



# the Informer newsletter

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | PCAI CLERGY ASSOCIATION  
(PARAGON CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL)  
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## FIVE MINISTRY KILLERS

By Dr. Henry Harbuck, PCAI General Overseer



**INTRODUCTION:** Real “truth” is acquired, not by what one may teach you, but through a four-fold process of assimilating personal information, observation, experience, and self-discovery. If this article helps you in some way to examine what you think, and monitor what you do and say, I will have accomplished my goal.

Through the years various methods and teachings have risen up within the “Spirit-filled” ministry ranks. Many have destroyed the reputation of ministries, major ministry figures and churches, and contributed to the destruction of Christian movements. In this article I will share some of my time-tested experiences, ideas, and observations, which I trust will help you to “stay on track” in your own ministry.

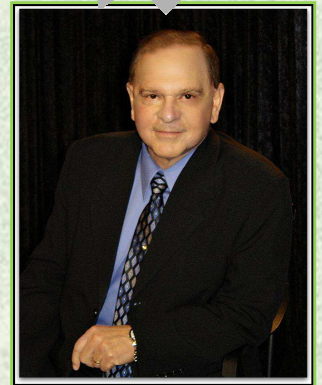
### **Ministry Killer #1: Following untested ideas, concepts, or plans proposed by books, tapes, ministers and seminars.**

Over 100 years ago, a famous theologian made a remarkable statement relating to Biblical matters: “When something is new, it is not usually true; but when something is really true, it is not really new.” In my opinion this statement alone, is one of the most profound statements ever made concerning biblical truths and matters that concern churches, people, Bible teaching, etc. Essentially this theologian was saying: *Real truth must be tested by the passing of time, but untested [new] doctrines, ideas, plans, etc. that arise suddenly will, in most cases, prove devastating.*

The following “killers” will eventually destroy people, ministries and churches:

- Teaching a different [or new] doctrine based upon the views of a popular television preacher.
- Teaching a congregation something new based upon a tape, book, movement, seminar, etc. (This may lead a congregation down a path where recovery will be impossible).
- Teaching from the pulpit in such a way that you demand control of every aspect of a person’s life. When biblical truths are delivered through a legislative style of preaching or teaching,

there is no freedom for the Holy Spirit to bring about change in a person’s daily walk with Christ. This leads to legalism and control, and is one thing that Jesus disliked in the Pharisees. A visit to any church for the first time will usually reveal if “control over people” is a major factor. Such “control” may be observed during praise and worship, special events, through a sermon, or during an altar call.



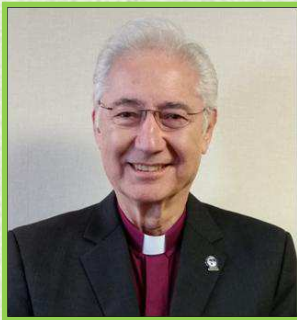
### **Ministry Killer #2: Ignoring the importance of honest evaluation from an audience, or your inner circle of leaders or friends.**

- Great preachers/pastors do not build strong (dynamic) churches as often as strong (dynamic) churches build great preachers and pastors.
- Shouting, “amen” and other phrases do not indicate how well a preacher is doing in delivering a sermon. However, when a congregation is programmed through many years in this style of worship, it occurs regularly, and such phrases are generally believed to be “markers” as feedback for a “good sermon.” Of course, these markers are not accurate.
- Feedback does occur during a sermon. Although listening may seem passive (like people watching a sports event), communication is happening, and the eyes and actions [more than the words] of people tell the real story. How can you accurately evaluate how people view your sermon? Observe their eyes, posture, smiles, smirks, trips to the rest room, glances at their watches, etc. Nevertheless, if you’re invited to preach in a classical Pentecostal church more accustomed to a “good shout” than to a “good sermon” you must be prepared to see a lot of smirks.
- The best preachers always allow their eyes and ears to program what their mouth will say before and during a sermon. A wise preacher will study the audience before preaching. He (or she) must take cues from the audience and learn to go in many

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# Red Flags and Sirens From The Heart

By Rev. Lynn Burling



The last decade has shown an alarming rise in change to the original words, truths, and principles to what we know and have embraced as believers. There are many born before that time that, I'm ashamed to say, have bought into the lies, and made a mockery of truth... i.e., many ways to God, and approval of the effeminate and the homosexual lifestyle, etc.

There's a "new fleshly lust" filling the callings of newly minted ministers and worship leaders. Surprise - it's not porno or looking at nudity, etc., it's lusting for a position in ministry that God has not called or anointed them for - but it's still sin. It's still a dissatisfied spirit that yearns for men's approval and lusts for the higher seats and position in the Ecclesia... even among the five-fold ministries. Where are those who are opposing these errors and standing firm on truth? Too many are bowing before what others think is okay and placate them for fear of losing power, position and support financially. You've heard the old adage "Will any of this matter 100 years from now?" Listen, eternity is a long time and if we become a party to pride (a sin), compromising the truth of God, I've got news for you - you can spin

this any way you want, and use "Love" as a coverall, but scripture says if we change any of God's word (it's original meaning) and become a partner endorsing anyone who does, we are as guilty as they are. Period! Truth is we certainly can suffer loss. How have we managed to retreat from absolute static truth? Are we being duped?

Recently, the verse came before me that says don't be ignorant of the enemy's devices. Immediately I heard "Don't be ignorant of God's devices to frustrate the enemy". For those who yearn for approval from men and the spotlight, the scripture teaches *that they have their reward*. There will be nothing in eternity as a reward for those going around God's plan and purposes. It will only be celebrated here and here alone! I've already been

challenged in my heart as to my intentional motives while in his employ. Being very transparent, I had to question my own motives. Of course, everyone appreciates "Atta boys" and pats on the back, but if that is your motive and you receive it there's nothing left to reward. Oh me - Somebody! God said "Not to think of ourselves more highly than we ought."

I know who reads this and you are doing amazing work in God's Kingdom. Let's keep it real! Let us double down and reinforce how very special it is to live in these last days and appreciate this great privilege to actually see the approach of the rapture and the millennial reign of Christ. We are being tested to assuage compromise or be an agent of appeasement in matters of truth, and it will continue to rise in the coming

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## Church Law & Tax Date to Remember

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

**Need Help? Call Jan Harbuck at the PCAI Office, Phone Number 1-866-268-5600**

**October 17, 2022: Form 1040 due for taxpayers who filed for a six-month extension**

Last day to file a 2021 federal income tax return (Form 1040) for taxpayers who obtained an automatic six-month extension by filing a Form 4868 by April 18, 2022 (April 19 if you live in Maine or Massachusetts).

**October 30, 2022: File employer exemption (Form 8274)**

Churches hiring their first nonminister employee between July 1 and September 30 may exempt

themselves from the employer's share of FICA (Social Security) taxes by filing Form 8274 by this date. (Nonminister employees are thereafter treated as self-employed for Social Security purposes).

The exemption is only available to churches that are opposed on the basis of religious principles to paying the employer's share of FICA taxes.

**October 31, 2022: File quarterly federal tax return (Form 941) with payment**

Churches having nonminister employees (or one or more ministers who report their federal income taxes as employees and who have elected voluntary withholding) must file an employer's quarterly federal tax return (Form 941) for the third calendar quarter by this date.

Enclose a check in the total amount of all withheld taxes (withheld income taxes, withheld FICA taxes paid by the employee, and the employer's share of FICA taxes) if *less than \$2,500* on September 30, 2022.



## UPDATE ON MILEAGE RATES

*(Excerpt from Christian Law Associates)*

Due to seeming never-stopping rise in gas prices, the IRS has responded by upping the mileage rate for 2022 by four cents for most types of business use. If you compensate staff and volunteers for mileage at IRS rates, this relatively substantive increase is worth being aware of to ensure you don't inadvertently go over budget.

### AS OF JULY 1<sup>st</sup>:

- ⇒ 62.5 cents per mile driven for business use, an increase of 4 cents from the rate set on January 1, 2022
- ⇒ 22 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes, up 4 cents from the rate set on January 1, 2022
- ⇒ 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations—this remains unchanged because it can only be altered by an act of Congress.

## Five Ministry Killers... Continued from page 1

directions with the sermon. After a sermon has been delivered, do not rely upon comments such as, "I enjoyed your sermon," as a true marker of how well you did.

- Some evaluation may be observed during an altar call. Questions related to the sermon may arise. But above all else, "audience response and evaluation" are important. A sermon may be filled with wondrous content, but the sermon will fall on "deaf ears" if the delivery is weak. In most instances I have observed that Pentecostal churches prefer "strong delivery" in comparison to "great content." Is it possible to have both? I believe it is.

### **Ministry Killer #3:** **Ignoring the importance of diligent [personal] Bible study and prayer.**

- Studying for sermons to impress people will not keep you strong in the faith nor lead to spiritual growth. You must spend additional prayer time on your knees searching out the deep truths and mysteries of Scripture. This will give you a "Holy Heart Burn" like the Emmaus disciples experienced (Luke 24:32). Many biblical truths that you learn through prayer and study may be too deep and analytical to share with a congregation. But these truths will certainly set your heart aflame [and keep you burning].
- You should never preach a sermon from a difficult passage of Scripture when you have not thoroughly researched it. When you are questioned by others as to your interpretation, the old adage of "God told me" is never a good answer.
- You should always study the background and culture of the period during which a Bible book was penned. Glean information from various Bible translations, commentaries, Hebrew & Greek lexicons, transliterations, etc.

Remember, the Old Testament contains many beautiful stories and events that hold the attention of the audience, but accurately interpreting the Old Testament is not as difficult as interpreting New Testament passages that form most doctrines of evangelical churches.

- You will never gain in-depth understanding of the Word of God, if you don't invest many hours in diligent exegetical Bible study. However, it's important to keep a balance between this kind of study and sermon study.
- Never exalt yourself in the pulpit. One who begins to learn great truths can't wait to tell someone what they've discovered. However, it's important "how" you explain yourself. Remember this: "If you are not preaching (exalting) Christ, you are preaching (exalting) self." Never exalt your knowledge, your holiness, your wisdom, your family, or harp on any outstanding characteristic you may possess when preaching. Doing so will certainly ensure that everything you say will be rejected. Often pastors and preachers unknowingly exalt themselves or family members with no evaluation from the audience. However, in my opinion, it is a big mistake!

- Stuart Briscoe gives Seven Signs for Great Preaching: A sermon must be (1) God-centered, (2) Biblically based, (3) People directed, (4) Intellectually competent: appeals to the mind with logic, (5) Emotionally moving: addresses not only the mind but moves the heart. (6) Volitionally changing: appeals to the will, and (7) Practically comprehensible: a great sermon must be clear in its meaning and intent.

### **Ministry Killer #4:** **Disregarding proper order and etiquette both in the**

### **pulpit and church.**

- "Rudeness" to others should never be given as an excuse for [biblical] "boldness."

Jesus gives us many examples of "how and when to be bold." But He always tempered bold statements with compassion and kindness. Because Jesus was somewhat of a mystic, He was misunderstood by the religious leaders and people of His time. And He continues to be misunderstood today by Christians and non-Christians alike who misinterpret His sayings.

- Do not take twenty minutes to introduce a guest speaker by preaching a sermon. Keep the introduction short and exercise good ministerial etiquette (and ethics). If the introduction is too long, then you have taken away from the importance of the guest speaker's message.

Furthermore, when a guest speaker has finished his/her sermon; do not preach his or her sermon over again before the service closes.

Remember, our God is a God of order and not confusion.

NOTE: I have personally experienced this numerous times when visiting churches in the USA and abroad. After I finished my sermon, it was then "re-preached" by the presiding pastor who attempted to bring out points that I may have left out. How did this make me feel? Not good.

- If you are a pastor, you should keep order, but exercise caution in setting standards for attire. This is a difficult point to discuss since every church holds different views concerning this matter. Some believe if one wears beautiful suits he/or she is being arrogant. On the other hand, some believe if one wears casual clothes, he/or she is disrespectful of God's house. Great caution must be exercised in the areas of clothing, hair styles, earrings, nose-rings, etc. NOTE: On one occasion, I was asked

to negotiate a squabble in a church between some elders and the pastor because the pastor's teenage son had dyed his hair blue.

### **Ministry Killer # 5:** **Ignoring the fact that when you are perplexed by personal or family problems, it becomes apparent in your preaching. Your preaching may come across as angry.**

- If You're perplexed you'll not be at your best, and may say or do things you might later regret. The worship leader must also be evaluated, since he or she leads people into worship. Evaluation of one's perplexity and stress should be top priority.
- Be careful not to make any references to what you've learned in counseling sessions that may be relevant to those in the audience.

- Do not preach when you are angry, lest you preach an angry sermon to a congregation. Check your attitude. If you are angry with a deacon or elder in the church because of what he said during a board meeting, it could likely ruin your message. A bad or angry attitude is to be compared with "throwing cold water on a fire."

**CONCLUSION:**  
**In Chapter 1 of 1st Corinthians Paul is laying a foundation concerning division in the church at Corinth. This church was experiencing division over "pulpit supply" and the past contributions of pastors. Paul wants them to understand that preaching is not based on the contribution of the preacher, but on the message being communicated. Preaching, in the mind of Paul was to be valued by its core truth, not the charisma of the speaker!**

**May God help us as we examine ourselves and strive to grow and mature in the "high calling" of serving God and His people in ministry. ♥**

**Red Flags and Sirens...**  
Continued from page 2

months and years. If these errors are permitted in our lives, our teachings and ministries, it can and will affect generations, even your children and grandchildren. What we sow or allow sown, will be exactly what Christ said about the "tares sown by an enemy"... They look okay, but it's not from the same seed.

Our personal sphere of influence is our responsibility. Many of you are national and international leaders. My sense is "you won't succumb to these temptations", but you will be faced to defend the truth wherever error arises, and we must speak the truth in love, but remain unmovable in our support of the apostles' doctrine and fellowship. In truth, we must defend what we believe and **who we believe in**, even unto death. Sound harsh? The antithesis is worse. It may seem that nothing else can surprise us anymore in ministry. We can't yet say we've seen it all, time is still unfolding and we must redeem our personal time and make it count daily. When Joshua was about to lead Israel into the promised land the Lord told him, "You've never been this way before." I believe there are new "ways" and territories to conquer - some will seem "old hat" and while others will be extremely challenging we will be victorious.

The very first sign in scripture that warns us we are in this season is the term "a falling away" or "apostasy". Strong's Greek says "defection from the truth, forsake, falling away". For there to be a falling away, there must first be a stable belief system - our attitude toward truth. Many are saying, "I'm okay with going along with the crowd, we're in a different culture, we need to be more inclusive, etc." Well, when Peter had Ananias and Sapphira bring an offering of "part" of the proceeds of the land sale, and the Holy Spirit said to Peter they're lying, he didn't have a heart change to allow going along with them! Often we think we will refine them once they're in our fellowship. No! He called them out and (I know this may seem harsh in these days of inclusion) judged them by calling out the lie. "A little leaven"? There are churches splitting in every denomination defending the truth! Or, how about Paul? I mean after all the woman was praising him for all the salvation he was preaching, she was a diviner and Paul was greatly annoyed and the "ESV" says, commanded the spirit to come out of her and she could not perform her fortune-telling anymore. Why were her owners mad? Finances!

Is there anything that will cause the real church today to "settle" or "accommodate" error? We must understand others will follow us in our errors, as well as our truths.

May the Lord Jesus help us be stable in our beliefs of the truth and oppose the lies of the enemy and the weakness of the soul that have plowed but then looked back!

**Closing Comments: Recently I read "Be ye holy for I am holy". It dawned on me quickly – He didn't say "Do holy", he said Be... We can't do until we first Be-come. We can represent the image of Christ in us to this generation without compromise.♥**

# ANNOUNCEMENT

We will be posting Holiday Recipes for November and December Informer. We encourage you to share your favorite recipes so other families can enjoy them during the holidays. Please email it to [info@paragonchristianalliance.org](mailto:info@paragonchristianalliance.org)  
We need it on or before **October 20th!**

## Did You Know???



Over the past years many have adopted the convenience of using PayPal to send their monthly offering. It gives the certainty your giving arrives each month in a timely fashion. We appreciate that thoughtfulness.

One thing you may not have considered is the loss to ministry funds that giving online creates. We get a lower percentage held out due to being tax exempt but over a month's time and many users it normally adds up to \$500-\$600 a month that PayPal keeps.

Please pray about adding a few dollars to your offering to help offset this loss. We understand everyone is hurting these days with the decline in our economy but we wanted to make you aware in order that you might be able to help.

## CREDENTIAL ANNUAL RENEWAL DUE OCTOBER 1ST

### TWO WAYS TO RENEW:

- (1) Complete the credential renewal form was mailed to you and send it back to us.
- (2) ONLINE—fill out the renewal form on our website under RE-SOURCES: [www.https://paragonchristianalliance.org](http://www.https://paragonchristianalliance.org)

### NOTE:

- If received after OCTOBER 1st, must pay \$100 late fee.
- Renewal Fees: \$50.00 for Licensed and \$75.00 for Ordained Minister
- Monthly giving must be up-to-date.

## PCAI IS HERE TO SERVE YOU!

- ⇒ Ministerial Credentials
- ⇒ 501c3 for Your Ministry under our "Group Status"
- ⇒ Prayer Support & More!

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

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