



the Informer newsletter

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | PARAGON CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE INT'L
& PCAI CLERGY ASSOCIATION | MAY 2021 – ISSUE 5

LEADERS TAKE INVENTORY OFTEN OF THEIR STRENGTHS AND THEIR WEAKNESSES



CHURCH/MINISTRY TAX DATE TO REMEMBER May 15th

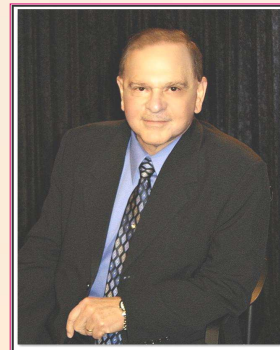
If you are required to file a 990,
990-EZ, 990-N, 990-T it is due by
this date.



Keep good records!
Dr. Jan Harbuck -
PCAI Office
Need Help?
Call 1-866-268-5600

By Dr. Henry Harbuck, PCAI General Overseer

Effective leaders have learned the importance of taking an inventory. Do you ever take an inventory? If, after an honest evaluation, you discover weaknesses in your character, would you try to improve in your weak areas? For example, if you know you're a good speaker, expand on this even further. However, this may be difficult if you're a pastor. Why? Because most church members lead their pastors to believe, "You're the greatest speaker in the world." Learn

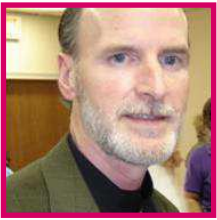


where your talent lies. Great speakers are rare. Decide now if you're willing to invest the hours of practice that will make you a great speaker. On the other hand you may have a flair for writing. But, don't waste your time trying to write books if you have no talent for writing. If possible, include other experts who aren't friends in your evaluation, lest you give yourself too many "points" for your abilities. There are many self-help books that may be purchased at your local bookstore that would also help you avoid the pitfalls that are common to us all. ♥

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



Taylor: If we pray and humble ourselves, God will heal our land.

By Rev. Mike Taylor, Religion Columnist

As we all know and understand we are living in very dark and difficult days. We are not unique. Very little has changed since time began for man on Earth. The Bible says that through one man, Adam, sin entered the world. The more things change the more they remain the same. We just happen to be the generation alive in the 21st century to witness the changes in our time.

Many today have become very partisan. Webster's dictionary defines partisan as a person

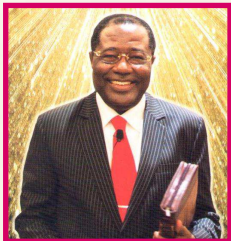
who shows a biased unthinking allegiance. When we think of partisan it's only natural to think of politics. To be somewhat partisan is OK. It would be natural to be biased for example about anything you strongly believe in or support. The problem comes when it's just plain bias and unthinking allegiance that concerns me.

I am seeing a growing trend that does not allow for healthy debate. Even God our Father allows man free

will to accept His Son or reject Him as Savior of the world. God is exposing things that are not right. He is revealing the plans of man, things that according to the word of God are evil. Many today question what is truth. Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." Truth is not a thing it's a person. His name is Jesus Christ. The whole Christian faith hinges on this one statement.

The Bible says that in the last days everything that can be shaken will be shaken. Right now, there is a lot of shaking taking place. The thing that encourages me is that as the days grow darker a great light will soon appear. That great light of course is the Lord Jesus Christ coming back to the Earth to set up His kingdom on the Earth. As I have said over many years I am believing for a great spiritual awakening in America.

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Who Killed Samson?

By Rev. Daniel O.C., Senior Pastor & Author

Delilah or the Philistines? None of these options are correct. Even if there were 10,000 Philistine soldiers, they couldn't have defeated Samson. Do you know why? Samson's strength was not of this world but of God. As long as no one can defeat GOD, no army could have defeated Samson no matter how strong.

Samson was raised a terror for the Philistines. He killed a lion with his bare hands, lifted the gate of a city on his shoulder and walked over 46 miles with it. He killed 1,000 Philistines soldiers with a jaw bone. What if he got a spear or sword?

So, who killed Samson? The correct answer is **Samson himself**. Yes! Samson killed himself! A man is his own greatest enemy. What an enemy could not do to a man, he did it to himself. Samson killed himself. He trapped himself at the lap of Delilah and used his own mouth to sell the secret of his power. His life promised so much but delivered so little.

PROVERBS 19:3 *"The foolishness of a man twists his way, and his heart frets against the Lord."* Nobody can ruin your life except you do it yourself. Although you can blame it on GOD or parents or government, you're the architect of your life. You are your greatest enemy. Even if your grandparents had done any

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LORD JESUS,
COME AND RESTORE OUR LAND.
MAY WE RAISE UP A
GENERATION LOYAL TO YOUR WORD.
PROTECT THEM FROM BEING
DECIEVED THAT THEY MIGHT BE YOUR
LEADERS IN THEIR GENERATION.

-ANGIE TOLPIN
courageousmom

Happy Mother's Day

Mental Health and the Churches _part 1



Excerpt from Church Tax and Law Magazine

As churches become increasingly aware of the widespread and serious nature of mental illness, church leaders may wonder how they should engage mental health ministry in the church—and what legal risks they may face in doing so.

The most important mental health case to date

Lisa Runquist, an attorney specializing in nonprofit law, has researched the issue of liability for churches that have chosen to counsel individuals with mental health issues.

For Runquist, the most important court case regarding churches and counseling came in 1988 when a lawsuit—*Nally v. Grace Community Church of the Valley*—was ultimately decided

by the Supreme Court of California. An individual, Kenneth Nally, had sought help from counseling through Grace Community Church of the Valley and later committed suicide. Nally’s parents then brought a wrongful death action lawsuit against the church and four church pastors, alleging “clergyman malpractice” (negligence in failing to prevent the suicide).

Runquist explains the verdict and its importance:

The Supreme Court of California . . . found that the church was not liable for clergy malpractice and did not violate any legal duty to Mr. Nally. Specifically, there was no duty on the church and its pastors (and other “non-therapist counselors”) to refer suicidal

persons to licensed psychotherapists. In addition, there was no cause of action for wrongful death based on intentional infliction of emotional distress. Since that time, there have been other cases brought in various other states, also finding no breach of duty by clergy.

For churches worried about the risk of liability for counseling someone with mental health issues, that’s good news. But it’s not the full scope of the issue.

Runquist is quick to note that although the Supreme Court of California ruled in favor of the church in this case, it did so based—at least in part—on several key facts of the case that might not be applicable to future lawsuits against

churches. Those key facts in this specific case were:

1. The individual voluntarily sought counsel from the church.
2. The church did not have a professional or clinical counseling ministry. They responded on a spiritual, biblical, or prayer level. "In essence, defendants held themselves out as pastoral counselors able to deal with a variety of problems—not as professional, medical, or psychiatric counselors," according to a concurring opinion from the court.
3. Both the individual's mother and father had been informed by several physicians and psychologists that he needed acute psychiatric care and

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I am starting to see early signs in the form of men’s hearts being changed. Jesus said you must be born again. When it gets from our head to our heart, we will see real and lasting change.

I feel that these difficult and challenging times are causing people to look deeper into their own hearts and minds. Oftentimes trouble will lead us to seek God more earnestly. Many only seek God when troubled times come. The time to seek God is before trouble comes.

There is a story in the Bible that talks about the reign of Solomon the son of King David. The reign of Solomon brings in Israel’s golden age of peace and prosperity. The kingdom is united. His mighty spiritual, political, and architectural feats raise Israel to her highest peak. You can read about some of this in 2 Chronicles. God however warns the people that if they turn away and forsake His commandments and serve other gods, He will uproot them from the land. Because they embraced other gods and worshiped them and served them, He brought calamity on Israel.

I am not suggesting that God is judging us. However, we are being chastised. He is disciplining America because He loves us and does not want to judge us. Discipline is a form of love. When you correctly discipline your child, it shows you really care.

What is the main remedy for America at this time in our history? I believe it’s what God told Israel in 2 Chronicles 7:14, “If My

people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and turn from their wicked ways then I will hear from Heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

America needs healing. I pray we will humble ourselves and seek God for the answers to our problems. ♥



Who Killed Samson? ... continued from page 2

evil, until you press the trigger it won't explode on your face.

Neither Satan nor man has the power to destroy you no matter how much they hate you, you're the only one who can kill yourself by your actions. When the enemies try in vain to kill you, they lie in wait and allow you to kill yourself by your actions.

Goliath the champion couldn't hurt David but adultery destroyed his family. The Gentile nations couldn't hurt Moses, but his anger of frustration prevented him from entering the physical promised land of Canaan.

When King Jeroboam

stretched his hand against the prophet, his hand dried up. He couldn't hurt him, but his own disobedience turned him as a prey to a lion.

Your greatest enemy isn't outside there, it's in you! Millions are killing themselves with their own mouth by what they eat and drink. Millions die of sexually transmitted diseases every year because of their foolish and senseless actions of sin. Who would you blame for that?

Hundreds of thousands of divorces and broken relationships happen every year because people destroy their own marriages and homes with their own actions.

PROVERBS 14:1. *"The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish pulls it down with her hands"* If you fail, don't look far away, look inward because what's killing you is inside of you. What you yield yourself to will either kill or save you.

If you continue yielding yourself to fornication, that's what will kill you both SPIRITUALLY and PHYSICALLY. Everyone has a seed of sin deposited in him through his Adamic nature but Jesus saves.

True repentance kills that seed but if you don't kill that anger, pride, jealousy,

greed, lust, it won't just kill you in the future but it's already killing you.

That's why no matter how much people die of cancer and diabetes people won't stop smoking and drinking because a man signs his own death warrant.

Kill that seed before it kills you. Quit that habit, now! Because your greatest enemy isn't a man or a spirit or Satan but you. YES, YOU!

MAY THE GRACE OF GOD KEEP US TILL THE VERY END IN JESUS MIGHTY NAME AMEN. Somebody shouts a loud, AMEN & AMEN! ♥

Mental... continued from page 3

should commit himself or be committed. The parents rejected this advice.

- The church actually arranged several visits to physicians or psychologists in addition to encouraging the individual to continue to see and cooperate with the physicians and psychiatrists he was already seeing.

"Although the California Supreme Court rejected the Court of Appeal's imposition of a duty to refer on pastoral counselors, the facts surrounding the case cannot be overlooked," says Runquist. "In fact, a concurring opinion found that *there was a duty* [on the part of the church], but that it was not breached in this case" (emphasis added).

This means that churches may indeed be taking on some legal duty by offering counseling—even if the counseling is solely spiritual in nature and that spiritual nature is made explicit. How much liability they take on, however, depends on the church and what it communicates to its counselees and community.

Pastors need to weigh carefully the help they offer to those dealing with mental illness and how that help is conveyed. This is especially true given the scope of the issue—and the inadequate preparation for it on the part of most pastors.

Pastors have 'next to zero' training

The reality of mental illness is larger than has been historically acknowledged in our culture—both in Christian circles and outside of them.

Brad Hoefs is a pastor who started Fresh Hope for Mental Health (or "Fresh Hope"), a peer-to-peer support group similar to Alcoholics Anonymous, for both individuals and the families and friends of those dealing with mental health diagnoses. Hoefs himself has been diagnosed with bipolar disorder and believes the church has a long way to go to

adequately minister to people in this area. He sees the issue of mental health as widespread, urgent, and a prime opportunity for ministry.

Take the issue of suicide. There are "now more suicides per year than there are [fatalities due to] car accidents," says Hoefs. "More people are shot by their own hands than are shot by guns by other people."

"When we do surveys of pastors, a vast majority—80 to 90 percent—say that they feel ill-equipped to deal with people with mental illness."

Not all mental health issues are as life-threatening as depression with the risk of suicide, but all mental illness is serious for those who experience it. Of those with a mental health issue, three out of five receive no treatment, according to Dr. Matthew Stanford, an adjunct professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Baylor College of Medicine and the Department of Psychology at the University of Houston. "But the church can really play a role in that," Stanford says.

Stanford is also the CEO of the Hope and Healing Center & Institute, a comprehensive mental health resource provider in Houston, Texas. He advocates that churches need to engage this issue effectively. It turns out churches may not have a choice when it comes to engaging the issue—only in how they do so.

That's because some evidence suggests that when people seek help for a mental health issue, they may be more likely to seek out clergy, rather than medical professionals like physicians or even licensed therapists.

If pastors are as likely to be asked for help as mental health professionals—or perhaps even more likely—then a crucial question arises: are churches and church leaders equipped to handle this issue?

(To be continued...)