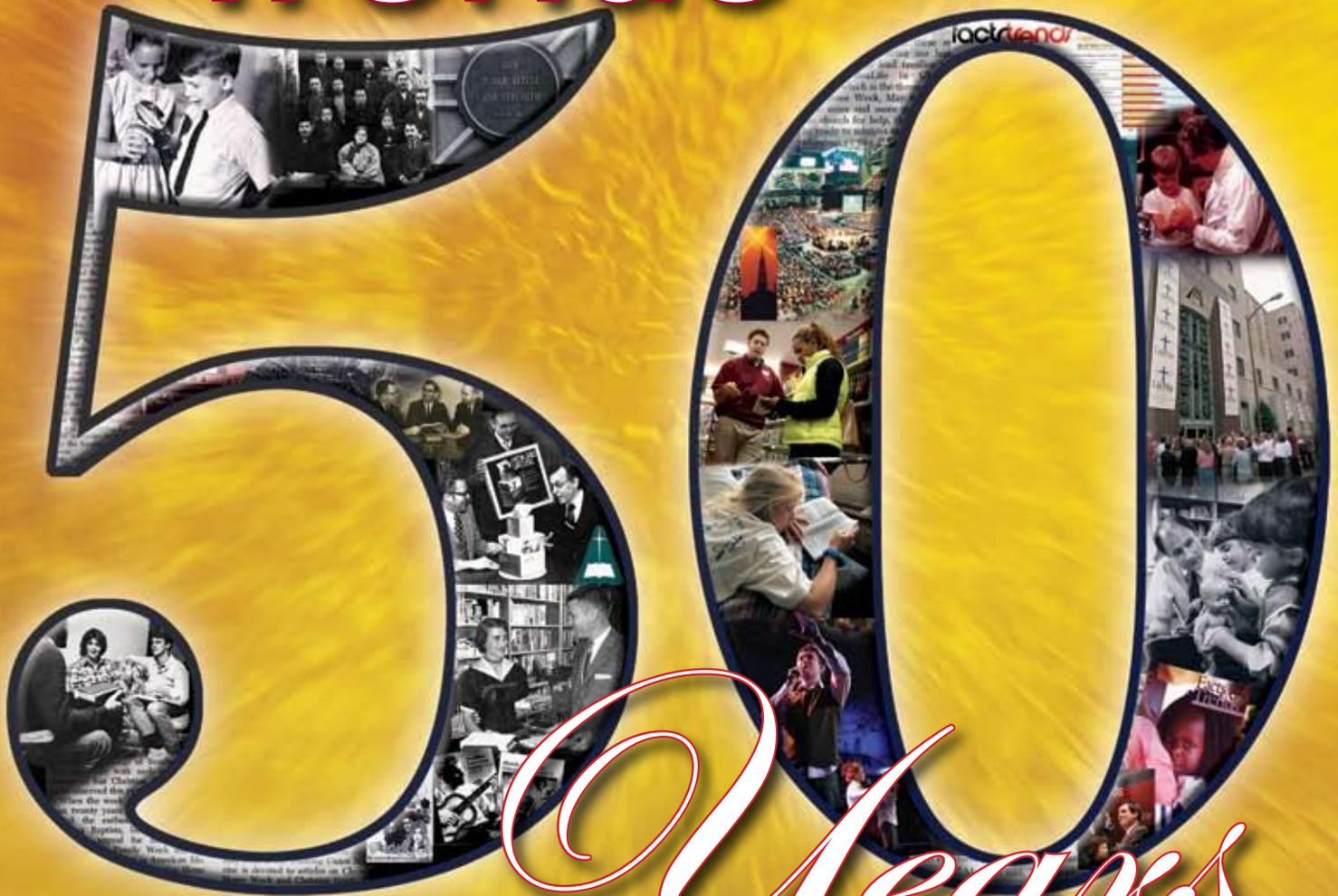


Facts & Trends



Years

**Serving
Churches**

MAY/JUNE 2007

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

 **LifeWay**
Biblical Solutions for Life

Contents

Volume 53 • Number 3
May/June 2007

Commentary

- From my perspective: The passionate pastor..... 4
Survey: Standout churches — why are they great? 6

Articles

- Waggoner named new LifeWay VP..... 11
Facts & Trends celebrates 50th anniversary 12
Carolinian is soul winner extraordinaire 16
Threads connects disconnected generation..... 22
Tough questions part of Threads appeal 24
Church's young adults dig into tough sayings..... 25
Music legends, leaders meet at Hymnal Summit 27
Worship Project is volunteer's answered prayer 29
VBS musicals present kid-friendly theology 30
True Love Waits expands work in Africa 33
Five vital signs of healthy leadership..... 36
Healthy leadership self-examination..... 38
LifeWay-related events at SBC 39
Worship KidStyle lets kids worship as kids..... 40
Ridgecrest celebrates 100 years of ministry..... 42
Trustees elect new VP, hear from divisions 43

Resources

- For you from LifeWay..... 46



50th anniversary of *Facts & Trends* • 12



Nell Kerley, extraordinary evangelism • 16



Threads • 22



Hymnal summit • 27



VBS music • 30



True Love Waits grows in Africa • 33



5 vital signs of healthy leadership • 36



LifeWay trustee report • 43

Coming in the July/August issue:

- LifeWay Research examines 'church switchers'
- LifeWay Stores names manager of the year
- New event takes women deeper into God's Word

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Our purpose

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

Our format

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

Our people

Polly House, editor; Katie Shull, graphic designer; Kelly Davis Shrout, Brooklyn Noel, Jenny Rice, Chris Turner, writers; Kent Harville, visuals specialist; Shirley Richardson, Web editor; Russ Rankin, editor in chief; Rob Phillips, director, communications department.

From my
perspective



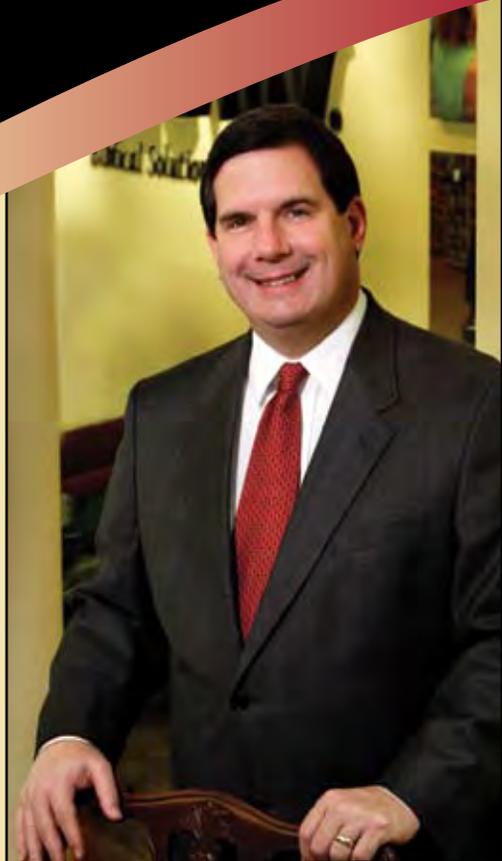
The passionate pastor

Never underestimate the influence of a great pastor.

That statement summarizes to a degree the research you will find on the following pages of *Facts & Trends*. There is much talk in the Southern Baptist Convention about evangelism and how effectively we are following Jesus' commands to reach people with the gospel. Our denomination and other denominations are seeing declining church memberships and a general ineffectiveness for reaching people for Christ. Basically, we were charged with a job and we are not getting the job done.

But there are bright spots and that is the subject of this issue's LifeWay Research findings. Twenty-two churches in the SBC met specified criteria (defined in the following article) for what constitutes evangelistically effective churches. Nineteen of those churches agreed to participate in a one-on-one interview survey to explore why they were effective. What each research team found was that the most common element in these churches is how strongly the senior pastor sets the tone for an emphasis on evangelism. It is a passion and a priority.

What is equally evident is the humility with which these men lead their churches to reach the lost souls in their communities and around the world. It is in humility where we must all begin if we are going to exponentially improve our effectiveness in seeing people come to Christ.



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

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LifeWay President Thom S. Rainer writes LifeWay@Heart, an occasional e-mail message addressing trends and ministry ideas. Add your name to the LifeWay@Heart mailing list by going to www.lifeway.com/form_heart.asp. On the form, type in your e-mail address and name, then click the "Join List" button.

Never underestimate



It is too easy to become isolated in our churches and see them as a refuge where we can get away from the increasing rawness of our culture. Church was never meant to be a retreat center, but rather a triage center and a critical care unit for the spiritually ill. A great pastor with passion for practicing emergency care can guide church members to look outward. Not only does he turn their eyes to the fields, he leads them into the harvest.

“It is in humility where we must all begin if we are going to exponentially improve our effectiveness in seeing people come to Christ.”

— *Thom S. Rainer*

Of course, these pastors are following the leadership of Jesus who exhibited incredible humility and a passion for the spiritually lost. I am not saying there are only 22 pastors who fit the bill in the SBC; there are more – lots more. And there are other reasons why churches effectively reach people, but pastoral leadership is key. Never underestimate the influence of a great pastor to infuse a passion for the lost.

In His service,

The influence of a great pastor.

We recommend

- *Effective Evangelistic Churches* by Thom S. Rainer
- *God's Potters: Pastoral Leadership and the Shaping of Congregations* by Jackson W. Carroll
- *Preaching with Passion* by James T. Draper Jr.
- *The Issachar Factor* by Gary McIntosh and Glen Martin

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.

Standout Churches

Encouragement for evangelism

by Libby Lovelace

*LifeWay Research
studies 19 'Standout Churches'*

Over the past several years, a number of leaders in the SBC and the broader evangelical world have sounded the alarm that churches are becoming less effective in evangelism. Indeed, baptisms among Southern Baptist churches have numbered fewer than 400,000 each of the last five years, and 2005 saw the lowest total since 1993.

With that in mind, LifeWay Research conducted research related to evangelism, deciding to investigate churches that were effective in reaching people for Christ and baptizing them.

With input from LifeWay President Thom Rainer, the research area looked at churches that met the following criteria:

- baptized at least 26 people per year for 10 consecutive years
- overall worship attendance growth during the same 10 years, and
- a membership to baptism ratio of no more than 20 to 1

Out of more than 43,000 churches in the SBC, 22 met that criteria. Of these, 19 agreed to have several staff members and lay leaders participate in a process of one-on-one interviews. (Figures came from data reported in the Annual Church Profile, based on information sent by churches to their respective state Baptist conventions, then compiled by LifeWay.)

So what exactly do these standout churches have in common?

1. Pastor sets the bar

The most common element is the essential role of the senior pastor. Each research team was struck by how strongly the pastor sets the tone of the church. All pastors indicate evangelism is of utmost importance. “Focus” and “intentionality” are common words used when referring to the intent to keep evangelism a major priority.

“These pastors do more than stress the importance of evangelism, they lead by example as they are personally passionate about and involved in sharing Christ both from the pulpit and through personal interaction with the unchurched and lost,” said Brad Waggoner, LifeWay’s vice president for research and ministry development.

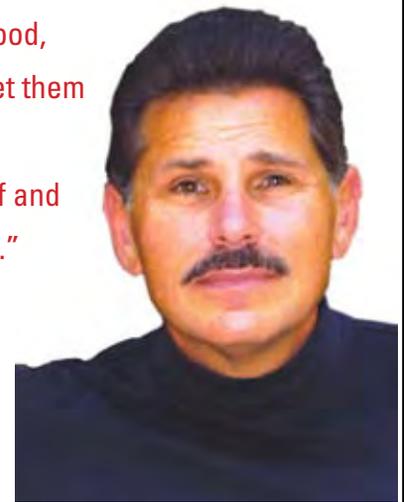
Those interviewed describe the pastors using terms such as “highly relational,” “personable,” “caring,” “passionate,” “humble,” “strong leader,” “a shepherd,” and “very authentic.”

“This is strikingly similar to the findings in the book *Good to Great* by Jim Collins as he looked into the leadership of great companies,” Waggoner said. “Collins concluded that great leaders are driven, yet humble. The pastors of the churches studied appear to be similar. They love God, love their flock and are compassionate for lost people. They are resolutely committed to reaching lost people, yet lead with a spirit of humility, authenticity and relational warmth.”

Nearly all the churches describe their polity as pastor- or staff-led and are characterized by a strong sense of teamwork. Staff members indicate their pastor is effective in creating an empowering environment in which the staff has input and are treated as important

“Our entire staff has been together at Miles Road for 13 years. I have followed leadership advice from President Reagan – cast your vision, then surround yourself with good, talented people and let them do their jobs. I don’t micromanage my staff and have never needed to.”

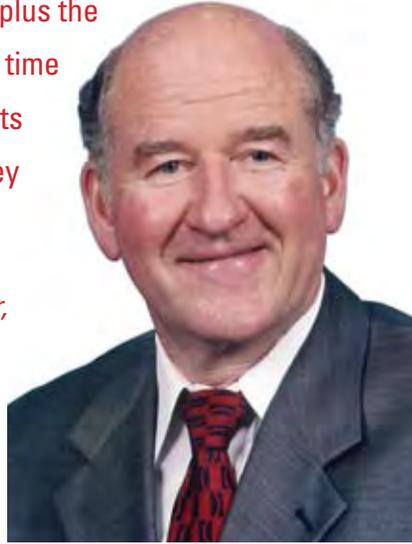
– Pastor Jim Palmer,
Miles Road
Baptist Church,
Summerville, S.C.



Pastor

“Our deacons deliver an information packet to every visitor immediately after the morning worship service. Sometimes they even beat the visitors home! That, plus the intentional welcome time during the service lets our visitors know they are important to us.”

– Pastor Tommy Taylor,
London Bridge
Baptist Church,
Virginia Beach, Va.



to the team. A common term used to describe the leadership style of the pastors is “shared leadership.” Even laypersons view themselves as part of the church leadership team.

Interviews indicate the churches have taken on the vision, priorities and values of the senior pastor. Staff and lay leaders find it easy to follow the pastor. There are high levels of trust in these pastors.

It is interesting that the average tenure of the pastors of the churches included in the study is 15 years. As noted in *Surprising Insights*, a book by Thom S. Rainer, there is a strong correlation between pastoral tenure and church health and effectiveness.

2. Church atmosphere

Another commonality of these long-term evangelistic churches is the overall atmosphere and tone of the church. These churches are consistently described as “exciting,” “dynamic,” “energetic,” “upbeat,” “friendly,” “welcoming,” “warm,” and “positive.”

“Clearly these churches possess an environment conducive to reaching people for Christ,” Waggoner said. “The members of these churches are enthusiastic about their church, and are quick to invite their unchurched friends to visit. In the interviews we asked if the church encouraged the ‘invest and invite’ concept popularized by North Point Church in Atlanta. While some did not recall hearing or using this exact terminology, all of them quickly affirmed the worship services were key to reaching people and that members were highly motivated to invite others to attend.”

3. Evangelistic appeal

The presence of a consistent evangelistic appeal is another common factor. Pastors indicate they seek to include the gospel in most, if not all, of their sermons. They stress the importance of preaching the gospel and providing opportunities for lost people to respond. More than two-thirds indicate they offer a public invitation at the end of every service. The others invite inquirers to fill out a decision card.

“In these long-term evangelistically effective churches, it would be rare for an unsaved person to visit without being exposed to an appeal to consider the offer of salvation,” Waggoner said.

“We don’t have any real cute buzz words about evangelism. We don’t have a walk forward invitation every Sunday. It’s very much a process.

We don’t hammer a high pressure invitation on non-Christians. Most of our evangelism training is just done from the pulpit, where periodically we will teach it in our week-to-week messages.”

– Pastor Guy Melton,
Church of
Pembroke Pines,
Pembroke Pines, Fla.



4. Intentional outreach

Intentionality in evangelism is another common attribute among these churches. The pastors are focused on reaching people for Christ. Whether it's through focusing the content of sermons, planning the worship services, or simply the nature of church programming, it is clear that everything is designed with outreach in mind.

Evidence of this intentionality can be seen in the frequency of a visitation or follow-up strategy employed by almost all of the churches. All but four are committed to a regular, organized visitation program. While the exact nature and format varied, they are intentionally organized for weekly follow-up of visitors or church prospects.

This spirit of intentionality goes beyond visitation. Many of the churches plan and conduct a variety of events and programs with an evangelistic motive. The pastors and staff leaders are careful not to let the church calendar fill up with random events unless they are designed, at least in part, to reach people for Christ.

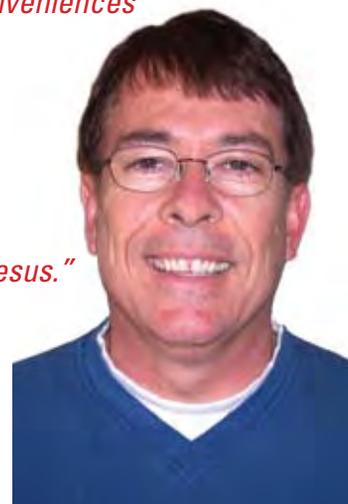
5. Not all the same

While these long-term evangelistic churches share common elements, they also have their differences. Most of the differences can be placed into the category of methodology or programmatic emphases.

Preaching: When it comes to preaching, one-third of the pastors indicate they preach topically. Almost half

“At Halloween we turned a day of darkness into a Festival of Life and attracted more than 6,000 people to Highlands Fellowship – and this in a town of just 7,700 people. That’s turning your culture for Christ. The town no longer has its Halloween party on Oct. 31; they moved it because everyone was coming to Highlands. The people at Highlands will put up with any inconveniences and adjust their music preferences and styles to communicate to the culture in a relevant way the Good News of Jesus.”

– Pastor Jimmie Davidson,
Highlands Fellowship,
Abingdon, Va.



Location of small group meetings/classes in 19 standout churches

11 – on campus

Names: 9 “Sunday school,” 1 “Bible Fellowship,” 1 “Small Groups”

6 – off campus

Names: 2 “Small Groups,” 1 “Host Homes,” 1 “Home Groups,”
1 “House Churches,” 1 “Community Groups”

2 – both

Names: 1 “Bible Fellowship Class,” 1 “Community Groups”

“Preaching that captivates the heart and compels life-changing results is not just accurate and relevant proclamation, but it is communicated with real passion of the soul.”



– Pastor Steve Dighton,
Lenexa Baptist Church,
Lenexa, Kan.

are committed to expositional or textual preaching, and four use other terms to describe their preaching style.

“Clearly, the preaching style varies among the long-term evangelistic churches,” Waggoner said. “The only common element is all the pastors have an evangelistic fervor and provide some sort of evangelistic appeal during the majority of the sermons.”

Style of Worship: As indicated earlier, the most common characteristic is an environment of excitement

and passion. Almost everyone interviewed indicated there is a real sense of God’s presence during the worship services. The majority of the pastors use “contemporary,” “informal,” and “casual” to describe their style of worship. Three of the pastors say their worship

Participating churches

1. Atlee Community Church, Mechanicsville, Va.
2. Biltmore Baptist Church, Arden, N.C.
3. Cedar Creek Church, Aiken, S.C.
4. Church of Pembroke Pines, Pembroke Pines, Fla.
5. Clements Baptist Church, Athens, Ala.
6. Fellowship of the Rockies, Pueblo, Colo.
7. First Baptist Church of Oviedo, Oviedo, Fla.
8. Highlands Fellowship, Abingdon, Va.
9. Hopewell Baptist Church, Gainesville, Ga.
10. Jersey Baptist Church, Pataskala, Ohio
11. Lenexa Baptist Church, Lenexa, Kan.
12. Lindsay Lane Baptist Church, Athens, Ala.
13. London Bridge Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, Va.
14. Mandarin Baptist Church, Los Angeles
15. Miles Road Baptist Church, Summerville, S.C.
16. NorthPointe Community Church, Fresno, Calif.
17. Northside Baptist Church, Wilmington, N.C.
18. Seoul Baptist Church, Houston
19. Sarasota Baptist Church, Sarasota, Fla.



service is blended in terms of music. Only one pastor uses the term “traditional” to describe his church’s worship.

Four of the churches consider their worship services to be “seeker driven” or “seeker targeted.” Of these four, one pastor describes his church as a “Willow Creek type church,” and another one indicated his church is a “Saddleback model church.”

Evangelism Training: Another notable difference is the aspect of formal evangelism training. Half the churches use formal training programs such as FAITH, while the other half is split between occasional classes and the pulpit to train believers in evangelism.

Small Group Strategy: The small group strategy of the churches varies. Eleven use on-campus Sunday school as their primary fellowship groups, while six meet in off-campus small groups, and two have a mix of on- and off-campus groups. Most of those interviewed indicate their small groups, whether Sunday school or in-home, are at least theoretically “open” (evangelistic in focus).

“When looking at both the similarities and differences of these long-term evangelistic churches, what can clearly be celebrated is that the churches in this study can be a great source of encouragement to any pastor, staff member or lay leader who dreams and prays to be part of a church that is effective in reaching lost people,” Waggoner said. “Scripture promises that the gospel is powerful to save. We are called to be ambassadors of Christ. We are commanded to preach the message of reconciliation. As we can see in the leaders of these evangelistically effective churches, passion, commitment, focus, and intentionality can lead to celebrating the regeneration of many souls.” ■

Trustees name Brad Waggoner to lead new research and ministry development division

Brad Waggoner has been promoted to the new position of vice president for research and ministry development. The action came during the final session of LifeWay’s semiannual trustee meeting, Feb. 12-13.

Waggoner has broad-ranging responsibilities in his new position, directing LifeWay Research as well as overseeing the E.C. Dargan Research Library, LifeWay International, ministry development, and strategic projects. He also is theologian in residence, serving as a resource provider for LifeWay employees, and academic liaison with Southern Baptist seminaries, colleges and universities.

“Brad is uniquely qualified for each of the roles he will fill,” LifeWay President Thom Rainer said. “He is a seasoned researcher, a minister, teacher and dedicated husband. I know personally of his ability and his love for the Lord. I believe his appointment to this key spot will be one more step in helping position LifeWay as a leader in providing biblical resources that help spiritually transform lives and cultures.” ■

We recommend

- *Ministry Gifts Inventory* by Michael Miller
- *The Creative Leader* by Ed Young
- *Why Churches Die: Diagnosing Lethal Poisons in the Body of Christ* by Mac Brunson and Ergun Caner
- *On Track Leadership: Mastering What Leaders Actually Do* by John Kramp
- *Smaller Churches Healthy and Growing: Extraordinary Ministry* by Barry Campbell

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 LifeWay's vice president of research and ministry development

Facts & Trends

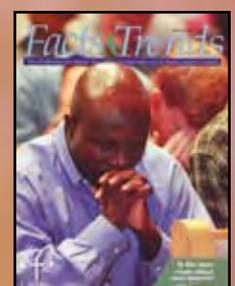
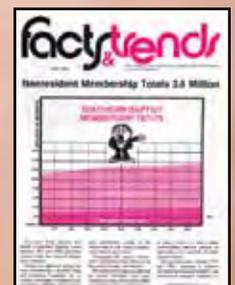
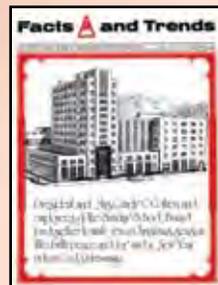
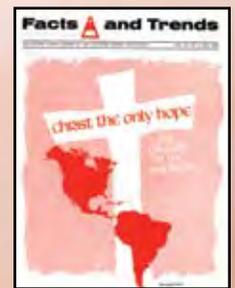
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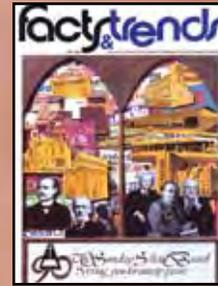
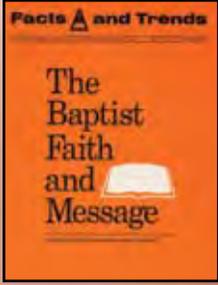
for the churches

by Polly House

In 1956, when LifeWay was known as the Sunday School Board, President James L. Sullivan realized he had no means of mass communicating with the Southern Baptist churches the SSB served. As a result, he decided to create the *Newsletter*. The first edition rolled off the press with the January 1957 issue.

continued on page 14





Facts & Trends covers from each year it has been published.



Illustration that accompanied Dr. Sullivan's columns

continued from page 12

In his column, titled "Facts & Trends," Sullivan wrote, "The need of a monthly journal has been felt for some time, which would put into the hands of pastors, educational directors, ministers of music, and those persons closely related to religious education work in the churches, an accurate and terse interpretation of the Sunday School Board's life and work."

Sullivan saw that other agencies had publications that served that purpose, such as the Foreign (now International) Mission Board's *The Commission*, and the Home (now North American) Mission Board's *The Home Mission Magazine*, but the Sunday School

Board did not. It only had promotional publications available to its specific departments of work. That was fine, he said, but the SSB needed an "over-all institutional perspective publication."

In 1966, the Sunday School Board's 75th anniversary, the *Newsletter* was renamed *Facts & Trends*, the name taken from Sullivan's column.

In the beginning, the *Newsletter* was primarily informational. Much was told about upcoming meetings, personnel changes and such. But as the SSB and *Facts & Trends* grew, so did some of the issues that it spoke to.



Graphic from name change issue, 1966

Then & Now



2006 – The Hall of States was dedicated in September. It was the first new building at Glorieta in 30 years.

1961 – The LifeWay Conference Centers (Assemblies) celebrated improvements and boasted, "The general result will be most pleasing and practical."



1962 – Six LifeWay Stores (Baptist Book Stores) offer Spanish-language products.



2007 – LifeWay's International department offers products in 83 countries and training in 136 countries worldwide. All LifeWay stores carry Spanish-language products.

Facts & Trends transitioned from newsletter to magazine format in 1998. Stories began to be more church-centered and less inwardly focused – showing how the products and services LifeWay offered were making a positive impact on churches and individuals.

While LifeWay is still committed to sharing information, the way it is shared has changed. Readers can get information about and register for upcoming training and enrichment events on LifeWay’s Web site, www.lifeway.com/events. New releases from B&H Publishing Group and LifeWay Church Resources are still listed in *Facts & Trends*, but in an entire section instead of just in a column’s space. And, with almost 2,000 employees, reporting staff changes is no longer feasible. This year, *Facts & Trends* also introduced its Web version – *Facts & Trends Online*.

In 2002, the decision was made to change *Facts & Trends*’ 45-year tradition and expand the subscription list to include lay leaders, bringing the current subscription list to 65,000 people, mostly Southern Baptist. Even so, after 50 years, the subscription rate for *Facts & Trends* is still the same – free.

LifeWay President Thom Rainer said, “Our mission here at LifeWay Christian Resources is to provide biblical solutions that help spiritually transform lives and cultures. The best way to keep up with the constant flow of ministry resources and ideas is through *Facts & Trends*. For 50 years *Facts & Trends* has been a direct link between churches and LifeWay and as it celebrates its 50th anniversary, it is more informative than ever. My hope is that it will continue for many years serving churches, helping them be the Bride of Christ.” ■

Facts & Trends editors

- **Howard Foshee** – 1957-1959 (James L. Sullivan, president)
- **Harold Ingraham** – 1959-1962 (James L. Sullivan, president)
- **Gomer Lesch** – 1962-1977 (James L. Sullivan and Grady C. Cothen, presidents)
- **Lloyd Householder** – 1977-1978 (Grady C. Cothen, president)
- **Linda Lawson** – 1978-1980 (Grady C. Cothen, president)
- **Jim Lowry** – 1980-1991 (Grady C. Cothen and Lloyd Elder, presidents)
- **Frank William White** – 1991-1993 (Lloyd Elder and James T. Draper Jr., presidents)
- **Chip Alford** – 1993-1999 (James T. Draper Jr., president)
- **Polly House** – 1999-present (James T. Draper Jr. and Thom S. Rainer, presidents)

Read what former *Facts & Trends* editors have to say about their time at the helm of the magazine at *Facts & Trends Online* at www.lifeway.com/factsandtrends.



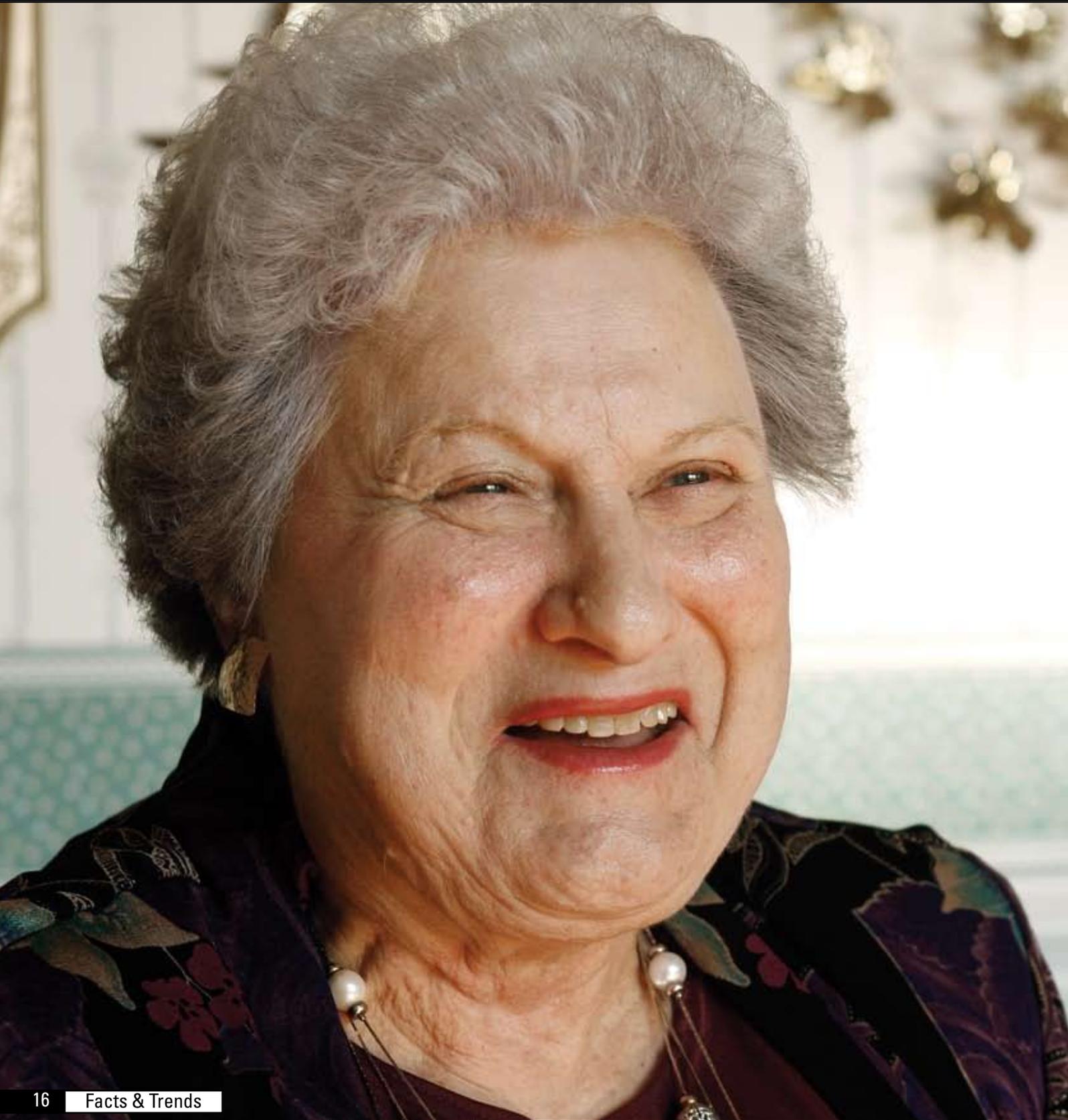
1981 – 60 different products were available for VBS. Approximately 3 million children participated in 1981.



2007 – VBS offers 140 products for workers and students for Game Day Central and Jungle Jaunt.

With 2,000+ prayers of salvation Nell Kerley is still going strong

written by Polly House, photography by Kent Harville



She is a 74-year-old widowed great-grandmother with diabetes, arthritis, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, no kneecaps, screws holding her ankles in place, and absolutely no shame when it comes to leading people to a saving relationship with Christ.

“So,” Nell Kerley asks, “what’s your excuse?”

Kerley is a soul winner extraordinaire.

“I’ve been a Sunday school teacher forever,” Kerley said, “but until just a few years ago, I had never shared with anyone what it takes to go to heaven. Can you believe that? I just never had. I bet there are a lot of people in our churches like that.”

In 1998, at age 66, Kerley decided to make a change. Her church, Bethel Baptist in Statesville, N.C., offered LifeWay’s FAITH Sunday School Evangelism Strategy training and she enrolled. “I needed to learn how to witness to people,” she said.

“Learning to share Christ with people was the best thing I ever did,” Kerley said. More than 2,100 salvations later – 2,171 as of March 30, 2007 – she isn’t slowing down.

Near fatal accident

From her quick sense of humor and easy laughter about most things, no one would ever suspect the serious health issues Kerley endures.

Kerley and her late husband, Sam, were severely injured in an automobile accident in 1975. “Both of us nearly died,” she said. “Our legs were crushed. Sam was thrown through the windshield and I had to pull him back in. I remember talking to God asking Him to take us together. We were both ready.

“But, just as plain as anything, I heard God telling me, ‘No, Nell, I’ve got some things for you to do yet.’ So I told Him He’d have to do some miracles.”

Both the Kerleys were in Iredell Memorial Hospital in Statesville for six months, undergoing multiple surgeries and therapy. Sam eventually had one leg amputated. Nell’s legs were wired and screwed together



Above left: Nell Kerley and Chaplain Tom Sherrod share a passion for hospital ministry. Above right: Nell Kerley and Michael Voelske, a deacon at Bethel Baptist Church, were on the same FAITH team when her evangelistic fervor was birthed. Like Kerley, Voelske said learning to share his faith opened his eyes to the needs of lost people around him.

and her shattered kneecaps replaced with artificial ones. However, multiple staph infections necessitated their removal. Her husband eventually died of complications of kidney disease.

“It was hard, so hard. Many times I didn’t want to keep going,” Kerley said. But she remembered what God said: “Nell, I’ve got some things for you to do yet.”

First convert

FAITH opened a new ministry opportunity for her. “On our first FAITH visit, our team went to a home to visit a man and his wife. The couple didn’t want to pray to receive Christ, but I knew Danielle, the 15-year-old daughter, had been listening. I told my group that I wanted to talk to her. So I just asked her, ‘Danielle, you’ve heard all we said tonight. Wouldn’t you like to give your life to the Lord?’ and she nodded and said, ‘Yes, I would.’ So we prayed and she received Christ.”

Kerley said that first salvation was like a drug to her. “I just couldn’t wait to do it again.”

Hospital missions

Kerley has ongoing health issues related to the accident. She’s been in the hospital time and time again for surgeries on her feet and legs, and several times for other broken bones she sustained from falls. “After all,” she quipped, “you can’t walk good when you don’t have any kneecaps!”

Through the years, Kerley developed a warm relationship with hospital chaplain Tom Sherrod. As she was able, she would accompany him on his rounds, talking to people about the Lord.

“She has such a gift for evangelism,” Sherrod said. “She loves to talk to people, and they love to talk to her. She can take the simplest conversation and bring it around to talk about a person’s salvation.”

Kerley had quite a ministry, sharing the plan of salvation with other hospital patients and staff. As a licensed practical nurse and former employee at the hospital herself, Kerley had a special relationship with the nurses. She recalled one particular incident with great humor.



Nell Kerley, left, led Kathy Borders, a nurse at Iredell Memorial Hospital, and her husband, Ivory, to receive Christ.

“One night, I was in the hospital, hooked up to all kinds of IV bags, and I had to go to the bathroom. I called for a CNA (certified nursing assistant) to come help me since I couldn’t manage by myself.

“She came in and we got me to the bathroom. I was sitting on the commode and thought, ‘You know, she can’t go anywhere. She’s a captive audience!’ So right there, in the bathroom, I asked her, ‘Honey, do you have a church? Would you like for me to tell you about the Lord?’

“And, you know what? She gave her heart to Jesus right then and there!” Kerley laughed at the memory. “I guess if you’ve got the nerve to witness to someone in the bathroom, you can witness anywhere!”

Kathy and Ivory

Kathy Borders is a nurse at Iredell Memorial. Six years ago during one of Kerley’s hospital stays, Kerley attempted to talk with Borders.

“But I told her I was too busy to talk right then,” Borders said. “I really wasn’t. I just didn’t want to talk to her. I was scared. She asked me if I’d come back later, though, and I told her I would.

“When Nell told me about Christ – how He loved me so much that He died for me – and that all I had to do was accept that love and His sacrifice and invite Him into my heart, I felt this completely unnatural and wonderful peace just flood over me,” said Borders. “I had never experienced anything like that before. Never.”

Later, Kerley had the privilege of leading Border’s husband, Ivory, to the Lord as well.

“Nell told me I needed to get in church, so I did,” Borders said. “I joined Higher Ground Baptist Church and now I do all sorts of things from singing to working with the children to working with the women. Ivory and I love our church and our pastor. Life wouldn’t be like this if it weren’t for Nell.”

Special song

Kerley has a special song, one she said expresses her feelings about what she does: “Must I Go, and Empty-Handed?” from the 1956 Baptist Hymnal.

*Must I go, and empty-handed,
Thus my dear Redeemer meet,
Not one day of service give Him,
Lay no trophy at His feet?*

*(Refrain): Must I go, and empty-handed?
Must I meet my Savior so?
Not one soul with which to greet Him:
Must I empty-handed go?*

*Not at death I shrink or falter,
For my Savior saves me now;
But to meet Him empty-handed,
Thought of that now clouds my brow.*

*Oh, the years in sinning wasted,
Could I but recall them now,
I would give them to my Savior,
To His will I'd gladly bow.*

*Oh, ye saints, arouse, be earnest,
Up and work while yet 'tis day;
Ere the night of death o'ertake thee,
Strive for souls while still you may.*

*“Must I Go, and Empty-Handed?” Charles C. Luther, 1877.
Copyright: Public Domain. Music: George C. Stebbins.
Copyright: Public Domain.*

Visit www.lifeway.com/factsandtrends to listen to an audio file of this hymn from Facts & Trends Online.

Borders even changed jobs at the hospital so she could be active at Higher Ground. “I always worked on the floor,” she said. “I love working directly with the patients. But, I changed to working in the operating room so I can have my weekends off and go to church. Nell will never know what she did for me. She changed my life.”

“Oh, honey,” Kerley said, giving Borders a hug, “it was the Lord who took hold of you and changed your life, not me.”

Baptist Center

Kerley found another place of service at the South Yadkin Baptist Association Baptist Center, where each Tuesday for the past seven years Kerley has shared the plan of salvation with people who come to the center's clothes closet and food pantry.

“They have to come see me before they can get their things and leave,” Kerley said. “I have led so many of the people to the Lord there. It's wonderful. So many of them have just never had it explained to them how to become a Christian.”

Of course, not everyone says yes

“I had two girls come in and they just laughed the whole time I was telling them about Jesus,” she said. “They told me they'd just as soon go to hell [than] give up their men.

“I told them that was their choice, but I could guarantee they wouldn't be laughing when they got there,” she said.

“I can talk boldly to people,” Kerley said. “I know how people live. I didn't just come off the Mayflower!”

Sandra Harrison, whose husband, Ron, serves as director of missions for the South Yadkin Baptist Association, has a special bond with Kerley.

“I love Nell,” said Harrison, who serves as ministry director for the association. “I asked her once how she manages to get these strangers to open up and talk about their personal lives to her. Don't they get mad?”



She just laughed and said she didn't care if they did. They needed to hear the truth."

Kerley said many of the people who come to the Baptist Center aren't married, but are living with someone. Usually there are children in the home.

"That's not right and I tell them it's not right," Kerley said. "But I don't just condemn them. I tell them what's going to make their lives better. Most of the time when I tell them how to become Christians, they are open to it and will pray with me. I tell those women to get married or get rid of the live-in. I tell the men to marry those women and take care of those children. Most of the men have never heard that they are responsible for the spiritual leadership of their homes. I like talking to the men. I think it's easier to lead a man to the Lord than a woman. It's easier to talk straight to men."

Kerley is also adamant about telling everyone she leads to Christ about the importance of church membership. At the Baptist Center, she has a form she fills out on every person she talks with. She gets contact information and spiritual information, and then gives the form to Ron Harrison who arranges for a church to follow up with the new convert.

"People need to be in church," Kerley said. "These new Christians can't make it on their own. It's too easy to slip back into their old ways, but if they've got a good church to support them as they grow, they'll be fine."

Bill Fay

Bill Fay, author of *Share Jesus Without Fear*, published by LifeWay, and Kerley have become "share partners" through the years.

"Bill read about me in something and called me," Kerley said. "I'd read *Share Jesus Without Fear* so knew who he was. I was tickled to get to know him. He's a fine man.

"I tease him that he will give out my phone number to anyone he hasn't won to the Lord yet and have me take a run at it," she said. "Do you know, because of Bill Fay, I have talked to his barber, a Playboy bunny, and a man in prison who murdered two people? Yes! And I led them all to the Lord! Oh, and the bunny is in another line of work now."

For however long

Kerley's smiles and laughter are contagious. The joy of the Lord bubbles out when she sees people receive Christ. "I look at these people I talk to and see people that Jesus loves and died for," Kerley said. "They just don't know it. And I get to tell them! I get to tell them how they can go to heaven! There is no greater privilege in the world than that. If God can use an old woman like me, He can use anybody. For however long I have, I'm going to keep talking." ■

Nell Kerley volunteers at the South Yadkin Baptist Association Center each Tuesday. She shares the gospel with people who come in for assistance with food and clothing.

We recommend

- *FAITH Strategy*, various resources
- *Share Jesus Without Fear* by Bill Fay
- *Outreach Teams that Win* – *G.R.O.W. Manual* by Jerry Tidwell



Chris Ediger (left) and Michael Kelley

Photo by Kent Harville

Threads —

New initiative designed for a disconnected generation

by Jenny Rice

How do you develop Baptist Sunday school curriculum for a generation of people who cringe at the words Baptist, Sunday school and curriculum?

Thread by thread, piece by piece.

Heartbroken by the declining statistics of baptisms in Southern Baptist churches and after a heartfelt conversation with a fledgling young church member, LifeWay employee Jim Johnston was suspicious that today's church was missing the mark in ministering to young adults. After leading a team in nine months of research, Johnston's suspicions were confirmed.

“This is a generation in need of hope,” Johnston explained. “They have been through things like 9/11, school shootings, world events, layoffs from companies. They know stability and safety don’t exist. They feel disconnected from the church. We couldn’t ignore the need anymore.”

Johnston began a LifeWay initiative called Threads, a community of young adults creating Bible studies and resources for other young adults by weaving together pieces such as community, worship, service and intergenerational relationships.

“The New Testament church was an example of the body of Christ woven together,” Johnston said. “They lived together, met each other’s needs, and people were being saved. That is the goal of Threads – individuals woven together. The pieces may not be perfect; there is mending in the torn places.”

Threads released its first two studies on Jan. 31 – *In Transit: What Do You Do with Your Wait?* by Mike Harder, and *The Tough Sayings of Jesus* by Michael Kelley.

Using supplemental audio and visual resources, iTunes playlists, online articles, blogs and journals, the adaptable discussion-oriented Bible studies encourage authentic biblical community among young adults ages 18-34.

For those who are used to traditional Sunday school curriculum, Threads can

seem unorthodox. Threads team member Valerie Hancock believes that churches trying to use conventional methods for reaching a younger generation have contributed to the decline in effective young adult ministry as “churches have assumed that this generation is the same as ones before.”

The Threads team recognizes the need for a new approach.

“We aren’t blowing up the churches and starting over,” Johnston said. “We are intentionally building in things that attract this age group.”

While Threads materials and methods can be classified as “out of the box,” Johnston and the Threads team are adamant about maintaining biblical

integrity in all its materials.

“This generation doesn’t want watered-down surface church answers on how to live the Christian life,” Johnston said. “They are saying, ‘Show me what you mean in the Bible. Then let’s have a two-way discussion about what it means.’ They want to dig in the Bible themselves to see what it says.”

Johnston and the Threads team are optimistic about the future of the younger adults and their passion for God and for His Kingdom.

“God is already working,” Johnston said. “Threads is not just a way to initiate change in this generation – it is an effort to provide materials where God is already working.” ■

"This generation doesn't want watered-down surface church answers on how to live the Christian life."

— Jim Johnston

We recommend

- *No Perfect People Allowed* by John Burke
- *The Tough Sayings of Jesus* by Michael Kelley
- *In Transit: What Do You Do with Your Wait?*

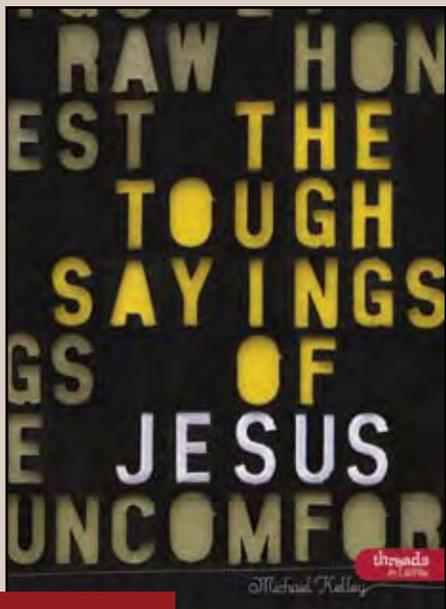
These and other resources are available through customer service at www.lifeway.com and (800) 458-2772 and from LifeWay Christian Stores at www.lifewaystores.com and (800) 233-1123.

Threads uses tough questions as a springboard to deeper faith

Jesus came to earth to bring mercy, peace and love. He also made controversial statements and asked tough questions.

Michael Kelley seeks to understand both sides of Christ.

Kelley, an editor in LifeWay's leadership and adult publishing area, is the author



of *The Tough Sayings of Jesus*, one of four studies offered by Threads, a community developing Bible studies for young adults through LifeWay.

While teaching at a Nashville-area young adult event called Refuge, Kelley developed a sermon series based on four passages of Scripture in which Jesus spoke about salvation to

the rich young ruler (Mark 10), made a controversial statement to the Canaanite woman (Matthew 12), discussed the unforgivable sin (Matthew 12), and offered a contradiction of who He was (Matthew 10).

"Dealing with these questions on my own has made me realize how small my understanding of Jesus was," Kelley said. "After I answered the questions, more questions were raised. Addressing them has led me to a deeper walk with Christ and given me a bigger picture of Jesus."

When the Threads ministry team learned of Kelley's work, they immediately

approached him about developing the series into a study for all young adults.

"This study is in line with the Threads mentality that young adults want to be challenged spiritually," Kelley said. "They don't want to gloss over Scripture but instead want to use their faith to act as a springboard to ask questions and engage their intellect."

As a young adult himself and through his ministry experiences, Kelley has seen a younger generation hungry for depth in their Christian walk.

"So much of the world lives on the surface," he explained. "Young adults are looking for depth – depth in life and depth in their experiences with Jesus. They know there have to be deeper places to go, but to get there they have to be willing to ask the tough questions."

While trying to understand Christ more fully, Kelley also encourages young adults to appreciate a level of mystery where God is concerned.

"I believe we all have a God-given sense of mystery and appreciation for wonder about Christ," he said. "Even though people are seeking answers, they need to understand the complexity of God. Everything Christ said was tough, but some sayings were more difficult to understand than others."

Kelley believes there are consequences when doubts and fears about God are not expressed, but repressed.

"When circumstances challenge our beliefs, if you haven't asked those tough questions, those fears and doubts bubble over. Those circumstances become a catalyst to make what you believe your own." ■

The Tough Sayings of Jesus leader and participant guides, as well as other supplemental material including iTunes playlists, blogs and e-newsletters, are available at www.threadsmedia.com.

Threads in action

Gladeville Baptist young adult ministry digs in to *The Tough Sayings of Jesus*

When Chris Ediger began his new position as a leader for “up/rooted,” the young adult ministry at Gladeville Baptist Church in Gladeville, Tenn., his “flock” consisted of a half dozen people and his time consisted mostly of developing Sunday school lessons.

One year later, Ediger has seen the Gladeville young adult ministry develop into a tight-knit group of 25 focused on growing in their Christian walks through community with fellow believers and by digging deep into the Word of God.

With the recent release of *The Tough Sayings of Jesus* from the LifeWay’s Threads ministry line, Ediger, who is also an Internet producer at LifeWay, can spend more time on ministry opportunities outside of Bible study lesson development.

“I used to spend most of my week preparing to teach on Sunday mornings,” Ediger said. “There weren’t many resources for this age group, so I would either take a book I was reading and adapt it for a Sunday school lesson, or I would take small group resources and massage them for young adults.

“Occasionally there would be a book with discussion questions in the back that we would use. But most of it all had to be reworked for this age group.”

As a bivocational minister with a wife and three young children, Ediger was excited about the



Top (l-r): Blaire Durham, Ashley Brown and Robert Post chat before class.

Above: Members of the up/rooted group.

Photos by Kent Harville

Threads material and its ability to free him for more time with family. He also had to spend building personal relationships within the young adult ministry.

A young adult himself, Ediger understands the desire to be challenged in Bible study.



Photo by Kent Harville

Chad Streeter, a member of the uprooted class at Gladeville Baptist Church, talks with fellow class member Chris Wilson.

“We used to come in on a typical Sunday morning and open the Bible, raise a few questions, answer those questions, and then leave,” Ediger explained. “We can’t do that with *The Tough Sayings of Jesus*.”

Instead, Ediger spreads the lessons over two weeks. The first week, he opens the topic in a large group and then the class breaks into small groups for discussion. The young adults leave class and think about it for a week and return the following Sunday to finish studying that topic.

“We always leave with questions,” Ediger said. “If you try to answer these situations

with a simple answer, it encourages fakeness. These things can’t be easily explained.

“The material lends itself to a lot of discussion,” he said. “We need that extra week to think on it, then talk more when we come back together, hopefully coming to some resolution. Even then, we don’t necessarily tie everything up neatly.”

For Gladeville member Ashley Brown, the *The Tough Sayings of Jesus* discussion format is exactly what she is looking for in a Sunday morning Bible study. Her desire in class is to be “forced to think.”

“During the week you have so many superficial conversations,” Brown explained. “It is wonderful to be able to discuss something that is challenging. It is nice to be reminded that we are not always going to be able to come up with an answer.”

Mandy Maxwell is a young married adult at Gladeville. After struggling with a consistent time of personal Bible study, *The Tough Sayings of Jesus* study has enhanced her study of the Scriptures.

“My personal walk with Christ is something that I’ve always struggled with,” she said. “It seems like I make time for everything else but I rarely make time to just sit and study God’s Word.

“This study has been a great way for me to dive deeper into God’s Word and spend time learning. I usually race through the Scriptures and don’t really digest what is being said. These ‘tough sayings’ have made me stop and think and want to learn more about what God is really trying to teach me. It has made me want to be more devoted to Him.” ■

Music legends and leaders come together for Hymnal Summit

written by Polly House, photography by Kent Harville



LifeWay Worship invited 100 music leaders to the Hymnal Summit to give their input on criteria for selecting hymns, worship songs and praise choruses for the 2008 hardback hymnal.

No matter how pretty a song is, if the theology isn't right, it doesn't belong in the new worship hymnal – digital or print.

So said participants at the Hymnal Summit, hosted by LifeWay Worship Jan. 12-13 in Nashville, Tenn.

Mike Harland, director of the LifeWay Worship, welcomed the 100 participants, telling them they had been invited because of the specific expertise they brought to the summit.

“We have music professors from all of our Southern Baptist seminaries and 21 of our Baptist colleges, as well as church musicians and worship leaders and local music industry leaders,” Harland said. “We also have invited people who worked on the 1991 Baptist Hymnal and our own LifeWay people who are devoted to this project.”

Feedback needed

The summit served as a means to get feedback from music practitioners on criteria for selecting the hymns, worship songs and praise choruses to be included in the hardback hymnal to be released in 2008, and in the 1,000-song digital hymnal to be released shortly thereafter.

The group attended sessions on educational resources, hymnal selection criteria, hymnal components and products, theological review, Web portal function, and worship song selection criteria. In each session, opinions were offered on what was needed to make the Worship Project a usable and successful tool for churches.

“I want you to know that your presence and input is invaluable to this project,” Harland told the group. “We have not come here with a lot of preconceived ideas about



Mike Harland, upper right, led an informal discussion group on hymn selection during the Hymnal Summit.

“If evangelism doesn’t come as a result of our worship experience, I would question that worship experience.”

– Mike Harland

what we are going to do. What you tell us is going to help shape the project’s direction.”

Project priority

Harland reminded the group that at the core of all the churches do, musically or otherwise, evangelism must be kept in mind. “If evangelism doesn’t come as one of the results of our worship experience, I would question that worship experience,” he said.

John Davis, professor of church music at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and one of the summit participants, was optimistic about the project. “Based on what I have seen so far, and providing that the innovations being contemplated are included, I believe this new hymnal/

worship resource will be a revolutionary development for my seminary students.

“It will allow them maximum flexibility in their worship ministry, enabling them to be more effective, and will allow them tremendous new opportunities to involve others in the worship ministry,” Davis said.

Tom Hellams, LifeWay’s vice president of executive communications and relations and a former music minister, said, “This will be a tremendous benefit to church starts and those churches with just five to 10 members. On the other end of the spectrum, it will also be of such great use to those large churches with hundreds, or even thousands of members.”

At the closing, each group reported from their sessions. Jon Duncan, state music director for the Georgia Baptist Convention, gave a list of criteria from the theological review session. All of the selected music needed to be Christ-centered, biblically sound, relevant, Trinitarian in scope and distinctive.

Remarkably, similar criteria were reported from each of the other sessions, with the hymn and worship song session attendees adding that the songs needed to be singable and memorable.

Past and future

Harland said he sees this project as one that “reaches back to our history and reaches forward to our future.”

He specifically mentioned attendees such as Beryl Red, Wesley Forbis, Jim Gibson and Bob Burroughs as giants of church music, whose contributions and opinions are still much coveted for the Worship Project. At the same time, he sought the

advice and counsel of young worship leaders like Travis Cottrell and David Moffitt, who not only are leading worship, but also are writing new songs for worship. He added that having music production legends such as Phil Barfoot and Greg Nelson, who also serves as the project's creative director, added a fresh perspective and insight into features that are essential both within and outside the Southern Baptist audience.

"This project is going to be one that will touch lives for years to come," Harland said. "What we do here and the music we select for inclusion will impact the Kingdom of God. It will draw people to Him. None of us take this responsibility lightly."

Music selected for the project will cover a variety of musical styles, but the substance of the music will determine any song's inclusion.

Harland said, "During one of the sessions, Dr. Lloyd Elder [former president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, now LifeWay] made an observation that sums up the criteria for the selection process. He said, 'We don't need to aim for balance, we need to aim for fundamental truth.'" ■

Project is called 'answered prayer'

Kim Hardy's frustration level is going down and her thankfulness to God going up!

Hardy, a volunteer worship leader from Westland, Mich., was one of the 100 people attending the Hymnal Summit.

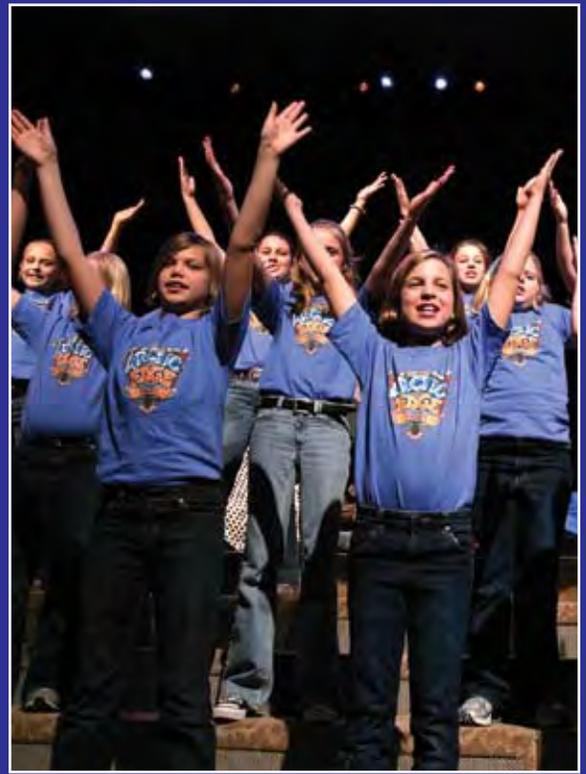
"As someone who loves to lead worship, I am very much aware of the frustrations that can take place in the planning and preparation of a service. I have spent many hours in song selection, as well as working with musicians who may or may not be able to play a particular song. On countless occasions I have prayed to God for help concerning these issues.

"This hymnal and Worship Project will not only help relieve my frustrations, it is also going to bring enhancement to the worship environment. Consequently, this project will help put the right worship tools in the hands of people who need them the most.

"To put it simply, something like this has been long overdue. And now that it is here, I can say praise God for answered prayers!" ■



For updates on the project, go to www.lifewayworship.com.



VBS musicals: Good theology that stays in a kid's heart

Jeff Slaughter, upper left, has written the VBS music since 1996. Upper right: The VBS music for 2006 and 2007 is presented to participants of the VBS Preview in Nashville.

Leading worship in different churches around the country, working in Centri-Kid camps each summer and being around so many children helps Jeff Slaughter keep his Vacation Bible School music fresh and age appropriate.

Slaughter, a musician and composer from Nashville, Tenn., writes kid-friendly lyrics with deep truths, sets those lyrics to music that kids can sing, and then adds sign language and choreography to give kids a whole musical experience.

And, he does all this in two weeks!

“I get the VBS theme and the Scriptures from the people at LifeWay, then I have about two weeks to get it all written so the writers of the VBS materials will have it,” Slaughter said.

LifeWay publishes two lines of Vacation Bible School materials. This year’s themes are “Game Day Central: Where Heroes are Made!” and “Club VBS: Jungle Jaunt.”

“I try to write music that will appeal to the 5th and 6th grade boys,” Slaughter said with a laugh. “If I can connect with them, then I figure all the kids will like it. The younger kids look up to those guys and if they think the music is cool, so will everyone else.”

Slaughter has been writing VBS music since 1996, when he wrote the music for 1997’s “Wild, Wonderful, Good News Stampede.” After 11 years, he’s had time to see some kids to move into adulthood.

He was in the airport in Minneapolis last year when he noticed a young man in his early 20s walking near him. They both went to the food area to grab a quick meal before getting on their next flights.

“It was funny, but God was telling me to talk to this young guy,” Slaughter said. “I was thinking, ‘No, I don’t want to. I don’t know him. He’ll think I’m weird or

something.’ But we wound up at the same food line, so I made some comment like, ‘You hungry, too?’ or something. The guy got his food and sat down, but I still felt like God wanted me to talk to him. So, I walked by his table and asked if he wanted some company and he said, ‘Sure.’

“We started talking about where we were going and what we did for a living. I told him I wrote Christian music and I was mostly involved in writing music for a program called Vacation Bible School.

“Then this guy got a big grin on his face and said he’d been to Vacation Bible School when he was a kid. Then, he started singing the theme song from the Good News Stampede. I said, ‘Hey, I wrote that!’ Then he said, ‘No way!’

“Then I said, ‘So you’re a Christian too!’ But, he said, ‘Not anymore. I’ve sort of given up on that.’”

Slaughter said his heart broke for the young man. “I told him, ‘God has not left you. He is still holding you in the palm of His hand. What do you think the odds are that out of all the people in all the airports that we would wind up sitting at the same table talking about Vacation Bible School? I think God has given us a divine appointment.’ So we talked until we both had to leave.”

Slaughter said that experience reminded him again how God uses VBS – and his music – to penetrate the lives of so many kids all over the country. “He had drifted away from Jesus, but that song was still there in his memory almost 10 years later.” ■

Links

All of the VBS music written by Slaughter is available for download on iTunes. Other music resources by Slaughter are available at www.lifewaystores.com. For more information about VBS, go to www.lifeway.com/vbs; for more information about Slaughter, go to www.jeffslaughter.com.

FOCUS

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LifeWay | Students

True Love Waits receives funding to expand work in Africa

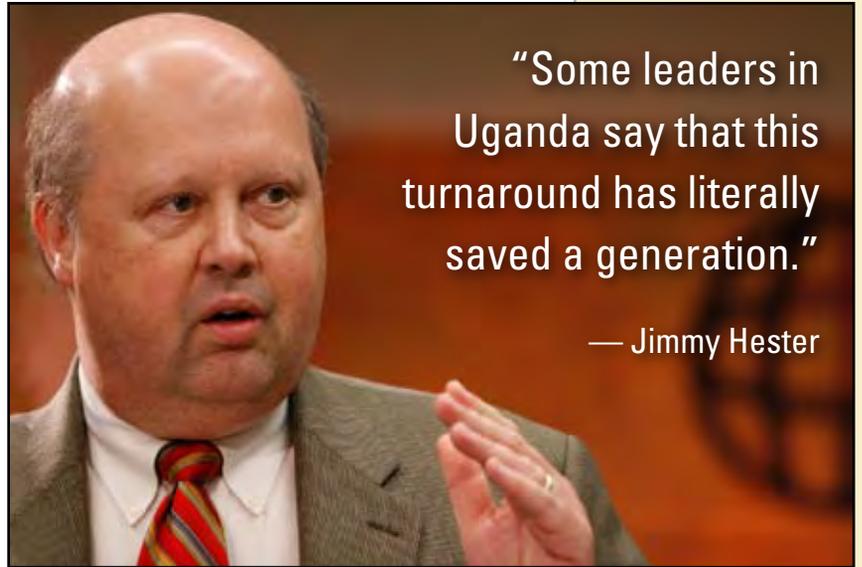
T rue Love Waits International has received \$950,000 through LifeWay's A Defining Moment campaign to begin the first phase of expanding its abstinence-until-marriage message in six African countries.

In announcing this expansion, LifeWay President Thom Rainer said, "Although HIV/AIDS is a concern worldwide, the most concentrated and high-risk area continues to be the continent of Africa, where the life expectancy in some countries has dropped from age 42 to as low as age 30," Rainer said. "We are very pleased to make this announcement because we believe True Love Waits can be the answer for the AIDS epidemic on the entire continent."

Since its introduction in Uganda 13 years ago, True Love Waits has been a catalyst for bringing people together to address the AIDS problem and spread the message of biblical purity to schools, youth groups, communities and other places. In the years that followed, Uganda's HIV/AIDS infection rate dropped from 30 percent to about 6 percent of the country's 25 million people.

"Some leaders in Uganda say that this turnaround has literally saved a generation," said Jimmy Hester, co-founder of True Love Waits. "We believe that expanding True Love Waits to other parts of Africa has the potential of dramatically lowering the HIV/AIDS infection rate in those countries as well."

Larry and Sharon Pumpelly, the Southern Baptist missionaries who introduced True Love Waits in Uganda in 1994, are working with Hester and the LifeWay True Love Waits team on the multicountry expansion.



"Some leaders in Uganda say that this turnaround has literally saved a generation."

— Jimmy Hester

Photo by Kent Harville

Through the efforts of leaders in communities touched by the problem of sexual activity among the youth population, Hester noted that True Love Waits can fight AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases; unplanned pregnancies; and a number of emotional, social, psychological, and spiritual problems by helping young people change their attitudes and behaviors related to sexual expression.

Based on methodologies developed in Uganda, True Love Waits will establish an ongoing relationship with a key national champion in each African country who, in turn, will build a hierarchy of teams within the country. These teams will utilize a proven verbally based, culturally appropriate teaching approach to carry the message of True Love Waits.

"This is an intentional effort to learn from the experiences in Uganda and apply those principles to other African countries, taking into account cultural differences that exist between these countries," Hester said. ■

A Defining Moment is a new \$29 million philanthropic campaign initiated by LifeWay Christian Resources to touch the nations for Jesus Christ. In addition to True Love Waits International, the campaign is raising funds for a new translation of the Mandarin Chinese Bible; a Leadership Training Institute that will train 10,000 pastors and staff in effective leadership, ministry and personal life skills; and discipleship training in Cuba, India and Kenya.



Coming Summer of **2008**



find out more at www.lifewayworship.com

Visit the LifeWay Church Resources booth at the SBC annual meeting for more information about this worship planning Web resource and the 2008 edition of *The Baptist Hymnal*.

LifeWay | Worship

5 vital signs of healthy leadership

by Mike Tucker

Vital signs help medical professionals quickly and effectively assess the health of patients under their care. Assessing leaders in a local church is more difficult. How can church leaders know if they are leading their churches in a healthy way?

The Apostle Paul was a healthy leader. In his letter to the church at Philippi, we discover five vital signs of healthy leadership.

vibrant and alive because he had a healthy perspective. Because Paul surrendered all he had to Jesus, he didn't fear death. He was able to demonstrate courage regardless of circumstances. Paul's example reminds us that spiritual vitality begins with surrender, gains a proper perspective and is lived out in courage.

Vital Sign #2:
Healthy leaders are motivated by a compelling vision.

Paul was consumed by a compelling vision. He understood his mission to share the gospel and nothing could stop him. Even being under house arrest didn't stop him. In Philippians 1:12 he said: "Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has actually resulted in the advancement of the gospel..." He shared the gospel with prison guards.

Healthy leaders are passionate and motivated by a compelling vision. Healthy leaders know who they are and what God wants them to do. Vision propels them forward. It's always about tomorrow, never yesterday. Healthy leaders are "tomorrow people" – reaching, serving and leading to grasp and obey the vision God has for them.

A compelling vision simplifies matters. It cuts through the fog of activity and takes hold of us. Healthy leaders with a compelling God-sized vision have no trouble getting up in the morning. They look forward to the ministry God has in store for them. Ministry isn't a chore – it's a calling.



Vital Sign #1:
Healthy leaders demonstrate spiritual vitality.

Paul was a healthy leader because he was spiritually vibrant and alive. In Philippians 1:21 Paul said: "For me, living is Christ and dying is gain." Paul shared the secret to spiritual vitality: move from a self-directed life to a God-directed life. Ministry leadership in the church is not about us. It's not about buildings, budgets or baptisms. Healthy leadership is all about God's presence in our lives.

Paul's leadership was rooted in healthy theology. His leadership was spiritually

Vital Sign #3: Healthy leaders commit to ongoing learning.

In Philippians 3:10, 12 Paul prayed, “My goal is to know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings ... Not that I have already reached the goal ... but I make every effort....” In this passage Paul said he wanted to know Jesus. He knew he had more to learn.

Healthy leaders look for regular opportunities to “sharpen the saw.” They are lifetime learners who continue to study and grow. Healthy leaders give time to learning new skills that enhance their ability to lead.

Vital Sign #4: Healthy leaders are relationally connected.

Paul cherished his relationship with the believers at Philippi. In Philippians 1:3 he said, “I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you.” As a healthy leader Paul has established a partnership with this church. It was based on their common experience together. There are times when leaders must face loneliness, but leadership does not happen in isolation. Healthy leaders resist the temptation to push or pull. Healthy leaders are connected to those they lead.

Unhealthy leaders distance themselves from people. This leads to a lack of fellowship and accountability that can be fatal for a leader’s ministry. Unhealthy leaders let relational problems fester by refusing to deal with them. Repairing relationships is hard and exhausting work but absolutely essential for a healthy leader.

When leaders are vitally connected to others, there is accountability. Healthy leaders surround themselves with people who are willing to hold them accountable. Everyone in leadership needs those who love him or her enough to tell him or her when he or she has blown it. Without accountability, pride erodes our ability to lead.

Vital Sign #5: Healthy leaders serve with a sense of divine empowerment.

In Philippians 4:13, 19 Paul declared: “I am able to do all things through Him who strengthens me ... And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” Paul knew that the epicenter of his leadership was Jesus Christ. Paul knew that only when we are totally dependent on God and empowered by His Spirit are we genuinely sufficient.

Healthy leaders know that when our lives are linked with God’s purposes, we share in His resources. Healthy leaders give up their small ambitions because they know God will supply all they need to do His will. They look beyond themselves to see His grand purpose in their lives. And they stimulate others to join them in the greatest adventure of life – serving God and seeing His will unfold before them.

Consider your present ministry. How do your ministry vital signs compare with these of healthy leaders? Are there areas of your life and ministry in which you want to improve? Determine today how you can become a healthier ministry leader. ■

Mike Tucker is a LifeWay church consultant in Flower Mound, Texas.

Take the Healthy Leadership Self-Exam on page 38 and evaluate the evidence of healthy leadership in your own life and ministry.

We recommend

- *Spiritual Leadership* by Henry Blackaby and Richard Blackaby
- *Called to be God’s Leader (Llamado a Ser Lider de Dios)* by Henry Blackaby and Richard Blackaby
- *Jesus on Leadership (El liderazgo de Jesus)* by C. Gene Wilkes
- *Paul on Leadership* by C. Gene Wilkes

A healthy leadership self-examination checklist

Use the following checklist to evaluate the evidence of healthy leadership in your life and ministry.

Spiritual Vitality

- _____ I spend time each day in prayer and Bible study.
- _____ I share my faith regularly.
- _____ I tithe my income through the local church.
- _____ I make time to renew myself physically each week.
- _____ I am active and faithfully serve in my local church.

Compelling Vision

- _____ I know God has something special for me to do.
- _____ I know my spiritual gifts and am using them appropriately.
- _____ I am presently serving in my local church.
- _____ I am motivated by a vision of God's Kingdom.

Ongoing Learning

- _____ I regularly commit my time and resources to developing my ministry skills.
- _____ I attend training events regularly.
- _____ I schedule personal time each week to refresh and regroup.

Relationally Connected

- _____ I am in a right relationship with every member of my family.
- _____ I am in a right relationship with every member of my ministry team.
- _____ I am part of a peer accountability group.
- _____ I am investing myself in those I lead.
- _____ I am reproducing other healthy leaders.

Empowered by the Spirit

- _____ I serve each day with the expectancy that God will bless my ministry.
- _____ I have personally experienced the abundance of God's resources in my ministry.
- _____ I have experienced what can only be described as a "God thing."



Did you discover some strengths and weaknesses in your life and ministry? After completing this questionnaire, turn back to the "5 Vital Signs of Healthy Leadership" to discover five signs of healthy leadership as demonstrated by Paul in his letter to the church at Philippi.

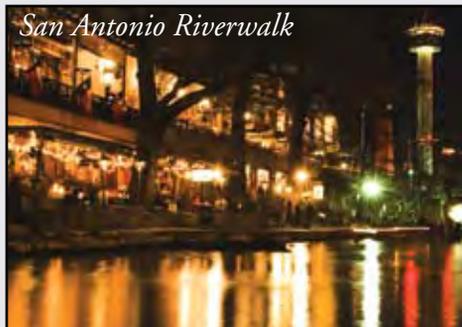
LifeWay-related events at the SBC annual meeting*

Monday, June 11 - Wednesday, June 13

- LifeWay will provide free counseling for ministers and spouses during the SBC annual meeting in San Antonio. Counseling will be available Monday through Wednesday. Sessions may be scheduled by calling (615) 476-4672 for a confidential appointment.

- LifeWay, in partnership with GuideStone Financial Resources, will provide health screening at the GuideStone Wellness booth in the exhibit area. This service will be provided at no cost to ministers and spouses.

- Come by the *Facts & Trends* booth in the LifeWay area of the exhibit hall. *Facts & Trends* editor Polly House and *Facts & Trends Online* project coordinator Jenny Rice will be on hand



San Antonio Riverwalk

to sign up new subscribers. Booth visitors can register for a daily giveaway of a *Facts & Trends* gym bag packed with surprises.

Tuesday, June 12

- The FAITH luncheon for FAITH-trained pastors will be Tuesday, June 12, immediately following the morning business session, at the Marriott Riverwalk Alamo Ballroom A/B/C on Level 2. FAITH-trained pastors can call (877) FAITH-98 to reserve space. Tickets can be picked up at the FAITH booth near the registration area. Attendees at the luncheon will hear about the new generation of FAITH Strategy. LifeWay President Thom Rainer speak. Former SBC President, FAITH author and the SBC Executive Committee's Strategist for Global Evangelical Relations Bobby Welch will give a "Who Let the Dogs Out" charge.

* Event information up-to-date as of April 17.

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New LifeWay resource lets kids worship like kids!

by Jenny Rice

Picture a worship service with singing, drama, Bible reading ... and science experiments?

Add in arts and crafts and you have the makings of a worship service designed specifically for the unique worship needs of children and older preschoolers.

LifeWay has developed Worship KidStyle, a resource available this summer for churches interested in providing an interactive children's worship service. Built for small and large group settings, Worship KidStyle offers easy-to-use and reproducible leaders' guides and materials that incorporate creative, active worship elements within a biblical context.

"This resource is ideal for churches that are unable to meet children's needs during their current worship services," said Todd Capps, editor in chief and

Worship KidStyle team leader. Capps has 10 years of children's ministry experience and currently is pursuing his doctorate in children's worship.

"Throughout the years we have had people call and say 'My pastor wants us to start children's worship and there is nothing really great out there for what we need,'" Capps explained. "Worship KidStyle is LifeWay's solution to meet that need."

"Throughout the years we have had people call and say 'My pastor wants us to start children's worship and there is nothing really great out there for what we need.' Worship KidStyle is LifeWay's solution to meet that need."

— Todd Capps, Worship KidStyle team leader



Designed with kids in mind

During the Worship KidStyle service, children will sing and move along with music videos, watch age-appropriate life application videos, pray, give their offerings, learn and apply Bible knowledge, learn key Bible verses and hear Bible stories.

“The material is very hands-on so the kids aren't sitting still for long periods of time,” Capps said. “It has a lot of excitement and incorporates more experiences geared toward the children's age levels and development.”

Each worship session contains music videos with choreographed motions, arts and crafts ideas, life application videos, and other small group activities such as dramas, games, and exploration and discovery.

“The various options are designed to meet the differing interests of the children,” Capps explained.

Designed for children's worship on Sunday mornings or evenings or Wednesday evenings for special children's ministries, Worship KidStyle is also compatible with LifeWay's Bible Teaching for Kids curriculum.

The preschool edition of Worship KidStyle is designed for 4-year-olds and

kindergarteners. The children's edition is intended for elementary school-age children and covers a broad age grouping of children.

Easy to use

The creators of Worship KidStyle are intentional about developing a resource that is user-friendly for churches of any size.

“We field-tested an initial version of the resources with 25 churches of different sizes and discovered that what we at LifeWay thought was

easy to use was not necessarily easy to use by those in the churches,” Capps explained. “So we went back and reworked the materials to make them as user-friendly as possible.

Understanding that children's worship leaders frequently rotate with different teachers each week, LifeWay designed the Worship KidStyle materials to be reproducible for as many leaders as necessary. (Due to copyright restraints, the music and videos are not for reproduction.)

“People have expressed frustration over resources that could only be accessed through the computer,” Capps explained. “We took the computer out of the classroom and simplified the entire preparation process.” ■



Worship KidStyle preview available

Churches interested in learning more about Worship KidStyle may visit www.lifeway.com/worshipkidstyle for additional information, sample lessons and a video preview.

LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center 100 years and still going strong

by Don Beehler

From humble beginnings in a single log cabin, LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center has grown to be one of the largest religious conference centers in the nation: a 1,300-acre campus with 90,000 square feet of conference space and housing accommodations for more than 2,000 people.

For generations, this grand retreat in the Blue Ridge Mountains near Asheville, N.C., has provided a place where people can escape from the noise and interruptions of everyday life to enjoy fellowship and experience spiritual renewal.

“Ridgecrest has been a center not only for inspiration and blessing to people that live in western North Carolina, but to hundreds of thousands of people throughout the country,” wrote evangelist Billy Graham in a letter commemorating Ridgecrest’s 100th anniversary. Graham was a frequent speaker at Ridgecrest, especially in the early years of his ministry.

More than 3 million people have visited Ridgecrest. Some have met their spouses there, while others have developed friendships that have lasted for decades.

“There are many thousands of pastors, missionaries and church staff members who can point to a moment at Ridgecrest when they committed their lives to Christ or to vocational ministry,” said Byron Hill, national director for LifeWay Conference

Centers. “Marriages and entire families have been strengthened or transformed, and numerous laypersons have received training to better equip them for ministry.”

Last summer, B&H Publishing Group released *Ridgecrest: A Century of Spiritual Renewal*, a 96-page, full-color coffee table book that takes readers on a nostalgic journey through time and examines how generations of Southern Baptists and others have had their lives changed in dramatic ways at Ridgecrest.

Chapters include testimonials from well-known Christian leaders such as Graham and the late Adrian Rogers; a look at the volunteers and donors who make Ridgecrest’s work possible; and a

section that focuses on camps and programs for young people. Other chapters relive highlights of the past century, examine how Ridgecrest has changed and look at what’s in store for the center’s next 100 years.

Interspersed throughout the book are stories submitted by people of all ages whose lives have been influenced by their time at Ridgecrest.

“While we continue to undergo extensive revitalization efforts to ensure Ridgecrest remains an attractive and relevant spiritual haven, the real story of Ridgecrest has always been – and always will be – about people,” Hill said. ■

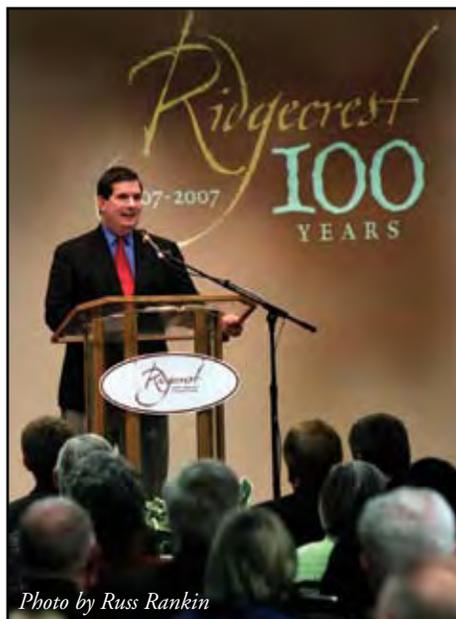


Photo by Russ Rankin

LifeWay President Thom Rainer speaks at Ridgecrest centennial

We recommend

- *Ridgecrest: A Century of Spiritual Renewal*

This resource is available from LifeWay Christian Stores at www.lifewaystores.com and (800) 233-1123.

LifeWay trustees elect new vice president, hear reports of strong ministry results at semiannual meeting



LifeWay trustees meet Feb. 12-13 for their semiannual meeting.

LifeWay's trustees elected a new vice president of research and ministry development and heard details of strong first-quarter ministry results at their semiannual meeting Feb. 12-13 at LifeWay in Nashville, Tenn.

Trustees approved the recommendation to establish a vice president of research and ministry development and elected Brad Waggoner to the new position. Waggoner has served as director of LifeWay Research since 2006 (see "Trustees name Waggoner to lead new research and ministry development division" on page 11 for more information).

In his address to trustees, President Thom Rainer spoke about three major issues facing LifeWay: integrity and openness; LifeWay as a bridge builder; and the need to establish a new division called research and ministry development.

Chief Financial Officer Jerry Rhyne reported that LifeWay is off to a "strong start" in the fiscal year that began Oct. 1, 2006, with revenues near budget and



Photos by Kent Harville

expenses well under control. Divisional leaders filed the following reports:

Church resources

Vice President John Kramp highlighted several new initiatives including: The Worship Project, a new digital hymnal, hardback hymnal and online worship planning portal; and a new eight-year cycle for Explore the Bible.

Kramp also reported that a revision of *Experiencing God* will be released in August, the Next Generation of FAITH will be released in December, and Worship KidStyle, a new children's worship resource, will be ready this fall.

Vacation Bible School's two lines – "Game Day Central: Where Heroes are

Brad Waggoner speaks to trustees as the new vice president for research and ministry development.

Made” and “Club VBS: Jungle Jaunt” – have been well received, with almost 2,000 people attending the VBS Previews.

Kramp said three initiatives his division is addressing more intentionally are ministry with African-American churches, ministry with Hispanic churches and ministry to baby boomers as they begin moving into their senior adult years.

LifeWay Christian Stores

Vice President Mark Scott reported a successful start to the new fiscal year building on strong results in 2006. In the first quarter alone, LifeWay Christian Stores served 239,000 new households and 2,023 new churches. Scott praised store associates for their “servant-hearted service” that makes each store a “spiritual oasis” for customers.

Scott highlighted the success of “Faith at Home,” an exclusive gift line that helps differentiate LifeWay from other retailers. He also noted that the stores continue to serve 154,000 ministers who receive the minister’s discount, and have provided significant savings to customers through the LifeWay Rewards program. In addition, the stores have sold, at cost, more than 150,000 copies of “The Invitation” CD that features inspiring Christian music and a gospel message.

Five new store projects in three states – Alabama, Virginia and Georgia – have been completed since September, as well as two relocations and one store closing, said Scott.

Scott also highlighted the division’s direct marketing efforts, in which LifeWay participates with third-party suppliers to

provide custom printed offering envelopes, church buses, signs, steeples and other products.

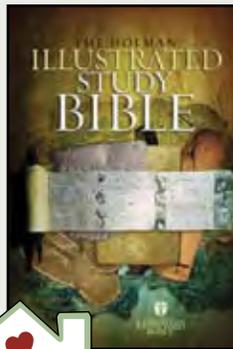
B&H Publishing Group

Vice President Ken Stephens reported that B&H sold 2.8 million Bibles last year and that the *Holman Christian Standard Bible* was the No. 1 translation in unit sales in LifeWay Christian Stores during the 2006 Christmas season. He also highlighted best-selling resources like Beth Moore’s *Praying God’s Word Day by Day* and *Simple Church* by Thom S. Rainer and Eric Geiger, and announced that the *Holman Illustrated Study Bible* has sold more than 95,000 units since its release in October.

Key product launches for 2007 include a new line of communion products called RemembranceWare; *Jesus: 90 Days with the One and Only*, and a paperback version of *Breaking Free*, both by Beth Moore; *Now You’re Speaking My Language* by Gary Chapman; *The Holman Student Bible*; and an *Apologetics Bible*. Holman Bible Outreach International also reported strong ministry results for 2006 with 300,000 Bibles distributed. This year, HBOI plans numerous projects, from single-Bible donations known as “Sparrow Projects” to major Bible distribution initiatives.

Finance and business services

Vice President Jerry Rhyne reported that the 100,000-square-foot expansion of the Lebanon Distribution Center was completed in March 2006, and the dated operations department will relocate from Nashville to the Lebanon facility by Oct. 1, resulting in a significant reduction of expenses. In addition, LifeWay has purchased property adjacent to LifeWay’s



home office in Nashville and has set aside the land for future use. *Business Tennessee* magazine has named LifeWay one of the top 20 Tennessee employers and will feature the company in an upcoming edition.

Rhyne also updated trustees on the current capital improvements at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center located near Asheville, N.C. The new Mt. Laurel Inn West features 103 guest rooms, five one-bedroom suites, three conference rooms, a fitness center and a new lobby to connect the new wing with the existing Mt. Laurel hotel. Rhyne also outlined the spiritual impact of LifeWay's two conference centers, where more than 100,000 visitors attend a wide variety of discipleship and training events each year. A decision on whether to move forward with the new convention center at Ridgecrest will be made by June 1.

Executive communications and relations

Vice President Tom Hellams highlighted recent LifeWay activities that reached out to the Nashville community, including "A Christmas Prayer," a musical drama featuring author and recording artist Mandisa, presented at the historic Ryman Auditorium; and the unveiling of "There's Room at the Cross for You," a bronze statue in tribute to the life and ministry of evangelist Billy Graham, permanently on public display at LifeWay.

Hellams also noted some new features in LifeWay's news and information services, among them weekly podcasts at www.lifeway.com/insidelifeway; celebration of the 50th anniversary of *Facts & Trends* magazine; and the launch of *Facts & Trends Online*, an interactive Web version of *Facts & Trends* at www.lifeway.com/factsandtrends.

He also reported that three employee-led mission trips so far this year have resulted in more than 6,500 professions of faith. In addition, LifeWay International now has 628 distributors of LifeWay products in 83 countries.

Technology

Vice President Tim Vineyard reported on the successful, on-time launch of the Oracle E-Business Suite, a state-of-the-art business system that positions LifeWay for growth in the years to come. "The scope and significance of this project are massive," he said. LifeWay is now in the post-launch stabilization period. A change management team has identified more than 150 priority issues and has resolved a third of these already.

Other business

Responding to a motion from the 2006 Southern Baptist Convention and referred to LifeWay that LifeWay undertake research on a number of issues affecting Southern Baptists, the trustees approved LifeWay's response that it supports the motion and is conducting the requested research through LifeWay Research.

Trustees granted LifeWay the authority to exchange property in North Carolina, enabling Ridgecrest Conference Center to acquire a parcel of land near the main campus. ■

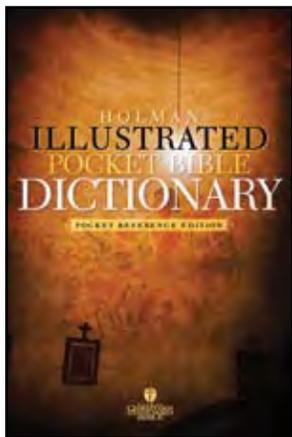


LifeWay President Thom Rainer speaks to trustees during their semiannual meeting in February.

Resources

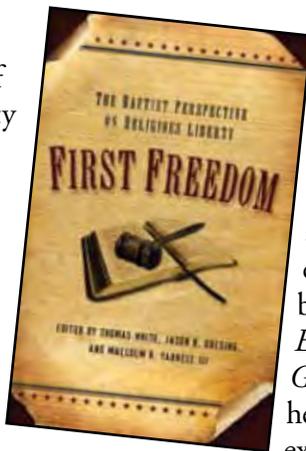
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B&H Publishing



■ **Holman Illustrated Pocket Bible Dictionary**
The Holman Illustrated Pocket Bible Dictionary provides the essential information you need to study the Bible in a handy, pocket-size format. This edition is designed for those who need information quickly, but also want in-depth details on a variety of topics. Numerous color photographs, reconstructions, maps and charts illuminate the text and help you process information in a way you never thought possible. Releases May 1. Product #13:978-1-5864-0314-0. Paperback. \$9.99

■ **First Freedom**
First Freedom is an important gathering of messages from a recent conference on religious liberty held at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Editor Jason B. Duesing explains, “The purpose of this collection is, first, to provide readers an introductory look into the biblical and historical foundations of religious liberty combined with several instances of contemporary expression and defense for the purpose of instruction, edification and encouragement.”



Releases May 1. Product #13:978-0-8054-4387-5. Paperback. \$14.99

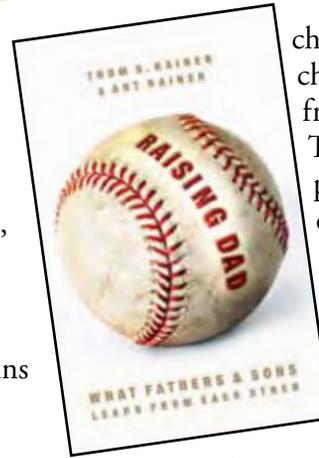
■ **Experiencing God Together**
 by Henry T. Blackaby and Melvin D. Blackaby
 An award-winning book from a multimillion-selling author, now available in paperback for the first time. Henry

Blackaby says, “As important as *Experiencing God* has been to many people, *Experiencing God Together* is a necessary sequel. Christians must make the transition from knowing and doing the will of God as individuals to knowing and doing the will of God within a corporate body of believers.”

God saves individuals but places them in community with one another – a community of believers. *Experiencing God Together* helps churches experience the fullness of life as a

congregation, a manifest presence of God in their midst, and a love that could only come from above. Releases June 1. Product #13: 978-0-8054-4551-0. Paperback. \$14.99

■ **Raising Dad**
 by Thom S. Rainer and Art Rainer
 Parents will tell you they learn as much from their



children as their children learn from them. This truth is poignantly captured in *Raising Dad: What Fathers & Sons Learn from Each Other* by

father-son authors Thom and Art Rainer. It was Art’s idea to write from a grown child’s perspective this tribute to his father’s successes as a parent. Inviting his father to write postscripts to these reflections, another tender truth emerged. Dad’s memories about his own performance aren’t nearly as rose colored, giving those who read the book great inspiration to never stop growing and learning as a parent. All told, *Raising Dad* shares unforgettable lessons about faith, friendship, commitment, honesty and priorities. Releases May 1. Product #13:978-0-8054-4391-2. Hardcover. \$17.99

■ **Comeback Churches**
 by Ed Stetzer and Mike Dodson
 Research shows that over time, most churches plateau and then eventually decline.

Typically, they start strong and experience periods of growth, then stagnate and lose members. Since 1991, the North American population has increased by 15 percent, while the number of “unchurched” people has increased by 92 percent. To counter this trend, authors Ed Stetzer and Mike Dodson surveyed 300 churches from across 10 different denominations that recently achieved healthy evangelistic growth after a significant season of decline. What they have discovered is an exciting method of congregation reinvigoration that is shared in the new book entitled *Comeback Churches*. Releases May 1. Product #13:978-0-8054-4536-7. Hardcover. \$17.99

■ **Nate Donovan: Revolutionary Spy and Mercy Clifton: Pilgrim Girl**

by Peter Marshall, David Manuel and Sheldon Maxwell

These first two of the new Crimson Cross fiction series for readers ages 11-15 are inspired by the ornate 15th century Spanish cross first given by Queen Isabella to Christopher Columbus before he sailed on his great voyage of discovery.

Penned by best-selling historical authors Peter Marshall and David Manuel (*The Light and the Glory*) and experienced youth writer Sheldon Maxwell, each of the four books in the series will introduce a teenage character who becomes closely involved with a major event in American history. By story’s end, the title character receives the crimson cross and learns valuable lessons about God and country. Releases June 1. *Nate Donovan*, Product #13:978-0-8054-4395-0. *Mercy Clifton*, Product #13:978-0-8054-4395-0. Paperback. \$9.99



■ **TeenVirtue Confidential**
by Vicki Courtney

Following up her best-selling editions of *TeenVirtue* and *TeenVirtue 2*, Vicki Courtney’s *TeenVirtue Confidential* takes an even more interactive direction than before by offering God-focused answers to real questions sent in from teenage girls. The main topics here are: The Future, Guys, Body Development and Sex, and Faith. *TeenVirtue Confidential* is a safe and cool pick for their precious daughters. Releases June 1. Product #13:978-0-8054-4192-5. Paperback. \$14.99

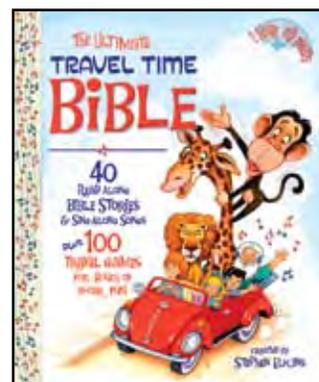


■ **The Ultimate Travel Time Bible**

by Stephen Elkins
The Ultimate Travel Time Bible retells 40 Bible stories, each with a unique song, game and activity structured around the theme of travel. Readers “travel” to various biblical cities through text and illustrations that tell the story while dialog boxes also share the message.

An “address” is given for each story with the Scripture reference telling where to find it in the Bible. Corresponding special activities include coloring pages, stickers, connect-the-dots, word searches, verbal games like “I Spy,” and visual scavenger hunts.

Releases May 1. Product #13:987-0-8054-2647-2. Hardcover, hidden spiral with audio CD. \$14.99



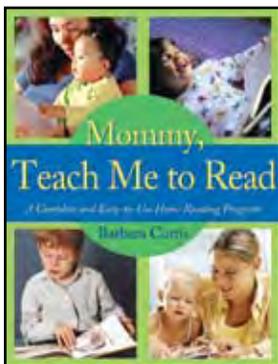
■ **Mommy, Teach Me**
by Barbara Curtis

In *Mommy, Teach Me* author Barbara Curtis, a mother of 12, shares secrets on how to turn everyday experiences into learning opportunities for preschool children. Designed as a user-friendly educational program, this book is filled with exercises for

Resources

for you from LifeWay

parents to implement with their littlest ones at home. They will discover that while playing, drawing, and just being kids, children can also be practicing muscle control, concentration, and other basic skills that will help throughout life. Releases June 1. Product #13:987-0-



8054-4476-6. Paperback. \$12.99

■ **Mommy, Teach Me to Read**

by **Barbara Curtis**

A mother can start to give her child a passion for books and a lifelong love of reading at home with

Mommy, Teach Me to Read. The easy-to-learn and fun-to-follow reading programs and activities presented here offer a wonderful way to spend time with your children.

This at-home educational resource will help any child age 7 or younger become a better, more enthusiastic reader. Releases June 1. Product #13:978-0-8054-4477-3. Paperback. \$12.99

LifeWay Church Resources

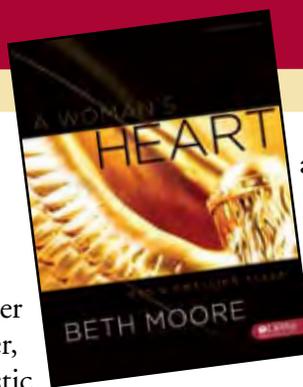
■ **A Woman's Heart, Updated**

by **Beth Moore**

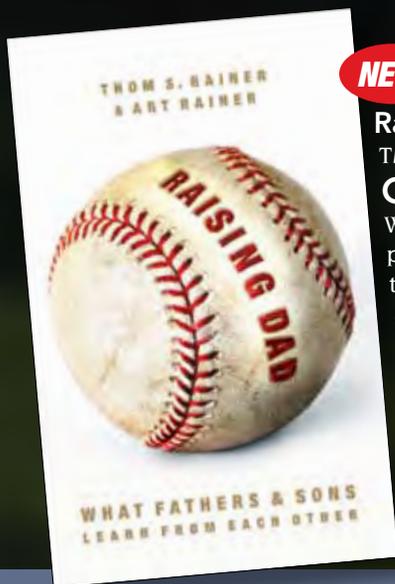
The original Beth Moore video teaching series has been revisited and revised, with fresh new content, richer detail, and

all-new video presentations. As women explore the Scriptures regarding the events

leading up to the building of the tabernacle, based on God's detailed plans, they will find fresh new meaning and significance. In addition to the new video presentations (now on DVDs), the member book has been revised, reflecting what God has taught Moore in the past decade. Regardless of whether you participated in this study when it was first released in 1995, or



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 CHRISTIAN STORES®
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are taking it for the first time, *A Woman's Heart* is available to all women who desire to know God and His Word on a deeper level. (10 sessions) Releases in June. Member book, updated, LifeWay product #0-0507-6821, \$14.95; Leader kit, updated, LifeWay product #0-0503-5305, \$199.95; Audio CDs, updated, LifeWay product #0-0507-7199, \$39.95; Leader guide, updated, LifeWay product #0-0507-7200, \$6.95

■ **January Bible Study 2008: God's Amazing Grace: Studies in the Book of Romans** by Dean Register

This book focuses on the book of Romans and four questions people often ask about God: Can I believe in God? Is God still active today? Does God care about me? Does God care how I live? While these questions were especially pertinent to the Roman Christians, they are still relevant for Christians today. The adult leader pack is designed to assist

the pastor or other church leaders in preparation and promotion. The learner guide is deep in content yet easy to read. Designed for use within the Bible study setting or in individual preparation. The leader guide includes teaching helps, in-depth exposition notes, and tear-out teaching items for copies. (4 sessions) Releases in May.

Adult learner guide, LifeWay product #0-0503-5374 \$6.95; Adult leader guide, LifeWay product #0-0503-5395 \$8.95; Adult leader pack, LifeWay product #0-0503-5394, \$24.95

■ **Baptist Doctrine Study 2008: The Baptist Faith & Message**

This study examines each of the articles in the *Baptist Faith and Message* and provides biblical commentary from three noteworthy SBC leaders: Chuck Kelley, president of New Orleans Baptist

Theological Seminary; Richard D. Land, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission; and R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of The Southern



Baptist Theological Seminary. Participants will learn to better articulate the basic Baptist beliefs, give the biblical foundation for these beliefs,

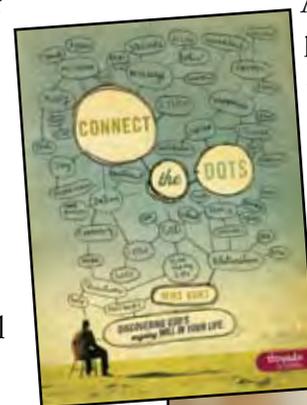
and apply the beliefs to their individual Christian walks. The book includes a leader guide in the back. (6 sessions) Releases in June.

LifeWay product #0-0503-5536, \$7.95

■ **Connect the Dots: Discovering God's Ongoing Will in Your Life**

by Mike Hurt
 It seems that young adults everywhere are asking the same questions – wondering if

God's will for their lives is a set formula, or more like a puzzle. Mike Hurt invites young adults to understand that God's will is found most profoundly in an intimate relationship with Him. His perfect will for their lives can be revealed daily. The leader kit includes a member book and enhanced CD packed with useful leader tools.

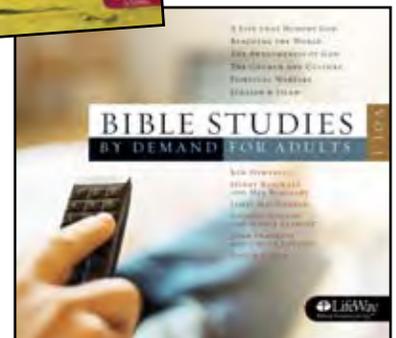
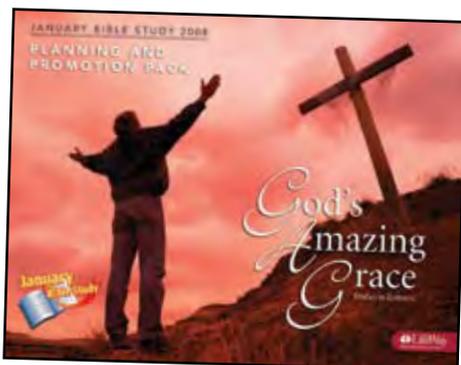


Releases in June. Member book, LifeWay product #0-0508-5765, \$7.95; Leader kit, LifeWay product #0-0503-5517, \$69.95

■ **Bible Studies by Demand for Adults, Volume One**

When Bible study plans go awry, these flexible pick-up-and-go DVD resources are ready to help you recover. Volume One features six stand-alone studies on diverse topics from some of LifeWay's most respected authors: James MacDonald, Ergun Caner, Ken Hemphill, Henry and Melvin Blackaby, John Franklin, Chuck Lawless, Charles Colson and Nancy Pearcey. Each DVD contains one session from the author's video series.

An information-packed CD-ROM includes facilitator helps, viewer guides, answer keys, and optional discussion questions. This is self-



Resources

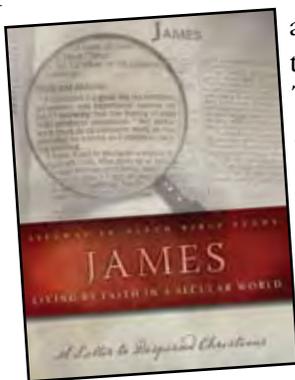
for you from LifeWay

contained for a thorough and effective Bible study. Releases in May.

LifeWay product #0-0508-1527, \$59.95

■ **LifeWay In-depth Bible Study: James, How to Live by Faith in a Secular World**

The latest release in the LifeWay In-depth Bible Study series, specifically designed for verse-by-verse study with no designated finish date. At the end of each session, the leader can mark the place in the study where the group stopped and then pick up there again in the next session. There are no member books; all that's needed is the leader commentary, which can be used to combine lecture and discussion formats. The CD-ROM contains a PowerPoint presentation that includes the teaching outline and discussion questions, as well as articles from *Biblical Illustrator*. LifeWay product #0-0503-5518, \$24.95



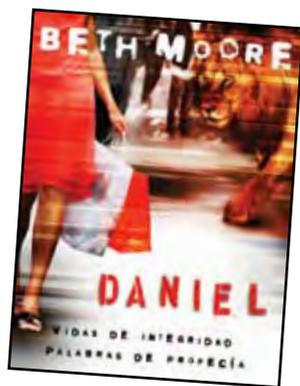
■ **Daniel: Vidas de integridad, palabras de profecía (Daniel: Lives of Integrity, Words of Prophecy, Spanish edition)**

by Beth Moore

Written to encourage believers to stand up to temptation and to believe that God is in control. Great for Spanish-speaking and bilingual study groups who have a desire to shape and influence their culture. The first six sessions focus on the life of the prophet Daniel. The second half of the study contains powerful evidence that

the Bible is divine in origin, as the historical details from Daniel's time through the second coming of Christ are fulfilled through prophecies. (12 sessions) Releases in June.

LifeWay product #0-0503-5135, \$16.95



■ **Hannah's One Wish: A Bible Study for Teen Girls**

by Kelly Minter

Today's teenage girls face all sorts of circumstances that they can't change – divorced parents, taunting mean girls and unfair teachers. The truth is, teenage years can leave a girl wondering why God isn't making things better. New study introduces students to Hannah – a devout woman of God who wrestled with her share of problems. She, too, faced enemies who taunted her, questioned God's sovereignty, wondered why the wicked were allowed to prosper, while she did her best to be honest before God. Includes a leader guide for group study and discussion, as well as stories written by teenage girls. (8 sessions) Releases in June.

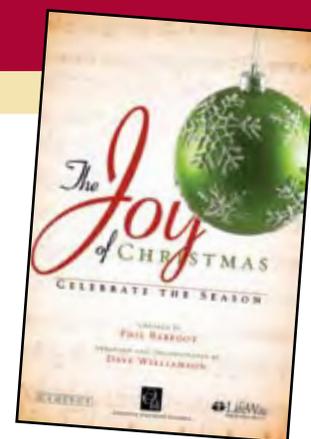
LifeWay product #0-0503-5498, \$10.95

LifeWay Worship

■ **The Joy of Christmas: Celebrate the Season**

created by Phil Barfoot, arranged and orchestrated by Dave Williamson, optional narration and drama by John Plastow SATB/Moderate

With genres ranging from a Broadway-style opener, to powerful ballads and fun blues, Dave



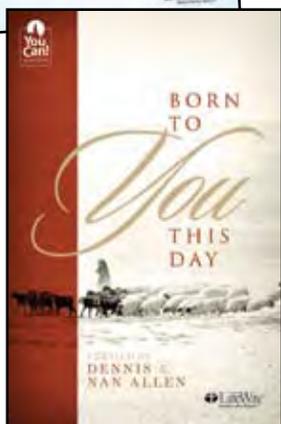
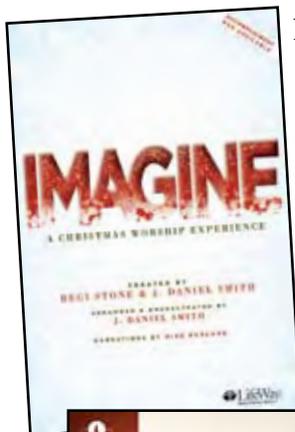
Williamson's energetic and practical arrangements make it impossible to hear or sing this Christmas collection without a smile on your face. Christian dramatist John Plastow collaborated to create a brand-new feature for those who want to present the collection as a musical: a free narration and drama, available at www.lifeway.com/worshipmusic. SATB choral book, Product #0-0507-6822, \$8.95; Listening CD, Accompaniment CD, Rehearsal tracks, Orchestration and CD promo pak are also available. Free online script available at www.lifeway.com/worshipmusic.

■ **Imagine: A Christmas Worship Experience**

created by Regi Stone and J. Daniel Smith, arranged and orchestrated by J. Daniel Smith, narrations by Mike Harland SATB/Moderate/50 minutes

Imagine is a Christmas worship experience that invites listeners to immerse themselves in

the joy and glory of His presence through true worship. Familiar, contemporary worship songs are woven together with new music, favorite carols and powerful narrations to help us all rediscover the gift of Christmas. SATB choral book, Product #0-0507-6831, \$8.95; Listening CD, Accompaniment CD (split track), DVD accompaniment (split track/click track), Rehearsal tracks,



Bulletins (pack of 100), Posters (pack of 10), Orchestration and CD promo pak are also available.

■ ***Born to You This Day*** created and

written by **Dennis and Nan Allen**, orchestrated by **Kyle Hill** SATB/ Moderate/32 minutes

This musical will draw you close to God through the angels' messages given so long ago. Listen as the lyrics and narrations retell these messages told to Mary,

messages given so long ago. Listen as the lyrics and narrations retell these messages told to Mary,

Joseph, the shepherds and the wise men – reminding us that God did want this news to be personal. Jesus was born to you! SATB choral book, Product #0-0507-7030, \$5.95; Listening CD, Accompaniment CD (split track), Kit (includes 10 choral books, one each listening and accompaniment CD and three posters), Bulletins (pack of 100) and CD promo pak are also available.

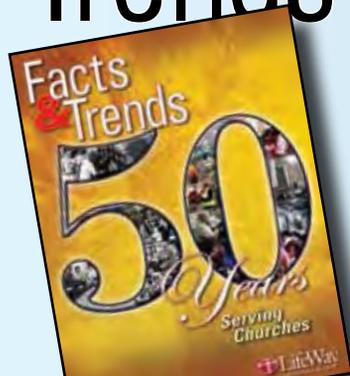
■ ***Finding the Christmas Star*** created and written by **Jeff Slaughter**

Unison and 2-part/ Easy/40 minutes Your kids will love rehearsing these fabulous songs, especially the high-energy “I Got Bit by the



Bah Hum Bug” and “The Hustle Bustle.” They will also learn through this entertaining script how the biblical story of the wise men searching for their Christmas star applies to their young lives. Choral book, Product #0-0507-7016, \$7.95; Listening CD, Accompaniment CD, DVD, Dovetailor, Bulletins (pack of 100), Posters (pack of 10), and CD promo pak are also available.

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The Golfer's Bible links one of today's most popular sports with the most popular book the world has ever known. Interspersed throughout the biblical text are 32 full-color pages of inspirational messages teed up to reach the golfer's heart, plus 32 more pages of devotions at the back of this special edition.

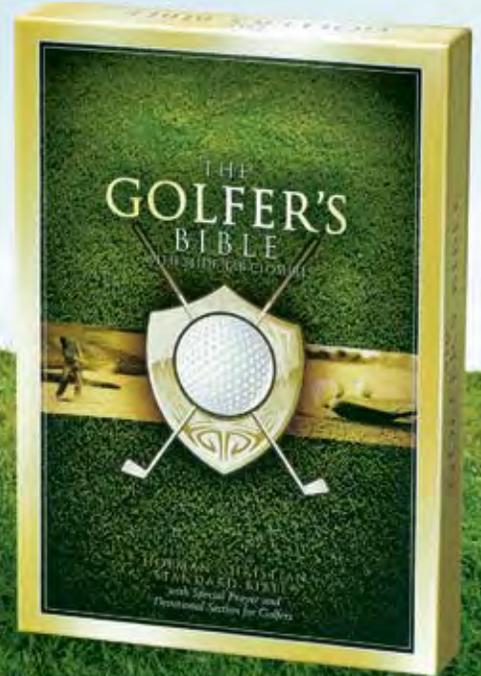
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