

ALWAYS RELIABLE

GOSPEL

MAY 2016 • VOL. 158, NO. 5 \$3.00

ADVOCATE





Cover Design: Tyler Bedwell

DEPARTMENTS

3 Editorial

The Pattern of Peace
by Gregory Alan Tidwell,
Editor

4 Reviews

compiled by Dennis Loyd,
Associate Editor

6 The GA Files

compiled by GA Staff

7 Remembering Our Heritage

Evangelism Is Our Mission
by F. Furman Kearley

8 Letters

11 Events

11 Perspective

**Using A Mountain
Moving Faith With Teens**
by Andy McDonald

41 Obituaries

42 Travel

46 Classified

48 Finally, Brethren

**The Law of Sowing
and Reaping**
by Cecil May Jr.

Gospel Advocate (ISSN 0195-1297) is published monthly for \$15.98 per year by the Gospel Advocate Company, 1006 Elm Hill Pike, Nashville, TN 37210. Periodicals postage paid at Nashville, Tenn., and other post offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Gospel Advocate*, 1006 Elm Hill Pike, Nashville, TN 37210.

Canada Post: Publications Mail Agreement #717957. Send change address information and blocks of undeliverable copies to IBC, 7485 Bath Road, Mississauga, ON L4T 4C1, Canada

In This Issue

GOSPEL ADVOCATE Vol. 158, No. 5 • May 2016

SPECIAL SERIES

We Are Family

12 Couples: Loving Like Jesus

by Aubrey Johnson

14 Singles: Struggling to Fit In

by Lonnie Jones

17 Families: Resisting Satan's Attacks

by Ben Hayes

20 Grandparents: Taking on a New Role

by Cecil May Jr.

FEATURES

22 "Father, Forgive Them"

by Michael D. Rogers

Only the crucified and risen Christ provides forgiveness of sins.

24 A Hero

by Jason Owen

Jesus, for many, is like the Unknown Soldier. He gave His life as a ransom from the tyranny of sin and death, yet many do not know Him.

26 A Baptism Precedent

by David R. Pharr

Gospel obedience, even baptism, should be based on the truth that applies to the action.

30 Cities: Problems or Possibilities?

by Stan Mitchell

Cities are in fact fertile fields for the gospel because they are places where we can encounter new migrants.

34 Christian Education: A Value Added

by Ron Batterfield

The uncompromising academics, the agendas of Christian professors, the influence of Christ-minded friends, and the spiritual priorities of brotherhood universities are definitely "a value added."

36 Creating a Spiritual Identity in Your Family

by Matthew W. Morine

Instead of putting God first in the family, we are being persuaded to fit God into our busy schedules.

38 The Development of My Heritage

by Jack Wilhelm

The author's work in the church has been varied, involving full-time work, part-time work and work as a teacher and administrator in Christian education.

SINGLES:

Struggling to Fit In



by Lonnie Jones

“Relationship Status” is a phrase many of us are very comfortable encountering. For others it can feel like an attack, an evaluation or even a criticism. I’ve heard widows describe their perception of becoming single as, “I was unaware of how couple oriented the church seems to be”; or “I’ve been a member here for X years and now I don’t fit in any longer.” I’ve also worked with singles groups and heard the needs, striving and dissatisfactions of struggling to “fit in” as a single.

Perspective

BY ANDY McDONALD

Using *A Mountain Moving Faith* With Teens

A *Mountain Moving Faith* by Matthew Morine inspired my youth group. I picked the book up at the 2015 Freed-Hardeman University lectureship and started to read it. One of the mountaineering stories gave me the idea for our summer-long project to build faith and unity in the youth group.

The Pattern of Peace

by
greg

Solomon reminds us there is “a time to keep silence, and a time to speak” (Ecclesiastes 3:7 ESV). While we must joyfully speak the truth God has shown us in Christ, we must use restraint when we speak out in certain areas of life. We must consider how expressing our opinions on divisive matters will affect our influence as Christians, and we must especially be guarded when correcting the perceived sins of others.

Remembering Our Heritage

Evangelism Is Our Mission

by F. Furman Kearley

Surely no person would deny verbally that preaching the gospel is the mission of the church and of Christians. Yet in practice we deny this and fail to evangelize our communities, our country and our world. Jesus gave the Great Commission to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16). His apostles went into all the world, beginning at Jerusalem, into Samaria, and continuing into the uttermost parts of the world (Acts 1:8). The early church spread rapidly with more than 60 million people becoming Christians in the first 300 years.

COUPLES:

Loving Like Jesus

*The key to a successful life
and a satisfying marriage is to love well.*

“ If I speak in the tongues of Pinterest and of Facebook, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I can read my wife’s mind and understand all mysteries of the opposite sex, and if I have all faithfulness so as to remove mountains of trash to the curb without being asked but have not love, I am nothing. If I give her all the credit cards I have and deliver up my college sweatshirts to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.” This paraphrase of the introduction to Paul’s discourse on love tells us that times may change but some things stay the same: The key to a successful life and a satisfying

FAMILIES:

Resisting Satan's Attacks



The devil seems to employ new tactics to draw Christians away from God with each generation.

“As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live.” I’ve often heard variants of this quotation. I believe it would also be true to say, “As the family goes, so goes the church.” The family and thus the church are under attack today. While there has never been a time the family has not been under attack, the devil seems to employ new tactics to draw Christians away from God with each generation.

top problems faced by families within the church today. As you read this article, you could probably add things to it. Because every church and every family is different, it could be your families do not struggle with these things. If that is the case, be thankful. If they do, however, maybe you can find some of this information helpful.

7. Assimilation

Assimilation occurs when a person or group adopts the actions or language

their neighbors or Facebook friends will think than what God thinks. Like the children of Israel wanting a king so they could be like the other nations, we are not comfortable with God being the King of our lives. Keeping up with the Joneses has become more important because that is what people see.

Through inspiration we are reminded about the need to stand out in the world. James reminds us, “Friendship with the world is hostility toward God” (James 4:4 NASB). Peter pointed out,

GRANDPARENTS:

Taking on a New Role

The traditional-family grandparent role is the role my wife, Winnie, and I occupy in our family. In many communities the traditional role is not the norm, but the most frequent deviation from it is where one or more grandparents occupy the parent’s role.



A Hero

by Jason Owen

Observing the guards at the Tomb of the Unknown at Arlington Cemetery is an unforgettable experience. The seriousness with which the soldiers proceed reminds visitors something is significant about the guarded tomb. The tomb rightly signifies the nation's admiration for all of the unnamed soldiers who gave their lives so Americans may enjoy freedom. The sacrifices of our national heroes warrant such an honorable memorial.

*Jesus, for many,
is like the Unknown Soldier.
He gave His life as a ransom from
the tyranny of sin and death, yet
many do not know Him.*