

the Informer newsletter



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
PARAGON CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE INT'L (PCAI)
SEPTEMBER 2021 – ISSUE 9

DON'T STOP DREAMING

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

I have a dream that our PCAI fellowship will become a mighty force for the Lord, breaking down strongholds, and setting captives free. And that each of you will become a “dreamer,” because without a dream (that is, vision or revelation) you will die spiritually.

Joseph was known as a “dreamer.” In fact, like me, he got into trouble in his younger years for his unusual dreams. Nonetheless, he held on to his dreams. And in studying the life of Joseph, we can learn some excellent principles about dreams. For example . . .

Do not let your dream die!

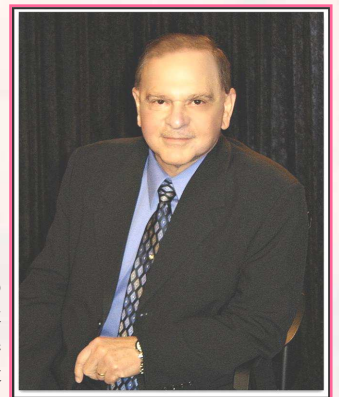
If your dream is from God, then follow it. Keep it alive in your heart, and walk it out until it comes to fruition! In a way, a dream may also be termed a vision; that is, a revelation from God. I will admit, however, that it can be discouraging when your dream takes a long time to come to fruition. In such instances, many give up and say, “This must not be God,

because it’s simply not coming to pass.” But remember what happened to Noah. He was sure God had spoken to him about building an ark. And he was willing

to endure constant ridicule and criticism for 100 years until he had completed it (Genesis, Chapters 5, 6, and 7). Are you aware that “criticism” is one of the “seven fears of life?” If someone is criticized often, and over long periods of time, he or she will usually “give in,” thus giving up whatever he or she is doing in an effort to placate the one doing the criticizing. Noah was surely a righteous man, and had faith in what God said. Thus he refused to give up his dream of saving his family and the various animals that were on the earth.

Dream no small dreams!

At first, Joseph had dreams that seemed insignificant; but over time God expanded his dreams, and he dreamed bigger and bigger dreams. With all the things that happened to Joseph, it goes without saying that he could have turned against God and the dreams He had given him – but he didn’t. Though he endured false testimonies brought against him (Gen.39:17), prison time (Gen. 39:19-23), and other hardships, he stood firm in faith. Thus, he is one who might say with confidence, “I have gone from the pit (Gen.37:23-24), to the prison (Gen. 39:19-23), to the palace (Gen. 41: 38-45),” ultimately becoming second in command only to Pharaoh (Gen. 41:40-43). Remember that even when Joseph was in prison “the Lord



Genesis 39:23 (NKJV)

The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that as under Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper.

God's Dream
BRINGING HEAVEN TO EARTH

Continued on page 4



From the Heart of an Evangelist

By Rev. David Copeland / Revival Now Int'l President

Psalms 127:1
“Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.”

There are two words that have stood out to me as I have meditated this passage recently:

1. Builds
2. Guards

I remember it like it was yesterday. January 1983. Pam and I were living in Tennessee. Praying about whether or not I should take an offer in Alabama to come to work here in the cotton mill... but mainly we were coming to pastor a small

Baptist church that had dwindled down to about 7 people. Missy, our youngest daughter was less than one month old, I was out of a job, and I didn't know at the time, that Pam was suffering with post-partum depression.

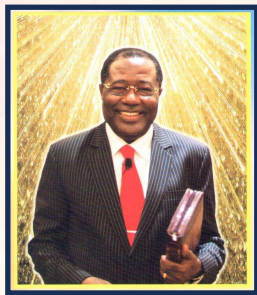
Standing in front of the mirror shaving early one morning the Holy Spirit dropped this passage into my spirit and I knew that I knew we were headed to Alabama. One of the first times I can

actually say for certain, GOD spoke to me. It was so strong, I thought it was an audible voice.

It became the foundation scripture for my life and for that season and held us when everything crumbled around us just less than two years later.

If you are a young couple, wanting a house and building a house (especially for us as Americans) is one of the

Continued on page 3



Holy Living

By Rev. Daniel O.C. Agomoh / DLCC Senior pastor

If I stop and think before I speak, I won't have to worry afterward about what I said. We hear a lot of good mixers these days, but what we really need is more separators. If you want the work to heed, put your creed into your deed.

Lev. 11:44-45—*“For I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy as I am holy. Neither shall you defile yourselves with any creeping thing that creeps on the earth. For I am the Lord who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.”*

Are you serving God in holiness? No sermon can be

more powerful than the life of the preacher. No seminar or teaching can be more pungent than the life of the seminarian or teacher. If you hear the preacher say, “Follow what I say but don't do what I do,” then this is the doctrine of demons and false teachers. The life of the preacher will either confirm or cancel his or her message. The life of the preacher will either help the audience to understand God and His ways or hinder the people from coming closer to God. Can anyone testify of your life that you live by what you preach?

I Peter 1:15-16—*“But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct. Because it is written “Be holy, for I am holy.”*

Be holy in your words and conduct. Be holy in what you say and do. Many do

not embrace the holy nature of God. Holiness is the nature of God and He is serious about it. He wants His children to practice it wherever they go.

Luke 1:74-75—*“To grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.”*

It is clear that the failure or success of a preacher is not determined primarily by the pulpit but by his private life. The price a preacher pays for his sermon is the holiness and private life he lives which confirms the righteousness of God. No preacher wants to be condemned on the Day of Judgement. *“But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest*

Leviticus 11:45
“For I am the Lord who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.”

when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”
 (I Cor.9:27).

In fact, the uprightness, righteousness and holiness of the preacher must be higher than the laity or the ordinary believers. *“My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment”* (James 3:1). To whom much is given, much is expected too. ♥

Sexting Contributed to Court's Sentencing a Man to a 51-year Prison Term

By Richard Hammar, Attorney, CPA (excerpt from *Church Tax and Law*)

Clergy who engage in sexual contact with an adult or minor are subject to civil liability on the basis of several legal theories. They also are subject to criminal liability.

A Tennessee court affirmed a 52-year prison sentence for a defendant who engaged in sexually inappropriate conduct with a minor, including sexting. An adult male (the "defendant") sexually abused his minor stepdaughter from 2012 to 2016 when the victim was between 11 years old and 15 years old. The defendant was charged with several felony counts. Evidence introduced at his trial included more than 1,000 sexually explicit text messages and images on a cellphone and computer tablet.

What this means for churches?

The defendant's criminal offenses were based, in part, on his sexually oriented text messages with the victim. In many states, the transmission of sexually explicit text messages ("sexting") via a cellphone or other electronic device constitutes a crime. This case demonstrates the severe consequences individuals can face if they perpetrate abuse against minors, including through illegal activities such as sexting.

Several courts have addressed the issue of criminal liability of pastors for engaging in sexting. Here is one example:

A New Jersey appeals court affirmed the prison sentence of a pastor who engaged in "sexting" and sexual contact with a 14-year-old girl. The defendant was charged with endangering the welfare of a child and criminal sexual contact for which he was sentenced to an aggregate term of six years in prison, parole supervision for life, and additional mandatory penalties. *State v. Lopez-Durango*, 2018 WL 4956853 (N.J. App. 2018).

For other examples of cases, see "[Defending Youth Ministries from 8 Critical Risks.](#)"

Relatedly, such messages also can be used as evidence in civil lawsuits brought against a church. For example, assume that an adolescent female in a church youth group claims that the youth pastor had nonconsensual sexual contact with her. She sues the church, claiming that it is responsible for the pastor's acts on the basis of negligent hiring and supervision. The victim can then subpoena the youth pastor's text messages to establish the truth of her claims.

Continued on page 4

From the Heart... continued from page 2

rights of passage into adulthood. Every man I know would love to have several acres of property he can call his own. And every woman wants a house she can call her own to nest in. And so, we buy.... we build... and we mortgage, and we decorate... we dream of doing more and having more and we feel fulfilled for a while.

Then we start looking for something bigger, better, and the cycle starts again.

Home ownership is like having a to do list: there is ALWAYS something to "do."

But there is another house. For a pastor it's the house of God. For a worship leader it's the worship that takes place in the house of God. For an apostle it's the networks of ministries God has put under his care. For an evangelist it is also a network of churches he/she can move among to help bring in the lost & backsliders and help build local houses of God. For itinerant ministers it's the ministry that becomes the house. For some pastors it's literally the building. For the other five-fold ministries, it's the ministry.

It all starts with a calling, and a dream. A huge desire that begins to drive us; a vision that continues to sustain us. And when it doesn't come fast enough, we begin to get frustrated and sometimes angry that God is not moving fast enough to help us see this dream of ours fulfilled and flourish.

So we resort to pushing, and shoving, and manipulating people, places, and things and stepping on other ministers, gossiping & ridiculing other churches all in an effort to make ourselves look better, sound better, even dress better than the other guys.

Because bigger is better, right? But unless the Lord builds the House, they labor in vain who build it...

There is also another house to talk about. This house, this body, our inner man... this house is the most important of all the houses we can build.

When we stand before the living God, He will not ask us how many churches we have built... how many books we have written...how many CDs or MP3s we have had downloaded from our website...

No, He will ask, what did you do with Me and the life I gave you? Did you allow My Word to change you, transform you, build you up into the spiritual house I wanted you to be?

Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it...

Are you allowing the Lord to build your house? ♥

Sexting... continued from page 3

A survey of church practices, which I wrote about in the above-noted article, indicated that 81 percent of youth pastors surveyed said they engaged in one-to-one communication with youth group members at least weekly. Many did so much more frequently. This level of personal and intimate communication with minors is troubling for several reasons. Most significantly, it opens the door to an intensification of the relationship that can lead to sexual intimacy either physically or indirectly.

Allowing youth leaders to communicate with minors without any supervision or accountability is a dangerous practice. It is no different than a church's senior pastor texting adult females in the church. In some cases, such an unrestricted practice leads to the transmission of sexually explicit text messages or images ("sexting") using a cellphone or other electronic device.

As noted above, sexting with minors is a felony criminal offense in many states. Such messages also can be used as evidence in civil lawsuits against youth pastors by adolescents with whom they had a virtual, or physical, relationship. □

Don't Stop... continued from page 1

made everything he did to prosper" (Gen. 39:23). That's how it is when God is on your side. Although you may be suffering and experiencing doubt, you will eventually have deliverance from your struggles – if you don't lose sight of the victory you will have when the struggles subside.

The story of Joseph is a real story. And as such, it should encourage each of us. We must remind ourselves what God did through Joseph's steadfast faith, and through his determination to "hold on to his dreams." Remember, it was only when his family came to Egypt in search of food that Joseph finally understood why things had happened as they did. He then knew, beyond doubt, that God had shaped his circumstances, allowing the trials he had endured. Why? Because had Joseph never experienced the pit, he would not have stood at the right side of Pharaoh with the authority to open the storehouses of Egypt to feed his hungry family. And having caught a glimpse of God's plan – from the pit to the palace – he was filled with joy, not bitterness.

Are you discouraged today? If so, remember: "Don't give up on your dream! Your miracle is on its way!" ♥

ANNOUNCEMENT

**DEADLINE—
OCTOBER 1ST**



Reminder for those who have not turned in their renewal form yet, there is \$100 late fee if received after October 1, 2021

YOU CAN:

1. Complete the credential renewal form mailed to you, OR
2. Go ONLINE—you can fill out the renewal form by going to our website: <https://paragonchristianalliance.org/renewals/>



PCAI Clergy Association extends the warmest welcome to the newly added Ministers and their Ministries since last month. Thank you for partnering with us in expanding God's kingdom.
We love you all!!!

The INFORMER Newsletter is a free monthly publication of P.C.A.I. (Paragon Christian Alliance International) & PCAI Clergy Association

2149 Highway 139, Monroe, Louisiana 71203
1-866-268-5600 | FAX (318) 345-0350

Website: www.paragonchristianalliance.org
Email: Info@paragonchristianalliance.org

Copyright © 2021
OFFICE HOURS:
9:00AM to 4:00PM