

Jan/Feb/March, 2025  
Volume 9, Issue 1

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THE **Levite**

# PILLARS

The Most Valuable Asset In The Church

**The Value Of  
Church Pillars**  
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Collection)**  
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## Some Church Pillars

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# THE VALUE OF CHURCH PILLARS

*Rev. David Webb*

**“ Pillars are unseen insurance. They don’t get much attention, but they are vitally important. They hold things up. They are stability and strength.”**

**G**alatians 2:9 “And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, ...”

Elliott's Commentary says of this text, “Those who are held and reputed to be pillars in the church.”

The Pulpit Commentary confirms: “...perceiving of a certainty...that these men were pillars!”

These three men were (Cephas) Peter, James, and John. Bible scholars believe these three men were between the ages of 50 and 70. Keep in mind that the average life span at that time was about 35 years. These men were considered “OLD” by normal standards. I believe we are safe to say they were elders and pillars in the church.

This text did not say ...

They used to sing

They used to be a deacon

They used to support the church

They used to be dependable

They used to be accountable

They used to contribute

The text said, they were pillars. They were supportive and strong. They gave us wonderful examples of how to be stable and spiritual.

I would like to encourage the generation of elders age 50 and above that you are needed and one of the most valuable assets the church has.

Grenville Kleiser said, “Church members are either pillars or caterpillars. The pillars hold up the church, and the caterpillars just crawl in and out.”

Pillars are unseen insurance. They don’t get much attention, but they are vitally important. They hold things up. They



are stability and strength.

When we built our new church building, it was interesting to observe what was noticed and what was not noticed. Many complimented the beautiful wood ceiling. Others loved the carpet design. Several thought the woodwork was beautiful. A visitor loved the windows so much that they will be using something similar in their own building project. However - no one has ever went over the steel red iron columns and said, "The steel pillars or columns are so amazing!"

But consider this: when a big storm blows in, that is when we think about the strength of those I-beams. It matters that what holds up this building is strong, stable, fire-tested, and inspected!

I want the Pillars in our Pentecostal Holiness Movement to know:

Everybody sees the Choir. Some admire the nice facilities. Many enjoy great musicians. The young, vibrant Sunday School teachers and Superintendent are a great asset. But when the storms come and the going gets tough,

we need more. Something tried and tested is what we will anchor to. We depend on people who have weathered storms before and are tempered for the trial!

If we took the columns/pillars out of our church building, all of its beauty would be reduced to rubble. It would collapse!

I also want the elders to know this: if you...

Back off too quick

Quit pushing too early

Resign before its time

Check out before God checks you out

...the church will collapse!

I'm thankful for the excitement of our children. I'm grateful for the exuberance of the youth group. I appreciate the excellent group of young adults and young families. I am personally happy to be part of the middle age and carry the financial load of the church.

But just because we have a robust youth group, a wonderful group of young couples, great middle-aged couples doesn't mean our elders are not essential!

The Pillars are the most valuable age group in the church - period!

We all know that when things start shaking - WE NEED THE PILLARS!

A 98-year-old World War II veteran William Pekrul said at the 2024 RNC, "It hurts my heart to see what our current president and vice president have done to the country I love so well." Pekrul said that he would re-enlist today and storm any beach his country needed, and that, "America is still worth fighting for."

I still believe the church is worth fighting for. Will you be a pillar or a caterpillar?



# WINTER REVIVAL!

HOW CAN I PREPARE MY FAMILY?

Sis. Genell Webb

## Preparedness:

[prē per(ə)dnəs] noun

A state of readiness

## Intentional:

[in'ten(t)SH(ə)nəl] adj

Done on purpose, deliberate

## Productive:

[prə'dəktiv] adj

Achieving a significant result

All three are evident in the life of the special lady in Proverbs 31. What would it mean for a family if a mother set out to apply the principles of the Proverbs 31 woman to her own home regarding the home church revival?

Winter revivals or New Year's revivals are a common custom for the local church. These weekend, weeklong, or multi-week meetings usually do not come about spontaneously; rather, they are scheduled in the church calendar

and tend to be annual events. Knowing this, every mother has the opportunity to prepare her little family for what can be a life-changing experience in every heart of her home.

Being intentional about preparing for revival does not have to be hard. Actually, it can be quite simple. The key is to be purposeful. Below is a list of practical tips for moms to help their family thrive during the home church revival - not just survive.

### 01 | Mark the calendar – REVIVAL in every square!

Do not plan regular doctor checkups, dental hygiene cleanings, community volunteer hours, extracurricular school activities, etc. during the meeting. Keep the family schedule free from extras. The dates of revival are for minimal tasks only.

### 02 | Plan the family menu for the duration.

Choose easy recipes for a simple dinner. Use paper goods for quick clean up. Keep the late afternoon and early evening as simple as possible.

### 03 | Stay healthy.

Intentionally take vitamins. Eat well. Use hand sanitizer. If sickness is going around, don't shake hands.

### 04 | Plan to give.

Budget throughout the year, saving an amount of money each week to plan to give in the offering for the evangelist. Additionally, plan to make a meal or deliver food to the evangelist or pastor - whatever is the home church protocol.

### 05 | Stay home during the day.

Do not use up physical and emotional energy running around town trying to cram in every possible errand. If a trip must be made, be disciplined about keeping it short and being home in time so as not to be in a frenzy getting ready for church.

### 06 | Keep the family's respective schedules in mind.

Assist working children by having the necessary laundry ready. Communicate about school and job responsibilities, working to accommodate one another.

### 07 | Strive for calm.

A couple hours prior to service time, create a peaceful atmosphere in the home. Put little ones down for naps. Play music. Adjust lighting. Be intentional about signaling to the family that preparation is being made for the service.

### 08 | Don't get discouraged.

Even the best-laid plans sometimes get sideways. Press on through the unexpected, unavoidable happenings and keep a good attitude.

### 09 | Be prayerful and expecting.

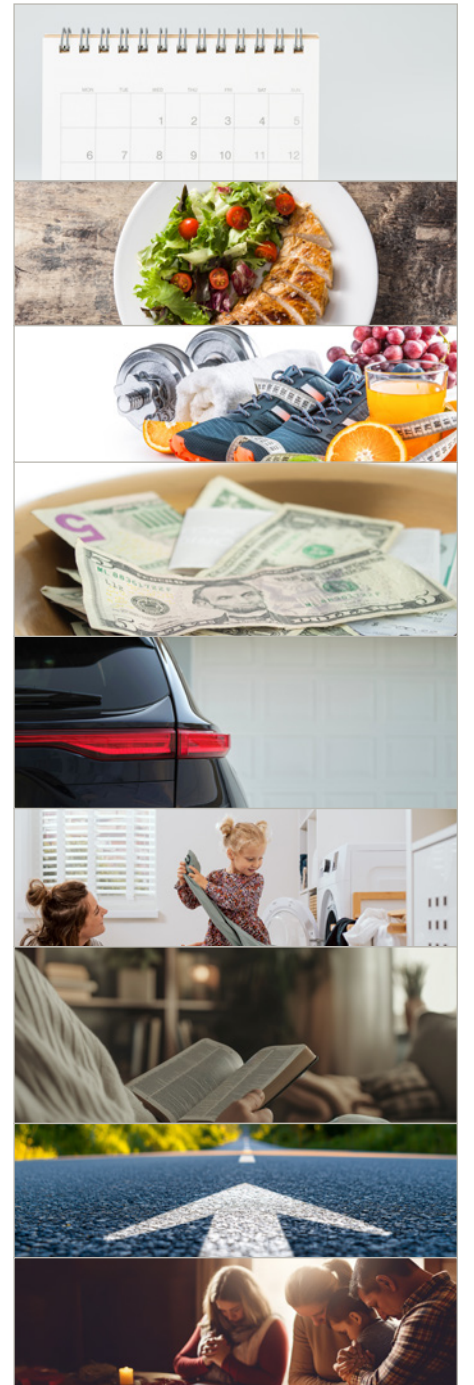
Talk openly about what each person wants the Lord to do during the revival. Make a list and pray over it as family.

Something will happen in the hearts of every family member if an obvious effort is made to prepare for revival. Expectancy and anticipation will grow.

Revival will not be just another obligation on the calendar.

Revival will be life changing. ■

Note from the editor: HPC holds a revival every year in January; thus the winter themed admonition. You can adjust your preparations according to your church's revival season.





# WINTER REVIVAL RECIPIES

## EASY CHILI

### Ingredients

- 2 lbs. Ground Beef, Browned
- 2 - 15 oz. Cans Chili Beans
- 1 - 15 oz. Can Kidney Beans
- 2 - 15 oz. Cans Tomato Sauce
- 1/4 Cup Chili Seasoning Mix
- 2 tsp. Beef Bouillon Base

### Instructions:

1. Add all ingredients to a crock pot, simmer low 5-6 hours.



### Ingredients

- 1/4 c. Flour
- 4 tsp. Chili Powder
- 1 tbs. Crushed Red Pepper
- 2 tsp. Salt
- 2 tsp. Dried Parsley
- 2 tsp. Paprika
- 2 tsp. Cumin
- 1 tsp. Onion Powder
- 1 tsp. Garlic Powder
- 1 tsp. Coriander
- 1 tsp. Dried Basil
- 1/2 tsp. Pepper

### Instructions:

1. Whisk all ingredients and store in an airtight container. Use 1/4 c. per one chili recipe

## CHILI SEASONING MIX

## ITALIAN CHICKEN

### Ingredients

- 4-6 Large Chicken Breasts
- 1 Envelope Dry Ranch Seasoning
- 8 oz. Jar Banana Pepper Rings
- 1 Stick of Butter

### Instructions:

1. Add all ingredients to a crock pot, low 6-8 hours or high 3-5 hours.

## ITALIAN CHICKEN LEFTOVERS

### Instructions:

1. Quesadillas - add sour cream, taco sauce, And taco seasoning. Put in a flour tortilla and grill in butter.
2. Chicken Salad - add mayonnaise, diced red & orange peppers, diced onion, black pepper. Serve with crackers or bread for sandwiches

## ITALIAN CHICKEN SANDWICHES

### Instructions:

1. Use Buns, Garnish with Shaved Parmesan

## ITALIAN SALAD W/CHICKEN

### Instructions:

1. Serve Chicken over a Salad Mix Kit

### Ingredients - Cake

- 1 box Lemon Cake Mix
- 1 box Instant Lemon Pudding
- 12 tbs. Butter, melted
- 3/4 cup Water
- 4 Eggs

### Instructions:

1. Mix all ingredients at medium speed for 2 min.
2. Bake 350 degrees in 13 x 9 pan for 35-40 min

### Ingredients - Glaze

- 2 cups Powdered Sugar
- 2 tbs. Butter,
- 1/3 cup Milk
- Lemon Extract (optional)

### Instructions:

1. Melt butter in a small saucepan, add milk & sugar Whisk until smooth, bring to a boil.

## EASY LEMON CAKE FOR THE EVANGELIST



# PILLARS

AN INTRODUCTION TO SOME PILLARS IN MY CHURCH

BRO. BENJAMIN BRUCE

Permanence.

That word demands a pause.

Permanence.

Not a fly-by-night presence. Not a flash-in-the-pan moment. Not a move for a job, a change over a board dispute, or a response to someone else's promotion over you. A pillar stands through it all—highs and lows, drought and harvest, glory and shame, weakness and strength, changing leadership, gains and losses.

There they stand. Permanence.

That is a pillar.

Load-Bearing.

That word demands a pause.

Load-bearing.

No structure can stand without the silent, hidden support of its pillars. This concept, familiar to architects and builders, must also transcend into a spiritual reality that we all must grasp.

There are those among us who carry the load, bear the burden, and keep the house standing. Without them, there's

no roof over our heads, no place to assemble, no "home" church.

Load-bearing.

That is a pillar.

Timeless.

That word demands a pause.

Timeless.

There is a position no amount of money can buy. It cannot be earned through networking, intellectual prowess, college degrees, raw energy, or even talent and sheer willpower.

That position is time.

Pillars have proven themselves with the most expensive commodity on Earth—faithfulness over days, weeks, years, decades, and a lifetime. That is an elder.

That is a pillar.

The kingdom of God bestows honor upon the anointed, the called, the righteous, the soul winners, the preachers, and the prayer warriors. But there is a unique group among us who have earned their position by sheer longevity of commitment and faithfulness

over time. It is a price paid through the expenditure of their very lives for the cause of Christ.

That is permanence.

That is an elder.

That is a pillar.

In this segment, I present to you a selection of elders from my home church who I perceive as pillars. Their dedication to the same church, the same position, and the same standards of righteous living has spanned longer than many of us in the pews have been alive. For that, we bestow honor. For that, we want to hear their stories and give them a voice.

True to their nature, they were unanimously reluctant to contribute—lending credence to the very title conferred upon them: pillars. They would have much preferred to remain silent, faithfully abiding in their posts. But today, what has been written across a lifetime in their hearts is now written in ink.

I present these pillars to you now. ■

# BRO. HANK REED

pg. 16

# BRO. SCOTTIE LARIMORE

pg. 14

# BRO. DON WOOLETT

pg. 18

# LIVING LIFE SLOW

Bro. *Scottie Larimore*

“**I’ve lived long enough to know that being in a hurry often brings more problems than solutions.**”

**W**hen I was approached to write something for a Levite article, I was quite taken aback. The theme of “Church Pillars” was daunting, as I have never viewed myself as someone of great strength or occupying a position of prominence. My purpose has always been centered on service—being a servant to my church family and doing what I could to lessen the burden of my pastor.

For me, the purpose has never been about the position. So, if you’ll allow me just a few minutes, I’d like to continue in that spirit of service and share a few words that might spark a thought or inspire someone to live life just a little slower.

I can’t count how many times I’ve heard the saying, “Yeah, Grandpa was slow, but he was old.” My children, and later my grandchildren, have often commented on how slow I drive. Especially on the interstate, as cars fly past me, my wife will inevitably ask, “How fast are you going?” or lean over to check the speedometer herself. Without fail, the needle is right where it should be.

It’s not that I’m going too slow; it’s that those passing me by are in more of a hurry to get somewhere than I am. I’ve lived long enough to know that being

in a hurry often brings more problems than solutions. Rushing rarely leads to anything gained—and frequently results in much lost.

The same is true of life itself. Life has a way of passing us by before we even realize it. It moves so quickly that we often burn ourselves out before we come to the realization that we need to slow down. Modern-day demands push us at a pace that can be exhausting and overwhelming. Age, of course, will eventually bring a natural slowness to our bodies, whether we like it or not. But even then, it can be hard to convince ourselves that slowing down is what we truly need.

While I’ve focused on one kind of slowing down, there are others that are essential for a Christian life. These “slows” can help us live fuller, more complete lives within the time God has allotted to us. The Bible specifically calls attention to two areas where we should be slow. Applying these principles will enrich our days and bring peace, order, and contentment—even in the midst of struggles.

First, there is great value in being “slow to speak.” Taking a moment to think before you speak can defuse countless arguments and prevent unnecessary hurt. Too often, I’ve been guilty of engaging my mouth before running my

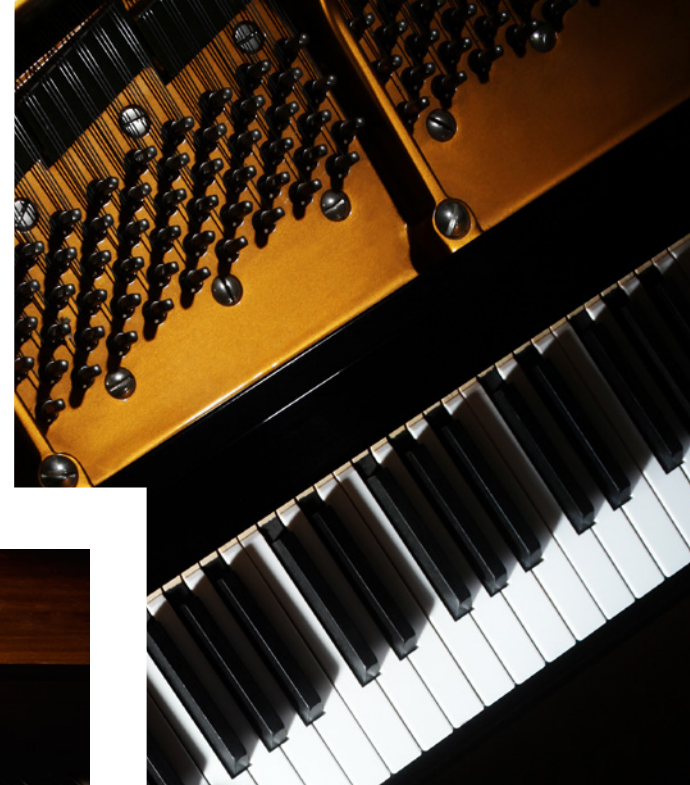
words through my “onboard filters.” It’s not easy to hold back our emotions or temper before blurting out words that only escalate a situation. But there is a tremendous blessing in cultivating the discipline of thoughtful speech. It’s something I personally need to improve, and I pray for God’s help to do better.

Second, the Bible teaches us to be “slow to anger.” Over and over, Scripture reminds us that God Himself is “slow to anger.” That divine trait has spared mankind from destruction countless times throughout history. As followers and servants of Christ, we are called to follow His holy example.

In the Book of Proverbs and in James 1:19, we are reminded of the importance of being both slow to speak and slow to anger. These two disciplines go hand in hand. If we can master being slow to anger, it will guide us toward being slow to speak. Both are critical to navigating life’s challenges, and how we apply these principles will often determine the outcome of our struggles.

Let’s make it a priority to live slower—not just physically, but spiritually and emotionally. Let’s take full advantage of the timeless biblical principles written thousands of years ago for our benefit. By doing so, we can find greater peace, contentment, and strength in the Lord. ■





“

Like the old song says, “If its good for my daddy, its good enough for me.”!



# MINISTRY OF MUSIC

*Bro. Hank Reed*

Hodgenville Pentecostal Church has been my home church since 1965. It's where I gave my heart to the Lord, shortly after hearing the Word preached by bro. Bruce and Sis. Sue Cole. There was something there that made me want more! My bride and I were married in front of the mural of the original sanctuary by Pastor Louie J. Harrison in 1976, and Pastor James Suits dedicated our miracle baby in front of the same alter in 1989. I've experienced healings and blessings through the years, and support in many areas from those that make up H.P.C. This is my home on earth!

I was only eleven years old when I first started attending church. The Williams family introduced us to H.P.C. Our parents didn't attend at that time, so they would pick us up. Different people from the church, including Pastier Chester Trent, would drive miles out of their way, to make sure we had a way to get there and then drive us back home after the services. My mother started attending later and the Lord gloriously saved her! My dad was tender about the ways of God and he gave his heart to the Lord before passing away.

Looking back, I see the plan God had for my life and how he was leading me into the ministry of music. My dad had gifted me with a small acoustic guitar from Western Auto when I was only nine years old. He showed me a few chords, but after a while, the interest wore off. It resparked when I began attending church, as I watched Bro. Don

Castleman, as he played the guitar. Bro. Don took me “under his wings” and the mentoring began. Bro. Joshnsie Hedgespeth purchased my first electric guitar for me. Family relationship didn't prompt their decision to do this. They simply had a genuine desire to see a young person do something for the lord! Fast forward nearly 60 years, and I'm still playing due to the grace of God and his keeping power! Praise his Holy name for putting precious people in our paths! My hope is that I am or have been that same kind of example to someone.

The Pentecostal movement has been blessed with great musicians, as well as, many just beginning their crafts. I've seen many visiting musicians and those at H.P.C. come and go. Some are no longer with us due to their passing, some have responded to their calling into evangelism or pastorship, and others have relocated. We live in a technology driven world, and some change is necessary. However, some styles and techniques have crept into our old-time holiness ways, so I want to offer words of caution and encouragement to the generations behind me and those wanting to get involved in this area. These little techniques may be subtle, but isn't that the way Satan came to Eve in the garden? We still sing “Amazing Grace” and “The Old Rugged Cross” out of the old red back hymnals. Like the old song says, “If its good for my daddy, its good enough for me.”! My first word of advice is to pray. Sunday school teachers pray about their lessons, ministers pray

about their messages, and musicians should pray about honoring their skills coupled with the anointing of the Holy Ghost. Next remember where your gift came from! Talent should never trump true worship to God. Talent without the anointing promoted self, while true worship directs all glory to God! Respect never goes out of style and falls in the category of letting “all things be done decently and in order.” Respect the platform standards. Respect the Lord when he uses someone in the pulpit to say what He wants to be heard. Respect fellow musicians in an effort to play in unity. Respect other church congregations and musicians when visiting and asked to play. Respect will be returned when respect is given! Lastly, be patient! The Lord knows your heart and will open doors to play in the church band, special groups, or the choir. Until that time comes, continue to pray, support the church in attendance and tithing, stay consistent, keep a good attitude, and stay available!

I feel so honored to be considered a pillar at Hodgenville Pentecostal Church and want to thank my pastor, Bro. David Webb, for having confidence in me to serve as minister of music. I'm certainly not an expert in this field, but I have been given opportunities through the years to witness powerful moves of the Holy Ghost through music. I'm still on my journey and praying the Lord will help me to help others on the way.

God Bless. ■



# YESTERDAY, TODAY & FOREVER

*Bro. Don Wollett*

When we bought our new car, I wanted all the bells and whistles we could get at the time; front and back cameras with 360 view, intelligent cruise control with driver assist, high rated fuel mileage, heated seats and mirrors, leather interior, heated back glass, premium package with sun roof, warranty in case of a breakdown, etc. That's what we got and it's made our traveling so much easier and pleasant. But we sometimes forget that we could travel the same distance just as fast without air conditioning, cruise control, etc. in our old 2 door sedan.

My point is, modern conveniences make our lives so much better but we often forget about the simple life where people would visit one another, have a meal, talk about life, discuss the good things of the Lord over a cup of coffee, and just relax.

There is nothing wrong with modernization as long as it doesn't interfere with the personal touch where folks can see each other face to face, pray with

one another face to face, talk about the scriptures one on one, and just have a wonderful time visiting one another.

There was a time when we would gather around the 8 track machine, cassette or CD player, and even the radio and listen to our favorite gospel music and/or preaching services. We thought that was grand! Now, we have a drastic change from those days gone by. We have social media, facebook, mixlr, Youtube, chat bots, and apps that we download on our smart phones to keep us impersonally connected with the world, the church, and each other. We even have mp3's that can hold

thousands of gigabytes of sermons and songs. Though these electronic devices and connections make our life much easier and faster, and puts the entire world at our fingertips, there is nothing in itself that makes them wrong. However, if we allow it, they tend to rob us of that personal touch God so earnestly desires for us to have. Galatians 6:2, KJV tells us to "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Those burdens can be shared much better by personal visitation than by email, phone calls or text. Now I realize that personal visitation and face to face communication isn't always feasible, but I believe we rely too

much on social media and cell phones to let our requests be known and share our feelings with others.

Heb. 13:16, KJV, says, "But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." Personal communication, for the most part, seems to be a lost art in our day and time thanks, in large part, to modern ways of communicating. Time was, brothers and sisters in the Lord would fellowship one another by simply dropping by your house to fellowship and chat or getting together in other family groups to talk, have refreshments and be with one another. Sometimes personal communication is a sacrifice but it seems that now days, it's too convenient to just pick up our cell phone and make a call or text.

God has put in each of us to be creative and social. Some use it wisely and some don't.

Many things have changed today from what it was yesterday. Some for the better and some not so good. Time was preachers would preach a simple gospel about Jesus Christ; his love, redemption and judgement of mankind. Now days our preachers have to preach about the misuse of social media as well as its dangers. We used to preach against television in our homes yet many of today's nominal preachers and their congregations have one sitting somewhere in their home. Preaching against tv used to be one of the main subjects of sermons. Now, preachers preach, and rightfully so, about social media sites I've never heard of.

I'm not trying to say everything is wrong. I'm just trying to show how things in the church have changed in preaching content and even the style of worship than it was many years ago.

There were times when our Pentecostal churches would preach against contemporary Christian music. Now those same songs that used to be preached

against are being sung by our church choirs. Am I saying people and churches are wrong by these changes? No. I'm just trying to convey things have changed from what they used to be; some for the better and some not so much.

Our spiritual minds never have a rest. However, our minds need to be focused on teaching and preaching salvation to the lost and dying world. I'm glad our HPC ministers, preachers and Pastors do preach the gospel as it should be.

I'm glad God recognizes positive changes in our society, church and personal lives. But with every change comes caution. The Devil is always out there to steal, kill, and destroy. (John 10:10, KJV, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.") He is always there to pervert the gospel into another gospel. (Gal. 1:6-7, KJV, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.") Satan will take the good things we do for God's Kingdom and change it to fit his narrative. We must always be vigilant and watchful against the wiles of the Devil. The more modern things become, the easier it is for him to work his work of deceit and deception.

Change is not always bad. Many times it's needed for us to publish the Gospel and be a witness to others about the Grace and Mercy of Jesus Christ.

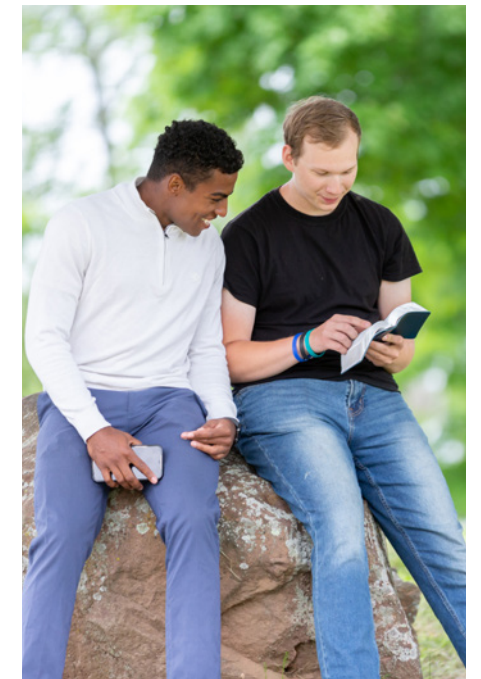
I love our modern world in many ways and wouldn't want to go back to the old time horse and buggy days. I like air conditioning, padded pews, great lighting, PA systems, security from those who would harm us, good churches to attend, a great church family, and so many more modern conveniences. But let's not lose sight of our foundation and where we came from or the good things

our Christian brothers and sisters had back then; a simple and less hurried life.

Yeah, I do love those "good ole days" but I'll take our modern days any time as long as Jesus Christ is the Lord of our lives and the Gospel is freely preached to all people. Praise the Lord. Some things never change. (Heb. 13:8 KJV, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.")

There is coming a change we won't want to miss. We shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. (1 Cor. 15:51 & 52. KJV)

God bless the church and God bless America! ■





HODGENVILLE  
PENTECOSTAL  
CHURCH

*Pentecostal by Experience - Holiness by Choice*

