

The Single Perspective

Newsletter of the International Single People's Alliance (ISPA)
 of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World (PAW)
The Legacy Continues: Pursuing Excellence

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The Powerful Soul of a Christian Medical Doctor

by **Dr. Debra Johnson**
 Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Anthony Buckles serves as a physician in multiple areas: Family Practice, Maternal Childcare Health, and Emergency Room Medicine. He has also ministered as a medical missionary for over 15 years in Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Ghana, and South Africa. In addition to his being an ordained elder of the Apostolic Pentecostal Church of Morgan Park in Chicago, Illinois, where Elder William Ellis, Jr., is pastor, Dr. Buckles received the 2019 Missionary of the Year Award from the PAW International Missions Department.

SP: What is your greatest accomplishment?

Dr. Buckles: My greatest accomplishment is finishing medical school—just going through the educational process. It got difficult along the way. To me, beside receiving the Holy Ghost (chuckles), finishing my medical education was the greatest thing I could have done.

SP: What was your greatest challenge?

Dr. Buckles: I think I've had two greatest challenges. I came down with Bell's Palsy twice. I think the last time it left a permanent little deficit; and so just trying to overcome speaking and dealing with my eyesight on that side has been difficult but God is continuing to heal my body. With Bell's Palsy, sometimes people get a 100% cure rate; sometimes, people get



Elder Anthony Buckles, M.D.
ISPA First Vice President

no cure. I first had it when I was 17; it went away in five days. The last time I had it was about five years ago at the first convention in Detroit. I came back home; it re-occurred then. I still have a deficit on one side of my face.

My being a doctor—it's harder for doctors to deal with illness, although we see this all the time. It's difficult when it's yourself.

SP: Is marriage in your future?

Dr. Buckles: I pray so. I hope so. It's been difficult because of my process of schooling and traveling. It seems like as I get older I'm so involved in ministry. I want it to be my future. Yes!

SP: How should a single man view marriage?

Dr. Buckles: It should be as a

bond, as a relationship that would help me to be all I can be in God. It's not an institution that makes me but it helps me. I think everybody needs someone to be your best friend; to be that person you can console with, confide in. I know you can tell God everything but there's nothing like having a soulmate that you can confide in and share things with—the ups and the downs. It should be every single man's desire to find that right person for life.

SP: What are the strengths of being a saved, single man?

Dr. Buckles: One of the strengths is I'm able to give a lot of my time to ministry. Paul says it best ["...He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord" (1 Corinthians 7:32 KJV)]. When you're single, you can give your time like that. I enjoy that I can get up and go! I can spend two weeks on a mission trip and I don't have the responsibility of a child or a wife. That will change once you get married. You have to think about those responsibilities. So I'm able to do more, to serve my pastor and do more things, to help other people.

SP: What do single men in the church need to know?

Dr. Buckles: When you're a single man, you have to make sure you know who you are in God and have a foundation in the Word. I don't think a single man should try to date or find a helpmeet if he

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Editorials and Opinions

If you have any concerns or comments regarding articles or opinions expressed in the *Single Perspective*, please email them to singleperspective@yahoo.com and include the subject line of Letters to the Editor.

Changing Seasons with Jesus Christ

by Evangelist Cherlyn Williams, ISPA President

The leaves are falling and changing into multiple shades of autumn. Now, the temperatures are gentler and we can enjoy walking in the cool of the day. As the seasons are changing, so is our walk with Christ.

The Lord has instructed us to cast our cares upon Him! Our experiences have taught us that God will take care of us (Psalm 55:22). Proverbs 3:5 states: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; lean not to your own understanding." Trust God in your seasons to deliver you, heal you, and renew you in this season of your life.

The Scriptures indicate the plans God has for your life. Have you actually thought about how God is moving you in the

direction that He wants you to go? God is awesome and unique in directing us and having His way. Take time to look back at your life and see how the Lord has guided you. God has never left us alone. God has always been faithful.

Seasons are changing and so are we. Trust Him. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" according to Psalm 46:1. God is our right now Help—He's available 24/7. We don't have to wait to call Him. We don't have to go across the street, stand in line, or wonder if He cares for us. God is with us through the changing seasons of our lives. He is our very present Help!

Remember that trouble sometimes may drive on our

street, pull into our driveway, and knock on our door uninvited. Nevertheless, trouble is there. Trouble will knock us off our feet via the nightly news, our health, our relationships, death, or financial hardships. Trouble can find you but remember God is our refuge, a very present help in the time of trouble. It's a new season; it's a new day. A fresh anointing is flowing our way. It's a season of power and prosperity. It's a new season coming to you!

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The Single Perspective

The purpose of the *Single Perspective* newsletter is to inform and edify single saints. It is published bimonthly (February, April, June, August, October, December) during the first week of each of those months, Lord willing.

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ISPA's Upcoming Event

PAW Convention in Baltimore, MD
July 26 — August 1, 2020

Features

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Dr. Buckles: doesn't know who he is first. One day you'll become the head of the household. If you have kids, you want to be the leader of your wife and kids and be the high priest of the house. You need to study the priesthood, get really deep in the Word, find God and know God. When you begin to look for that mate, you've got to really know what you want.

In Pentecostal churches, everybody is trying to find you a wife (chuckles). Everybody is trying to give you what they think a wife should be for you. But you need to know for yourself what you want—at the end of the day, it's you who has to make that choice.

SP: I've seen exactly what you're talking about. How long would it take a single, saved man to know who he is in God?

Dr. Buckles: It depends on the person! It depends on your valleys and your mountain experiences. I know more about God now than I did ten years ago. And the more you know about God, the more you see about yourself (smiles).

SP: I know that is true! What are the pitfalls that single men face in the church?

Dr. Buckles: A lot of times people think because you're single, you're not complete. A



Dr. Buckles in ministry

lot of single men tell me they are overlooked for positions because people say if he had a wife, maybe we would put you here. It might deter other leaders from putting them into positions in the church because they think marriage makes the single men whole, I guess.

It can be hard. The culture has changed. People have changed. Women are more independent. They're more sure of who they are than they were 30 years ago, so you can't come with a crazy game. A lot of women in the church would rather be alone than deal with a crazy man (laughs).

SP: What are the pitfalls of saved single men outside the church?

Dr. Buckles: We're men! Overcoming temptation and stuff. There are a lot of beautiful women out here; there are a lot of things that you could be doing. You have to really guard yourself; you could get caught up. As you get older, you're looking for someone. Women have strong power! Even with the Holy Ghost, you have to be careful (laughs).

SP: What's the most important lesson you've learned as a single man in the church?

Dr. Buckles: To be strong and to be proud of who God made me, even if I never get married. I know who I am in God. I've seen people who go through states of depression because they can't find the right person. The Bible doesn't say everyone must get married. It says he that findeth...["Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord" (Proverbs 18:22 KJV)]. Maybe you don't find!

I make sure I do what God tells me to do! I make sure I stay God-filled. That's my main thing. It's hard being single sometimes, even in the church. They have a lot of stuff for couples. We feel left out, sometimes.

I always tell people, while you are single, enjoy the single life and learn how to be complete as a single person. Then, if you do find the right person or if someone finds you, you will [already] know who you are in God.