

THE ANSWER



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NEWSPAPER

July 2009

Preacher's kid skateboards from drugs to pulpit for youth

By Toni Terrell

The Answer's Editor-in-Chief

The young skateboarder kept his head down as he coasted toward the podium passing through preachers, teachers and leaders in the Las Vegas Christian Community.

As his long hair brushed his shoulders, the long black shorts, the Buddy Holly-framed specs, and the unconventional words on his T-shirt amidst a media luncheon undoubtedly left his audience perched in animated suspense pondering what he had to say.

His introduction came on the heels of a polished male worship team, and an elaborate and carefully executed marketing presentation at the Desert Pines Country Club.



Ryan Ries shares his testimony during luncheon at Las Vegas Desert Pines Country Golf Club.

The slow steps through the crowd spoke volumes and the vibration of the microphone bore witness to the nerves that shook inside him.

What can this kid say to encourage anybody to do

anything – let alone save our young people?

“What Las Vegas means to me is get some cocaine, stay three days, drink until I pass out and get as many girls as I can,” the 32-year-old

preacher's kid said. The statement seized every sound and the room grew still.

“What Las Vegas means to me? My friend found his mom with a needle in her arm passed out,” he continued.

The chill filled the air and some sat holding their breath.

Ryan Ries, a renowned skater, is famous for the tricks he can perform on a skate board, but who knew he could arrest a room of theologians?

“I managed a skate board team and traveled the world making tons of money. But spent most of my time slamming heroin, slamming cocaine, doing ecstasy and as many girls as I could,” Ryan said as he paced the floor pushing his testimony out. “I (See Ryan, Page 20)



Fred Hodges, general manager of KKVV Christian Radio, focuses on ministry at work.

Christian talk radio reaches the masses

By Patrice L. Coleman
The Answer Staff Writer

As with many radio stations, survival is dependent upon sponsorships, advertisements, and of course, faithful listeners; however, Las Vegas' Christian talk radio station, KKVV 1060 has another priority – ministry.

“We're here to facilitate local and national ministries,” said Fred Hodges, the station's general manager. “I'm not out knocking on doors trying to sell advertising because that is not what it's about, we're here to do ministry.”

According to Hodges, although there are a few nationwide ministers on air, more than half of the programs are local. “We want local pastors to come and speak and teach the word of God,” said Hodges. “Our strength is local ministry and that's what our focus is.”

In addition to receiving God's word by simply tuning your radio dial, many listeners have sought fellowship

with fellow believers. “Radio is a great way for a local pastor to become known because people will hear you, hear your heart, hear your spirit, hear your vision and then they will come to be a part of your ministry,” said Hodges. “We've had pastors literally build their churches from radio ministry.”

The impact of Christian radio in the city goes without comparison. Many locals once experienced praise and worship directly on the station's parking lot. “They were laying hands, praying for the sick, and ministering all night long,” said Hodges. “It's totally awesome what radio can do; you reach so many.”

Whether you're Pentecostal, Lutheran, or Baptist, every denomination that preaches the gospel of Christ and studies basic evangelical Christianity is represented on air. “There's something for everyone because the spectrum of Christianity is so (See KKVV, Page 4)

Church discovers spiritual success formula

By Toni Terrell

The Answer's Editor-in-Chief

With churches sprouting up on every third street corner in Las Vegas and the surrounding areas, it is difficult to conceive the notion of something different behind door number three – something fresh, new, exciting and out of the box –and still Word-driven and God-focused.

God has arguably given one man a winning formula – a ministry dedicated to raising up strong men to lead; a ministry fueled by loving past old hurt and pain, and through sin; a ministry determined to surrender judgment



Restorer of the Breach Ministries uses bible study time as worship opportunity.

in exchange for truth – a ministry where the lost are restored and the saved are

strengthened.

Restorer of the Breach is such a ministry.

Founded and lead by Pastor Ontiwaun Carter and First (See ROB Ministries, Page 4)



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DIVINELY SPEAKING

Leadership rewired and unwrapped

By Pastor Joel Garcia
International Church of Las Vegas
Special to The Answer



Pastor Joel Garcia

Have you ever attempted to dissect leadership? What I mean is to remove the layers of traditional thinking about leadership to uncover its true essence and significance. Just how are great leaders made? What attributes do leaders possess that make others want to follow them wholeheartedly? There are several ways to obtain the high road of leadership: it's by taking the low road adopting a posture of servanthood and giving – some call this altruism. Most people don't understand this principle because they rather lead the conventional way, "I'm the boss - follow me." In the end they end up disappointing, even hurting those they lead.

In short, leadership is nothing more than a transaction of love. Love is about seeking the best in others. Love gathers and builds influence while inattention scatters. If we possess genuine love and show concern for the well-being of others by seeking to improve their lives and advancing them in their job then we will garner their respect and leverage their unrelenting support. In 1 Corinthians 10:24, Paul, the great apostolic leader provides insight into this attitude, "Let no one seek his own, but each one the others well-being." However, if we view our employees as pawns to achieve our own personal agenda we will end up stagnating their growth and passion. We then lose potential key players who would prefer following those who will

lead them with love.

Through my experience as a leader I have discovered three dynamic principles, they are: Leadership is not a right it's a responsibility.

One leadership misstep I've witnessed in the past is when business owners or pastors attempt to preserve leadership by appointing family members to key leadership roles. To preserve the "business" or the "ministry" people tend to perpetuate inadequate leadership by hiring and promoting those family members who lack the vital people skills to lead others. Recently a friend of mine provided me with this example:

"I would arrive early to clean the office, and worked hard all day long. I even stayed late when I saw the need. One day the owner hired his son and placed him in a position of leadership over me. For some reason this person's leadership style was abrasive and he ver-

(See Garcia, Page 20)

Why is my blessing on hold?

By Pastor Simmie Richard
Special to the Answer
Part Two



Pastor Simmie Richard

Having considered the revelation of tithes and offerings in the Old Testament, from the time of the patriarchs under the Abrahamic Covenant through to Israel under the Mosaic or Law Covenant, we now consider tithes and offerings in the New Testament.

Our consideration falls into two parts. The first part was printed last month in the Answer and many people responded. The second part deals with the Acts and Epistles. The reason for this is to answer some questions and objections which have been raised over time. Valid questions such as the following need to be answered. Are New Covenant believers obligated to give tithes and offerings to the Lord?

Do ministers of the gospel have to be supported in this dispensation? Wasn't this all abolished at the cross? Objections also are put forth and need answers. Objections such as, "References to tithes are only found in the Gospels, and that is before the cross, while Jesus was still under the law" need to be answered. Also, there is only one passage referring to tithes in the Epistles and that is to the He-

brew believers, but this has nothing to do with the church.

The answer to these valid questions and objections is to be found by a study of the New Testament books; the Gospels, the Acts and the Epistles. The answer, as will be seen, is found in a proper understanding of principles of Biblical interpretation

C. Early Church Giving

When it comes to the Book of Acts, it should be remembered that the early believers were mainly converts from the Jewish synagogues, the Old Covenant church. They already knew the principles of tithes and offerings, so these things did not have to be re-taught. They continued in those same principles. The principle of tithes and offerings was not nailed to the cross. They continued to do as they had done under Mosaic Covenant, in principle. Tithes and offerings were before the Mosaic Covenant as they had been in Abrahamic Covenant. The New Covenant continues the Abrahamic Covenant "in Christ", in relation to the spiritual promises therein. The Book of Acts is also a period of transition from Old Covenant ritualism to New Covenant realities.

(See Richard, Page 24)

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FAMILY & MISSION

KKVV

(Continued from Page 1)

wide,” said Hodges. “There’s not just one church, there are several denominations, but the main thing is: are you preaching the truth, are you preaching Jesus Christ, born of the virgin Mary, crucified, buried, and resurrected at the right hand of God.”

Laying aside traditions and formalities of the church, Hodges maintains the importance of preaching and teaching the word of God. “You may have to wear a blue robe at your church and light candles or what have you, that may be part of your worship, the tradition of your worship, but the main thing is the main thing and that’s the Gospel.”

Along with the different denominations in Christianity, there is also the fact that there are worshippers who speak various languages. About five years ago, according to Hodges, God spoke to him in prayer with direction concerning KKVV’s evening programs. “God said open it up to any language that would like to come.”

Upon following God’s direction, the station soon had its first Spanish program, which served its purpose of bringing lost souls to Christ. “We had five pastors who came in for five hours and 18 people got saved that night,” said Hodges.

The station now reaches out to those who speak Spanish, Tagalog, Serbian, and Korean, to name a few. “Whatever you speak, if you want to preach the gospel, we can facilitate that for you,” said Hodges.

However, Hodges makes it clear, no matter what language you speak, not everyone with a voice is allowed to be heard. “We get people who want to get on the radio who have had a spiritual experience but they don’t have Christ, they don’t have the faith of the Bible, and they don’t know who they really believe in,” he said. “So it’s important for me to get an understanding of what people are really about because I have to protect the listeners.”

With so many television and radio ministries reaching mainstream, Hodges stresses the importance of knowing the word for yourself. “We have to be careful not to become leader-addicted and simply going off what people say; instead we have to be cautious and stick to what scripture says,” said Hodges. “The Bible teaches us that we are to study to show ourselves approved.”

So far, according to Hodges, only one program has been removed from KKVV’s program schedule in the last ten years.

“God is really blessing us,” said Hodges. “Originally we had one paid program on Saturdays, now we’re almost full with programming. We redid our thinking about the way we do business because we know we’re not going to be the largest radio station in Las Vegas.”

Although plans may not include being the largest, there is definitely a hope that the station will be the most influential and uplifting in people’s lives. “This is a good way to get the gospel out to the city and we’re very focused on what we do,” said Hodges. “We’re here, we’re faithful, and we continue to be driven toward ministry.”



Pastor Ontiwaun Carter (seated at the desk) meets with his Elders and Deacons, from left to right Deacon Jaison McElroy, Paul Harrison, Elder Tremaine Tatum, and Deacon Tom Moore.

ROB Ministries

(Continued from Page 1)

Lady Lusha Carter, Restorer of the Breach (ROB Ministries), has sat quietly on the corner of Eastern and E. Sunset growing at astronomical rates each Sunday .

From its conception in January of 2008, the church has come out of the gate making leaps and strides. Its membership outgrew its former location at Molasky Middle School on West Gilmore Ave in Las Vegas within just six months of its start.

Now housed at 2560 E. Sunset consuming four units and nearly 6,000 square feet of the Park 2000 Business Park, ROB Ministries has begun to make its mark in the community. “Only by the Grace of God,” said Pastor Carter, a licensed

and ordained minister through the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc.

Charismatic in his preaching style, Pastor Carter refuses to take credit for the rapid growth of the ministry. “God absolutely gave me the vision of targeting men,” he explained. “And the motto of restoring the breach came directly out of Isaiah 58:12 – that’s self explanatory. But it is all God, believe me when I tell you.”

Born in Indianapolis and raised in Los Angeles, Pastor Carter was being groomed to preach from day one according to his mother Marchell Humphries. “My mother would say, this boy is going to be a preacher as she rubbed his head,”

Humphries recalls. “I just called him my miracle baby, but she always called him a preacher up until the day she died.”

Born, weighing only two pounds and four ounces, Pastor Carter was pronounced a blind, premature baby boy who would never walk, according to doctors. But through prayers, God’s will, broken ankles and corrective shoes, his destiny would take him a different route than that of a crippled male.

From age five, Pastor Carter began to play football and became a tiny mite. The young athlete went from tiny mites, to pee wees, to the Pop Warner league, to high school football, to the University of Ari-
(See ROB Ministries, Page 5)



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FAMILY & MISSION

ROB Ministries

(Continued from Page 4)

zona to the Miami Dolphins and then to Germany. "And they said he would never walk," his mom said with a smile. "But God..."

Watching him physically demonstrate the struggle between flesh and spirit in a unique and animated way during a Bible study session, some could say Pastor Carter was restored early to bring him to his current work in the ministry – a preacher who walks with authority and brings the Word of God to life through his powerfully delivered sermons. He would disagree.

"I am amazed every day that God would choose me for this work," he says wearing a contagious smile. "Some people think because you get up there and deliver a powerful word that it is not for you. When I preach, I am preaching to you not at you. You're trying to get to heaven and I'm trying to get there too.

"Sometimes as preachers, we create a plateau of Christianity that doesn't really exist. Can we push the button and see the screen outside of church? We have issues too. I am in no position to judge anyone; all I try to do is preach the truth, that's it. I am straight forward and in your lap – bam there it is. If it fits you great, if it doesn't, you know. It is up to the Holy Ghost to police you," Pastor said.

"The biggest challenge I have as a pastor is learning how to go in and out of God's people without hurting them," he explained. "As leaders we have to stop beating people up. This is a hospital and there is going to be some surgery, but don't go in - tell me what's wrong and then not sew me up. That's where we make the mistake," Pastor

Carter added.

"We have to all remember this is a hospital and everybody in here is sick – from the top on down. I might be in stable condition and someone else might be in critical condition or on life support, but let's be real – we're all in the building," he said with a soothing demeanor.

A dedicated husband and father, Pastor Carter prides himself on constantly working to maintain balance – balance in his home life, balance in his character, balance in his role in the community. "I can't be too carnal that people don't see my anointing," he admitted. "But I can't be too spiritual that I'm no earthly good."

Faced with the woes of ministry – denomination, diversity, youth, bureaucracy – Pastor Carter deems much of the success of the ministry to being an effective team. Coming out of a dynamic Las Vegas ministry, Pastor served as youth pastor and then an elder before taking on the role of leadership himself. "I can only be a great leader because I was a good follower for twelve years," he said. "One thing I've learned is how to build an effective team of people."

Men lead the way at ROB Ministries from ushering to working the altar. "That's our vision, we're raising up strong men. Traditionally at every church, you find that women run the church. We're just trying to put men in the roles they were designed to occupy – protectors, burden bearers, the heavy load carriers. Don't get me wrong, we have some strong women here and they are ready to take active leadership roles with the quickness – but why should they do all the work all the time? It's time for them to sit back

and relax," he said.

The men have embraced that philosophy. "He is the kind of guy that will make a strong man follow him anywhere," Coggee Thornton said. "I've never seen him out of line even in the past before he started pastoring. When you watch a man exhibit courtesy, decency and respect while dealing with other men, you have to have respect for that. Then he trains and teaches us from the Word. I have much respect for him as my pastor," he added.

"I believe he is anointed and appointed for such a time as this," Sherri Bruce said. "He is stern and firm but he is real. I love watching the spirit move and seeing people get delivered. This man truly follows God so it is easy to serve him and the first lady as they bring the vision of God to pass," she added.

Although he is polished in his approach, and animated in his delivery, Pastor Carter presses to remain transparent as the pastor of the church. His core message is always the same – everybody needs to feel valued, no condemnation; there is always hope for reconciliation with the heavenly father.

"We want to reach the lost but sometimes they are so lost, they don't think they are fit to come back. I ask God to send me those – the drug addicts, bring them; the cheaters, bring them; the fornicators, bring them; the un-churched, bring them – God can bring you from the bottom of the barrel, restore you and use you – that's the message. And who are we to determine who is who? I believe as a pastor I have to have one foot in the problem and one foot in the solution, you have to be willing to get your hands dirty but not be affected

by the dirt," he explained.

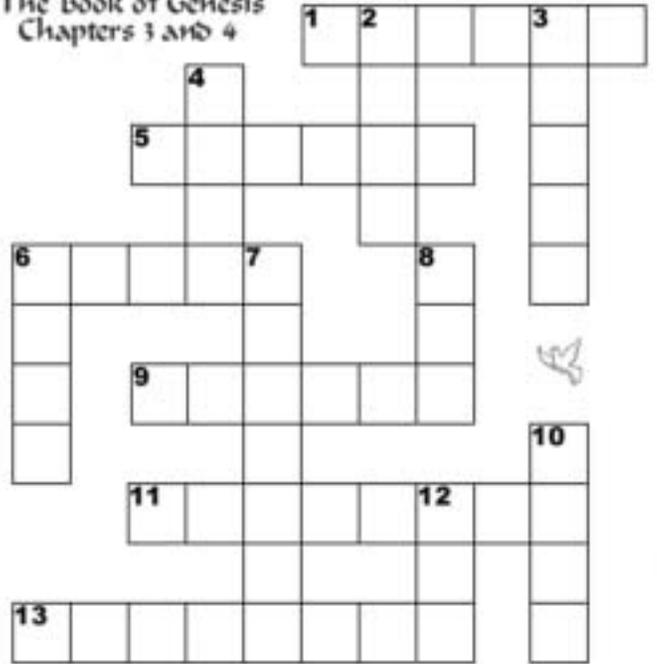
"I honor my husband as my pastor, my husband and a father," first lady Carter announced to the congregation. "He makes sure that he is always accessible to each of you. He answers every call, he answers every text, he tries to be there for each of you and we respect and honor the sacrifices he makes to do that. As his family, we embrace his vision and we respect his anoint-

ing," she said.

ROB Ministries, under the covering of Shield of Faith, stands positioned to accept all patients with open arms with leaders who believe all can be healed, restored and strengthened. So if you're looking for a church home and nothing has stood out as a place that will accept you as you are, try door number three - Restorer of the Breach is sure to be a treat.

Bible crossword for kids

The Book of Genesis Chapters 3 and 4



Down

- (2) Adam's second son
- (3) Cain's first son (Gen. 4:17)
- (4) Adam's first son
- (6) Adam's third son
- (7) What creature tempted Eve
- (8) Cain lived in this land
- (10) First man
- (12) First woman

Across

- (1) Cain's occupation (Gen. 4:2)
- (5) The ____ of Eden
- (6) Adam and Eve's first clothes (Gen. 3:21)
- (9) Because of sin the ground was ____ (Gen. 3:17)
- (11) Abel's occupation (Gen. 4:2)
- (13) Cain became a ____ and a vagabond (Gen. 4:12)

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