely imitates Christ, his wife and children will want to imitate him. What a tragedy it is that many fathers today in America are “good for nothing,” having lost their way and their strength, they are *worthless*.

As Father’s Day approaches, may we all remember our fathers – those who gave us life. Likewise, let us pray for those fathers who are “good for nothing” that their hearts may be touched by the Holy Spirit so they may return to the Christian path before it’s too late. Last, may we fervently intercede for those homes in which there are no fathers to support and guide little children due to circumstances beyond their control as they face life’s challenges. ♥



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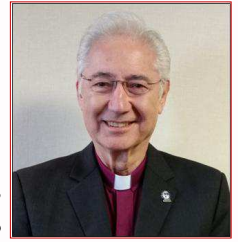
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# His Presence In Us and On Us—part 1

By Pastor Lynn Burling / Christian Faith Church Senior Pastor



Is it just me or do you see more of God now and can't get enough of His **presence**? It's special when it's no longer about biblical characters, but it's about YOU! You can see when what God wanted to do was historical for a nation or a certain group or just another person. When God wants to shift a person or nation—He'll find someone who will allow His **presence** to freely flow through them. God chooses to whom He will reveal His ways and His revelation and it always starts with His **presence**...read it for yourself—it changed them forever, i.e., Jacob to Israel and Moses at the burning bush.

To live aware of the open Heaven pertains to truth of scripture/revelation that God has given us. Do we want to see what hasn't happened instead of living from what has happened? We must live from the reality He has made available. Be assured He'll take care of the rest. To live unaware of the open Heaven, of His promise is to have "missed opportunity" written all over it; it can have consequential results. *Question*...Is it your desire or quest to seek His **presence**? If not, what planet are you living on? I "wouldn't" or might I say "couldn't," if God had not built that phase of my life into me. It has unfolded at this time of my life and it's His plans not mine, that like Moses, I cannot deny His **presence**. Listen—Jacob was a scoundrel, a liar, a cheat, a usurper but one who had a dream of an open Heaven of a ladder coming from Heaven to earth and angels ascending and descending had a huge impact on his life.

He was not seeking God's **presence** at that time, but God was seeking him...to make known to him what was in his future destiny. He was totally unaware that God was going to seek him out and relate to him...but he did. Oh, yes, he realized his grandpa Abraham had a promise from God and Isaac had blessed him but he was not that vested spiritually up to this point.

What about us! We rock along, serving God to the best of our abilities unaware that God is about to show up and show off. Wait a minute, let's set a guide line here. Even in Jacob's lack of seeking, he was at least RESPONSIVE TO GOD'S **presence**. He was so thrilled with the prospect of the content of the dream that he confessed in Gen. 28:16, "*Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not!*" (Sounds like some of us.) His **presence** is so thick and we're "asleep at the wheel." He declared *this is God's house. This is the Gate of Heaven*. God created an access for him and it's the same open Heaven He's revealing to us!

Jacob was a forerunner of us all. He'd "get spiritual" only when he "had to," or when it was so real he couldn't deny it! This is where and when Jacob vowed a vow...his first. "If God's blessings are with me on my journey and You keep me and bring me back in one piece to my family...I'll tithe on

everything you give me." HMMM...wonder where he learned that? Well now we really know God's **presence** has struck him good, he's gonna tithe!!

The thought of God's **presence** festered in him in his years with Laban, his father-in-law. (Once you have an encounter like he did, you never forget it. The reality is forever etched in your spirit and it yearns for more.) Now he's returning home and in Gen. 37:10 (Mess.), "*I don't deserve all the love and the loyalty you've shown me.*" *And that night before, he lies down to sleep, he rehearses the former dream and words God spoke to him about his ancestors and during that night a man wrestled with Jacob and Jacob was getting the best of him, when the man saw he couldn't get the best of Jacob as they wrestled, he deliberately threw his hip out of joint and said, "Let me go!" But Jacob replied, "No, not until you bless me." The man said, "What's your name?" to which the reply was "Jacob." The Man answered, "From now on It will be Israel."* That may not have been the blessing he was looking for but it was accompanied by God's **presence**. Jacob meditated, that God's **presence** was always with me, even with my uncle Laban cheating me. Your **presence** included your favor, your gracious attitude about me, you were thinking of me and my future when my time spent on seeking you was not on the same level as yours. God's **presence** wants to be more prevalent in our lives and we need to allow Him to be in us and to be on us. He wants us to be a "resting place" for Him. *God will not entrust Himself to untrustworthy people*. One of the best definitions I've heard is "He will entrust us with the measure of His **presence** we are willing to guard!" He is in us in a measure, but He will show us—reveal more of Himself as we truly want more of Him as we truly desire and steward His **presence**. (If you've ever read David's Psalms, you'll know what I'm talking about.) You're not going to "hang" with anyone you don't have a symbiotic relationship with. Imagine our Lord, Creator, and Healer who has made Himself available to us when we never sought Him. But by His own initiative He "FIRST" allowed us to taste of knowing Him. We learn what patience is, what love really is from His **presence**. I've found that He will not compromise for my desires outside of Him but for my sake will direct my path and lead me to a fruitful life of service of glorifying Him. (Part One)...♥

*"He will not compromise for my desires outside of Him but for my sake, He will direct my path and lead me to a fruitful life of service of glorifying Him."*

- Pastor Lynn

# Ten Things VBS IS and IS NOT

*SOURCE: Share Faith Ministries*

VBS started out as simple week of Bible training for children that over time has become a carnival ride theme and live interactive learning; but let's strip away method long enough to consider bare bones objectives that will help us stay on course with the purpose for which we have been called. People in the community may see it as a chance for free babysitting, but we have been given the directive to provide substantive and truthful answers to little minds that inquire, and the sobering reality is that we are accountable for every moment given and every resource afforded. As you make plans for your church's Vacation Bible School, please take the time to do a little soul searching and consider VBS: What It is and What It Isn't.

1. **It is not entertainment.** Throughout the years many VBS programs have made flashy graphic, eye-popping decorations and silly games the focus. While none of these things in and of themselves are bad, they are definitely not the focus of VBS. VBS is about revealing God to children, not 5 days of entertainment.

**VBS is an opportunity to reveal God.** Deut. 29:29 says that "the secret things belong to God but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children..." We are entirely missing the point of the VBS exercise if the children put in our care walk away without taking home at least one revelation of who God is. We have all of creation and His written word to work with, so there is no excuse.

2. **VBS is not just a theme.** Every VBS comes with an overarching theme. This helps bring continuity to each day, teaching, and activity. But the point of a VBS theme is to build a bridge to sharing the Gospel with your kids. It is always important to remember that your VBS theme is a tool to accomplish your ultimate goal which is sharing the Gospel.

**VBS is an opportunity to present the Gospel.** Matt. 19:14 says, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Children love to ask questions, and the more they learn, the more they desire to learn. Statistics show that an overwhelming majority of Christian first became followers of Jesus between the ages of 4 and 14; after that, numbers drop off exponentially. Behold, today is the day of salvation.

3. **VBS Does Not Hide Scripture.** One way to view VBS is like the spoonful of sugar that helps the medicine of Scripture go down. But Scripture is not something that needs to be hidden. Instead, the truth of God's Word should be the centerpiece of every VBS activity, craft and teaching. The surest way to drain your VBS of life is to hide Scripture behind the spectacle of skits, graphics and decorations. The key is finding a way to teach Scripture in a way that brings God's Word to life in new and exciting ways!

**VBS is an opportunity for children to memorize Scripture.** Only good things can come from hiding God's Word in these little hearts. The Bible teaches that His Word protects against sin and provides the moral compass to guard against destructive habits. It is God's Word that sustains us and breathes true life beyond just mere physical survival and it is God's Word that reveals the secret to true and lasting success. Don't let them

walk away without tucking away in their minds as many essentials as possible.

4. **VBS is Not a Cotton Candy Event.** Cotton candy looks amazing, but the moment it touches your mouth, it disappears. Instead, VBS should be like a juicy steak where kids are presented with life-changing Biblical truth that they chew on for the whole of VBS week and take with them long after VBS is over.

**VBS is an Opportunity to Lay a Foundation of Truth.** A structure built on faulty presuppositions will crack and eventually collapse, so too, a child may receive the good news with gladness, only to fall away when trials come. Here is your chance to help build a framework that will aid these kids in interpreting the world around them; something sturdy enough to build everything else in their lives upon. It is a battle for the mind that we should do everything we can to protect them from losing.

5. **VBS is not About You.** With the spectacle that is VBS, it can be easy to focus on those hosting the event rather than on those the event is actually for. VBS is not about showing how well we can decorate, organize games or perform skits. VBS is all about reaching children with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**VBS is Outreach to Children.** There should always be a clear intent to share the Word of God to our children and make impacts in their lives. But parents ARE looking for safe places to drop off their kids during the summer months for work or a break, so the set of objectives carefully crafted by VBS leaders might look completely different than the parents, but both perspectives are worthy of consideration. After all, the position held by both parties essentially achieves the same thing; they bring a young audience for instruction, modeling and care.

6. **VBS Does Not Replace Parents.** The primary teachers of children are their parents. Too often, children's ministry sees parents as competition rather than partners. The very best VBS program intentionally creates opportunities to connect parents with the content of VBS.

**VBS is Outreach to Parents.** Keep the parents involved and this isn't just about utilizing skills, gifts and abilities either. It is about encouraging them in their call to be ministers in their children's lives. To encourage parents to reinforce the biblical truths presented throughout the week. Consider having a kick-off meeting at the start of VBS and invite the parents to attend. You can also host a party at the ten celebrating the week and reviewing all that was learned. Make an effort to let parents know you are there for them as a church, through kids and family ministries and events, as well as extending any other family resources you have available.

7. **VBS is Not Behavior Modification.** It's important that the application of your VBS is always Gospel-centered. So rather than teaching kids they need to try harder and do better, the practical teaching of VBS should always lead children to the forgiveness, redemption and salvation found in Christ alone.

*Continued on page 4*



## Ten Things VBS IS and IS NOT continued from page 3

**VBS is an Opportunity to Teach Ministry.** Here's where you help kids convert the things they learned about God into good practical use. It is the "How to be God's hands and feet" portion of the week. Help them realize a greater understanding and appreciation of what others are going through to open their eyes to act in compassion and love. Nurture the inherent concern that children have and help them find ways to serve. Perhaps you could schedule some kind of outreach during the week or share practical ways they can take home what they've learned in order to serve the people in their own lives.

- VBS is not a Performance.** VBS is not a show where leaders pretend to be perfect Christians and Encourage kids to become like them. Rather, VBS is a time for leaders to be real and open with the kids. The more leaders share their struggles and God's triumphs, the more kids will be drawn to the Gospel. Never underestimate the power of testimony. The Bible tells us that we overcome "by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of our testimony."

**VBS is an Opportunity to demonstrate Christian life.** Share what God has done in your life and what you've seen God do in the lives of those around you. Give kids the opportunity to share what God has done for them. Be living examples throughout the week of service, love, discipline, preparation, and organization. We need to lead by example so these children can also grow up to see the value of being good role models to others. The Apostle Paul was able to encourage Timothy to follow...my teachings, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, steadfastness, persecutions, and sufferings because he was, himself, devoted to live Godly in Christ Jesus.

- VBS is Not Mechanical.** There are two ways you can look at

VBS: 1) it is a big machine that you need to keep running at the expense of personal relationships, 2) it is an organic time of family and friends that needs to adapt so that relationship building always comes first. The latter is the only way to look at VBS. If the focus of VBS is not growing in our relationship with God and each other then we have missed the point.

**VBS is an Opportunity to Build Relationships.** Fellowship is as important for the little guys as it is for us. It is in childhood that many habits are formed, both good and bad. Teach them to contribute to each other's lives, to encourage each other, and to help each other grow. VBS week is a great time for teachers and leaders to form friendships too.

- VBS is not a 5-Day Lecture.** While teaching is an important part of VBS, so is the reality of what you are teaching. If you are teaching your kids about the joy of the Gospel, then that joy should be evident throughout VBS week. If you are discussing the excitement of following God, then that excitement should permeate every game, craft and activity. Instead of a theological lecture, VBS should be an interactive and immersive event where the Gospel is taught and experience.

**VBS is a Great Time for Fun.** Children learn best by actively doing, versus just sitting and listening the whole time, especially if the activity is fun. Put extra care into creating an environment where kids can enjoy learning and making life applications. Whether you use games, puzzles, acting out stories, dressing up or singing relevant songs to reinforce the lessons, the experience will be more memorable when there is participation and interaction. And the leaders should have fun too! Joy is contagious and it's a great way to let the kids know you love God and love ministering to them.

### CHURCH/MINISTRY TAX DATES TO REMEMBER

In addition to the regular semiweekly and monthly withholding requirements, churches should note the following dates for this month.

*Jan Harbuck - PCAI Office  
Need Help? Call 1-866-268-5600*



#### June 15th

- If you have non-ministerial employees and deposit payroll taxes monthly, the May 2018 payroll tax deposit is due.
- Ministers must make the estimated tax payment for the second quarter of 2018 using Form 1040-ES. Only make this payment if you believe you will owe taxes for 2018. This is the second installment.
- If you are a U.S. Citizen or resident alien living and working outside of the United States and Puerto Rico, file Form 1040 and pay any taxes, interest, or penalties due. For an automatic 4 month extension file Form 4868 and deposit estimated tax.

#### July 17th

- If you have non-ministerial employees and deposit payroll taxes monthly, the June 2018 payroll tax deposit is due.

#### July 31st

- File Form 941 (payroll tax) for the second quarter of 2018 and deposit any unpaid taxes. If your tax liability is less than \$2,500, you can pay it in full with a timely filed return. If you deposited the tax for the quarter timely, properly, and in full, you have until August 10th to file the return.