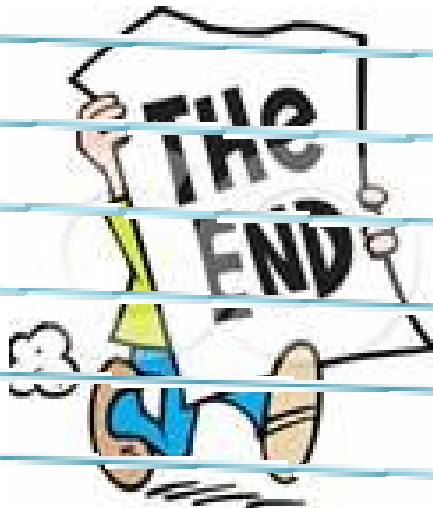


**"A Dispositional Analysis Regarding the November 2015
Fallacious Revivalist Magazine – Whitepaper Edition"**

Response Provided by David C. Penn, Ed.S., Ph.D.



**Hopefully This Response Will Conclude the Discussion
Initiated by the Aforementioned Publication**

Anterior Disposition:

Recently, a number of individuals across the brotherhood have contacted me regarding the November 2015 response given by the *Revivalist* editor. This counter-response was in reference to my article in the October 2015 Special Edition of the *Christian Courier* entitled “A Chicago Response to the Fallacious Revivalist Magazine.” I was encouraged not to offer a return reply because in their estimation “he is only seeking attention” and a “platform to espouse his warped opinions.” However, for the sake of professional courtesy, I have chosen to make this my final commentary concerning the matter at hand.

To begin with, the *Revivalist* editor has stated that his initial article in the May 2015 issue of the *Revivalist Magazine* “...appeared to spark outrage in Dr. Penn [yours truly] as he addressed it in his newsletter, labeled as ‘The Literary Voice of the National Lectureship.’” Let it be clearly understood that the *Christian Courier* is NOT the newsletter of Dr. Penn. It was agreed upon by the Executive Committee of the National Lectureship in 2012, to establish a website in addition to a newspaper for the purpose of promoting the Churches of Christ National Lectureship held among African Americans. We have the official minutes of this meeting with five (5) members of the Executive Committee who UNANIMOUSLY supported the initiative.

First of all, an exhaustive definition of the term “fallacious” has reference to something that is based on a mistaken belief. It is regarded as something that is false, untrue, wrong, incorrect, inaccurate, and deceptive.

Allow me at this point to provide a definition for the terms “fallacious” and “journalism” within the context of my article entitled “A Chicago Response to the Fallacious Revivalist Magazine – July 2015 Digital Edition.” This article was written in response to the same May 2015 electronic edition of the *Revivalist Magazine* under the designation of “*Brotherhood at the Crossroads.*”

First of all, an exhaustive definition of the term “fallacious” has reference to something that is based on a mistaken belief. It is regarded as something that is false, untrue, wrong, incorrect, inaccurate, and deceptive. Furthermore, the term “fallacious” is an erroneous pronouncement (whether it is verbally articulated or written) that communicates flawed misguided information.

Secondly, the nature of journalism is to gather, process, and disseminate news that is addressed to a diverse audience. Various forms of journalism include but are not limited to the following:

- **Advocacy Journalism** – This advocates particular viewpoints or influences the opinions of the audience.
- **Investigative Journalism** – This investigates subject matter while uncovering news events.
- **Photo Journalism** – This tells a story utilizing images.
- **Sensor Journalism** – This employs sensors to support journalistic inquiry.
- **Yellow Journalism** – This emphasizes exaggerated claims and rumors.
- **Muckraking Journalism** – This is conducted by newspapers and reporters who attempt to disclose unpleasant information about organizations or certain people.

Based upon the definitions of “fallacious” and “journalism,” the *Revivalist* article which indicted the 2015 National Lectureship held in Chicago as having a “record low attendance” cannot be objectively classified as “relevant journalism.” On the contrary, it was an “exaggerated claim” and “rumor” contrived from a subjective interpretation which attempted to disclose unpleasant information; hence, “muckraking yellow journalism!” Needless to say, “relevant journalism” is fermented in the soil of “verifiable relevant facts” and not “personal opinionated thoughts.”

Although a retraction was given in the August 2015 digital edition of the *Revivalist Magazine*, there was no insinuation or indication of a “retaliatory libel threat” made in response by this writer. As mentioned prior, it is my desire for this commentary to serve as a final discussion from the both of us. However, if the *Revivalist* editor wishes to proceed further, perhaps it will necessitate me to respond appropriately.

Several brethren both in and out of Chicago, raised the question as to why the *Revivalist* editor selected Chicago to voice his venom over Lectureship “low attendance” especially when he was not present? How did he obtain this gifted revelatory insight? Is he in possession of a crystal ball or Farmer’s Almanac which led him to this conclusion? Is he clairvoyant? Is he actively engaged in the practice of Tarot reading? Better still, perhaps he received a sudden “epiphany” which led him to this untrue assessment.

Notice the language behind his incoherent logic. He is present in New York, but makes no comment. He is present in Louisville, but makes no comment. He is NOT present in Chicago, but now “record low attendance” is a matter of grave concern for him!

Third, despite his so-called “disputed” claim by Louisville, a complete analysis of *registration* data indicates that Chicago had greater attendance. In any event, why did he not speak about “record low” attendance at the Lectureship in New York? Chicago had greater attendance than the Lectureship in New York City. He was certainly in attendance at the Advisory Committee meeting on March 30, 2011, at the Pennsylvania Hotel in New York. He also was in attendance at the Advisory Committee meeting on April 4, 2012, at the Hyatt Regency in Louisville, KY.

So again, why did he single out the Lectureship held in Chicago? His farcical and nonsensical reply was “...we did not have the thought or see the trend until Chicago.” Notice the language behind his incoherent logic. He is present in New York, but makes no comment. He is present in Louisville, but makes no comment. He is NOT present in Chicago, but “record low attendance” is now a matter of grave concern for him! In this case, deductive reasoning becomes relatively simple; the appointments to the Executive Committee took place just before the Lectureship in Atlanta, and since he was absent from the Atlanta gathering, Chicago was next on the list.

The fact of the matter is that the *Revivalist* editor was not in attendance at the Churches of Christ National Lectureship in Chicago. Consequently, any information he received is simply hearsay with him parroting the same from another source. It is also a fact that the *Revivalist* editor was “conspicuously absent” from the Churches of Christ National Lectureship in Atlanta, Georgia, and the cause of his absence has “EVERYTHING” to do with his subjective criticism of others.

The statement made in the *Christian Courier* which said “To be quite candid, the publisher himself was ‘conspicuously absent’ from the Lectureship in Atlanta, Georgia, due to reasons we have chosen not to elaborate at this point...” was not a “veiled threat” as he surmised to expose his past behavior; it is a matter of public record. There is nothing is “veiled” or “secret” about public disclosure! I had no knowledge of his arrest and five day jail confinement until a month after the circumstance transpired. His mugshot taken by the Cobb County Sheriff’s Department that went viral across the brotherhood charging him with felony kidnapping and battery against a female companion was the result of his own inappropriate actions... “NOT MINE!”

For example, in a recent document the *Revivalist* editor meticulously provides extensive details regarding his arrest and confinement in the Cobb County jail. By his own admission he said that he has a “problem with loneliness” and “perhaps I need therapy to deal with this issue.” Well, isn’t that something? This is not the first time he has openly discussed his improprieties and nefarious conduct. It was “HIS DECISION” and choice to inform us about his personal indiscretions... “NOT MINE!” Therefore, I reiterate again “...some brethren are simply not in a position of probity to assail or revile the unfeigned objectives of others.”

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Fourth, if the *Revivalist* editor had taken time to read my article carefully without judgmental bias regarding brethren who are recommended to the Executive Committee, he would have noticed the statement which says “True enough, no individual is perfect, but these men should exemplify Christian virtues and values...” Every individual, whether they are members of the Lord’s visible kingdom or not are guilty of sin. The Bible plainly teaches “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23).

Fifth, the *Revivalist* editor has ascertained “There have been questionable moves made by ‘certain people’ on the Lectureship Board.” In a previous diatribe he stated that “...over the past two decades power grabs by ‘one or two notable ministers’ began alienating a great majority of preaching brethren.” Since he continues to express this sentiment, kindly inform us who are these “certain people” and “one or two notable ministers?” Stand up! Speak up (not “write up”) and name these “certain people” and “one or two notable ministers!” This question was asked to the *Revivalist* editor but no answer has been forthcoming!

By his own admission he said that he has a “problem with loneliness” and “perhaps I need therapy to deal with this issue.” Well, isn’t that something?

I asked the *Revivalist* editor point blank during our last telephone conversation which occurred on August 4, 2015, “Do you have a problem with me?” He immediately answered “No, I have never had any problems with you.” Kindergarten psychology reveals that herein lies his “hidden agenda” and covert concern; the recent appointment of selected individuals to the Lectureship Executive Committee. This is affirmed by his statement “I have raised enough questions that I am certain I would never have been placed on the Executive Board, since it is by nomination and recommendation of the Executive Board President.”

It was “HIS DECISION” and choice to inform us about his personal indiscretions... “NOT MINE!” Therefore, I reiterate again “...some brethren are simply not in a position of probity to assail or revile the unfeigned objectives of others.”

Sixth, the *Revivalist* editor stated “I did not walk with Marshall Keeble or G. P. Bowser, but I am thankful that I had a relationship with Brother Hogan and a very close personal relationship with Brother Winston. Part of our problem, however, is that we limit our brotherhood history and understanding to the era of brothers Bowser and Keeble, Hogan and Winston, when in reality our brotherhood history extends back to Peter and Paul!” What pray tell me does this have to do with his promulgating inaccurate, fallacious, muckraking yellow journalism?

For the record, I had the privilege of “walking” with men such as Marshall Keeble, R. N. Hogan (my mother’s cousin), Levi Kennedy, Jr. (my mother’s brother), D. M. English (my mother’s uncle), G. E. Steward (who often lodged in our home), and J. S. Winston. I had the pleasure of traveling with Brother Winston during his Restoration Movement research efforts in Cane Ridge and Lexington, Kentucky. Much of our problem is not that we limit our brotherhood history and understanding to the era of Bowser, Keeble, Hogan, Kennedy, Winston, and Steward, a great deal of our problem today is “ministerial respect” for the present pioneers!

In a previous diatribe the Revivalist editor stated that “...over the past two decades power grabs by ‘one or two notable ministers’ began alienating a great majority of preaching brethren.” Since he continues to express this sentiment, kindly inform us who are these “certain people” and “one or two notable ministers?” This question was initially asked to the Revivalist editor but no answer has been forthcoming!

Seventh, since the *Revivalist* editor wishes to quote me, he should take the time to quote exactly what has been said. This is another good example of his “muckraking yellow journalism” tactics. It was said “The overt and covert problem we are presently experiencing is not ‘ministerial guidance’ but ‘ministerial respect.’ Generational diversity has occupied a seat at the table of our fellowship today, wherein ‘MANY’ have become adamantly disrespectful to preachers who have for the lack of a better term ‘paid their dues.’”

Again, he has misinterpreted his own misgivings! What is “unconscionable” is for a “gospel preacher” to get himself arrested, booked and locked up on felony kidnapping and assault charges against anyone; especially a female “associate!” Now that is what I call... “UNCONSCIONABLE!”

It was never said this is true in “ALL” circumstances, but in “MANY.” In case the *Revivalist* editor is unaware, the designation “MANY” is employed as an adjective and not indicative or inclusive of “EVERYONE” (English/Language Arts – ELA 101).

Exterior Declaration:

Finally, the *Revivalist* editor has declared “For a gospel preacher to seek to threaten to expose me is unconscionable, and to do it as the ‘Literary Voice of the National Lectureship’ is amazing, if not unprecedented.” Again, he has misinterpreted his own misgivings! What is “unconscionable” is for a “gospel preacher” to get himself arrested, booked and locked up on felony kidnapping and assault charges against anyone; especially a female “associate!” Now that is what I call... “UNCONSCIONABLE!”

In conclusion, suffice it to say that no ill will is meant towards the *Revivalist* editor or anyone else. Yet, those who participate in the practice of journalism should cement their findings in the “brilliance of facts” which cannot be successfully contradicted rather than the “darkness of error” which creates resentment. Jesus Christ our Sovereign Savior said “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen...” (John 3:11 KJV).



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