

# The Preacher



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## Four Primary Motives For Illicit Sex

The Number one motive is the Forbidden. Proverbs 9:13-18 describes the boisterous woman. She is there to entice a man into her sexual sin... But he does not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of Sheol. The Hebrew word "peti" means to open, spacious, wide. Sex sin is a wide range of momentary excitement. One of the lures of sexual sin is the forbiddenness of it.

A church member who had been caught in an adulterous affair said to me that the secrecy or forbiddenness of it made it all the more exciting. **Preachers need to understand the power of forbidden fruit.**

Eve was tempted greatly because she was looking at forbidden fruit.

Number two is ego fulfillment. Proverbs 6:24-28 describes a woman who goes after a man's ego. He wants to be noticed. He likes to feel needed. He desires to feel like a real man. Our ego's must be controlled.

Number three is rewarding oneself. I said to myself, "come now, I will test you with pleasure. So enjoy yourself..." Ecclesiastes 2:1, 8-11.

The sex addict tells himself that he deserves to have some fun. Compulsive behavior demands reward. Solomon justified his sexual sin by self-justification. So do Church of

God preachers! "I deserve to feel good no matter the cost."

Number four is variety. Proverbs 5:1-5, 20, says "...and why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger?"

Solomon compares a strange woman's lips to honey and smooth oil. Why? Variety!

Instead of loving your spouse, you seek other female intimacy. It creates a never ending dissatisfaction as to woman after woman. Pornography illustrates this best. Every month there is a new set of girls to satisfy a never ending demand for sexual variety.

As preachers, we need to always keep excitement in our own marriage.

Antidote for illicit sex: You must commit to yourself and to God, that illicit sex is a sin, and that practicing this sin will cost you greatly, even heaven. Recommit your wedding vows to God and your spouse. Work through issues and ask God to bless your sexual intimacy with your spouse. Make your home a fun spiritual experience. Close all arguments quickly and keep a healthy marriage.

If you need to talk, call me at 800-762-5656.

Information obtained from *Sexual Idolatry* by Steve Gallagher.

## South Georgia Prayer Conference

Bishop Dan Hampton has lead South Georgia to great ministry. Luann and I were so proud of Brother and Sister Hampton and the ministers at the 2006 Prayer Conference.

## Lilly Foundation Advisory Board

Dr. James Bowers and his staff really deserve our praise. They are changing the face of ministry by giving opportunity for individual expression and creativity. It is a pleasure to serve on such a board.



Pictured left to right: Dr. John D. Nichols, Dr. Gene D. Rice; Dr. John Gregory, Dr. G. Dennis McGuire; Pastor Richard Baker, and Dr. Bill Leonard

## Trip to Ecuador

Dr. John Nichols, Dr. Gene Rice, Pastor Richard Baker, and I were invited to the Educator's Conference at the seminary in Ecuador. It was a life changing experience. Ministerial Care is planning, by invitation, to go back and hold a Ministerial Spouse Care Retreat in the new future.

We would like to personally thank Dr. Don Aultman for his generous hospitality while in Ecuador.

## New Interim Executive Director of Care

Pastor Gerald McGinnis has been appointed as Interim Executive Director of Care Ministries. Brother McGinnis will serve in this capacity until the General Assembly. He is one of the greatest pastors in America. He exemplifies a ministry of benevolence and care as a pastor.

Everyone at Ministerial Care would like to welcome Brother McGinnis.

## Mississippi Prayer Conference

Bishop Ray Garner and his wife are so loved in the state of Mississippi. The ministers really are blessed to have such an overseer.

Talking to the ministers is such a joy. We just want them to know Ministerial Care is waiting for them call.

## Jessup-Parkway Church of God

Bishop Frank and Brenda Gupton invited Luann and me for a weekend to minister to their members. Friday night we dealt with burnout and pain. Saturday was an affirmation service, and Sunday we taught on How to Deal with Trauma.

God really blessed this fantastic weekend of ministry.

## Ministering in Song

It is always a delight to sing God's word at the International Offices Chapel service. The staff at the International Offices are fabulous people.

## Smoky Mountain Children's Home!

Director Mike Walker invited Dr. Leonard to participate in a special service of love and care for the staff at the Smoky Mountain Children's Home. It was a glorious time of Christ bringing His healing touch to all of us in need.

We are so proud of Mike Walker and the team there at the home.

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### MINISTERS NEEDING CARE

So many ministers have called, sent emails, or made appointments with Dr. Leonard to receive care. We are so proud of our ministers and the great job of ministry they are doing.

We also want to encourage any minister that may need to talk to contact our office at 800-762-5656. This call is toll-free and confidential.

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### Substance Abuse Recovery

It is a process of renewal! "I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." (Romans 12:1-2)

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### Fulbright Sabbatical Home

Many ministerial couples are taking advantage of the free sabbatical home and counseling here in Cleveland. It is wonderful to see God refresh and restore our faithful ministers.

If you are interested in taking a sabbatical, we have four sites available. You can get more information from our website at [www.cogcmc.org](http://www.cogcmc.org); or contact our office at 423-478-7297.

### Seven Tactical Steps to Becoming a great Dad!

I Chronicles 3:1

Proverbs 17:6 tantalizes a man with the possibility of being the "glory" of his children. However, being a great dad is not achieved by pursuing father greatness; it is the by product—the investment dividend—of a selfless commitment to a successful marriage.

Here are the seven steps to becoming a great dad—

1. Protection—Psalms 32:8
2. Conversation—Genesis 45:15
3. Affection—Mark 10:16
4. Discipline—Proverbs 3:2
5. Laughter—Proverbs 15:13
6. Faith—John 3:17
7. Conduct—Romans 6:14-15

Let us all strive to be Godly servants, good pastor's, gospel preachers, and GREAT DADS!

(The Soul Care Bible)

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## A Tribute to Dr. John D. and Norene Nichols

Thousands of Church of God people met in Atlanta, Georgia, February 20-22, for the Conference on Care and the retirement banquet for Dr. and Sister Nichols.

So many words of achievement in ministry were shared. He was also presented the first "Lazarus Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award." What a deserving man of God, and dedicated woman of God.

Ministerial Care will miss them immensely. I would like to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you have done and who you are, Dr. Nichols.

Congratulations on your deserved retirement!



### The Prodigal Son's Loving Father

Luke 15:11

- He provided a caring model for his sons
- He provided financial and emotional support for his sons
- He gave them the blessing of a heritage
- He guided, but did not force his sons to conform
- He gave them room to fail and a place to return
- He exercised mercy and grace toward his children
- He met his children more than half way
- He forgave

(The Soul Care Bible)

## Up-coming events for Dr. Bill Leonard

April 23-29,	Azusa Street Centennial in Los Angeles, CA
May 11-13,	COG Retired Ministers/Widow's Conference, Cleveland, TN
May 19-21,	Marriage Enrichment Conference, Spotsylvania COG, Fredericksburg, VA
June 17-18	Father's Day Weekend, Cumming-River COG, Cumming, GA
July 23-30	COG General Assembly, Indianapolis, IN
Aug. 20-26	COGP General Assembly, Nashville, TN

Dr. Leonard will also be visiting with many states during their camp meetings this summer. If you would like to schedule an event with Dr. Leonard please contact his office at 423-478-7297.

## RESOURCE CORNER

*At the Alter of Sexual Idolatry* by Steve Gallagher—Steve Gallagher was addicted to illicit sex. In this book, Steve gives the reasons and cures of sexual addiction. There is a workbook also available. Ministerial Care recommends this book to all pastors.

*Every Young Man's Battle* by Stephen Arterburn and Fred Stoeker. This book deals with how a young man can maintain integrity from temptation.

*Every Woman's Battle* by Shannon Ethridge. This book is discovering God's plan for sexual and emotional fulfillment for woman.

*Every Young Woman's Battle* by Shannon Ethridge and Stephen Arterburn. In this book, you will find a guide through the temptations and pressure of young adulthood while it demonstrates how you can live your life to the fullest without regrets.

## Pastor's Conference

Dr. G. Dennis McGuire and the Executive Committee hosted a Pastor's Conference, March 23-24, at the North Cleveland Church of God, in Cleveland, TN. So many pastors were encouraged, trained, relationally touched, and cared for.

We would like to thank Dr. McGuire and the Executive Committee for their vision.