

Facts & Trends

The Power of Discipleship

advice from the experts

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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2006

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

 **LifeWay**
Biblical Solutions for Life

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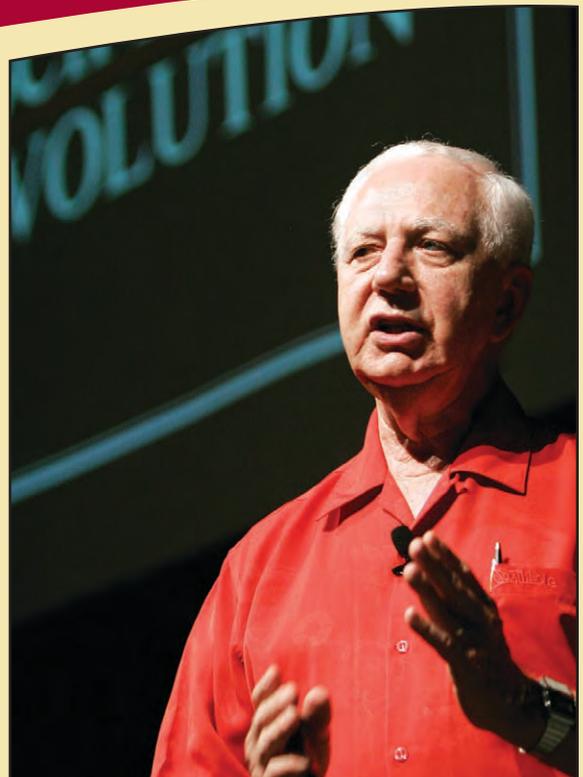
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Cover photo: A new believer is baptized in Catalao, Brazil. Now, it is time to begin discipling him. Photo by Jim Veneman



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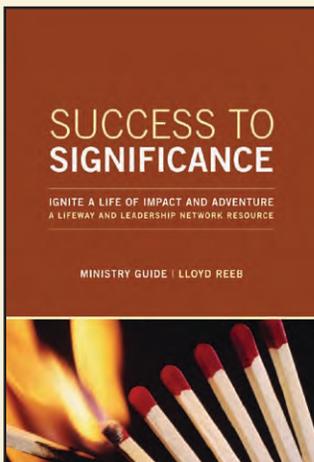
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- Complete information guide on 2007 LifeWay training and event opportunities for individuals and churches
- Cowboy church near Glorieta reaching out to locals
- Motorcycle rally at Ridgcrest draws Christian riders

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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 Shrou, Brooklyn Noel, Jenny Rice, Chris Turner, writers; Kent Harville, visuals specialist; Shirley Richardson, Web editor; Russ Rankin, editor in chief; Rob Phillips, director, corporate communications.

From my perspective

12 Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

Many Gifts but One Body

³ For by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than others.



Being witnesses without compromising His message

Jesus upset the cultural applecart when He came to earth, and more than 2,000 years later His presence still rankles the prevailing culture. As a small boy He was the target of a lunatic's rage that led to genocide (Matthew 2:16-18), and today churches and Christians wrestle with being Jesus' witnesses without compromising His message. How do we as Christians manage the tension?

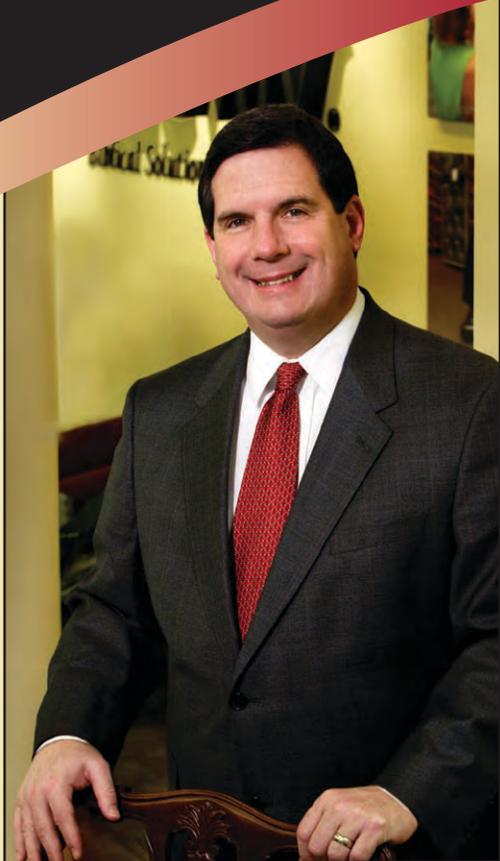
H. Richard Niebuhr tried to answer that question more than 50 years ago with his classical work *Christ and Culture*. In it, Niebuhr dissects five ways in which he sees Christ relating to culture: Christ against culture, Christ of culture, Christ above culture, Christ in paradox with culture and Christ the transformer of culture.

Regardless of where one stands in relation to Niebuhr's conclusions, there is little dispute about the issue raised. As book reviewer Michael Joseph Gross writes of the book: "[It] remains among the most gripping articulations of what is arguably the most basic ethical question of the Christian faith: how is Christ relevant to the world in which we live now?"

Obviously how each of us answers this question has everything to do with how we as Christians see ourselves in relation to culture. In fact, for this issue of *Facts & Trends* we posed the issue to a number of church leaders and laity, asking if Christians should separate themselves from the worldly culture around them in order to lead a more godly lifestyle, or if they should be very informed about the secular culture around them in order to reach out to others in a

more relevant way. The results were, in my opinion, disappointing.

The study that follows shows neither is happening. For all our talk about cultural relevancy, it appears we are participating in culture as an end in itself and not – at the least – as a reconnaissance mission to inform evangelism strategies. Christians too often are simply absorbed into culture.



Thom S. Rainer, president and CEO, LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention

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LifeWay President Thom S. Rainer writes LifeWay@Heart, an occasional 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.



This is of significant concern to me. I've researched various aspects of the church for years and Christians seem to still struggle with answering the question of how Christ is relevant to the world in which we live. Why? Jesus is as infinitely relevant today as He has been at any point in eternity past and will be in eternity future. He is the fulcrum of history; the lynchpin of civilization. One of my favorite passages of Scripture is Colossians 1:15-20. How relevant is Christ to the world in which we live? Without Him nothing exists!

“How relevant is Christ to the world in which we live? Without Him nothing exists!”

— Thom S. Rainer

the final ends of life; that the means become the end as the affluent live only for their own affluence. He then writes: “And far from challenging this emptiness and futility, evangelical churches have too often been its exemplars, pitching their ‘product’ to ‘consumers’ and emptying themselves of every vestige of spiritual gravitas as if striving for a serious faith were a failing of great magnitude and one to be avoided at all costs.”

If the church is going to change to have the impact Christ intended it to have in culture, the change must begin in individual Christians who take seriously Paul’s mandate not to be conformed to this world but to be transformed through the renewing of our minds. Only then will we be Jesus’ witnesses, making a difference without compromising His message. ■

In His service,

We recommend

When Worldviews Collide by Ergun Caner

American Idols: The Worship of the American Dream by Bob Hostetler & Josh McDowell

Countering Culture: Arming Yourself to Confront Non-Biblical Worldviews by David Noebel & Chuck Edwards

How Should We Then Live? by Francis Schaeffer

A Peculiar People: The Church as a Culture in a Post-Christian Society by Rodney Clapp

Pop Culture Wars: Religion & the Role of Entertainment in American Life by William D. Romanowski

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.

Clergy know more about Bush than about Brangelina

by Ron Sellers





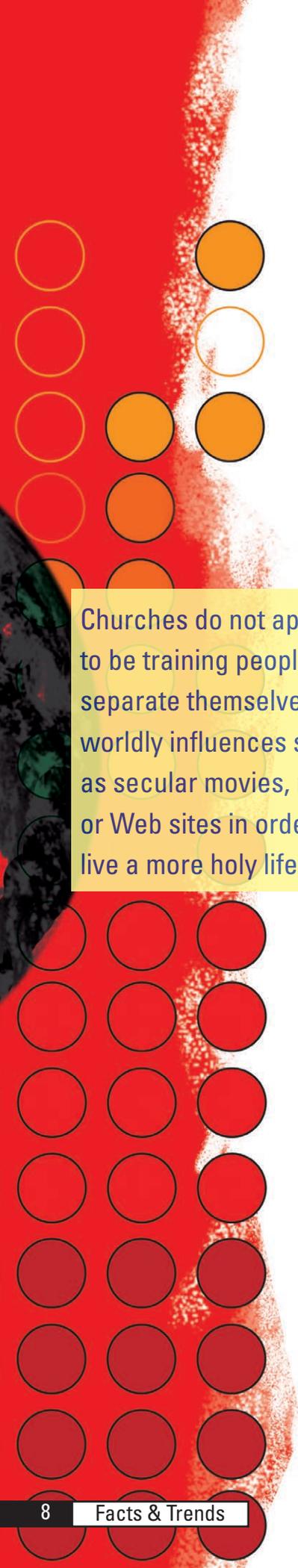
Should Christians separate themselves from the worldly culture around them in order to lead a more godly lifestyle? Or should they be very informed about the secular culture around them in order to reach out to others in a more relevant way?

This debate has been occurring within the church for centuries. Either way, it is logical to think that involvement in church would impact how people interact with the culture around them, either becoming more informed about it as an element of their outreach, or becoming less involved as they focus on a lifestyle untainted by worldly influences.

New research conducted for *Facts & Trends* by Ellison Research suggests that, in fact, neither is happening in churches today.

A study of 1,184 people who attend Protestant churches, as well as 797 Protestant ministers nationwide, asked both groups how informed they are about 12 different elements of today's culture: magazines, music, video and computer games, sports, politics, books, television programs, radio and TV talk shows, celebrities, clothing and fashion, movies and the Internet.

Pastors feel the most informed about politics and sports. They are least informed about video and computer games and celebrities.



Churches do not appear to be training people to separate themselves from worldly influences such as secular movies, music or Web sites in order to live a more holy life.

Overall, the findings show a number of major things:

- Most clergy and laity are not highly informed about any elements of popular culture, although relatively few actively avoid any of these things.
- Clergy are significantly less informed than the people in their churches for 10 of the 12 areas. Clergy and laity feel equally informed about sports, and clergy feel more informed than laypeople on politics.
- Among laity, how informed they are about today's secular culture did not vary according to how long they have attended their current church, how frequently they attend, or whether they are in a lay leadership position.

This latter finding may be the most important in the study. It is a logical assumption that if churches are having an effect on how people live their lives, then cultural knowledge would either increase (for outreach) or decrease (for separation from the worldly) the more involved someone is in their church. Yet this is not happening.

Churches do not appear to be training people to separate themselves from worldly influences such as secular movies, music or Web sites in order to live a more holy life, which is one approach to secular culture. At the same time, they are not getting people to immerse themselves in awareness of secular culture in order to have a more relevant impact on the culture around them (which is a second approach to interacting with secular culture). The average church is having no impact at all on how people interact with secular culture, which is why lay leaders are just as informed about today's culture as are non leaders, and why people who attend once a week or more are just as informed about the culture around them as are people who show up infrequently.

Overall, the areas about which pastors feel the most informed about secular culture included politics (36 percent felt very informed), sports (24 percent), the Internet (20 percent), television (19 percent), and books (18 percent). The areas about which they felt least informed included clothing and fashion (7 percent), video and computer games (5 percent) and celebrities (4 percent).

Among laity, areas about which they felt most informed were the Internet (43 percent), television (31 percent), politics (29 percent), music (28 percent) and books (27 percent), while celebrities, fashion and video and computer games are the areas about which they are least informed.

Among both laity and clergy, younger people tended to be significantly more informed about secular culture than did older respondents. Interestingly, there were very few differences among both groups according to denominational groups, or whether the respondent was part of an evangelical church or a mainline church. Southern Baptist clergy and laity were both average when it came to how informed they are about popular or secular culture. ■

How informed are you about popular culture?

Clergy compared to laity by topic:

	CLERGY	LAITY		CLERGY	LAITY
Politics			Talk Shows (radio & TV)		
Very informed	36%	29%	Very informed	12%	20%
Somewhat informed	55%	47%	Somewhat informed	46%	46%
Not very informed	7%	18%	Not very informed	34%	28%
Actively avoid	2%	6%	Actively avoid	8%	7%
Sports			Music		
Very informed	24%	24%	Very informed	11%	28%
Somewhat informed	44%	39%	Somewhat informed	46%	51%
Not very informed	26%	28%	Not very informed	39%	18%
Actively avoid	6%	10%	Actively avoid	4%	3%
Internet			Magazines		
Very informed	20%	43%	Very informed	11%	17%
Somewhat informed	51%	46%	Somewhat informed	43%	47%
Not very informed	22%	9%	Not very informed	41%	31%
Actively avoid	7%	2%	Actively avoid	4%	5%
Television			Clothing & Fashion		
Very informed	19%	31%	Very informed	7%	16%
Somewhat informed	56%	50%	Somewhat informed	34%	48%
Not very informed	20%	17%	Not very informed	52%	30%
Actively avoid	5%	3%	Actively avoid	7%	7%
Books			Video & Computer Games		
Very informed	18%	27%	Very informed	5%	16%
Somewhat informed	60%	52%	Somewhat informed	24%	34%
Not very informed	21%	18%	Not very informed	54%	35%
Actively avoid	1%	3%	Actively avoid	17%	14%
Movies			Celebrities		
Very informed	16%	24%	Very informed	4%	10%
Somewhat informed	51%	46%	Somewhat informed	28%	41%
Not very informed	27%	23%	Not very informed	54%	36%
Actively avoid	6%	7%	Actively avoid	15%	13%



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

Simple churches have intentional Sunday schools

Most everyone has seen the acronym KISS – Keep It Simple, Stupid! Well, take out the “stupid” part – it’s rude – and you have some good advice for churches. Look at KISS as Keep It Simple ... and Smart.



Churches are finding that simple works. That attitude is starting a revolution.

LifeWay President and CEO Thom S. Rainer and Eric Geiger, executive pastor of Christ Fellowship, a Southern Baptist church in Miami, discovered the revolution through an extensive research project that is challenging church leaders to simplify. Their findings are reported in the book *Simple Church: Returning to God's Process for Making Disciples*.*

In general, “vibrant” churches (based on growth of 5 percent or more for three consecutive years) in the study are much more simple than the churches that are struggling and anemic. Based on the research, church leaders are encouraged to design a clearer discipleship-making process, move people through it, align all ministries around it, then eliminate everything that gets in the way.

Sunday school

That said, let's look at what it means for one of the church's most important programs.

What does Sunday school look like in a “simple church” and where does it fit?

David Francis, director of LifeWay Sunday school, took a second look at the 400 Southern Baptist churches** Rainer and Geiger identified as vibrant to determine what kind of small group structure the churches operated. Gathering information from church Web sites and phone calls,

Francis was able to get information from 376 (94 percent) of these vibrant churches.

Of those, 87.5 percent operated Sunday school (an on-campus program scheduled adjacent to the primary worship service), while 12.5 percent operated small groups (groups meeting primarily off campus at times other than Sunday morning). Fifty-three percent of the vibrant churches used only the words “Sunday school” to describe the program, while 26 percent used terms like Bible study, Bible fellowships or LIFE groups and 8 percent used Sunday school together with another term.

Almost 9 in 10 of the simple churches in phase one of the research have a Sunday school. But so do the complex and struggling churches! While both groups tend to offer Sunday school with similar content, their similarities end there. The program is essentially the same, but there seem to be big differences in how simple and complex churches utilize Sunday school. How are they different?

1) Clarity: The simple churches know exactly where Sunday school fits in their process.

Simple churches have a clearly defined process for making disciples, and simple churches that offer Sunday school have placed it at a strategic place in that process. This is the essence of clarity. The complex churches just don't know where Sunday school fits. They offer the program but do not see it as part of the overall process.

Churches are finding that simple works!

2) Movement: The simple churches intentionally move people to Sunday school.

Simple church leaders recognize that people must be moved to points of relational attachment for true life-change to occur. In other words, people need a place in the church to make friends. If they don't develop these relationships, they probably will not stick around long.

3) Alignment and focus: The simple churches that offer Sunday school focus more on Sunday school than the complex churches who offer Sunday school.

Sunday school plays a more vital role in the simple churches than it does in the complex and struggling churches. This is a big statement, but it makes perfect sense. In the simple churches, Sunday school is an essential program in their process. Sunday school has more prominence as one of few key programs. In the complex and struggling churches, Sunday school is just one of many programs. It does not get adequate focus because attention and energy are divided among so many things.

Bottom line – know where Sunday school fits in your process, move people to it and give it focused attention as an essential program in your process.

Clarity Movement Alignment Focus

Get practical

The research demands a response. Truth always does. What exactly should church leaders do with Sunday school in light of the simple church revolution?

1) Clearly define the simple process God has for your church.

Begin here. Wrestle with this. Church leaders admit this is the most difficult part of their job, but it is so essential. The key word in simple church is process, not program. The process is the how. Most church leaders know the why and the what, but few have the how nailed down. How is your church designed to make disciples?

2) Make Sunday school an essential program in this process.

The simple churches that have Sunday school use it strategically. In most cases, Sunday school is the second step in their process, second only to the worship

service. In these churches, a visit to the worship service is typically the first interaction, then guests are encouraged to move on to a Sunday school class.

No one can argue that Sunday school is the best way to get people assimilated into the church. It just makes good sense to place it as the second step in your simple ministry process.

Moving the people

Now, what could be more simple than being able to accomplish step one (worship) and step two (assimilation and interactive Bible study) with every member of the family on one trip to the church? Because of facility or parking constraints, not all churches can do this. Those that can, however, are able to see a very high percentage of worship attenders moving to Sunday school.

1) Move people from your worship services to Sunday school groups.

Admittedly, this is much easier said than done. Designing a process is one thing; moving people through it is another. To move people to Sunday school, leaders and classes must take responsibility for helping people move into their groups. Churches with vibrant Sunday school ministries tell newcomers: "Sunday school is important. It is your next step after worship attendance. We will provide information and

assistance to help you find the group where you will fit in best.”

2) Funnel special emphases through your Sunday school.

Becoming a simple church is not easy. And the most difficult simple church element to implement is focus. Focus is saying no to everything that falls outside of your ministry process. The research indicates that one practical way to increase focus is to funnel other ministry opportunities through your existing essential programs.

For example, many churches funnel their missions emphasis through the Sunday school, encouraging each group to participate in a missions project. Stewardship campaigns are promoted through Sunday school. By assigning men and women to separate care groups, all communication about men's and women's programs can be funneled through the existing system. A growing number of churches encourage Sunday school classes to subdivide into small discipleship groups that meet during the week. These groups also include associate members of the class who serve in preschool, children and student classes on Sunday.

These are just some of the ways a Sunday school class can serve as a connecting point for moving people to the next steps of discipleship, while avoiding the creation of additional complex and redundant organizational structures. It's just more simple to align as many essential programs as possible with the Sunday school structure.

Eliminate non-essentials

Not all programs are essential! You know it's true.

1) Prayerfully and carefully begin to eliminate non-essential programs.

After you have designed a simple process with essential programs placed along the process, you will want to eliminate non-essential programs and special events. It is a stewardship issue. Non-essential programs and special events divert time, resources, publicity and energy away from your essential programs. People will not hear about the new Sunday school opportunities if you are promoting everything else. People will not realize how vital your Sunday school groups are to your process if non-essential programs and events cover them up.

Do this prayerfully and carefully. In *Simple Church* Rainer and Geiger say, “Become simple as fast as you can, but not faster.” This is the body of Christ, not just an organization. These are real people in your church, not just pawns in a strategy.

Most simple churches have Sunday school and use it strategically. Complex churches that have Sunday school are just putting on a program. ■

**A review of Simple Church is available in the September/October 2006 issue of Facts & Trends, or go to www.lifeway.com/newsroom to find the 2006 news archives.*

***Rainer and Geiger's initial research was done in two phases, the first being Southern Baptist congregations, the second, non-SBC churches. Francis' research applied only to the SBC churches from phase one.*

FOCUS
is saying “no”
to everything
that falls outside
your ministry
process.

Just for fun

Christmas

Game Pages



E-mails, phone calls and even a face-to-face requests came in to Facts & Trends, so back by popular demand ... a little drum roll, please ... are your Christmas activity pages. You may copy them, distribute them and have a good time with them in the spirit in which they were done! Have a wonderful season celebrating our blessed Savior's birth.

True, False or Maybe

- _____ 1. The angel Gabriel appeared to Elizabeth and Mary, telling them they were to be mothers.
- _____ 2. The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, then to Joseph.
- _____ 3. There is no record of Joseph speaking in the Christmas story.
- _____ 4. God sent sweet cherubic angels to announce Jesus's birth.
- _____ 5. The three wise men were three nobles from the Orient.
- _____ 6. Jesus was named on the day he was born.
- _____ 7. The little drummer boy was the last person in Bethlehem to pay his respects to the Christ child.
- _____ 8. Jesus's ancestors included a prostitute, an adulterer, and a non-Israelite.
- _____ 9. Jesus and John (the Baptist) were cousins.
- _____ 10. Jesus was born to bring salvation for all people.

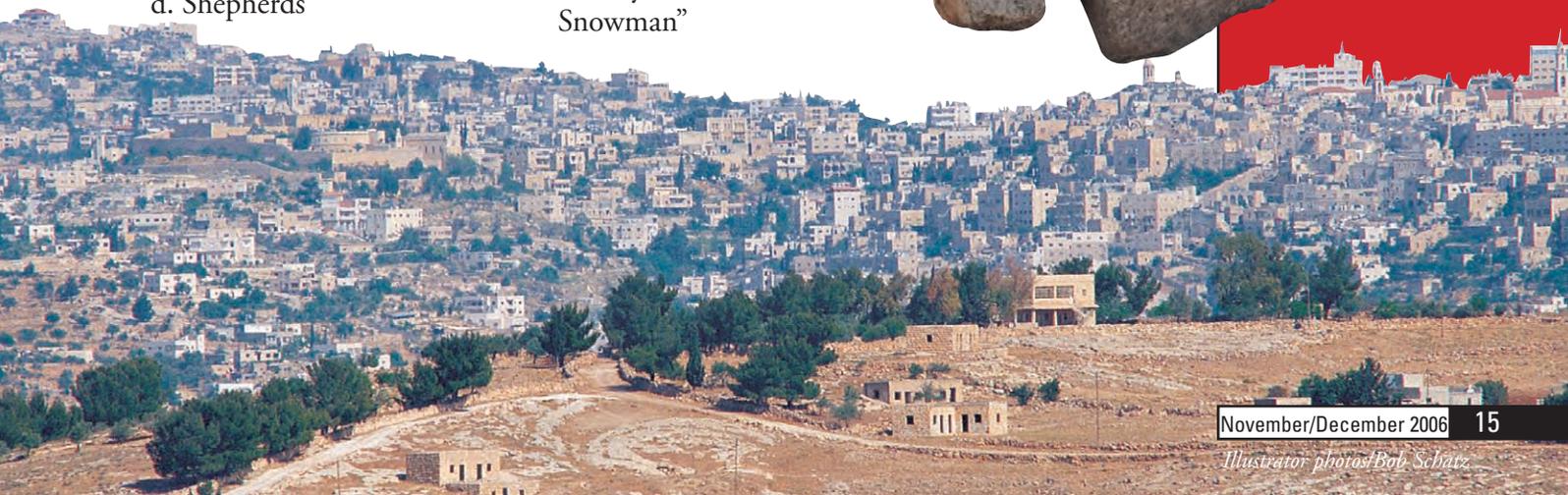
Answers on page 16

ABCD Pick

- 1. When does the Orthodox Church celebrate Christmas?**
 - a. Dec. 25
 - b. Dec. 30-31
 - c. Jan. 1
 - d. Jan. 6-7
- 2. Who declared that Dec. 25 would be the official Nativity date?**
 - a. Bishop Liberus
 - b. Emperor Constantine
 - c. Jesus Himself
 - d. Pope Pius
- 3. Why was Jesus born in Bethlehem?**
 - a. It was Joseph's ancestral home
 - b. Mary was there at the time
 - c. To fulfill prophecy
 - d. All of the above
- 4. Who was not present at the manger at Christ's birth?**
 - a. Joseph
 - b. Mary
 - c. Magi
 - d. Shepherds
- 5. Which British monarch began the tradition of decorating a Christmas tree?**
 - a. Elizabeth I
 - b. Elizabeth II
 - c. James
 - d. Victoria
- 6. What plant, now a Christian symbol, was considered divine by the Druids?**
 - a. Fir tree
 - b. Hemlock tree
 - c. Holly
 - d. Mistletoe
- 7. Which U.S. President was the first to decorate an official White House Christmas tree?**
 - a. Abraham Lincoln
 - b. Warren Harding
 - c. Franklin Pierce
 - d. Theodore Roosevelt
- 8. Which popular Christmas song was actually written as a Thanksgiving tune?**
 - a. "Frosty the Snowman"
 - b. "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"
 - c. "Jingle Bells"
 - d. "White Christmas"
- 9. Who was Ebenezer Scrooge's dead business partner?**
 - a. Joshua Wickett
 - b. John Wenceslas
 - c. Jacob Marley
 - d. James Watson
- 10. Which Christmas movie is consistently called America's favorite?**
 - a. *A Charlie Brown Christmas*
 - b. *It's a Wonderful Life*
 - c. *Miracle on 34th Street*
 - d. *White Christmas*

Answers on page 16

*Directly below: A stone manger typical of that used during the period of Jesus's birth.
Bottom: A panoramic view of modern day Bethlehem*





Christmas Song Humming Game

Write Christmas songs on slips of paper (two of each song). Then, in a bag, put as many pairs of songs as you have pairs of people. Let each person draw a slip of paper, not showing it to anyone. Instruct the people that they are to begin humming their song when you say “hum.” The goal is to find the other person who is humming the same song.

When the partners find each other they hold hands and begin to sing the words to their song. The first three teams to sing win! Give each team member a small prize. This game works well at a Sunday school party or a church fellowship and is a good way to mix children through senior adults. The larger and more diverse the group, the more fun it is!

Suggested songs: “We Three Kings,” “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear,” “Angels We have Heard on High,” “Angels from the Realms of Glory,” “Good Christian Men, Rejoice,” “White Christmas,” and “Jingle Bells.” For a real challenge, throw in the “Hallelujah Chorus!”

True, False, Maybe Answers:

1. **False.** Gabriel appeared to Zechariah, Elizabeth’s husband, and told him that his wife would conceive. Then, Gabriel appeared to Mary to tell her. Luke 1:13, 1:31.
2. **True, maybe.** OK, trick question. Gabriel did appear to Mary, but we don’t know which angel appeared to Joseph. Luke 1:28, Matthew 1:20
3. **True.** There is no record of him speaking at all.
4. **False.** He sent an army of warrior angels. “Host” is a military term. See Luke 2:13.
5. **False.** There is no mention of how many came.
6. **False.** He was given His name on His eighth day, according to Jewish custom. Luke 2:21
7. **False.** What drummer boy? Besides, what mother would let a kid with a drum around her sleeping baby?
8. **True.** Rahab was a prostitute, David was an adulterer, and Ruth was from Moab. Matthew 1:3-6 If Jesus has relatives like that, why should any of us be ashamed of ours?
9. **True, maybe.** Some translations call Jesus’ mother, Mary, and John’s mother, Elizabeth, relatives, but others say cousins. Luke 1:36
10. **True.** And that’s the best Christmas present of all! Luke 1:9-11

ABCD Pick Answers:

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. d | 6. d |
| 2. a | 7. c |
| 3. d | 8. c |
| 4. c | 9. c |
| 5. d | 10. b |

LifeWay.com undergoes redesign

by Brooklyn Noel

This winter LifeWay's Internet technologies area will unveil a redesigned LifeWay.com that will feature a cleaner look, simpler navigation, enhanced site speed and more opportunities to connect with site visitors.

The redesign comes as a result of customer feedback, recommendations from external consultants, and best practices and usability studies and training.

"The design is not about just making LifeWay.com look nice," said Lynn Goolsby, LifeWay.com manager. "We want visitors to be able to easily and quickly find the biblical solutions they expect LifeWay to offer. Numerous people have already come to know Christ through our site."

According to Goolsby, the redesign will address two of the most common complaints regarding LifeWay.com – the site's often confusing organization and the speed of the site.

Overall, LifeWay reduced the size of the LifeWay.com pages by 66 percent by decreasing the number of graphics, the size of individual graphics and the number of navigation links included on the site.

Visitors to the new LifeWay.com site will notice that the remaining links to resources, events and additional information will specifically relate to the featured material or topic on the page. Goolsby explained that, for instance, someone surfing LifeWay.com's "Pastor" area will see a link to the sign-up page for the *Pastors Today* e-newsletter instead of a link to the generic e-newsletter registration page that offers more than 30 e-newsletters.

"The new site is cleaner and more intuitive," Goolsby said. "It's about form

following function."

The redesign also will improve upon the LifeWay.com search function by simplifying and upgrading the current search engine.

Site designer Cheryl Casey said visiting LifeWay.com should be a "pleasant experience" for those surfing the Web, so the new design incorporates the flexibility to meet individual customer needs. She also pointed out that LifeWay.com is unique among Web sites because it offers an abundance of both free resources and products for purchase.

"LifeWay.com houses an enormous amount of information," Casey said. "It was important that the new design make all of that information as easily accessible as possible, but be attractive at the same time."

LifeWay.com editor Jeff Large estimated that the Web site contains more than 10,000 articles that address topics ranging from current events to planning a church Christmas party.

"When you think of all the Web sites out there, all the negative, inappropriate material that is available, LifeWay.com really has an opportunity to offer something positive and hopeful," Large said. "People all over the world see LifeWay through our Web site. It should be an avenue to Christ."

In addition to improving the look and feel of LifeWay.com, the redesign also will create more ways for customers to connect with LifeWay and one another through Real Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds, the ability to view the site on mobile devices such as PDAs and cellular phones and improved e-newsletter offerings. ■

Age, experience, wisdom -

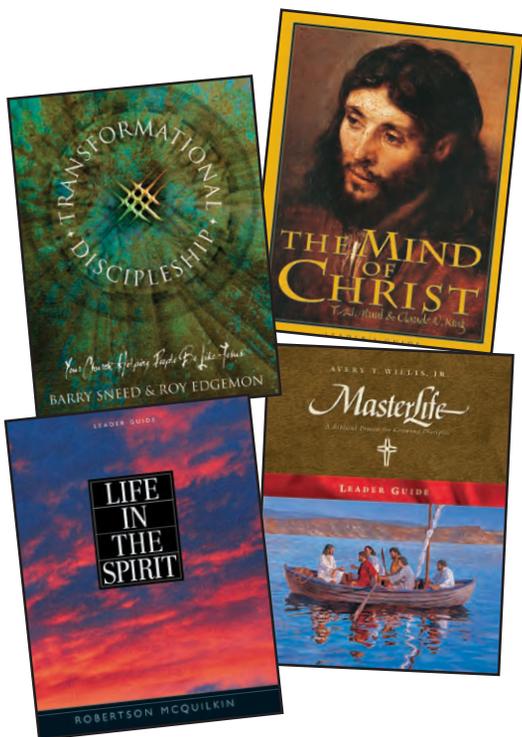
Discipleship legends answer questions at Ridgecrest

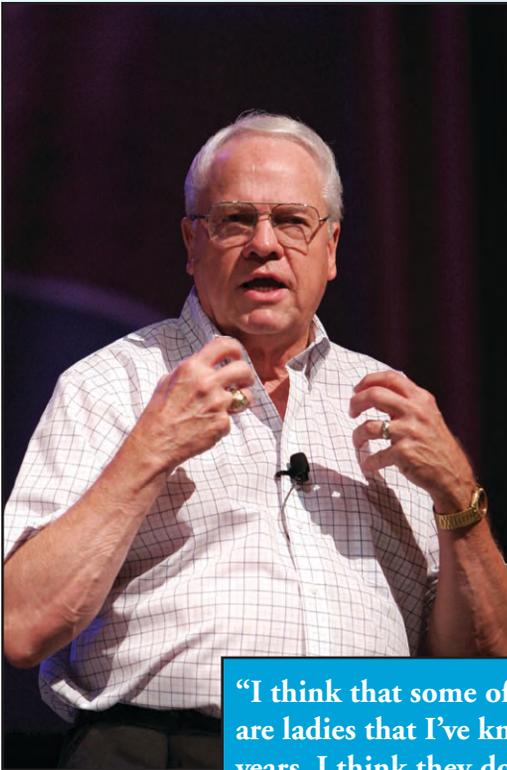
The adage “There’s no substitute for experience” applies to many areas of life. In many cases in Scripture, a man’s ministry and relationship with God comes into their most effective time once youth is past. The young are told to learn from the elders. The principle still holds today.

Each morning during last summer’s Discipleship Week at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, noted speakers, authors and theologians Roy Edgemon, T.W. Hunt, Robert McQuilkin and Avery Willis spoke in a panel discussion and answered written questions posed by the audience.

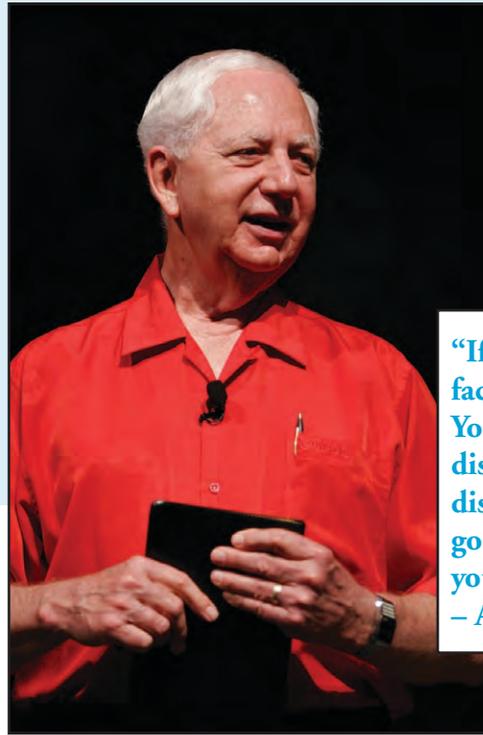
These four discipleship legends have been responsible for some of the most influential discipleship resources written:

- **Edgemon**, retired director of LifeWay’s discipleship area – *Transformational Discipleship: Your Church Helping People be Like Jesus*;
- **Hunt**, retired prayer specialist for LifeWay’s discipleship area – *The Mind of Christ*;
- **McQuilkin**, former president of Columbia International University – *Life in the Spirit*;
- **Willis**, former adult section manager of LifeWay’s discipleship area and retired executive vice president with the International Mission Board – *MasterLife*.





“I think that some of our best disciples are ladies that I’ve known through the years. I think they do an excellent job.”
– Roy Edgemon



Photos by Kent Harville

“If your church were a factory, what do you produce? You should be producing disciples. If you measure the disciples, you measure how good a factory you are. Or, are you going out of business?”
– Avery Willis

It must become a priority of the church. The church is to make disciples. If your church were a

Q: What would you describe as the heart of discipleship?

Willis: The heart of discipleship is a lifelong obedient relationship with Jesus Christ, abiding in Him, living in Him, following Him, obeying Him.

Q: What must we do to make the matter of discipleship and the equipping ministry a priority in our churches?

Willis: We’ve got to have a radical revolution. We’ve got to go back to the Bible and describe what a disciple is and not just ask folks to come make decisions or be baptized or become a member of a church, but to follow Christ. And then to say that means “deny yourself, take up your cross daily and follow Me.” It must become a priority of the leadership of the church.

factory, what do you produce? You should be producing disciples. If you measure the disciples, you measure how good a factory you are. Or, are you going out of business?

Edgemon: Discipleship in the local church is really an important decision that the church has to make. Every time we do a survey, people will put discipleship first, but in reality, that’s not what they do. ... I am working with a church as a consultant and it thrilled my heart that every person that comes into that church must go through new member training and the second thing they must do is go through a doctrine study.

Q: As a woman I have a problem with being asked to disciple men, and I tend to say no, but the men say they are OK with it.

Edgemon: I think that some of our best

disciplers are ladies that I've known through the years. I think they do an excellent job. I'm thinking particularly of Beth Moore in our Sunday school class. Right now, she's our teacher, by way of video, and those old ranchers and farmers – she's really getting through to them. I think that God's gift of teaching and God's gift of sharing is not a gender related thing. Thank God for the women. How grateful we are for the women. I think of all those great missionaries that were out there on the field that taught for so many years and the result of their work is still being felt in China and many other places.

Willis: I think it is important that you put it in the right context. I don't see a problem with a woman leading a discipleship of mixed gender; I wouldn't do a one on one [discipling] relationship with a woman and a man.

Q: How would you describe your personal quiet time and how you came to that discipline?

“I went to a conference something like this down the road when I was 12 years old and the preacher said, ‘Everybody who has read through the Bible stand up.’ I couldn't stand up and I was very embarrassed and I said this is not going to happen to me next year.”

– Robert McQuilkin

Willis: I was in college and I was reading these biographies of folks who got up and spent an hour in the Word of God and an hour in prayer. I said, “Oh, that's wonderful, I'll do that.” Of course I'd gone to bed at one or two o'clock in the morning. I'd do that one day and I wouldn't do it the next day and that was the pattern for a little while.

Then finally somebody gave me a little tract on how to spend seven minutes a day with God, and it kind of broke it down ... and I said, “Well, I can do that, even if I'm late.” So I started doing that consistently, seven minutes a day. Obviously that wasn't enough so it expanded into more meaningful quiet time. Just the fact that you meet the Lord every morning is the whole difference in the life of that (discipline).

Hunt: I was reared in a very devout home. We had a family altar. I was taught that everything depended upon starting the day with God. A rather radical change came in 1959 reading Martin Luther's translation of the Bible. I began to see the “all-ness” that God required of every person. ... That changed my 30-minute prayer time into about 3 to 4 hours of quiet time. Martin Luther had more insights than any translator I've ever read.

Edgemon: I was not raised as a Christian. I did not accept Christ until I was 15. I really did not have very much instruction other than what I had received from my church. I was already in the pastorate when I began to realize I needed that help and guidance.



Photos by Kent Harville

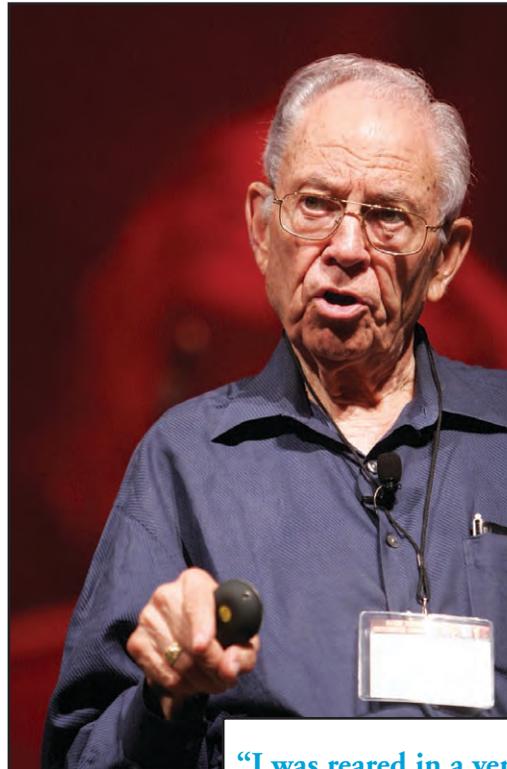
I think I read something about putting first things first. Give God the first hour of every day, the first day of every week, first fruit of the income, and first place in our heart. That kind of imprinted in my life and I started at that time doing that.

McQuilkin: I went to a conference something like this down the road when I was 12 years old and the preacher said, “Everybody who has read through the Bible stand up.” I couldn’t stand up and I was very embarrassed and I said this is not going to happen to me next year. On my dresser, I didn’t even close the Bible, I just left it there – three chapters a day and four on Sunday. Of course that wore out pretty quick. Then, after college, some Chinese brother had a motto: “No Bible, no breakfast.” So I told the Lord “that’s what I’ll do.” But it was kind of like eating sawdust for breakfast. But I promised Him, right? Six months later I woke up to the fact that I didn’t want breakfast until I had that. I felt that closeness and intimacy with Him. It’s been going ever since.

Q: How can we motivate people to want to be faithful disciples?

Willis: Motivation comes from passion. If you’re not passionate, nobody’s going to want to do what you’re doing. If you’re passionate with Christ and modeling that, people are going to want to know why you do those things. If you get in a personal relationship with them, you’re going to share your heart. I think it’s an intrinsic relationship problem. Are you living it? Are you passionate about it? Are you sharing it?

Hunt: Seems to me what we try to do is we start with immediacy and we don’t think about [the ultimate goal]. The whole thing is, where is it going to lead? What is



“I was reared in a very devout home. We had a family altar. I was taught that everything depended upon starting the day with God.”

– T.W. Hunt

this joy that is set before us? What is our hope? Our anchor?

McQuilkin:

I once had quite a connection with a church. When a pastor I knew went there, there was not one church leader who could or would lead in public prayer. I mean dead. That was a downtown historic church. What did he do? He got the leader in the church that seemed the most spiritually sensitive and began praying with him, just the two of them, and they began to reach out ... a little bit more, a little bit more. By the time I got there, that was the most praying church you ever saw. ■

We recommend

- *Transformational Discipleship: Your Church Helping People be Like Jesus* by Roy Edgemon
- *The Mind of Christ* by T. W. Hunt
- *Life in the Spirit* by Robert McQuilkin
- *MasterLife* by Avery Willis

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.

LifeWay Research releases initial studies

by Chris Turner

Church leaders and church members generally are left in the dark regarding the church and culture despite the glut of available information, and there is little chance that condition will improve without some help, said Brad Waggoner, director of LifeWay Research.

“I do believe today’s leaders are under-informed,” said Waggoner. “Oftentimes it is not necessarily their fault. There is an abundance of available raw information and it may simply be a case of not having the time to wade through and process it all.

“I believe that is where LifeWay Research

will be able to help – by putting out studies of the relevant and more important issues, clarifying them in a succinct manner.”

When LifeWay President and CEO Thom S. Rainer announced the formation of LifeWay Research soon after becoming LifeWay’s president, he described it as an entity that would assist and equip church leaders with knowledge that leads to greater levels of church health and effectiveness. Many of Rainer’s 17 published books stem from research done in the area of church health.

“LifeWay Research will be an entity that listens to churches, that listens to Christians

(From left) Libby Lovelace, Scott McConnell and Brad Waggoner of LifeWay Research will help churches evaluate current trends through a biblical filter.



and that listens to the spiritually lost,” Rainer said. “It will be an authority on what’s going on in the world of churches, beliefs and the world of the unchurched.”

Calvinism is focus of first study

Waggoner began his work at LifeWay Research in July and wasted no time beginning research projects. He scheduled four projects for the fall of 2006.

The first one, released in September, dealt with the prominence of Calvinism within the Southern Baptist Convention. LifeWay Research also released a study on the formerly churched – why they left church, why they stay away and what would bring them back. Another is on sources from which Southern Baptist churches draw ministry help. The other is a study of churches that have had effective evangelism strategies for a 10-year period. All studies are available at www.lifewayresearch.com.

Future studies are being planned. One of those scheduled for a spring 2007 release will focus on the recent trend of multi-site churches.

“A couple of these projects are focused on churches within the Southern Baptist Convention, but that won’t always be the case,” said Scott McConnell, associate director of LifeWay Research. “We eventually will take a look at many areas of our culture and how the church and Christians relate. It’s not that we are just going to do good research, but we want to

marry that research with a good biblical perspective of what is it that we are called to do as a church.”

Waggoner said LifeWay Research also will conduct research with transferable equipping information, such as a study recently conducted that examines the way churches execute Christian education.

“I truly believe because of the type of information we are going to be providing, we have an opportunity to impact the way people are thinking,” Waggoner said. “It might be strategic – getting people to take a look at the way they are doing things in their churches – or it may be a perspective

change that comes from learning what people in the culture or people in the pew are thinking. Ideas often affect ministry approaches.

“At the same time, ministries that claim to be cutting edge often follow changes in trends uncritically and eventually that becomes detrimental to the church,” he added. “We are going to be cutting edge, but we are going to examine information critically and theologically so that people and churches have solid information. We want them to avoid following something just because it ‘works.’ This leads to mere pragmatism. We must evaluate current trends through a biblical filter.”

Waggoner hopes to complete at least eight projects in 2007. ■

“We want them to avoid following something just because it ‘works.’ This leads to mere pragmatism. We must evaluate current trends through a biblical filter.”

— Brad Waggoner

We recommend

- Listen to an Inside LifeWay podcast interview with Brad Waggoner at www.lifewayresearch.com and www.lifeway.com/insidelifeway. Click on Podcast.

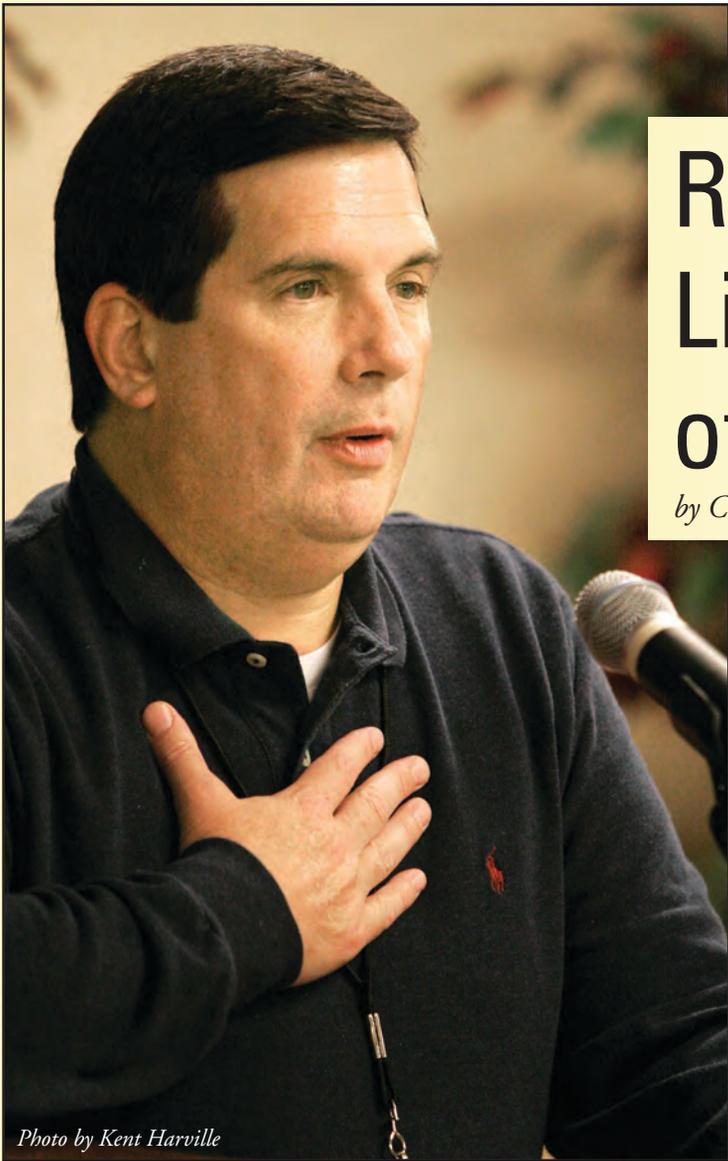


Photo by Kent Harville

Rainer challenges LifeWay to 'Get out of the boat'

by Chris Turner

LifeWay President Thom S. Rainer laid out a view of the future during LifeWay's semiannual trustee meeting Sept. 11-12, saying it was time for LifeWay to "step out of the boat" and walk on "blue oceans" for the purpose of increased evangelism, biblical depth and to help the church's relevancy in today's culture.

Rainer explained that red oceans are where competitors vie for the same customers, bloodying the waters, but blue oceans are found by moving to where competitors are rendered irrelevant. The terms are the ideas of W. Chan Kim and Renée Mauborgne and described in their book, *Blue Ocean Strategies: How to Create Uncontested Market Space and Make Competition Irrelevant*.

"LifeWay is a business, but it is more than a business," Rainer said, emphasizing the word "Christian" in the company's name. "We begin on the solid rock of Jesus Christ and the authority of Scripture. When we talk about our plans we don't talk about them in the vacuum of the business world but with the presence of Christ. If we hear

His voice we've got to get out of the context of the business model and walk in faith."

Rainer used the Matthew 14 passage of Peter walking on water, saying Peter took a risk to walk on water. Speculating as to why the rest of the disciples stayed in the boat, Rainer said he believed there were three reasons: fear of the turbulent water, fear of the unknown and comfort of the known.

"I'd rather be Peter who got out of the boat instead of the rest," he said. "Sometimes I think we as Christians live more in fear than we do in faith. The reality is LifeWay is facing some challenges. We can't know the future with the precision God does, but we can walk boldly into that future putting our confidence in Him."

Escaping the red oceans

Rainer named four realities LifeWay is facing that are keeping the organization in red oceans: the continued decades-old decline in dated literature (primarily Sunday school material); the nearly 20-percent decline in religious trade book industry sales that are creating a challenging market for B&H Publishing Group; the highly competitive Christian retailing environment; and the fact that LifeWay's Glorieta and Ridgecrest conference centers have lost money for eight consecutive years and five consecutive years, respectively.

"Being a Christian resource provider is a tough business," Rainer said. "I don't like to talk about competition, but we've got to do something different if we are going to be an effective, viable ministry in the future."

Rainer said LifeWay will not abandon its core mission, but has begun shifting money in its 2007 budget for new initiatives, "making an investment in people, ministry initiatives, research, business development and technology infrastructures." That process began, he said, with the reallocation of some resources over the last three months of the 2006 budget.

Rainer said the initiatives are designed to position LifeWay to "leave the boat" and begin walking on the blue oceans. Several strategic initiatives are already underway that are moving the company in that direction. The church resources division, Rainer described, is addressing the declining dated materials issues and is developing a number of "exciting opportunities" that will benefit churches. He also said LifeWay Christian Stores had a "breakout year" with a proven business model that separates it

from competitors and that future prospects are encouraging. There will be a new emphasis on youth and young adults at Glorieta that Rainer said could cause a "positive shift" in the conference centers' revenue.

In 2007, LifeWay also will add a business development and acquisitions initiative to find innovative models of growth and to acquire other businesses that share a compatible theology.

Investment for the future

Rainer said all of these developments will be undergirded by a major technology upgrade and indicated that LifeWay's FPO (funds provided from operations, the bottom line for a nonprofit organization) will be lower in 2007 due to the money invested in the different projects.

"We are looking to make an investment in the long-term future of LifeWay," he said, "and to do that we've got to take some bold steps to go in that direction. We are doing this because we believe strongly in this ministry called LifeWay and the impact it can have in the lives of people and churches."

Rainer said the aggressive direction was due to an urgency he believed the company needed to have in doing all it could to promote greater evangelism, deeper biblical depth and in helping the church stay relevant in today's shifting culture.

"These are not days for the faint of heart," Rainer said. "We are going to have to risk something to get out of the boat and walk on the blue oceans. But I believe if we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus we can move boldly forward in faith." ■

New hotel dedicated at Glorieta

Right: Trustees, Glorieta staff, volunteers and others celebrate the opening of the new Hall of States hotel at Glorieta.



Photos by Kent Harville



Above: Vice President Mike Arrington, Byron Hill and Hal Hill of the corporate affairs division host a dedication ceremony.

Trustees and employees of LifeWay, together with guests and volunteers at LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center, celebrated on Sept. 11 the dedication of the Hall of States hotel, Glorieta's first new building in 30 years.

"Glorieta has always been a special place where you come away knowing you've been in the presence of the Lord," said LifeWay President and CEO Thom S. Rainer. "This new building is the representation of yet another step in our commitment to ministry and discipleship at Glorieta."

Members of Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, raised money to have one of the suites in the Hall of States named in honor of their pastor, Michael Dean. Dean told those in attendance – a group that included the entire LifeWay board of trustees attending LifeWay's semiannual trustee meeting – that Glorieta "has been a kind of Bethel" for his family, as it has for many people through the years.

"Glorieta represents a place of discovery," he said. "So many people have found God's direction for their lives here. Struggling pastors – bone tired and needing refreshment – have come and been touch by the Lord.

"It's also a place of deliverance. Thousands have been saved here, including my own son-in-law. And it's a place of sheer delight," he said, recounting a snowy Christmas his family celebrated at Glorieta. "We pray that the greatest days of Glorieta are ahead." ■

LifeWay communications launches news podcast

“We know that different people get their news in different ways,” said Chris Turner, LifeWay’s media relations manager and producer of Inside LifeWay, a podcast program available from LifeWay’s corporate communications. “We intend to explore a number of topics related to ministry resources, training events and other news. We launched in September interviewing Brad Waggoner, director of LifeWay Research. We quizzed him on the then-recently completed study on the prominence of Calvinism in the SBC.”

The Calvinism podcast and podcasts on subsequent research projects are available with the study summaries at www.lifewayresearch.com and www.lifeway.com/insidelifeway. Additional episodes are available at the latter Web address.

Turner said Inside LifeWay, hosted by *LifeWay e-Newsletter* editor Brooklyn Noel, has a talk radio format.

“We want people to know from the time the show opens what it is they are listening to,” Turner said. “I believe listeners are going to be pleased with Brooklyn’s management of the content. Coming from a journalism and mass communications background, she will question guests from a news perspective. Her probing for useful information is why I believe the content will have value to listeners.”

While the podcast concept is not actually new, the name is a recent phenomenon born out of the popularity of Apple’s iPod. Podcasts are simply audio files – most often

in MP3 format – available from a Web site or for download to a computer for later playback. The files can be transferred to an MP3 player, such as an iPod, thus the name “podcast.”

“Some people get wowed because of the technology, but it’s nothing more than a vehicle,” Turner said. “Three hundred years ago it was carrier pigeons and smoke signals. The message and the content are what are important.”

“Accessing our podcast is as simple as right-clicking the mouse button on the link and either selecting the ‘open’ option to play it or the ‘save target as’ to download it to play later or to transfer it to an MP3 player,” he said. “It is really pretty simple.”

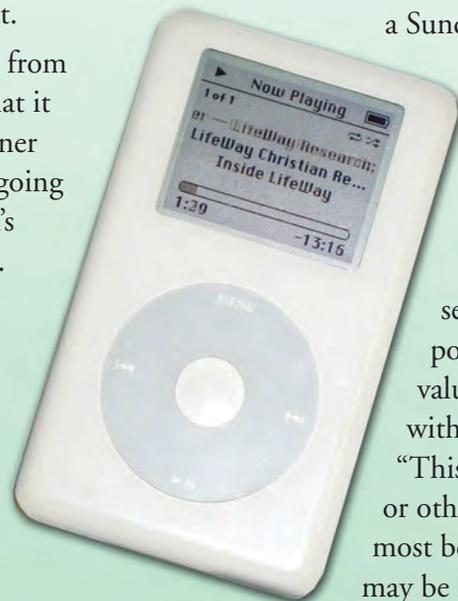
The downloaded podcast can be used in a variety of ways. “For example, all or a portion of it can be used in leadership training meetings,” Turner said. “A Sunday school teacher could play a segment in a Sunday school class for

instructional use or to raise awareness about an issue. A listener might just want it for personal development.

“We are intentionally selecting content for our podcasts that will have value to a particular segment within the church,” he said.

“This time it may be pastors or other staff members who most benefit; the next time it may be laypeople. It may be both in the same program. Bottom line,

we want to be true to LifeWay’s vision of providing biblical solutions that spiritually transform lives and cultures.” ■



New LifeWay resource spotlights middle agers' passion for ministry



*Dick Gygi holds shirts donated to his Thrift Smart store, whose proceeds fund other ministries. He and other people who have made significant contributions to Kingdom work during the second half of their lives are spotlighted in *Success to Significance*, a new discipleship resource from LifeWay.*

Dick Gygi loves marketing, product development and brand management. But the Nashville, Tenn., businessman also has a passion for developing people and building strong teams. In 2000, after his company was sold to American Greetings, Gygi simply had too much energy to retire. And as God's timing would have it, he picked up a copy of *Halftime* by Bob Buford – and discovered his destiny.

“It empowered me to think that in my retirement I could continue doing what I've always done well but do it with a new vision,” he said. “After meeting with Bob Buford, I was convinced the Lord was calling me to mentor executives in the context of creating businesses specifically for the purpose of giving the profits to support ministries.”

Inspired by the message of *Halftime*, LifeWay published *Success to Significance* by Lloyd Reeb, a workbook, leader kit and ministry guide that offers churches and individuals ideas for helping people discover meaningful ministries during the “second half” of their lives.

Initially Gygi and his partners manufactured gift wrap paper that amounted to \$2.5 million in revenues in the first year. “[We] had money left after we paid all our bills; so we created a donor advised fund and gave the excess profit to ministries we wanted to support. Based on that success, we created The Magi Company. We were these wise guys – well, actually, we were lost guys in the Kingdom looking for a way to bring our gifts to the Lord!”

In 2003, The Magi Company used this model in Africa to help 1,600 Muslims in a Malawi prison who were starving and rotting. With an investment of \$30,000, they installed irrigation pumps and taught the men and women to plant and raise their own food.

“We installed the pumps. The prisoners planted hundreds of fruit trees and other crops. Now they raise enough food to feed the entire village,” Gygi said. “The quality of prison life there has changed so much that people ask to be transferred into that hell hole. It wasn’t on our agenda, but God used us to return dignity to these people by empowering them to feed themselves.”

Gygi discovered that God has plans that are always bigger than ours. He attributes his own success not to being smarter than others but simply because God allowed it. “I want to encourage others that God has a bigger plan, and whatever they’ve accomplished in the marketplace is what He ordained. I love the marketplace, and I want to stay there. I love the competitiveness and the strategy – the bumping and grinding

of the business world. But I want to create businesses that will support nonprofits. And I want to encourage men and women to use their experiences for great things.”

The latest venture, Thrift Smart, promotes thrifty living and creates jobs for those who have a desire to work but may not have the skills. By selling donated clothing and household goods at a value price, Thrift Smart’s proceeds are donated to four ministries involved in the startup.

I believe in my lifetime we could have enough enterprises going to give away a billion dollars.

— Dick Gygi

“We found a man who had opened a thrift store to support a ministry he had in Florida. It worked, and he opened five more,” Gygi said. “We brought him to Nashville and had a group of CEOs talk about this idea. One of the CEOs studied the market and put a business plan

together, and declared that he wanted to sell his company and do this full time. So we went to four ministries we wanted to support with the profits from these retail thrift stores.

“Next we went to the largest donors of those four ministries and asked for loans, not gifts. We raised \$500,000 in four weeks. We hired the CEO and set up a nonprofit 501(c) 3 Thrift Alliance and established a brand called Thrift Smart.”

This concept was so successful in providing jobs and services to low-income families that a second store was opened in Nashville – a 30,000 square-foot store that is expected to do \$1 million in revenue in the first year of operation. “We have a plan to open 10 stores, and then keep going. Two hundred stores could yield

continued on next page

For more stories of marketplace leaders who are using their skills to change the world, visit www.successtosignificance.com.

continued from page 29

\$100 million in annual profits for ministry support. I believe in my lifetime we could have enough enterprises going to give away a billion dollars.

“I’m almost 60, and I’m working more now than ever,” Gygi said. “But it’s more energizing than anything I’ve ever done. It’s

the best of times. I love developing people and creating enterprises that help them do what they do best all the way to the finish line. There’s no reason we should quit.” ■

Adapted by permission from www.successtosignificance.com.

Marketplace leaders can impact your community for Christ

Today, a growing number of people are reaching midlife with the flexibility to reallocate part of their time and resources toward serving others. When they reach midlife, they have the opportunity to stop, listen to God and refocus their lives around the skills and passions that have emerged in the first half.

“This is a brand-new phenomenon that previous generations simply didn’t enjoy,” said Lloyd Reeb, author of *Success to Significance*, a new resource published by LifeWay.

Three factors have combined to create this new opportunity:

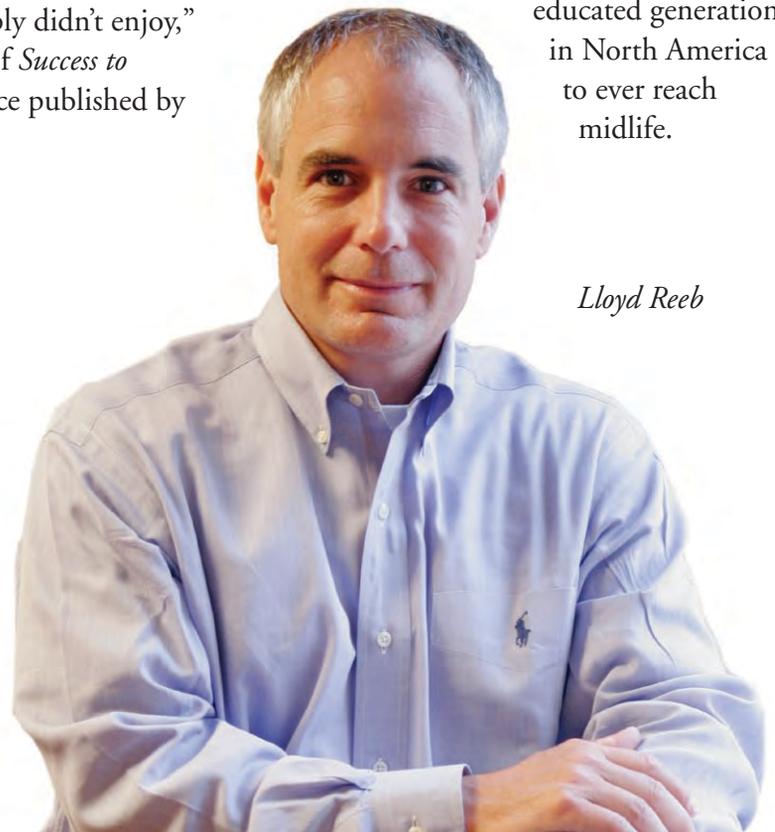
1. Longevity

A hundred years ago the average life expectancy only was 47 years. Today when people reach 50, they have 30 bonus years.

2. Resources

This is the healthiest, wealthiest and best-educated generation in North America to ever reach midlife.

Each day more than 12,000 Americans turn 50. According to a study by Harvard and MetLife, half of all Americans age 50 to 70 are interested in finding a second career or second-half focus to stay involved with other people, find a sense of purpose and help improve the quality of life in their communities.



Lloyd Reeb

3. Desire to change the world

When Baby Boomers look back, they remember that in their youth they had dreams of changing the world. As they grew older, they got caught up in the busyness and responsibilities of life.

Reeb remembers the days when his church faced incredible ministry opportunities on every side, but simply did not have the leaders to tackle them. He had a vision and strategy, a few volunteers and some money, but that wasn't enough.

There was a gap between the leaders his church needed and what it could afford to hire. There simply was not enough money to hire the amount of seasoned leadership his church needed to take advantage of the opportunities he believed the Lord was calling his church to tackle. But, it suddenly dawned on him that the church didn't need to go out and hire the leaders. They were already there.

“A growing number of pastors around the country are realizing that these seasoned leaders are already in their pews,” Reeb said. “They are marketplace leaders who have refined skills and experience managing people. They’ve walked with the Lord for many years and, having reached midlife, are longing for their second half of life to be significant. These folks are in a season of life called ‘halftime,’ and they want to move from pursuing success to significance.”

Lloyd Reeb is a successful real estate developer who made a midlife transition to pursue significance. He is now the primary spokesperson for Halftime, a national ministry of Leadership Network and director of leadership development at Mecklenburg Community Church in Charlotte, N.C. He can be reached at Lloyd.Reeb@halftime.org. ■

Success to Significance Luncheon and Workshop

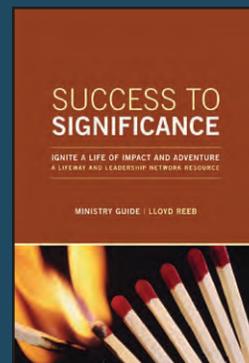
LifeWay and Leadership Network have launched a multi-city nationwide tour with the simple goal of casting a vision for church leaders to reach the greatest untapped resource that sits in front of them every Sunday. Those resources are Halftimers, marketplace leaders and individuals with experiences, gifts and callings to serve God.

This free *Success to Significance* event is perfect for pastors, adult ministry leaders and lay leaders who are interested in learning how to discover and deploy leadership that already exists.

Lloyd Reeb, author of *Success to Significance*, speaks to participants about his own midlife transition to pursue significance.

Following the luncheon is an optional *Success to Significance* workshop designed to enable you and your team to drill down on the opportunities and best practices of partnering with marketplace leaders.

Events will be Nov. 2 in Winter Park, Fla.; Nov. 9 in Atlanta; Nov. 30 in Birmingham, Ala.; Feb. 1 in San Antonio; and Feb. 20 in Fort Worth, Texas. For more information and to register for the *Success to Significance* luncheon and workshop, call (800) 254-2022.



We recommend

- *From Success to Significance: When the Pursuit of Success Isn't Enough* by Lloyd Reeb
- *Halftime: Changing Your Game Plan from Success to Significance* by Bob Buford
- *Success to Significance – Workbook, Leader Kit and Ministry Guide*
- *Unlimited Partnership* by Lloyd Reeb and Bill Wellons

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.

Industry veteran signs with LifeWay Worship Music Group



Phil Barfoot

Phil Barfoot, product developer and president/CEO of Christian Copyright Alliance, has signed a long-term contract with LifeWay Worship Music Group.

In his new association with LifeWay, Barfoot will produce two choral collections each year, one of which likely will be seasonal. He already has begun work on the first, a Christmas collection to be released in 2007.

“Phil is one of the top choral people in church music,” said Mike Harland, director of LifeWay Worship Music Group. “We’re hiring someone with great experience and incredible talent.”

Barfoot also will continue producing

high-quality, original choir recordings with Christian Copyright Alliance, a company he founded in Franklin, Tenn.

“I’m thrilled and honored to be part of the future of LifeWay Worship Music Group,” Barfoot said. “I really sense a renewed commitment in the LifeWay Worship Music Group to be sensitive to the needs of the local minister of music and I look forward to being a part of that new vision and new commitment.”

Barfoot has created about 20 music compilations that collectively include approximately 200 songs spanning more than three decades in the industry. The Dove Award-winner and his wife, Sheri, have three children and live in Brentwood, Tenn. ■

LifeWay's Club VBS
Jungle Jaunt
Psalm 145:1-2

It's Jam-Packed with Fun!

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KIDS

Uganda's HIV/AIDS infection rate plummets, thanks in part to True Love Waits

When LifeWay's True Love Waits held its first national event in July 1994, a second smaller – but perhaps even more powerful – True Love Waits observance was taking place half a world away.

On the same day that more than 210,000 covenant cards were displayed on the National Mall in Washington, missionaries Larry and Sharon Pumpelly organized a parade in downtown Kampala, Uganda, to introduce the True Love Waits abstinence-until-marriage message to a continent that was being decimated by AIDS.

Twelve years later, True Love Waits has been credited by government leaders in Uganda for a remarkable decrease in the HIV/AIDS infection rate from 30 percent of the population to about 6 percent.

As True Love Waits makes plans to expand its work in Africa through LifeWay's "A Defining Moment" major donor campaign, a team of ministry representatives recently went to Kenya and Uganda to learn more about how the abstinence message was saving lives and bringing hope to millions.

True Love Waits co-founder Jimmy Hester, LifeWay president emeritus James T. Draper Jr., businessman Jack Tompkins, and others were guided by the Pumpellys, who previously spent 21 years as missionaries in both countries.

The group visited churches with HIV/AIDS support groups, including one in the heart of a Nairobi slum; observed True Love Waits presentations in schools; and toured HIV/AIDS testing centers operated by the Baptist AIDS Response Agency (BARA).

The highlight was a visit with Janet Museveni, the first lady of Uganda, who has championed the True Love Waits movement since its introduction in that country. Her children took the True Love Waits pledge in 1994, and when they married, they presented their commitment cards to their spouses at their weddings.

Several African countries have sent representatives to Uganda to learn how it has so radically decreased its HIV/AIDS rate. The first lady told the group she believes True Love Waits could be done anywhere effectively.

"The impact of True Love Waits in Uganda is seen not only in statistics, but in the fact that all Christian-based abstinence groups use True Love Waits commitment cards as part of what they do, even the first lady's group," said Sharon Pumpelly.

At one stop in Uganda, they met with several young adults from Kampala Baptist Church who had signed True Love Waits cards years earlier.

"To talk with young people who made True Love Waits commitments years ago and today are the role models who are challenging others to make commitments to abstinence was an emotional and rewarding experience," Hester said.

"We could not have had a better look at True Love Waits' ministry in East Africa," Draper added. "What is happening in Uganda and Kenya can be duplicated all over Africa." ■

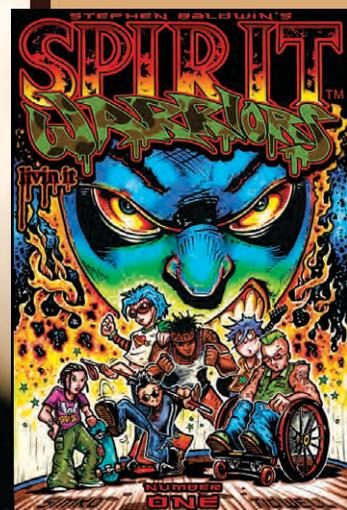
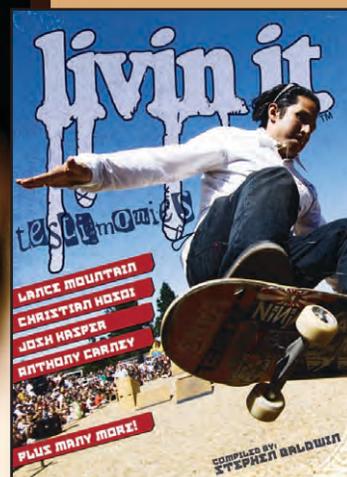


A 1994 parade in Kampala, Uganda, from downtown to Makerere University signaled the official launch of the True Love Waits abstinence-until-marriage initiative. Baptist Press photo

For more information about True Love Waits, go to www.lifeway.com/tlw. To learn more about A Defining Moment, LifeWay's major donor campaign, go to www.adeфинingmoment.org.

Stephen Baldwin takes 'Livin It' for Jesus to the extreme

by Kelly Davis Shrout



The day the Twin Towers fell, Stephen Baldwin looked upward.

The youngest of the Baldwin brother actors, he was at the height of his film and television career when Sept. 11, 2001, changed his life and prompted an eternal introspection into his heart and soul.

“After 9/11 and my wife’s conversion [to Christianity], I came to understand something. The impossible was possible,” writes Baldwin in *Livin It: What it Is*, a new book from B&H Publishing Group. “And if anything’s possible, then Jesus Christ could come back to this planet tomorrow. I want to be ready when He comes.”

Baldwin received Christ more than five years ago and has since launched a ministry – also called *Livin It*. The ministry focuses on a bold campaign to encourage young extreme sports enthusiasts to live out their faith.

Taking it to the streets

Livin It uses music, books, nationwide skateboarding demonstrations, skate DVDs and evangelical events to bring the gospel to young athletes.

Baldwin, who has appeared in

more than 65 films and numerous television shows, outlines the purpose of the *Livin It* ministry and recounts his journey of faith in three unique resources – *Livin It: What it is*; *Livin It: Testimonies* and *Spirit Warriors* – released in July from B&H Publishing Group.

Baldwin shares his testimony in *Livin It: What it Is* and offers a transparent look into the lives of extreme athletes who have received Christ. Evangelistic in nature, the book delivers the testimonies of the popular athletes and encourages young people to boldly stand up for the gospel.

“God does not call us to hide our faith under a bushel, but to shine His light to every corner,” Baldwin writes in *Livin It: What it Is*.

“Speaking up for Jesus Christ may not always be comfortable; but it is always powerful and effective.”

continued on next page

Livin It: Testimonies is a second book in the *Livin It* series and also incorporates courageous testimonies from famous extreme sports athletes like Christian Hosoi, Elijah Moore, Luke Braddock and Josh Kasper. The full-color action photography throughout the magazine-format book captures the heart of Christians who are “livin’ it” through extreme sport ministry.

“As you flip through the pages, you will meet 14 amazing guys,” Baldwin writes in the introduction. “Some of them are skateboarders. Some are BMXers. ... Some

“The content doesn’t apologize for its bold stand for Christ. Jesus is all over it.”

— Stephen Baldwin

are still in their teens. A few have been skating or riding for more than 20 years. But they all have one thing in common – they are *Livin It!*”

To Baldwin, the concept of *Livin It* means pursuing a life of purpose instead of existing for temporal things of the earth.

“A lot of them [athletes] have tried to find happiness in money, fame, drugs, sex, partying and other things, and been left unsatisfied,” Baldwin writes. He further says that Jesus Christ is the only answer to all of life’s uncertainties.

Spirit Warriors is designed to pattern popular graphic novels. With its comic book style and fast-paced action, *Spirit Warriors* follows the antics of six fictional characters who battle against good and evil.

Baldwin said mainstream graphic novels are the new trend among young people and believes *Spirit Warriors* has the potential to reach many non-Christians with the gospel.

A positive response

“The response to this book has been so positive,” Baldwin said, mentioning that B&H is setting the standard for creating a product like *Spirit Warriors*. “I’ve had moms come up to me to say thanks for creating content that’s fun, edgy and cool.” Kids will take these graphic novels to lunch with them and show them to their non-Christian friends.

The heart of the *Livin It* ministry is to create culturally relevant products and package them in a trendy way.

“The content doesn’t apologize for its bold stand for Christ. Jesus is all over it,” Baldwin said.

Livin It products present “hip, edgy and cool” messages, all aimed at bringing kids to Christ. Baldwin said he doesn’t “sugar coat” his message and said the style of *Livin It* is “cutting edge” and “street legit.”

“If you bring the kids dorkville they don’t listen,” Baldwin said. “If you bring them really cool, they’ll listen ... because all of this is really about sharing the news about a man named Jesus Christ.” ■

For more information about Livin It ministry and Livin It products visit www.bhpublishinggroup.com.



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HEBREWS 12:1-2

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Resources

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Product numbers are due to change from 10-digit to 13-digit numbers beginning Nov. 1. In this issue of *Facts & Trends*, where appropriate, both numbers are given.

B&H Publishing Group

■ **Pat Boone's America**
by Pat Boone with Donny York

Pat Boone has lived an amazing life of integrity – one that's especially remarkable given his career field: the entertainment industry. Who else has remained so true to his faith, family values and love of God while being mobbed by screaming teenage girls, starring in Hollywood movies, befriending royalty, presidents and rock stars alike, and staring out from the cover of *Rolling Stone* magazine? A treasure trove of photos and memoirs, *Pat*

Boone's America finds him looking back with signature humor and humility at a half-century of American culture, carefully observing the moments and issues where he has been celebrated or rejected for what he believes. Releases Nov.

1. Hardcover. B&H product #0-8054-4375-4 or #978-0-8054-4375-2, \$24.99

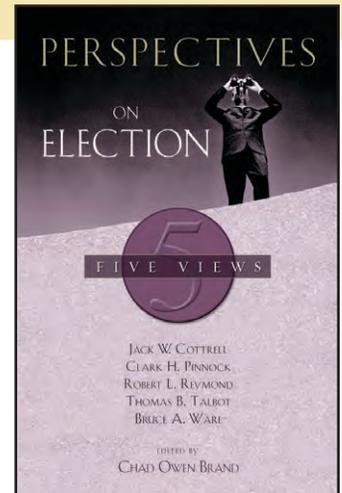
■ **Higher Ground, Deeper Truth**
by Jim and Kaye Johns
Teachers Jim and Kaye Johns are nationally known and loved for their small group studies on the basics of maintaining an active, effective prayer life. By popular demand,

they wrote this book for people who understand that prayer is a never-ending journey and who want more instruction on how to further converse with God and better understand His ways. Using biblical accounts of how Jesus lived and prayed, *Higher Ground, Deeper Truth* leads readers

to a greater awareness of being in fellowship with God. The Johns promote “the prayer life that touches everything” – a standard of believing that will influence every area of spiritual discipline. Releases Nov. 1. Paperback. B&H product #0-8054-4375-4 or #978-0-8054-4385-1, \$12.99

■ **Perspectives on Election**
by Chad Owen Brand, Jack W. Cottrell, Clark H. Pinnock, Robert L. Reymond, Thomas B. Talbott and Bruce A. Ware

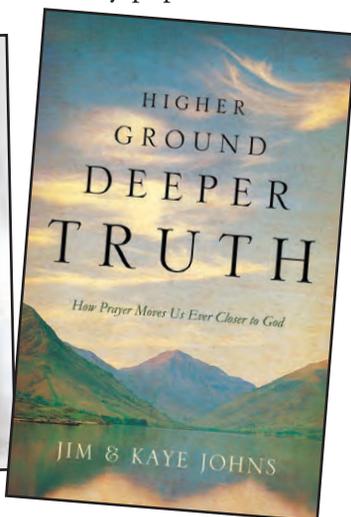
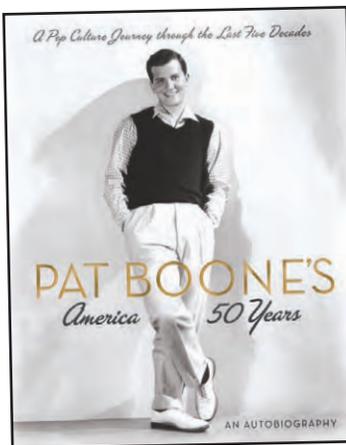
Perspectives on Election presents in counterpoint form five basic common beliefs on the doctrine of spiritual election (for example, predestination) that have developed over the course of church history with a view toward determining which is most faithful to Scripture. Each chapter is written by a prominent person within each



tradition, and each writer has the opportunity to respond to each differing view. Despite the focus upon a topic that divides many people, editor Chad Brand says, “The goal of this book is to add clarity to the discussion and to further the discussion, insofar as it is possible, in an amiable manner.” Releases Nov. 1. Paperback. B&H product #0-8054-2729-5 or #978-0-8054-2729-5, \$19.99

■ **Experiencing God Day-By-Day**
by Henry T. Blackaby and Richard Blackaby

Featuring a new cover design and padded hardcover format, Gold Medallion Award winner *Experiencing God Day-By-Day* is based on Henry Blackaby's multi-million-selling *Experiencing God* workbook and Bible study. Brimming with insight and seasoned with grace, this 365-day devotional reader helps to start a daily routine by



focusing the mind on the Divine presence in each life. Whether selected as a thoughtful gift or as a personal resource, the book will inspire great changes while sustaining the essential habit of turning to God on a daily basis. Releases Dec. 1. Hardcover. B&H product #0-8054-4478-5 or #978-0-8054-4478-0, \$14.99

LifeWay Church Resources

■ VBS 2007 Game Day Central Samplers

Get a jump on planning your 2007 VBS by purchasing either of these samplers. All items are packed inside a colorful jersey backpack with a generous zipper and a rubberized Game Day Central logo.

The original Sampler includes two books, *Decorating Made Easy* and *Administrative Guide for Directors*; one Bible Study Leader Guide and

Learner Guide for all six age groups; one Youth Learner Guide and Adult Learner Guide; a Holman CSB New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs; one Homegame: Official VBS Parenting Playbook; one ABC Memory Cross (Holman CSB); one A-B-C Witnessing sweatband; one Music for Kids CD; one Worship Rally booklet; Music Rotation Leader Guide; Missions Rotation Leader Guide with DVD; Crafts Rotation Leader Guide; Recreation Rotation Leader Cards; Snack Rotation Recipe Cards; 3s-Kindergarten Rotation Pack (sample only); promotional poster; and VBS 2007 Catalog with promotional DVD. Releases December 2006. *VBS 2007 Sampler*, LifeWay product #1-4158-3022-3, \$59.99.

The Super Sampler includes all of the items contained in the Sampler, plus: a Worship Rally Pack; Music Rotation and Musical CD; 3s-Pre-K Bible

Study Leader Pack; Middle Children Bible Study Leader Pack; one inflatable dog mascot; invitation postcards; follow-up postcards; doorknob hangers; window signs; snack helmet; notepad; pennant keychain; decoration punch-outs; stadium cup with lid; ClingZ sign; large foam finger; security wristbands; Sample Craft Pack for Children (one of each craft); and Sample Craft Pack for 3s-Kindergarten (one of each craft). Releases December 2006. *VBS 2007 Super Sampler*, LifeWay product #1-4158-3065-7, \$189.99

■ Club VBS: Jungle Jaunt

If you're looking for an anytime, any-size Vacation Bible School that's flexible and easy to use, Club VBS is for you! During Club VBS 2007, kids will discover the One True God, and you have two options for planning your Club VBS adventure: the *Club VBS 2007 All-in-One Pack*, LifeWay product #1-4158-3079-7, \$279.99; or the *Club VBS 2007*



Administrative and Worship Rally Pack. The *All-in-One Pack* comes complete with everything you need for 40 children (20 children grades 1-3; 20 children grades 4-6) and 10 preschoolers. If you have more kids, simply add more curricula. The new *Administrative & Worship Rally Pack* gives you the option of customizing your Club VBS for any size. This convenient pack provides you with all the administrative and Worship Rally resources you'll need, allowing you the flexibility to order the Leader Guides, Leader Packs, and Learner Guides you need separately. It's a great alternative to the *All-in-One Pack!* Add-on accessories to enhance your Club VBS: Jungle Jaunt are also available for purchase separately. *Club VBS: 2007 All-in-One Pack*, LifeWay product #1-4158-3079-7, \$279.99; *Club VBS: 2007 Administrative & Worship*



Resources

just released from LifeWay

Rally Pack, LifeWay product #1-4158-2960-8 \$99.99

■ ***Downpour: He Will Come to Us like the Rain***

by **James MacDonald**

James MacDonald encourages believers to accept the challenge to “let us return to the Lord” (Hosea 6:1). This study leads Christians to take the steps they need to experience spiritual renewal. Member Book features interactive content developed by

Claude King and Barb Piel that includes helps for leading small-group discussions. Plus, it includes an audio CD with five original recordings performed by the Harvest Worship Team. The Leader Kit contains one copy of the Member Book, three DVDs with 12 video teaching segments by the author, and promotional clips for church use. Releases



November 2006. Member Book (with five-song CD), LifeWay product #1-4158-2925-X, \$16.95; Leader Kit, LifeWay product #1-4158-2926-8, \$149.95

■ ***Discerning the Voice of God***

by **Priscilla Shirer**

How can we know that what we perceive is indeed a message from God? How do we discern God's voice from all the other

voices in our world? Drawing deep truths from the Scriptures, Shirer uses print and video messages

to help participants learn how to recognize God's character, language and tone of voice. In addition to many key Scripture passages, the study Workbook includes personal thoughts from a wide variety of respected Christian leaders, including Max Lucado, Kay Arthur, Henry Blackaby and Beth Moore. Leader Kit contains messages on DVD, plus bonus content, and one copy of the Workbook. Workbook contains personal daily study, plus leader helps. (6 sessions) Releases November 2006. Leader Kit, LifeWay



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As for me and my family, we will worship the LORD. Joshua 24:15, Holman CSB®

With the Christmas season comes the gathering of friends and family in your home. This is the perfect opportunity to make a statement of your faith because your beliefs echo down the halls and throughout each room in your house. So, fill it with accent pieces that are not only elegantly designed, but mean something significant. Visit us and see what our Faith at Home collection has to offer this season. And, you'll probably even find the perfect gift for that special person on your list too!

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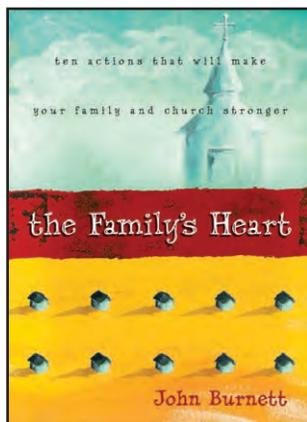
product #1-4158-3214-5, \$149.95; Member Book, LifeWay product #1-4158-3662-0, \$10.95

■ ***Abide in Christ***
by Claude King

This is a new study based on Andrew Murray's *The True Vine* delivered in a contemporary, interactive format. It is designed for new and growing believers to learn the secrets of victorious living and to bear lasting spiritual fruit. This study is great for small-group settings in homes, churches or community centers.

Claude King is co-author of LifeWay's *Experiencing God* resources and *The Call to Follow Christ*, an overview of six spiritual disciplines and the first

study in LifeWay's new Growing Disciples series. *Abide in Christ*, the second study in the series, is an in-depth study of the first of the six disciplines. Subsequent studies of each remaining discipline are forthcoming. A leader guide is included. (6 sessions) Releases December 2006. LifeWay product #1-4158-5213-8, \$9.95



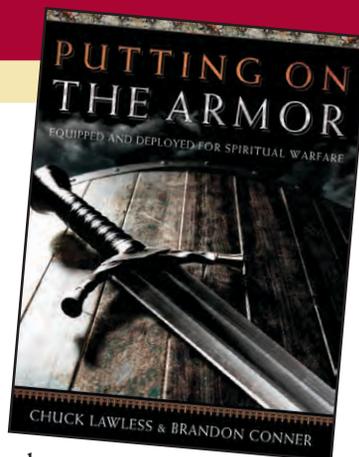
■ ***The Family's Heart***
Designed for use in the home, not in the church, *The Family's Heart* encourages families to take about a month to connect through each of 10 practical actions. As families focus on topics like faith, worship, prayer, vision, ministry, unity and joy, stewardship, mission opportunities, reputation and acceptance, they will start to recognize God's plan for them and learn to build their family's spiritual house upon the Rock, not the sand. When

put to use, this little book will help change Christian families in your church for decades to come. *The Family's Heart* is a short-term investment in your church's families, but

a long-term investment in your church. Releases December 2006. LifeWay product #1-4158-5250-2, \$5.95

■ ***Putting on the Armor: Equipped and Deployed for Spiritual Warfare***
by Chuck Lawless

How many Christians prepare for the unseen spiritual battle that is raging all around them – the battle that may be the very source of angst in



that demanding boss or crazy driver? Chuck Lawless addressed many of these issues in his book, *Spiritual Warfare* (LifeWay Press, 2001). Now, he and co-author Brandon Conner expand on thwarting spiritual attacks, including addictive and/or dysfunctional behavior. While this study does not offer "cures" for any temptation, it is an excellent study for new and growing believers seeking personal spiritual disciplines in order to defeat the enemy in times of temptation. Includes leader helps. (7 sessions) Releases December 2006. LifeWay product #1-4158-3204-8, \$13.95

■ ***Heaven***
by Randy Alcorn

What's your idea of heaven? Randy Alcorn acknowledges that even many believers have a dreaded and unbiblical outlook of where they will spend eternity; Satan himself brings on many of these assumptions. This fascinating and

relevant study will help every Christian reclaim a biblical view of heaven, find an anchor for present faithfulness, celebrate the loving provisions God has made for His children, and convey to others a love for God and His home. A leader guide is in the back of the Member Book. (6 sessions) Releases November 2006. LifeWay product #1-4158-3219-6, \$11.95

■ ***MX3: Preparing Your Son for Manhood***
by Robert Lewis

This resource is tailored for fathers as they help their teenage sons develop a realistic, God-centered view of manhood. Men's Fraternity founder Robert Lewis explores manhood as defined by God through DVD-driven teaching. Small-group stories, coupled with discussion, enable sons to talk openly with their fathers about the issues. Participants – both fathers and sons – will learn about the four faces of manhood and delve into the book of Genesis as they examine the biblical definition of manhood. Each Leader Kit contains two DVDs, one Leader Guide, and one Learner Guide. The Learner Guide is available separately. Releases November 2006. DVD Kit, LifeWay product #1-4158-5264-2, \$62.95;

Wanted Wanted

WANTED

Anyone who agrees:

- A) Faith is ~~hard~~ complicated.
- B) Caffeine is a food group.
- C) Friends are family.
- D) Questions are as important as answers.

SOUND LIKE YOUR

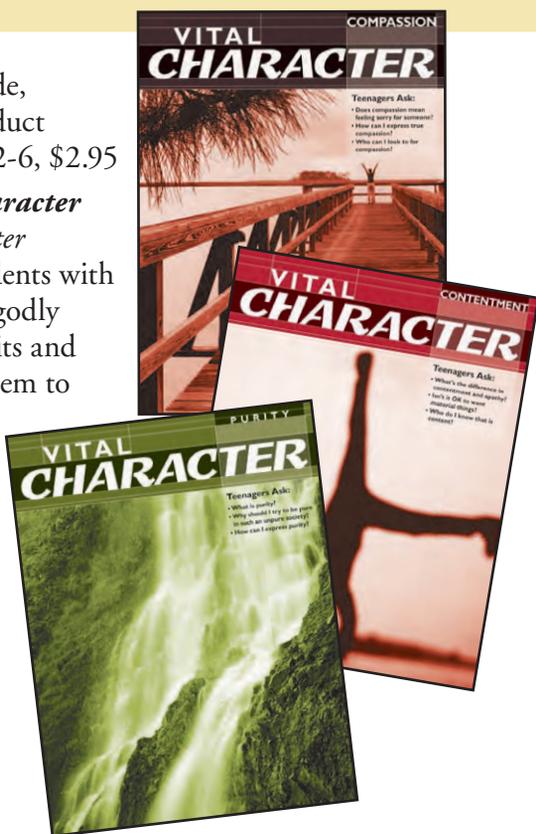
TALK TO US

WWW.LIFEWAY.COM/YOUNGADULT

Learner Guide,
 LifeWay product
 #1-4158-5262-6, \$2.95

■ **Vital Character**

Vital Character provides students with examples of godly character traits and challenges them to model those traits in their lives. Written with the busy student leader in mind, no outside preparation is required for students. When offered along with *Vital Truth* and *Vital Skills*, this series provides a six-year plan for basic discipleship for students. Includes reproducible worksheets called “Foundations,” along with reproducible devotional guides called “Blueprints” to help teens continue the development of godly character in their lives. (4 sessions per study) Releases November 2006. *Vital Character: Compassion*, LifeWay product #1-4158-3147-5, \$12.95; *Vital Character: Contentment*, LifeWay product #1-4158-3155-6, \$12.95; *Vital Character: Purity*, LifeWay product #1-4158-3200-5, \$12.95

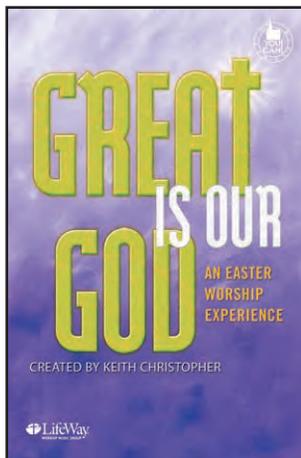


LifeWay Worship Music Group

■ **Great Is Our God: An Easter Worship Experience**

created by Keith Christopher
 SATB/Easy/25 minutes

No matter the size of your choir, you can create a memorable Easter experience with *Great Is Our God*, the latest musical from the popular You Can! Series. With familiar songs including “The Wonderful Cross,” “How Great Is Our

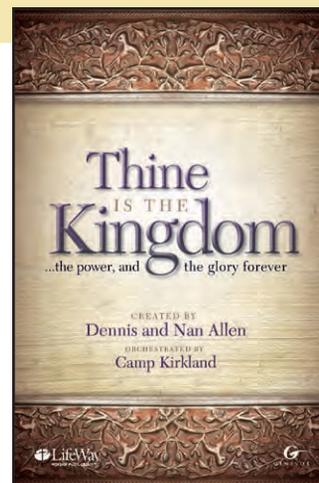


God” and “How Great Thou Art,” the greatness of God is lifted in praise. When presented with the optional narration and corresponding Scripture, the story begins on the day Jesus arrives triumphantly into Jerusalem on a donkey and goes through the day of His glorious resurrection. Themes of love, redemption and hope encourage those present to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to everyone. SATB choral book, Product #1-4158-3422-9, \$5.95; Listening CD,* Accompaniment CD, You Can! Kit, Bulletins and CD Promo Pak are also available.

■ **Thine Is the Kingdom ... the Power, and the Glory Forever**

created by Dennis and Nan Allen, orchestrated by Camp Kirkland
 SATB/Medium/43 minutes

Packed with original songs by Dennis and Nan Allen, Greg Nelson, Jeremy Johnson, and Paul Marino, *Thine Is the Kingdom* praises a God who reigns on His throne in heaven, yet loves us enough to offer redemption



from our sin. The orchestrations by Camp Kirkland (“One Incredible Moment”) combined with powerful lyrics take you on an emotional journey. Heartfelt songs offer several opportunities for solos and praise teams or ensembles, and the optional narration is grounded in Scripture. The accompaniment DVD includes broadcast-quality backgrounds and lyrics that complement your live presentation. SATB choral book, Product #1-4158-3429-6, \$8.95; Listening CD, Accompaniment CD, Accompaniment DVD, Rehearsal tracks, Orchestration, Bulletins, Posters, and DVD Promo Pak are also available.

■ **Making History: Praise and Worship for Student Choir**

created by Dennis and Nan Allen

SAT(B)/Moderate
 Whether you use it for students or adults, praise band or choir, *Making*

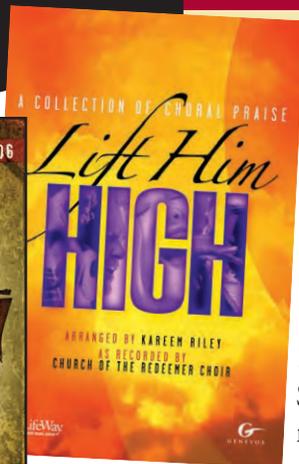
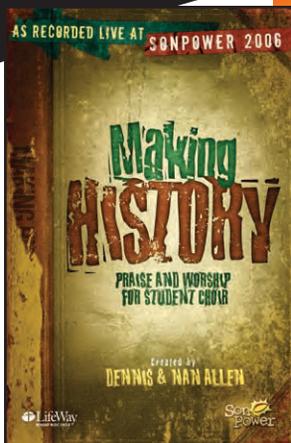
*Listening CDs are available at a reduced rate when purchased in quantities of 10 or more.

Resources

for you from LifeWay

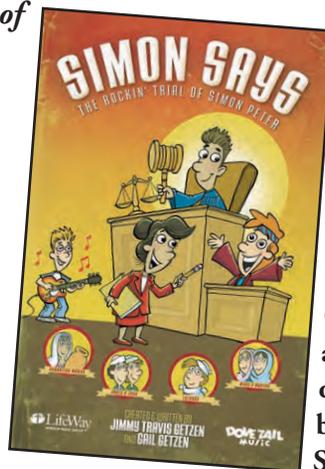
History has an outstanding lineup of songs including “Lifesong,” “How Great Is Our God,” “Brave” and “History.” Recorded at the 2006 SonPower event with more than 1,200 students, each arrangement is accessible and contemporary. Options for presentation include drama sketches, Scripture readings and studio chord charts. Use *Making History* as a collection or full-length musical production with drama. SAT(B) choral book, Product #1-4158-3459-8, \$8.95; Listening CD,* Accompaniment CD, Studio chord charts and CD Promo Pak are also available.

■ ***Lift Him High: A Collection of Choral Praise*** arranged by Kareem Riley, orchestrated by Oliver Wells and Chris McDonald SATB/Advanced *Lift Him High* is inspirational gospel music at its best. This non-seasonal, adult



choral collection has songs that will inspire your choir as they sing with joy. With multiple opportunities to showcase your soloists, you can present the entire list of songs in one special music service or use single songs as needed. Your choir will request to sing these songs for years to come. SATB choral book, Product #1-4158-3415-6, \$8.95; Listening CD,* Accompaniment CD, Orchestration and CD Promo Pak are also available.

■ ***Simon Says: The Rockin' Trial of Simon Peter*** created and written by Jimmy Travis Getzen and Gail Getzen *Unison, optional 2-part/Easy/40 minutes* Simon Peter is on trial after being charged with fraud for preaching and teaching



that Jesus is the Son of God, Messiah and Savior. *Simon Says*, the latest children’s musical from Jimmy Travis Getzen and Gail Getzen, includes a script and songs that are rich with Scripture, and the music rocks! As New Testament characters present amazing testimonies from eyewitness accounts, children will discover the facts about Christ. The Dovetail kit and instructional DVD add bonus materials to help you prepare, and the flexible presentation options allow you to customize for any size choir. *Simon Says* will bring new meaning to the term “courtroom drama.” Choral book, Product #1-4158-3335-4, \$7.95; Listening CD,* Accompaniment CD, Instructional DVD, The Dovetail, Bulletins, Posters and CD Promo Pak are also available.

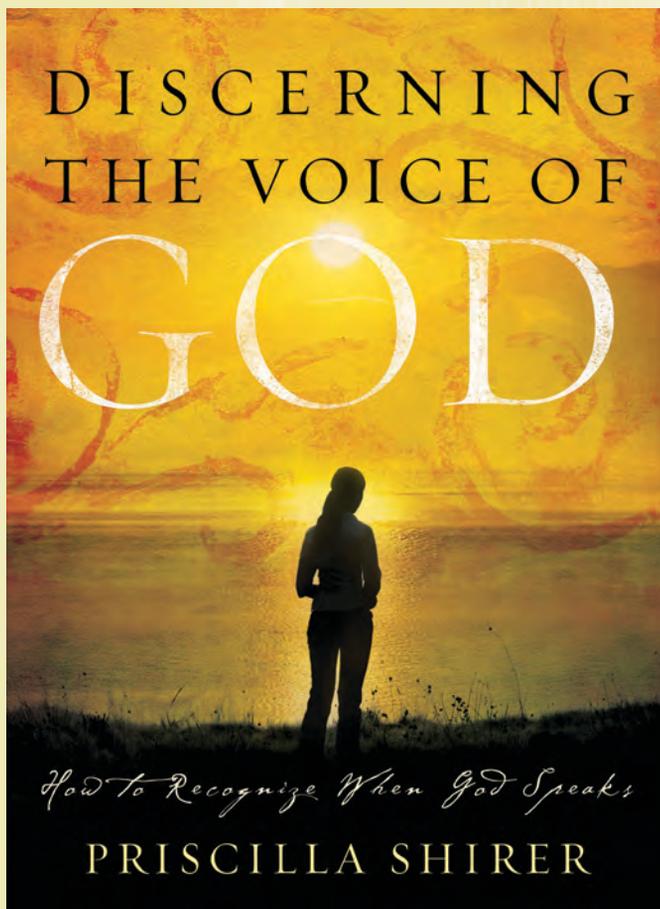
■ ***God of Every Generation*** words and music by Paul Marino and Greg Nelson, arranged and orchestrated by J. Daniel Smith Presented with worshipful, non-seasonal text, this song from A

Christmas Prayer affirms the providence of God. SATB anthem, Product #1-4158-3378-8, \$1.50; CD anthem tracks, Product #1-4158-3368-0, \$24.95; Orchestration, Product #1-4158-3362-1, \$59.95

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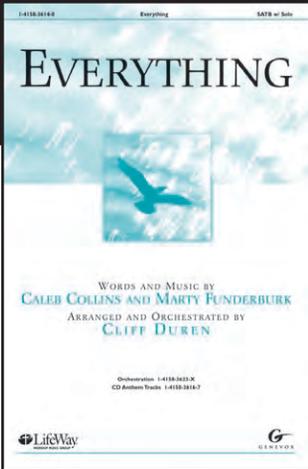
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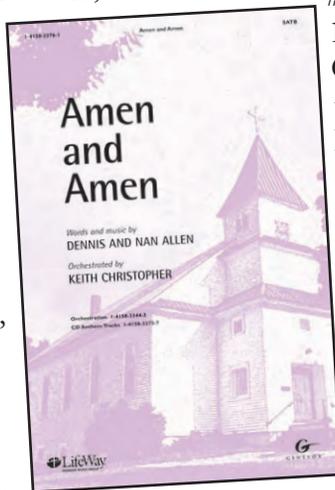
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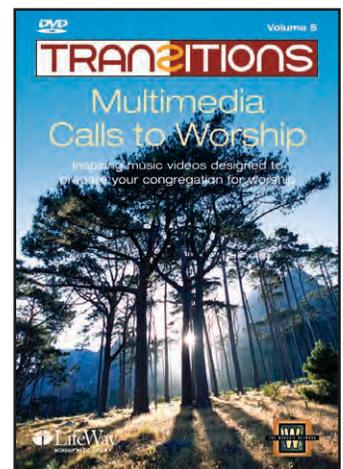
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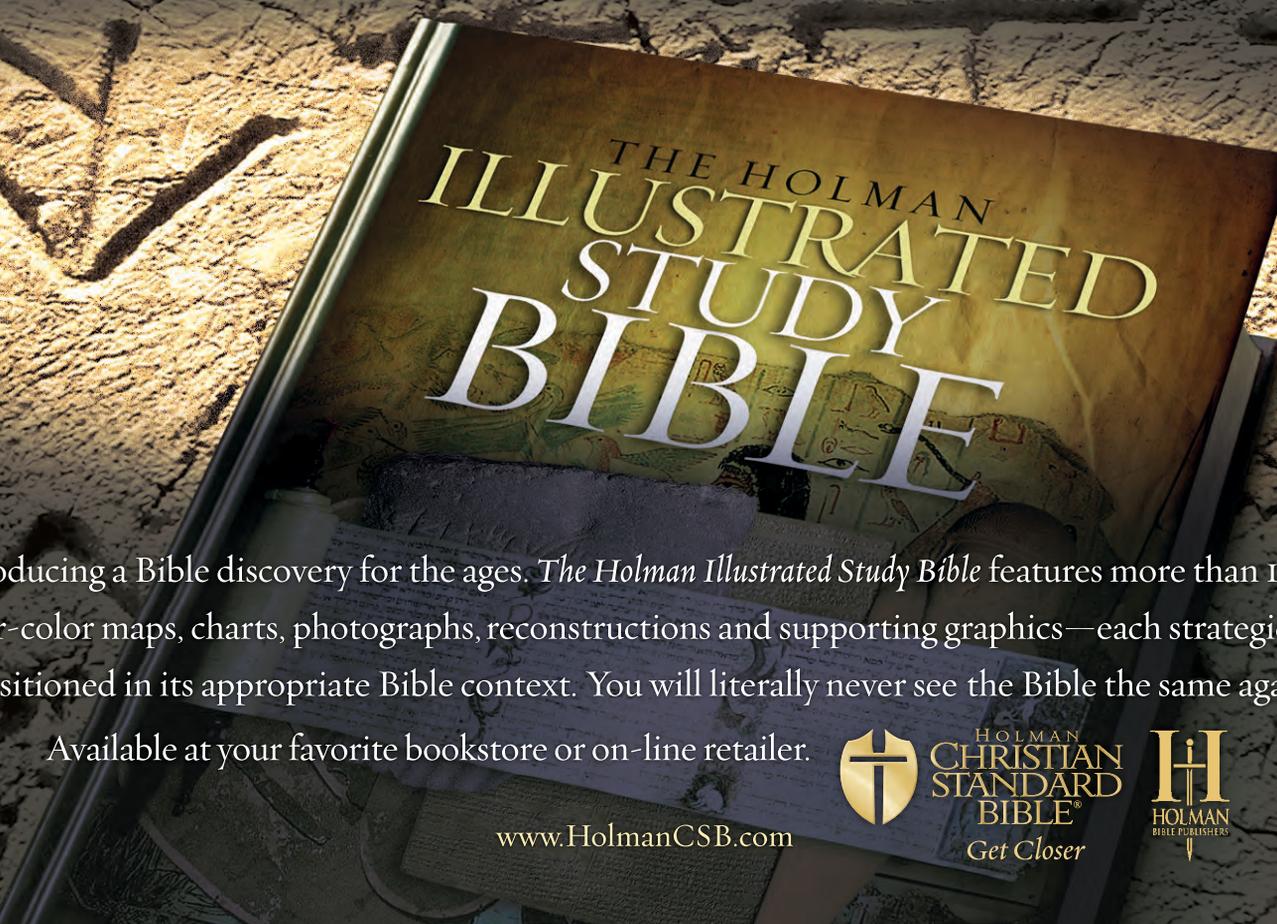
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