

the Informer newsletter



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | PARAGON CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE INT'L (PCAI) |
NOVEMBER 2019 – VOLUME 11

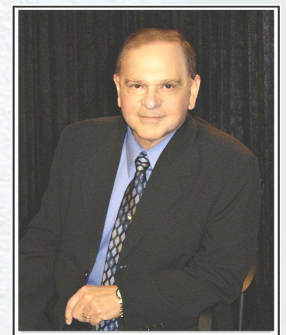
LEADERS PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO SCHEDULES

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

I've had the privilege of traveling to many foreign countries and I've learned firsthand that time is not so important as in America. It is usually refreshing to find such a calm atmosphere, because life moves slowly. Nevertheless, because America has an urgency to accomplish things quickly, it has become the economic leader of the world. Third world Christian leaders imitate and admire American church leaders, although we certainly need some serious improvement.

In my opinion the inferior communication systems have created the slow pace in third world countries. Many people don't own telephones and the custom of never being on time is widely accepted. To the American, time is first, but not everyone sees it like us.

Through the years I've observed that most "wanna-be" leaders in America have a weakness when it comes to keeping schedules. How many embarrassing situations does one have to face before they change? Although most of these "wanna-be" leaders hate schedule books, this is what they need. In thirty-five years I've given hundreds of expensive schedule books as gifts to friends.



When I asked them, "Are you using your schedule book?" Their reply was "Oh, which book was that?" It was clear from their answer the schedule book was never used.

It is impossible to remember names, birthdays, dates, times, trips, arrivals, etc. without a schedule book. Whether a schedule book is small, large, or electronic is unimportant. The major issue is that you remember important engagements, or in the end you will lose your reputation. ♥

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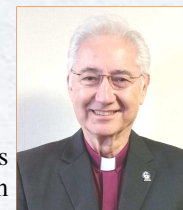
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OFFICE HOURS :9:00AM to 4:00PM

This is an Emergency Test of the “Kingdom System”

By Pastor Lynn Burling/Christian Faith Church-TX Senior Pastor



Remember the old test patterns we used to get on our TVs in the 50's and 60's? Ok, don't laugh if you weren't born then. Well, let us compare Kingdom parallels to the sermon preached on the Mt. of Beatitudes. As simple as it is, Jesus is teaching the Kingdom of God everywhere he goes...and as soon as this great multitude was settled, Jesus opened His mouth and His first reference was “*Kingdom of God!*”

I'M SERIOUS AS I CAN BE ABOUT A TEST. You will know more about yourself and others at the end. Please grade yourself on a scale from one-ten. A singular idea dominated every parable and this should be our focus as well. Is a King without a Kingdom really a King? Is a Kingdom without a King really a Kingdom? The Kingdom of God requires both a King and a Kingdom. As you read and “*test yourself*” examine His Words, the guidelines and the cost of it. This is a “*working*” definition of the Master Himself for what Kingdom people should be.

Blessed are those...get ready—GO!

1. **Blessed are the poor in Spirit:** (GRK. Amp.) Aware of your dependence on God; total surrender; not a one-time event. (1-10) grade
2. **Those who mourn:** (GRK. Amp.) To enter another person's suffering and loss; when someone else's problem took precedence over yours. (1-10) grade
3. **The meek:** (GRK. Amp.) People with little recognition or the need for it; someone whose praise is always on another person's lips; someone who chooses the lower place; or defers to someone less skilled or less deserving. (1-10) grade
4. **Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness:** (GRK. Amp.) Righteousness that comes from obedience; the last time you gave into a sin that ensnares you. (1-10) grade

5. **The merciful:** (GRK. Amp.) Forgiveness on display; kindness on display, even an enemy; seeing through God's eyes. (1-10) grade
6. **The pure in heart:** (GRK. Amp.) A sincere heart doing something without a self-serving inclination. **Can you still blush?** Have you found joy in anyone else's pain? (1-10) grade
7. **The peace makers:** (GRK. Amp.) Quick to reconcile; willing to risk interceding to bring peace; non-violent and non-judgmental; served your enemies lately? Do you bring division or unity to the Body of Christ? (1-10) grade
8. **Those who are persecuted:** (GRK. Amp.) Insulted; lied about. Can you be still in the midst of persecution and know He is the Lord and follow His lead...? (1-10) grade

P.S. The Beatitudes are NOT considered gifts. None! We tend to look for gifted people rather than people reflecting what Jesus is referring to in the Beatitudes. I'm convinced Jesus is talking about **real authenticity** here. How did you score? I believe this is one of, if not the most profound messages Jesus preached on the Kingdom. Each of these blessings is available today. This is not a “*set of rules*” or “*condition*” but a description of what life looks like in the Kingdom of God! This was a test and these are proofs, character traits visible in the life of a person that is manifesting living in this Heavenly Kingdom.

GRK. AMP collection of Greek words amplified as to the meanings.

From the Heart of an Evangelist: The Harvest –part 2

By Dr. David Copeland/ Revival Now Ministries Director



Matthew 9:37, 38
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.”* NKJV

Last month we began talking about the “Harvest”. I capitalize the word “Harvest” here because for the New Testament believer, this should be the center focus of all we attempt to do for His Name. Everything we do for

the Glory of God should ALWAYS be with the “Harvest” in view.

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. Friends, 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!! I want to look quickly at a couple of

more things regarding the Harvest in this newsletter:

1. Concept of Harvest

This was a farming community. They understood the concept of seed...time...& harvest. They understood there was a precise time to plant; then a precise time to harvest that which was planted.

To a farmer, the planting of the seed was very important. A farmer (or a gardener) knows if he doesn't plant the seed in

the ground, it's insane to think he will reap a harvest. To buy a bag of seed, go home and place it in your storage shed and never put the seed in the ground shows you know nothing about seed...time...and Harvest. Every seed you plant now is for a harvest in your future. It's absolutely crazy to think we are entitled to reap a harvest we have never planted a seed for! Seed is more than money...

Continued on page 3

New Deacons or Trustees?

Christian Law Association magazine excerpt

Our attorneys at the Christian Law Associations have unfortunately seen thousands of lawsuits brought against churches over the fifty years we have been aiding ministries. Did you know that the vast majority of lawsuits against the church also name the deacons and/or trustees in the lawsuit as well?

Deacons and trustees have legal duties and responsibilities placed on them and it is vital they understand what is expected of them. For instance, every deacon and trustee will generally be held to a duty of care, a duty of loyalty, and even certain fiduciary duties. Failing to adhere to these duties can bring lawsuits against the deacons or trustees personally. Does your ministry have directors & officers insurance coverage? These questions and more are addressed in our free updated resource, "Guidelines for Deacons and Trustees".

If your church is bringing on new deacons or trustees or if you want to ensure your current ones understand their responsibilities, call our offices and request your copy. 888-252-1969.

The Harvest... continued from page 2

Everything we have is a seed: Time; Talent; Treasure (yes our money); Ideas; Tears; Words. In order to reap a continuous Harvest you have to sow a continuous seed.

2.Call of the Harvest.

John 4:35 *Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.* KJV

We know this story surrounds the encounter between Jesus & the Samaritan woman. And this all started with vs 1 saying Jesus *"...needed to go through Samaria..."* Jesus spent some time conversing with the woman then as the disciples were arriving back from town with lunch, the woman went back to town told all the men, "come see a man who told me everything I ever did!"

Jesus spoke these words just as this woman was leading every man toward Jacob's Well. There came that time...the exact time in which the Harvest was perfect; and it had to be reaped!

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 these are the last days...if we really believe Jesus can come at any moment; NOW is the time to pray like we've never prayed before.....work like we've never worked before...give like we've never given before. Never forget: it's important that we put our hands to the work God has called us to do now, because there will surely come a day as Jesus said: *"...the night is coming in which no one can work!"* John 9:4 ♥

Tax Date to Remember

November 10, 2019

Churches with nonminister employees (or one or more ministers who report their federal income taxes as employees and who have elected voluntary withholding) may file their employer's quarterly federal tax return (Form 941) by this date instead of October 31 if all taxes for the third calendar quarter have been deposited in full and on time.

URGENT NOTICE!

Uncleared Check



We have had several people contact us concerning their tithe check not clearing their bank. Upon investigation we find we never received those checks. We are not sure if some mail got misplaced or lost in the postal system. If your check has not cleared the bank please contact us to verify we received the check. If not you can put a stop pay on it and reissue the check.

Thank you!

Year-End Checklist for Church/Ministry Bookkeepers



1. Housing Allowance. Church Boards and/or Congregations should designate an annual 2020 housing allowance for ministers who own or rent their home (and for ministers who live in a parsonage and pay some of their housing expenses).

2. W-4 forms. All employees should complete new W-4 forms to ensure accurate withholding.

3. Notice of donors. Donors should be advised in a church bulletin, newsletter, or by letter from the church, not to file their federal income tax return before they receive their Contributions Statement from the church. Some people may not be able to deduct certain contributions if they file a tax return before receiving their church contributions receipt.

4. Christmas gifts. Be sure to correctly handle Christmas gifts made by the church or congregation to a minister or staff member. In most cases, these gifts represent taxable income and must be reported as income on the recipient's W-2 or 1099.

5. Handling end of year contributions. The general rule is that a contribution is effective when delivered. This means that a check deposited in the church offering in January of 2020 becomes effective that day even if it is backdated to 2019. It is not deductible for 2019. One exception: Checks postmarked in 2019 are deductible in 2019 — even though not received until 2020.

6. Business Expenses. If your church reimburses some or all of a minister's business expenses, reimburse these year-end business expenses NOW.

7. Reclassification of workers. Now is the time to decide if you want to reclassify any of your workers for tax reporting purposes. If you have a minister or lay worker who is treated as self-

employed for federal income tax reporting purposes, and you would like to reclassify the person as an employee, the ideal time to make the change is on January 1st of the new year.

8. Voluntary withholding. Ministers' wages are exempt from tax withholding. This means they use the quarterly estimated tax procedure to prepay their federal taxes. Ministers who report their income taxes as employees can enter into a voluntary withholding arrangement with their employing church. Under such an arrangement, the employing church withholds income taxes as it would for any other employee; and it can also withhold an additional amount of income taxes to cover the ministers' self-employment tax liability.

9. Order tax publications and renew subscriptions. December is a good time to order your new 2020 copy of IRS Circular E (withholding table) and copies of Forms W-2, W-3, 1099, and 1096 that you will be issuing for compensation in year 2020. To order forms simply call the IRS toll-free number at – 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676) or visit the IRS website (www.IRS.gov).

10. NEED HELP? If you need assistance on good tax information for churches and ministers, please contact the PCAI office at 1-866-268-5600.

BLESSINGS!

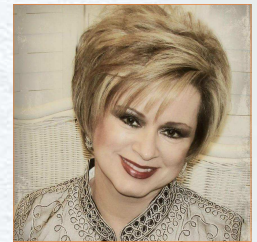
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*Happy Thanksgiving
to You and Your
Family! We Love and
Thank You All for
Your Partnership with
PCAI.*

