

Facts & Trends

Cowboy Church

*Outreach and ministry ...
Western style*

article on page 29

Inside:

2007 Training & Events preview

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2007

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

 **LifeWay**
Biblical Solutions for Life

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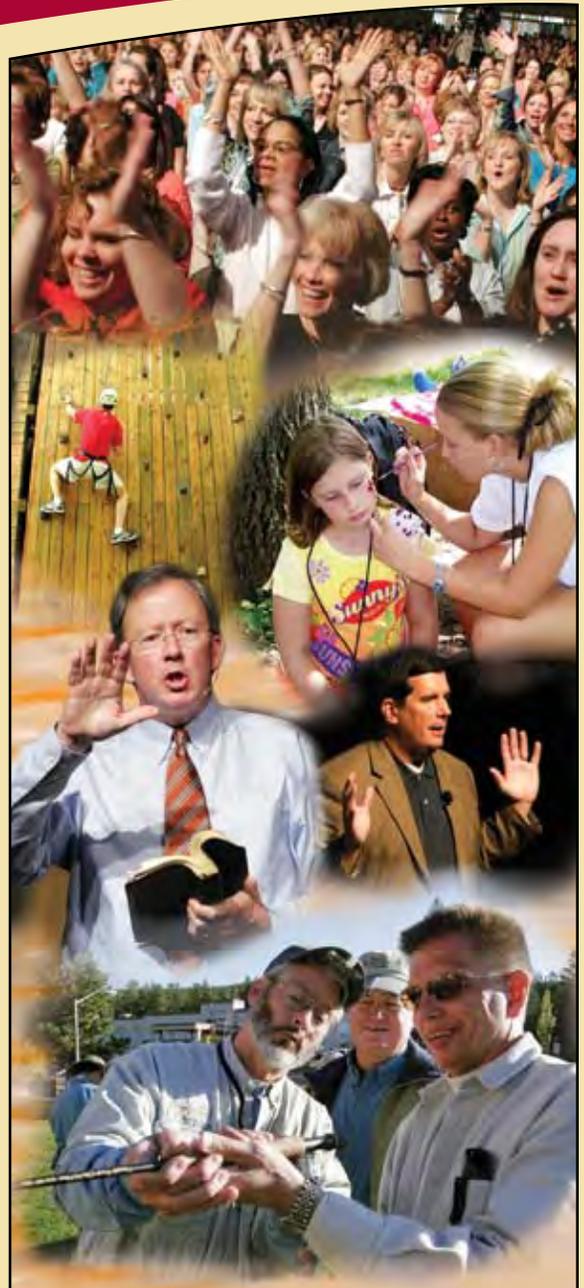
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Cover photo: Lynn Bitner sings and plays during a service at the Pecos Valley Cowboy Church in Pecos, N.M. Photo by Kent Harville.



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Christmas Quiz Correction from Nov/Dec 2006 issue of *Facts & Trends*

Question 8 on page 14 reads: “Jesus’s ancestors included a prostitute, an adulterer, incestuous siblings and a non-Israelite.”

The answer given in page 16 is: “True. Rahab was a prostitute. David was an adulterer. Tamar and Judah committed incest, and Ruth was from Moab....”

The portion of the answer that states, “Tamar and Judah committed incest” is wrong, due to the writer confusing Tamar, the daughter-in-law of Judah (Gen. 38:6) with King David’s daughter Tamar (2 Sam. 13:1), who was raped by her half-brother, Amnon (2 Sam. 13:14).

It is true that Judah had sexual relations with his daughter-in-law Tamar, who disguised herself as a prostitute (Gen. 38:1-26). She became pregnant and had twin sons, Zerah and Perez (Gen. 38:27-30). But it was Tamar and Amnon – not Tamar and Judah – who were siblings, and the rape of Tamar can hardly be called an incestuous relationship. We apologize for the error.

Coming in the March/April issue:

- *Facts & Trends* becomes primary print outlet for LifeWay Research
- Tips for planning a service to honor your church’s grads
- B&H releases new commentary for and by women

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Our site: www.lifeway.com/factsandtrends

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Phone numbers, Web addresses and content referenced in articles were verified at the time of printing.

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 Shrout, 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



Getting the words right will clarify the meaning

Community outreach activities are not evangelism and missions is not a synonym for ministry.

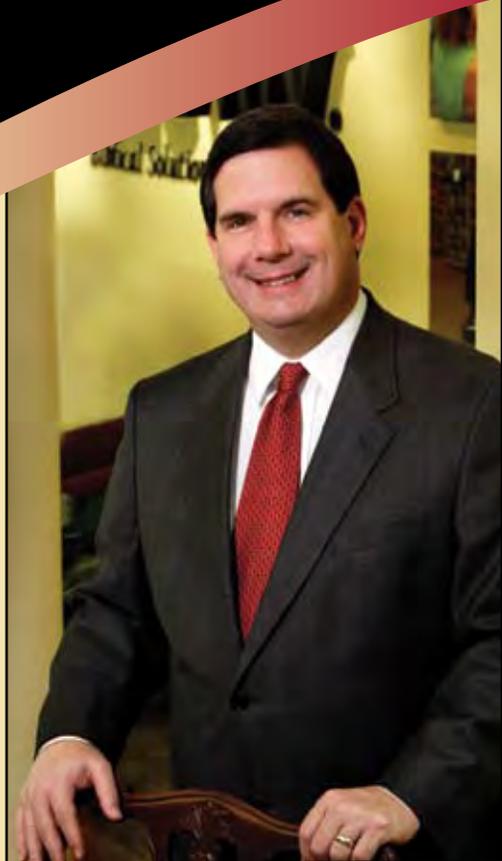
Those were thoughts that raced across my mind when I read the research done for this issue of *Facts & Trends*. It appears, however, that we as evangelicals – and specifically we as Southern Baptists – are using those words interchangeably. It should not be so. Some may say, “Well, it is just a matter of semantics.” Wrong answer! It is unfortunately a common error that absolutely undermines the Great Commission.

Here’s how. Evangelism can be a part of a community outreach activity but too often churches host community outreach activities and never get around to presenting the gospel. It may sound elementary, but evangelism is a verbal presentation that communicates what it means for Christ to have died on the cross as atonement for our sin. It is a call for sinners to confess with their mouths that Jesus is Lord and to believe in their hearts that God raised Him from the dead, both for the purpose of their salvation.

... “‘Lifestyle evangelism’ is not as effective as reasoning with people as the Apostle Paul did.”

— Thom S. Rainer

Churches can do dozens of block parties and never get around to challenging people with the reality of the gospel, i.e. evangelizing them. (And by the way, this is why “lifestyle evangelism” is not as effective as reasoning with people as the Apostle Paul did.)



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

Subscribe

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.



I noticed in the study that the top five methods of evangelism are: Vacation Bible School, literature, events, musical events/concerts and mailings or fliers. VBS is a great outreach opportunity, but even so, if there is no presentation of the gospel then kids have simply spent a fun week of learning some neat things about the Bible.

Another area where we have gotten sloppy with our language is in equating missions with ministry. They are not the same thing. Although this was not part of the survey, I'm well aware that when churches offer a soup kitchen, job training, after-school

Evangelism – a verbal presentation that communicates what it means for Christ to have died on the cross as atonement for our sin.

Missions – evangelism that leads to churches.

programs or host a “downtown mission,” that this is often called “mission work.” Not so. It is ministry. Missions is evangelism that leads to churches. That is what missionaries do.

Christ calls every believer to make disciples of all nations, commanding us to baptize new converts and teaching them to obey our Lord (Matthew 28:19-20). Missions should result in new churches because all Christians need a body of believers to help them grow spiritually. It is where they learn that the church is Jesus’ bride! The New Testament teaches the importance of the church through the stories of Paul’s missionary journeys. On each of those journeys, Paul left behind new believers, new churches and developing leaders.

Churches should engage in activities and ministries that effectively give them the best opportunity to evangelize. However, if a choice has to be made between activities and evangelization, I echo Paul: “Proclaim the message!” (2 Timothy 4:2). ■

In His service,

We recommend

- *Share Jesus Without Fear* by William Fay
- *Success to Significance Ministry Guide* by Lloyd Reeb
- *The Art of Personal Evangelism* by Will McRaney
- *To the Ends of the Earth* by Jerry Rankin

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.

Churches tend to see missions and ministry as the same

by Ron Sellers

What methods are Protestant churches using for evangelism? How involved are churches in community outreach and what are the obstacles to greater involvement?

These issues were explored in a study conducted for *Facts & Trends* by Ellison Research. The study included the responses of a representative sample of 811 Protestant senior pastors nationwide.

The methods churches are using for evangelism are quite varied. The most common is Vacation Bible School, which has been used by 7 out of 10 churches for evangelism in the last year. At least half have used literature such as tracts or magazines (59 percent), events such as block parties or a Fall Festival (56 percent), musical events or concerts (51 percent), mailings or fliers (50 percent), and nursing home or retirement center visits (49 percent) specifically for the purposes of evangelism.

Southern Baptist churches use a greater variety of evangelistic activities than average. SBC churches are more likely than average to have used VBS, literature, musical events or concerts, revivals or crusades, evangelism training classes or groups, and especially door-to-door visitation, but are less likely than average to do any kind of online evangelism.

Evangelical churches in general use a wider variety of evangelistic methods and tools than do mainline Protestant churches. On the other hand, mainline churches generally offer a greater variety of community outreach programs.



Community outreach: Among SBC churches

- VBS 70%**
- Food donations 69%**
- Holiday food programs 68%**
- Prison ministry 20%**
- Blood drive 17%**
- Sports outreach 14%**
- Other 14%**
- Ethnic group outreach 13%**
- Abortion/pregnancy counseling 12%**
- Homeless outreach 10%**
- After-school programs 9%**
- Scouting 8%**
- Day care 6%**
- English classes 5%**
- Job skills/training 4%**
- Adult literacy 3%**
- Nothing 3%**
- Domestic violence counseling 2%**

The only types of community outreach activities offered by a majority of all Protestant churches in the past 12 months have been a food pantry, collection or donations (73 percent); VBS (68 percent); and holiday food programs such as Thanksgiving or Christmas food baskets (65 percent). The slight difference in the figures for VBS between the community outreach and evangelism questions is likely due to how churches classify this program (for example, whether they view the purpose as evangelism or community involvement).

Other types of community outreach offered by a much smaller proportion of churches in the last year include prison ministry (25 percent), homeless outreach (24 percent), Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts (20 percent), blood drives (17 percent), after-school programs for children (14 percent), sports programs (11 percent), and outreach to specific ethnic groups (11 percent).

Fewer than 1 out of 10 Protestant churches offer any kind of free or low-cost day care services, abortion or pregnancy counseling, domestic violence programs, English language classes, job skills or job training, or adult literacy or reading classes.

Southern Baptist churches are less likely than average to have any kind of homeless outreach, as well as Scouting programs.

All pastors – regardless of their church’s level of involvement – were asked what’s holding their church back from being even more involved in their community. Four different reasons are cited by at least half of all pastors: lack of sufficient volunteers (58 percent), lack

Top 5 forms of evangelism:

Among different Protestant denominations

All Protestant churches:



VBS 70%, Literature 59%, Events 56%

Musical events/concerts 51%, Mailings or fliers 50%

SBC churches:



VBS 80%, Literature 78%, Door-to-door visitation 65%

Musical events/concerts 61%, Revivals/crusades 58%

Other Baptist churches:



VBS 77%, Literature 73%,

Door-to-door visitation 48% Events 48%, Mailings or fliers 47%,

Musical events/concerts 47%, Revivals/crusades 47%

Methodist churches:



VBS 79%, Events 70%, Musical events/concerts 52%,

Mailings or fliers 50%, Nursing home/Retirement center visits 51%

Lutheran churches:



VBS 91%, Mailings or fliers 50%, Literature 78%,

Events 65%, Nursing home/Retirement center visits 51%

Pentecostal churches:



Events 67%, Musical events/concerts 64%, Revivals/crusades 64%,

Literature 62%, Nursing home/Retirement center visits 55%

Presbyterian churches:



VBS 77%, Events 69%, Mailings or fliers 55%

Invite a friend to church days 47%, Community service 42%

of sufficient staff (56 percent), lack of sufficient lay leaders (52 percent) and lack of sufficient funds (50 percent).

Other common reasons include just not having enough time to do everything (41 percent), lack of sufficient facilities (31 percent), having mostly older people in the congregation (26 percent), and being in a small town or rural setting (25 percent).

In addition, 39 percent are not highly interested in offering more programs for the community, saying:

- they would rather focus on spiritual needs than on physical needs
- they would rather focus on their own congregation than on the community
- their community has no major needs
- they don't see it as a major priority for their church
- they see other organizations doing these things better than they do
- their congregation or community really isn't interested in community outreach

“While churches frequently cite a lack of staff, facilities, people and/or money as reasons for not being more involved in the community, increasing those resources doesn't necessarily lead to greater involvement.”

— Ron Sellers

This is fairly consistent across all major denominational groups (including the SBC), as well as between evangelical and mainline churches.

While churches frequently cite a lack of staff, facilities, people and/or money as reasons for not being more involved in the community, increasing those resources doesn't necessarily lead to greater involvement. In smaller churches, the words “once we grow larger,” are often a lead-in to discussing what things will hopefully be like in the future.

But pastors in larger churches – which usually have more staff, more funds, larger facilities, and obviously more potential volunteers and lay leaders than small churches – still commonly name the lack of these resources as obstacles to being more involved in the community. Plus, they are much more likely to add to the mix a lack of time to accomplish everything. Having more resources at their disposal apparently doesn't mean these obstacles are significantly reduced or removed for churches. ■



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

2007 Training & Enrichment Events

Simple is big.

It's huge! Look all around you.
Simple is everywhere.

If you Google "simple," in .03 seconds you can bring up more than a billion – that's billion with a "b" – Web sites that offer you opportunities to make your life simple.

Simple life, simple food, simple songs, simple thoughts, simple machines, simple punctuation!

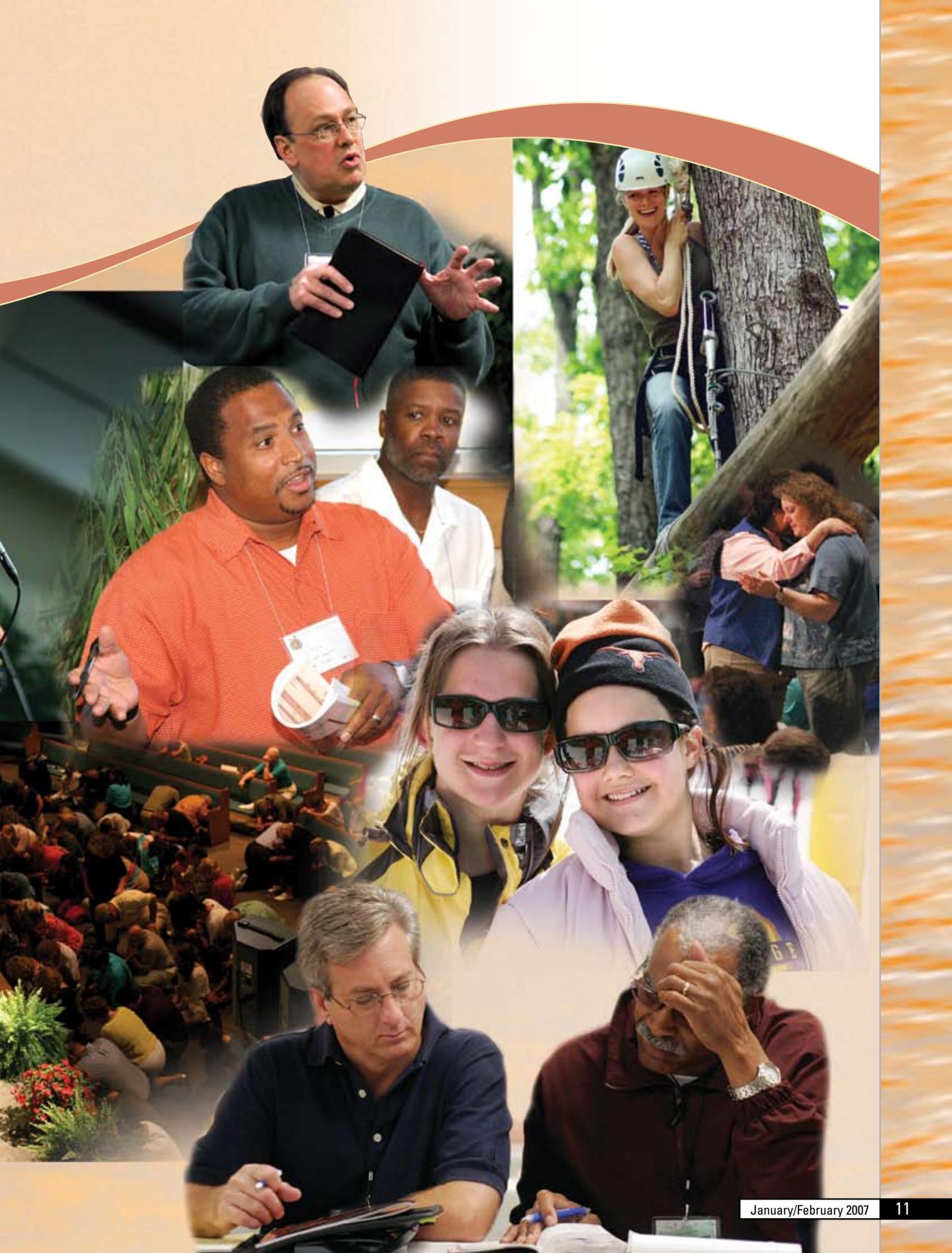
But what about simple training ... or simple enrichment?
Do we have a year for you!

Just call 2007 the Simple Year. You can be trained in just about any area of church work you can imagine at one of our training events. You can have fun and be spiritually pumped up at the same time at one of our many enrichment events.

And it's simple. You don't have to host it. You don't have to set up tables. You don't have to clean up after everyone leaves. You don't even have to wear a tie or socks! You can just come, learn, enjoy and go home ready to make your church a brighter beacon for God!

What could be simpler?





Schedule

2007 Training & Enrichment Events at LifeWay Conference Center locations

information verified at time of publication

LifeWay Ridgcrest Conference Center

- ☐ VBS 2007 Preview Jan. 19-20
- ☐ Be the Man May 4-5
- ☐ Pastor's Masters Golf Retreat May 7-9
- ☐ Blue Ridge Mountains Christian Writers Conference May 20-24, Oct. 7-11
- ☐ Fly Fishing Adventures May 21-24
- ☐ Marriage Impact May 25-27, June 22-24, July 20-22, Aug. 17-19
- ☐ Singles Adventure May 25-27
- ☐ Rally to Ridgcrest May 25-28
- ☐ Worship Leadership Conference..... June 18-22
- ☐ Explore the Bible Conference July 6-9
- ☐ National Evangelism & Discipleship Week July 9-13
- ☐ Sunday School Week July 13-16
- ☐ Black Church Leadership & Family Week July 23-27
- ☐ Wilderness Adventure July 21-Aug. 3
- ☐ Collegiate Week Aug. 4-9
- ☐ Singles Labor Day Retreat Aug. 31-Sept. 3
- ☐ Festivals of Marriage Oct. 5-7, 12-14, 19-21
- ☐ Adults 55+ Fall Celebration Oct. 15-19

LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center

- ☐ VBS 2007 Preview Jan. 12-13
- ☐ Ski Singles Winter Retreat Feb. 16-19
- ☐ Ski Xplosion March 13-16, 19-22
- ☐ Law Enforcement Summit April 3-6
- ☐ Singles Adventure May 25-27
- ☐ Worship Leadership Conference July 9-13
- ☐ National Evangelism & Discipleship Week July 16-20
- ☐ Wilderness Adventure July 7-21
- ☐ Sunday School Week July 23-27
- ☐ Collegiate Week Aug. 4-10
- ☐ Extreme Young Adult Weekend .Aug. 31-Sept. 3
- ☐ Pastor's Masters Golf Retreat Sept. 17-19
- ☐ Fly Fishing Adventures Sept. 19-21
- ☐ Adults 55+ Fall Celebration Oct. 1-5
- ☐ Festival of Marriage Oct. 5-7

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ = Leadership Training Events ☐ = Enrichment Events |
|---|

Registration & Information



LifeWay Ridgcrest Conference Center

For more information or to register for 2007 Ridgcrest conferences:

Phone: (800) 588-7222

Fax: (828) 669-9721

Online: www.lifeway.com/ridgcrest

Registration & Information



LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center

For more information or to register for 2007 Glorieta conferences:

Phone: (800) 797-4222

Fax: (505) 757-4386

Online: www.lifeway.com/glorieta

The BEST in summer leadership training is a great value!

The program fee is \$75 per person for adults and students for Explore the Bible, Sunday School, Discipleship, and Black Church Leadership & Family events; but day camp and preschool care is only \$25 per child for the full event! There is a maximum of \$250 for any family.

Conference Center lodging costs are also economical, and allow several choices.

Rates are for up to two adults in a room. Children under 18 stay free with their parents. Also, choose from value-priced two-meal-a-day or three-meal-a-day plans.

A family of four (two adults, one student, and one child) staying in “standard” conference center housing will pay 10 to 15 percent less than in 2006, depending on location and length of event.

Guests choosing to lodge in non-conference center housing will be assessed a \$15 per person campus usage fee. This fee does not include meals or program fees.

Room Rates	Glorieta	Ridgecrest
Deluxe lodging	\$99	\$99
Standard lodging	\$69	\$79
Economy lodging	N/A	\$59

Meal Costs	Glorieta	Ridgecrest
2 meals a day	\$19/day	\$18/day
3 meals a day	\$25/day	\$25/day

Training Credit Information

Participants may be able to earn Continuing Education Unit credits during Sunday School, Discipleship, Music/Worship, and Black Church Leadership & Family weeks. Christian Growth Study Plan credits may be earned for many morning and afternoon conferences. Doctoral students may be able to receive credit through their seminaries. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/cgsp.



Spiritual growth and crazy fun for your students and children!

The Zone 2007 – The Zone will be back and better than ever for students who have completed grades 7 and up and who are attending Explore the Bible, Sunday School, Discipleship, Black Church Leadership & Family, and Collegiate events with their families. Led by student leaders from around the country, the Zone is a first-class summer camp experience – with cool music, new friends, recreation and crazy stuff.

In small groups and worship sessions, students will search God’s Word to discover His call on their lives. They will seek the face of God in powerful, yet personal worship and have the opportunity to discuss the basics of their faith. Intimate times with God in personal Bible study and prayer will be the start of lifelong habits that will strengthen their faith, their relationships and their lives.

A day camp adventure for your kids – Your children who have completed 1st through 6th grades are in for a full week of day camp fun and adventure while you are attending training sessions. Using LifeWay curriculum specifically designed for a Christian day camp, your child will have a blast with games, Bible stories, crafts, hiking and recreation.

Childcare for the youngest set – Preschool children can play, learn and grow in a loving, caring and safe preschool environment. Using LifeWay materials, preschool workers are trained to give quality care and individual attention to your child, who will learn about God’s love and His creation through songs, activities, stories and play. You can focus on being equipped for ministry knowing that your children are happy and safe.

Schedule

2007 Training & Enrichment Events at various locations

information verified at time of publication

Locations other than Glorieta and Ridgecrest

- ☐ Rec Lab Jan. 7-11
- ☐ Success to Significance
Workshops Jan. 11, Feb. 1, Feb. 8, Feb. 20
- ☐ National FAITH Institute Jan. 22-25
- ☐ Children's Choir
Leadership Workshop Jan. 26-27
- ☐ Living Proof Live Feb. 2-3, Feb. 16-17,
March 23-24, April 13-14,
April 27-28, May 11-12,
May 25-26, Aug. 24-25
- ☐ VBS 2007 Preview Feb. 1-2, 2-3
- ☐ Toward a
Growing Marriage Feb. 10, May 19,
June 2, June 9, June 30,
July 21, July 28, Aug. 4,
Aug. 18, Aug. 25, Sept. 15,
Sept. 22, Oct. 13
- ☐ National Sunday School
Directors Seminar Feb. 23-24,
March 16-17, March 30-31
- ☐ Deeper Still March 9-10, Sept. 7-8
- ☐ Downpour March 9-10
- ☐ National G.R.O.W.
Conference March 18-20, April 15-17
- ☐ You & Your Girl April 28, May 19,
Sept. 15, Oct. 20
- ☐ Going Beyond ... June 1-2, July 13-14, Oct. 5-6
- ☐ Building Kingdom
Schools Institute June 13-15
- ☐ SonPower Orlando July 2-6
- ☐ Festivals of Marriage Sept. 21-22,
Nov. 2-4, Nov. 9-11
- ☐ National Preschool &
Children's Convention Oct. 8-11
- ☐ Adults 55+ Big Texas and Christmas
Celebrations Oct. 23-25, Nov. 13-16
- ☐ Women's Ministry
National Leadership Forum Nov. 13-15

- ☐ = Leadership Training Events
- ☐ = Enrichment Events

Registration & Information



LifeWay Events Registration

For more information or to register for 2007 LifeWay conferences:

Phone: (800) 254-2022

Online: www.lifeway.com/events

Taping and photography disclaimer:

LifeWay will be audio/videotaping and photographing all training and enrichment events. You may be filmed, recorded or photographed as part of the audience or individually. By your attendance, you are granting permission to be audio or videotaped or photographed for commercial purposes and agree to the following: being filmed, recorded, or photographed by any means; commercial or any other likeness, voice and words without compensation; specifically waiving all rights of privacy during the videotaping, filming, recording or photographing and release LifeWay Christian Resources from liability for loss, damage or compensation for the commercial or other use of your likeness, image, voice or words; compliance with all rules and regulations of LifeWay for this event.

Event Listings

Adults 55+ Fall Celebration

Glorieta Conference Center, located just 18 miles from Santa Fe, N.M., will charm you as you experience life-enriching classes and inspirational worship services. A variety of classes will be offered from prayer and devotional study to learning local crafts and making and learning to play a dulcimer. There also will be a class devoted to group leaders to discuss future needs of the growing adult 55+ age group. Enjoy the beauty of autumn with plenty of time to explore Santa Fe and the historic Governor's Square, Los Alamos National Park and mission sites.

Location: LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center, N.M., Oct. 1-5. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/events.

Adults 55+ Fall Celebration

Ridgecrest is nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains, just a short drive from Asheville, N.C. You'll enjoy the flaming red and gold autumn leaves, life-enriching classes and inspirational worship services. A variety of classes will be offered from prayer and devotional study to learning local crafts and making and learning to play a dulcimer. There also will be a class devoted to group leaders to discuss future needs of the growing adult 55+ age group. Ideas for afternoon free time may include the Biltmore Estates, Billy Graham's Training Center at The Cove, the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway and the quaint craft stores in Black Mountain.

Location: LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, Ridgecrest, N.C., Oct. 15-19. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/events.

Adults 55+ Big Texas and Christmas Celebrations

Last year's Branson Christmas Celebration was a sellout event. With the overwhelming excitement from that group, we are expecting the same this year, so register early. This year you have two location options: Dallas and Branson, Mo. A full buffet breakfast will be served each morning before the sessions begin with Bible study, music and our keynote speaker.

Locations: Dallas, Oct. 23-25. Branson, Mo., Nov. 13-16. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/events.

Be the Man – Black Men's Conference

In powerful numbers across our nation, men once again are reclaiming their responsibilities – to their professions, to their families and to their God.

Men Pursuing God is a rock-solid conference for today's African-American men who are serious about meeting life's challenges. Some of today's most respected voices will offer strength and direction to assist men as they develop a deeper relationship with Christ, discover their God-given potential, understand their role in the family and support the ministries of their church.

God has placed each of us within this unique time for a specific purpose. What an incredible sight to witness men of strength and vision rise to pursue this challenge.

Location: LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, Ridgecrest, N.C., May 4-5. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/ridgecrest.

Black Church Leadership & Family Week

This conference's target audiences are pastors; deacons and deacons' wives; men's ministry leaders; education ministers; ministers' wives; music leaders; drama leaders; leaders of adults, college, youth, children and preschoolers; recreation leaders; church secretaries; church staff and church members. In other words, everyone!

Each day will begin early (5:45 a.m.) with praise and worship. Mornings and afternoons will include topical conferences and book studies. There will be conferences each morning and afternoon for every target group, except for Wednesday afternoon, which will be devoted to family time. Specialists from LifeWay, the North American Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union, the International Mission Board, GuideStone Financial Services and other outstanding practitioners will lead the classes. There will be a time for Bible study each day.



Other features of this week include a pastor's dinner sponsored by the North American Mission Board; a Fair/Expo featuring products and services provided by the sponsoring agencies (LifeWay, NAMB, WMU and IMB); a track for church musicians; a certification track for beginning and advanced education directors; and lots of time to renew friendships and make new ones.

Check-in for this conference begins at 4 p.m. on Monday, July 23. The conference concludes before lunch on Friday, July 27.

Location: LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, July 23-27.
For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/events.

Blue Ridge Mountains Christian Writers Conference

God truly gives to writers a special gift – a focused passion to develop a simple thought into a written reality. For some it may be a lucrative career. For others a rewarding hobby. But the common love that every writer shares is the thrilling process of bringing imagination to life.

The Blue Ridge Mountains Christian Writers Conference enters its 7th year as a premier training and networking event for both seasoned and aspiring writers. This Sunday-Thursday event allows writers the ideal opportunity to interact with editors, agents, professional writers and readers, offering outstanding workshops and continuing classes in a wide array of creative categories. Whether you are a professional writer expanding your skills and networking contacts, or a brand new writer just beginning to chase your dream, the Christian Writers Conference is the ideal

opportunity to take your creative goals to a higher level.

Location: LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, May 20-24; Oct. 7-11 (for advanced writers).
For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/christianwriters.

Building Kingdom Schools Institute

Not just another Christian school conference, the Building Kingdom Schools Institute features a distinct and specific focus: training Christian school leaders in how to build Kingdom schools based on the biblical philosophy of Kingdom education.
Location: LifeWay, Nashville, Tenn., June 13-15. **For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/events.**

Children's Choir Leadership Workshop

This workshop is designed to provide training and spiritual support for leaders, directors and coordinators of children's choirs and to assist churches in starting and growing children's music/choir time. Seminars are led by a talented group of clinicians who touch on topics such as Designing the Child's Voice, Games: The Fun of Music, Classroom Management and Coordinator's Ministry Blueprint.

Location: Forest Park Baptist Church, Joplin, Mo., Jan. 26-27.
For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/events.

Collegiate Weeks

God has a mission, purpose and plan that He is coursing this world toward. He is about reconciling people to Himself. That is His mission. Collegiate Weeks 2007 will help students discover what God's mission

is for their life.

During these events students will have the opportunity to have life-changing experiences as they join hundreds of other college students and high school graduates, hear the best collegiate speakers in the country, enjoy the outstanding music and network with fellow college students from around the country.



During the weeks there will be opportunity for daily workshops on dating, discipleship, priorities, witnessing and missions. Students will meet with representatives of Southern Baptist seminaries, Woman's Missionary Union, the North American and International Mission Boards, as well as other organizations that offer both educational and ministry opportunities.

There is also a special track of classes offered for those leaders who work with college students.

Program leaders at Ridgecrest are Greg Pinkner, teaching pastor at Fellowship Church, Knoxville, Tenn.; Jeff Iorg, president, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.; David Edwards, author and speaker, Oklahoma City;

Event Listings

and Jason Ingram and his band, "The Longing," Nashville, Tenn. Leaders at Glorieta are David Platt, pastor of the Church at Brook Hills, Birmingham, Ala.; Landon Dowden, pastor of CrossPoint Church, Baton Rouge, La.; and Dave Hunt and band, Franklin, Tenn.

We expect sold out weeks again this year, so don't delay in making your reservations.

Locations: LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, Ridgecrest, N.C., Aug. 4-9; LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center, Glorieta, N.M., Aug. 4-10. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/events.

Deeper Still

Three compelling Bible teachers! Two unique locations! One incredible experience! LifeWay is honored to present Deeper Still: The Event. Internationally renowned Bible teachers Beth Moore, Kay Arthur and Priscilla Shirer will share the platform at this new event in San Francisco and Nashville, Tenn. Go deeper in God's Word as you sit under their teaching, deeper in prayer with thousands of women across North America, and deeper in worship with Travis Cottrell and the praise team, with special musical guest soloist Anthony Evans. This multicultural, multigenerational event will awaken your soul to the deep areas God wants to speak to in your own life.

Locations: Moscone Center, San Francisco, March 9-10; Gaylord Entertainment Center, Nashville, Tenn., Sept. 7-8. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/women.



Beth Moore



Kay Arthur



Priscilla Shirer

Downpour

Join author, pastor and radio personality James MacDonald for a time of worship and teaching as he and others deliver five dynamic messages based on Hosea 6:1, 3. Along with MacDonald, special guests Joe Stowell, Bob Coy and Greg Laurie will challenge attendees to reflect on Sin in the Mirror: A Picture of Brokenness; Christ on the Cross: A Picture of Grace; Self in the Dirt: A Picture of Repentance; Spirit in Control: A Picture of Power; and God on the Throne: A Picture of Holiness.

Location: George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston, March 9-10. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/events.



Explore the Bible Conference

This summer's Explore the Bible Conference is a new event that will help your entire church:

- (1) Explore God's Word through great preaching and personal Bible study;
- (2) Experience God's presence through worship and fellowship with other believers;
- (3) Energize your teachers as they learn new Bible study, leadership, and communication skills.

This new conference will prepare those who use the Explore the Bible Sunday school resources for an entire year of Bible study. Personal and class Bible study time will be enriched by the knowledge gained through study about Matthew, Genesis and Acts.

Because the Explore the Bible series is beginning a new eight-year study plan, this is a great opportunity to prepare and focus for beginning a new study of the complete Bible. This conference will be an opportunity for churches to bring anyone who wants to develop better Bible study skills. Leaders will offer conferences that will help strengthen your Bible study. Great preaching will be a part

of the conference as participants hear from expository preachers Mac Brunson, pastor, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.; Argile Smith, vice president, William Carey University, Hattiesburg, Miss.; Chuck Quarles, vice president, Louisiana College, Pineville, La.; and Bret Robbe, director of leadership and adult ministry publishing at LifeWay.

Location: LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, Ridgecrest, N.C., July 6-9. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/events.

Extreme Young Adult Weekend

This Labor Day weekend offers today's single adults and married couples a

unique opportunities to experience God not just in a classroom setting, but in the great outdoors as well. Young adults who crave adventure will be able to enjoy an number of outdoor adventures, including white water rafting, kayaking, canoeing and mountain biking. In the evening, worship time will touch their hearts and souls.

Location: LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center, Glorieta, N.M., Aug. 31-Sept. 3. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/glorieta.

Festival of Marriage Events

Festival of Marriage conferences are Christ-centered enrichment events that create opportunities for married

couples to get away and seek renewal. Through interactive workshops, worship celebrations, live drama and inspiring messages, the festivals encourage husbands and wives to grow in their relationship with one another and with God. You'll discover the meaning of true commitment for your marriage. Couples attending will have an opportunity to create their own workshop schedule as they celebrate their marriage, each other and rekindled love of the Lord.

Locations: Johnson Ferry Baptist Church, Atlanta, Sept. 21-22; LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center, Glorieta, N.M., Oct. 5-7; LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference



LifeWay's Club VBS
Jungle Jaunt
Psalm 145:2

It's Jam-Packed with Fun!

Jump into a Vacation Bible School experience as big as the Amazon rain forest! Each day, kids will discover the One True God, and as their River Guide, you'll have the opportunity to challenge kids to respond to Jesus as the Living Savior and Lord of All. So, if you're looking for an anytime Vacation Bible School that's jam-packed with fun, Club VBS is for you!

Discover 2 ways to plan your Jaunt!

The *Club VBS: Jungle Jaunt All-in-One Pack* (1-4158-3079-7 • \$279.99) includes everything needed for 50 kids. Or, order the *Club VBS 2007 Administrative and Worship Rally Pack* (1-4158-2960-8 • \$99.99) and customize your Club VBS to any size.

→ Call 1.800.458.2772
→ Go to www.lifeway.com/vbs
→ Visit the LifeWay Christian Store serving you

LifeWay
Biblical Solutions for Life
KIDS

Event Listings

Center, Ridgecrest, N.C., Oct. 5-7, 12-14, 19-21; Clarion Hotel, Ocean City, Md., Nov. 2-4; Tan-Tar-A Resort, Osage Beach, Mo., Nov. 9-11. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/events.

Fly Fishing Adventures

Our vision is basically to provide a fishing trip ... on steroids! Fish world-class trout streams in New Mexico and North Carolina. Recharge your heart by spending time with God and other men. Enjoy meaningful worship and Bible study. Our desire is to fish rustic waters in the morning, and then work on our hearts at night during the Bible conference. Men will leave with some super fishing memories, renewed hearts and newly formed friendships. Professional fly-fishing guides are available at an additional cost.

Locations: LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, Ridgecrest, N.C., May 21-24; LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center, Glorieta, N.M., Sept. 19-21. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/ridgecrest.

Going Beyond

Going Beyond, featuring Priscilla Shirer, is one of the newest and most anticipated of LifeWay's events for women.

Shirer's Bible study, *He Speaks to Me*, currently being taught in churches across the United States, focuses on learning to hear the voice of God. LifeWay released her follow-up study, *Discerning God's Voice*, in November 2006.

"We tend to think the Lord only speaks to the spiritually elite," says Shirer, "that only established authors or teachers or pastors are hearing

from God, not regular laypeople like us. Women can open up the Bible, see the passages unfold, watch the principles jump out and realize they can do that in their own life."

Shirer, a wife and mother of two young sons, understands the unique needs women have. Her goal remains to help women in all seasons of life, from all backgrounds, see how applicable the Bible is to their daily situations.

Locations: Hylton Memorial Chapel, Woodbridge, Va., June 1-2; Metro Baptist Church, Houston, July 13-14 (Simulcast); Mariner's Church, Irvine, Calif., Oct. 5-6. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/women.



Law Enforcement Summit

LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center, invites all men and women in the law enforcement community to a "safe place" where they can experience fellowship with God and other Christian officers. Challenging, meaningful and relevant worship services, led by officers, to officers and their spouses, along with selective breakout conferences and free time will make this an unforgettable experience. Superb workshops and breakout sessions are designed by law enforcement, for law enforcement, to support and encourage members

and their spouses as they face the challenges of their professions.

Location: LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center, Glorieta, N.M., April 3-6. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/lawenforcement.

LifeWay Worship Leadership Conference

Come let us minister to you and your family or staff members for five days as you listen to great music, worship in exciting concerts, participate in classes that fit your needs and renew your mind. Classes will be offered for pastors, worship leaders, children's choir leaders, praise bands and teams, organ/piano, just to name a few. The beauty of either conference center location will help you enter a spirit of worship as you celebrate the Living God.

Locations: LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, Ridgecrest, N.C., June 18-22; LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center, July 9-13. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/events.

Living Proof Live with Beth Moore

If you're in need of divine refreshment, want to delve deeper into the Word of God, or are looking for



a fun and uplifting getaway with “the girls,” Living Proof Live is the place for you!

Beth Moore’s focus will be on the Scripture that God lays on her heart for each individual Living Proof Live event – no two are the same.

Moore’s mission is to guide women everywhere into a richer, more fulfilling relationship with the Father. Make plans now to attend one or more of these exciting events in a city near you. The powerful Bible study, teaching and authentic worship are sure to minister to your mind, soul and spirit!

These popular events feature Travis Cottrell and the praise and worship band. These day-and-a-half events include inspiring messages and uplifting music with the opportunity to take home life-changing Bible truths that speak to the heart of every woman.

Locations: Overlake Christian Church, Seattle, Feb. 2-3; Cobo Arena, Detroit, Feb. 16-17; Century Tel Center, Bossier City, La., March 23-24; Colonial Center, Columbia, S.C., April 13-14; Albuquerque Convention Center, Albuquerque, N.M., April 27-28; Qwest Center Arena, Omaha, Neb., May 11-12; Holmes Convocation Center, Boone, N.C., May 25-26; RI Convention Center, Providence, R.I., Aug. 24-25. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/women.

Marriage Impact

This is a marriage retreat that won’t leave you stuck in a classroom! Marriage Impact 2007 is the premier marriage event inviting couples to experience exciting outdoor adventures combined with powerful Bible study



and inspirational worship. Each morning, couples from across the country will enjoy fellowshiping together during a relaxing breakfast, followed by a short but meaningful time of Bible study.

Then, throw on your worn-out khaki shorts and lace up your hiking boots. Couples can select from a list of recreational adventures, from whitewater rafting to scaling a 40-foot climbing wall. There are plenty of relaxing options as well, with canoeing, horseback riding and mountain biking. The hiking trails at Ridgecrest offer spectacular views of the North Carolina mountains. Returning will be Ric Cadle, associate pastor at Graceland Baptist Church in New Albany, Ind., and his wife, Cindy, who will lead the worship and Bible study, along with Carlee Ragians, worship associate at Graceland Baptist, who will lead the music, praise and worship.

Location: LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, Ridgecrest, N.C., May 25-27, June 22-24, July 20-22, Aug. 17-19. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/marriageimpact.

National Evangelism & Discipleship Weeks

The 2007 National Evangelism & Discipleship Conference will provide opportunities to dialog with leaders from local churches, LifeWay and the North American Mission Board in evangelism and discipleship strategies that will equip attendees to return home with an action plan.



Speakers at Ridgecrest will be Don Wilton, senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Spartanburg, S.C., and Roy Fish, NAMB interim president. Leading worship will be Richard Fuller and the praise team from First Baptist Church, Hendersonville, Tenn. Speakers at Glorieta will be Ergun Caner, president of Liberty Theological Seminary in Lynchburg, Va., and John Avant, vice president of evangelism at the North American Mission Board. Leading worship will be Scott Bullman and the praise team from Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va.

Locations: LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, Ridgecrest, N.C., July 9-13; LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center, Glorieta, N.M., July 16-20. For more information go to www.lifeway.com/events.

National FAITH Institute

The National FAITH Institute offers four days of learning and sharing for existing FAITH churches and churches interested in launching this ministry-transforming evangelism strategy. The senior pastor must be one of the attendees. Participants will attend one of three tracks: FAITH Basic, FAITH Veterans, and POR FE. The FAITH Basic track prepares participants to begin using FAITH

Event Listings

in their church, and gives them opportunity to interact with others currently implementing FAITH. The FAITH Veterans track offers churches already implementing FAITH a chance to further develop and strengthen their leaders, and it provides a means of networking with leaders from other churches. The POR FE track offers FAITH Basic training for churches with Spanish-speaking congregations.

Location: First Baptist Church, Daytona Beach, Fla., Jan. 22-25. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/faith.

National G.R.O.W. Conferences

Based on the proven outreach strategy G.R.O.W. (God Rewards Our Work), this unique outreach and evangelism event will teach pastors, staff and laypeople ways to involve the most members in reaching your community for Jesus Christ. As a conference participant you will learn how to implement G.R.O.W. in your church and Sunday school, and observe a functioning and thriving G.R.O.W. lab. This event will inspire and encourage you whether you are preparing to start G.R.O.W., are already using G.R.O.W., or would like to combine G.R.O.W. with a functioning evangelism ministry, such as FAITH.

Locations: Bartlett, Tenn., March 18-20; Forney, Texas, April 15-17. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/faith.

National Preschool and Children's Convention

The National Preschool and Children's Convention began in 1996 and is now attended by more

than 800 leaders every year. These leaders continue to attend because of excellent leadership training and the unique fellowship and networking opportunities provided. During this exciting four-day event, you'll be introduced to effective tools that will help in all aspects of children's ministry.

NPCC offers fresh ideas, useable strategies, unique learning experiences, incomparable networking opportunities and insight into what is ahead for kids' ministry.

Location: LifeWay, Nashville, Tenn., Oct. 8-11. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/events.

National Sunday School Director Seminar

A National Sunday School Director Seminar is a two-day seminar that focuses on the role of the Sunday school director and how he or she carries out that role. Sunday school directors gain understanding about the importance of their role, how to build a strong Sunday school team, growing their Sunday school, reaching people for Christ, developing life transforming teaching and building a strategy for their Sunday school. And that's just in the general sessions.

Pastors, ministers of education, Sunday school directors and outreach directors will have more options than ever this summer.

Locations: Anderson Mill Baptist Church, Austin, Texas, Feb. 23-24; Nall Avenue Baptist Church, Prairie Village, Kan., March 16-17; First Baptist Church, Mauldin, S.C., March 30-31. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/events.



Pastor's Masters Golf Retreat

This is going to be a great time for golf, fellowship, spiritual encouragement and improving your "game." Scott Lehman, president and CEO of In His Grip Golf Association (www.inhispigolf.com), is helping organize this event – three days of golf on different courses with different formats will make this an event you won't want to miss. Add to the great golf, professional golf instruction and Spirit-filled Bible studies to encourage you in your walk with God, and you have the makings of an unforgettable experience.

Locations: LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, Ridgecrest, N.C., May 7-9; LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center, Glorieta, N.M., Sept. 17-19. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/golf.

Rally to Ridgecrest

Join Christian motorcyclists from all over the country on Memorial

Day to honor America's fallen heroes and get immersed in a weekend of motorcycling excitement. Ride long, winding roads through green forests and majestic mountains. Open yourself to God's Word and His leadership in your life.

Meet new friends and reminisce with familiar faces while you ride, attend seminars and explore the ministry value of motorcycling. Challenging speakers and great music will fill each night. Great food is provided with your registration. Come and experience warm Southern hospitality as you discover all the exciting attractions Asheville and the surrounding area have to offer.

Location: LifeWay Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Ridgecrest, N.C., May 25-28. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/ridgecrest.

Rec Lab

Rec Lab, the multid denominational conference featuring in-depth instruction from the very best practitioners in recreation and sports ministry, is designed for anyone who uses recreation in a ministry setting. Rec Lab is unapologetically evangelistic in scope and will challenge the novice and experienced alike by introducing new ministry skills and personal growth concepts.

Along with general recreation and sports ministry seminars, two emphases this year will be ministering to the outdoorsman and family ministry. Jason Cruise of Outdoor Ministry Network has put together courses on how to use hunting, fishing and other outdoor experiences to reach men and boys. Eileen Wright, family ministry leader from Alabama, and her team have designed a slate of seminars

on how to reach out to and enrich families in churches.

Speakers include Michael Catt, pastor of Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga., the church that produced *Facing the Giants*, a movie about a small town football team, produced on a shoestring budget. Also speaking is Mark Marshall, director of training and events at LifeWay. Ryan Richardson, director of worship and media at Baylor University, will lead music for the event. Featured artists are Dove Award winners Steve and Annie Chapman.

Participants are encouraged to customize the conference using more than 80 seminar choices to enrich their personal and professional lives.

Location: Radisson Hill Country Resort, San Antonio, Jan. 7-11. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/events.

Singles Adventure

These fantastic Memorial Day weekends at both LifeWay conference centers offer today's single adults unique opportunities to experience God not just in a classroom setting, but in the great outdoors as well.

Singles of any age will be able to enjoy fantastic outdoor adventures, including white water rafting, kayaking, canoeing and mountain biking. Come together each night for inspirational worship and fellowship with other single adults.



Locations: LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, Ridgecrest, N.C., and LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center, Glorieta, N.M., May 25-27. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/glorieta.

Singles Labor Day Retreat

This weekend offers today's single adult an opportunity to experience God in the mountains. It will be a great time of teaching, worship and music. Outdoor adventures are waiting for participants who choose more active endeavors too.

Location: LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, Ridgecrest, N.C., Aug. 31-Sept. 3. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/ridgecrest.

Ski Singles Winter Retreat

What could be better than three great days of skiing and exploring the beautiful Santa Fe area! Strap on your skis, snowboards or anything else worthy of scaling an incredible 12,000-foot mountain and join single adults from all across the nation for this growing annual event. Daytimes are left wide open for guests to test their skills and courage on the



Event Listings

beautiful, powder-packed Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Skiing veterans and first-timers alike will find this event an absolute blast!

Location: LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center, Glorieta, N.M., Feb. 16-19. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/glorieta.

Ski Xplosion

Think summer is the best time for youth camps and retreats? Better wake up and smell the hot chocolate. Name a summer event that lets youth navigate snowboards from 12,000 feet down freshly snow-blanketed slopes. Is it any wonder why Ski Xplosion has become a premier winter youth event in America? Hit the powdery white slopes of Ski Santa Fe each day; study the unchangeable truths of God's Word each night. Ski Xplosion leaves teenagers with memories that will last for years and changed hearts that will last for eternity.

For every 10 youth you register, the next person is free! Here's a great opportunity to offer scholarships for youth in your group, or a nice way to help pay for your youth workers to come along! This offer does not include the cost of ski equipment rentals, lift tickets or any transportation charges.

Location: LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center, Glorieta, N.M., March 13-16, 19-22. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/skixplosion.

SonPower Orlando

SonPower is an unforgettable week of music and missions for students. In five power-packed days, students learn dynamic songs from the upcoming SonPower collection,

study God's Word under the direction of the coolest guys around and serve the surrounding community through unique mission opportunities. The week will culminate in a live recording session, as students present the music they've learned. As if it could get any better, this dynamic week is seriously fun!

Location: Sheraton World Resort, Orlando, Fla., July 2-6. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/events.

Success to Significance Luncheon and Workshop

Who says there's no such thing as a free lunch? These free Success to Significance luncheons and workshops are perfect for pastors, adult ministry leaders and lay leaders who are interested in learning how to discover and deploy leadership that already sits in their pews every Sunday. Hear from Lloyd Reeb, author of *From Success to Significance*, about his own midlife transition to pursue significance and how your church can help its members do the same. Lunch is served from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., then the workshop follows from 1-2 p.m.

Locations: Highland Baptist Church, Grove City, Ohio, Jan. 11; Oak Hills Church, San Antonio, Texas, Feb. 1; First Baptist Church, Broken Arrow, Okla., Feb. 8; Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, Feb. 20. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/events.



Lloyd Reeb

Sunday School Weeks

At Ridgecrest hear the week's preacher, Forrest Pollock, pastor, Bell Shoals Baptist Church, Brandon, Fla., and worship leader Steve White, minister of music, Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.

At Glorieta hear the week's preacher Montia Setzler, pastor, Magnolia Avenue

Baptist Church, Riverside, Calif., and worship leaders Bill and Kerri Shiflett, minister of music, Lenexa Baptist Church, Lenexa, Kan.

We want to help your Sunday school become more inviting. You will learn how to invigorate your learning environment, incorporate ideas to increase visitor "traffic," intercede more effectively, invest in people, invite them to come, then involve them in fellowship, ministry and Bible study.

Tracks of classes are offered for preschool and children's leaders, those who work with students, adult leaders, pastors, ministers of education, Sunday school directors, outreach directors, and those who work with people who have special needs. There is something for everyone.

A special feature at our two Sunday school events is the special education lab school. The lab provides a safe and loving place for family members with special needs (children/youth/adults) to enjoy VBS using our special education materials.

Special education leaders will be able to observe and have hands-on experience in adapting for special needs in the classroom. This lab follows the conference schedule to

allow parents full access to all core and elective conferences. For more information on the special education lab, contact Carlton McDaniel at (919) 771-1367, or e-mail him at carlton@abletoserve.com.

Last summer's Sunday school events sold out, so register early!

Locations: LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, Ridgecrest, N.C., July 13-16; LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center, Glorieta, N.M., July 23-27. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/events.

Toward a Growing Marriage

God wants to bless your marriage. It's true. Through this one-day conference you'll learn lots of practical, biblical principles – timeless wisdom that you can start applying that day ... and for years to come.

The lasting answers to marriage are found in the Bible, so whether you're newly engaged or have celebrated a silver anniversary, join marriage and family life expert Gary Chapman for one of these Toward a Growing Marriage conferences. It's an event that can literally change the course of your marriage.

Locations: Lake Arlington Baptist Church, Arlington, Texas, Feb. 10; Midway Macedonia Baptist Church, Villa Rica, Ga., May 19; Mt. Pleasant Church, Baltimore, June 2; Decatur Baptist Church, Decatur, Ala., June 9; First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla., June 30; Humble Area's First Baptist Church, Humble, Texas, July 21; Concord Church, St. Louis, July 28; Southcrest Baptist Church, Lubbock, Texas, Aug. 4; Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Cincinnati, Aug. 18; Westwood

Baptist Church, Cleveland, Tenn., Aug. 25; Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C., Sept. 15; First Baptist Church Raytown, Raytown, Mo., Sept. 22; Community Church of Joy, Glendale, Ariz., Oct. 13. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/events.

Vacation Bible School Previews

Get in on the action! Be among the first to see LifeWay's exciting Vacation Bible School materials for 2007! These special events provide previews of Game Day Central.

Join VBS composer Jeff Slaughter and other VBS leaders from across the country for this hands-on, two-day event that's overflowing with ideas and information about LifeWay's 2007 VBS – including the Game Day Central musical!

Hear firsthand from the creators of LifeWay's VBS by attending tracks designed especially for VBS directors; VBS leaders for preschool, children and youth; and at Ridgecrest only, VBS leaders for children with special needs.

Register early! A second event already has been added at the Nashville location.

Locations: LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center, Glorieta, N.M., Jan. 12-13; LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, Ridgecrest, N.C., Jan. 19-20;

LifeWay, Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 1-2, 2-3. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/vbs.

Wilderness Adventure

How often does a youth get the chance to make a life-long memory – one filled with lessons of leadership and character. This only begins to describe the Wilderness Adventure at Ridgecrest and Glorieta conducted by Ridgecrest Summer Camps. Students 15-18 years old are invited to join us in this premier event that will include expedition backpacking, rock-climbing, challenge course elements and horseback trail-riding. Interwoven throughout the activities will be lessons on leadership, communication, relationships and good health. Most important will be Godly encouragement provided by the staff and the spiritual emphasis that will accompany every aspect of the program.

Register soon! We will only accept 20 guys and girls for this program. They will be supervised by a well-trained, experienced and thoroughly screened veteran staff members from Camp Ridgecrest and Camp Crestridge. All technical equipment will be provided, however campers are responsible to bring appropriate clothes, boots and personal gear (a list will be provided). Youth will need to be in good health and in good shape.

Location: LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center, Glorieta, N.M., July 7-21; LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, Ridgecrest, N.C., July 21-Aug. 3. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/wildernessadventure.



Event Listings

Women's Ministry National Leadership Forum

Renew, refresh, and revive at this year's Women's Ministry National Leadership Forum.

Revitalize as you learn from women's ministry leaders – new and seasoned – in sharing ministry ideas and experiences.

Speakers include Kay Arthur, Bible teacher, conference speaker and co-founder of Precept Ministries International; and Shaunti Feldhahn, author, speaker and nationally syndicated newspaper columnist. Come for the latest information, ideas, and inspiration ... discover what works, what doesn't and what obstacles to avoid.

Location: LifeWay, Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 13-15. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/women.

You & Your Girl

You & Your Girl is a fun and informative Saturday event for moms and their daughters, ages 8 to 18. Best-selling author and nationwide speaker Vicki Courtney will encourage and equip participants with sessions on: the truth about your mom's teen years and why she's freaking out over yours (for moms and girls); the #1 "must-have" for a happy life (for moms and girls); and five things your daughter wants you

to know but doesn't know how to tell you (for moms).

Courtney is founder of Virtuous Reality Ministries, which reaches more than 150,000 girls and



Shaunti Feldhahn



Vicki Courtney

mothers a year through her virtuousreality.com Web site and speaking engagements. A mother of three teens, she seeks to provide both teens and their parents with the tools necessary to navigate today's culture.

In addition to Courtney's eye-opening messages, moms, daughters and their friends will also hear from a variety of breakout leaders, worship leaders and dramatist Emory Colvin. Girl band Everlife brings their high-energy music and inspiring messages to teen girls. Plus – join us for a lunchtime discussion of how to start a girl's ministry in your church.

Moms, don't miss this fun and informative event

where you can reconnect with your daughter and she can be encouraged to stand up for Christ.

Locations: Huffman Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala., April 28; Church of the Highlands, Ridgeland, Miss., May 19; Forest Park Baptist Church, Joplin, Mo., Sept. 15; First Baptist Church, Lenoir City, Tenn., Oct. 20. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/women.

Fuge Camps 2007

For more than 25 years life-changing Fuge camps have been bringing the best in youth camps and events to you. We have gotten down and dirty with approximately 1 million of you in messy games. We have helped thousands of churches change communities through ministry and mission tracks. And we have been honored enough to bow our knees with tens of thousands of students as they have given their life to Christ and His service. Let Fuge help you achieve your ministry goals this summer as we offer some tried and true camps as well as several exciting new opportunities.

2007 pre-registration is still open, but spots in the über-popular camps fill up in a hurry! Browse through the hundreds of camp locations we have for 2007, and then reserve your spot by pre-registering online! Go to www.lifeway.com/fuge for all the information you need including dates, locations, prices and camp descriptions.



Centrifuge

Are you looking for adventure? Does the thought of spectacular scenery and incredible wildlife excite you? Join Centrifuge this summer as we

travel (in our imaginations) to the great continent of Africa. We will go on safari to such locations at Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe and the Rift Valley in Kenya. Along the way, we will discover the secrets of the Kingdom of God as found in the parables of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew. Pack your bags, grab your binoculars and prepare for an expedition of a lifetime. Since 1979 Centrifuge has been providing the best in youth camps. What started out as a few weeks of camp turned into a youth ministry movement.

Crosspoint

Life is fast. It comes at you from many different directions and with everything going on at one time. But through a relationship with God, making it through life's super speedway can become a life of great peace and joy. Make a fast break this summer to Crosspoint, the most exciting – and fun – Christian sports camp around! Crosspoint is designed for kids who have completed 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th or 8th grade. This is where the desire to excel athletically and the message of Jesus Christ meet! Being an athlete is not a requirement; in fact, Crosspoint is designed for students with varied levels of athletic ability. In our culture, athletics often becomes the focus of kids' lives. Help them center their attention on the Lord by bringing them to Crosspoint!



M-Fuge

M-Fuge is a ministry and missions-based camp that gives your students the chance to choose the ministries in which they wish to be involved. M-Fuge staff lead students in Bible study, and then take them out into the community to participate in missions opportunities involving such activities as drama, recreation, Vacation Bible School, painting and construction. At night, students participate in dynamic worship and other great evening activities led by the M-Fuge staff.

M-Fuge International

M-Fuge International represents the final frontier of student missions. Students in grades 7 through college become the hands and feet of international missions as they work to help fulfill the Great Commission in cultures around the world. Do you want to expose your students to international missions but don't know where to start? Leave the headaches of international planning to us and go with M-Fuge to Ecuador or Canada. Your students will participate with students from across the country in an international missions camp experience they will never forget.

X-Fuge

Join premier youth speakers, bands and artists for this wildly popular week

packed with Bible study, worship, Xtreme parties and organized free time activities!

X-Fuge with Missions Option



Your group has the option to take on a mission project for part of the day while at X-Fuge. If you choose the mission track your group will head off campus after the morning large group time and then be back in the late afternoon with some time leftover



for the beach. When you call to register our events people will ask you about the type of ministry you wish to be involved in. At a later date the site director for this project

will contact you and talk through the assignment your church has been given. From there, all you have to do is take your group there during the day while at X-Fuge. Your group will have the best of both worlds, ministering in the community during the day and hearing great speakers and artists during the large group time on campus. With a similar extreme intensity as you'll find at our X-Fuge camps, this weekend event combines a driving force of worship, Bible study and personal interest tracks.

Event Listings

Centri-Kid



To film a movie is to tell a story. And to tell a story is to have the resources necessary to present it to an audience. In movies, and in the Christian life, it is crucial to have someone behind the lights, someone directing the camera, and someone accurately living out the script. So here we go ...

lights, camera action! Centri-Kid offers a camp experience that will grab kids' attention and capture their hearts through high-energy worship, interactive, kid-friendly Bible study and lots of fun! Bring your group to Centri-Kid! Our staff does it all – from worship to recreation to music – so you can enjoy your week and build deeper relationships with your kids.

Turning Hearts Tour

Can you imagine what happens when:

- parents and their teenage students spend a weekend totally focused on God, Scripture and their relationships with one another?
- students watch as their fathers sing and worship God with all their hearts?
- the hearts of mothers and fathers turn back to their teens, and teens affirm their parents as spiritual leaders?

Come and experience this life-changing weekend! Leading youth ministry spokesman Richard Ross, worship leader Joel Engle, and worship artist Tyra Lokey have teamed up for the turning hearts tour to bring healing to the relationships between parents and their teenagers.

Beach Reach

At Beach Reach 2007, college students and leaders come together to share the love of Jesus through servant evangelism. Meet spring breakers as they climb into your van for a late-night lift, as they sit across the table from you at a free pancake breakfast, or visit with you on the streets. Each morning Beach Reach students host a free pancake breakfast for hungry spring breakers. Afternoon activities may include volleyball and soccer tournaments, tug-of-war, or sand sculpting contests. Music, teaching, worship, and spiritual refreshment lead to worship and spiritual growth. Evening ministries include a van ministry, street teams, phone/hotline, and prayer ministry.

Ridgecrest Summer Camps 2007



Camp Ridgecrest for Boys and Camp Crestridge for Girls are waiting for you to come and experience an unforgettable summer of fun, adventure and growth. Both camps are open to children who have finished 1st grade through teenagers who have finished 11th grade. Both camps are near LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, 15 miles east of Asheville.

Camp is divided into four two-week sessions: June 10-22, June 24-July 6, July 8-20 and July 22-Aug. 3. Campers can attend one session or a combination of multiple sessions. Tuition at both camps is \$1,275 for two weeks, \$2,350 for four weeks, \$3,525 for six weeks and \$4,700 for eight weeks. A one-week starter camp is offered Aug. 5-10 for \$600. This program is designed for children who have finished grades 1-5 who would like a "taste" of camp in just one week.

A \$400 nonrefundable deposit is required with the camper's application. The remaining tuition is due May 1. Registration after May 1 requires the entire payment with the application.

Camp Ridgecrest and Camp Crestridge are designed with the growth of each camper in mind. These summer camps help deepen each young person's relationship with God in a fun and entertaining environment.

Activities include archery, arts and crafts, baseball, basketball, gymnastics, horsemanship, mountain biking, rock climbing, soccer, tennis and lots more. Our entire program is centered on impacting lives for God's glory through discipleship and adventure.

For more information, go to www.ridgecrestcamps.com.



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Biblical Solutions for Life

Acceptance, unity, redemption offered at Cowboy Church

written by Chris Turner
photographed by Kent Harville

Larry Parks backs a trailer up to the double doors of a tiny white cinderblock building that sometimes serves as a sheriff's outpost. He begins unloading everything Pecos Valley Cowboy Church needs to set up for the morning's service. One item placed on the counter near the entrance collects tithes and prayer requests.

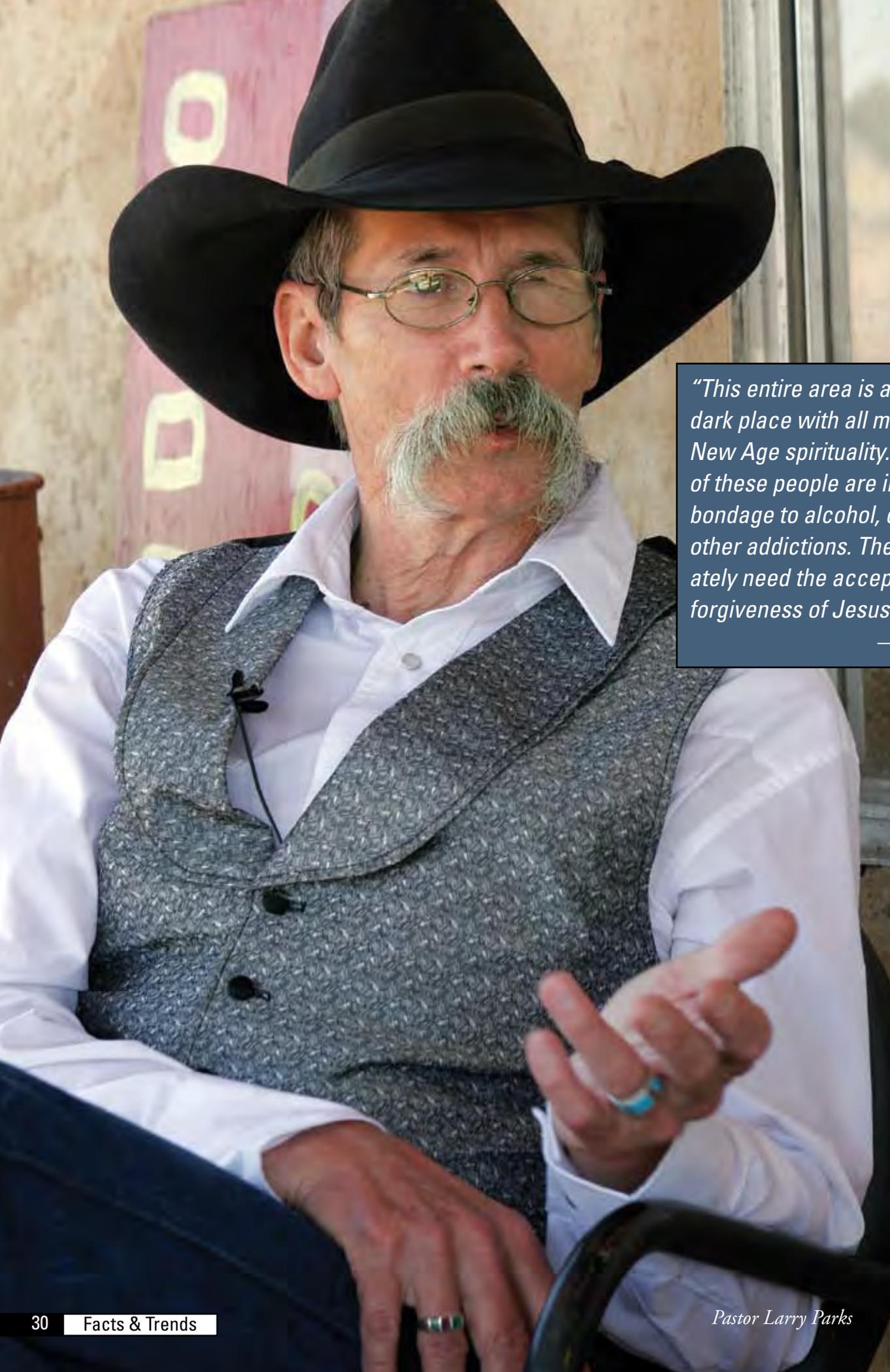
It is a memorial and a reminder.

It's made of rough-cut lumber; an aged, mature wood much like you'd find on an old barn that might be leaning to one side in some pasture. It is about the size of a book box and looks like an old country church, complete with a pitched roof and a cross for a steeple. There is a slit in the top where churchgoers drop in their tithes and prayer requests. Four horseshoes are nailed around its sides.

Lynn Bitner built the church, right down to the horseshoes.

continued on page 31

Prior to church, local rancher Rick Woodmansee demonstrates how to lasso a steer.



"This entire area is a spiritually dark place with all manner of New Age spirituality. So many of these people are in bondage to alcohol, drugs and other addictions. They desperately need the acceptance and forgiveness of Jesus Christ."

— Larry Parks

"I built this as a reminder for our church and as a memorial to my son, Ricky," Bitner said. "The horseshoes are from the last horse he rode. He was a cowboy and the only church he felt accepted by was a cowboy church. He was a homosexual and he was welcomed into that church unconditionally. But that is what is so special about a cowboy church; there is acceptance, not judgment."

Roark Griffin feels accepted. Griffin, a soft-spoken and slightly barrel-chested man, is a rancher, artist and musician. He knows every Marty Robbins song ever produced. An assortment of bailing wire, a shovel, rocks, a trailer hitch and gloves – tools indicating a life of hard work – rattle around noisily in his truck bed as he whips off the highway and into the parking lot. Johnny Cash's "Railway to Heaven" is blaring in the cab.

"I've been practicing that song all week," he said. "I really like its message and am singing it this morning."

Griffin grew up in church but never experienced much joy from it. He was different. He was a cowboy and the others were not. A few years ago he accepted Christ and was baptized in the Pecos River, in January. They had to break the ice to dunk him. He recently baptized his daughter in the Pecos, in January. They broke the ice again.

"I know that if it weren't for Jesus Christ I wouldn't have a thing in this world," he said. "I know He's accepted me, and I know this cowboy church does as well. I can be who I am. I also know others feel the same. They come here looking for fellowship and I see them leave with a sense of connection and acceptance."

Parks does everything he can to foster a church climate where sun-dried,

calloused-hand cowboys and cowgirls can experience the acceptance of Christ. A place where, as he says, "dressing up on Sunday means beating the dust out of your hat and knocking the manure off your boots."

Parks looks like he stepped from the pages of a Louis L'Amour novel, right down to his bushy gray mustache and black cowboy hat pulled low on his forehead. Parks grew up in Louisiana and has a picture of himself at age two sitting on a horse with his daddy. He's been in a saddle ever since.

In 1964, Parks – then a Baptist Student Union minister – came to LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center to lead Student Week. He rode a horse to the summit of Glorieta Baldy, a 10,000-foot peak, and as he scanned the horizon told God he wouldn't mind if God moved him to the Glorieta area. The next day he was in the small town of Pecos, near the conference center and was overwhelmed by the desperate spiritual needs of the people.

"I said, 'God, if you'll let me add a P.S. to that prayer yesterday, I'd love to move here and start a church,'" he said. Several decades passed before Parks' prayer was answered. "Here I am 42 years later. God is faithful."

Parks said the spiritual condition in the Pecos area hasn't changed in the decades since he made that first visit. "There is more than 400 years of an institutionalized Catholicism entrenched in the Pecos Valley," he said. "This entire area is a spiritually dark place with all



Cowboy Church member Wayne Hyde places his offering in the offering box built by member Lynn Bitner in memory of his son.



Above: Maura, 4, strings beads and enjoys the activities of Cowboy Church Sunday school. Her teachers, Linda McCrady and Janet Bitner, help with the Bible studies and projects. **Top**

Right: Jennifer Rougeau-Parks and Janet Bitner arrive at church with breakfast.

Right: The Pecos Valley Cowboy Church Band plays before and during each worship service. Members are (l-r) Lynn Bitner, Mal Tolmen, Colleen Davy and Roark Griffin.



manner of New Age spirituality. So many of these people are in bondage to alcohol, drugs and other addictions. They desperately need the acceptance and forgiveness of Jesus Christ.”

Parks and his wife, Jennifer, moved to the area about five years ago and made a connection with Bud and Linda McCrady. Linda and Jennifer both work at LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center and the McCradys live on campus, having retired there with the intention of starting a cowboy church in the area. Bud had been a part in planting 43 cowboy churches in Texas. As the core group began to meet and pray, the couples were certain God was at work.

“There are 50 to 70 ranches in the Pecos Valley ranging in size from 200 to 7,000 acres,” Parks said. “Most of the people who work those ranches are surrounded by the beauty of God all day but don’t know Him. Paul says in Romans that God has revealed Himself in nature, but too often these folks worship the creation and not the Creator. We want to introduce them to Jesus so that they can know the Creator personally.

“The way we do that is not make them deny their Western heritage when they come to church. They come in here, sometimes straight from working their ranches, and they fit in. We don’t turn anyone away. We don’t care what type of baggage you’re carrying; we know that Jesus accepts us unconditionally since there is nothing we can do to make ourselves more acceptable to Him. We don’t judge. It is not based on our righteousness but His.”

Bitner knows that truth firsthand. “Ricky was saved and baptized before he died,” he said. “It was a cowboy church that loved him and showed him the mercy and forgiveness of Jesus. I know my boy is in heaven today.”

And lest anyone passing through the door of Pecos Valley Cowboy Church should forget what the church should be, a little church made of rough-cut lumber sits near the entrance to serve as a memorial to a son and reminder to all that Christ unconditionally accepts sinful people. ■

Other churches find their niche

by Mitch Martin

When Jesus said, “Make disciples of all nations,” he literally meant that as a directive to reach all people-groups – that is what the word “ethnos” means – “groups of people with the same worldview.”

Cowboys are one people group. Here are some more. Let these examples spark your imagination of what great things God could do through your church.

Resorts – Greg Hill has a campground and marina ministry for the boaters and campers at Kentucky Lake. Every Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m. he holds services on the floating pavilion next to the marina restaurant at the Southern Komfort Village Resort. Surrounded by water on three sides, Hill says, “It is such a great atmosphere for worship!” Hill is a member of His House Ministries in Mayfield, Ky.

Truck Drivers – Mountain View Baptist Church in Casper, Wyo., sponsors an 8:30 a.m. Sunday worship service at the Ghost Town Truck Stop. Garry Roggow, a former truck driver who understands this people group, ministers to truckers who gather in the television lounge. He tells them, “I have talked to that steering wheel before and it doesn’t have the answers, but I know Who does.”

Recovery – Pastor Troy Smith leads Community Baptist Church in Battleground, Wash., and SAFE Ministries. SAFE Ministries helps drug addicts and has seen hundreds set free through the power of Jesus Christ.

Singles – In upscale Manhattan in New York City, 70 percent of the people are single – mostly young professionals, college students and artists. Aaron Coe leads The Gallery Church, which is strategically located in the arts community

of Chelsea, in lower Manhattan.

Deaf – Brian Sims is pastor of the Brentwood Baptist Deaf Church in Brentwood, Tenn. Everything in the service from the opening welcome to the final amen is in sign language. No words are spoken from the platform. They have a specially designed chapel that enables them to feel the vibration of music through the flooring. “The new facility is the only one I’m aware of that was designed specifically for deaf people,” Sims said.

Recreation – Bethesda Baptist Church in Union Point, Ga., holds informal worship services every Sunday morning at the Durham Town Plantation, whose 7,000 acres of countryside is used for ATV, motocross riding and hunting. At 8 a.m., before the riders are allowed to start their engines, Bruce Lovin leads a 30-minute Bible study for riders and staff.

Hip Hop – Pastor Rick Via reaches out to unbelievers using hip-hop music. This Sun Valley, Calif., church calls itself “Headz Up Fellowship.” They do outreach with celebration nights where hip-hop artists share their testimonies.

Xtremes – To say the least, The Scum of the Earth is an unusual name for a church. This Denver church meets on Sunday nights, attracting punks, skaters and people with tattoos, body piercings and purple hair.

So whether it is in the city, in the country, at a truck stop or on the lake, Christians have the opportunity to go where people gather and penetrate those circles with the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is exciting New Testament Christianity, taking the message of salvation to pockets of unreached people groups. Where is God leading you and your church to minister? ■

We recommend

- *A Cowboy’s Faith* by Jack Terry
- *The Great Cowboy Trail Ride: Meeting God in Wide Open Spaces* by Jack Terry
- *I Wish I’d Known You Tears Ago* by Stephen Bly
- *The Mustang Breaker* by Stephen Bly

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.

Ridgecrest motorcycle rally says **'No one rides alone'**

written and photographed by Russ Rankin



The hills were alive with the sound of throaty engines Sept. 22-24, 2006 as 200 Christian motorcycle enthusiasts converged on LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in the scenic Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina for the inaugural Ride to Ridgecrest Motorcycle Rally.

An early morning ride brought out a "ready to go" attitude in rally riders.

Organized by LifeWay Conference Centers, the event drew bikers from as far away as Beaumont, Texas, and Columbus, Ohio, for a weekend of seminars, worship and biking on some of the most beautiful roads in the Southeast.

“Our mission for this gathering is to ultimately help build community among Christian bikers and present a place where unbelievers will hear the gospel and find a place of belonging,” said Ron Pratt, national event planner for LifeWay Conference Centers. “We also want to help existing motorcycle ministries develop outreach opportunities through frequent, safe and well-organized motorcycle events.”

Evening sessions were led by evangelist and Christian counselor Dale Brooks from Charlotte, N.C., and international speaker and author Richard Headrick, president and CEO of the The Headrick Companies, Inc., based in Laurel, Miss.

Evening worship at Ridgecrest’s newly opened ARC facility was led by Direct Message, a Southern gospel rock and praise band, and Second Chance, a Christian band often featured at motorcycle rallies across the nation.

Brooks, who rides with the Carolinas chapter of the Faith Riders Christian motorcycle organization, gave testimony to how God saved him from a life of drugs and crime.

“Satan speaks lies to us to keep us from Christ,” Brooks said. “I lived the lies that God isn’t fair, that I would have to make it through life on my own, and that I couldn’t trust anyone.

“Little did I know that the Sovereign God

of the universe was with me all the time. I was just a mean person. And (Godless) people like to be with the tough kid. I went from alcohol to drugs, and got worse and worse,” he said, describing how that

It is only when “we understand that we are loved by God and it doesn’t matter what the world thinks that freedom can be found.”

— Dale Brooks

lifestyle led him to get involved with a motorcycle gang.

“I’m not talking about guys that drive down to the Dairy Queen and get ice cream,” he quipped. “These were bad men.”

After years of trying to remove himself from that lifestyle,

“I found out that people can’t straighten up without the Sovereign Son of God changing us.”

Acceptance is why, according to Brooks, motorcycle riders mired in negative lifestyles have trouble finding freedom. “The gangs accept them, and churches say ‘we don’t want people like you.’”

Brooks said everyone has four basic needs: to be loved, accepted, secure and to have significance. It is only when “we understand that we are loved by God and it doesn’t matter what the world thinks” that freedom can be found, he said.



Nightly worship services are an important part of the Ridgecrest motorcycle rally.



Above: Prayers are shared after a good day's ride by riders from North Carolina.

Motorcycle ministry that matters

After enjoying the mountain roads of North Carolina with organized rides to scenic locations such as Lake Lure and Chimney Rock and the winding Blue Ridge Parkway, event attendees participated in workshops designed to reinforce the camaraderie of Christian motorcyclists.

Danny Moats, a Verizon employee and chaplain of the Florida Faith Riders based out of First Baptist Church at the Mall in Lakeland, Fla., led a seminar on effective ways to share the gospel with bikers.

“Don’t get caught in a trap of thinking what you do is important,” he said. “It’s because of Whose you are and that you’ve asked Jesus Christ as your Savior that matters. The most powerful witnessing tool is your own testimony. We’re all different. He’s



allowed us to walk the walk because He's going to bring someone to us that connects with our story."

Buddy Newsome, a former motorcycle police officer, started the first Faith Riders chapter at First Baptist in Lakeland.

Leading a workshop on how to begin a motorcycle ministry in a church, Newsome reminded attendees that "it must be a motorcycle ministry about Jesus Christ, not a motorcycle ministry about motorcycles."

Other workshops were led by LifeWay employees from the home office in Nashville, Tenn., who rode together as a group to the event. Topics included

how to plan a motorcycle trip and tips on motorcycle maintenance.

Overlooking a parking lot full of Harley Davidsons, Honda Gold Wing cruisers and a range of colorful, chrome cycles, Brooks observed from the porch of Ridgecrest's Pritchell Hall that, "Motorcycling is at a peak right now. The Lord has literally blown the doors open on ministry to this segment of the population. This is a perfect event for the Body of Christ to be involved in." ■



Riders head out for a day of riding on the beautiful Blue Ridge Parkway.

The next Ride to Ridgecrest Motorcycle Rally is scheduled for Memorial Day weekend 2007. The Florida Faith Riders will host the event. For more information, contact Ron Pratt at ron.pratt@lifeway.com or go to www.lifeway.com/ridgecrest.

We recommend

- *Introduction to Evangelism* by Alvin Reid
- *Out of Their Faces and Into Their Shoes* by John Kramp
- *Riders for God* by Rich Remsberg

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.



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Biblical Solutions for Life

Terminations: *1,300 staff dismissed in 2005*

by Chris Turner



The general inability to “get along” is again at the root of the top five reasons staff members in Southern Baptist churches are terminated from their positions, according to a recently completed study by LifeWay’s pastoral ministries department.

Relational issues top the list for the 10th consecutive year, according to Bob Sheffield, pastoral ministries specialist. The top five are:

- 1) control issues (who’s going to run the church)
- 2) poor people skills
- 3) churches’ resistance to change
- 4) pastor’s leadership style being too strong
- 5) churches already in conflict when the pastor arrived

“The interesting thing since we began doing this study in 1996 is that the top five have been the top five every year,” Sheffield

said. “The only difference is in their order from year to year. We consistently see the inability to develop and maintain healthy relationships within the church as the reason for dismissals.”

The study is compiled in cooperation with state Baptist convention church ministry relations teams and directors of missions. Sheffield tabulates the data. Twenty-nine conventions participated this year – the highest total in the study’s 10 years.

A total of 1,302 staff members were dismissed in 2005: 314 bivocational, 655 full-time pastors and 333 full-time staff. The totals for full-time and staff represent the highest totals during the 10 years, but

Sheffield said the numbers could be slightly skewed because the highest number of conventions reporting in any one year in the past was 26 (1998, 1999 and 2003).

“The other thing to consider is that this just represents the best data we can gather on forced terminations,” he said. “It doesn’t include those who were pressured out.”

Other reasons for dismissals

Sheffield said that a pastor’s administrative incompetence (No. 8) and sexual misconduct (No. 9) cracked the top 10 for

the first time and ethical misconduct (mismanaged monies, dishonesty, etc.) makes it into the top 20 for the first time at No. 11.

“Most people would probably think that ethical issues or sexual misconduct would have been one of the leading reasons for dismissals,” Sheffield said. “Although I am glad they are not, I am disappointed to see sexual misconduct creeping higher on the list, and ethical issues making the top 20. Let’s face it, this is not an uplifting list to begin with, but I’d love to see those numbers decline.”

Another first in the top 20 is disagreement over doctrine (No. 12). “It is difficult to know exactly

what that means from the way the question is asked on the survey,” Sheffield said, “so

I won’t begin to speculate about what that means, but it has never been this big of an issue before.”

Sheffield observed that much of the conflict that results in dismissal could be averted if pulpit committees and pastors interacted better during the interview process. Recognizing the current discussion taking place within the denomination regarding pulpit committee-pastor interview process, Sheffield offered some tips that could curb the number of dismissals.

“Pastors ought to ask hard questions,” he said. “They should ask to see the minutes from the last several business meetings. They ought to check the [church’s] constitution and bylaws and the annual reports to the association and state. They should talk to area pastors about the perception of the church. They should ask if there have been previous terminations, the tenure of the previous three or four pastors and why they left.

Research church on the front end

“Pastors should do their due diligence, and as with the pulpit committee, both should be looking for the right match.” Sheffield said. “Bottom line, however, is that if God is calling a pastor to a particularly difficult situation and he knows that going in, he should go into it with his eyes open, understanding it might be difficult. Obedience to God should always be the overriding factor.”

Pulpit committees, Sheffield said, ought to represent the full church but that’s not always the case.

“They often represent the more progressive segment of the church and what it wants to see happen, and not necessarily what the whole church wants to

Top ten causes of church staff terminations

1. Control issues: Who is going to run the church?
2. Poor people skills
3. Church’s resistance to change
4. Pastor’s leadership style is too strong
5. Church was already conflicted when the pastor arrived
6. Decline in attendance and/or conditions
7. Pastor’s leadership style is too weak
8. Administrative incompetence on the part of the pastor
9. Sexual misconduct
10. Conflict with other staff

see happen,” he said. “Some people will say a pastor’s search committee was dishonest. That is sometimes the case, but I believe more often the people on the committee are communicating what they’d like to see happen and not necessarily what is happening in a church.”

Sheffield said pulpit committees should check a pastor’s references beyond what is

given and can even ask other pastors in the community where the pastor is located for references. Sheffield also recommended two resources available through the pastoral ministries department to guide search committees: information at www.lifeway.com/pastors and the *Pastor’s Search Committee Handbook, Revised*. ■

A total of 1,302 staff members were dismissed in 2005: 314 bivocational, 655 full-time pastors and 333 full-time staff.

We recommend

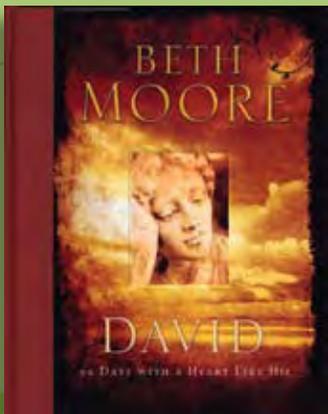
- *Brothers, We Are Not Professionals* by John Piper
- *Ministerial Ethics* by Joe E. Trull and James E. Carter
- *The Peacemaking Pastor* by Alfred Poirer

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.

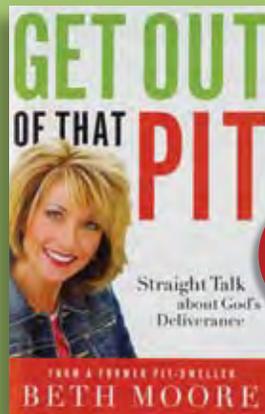


An Inside LifeWay podcast interview with Sheffield and Barney Self, licensed counselor with LifeWay’s pastoral ministries area, is available at LifeWay.com/InsideLifeWay.

LifeWay Christian Stores is your one-stop shop for all of Beth Moore’s new products

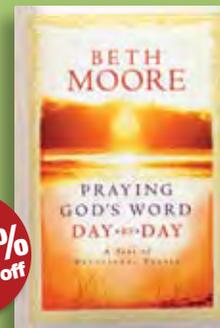


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HE WILL COME TO US LIKE THE RAIN

Ray Clendenen named B&H's director of academic publishing

by Kelly Davis Shrout

Ray Clendenen, a 15-year LifeWay employee, has been named director of academic publishing for B&H Publishing Group.

Clendenen is general editor of the New American Commentary series and author of the Malachi volume of the same series. He currently serves as editorial director for Bible reference, commentary and academic books and as associate general editor of the Holman Christian Standard Bible translation project.

In his new role, Clendenen will be responsible for the acquisition and development of academic books and electronic products for B&H Academic, an initiative launched in February 2006. B&H Academic provides resources for undergraduate and graduate theological education.

"Ray is well known and respected in the conservative, evangelical academic community as a scholar and a thinker," said Ken Stephens, president of B&H Publishing Group. "His appointment to this position will fuel positive momentum as B&H Academic continues to publish solid, biblically sound titles for use in evangelical seminaries and colleges."

Clendenen said his first priority is to visit colleges and seminaries to research academic needs and investigate potential authors. "I want to hear from the faculty, administration and students so we can determine how best to serve their Christian education needs," he said.

His vision for B&H Academic is to provide a voice of truth for students of God's Word. "There is Internet chaos right now where facts, half truths, and partial truths exist," he said. "It's extremely important for the church to provide truth.

Since the educational institutions are responsible for training the leaders of the church, it's important for the places of higher learning to know and propagate that truth."

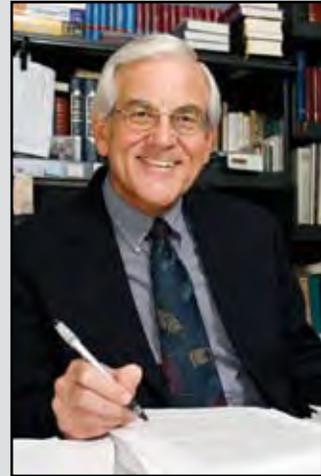
The evangelical community should expect resources grounded in conservative theology, he added. "B&H Publishing Group is a publisher that displays courage and conviction. We have an anchor in the fundamentals of the Christian faith. We want to publish those books and authors who are conservative evangelicals who stand for truth without apology."

LifeWay President and CEO Thom Rainer claimed B&H Academic as one of his five priorities when he was installed as president nearly a year ago. Rainer stressed that the initiative will maintain "a priority to fidelity."

"Through B&H Academic, we are going to communicate that we are serious about serious matters," Rainer said during his inaugural trustee meeting in 2006. "We are going to have the best of academic resources. B&H will be at the forefront of maintaining doctrinal truths. We are going to take an aggressive leadership role so when the world sees what fidelity to the inerrant Word of God looks like, they will see what LifeWay stands for."

Clendenen earned a Bachelor of Arts in anthropology from Rice University, Houston; a Master of Theology from Dallas Theological Seminary; and a Master of Arts from Dropsie University, Philadelphia. He earned a Ph.D. in linguistics at the University of Texas in Arlington.

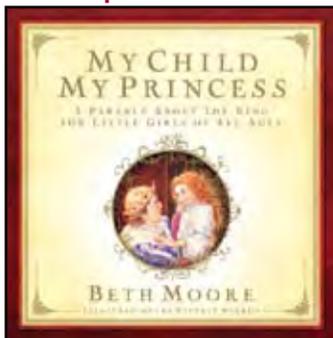
In addition to directing B&H Academic, Clendenen will maintain his responsibilities as general editor of the New American Commentary. ■



Ray Clendenen

Some product numbers have changed from 10-digit to 13-digit numbers. In this issue of *Facts & Trends*, where appropriate, both numbers are given.

B&H Publishing Group



■ *My Child, My Princess*

by Beth Moore

Best-selling author Beth Moore's *My Child, My Princess* is a simply profound story that rings true among children and grown-ups alike. When a king's rebellious daughter disobeys her father's wishes, his forgiveness and patience vividly remind us of God's unconditional love. Originally released with massive success in 2003 in a kid-focused format under the title *A Parable about the King*, this new keepsake sepia-tone illustrated edition makes a precious gift "for little girls of all ages." Releases Feb. 1. B&H Product #10:0-8054-4455-6, B&H Product #13:978-0-8054-4375-2. Hardcover. \$9.99

■ *48 Days to the Work You Love*

by Dan Miller

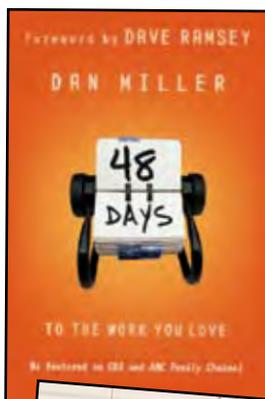
Now available in paperback, audio and Spanish editions, Dan Miller's abiding vocational bestseller, *48 Days to the Work You Love*, is not so much about finding a new job. It is more about learning who we are really called to be. According to the author, failing to make that fundamental discovery is why so many people find themselves in jobs they hate. Miller helps readers see clear patterns from which we can make successful career and job decisions by understanding our God-given abilities, personality traits, values, dreams and passions. Releases Jan. 1. B&H Product #10:0-8054-4479-3, B&H Product #13:978-0-8054-4479-7. Paperback. \$14.99

■ *Better Love Now!*

by Tommy Nelson with David Delk

There's always room for

improvement even in the best marriage. For anyone intimidated by the thought of making a costly time and money investment into marriage counseling, best-selling author Tommy Nelson's *Better Love Now!* offers a strong professional alternative. Based upon scriptural, scientific and psychological studies, Nelson touches on everything from his/her needs and communication to family dynamics,



mutual respect and sex to help husbands and wives greatly improve the state of their sacred union. Releases Jan. 1. B&H Product #10:0-8054-4072-0, B&H Product #13:978-0-8054-4072-0. Hardcover. \$19.99

■ *Your Money after the Big 5-0*

by Larry Burkett & Ron Blue with Jeremy White

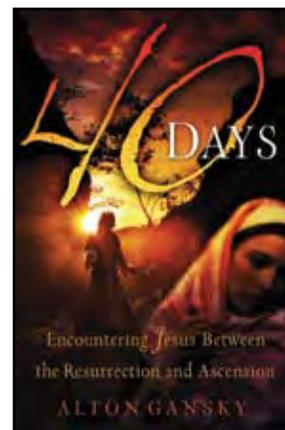
With combined career sales of 12 million books, the two most revered and trusted names in Christian finance – Ron Blue and the late Larry Burkett

– offer the ultimate book about how to build a solid financial future as retirement approaches. *Your Money after the Big 5-0* equips readers with the knowledge, financial tools and wisdom needed. By following Burkett and Blue's definitive direction, we learn to build a portfolio that provides for our family and honors God. Releases Jan. 1. B&H Product #10:0-8054-4432-7, B&H Product #13:978-0-8054-4432-2. Paperback. \$12.95

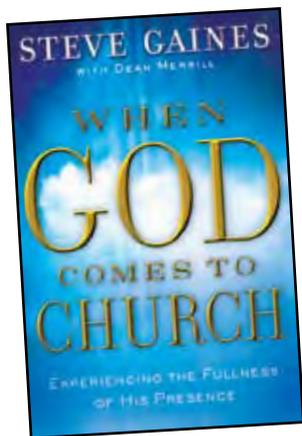
■ *40 Days*

by Alton Gansky

While many have written about the resurrection itself, few have delved into the 40 days Jesus spent on Earth following that exit from the grave. With a passionate believer's heart, Alton Gansky looks closely at every recorded event that happened from the moment Christ left the tomb until he ascended into heaven. Among the



18 chapters are “A Peek inside the Tomb,” “A Provocative Pondering of Angels,” “Mountaintop Experience,” “Breakfast by the Sea” and “The Big Exit.” Releases Feb. 1. B&H Product #10:0-8054-3090-3, B&H Product #13:978-0-8054-3090-5. Paperback. \$14.99



■ ***When God Comes to Church***

by Steve Gaines with Dean Merrill

With so much attention given to the presentation aspect of modern worship services, is it possible that many people attending church today forget to focus on the primary purpose of actually being in God’s presence? Pastor Steve Gaines fears this is the case and calls for a return to the core point of corporate worship in *When God Comes to Church*. His goal is to “Send people out the door saying not ‘What great music!’ but rather

‘What a Savior!’... the only ‘Wow!’ in a church should be God.” With that in mind, Gaines writes thoroughly about bringing God to our worship gatherings and warns against the worldly hindrances to pure worship. Releases Jan. 1. B&H Product #10:0-8054-4398-3, B&H Product #13:978-0-8054-4398-1. Hardcover. \$24.99

■ ***A Winter of Wonders***

by Jennifer O’Neill
Real life, with its greatest hurts and grandest dreams, is the basis for *Circle Of Friends, Just Off Main*, a deeply engaging fiction series for real women of all walks, by actress Jennifer O’Neill. Book two, *A Winter of Wonders*, reveals even more of the dynamics between at-odds sisters Lauren and Irene, the troublesome budding romance between Irene’s teenage daughter and basketball star, Trace. In this wintry season of the faith journey, there are moments of coldness as well as merciful warmth. Releases Jan. 1. B&H Product #10:0-8054-4196-4, B&H Product #13:978-0-



8054-4196-3. Paperback. \$14.99

8054-4196-3. Paperback. \$14.99

■ ***Spirit Warriors (Number One)***

by Stephen Baldwin

In *Spirit Warriors*, the first graphic novel from actor/producer Stephen Baldwin, six radical teenagers meet and enter the war zone of good versus evil to save their crumbling New City from the devilish Elder Seiko. Each one mysteriously orphaned at a young age, these heroic rebels are called to pierce the darkness by using some amazingly uncommon strengths. Releases Feb. 1. B&H Product #10:0-8054-4357-6, B&H Product #13:978-0-8054-4357-8. Paperback. \$9.99

■ ***Spirit Warriors (Number Two)***

by Stephen Baldwin

After fending off the devilish Elder Seiko in book one, book two begins with the Spirit Warriors anticipating his next move while hiding out in war-torn New City. What they never expected was his ability

to brainwash – no, spiritwash – someone very close to them, suddenly

making a dear friend their worst enemy. Even the strongest of Spirit Warriors will struggle to uphold their faith in God. Releases Feb. 1. B&H Product #10:0-8054-4355-X, B&H Product #13:978-0-8054-4355-4. Paperback. \$9.99

■ ***Kid Concoctions of Biblical Proportions***

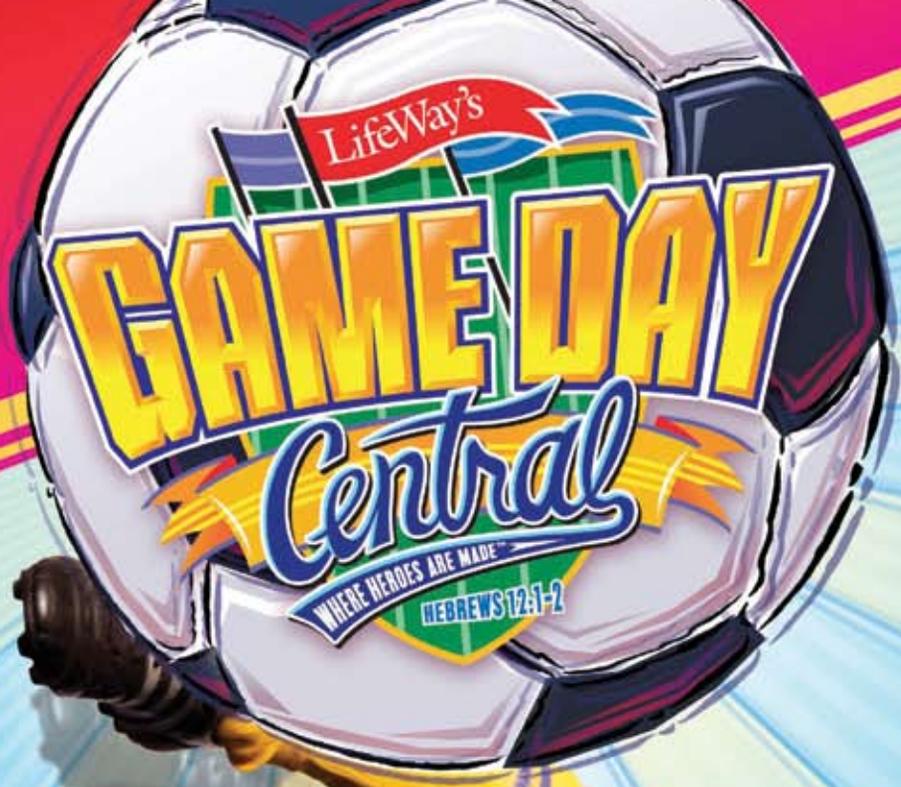
by John E. & Danita Thomas

The best-selling Kid Concoctions books (more than 4 million copies sold in the series to date) bring families together to create unique art projects and playthings using household ingredients. Designed for ages 3-12, it’s good messy fun that usually requires adult supervision and always guarantees lasting memories. *Kid Concoctions of Biblical Proportions* blends Christian principles into each Bible-inspired activity. Releases Feb. 1, B&H Product #10:0-8054-4447-5, B&H Product #13:978-0-8054-4447-6. Paperback. \$14.99

■ ***My LullaBible A to Z Promise Book***

by Stephen Elkins

My LullaBible A to Z Promise Book introduces God’s assurances to toddlers in alphabetical order through story, illustration and song.



WHERE HEROES ARE MADE
HEBREWS 12:1-2

Game
On!

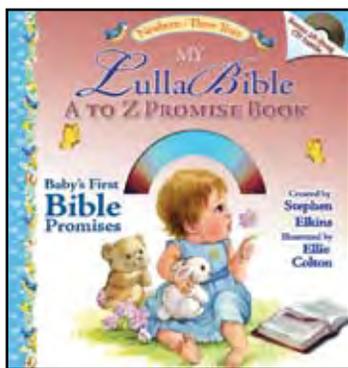
Excitement is in the air with **LifeWay's Game Day Central VBS!** Get kids in the game and help them learn how to become heroes on and off the field by focusing on Jesus and following God's plan for their lives.

Put your Vacation Bible School plan into action today by reserving your **VBS 2007 SUPER SAMPLER** (1-4158-3065-7 • \$189.99) or **SAMPLER** (1-4158-3022-3 • \$59.99).

Go to www.lifeway.com/vbs, call **1.800.458.2772**, or visit the **LifeWay Christian Store** serving you.

LifeWay | Kids

Little ones will see and hear how their Creator always promises to answer me, bless me and comfort me. Written and composed by Grammy-nominated producer Stephen Elkins, this book comes with an hour-long CD of 26 new songs to inspire and soothe young children. Releases Jan. 15. B&H Product #10:0-8054-2657-4, B&H Product #13:978-0-8054-2657-1. Padded board book with 26-song CD (60-minute running time). \$14.99



■ **Unlimited Partnership**
by Lloyd Reeb & Bill Wellons

Increasingly, seasoned business leaders want to use their skills and experience to make a difference for the Lord. And the obvious place for doing so is through their church. At the same time, pastors and church leaders long for their churches to make a greater impact for Christ, but lack the seasoned leaders and

approach to make it happen. Experienced businessman Lloyd Reeb tells marketplace leaders how to find active service roles within their church. Veteran pastor Bill Wellons helps colleagues reach church members anxious to be involved with ministry. Releases Jan. 1. B&H Product #10: 0-8054-4450-5, B&H Product #13:978-0-8054-4450-6. Hardcover. \$16.99

■ **Easter**
by David M. Edwards
 Every season brings a new reason to praise and worship God. His magnificent creation is celebrated in *Worship Through the Seasons*, a new book and music devotional series from award-winning songwriter David M. Edwards. *Easter* enters the season of Christ's passion, a time of sorrow and then joy that would shake the world and change eternity. A bonus CD of worship songs complements the reverently written devotions. Releases Feb. 1. B&H Product #10:0-8054-4332-0, B&H Product #13:978-0-8054-4332-5, Hardcover w/CD (15-minute running time), \$12.99



■ **Pentecost**
by David M. Edwards
 Pentecost looks in awe at the power displayed in Christ's resurrection and the time leading up to his ascension into heaven. A bonus CD of related worship songs complements the colorfully written devotions. Releases Feb. 1. B&H Product #10:0-08054-4334-7, B&H Product #13:978-0-8054-4334-9. Hardcover w/CD. \$12.99

■ **Perspectives on Children's Spiritual Formation**
by Michael Anthony
Perspectives on Children's Spiritual Formation presents, in counterpoint form, four views of children's spiritual formation and four related methods of Christian education. Views include the contemplative-reflective model (cultivating a quiet, worshipful spirit), instructional-analytic model (involving child evangelism and Bible memorization), pragmatic-participatory model

(focusing on high-energy activities, often seen in mega-churches), and the media-driven active-engagement model (using a video-based curriculum with limited teacher training). Releases Jan. 1. B&H Product #10:0-8054-4186-7, B&H Product #13:978-0-8054-4186-7. Paperback. \$29.99

■ **Spirit-Led Preaching**
by Greg Heisler
 In the words of author Greg Heisler, "*Spirit-Led Preaching* is a call issued to preachers, pastors and teachers of homiletics to recover the Holy Spirit for expository preaching in the same way we have recovered the biblical text.... My plan for doing this is to recover the doctrine of pneumatology (the study of spiritual beings/phenomena) for our theology of preaching, resulting in a renewed emphasis on the powerful combination of Word and Spirit working together as the catalyst for powerful expository preaching." Heisler thoroughly examines how the Holy Spirit illuminates and empowers the preacher, opens the hearts of the hearers, and applies the message to their lives. Releases Feb. 1. B&H Product #10:0-8054-

Resources

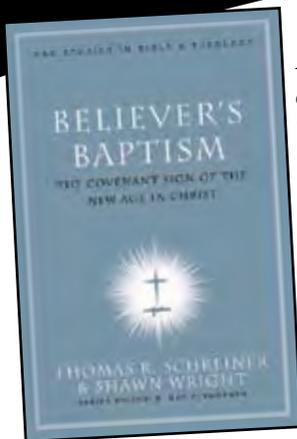
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4388-6,
B&H Product
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8054-4388-2.
Paperback.
\$17.99

■ *Called to Reach*

by William R. Yount and Mike Barnett

What's a cross cultural discipler? It's someone who crosses distinct cultural barriers to share the gospel and develop other disciples. Think of the apostle Paul who was born into a Jewish heritage but preached in Greece and Rome, or modern day missionaries who bravely go where God sends them despite the challenges of language and lifestyle differences. *Called to Reach* is a much needed book of encouragement and training for cross cultural disciplers. Based on the authors' dynamic experiences, it defines characteristics that enhance the effectiveness of disciplers in overcoming cultural barriers. Releases Jan. 1. B&H Product #10:0-8054-4066-6, B&H Product #13:978-0-8054-4066-9. Hardcover. \$24.99



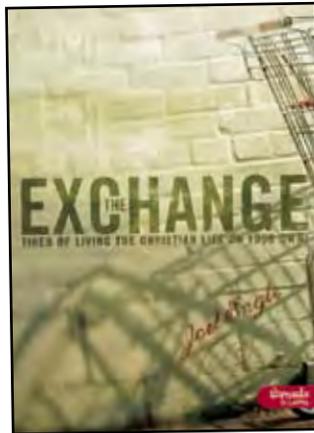
■ *Believer's Baptism* edited by Thomas R. Schreiner & Shawn D. Wright

Is believer's baptism the clear teaching of the New Testament Scriptures?

What are the historical and theological challenges to believer's baptism? Volume two, in the New American Commentary Studies in Bible & Theology (NACSBT) series for pastors, advanced Bible students and deeply committed laypersons, addresses these compelling questions. Indeed, *Believer's Baptism* begins with the belief that believer's baptism is the clear teaching of the New Testament. Along the way, the argument is supported by written contributions from Andreas Köstenberger, Robert Stein, Thomas Schreiner, Stephen Wellum, Steve McKinion, Jonathan Rainbow, Shawn D. Wright and Mark Dever. Users will find this an excellent extension of the long respected New American Commentary. Releases Jan. 1. B&H Product #10:0-8054-3249-

3, B&H Product
#13:978-0-8054-3249-7.
Hardcover. \$19.99

LifeWay Church Resources



■ *The Exchange* by Joel Engle

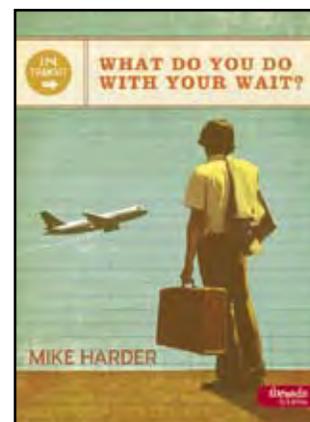
Addresses young adults who have been through the church system and invites believers, new and old, to live an exchanged life. This study of Romans 6, 7 and 8 reveals in the truth that God never meant for believers to live the Christian life on their own, but rather through the power of Christ in them. Once believers "exchange" their lives for His, they are free to live a life of obedience and spiritual victory in Him. Leader Kit includes a DVD, enhanced-CD with audio, music and PDFs. (6 sessions) Releases in January. Leader Kit, LifeWay product #1-4158-3205-6, \$69.95; Member Book,

LifeWay product #1-4158-5270-7, \$7.95

■ *InTransit: What Do You Do with Your Wait?*

by Mike Harder

Traces the lives of a few of the Bible's most influential men – David, Jesus and Joseph – who were promised great things concerning their lives and waited, sometimes painfully, to see God's promises come to pass. What was true for them remains true for young adults today: There is great purpose in the waiting. Each day of study is formatted differently, using supplemental materials ranging from DVDs to music, providing a great option for people bored with fill-in-the-blank Bible study. Leader Kits include a Member Book, DVD and CD. Releases in January. Leader Kit, LifeWay product #1-4158-5300-2, \$69.95; Member Book, LifeWay product #1-4158-5298-7, \$7.95



■ **The Tough Sayings of Jesus**

by Michael Kelley

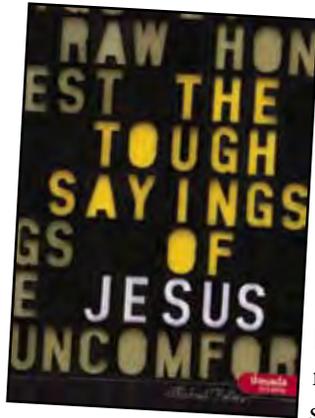
Doubt is part of vibrant, growing faith – and Jesus certainly said some things that are difficult to discern.

Popular Bible teacher Michael Kelley shares his passion about how God is glorified when we understand that Jesus changes the core of who we

are. Leader Kit contains Member Book, 1 DVD and 1 CD. Releases in February. Leader Kit, LifeWay product #1-4158-5274-X, \$69.95; Member Book, LifeWay product #1-4158-5275-8, \$7.95

■ **Finding Jesus in the Movies**

Jesus captured peoples' hearts and illuminated truth through His stories; intentional storytellers in Hollywood also are sharing the central message and story of Jesus. *Finding Jesus in the Movies* is a unique small-group Bible study that takes you on a journey through Hollywood blockbusters to reveal the epic story of redemption. (6 sessions) Releases in January. Serendipity House product #1-5749-4355-3, \$7.99



■ **Surrendering the Secret: Healing the Heartbreak of Abortion**

by Pat Layton

Many women hide the secret of abortion deep in their hearts, and they are suffering. *Surrendering the Secret* is a powerful new study in *Picking Up the Pieces*, a best-selling recovery series from Serendipity

House. Women can find the path to healing through honest interactive Bible study, meaningful group experiences and caring community. (8 sessions) Releases in January. Serendipity House product #1-5749-4350-2, \$7.99

■ **LXVI: A Study of the Sixty Six Books, Volumes 5 and 17**

Six-year Bible study experience through all 66 books of the Bible. This 24-volume set of CD-ROMs will be released over three years. Each volume is a complete 13-week Bible study experience for students. Features



13 of the following: activity-based teaching plans with options for going deeper; discussion-based teaching plans; PowerPoint presentations for master teaching settings; reproducible handouts for use during the Bible studies or in continuing the study between sessions; weekly devotional reading and help for students. It also includes maps and timelines, *Biblical Illustrator* articles and Bible Navigator. Order one volume per class. Releases in February. *Volume 5: 1–2 Samuel, 1 Chronicles*, LifeWay product #1-4158-3258-7, \$59.95; *Volume 17: Acts*, LifeWay product #1-4158-3259-5, \$59.95.

■ **Pastor Search Committee Handbook, Revised**

Helps churches smooth this trying, but important process. The handbook will help your pastor search committee select officers and develop guidelines. It also will help identify biblical qualifications for a pastor; develop, evaluate and rank applicants; conduct interviews; present the

prospective pastor to the church; and finally, orient him when he arrives. A CD contains reproducible, customizable forms for gathering information and comparing candidates. Releases in January.

Pastor Search Committee Handbook, Revised, LifeWay product #1-4158-5214-6, \$14.95

■ **Girls' Ministry Handbook**

Starting any new kind of ministry can be exhilarating and overwhelming. *Girls' Ministry Handbook* is the perfect guide for ministers or volunteers who want to develop and nurture a girls' ministry in their local church. It provides basic information on the need for girls' ministry, the steps to start one, and leader helps to create a well-rounded ministry. Author Jimmie Davis, director of Girls' Ministries at First Baptist Church, Spartanburg, S.C., discusses a wide



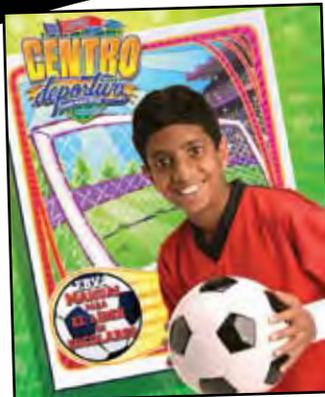
Resources

for you from LifeWay

range of topics pertinent to a successful ministry that address the needs of teenage girls. Releases in January. *Girls' Ministry Handbook*, LifeWay product #1-4158-5263-4, \$14.95

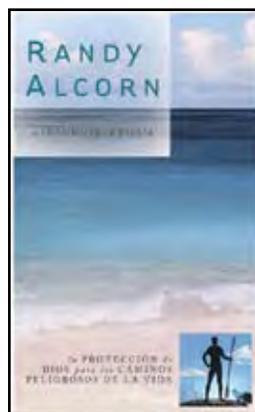
■ Vital Character

Vital Character provides students with examples of godly character traits and challenges them to model those traits in their lives. Written on a basic level and with the busy student leader in mind, no outside preparation is required for students. When offered along with *Vital Truth* and *Vital Skills*, it offers a six-year plan for basic discipleship for students. Reproducible worksheets called "Foundations," along with reproducible devotional guides called "Blueprints" are included to help teens continue the development of godly character in their lives. (4 sessions per study) Releases in February. Kindness, LifeWay product #1-4158-3146-7, \$12.95; Faithfulness, LifeWay product #1-4158-3142-4, \$12.95; Forgiveness, LifeWay product #1-4158-3143-2, \$12.95



■ VBS 2007: Game Day Central Spanish Resources

Use these Spanish-language resources for Hispanic or bilingual congregations. Leader guides contain ideas for crafts, music, recreation and snacks; teaching procedures; additional tips and suggestions. Order one per teacher. Learner guides are sets of oversized, locker-shaped cards containing fun activities, face-paint decals and mini-trading cards that can be attached to the VBS 2007 Name Tags. In addition, the Memory Cross and *Parenting Playbook* extend the learning beyond the week of VBS. Releases in January. *Children's Leader Guide*, Spanish edition, LifeWay product #1-4158-3050-9, \$6.59; *Children's*



Learner Guide, Spanish edition, LifeWay product #1-4158-3049-5, \$2.39; *Preschool Leader Guide*, Spanish edition, LifeWay product #1-4158-3051-7, \$6.59; *Preschool Learner Guide*, Spanish edition, LifeWay product #1-4158-3087-8, \$2.39; VBS 2007 *Parenting Playbook*, Spanish edition (pkg. of 10), LifeWay product #1-4158-3048-7, \$3.49; VBS 2007 ABC Memory Cross, Spanish edition (pkg. of 25), LifeWay product #1-4158-3040-1, \$6.99

■ Purity Principle, Spanish edition by Randy Alcorn

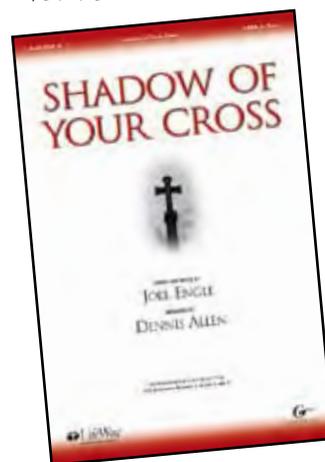
Through four intense sessions of study, Randy Alcorn examines the biblical truths about sexual purity, and why such attitudes and behaviors are essential – not just physically and emotionally – but spiritually as well. Short-term format is conducive to those hesitant to commit to longer studies. It's also good for those needing a brief study to plug in at various times throughout the year. Releases in February. LifeWay product #1-4158-5318-5, \$8.95

LifeWay Worship Music Group

Easter Anthems

■ "The Shadow of Your Cross"

words and music by Joel Engle, arranged by Dennis Allen
Usable for choir or ensemble, this song about the love and shelter we find at the cross is patterned after Joel Engle's artist version. SATB anthem w/solo, Product #1-4158-5176-X, \$1.50; CD anthem tracks, Product #1-4158-5186-7 \$24.95; Orchestration, Product #1-4158-5177-8, \$59.95



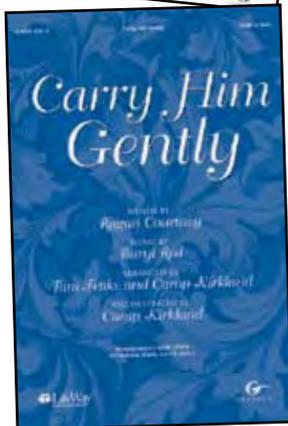
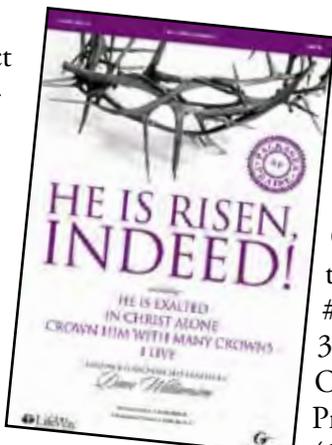
■ "Hallelujah to my King"

words and music by Shannon Wexelberg, arranged and orchestrated by Dave Williamson
Perfect for any time of the year, this easy-to-sing song about Jesus' kingship is set to a relevant, contemporary track.

SATB anthem w/solo, Product #1-4158-3386-9, \$1.50; CD anthem tracks, Product #1-4158-3403-2, \$24.95; Orchestration, Product #1-4158-3395-8, \$59.95

■ “He is Risen Indeed!” (Package of Praise) arranged and orchestrated by Dave Williamson

With moments of high praise and quiet reflection, this medley is arranged for choir and congregational



sing-along. SATB anthem, Product #1-4158-3621-3, \$3.50; CD anthem tracks, Product #1-4158-3618-3, \$35; Orchestration, Product #1-4158-3625-6 \$75

■ “Carry Him Gently” words by Ragan Courtney, music by Buryl Red, arranged by Tom Fettke and Camp Kirkland, orchestrated by Camp Kirkland

Appropriate for the Lord’s Supper, an Easter pageant

or Good Friday, this classic song from *Celebrate Life* has been given a fresh treatment.

SATB anthem w/solo, Product #1-4158-3407-5, \$1.50; CD anthem tracks, Product #1-4158-3392-3, \$24.95; Orchestration, Product #1-4158-3399-0, \$59.95

Instrumental/Keyboard Releases

■ *Hymns of Worship: Stylistic Settings for Solo Piano*

by T. Bob Davis
Hymns of Worship is a piano collection for the skilled player who doesn’t mind putting in extra practice to make classic hymns come to life with a fresh sound of worship. The piano book and listening/demonstration



CD include favorite hymns of the past as well as newer songs, and the book includes an occasional extra music staff with a simplified right-hand part as an option for the more difficult passages. So whether you play these arrangements or listen to the CD during a quiet time, may you reflect on God’s greatness as it is portrayed through these musical settings. Piano book, Product, #1-4158-3470-9, \$15.95; Listening CD, Product #1-4158-3439-3, \$16.98

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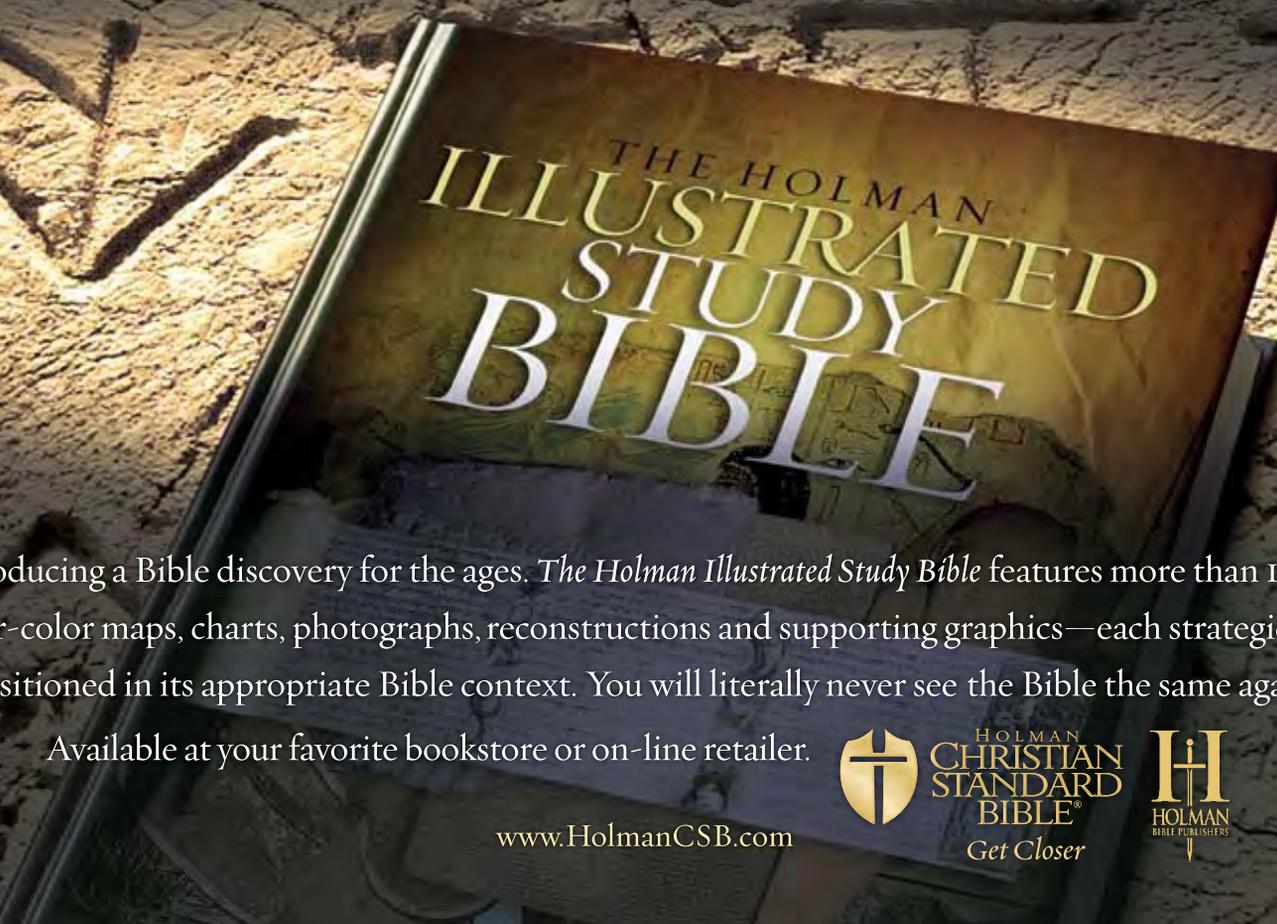
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