

Facts & Trends

A safe place

*Cops let their guard down
at Law Enforcement Summit*

article on page 14

MARCH/APRIL 2007

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

 **LifeWay**
Biblical Solutions for Life

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Cover photo: Sergeant Shawn Applegate is among the officers benefitting from the LifeWay-sponsored Law Enforcement Summit. Here, he works with his K-9 partner, Jet, a Dutch Shepherd.



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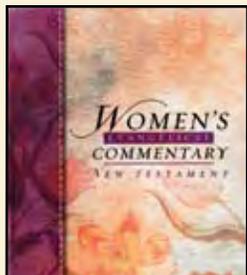
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Coming in the May/June issue:

- *Facts & Trends* celebrates 50 years of communicating LifeWay's people, resources and services
- North Carolina woman is an evangelism machine, winning more than 2,000 people to Christ

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Our purpose

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

Our format

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

Our people

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From my perspective



For better, for worse; in sickness and in health

Marriage relationships are hard work.

I know this personally because I'm married to my high school sweetheart. We have a wonderful, rich relationship, but I know how much effort we've invested over these years for that relationship to be richer now than 30 years ago. Having been a pastor, I've counseled many people and I've seen what happens when relationships are neglected.

There are many reasons a relationship can dry up. Here are a few:

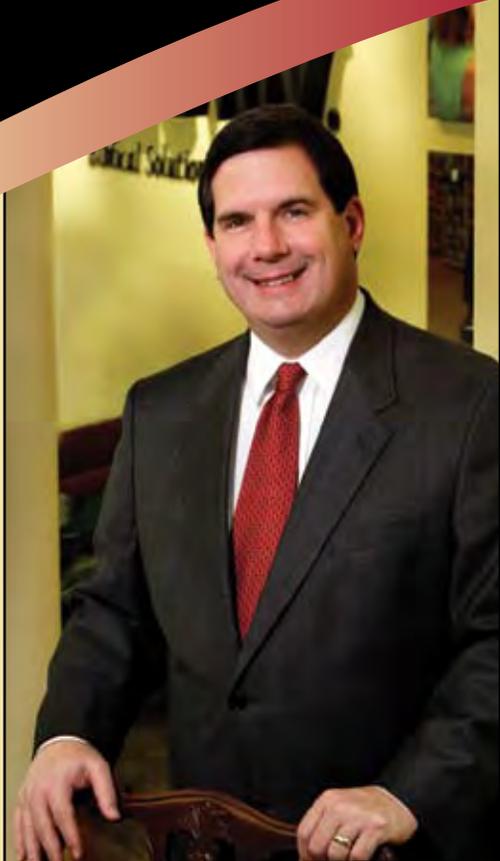
- changes come through life situations
- people simply get too busy to invest quality time
- responsibilities get in the way
- disenchantment sets in
- the other person isn't who you thought he or she was
- judgmental feelings go unchecked
- commitment is lacking by one – or both – in the relationship

While these are reasons marriage relationships fail, I've actually pulled these from a list of reasons people have given for leaving the church.

Looking at the list, I'm sure you'll agree with me that these are not valid reasons to leave a marriage relationship. In the same way, they should not be reasons to leave church. Unfortunately, as the research reveals, these are the top reasons people quit participating. You can read more about LifeWay Research's findings on the following pages of this edition of *Facts & Trends*.

Two things stand out in my mind about the reasons listed: they all result from a focus somewhere other than on Jesus and there is a failure to understand the significance of the church in His economy. Both are fatal errors in the lives of Christians.

James Emory White, president of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, wrote in his book, *Serious Times*, about the significance of the church and the place it should hold in the life of a believer.



*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.



“The church is not optional for the Christ follower,” he writes, “[It] goes well beyond strategic primacy [and] is decisive for the Christian to fulfill the Christian life. Consider what has been entrusted to the church for the sake of the Christian: the very proclamation of the gospel, corporate worship ... the new community in Christ, the use of and benefit from spiritual gifts, spiritual care and protection through pastors.”

Unfortunately, too often believers do not understand the importance of the church. There are many reasons for that, but as you look through White’s list of what role the

church plays in relation to God’s plan for humanity, you quickly realize how much we’ve neglected the Bride of Christ.

White goes on to say that, “we do not breathe in a neutral environment, but in the midst of a hostile conflict. The god of this world has been named and he is

ensconced firmly on his throne. There is only one domain beyond his control that stands in the way of total domination: The body of Christ. As a result, the church is under constant assault, for it stands alone against the night.”

Of course it is not likely that all who fall in the “formerly churched” category were born again, but a high percentage say they were. If that is indeed the case then from the pulpit and through our Sunday school lessons we’ve got to teach the importance of the church and the role every individual has in its mission.

Jesus was seriously committed to this relationship when He gave His life to save us. As individuals, we have the unique opportunity to join Him on His mission, but to do that we MUST be committed to His Bride, the church.

“Unfortunately, too often believers do not understand the importance of the church.”

— Thom S. Rainer

In His service,

We recommend

- *High Expectations*
- *Effective Evangelistic Churches*
- *Surprising Insights from the Unchurched*
- *The Unchurched Next Door*

These and other resources by Thom S. Rainer 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.

Can the church close the back door?



LifeWay Research asked the formerly churched why they left and what it would take to get them back.

While a great deal of effort is made by churches and denominations to attract new church members, LifeWay Research's study surveys the "formerly churched" to better understand why people leave.

In the summer of 2006, LifeWay Research conducted a survey of 469 "formerly churched adults," defining them as those who in the past regularly had attended a Protestant church as an adult but no longer do so. The objective of the survey was to better understand why people stop attending church and what it would take to bring them back.

The results indicate that while some losses may be inevitable, opportunities abound for churches to hold on to members who are headed for the door.

Why are people leaving?

According to the study, 59 percent of formerly churched adults left their church because of “changes in life situation.” While this may suggest that most losses are outside of the church’s control, the research indicates that is not necessarily the case, said Brad Waggoner, director of LifeWay Research.

Waggoner noted the formerly churched provided more detailed reasons behind this more generic “changes in life situation” description. “It is interesting that the most prevalent reasons come down to personal priorities rather than an external change in the person’s life,” said Waggoner.

In looking at the top two specific life-situation reasons adults stop attending – “simply got too busy to attend church” (19 percent) and “family/home responsibilities prevented church attendance” (17 percent) – it is clear to see these areas are more preventable than some of the lower-ranking reasons such as “moved too far from church” (17 percent), “work situation” (15 percent) or “got divorced/separated” (12 percent).

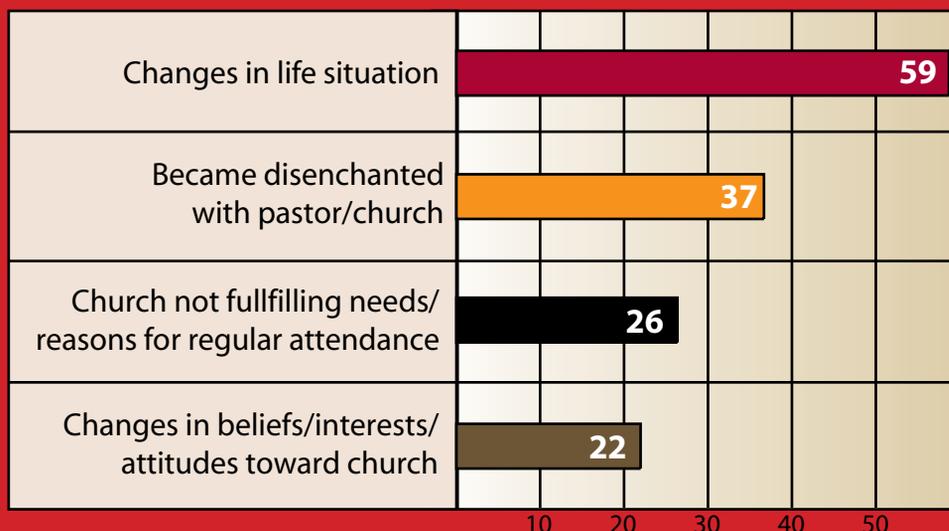
The second most common category of reasons adults leave the church is “disenchantment with pastor/church,” accounting for withdrawal of 37 percent of the formerly churched. Three specific sources of disenchantment are sandwiched among the life-change reasons. The formerly churched say church members “seemed hypocritical” (17 percent), “were judgmental of others” (17 percent) or “the church was run by a clique that discouraged involvement” (12 percent). These adults felt like outsiders looking in, revealing that the leadership and relational dynamics of a church can prove to be obstacles that prevent involvement.

“While some may use disenchantment issues as a smokescreen to hide behind, the large percent of the formerly churched who struggle with disenchantment deserve some honest attention,” Waggoner said.

Notably, Waggoner pointed out, only two of the top 10 reasons are instances in which the formerly churched admit to spiritual causes, citing “church was not helping me to develop spiritually” (14 percent) and “stopped believing in organized religion” (14 percent).

The latter reflects creeping secularism and is underscored by the number of respondents who consider themselves “spiritual, but not religious” (24 percent) and “Christian, but not particularly devout” (42 percent). Fewer

Top four general reasons for no longer attending church:



Note: Because survey respondents could “check all reasons that apply,” the total answers sum more than 100 percent.

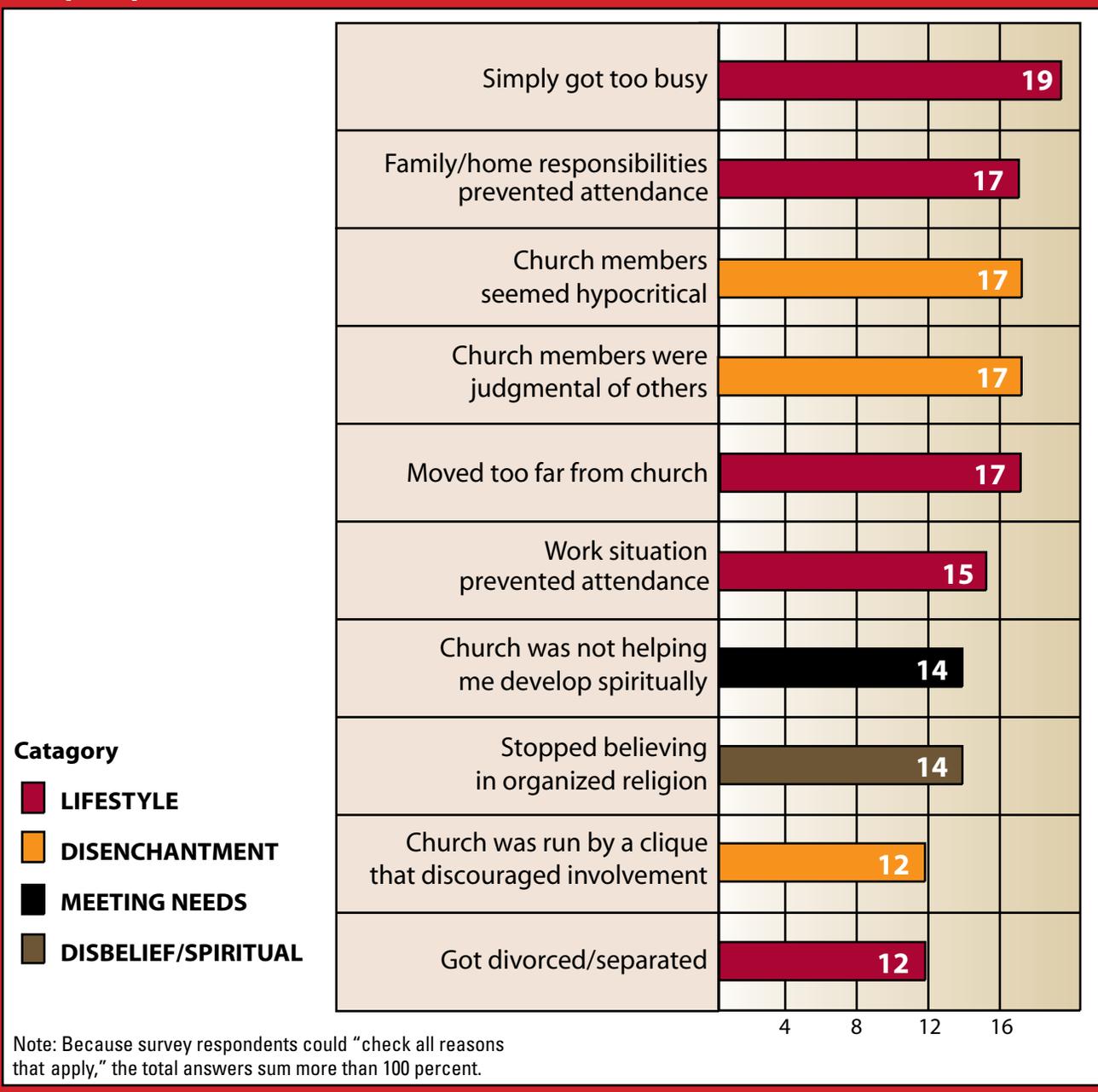
than one out of five formerly churched adults confesses to being “a devout Christian with a strong belief in God”(19 percent) and a somewhat smaller number are wavering on Christianity (10 percent) or belief in God at all (6 percent).

Start thinking prevention

Clearly, many of the reasons people no longer regularly attend church are interrelated. More than 80 percent of the formerly churched do not have a strong belief in God, explaining why work and family are a higher priority than church. But would they be “too busy” to attend if they felt more welcome at church?

Although many formerly churched adults stay away from their former church for the

Top specific reasons for no longer attending church:



same reasons they initially left, some indicate that the church did not notice or care. Sixteen percent said “nobody contacted me after I left” and another 16 percent said “nobody seemed to care that I left.”

According to Waggoner, “the responsibility and influence of the church varies across the different reasons for withdrawal. One clear influence is the expectations that churches have of attendees as they come into the life of the church.” Quoting from the book *Transforming Discipleship* by Greg Ogden, Waggoner said some church practices may be contributing to low levels of church commitment and limited biblical knowledge.

“Christian leaders seem to be reluctant to [proclaim] the terms of discipleship that Jesus laid out,” Ogden writes. “What are the reasons for our reluctance? We are afraid that if we ask too much, people will stop coming to our churches. Our operating assumption is that people will flee to the nearby entertainment church if we ask them to give too much of themselves. So we start with a low bar and try to entice people by increments of commitment, hoping that we can raise the bar imperceptibly to the ultimate destination of discipleship.”

Waggoner said it appears that some of the formerly churched left because the “destination” was so slow to emerge. “In the end, it’s important for church leaders to not only assume responsibility for those who seek to join their churches, but also for those who attempt to leave. Be vigilant at both the front door and the back door of the church.” ■



But, the formerly churched indicate an openness to return

Now the good news: LifeWay Research finds more than two-thirds of formerly churched adults are open to the idea of attending church regularly again.

“We were delighted to see such a large percentage of the formerly churched willing to consider church again in the future,” said Scott McConnell, associate director of LifeWay Research. “This was particularly surprising because the average formerly churched adult has not attended regularly for 14 years.”

Four percent of formerly churched adults are actively looking for a church to attend regularly (other than their previous church). Six percent would prefer to resume attending regularly in the same church they had attended. The largest group, 62 percent, is not actively looking, but is open to the idea of attending church regularly again.

McConnell noted such openness may reflect a cultural Christianity rather than genuine interest, but the fact remains that the majority are not closed to the idea. “The small portion who are ‘unlikely to consider’ returning (28 percent) should be encouraging when you think about the three out of four who are willing to give it another try,” said McConnell.

“Affinity will never happen at a significant level without the church fostering a culture of concern, fellowship and involvement.”

— Brad Waggoner

Motivation to return

For some, the openness to returning is a real yearning for what they once had at church. More than a third are motivated to consider returning “to fill a gap felt since stopping regular church attendance” (34 percent). Despite multiple reasons for leaving that often include their own life changes as well as disappointing actions or inaction of the church, a number of the formerly churched miss the benefits of attending church.

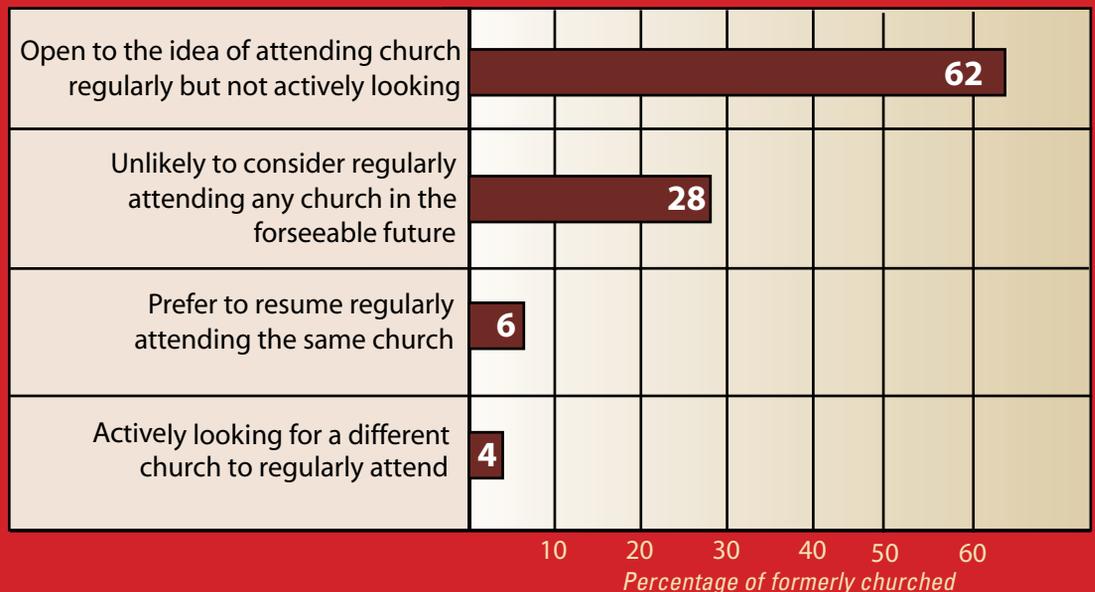
The most common motivation of those who would consider returning comes straight from the soul: “to bring me closer to God” (46 percent).

“Many members are vulnerable to attrition because of either a nonexistent or immature faith,” Waggoner said. “When individuals begin to seek out membership, they should be guided through a process whereby they are clearly taught the gospel and then following salvation, grounded in strong biblical truth. Far fewer people would drop out of church if their spiritual foundation was deep and strong. The church must also be sensitive to this combination of a less developed but genuine desire for faith as they approach the formerly churched about returning.”

Building relationships is another motivator to return to church. Thirty-two percent of those surveyed want to “be around those with similar values” and 31 percent would consider returning “to make friends.” Finally, a similar number would return “to make



Attitude of formerly churched toward resuming regular church attendance:



An Inside LifeWay podcast with Waggoner is available at www.lifeway.com/insidelifeway.

a difference/help others” (30 percent) in their community. “Too often churches wait for people to be spiritually mature to engage them in service when many projects or tasks are ideal entry or reentry points for people on their faith journey,” said McConnell.

Taking steps to bring them back

Waggoner noted that prompting the formerly churched to visit a church with an eye toward attending regularly requires some work. Most of them had multiple reasons for leaving. Not surprisingly, the work of the Holy Spirit along with the efforts of church members, friends and family members is needed to light a fire under them, Waggoner said.

Some of the statements of those surveyed were very subjective related to why and when they would return to church. More than half would be inspired to regularly attend church “if I simply felt it was time to return to church” (58 percent), and nearly a third said “if I felt God were calling me to visit a church” (31 percent).

“Clearly we can encourage Christians to pray that the unchurched would sense God calling them back, but God works through His people,” said McConnell. “The survey showed that many would respond to an invitation from a friend or acquaintance (41 percent), their children (25 percent) or an adult family member (25 percent).”

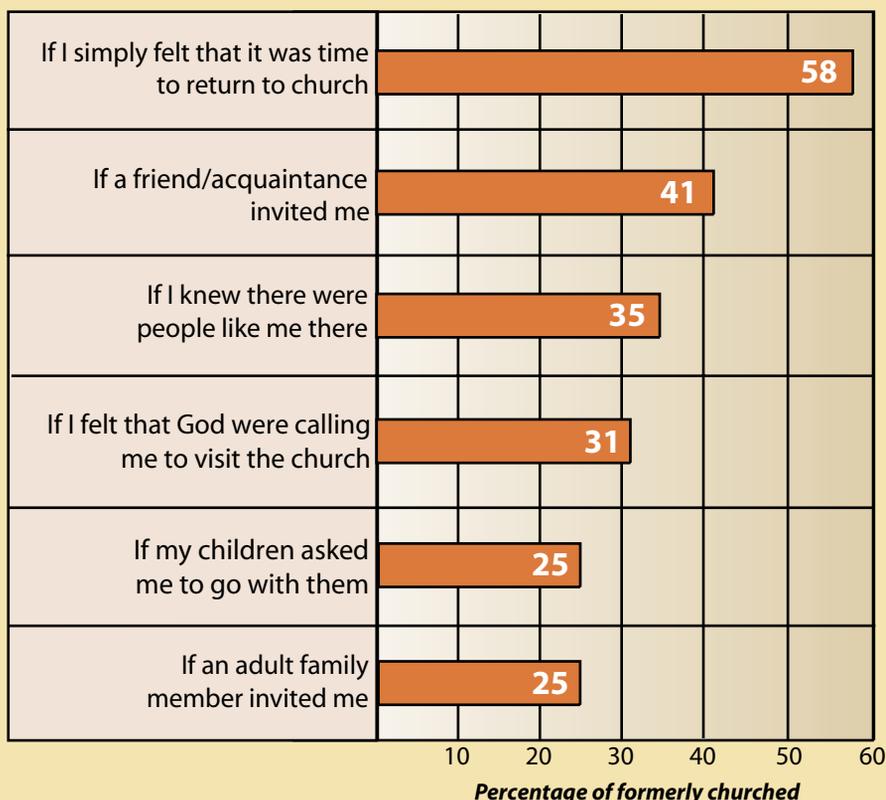
The issue of affinity also surfaced in the responses. Thirty-five percent indicated that they would be inspired to attend church “if I knew there were people like me there.”

“Affinity will never happen at a significant level without the church fostering a culture of concern, fellowship and involvement,” said Waggoner. “The openness of the majority

of the formerly churched to rejoin the flock is reason enough for the church to seek them out. That means having an effective outreach strategy for identifying, praying for and contacting formerly churched adults to shepherd them back to the fold.” ■

Bring them back

situations prompting regular church attendance:



We recommend

- *Out of Their Faces and Into Their Shoes* by John Kramp
- *Finding Them, Keeping Them* by Glen Martin and Gary McIntosh
- *When Worldviews Collide* by Ergun Caner

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.



Brad Waggoner is director of LifeWay Research.

LifeWay launches *Facts & Trends Online*

New Web site to complement print magazine with special features

For 50 years, the print version of *Facts & Trends* has enhanced the ministry of the local church by providing current data on church and denominational trends, introductions to new resources and feature stories highlighting individuals and ministries making a difference for the Kingdom of God.

Recently, the LifeWay communications office launched *Facts & Trends Online*, a Web version of the magazine designed to provide readers with, as radio legend Paul Harvey would say, “the rest of the story.”

“With the introduction of *Facts & Trends Online*, our readers will have access to all we offer in the print version, plus several features we aren’t able to offer with the print magazine’s production schedule,” said Polly House, editor of the *Facts & Trends* print version. “I’m excited that readers can go online and enrich their *Facts &*

Trends experience. I think they’ll enjoy the extra features.”

The new online version incorporates articles, photos, suggested resources and training opportunities that are included in the print version, as well as photo slideshows, archived surveys from LifeWay Research and links to related *Inside LifeWay* podcasts. Jenny Rice, a communications specialist with LifeWay, serves as project coordinator for *Facts & Trends Online*.

“We are eager to expand the ministry of *Facts & Trends* by providing additional information and resources to support the local church,” Rice said. “Future issues of *Facts & Trends Online* will include supplemental materials including reporter’s notes, audio/video enhancements and complementary articles and links for more information on topics covered in the publication.”

To learn more about *Facts & Trends Online* or to view online extras for articles in this issue, readers may visit www.lifeway.com/factsandtrends. ■



Clearview Baptist Church, Franklin, Tenn.

Ministry snapshots

Do you have a great photo of your church doing ministry or missions that relates to a LifeWay resource or event? E-mail it, along with contact and caption information, to us at facts&trends@lifeway.com. Each month, the staff will select its favorite photo and post it on *Facts & Trends Online*.

VBS Tools Online 2007 offers even more flexibility, access

by Brooklyn Noel

As planning and preparation for Vacation Bible School 2007 begins in earnest, VBS directors will find several valuable enhancements to LifeWay's VBS Tools Online resource.

VBS Tools Online launched in 2005 with the purpose of helping VBS directors with the planning, registration and follow-up tasks that go into making VBS successful each year.

"The ultimate goal is to make life easier for VBS directors in churches," said Bethany Webster, Internet producer in the childhood ministry area of LifeWay's church resources division. "We want to maximize the time they have to plan the curriculum and recruit and train quality teachers."

Webster said the VBS department, in cooperation with LifeWay's Internet technologies area, keeps these goals in mind as they work to enhance the offerings of VBS Tools Online each year. Significant enhancements for 2007 include the ability for churches to customize their registration forms and for VBS directors to allow multiple users access to the system.

One of the features offered by VBS Tools Online allows parents to register their children for VBS and volunteers to submit their information through online registration forms. Webster said that in the past these online forms have included the same fields for each church, regardless of the church's size or specialized needs.

She explained that the 2007 version of the Web-based program allows VBS directors to delete fields unnecessary for their church's program as well as insert fields unique to their needs. Webster suggested that fields such as T-shirt size or identification

numbers for students could now be included.

"What we've had in the past has had to work for all the churches," Webster said. "With the enhancements we've added, we're able to customize it for a broader audience."

Additionally, the updated VBS Tools Online program allows each church to provide access to the program to an unlimited number of users. Webster said that anyone with access to the administrator's VBS Tools Online account can set up additional login capabilities for teachers or other volunteers as needed.

These enhancements came largely as a result of customer feedback, Webster said. "We had one user tell us that VBS Tools Online particularly helped with the registration process because many of the volunteers and students were spread out over long distances."

These new features are in addition to the features already offered by VBS Tools Online: registration helps, attendance reports, participant allergy information and other aids. Webster said that users will be able to import 2006 enrollment information into the 2007 system.

Even with the added features and enhancements, the cost of VBS Tools Online remains the same as last year: \$29.99. "We really strived to make this resource one that is available and useful to every church regardless of the budget or the technology skills of the users," Webster said. ■



To find out more or purchase VBS Tools Online, visit www.lifeway.com/vbs.

Cops, others let down their guard at Law Enforcement Summit

written by Polly House, photography by Kent Harville

Don't trust. Don't feel. Don't talk. Advice like that is a recipe for emotional and spiritual disaster. Any law enforcement officer, however, knows that advice could save his physical life.

"We struggle with the word 'trust,' every day," said Jack Poe, chaplain for the Oklahoma City Police Department. "But, this summit is a safe place. It's a place where you can let your guard down for a while and relax. We're all family here."

Poe joined 150 other law enforcement officers, firemen, federal agents, chaplains and their spouses at the fifth LifeWay-sponsored Law Enforcement Summit at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center.

That "safe place" sentiment was repeated throughout the event. Officers spoke of feeling free to let down their guard, express their emotions and cry with each other over tragedies they had experienced. One young officer said, "I've never been anywhere like this – all Christian brothers and sisters who understand what my life is like."

An officer's nightmare

David Tomlinson, a sergeant with the Oak Grove (Ky.) Police Department, and his wife, Tina, a hospice social worker, are living every officer's nightmare – the loss of their child.

The Tomlinsons had a good life, busy with their jobs and their boys, Jacob, 8, and Zack, 6. In June of last summer the

boys went to Vacation Bible School at their church, First Baptist of Oak Grove. "Zack came home so excited. He just loved Jesus," Tina said.

David had arrested a lot of people, as most officers have, so being threatened was nothing new to him. "This one guy, though, said he'd get me and he'd get my family. He knew where we lived," he said.

David made sure that there was a gun in the house, so Tina would be able to protect herself and the boys should the man follow through on this threat.

"July 16 was like any other day," Tina said. "Just a normal day. The boys went swimming. I took them to get haircuts.

"About 9 o'clock that night, David was on duty, the boys were in bed and the house was finally quiet. I was in the living room on the computer, when I heard a crash in my bedroom.

"I rushed in and saw Zack on the floor, a bullet wound to his forehead. I started CPR, but it was too late."

Zack was dead; killed by a loaded handgun, the one that was supposed to protect the family.



“When I heard the call come through on my radio, I couldn’t believe it was my address. I knew something was horribly wrong. I felt sick.”

— David Tomlinson

“When I heard the call come through on my radio, I couldn’t believe it was my address. I knew something was horribly wrong. I felt sick,” David said.

“We don’t know exactly what happened,” David said. “We don’t know why or how the gun went off. But Zack is gone.”

As the Tomlinsons sobbed and told their story, other officers in the room wept with them. They understood. Officers have guns in their homes. They have to. There are too many threats.

“We keep our guns with us,” David said. “We have them in our homes to protect our families. I’m not anti-gun. I teach gun safety. My kids knew about guns. I made sure that they knew. But I was wrong. This has put a stress on our lives, our relationship with God and with each other. This is an extreme test of faith,” David said.

Tina said she never realized how many people they had in their lives until the tragedy. “These cops came in and cleaned my house – cleaned my house – after it happened. Our law enforcement family never let us down.”

A cop and a pastor

Paul Gilbreath looks like a cop. He’s tall. He has a piercing stare. Ironically he’s also a pastor with a loving heart who sings in a gospel quartet with three other cops.

Gilbreath is area commander of the Dallas region of Homeland Security, working in Immigration Customs

Enforcement. He also is pastor of Crossroads Baptist Church in Lancaster, Texas.

Gilbreath led one of the many breakout sessions during the summit. His discussion session, “When a Cop is not a Cop,” reminded the officers that they have to take off the game face sometime.

He said, “When the weapon is secured and the badge and the uniform are hanging in the closet; when you’re second guessing the decisions you made during your shift and you can’t get that picture of that small child out of your mind; when you keep hearing over and over the echo of the radio traffic from the officer calling for back

Cops’ stress-related statistics

Derek Oeser, a sergeant with the Rutherford County (Tenn.) Sheriff’s Office and his wife, Connie, led a conference on balancing God, marriage and law enforcement during the fifth Law Enforcement Summit.

They cited these statistics:

- The life expectancy of a police officer in the United States is 57 years.
- The life expectancy of a criminal in the United States is 64 years.
- The national divorce rate for cops is 75 percent.
- 71 percent of spouses of officers believe the administration doesn’t take the family life into consideration when making policies.
- 51 percent of those don’t feel like they can say anything about it because it would hurt their chances for advancement.
- An officer under extreme stress is five times more likely to take his own life than to be shot in the line of duty.

Paul Gilbreath, a Homeland Security commander and a pastor, shows the remains of the gun that saved his life. A man Gilbreath was arresting shot at him, but the bullet split the gun butt, missing Gilbreath by inches.





Left: Chaplain Jack Poe with the Oklahoma City Police Department, is recognized nationwide for his ministry. Far left, Poe and his wife, Phyllis, pray with OKCPD patrol officer Wade Spence and his wife, Dorian. She had just responded with 'yes' to the invitation to receive Christ as her Savior.



up 'now' and you know you can't get there quickly enough. When all these things build up in your mind, how do you release it? Some drink. Others build up walls around themselves and become mean. Still others isolate themselves to a point that no one, not the wife or the children or the best friend can penetrate. But you have to find a way to cope with the life of being a cop."

Cops have a stress unique to their jobs. That stress has outward

signs: lower job satisfaction, higher divorce rate, higher alcoholism/drug use rate, higher suicide rate and a higher isolation rate.

While he reaches people in the pew in his growing church, Gilbreath said he feels that as a cop he has had the opportunity to influence and minister to people that the church will never reach. "God called me to be a cop to do things I could never do in any other job."

Summit meets need

"My experience as a law enforcement officer had taught me many things about how we, as officers, are affected by the everyday stresses of the job," said Debra Yokely, a lieutenant with the Rowan County (N.C.) Sheriff's Office and member of the steering committee.

"The Law Enforcement Summit is a place for us to be spiritually nourished and to obtain the tools to be at peace in a very troubled world. The fellowship of our officers, along with

the praise and worship, and the encouraging breakout sessions, make the Law Enforcement Summit a life changing experience,” she said.



Chaplain Tim Eldred

Tim Eldred, chaplain with the Rutherford County (Tenn.) Sheriff’s Office served as the leader of the steering committee that organized the summit.

“These officers need this summit,” he said. “They need a place where they can gather with Christian brothers and sisters and hear they aren’t alone in the struggles they face. They need a place where they can come and not look over their shoulders all the time. They need to relax.”

“Churches can do a great service to the officers and spouses in their churches by sponsoring them to the summit,” Eldred said. “It’s an investment that can’t even be calculated. These officers need the appreciation and the support their churches can offer.” ■

It’s not too late to register for one of the 2007 Law Enforcement Summits. The first is April 3-6 at LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center near Santa Fe, N.M.. The second is Oct. 2-5 at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center near Asheville, N.C. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/lawenforcement.

An advertisement for LifeWay's Game Day Central VBS. The background is a vibrant, colorful scene of a girl in a yellow and blue soccer uniform kicking a large soccer ball. The ball has "LifeWay's GAME DAY Central" written on it, along with the phrase "WHICH HEROES ARE MADE" and "HEBREW 3:12-17". The LifeWay logo and "CHRISTIAN STORES" are in the bottom left, with the tagline "Biblical Solutions for Life".

We're ^{The} ONESOURCE For All Your VBS Needs

We're proud to be the **ONESOURCE** for everything you need to have a successful VBS including curriculum, accessories, and decorations. It's our prayer that your VBS will teach kids about Christ's love and the joy of a relationship with Him.

3 Ways to Shop:

- Stores nationwide
- Call 800.233.1123
- LifeWaystores.com/vbs

LifeWay
CHRISTIAN STORES
Biblical Solutions for Life

Cops offer tips for churches

What can churches do to help law enforcement officers and their spouses cope with the stresses they live with every day? Participants at the recent Law Enforcement Summit offered these suggestions:



1. “Offer support, such as social activities, for my wife since she will be there without me a lot. Pray for us. We don’t have kids yet, but safe, low cost day care would be a real blessing to most cops.” – *Patrol Officer Wade Spence, Oklahoma City Police Department*
2. “Talk to the officer. The leadership of the church needs to get to know the kinds of problems and stresses an officer has. Then, the officer will be comfortable talking to the pastor.” – *Sgt. Jeff McCorkle, Sheriff’s Department, China Grove, N.C.*
3. “Have a special service honoring all the law enforcement officers in your town and invite them to come in uniform. Offer marriage ministries for the officers and their spouses. Pray.” – *Capt. Louis Colin, District One, New Orleans Police Department*
4. “Provide spiritual encouragement and prayer. Allow me the privilege of ministering outside the church. Come alongside me with my ministry.” – *Chaplain Steve Lee, Caldwell, Idaho*
5. “Take time to get to know us as individuals. A lot of us are single, so invite us into a family unit. Offer alternatives other than going to a bar to hang out with friends.” – *Jenny Creel, towing and recovery, Louisiana State Police, Lake Charles, La.*
6. “Something my church does that I really appreciate is they understand my schedule and know that I can’t be there every Sunday or at choir practice every Wednesday. They don’t mind if I come in full uniform if that’s what I need to do.” – *Patrol Lt. Debra Yokley, Rowan County (N.C.) Sheriff’s Office*
7. “My church lists officers on the weekly prayer list so church members can pray for us. Something I think would be good for churches to have is a jail ministry, both for the law enforcement officers working there and the inmates.” – *Officer Shawn Applegate, Rutherford County (Tenn.) Sheriff’s Office.*
8. “I’m pastor of my church, so of course it’s supportive! But, seriously, they understand the time I spend away from the church in my job as a chaplain. If I have to be out, someone else will fill in for me.” – *Chaplain Rufus Foxx, Madison County (Ala.) Sheriff’s Office.*

Minister to a cop

To sponsor an officer to the event, contact Ron Pratt at LifeWay at ron.pratt@lifeway.com or (615) 251-2065.

We recommend

- *The Police Officer’s Bible* – contains special prayer and devotional section for those who protect and serve
- *Take Up the Shield: Comparing the Uniform of the Police Officer and the Armor of God* by Tony Miano

These and other resources are available from LifeWay Christian Stores at www.lifewaystores.com and (800) 233-1123.

Editor's note: Shawn Applegate, a sergeant with the Rutherford County (Tenn.) Sheriff's Office, attended the 2006 Law Enforcement Summit at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center. He sent this letter and asked that it be used to encourage churches and individuals to sponsor an officer and spouse to one of the 2007 conferences. LaGuardo Baptist Church in Lebanon, Tenn., sponsored Applegate.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I recently had the opportunity to attend the Christian Law Enforcement Summit at Ridgecrest. I have been a believer for 14 years and was excited about the opportunity to meet with other Christian law enforcement officers from around the country.

I really didn't know what to expect at the conference, and I was so impressed.

I had the opportunity to be blessed and strengthened by God's Word and by classroom modules taught by Christian cops. The facilities were exceptional. This conference truly strengthened my Christian walk, as well as my motivation to continue in law enforcement.

We studied topics such as stress management; personal finance; grace of God vs. law of God; bettering your marriage; and putting God in the center of all decisions.

Men and women in law enforcement deal with issues and struggles that a lot of people never see or would understand. Personally, I struggled with God's grace and forgiveness toward people who commit the horrible acts toward others that I see every day. At this conference, the specialized course on separating God's law and God's grace got me back on track and thinking right.

I was very fortunate to have attended a Christian high school and Christian college. It was an invaluable experience and allowed me to establish a strong foundation for life. But, this Law Enforcement Summit was a large building block and crucial part to maintaining a strong foundation.

From Scripture, I came to understand that we, as law enforcement officers, are, in a very real sense, ministers of God and that our government is established by God.

There are two things that I would ask for you to do to support your law enforcement community. First, please pray for us on a daily basis. When you hear sirens or see a police car, please say a prayer for us!

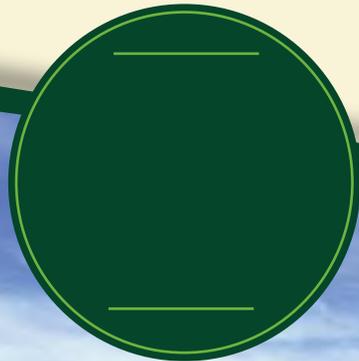
Second, as you know, law enforcement officers are underpaid for what they do. Most officers work full shifts plus overtime, just to provide the basics for their families. I believe that we could reach unbelievers and believers by offering them scholarships to attend the next Law Enforcement Summit at either Ridgecrest or Glorieta. Once we remove the financial obstacle that would keep them from going and then get them there, they will be a position where God can speak to their hearts.

Would you prayerfully consider sponsoring one officer or several? It would be an investment in eternity and in the quality of public servants in your community.

*Sincerely,
Sgt. Shawn Applegate
Rutherford County Sheriff's Office
Murfreesboro, Tenn.*



Sgt. Shawn Applegate and his K-9 partner, Jet, learn narcotic search techniques in Franklin, Tenn.



“Well done..”

MATTHEW 25:21

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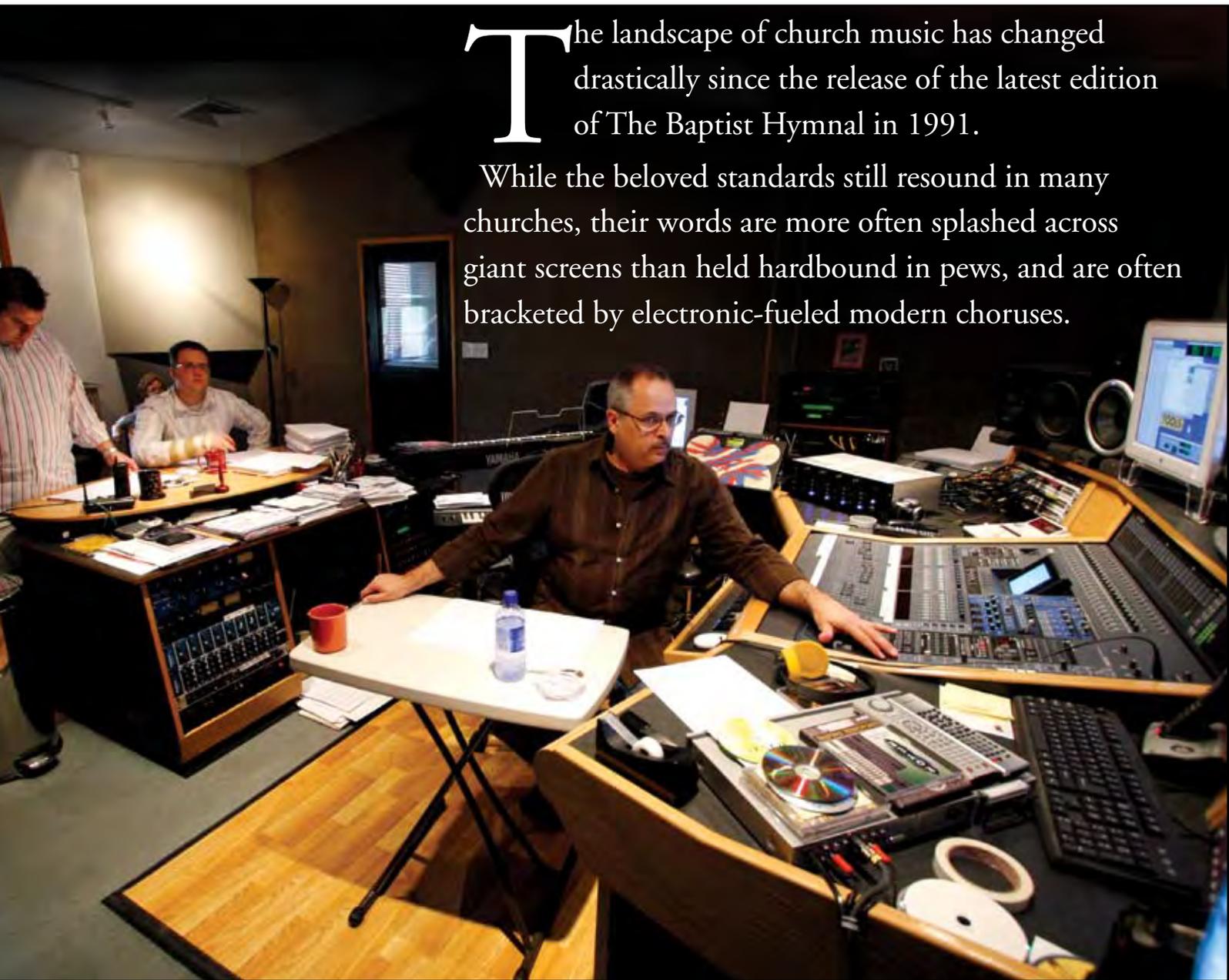
LifeWay Worship Music Group developing *'ultimate worship resource'*

written by Russ Rankin

photography by Kent Harville

The landscape of church music has changed drastically since the release of the latest edition of The Baptist Hymnal in 1991.

While the beloved standards still resound in many churches, their words are more often splashed across giant screens than held hardbound in pews, and are often bracketed by electronic-fueled modern choruses.



Westpark Sound Studio owner Tom Reeves (center) watches musicians and monitors during a recording session for one of the first songs of The Worship Project.

LifeWay Worship Music Group is embracing the challenge of meeting the worship needs of churches by embarking on an innovative venture to couple an updated Baptist Hymnal with modern technology.

Dubbed The Worship Project, the endeavor consists of two components: a downloadable audio hymn and worship song repository from which an updated, hardbound Baptist Hymnal will be drawn.

“Every 15 years or so we have produced a hymnal,” said Mike Harland, who took the director’s chair at LifeWay Worship Music Group in 2005. “When I arrived at LifeWay, I knew one of the first questions we would need to begin asking is ‘What’s the next Baptist Hymnal going to look like?’ We are convinced God is doing something special through LifeWay Worship Music Group.”

A history of hymnody

In researching the needs of churches, Harland said the overarching question was whether the usage of hymns was still prevalent enough to warrant a new hymnal. “From my experience as a worship leader in churches and from talking to worship ministers across the denomination, the answer is yes, we need a new collection of hymns,” he said.

Almost 70 percent of Baptist churches describe their worship services as having a blend of contemporary and traditional hymns, Harland said. Hymns are used in 90 percent of the churches and 45 percent claim that lack of musicians is the biggest challenge to their music ministry.

“As we looked at what vehicle we needed to deliver this music resource, it was obvious that it needed to be electronic,” Harland said. “Looking at what the ’91 hymnal cost, we realized we could record this project for not much more. After all, everything we do in print today is done digitally. No hymnal has ever been recorded, so this represents a revolutionary step for church worship music.”

Music tools for the church

LifeWay Worship Music Group’s plan “is for an online hymnal with an initial collection of 1,000 recorded titles that will be available at the launch of the project in 2008,” Harland said. He added that at least 100 songs will be added to the collection each year, making it “ultimately, the last hymnal anyone will need as we will constantly be updating the repository.”

At the heart of the project will be the second component, a worship planner available through an online portal at LifeWayWorship.com.

“We’re putting tools in the hands of our carpenters,” Harland said. “They’ll be able to search for songs by theme, Scripture or topic. They’ll have everything they need to build a complete worship experience.” With the majority of Southern Baptist churches having lean staffs and fewer than 100 members, pastors are often the ones arranging every aspect of the service. Harland said this project will help their process immensely.

The Worship Project Web site will be a perfect tool for small churches without musicians and for larger churches needing complex arrangements, Harland added.

“Pastors will love this because it gives them a tool in their hands to plan worship and find resources,” he said. “They’ll be equipped just as well as a huge church with a full orchestra. Anyone at any level will be able to utilize this. We even envision missionaries on foreign fields who don’t readily have access to music resources utilizing this resource.”

“No hymnal has ever been recorded, so this represents a revolutionary step for church worship music.”

– Mike Harland

Chris Machen, minister of music and worship at the north campus of Prestonwood Baptist Church, Plano, Texas, jokes with LifeWay's Alecia Wynn, project coordinator, as she helps him learn and navigate LifeWay's new resource for worship leaders.



Because The Worship Project is not stylistically driven or geared to one size of ministry or location, “We will preserve the best of our past hymnody, and we will use technology to build a bridge to the gifted and anointed writers in the church today,” Harland said.

This will be the “ultimate worship resource that is as stylistically diverse as church music is today,” Harland said. “There’s nothing like it. People have thought of different aspects of it, and have produced various components, but no one has had the wherewithal to undertake this type of commitment to worship. Not only is LifeWay capable, but we are willing and excited about this.”

Nashville takes notice

“When musicians in Nashville began putting together the first 100 songs, I asked which one was the first one recorded,” Harland said. “It was ‘The Church’s One Foundation.’ I can’t imagine any song more appropriate to be the first.”

The project is one of the largest recording projects ever done in Nashville, commanding space in many of the city’s recording studios. The mammoth project has attracted huge interest from the movers and shakers in the Christian music industry, of course, but the

country music industry has noticed as well. “We’ve contracted for a lot of the studio time,” Harland said.

“Think about it,” Harland said. “In the next 10 months we will be recording 1,000 songs. Musicians, producers and arrangers from all over Nashville have joined with us to get the songs recorded.”

Because of the Internet, “the shelf life of today’s music is shorter than it’s ever been,” Harland said. “We will make music available in virtually any format that it’s needed. Whether a staff of a large church or leading a small home group, we are seeing that more and more are buying their music and arrangements through the Internet.”

Through the online portal, The Worship Project will offer options with the recordings of the songs, such as traditional hymns recorded in a variety of styles.

“LifeWay is the one resource provider that is equipped with the corporate strength and commitment to make this a reality,” Harland said.

LifeWay’s President and CEO Thom S. Rainer agreed, telling the organization’s trustees during its September 2006 meeting that this project represents a “blue ocean” of ministry and business to which the organization needs to steer to meet the needs of churches.

Harland said LifeWay Worship Music Group is already in an “aggressive production process” and the first portion of the project – the printed hardbound hymnal – will release in the second half of 2008, with the debut of the digital portal following shortly after. ■

New hymnal, new mentality

The new hardbound Baptist Hymnal is being planned with a new mentality.

“In other hymnals, we’ve had the mentality of publishing what planners thought the churches ought to sing,” said Mike Harland, director of LifeWay Worship Music Group and project executive for the Worship Project. While most hymnals contain about 650 songs, most churches probably sing fewer than half of the songs, he explained.

“In this selection process, we are engaging hundreds of music leaders and asking, ‘what are the churches singing?’ and we’ll make selections from there.” Harland also said the music leaders engaged in the project are “overwhelmingly Baptist. No question, this will be a Baptist hymnal.”

The new hymnal will include older favorite hymns as well as new favorites and choruses.

“It’s funny,” Harland said, “but we’ve gotten a lot of flack about ‘I’ll Fly Away’ not being in the last hymnal. That’s one of those songs people still love and still sing. I’m pretty sure it will be in the new one.”

Updates

For updates on The Worship Project, go to www.lifewayworship.com.

Ministering to your MILITARY MEMBERS

Fort Campbell, Ky., is home of the Army's elite 101st Airborne Division, and First Baptist Church in Clarksville, Tenn., has a unique ministry opportunity to the soldiers and families of Fort Campbell.

"Our purpose is to provide emotional and prayerful support for these special people," said Bill Graham, associate pastor of missions and ministry, who directs the church's military support ministry, which ministers to the families of deployed soldiers during their time of separation, whether these soldiers are on active duty, or in the reserves or National Guard. "There are nearly 300 military families involved in our church membership and programs."

Whether your church has hundreds of military families or just one, the responsibility to help is still crucial.

Based on First Baptist's experience, Graham offered these suggestions:

- Help with lawn care and light car and home repair.
- Provide military parents nights out so they can have some time to themselves.
- Sponsor a Valentine's Day luncheon and a Veteran's Day luncheon for all military families.
- Offer special Bible studies for military spouses.
- Help members find other assistance they might need, either on post, within the church or in the community.
- Pair any military family that requests it with a support family who will offer emotional and prayerful assistance with phone calls, prayers, sharing meals together, emergency childcare or car rides as needed.
- Realize that even after families are reunited, stress can still be a problem – particularly as soldiers readjust to civilian life and married couples resume their respective roles within the family.

Recommended Web sites:

www.agreaterfreedom.com
www.americasupportsyou.mil
www.operationusocarepackage.org
www.soldiersangels.org

Major Barry T. Roberson, 3rd Squadron, 278th Regimental Combat Team, S3 – Operations Specialist, reunites with daughters Annie and Lily after returning home from Iraq in 2006.



Photo by Susie Roberson

While this is a joyous time of thanksgiving and reunion, prayers for these families are still needed.

We recommend

- *Medals Above My Heart: The Rewards of Being a Military Wife* by Carol McGlothlin and Brenda Pace
- *Hope for the Home Front and Hope for the Home Front Bible Study* by Marshale Carter Waddell
- *God Answers Prayers – Military Edition: True Stories from People Who Serve and Those Who Love Them* by Allison Bottke
- *Heroes at Home: Help and Encouragement for America's Military Families* by Ellie Kay
- *When Duty Calls: A Handbook for Families Facing Military Separation* by Carol Vandesteeg

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.

- Recognize the transient nature of military life. For as long as these families are with you, help them focus on God through worship, face life's problems through fellowship with other believers, fortify their faith through discipleship, find their God-given talents through ministry opportunities, and help them fulfill their mission as followers of Jesus by evangelism training.

- Remember that while these military families have some needs specific to their circumstances, they also need the same love and kindness all families need: a hug, an invitation to lunch after church, a call in the middle of the week just to ask how things are going. ■

For more suggestions on ministering to military families, contact Graham at bill.graham@fbct.org.



Top: Easter morning worship service in Iraq. Center: Black-hawk helicopters landing. Bottom: A military convoy.

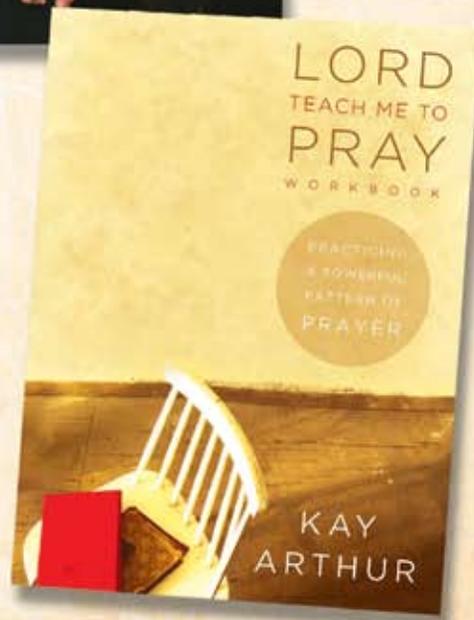


New video series by **Kay Arthur!**



proven insights to **enrich** your prayer life

Introducing a Bible study featuring beloved Bible teacher Kay Arthur—*Lord, Teach Me to Pray: Practicing a Powerful Pattern of Prayer*. Adapted from the best-selling book, *Lord, Teach me to Pray in 28 Days*, this new five-session study is based on key elements found in the Lord's Prayer. It is for any woman who may struggle with a variety of issues related to prayer, including keeping prayer a priority. This immensely practical and encouraging study will lead participants to experience a richer, more fulfilling prayer life. Resources include a DVD-based Leader Kit and a Workbook for participants.



Leader Kit	005035126	\$149.95
Workbook	005035558	\$11.95

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

LifeWay | **Women**

LifeWay Conference Centers launches 'GloriRidge' online community

Connecting a rich past and seeking to encourage a new generation of campers, staff and volunteers, LifeWay Conference Centers and Camps launched GloriRidge, an online community dedicated to current and former employees, summer staff, volunteers and others who share stories and a history with LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center and LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center.

Joining the community at www.gloriridge.com involves a free, simple sign-up. GloriRidge features community message boards, pages for member photos, event listings, and an announcements area for things such as reunions, jobs and prayer needs.

Byron Hill, national director of LifeWay Conference Centers and Camps, explained that the online community was developed with four distinct purposes in mind.

"Our volunteers, campers, employees and supporters are a special group of folks," Hill said. "Our main objective is to have a place for people who love our conference centers and camps to reconnect and stay in touch with friends they have made."

A second reason for the site is to have a place where people could share how God impacted their lives through the ministry of Glorieta or Ridgecrest.

"So many people have great stories from the conference centers and camps," Hill said. "Calls to ministry, decisions of salvation, meeting a future spouse, committing to full-time missions – sharing those stories on the GloriRidge community message boards will serve as an inspiration and reminder to us all."

The third purpose of GloriRidge is to recruit and encourage partners in prayer. Most guests at Glorieta and Ridgecrest may

not realize that they and their groups are prayed for by name, Hill said. "By joining our prayer groups, GloriRidge members can help us pray for the people who utilize our facilities and also share their own prayer requests for other community members to lift up."

Finally, the online community provides a way for people to financially support the conference centers and camps.

"We've never had an easy way in the past for people to support the ministry of the conference centers," Hill explained. "And while we are working hard to revitalize the conference centers, that is not our only need for support."



"We also want to establish scholarship funds at both Ridgecrest and Glorieta for pastors, church staff, families and individuals to be able to come and be ministered to when they otherwise might not be able to afford to come."

Glorieta Conference Center, located outside Santa Fe, N.M., and Ridgecrest Conference Center, located 17 miles east of Asheville, N.C., have served the Christian community for more than a century. In the last 12 months, the two conference centers have hosted more than 100,000 people, resulting in 5,400 reported spiritual decisions, including 1,315 first-time decisions to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. ■

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

Strong ministry, strong business continue for LifeWay in 2006

LifeWay reported strong ministry and business results in fiscal 2006, with the retail and church resources divisions leading the way. In addition, the Holman Christian Standard Bible continued to grow in popularity, while more than 5,200 decisions for Christ were recorded at LifeWay's conference centers at Ridgecrest, N.C., and Glorieta, N.M.

In the six employee-led mission trips coordinated by LifeWay International in fiscal 2006, 107 LifeWay volunteers saw 16,933 professions of faith and 45 churches planted.

LifeWay launched LifeWay Research for the purpose of assisting and equipping church leaders with knowledge and wisdom that will lead to greater levels of church health and effectiveness.

The New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary LifeWay Christian Store reopened in May, the final location restored from the damage of Hurricane Katrina.

LifeWay's distribution center in Lebanon, Tenn., grew to almost 250,000 square feet with the completion of a 96,800 square-foot expansion.

Fiscal 2006 ended Sept. 30. ■





STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For years ending Sept. 30, 2006 and 2005

(in thousands)

	2006	2005
Total revenue	\$449,303	\$432,656
Costs and expenses	438,747	419,265
Funds provided from operations	10,556	13,391
Other adjustments to unrestricted net assets	5,657	15,926
Increase (decrease) in unrestricted net assets	16,213	29,317
Increase (decrease) in temporarily restricted assets	278	125
Increase (decrease) in net assets	\$16,491	\$29,442

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Sept. 30, 2006 and 2005

(in thousands)

Assets

	2006	2005
Current assets	\$126,899	\$128,413
Noncurrent assets	365,876	331,815
Total assets	\$492,775	\$460,228

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current liabilities	\$66,443	\$50,656
Long-term liabilities	3,027	2,758
Total liabilities	69,470	53,414
Net assets	423,305	406,814
Total liabilities and net assets	\$492,775	\$460,228

Note: Due to rounding, all figures may not add.



‘Nation’s pastor’ honored with downtown Nashville statue

written by Jenny Rice

photography by Kent Harville

Local celebrities, Southern Baptist leaders, and other guests gathered Dec. 13 to dedicate a statue in honor of a man who wants no honor – Billy Graham.

The statue – a representation of the evangelist standing in the shadow of a 17-foot cross, arms outstretched, his hand cradling a Bible – is fitting of a man who stood in the shadows of the cross of Christ and pointed millions around the world to its redemptive power. The statue stands near the southeast corner of LifeWay’s property in downtown Nashville, Tenn.

Speaking on behalf the family, Billy Graham’s grandson, Will Graham, expressed appreciation for the statue, but was quick to express glory to God, first and foremost.

“My friends, I know we are honoring Billy Graham, but statues will come and go, cities will come and go, but the Word of God is forever – this is about Jesus Christ,” Graham said. “My grandfather is a man who did not compromise; who loved the Lord with all of his heart and was faithful to what God placed before him. He sets an example for us all, not to be great evangelists, but to preach the simple gospel.”

Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell spoke of the impact Graham's ministry has had on the city throughout the years.

Graham "made many visits to Nashville and each visit has had a lasting impact on this community," Purcell recalled.

"He brought in the millennium in Nashville at a stadium filled night after night with people needing that message.

"Now 10 million visitors through Nashville have the opportunity to see and understand what this messenger has meant to us."

The passions of an evangelist

Cliff Barrows, a lifelong friend who has traveled and ministered with Graham for 60 years, shared at the dedication ceremony the five passions he saw displayed through the Graham statue.

The passions displayed included Graham's passion for the Word of God, exhibited by the Bible grasped in the statue's hand; his passion for preaching, displayed by the figure's open mouth; Graham's passion for the message, with three nails and John 3:16



"He sets an example for us all, not to be great evangelists, but to preach the simple gospel."

— Will Graham



Cliff Barrows and his wife, Ann, talk with James T. Draper Jr., LifeWay president emeritus, during the dedication.

etched on the base of the sculpture; his passion for the invitation, evidenced by the statue's outstretched arms; and lastly, his passion for the cross.

Barrows left a charge for those who would pass the statue and see the passions displayed. "May those passions captivate your hearts and souls, and as you dedicate your life to those, you will experience power in your life and ministry like you've never dreamed." ■

We recommend

- *Hope for the Troubled Heart: Finding God in the Midst of Pain* by Billy Graham
- *The Journey* by Billy Graham
- *Answers to Life's Problems* by Billy Graham
- *The Billy Graham Story: The Authorized Biography* by John Pollack and John Charles Pollack

These and other resources by and about Billy Graham 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.

Inside LifeWay podcasts cover variety of topics, guests

Listeners can now find more than 20 podcasts archived at LifeWay.com/InsideLifeWay.

Since its launch in September, *Inside LifeWay* has welcomed an abundance of diverse guests including LifeWay President and CEO Thom S. Rainer, Ugandan Pastor Andrew Mwenge and LifeWay Research Director Brad Waggoner.

“When we plan these podcasts, we look for guests who can answer questions and address topics that we ourselves are curious about,” said Brooklyn Noel, LifeWay’s media relations specialist and host of *Inside LifeWay*. “We assume that if we have questions about a particular topic or issue, other people out there might as well.”

Already topics have included Calvinism in the Southern Baptist Convention, the pressures facing ministers’ wives during the holidays and a special report with 2006 “American Idol” contestant and one-time LifeWay employee Mandisa.

“The feedback on these podcasts has been nothing but positive,” said Chris Turner, *Inside LifeWay* producer. “People seem to really enjoy the added depth this podcast allows us to bring to the news stories coming out of the communications department.”

New episodes of *Inside LifeWay* are released regularly at LifeWay.com/InsideLifeWay. All *Inside LifeWay* episodes are also available in iTunes. ■

LifeWay.com introduces RSS feeds

Staying up-to-date on the news, resources, events and other ministries of LifeWay became simpler when LifeWay.com began offering RSS feeds in January 2007.

RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feeds allow people to subscribe to specific news, blogs, podcasts and other information so they receive automatic updates when new content becomes available.

At LifeWay.com/feeds, users have the option of subscribing to a variety of LifeWay-specific feeds including top LifeWay headlines, LifeWay shopping, upcoming events, and family headlines, among others.

“We’re putting legs to the enormous amount of information available on LifeWay.com,” said

Cleve Persinger, a Web developer in LifeWay’s Internet technologies area. “We’re laying the foundation for the future of information distribution.”

In order for users to subscribe to RSS feeds, they must download a news aggregator or reader. While LifeWay does not offer a news reader through its Web site, Persinger said there are multiple free or low-cost options available.

“This new service allows us an additional opportunity to reach more people with LifeWay’s potentially life-changing content,” said LifeWay.com manager Lynn Goolsby. “We’re freeing up the content to move beyond the bounds of LifeWay.com.”

Goolsby said the information

provided through LifeWay’s RSS feeds can push news and event updates directly to subscribers’ start-up pages and desktops. Additionally, the feeds allow church Web sites to feature instantly updated LifeWay news tickers, much like those featured at the bottom of the screen during television news programs.

“This is a great new resource for LifeWay because people won’t have to search for content,” Goolsby explained. “We take it directly to them with this automated step.”

Currently, LifeWay.com/feeds offers about 10 content options, and Goolsby said more will be added.

For more information about RSS feeds from LifeWay.com, visit LifeWay.com/feeds. ■



Brooklyn Noel, right, talks with Michael Zigarelli, author of *Freedom from Busyness*.



Among the podcasts on *Inside LifeWay*:

• Scott Lehman

There are 20 million male golfers in the U.S. and most of them are unchurched. PGA teaching professional Scott Lehman believes golf is a bridge to leading many to Christ. Lehman discusses his heart for reaching men with the gospel and equipping other men to do the same. Lehman is president of In His Grip ministries which is hosting a number of training events for local churches and in cooperation with B&H Publishing Group is releasing the Golfer's Bible; a pocket-sized Holman Christian Standard Bible with a number of devotionals written by Lehman and others directed toward golfers. (coming April 3)



• Michael Zigarelli

More than 50 percent of Christians say they fall into bed most nights exhausted from the events of another hectic day. More than 60 percent of them claim their relationship with God is suffering as a result of their busy lives. LifeWay author Michael Zigarelli knows what it means to be busy. He is a husband, father, professor and business owner among other things. His study *Freedom From Busyness: Biblical Help for Overloaded People*, offers suggestions, tips and guidelines for leading a full life without letting that full life lead you. He elaborated on the study during a visit to the *Inside LifeWay* studio.



• Brad Waggoner

LifeWay Research recently completed a study examining the evangelism strategies of churches historically successful at reaching people for Christ. Only 22 of about 40,000 Southern Baptist churches met three specific criteria for evangelistic effectiveness over a 10-year period. LifeWay Research Director Brad Waggoner and LifeWay Research Associate Director Scott McConnell break down the results of this study, including discussion of some of the clear similarities that existed among the group of successfully evangelistic churches.



Give your graduates a celebration

Graduations are milestones that cry out for recognition and celebration. Here are some suggestions for celebrating end-of-school graduations in worship services.

Preparation should begin months before the event. Those most qualified to help with the planning are youth leaders, along with designated staff members.

This type of worship experience will demand research and creativity on the part of leaders and students. Materials used should not be expensive or difficult to acquire.



Organization

- ◆ Gather an accurate list of potential graduates from high school, home school, technical training, college, university and doctoral programs.
- ◆ Ask information regarding the family. When students do not desire immediate family involvement, a sponsor of their choosing would be appropriate.
- ◆ Set a date best suited for the majority. Try to avoid conflicts that would cause some to miss the emphasis. Publicize the recognition well in advance.
- ◆ Decide whether an entire service might be given, preferably a morning service, so that it will seem significant.
- ◆ Involve the entire church family in the recognition.
- ◆ Check correct pronunciation of names and facts concerning students.
- ◆ Set up a rehearsal for the entire program.

Program/Topics

- ◆ Research of the students' school activities as well as future plans regarding further education or the pursuit of a career.
- ◆ Celebration could involve an entire week of planned activities culminating with the service of recognition of graduates.
- ◆ One graduate can be selected to express gratitude to the church on behalf of the others.
- ◆ Ask a member who knows the graduate to act as a sponsor and introduce a student in the recognition service and tell about his or her school experience as well as future plans.
- ◆ Involve as many graduates as possible to provide the prayer, announcements, solo, direct the music, speak and so on, to be in complete charge of the service.

Decorations/Displays

- ◆ Use banners or pennants with school colors. You might need several, depending on the number of schools involved.

Ask your graduates

- ◆ Have graduates recognize their role models (parents, grandparents, etc.). Some gift could be prearranged, such as a plaque, trophy or certificate for the graduate to present either in the worship service or at a banquet or luncheon.
- ◆ Allow time in the service for graduates to answer questions that give insight into their personal lives:
 - Who has influenced you most in your life?
 - What has been your most memorable experience during your school years?
 - If you could buy a dream, what would you buy?
 - If you could be someone else, who would you be?
 - Do you have a favorite passage of Scripture that has helped you live your life?
 - What book(s) have you read that challenged you?
 - Could you share a dream you have for the future of America?
 - What advice would you give to students beginning their high school or college years?
 - What would you do differently if given another shot at school?

- ◆ Present a PowerPoint show of honorees taken in various stages at home, school and church activities.
- ◆ Select a theme. Plan the processional into the worship center with “Pomp and Circumstance” or “Chariots of Fire.” Use music and colors to set the tone.
- ◆ Document youth activities on slides and/or videotape regularly, keeping in mind the upcoming graduates. Prepare an audiovisual presentation, including recorded commentary. Humor works well here.

Other

- ◆ Give significant, practical or creative gifts. One suggestion is the *Holman CSB Graduate's Bible*.
- ◆ Sponsor a luncheon at the church or in a restaurant. Invite parents, other relatives and spouses or dates as special guests.
- ◆ Set the manner of dress.
- ◆ Make a special bulletin insert including photographs and brief biographical sketches and the names of institutions and future plans.

We recommend

- *Graduate's Bible, Holman CSB*
- *Collegiate+*
- *Experiencing God, Collegiate Edition* by Richard Blackaby and Henry Blackaby
- *A Moment with God for Graduates: Prayers for Every Graduate* by Maribeth Walker
- *God's Little Devotion Book for Graduates*

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.

Graduation is an important event for your church's students and families. Don't let the opportunity slip by to express your pride and joy in these students. ■

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LifeWay | Kids

New commentary offers exposition of the Bible for women, by women

by Kelly Davis Shrout

Feminists and egalitarian proponents often interpret Scripture through a gender lens, but editors of a new commentary offer a conservative woman-to-woman approach to Scripture interpretation. *The Women's Evangelical Commentary New Testament* from LifeWay's B&H Publishing Group offers verse-by-verse exposition of the Bible for women, by women.

With the help of more than 15 contributors, editors Dorothy Kelley Patterson and Rhonda Harrington Kelley systematically explain the purpose of the New Testament texts. The commentary is designed for women to use when teaching a class, directing a small-group Bible study or studying Scripture.

"Although the commentators are all women and write from that perspective,

the Word of God is not to be interpreted through the 'gender lens,'" write Patterson and Kelley. "God's Word is for women and men, but this particular resource, without apology, is prepared primarily for women to use."

Driven by Scripture, not agenda

Conservative and scholarly, this resource uses the Holman Christian Standard Bible translation to accurately exegete Scripture and steers clear of predisposed bias toward 21st century social agendas, say the editors.

"There is a trend toward speculation or guessing what might be implied in the Scripture. Careful interpretation of the text will ensure accuracy in understanding the truth of God's Word as applied in our lives," said Kelley in a recent interview. Kelley serves as professor of women's ministry and director of the women's ministry and student wives programs at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, where her husband, Chuck Kelley, is president.

The commentary has been prepared with the passion that every woman should and can study God's Word for herself, said Patterson, who is professor of theology in women's studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, where her husband, Paige Patterson, is president.

"Whether she is doing so for personal edification or preparing to teach the Bible to other women; whether she is looking for understanding of one particular passage or working



her way through the text of Scripture in a systematic way, this commentary has at its heart the exposition of the New Testament.”

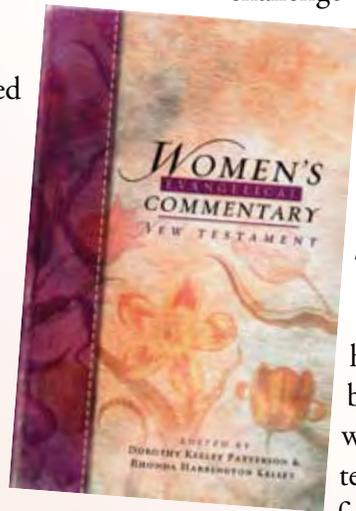
The introduction of the commentary features a section dedicated to teaching women how to study the Bible, with examples given of how to glean insights from Scripture and tools for diagramming verses of Scripture.

Concepts of Scripture interpretation

Mary Kassian, distinguished professor of women's studies at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., contributed an article on hermeneutics to help readers understand the concepts of Scripture interpretation.

“The need for a sound hermeneutic is particularly important for the 21st century Christian woman,” Kassian writes in the commentary's introduction. “The philosophy of feminism permeates the media and mainstream societal institutions. The current milieu is such that the Bible's teaching on gender radically counters popular thought. Thus, there is a tremendous pressure on theologians to update and revise historic interpretations of what the Bible has to say about the role relationship between men and women.”

Kassian further details guidelines for sound Scripture, such as considering the textual context of the passage under consideration. “Interpreters must be careful to examine the immediate context of surrounding verses as well as the overall purpose and plan of the book,” she explains.



Kassian was one of the 15 contributors with formal theological training, a prerequisite to be a contributor.

“It was essential that contributors of the commentary hold a high view of Scripture as being both inerrant or without error,” Kelley and Patterson said, adding that finding the women contributors was challenging, yet rewarding. “The greatest challenge we faced was to assemble a

team of women who were academically and theologically prepared to do exegesis, or explanation of the text, which called for preparation in both the Greek language and formal New Testament studies.

“What began as a challenge has become our greatest reward because the Lord led us to each woman who became part of our team, and we were blessed by finding new friends and by being reminded anew how God is using women in Kingdom service.”

The editors contend the commentary ultimately is designed to challenge women to make a systematic journey through the Scripture in search of God's truth and message.

“Never has there been a time when women were any more diligent in pursuing the study of God's Word,” Kelley said. “May God grant to the women who use the *Women's Evangelical Commentary* renewed commitment of personal time and resources that will unlock the riches of God's Word. We pray that this resource will enable all women to pursue the high and holy task of serious study of God's Word.” ■

*The Women's
Evangelical
Commentary Old
Testament will be
released June 1.*

Ten tips for new Sunday school directors

by Wayne Poling

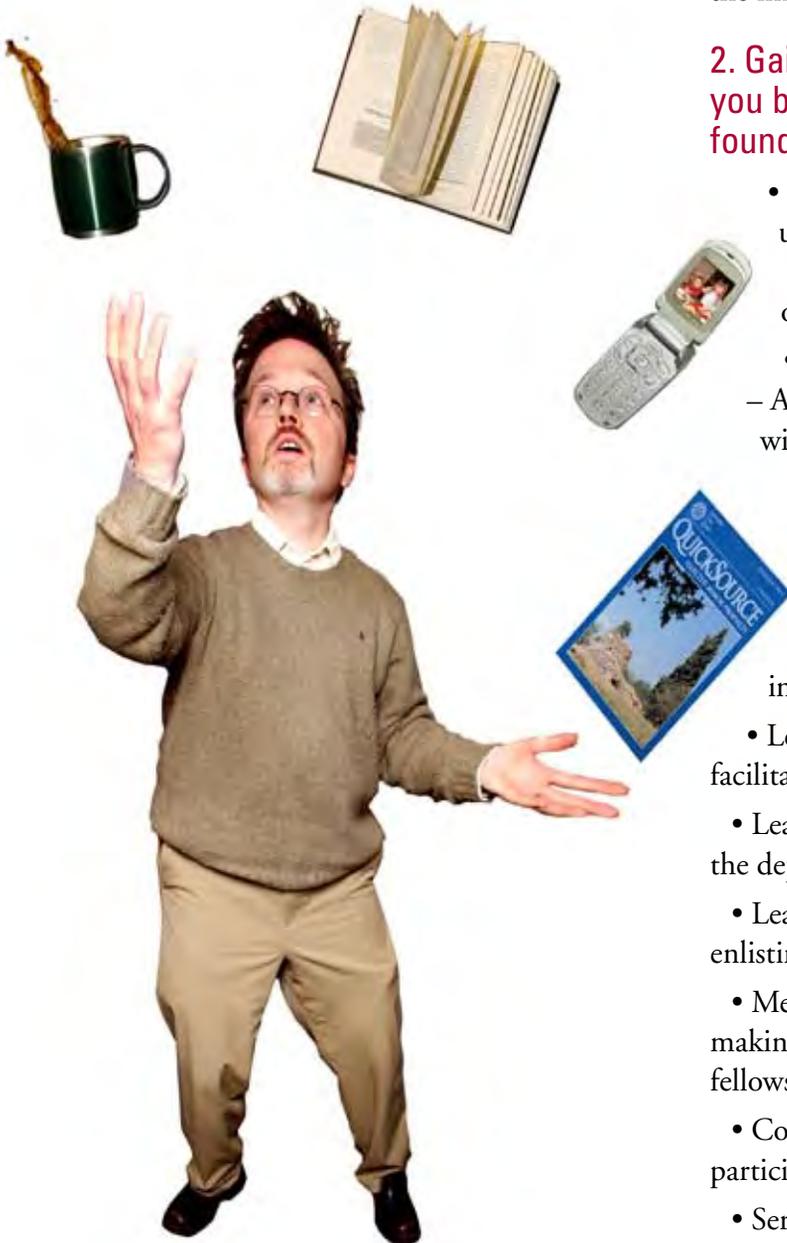
If you are a new Sunday school director, the way you begin your ministry charts the course for your work. Here are 10 things to consider as you begin your new job.

1. Give your job as Sunday school director to God.

The Lord provides you your true power for service and wisdom in leadership. It is easy to get caught up in all of the important details and preparation and forget this.

2. Gain an understanding of your role. As you begin as Sunday school director, build a foundation of understanding of your role.

- Read everything that you can to help you better understand your role. *Ten Best Practices to Make Your Sunday School Work* contains information for organizing the Sunday school ministry.
- LifeWay provides training through the Internet – An E-National Sunday school director's Web course will involve you in practical ideas.
- Attend the two-day National Sunday School Directors seminar. Two more are scheduled for this year – at Nall Avenue Baptist Church in Prairie Village, Kan., March 16-17, and First Baptist Church, Mauldin, S.C., March 30-31. For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/sundayschool.
- Lead in developing an effective organization that facilitates spiritual transformation.
- Lead in planning and administering the total work of the department.
- Lead in efforts to call participants into service and in enlisting and developing new leaders.
- Meet regularly with teachers for prayer, planning and making assignments related to evangelism and outreach, fellowship, ministry and Bible teaching.
- Communicate goals and actions to leaders and participants and evaluate progress.
- Serve as the lead teacher for the department, directing



the overall teaching-learning experience and teaching during parts of the session that will involve all participants and teachers together.

- Evaluate needs related to space, budget, Bible study curriculum, supplies and other resources.
- Maintain attendance records and other participant information that strengthens the department's Sunday school.
- Set a positive example for others by living as an authentic witness of Christ and by being involved in the church.
- Ask your association or state convention for the name of another strong Sunday school director in your area. Get together with that person and discuss your role from his or her perspective.

3. Make sure you and your pastor agree about your role and the direction of the Sunday school.

Your relationship with your pastor is important. If you have a minister of education that relationship is also key. Ask for an appointment to specifically talk about his understanding of your role.

4. Get to know your leadership.

Call your division directors or department directors and arrange an appointment to come to their home. Set up a time to hear from your teachers. It may help to review everyone's role in Sunday school.

5. Give purposeful thought to the direction of your personal leadership for the Sunday school.

As you read about the work of the Sunday school, as you study your role, as you

attend conferences, and as you visit with the leaders of your Sunday school, jot down notes. Let these notes and your prayerful direction from God help you begin to determine your direction.

6. Develop regular planning teams.

Your primary planning team for Sunday school work is the Sunday school council. This organization will be one of your most valuable assets leading your Sunday school.

7. Concentrate on motivating and encouraging workers.

Develop the habit of writing lots of notes, making public expressions of appreciation, and focusing on the needs of leaders.

8. Develop effective administrative processes.

Putting in place effective processes in some key areas will greatly enhance your work. Some of these key areas are records, the enroll and drop process, curriculum ordering and distribution, worker enlistment and reports to the church and Sunday school.

9. Be the champion of training for your leadership.

Share your commitment to training. Let your leadership know that training is a high priority in your work as Sunday school director.

10. Pray for your leaders.

Just as you have given your ministry as Sunday school director to the Lord, give your Sunday school leaders to the Lord. Develop a system to pray for portions of your leadership daily. ■

Wayne Poling is a Sunday school specialist with LifeWay Christian Resources.

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B&H Publishing Group

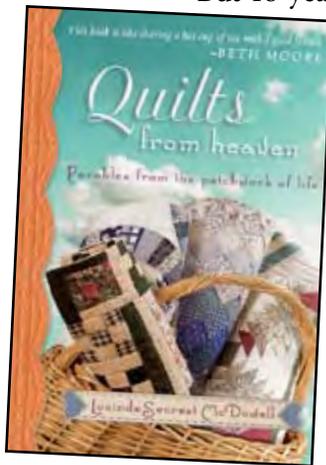
■ *Quilts from Heaven*

by Lucinda Secrest McDowell

Quilting hobbyist

Lucinda Secrest McDowell sees each moment as a piece of quilt that God weaves together to make a lifelong work of art. In *Quilts from Heaven*, she

recognizes the “threads of faithfulness, stitches filled with love, and the all-important lining of His grace” while assembling her own patchwork of Scripture, testimony and heartwarming stories. Most uniquely, the author compares the designs from many traditional quilting patterns to God’s intricate work in every person’s life. Releases March 1. Hardcover. Product #978-0-8054-4435-3, \$14.99



■ *Spirit Warriors (book three)*

by Stephen Baldwin

Book three begins in the city of Fallo where King Zander protects the Spirit Warriors from the dark army of New City’s devilish Elder Seiko.

But 16-year-old Spirit Warrior Mia can’t resist the Holy Spirit’s call to return to New City to save friends, family and perhaps the entire human race. Releases March 15. Paperback. Product #978-

0-8054-4356-1, \$9.99

■ *Ancient Wisdom*

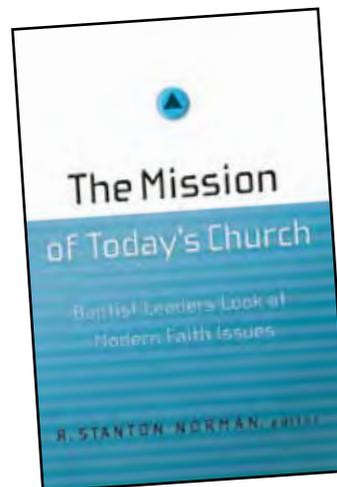
by James MacDonald
In the search for spiritual guidance and life’s ultimate purpose, many Bible readers are adamant about daily tapping the book of Proverbs just as faithfully as the Gospels or Psalms. *Ancient Wisdom* is that timeless book retitled and coupled with devotional insights from pastor James MacDonald.

With its unique leather-like packaging and nontraditional arrangement of content, *Ancient Wisdom* makes a great gift idea. Releases April 1. Imitation leather hardback. Product #978-0-8054-4428-5, \$14.99

■ *The Mission of Today’s Church*

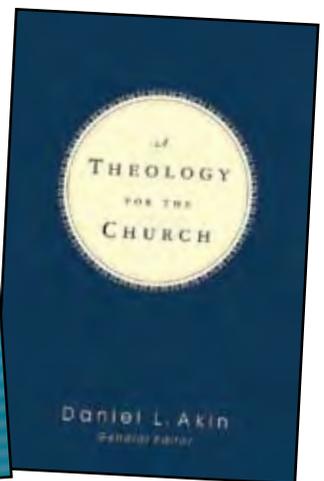
by R. Stanton Norman

The Mission of Today’s Church is a collection of 12 essays from current Baptist leaders addressing three major questions: (1) What does it mean to be a Christian today on individual, group and societal levels? (2) How can Southern Baptists best work together? And (3) What is next for the Southern Baptist denomination? Releases March 1. Paperback. Product #978-0-8054-4378-3, \$16.99



■ *A Theology for the Church*

edited by Daniel L. Akin
A Theology for the Church, an immense 992-page work edited by Daniel Akin, with contributions from leading Baptist thinkers, addresses four major issues in regard to eight Christian doctrines. What does the Bible say? Each Christian doctrine is rooted in the Bible’s own teaching in both the Old and New Testaments. What has the church believed? Christians have interpreted these doctrines in somewhat different ways through the centuries. How do the doctrines fit together? Each Christian doctrine must cohere with the other doctrines. How does each doctrine impact the church today? Each Christian doctrine must be meaningful for today’s



church. Releases April 1. Hardcover. Product #978-0-8054-2640-3, \$49.99

■ **Homeschooling 101**
by Mark & Christine Field

Homeschooling 101 will help potential and current homeschooling parents caught between honoring God through the raising and teaching of their children and the expectations of the world when it comes to education. The Fields, a veteran homeschool couple, write from experience about why they believe homeschooling is best for children and how to make the process a success at every step. Releases April 1. Paperback. Product #978-0-8054-4433-9, \$14.99

■ **Homeschooling at the Speed of Life**

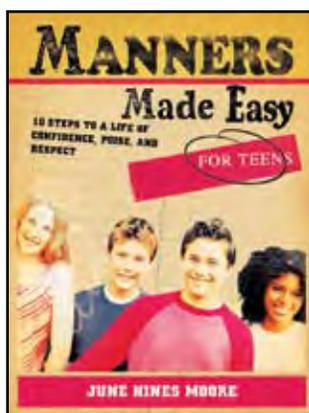
by Marilyn Rockett
What should I do next, grade the math test or tackle the laundry? *Homeschooling at the Speed of Life* gives busy homeschooling mothers a thoughtfully thorough resource for bringing order back to their home-turned-classroom. In tune with today's pace, the book provides basic home-management principles, teaching parents how to declutter their homes, develop life skills in

their children, tame the paper monster and keep organized records. Also emphasized are ways to build relationships and use the home as a center for hospitality and outreach. The book even includes Rockett's easily adaptable File-a-Plan organizing system on a bonus CD-ROM. Releases April 1. Paperback, with CD-ROM. Product #978-0-8054-4485-8, \$17.99

■ **A Biblical Home Education**

by Ruth Beechick
An immensely respected leader and pioneer of the modern homeschool movement, Ruth Beechick encourages families to center all aspects of their children's learning on God's Word in *A Biblical Home Education*. Beechick begins by showing how the subjects of worldview, science and history have been pulled apart from the Bible and how they can be sensibly reconnected. In the author's words, "Since the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, anti-God

teaching can lead only to foolishness." Releases April 1. Paperback. Product #987-0-8054-4454-4, \$14.99

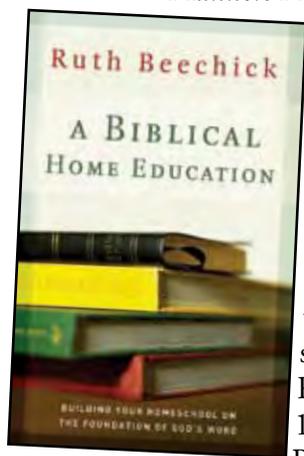


■ **Manners Made Easy for Teens**

by June Hines Moore
Think all teenagers are awkward, immature and self-involved? Well, of course not, but especially not after etiquette teacher June Hines Moore gets their attention. In *Manners Made Easy for*

Teens, she expertly guides young people through a variety of key social interactions, tips and Q&A sessions.

Releases March 1. Paperback. Product #987-0-8054-4459-9, \$12.99

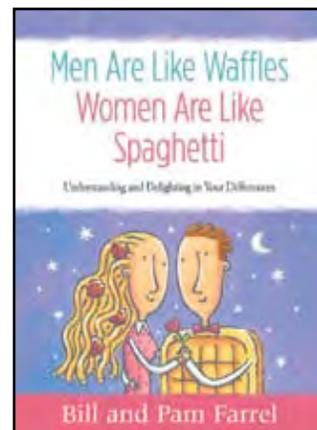


LifeWay Church Resources

■ **Men Are Like Waffles, Women Are Like Spaghetti**

by Bill and Pam Farrel

This new resource uses a whimsical food analogy to help illustrate an important distinction between the sexes: Men order each element of their lives into a separate box; women weave details of their lives together so everything touches everything else. Learn the two responses that should be eliminated from heterosexual relationships; six statements of forgiveness; how to use passwords to avoid impending arguments or hurt feelings; and what's romantic to men and to women (It's not the same thing!). Leader Kit contains two DVDs, a Member Book and the trade book. Seven



Resources

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sessions. Releases in April. Member Book, LifeWay product #0-0503-5493, \$12.95; Leader Kit, LifeWay product #0-0503-5127, \$149.95

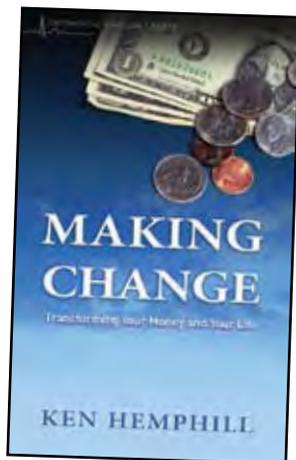
■ **Making Change** by Ken Hemphill

Based on the book with the same title, this new study teaches the essential basics of money management, including the biblical laws of giving and the unique concept of “whole-life stewardship.”

It casts a great vision

to the church and individuals for how our God-given financial resources can change the world for the sake of His Kingdom. Leader Kit includes DVD

containing seven teaching segments, a Member Book, a copy of the *Making Change* trade book and a CD-ROM containing administrative guide and leader’s guide for small-group study. Member Book contains five daily inductive Bible studies per week that



reinforce the teaching of the video segment. Practical helps for personal financing and family budgeting are also included. Part of the SBC Empowering Kingdom Growth message. Seven sessions. Releases in March. Member Book, LifeWay product #0-0507-7020, \$6.95; Leader Kit, LifeWay product #0-0503-5522, \$79.95

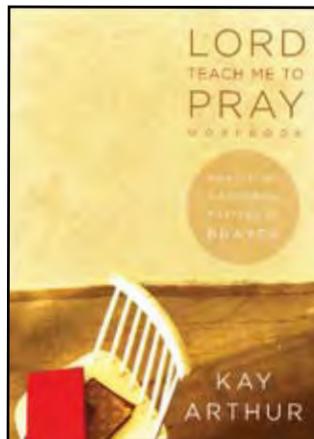
■ **Abide in Christ** by Andrew Murray and Bo Stevens

Abide in Christ is based on Andrew Murray’s *The True Vine*, delivered in a

contemporary, interactive format. It is designed for new and growing believers to learn the secrets of victorious living and to develop a lifestyle that bears lasting spiritual fruit.

It offers practical lessons from the parable in John 15. This study is great for small group settings in homes, churches or community centers. It was developed and edited by Claude King, co-author of LifeWay’s *Experiencing God* resources and *The Call to Follow Christ* (an overview of six spiritual

disciplines). Leader guide included. Six sessions. Releases in March. LifeWay product #0-0131-6387, \$9.95



■ **Lord, Teach Me to Pray: Practicing a Powerful Pattern of Prayer**

by Kay Arthur

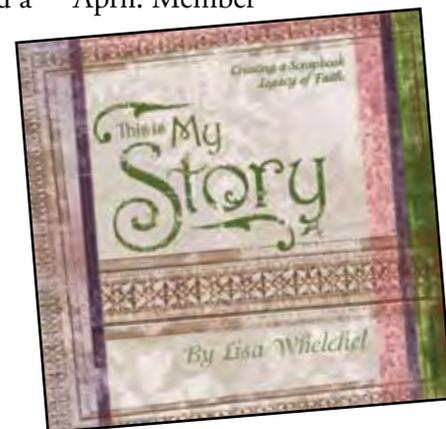
Introducing a practical resource for making prayer a priority – adapted from the best-selling book, *Lord Teach Me to Pray in 28 Days* – from one of the most renowned Bible teachers. New video teaching series directs believers to focus on The Lord’s Prayer and learn how to pray according to God’s will and purpose. Leader Kit includes two DVDs and a copy of the Workbook. The DVD messages consist of a 30-minute introduction, followed by four weeks of teaching segments, and bonus content. Five sessions. Releases in April. Leader Kit,

LifeWay product #0-0503-5126, \$149.95; Workbook, LifeWay product #0-0503-5558, \$11.95

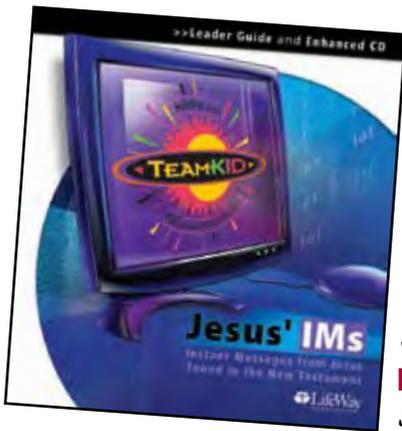
■ **This Is My Story: Creating a Scrapbook Legacy of Faith**

by Lisa Whelchel

Consider how scrapbooking could be even more meaningful if the content focused on passing down a spiritual legacy to children and grandchildren. *This Is My Story* combines Bible study with journaling about the significant experiences that have shaped a woman’s life. The study is more than personal introspection – it becomes a beautiful keepsake. Leader Kit includes DVD with messages from Lisa Whelchel and Member Book containing personal homework and journaling pages. The Member Book is also available separately. *The Scrapbook Album and Elements Pack*, containing colorful borders, stickers and papers is sold separately. Releases in April. Member



Book, LifeWay product #0-0507-7025, \$11.95; *Scrapbook Album and Elements Pack*, LifeWay product #0-0503-5783, \$39.95; Leader Kit, LifeWay product #0-0503-5120, \$149.95



■ **TeamKID: Jesus' IMs**
 Plays off the fun kids have with instant messaging each other to stay connected. This new edition brings kids many instant messages from Jesus. Each session includes games, a Bible story, a memory verse, missions segment, refreshments and a conclusion; all of these components work together to help kids understand and apply God's Word to their lives. Use it year-round for children's ministry, day camp, missions or any other time you need an active approach to children's Bible study. Releases in April. Leader Guide and Enhanced CD, LifeWay product #0-0503-5117,

\$59.99; *TeamKID: Jesus' IMs Activity Books* (order one per child): Grades 1-3, LifeWay product #0-0503-5109, \$5.99; Grades 4-6, LifeWay product #0-0503-5110, \$5.99; *TeamKID: Jesus' IMs Missions DVD*, LifeWay product #0-0503-5108, \$24.99; *TeamKID: Jesus' IMs Replacement Enhanced CD* (CD is included in each *TeamKID: Jesus' IMs Leader Guide*), LifeWay product #0-0503-5111, \$14.95

■ **Get Uncomfortable: Serve the Poor. Stop Injustice. Change the World ... in Jesus' Name.**
 by **Todd Phillips**

Underscores why young adults are troubled by the poverty and injustices that exist – and why they are concerned that the church is often the last place these issues seem to be addressed. Helps young adults grasp their call to action and embrace their responsibility as the church. Uses DVD segments, statistics, and insightful information about the condition of the world; highlights various organizations that help



the poor or fight injustice. Leader Kit includes Leader Guide, Member Book, DVD and CD. Six sessions. Releases in April. Leader Kit, LifeWay product #0-0503-5542, \$69.95; Member Book, LifeWay product #0-0503-5540, \$7.95

■ **Growing Together: Growing a Child = Growing a Mom**

by **Linda Schultz Anderson**
 The newest title in the Mom to Mom series challenges moms of all ages to grow deeper, even as they help their children grow. Addresses parenting and family issues while helping women stay connected to the ultimate Power Source. Includes resources for the Titus 2

leaders and participants; designed to follow a traditional school-year calendar. Leader Kit includes three DVDs with teaching sessions and bonus content; Member Book; Administrative Guide and a Leader Guide. Member Book includes learning activities and enhanced CD containing 16 audio devotions and printable files. 16 sessions. Releases in March. Member

Book, LifeWay product #0-0503-5495, \$16.95; Leader Kit, LifeWay product #0-0503-5496, \$174.95; Audio CDs, LifeWay product #0-0503-5494, \$39.95

■ **Un matrimonio extraordinario (Extraordinary Marriage, Spanish edition)**

by **Rodney and Selma Wilson**; translated by **Tony and Dinorah Arango**
 Focuses on the possibilities that exist for couples that have seen God's extraordinary vision for marriage. It provides a step-by-step plan for couples to evaluate their own marriage. Challenges couples to never again settle for an ordinary relationship and to replace it with one that has out-of-this-world spiritual, emotional, mental and physical intimacy. Six sessions. Releases in April. LifeWay product #0-0503-5554, \$11.95



Resources

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■ ***El principio de las riquezas (The Treasure Principle, Spanish edition)***

Explores a basic scriptural truth – the greatest joy in life comes from joyful giving. Based on Jesus’ story in Matthew 13:44, which presents the wisdom of exchanging earthly goods for something of everlasting value. Hebrews says that Jesus gave His life on the cross for the joy set before Him. If Christians truly understand what is involved in this exchange, they can give motivated. Four sessions. Releases in March. LifeWay product #0-0503-5556, \$8.95

■ ***Stand Firm Devotional Audio CD***
Ideal for drive time, break time or anytime, this CD offers 20 three-minute devotionals dealing with contemporary issues facing today’s men. Each thought-provoking

devotion begins with a Scripture verse and then relates God’s Word back to a daily life experience. Affordably priced, this makes a great gift for Father’s Day recognition, welcome center, visitation, Men’s Fraternity events, ministry organizations, mission groups or any other bulk outreach opportunity. 20 devotions. Releases in March. LifeWay product #0-0503-5788, \$1.95

■ ***Canvas, Vol. 1: Distortions***

DVD-driven Canvas series helps draw from deep within the stories God has given each of us, and expose the beauty God is forging from the sum of our experiences. The first volume in this series, *Distortions*, focuses on how our adversary

has distorted our interpretation of reality. Kit includes DVDs with original short films to enhance each setting; Experience Guidebook has notes and tips for facilitator. Six sessions. Releases in March. Kit, Serendipity House product #0-0503-8463, \$49.95; Experience Guidebook, LifeWay



product #0-0503-8464, \$7.99

■ ***Fuel Fire Starters: Superheroes and Fables***

As careful selections from the popular Fuel curriculum, *Fuel Fire Starters* help when you need a discussion-starter, sermon illustration or any time you want to use the power of multi-media to support a biblical truth. This collection of 10 videos is provided in both DVD and MediaShout formats. Releases in March. LifeWay product #0-0503-5549, \$49.95

■ ***Redeeming Our Regrets: The Entangled Lives of Sarah and Hagar***

by Gene and Elaine Getz
The title sounds like a soap opera, and the lives of these women read like one. They made mistakes, repeated their mistakes and struggled through difficult times in life and in relationships. They knew what it felt like to fail. Like these

women, you too can find redemption from the regrets that seem to haunt you and experience deep joy and peace! Part of the Women of Purpose series. Six sessions. Releases in March. Serendipity House product #0-0121-2851, \$7.99

■ ***Song of Songs: The Epic Romance***

Part of the MORE series, *Song of Songs: The Epic Romance* is an all-new approach to the inductive Bible study format that examines key books within the context of the larger story to see how God has woven His Story throughout Scripture. Take groups through a deeper look into the great love story – the one God has written for you. Includes discovery based questions. Six sessions. Releases in April. Serendipity House product #0-0503-8467, \$7.99





A Winning Formula

2007 LifeWay Leadership Events

- **Sunday School Weeks**

The Road to Reaching Families and Friends
July 13-16, Ridgecrest, N.C.
July 23-27, Glorieta, N.M.

- **National Evangelism and Discipleship Conference**

The Disciple's Heart: Loving Christ
July 9-13, Ridgecrest, N.C.
July 16-20, Glorieta, N.M.

Time and again we hear feedback from LifeWay's Leadership Events attendees using words like fantastic, encouraging, equipping, renewing, uplifting, well-prepared and terrific. They wish that so many more from their churches could have experienced these weeks with them.

That, of course, is our hope for you. Whether you are on church staff or a leader at your church, or just want to minister to others, you will experience an inspiring, motivational and life-changing event. And our prayer is that what you learn at LifeWay Leadership Events will contribute to a lifetime of serving God for the glory of His Kingdom!

For more information – details on special guest speakers, themes, tracks, accommodations and more – visit www.lifeway.com/events.

LifeWay Worship Music Group

■ *Hymns & Songs* (Everybody Worship)

A compilation of various artists

Drawing from more than 350 years of lyrics, *Hymns & Songs* is a collection of carefully selected music that expresses the doctrines of our faith and equips us to give praise to our God who does not change. From “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded,” originally penned in 1656, to “Great Is Your Faithfulness,” written in 2006, each modernized worship song reminds us that everyone can join in one common voice to worship God.

The songbook includes everything you need to lead worship, including: printed vocals and piano accompaniment, chord charts with lyrics, and an enhanced CD with accompaniment tracks, chord chart files, lyric files for media displays, plus an added feature – fret

diagrams for guitarists. Titles include “Near the Cross,” “Draw Me Nearer,” “’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus,” “How Deep the Father’s Love,” “Great Is Your Faithfulness,” “At the Cross,” “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded,” “Come, Ye Sinners,” “My Refuge Be,” “Blessed Be the Name of the Lord,” “Oh Lord, My Shepherd Be” and “My Jesus, I Love Thee.”

Songbook (includes enhanced CD), Product #0-0503-5276, \$29.95; Listening CD, Product #0-0503-5272, \$16.98; Singer’s Edition, Product #0-0503-5165, \$5.95; 5-CD Pack, Product #0-0503-5166, \$39.95; CD Promo Pak, Product #0-0503-5176, \$12

■ *Break Through* (Everybody Worship)

A compilation of various artists

Even if you know the words to every praise song and have an understanding of who God is, sometimes the walls of pride, shame and fear become distractions

that can keep you from going deeper with God. We need our Father to come in and break down those walls so we can praise Him on an intimate level. That’s the theme of *Break Through*, a collection of popular praise-and-worship songs. Your worship musicians and congregation will love singing songs such as “Everlasting God” by Brenton Brown; “My Savior, My God,” made popular by Aaron Shust; “Sing to the King,” which was first performed on a Passion recording; and nine

other newer songs with the same vibe that will become favorites. The songbook includes: printed vocals and piano accompaniment, chord charts with lyrics, and an enhanced CD with accompaniment tracks, chord chart files, lyric files for media displays, plus an added feature – fret diagrams for guitarists. Songbook (includes enhanced CD), Product #0-0503-5271, \$29.95; Listening CD, Product #0-0503-5273, \$16.98

Dan Goeller Music

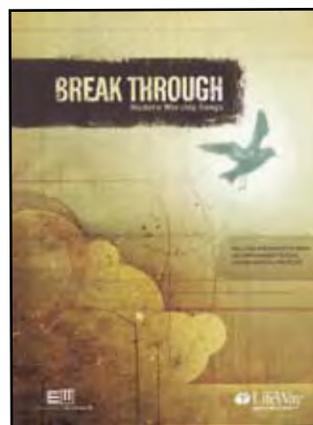
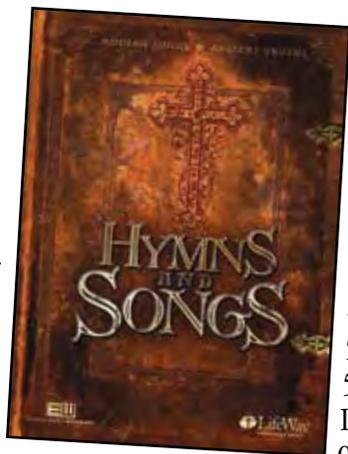
■ *Anthems From “In His Own Words”*

For more than 10 years, the creative efforts of Dan Goeller have been blessing music ministries and congregations across America. His numerous arrangements, compositions and orchestrations have been published by LifeWay Worship Music Group, Word Music, Brentwood-

Benson Music, Augsburg Fortress and Lillenas. Goeller’s vision is to create artistic music that encourages both listeners and performers – music that

is a reflection of the aesthetic beauty of our Creator.

Together, we are proud to announce a new exclusive distribution agreement between Dan Goeller Music and LifeWay Worship Music Group. The first set of releases includes nine new anthems and their corresponding accompaniment tracks and orchestration. These nine anthems, when combined with underscored narrations, comprise the larger work, *In His Own Words*. Both



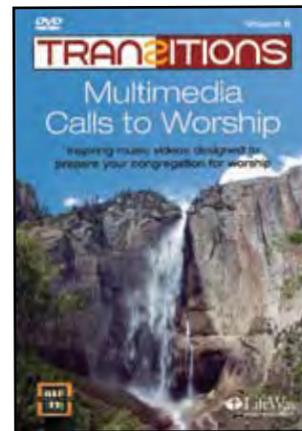
the narrative and lyric texts draw exclusively from the words of Christ. The style is “film score-like,” epic in scope, but always subordinate to the lyric or narrative. The various texts are tied together thematically by the use of “I Am” phrases that include how Jesus describes Himself, what Jesus offers and/or promises us, and what Jesus expects of us. Titles include “Come to Me,” “Follow Me,” “God So Loved the World,” “Great Commission,” “I Am the Good Shepherd,” “I Am the Light,” and “I Am the Resurrection.” Available for each of these anthems: Anthem, \$1.50; CD anthem tracks, \$24.95; Orchestration, \$59.95

If you plan to present all nine anthems as a complete work, these additional resources will enhance your rehearsals and performance. Conductor/Narrator book, Product #0-0507-7370, \$19.95; Listening CD, Product #0-0507-7015, \$16.95; Accompaniment CD, Product #0-0507-7342, \$90; Orchestration, Product #0-0507-7343, \$350

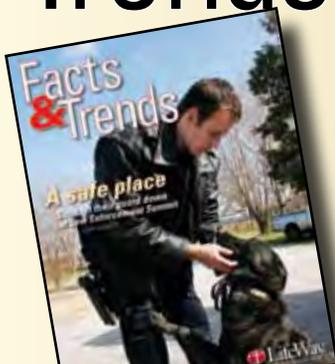
■ **Transitions**
For more than a year, *Transitions* DVDs have been filling a niche in worship ministry as a media tool to help prepare hearts for worship during transition times. Brought to you by LifeWay Worship Music Group and The Worship Network, each DVD features a

variety of instrumental, solo voice and choral audio tracks combined with moving visual images. These versatile video images can be used with provided Scripture references or combined with MPEG-4 compatible presentation software to create your own texts. Recent users say that they appreciate the quality, flexibility and affordability of *Transitions*, so try these two new titles today! View samples from previous volumes at www.lifeway.com/worshipmusic. *Transitions Vol. 6*, non-

seasonal. Two discs, each including four, 15-minute videos for use in services any time of the year. Product #0-0503-5430, \$29.95. *Transitions, God's Great Love*. One disc including four, 15-minute videos for use in services any time of the year. Product #0-0503-5350, \$19.95. Order your free *Transitions* Sampler DVD (while supplies last) and you'll get a first look at excerpts of the material included on these *Transitions* releases. Product #0-0503-0472



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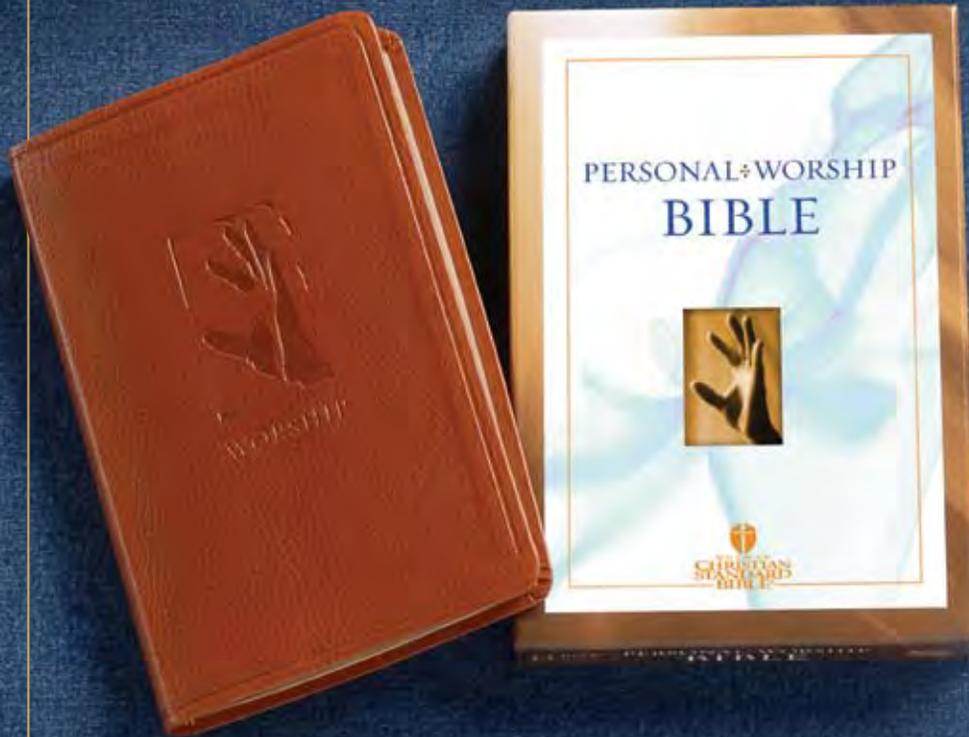
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