

Encourage

Inspiration for IPHC Leaders

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Understanding HOLINESS as a Bridge to God

A recent conversation with a young missionary helped me better understand our mission in this unholy world.



BY DOUG
BEACHAM

DOUG BEACHAM is the presiding bishop of the IPHC. He has served in various roles in the church including Georgia Conference Superintendent, executive director of Church Education Ministries, and executive director of World Missions Ministries. You can follow Bishop Beacham on [Facebook](#) or Twitter [@DougBeacham](#).

Recently I had an engaging conversation with Bryan Nix, a young IPHC missionary who has served in southern Africa and plans to serve in Asia. A graduate of Southwestern Christian University with a long ministry/missionary pedigree (his grandfather is Rev. Elvio Canavesio), Bryan is one of those emerging servant leaders who cuts against the popular descriptions of millennials. You can watch my recent interview with Bryan in our August [Generations](#) video. You will not want to miss it.

While in the nation of Lesotho, a poor, land-locked country in southern Africa, his ministry included helping people escape from the dark world of human trafficking. As we talked about that aspect of his ministry, the conversation shifted to the issue of holiness.

Bryan quoted Matthew 5:8, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God,” and Hebrews 12:14, “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord” (NKJV) to describe his work. In the context of our discussion, Bryan spoke of holiness as a “bridge” to “seeing God.”

As we talked about that, I thought of the IPHC holiness focus for the remaining four months of this year: Radiate. How do we live in such a way that our lives, attitudes, and actions manifest the holiness of God to this unholy world in which we live?

Over the course of this year, I have reflected on the holy nature of God, and on how evangelism and holiness go hand in hand. Evangelism is the announcement of the good news of “abundant life,” a way to live in the fullness God has for every person who will respond in faith to the gospel. Holiness is our demonstration of a “full, abundant life.” That life, by its

very being, invites someone to the journey with Jesus.

Holiness is also another way of describing discipleship. A follower of Jesus is someone who takes the mental, emotional and spiritual posture of a student who follows the One who is greater. Our lives become conformed to the life of Jesus. There is a “bridge-crossing” process in this.

First, in all things, God takes the initiative to reach to us. We are powerless without the manifestation of His grace. 1 John 4:19 reminds us: “We love Him, because He first loved us” (NKJV). God builds the bridge to eternity through His Son, the living and revealed Word.

But we must respond to the One who stands on our side of the bridge, the One who comes to us and invites us to cross over with Him into abundant life. We must respond with faith, repentance, and the reality of a new walk informed by the Bible and the Holy Spirit. When we discover the reality that we are blessed to be “pure in heart,” this leads us on a fulfilling discovery.

Jesus’ phrase in Matthew 5:18, “pure in heart,” is given an insightful nuance by Soren Kierkegaard: “Purity of heart is to will one thing.” It is reminiscent of

“How do we live in such a way that our lives, attitudes, and actions manifest the holiness of God to this unholy world in which we live?”

Jesus’ words later in the Sermon on the Mount: “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you,” (Matthew 6:33).

Those who have learned as disciplined, grace-inspired followers to “follow holiness” discover the revelation of who God is. We can see God’s face, without fear of dying due to our own human frailty.

How do we “see God?” We see Him in the faces and cries of other people. The Hebrews 12:14 passage connects “peace” and “holiness” with “seeing” the Lord. It also connects “pursue” with the “with all.” New Testament scholar Gareth Lee Cockerill, in his commentary on Hebrews, translates the phrase, “Together with all pursue peace.”

Thus the pursuit of holiness is more than our individual actions; it is the body of Christ together that recognizes the face of God in those estranged from Him. Jesus’ striking words in Matthew 25:35-46 remind us that the eschatological imperative of the gospel reaches beyond our personal spiritual ecstasy.

Charismatic gifts are useless without love for others (1 Corinthians 13:1-2). Sacrificial acts, though acclaimed as noble, without love may work in utopian schemes but not in the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 13:3).

It seems to me that holiness and seeing God are the antidote for well-meaning utopian dreams. This is particularly true for us today when secular agendas press upon us without reference to the Living God. Both ends of the political world, right or left, offer their own eschatologies. Without hope, political, social, and economic agendas have no traction and no appeal.

Thus, they generate a false hope that is based on human agendas birthed in the schemes and plans of fallen humanity. That is why the eschatology of human agendas has its own forms of judgment upon all who fail to subscribe to the “dream.”

Encourage

A place of hope. A people of promise.

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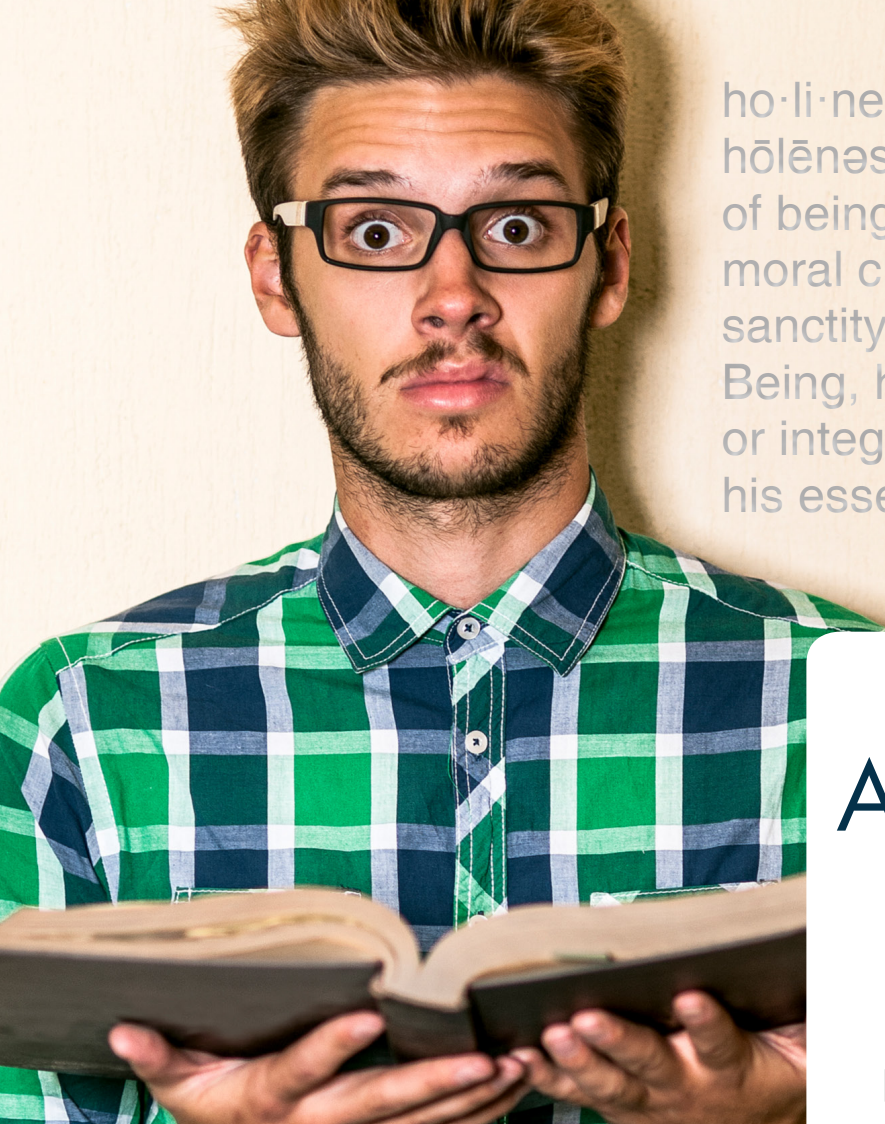
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In modern history, the extremes are seen most vividly in the mass murders of the 20th century as political ideologies sought to impose their utopian visions. We must not presume that 21st century visionaries and dreamers are any less immune from the same temptations of abuse and privilege.

This is why I find Bryan Nix’s image of the bridge helpful. If we can see God’s holy face, and turn around and see His image in the face and lives of others, then we can offer “peace that passes understanding” (Philippians 4:7). It helps us understand what Jesus said in John 14:27: “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

It is Jesus’ holiness and peace that keeps us “pursuing with all peace.” It is Jesus’ holiness and peace that liberates us from the anger of disillusionment. It is Jesus’ holiness and peace that we see in His face, and that enables us to have the patience, wisdom, strength and hope to live holy lives on our side of the bridge. ■



ho·li·ness

hōlēnəs/, noun [from holy.] The state of being holy; purity or integrity of moral character; freedom from sin; sanctity. Applied to the Supreme Being, holiness denotes perfect purity or integrity of moral character, one of his essential attributes.

Why I'm Not Afraid of the Word 'HOLINESS'

It sounds old-fashioned to many of us. But God has given me a fresh perspective on a very biblical word.



BY CHRIS FRIEND

CHRIS FRIEND is the national leader for IPHC Ministries in Australia and the senior pastor of Collective Hope, a cluster of congregations in Perth. He has a Masters of Arts in Theology and is an adjunct lecturer at Harvest Bible College. He and his wife, Natalee, have two children. Chris is passionate about Jesus, the Bible, leadership, people, architecture, kayaking and fast cars (not always in that order).

When I first heard of the International Pentecostal Holiness Church, my initial surprise was that any contemporary denomination would continue to use the word “holiness” in its title. I fully expected IPHC missionaries in Australia would remind me of Quakers when I met them. Imagine my surprise when I found IPHC folks to be normal!

Still, most of us who are pastoring, leading and discipling others within the IPHC find it necessary to contextualise the concept of holiness. This isn't easy in a secular world that is far from holy. All around us we see a Western culture that is tracking with all the excesses that come with that paradigm.

As I have wrestled with the issue, I have developed a few thoughts around the nature of holiness that I would like to share with you. The basic premise is that the holiest human to live was Jesus. When we see Jesus, we see what the human life is meant to look like. He shows us what holiness looks like! So what do we see in the life of Jesus?

1. A LIFE OF WISDOM.

Jesus showed us that holiness is way more than just obeying the law. In fact, Jesus deliberately broke the law more than once! (For example, in Matthew 12:1 Jesus allowed his disciples to pick grain on the Sabbath.)

Sure, we want our young people to avoid the evils of the world around us. But the picture of holiness in Scripture is so much deeper than a list of rules. Praise God that we no longer have to live up to an external list of laws; instead we have the presence of the Holy Spirit. The same Spirit who enabled Jesus to grow in wisdom and to be led by the will of the Father lives in you and me.

A life of holiness is a life of practical, godly wisdom. When we walk in holiness, we know how to make holy and wise choices.

2. A LIFE OF STRENGTH.

Jesus showed us what true strength looks like. A great example is the way in which the author of Hebrews tells us that Jesus “endured the cross” (Heb. 12:2). Jesus had the strength of the Holy Spirit to empower Him in His complete obedience to the Father’s will.

So often we may feel like holiness is too hard, or that the call of God on our lives is too difficult. We can feel weak, powerless and incapable. But Jesus promises us that His “strength is made perfect in [our] weakness” (see 2 Cor. 12:9). We don’t need to feel like we are powerless against sin, death, demons or hell.

Ironically enough, the woman who is going through a tragic marriage breakdown can have the strength of Jesus to help her handle the demands of her children, the betrayal of her cheating husband, and all the things that she must endure—while keeping her heart free from bitterness. Yet in some churches this same woman must endure the gossip and judgment of other Christians. Who is more holy here, her or them? A life of holiness is a life of receiving the very strength of a crucified and risen Lord!

3. A LIFE OF PURPOSE.

In Hebrews 12:1 we are encouraged to “run the race” of faith. I don’t for a moment think this is aimless running! It’s running the race with an end in mind; a life that is pleasing to God is a life that is full of purpose.

This is another aspect of true holiness—knowing why God has us here. I am sure that many of us may lament over young people who lack identity, security and purpose. The message of holiness has an answer to them. When they find out who they are in Christ, they can be secure in the love of God and know that God has called them to make a difference in this world!



“If your version of holiness makes you ugly on the inside, then you don’t have the same holiness Jesus had!”



Jesus lived with purpose—and so can we!

4. A LIFE OF BEAUTY.

When you think of Jesus, do you think of Him as beautiful or ugly? It’s a funny thought, but the prophet Isaiah said He would have “no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him” (Isa. 53:2). Sure, this prophecy seems to refer to outward appearance, but I believe that Jesus was attractive because of the anointing of the Spirit that was on Him! Just think about the way in which unholy people were drawn to Him!

There is something very beautiful about Christians who live holy lives! This is in direct contrast to the ugliness of materialism, abuse, pornography, anger, terrorism, hatred and other evils in this fallen world.

Holiness should make us beautiful. True holiness is free, joyful and life-giving. But if your version of holiness makes you ugly on the inside, then you don’t have the same holiness Jesus had! A life of holiness is a beautiful life—a life that is flourishing in such a way that sinners will find it attractive!

5. A LIFE OF LOVE

Lastly, we come to that common theme in our Wesleyan understanding of holiness. It is impossible to divide holiness from the love of God.

When we say that God is holy, we understand this in a Trinitarian way: We know the relationship between the eternal Father, Son and Spirit is one of love and communion. True holiness is relational.

The challenge for us is found in the way in which Jesus showed us and taught us to love the Lord with all of our heart and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves. This picture of holiness does not remove us from a fallen world; it sends us into it as a people on a mission. A life of holiness is a life of love!

Can we reimagine a message of holiness that is hope for the 21st century? The world today needs a message that taps into the joy and wonder that our forefathers like John Wesley experienced. We need a message that helps deliver people from both the penalty and power of sin by inviting them into the very life of Jesus Christ, through the power of the Spirit. □



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SEVEN WAYS to Reach Young Families



Is your church stuck in the past? You may need some serious updating in order to reach younger people.



BY RAY
BUCCIARELLI

RAY BUCCIARELLI has conducted ministry in more than 60 countries and is a master trainer for Mission Catalyst International (MCI). Since 2009, Ray has assisted MCI in training thousands of pastors and key leaders. Ray currently serves as assistant mission director for the Ephesians 4 Network of the IPHC, and he is missions pastor at Faith Christian Assembly near Detroit, Michigan. Ray and Kathy have also become missionary candidates for IPHC World Missions Ministries. They have been married for 20 years and have four children. You can e-mail him at Ray@Reach1040.org

Recently there has been an increased focus on attracting young families, or “millennials,” into the church. Studies have shown a major decrease in this demographic, and the church must seriously address this concern. This is a complex issue for which simple solutions cannot be found.

It is not my goal to give insights into building a “young church.” What we need are healthy and well-balanced churches. Adjusting our ministries to appeal to a younger crowd is necessary, but not at the cost of the older crowd. I believe that we can strike a balance and create an atmosphere that all ages can appreciate and thrive in. And I believe this can be done without compromising the Word of God or hindering the Holy Spirit.

The Church exists to glorify God and to fulfill the Great Commission. The fundamentals of glorifying God must never change; however, developing a relevant mode for reaching a specific group of people is vital. The greatest draws to the church today are not gimmicks but the authentic presence of the Holy Spirit and an uncompromised message.

With that said, we simply cannot conduct services as we did in 1970 and expect to become a multi-generational and diverse church. This generation will find another place to connect and worship. Therefore, I am offering seven practical tweaks that may help the local church.

1. CREATE COMMUNITY.

Today people are more connected than ever before; yet young adults are

starving for meaningful ways to share their lives. They desire more than just an hour in a church with people who cannot relate to them.

Small groups are very important for building community and encouraging these relationships. Even Jesus Himself started with a small group and a full understanding of its purpose and necessity. Something as simple as acknowledging high school and college graduations can increase the sense of value and community that young people crave.

2. HAVE A MISSION.

Young adults can be very compassionate and tenacious when they have a cause. As they sit in your congregation, they want to be part of something bigger than them. Most young adults have a deep sense and concern for social justice issues such as homelessness, unclean drinking water and human trafficking.

By making a ramp to meet a need or confront a global issue, you will be igniting them to make an impact on society and their world through the local church. When they begin to participate in the mission, it breathes new life and excitement into the rest of the body.

3. BE REAL.

Do not be afraid to work real-life issues into the Sunday sermons. This age group is preparing to raise their families in these uncertain days. Openly discussing hard topics facing society creates a relevant message that everyone wants to hear.

Young adults live in the Information Age in which up-to-the-minute world events are at one's fingertips. Many are looking for guidance to navigate these days as believers.

This has been called the "fatherless generation." A leader who will help them make sense of the times, especially spiritually, is in demand. Strive to be that person, because many are looking for spiritual parents who can offer wisdom.

4. BE PRACTICAL.

This generation is still interested in spiritual things, but millennials have a more practical approach for learning and growing spiritually. Allow them to participate in services. People under 30 are very capable of leading prayer times, giving announcements, or helping with church accounting. This cultivates leadership, worth and belonging.

5. INVEST IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY.

You get what you value. Sometimes young parents need a break, especially when they attend a worship service or teaching. Simply providing trustworthy childcare can appeal to them, but they want to know that their children are more than being babysat. Have a children's program that can teach the things of God at an appropriate level.

6. CELEBRATE DIVERSITY.

Change does not come easily. When diverse music styles, guest speakers and service styles are celebrated, it may not look like change. Try to be creative, nonetheless; it's okay to have fun in church! The emerging generation lives in a diverse world and enjoys it.

7. BE CURRENT.

Observe anyone under the age of 30. They are usually looking down at their electronic devices. The church needs to show up there, too.

Social media sites like Facebook, Twitter or Instagram can be very useful. A trusted young person in the church might enjoy helping you to develop this for your church and keep it updated. The best part? It's free advertising!

And please update your church website. My recent research of how young adults chose a church to visit revealed that they simply went online.

If you lack a church website, they may never know that you exist. If your website has not been updated since the 1990s, they will move on to another, more modern church website.

Being current is far more than just being online. Media is powerful and can be implemented into the services. Don't be afraid to use video shorts or a PowerPoint presentation for your teachings and church advertisements.

Ask yourself why places like Starbucks are loaded with young people. The decor is modern, and they serve as venues to hang out and network. They have a reliable Wi-Fi signal, which matters to young people. They have flat-screen TVs and smell great.

I am 46 now and can walk into a church with fake dusty plants and silk flowers and immediately be taken back in time. It is not nostalgia, either! My first thought is "this church does not have a relevant message for me." If the world knows how to create an atmosphere to attract young families, surely the church can do better.

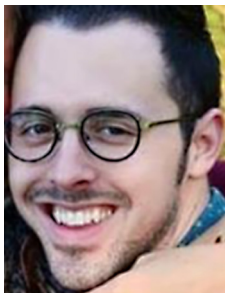
These practical ideas can be accomplished without altering the Word, hindering the Holy Spirit, or offending older believers. Let's invest in the future by taking our timeless message in an attractive way to the next generation. □

"We simply cannot conduct services as we did in 1970 and expect to become a multi-generational and diverse church."



What Young Leaders Need Today From **MENTORS**

Moses trained Joshua, and Paul trained Timothy. The church must learn to bridge the generations.



BY TRÉS
WARD

TRÉS WARD is a fourth generation Pentecostal Holiness preacher who serves as an evangelist. He is an accomplished musician with a degree in Music Education from Appalachian State University and currently directs the 120-member Viking Voices chorus at Northwest Guilford High School in Greensboro, North Carolina. Trés ministers regularly in revivals and youth meetings alongside his wife, Rachael. For more information about their ministry, visit tresward.com.

Last week I led a training camp with my new high school advanced vocal ensemble. These students spend a lot of time together traveling extensively to sing for various events throughout the community. In an effort to get to know one another better, we played some really cool team-building games.

In one of the games, they were to line up randomly on a short ledge beside the sidewalk and then try to place themselves in alphabetical order without stepping off the ledge. The consequence of stepping off the ledge was that the whole group would have to return to their original spot and start over.

You should have seen the chaos that followed when I said “Go!” Some were nearly stepping on others, some were losing their balance and some were afraid to move for fear of falling. Finally, the inevitable occurred.

The group had more than halfway ordered themselves when one of the “new guys” suddenly lost his balance and had to jump off the ledge. Of course, all the older students moaned and wailed because

they would have to try it again, but what happened next was amazing!

I watched as the veteran students began to communicate to the new students, “Send Elissa down first!” “Now Derek!” They even devised a plan to link arms with one another so the ones coming down the line could hold on. There were some who even hugged as they passed from one person to the next. I was astounded by how much more smoothly and effectively the process was carried out when they worked together and got connected to finish the task.

If you follow Jesus, then you are on His team. And He has given us a task, as well. It is a task that requires generations of both veterans and rookies to link arms, get connected and talk to each other! The older and younger generations must work as a team!

What do young Christians need today from older believers? Here’s my honest answer:

1. WE NEED YOUR TIME.

In Exodus 17, there is a fine example of time invested in the life of a young leader named Joshua. Just after Moses had led the children of Israel out of Egypt, Joshua was chosen to lead an army into battle against the Amalekites. Joshua was also one of the twelve spies sent into the Promised Land and one of the two who returned assuring Moses that the people should go in and take the land.

Forty years went by until the people finally crossed the Jordan and entered the Promised Land. By this time, Joshua was one of only two men left from his generation who were able to go into the Promised Land. I am struck by the reality that Joshua spent so many years serving under the leadership of Moses and ultimately, it was Joshua who was given the great responsibility to succeed Moses.

I once talked with a father who raised two great young men, one who now serves as the pastor of an IPHC church. He told me, “Trés, when I was

“If you are part of the Joshua or Timothy generation, find men and women of God who you can follow and serve, and from whom you can learn and grow.”

raising my boys, I didn’t have a lot of money to spend on vacations or big toys, but I gave them my time. We went fishing, hunting, camping, and we did other things together because that’s what I could do for them.”

I believe time is one of the greatest gifts that one generation can receive from the generation before it. Time means being patient and understanding. Time means making others a priority, even when it is inconvenient.

The more time you spend with another generation of people, then the more time you will want to spend with them! So if you want to leave a legacy that connects to the next generation, then you must be willing to give the gift of your time.

2. WE NEED OPPORTUNITIES.

Many young people in the church today feel they have been relegated to the fringes. I have heard sad stories about how young people tried to find a place to serve the Lord in a local church, but somebody found a reason to keep it from happening.

I am so grateful to the men and women who have given me the privilege to sing in their churches and to preach behind their pulpits. Though I am ashamed of some of my “less-than-stellar” sermons, I am also incredibly grateful for the opportunities that have been given to me to develop the God’s gifts.

In the same way, it was a great opportunity when Moses called on Joshua to lead the Israelites into battle against the Amalekites.

Though the Israelites were not trained in battle and there was no way they could have won without the Lord’s help, this opportunity opened the door to a legacy of strong and spiritual leadership that passed from Moses to Joshua. If generations will spend more time together, then more opportunities will occur.

3. WE NEED ENCOURAGEMENT.

Paul told his son in the faith, Timothy: “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity” (1 Tim 4:12). These words were from Paul, the great theologian, prolific writer, missionary evangelist, imprisoned preacher and apostle to the Gentiles! In spite of his great experience and wisdom, he did not reprimand, condescend, patronize or otherwise discourage Timothy because of his youth. He cheered him on.

May I challenge you to link arms and get connected to the generation before or behind you? Find ways to communicate with them, learn from them and gain direction from them. If you represent a Moses or a Paul generation, then offer the gifts of spending time, giving opportunity and offering encouragement to younger leaders.

If you are part of the Joshua or Timothy generation, find men and women of God who you can follow and serve, and from whom you can learn and grow. It will make a difference that will bridge the generations! □

WARNING!

Ministry Has Its Occupational Hazards

To anyone who is in ministry or who is planning to serve in the church:
Prepare for some hardship!



Occupational Hazard
Just Ahead



BY J. LEE
GRADY

J. LEE GRADY is an ordained IPHC minister who serves as contributing editor of *Charisma* magazine and editor of *Encourage*. He also directs The Mordecai Project, an international missions organization based in Florida. He is a member of the IPHC's Sonshine Conference. You can follow him on Twitter at [@leeegrady](https://twitter.com/leeegrady) or visit his ministry website at themordecaiproject.org.

When I surrendered to the call of God several years ago, I did it soberly because I knew I was stepping into a dangerous assignment. Despite what you might hear from a few prosperity preachers wearing silk suits and pancake makeup, ministry is not glamorous—nor is it risk-free.

When you answer God's call, you put your life on the line. Just ask the apostle Paul, who told the Galatians, "From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus" (Gal. 6:17). The Greek word for "marks" is *stigma*, and it refers to the marks that were burned into the flesh of a slave to show who owned him.

Paul was saying, "I have the scars to prove I serve Jesus."

Ministry has a long list of occupational hazards, and I do an injustice to any young leader today if I don't warn him or her of what might happen on the job. I'm not sharing this to scare anybody. But if the Occupational Safety and Health Administration can require businesses to display a poster to encourage workplace safety, we should at least read this list of ministerial hazards when leaders are ordained.

To all my young friends who are considering a ministry career—and to my older comrades who may be licking their wounds right now—I offer these warnings:

1. THE DEVIL WILL ATTACK YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES.

I don't focus on the devil or his demons, but it is foolish to be ignorant of hell's schemes. Satan hates ministers. You are in a war, and your enemy plays dirty. You must learn to fight both defensively and offensively if you expect to win. Keep your shield by your side and your sword sharpened.

2. RELIGIOUS PEOPLE WILL HATE YOU.

Jesus and Paul both proved that persecution comes not just from worldly unbelievers but from self-righteous saints who think they are doing God a favor by discrediting you. Religious people hate change. Many pastors I know have been chewed up and spit out by mean-spirited people who love their sacred cows more than they love Jesus. God's leaders must have the guts to challenge lifeless, status quo tradition.

3. YOU WILL FACE DISCOURAGEMENT OFTEN.

Preaching is a unique effort that requires you to lean wholly on God for a word from heaven. No wonder it is emotionally draining!

Charles Spurgeon told his students that he often got depressed after intense ministry. He wrote: "How often, on Lord's-day evenings, do we feel as if life were completely washed out of us! After pouring out our souls over our congregations, we feel like empty earthen pitchers which a child might break." Don't be shocked when heavy feelings come. Elijah preached fire down from heaven, but then he fell into despair after Jezebel threatened him. You must prepare yourself for those weak moments.

4. YOUR PRIDE WILL BE WOUNDED.

You may think your sermon was awesome, but some people will yawn, some will sleep and others will remind you of the points you missed. Don't let the criticism make you bitter; allow it to nail your flesh to the cross so you can remember that ministry is not about you anyway.

5. YOUR HEART WILL BE BROKEN.

You may invest your time and energy into people who eventually walk away without even thanking you. Sometimes a close disciple may prove to be a Judas. Sometimes the most promising couple in your church will

"If you are worried about your reputation, or you want everyone to say nice things about you, don't pursue a ministry career."

leave to take a job in another city. Don't let disappointment cause you to close your heart to people. Keep on loving and giving, despite the heartache.

6. YOUR KNEES WILL BECOME CALLOUSED.

Any good leader knows that prayer is the fuel that keeps him or her going. As long as hands are raised to heaven and hearts are bowed low, heaven's oil will not run out. Never let the flame of prayer go out in your personal life.

7. YOUR PRIORITIES WILL BE TURNED UPSIDE DOWN.

For me, God's call included traveling—which meant spending lots of time away from home. I would personally rather sleep in my own bed than in a strange bed in Nigeria or India, but when you pray, "Here I am, Lord, send me," you do not have the luxury of running your own schedule. Your life is not your own.

8. YOUR DREAMS AND AMBITIONS WILL BE MISUNDERSTOOD.

Joseph was thrown in a pit after he shared his dream. David's brothers questioned his motives when he came to the battle to challenge Goliath. Anyone who attempts great things for God will be maligned. If you are worried about your reputation, or you want everyone to say nice things about you, don't pursue a ministry career.

9. YOUR FAITH WILL BE STRETCHED TO THE BREAKING POINT.

God gave Moses a stick and told him to split the Red Sea. He told Gideon to win a battle with 300 ill-equipped soldiers armed with clay pots. Jesus called Peter to get out of his boat and walk on water. Leaders who are following the Spirit will be constantly challenged to look beyond natural circumstances and believe in God's supernatural ability. This is never comfortable. Get used to it!

10. YOUR CHARACTER WILL BE TESTED IN THE HEAT OF GOD'S FURNACE.

The work of the Refiner is never finished. You are engaged in a heavenly process, and you go from one level of glory to the next. The Spirit will regularly turn up the heat to test your motives, adjust your attitude and chisel your character until you look like Christ. The best leaders have learned to live in the fire so they can be examples to the flock. □

