

Facts & Trends

*News and information for ministry from LifeWay Christian
Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention*

15 years
Experiencing God
still changing lives

MAY/JUNE 2005

 **LifeWay**
Biblical Solutions for Life

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Cover photo: *Experiencing God's* original cover artwork as painted by Mike Wimmer.

Notice to readers: Web addresses and phone numbers referenced in articles were verified at the time of printing, but may have changed or become inactive since then.



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Coming in the July/August issue

- Relocated LifeWay Christian Store is flagship for Hispanic ministry, resources.
- Church members can protect their pastor in just 10 seconds a week.

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Our purpose

To support you in ministry by connecting you with LifeWay's "Biblical Solutions for Life." To help you carry out your calling more effectively as you read news and feature stories, information about trends that impact the church, ministry tips and an introduction to new LifeWay products. Whether you're a pastor, church staff member or lay leader, you'll find ways to enhance your ministry.

Our format

Facts & Trends is published six times a year by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. *Facts & Trends* is a free publication.

Our people

Polly House, editor; Katie Shull, graphic designer; Kelly Davis, Sara Horn, Brooklyn Noel, Chris Turner, writers; Kent Harville, visuals specialist; Chelsea Richardson, communications assistant; Shirley Richardson, Web editor; Russ Rankin, editor in chief; Rob Phillips, director, corporate communications.

From my heart to yours



Prayer is the work

About eight years ago, Christians in a small Baptist church in central Guatemala were run out of town and their church burned down. The church's growth caused a rub in the community that is still culturally Catholic with a fair amount of Mayan religion mixed in. The church members were told to never return and took the warning to heart in light of the circumstances.

But about a year later, Southern Baptist missionaries led a youth prayer-walking team to the town and explained why there was no longer a church. The youth enthusiastically climbed through the brush and on top of the debris to fervently pray that the believers would return and that the church would be rebuilt bigger than before. Other teams visited the site and prayed the same prayer. Slowly the believers came back. Within a year and a half the church was rebuilt and now more than 100 people meet to worship God — an unprecedented number for churches in remote areas like this.

The missionaries directly attribute the resurrection of the church to the prayers of the teams who prayed for its return.

“Prayer changes things.” We’ve heard and said that expression so many times over the years that it really has become cliché. The statement is absolutely true — nothing cliché about that — it’s just that we, as Christians, don’t believe it as much as we like to say it.

The numbers bear out our lack of conviction about prayer. According to the Ellison Research study done for this issue of *Facts & Trends*, only 16 percent of the 860 pastors surveyed felt “very satisfied” with their personal prayer lives and 47 percent were “somewhat satisfied.” Disturbing to me is that a total of 37 percent were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.

Prayer is not easy. A personal prayer life is one of the most difficult things for ministers because of the other demands on their time. I know it is for me! But it is

Subscribe

In addition to this column in *Facts & Trends*, LifeWay President James T. Draper Jr. writes LifeWay@Heart, a periodic e-mail message addressing trends and ministry ideas. Add your name to the LifeWay@Heart mailing list by going to www.lifeway.com/form_heart.asp. On the form, type in your e-mail address and name, then click the “Join List” button.



absolutely vital for the successful execution of any ministry. Randy Sprinkle, at one time the prayer strategy coordinator of the International Mission Board, wrote in his guide to prayer walking: “Prayer works. Prayer is work. Prayer leads to work. Prayer is the work.”

“A personal prayer life is one of the most difficult things for ministers because of the other demands on their time.”

— James T. Draper Jr.

I love to hear stories of believers in other countries. They speak so passionately about prayer. I realized several years ago the reason so many of them have such a passion for prayer is because they have the expectation that God answers prayer. Their expectation is that they are going to see God move in supernatural ways. Unfortunately, we here in the United States give lip service to having supernatural expectations but often say or think that “God won’t work in that way in this culture.” Maybe the reason He won’t is because we’ve not asked Him to with the expectation that He will. God is certainly not limited to our finite prayers, but He does expect us to put forth a faith effort.

Remember it is not the quantity of prayer we offer, it is the quality — the focus on God, the submission to His authority. Billions of people around the world understand the significance of prayer, but unfortunately pour out their hearts to dead gods. They need to know the Living God. It’s vital that we share Him with them, but we must begin with prayer. Prayer changes things. ■

In His Love,

Jimmy Draper

We recommend

- *Acts in Prayer* by E.W. Price
- *Follow Me: Becoming a Lifestyle Prayerwalker* by Randy Sprinkle
- *Prayer: The Greatest Power* by Selwyn Hughes
- *The Power of Praying and Fasting* by Ronnie Floyd

These and other resources are available through customer service at www.lifeway.com and (800) 458-2772 and from LifeWay Christian Stores at www.lifewaystores.com and (800) 233-1123.

Pastors unsatisfied with personal prayer lives

Very few Protestant ministers are satisfied with their personal prayer lives. This is one of the key findings of a new study conducted for *Facts & Trends* by Ellison Research.

The study, conducted among a nationally representative sample of 860 Protestant church pastors, shows just 16 percent are very satisfied with their personal prayer lives. Forty-seven percent are somewhat satisfied, 30 percent somewhat dissatisfied and 7 percent very dissatisfied.

There was a substantial difference by age group. Just 9 percent of pastors under age 45 are very satisfied, compared to 13 percent among ministers age 45 to 59 and 30 percent among pastors 60 or older. The youngest pastors actually are more likely to be very dissatisfied with their own prayer lives than to be very satisfied with them.

There are not many differences by denomination or theology. The only difference was that Presbyterian ministers tend to be significantly less satisfied with their prayer lives than are others.

Pastors also were asked how long they spend in prayer each day, and what they pray for. The median amount of prayer time per day is 30 minutes, with a mean of 39 minutes. Although younger ministers are much less satisfied with their prayer life, they spend about as much time in prayer per day as do older ministers. Lutherans and Presbyterians tend to spend less time in prayer than do those from other denominations, while Pentecostals and Methodists spend more time than average.

How do ministers spend their prayer time? For the average minister, it looks like this: 32 percent in petition/requests, 20 percent in quiet time or listening to God, 18 percent in thanksgiving, 17 percent in praise and 14 percent in confession. If these percentages are applied to the average amount of time ministers spend in prayer, the typical pastor spends 12 minutes per day with prayer requests, eight minutes in quiet time, seven minutes giving thanks, seven minutes in praise and five minutes confessing sin. Again, this does not differ substantially by the pastor's age or denomination.

Finally, pastors were asked what they had prayed for in the seven days

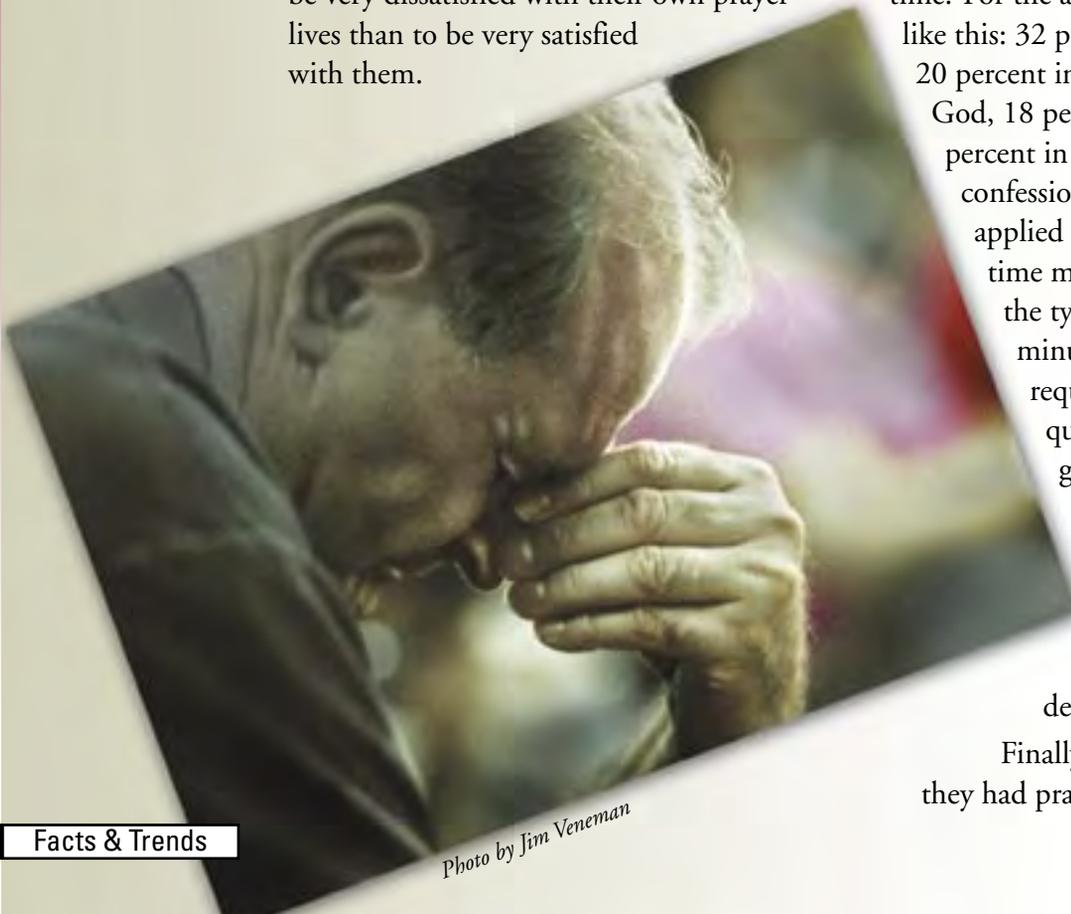


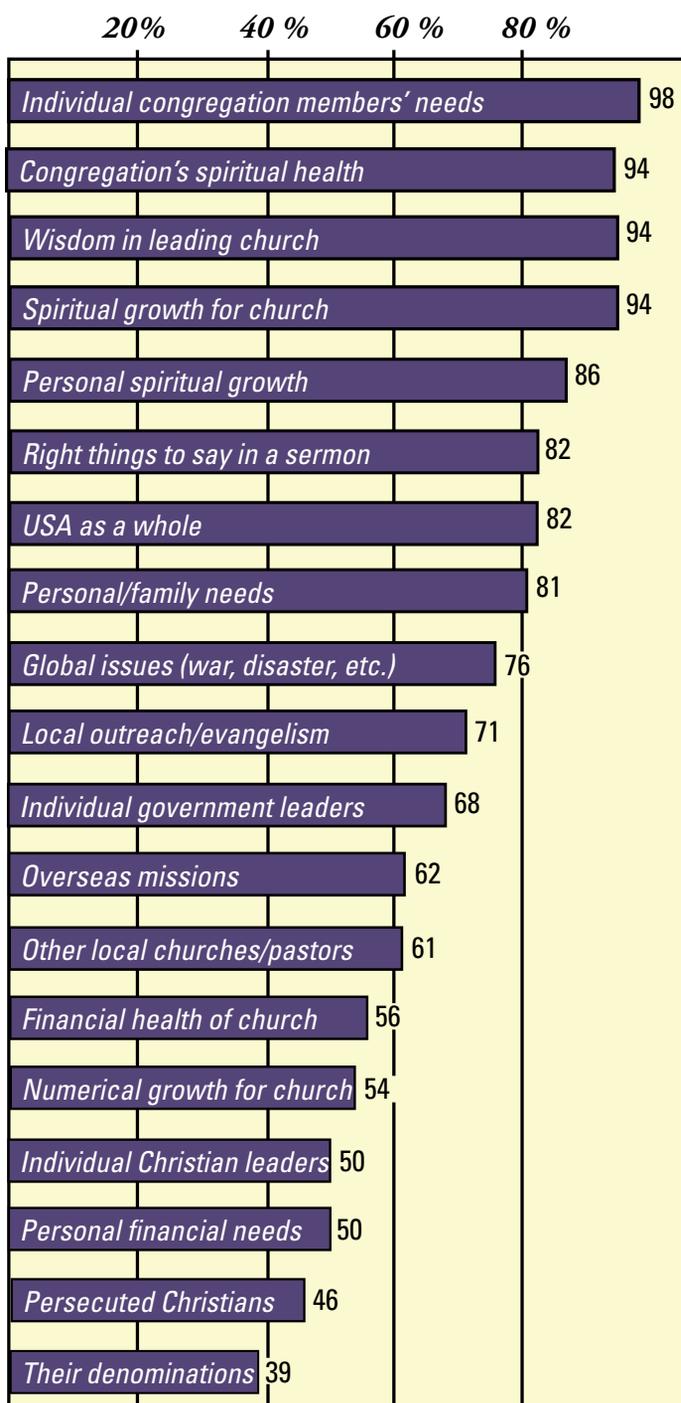
Photo by Jim Veneman

preceding the survey. Most had a long list of topics. At least nine out of 10 had prayed for the needs of individual congregation members, the congregation's spiritual health, spiritual growth for their church and wisdom in leading their church. Some of the things ministers were least likely to have prayed for included the financial health of their church, numerical growth for the church, their own financial needs, persecuted Christians in other countries, individual Christian leaders and their denomination.

Throughout this study, Southern Baptist ministers were very similar to the average on most measures. One of the biggest differences was that just 24 percent of SBC ministers had prayed for their denomination in the last week, compared to an average of 39 percent for other denominational churches, including 49 percent among Methodists, 61 percent among Presbyterians, and 67 percent among Lutherans. In general, mainline pastors are much more likely to pray for their denomination than are evangelical ministers (57 percent to 34 percent). ■

by Ron Sellers

What pastors have prayed for in the last seven days



Ron Sellers is president of Ellison Research (Phoenix, Ariz.), which is conducting exclusive research for Facts & Trends on issues important to our readers.



Experiencing God

**Changing
lives for
15 years**

Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God, has a simple — but not easy — message: Find out where God is at work and join Him there.

Fifteen years after its release, the workbook by Henry Blackaby and Claude King continues to change lives. Published by LifeWay, it has sold more than 4 million copies and has been licensed in 62 languages.

A Canadian, Blackaby was pastor at Faith Baptist Church in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, for 12 years, then served as director of missions in Vancouver for two years before moving to the United States to become the director of prayer and spiritual awakening at the North American Mission Board. He later served as special assistant to the presidents of the Southern Baptist International and North American mission boards and LifeWay. Since his retirement, he has devoted his time to Blackaby Ministries International, based in suburban Atlanta.

“*Experiencing God* is my life’s message,” Blackaby said. “It’s how I had always understood and walked with God. This is how I pastored and led God’s people.”

The message of *Experiencing God* is built upon what Blackaby calls “The Seven Realities”:

1. God is always at work around you.
2. God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal.
3. God invites you to become involved with Him in His work.
4. God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes and His ways.
5. God’s invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief

that requires faith and action.

6. You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.

7. You come to know God by experience as you obey Him and He accomplishes his work through you.

King, who at that time was a design editor at LifeWay, constructed the workbook and authored its learning activities based on Blackaby’s conference presentations. King currently is an editor in chief in the leadership and adult publishing area.

“*Experiencing God* set a new model for workbooks,” King said. “We videotaped Henry as he spoke to groups at Glorieta (LifeWay’s conference center in New Mexico), then transcribed the tapes and compiled it all as a first-person narrative and added the learning activities.”

King said *Experiencing God* was different from what Southern Baptists

were accustomed to studying. It was not a program, but an experience. “As people began responding to the message in the workbook, we saw lives changed,” he said.

Speaking opportunities

Blackaby’s life has changed considerably since the workbook’s release. “One of the best parts is now, everywhere we go, Marilynn [his wife] and I hear the most wonderful stories from people,” he said. “We hear how their lives have been changed.”

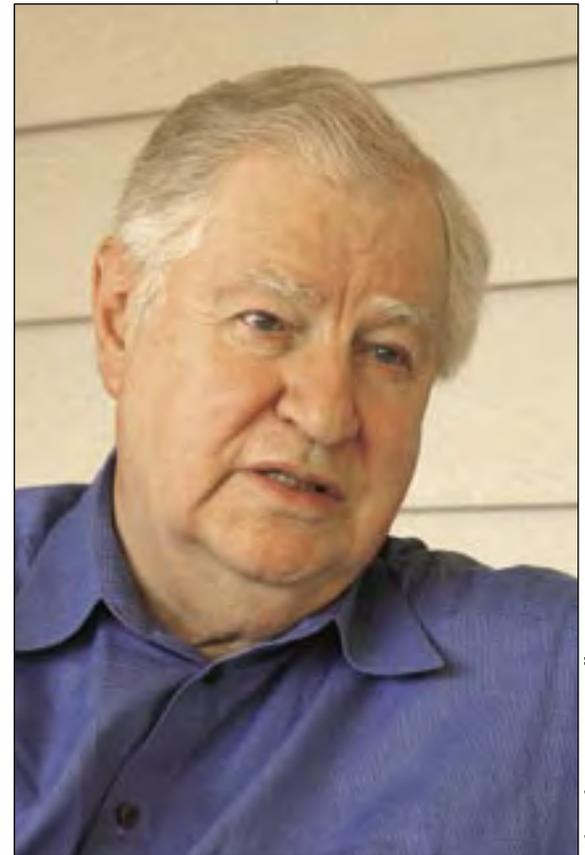


Photo by Kent Harville

Henry Blackaby calls Experiencing God his life’s message. The workbook has been one of LifeWay’s top selling resources for 15 years.

Experiencing God resource family

- *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God*

(Resource line available in adult, youth and preteen editions in a variety of print, audio and video choices)

- *Experiencing God* trade book
- *Experiencing God as Couples*
- *Experiencing God Day By Day: A Devotional*
- *Experiencing God ... The Musical*
- *A 40 Day Experience: Reality, 7 Truths From Experiencing God* (Resource line has member book, leader kit and DVD)
- *Reflections on the Seven Realities of Experiencing God*
- *Experiencing God Together*
- *Experiencing God: How to Live the Full Adventure of Knowing and Doing the Will of God*
- *Experiencing The Word New Testament (Holman CSB)*
- *Worship: Believers Experiencing God*
- *Your Church Experiencing God Together*
- *The Man God Uses*
- *When God Speaks: How to Recognize God's Voice and Respond in Obedience*

These resources are available through customer service at www.lifeway.com and (800) 458-2772 and from LifeWay Christian Stores at www.lifewaystores.com and (800) 233-1123.

Blackaby gets more than 2,000 invitations a year to speak and lead conferences around the world based on the *Experiencing God* message. Accepting all those is humanly impossible, so how does he choose?

"I have to make certain I have a discerning spirit," he said. "The size or location of an event is not important. I look and determine if God is already at work. And I won't do an event if I feel like I have been invited just because my presence will draw a crowd."

Worldwide availability

The relevance of *Experiencing God* to other cultures has been significant. LifeWay recommends it as one of the most important resources for international ministry.

"*Experiencing God* is one of those resources that has translated well to the needs of our overseas churches," said Luis Lopez of LifeWay's international department. "It's been on the market for 15 years and people have become very familiar with it.

"In South Africa, for example, we have done weekend studies similar to

the *Experiencing God* weekends that we do here, and churches have had tremendous results from those," Lopez said.

Through a partnership with LifeWay Brazil, more than 80,000 copies of *Experiencing God* in Portuguese have been sold. "In Latin American churches discipleship is a major concern and *Experiencing God* has been a wonderful blessing," Lopez said. "The seven realities speak cross-culturally."

In January LifeWay released *A 40-Day Experience: Reality, 7 Truths from Experiencing God* by Henry and Richard Blackaby. It uses the popular 40-day format to capture the impact of an *Experiencing God* weekend overview. The workbook, leader kit and DVD draw from *The 7 Realities of Experiencing God Video Series* and the *Experiencing God Day by Day Devotional*. *Reality* is designed to recap previous studies of the *Experiencing God* workbook and launch new ones.

Experiencing God also is available as an online study at www.lifeway.com,

Language Translations for *Experiencing God*

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. African English | 12. Chinese (simplified) | 21. German |
| 2. Afrikaans | 13. Croatian | 22. Greek |
| 3. Albanian | 14. Czech | 23. Hebrew |
| 4. Amharic | 15. Dutch | 24. Hindi |
| 5. Arabic | 16. English | 25. Hungarian |
| 6. Azerbaijani | 17. English reprint for Nigeria | 26. Ilongo |
| 7. Bulgarian | 18. English reprint for Philippines | 27. Indonesian |
| 8. Burmese | 19. Estonian | 28. Italian |
| 9. Cebuano | 20. French | 29. Japanese |
| 10. Chichewa | | 30. Khalka Mongol |
| 11. Chinese (traditional) | | 31. Khmer |



Henry and Marilyn Blackaby have seen their ministry expand from a small town in western Canada to include the whole world.

joining two Beth Moore studies, *Believing God* and *Living Beyond Yourself*.

Sal Sberna, pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church in Houston, hosts the online study. He said, "I've led several groups through this study and each time that I have, I've discovered some significant and fresh insights, not only into who God is, but what that means in my own personal life. I have found from my own personal experience that the more intimately that I know God and His ways, the more significant I feel in my everyday life being able to participant with Him."

Still in the Word

Even though Blackaby has influenced countless people through his Bible studies, devotionals, books and conferences, he still

makes it a priority to keep his own daily appointment with God. He spends between four and five hours a day in study and prayer. "I find that I am sleeping less than I used to," he said.

Blackaby is proud that all five of his children and their spouses are involved in ministry and missions. Richard is president of the Canadian Baptist Theological Seminary, Mel is pastor of Bow Valley Baptist Church and Norm is vice president of Blackaby Ministries International. All three of them live in Cochrane, Alberta. Tom is pastor of North Sea Baptist Church in Stavanger, Norway. Carrie is a career missionary with the International Mission Board in Brilon, Germany. ■

by Polly House

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| 32. Korean | 43. Portuguese for Portugal | 53. Tagalog |
| 33. Kurdish | 44. Romanian | 54. Tamil |
| 34. Latvian | 45. Russian | 55. Telugu |
| 35. Maasai | 46. Serbian | 56. Thai |
| 36. Malayalam | 47. Serer-Sine | 57. Tigré |
| 37. Marathi | 48. Sinhala | 58. Tumbuka |
| 38. Mongolian | 49. Slovakian | 59. Turkish |
| 39. Nepali | 50. Slovenian | 60. Ukrainian |
| 40. Papiamentu | 51. Spanish | 61. Vietnamese |
| 41. Polish | 52. Spanish reprint for Argentina | 62. Welsh |

LifeWay president plans February 2006 retirement

LifeWay's trustees named a search committee and began the search for a new president as soon as James T. Draper Jr. announced his plans to retire from the position effective Feb. 1, 2006.

"For many years I have asked God to make clear to me when I need to retire," Draper told trustees during their Feb. 7-8 meeting. "My prayer has been that He'd allow me the strength to finish well, serving Him until He sees fit to bring me home. In that regard, retirement from LifeWay

Ethridge and SBC President Bobby Welch.

Draper said an approximate timeline is for the committee to bring a candidate to the full board at its Sept. 12-13 meeting in Nashville, with the intention of approving the candidate as president-elect.

Draper said he will work side-by-side with the president-elect until Feb. 1, when he'll step down and the new president will assume full responsibility for the position. "I am looking forward to this process and to

"We need a younger man who can guide LifeWay to be a relevant resource for the church for decades to come as the church faces tumultuous cultural times. One thing is certain: We cannot become what we need to be by staying the way we are."

— James T. Draper Jr.



Photo by Kent Harville

is simply a transition from one ministry opportunity to another. I believe there are exciting days ahead for both LifeWay and for me."

A presidential search committee was formed following Draper's comments. Members are Chairman Rick Evans (Alabama), Vice Chairman Phil Neighbors (California), Secretary Ken Jones (Tennessee), Mark Anderson (Mississippi), Bill Henard (Kentucky), Melvin Pugh (Pennsylvania), Roger Willmore (Alabama) and Tom Woodson (Oklahoma). Ex-officio members are trustee Chairman Wayne Hamrick, trustee Vice Chairman Ed

a smooth transition of leadership," he said.

Draper, who will be 70 in October, told trustees his decision to retire is borne out of his "love for LifeWay" and his "commitment to do what is best" for the organization and its Kingdom ministry. February 2006 will mark his 15th year as president, and he said it is time for new leadership.

"We are seeing a great response in our effort to connect with younger leaders across our denomination," he said, "and we need a younger man who can lead this organization to continue that trend. The

younger leaders are ready to be Kingdom leaders, and LifeWay should reflect a full commitment to partner with them as they follow God's call.

"We need a younger man with great vision, one who will not rest upon the great resources of this organization and maintain the status quo. We need a younger man who sees future possibilities through God's eyes. We need a younger man who can guide LifeWay to be a relevant resource for the church for decades to come as the church faces tumultuous cultural times. One thing is certain: We cannot become what we need to be by staying the way we are."

Draper cautioned trustees to diligently seek God's direction in filling the position, saying that many people will "tell you they know who ought to be here and what you ought to do. Listen graciously to them, but realize that the decision is yours alone. None of you should have a personal agenda, and do not entertain the agenda of others."

Draper recounted how reluctant he was to leave the pastorate when approached about taking the position, saying the greatest job in the world is being the pastor of a local church. He offered trustees the following counsel: "Find somebody who has no ambition to be here. When you come across someone actively pursuing this position, run from him. Your only purpose is to find God's man."

Draper said he has no desire to choose his successor or to interfere in the search process in any way. Rather, he wants to be available to share his insight with the presidential search committee when asked. His "strong desire," he said, was to make the transition "efficient and effective." He said his passion was to pass to the next leader the legacy that had been passed to him, beginning 114 years ago with founder J.M. Frost. ■

Trustees approve Jerry Rhyne and John Kramp as vice presidents

LifeWay's board of trustees has approved Jerry Rhyne as chief financial officer and vice president of the finance and business services division and John Kramp as vice president of the church resources division.

Kramp's position became permanent March 1. Rhyne succeeds Jim Carter July 1.

Rhyne, currently director of finance and corporate controller, has been at LifeWay 32 years.

The finance and business services division encompasses finance and accounting, human resources, legal services, investment services, purchasing, facility and risk management, strategic planning, corporate services and logistics.

As a member of the executive management group, Rhyne will be responsible for the company's finances, operations, corporate policies, and the conduct of LifeWay's relationship with lending institutions and external auditors.

Kramp, who has been interim vice president for church resources since August 2004, has served at LifeWay in a variety of roles for nearly 13 years.

In his new position, Kramp will direct the operations of the LifeWay division that produces Sunday school and discipleship resources, church training events, music, audio and video products and two Vacation Bible School lines. ■



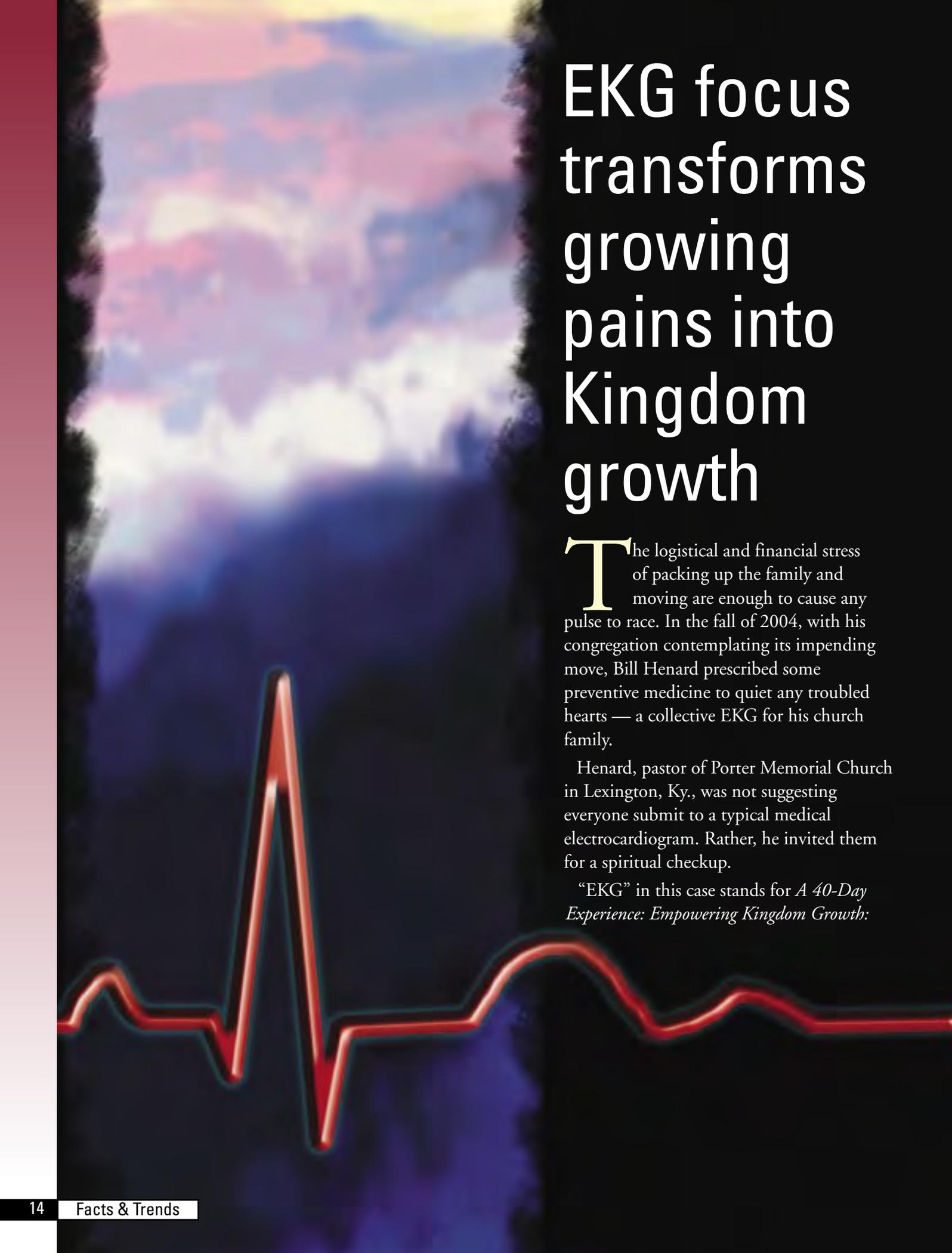
John Kramp



Jerry Rhyne

More information

A Presidential Search Information Center is available on the www.lifeway.com/news site. This site has up-to-date information about the search process, as well as stories, photos and video related to Draper's retirement announcement.



EKG focus transforms growing pains into Kingdom growth

The logistical and financial stress of packing up the family and moving are enough to cause any pulse to race. In the fall of 2004, with his congregation contemplating its impending move, Bill Henard prescribed some preventive medicine to quiet any troubled hearts — a collective EKG for his church family.

Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Church in Lexington, Ky., was not suggesting everyone submit to a typical medical electrocardiogram. Rather, he invited them for a spiritual checkup.

“EKG” in this case stands for *A 40-Day Experience: Empowering Kingdom Growth*:

The Heartbeat of God. The LifeWay multimedia resource was developed by Kenneth Hemphill, the Southern Baptist Convention's national strategist for Empowering Kingdom Growth. The study is a companion to his book of the same name published by Broadman & Holman, LifeWay's trade book publishing division.

Not only did the study engage the Kentucky congregation in a focused study, attendance jumped 10 percent and has remained steady in the months since EKG was completed in December.

"It's a study that our church needed," Henard said. "It was a godsend for us. We needed something to help us unify toward Kingdom growth."

It marked a renewed focus of the church, Henard said, and led to what he viewed as an astounding motivation on the part of church members to be a dynamic example of Kingdom growth.

Instead of continuing on its gradual, phased stewardship program of acquiring property in stages, the church unanimously voted to buy it all at once.

"We had already purchased 23 acres and had an option to buy the remaining 46," Henard said. "We were about to lose that option."

"The vote was unanimous. In a capital stewardship campaign, borrowing \$4.6 million is huge. You can feel the growing excitement about the relocation now, and it is part of the EKG message of having a Kingdom vision."

Henard said the church family sees the move as a chance to give the next generation

something upon which to build even greater things for the Kingdom.

In the meantime, the current church building has the fortunate problem of having run out of Sunday school space, Henard said.

Tim Turner, associate pastor of adult ministries and education, said 28 of the church's 37 youth and adult Sunday school classes decided to do the seven-week study. Nearly 850 of the approximately 1,300 who regularly attend Sunday school participated.

"Last year was a tough year for us for some reason," Turner said. "I feel like we were being spiritually attacked. We were in the process of buying new property. I believe the devil was trying to do whatever he could do to get us off track as far as focusing on what our mission is as a church."

Youth classes, senior classes and everyone in between participated in the EKG study, Turner said. "We've never done a 40-day study, and we've never done anything like this on Sunday morning."

The impact of establishing a daily quiet time, with a Sunday school lesson and Henard preaching a message on the same theme each week, was dramatic, Turner said.

"I don't think the common Christian thinks of himself as a Kingdom person," Turner said. "So many people come to church and worship and possibly are in a Bible study. But to really evaluate your Christian life and ask yourself, 'What have I done in the last month or the last year to make me think I am a Kingdom person?' I

think was extremely important.”

Turner enlisted a prayer team and asked individuals to pray for each teacher regarding the study each week.

He said the results of so many people taking the same daily walk with Jesus Christ was tangible in the way he saw the congregation come together with a common vision. The study inspired a strong hunger among participants to seek more of what God wanted them to do.

“It refocused us,” Turner said. “It brought us back into a focus we had not had for a while.”

One member came to him after completing the study and joked, “I’m having EKG withdrawals. What do I do next?”

To follow up the EKG emphasis, the church ordered more than 600 *Every Day With Jesus* Bibles for members to read through the Bible in one year.

“The EKG format was different in that you had something to do every day,” said Linda Booth, known as a prayer warrior in the church. Booth was responsible for matching up prayers with prayer needs during the study.

While doing a study every day is challenging, she said the devotional

appealed to all age groups because it was not very time consuming and often carried a simple message.

The impact, however, was profound, Booth said.

“Everybody was thinking along the same lines and could see what God had already been talking to us about,” Booth said.

“All of us have a tendency to have a very self-centered lifestyle,” Booth said. “My life is so fragmented. It’s very easy to focus on that. But God used the study to shift the focus to what’s going on in the community and what He wants you to do. Our purpose is to reach the lost in Lexington.”

Seeing that purpose in such a clear focus is what gave the church the will to go forward with such a bold building plan, she said. It has inspired members to give more of their time and to be more willing to give financially.

“We need to be about His business instead of our own,” Booth said. “That study really encourages you to see why he is blessing us. He’s not just blessing us so we can be blessed. It opened our eyes to where God is at work.”

Hemphill preached at the church as the study concluded. He invited anyone who wanted to commit to being a Kingdom person to come forward.

“The front was flooded with people,” Henard said. “I don’t think we would have had that level of response without the study. It was also the largest offering we’ve ever had since I’ve been here. There has been such a sweet spirit within the church since we did the study.” ■

by Andrea Higgins



Bill Henard



Photo by Kent Harville

Beth Moore:

*Joy, laughter
and fun —
our rights as
children of God*

Playing Barbies in church may not be everyone's cup of tea, but Bible teacher and author Beth Moore likes it.

Speaking to 3,000 women at 2005's first Living Proof Live event, sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources, in Rapid City, S.D., March 11-12, Moore said she and her young friend, eight-year-old Savannah, who often sits with Moore during church, have Barbies with them on any given Sunday.

"I want you to know that we don't play during the sermon, but, I tell you girls, Barbie can raise her hands and praise God when we are singing!" Moore said, eliciting laughter from the women. "And I promise you, Barbie is modestly dressed during church."

Moore spoke to the women on God's desire for His children to experience life in its fullest with joy and laughter. But, things get in the way of our ability to experience joy, she said.

Anxiety, a fact of life today, robs many people – including Christians – of joy that God intends for them.

Moore stressed she is a believer in getting help from wise, godly counselors during times of deep anxiety. She also said she believes that clinical depression needs to be addressed as the medical condition it is. "But, ladies, a lot of what we go through that makes us anxious is brought on by a lack of spiritual focus.

"The essence of worship is focus," she said. "Whatever has our focus is our object of worship, and if that's not God, it's idolatry."

She said anxiety results when worry exceeds prayer. "If God tells us to pray about everything, that tells us that everything can be affected by prayer."

Women, in particular, have bought into

the fallacy that they have to take care of everybody and make everyone happy.

“We’ve been told that God couldn’t be everywhere so He created mothers,” Moore said. “That’s a lie! God can be everywhere.”

Moore told the women that anxiety is rooted in the desire to control and that the control issue is wrapped up with pride. “We tell ourselves, ‘I may not do it better than God, but I can sure do it faster.’”

“You and I have to let God be God. He can love our loved ones in ways we cannot even comprehend. We’re trying to control things and it is killing us.

“We’re so scared that what causes us so much anxiety doesn’t matter to God. Let me tell you, it matters. There’s nothing beyond or beneath His concern.”

Women will do themselves and their families a favor when they stop trying to control everything, even when doing it out of love.

“It’s hard to watch, but sometimes our loved ones have to learn from pain,” she said. “We did, and it’s OK.”

Her advice to the women was to “resign

from being God Junior. You aren’t! It is not your calling to keep everyone around you happy. It’s your calling to be filled with the Holy Spirit. It’s not your job to be someone else’s Jesus.”

The advice hit home for Brenda Struck from Wosley, S.D.: “I have a seven-year-old son and I can see so much truth in what she said. There’s really no sense in trying to control everything and fix everything. It doesn’t work anyway.”

Struck came with three other women who are involved in a Bible study in their small town.

One of the other women, Susan Ehrk, said when they returned to their hotel after hearing Moore speak about anxiety and control, they talked until the early hours of the morning. “We all had to admit that we needed to hear that message. We are all guilty of trying to control things we need to leave to God.”

“God wants his people to reflect His joy,” Moore told the women as the teaching time drew to a close. “Choose joy. Choose it. In the midst of choosing it, you’ll spread it.” ■

by Polly House

We recommend

- *Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit*
- *¡Al fin libre! Explorando el fruto del Espíritu*
- *Breaking Free: Making Liberty in Christ a Reality in Life*
- *¡Sea libre! Para que la libertad en Cristo sea una realidad en su vida*
- *Jesus: The One and Only*
- *Jesus, Solo Jesus: Incomparable y Glorioso Dios*
- *A Heart Like His*
- *A Woman’s Heart: God’s Dwelling Place*
- *Believing God*

These and other resources by Beth Moore are available through customer service at www.lifeway.com and (800) 458-2772 and from LifeWay Christian Stores at www.lifewaystores.com and (800) 233-1123.

LifeWay releases new Bible study by Beth Moore on the patriarchs

A new Bible study by Beth Moore will be available June 1. *The Patriarchs: Encountering the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob* will be the newest addition to the studies by the popular Bible teacher and author.

“I see [*The Patriarchs*] as a powerful study of imperfect people,” Moore said.

Taken primarily from Genesis, chapters 12-50, Moore explores concepts such as blessing, covenant and promise and how they forever shaped the lives of these patriarchs.

Participants in this study will discover:

- God’s pursuit of relationship and the unfolding of His earthly plan.
- How through one nation, and ultimately through one man, all people of earth will be blessed.

“Through this study I hope the reader will encounter the God who seeks us out,” Moore said. “He seeks a relationship with us. Abraham didn’t seek out God. God sought him out.”

Resources in *The Patriarchs* line include a leader kit, member book, leader guide and CDs. Go to www.lifeway.com/patriarchs for more information. ■



Photos by Kent Harville

Top left: Author and Bible teacher Beth Moore speaks to 3,000 women at 2005's first Living Proof Live event in Rapid City, S.D.

Top right: Women kneel to pray during the invitation time at Living Proof Live.

Above: Kristi Westra and Betty Brown, both from Rapid City S.D., visit during a break at Living Proof Live. This is their first Beth Moore live event.

LifeWay hosts 8 more 2005 Living Proof Live events

LifeWay will host eight more Living Proof Live events with author and Bible teacher Beth Moore in 2005.

Dates and locations:

May 6-7: Spokane, Wash.

June 3-4: Indianapolis

June 24-25: Hershey, Pa.

June 29-30: Raleigh, N.C.

Sept. 9-10: Kansas City, Mo.

Sept. 23-24: Knoxville, Tenn.

Oct. 7-8: New York (national simulcast host site)

Dec. 2-3: Fresno, Calif.

For more information or to register, go to www.lifeway.com and click on the "Events" tab.

Jesus' habits provide keys to successful life

Some habits are hard to break, but author Jay Dennis believes that through Jesus Christ, individuals have the power to overcome bad habits and begin new “Jesus habits.”

The Jesus Habits, Exercising the Spiritual Disciplines of Jesus, offers practical ways to implement the spiritual disciplines of Jesus into any Christian life.

“The idea for this book began when the Lord placed upon my heart to begin reading the gospels and observe what Jesus did, not just what he taught,” Dennis wrote in the introduction to the book, released by Broadman & Holman, LifeWay’s trade book division.

“I went back and noticed how many times I had written the word ‘habit’ beside something Jesus did,” said Dennis, pastor of First Baptist Church in Lakeland, Fla. “Looking back, I found 31 identifiable habits of Jesus.”

The 31 behaviors examined in the book are observable patterns in the life of Jesus, the consummate example of successful living.

“The good news for you and me is that each of those habits can be copied; they can be put to practice in our daily lives,” he said.

Dennis wrote the book for a multi-generational audience. Each chapter offers Scripture-based suggestions on how to apply Jesus’ habits to daily life. The book prompts readers to study a habit each day for 31 days.

“One will catch a glimpse of how Jesus exercised these disciplines, and practically each person can incorporate them at work, school, home or anywhere,” Dennis said. “Jesus told us that He had left an example and that we should follow in His steps.”

People should study the spiritual disciplines of Jesus as laid out in Scripture, Dennis believes, rather than focus solely on secular leaders. “I simply feel that the example [of Jesus] in the practical disciplines of life should be held up as the standard of excellent living,” Dennis said. “Even those who aren’t Christians are fascinated with Jesus.”

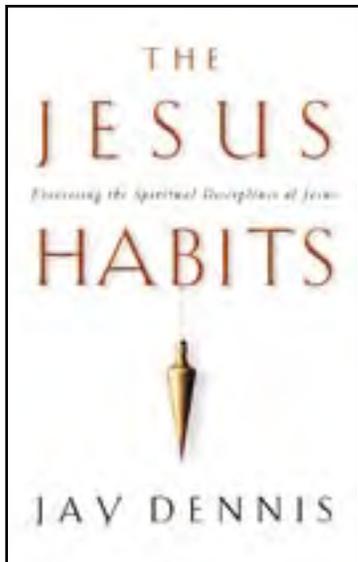
Dennis examines Jesus’ spiritual disciplines on prayer, worship, fasting, obedience and fellowship. He also explores other habits in detail, such as confrontation, acting like a man, esteeming women and kindness.

Of the 31 habits, Dennis said he identified most with the habit of having fun.

“Often Jesus is pictured as solemn and sad,” Dennis said. “There were certainly times when that was the case, but I believe He enjoyed life, not just endured it. He loved to laugh. Perhaps that’s why He loved to be around children. Research has shown that children laugh approximately 400 times a day, and adults average 15 laughs a day.

“He performed His first miracle at a celebrative wedding,” Dennis said. “Jesus also incorporated humor into His teachings. The world would be more attracted to Jesus if His followers would learn to lighten up a little, laugh at themselves, laugh with others, and not take themselves so seriously.” ■

by Kelly Davis





You can't climb the mountain of manhood disconnected from other men

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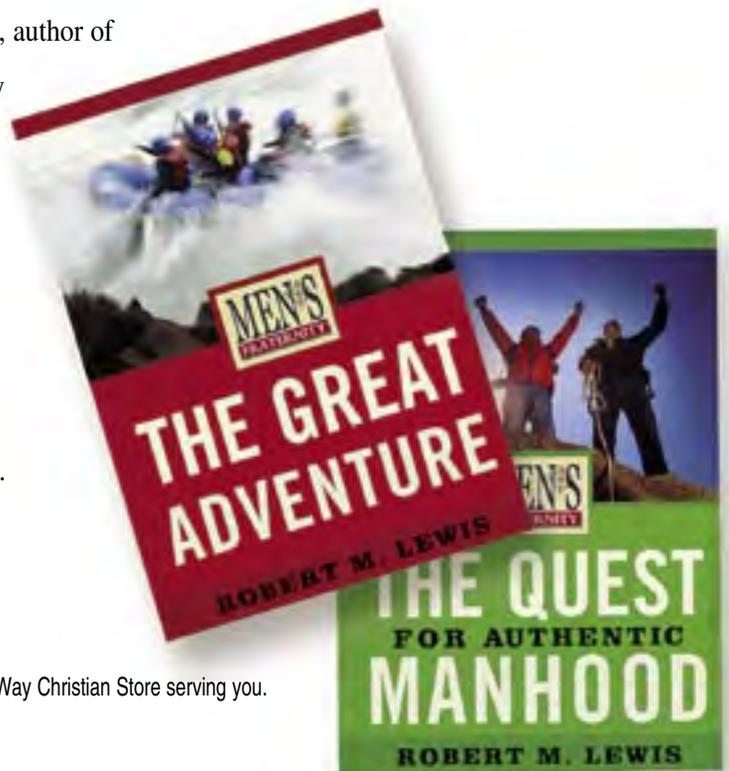
Men's Fraternity can show the men in your church and community what it means to be a man—and provide them with an encouraging process that teaches them how to live, as modeled by Jesus Christ and directed by God's Word. Created by Robert Lewis, author of

Raising a Modern-Day Knight, this phenomenal study series has taught thousands of men to live lives of



authentic manhood—as husbands, fathers, employees, and servant leaders. All in a supportive environment of camaraderie and accountability. To learn more, connect

with our Web site at www.lifeway.com/mensfraternity.



LifeWay announces winners of first Short Film Awards

Eric Herron of Decatur, Ala., earned a Canon XL2 Professional DV Camcorder when his film, “The Stars,” made him the overall winner of LifeWay’s first eMediaLINK Short Film Awards.

LifeWay’s e-business department received nearly 50 digital film entries from around the country between August and December. Filmmakers chose one of four categories: faith, hope, love or the plan of salvation. The rules for submission required each film to be less than three minutes.

“We were thrilled to receive the breadth of short film entries we did,” said Michael Epps Utley, e-business marketing coordinator. “There are so many church media ministries and film students out there doing good work. It was tremendously rewarding to be a part of shining a spotlight on some of that work.”

Twenty-year-old Herron said he felt “really good” when he heard about his win. “I’m especially excited about the new camera.”

Herron’s film, an entry in the love category, examined the memories of a man who realized the promise of God’s love while looking at the stars with his mother. When his mother tragically died, the boy lost sight of God in his grief. As a teenager he found his mother’s Bible, rediscovered God’s promise and eventually examined the stars and God’s love with his own son.

A panel of e-business judges narrowed the field to 16 finalists, with four in each category. Public vote determined the grand-prize winner, individual category winners and runners up. E-business personnel presented the finalist films for viewing online using LifeWay’s streaming video tool, eMediaLINK.

“The eMediaLINK service is the perfect platform for this increasingly popular form

of storytelling and tool for ministry,” Utley said. “Online audio and video content are becoming more popular every day. The church needs to be there, whether through creative works or Web casts of Sunday sermons, telling the greatest story of all.”

Herron said he is glad his film can serve as a ministry tool. “Television and media play a big role in this generation, and churches need to change with the times.

“The basic message doesn’t change, but there are always new ways to get the point across.”

Some of the 16 films that were finalists will remain available online for individuals, churches and other ministries to view and use as ministry materials at no charge. The other final films will be integrated with the eMediaLINK service and available only to subscribers.

“Online video and audio are powerful tools for reaching not only the homebound, but also for sharing the gospel, letting people make a virtual church visit and even staying in touch with church members overseas such as men and women in the military,” Utley said.

Each category winner received a 20 GB Apple iPod and a \$100 iTunes gift certificate. “The Power of Prayer,” submitted by Masaru Horie of British Columbia, won in the faith category; “Job’s Eyes,” submitted by Tim Sabic of Phoenix, won in the hope category; “Baby Talk,” submitted by Craig Bellaire of Rochester, N.Y., won in the love category; and “What’s Your Excuse?” submitted by Mark Younge of Waipahu, Hawaii, won in the plan of salvation category.

For a complete list of winners and runners up, to view several finalist films or to learn more about eMediaLINK, visit the www.lifeway.com/emediaLINK site. ■

11,000 photos are priceless gift to *Biblical Illustrator*



Photo by Kent Harville

Louise Kohl Smith made 20 visits to the Holy Land and donated her photo collection to LifeWay's Biblical Illustrator.

Middle Eastern scenes and landscapes of historical significance — many which no longer exist today — come alive again through *Biblical Illustrator*, thanks to a bequest of 11,000 photos and slides.

Biblical Illustrator is LifeWay's quarterly biblical background magazine. Though designed as a Sunday school supplemental piece, the magazine can stand alone, offering photographs and articles on biblical archaeology.

Octogenarian Louise Kohl Smith has made 20 visits to the Middle East since the 1960s, taking cameras with her each time. She visited sites in Israel, Iraq, Iran, Jordan,

Egypt and Palestine, shooting pictures of places now closed to tourists and that have been destroyed by war, vandalism or time.

Smith, who lives in the Miami area, is alert, active and eager to share her life's passion with others. As she talks about her travels and her photographs, her face glows with excitement. "My mama always said I had a face like cellophane," Smith said. "Everything I feel clearly shows through."

Smith grew up the adopted daughter of a wealthy businessman and his wife. She lived on a lavish New Jersey estate, with a New York Fifth Avenue apartment and a winter home in Palm Beach, Fla. But, in spite of the affluence, she didn't travel outside the



Biblical Illustrator Editor G.B. Howell said the quality and organization of Smith's bequest make the gift a treasure.



Middle: The Gates of Nineveh, in the present-day Iraqi city of Mosul, could be destroyed at any time.

Above: This modern-day Bedouin family makes cheese in a goat skin. The 15-member family lives much the same way as their Middle Eastern ancestors did for generations.

country. It was in the 1960s when her mother told her that she would pay for a trip anywhere her daughter wanted to go.

"I immediately ran to the travel office and found the longest and most expensive trip to the Holy Land I could get," Smith recalled with a laugh. "I thought I might never get another chance like that."

Smith said when she arrived in Israel, "I sat out on my little three-by-five-foot balcony and just took it all in — the sights, the sounds and the smells. Even though I'd never been there before, I just knew this was my favorite place in the world."

Smith used her photography skills to capture images across the region. "I always tried to photograph sites that had meaning to me, places I knew from the Bible. I wanted to get more than just what postcards showed."

And she did. While postcards show panoramas, Smith's photographs show details of sites. For example, at a garden gate, she might photograph the whole gate, but would also zoom in on a particular section, showing details of exquisite hand-wrought metal.

Each of Smith's 20 trips added to the collection.

But a collection of such size brings the inevitable question of what to do with it.

As Smith began thinking about the distribution of her assets, she was especially concerned about her collection of images. She determined *Biblical Illustrator* would be the recipient.

"I had enjoyed the magazine for years," she said. "I appreciated the quality and the scholarly nature of it. I decided to leave my collection to LifeWay and the magazine in my will."

G.B. Howell, editor of *Biblical Illustrator*, said when Smith contacted him about the bequest to the magazine, he was not sure what to expect.

"While we are always appreciative when someone wants to send us photographs and slides, before we can accept we

have to think about the quality of what we will get, as well as if the donation will meet needs we have,” he said. “With our limited storage space, it becomes a question of stewardship.”

Howell said when he began looking at the images Smith was offering, though, he was impressed with what he saw. “The photographic quality jumped out first,” he said. “It was excellent.”

Then, the locations she had photographed began to come into focus.

“When I started looking at the specific photographs, I was amazed,” Howell said. “Some of the places she had been and had photographed no longer exist,” Howell said. “Not only has the violence that area of the world experienced had an impact on

some of the ancient biblical sites, but the ravages of time and nature have taken a toll on the land.

“Iraq and Iran aren’t open to us any longer. We can’t go in and take pictures of the still-existing ancient sites there. This makes many of her images priceless to us.”

Also, Smith was meticulous in cataloging and organizing the images. “It was obvious this was her life’s work,” Howell said.

Smith said she feels good about leaving her photographic legacy to LifeWay and *Biblical Illustrator*. “I know they will use the images wisely and to the glory of God. I’m happy knowing that through my photographs, other Christians will get to see the majesty of God’s Holy Land.” ■

by Polly House

We recommend:

To order *Biblical Illustrator*, go to www.lifeway.com or phone (800) 458-2772.

Donors to LifeWay limited only by imagination

Individuals and corporations seeking to support the ministries of LifeWay Christian Resources have a variety of options besides traditional cash donations.

LifeWay does not receive Cooperative Program funds, so Southern Baptists may not realize giving opportunities exist.

According to Gary McCauley, director of LifeWay’s capital resource development department, only about 15 percent of donors give gifts other than cash. These donations, called in-kind gifts, can range from basic supplies to estates and land.

As an example, McCauley pointed to George and Opal Bowles, owners of a mattress manufacturing company in Georgia. When the Mountain Laurel Inn at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center needed updating, an in-kind gift from the Bowles translated into 120 rooms having new mattresses. In all, the Bowles gave the conference center mattresses on three

separate occasions.

LifeWay exists for transformational ministry — people first, then cultures, McCauley said. “Many people who are supportive of ministries don’t fully realize the extent to which they can support the organization. By giving in-kind gifts, people help the organization fulfill the things we do best.”

McCauley pointed out LifeWay gives away hundreds of Bibles each year. “A printer could say, ‘We’ll donate the paper and ink, or the paper, for this press run.’ That’s an in-kind gift. That allows LifeWay to take those savings and redirect them to other ministry opportunities.”

Before accepting in-kind gifts, LifeWay must make sure the in-kind gift meets an articulated need. “Truly,” McCauley said, “you are limited by nothing but your imagination and what the organization legitimately needs.” ■

More information:

Contact McCauley at (615) 251-5939 or gary.mccauley@lifeway.com.

In FAITH and NASCAR, every team member counts

FAITH pastors and NASCAR drivers may both be in the limelight, but neither can do his job without a well-run organization. Teamwork is the key to a successful NASCAR race. It's also the key to successful FAITH ministry.

More than 200 first-time and veteran FAITH clinicians met at First Baptist Church, Daytona Beach, Fla., for the National FAITH Institute, Jan. 24-27. FAITH is a strategy that combines Sunday school with evangelism. It uses the acrostic F-A-I-T-H (forgiveness, available, impossible, turn and heaven) as a tool for leading people to a point of receiving Christ as Savior. SBC President and First Baptist Church Pastor Bobby Welch is the creator of the strategy.

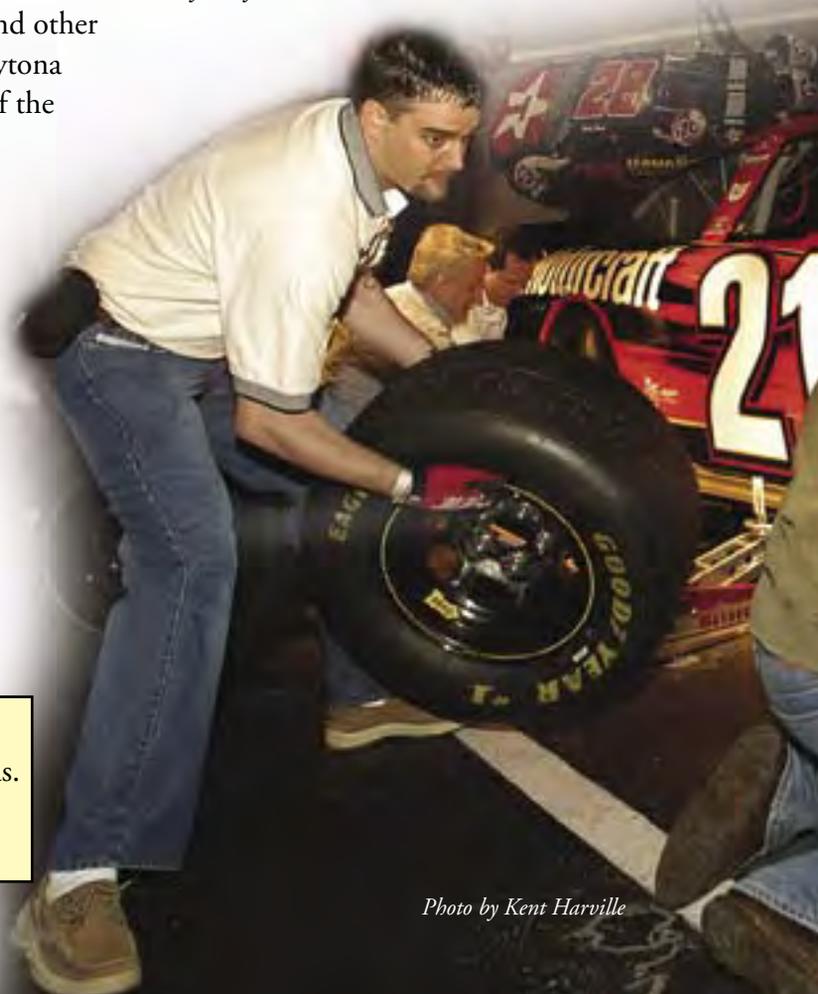
An off-site tour took pastors and other church staff members to the Daytona International Speedway, home of the Daytona 500. Throughout the tour, they heard how NASCAR and FAITH share similarities: teamwork is crucial to success; everyone on the team is important; if you have to make a pit stop, make it quick, then get back on the track; and there may be a lot of personalities involved, but everyone has the same goal.

“NASCAR fans may only know the name of the driver,

but there are also mechanics, engineers and the pit crew,” said James Walker, director of FAITH for LifeWay. “People who aren’t members of your church may only know the name of the pastor, but all of you are a crucial part of the FAITH team. Building your team is like building a pit crew. Every person has a job to do.”

The Daytona 500 race brings more than 250,000 visitors to Daytona Beach each February. All those people are excited about things that don’t last—speed, noise and celebrities. The FAITH Institute brings in about 250 people each January. All those people are excited about the one thing that matters for eternity—bringing people to saving faith in Jesus Christ. ■

by Polly House



LifeWay will conduct the next National FAITH Institute Sept. 19-22 at Great Hills Baptist Church in Austin, Texas. For more information about the FAITH strategy, or to register for the institute, go to www/lifeway.com/faith.

FAITH Institute visitors lead 31 to Jesus in Daytona Beach

Thanks to the efforts of the participants at the FAITH National Institute at the city's First Baptist Church in Daytona Beach, Fla., the city is home to 31 new Christians.

Statistics from the institute's celebration time indicated:

- 70 teams participated in outreach

- 540 visits were attempted
- 282 visits were completed
- 115 gospel presentations were made
- 31 professions of faith were recorded
- 11 people enrolled in First Baptist's Sunday school
- 138 prospects for the church were discovered



FAITH Institute participants, from left, Troy White, Highland Park Baptist Church, Mount Pleasant, Texas; Jason Leschitz, First Baptist Church, Daytona Beach, Fla.; and Jeff Gardner, Navilla Baptist Church, McComb, Miss., show teamwork in action.

FAITH luncheons at SBC

Churches interested in learning more about FAITH are invited to the FAITH/Sunday School awareness luncheon during the Southern Baptist Convention's lunch break Tuesday, June 21, at Hilton Inn & Suites Armstrong 1 & 2 banquet rooms, next door to the Gaylord Entertainment Center. The luncheon is limited to 150 ticket holders.

For churches that already are using FAITH, a force multipliers luncheon will be held simultaneously in the Hilton Inn & Suites Boone & Crockett banquet rooms. The luncheon is limited to 400 ticket holders.

Tickets are free but required for entrance and can be obtained by contacting Patricia Murphy at (615) 251-2888 or by e-mail at patricia.murphy@lifeway.com. Remaining tickets will be available at the FAITH table in the SBC registration area June 19-20.

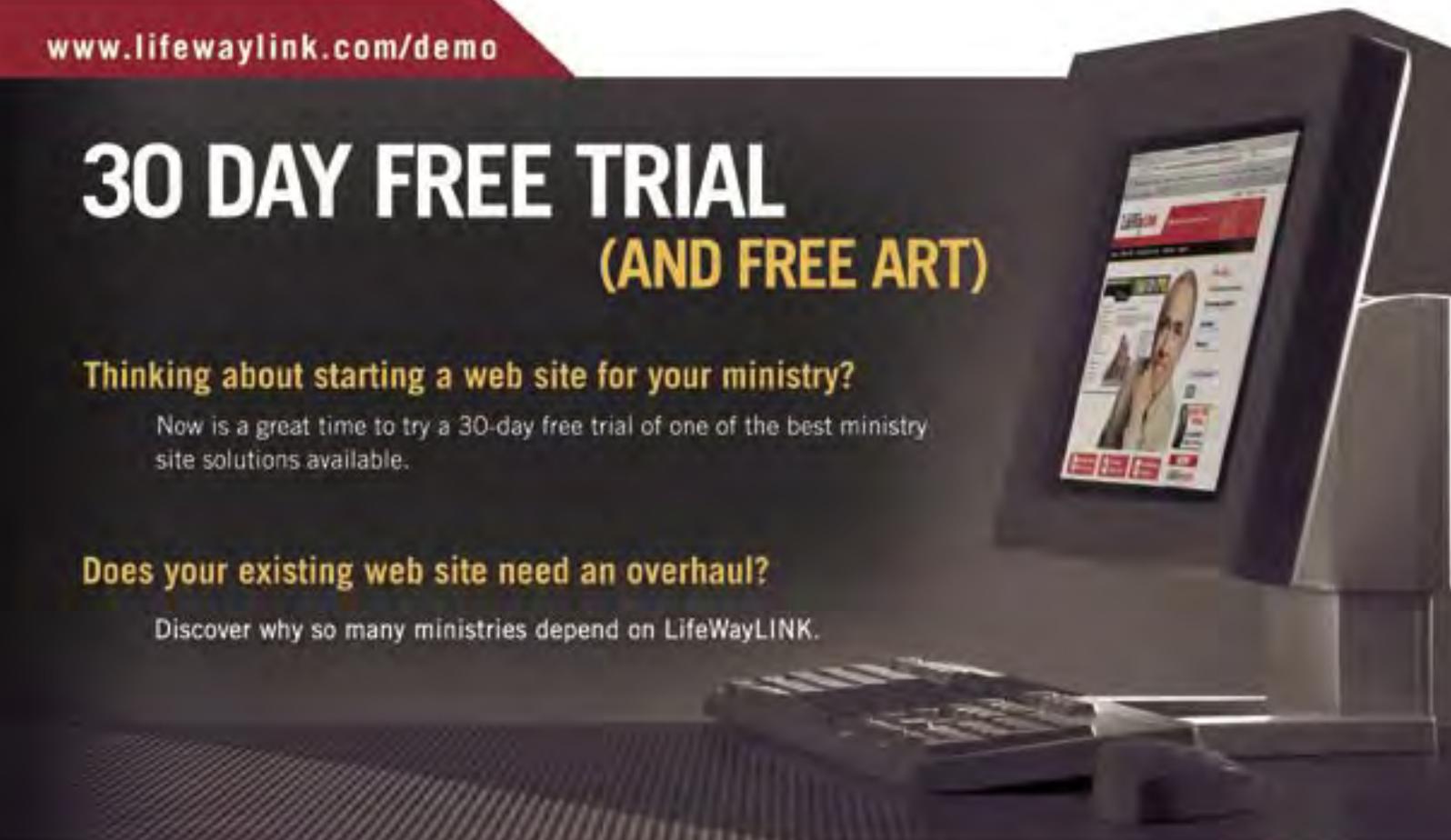
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LifeWay's Ministry Job Board offers collection of resumes and job openings

An increasing number of people in today's computer-savvy society are turning to Internet job boards in search of new jobs or to advertise open positions.

To help match those seeking positions with ministries looking to fill openings, LifeWay created the Ministry Personnel Center. The center functions in collaboration with ChurchStaffing.com, a pre-existing ministry job board featuring more than 6,000 resumes and 800 vacant positions throughout the country.

"Our coordination with ChurchStaffing.com was a natural choice," said Gary McClure, LifeWay's e-business marketing manager. "We desired to meet the needs in the ministry marketplace, and this organization had a successful model and robust tools already in place."

ChurchStaffing.com is the largest ministry job database on the Internet and houses resumes, information and position openings from multiple denominations.

ChurchStaffing.com might be broad in scope now, but creator Todd Rhoades started the database in 1999 after developing an interest in one specific branch of professional ministry.

Meeting the needs of a niche

While working as a worship leader, Rhoades, a self-described "Internet geek," maintained a Web site specifically for music leaders. The site offered information on a variety of topics including announcements of job openings.

Rhoades noticed how popular that section of his site was and decided to start a Web site focused entirely on the ministry marketplace.

"The Internet provides an instantaneous

way to find out where the jobs are and what the churches are looking for," Rhoades said. "Church ministry is really kind of a niche, so we tried to keep [the board] focused on that."

In order to further extend the reach of his Web site, Rhoades began cooperating with other organizations, including LifeWay.

"LifeWay wanted to help ministries that need to fill an open position and individuals who are making a transition," McClure said. "This job service does both. It connects those who are looking with those who are hoping to be found."

In late February, Lake Shore Baptist Church in Pasadena, Md., posted an open children's minister position on the site. Within 10 days the church received several resumes, said Melody O'Sullivan, minister of assimilation at Lake Shore Baptist.

"It's user-friendly, it's quick and a lot of people respond," O'Sullivan said. "There's a big result with a little effort."

Resumes and job openings posted on LifeWay's Ministry Personnel Center remain on the database until the applicant finds a position or the advertised position is filled, Rhoades said.

"The ministry job market is huge and it's constantly in [transition]," he said. "As people enter new phases in their jobs and ministry, they really need to know we're here."

LifeWay's Ministry Personnel Center is located under the "Tools" menu of www.lifeway.com. ■

by Brooklyn Noel

"This job service ... connects those who are looking with those who want to be found."

— Gary McClure

Genevox Music becomes LifeWay Worship Music Group

LifeWay's music department recently changed its name from Genevox Music to LifeWay Worship Music Group to more accurately define the section's identity and purpose.

The music department will continue to offer products and events to churches and areas within LifeWay, but the new name more accurately reflects "who we have become as a department, what our purpose is, and the audience we are called to serve," said Terry Terry, acting director.

"LifeWay identifies who we are," he said. "We are the music department for this entire company and all that it encompasses, as well as LifeWay's core customer base. 'Worship' explains our role and purpose in God's Kingdom work. It's what we were called to do. 'Music' is the vehicle we use. 'Group' defines us as a unified body of people called to this service."

The name change and refocus will have a positive impact on employees within the area, Terry said. "Until now, employees who work with music have been divided among departments throughout LifeWay. We have pulled all of those people into one unified department."

Employees from publishing, sales and events, leadership training, marketing, and advertising and promotion now operate under a common name and leadership.

"All along, almost everything that happens music-wise in LifeWay has flowed through our department, from permissions to finished products," Terry said. "We provide music for G-Force, Family Bible Study, Beth Moore events and Vacation Bible School. We're excited about partnering with other departments on future projects."

The LifeWay Worship Music Group will continue to offer products and events through its current imprints:

- **Genevox**, which offers musicals, collections and anthems for adults and students; keyboard music for piano, organ, synthesizer and multiple keyboards; instrumental music for orchestra, praise band, or solo instruments and hymnals. Genevox offers contemporary, pop and gospel products.

- **Church Street Music**, which provides traditionally styled choral music for adults, youth and children, as well as keyboard music for piano, organ and keyboard duets.

- **Church Street Press**, which provides music and worship resources, as well as drama materials and academic texts.

- **Children's Music Series**, which offers popular songs and activities in children's choir curriculum. Suitable for church, home or school settings, it's designed in a two-semester format to teach age-appropriate spiritual and musical concepts.

- **Dovetail Music**, which provides musicals and collections for preschool and children. Dovetail Music has everything from holiday collections to non-seasonal music for church, camp, or home use.

- **Made for Praise**, a resource designed for use with children's choirs in grades 1-6. The Leader's Guide includes a DVD, an enhanced CD providing lesson plans, tips, PowerPoint presentations, streaming video enhancements, choreography ideas, posters and interactive games.

For more information about LifeWay's music department, go to www.lifeway.com and click on the "Ministry" pull-down menu. ■



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Ralph Hodge named director of regional operations area

Ralph Hodge has been named director of LifeWay's regional operations area, replacing Mike Miller who has become executive pastor at First Baptist Church, Dallas.

"Regional operations is LifeWay's area that works most directly with our churches," Hodge said. "We see communicating with them through our regional directors and our call center as our mission. We want to keep our finger on their pulse so we can continue to serve."

Hodge has been at LifeWay since May 1988. Before that, he was a pastor for 24 years. For the past three years, he has been director for the Mid-South/Southeastern regions (Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Florida and Georgia).

"Ralph's experience both at LifeWay and as a pastor brings strong leadership to this role," said John Kramp, vice president of the

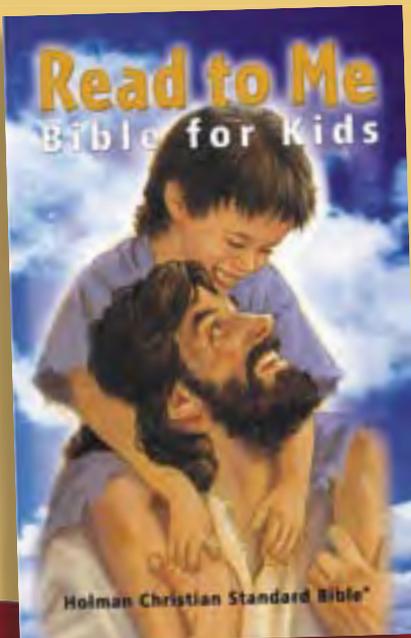
church resources division. "He has built strong relationships within LifeWay, with pastors and staff in all kinds of churches, and among the partners in our networks. His knowledge of the church, of leadership, of discipleship and of our work in regional ops is exceptional." ■



Photo by Kent Harville

Ralph Hodge, right, meets with David Trammel, regional director for LifeWay's Southwest region.

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True Love Waits launches community-wide initiative

LifeWay kicked off its new True Love Waits initiative, “Takes the Town,” in Nashville, Tenn., with a reception for youth ministers and community leaders and a concert featuring Christian recording artist Barlow Girl.

The “Takes the Town” theme encourages communities to unite by involving schools, local governments, businesses, churches, health organizations and others to promote abstinence.

“We hope it broadens the impact of the commitment to sexual abstinence until marriage,” said Jimmy Hester, coordinator for the True Love Waits team and senior director of LifeWay’s student ministry publishing department.

True Love Waits spokesperson Paul Turner said the new theme developed as the logical next step for the 11-year-old ministry. “We’ve done a good job with churches and making students understand,” he said. “I think God has prepared the culture to take a stand for sexual purity.”

Several Nashville-area YMCA employees attended the reception and voiced their support for the program and the impact it has made. Dawana Wade is the YMCA’s vice president of community development as well as the mother of two teenagers.

“It makes sense for me to connect with people that have the same views of sexual purity that I do,” Wade said. “If we as a community embrace and recognize the [long ranging effects] of sexual activity, maybe the youth at the Y will, too.”

Since 1993, an estimated 2.5 to 3 million youth have signed cards pledging to remain sexually abstinent until marriage. Turner said he believes communities have the power to help that number continue



Photo by Kent Harville

Barlow Girl performs during the launch of the True Love Waits initiative, “Take The Town.”

to grow. “If everyone is saying the same message, students start to say, ‘You know, there might be something to this.’”

Hester said the True Love Waits team has set a goal of involving 50 communities in this unified effort during the first year. “This is the kind of emphasis in a community that could really sway [youth’s] choices.”

A study by the American Journal of Sociology found that teenagers who pledge abstinence until marriage are 34 percent less likely to have sex than those who do not make that pledge. The study suggested the pledge is effective because it creates an “identity movement” that offers peer support.

True Love Waits is designed to encourage sexual purity through adherence to biblical principles and positive peer pressure. The pledge to abstinence comes after eight weeks of teaching and study. Hester said the intention is to give youth a biblical understanding of sexuality and God’s design for a sexual relationship within the boundaries of marriage between one man and one woman.

For more information about True Love Waits or the “Takes the Town” initiative, visit www.truelovewaits.com. ■

We recommend

- *Introduction to True Love Waits* by Jimmy Hester
- *Pure Joy: God’s Formula for Passionate Living* by Paul Turner and Matt Tullos
- *Sexual Resolutions - True Love Waits Resource Book* by Paul Kelly
- *30 Days: Turning the Hearts of Parents & Teenagers Toward Each Other* by Richard Ross and Gus Reyes
- *A Hard Choice: Sexual Abstinence in an Out of Control World* by Doris Jean Santiago and Jesus Cruz Correa

These and other resources are available through customer service at www.lifeway.com and (800) 458-2772 and from LifeWay Christian Stores at www.lifewaystores.com and (800) 233-1123.

Resources

just released from LifeWay

Broadman & Holman

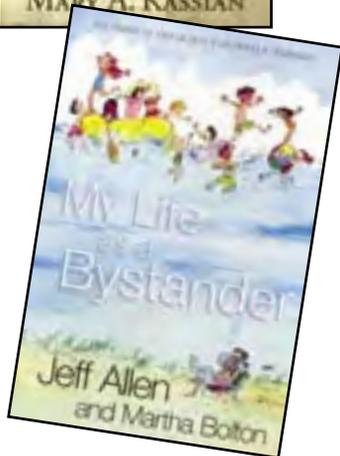
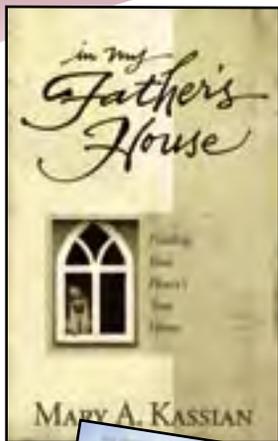
■ *In My Father's House* by Mary A. Kassian

We need to get to know God as Father and relate to Him as a blessed child. However, our relationship with our earthly father positively or negatively impacts how we relate to Father God. Kassian encourages women to clear barriers hindering them from seeing their loving Heavenly Father, and to base their relationship with God on the truth of who He is rather than falsehoods about Him. Releases May 1. Paperback. B&H product # 0-8054-3082-2; \$12.99

■ *My Life as a Bystander*

by Jeff Allen
and Martha Bolton

Allen says, "Some days all we want to do is butter our waffle. But life doesn't always cooperate." *My Life as a Bystander* is about these kinds of days. It's also about trying to decode the



secret code of women. It's about grandparents who buy a three-year-old a BB gun. And it's about arguments over cheese. Sound familiar? As one who has been married for more than two decades and has raised sons, Allen feels he has something to say on the subject. As a comedian, it's usually something funny. And it is always interesting, maybe even a little profound. Releases May 1. Paperback. B&H product # 0-8054-3166-7; \$12.99

■ *In Her Steps*

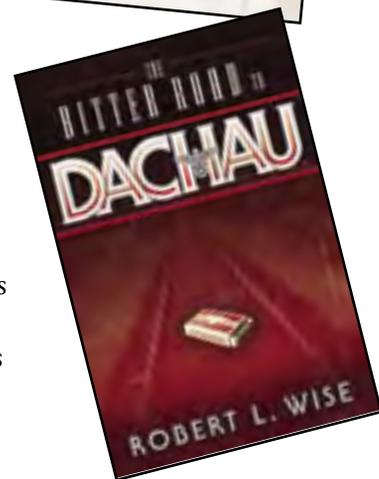
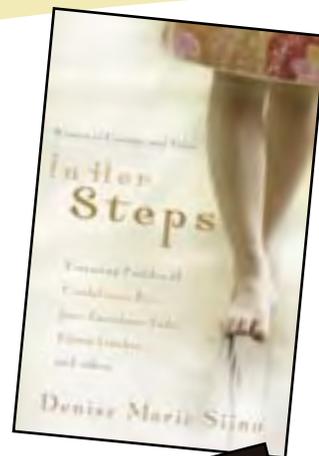
by Denise Marie Siino

Most visions of heroes in literature are masculine. But the Bible is full of women who can only be described as heroic. Furthermore, one doesn't have to look far to find many examples of heroic women whose courage and faith empower them to make a difference in the world today. *In Her Steps* profiles these women of history and today. These 40 vignettes will inspire the reader as Denise Marie Siino dives into each woman's life to uncover the depths of her valor. These women were chosen based on their dedication to serving the heart-concerns of God and the needs of people, sometimes in the face of adversity or opposition but always with great courage and determination. Releases May 1. Paperback. B&H product # 0-8054-3165-9; \$12.99

■ *The Bitter Road to Dachau*

by Robert Wise

Christian Reger's quiet, storybook world collapsed in the frenzy of 1939 prewar Germany. Joining the confessing church to

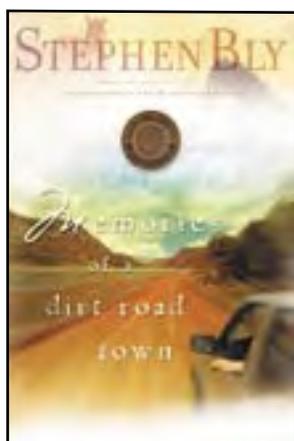


protest Adolf Hitler and Nazism, the fury of the Reich was unleashed. Ending up in the Dachau concentration camp where 10 percent of the prisoners were men of the cloth, Reger struggled to survive. Cramped into the pastor's barracks with other ministers, the clergyman came face to face with man's inhumanity to man. He struggled to endure, asking tough questions about God, suffering and life itself. Releases May 1. Paperback. B&H product # 0-8054-3073-3; \$12.99

■ **Memories of a Dirt Road Town**

by **Stephen Bly**

Donna Woodstone is a fifth-grade schoolteacher in southern Illinois. Her nightmare begins one summer when she discovers her husband's infidelity. She divorces him without ever telling her 21-year-old daughter, Marla, why. Although Donna has a heart change and desires reconciliation, he dies before Donna can tell him of her desire. Marla blames Donna for her father's death. Brokenhearted about her husband's death and Marla's decision not to come home for the summer, Donna decides to find a little dirt road town in Wyoming where she had vacationed as a child. Upon arrival, Donna purchases a Roan mare and a burro, rents a little cabin and watches



as God brings three very important men into her life. Releases May 1. Paperback. B&H product # 0-8054-3171-3; \$14.99

■ **The Secret of the Swamp King**

by **Jonathan Rogers**

As book two opens, Aidan is living in the court of King Darrow. He has become best friends with Darrow's son, Steren, and he enjoys great favor among the courtiers. But King Darrow sends him on an impossible adventure to the recesses of Feechiefen Swamp, thinking he is sending Aidan to his death. But Aidan's fate is not sealed yet for he has allies among the feechiefolk who know him as the hero Pantherbane. Releases May 15. Hardcover. B&H product # 0-8054-3132-2; \$15.99

■ **Loving Soren**

by **Caroline Coleman O'Neill**

Regina Olsen desired to "save a man from himself." Maybe it was because she could not save her father. Maybe it was for true love. Whatever the reason, Regina, who had been engaged to another man, set her course for a lifelong love to a man who would become known the world



over for his brilliance. Soren Kierkegaard, the passionate Danish philosopher, was drowning in his melancholy. Soren asked Regina to marry him, but before they wed, he broke off the union in order to pursue what he perceived as God's calling on his life — to write. Regina finally married the man who loved her all along, only to have Soren once again intrude upon her life. Releases May 1. Paperback.

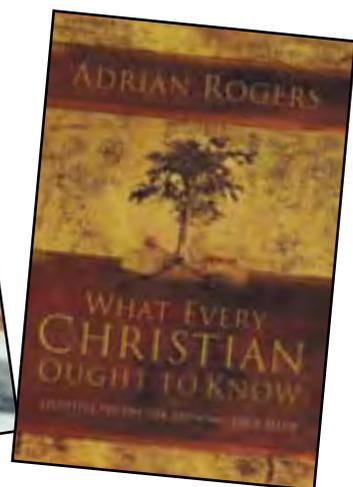


B&H product # 0-8054-3089-X; \$14.99

■ **What Every Christian Ought To Know**

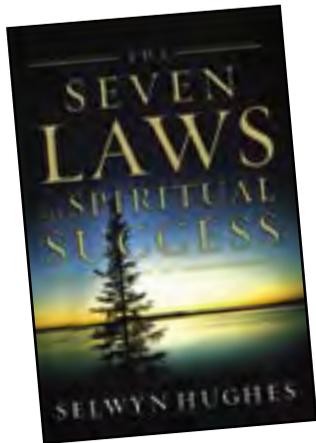
by **Adrian Rogers**

Just as plants need certain essentials to grow — light, water and fertile soil — so do new Christians. Without these they will never establish strong roots or bear fruit. Rogers has written a book designed to give new believers the nurture and care their faith needs to blossom and grow. *What Every Christian Ought to Know* seeks to give intellectual truth and also to provide the "spiritual nutrients" required to produce mature faith. Releases June 1. Hardcover. B&H product # 0-8054-2692-2; \$19.99



Resources

just released from LifeWay



■ **The Seven Laws of Spiritual Success** by Selwyn Hughes
Having spent a lifetime in Christian ministry, Hughes has discovered key elements in the Christian life that are more than just principles. They are laws. Hughes came upon these laws after reflecting on his many years of experience not only as a minister of the gospel but more poignantly as a disciple of Jesus. These laws represent the basic minimum of the truth of the gospel. Releases May 15. Hardcover. B&H product # 0-8054-4048-8; \$14.99

■ **Imagine! A God Blessed America** by Richard Land
Land explores in depth the intriguing question: What would that blessing

look like? Land looks at God's promises recorded in Ezekiel 34:23-31. Too many Christians have resigned themselves to a fatalistic perspective on our decadent society. However, Land believes the "divine tipping point" is within our reach and God's blessing is a very real possibility for our time. Readers will be inspired to believe their faith can make a difference for themselves, the next generation, their culture and their nation. Releases June 15. Hardcover. B&H product # 0-8054-2765-1; \$24.99

■ **The Grassfire Effect** by Steve Elliott
What does it take to change the world? Just a simple idea that starts out as a spark, becomes a flame and grows into a grassfire that spreads. Learn the lessons Elliott has learned that led to the discovery and



implementation of Grassfire.org. More importantly, *The Grassfire Effect* shows you how to apply the grassfire effect to your own life and release those "sparks" of ideas that can change your world. Releases June 15. Hardcover. B&H product # 0-8054-4037-2; \$14.99

■ **Hostile Intent** by Phil Little with Albert Perrotta
For three decades Little has been behind the lines and in front of the curve on the issue of terrorism. From Lebanese terror camps in the 70s to American airports in the months before Sept. 11, he has seen and explored the threat of terrorism upclose. Little's message of hope will resonate with readers as he shares ways everyone can protect and empower themselves against those forces of evil and darkness that would harm our families and our nation. Releases June 15. Paperback. B&H product # 0-8054-4024-0; \$14.99

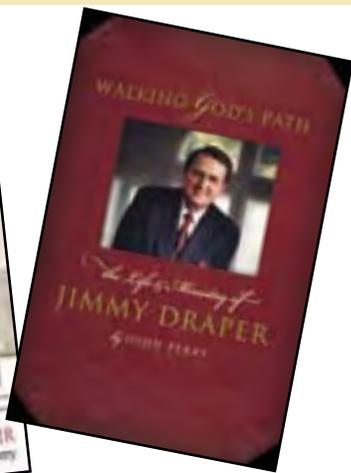
■ **Eternal Vigilance** by Matthew D. Staver
The preface of *Eternal Vigilance* says we lose our religious liberties for three primary reasons: ignorance of the law, hostility toward religion and apathy. Staver says he frequently encounters



apathy among Christians and other religious people. Most people would rather run and lose their rights than struggle for them. The intent of this book is to provide education in areas of free speech and religious liberty. The late Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ, called this a valuable book that will prevent intimidation by militant and anti-religion forces and help preserve our God-given national heritage. Releases May 15. Hardcover. B&H product # 0-8054-4000-3; \$24.99



■ ***LifeWay Legacy***
by James T. Draper Jr.
with John Perry
LifeWay Legacy takes you on a journey through history to relive some of the most spiritually decisive moments in modern history. From the convention rostrum at the 1890 Southern Baptist Convention you will hear an eloquent, dapper, mustachioed Virginian propose a radical publishing venture, articulating the need while offering no real provision or plan for organizing or funding it. This same man, J.M. Frost, would shortly take the first leadership role in the organization that is now known as LifeWay, a respected leader and innovator in the spread of the gospel throughout this nation and this world. Releases June 1. Hardcover. B&H product # 0-8054-3170-5; \$29.99



■ ***Walking God's Path***
by John Perry
James T. Draper Jr. began his work as a minister of the gospel in the 1950s. Through the next five decades, the influence of the denomination he served grew in size and scope as did the influence of his own ministry. Together, Draper and the Southern Baptist Convention faced the challenges of the social upheavals of the 1960s and 70s and stood fast for traditional values during the relativistic 1980s and 90s. Today, Draper guides one of the most influential forces of morality, values and the Christian message in the country. Releases June 1. Hardcover. B&H product # 0-8054-2549-7; \$19.99

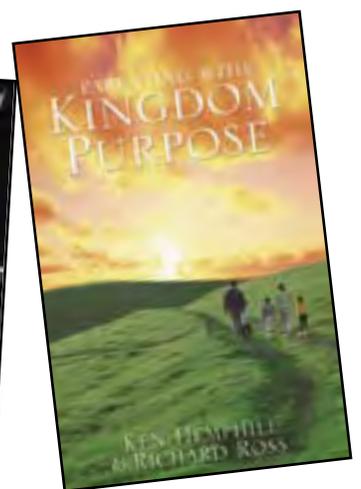
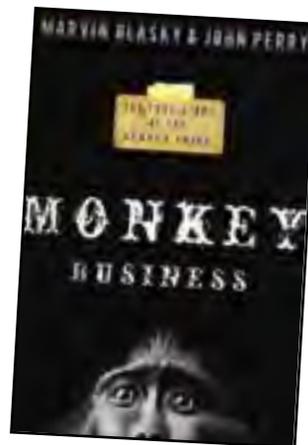
■ ***Monkey Business***
by Marvin Olasky and John Perry
The Scopes Monkey Trial in Dayton, Tenn., was a watershed moment in the

history of this country. The ramifications of those proceedings are still being felt today. The way the entire event was conducted and perceived by the rest of the nation set the tone for how creationists and evolutionists have been viewed by society ever since. Most people have a misunderstanding of what happened based on the slanted newspaper reporting accounts of H.L. Menken. As a result, the case for creationism has been crippled in the eyes of society. *Monkey Business* will offer the facts of the story and an apologetic for divine creation. Releases May 15. Hardcover. B&H product # 0-8054-3157-8; \$24.99

■ ***Parenting with Kingdom Purpose***
by Ken Hemphill and Richard Ross
Almost all teenagers are religious but their views of God and faith vary widely.

Most seem to think God exists but don't believe He is very involved in life on earth. This has serious implications for Christian parents and the role they play in helping their kids. *Parenting with Kingdom Purpose* from youth ministry pioneer Ross (True Love Waits, 24-Hour Counselor) and respected Christian author Hemphill will help Christian parents instill in their students a faith that has a foundation. Ross and Hemphill will help parents see what they need to be and what they need to show students for faith to be a reality for teenagers today. Releases June 1. Paperback. B&H product # 0-8054-3299-X; \$12.99

■ ***Why Churches Die***
by Mac Brunson and Ergun Caner
Poisons find their way into us, invading us, infecting us and spreading



We Are

Our country is engaged in a fierce war. This war is a war of values—a culture war. As with all culture wars, this one being fought over the question, “What is Truth?” It is clear that the main target of this war is our children and youth, and the major front of this war is being waged on educational turf.

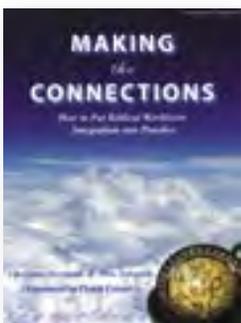
LifeWay Christian Resources is making every effort to assist Christians in this battle for the hearts and minds of the next generation by providing biblical solutions for churches, Christian schools, and homeschool families. These resources and services are specifically designed to help Christians develop a biblical worldview and train the next generation to know Christ and think and act from a biblical worldview framework.

Biblical Worldview Development Solutions

Think Again!

Think Again! is a training resource to help Christians understand, develop and live out a biblical worldview in every aspect of their lives. It can be done as a small group Bible study following a six, eight or ten-week time frame for a church or Christian school, or a homeschool group.

Think Again! is ideal for all adult levels and is also very applicable for the high school-aged teen. This is a great resource for churches, Christian schools and homeschoolers who want to understand and develop a biblical worldview. Live workshops can be scheduled by contacting LifeWay at **615.251.2750**.



Making the Connections

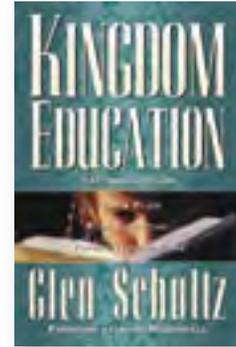
Making the Connections is a practical training tool for Christian school and homeschool educators. The six hour training can be done through a live workshop or through DVD instruction. *Making the Connections* trains teachers at any grade level and in any subject area to effectively plan and implement biblical worldview integration. Educators will become proficient in knowing how to connect any piece of knowledge to a biblical worldview framework—thus re-investing that knowledge with its God-intended meaning.

At War!

Biblical Philosophy of Education Solutions

Kingdom Education: God's Plan for Educating Future Generations, 2nd Edition

Kingdom Education is an easy to read book setting forth a biblical philosophy of education that must guide the total education of a young person. It clearly defines the roles of the home, church, and school in the formal training of future generations. This treatise is a must read for Christian parents, church leaders and Christian educators who desire to address the issue of education from a biblical perspective.



Curriculum Solutions

LifeWay Christian School Resources has developed two curricular series for the Christian school and homeschool setting.

WEE Learn curriculum guides provide early childhood education programs with year long, biblically-based curriculum from the infant and toddler years through age 5. These resources are age-appropriate and educationally sound guides for teachers to help young children develop their God-given abilities through a learning center approach.

The *Quest Bible Series* is a Bible curriculum for grades 5 through 12 that will lead students in both Christian schools and homeschools to study God's Word and develop the wisdom and ability to apply the Bible's truth to every aspect of life.

Training and Consulting Solutions

LifeWay Christian School Resources offers a wide range of consulting services and staff training for Christian schools and churches. The staff is ready to assist schools in developing strong mission statements and strategic plans that will lead each school to stay true to the mission of kingdom education. We can also assist churches in starting a schooling ministry that is based on a biblical philosophy of education.

The *Building a Kingdom School Institute* is an annual, three-day, practical training program for Christian school leaders. It will guide every Christian school leader in understanding a biblical philosophy of education and how to develop and implement an intentional plan to drive this philosophy into the 8 main influencers of the school's culture. This is a must for every school leader who wants his school to be a kingdom-focused institution that trains students to be able to successfully engage in today's culture war. The dates for this summer's institute are **July 13-15, 2005**. It will be held at **LifeWay Christian Resources** in Nashville, Tennessee.

Special Note: The *Building a Kingdom School Institute* is co-sponsored by the Southern Baptist Association of Christian Schools. Anyone wanting information on membership in SBACS, or scholarships available for the institute, or the *Making the Connections* training, should contact Ed Gamble at edgamble@sbacs.org or www.sbacs.org.

Contact Information

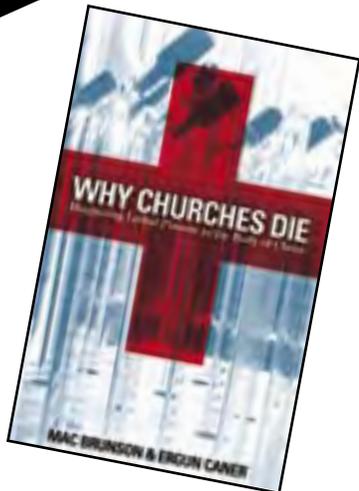
For more information on any or all of these resources, you can contact us at:

christianschools@lifeway.com
615.251.2750
www.lifeway.com/schoolresources



Resources

just released from LifeWay



throughout us until the illness is felt all over. There are spiritual poisons that work this way as well, except these ailments invade another kind of body—the spiritual body of Christ. Like the diseases of our physical bodies, these diseases slow the body down, crippling it to function at less than capacity. They limit what the body can do and the effectiveness it can have. If not treated, these diseases can lead to death. Brunson and Caner practice the science of spiritual forensics to prevent churches from unnecessary illness and premature



death. Releases June 1. Paperback. B&H product # 0-8054-3181-0; \$12.99

LifeWay Church Resources

■ **Fuel: Igniting New Life with God's Story—Volume 1.4**

DVD and CD-ROM Leader Set

Fuel is a video-based curriculum series for youth that contains the kind of attention-grabbing visuals and music they are exposed to every day, but presented in a positive way. This updated resource presents 96 of the major stories of the Bible in chronological order over a two-year period. *Fuel* contains eight volumes of study, released quarterly providing material for 12 sessions each. It's flexible, for use with both small and

large groups. The Leader Set contains everything needed for each session, including two DVDs containing dramas, montages or music videos; an introduction

by teen hosts; and one of the great stories of

the Bible, vividly retold by an experienced communicator for each session. The Leader Set also includes three CD-ROMs that provide small-group teaching plans, easy-to-use leader resources, outlines, and student handouts to keep it cost-efficient. Volume 1.4 study topics include: Jonah; Hosea and his wife; Isaiah and other prophets; Jeremiah and his enemies; Daniel; Esther; and Ezra and Nehemiah. Releases May 1. Church resources product # 1-4158-2274-3; \$149.95

Fuel 1.4 Small Group Leader Set (CD-ROMs only)

This handy resource allows leaders to divide the students into small groups following the video presentation for further interaction. It includes the three CD-ROMs found in the main resource with teacher preparation plans and resources. Order one for each small group leader. Releases May 1. Church resources product # 1-4158-2050-3; \$9.95

■ Vital Character

Today's students desperately need strong character to influence their world for Jesus Christ. Student ministers and leaders will be thrilled with the series' variety of timely topics because



each session is full of stories and imagery that capture the attention and imagination of today's teenagers. It's all interactive and fun, and is written on a basic level, so no outside preparation is required for students. Plus, it's easy to use and written with the busy student leader in mind—it includes an inspirational leader article and specific helps for teaching. Each

SO MUCH TO LIFE, SO MUCH TO LIFEWAY

- Bibles and Bible Studies
- Books and Devotionals
- Music and Videos
- Christian Conferences
- Online Bible Studies
and Ministry Web Sites
- Resources for Ministers
and Church Supplies
- Gifts With Meaning

www.lifeway.com

 **LifeWay**[®]
Biblical Solutions for Life

Resources

just released from LifeWay

four-session study uses reproducible worksheets and reproducible devotional guides to help teens continue the development of godly character in their lives. And, along with *Vital Truth* and *Vital Skills*, it offers a six-year plan for basic discipleship for students. Releases June 1.

Vital Character: Courage, Church resources product
1-4158-2270-0; \$12.95

Vital Character: Holiness, Church resources product
1-4158-2027-9; \$12.95

Vital Character: Peace, Church resources product
1-4158-2269-7; \$12.95

■ **Essential Gear: Your Guide to Life After High School**

Looking for practical tools to give graduating high school seniors as they prepare to transition into their new worlds? Whether they go to college, join the work force or enter the military, users will find relevant information presented in various formats. Each book contains a CD-ROM, which houses helpful reference information for students,



such as a world religions chart, tips for buying a car and Web links to useful Internet sites. In addition, the CD-ROM features teaching plans and supplemental information for teachers, along with ideas for hosting meetings with parents of graduating seniors. Releases June 1. Church resources product # 1-4158-2805-9; \$12.95

■ **LifeTrak for Older Youth—5.4 Edition (Grades 10-12)**

The older youth edition focuses on the problems and concerns of 10th–12th graders. Each undated quarterly issue features a multipurpose,

multimedia-based CD-ROM containing small-group formats, master-teacher formats, contemporary music, the Holman CSB text and reproducible pages. *LifeTrak* is ideal for mapping curriculum for grades 10–12. It gives leaders the “big picture” by printing the scope and sequence in each edition so they can choose the *LifeTrak* curriculum to fit their needs. This curriculum provides an evangelistic lesson at least once each quarter. *LifeTrak* differs from other Sunday school studies in one more way. It continues to offer a total of 16 quarters of lessons to choose from. Releases June 1. Church resources product # 0-6331-9487-5; \$29.95

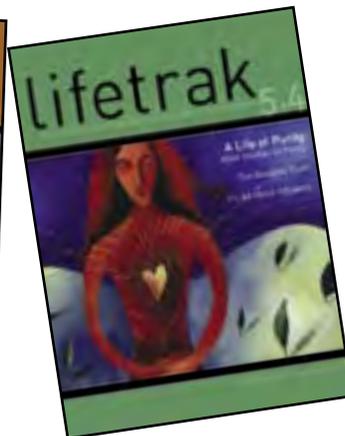
■ **LifeTrak for Younger Youth—5.4 Edition (Grades 7-9)**

The younger youth edition is written to focus specifically on the problems and

concerns of students in grades 7–9. Each undated quarterly issue features a multipurpose, multimedia-based CD-ROM, including adaptations for small-group and master-teacher formats, music, the Holman CSB text and reproducible pupil and parent pages. *LifeTrak* also gives leaders the “big picture” by printing the scope and sequence in each edition so they can choose the *LifeTrak* curriculum to fit their needs. *LifeTrak* differs from other Sunday school studies in one more way. As we develop new content, we’ll continue to offer previous issues — a total of 16 quarters of lessons to choose from. It’s an all-in-one, comprehensive resource for leaders and learners. Releases June 1. Church resources product # 0-6331-9485-9; \$29.95

■ **Transforming Student Ministry: Research Calling for Change**
by Richard Ross

Wondering what’s on the mind of teenagers when it comes to religion? This new resource has your answers. Based on the National Study of Youth and Religion, *Transforming Student Ministry* reveals basic insights into how teenagers view religion



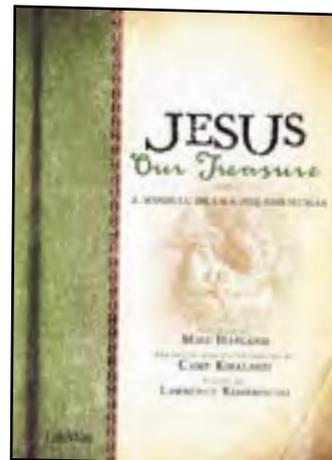


and how adults can have a powerful impact on the faith development in youth. Inside, you'll delve into subjects such as Scripture and Kingdom parenting; raising Kingdom teenagers; who teenagers think God is; introducing teens to God; the adults teenagers need; and impacting teenagers at home and at church. Releases June 1. Church resources product # 1-4158-2596-3; \$19.95

LifeWay Music Worship Group

■ *Jesus, Our Treasure* created by Mike Harland, arranged and orchestrated by Camp Kirkland, script by Lawrence Kimbrough
Imagine being able to think back on the first Christmas recalling everything, even down to the minute details experienced only by those who felt it, saw it and lived it. For the shepherd Jacob such is the case. When his granddaughter, Miriam, inquires about his old shepherd staff, he is taken back to that night, just 40 years before, when he saw the sky explode in brilliant angelic light and met Jesus Christ in Bethlehem. Let Jacob take you back to the night his life changed

forever as you share *Jesus, Our Treasure*, a dramatic musical for Christmas. SSATB choral book, Church resources product # 1-4158-2250-6; \$7.95
Listening CD, accompaniment CD (split track), rehearsal tracks, orchestration, bulletins, posters and CD promo pak also are available.



Correction

LifeWay will host free tours of its home office to people coming to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, Crossover and Fast 50.

Tours will begin Friday, June 17, and go through Friday, June 24 from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Tours on Sunday, June 19, will be from 1-5 p.m. Tickets will be available at the LifeWay booth in the SBC exhibit hall and at LifeWay's front desk at One LifeWay Plaza.

Facts & Trends



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