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THE BAPTIST HERITAGE

VOLUME XXIV ISSUE 6

JUNE 20, 2000

TO ANSWER AN INQUIRY

There is not enough space to print a full article this month. However, not wishing to send out a mailing with an empty place in it (even though it does seem completely unnecessary to take the time to do so), I will use the opportunity provided by this limitation, and yet presence, of space to answer a question. I do not have space to give both the question and the answer, but the answer is the more important part, so here it is.

ANSWER TO QUESTION: No, I do not. The reasons that I do not are quite simple. First, I cannot afford the wigs and make-up for my wife. Second, the reflecting lights distract from what I would say.

*I'll Say It Again: A Reprint.
Baptist Preachers With Aids*

PSST! Have you heard?

Some Baptist Preachers have developed AIDS!

This message was printed in 1991.

***WARNING: This message is definitely not
for the faint hearted!**

A deadly, dirty, depraved, despicable, disgust-

(Continued on page 3)



this and that

Editors
 Jerald L. Manley
 Gary Roland
 Dorothy Gundersen

With this issue, we trust to have our mailing difficulties cured and to be back on our regular mailing schedule. Every attempt to make life easier seems to make mine more complicated. Until I owned a computer, I never knew what confusion could result from a computer crash. I had enough trouble keeping up with a legal pad. Adding floppies has not, repeat not, made life easier. How a computer in Florida can freeze is difficult for me to understand. Saving files is not my calling in life. Blue used to be my favorite color, but I have seen one too many blue screens to ever give the color preferential treatment again.

Next month, I hope to examine the effect that pearls have on swine.
 ——Pastor Manley

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P'LL SAY IT AGAIN: A REPRINT

(Continued from page 14)

esy are to be dealt with promptly and forcibly. "Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear." The next generation of preachers (if there is one) will live pure or live loose in proportion as this generation of preachers disciplines himself and others.

The pulpit has become soiled and stained by the careless living of some and remains that way by the compromising leading of others.

The pulpit has become soiled and stained by the careless living of some and remains that way by the compromising leading of others. It is time to clear away the rubbish and filth, purge the unclean workers, and restore the holy place behind the sacred desk. The pulpit must be pure. The pulpit must be clean. The pulpit must be holy. May God send us some new Nehemiah's who will "clean house" even if it means (pardon the pun) "laying hands" (Nehemiah 13:21) on somebody to remove them!

And, may God send a revival of church discipline and give us a generation of pastors with the spiritual integrity to honor the discipline of sister churches!

Oh, yes, exactly who are those preachers with AIDS?

They are those Baptist preachers who have

*I'LL SAY IT AGAIN: A REPRINT**(Continued from page 13)*

"drastic mistake" is leaving the sermons in Tucson when you go to Tacoma to preach a revival! A "drastic mistake" is forgetting a deacons' meeting or an appointment to marry a couple.

Committing adultery is not a "drastic mistake"; committing adultery is sin!

"Fooling around," "playing house," "having an affair," with the secretary or the pianist or anyone else is sin not a "drastic mistake." Stealing is not a "drastic mistake"; stealing is sin! Homosexuality is not a "drastic mistake"; homosexuality is sin! Moral infidelity is sin, not a mistake!

Scripture rightly cautions that we are to "lay hands suddenly on no man." No man is to be ordained until he has first proven himself. (It absolutely astounds me when churches will unhesitatingly ordain a man to the Gospel ministry that they would never consider ordaining to the deaconship because of his age, his inexperience, or even due to his being unmarried. Think about that hypocrisy!) Scripture is unavoidably clear. Pastors are to be mature men who have proven themselves. And, those preachers that fall away into moral or doctrinal her-

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The next generation of preachers (if there is one) will live pure or live loose in proportion as this generation of preachers disciplines himself and others..

*I'LL SAY IT AGAIN: A REPRINT**(Continued from page 1)*

ing, devastating "sickness" is spreading rapidly among Baptist preachers. As would an angry rattlesnake, this obscene, contemptible, nauseating, filthy, vile "illness" is striking left and right and without regard for rank or status. Stricken with this potent, lethal "virus," Baptist preachers are tolerating lives more worthy of Hollywood and most fitting for the pages of those dirt-laden smut and scandal sheets offered at the grocery store check-out stands.

Stricken with this potent, lethal "virus," Baptist preachers are tolerating lives more worthy of Hollywood and most fitting for the pages of those dirt-laden smut and scandal sheets offered at the grocery store check-out stands.

(Would that these unavoidable stores offered a "NO MAGAZINE" aisle as so many of them now do a "NO CANDY" aisle!) Infected with this "disease," some Baptist preachers are permitting in their churches and living themselves such lives that make the "TV soaps" seem as clean and as pure and as harmless as would an episode of "Living in Mayberry with Barney Fife Next Door to the Cleavers!"

These atrocious, monstrous, horrendous, repulsive affairs occur considerably too often and one happened again recently causing yet an-

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I'LL SAY IT AGAIN: A REPRINT*(Continued from page 3)*

other prominent Baptist preacher to be driven in disgrace from his pulpit because of moral failure. Such shocking and tragic announcements are coming with an alarmingly ever-increasing frequency.

Way back in those long ago days when I started this "strait and narrow," straight path of preaching, one rarely heard the shameful, disgraceful tale of some preacher diving headfirst into the mirage of moral misdeed, crippling his own life and wrecking the lives of hundreds of others, destroying his own testimony and damaging the testimony of a church, shattering the trust and faith of his family and bringing injury to multitudes of other families. Certainly, even then such things did happen; but two things were true in those days, which do not appear to be true in these days.

FIRST, such wicked events were not commonplace. In recent years, however, it is a rare week without some such communication find-

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*(Continued on page 5)***I'LL SAY IT AGAIN: A REPRINT***(Continued from page 12)*

SPREADING RAPIDLY THROUGH THE RANKS OF BAPTIST PREACHERS LIKE A DEADLY VIRUS. SOME ARE CALLING (FOR "THE GREATER GOOD" OF COURSE) BAPTISTS TO SET ASIDE THE CLEAR COMMANDS OF GOD AND FOLLOW INSTEAD THE COUNSELS OF MEN, THEREBY ESTABLISHING A DOUBLE STANDARD OF TREATING THE SINS OF PREACHERS DIFFERENTLY THAN THE SINS OF "PEW-FILLERS". RATHER THAN PLAINLY AND SCRIPTURALLY DEALING WITH SIN IN A PREACHER, HIS SIN IS DEALT

It needs to be faced that these "misdeeds" are not merely "some drastic mistakes"; they are wicked, vile sins against the Holy God of Heaven!

WITH AS "some drastic mistakes in his personal life that has caused his surrendering himself for professional help and for the immediate resignation of his pastorate."

It needs to be faced that these "misdeeds" are not merely "some drastic mistakes"; they are wicked, vile sins against the Holy God of Heaven! A "drastic mistake" is making an error in addition in your checkbook and writing an insufficient funds check. A "drastic mistake" is missing a lowering speed limit sign and receiving a "blue light special." A "drastic mistake" is calling Miss Jones Mrs. Smith. A

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I'LL SAY IT AGAIN: A REPRINT*(Continued from page 11)*

position of moral trust. Never should it be allowed to be again business as usual! He cannot be "restored" to the pulpit.

This letter included a request for financial assistance to pay the normal bills of his family (since sadly "they are now without income") as well as to pay toward "professional counseling" for the fallen preacher. I would willingly assist in feeding and clothing the family of the preacher. I also would agree to help in feeding and clothing the victims of his "drastic mistakes" (Not one of whom was mentioned, by the way. Do they not deserve our "show of love"? And, would not "an uplifting word of encouragement" be "a tremendous blessing" also to them at this time?).

Having said what I am willing to do, let me be equally clear about what I am emphatically, unequivocally, unwilling even to consider. I will not give one thin dime to help pay for "professional counseling" for a morally impure preacher. No sir! Not a single penny! The multiple hypocrisy of even making such a request astounds me.

THAT VERY HYPOCRISY, DEAR READER, IS THE SYMPTOM OF THE VICIOUS "SICKNESS"

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Never should it be allowed to be again business as usual! He cannot be "restored" to the pulpit.

I'LL SAY IT AGAIN: A REPRINT*(Continued from page 4)*

ing its way before my eyes or into my ears.

SECOND, such sordid episodes were dealt with far differently. A fallen preacher did not "resign" his pulpit and walk away to the "ministerial rehab center," he surrendered his ordination and found other employment.

Mostly these stories do not come from tiny, unknown churches lost in the hills or valleys of nowhere nor are they of unfamiliar preachers never mentioned by the world; these are large "leading" churches served by national preacher "stars." These are preachers who have been speakers on international platforms and are heralded as "among the leaders of fundamentalism" and saluted as the Dr.'s of knowledge, "the teachers of preachers." The sadly abused and severely traumatized churches are in major metropolitan centers and have attracted thousands in attendance. This so very public aspect of the personal misdeeds of the leaders causes the tragedies to influence multitudes rather than individuals and to smear the stain of reproach across the collective face of Christianity. Not twenty minutes ago, I heard (via radio) a local pastor, a good man, employ before his church the very man whose fall was reported this week as an example of a "great

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*I'LL SAY IT AGAIN: A REPRINT**(Continued from page 5)*

preacher" who "preached the greatest message I (the local pastor) ever heard" the "message that brought revival to this (place named)." How could his congregation and radio listeners fail to be affected when they now hear (And, hear they surely will!) that this "great among the greatest" has ruined his own life and ravaged the lives of dozens of others? What must this do also to the credibility of this innocent pastor who has now placed that guilty preacher on such a lofty pedestal before this "uninvolved" congregation? The deviant behavior of a distant pastor now negatively impacts this morally clean pastor and his ministry.

This particular letter to which I refer came from a prominent evangelist to inform me of this latest crumbled wall. Read the following selections taken from that letter. I assure you that these excerpts are accurately quoted and that the deletions do nothing to alter or slant his letter.

"It is with deep regret and greatest personal sadness that I write this letter. Our brother, Dr. _____ of the _____ Baptist Church in _____, _____, has made some drastic mistakes in his personal life that has caused his surrendering himself for professional help and for the immediate resignation of his pastorate. . . . Brother _____ has been under profes-

*(Continued on page 7)**I'LL SAY IT AGAIN: A REPRINT**(Continued from page 10)*

The preacher who has violated the sanctity of his home, corrupted the purity of his flock, forsaken the holiness of his calling, has, by his actions, forfeited his position; he has failed his stewardship; he is no longer fit to be called a leader. Let him become a follower; but by all that is holy and right, keep him out of the pulpit! "His bishoprick let another have!"

A father who commits incest ought not to be given, yea must not be given custody of the children; and a preacher who violates the purity and holiness of the relationship between teacher and disciple, preacher and hearer, shepherd and flock is guilty of an incestuous sin and is forever more unqualified to be restored to his position. He has betrayed his Lord, has become a traitor to his calling, and is to be booted, banned, and barred from the pulpit. Surely, he may be forgiven. Yes, someday he may even become able to be used as would any other layman in the congregation; but he is never again to be conferred a

The preacher who has violated the sanctity of his home, corrupted the purity of his flock, forsaken the holiness of his calling, has, by his actions, forfeited his position; he has failed his stewardship; he is no longer fit to be called a leader.

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any backslidden man in the pew, and plead with him to confess that he is a miserable wretched sinner! Beg him to repent, not merely to "surrender," and to admit that he has sinned and not simply to acknowledge that he has been found out. Tell him that he has violated the laws of a Holy God and faces judgment and needs cleansing and pardon. Urge him to fall on his face and seek the mercy of the Holy God he has wronged. Admonish him to "bring forth fruits worthy of repentance." Return to the practice, my dear brethren, of what we preach!

Return to the practice, my dear brethren, of what we preach!

Do we preachers stand in our pulpits and tell our congregations that "by your sin, you have broken God's law, so come forward and let us set up a restoration program endorsed 'by several well known pastors from across the nation' and hire a professional counselor so you can be 'restored'? "Do we need "a restoration program" for a sinful preacher but a brief prayer at the altar for any run-of-the-mill, common sinner?

If this preacher repents of his sin and makes whatever restitution is possible, then he can be restored to fellowship; but, let us cease talking about "restoring" the fallen brother to his place of service.

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I'LL SAY IT AGAIN: A REPRINT

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sional care for the last 30 days and will continue (underlining in original) a restoration program being put together by several well known pastors from across the nation

The multiple hypocrisy of this request, written "with deep regret and greatest personal sadness," simply staggers me.

Let's not allow ___ this dear brother to be cast aside as another statistic of ministry failure . . .

signed_____

PS- An uplifting word of encouragement to Bro. ___ would also be a tremendous blessing."

The multiple hypocrisy of this request, written "with deep regret and greatest personal sadness," simply staggers me. Here a *nationally known* evangelist is writing to me (and to include me, he obviously must have written to several hundred other preachers) concerning an also *nationally known* pastor who has preached across this land for many years to thousands upon thousands that "only the Bible has the answer," that "only Christ Jesus can meet your needs," "that sin is against God," that "immorality is wicked"; yet, amid the debris of his

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sordid fall comes this urgent, fervent appeal (from a man who has preached the very same truths) to raise money for the specific purpose of literally setting aside the Scriptures and of soliciting my help with financing to engage in a deliberate covering of the sin by calling in "PROFESSIONALS" to help with his "restoration." All this is combined with an appeal to send "an uplifting word of encouragement." I do not say this writer is a deliberate hypocrite, I am certain that he is sincere; but, these requests, however well meaning, are inconsistent, even in opposition with Scripture!

Not a single indication of repentance is mentioned in the entire letter; only an implication that the man was "found out" and forced by the revelation of his ungodly, wicked duplicity to "immediate resignation." His restoration is announced as the goal; but his repentance is not even mentioned. Talk of restoration seems rather hasty. *[In a strange providence, my wife and I had a meal with the wife of this fallen*

Nothing of a scriptural basis for the appeal is found, and a very real hypocrisy is revealed, in references to "surrendering himself for professional help" and continuing in "a restoration program" and the requesting of an "uplifting word of encouragement."

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I'LL SAY IT AGAIN: A REPRINT

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preacher a few weeks after this article was written. The restoration talk was most premature.] Nothing of a scriptural basis for the appeal is found, and a very real hypocrisy is revealed, in references to "surrendering himself for professional help" and continuing in "a restoration program" and the requesting of an "uplifting word of encouragement."

Send him a visit from Nathan ("Thou art the man") the prophet, not Norman Vincent Peale. Send

He does not require a "professional counselor"; he needs an old fashioned dose of biblical repentance.

him to visit John ("It is not lawful for thee to have her") the Baptist not Sigmoid Freud! Have we rearranged the Scriptures so that First John no longer includes preachers? Is Psalm 51 missing? Who has bewitched us that we should no longer obey the truth?

What need we with Professionals and programs? How came we to such a time?

The morally impure preacher is not a patient; he is a sinner! He has sin to be dealt with not a sickness to be cured! He does not require a "professional counselor"; he needs an old fashioned dose of biblical repentance. This not another "ministry failure," this is the willful transgression of the laws of God by a preacher.

Call the man to the altar, exactly as we would

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