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# The Story of Jesus

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Published By Evangelist Van Billingsley

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**Please Read the ministry update in our News section inside.**

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## Growing and Maturing

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*"Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious." — 1 Peter 2:1-3*

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God's Word makes many analogies of spiritual growth with physical and mental growth. In this edition's article we will examine the distortion our society has placed upon "growing up."

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## Adult Behavior

*by Evangelist Van Billingsley*

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*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.. — Proverbs 22:6*

*When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.*

*— 1 Corinthians 13:11*

I have spent almost my entire ministry working with children in some form, in church and even in the public school system for many years. I frequently run across young adults I knew as small children, often when I have not seen them since they were those little children. All too often I have the disappointment I had recently when a young lady used a curse word in casual conversation and all I could think of was that little child growing up to use language which would be unconscionable for the little child I remembered her as to

say. So now she is all grown up, right? That is the pitiful plight of growing up in our society today. Children are ordered not to do certain things which are wrong by those who are doing the very things before them. Some of the most common cases involve cursing, smoking and drinking, but the

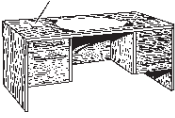
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# *Our Ministry News...*

## **From the Desk of the Editor**



The major portion of our transition has passed. On October 9, 2011 we celebrated the completion of ten years with Gospel Light Baptist Mission. This was a special time for all of us as we had many who have moved on to return and family members to join us for the occasion. This was our Farewell Service. This was not a closing due to failure, but a completion. God has used this work for a full decade and it has fulfilled its purpose. We have placed the few we had at the end in the hands of great churches and will still work to help those get involved and faithful together. For me, it is time to move forward with my missionary evangelism and working with other ministries and churches as God directs.

It seems the Lord is opening the door for one aspect of our mission evangelism which will require funds to be raised for several different additional expenses. During the early nineties the Lord allowed me to help with several different tent meeting ministries on several occasions. During that time I prayed about obtaining a tent to use in my own evangelism, but the Lord never brought that to pass. Over the past several years, another missionary evangelist and close friend has also

worked with other tent ministries working with church planters. He has asked me to pray about entering a tent ministry together and working together with mostly church planters during several months of the year. After much prayer, we both have peace about moving in this direction. Since he, Evangelist Paul Redmond, has a wife and four children living in a travel trailer, it would be my responsibility to transport the tent. I will need an RV which can pull a tent trailer. I have plans in mind which can be done for a fraction of just purchasing everything needed, but funds will still be needed for the purchase of this vehicle, the tent, and a tent trailer.

I am looking for a specific type of small shuttle bus which I can convert to an RV using hardware and appliances from my old broken down travel trailer which I previously used in my evangelism. Once done, this vehicle would be an asset to my travels regardless, but would be a necessity for the tent ministry.

I am looking forward to getting back on the road full time and helping other ministries. I already have many areas of service which I will continue as well, but I will have to obtain support to keep going forward. There is much work ahead, and I am eager to get busy with it. Though I've only been a part of three churches

(including college) during my twenty-eight years of ministry, I've worked with and under eight pastors plus many assistants and associates. I have been involved in almost every ministry typical to the local church and I am willing to help pastors of smaller churches, new churches and mission churches with these ministries while also being a help and encouragement through preaching. Most recently, we just finished a seven day revival to help a church planter in Smith's Station, Alabama

get their church started. We had materials printed for them, put together a team from area churches to canvas the area, helped with some of the latter work in their construction process, then preached the revival while doing additional door to door visiting with the people there. We will work together more in the future, plus there are others across the country who need help.

A Servant of Christ  
Evangelist Van Billingsley

**Our Support Needs:**

**Monthly Support**

Our monthly support is divided into three stages:

1. *Required amount to survive while doing full-time ministry and deputation.*
2. *Amount to begin traveling with tent ministry.*
3. *Full support*

**Small Bus / Motorhome  
Tent and Trailer**


(... from cover) -- **“Adult Behavior”**  
list is endless.

Since adults choose to live this way, but it is still, for the present, unacceptable for children to openly do these things, the children are given the impression that these things are "adult behavior." The word "adult" has become the euphemism for "wicked" and "evil;" hence we have terms such as "adult content, adult movies, adult stores," etc.

One thing that is common among all children is the desire to be grown up. The shame is what they are being taught that

it means to be grown up! Our children are being raised on a lie about adulthood and the reality of adult behavior and adult things. Adult behavior involves responsibilities unknown to the child. Adult behavior involves things such as working a job to make a living, raising children, running organizations, operating machinery, driving automobiles on the highway, preparing meals and countless other tasks and responsibilities which children can gradually learn about and become skilled in doing. Because

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there is great danger in some things without a mature and experienced person doing them, we must restrict children's involvement in true adult activities. This is why we don't allow a five year old to use the stove or drive the car to kindergarten. These are the things a child should be looking forward to growing up to do. In some cases, these tasks and responsibilities should be what deters a child from wanting to grow up too fast.

A child will naturally be drawn to those things which seem fun and exciting such as driving and operating other intriguing devices, but the concept of growing up will lead them to desire all that represents being grown up. This is where our society has derailed maturity. Even the word "mature" is abused in this way with items labeled for a "mature audience." When mama, daddy, teacher, and the policeman all smoke, curse, and drink under the guise of adult behavior, our children view this as what they get to do when they "grow up" and often they think they are grown up already. This is even more sickening

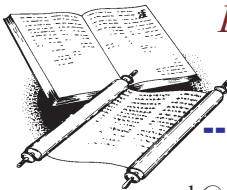
when parents laugh and joke about their toddlers blurting out words they learned from daddy, even displaying videos they captured as a prize winning achievement. Others are excited to buy their child their first beer or worse.

This is why we have a generation who can't hold a job, take on responsibility, ethically run an organization or raise children responsibly. They do, however, know how to smoke, tell dirty jokes, drink, and rattle off their grown up, redneck vocabulary. That's because they are all grown up to be a mature adult. Those are the things that have always made them feel big and grown up to do, because that's exactly what all the adults have been teaching them that adulthood is all about.

Adults, it's time to grow up. Stop lying to the children, telling them your behavior is for adults only! Your behavior is not adult behavior; it is wicked behavior. You do not get old enough to do wicked acts. It's not alright to sin after you become of age.

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