

# the **INFORMER** newsletter



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | PARAGON CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE INT'L (PCAI) |  
OCTOBER 2019 – VOLUME 10

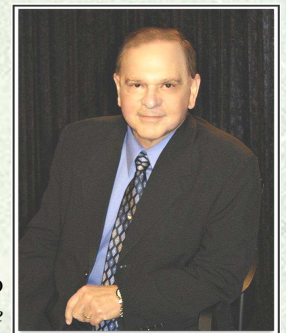
## PEOPLE CENTERED AND PURPOSE DRIVEN

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

Every church must have purpose -- a revelation, a direction, a plan to establish, a goal to reach. Sometimes the “word in due season” comes during a sermon, or in the form of a one-on-one statement. However, if the people have NO VISION, they will die spiritually. Based upon my experience, I am convinced pastors become involved in too many matters and neglect to speak of vision. When a vision is kept before the congregation, progress is made. Excitement and joy prevail, not hopelessness. And when everyone in a church is given a role to fulfill in a body of believers, the attention is diverted from the pastor. As people learn to minister to each other, they cease to believe the pastor is the only one who can “give a word.” When people are studying the Word of God for themselves, praying and showing concern for others in the Body of Christ, a flame is ignited. Life flows into the church. The church becomes “People Centered and Purpose Driven.”

If you are a pastor, or planning to become one, remember that “*Where there is no VISION, the people perish.*”

Lastly, remember to focus not only on preaching, but on what is necessary for a congregation to grow spiritually and numerically. Today, anyone in America can stay home on Sunday and listen to a sermon delivered by a TV preacher. The local church must provide more. It must be a place of refuge, healing, comfort and learning – a haven where someone feels he/she belongs because the people who attend care about each other. ♥



### Proverbs 29:18

*“Where there is no vision, the people are restrained, But happy is he who keeps the law.”*

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OFFICE HOURS :9:00AM to 4:00PM



# From the Heart of an Evangelist

By Dr. David Copeland/ Revival Now Ministries Director



This is an expanded edition of the Revival Now Monthly Newsletter and we share information here that we do not have space to share in the printed edition due to space limitations. If you know someone who would enjoy this, please feel free to forward to your family and friends.

**Matthew 9:37, 38 (NKJV)**  
 37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. 38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

This is one of the most UNPRAYED prayers Jesus ever prayed. I know I have written on this subject in the past, but it is really speaking to me again today.

So many people have the mindset that once you get to a certain age, or if you are at a certain income level you are somehow exempt from the Great Commission.

Wrong on every account. No matter how old...or how young...no matter how

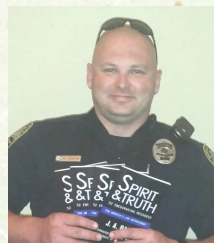
wealthy, successful or how broke, discouraged or disabled you may be, there is something you can offer to Jesus in this harvest!!

Because of the success of many of our churches and denominations over the last 40-50 years, we have developed a hireling mindset that says..."we pay our preacher to do that Great Commission stuff... to witness...visit the sick, the lost and the dying..."

Wrong again! Since October

31, 1517 when Martin Luther published his 95 Thesis (which was mainly aimed at the prevailing thought that the Pope is infallible, and the ministry can only be performed by a few select people), many in evangelical circles fall repeatedly into the thinking that pastors and others in the "ministry" are the one's responsible for the Great Commission.

*Continued in page3*



## Devotional: The Tone of Love

By Rev. Joseph Davis & Lt. Col. Dave Grossman

*Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. \_ Colossians 4:6*

A sheepdog holds the line, stands guard, confronts evil, and battles against the vilest enemies of society. Gradually, this often results in a tone of conversation at home that resembles the verbal commands on the battlefield. You might need to consider taking a moment or two before responding to your spouse, carefully considering your words and the tone of your voice. Think about the power of words, The same applies to the tone in which you deliver them. How effective would your verbal commands be toward an adversary if you gave those commands as though

you were reading a bedtime story? Likewise, how effective is a conversation going to be with your spouse if you deliver your words in the same way you issue verbal commands in a hot situation on duty? There is power in the tone of your voice to either bless or devastate your marriage.

You know the power of command, but when communicating with your spouse, it's important to make your spouse feel like a priority in every way. This will not come easily, my warrior brothers and sisters, and will require intentional daily effort. Remember that friends talk to each other with respect and admiration, and before you were ever spouses or lovers, you were friends. Today, think about how your tone could dilute or tarnish conversation with your spouse and how your tone could add flavor and

taste. It's the little things that add up over time, and failing to communicate effectively in your marriage leads to trouble down the road.

### Quick Tip

Before you respond to your spouse today, take a second and consider the tone you are conveying. It is often impossible to convey the intended tone through text messages. Commit to spending more time communicating face-to-face instead of via text. In fact, save the "hard stuff" for in-person communication only. If you want to create room for open and honest conversation, a loving, respectful, and gracious tone will establish trust, encourage, love, and invite future discussion. Take a few minutes before responding if you feel tempted to respond in a negative tone. Does your conversation reflect grace, or does it incite strife and

contention?

### Sheepdog

You may not be in a position to communicate with your spouse during your tour, but if you are, be sure to remember they may not be aware of the stressors you are facing at the moment. Strive to use a conversational tone that reflects love and invites future discussion. Your tone, not just your words, can cause deep-rooted emotional pain for your spouse. Consider using tactical breathing techniques before engaging with your spouse or asking for a few minutes after you return home from duty to decompress. Your spouse may request the same from you! Today, think about how your spouse may perceive your tone, not just the words you speak. A word whispered in love is better received than one delivered harshly.

### Spouse

Discuss conversational tone

*Continued in page4*



## *From the Heart... continued from page 2*

Fast forward to the early 1900's when the Holy Spirit was poured out in California, Wales, and many other places around the world. People were filled with Holy Spirit power and they willingly were sent out...and willingly went out to the known world working in the harvest!

But over time Christians have fallen back into the same "popish" mindset that wants to "pay" someone else to do ministry.

ALL OF US are responsible to take part in the Great Commission. Every single one of us. I am about to write another book on Mindsets That Stop A Move Of God. One of the mindsets God has given me is what I call a poverty mindset.

Many people call poverty a spirit. but not everything we battle in life is brought on by a demon spirit. Many things we battle in our lives are brought on by a habitual way of thinking that may or may not be based on truth.

This mindset develops strongholds which are in reality a mindset impregnated with hopelessness. The poverty mindset will cause a church, a ministry or an individual to make excuses why they cannot participate in the Great Commission.

Consider this:

**World-wide People groups:** 16,587

**World Population:** 7,382,254,000

**Unreached people groups:** 6738

**Population:** 3,111,210,000

Over 40% of the world's population has never had the Gospel presented to them; and of the 59.4% of the population that has, many have not had an adequate Gospel presentation. Or they have mixed up many superstitious ideas in with the Gospel!

I was told recently a major Spirit filled denomination only has 500 total missionaries currently on the field. This is a travesty!

**Proverbs 10:5** *He who gathers in summer is a wise son; he who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame.*

If we really believe Jesus is coming again and if we really believe these are the last days, let us NOT be caught sleeping and being slothful in these days of harvest! God IS moving and He is recruiting people who will be laborers with Him in His harvest.

Together For The Harvest!

**David & Pam**

## Church IT: Lawsuits Targeting Websites & Apps

*Church Law & Tax Report excerpt*

Our webhost recently brought to my attention a trend in lawsuits targeting websites and apps for their failures to comply with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Could your church or ministry face such a claim? I have good news—read on!

### **What is the issue?**

In 2016, more than 240 lawsuits were filed—most of them class-action lawsuits—alleging websites and apps failed to comply with the ADA. In 2017, there were 814 lawsuits for ADA noncompliant websites and apps. In 2018, that number nearly tripled to 2,258. The Los Angeles Times suggested the trend is expanding even faster, reporting there were nearly 5,000 of these lawsuits in the first six months of 2018. The newspaper estimated the 2018 count would eventually reach 10,000. Regardless of the actual numbers, one thing is clear: This trend is climbing at a fast pace.

What's at issue is whether a website or app can be used by those who have difficulty seeing or hearing.

The problem, according to our webhost, is that lawsuits are being quickly settled for cash. This is leading to the rapid expansion of these lawsuits.

*Continued in page 4*

## Good Policy to Consider

*Church Law & Tax Report excerpt*

In light of claims made both valid and bogus many churches now realize they need to take proactive stances regarding the private messaging between staff pastors and lay volunteers and youth. There have been several cases recently where the adults were engaged in sexting with members of the youth group. The ones that have been confirmed as real were able to be validated by securing the adults texting history. Others that were not prosecuted at times were denied because of no proof on the victim's part that the sexting had actually taken place.

We live in a climate where people are not hesitant to bring accusations and written policies are the best protection an organization can have. Just as most school districts across the country have written enforceable policies against teachers and staff engaging in any form of private messaging with a student, it is wise for your church to do the same.

Even if the allegations of a youth prove to be totally false once brought to court, the damage done to the minister, volunteer or church is often irreparable. It is best to be overly cautious and guard your reputation than to have to rebuild after the damage has been done.

For ideas on how to word your policy you might check your local school districts. They often have had to use experts to make sure the language will hold in court situations. □



## Lesson From History: Why The Electoral College

The 2016 presidential election was one of only very few where the President who was selected did not win the “popular majority” vote. Yet Donald Trump still became the 45<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. Why did that happen? Because our Founding Fathers did not intend the United States of America to be an outright democracy.

The Founding Fathers were keenly aware of the dangers of a true democracy – where a mere 51% of the population could then exert their will against the entire country no matter the issue. A common analogy of true democracy is two wolves and a lamb voting on what’s for dinner. Famed French diplomat Alexis de Tocqueville would later term this “the tyranny of the majority”. This was coupled with other concerns, such as the possibility of too many candidates running in the general election, which could then easily result in an elected President whom only 10% of Americans actually voted for.

The elegant solution to this dilemma was the Electoral College, initially concocted by none other than James Madison. Make no mistake – the Electoral College was extremely important to the Founding Fathers. In fact, almost no other single part of the Constitution is as long or as detailed as Article 2, Section 1, which sets forth the precise rules for the Electoral College. It wisely states that “Each state shall appoint...a number of electors, equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives to which a State may be entitled in the Congress...” This tally results in precisely 570 electors who are chosen by the majority of people in each state (and Washington D.C.).

One of the many benefits of the Electoral College is that it encourages and forces Presidential candidates to campaign nationally, instead of just in major city centers. If our elections were truly democratic, it is sadly unlikely that any candidate would care

about what voters in smaller states think. While it’s easy to acknowledge the importance of “swing state” in our elections, never forget the major reason George W. Bush became president in the 2000 was not just because of Florida, but because he flipped what Democrats thought was a “safe state” – West Virginia. Its 4 electoral votes ended up being key.

The foresight and the wisdom of our Founding Fathers never ceases to amaze, and clearly shows the hand of God on them in the founding of America. □

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### *Devotional... continued from page 2*

with your spouse. Your tone of voice can bring your warrior peace and help them relax at home. There is no “off” switch for your sheepdog, but having a haven to come home to can create a place for them to relax. Both of you have your own stressors and triggers, but remembering you are on the same team, fighting for one purpose and governed by the same loving God, can be a powerful tool in taming the tone of conversation.

#### Questions for Discussion

- What do you think your tone of conversation is?
- What does your tone convey to your spouse? Ask him or her.

**Heavenly Father, help us remember that all we say to each other in our marriage, and the way we say it, conveys either the love you have shown us or contention and strife. Help us be more intentional with the words we speak to each other and the tone in which we deliver them. May we honor your great name with the way we converse in our marriage today. AMEN.**

### *Church IT... continued from page 3*

#### How this impacts the church

I consulted with a couple of our favorite attorneys that focus on churches, and they told me churches are exempt from the public accommodation requirements of the federal ADA. (Keep in mind, however, that state disability laws vary, and confirming this with competent local counsel is a good idea.)

One of those attorneys, Frank Sommerville, said most churches are not aware of their rights under ADA. Church leaders can learn more about these rights by searching the term “ADA” on ChurchLawandTax.com. That churches are exempt is a crucial point. But many church and ministry leaders don’t know about this exemption and might be among those who are quick to settle for cash—unnecessarily. Be aware of this if your church or ministry is accused of having a website or app that is not compliant with the federal ADA.

#### Take the ADA challenge

Though churches are not subject to the public accommodation requirements of the ADA, we shouldn’t end the discussion there. Our mission is communicating the Good News to everyone everywhere, as Jesus commands with the Great Commission in Matthew 28. So what about those who have difficulty hearing and/or seeing?

We, the church, would do well to evaluate our websites and apps in light of this need to reach the hearing and seeing impaired well. A few tweaks can go a long way in solving the two primary issues driving these lawsuits:

1. Coding the website so that screen-reading software can read the content, and
2. Including subtitles and audio descriptions in video clips.

We recommend reviewing your website content and looking to see if there are any other challenges that could affect someone who has a visual or hearing impairment. Even though churches aren’t at legal risk, such accommodations are part of our calling. □