

November 2017 edition

THE HELMSMAN

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF REVIVAL FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

OVERCOMING THE INDEPENDENT SPIRIT

An article by
Dr. John Polis

Meet our newest
RFI affiliate.

Read articles by
Affiliates.

5 EASY TIPS

FOR MINISTERS & THEIR FAMILIES
TO PLAN HEALTHY MEALS
Feel better and spend more time together.

Ordinary People
Doing Extraordinary
Things

ACTS 2:42 FAMILY GATHERING

"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." An intimate time of ministry and fellowship was enjoyed by all who attended this years Annual Conference which we named "The Acts 2:42 Gathering" held in the beautiful Asheville, NC area in the Faith Church sanctuary where Tim Polis is Pastor. Each of the themes mentioned in this verse were the focus of the gathering with powerful apostolic teaching, anointed prayer time, prophetic worship and great food in the many local restaurants. Affiliates met for site seeing at places like The Biltmore House and Grove Park Inn while enjoying each others company. The spirit of family prevailed as we look forward to returning to the same venue for the 2018 Acts 2:42 Gathering. Plan now to be together with your spiritual ministry family and love one another.



AP. LARRY HUTTO APOSTLES & PROPHETS



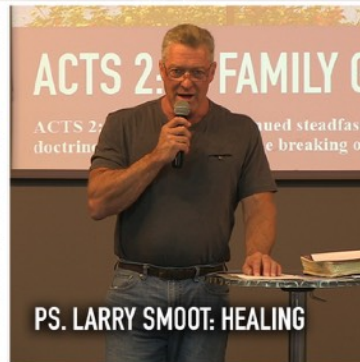
DR. PAT POLIS: BREAKING GROWTH BARRIERS



DR. REBECCA POLIS: MENTORING



DR. JOHN POLIS: AWAKENING THE CHURCH



PS. LARRY SMOOT: HEALING



WORSHIP WITH TIMOTHY BYLER

IF YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO ATTEND. ALL THE ACTS 2:42 FAMILY GATHERING MESSAGES ARE AVAILABLE TO ORDER AT WWW.JHONPOLIS.COM

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2018

SCHOOL OF THE SHEPHERDS
March 3rd
Faith Church International

ROUND TABLE
April 29th
www.rfiusa.org

RFI FAMILY GATHERING
July 26th-27th
Asheville, NC

WOMEN'S GATHERING
October 12th-13th
Location TBA

ISRAEL TRIP
October 20th-27th
Call Dr. John for details

NOVEMBER ISSUE, 2017



OVERCOMING THE INDEPENDENT SPIRIT

by
Dr. John Polis
Page 3

6

5 EASY STEPS FOR MINISTERS & THEIR FAMILIES TO PLAN HEALTHY MEALS

Most busy ministers I work with are actually very intelligent and knowledgeable when it comes to what a... healthy diet and lifestyle...

7

HUGGS HOUSE: AP BONNIE

H.U.G.S. stands for Help Us Get Started! A Christian based organization. Our desire is to help young, single mothers who have met with...

8

MEET OUR NEW AFFILIATES

Yvette and I (Stephen) began staff ministry in 1993, which has taken us to Ohio, Texas, Florida and back to West Virginia. We have...

9

THE SPIRIT OF JUDAS ISCARIOT

Judas Iscariot was a man who spent around three years under the leadership of Jesus, participating in...

11

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Find out what is going on in RFI around the world.

14

MENTORING

Howard Hendricks was a professor at Dallas Theological Seminary for 50 years, a Chaplain for the Dallas Cowboys and a...

15

TRUE NORTH: TIPS FOR YOUTH PASTORS

Have you ever been lost? I mean like really lost? And I am not just talking, not sure which way to turn next, lost, I am...

OVERCOMING THE INDEPENDENT SPIRIT

A person wearing a red puffer jacket and dark pants is walking away from the camera down a dirt path in a forest. The trees are mostly bare, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting. The path is slightly overgrown with grass and small plants. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

by Dr. John Polis

The subject of an Independent Spirit has been at the top of Holy Spirit emphasis for several years and continues to be an important teaching. This article written in 2007 has brought deliverance to many and can be reprinted for distribution for free at www.rfiusa.org.

It is not a new revelation that we have a “fatherless” generation in our world presently, with all the attending consequences of dysfunction, independence, anger and hopelessness. God called it a curse in Malachi 4:5-6 “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: and he shall turn the heart of the fathers

to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.”

A number of years ago, God began to change the hearts of religious leaders into spiritual fathers, which say to their disciples “come follow me” (Mathew 4:19). They were seeking a genuine relationship of love where sons and daughters are blessed with the generational inheritance of a double portion (Duet. 21:17).

After this change occurred and fathers were in a place to receive sons into relationship, God began to “turn the hearts of the children” with men and women seeking out

their spiritual fathers and mothers. These followers whose hearts have been delivered from the orphan spirit also have a cry in their hearts which says like Elisha, “I will not leave thee” (2 Kings 4:4).

When Elisha asked Elijah for a double portion of his spirit, the elder prophet responded, “you have asked a hard thing”. What difficulty was he referring to? It certainly would not be hard for God to give Elisha the blessing, and it wouldn’t be hard for Elijah to lay hands upon him either. So what was the problem? It was going to be hard for Elisha to become the son he wanted to be.

When Elisha asked for the double portion, he was referring to the generational inheritance that belongs to a firstborn son (Duet. 21:17). In effect, he was actually asking Elijah to become his spiritual father.

Many “would be” sons and daughters have identified the need for an “Elijah” in their life. They have asked for relationship as well, not fully realizing the process that would qualify them for the inheritance and right to be called a son or a daughter.

Those who have grown up without a natural father in their life have many of the results mentioned above. I personally know the struggle of growing up with a “bread winner” and not a “dad”. After getting saved and called to ministry, I sought for a father through every spiritual leader in my life and found only those who had not been fathered themselves. This kind of a person was incapable of being a father to me. I often encountered the abuse of a “Saul” type of religious leader, or the rejection of an insecure one who was trying to minister from their own dysfunction. These experiences caused me to press into God for a “fathering spirit” myself. This is when God gave me my first revelation of the Elijah anointing.

It is possible to be raised by God in the absence of a real spiritual father in your life, but it is not the pattern that God intended. God planned for spiritual fathers to raise their families and leave a

legacy of sons and daughters for generations who would continue the process with their own offspring in the spirit.

When we grow up without a spiritual father, we develop an independent spirit. An independent spirit is a characteristic of an orphan heart. A person with an independent spirit has had no one to approve, appoint, protect, or promote them. They end up having to do these things themselves. These are normally the functions of a father in our lives. The independent spirit is easy to identify because it is self-appointing; self-protecting; and self-promoting. The problem then becomes one of being able to function within a family.

Relationships are a difficult thing often ending in offense and discouragement. This is why we see people with an independent spirit are not able to stay in one place very long. They wander and roam not knowing they are looking for a “family”. But families have fathers. When this happens, recognizing and accepting a father into our lives becomes a “hard thing”. Remember the words of Elijah to Elisha...“you have asked a hard thing”?

An independent spirit will not let an individual be the “representative of another”, they can only represent themselves. But in the process of becoming a son or daughter, we learn to “represent another”. Jesus said,

“If you have seen me you have seen My Father”.

In relationship to our earthly spiritual fathers, others should be able to see the spirit of the fathers in the sons and daughters. The Apostle Paul said Timothy was a true son because he was able to “represent” Paul accordingly (Phil. 2:19-22). If we have not served with another as a son does with a father, God will connect us with a father who we can serve until we become a son.

We will have to enter another’s vision and become representative of it in order to be delivered from the independent spirit of “self” that has grown from our orphan heart. Our spiritual fathers will know when true “sonship” has occurred, just like Elijah knew when Elisha was ready to receive his inheritance. Elijah said, “If you see me when I go up”, which in the original language means, “If we see eye to eye”. Elisha had learned to see eye to eye with his spiritual father’s vision.

Can you see your spiritual fathers vision and represent it? This is the pathway to deliverance from an independent spirit and the road to recovery from an orphan heart. When we become true sons, curses are broken in our lives resulting from an orphan heart (Malachi 4:6). We enter into freedom from a self-directed life. We have a deeper revelation of our Father’s Love for us because the independent spirit

keeps us blinded to a degree. We are able to receive and give love without the hindrances of insecurity, inferiority and poor self-perception.

Without seeing a father's vision and serving it, we have been left to serve our own vision. Of course we have individual visions, but sonship occurs through the process of relating to a spiritual father as we serve the vision of another man. This is what Elisha did. This is what the disciples of Jesus did. This is what Joshua did, and it is what we must all do.

“Without seeing a father's vision and serving it, we have been left to serve our own vision.”

Many believers have an independent spirit because they have encountered abuse from parents or other authority figures. Because of this they have decided that no one else is worthy of trust when it comes to their life and destiny. With the availability of Christian TV, radio, seminars, conferences, and ministry partnerships with nationally known ministers, other believers have grown spiritually without relating to a local church family where there was a spiritual father in the house. They approach the church with the “self approved, appointed, promoted and protective attitude” and are difficult to deal with. This is the “hard thing” brought about by fatherlessness. If their established agenda is not

appealed to by the leadership, they simply move on looking for the “right place” (meaning a place where they can represent themselves without confrontation).

Pastors can usually see the calling on a believers life, and will believe in their personal vision, but still will not be able to release that person within the church because of their inability to see beyond their “own thing”. Such dear people can cause unintentional damage if they do not understand and relate properly to the “vision of the

house”. This can cause offense and confusion which gives place to accusation and betrayal ruining many good churches.

The same is true with ministry sons and daughters who are being connected to today's apostolic movements. If they have developed their ministry vision through an independent spirit, the apostle to whom they connect may have the same problems as the local pastor we just described. These anointed vessels may have the same traits of the independent spirit and will need to understand that they must be in submission to the father who God has placed in their life. This simply means they must submit or come under the mission of another. The independent spirited one may

fight for recognition for a while, wanting the father to recognize their call and vision, providing opportunity before any loyalty to the father's vision is established. They have not yet realized the move of the Spirit today to “restore the hearts of fathers and children” and that this is the prophetic mandate upon the church at this time.

This process will produce the “mature sons and daughters” who really represent the Heavenly Father as Jesus did, and release the greatest blessing of God the earth has ever seen. Malachi said, “unless I smite the earth with a curse...” meaning that when the restoration occurs, the earth will be mightily blessed. The mature sons and daughters who have been blessed with their double portion will do the works of the Father and usher in the return of the King of Kings!

Let's ask God for understanding of the work He is doing at this time and find our place within it.



Dr. John Polis
drjohn@rfiusa.org



EASY TIPS

FOR MINISTERS & THEIR FAMILIES TO PLAN HEALTHY MEALS

Feel better and spend more time together.

by Renee DiDonato Errett

Plan Smart To Eat Smart.

Most busy ministers I work with are actually very intelligent and knowledgeable when it comes to what a healthy diet and lifestyle looks like. The challenge is to make it happen in their hectic and over-committed lives. For busy ministers and their families, planning smart is key to eating smart. If you make healthy choices available to you when you need them, chances are you will make better decisions. Here are a few tips to help you plan better so you can eat better and feel better:

1. Plan for the week ahead.

Plan out your meals for the upcoming week ahead of time and do all your grocery shopping in one trip (which will save you time and money.) If possible, set

aside a couple of hours during the weekend or whenever is best for you, prep your meals – e.g. you can chop some veggies, or even cook the entire dish and put it in the fridge or freezer. If you have children who you share meals with, You can even get your kids to help out, and make it a family ritual. Kids will have fun and they are more likely to eat the meals that they take part in preparing.

2. Cook once eat twice (or more!)

When it comes to healthy eating, nothing beats home-cooked meals made from scratch (a whole foods based diet). When you are in a hurry, the tendency is to grab a packet of “junk” to make a meal or worse yet, you go through the drive through. You can prepare more than one meal worth of food so you have leftovers for one more meal. I almost never

cook one meal at a time.

3. Stock Up. Stock your fridge, pantry and desk drawer at work and/or your car with healthy snacks – make sure you have some healthy snack alternatives handy so you don’t go for the vending machine which is usually stocked with less desirable options.

If a fridge is available at work, try some hummus (make it if you can)– with celery sticks, carrots or broccoli. (if you need recipe ideas, I can help). Just shoot me an email at Renee@PizazzMoves.com

Keep in mind that fresh whole food is always better than processed foods – there are many “bars” on the market with “health claims” – however, most of them contain sugar, additives or processed food products that

are less than desirable. If you have to turn to packaged foods, always read the labels to make smart choices.

4. Healthy Frozen Foods.

Instead of getting caught with nothing for dinner, stock a few healthy frozen options so you don't dial the greasy pizza place. Make a point to pair frozen meals and fresh veggies (even if it's just celery or carrot sticks with dips).

5. Team Up. Team up with a few other families - each prepare one dish in a big batch, and then trade dishes - you will walk away with a week's worth of dinner! This is huge... especially if you are a minister of a church.

If you are a traveling minister, try to take as much with you as possible (I have other articles on this).

If you are a market place minister, you could do this with your co-workers or your employees.



**Renee
DiDonato
Errett**

Renee is the CEO of Pizazz Moves. She is a fitness instructor/health coach who helps busy ministers (of all kinds) increase their energy, strength and Pizazz. If you would like a free recipe ebook or a free download of Pizazz Moves, please send an email to Renee@PizazzMoves.com. For more info on coaching or about Pizazz Plug-In for your next event, visit her website at PizazzMoves.com.

H.U.G.S HOUSE



H.U.G.S. stands for Help Us Get Started! A Christian based organization.

Our desire is to help young, single mothers who have met with misfortune in some way. We want to help them to regain their confidence as a woman and as a mother and become productive in society again.

We offer a wide range of services:

Daily Living Skills, referrals to appropriate agencies for needed services, education, counseling, budgeting, job preparation, home management, transportation, following up to evaluate effectiveness of services and outcome, helping client to transition into permanent housing, and guide the client to become self-sufficient.

Our goal is to transition clients to long term stability and continue to monitor their progress. We want to continue to monitor their progress. We want to continue to give each client information and access to needed and desired services as long as they remain in the program.

It is our desire that no woman lose their children and with our help they become a Momma Warrior, able to care for their children as God has called them to do.

Apostle Bonnie Rowan
livingfaithchurchwv@yahoo.com



Apostle Bonnie is the founder of
H.U.G.S. House,



NEW RFI AFFILIATES

STEPHEN AND YVETTE NOEL

Yvette and I (Stephen) began staff ministry in 1993, which has taken us to Ohio, Texas, Florida and back to West Virginia. We have served as Youth pastors, Music and Fine Arts pastors, executive Pastors, senior Pastors, and on statewide music ministry teams, and the founding pastors of Cross Culture Community Church in Clarksburg, WV.

After meeting Drs. John and Rebecca Polis, we knew there was much to be gained from a ministerial relationship with them, and have made Faith Church International in Fairmont, WV our home.

We are currently ministering along with the music and worship team at FCI, and on occasion, minister in revivals in local churches as requested.

Yvette plays piano and sings, while I sing and play drums. Our daughter Andrea (21) plays violin, cello, and sings, our son Lane plays bass guitar, our oldest daughter Stephanie (24) plays keyboards and our son-in-law JR Kerns plays guitar for a local ministry praise and worship band.

We are so excited to see what it is that God has ordained for us both now and in the future!

TESTIMONY OF HEALING

by Carlotta Lynch



I came to Faith Church International Ministries because the Lord told me that here is where I would get healed. I heard Him say “you’re going to the doctors to get healed.” After hearing the testimonies and sitting under the anointed teachings and faith word of Drs. John and Rebecca Polis, I was not only healed in the physical from prescription sleeping pills, diabetic, high blood pressure and anxiety medication but, was delivered mentally and spiritually. Through this ministry I learned what it really means to know the word and to use it in every area of my life. For the scripture says “For we walk by faith and not by sight” (2 Cor. 5:7). I thank God each day for allowing my path to cross with these two great people of God. May the Lord our God continue to bless and multiple you is my earnest prayer.

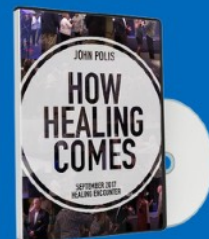
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available at www.johnpolis.com

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HOW HEALING COMES

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THE SPIRIT OF JUDAS ISCARIOT.

by Ap. Damir Alic, Zagreb, Croatia

Judas Iscariot was a man who spent around three years under the leadership of Jesus, participating in His ministry. He served the Lord and people along with other Apostles. When the twelve were sent to certain places announcing that Jesus would come, heal the sick, and cast out demons, Judas was there. When they returned full of joy and excitement, Judas was there. So, Judas was an important part of Jesus' inner circle. The Scriptures tell us, in John 13:29, that Judas had the money box; he was a treasurer. Usually, as we all are aware of, such positions often occupy men or women who had earned trust or who should be honored by being trusted in. But Judas, notwithstanding all that the Lord had given him, turned to be a traitor. He turned against the Lord and betrayed Him with a kiss, delivering Him to His enemies who wanted to kill Him, and actually killed Him at the end. That is why Judas and his name stand for treachery.

Why Judas turned against the Lord, why He 'stabbed Him in the back'? Of course, we do not know all the reasons, but we can find one in John 12:1-8: "Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus

was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, 'Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?' This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box;

There is nothing new under the sun! Money is still the reason for many confrontations and betrayals

and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, 'Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always.'"

The foregoing text clearly shows

that Judas did not respect the Lord as he should have, and he obviously thought that he knew better how to handle money and other resources than Jesus. He was angry because his Master, and Pastor, was greatly honored. Everything started at the supper table, but culminated when Martha poured a very expensive oil of spikenard upon Jesus. This was the last straw, he just could not stand it anymore. He considers this an act of wasting of funds and bad management; betrayal was conceived in his heart. The main reason therefor was money and honor bestowed upon the Master.

There is nothing new under the sun! Money is still the reason for many confrontations and betrayals. When a minister abuses his position and embezzles church money, he actually betrays Jesus and believers he is supposed to minister to. Unfortunately, such things occasionally happen. But there is another kind of betrayal: this is when believers steal from the Lord what is rightfully His or turn to betray their pastor or church in which they were spiritually nurtured and fed. Judas is the most obvious example of that. Not only that he was stealing money from the Lord's money

box, he also betrayed and sold Jesus, his Shepherd and Master.

Apostle John had mentioned Judas as a thief even before the event of pouring the fragrant oil happened, which means that Judas had a sin in his life. This is how things usually are. Before betraying his or her own pastor, a believer lives in sin, and the only thing needed is some event to trigger a ruthless betrayal. Again, the common reason is money and honor bestowed upon the

The majority of problems in churches start when believers want to run the church, whether church finances or doctrines respectively.

pastor. When we start to think that a leader fails in handling resources at his or her disposal (whether human, financial or other) betrayal is conceived. Very often such betrayal comes in a form of a spiritually inspired excuse like Judas' about giving money to the poor. But Jesus expressed His opinion and attitude by justifying Mary and her act of love.

The majority of problems in churches start when believers want to run the church, whether church finances or doctrines respectively. Some individuals would like things in church to be done in their way instead of in the one established by designated leaders. Exactly this was Judas' problem, and exactly this is the problem of many people. This is

a snare made by the devil alone, which people readily fall into by thinking that they would be able to handle church funds or organization or a project much better than their leaders. People who entertain such thoughts are not very far from treachery, from causing church divisions or from leaving their church community. But, the separation starts firstly in the heart, and when completed therein, it comes in the open.

Dear friend, please, do not let the devil deceive you. If you are called to manage, manage with dignity. However, if you are not called to manage, please, do not be conceited and think that you are, but pray for your designated leaders that God may lead them and direct them. Many people left their churches, which God wanted them to be in, because they thought that established leaders were making bad decisions. Exactly the same Judas thought about Jesus. Like Judas, such people wasted their calling and ministry. This is not what God wants for you; therefore, do not let the devil to deceive you and ensnare you in his trap.



**Ap. Damir Alic,
Zagreb, Croatia**

WALKING IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD MINDSET:

The Lord Tells Us In (Isaiah 43:18,19)"Remember not the FORMER THINGS, nor CONSIDER the THINGS of old. Behold, I will do a NEW THING; NOW it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert". The word wilderness in the Hebrew is MIDBAR and one definition of it means SPEECH. In other words, the way in the wilderness will be made for us as we speak, God will honor our faith and create it for us!!! (Isaiah 53:19) says,"When we SPEAK, God will create the fruit of our lips". Our old ways of doing things will NO LONGER WORK!

We must create with our lips a new Kingdom mindset and walk in it. In order to usher in a new season the old must pass away.

The Lord is NOW renewing the spirit of our minds to embrace the Kingdom of God mindset. With this will come a wave of awakening that will ignite our hearts with the love of God!

Because God is doing a new thing that will reveal the BLUEPRINT of Heaven, there will be new connections and alignments with Kingdom people. These alignments will most likely take place outside of traditional church boundaries. These DIVINE CONNECTIONS will take place ONLY with those that carry the atmosphere of Heaven. These will be the "Pioneers of the New Millennium", the freedom fighters that will be the agents of change that will reveal the new realm of Heaven that is being brought down to earth!!!

God is REMOVING THE OLD CEILING so that we can rise up to a new dimension and "Look down from Heaven"(Isaiah 63:15). We must see with and from God's perspective through the eyes of the Spirit. We must see with Father's heart in order to have clear vision to fulfill His purpose in His Kingdom here on planet earth.

**Prophet Timothy Colisino
prophetc@yahoo.com**



INTERNATIONAL NEWS: CROATIA



Apostle Damir Alic has led a powerful work in Croatia for 25 years that has impacted the nation with the Restoration Revival message. The church has obtained a facility in the heart of the city that is reaching many new people for Christ and has undergone a

total renovation. Hundreds gathered for the meeting with preaching by Apostle Damir, Evangelist Bendt Wedemalm and Dr. John Polis. People received the Holy Spirit and Healing thru the laying on of hands by these ministers and prophetic words

were spoken over the church and leaders. It was a powerful time of breakthrough and acceleration for this vital ministry in Croatia. Please continue to pray for Apostles Damir and Marija as they lead the largest spirit filled ministry in the nation.

BULGARIA



I send you a report of ministry activities of El Shaddai Christian Church Bulgaria for 2017 to date.

Every month I travel to oversee the El Shaddai Churches in the country and spend time with the local leaders. I often travel with a team from the church in Sofia, which gives them the opportunity to serve and encourage the local believers. Pastor Maria advises people on various health issues and, if necessary, directs them to the appropriate healthcare professionals or hospitals. This is very useful and necessary for the needy provincial people who have

no opportunity and funds for prophylactic examinations.

The first CD with author's songs was recorded and it is called: "More than enough". Your book "The Master Builder" is in process of translating.

On the 10th of June we were invited to a conference in Burgas, a city situated in eastern Bulgaria and also we took part in the initiative organized by some local churches in support of the traditional marriage and family in Bulgaria. We called people to uphold biblical values and raise

children in healthy Christian families in the conditions of the new global trends and the new challenges among the countries in the EU.

Christian Church El Shaddai was a co-organizer at the regional prayer gathering in Sofia on June 17th. Over 20 churches participated in the initiative held on in one of the sports halls. We prayed for Bulgaria and Sofia about the new challenges facing our nation. I led the prayer for wisdom and creativity for reaching the lost.

A national prayer meeting will be held in Plovdiv next year, where

El Shaddai Church is a co-organizer. The initiative is large and for its preparation and conducts many more meetings, discussions and details with the other partners are ahead. This also gives us the opportunity to build better relationships and friendships with the other pastors and leaders.

There are a few more finishing things on the church building in Vakarel. The fence was installed last week. The final permit is in the process of being received, but it will take longer time.

We believe in the power of God's Word, prayer and diligent work, as a basis for reaching the unsaved and building the Body of Christ.

We are preparing for a public evangelization in Sofia. It will take place on the territory of several metropolitan municipalities and we have applied to the respective municipalities and now we are waiting for their permission and additional requirements. There are many requirements and limitations for public events with a religious purpose.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

On the 28th of Sept. with Pastor Maria we are traveling to Transylvania, Romania, where we are invited to speak at an international conference.

On the 7th and 8th of Oct. I'll be

the main speaker at a conference in Elhovo, Bulgaria.

In November I'll preach in Nesebar, Bulgaria.

This year the ministry "Christians in Action" again will organize a Christmas campaign for raising funds and we are about to make a decision where to direct our help this time.

We believe that God makes us stronger, capable, and successful workers in His field.

Thank you for your prayers and support!

With best regards,
Apostle Krassimir Partovsky

TIM & ROSE IN KENYA



In our work over the past 4 years in Flemington we have had the privilege once again to work with groups like World Vision and World Servants. Since our return from the mission field, we have begun to also work with Christian Outreach International.

Christian Outreach International is an organization that mobilizes groups for various types of ministry such as tragedy relief, community projects and Community Outreach. Mary-Alice Isleib is the Director of COI and an International Speaker.

This year I have had the honor to help organize logistics and travel with a 28 member COI missions team to Kijabe Kenya that was mobilized August 1st through the 11th to work with Sunrise Ministry who provides help to over 30 children in Limuru. Sunrise Ministry, Dr. Paul Kamunge and his wife Mary enable the children to be educated at a nice facility and remain in their homes by Sunrise being involved in helping to provide livestock and food for the families and teaching them to be good stewards and manage their homes

to eventually be totally self-sufficient in meeting their own needs. This is one of the various projects that COI is a part of in World Missions. Before the trip, COI announced that I was coming on board with them as an official volunteer staff member and director of COI Kenya Missions. What a joy to be enabled to serve in Flemington and in Kenya as well. Then in August when Hurricane Harvey hit the USA, Mary-Alice went to work immediately to provide relief for the flood victims in Houston. I was asked as a part

of the COI team to travel to Houston to help locate a facility where we could mobilize groups to help with flood relief. While there we entered into a relationship with Ashford Community Church in Houston. ACC pastored by Pastors John LeAnn Parks are working to restore homes and distribute needed items to homes that were

destroyed within a few blocks of the Church Facility. They are welcoming us to bring up to 30, what Mary-Alice calls “worker bees” to work alongside skilled workers to complete projects for restoration of homes. ACC was introduced to us through Apostle Doug Stringer, founder of “Somebody Cares International”. Upon arrival in Houston I realized

the need for relief for many months ahead. We are no strangers to floods here in West Virginia but what I saw in just the Houston area was massive. I will be going to help facilitate a team December 6th through 10th.

LIBERIA



RFI ministers Bob Wilson and Brad Hudson did a great job delivering the Word this year at the Monrovia, Liberia RFI Conference hosted by Apostle Mamie Cole. Several new pastors were ordained during the meeting and a survey of the facilities was conducted including the

Orphanages supported by RFI churches and ministers of Liberia. Brad Hudson organized a project to raise funds for mattresses and bedding for the orphans who were sleeping in deplorable conditions. Thanks to all who gave to purchase 172 mattresses and bedding for these precious

children who have received their new gifts with great joy. Please continue to pray for Mamie Cole who has had serious health issues related to HBP and was recently hospitalized with a heart attack. We are trusting God for her miracle.

LOCAL NEWS: WEST VIRGINIA



Evangelist Shawn Boone reaches out to the most poverty stricken county in West Virginia. In cooperation with World

Vision, who donated 2 tractor trailer loads of supplies, Shawn was able to host a county wide outreach for McDowell County

West Virginia. Roughly 160 Teachers were able to pick up School supplies for their students at no charge.

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MENTORING

The Value of Mentoring

by Dr. Rebecca Polis

drrebecca@rfiusa.org

Howard Hendricks was a professor at Dallas Theological Seminary for 50 years, a Chaplain for the Dallas Cowboys and a mentor of Christian leaders. Most people do not know his past. His parents divorced when he was born and as he grew up, he blamed himself for their actions. He became a bully, hopelessly incorrigible. The results of one teacher's analysis was that he was doomed to prison. But something happened to change the trajectory of his life forever. Along came a teacher, a mentor who said "I've heard a lot about you but I don't believe a word of it". Her willingness to see him differently, to begin to forecast a DIFFERENT future for him began a powerful work of transformation which affected not only Howard's life but hundreds of other lives as well. One of his final quotes is "You're looking at a completely fulfilled human being. If I died today having produced some of the people God has given me the privilege of shaping, it will have been worth showing up on the planet."

I believe for the most part that those reading this article possess a treasure chest of wisdom through the Word of God and life's experiences. We've experienced pain, sorrow, disappointment, loneliness and more. But in the midst we have also experienced God's joy, love, His empowering presence and lifting through those around us. Someone once said that "the value of a life is measured by how much of our own we give away". How can we best do that? Through mentoring!

What is the main purpose of mentoring? A mentor adds VALUE to other's lives through validating their purpose and their strengths. They can help them to become more than they currently are by empowering them to change and grow through making wise decisions. Their job is not to clone themselves in others but rather to help them recognize strengths and passions. It is to help resource, give support and strategy to.

The one being mentored has the responsibility of having and keeping a teachable spirit, of being prepared for the time together whether face to face or by phone, of being hungry to change and of demonstrating that by have questions ready for their time together. As well, they should be able to demonstrate what they are learning by showing the changes they are making.

You can mentor easily by selecting small books (John Maxwells or others) that are pertinent to the area that those being mentored have need of. Both of you reading a chapter a week and discussing the life application of it is powerful! Or you could share from your own deep well of God's knowledge and experiences! Who could benefit from the treasure chest that God has built within you?

None of us are as smart as all of us! No one makes it the best alone! Again, the value of a life is measured by HOW MUCH we can give away!



TRUE NORTH

3 TIPS FOR YOUTH LEADERS FOR SUCCESSFUL YOUTH MINISTRY.

Have you ever been lost? I mean like really lost? And I am not just talking, not sure which way to turn next, lost, I am talking, don't even know where to start, lost.

I have to acknowledge that many times and with many things I have felt this way. I have felt lost trying to navigate relationships, while at work, and even when trying to decide what to eat for dinner. The uncharted territories of life can really make deciding which way to go very challenging. However, I have learned over the years that these territories are not as difficult as my mind made them up to be. To navigate the unfamiliar paths we simply need the right tools.

I was talking to a friend of mine, who was also an Eagle Scout, our conversation was if a person had a compass and a map and was familiar with how to use them, they would be able to navigate if they found themselves lost in the middle of the woods.

But here is the thing, a compass doesn't tell you how to get to your destination, it only gets you oriented to which way is north. On the other side a map is awesome, but unless you know which way is north, that won't be much help

either. You have to combine the benefits of the compass and map, then you will be able to make progress in the unknown area.

I bring up this illustration because as a youth pastor I have felt lost so many times and not sure what my next move should be. So what I hope to offer are 3 tips or you could say a map and compass that have helped me navigate ministry to students.

TIP 1: FIND OUT WHICH WAY IS NORTH.

I say this figuratively of course, but I believe True North is the direction that God has given the pastor and the church you are part of. Whichever direction they are going, as a youth pastor I should be going.

The thought hit me a while back, that many times, as was in the student ministries I led, there is a disconnect between the students and the adults. What I mean by this is we spend years as youth pastors connecting to our Junior High and High School students that God has given us, but what happens after they graduate and leave your group? Do they feel disconnected to the local church where they attended?

Would it be natural for them to attend the main congregation after leaving yours? The point is, and the question we have to ask is, does the student ministries have such a completely different vision than the pastors, so that it is like a completely separate church? If so, I believe adjustments need to be made.

All these thoughts began to spur in me as my pastor Dr. John Polis had the children's pastor, the Junior High leaders, and myself, the High School pastor, get together and look at 4 values he thought were vital for us to instill in our kids. We began finding out what our True North was. Of course the methods that all three groups use are slightly different, but we are all on the same page and are all heading the same direction.

TIP 2: GET OUT YOUR MAP.

This map is the written mission and vision of the student ministries as well as the values and goals that you have for it. The first tip is like having a compass that shows you which way is which. The second tip is the map to your destination.

Dr. John got us oriented to which

way was north, but the real movement started happening when we began meeting together as a team and putting it all down on paper. There is something magnificent that happens when you know which way to go. What once felt impossible is now seemingly possible. Things that felt too big for you to accomplish, with God's help, seems much more attainable.

The Bible says in *HABAKKUK 2:2*
*Then the Lord answered me and said:
"Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it.*

TIP 3: MAP OUT YOUR COURSE.

One thing that greatly helps once you know your direction is plan ahead, plan ahead, plan ahead. We plan our students calendar a year at a time, so for 2018 we already have a rough sketch of all our events and when they will take place. And while planning, I set vision and values on the table in front of us so we could reference them if needed so we would not get off course. Now, that doesn't mean plans won't change, because unknown obstacles will always come up, but if we get it written down we at least have a plan to get started and then we can adjust along the way.

In conclusion, I just want to say this process of finding North, getting a map, and planning your course will probably take a while. It did for us, and we are still making adjustments. So, if you find yourself lost as a youth leader and not knowing where to start, may I suggest first making an appointment with your head pastor and discussing where the church is headed, begin to write all this down, and then plan, plan, plan. A great resource to help you along this journey is a book called *PURPOSE DRIVEN YOUTH MINISTRY* by Doug Fields.



Ben Hoffmaster
captn@rfiusa.org

YOUTH NEWS

BIBLE CHALLENGE

This past August we had our first ever Bible Challenge for students. Our four competitors were Devon Poling, Kaycie Ennis, Anna Robinson, and Zoey Forman. At the event they answered questions from the book of Galatians which they spent months beforehand preparing for. We are so proud of all they learned and the time they spent preparing for this event. The first place winner and winner of the iPad was ANNA ROBINSON. The 2018 Bible Challenge is already in the planning stages so be looking for info coming your way.



ALIVE YOUTH REVIVAL

We also had our first ever Back To School Event called *ALIVE YOUTH REVIVAL* for students. Our guest speaker was Pastor Shawn Boone and it was an amazing night. We had 5 churches represented and kids lives were touched by the power of God.



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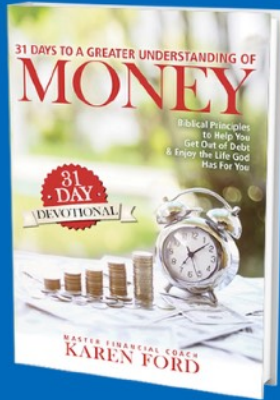
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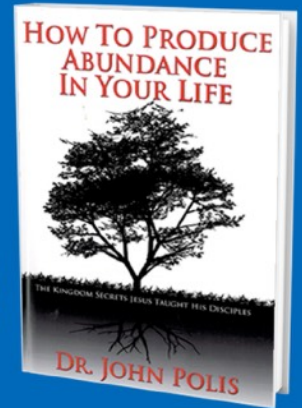
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I was given Dr. John Polis' book How To Produce Abundance as a gift. It is a gift that I will treasure. It opened my eyes and awakened me to the fact that God's divine plan for me is an abundant life. The practical applications in the book really serve as an encouragement. Not only did I read the book but have preached the information in the book to my congregation. They too have testified of being awakened to planting the seeds that produce abundance. I intend to continue using this book as a resource for future teaching and preaching not only to my congregation but to other churches that I minister to. Very practical. Very helpful. Very eye-opening. An excellent biblically based resource.

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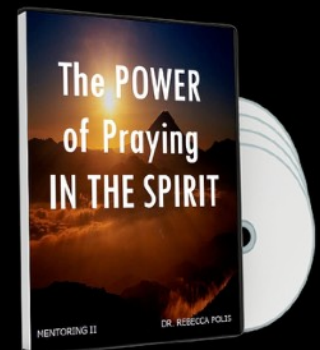
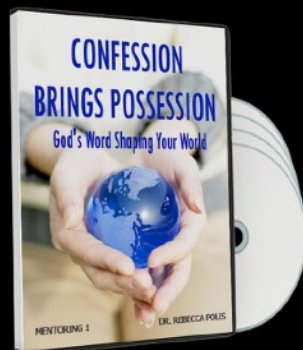
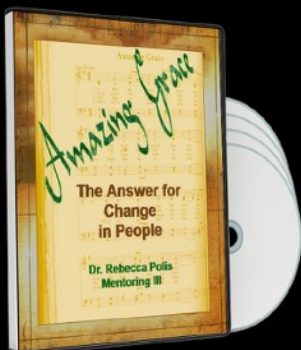
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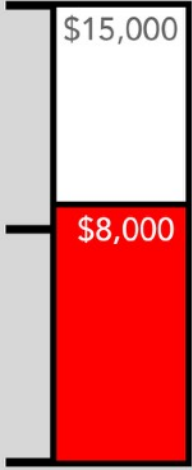
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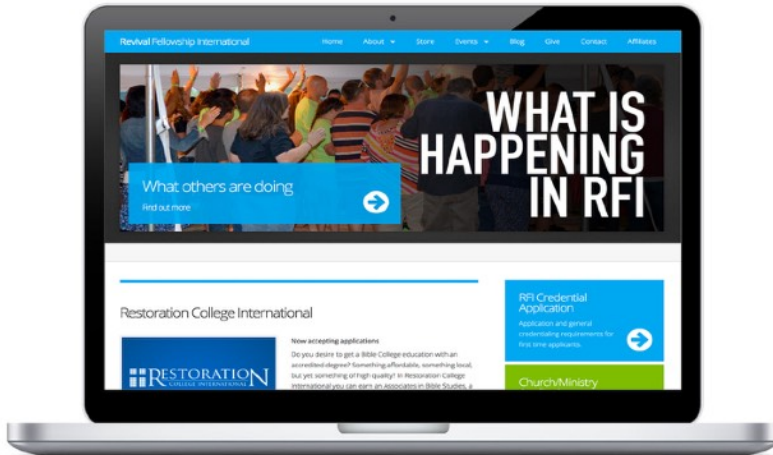
Thank you to everyone who has already given to A CAR FOR DORCAS project for Margaret Vis. We are a little more than half way to our goal of \$15,000.

To find out more about this project or to give and help us reach our goal go to www.rfiusa.org

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