

Facts & Trends

New Baptist Hymnal

classic & contemporary
songs peacefully coexist

MAY/JUNE 2008

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

 **LifeWay**
Biblical Solutions for Life

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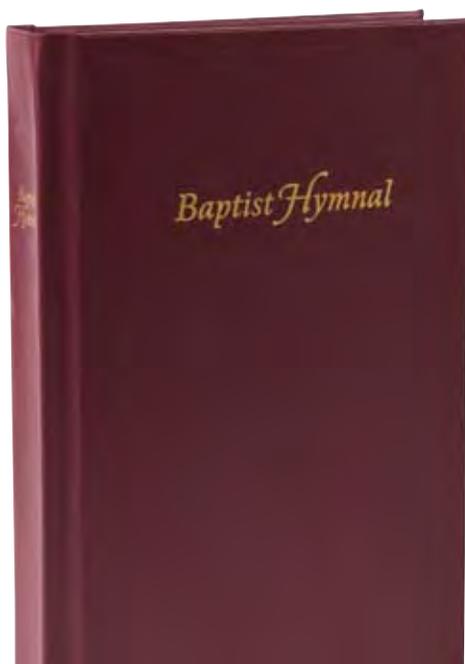
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Our purpose

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 resources. Whether you’re a pastor, church staff member or lay leader, you’ll find ways to enhance your ministry.

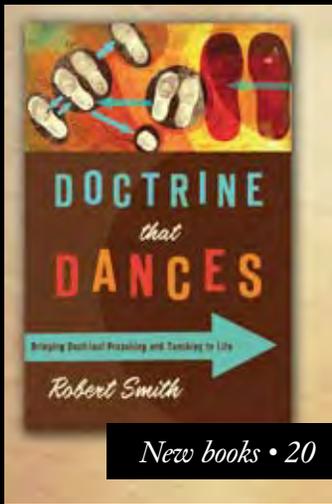




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Our format

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

Our people

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Facts & Trends Online

Visit *Facts & Trends Online (FTO)* at www.lifeway.com/factsandtrends for special features associated with articles in this issue, including:

- A video interview with Jerry and Priscilla Shirer from LifeWay's *Going Beyond* event
- An *Inside LifeWay* podcast with LifeWay Worship Director Mike Harland on the song titles included in the new Baptist Hymnal
- Check out the new LifeWay News Blog on FTO where readers can see commentary from LifeWay reporters on stories they've covered and submit feedback on select stories.

FTO is updated each week. Upcoming stories include coverage from the LifeWay's Gideon Media Arts Conference and Worship Week in June.

From my perspective



Thom S. Rainer, president and CEO, LifeWay Christian Resources

The Gospel remedies pastoral malpractice

Iwould consider pastoral malpractice among the greatest treasons a minister can commit against the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, it is practiced weekly without inhibition.

What do I mean by pastoral malpractice? I mean ministers who stand and preach a gospel other than God's rightful need for punitive justice against our sin and His wrath being appeased by pouring out upon Christ judgment intended for us. He in turn sets us in right legal standing before Himself, through faith in what Jesus has done, while simultaneously giving to us His holy righteousness.

Regrettably, too many evangelical churches have become centers for motivational speaking where congregants learn that "God helps those who help themselves;" that sin is something that keeps us from reaching our full potential, not an infinite offense against the Creator who demands from His creation unblemished righteousness.

The apostle Paul tells us that humans inherently know we are separated from God by our sin and we try to suppress that truth through drugs, sex, greed, power, alcohol, etc. Sadly, too often when desperate individuals arrive in our churches looking for a solution they get messages about how to improve their lives or their relationships, but the Gospel is absent in the remedy. J.I. Packer, in his quintessential work, *Knowing God*, correctly writes:

"We have all heard the Gospel presented as God's triumphant answer to human problems – problems of our relation with ourselves and our fellow humans and our environment. Well, there is no doubt that the Gospel does bring us solutions to these problems, but it does so by first solving a deeper problem – the deepest of all human problems, the problem of man's relation with His Maker. And unless we make it plain that the solution to the former problems depends on the settling of this latter, we are misrepresenting the message and becoming false witnesses of God."



The reality is that fewer people are showing up in our churches to get even a watered down Gospel because the age of attractional evangelism is rapidly dying, as the research on the following pages shows. It is not enough to throw the doors open and shout at the culture, “Come in.” Gospel malpractice goes beyond the pulpit and is a trait of a complacent church that limits the mandate of the Great Commission to an invitation to come when we are clearly told to “Go!”

How contemporary is Paul’s letter to Timothy?

“But know this: difficult times will come in the last days. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, without love for what is good, traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to the form of religion but denying its power” (2 Timothy 3:1-5; HCSB).

“... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to the form of religion but denying its power.”

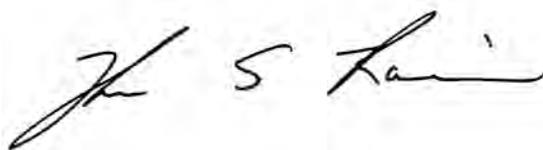
— 2 Timothy 3:4-5 (HCSB)

within the pages of the Bible. If individuals and churches are going to become effective incarnational witnesses in culture we must dig in. Paul, again to Timothy, says: “...you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:15-17).

How my heart pleads with God to transform our churches to being training and equipping centers that send people out into culture to be Jesus’ ambassadors. I’m not talking pious moralists who point people to their sins, but servants who through humility and loving relationships point people to an all-sufficient Savior.

We must meet people in their context, but we must share the Gospel. Morality does not reconcile people to God; it comes on through the Gospel of Christ.

In His service,



We recommend

- *The Apologetics Study Bible*
- *A Theology for the Church* by Daniel Akin
- *The Great Commission: Evangelicals and the History of World Missions* by Martin Klauber and Scott Manetsch
- *Passionate Conviction: Contemporary Discourses on Christian Apologetics* by Paul Copa and William Lane Craig

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.

Evangelism begins *beyond the sanctuary* for Christians reaching out to the unchurched

by Mark Kelly

Unchurched adults interested in finding a congregation aren't nearly as likely to visit one in person as a church member who is shopping for a new congregation.

That means effective evangelism must begin outside the sanctuary in relationships between Christians and unbelievers, according to research from several recent studies from LifeWay Research.

A survey of 1,684 adults who had not “attended a religious service in a church, synagogue or mosque, other than for a religious holiday, or for a special event such as a wedding or funeral, at any time in the past six months” revealed that only 49 percent would visit in person if they were looking for a church. By contrast, 83 percent of church switchers in an earlier survey said they made an in-person visit when they “actively searched for a new church.”

Significantly, more than half of unchurched people would follow a recommendation from family, friends, neighbors or colleagues if they were looking for a church, but 24 percent said they didn't really see themselves using any of the usual ways of finding a church.



Photo from Getty Images

“The location of our evangelism needs to shift if we want to reach the unchurched and not just move sheep around,” said Ed Stetzer, director of LifeWay Research. “At LifeWay Research we want to encourage our churches to grow through conversion. To do that, they must not rely only on the unchurched visiting our churches. Church switchers are primarily the ones who visit churches. The unchurched stay home. So, if you build your outreach on recruiting and reaching church visitors you will often build a church on church switchers.”

Stetzer continued, “For several decades we have focused on ‘come and see,’ invest and invite, bring your friends to church by attracting them with a great program. We call that attractional ministry. Now we are facing the reality that fewer unchurched people are willing to visit a Christian church. This will compel us to embrace a ‘go and tell’ (or incarnational) approach. Should we invite our friends to church? Sure. But should we ‘be, do, and tell’ the Gospel to people in culture? You bet. It is not only biblical, but it is even more essential today as our culture grows increasingly resistant to the church.”

“Many churches are effectively using visitation,” added Scott McConnell, associate director of LifeWay Research, “but all churches must learn to equip individuals to reach those who have never had contact with the church.”

The situation is compounded by the fact that more than half the 1,402 respondents in a 2007 study of unchurched adults said they never wonder whether they would go to heaven if they died, McConnell said.

“Church switchers are primarily the ones who visit churches. The unchurched stay home.”

– Ed Stetzer

How often do you wonder, “If I were to die today, would I go to heaven?”



A national survey of 1,402 adults ages 18 and older who have not attended a religious service in the past six months

Note: Numbers do not total 100 because of rounding.



Center for Missional Research

LifeWay
RESEARCH

Definitions

Unchurched: Adults who have not attended a religious service in a church, synagogue or mosque, other than for a religious holiday, or for a special event such as a wedding or funeral, at any time in the past six months

Church switchers: Protestant Americans who have attended more than one church regularly as an adult

(Source: LifeWay Research)

“Now we are facing the reality that fewer unchurched people are willing to visit a Christian church.”

– Ed Stetzer

Truth? What’s that?

“Our evangelistic efforts must acknowledge that we no longer live in a culture in which people are simply putting off coming to the church to find truth,” McConnell explained. “Many people today either don’t believe truth exists or that the church is the place to find it.”

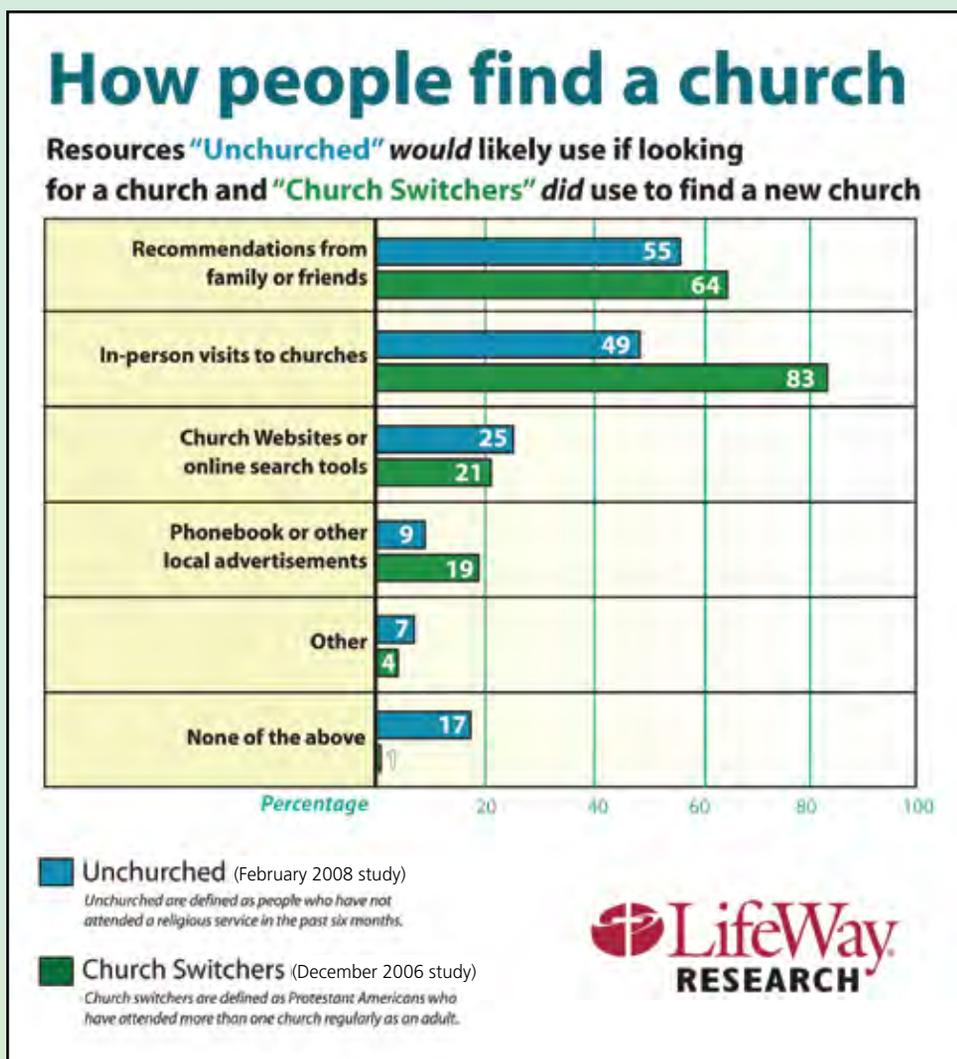
“That ‘how’ of evangelism is in many ways determined by the who, when and where of

context. And, we have to learn that culture has changed and is changing,” said Stetzer. “Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ must happen in relationships, not just at church, and each individual believer, not just church staff, must own the responsibility.”

Relationships with people who don’t believe in Jesus Christ is what earns a church member the right to invite them to church, McConnell said.

Unchurched people indicate that recommendations from friends and family would be the most common means of finding a church if they were looking, but only half of them anticipate they would utilize such an invitation.

“For the other half, relationship is still important, because your only hope may be for you to initiate a conversation about faith rather than waiting for them to



Facts & Trends
Online

Listen to an *InsideLifeWay* pod cast on the unchurched study with guests Ed Stetzer and Scott McConnell at www.lifeway.com/factsandtrends.

hear it in a church service,” McConnell noted. “And the kind of conversation we have with them must change, too. A typical question about heaven won’t even relate to half of the unchurched who never think about heaven.”

Relationships are key

While unchurched people are open to relationships, few church members are intentionally investing time developing relationships with non-Christians. A soon-to-be published 2007 survey of more than 2,500 adult church members found that only 25 percent agreed they “spend time building friendships with non-Christians for the purpose of sharing Christ with them.” A full 38 percent actually disagreed with the statement and 36 percent were noncommittal about it.

“Too often the way our churches measure success revolves around what happens at church when we ought to be focusing on what happens in building intentional relationships with those far from Christ,” McConnell said. “Some of the activities on our church calendars may actually be preventing effective evangelism by keeping believers away from the people they need to reach.”

Websites are tools

In addition to developing relationships with unchurched people, churches also ought to put significant effort into creating an effective Internet site, McConnell said.

“The 2008 study revealed that 25 percent of unchurched adults would use a church Website or an Internet search tool to find a congregation to visit,” he said. “For one out of four unchurched people, the first visit to your church may be on the Internet. Churches need a Website that favorably represents who they are and, more importantly, who Jesus Christ is.”

The upshot of all this is that evangelism efforts and strategies need to shift toward more incarnational and relational approaches than simply an attractional approach, McConnell explained.

“In laymen’s terms, the ‘We’ll keep the doors open and they will come if they want’ approach to evangelism will not be effective with many unchurched people,” McConnell said. “As believers and as churches, we must invest in building relationships with unbelievers and find tangible ways to show the love of Jesus Christ to them in everyday life.”

“Believers must resolve to step into their world to share the Good News with them,” Stetzer explained. “If we are waiting for them to walk into our churches some day, that some day may never come. We have tried that for decades – many church buildings and services are looking great. They have new looks, new music and new strategies. We have gone to great lengths to fix up the barn, but the wheat is still not harvesting itself. I believe we must move from the attractional ‘come and see’ ministry to incarnational ‘go and tell’ – and join Jesus in the harvest fields all around us.” ■

“The hymnal is more than a ‘song book’ to meet a utilitarian need for the congregant,” Duncan said. “This hymnal, as with past editions of the Baptist Hymnal, serves many functions, including providing a historical document of doctrinal beliefs of the family of faith known as Baptists.”

Each song’s suitability was based on these questions:

- Does the hymn speak biblically of God?
- Is it God-honoring?
- Does the hymn present a biblical view of man?
- Does the song help us to cover the depth and breadth of our theology?
- Does the hymn call us to true discipleship, service, repentance, witness, missions and devotion?
- Does the hymn speak biblically of salvation?
- Does it engage the whole person – allowing a person to express his deepest feelings?
- Does the hymn emphasize that Christ is the Christian’s Lord, Master and King? (the idea of total submission)
- Is there a balance with corporate and individual response in worship? (immanence and transcendence)

“This hymnal, as with past editions of the Baptist Hymnal, serves many functions, including providing a historical document of doctrinal beliefs of the family of faith known as Baptists.”

— Jon Duncan, state music director of the Georgia Baptist Convention

Pew Edition titles for 2008

Go to www.lifeway.com/factsandtrends for a full downloadable list of the song titles in the new Baptist Hymnal.



Listen to LifeWay Worship’s Mike Harland talk about the new hymnal and song selection. For a link to an InsideLifeWay podcast, go to www.lifeway.com/news.

Additional titles are included in the WorshipCharts, WorshipTracks and selected WorshipMedia accompaniment editions.

These Extended Collection titles include hymns and worship songs that are not included in the Pew Edition, along with contemporary arrangements of hymns that are included in the Pew Edition. For a complete listing of song titles in these editions visit www.lifeway.com/worship.

“I believe that, along with most Baptists, my theology was shaped through the singing of hymns,” Duncan said. “The teaching impact through singing our hymns cannot be overstated.”

LifeWay already is processing orders for the new Baptist Hymnal and offering a discount to churches preordering the Pew Edition before its release. The hymnals will ship on or before Aug. 8, 2008.

“There is an excitement from the churches about the new hymnal,” Harland said. “Despite what seems to be a trend, a vast majority of our churches still use hymnals.” ■

BeachReach

reinforces evangelism and service

story by Chris Turner
photography by Kent Harville

Waves roll in and lap gently at beer cans scattered for miles along the condominium-lined beach. Music blares as nearly naked college students pour alcohol into funnels while other students chug it through a connected plastic tube. The idea is to get as drunk as possible as quickly as possible.

It's obviously worked for the many passed out on or near their beach towels.

It's just 2:30 p.m.

BeachReach volunteer Reese Conrow, a cadet at West Point, hands out cards with information for free, safe rides to college students along Panama City Beach.

Stepping over and around the cans and people is Julio Bonfe, sophomore cadet at the United States Military Academy, and a couple of classmates.

“Hey, are you guys going out to party tonight?” he asks a group, getting a resounding affirmative response. “Well,” says Bonfe, “take this card with you and give us a call and we’ll come get you. We’re also serving free pancakes in the morning all this week.”

Bonfe was one of 800-plus college students who came to Panama City Beach, Fla., over a three-week period to participate in BeachReach, a LifeWay ministry focused on reaching with the Gospel college students who have come here for spring break. The BeachReachers share the Gospel with their partying peers and serve them through offering free van rides and daily pancakes. More than 8,000 rides were given and 50,000-plus pancakes served while the Gospel was shared countless times.

“It would be hard to say how many times the Gospel has been shared but we know it is considerable,” said Angel Ellis, LifeWay’s coordinator for BeachReach. “The students have lots of conversations in vans and at the pancake breakfasts. We are able to get names and information of the ones they talk with and [we] get [the names] back to a local campus minister. Many times we have a student group here from the same college, so we can get them connected. We also try to get them connected with a local church in their city as well.”

The BeachReach ministry is more than 10 years old but has grown significantly in the past four years. Part of that is due to how heavily marketed spring break is and how intensely locations like Panama City Beach and South Padre Island, Texas, cater to the party scene on college campuses. But with the increase in partiers has come an increase in their peers ready to minister.

“We believe this is an important ministry because Jesus was consistently with sinners,” Ellis said. “He told the church leaders at the time that it is not the healthy who need a doctor but the sick. The students that come here and party need to hear the Gospel. I love seeing Jesus becoming alive in the lives of individuals. He is our life and our hope.”

There are three consecutive weeks of BeachReach and this year’s came March 1-21. Although spring break is usually considered a holiday for students, the schedule during the week can hardly be considered leisurely for the



Top: Mark Mangrem, pastor of Connect Church in Arlington, Texas, leads a nightly worship service.

Directly above: A glowing candle demonstrates how Christ’s light overcomes the spiritual darkness that participants will encounter as they evangelize at BeachReach.

Lauren Moore, right, a BeachReach participant from Sweetwater Texas, visits with Jeremy, a college student from Fayetteville, Ark. Jeremy and a small group of his friends called for the free van ride BeachReach offered to students on spring break.



Volunteers serve pancakes each morning to hungry spring breakers.

volunteers. They and their adult ministers arrive Saturday, often after 12-plus hours of driving (students came this year from as far away as Utah and New York). There's a meal, a worship service, then students hit the streets at 9 p.m. to prayerwalk the areas along the main strip where they'll be sharing the Gospel and giving rides the rest of the week.

There is training Sunday morning that covers everything from evangelism to helping inebriated people in and out of vans. Sunday afternoon students return to the strip and the beach, making initial contact with partiers, passing out cards with the van ride telephone number and information about the daily pancake breakfast. They take to the streets Sunday night at 9, after worship. They'll repeat the evening schedule every night through Thursday, staying out until 2 a.m. The pancake breakfast is from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at a local bowling ally.

"It is really an intense time of witnessing," said Mark Mangrem, pastor of Connect Church, Arlington, Texas, and the nightly speaker during the third week. "The really cool thing about BeachReach is that ... many of them have never shared their faith and Sunday and Monday are a bit awkward for them, but by the end of Thursday night it has gotten much more natural and they are looking for those opportunities.

"This is all reproducible, he added. "When these students return to their campuses they know how to approach

someone with the Gospel and know how they can minister to their peers. I love hearing the stories how this [experience at BeachReach] has transformed them.”

Makenzie Shewcraft, 24, associate campus minister, Murray State University (Murray, Ky.) would concur. Last year’s BeachReach experience rocked Shewcraft’s sheltered world.

“The party scene is way out of my comfort zone,” she said. “I had a really hard time loving college students in this lifestyle while as a student and last year in my first year as a campus minister. It was a big step for me to come here last year. But God showed me they are dealing with sin, just like everybody else, and the only thing that is going to change that is if somebody shares Jesus with them.”

Ellis believes BeachReach ultimately equips students to live a biblical mandate. “In 1 Peter 3:15 it says to always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have within you,” she said. “The avenues of service we provide through van rides and pancake breakfasts do not negate the responsibility to pursue conversations that lead to presenting the Gospel. We want to remove barriers to begin conversations and that can take place anywhere.”

Lewis Hudson came prepared for just that. As the sophomore Army cadet prayerwalked the strip Saturday night with classmates before the week began, he anticipated the beer cans, blaring music, and the nearly naked and passed-out college students.

“Lord, we want them to know that satisfaction in life only comes through You,” he prayed. “We want them to know what a good time really is and we ask You to give us opportunities to share that with them.”

Louis, along with the several hundred other BeachReach ministers, spent the rest of the week living out that prayer. ■

The impact of BeachReach 2008

Participating:

- 57 groups that included 800 students and leaders
- 117 staff and volunteers including the Georgia Disaster Relief Team of the Stone Mountain Baptist Association

8 organizations represented:

- SBC churches
- Campus Outreach
- Non-SBC churches
- Student Christian Fellowship
- Baptist Collegiate Ministry
- U.S. Military Academy (West Point)
- HisHouse Fellowship
- Campus Christian Fellowship

Volunteers from 19 states and Canada :

- | | |
|----------|----------------|
| Alabama | Mississippi |
| Arkansas | Missouri |
| Georgia | New Jersey |
| Florida | New York |
| Illinois | Oklahoma |
| Indiana | South Carolina |
| Kansas | Tennessee |
| Kentucky | Texas |
| Maryland | Utah |
| Michigan | |



Tom Daugherty, Snellville, Ga. works with fellow Georgia Disaster Relief Team members to serve students.

Ministry results:

- Pancakes served to 12,800 people over 11 days
- Van rides given to 12,203 people resulting in many decisions for Christ

Blog

Read “behind the scenes” stories about BeachReach and other stories www.lifeway.com/newsblog.

Ministry is a partnership for Priscilla and Jerry Shirer

by Polly House

She's the face. He's the head. Neither would have it any other way. For Priscilla and Jerry Shirer, ministry is a partnership.

Priscilla is a Bible teacher and author of *Can We Talk? Soul-Stirring Conversations with God*, *He Speaks to Me*, *Discerning the Voice of God*, *And We are Changed*, and *A Jewel in His Crown*. She is also the headliner for the Going Beyond Bible study events and shares the platform with fellow Bible teachers and authors Beth Moore and Kay Arthur for the Deeper Still events, both sponsored by LifeWay.

Women who have studied Priscilla's resources or attended one of her events know her face and recognize her anointing.

While Priscilla is on stage, her husband, Jerry, is working behind the scenes to make sure everything on the business side of the ministry is handled appropriately and professionally.

She has the theological background, with a master's degree in biblical studies from Dallas Theological Seminary. He has the business background, having worked in the corporate world as a vice president for Hilton Hotels.

Joining forces

"We met when I spoke to a group of business executives and Jerry was in the audience," she said. "The woman who invited me introduced me to Jerry. We began talking and discovered we had attended the same church for several years, but had never met. At that point I was a motivational speaker, and I guess I motivated Jerry more than anyone

else there, because 11 months later we were engaged."

After they were married, Priscilla continued with her speaking engagements, but found her heart telling her it was time to turn her talents exclusively to ministry. She and Jerry founded Going Beyond Ministries and her Christian speaking and writing career began.

A little more than five years ago, Priscilla realized she was spending so much time dealing with the phone calls, speaking requests, writing assignments and the business aspects of the ministry that she didn't have the time she wanted to devote to study and personal time with God.

She and Jerry talked, prayed and felt God telling them it was time to step out in obedience to His call of fulltime ministry for both of them.

Her protector

Jerry's business background makes him uniquely qualified to handle the business side of Priscilla's ministry. He accepts or rejects appearance requests, deals with publishers, oversees interviews and handles the financial matters.

"I see my job as being her protector," he said. "I want to protect her from the business of ministry so her heart won't be tainted by that side of it. When she gets on stage to speak I want her heart to be just as pure as it can be.

"My doing this allows her to not have to be concerned or even aware of that side of the ministry," he said. "This allows her to only focus on what God is saying to her. There is no motive for her to make one decision over another."



Priscilla Shirer addresses the crowd at Going Beyond in Rogers, Ark. Photo by Kent Harville

Jerry is a self-proclaimed detail person. He said that while he protects her from the business, he is well aware that he needs to be realistic and practical.

"I created a notebook that has every detail about what I do," he said. "If anything should happen to me, she could go there and see she needs to do this and do that, go here and go there. She would have all the information she needs."

Strengths, weaknesses

Priscilla said she is thankful God placed Jerry with her as a husband and ministry partner. "His strengths are my weaknesses, and my strengths are his weaknesses. I don't want to do what he does and he doesn't want to do what I do."

Looking at him, she asked, "Don't you agree?"

He does.

"She does not want to be in my office and I do not want to be on her stage," he said. "And that works out great." ■

Priscilla and Jerry speak candidly about their marriage and ministry. Photo by Kent Harville

Upcoming Events

LifeWay will sponsor three more Going Beyond events in 2008: Aug. 8-9 in Troy, Mich.; Sept. 26-27 in Bossier City, La.; and Oct. 3-4 in Hendersonville, Tenn.

Video and more

See a short video of Priscilla and Jerry Shirer talking about working together, view a slideshow and connect to a link for more information on Going Beyond events at www.lifeway.com/factsandtrends.

Blog

Read what LifeWay newswriters have to say about the Shirers and other news stories at www.lifeway.com/newsblog.

We recommend

- *He Speaks to Me*
- *Can We Talk? Soul Stirring Conversations with God*
- *Discerning the Voice of God*

These and other resources by Priscilla Shirer 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.



Mother-daughter road trip stretches from Alabama to Arkansas

by Polly House

“Miss Johnie” Lynch is 80 and proud of it. Age was no deterrent for Lynch, who made a 1,000-mile roundtrip weekend road trip from Alabama to Arkansas with her two daughters.

The daughters surprised their mother at Christmas with a gift of a road trip from Madison, Ala., to Rogers, Ark., to attend Going Beyond, a Bible

study event led by Priscilla Shirer, a Bible teacher and author from Dallas. The event was sponsored by LifeWay’s LifeWay Women area and hosted by The Church at Pinnacle Hills in Rogers.

Lynch and her daughter, Dixie Duncan, live in Madison and are members of Asbury United Methodist Church. Lynch hosts a weekly ladies’ Bible study in her home.

“We’ve done lots of LifeWay Bible studies – Beth Moore, Angela Thomas, Priscilla Shirer – everyone,” Duncan said. “But last fall when we did *Discerning the Voice of God* by Priscilla, we all were so touched by the way it taught us to pray so much more intentionally. It’s the best study we’ve ever done.”

Lynch agreed. “I’ve been a Christian a long time and have always prayed, but I learned how to do it even better.”

When Lynch mentioned she would “just love to go hear Priscilla teach some day,” Duncan and her sister, Judy Allen, decided a trip to a Going Beyond event would be the perfect Christmas gift. Allen, from Maylene, Ala., and a member of Westwood Baptist Church, was familiar with Shirer’s studies as well.

“We try to give Mom something for Christmas that she can use,” Duncan said. “This year, though, we really surprised her.”

Allen added, “We made her a big card out of a map of Alabama and Arkansas. We put a little Matchbox car on it and put little pictures of our heads on the car. Then we drew the route and ended it at Rogers with a little Razorback in a car and a picture of Priscilla.”

Top: Dixie Duncan, Johnie Lynch and Judy Allen.

Bottom: The women with Priscilla Shirer



It took Lynch a few minutes to catch on. "I looked at that card and wondered what in the world that was all about. I saw us in the little car and then asked the girls if we were going on a trip. They said yes, then I recognized Priscilla. It started to dawn on me what they had done. Oh, I was so thrilled!"

Duncan and Allen both sing, so when they got in the car, Allen said, they cranked up the praise and worship music and sang all the way to Arkansas. "I know we made Mom about half deaf."

"But I loved it," Lynch said. "Their job was to sing and my job to pray for no ice. It was cold and rainy and the temperature kept falling. I prayed that God wouldn't let it get icy. I want you to know that the lowest the temperature went was 33 degrees. I was so thankful."

Allen said that having the opportunity to spend the time with her sister and mother was a blessing. "We've always been close, but this was one of the best experiences we've ever shared."

All three women agreed the Going Beyond event exceeded all their expectations. "We knew Going Beyond would be good, because we knew from the video that Priscilla is such a gifted teacher," Duncan said. "But I don't think any of us imagined how much we would get out of the entire experience."

Lynch added, "The praise and worship time just added so much to the wonderful teaching time with Priscilla. You don't get all that with the Bible study experience."

Melissa Wilson, LifeWay's event coordinator for Going Beyond, said she doesn't often get to hear stories from people who attend one of the conferences. "This was just such a blessing to get to meet these ladies. They've made a lasting impression on me. Seeing a mother and her daughters doing a road trip and praising and worshiping together is an inspiration. I hope more mothers and daughters will take the opportunity to do something like this."

Lynch told Wilson that the trip was one of the best experiences of her life. Then, to add one more highlight, the three women were surprised when Wilson arranged for them to meet Shirer.

"When I heard about them, I just had to meet them," Shirer said. "I loved their story and felt so blessed that I could share in part of it." ■

Upcoming Events

LifeWay will offer other events this year that could make inspirational – and fun – road trips for women. To find a link to these events, go to www.lifeway.com/factsandtrends.

Video

Watch a short video of Dixie Duncan talking about impact of the Bible study, *Discerning the Voice of God*, and the joy of the road trip with her mother and sister, at www.lifeway.com/factsandtrends.

Blog

Read behind-the-scenes observations about this story and other news stories at www.lifeway.com/newsblog.

Preaching doctrine that dances

by Jennifer Davis Rash

Preaching a sermon in the Internet age comes pretty easily.

In fact, spend just a few hours doing some research on your text, copy and paste from a few different sources, squeeze in a personal story or two and you are set for Sunday morning.

But if you prefer doctrinal preaching, you are going to have to work for it. It is as intense a workout as you will ever get as you pore over God's Word in preparation for the sermon.

At least that's what Robert Smith Jr. believes and hopes to communicate in his new book *Doctrine that Dances: Bringing Doctrinal Preaching and Teaching to Life* from B&H Publishing Group. Within weeks of its January 2008 release the book was named "Book of the Year" by *Preaching* magazine.

"Doctrine exists to make preaching as hard as it needs to be," said Smith, professor of Christian preaching at Samford University's Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Ala.

The Word must pierce, dissect and saturate the one attempting to preach it, he added.

"Ministers can be guilty of spending much of their time preparing messages that will impact others but not enough time allowing the text of Scripture to impact themselves," Smith writes.

"Ministers who dare to preach doctrinally must always remember that they not only participate in rightly dividing or 'cutting straight' the Word of Truth before their congregations, but that they are also divided by that same Word."

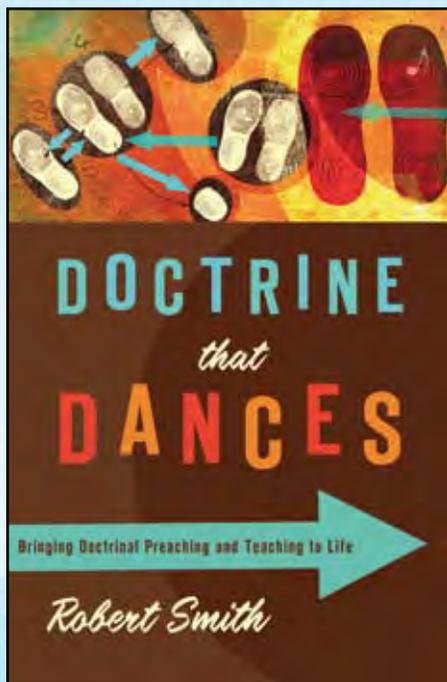
And for all those who fear a congregation full of nodding heads before the pastor completes his first point, no worries, says Smith, a popular preacher at pastors' conferences, denominational conventions, evangelism conferences and teaching conferences worldwide.

"There is a misconception that doctrinal preaching is dull, boring and that it drags," he said. "But I contend that it dances. It doesn't drag. It is a blessing, not a burden. It is vivacious ... and living."

"If doctrinal preaching doesn't dance, then the escort (the preacher) is out of rhythm with the music (the text)," he said. "I'm not talking about clowning. I'm talking about approaching the text as alive and full of redemptive life rather than in a dull, lifeless manner that is just cranial and not cardiological."

It takes knowledge from the head and emotions from the heart for the sermon to dance, he noted. "If there is only a head engagement, then the sermon is dull. If only the heart is used, then it is blind. But with both, it dances."

Smith's absolute focus on doctrinal preaching came naturally for him as a young pastor in Cincinnati in 1976, but it wasn't until 1990 that he captured the concept of what was happening. That was the year



he entered the Ph.D. program at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

When Smith took his first seminar on doctrinal preaching, it all made sense, he said. “As a pastor, I had lived it since 1976, but I didn’t know how I did what I did. I just helped to mature my people to move from the nursery to an army so that I would become unnecessary.”

After completing the doctoral program, Smith joined the Southern Seminary faculty as the Carl E. Bates Associate Professor of Christian Preaching and remained there until joining the Beeson Divinity School in 1997.

Timothy George, founding dean of Beeson Divinity School, complimented Smith’s teaching ability but emphasized his broader impact.

“He is a pastor to our community,” George said. “He interfaces with our students at a heart level. He is willing to spend time with them. He is a world-class preacher, but he is always with students. He’s just that kind of person.”

As far as Smith’s book goes, George noted, “I’ve told him over the years that he is such a great preacher, but he needed to put this in writing so that others who don’t have the opportunity to hear him and study with him can benefit from his wisdom.”

The book’s impact stimulated the idea for the theme at this year’s E.K. Bailey International Conference on Expository Preaching in Dallas (July 7–11) – Preaching Sound Doctrine that Dances – where Smith will be a keynote speaker. George said it’s a book that will be “one of the premier textbooks on preaching in the field.”

Smith’s pastoral work and creativity are woven together with a “deep commitment to theological and biblical truth,” George added.

“It is just part of who I am,” Smith explained. “If I could be dissected and pared down to one cell, all that would be left of me would be doctrinal preaching. This is the heart of Robert Smith. This is my DNA.”

Smith said that to properly communicate the message, “You have to know it, internalize it, not memorize it,” he said. “Before the doctrine gets to the people, it has to go through you.”

Smith suggested reading the sermon passage 50 times before doing any research, and not all at the same time.

“We tend to read the Bible too quickly,” he said. “Live in the text so long that you start looking like the text.”

“All five senses must be engaged and awakened. What do you see? What do you hear? What do you taste? What do you smell? What do you feel?”

“The Bible is not a magical book,” Smith said. “The Bible is living and is ready to dance.”

“This is not bringing the doctrines to life but the communication of them to people’s lives,” he said. “Doctrinal truth must touch down upon life. We have to come to life and dance with it.” ■

Want to dance?

Go to www.lifeway.com/factsandtrends for a link to the first chapter of *Doctrine that Dances: Bringing Doctrinal Preaching and Teaching to Life*, released by B&H Publishing Group.

Book on Spirit-led preaching wins award

by Jerry Higgins

As a seminary student at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., Greg Heisler learned and preached about God the Father and God the Son. However, Heisler said he rarely found information or heard how the Holy Spirit affected preaching.

His interest in the subject led him to write his Ph.D. dissertation in 2003 on “A Spirit-Driven Methodology of Expository Preaching.” It was a critique on his Ph.D. instructor’s definition of expository preaching, which did not include the Holy Spirit.

His instructor was Daniel Akin, who rewrote his own definition after agreeing with Heisler’s dissertation. A couple of years later, Akin became president at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and hired Heisler as an assistant professor of preaching and speech.

Four years later, Heisler completed his first book from the dissertation called *Spirit-Led Preaching*, released by B&H Publishing Group, LifeWay publishing arm. Never in his wildest dreams did he imagine his dissertation would turn into an award-winning book, Heisler said. But *PreachingToday.com* named it its 2008 “Book of the Year” in the category focused on preacher’s souls.

Spirit-Led Preaching examines how the Holy Spirit illuminates and empowers the preacher, opens the hearts of the hearers, and applies the message to their lives. According

to Heisler, to ignore the Holy Spirit’s role in sermon preparation and delivery would be a considerable oversight.

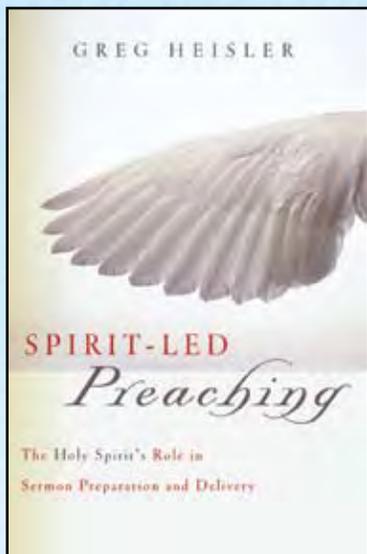
“The Word becomes flesh in us and is indwelling,” Heisler said. “The Word will not pass with power through us until it has first dwelt with power in us.”

But Heisler said preaching is much more than quick pieces of information to take to the pulpit and feels his book helps young pastors focus on what’s truly important in preaching.

“I call it the Crock-Pot saturation factor,” Heisler said. “A microwave has very quick results with the least amount of effort. A Crock-Pot is based on simmering the food so that the flavor comes out, the meal is tastier, and you get the sense it has spent the day saturating and soaking. The result is a really great tasting meal.

“In preaching, a lot of students who show up in the classroom want the microwave approach,” he said. “I’m here, give me three quick ways, seven quick steps, five key principles, and I’ll go out and do it.’ Mechanics are the nuts and bolts where you put together the introduction, illustration, application and conclusion. It’s powerless if the foundation of the dynamic is not in place.

“I can’t sit over you in your study and make you pray and make you fast and make you humble yourself before the Lord. I can’t make you broken before the Lord. That’s something God will do to you,” he admonished. “If you do not have it, you miss the entire power cord of preaching.” ■



Intrigued?

Go to www.lifeway.com/factsandtrends for a link to the first chapter of *Spirit-Led Preaching*, released by B&H Publishing Group.

B&H author explores 'divine promise'

by Shawn Hendricks

The words “accident” and “trauma” take Robert Morgan back to the toughest night of his pastoral career. He recalls the hospital tubes, wires, machines and a waiting room full of teenagers and parents.

One of his “kids,” a 16-year-old church member, lost her life shortly after being in a car accident. Morgan, pastor of Donelson Fellowship in Nashville, Tenn., struggled with how to comfort a grieving family and congregation.

On the following Sunday, he preached on Romans 8:28 – how “all things work together for the good of those who love God: those who are called according to His purpose.” Later that day, the family spotted that same verse on their desk calendar.

“They [the family] cherish that tattered calendar page to this day,” Morgan writes in his new book. “They are resting in the promise it conveys.”

In *The Promise: How God Works All Things Together for Good*, released by B&H Publishing Group, Morgan explores what Romans 8:28 means to those immersed in tragedy and struggles. Morgan is the author of several other books, including *Then Sings My Soul*.

Throughout the book, Morgan shares the stories of those who faced life-altering events – the death of an unborn child, cancer, a plane crash, a scarred childhood, loss of a home and other

tragedies. Morgan contends Scripture, specifically Romans 8:28, supplies “all” the strength and hope we need to work through every crisis and calamity.

“We have to face it,” Morgan writes. “Bad things happen, and they happen with unpredictable frequency and varying levels of intensity.

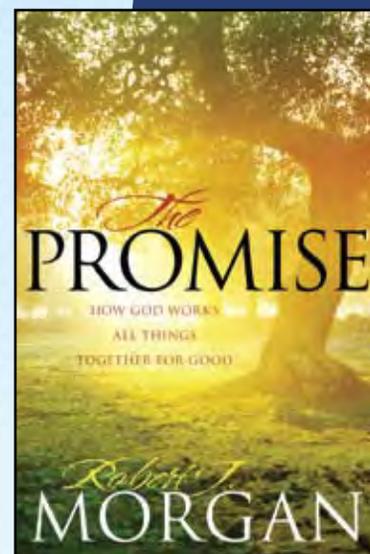
“Some are mere inconveniences. Others are life-shattering disasters. But ... there is a promise – a single promise – in the Bible that can meet every negative moment head-on; and given enough time, it will resolve our every problem.”

After 27 years as pastor at Donelson Fellowship, Morgan recalls many times he has experienced God’s grace during challenging times in his ministry. He recalls the time he had to fire a close friend – a time he refers to as a “deeply personal trauma.”

“For several days I felt like a bomb had exploded in my life,” he writes. “I was unable to get my bearings, unable to think or function, unable to feel anything except overwhelming sadness and depression.”

Later that week, Morgan felt a peace wash over him that he credits to prayer and the promises of Scripture. But some times recovery takes longer than we anticipate. Few hurts, he adds, heal on our schedule.

“all things work together for the good of those who love God: those who are called according to His purpose.”
— *Romans 8:28*



Curious?

Go to www.lifeway.com/factsandtrends for a link to the first chapter of *The Promise: How God Works All Things Together for Good*, released by B&H Publishing Group.

continued on page 24

New books offer pulpit helps

Author explores 'divine promise'

continued from page 23

"In the middle of a crisis or difficulty, nothing makes sense," he writes. "We have to look back at things from the perspective of elapsed time, like a motorist who finally makes it to the top of a mountain and then ... can interpret the twists and turns in the road."

Morgan referred to some tragic events as "periodic exams" that God uses to challenge and help Christians grow stronger in their faith – a financial reversal, trouble at work, a crushed goal. These might be signs of a test, he adds.

"The Lord is a Master Teacher who gives periodic exams to His followers to see how they're doing in the most critical subjects," he writes. "The scary thing is that sometimes we may not even recognize when God is testing us."

But the big question, Morgan asks is, "How do we respond to these challenges?"

The Bible gives examples of God testing His people. Two of them include Job and Lazarus. God allowed Job to experience unbearable suffering and Lazarus died. God, however, delivered both men.

Though we all will face challenges and struggles, Morgan adds, we can take comfort in that God has a plan for our lives that has been in the works since the beginning of time.

"God has always known in advance exactly what you would look like," he writes.

"He has always known your innermost thoughts, your background, your history, your problems, your struggles, your strengths, your weaknesses and the course of your life. He has always known the plans that He has for you."

Morgan contends this is all we need to know to continue on – no matter what lies ahead. ■

Simple Church hits No. 1 on Church & Ministry chart

S*imple Church: Returning to God's Process for Making Disciples*, hit No. 1 on the Church & Ministry bestsellers list based on national sales figures compiled by the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association.

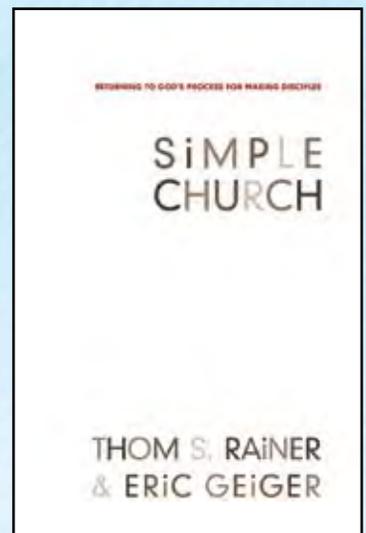
The book also was named the 2007 *Christianity Today* Book Award winner in the Church/Pastoral Leadership category.

The magazine's judging panel said, "This very practical book addresses a big gap in most evangelical churches: the lack of a functional process for actually making disciples (not just incorporating church attenders)."

Simple Church also was named by *Outreach* magazine as the Best Outreach Leadership Training Resource of 2007.

Written by LifeWay President Thom S. Rainer and Eric Geiger, executive pastor of Christ Fellowship in Miami, *Simple Church* clearly calls for Christians to return to the simple Gospel-sharing methods of Jesus. No elaborate, multilevel outreach strategies required.

Based on case studies of 400 American churches, the book shows how the process for making disciples has quite often become too complex. Simple churches are thriving by taking four ideas to heart: clarity, movement, alignment and focus. ■



Simply curious?

Go to www.lifeway.com/factsandtrends for a link to the first chapter of the award winning *Simple Church*, released by B&H Publishing Group.

B&H Publishing Group News

Waggoner leads B&H Publishing Group

Brad Waggoner has taken the helm as vice president of B&H Publishing Group, succeeding Ken Stephens, who retired Jan. 15. LifeWay's trustees approved Waggoner's appointment during their semiannual meeting Feb. 11-12.

Waggoner, formerly vice president of LifeWay's research and ministry development division, came to LifeWay in 2006 as the inaugural director of LifeWay Research. His role expanded in 2007 when he was named vice president with responsibilities for LifeWay Research, the E.C. Dargan Research Library, LifeWay missions, ministry development and strategic projects. He also functioned as LifeWay's theologian in residence and academic liaison.

"Brad Waggoner is a true leader," said LifeWay President Thom Rainer, in recommending Waggoner to trustees. "He is surrounding himself with a dedicated and experienced team of B&H leaders. He knows and loves the local church, responds to challenges well, knows authors, has strong interpersonal skills, and he has a team philosophy. He will lead and make decisions, but at the same time he realizes that he works with a team at B&H and LifeWay."

Waggoner said, "Southern Baptists have more churches, more seminaries, more students than any other Christian denomination. The responsibility we have to help these churches and pastors is paramount. We have a tremendous stewardship obligation to come alongside our churches and support them." ■



Brad Waggoner addresses LifeWay trustees after his appointment in February. Photo by Kent Harville.



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Daren DuBose is Store Manager of the Year

Serving at the Macon (Ga.) LifeWay Christian Store is a family tradition for store manager Daren DuBose.

DuBose began working at the Macon location 17 years ago as a high school student. His sister, then a LifeWay employee, recommended him for the job.

A few years later, his mother, Helen DuBose, became a store manager, retiring after two years in the position. Even his wife, Laura, previously worked as a store associate at the Macon location.

Employment history at the LifeWay store is common between family members, but DuBose's service stands out, earning him the title of the 2008 LifeWay Christian Store Manager of the Year.

LifeWay Christian Stores selects the store manager of the year based on financial criteria, customer feedback, professional accomplishments and contributions to LifeWay as an organization. Regional director Zach Lang commended DuBose during a recent award ceremony.

"I can't think of a more deserving person for this award than Daren DuBose," Lang said. "When Daren applied for the management training program in 1996, he wrote: 'I am confident that I have chosen the career God wants for me, and it is my personal vision to be the best Christian retail manager, surpassing company, customer and employee expectations.'"

Ministry perspective

As Store Manager of the Year, DuBose is applauded for the success of his store. But his heart is for the ministry to customers.

"At LifeWay, our customer service sets us apart, as well as what we believe," DuBose said. "We stand on what we believe and make no qualms about it."

When interacting with customers, DuBose encourages store employees to keep an eternal perspective. "I always tell my staff, 'You never know when you impact someone.'"

DuBose sees more to his role than just being a store manager. "We at LifeWay are seed planters and sometimes we are like pastors, moving people to the next level of their faith," he added, underscoring his commitment to provide a service of excellence and ministry to church pastors. "It's important for us to have good reference materials because we have pastors come in, too, and they are the ones that need encouragement and resources because they are preaching and teaching others."

Store associate Lee Schurter appreciates DuBose's ministry focus.

"What most impresses me about Daren is that he remembers why we are here and he reminds us, too – we are here for the Lord and for His namesake," Schurter said.

DuBose's humility carries over into his management style. "Never consider yourself top dog," he said. "The award is not about me. I'm honored and humbled because my staff deserves this award more than I do. I may be the manager, but they are my face to the customers. I couldn't do this without them. Your staff is what makes you." ■



Daren DuBose

Worship KidStyle wins an Addy

LifeWay's Worship KidStyle promotional video has been awarded a Silver Addy award by the Nashville Advertising Federation.

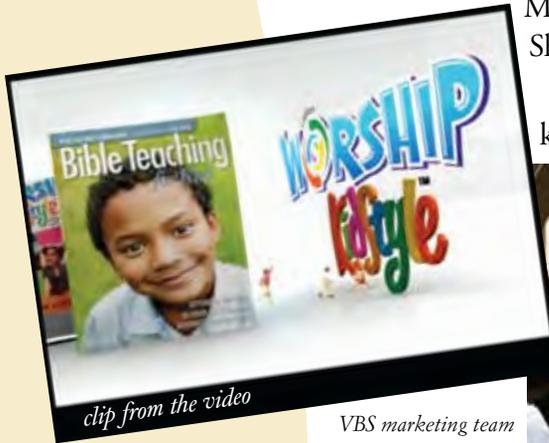
LifeWay's award, won in the audio/visual sales presentation category, was presented March 1 at a ceremony at the Sheraton Nashville Hotel.

The Nashville Addy Awards kicks off a three-tiered

national competition and is conducted each year by the American Advertising Federation. The next level is district competition involving winners from Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee. Winners from district will go on to the national competition that will take place June 10 in Atlanta.

Roberta Lehman, producer/copywriter; Bill Cox, producer/director; Becky Loyd, strategist; and Cristi Boulter, procurement associate, led the project. Jonathan Richter, an outsource animator, also contributed to the project.

"While I know our work is not about awards, it is nice to be recognized by a prestigious organization that compares our work with the work of outside agencies," Lehman said. "We truly do have some of the best in Nashville here at LifeWay." ■



clip from the video

VBS marketing team members Becky Loyd (left) and Roberta Lehman pose with the Addy award.



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Tips for reading God's Word

Listen to God speak as you read His Word

Of course, Christians understand it is important to read the Bible. But sometimes it's hard to know just where to begin. Whether you are a new Christian just getting started in Bible study or you are a long-time Christian who needs jump start with Bible study, these tips can help.

Try one of these approaches:

- **Read the Bible systematically** – Don't just flip through and read wherever you happen to land. Get a plan and stick to it.
- **Read through an entire book of the Bible, more or less a chapter a day** – Be disciplined in setting aside your time and read.
- **Balance your choice of books by reading different types of writings in the Bible** – The Bible has history, poetry, prophecy, and so much more.

Note 2 Timothy 3:16-17:

Listen to God speak in one of the four areas for which the Bible states it is to be used:

- 1) Teaching – teaching the faith
- 2) Rebuking – correcting error
- 3) Correcting – resetting the direction of a person's life
- 4) Training – training a person in right living

Margins:

As you read the Bible, review these four areas until you automatically recognize when God is speaking in these ways. Mark words, phrases and verses that appeal to you. In the margin you may want to place:

- “M” beside verses you want to memorize
- “T” beside verses with significant teachings for your life
- “C” for correcting life's course

- “R” for rebuke
 - “I” for instruction in right living
- Periodically review verses you have marked in a category.

Journaling:

Summarize what God has said to you through the Scripture. You may want to keep a spiritual journal. You can include Scriptures, memory verses, and other things you experienced in your quiet time. Review what you record. See whether a pattern emerges.

Pray about what God has said to you. Write what He says to you and what you say to Him. If you use this plan regularly, it will become second nature to you as you talk with God. Later, as you review your notes, you will see patterns in what God has communicated to you over a period of time.

Consistency:

Be persistent until you are consistent. Aim for consistency rather than for length of time spent. ■

We recommend

- *Holman CSB Illustrated Study Bible*
- *KJV Master Study Bible*
- *Bible Navigator* HCSB edition
- *The Holman Guide to Interpreting the Bible* by David S. Dockery and George H. Guthrie
- *LifeWalk* and *Open Windows* devotional magazines

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.

Don't let VBS end on Friday

by Polly House

It's a fact: Vacation Bible School is the single most effective evangelism strategy in the Southern Baptist Convention. Churches that understand its effectiveness also understand that follow-up is a most critical component of the VBS week.

"The whole point of Vacation Bible School is to lead the children, youth and adults who attend to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Bottom line. That's it," said Jerry Wooley, VBS specialist at LifeWay.

"The fun, the games and the music are the means to getting the opportunity to talk with the children and their families and share the Gospel with them," he added.

At this year's four VBS Preview events held at LifeWay Ridgecrest and LifeWay Glorieta Conference Centers and at LifeWay in Nashville, Tenn., the 2,500 men and women who came from local churches across the country heard the importance of having their VBS experience extend beyond the week of fun.

Need for follow up help

"Last year 90 percent of the people who turned in evaluation forms from the VBS Preview events indicated they needed help with follow up," Wooley said. "We honestly had no idea the need was that great."

In 2006, the most recent year's figures, almost 3 million people were enrolled in VBS.



*LifeWay's VBS 2008 Nashville Preview.
Photo by Kent Harville*

There were 212,000 prospects discovered for Sunday school. Almost 40,000 people were enrolled in Sunday school because of VBS, Wooley said.

“It is startling to realize that in Vacation Bible School in 2006, we documented 94,980 decisions to accept Christ,” he said. “That is 1.1 decision for every one person trained as a VBS worker by our state conventions. That is phenomenal when you consider that statistically, SBC wide, it takes 44 people to win one person to Christ.”

In 2006, 26 percent of the 364,826 baptisms in SBC churches were a direct result of VBS.

“These numbers are just the ones we have documentation about,” Wooley said. “I can only imagine how many more people are reached when you think about the parents, brothers, sisters, grandparents and friends of these children.”

Wooley said that he found it heartbreaking that some churches finish their week of VBS, take their enrollment cards, bundle them in a rubber band and stick them on a shelf to gather dust.

“I actually have had churches that proudly showed me stacks of bundled VBS cards from several years,” he said. “They don’t even seem to realize they are just bundles of missed opportunities.” ■

More Online

The two VBS themes for 2008 are *Outrigger Island* and *Cactus Canyon*. Visit www.lifeway.com/factsandtrends for links to more information about 2008 VBS and to watch a slideshow from the VBS Preview.

VBS Tools Online offers '08 enhancements

It's almost that time.

Churches and individuals are deeply involved in VBS training and planning. At LifeWay, that work began months ago and one result of the effort is the updated and enhanced version of the VBS Tools Online resource.

“This is one of the best resources we’ve come up with to meet a need in the church,” said Bethany Webster, Internet producer in LifeWay’s childhood ministry publishing area. “It’s cost-effective, convenient and extremely helpful.”

VBS Tools Online is designed to help churches and volunteers manage the planning, implementation and follow-up processes that go into a successful VBS program.

Designed to meet needs

Since LifeWay first unveiled VBS Tools Online in 2005, Webster said the resource’s designers have sought feedback from customers and listened to their requests in order to update and enhance the program each year. The 2008 version is no exception.

Webster said that one well-received past enhancement to VBS Tools Online offers the ability to create custom registration forms, which allowed churches to gather information tailored to their individual needs, such as T-shirt sizes and child pick-up authorization.

The 2008 version of VBS Tools Online expands upon that enhancement by allowing churches to print the customized registration forms. Webster explained that this feature enables individuals registering by paper to fill out the exact same form as those who register online. This enhancement is helpful for churches wanting

continued on page 33

One in 16 elementary age kids in America enroll in VBS

Vacation Bible School is huge. How huge? Almost one in 16 children ages 5-12 in America was enrolled in a Southern Baptist VBS, according to figures from 2006.

“The evangelism potential for VBS is unbelievable,” said Ken Marler, network partnership specialist with LifeWay, who led a session on the importance of VBS follow up during the VBS Preview event at LifeWay in Nashville, Tenn.

“We enrolled more than 2.9 million people in VBS [in 2006] and about 2 million of those were ages 5-12,” Marler said. “When you realize there are 32 million children in America between ages 5-12, it’s staggering to think about one in 16 children in that age group enrolled in a LifeWay VBS in a Southern Baptist church.”

Those numbers requires VBS leaders to take the responsibility to keep up with the children following the week’s event.

“The evangelism potential for VBS is unbelievable.”

– Ken Marler

Marler offered the following suggestions:

1. Set goals. Plan to follow up.

First, decide quickly to make follow-up visits and then determine how many leaders should be involved. Second, set up teams. Finally, at each visit, have information about the church and Sunday school ready to give to each family.

2. Include adult class leaders and children’s department leaders.

Before VBS even begins, enlist leaders to visit each child’s home after VBS. Not only should there be a plan for the children, but bring along adults from an appropriate class to visit with the parents.

3. Registration must be correct.

Fill out an information card on every child who comes to VBS. Even the children who are regular church attendees need to have their information in writing. LifeWay offers VBS Tools Online as a simple way to keep all the information organized.

4. Consider a VBS follow-up director.

The follow-up director should be someone not heavily involved in the VBS week activities so he or she will be fresh when the week is over. He or she needs to select and enlist team members. The follow up director’s job is to coordinate VBS family visits.

Sharon Macchia, left, from Hudson, N.C., and Heather Price from Kingsport Tenn., review the session schedule during LifeWay’s VBS 2008 Nashville Preview event. Photo by Kent Harville



continued from page 31

VBS Tools Online offers '08 enhancements

5. Report VBS follow up efforts to the congregation.

From the pulpit, enthusiastically remind the congregation that VBS was a big success. Tell them how many children participated and how many families benefited from the follow up.

6. Establish a VBS prayer ministry.

This is a ministry that can be active all year long, not just for the month leading up to VBS. Make a VBS prayer calendar and distribute it to the entire church.

7. VBS Never Ends emphasis.

Throughout the year, remind people of the upcoming theme. For example, in January play a VBS music video. When the director is selected, introduce that person to the congregation and let him or her remind church members of the VBS date.

8. Testimonies and interviews.

Throughout the year, let people who have been touched by VBS give brief testimonies of how they were changed. When those who received Christ because of the influence of VBS are baptized, tell the congregation.

9. VBS Day in Sunday school.

Put flyers in the information boxes that remind classes of the theme. Have theme-appropriate decorations in the hallways. Begin VBS enrollment in the Sunday school classes where parents can sign up their children. ■

to include registration forms in their bulletins or mail outs, Webster said.

Joelle Yates, a seven-year VBS veteran volunteer, began using VBS Tools Online to manage Vacation Bible School at her Houston-area church in 2006.

"I love using this program," said Yates, whose church welcomed about 450 students to VBS in last summer. She added that she and the other VBS volunteers appreciated the capability to customize the forms and then view lists of particular registrants, such as those with food allergies.

"They [students] all come through the snack lines in groups," Yates explained. "Teachers were able to print lists of students with allergies so they knew who could not eat the planned snack and needed us to prepare something different for them."

Simple to use

"VBS Tools Online just makes it very simple, even for those who aren't computer savvy, to go in and get the data they need," Yates said.

A key feature of VBS Tools Online is that VBS coordinators can import registration information from 2007 into the 2008 system. Another enhancement to VBS Tools Online this year optimizes that feature and simplifies the registration process for people who have registered through the program during previous years.

Webster cautioned coordinators that in order to import information from previous years, they will need to purchase this year's version with the same coordinator's user name and password. ■



Go to www.lifeway.com/factsandtrends for a link to more information or to purchase VBS Tools Online.

See Why It Matters Bible Translations

MANY “NEW” TRANSLATIONS AREN’T AS NEW AS YOU MIGHT THINK.

Most of today’s popular versions are actually revisions of earlier translations. They’re built on principles and philosophies of previous generations. The *Holman Christian Standard Bible*, on the other hand, is one of the few entirely original translations in recent years. Its scholars took a hard look at previous works, but in the end, every word choice is based on disciplined, up-to-date scholarship so the original text comes through as clearly as possible in contemporary English.

SCHOLARS TODAY ACTUALLY KNOW THE ORIGINAL SCRIPTURES BETTER THAN TRANSLATORS YEARS AGO.

Strange as it may seem, the further we get away from the time of original biblical writings, the more we seem to find out about them. Manuscripts, grammars, lexicons and commentaries available for translating the Holman CSB are superior to those available even a few decades ago — to say nothing of centuries.

COMPUTERS HELP A LOT OF THINGS — INCLUDING BIBLE TRANSLATION.

You’d be amazed at what a difference computer-aided translation makes. Software-based cross-checking of word selection and up-to-the-minute e-mail communication between scholars assured a level of accuracy and consistency in the *Holman CSB* that simply was not possible in prior translation work.

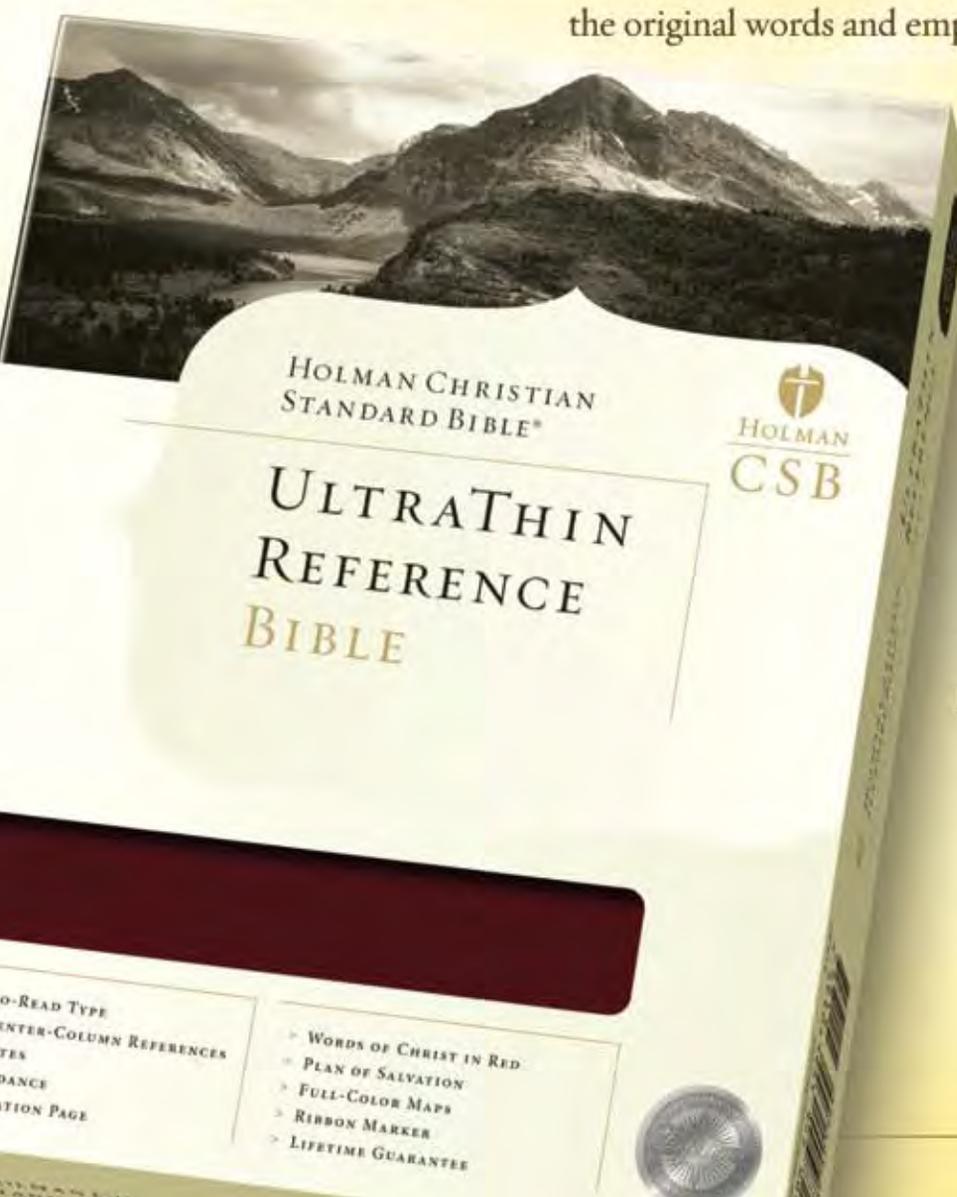
It Matters If Your Bible Is All New.

WE TAKE GOD AT HIS WORD.

A popular approach taken by some Bible versions these days is to value readability over literal accuracy and to favor modern word usage that supports inclusiveness. In either case, the original words and emphasis are often obscured to suit a

particular agenda. The *Holman CSB* retains significant theological terms that can't rightly be "dumbed down" while it accurately reflects nuances like the gender of words in Scripture.

There are many good reasons to have an all-new translation. But there's only one Bible in which you get them all.



www.HolmanCSB.org

- ▶ EASY-TO-READ TYPE
- ▶ CENTER-COLUMN REFERENCES
- ▶ INDEXES
- ▶ MARGINAL CROSS-REFERENCES
- ▶ INDEX PAGE
- ▶ WORDS OF CHRIST IN RED
- ▶ PLAN OF SALVATION
- ▶ FULL-COLOR MAPS
- ▶ RIBBON MARKER
- ▶ LIFETIME GUARANTEE

New FAITH sets churches free to evangelize

by Polly House

About 230,000 people are born each day worldwide. Only 79,000 are born again. Do the math. Christians aren't keeping up.

FAITH, the evangelism strategy offered by LifeWay, gives churches a way to easily prepare their people to go out and share their faith with others.

Although FAITH has been a thriving strategy since 1999, this year LifeWay is introducing a new generation of FAITH that is easier and more accessible to churches. Churches no longer are required to attend a FAITH clinic to receive training and purchase resources.

The new strategy has state Baptist conventions, local Baptist associations, churches and individuals working together to train churches in FAITH.

Stages 1, 2 and 3

Faith Evangelism 1 resources replace the existing *FAITH Basic: A Journey in FAITH* and are available now.

Each session is designed to be more interactive and uses various approaches to learning. Each session also includes home studies with a strong emphasis on the student's daily, personal walk with God.

"In the FAITH 1 materials, we stress the team learners," said Mike Smith, evangelism and discipleship specialist at LifeWay. "A strong, well-trained team is essential to every semester. In our revised

resources, special attention is given to gathering these leaders and preparing them to lead their teams of two others."

FAITH Evangelism 2, formerly *FAITH Advanced: Building Bridges through FAITH*, will focus on building strong team leaders who can mentor their teams and understand basic disciple making steps for the new believers. It will be available in Summer 2008.

FAITH Evangelism 3 will prepare downloadable facilitator helps designed for FAITH team leaders using existing discipleship resources. It will be available in Fall 2008.

LifeWay began training for the new FAITH strategy Feb. 11-12 at Middle River Baptist Church in Baltimore. A second training event was March 3-4 in Owasso, Okla. Two other training events will be Oct. 6-7 in Fairview Heights, Ill.; and Oct. 27-28 in McLeansville, N.C.

The training is offered free to individuals. There are no conference fees and no fees for materials. Participants pay their own transportation, housing and food expenses.

Middle River has used FAITH since 2004. Host pastor Don Satterwhite said, "I found very little that would motivate my people to share their faith until FAITH. One of the reasons I love FAITH is that it works. At our church, every Sunday school department has a FAITH team and it has been our most effective work."

State convention involvement

LifeWay trained more than 8,000 churches in FAITH Evangelism from 1998-2007, but it's time to hand off leadership to the

"I found very little that would motivate my people to share their faith until FAITH. One of the reasons I love FAITH is that it works."

*— Don Satterwhite, pastor,
Middle River Baptist Church*



Nancy Brown from East End Baptist Church in Suffolk, Va., attended a recent FAITH training in Baltimore. Photo by Polly House

FAITH has same DNA, new resources

“The DNA of FAITH Evangelism is still the same, but with new resources and training,” said Art Groomes, evangelism and discipleship specialist at LifeWay.

“FAITH will continue to equip and mobilize believers in lifestyle evangelism, disciple making and ministry that connects with Sunday school and other small groups in the church,” he said, “But now, we are taking the best of the previous FAITH resources and adding new features.”

The new features include:

- A more flexible, conversational approach to the FAITH Gospel presentation
- Training sessions reduced from 16 sessions to 12 sessions, but with optional sessions available
- A greater emphasis on lifestyle evangelism in addition to the planned visitation times
- Connection to the Sunday school or other open Bible study groups
- Available training with no certification required for participation
- Structure that will work in any size church or even in a smaller group within the church

state Baptist conventions, Smith said. “The state conventions, associations and FAITH-trained churches can train so many more people than we ever could. Under their leadership, the FAITH strategy can be customized to meet the unique needs of their churches.”

Larry Gilmore, director of evangelism for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, said he expects state conventions will look to the key FAITH churches – those successfully using FAITH – and work with them to take on responsibility for training. “The churches that use FAITH best are the most logical trainers,” he said.

Church fields changing

Thom Thornton, director of evangelism and collegiate ministry for the Baptist Convention of Maryland-Delaware, said churches are going to have to adapt to the changes in their mission fields.

“Many ‘country churches’ here in Maryland are rapidly becoming city churches,” Thornton said. “Land around churches that not long ago was farm land is now being developed and turned into huge subdivisions. Right here at Middle River, a 600-home development is being built

across the highway. Every house, townhouse and condominium represents a household that needs to be reached. Churches will need an evangelism strategy to take on that task.”

Thornton said he encourages his Maryland-Delaware churches to choose a strategy and do it. “But, I teach FAITH because I think it’s the best tool available.”

Ignite a spark

“We want to help ignite a spark in the local church with this new FAITH Evangelism resource,” said Smith.

“This new material is stronger in encouraging people to share their faith every day, not just on the evenings they make FAITH visits,” he added. “But one thing

about FAITH that has not changed is the reality that it’s the power of the Gospel that changes people.” ■

More Online

See a short video testimonial and connect to a link to more information on FAITH Evangelism and the training events at www.lifeway.com/factsandtrends.

We recommend

- The FAITH Evangelism 1 Leader Kit
- The FAITH Evangelism 1 Journal
- The FAITH Evangelism 1 Facilitator Guide and CD

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

LifeWay study offers

healing from abortion

by Chris Turner



Pat Layton

Nearly 4,000 legal abortions have been performed daily since 1973, when abortion was legalized.

At least half of American women will experience an unintended pregnancy by age 45, and, at current rates, about one-third will have had an abortion, according to statistical information released in January.

The figures were released by the Guttmacher Institute, an organization whose research supports Planned Parenthood initiatives. According to its “Facts on Induced Abortion in the United States” document, of those having abortions 43 percent identify themselves as Protestant.

According to one ministry leader and Bible study author, many of those women are hiding in silent shame within churches.

Pat Layton, founder and president of A Woman’s Place Ministry, based in Tampa, Fla., recently told *Inside LifeWay* that “some women tuck an abortion away for many, many years ... the secret of abortion is that every woman still thinks she is the only one.” *Inside LifeWay* is LifeWay’s official news podcast.

Layton, author of *Surrendering the Secret: Healing the Heartbreak of Abortion*, initially wrote the Bible study a number of years ago in response to dealing with her own abortion. LifeWay released the study in January.

“I wrote it after becoming a Christian and realizing the church had very little knowledge of how to deal with abortion and its effect on women,” she said. The intent, she said, is to help women through the healing process.

“I am most encouraged by LifeWay publishing this study. Most women will do the study on their own for a while. It is written to be a self study, but it is better in a small group. In a small group they minister to each other.”

The eight-week study includes a 20-30 minute video introduction that supports the lesson for that week.

Layton said the church still struggles with how to deal with abortion from a ministry perspective. As a result, even women leaders in churches who have had an abortion in their pasts wait long periods of time before they publicly share their pain. It is because of the prominence of abortion, according to Planned Parenthood's research, that Layton believes the mention of it should be included in every counseling session within the church. Every pastor, she said, should be familiar with how many women have had an abortion in their pasts, because post-abortion trauma presents itself in many ways: broken marriages, poverty issues, relationship issues, infidelity and promiscuity.

“There are many things [pastors] deal with in the church that are caused by post-abortion trauma,” she said. “It is one of those things that should be out there and not denied. ... The reason most pastors don't address the issue is because they don't know how.”

That is why Layton believes the study will be helpful across the board. It enables women to deal with a deeply painful and self-condemning issue in the context of the grace and forgiveness of God and affords men the opportunity to understand the grief women deal with. Layton's next study

focuses on how abortion affects men.

During the podcast Layton also offers her perspective on why the sanctity of life seems to be a decreasing priority in American culture and says that with 1.5

million abortions in America

each year (more than 50 million since abortion was legalized 35 years ago), reaching women with the Gospel is indeed a mission field. ■



Upcoming Events

Pat Layton will speak at LifeWay's two remaining 2008 *Women Reaching Women ... Fully Loaded* events May 30-31 in Fort Wayne, Ind., and Aug. 21-22 in San Antonio. Go to www.lifeway.com/factsandtrends for a link to more information, .

Podcast

Go to www.lifeway.com/news for links to the *Inside LifeWay* podcast with Pat Layton and more information about the *Surrendering the Secret* study and A Woman's Place Ministries.

Blog

Read what LifeWay newswriters had to say about these abortion statistics – and other stories – at www.lifeway.com/newsblog.

We recommend

- *Surrendering the Secret* by Pat Layton
- *Loved by Choice* by Susan Horner

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.

Church credit cards

Good tools if wisely used

by Keith Hamilton

Credit card use is a reality, even for churches. It can be difficult for a church to operate without its own church credit card. Used properly, it can simplify business transactions.

Many churches pay for business expenses by a church credit card. If handled properly, the church credit card raises less of a concern with the IRS in handling church-ministry expenses. However, many churches may not realize the dangers of church credit cards.

Following these six steps can help a church avoid some common dangers:

1. Credit card charge receipts are to be given to the church.

The credit card statement will not count as a receipt for IRS record-keeping requirements. If the person making the charge does not provide a receipt, then the treasurer should report the credit card charge as taxable income to that person. The receipt should be provided within 60 days of the credit card charge for church business expenditures. A short note taped to the church credit card could remind the user the importance of keeping receipts. The note could be as simple as, "Receipts are required for all credit card charges." The note could even be more direct, "If receipts are not saved, the charge will become taxable income to the user."

2. Personal charges are never to be made on the church credit card.

A personal credit card charge on the church credit card creates a serious tax problem with the IRS. In extreme



cases, personal purchases on the church credit card could involve not only civil penalties, but also criminal charges being filed against the person. If personal charges are made accidentally, the church should immediately be reimbursed for the amount charged or the credit card charge will be deducted from the employee's next paycheck.

3. The church credit card is to be used for church business operations, not for the convenience of church members or employees.

The church credit card should be used for items purchased in the normal course of daily business operations. Charges could include items like office supplies, special on-line orders, fuel charges on church-owned vehicles or large ticket items. The church credit card should be used for the convenience of the church, not the church members or employees. Expenses associated with an employee accountable reimbursement plan should be reimbursed by a monthly reimbursement check. Likewise, church members should be reimbursed by a check for out-of-pocket ministry expenses.

4. The church needs to develop clear church credit card expenditure policies.

Clear policies for church credit card expenditures should be outlined to avoid any misunderstanding or misuse of the church credit cards. Each person authorized to use the church credit card should sign a statement acknowledging his agreement to adhere to the terms of the church credit card policy.

5. Credit card purchases must follow the church's purchase order system.

Sometimes, it is more convenient to charge a

purchase on the church credit card than to wait for a church check to be written. This practice is OK unless the church's purchase order system is bypassed by the credit card purchase. Churches need to be sure even credit card purchases are subject to the church's purchase order approval process.

6. The church credit card is always to be handled as securely as a personal credit card.

The same preventative and protective measures should be followed for the church credit card as a personal credit card. If fraud occurs, then the church credit card company should be notified immediately after discovering the problem.

Church credit cards are a ministry tool in the 21st century. Like any tool, they should be used wisely and carefully. Churches not only have a legal obligation to make sure the credit cards are handled properly and ethically, but morally the church must do everything possible so the cause of Christ is not harmed by church credit card abuse. ■

Keith Hamilton leads the church financial services ministry of the Georgia Baptist Convention. This article is adapted from LifeWay's Pastors Today newsletter. Go to www.lifeway.com/factsandtrends for links to find out more about Hamilton and to sign up for a free subscription to Pastors Today.

We recommend

- *Church Administration Handbook – Third Edition*

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

LifeWay redesigns company news sites

For the past year, LifeWay news has been available online through two separate news sites – LifeWay.com/news and *Facts & Trends Online* (FTO).

Recently, these two sites combined to offer readers and journalists even more up-to-date news and feature stories about LifeWay research, resources and events.

“The new LifeWay.com/news Website integrates everything people expect to find in the LifeWay newsroom with the resources and additional information available through FTO,” said Brooklyn Noel, media relations specialist. “Our multimedia resources are expanding to include more high-resolution photos, podcasts, streaming audio and video, blog entries and other elements so we needed a better way to organize these features while offering the breaking news and information that journalists and others look for in the LifeWay newsroom.”

FTO initially provided only an archive of past issues of the hardcopy magazine and a PDF of the current issue. Last year, the site expanded to offer online versions of

the articles featured in the magazine with supplemental material. That site updated every two months, based upon the release of the print magazine.

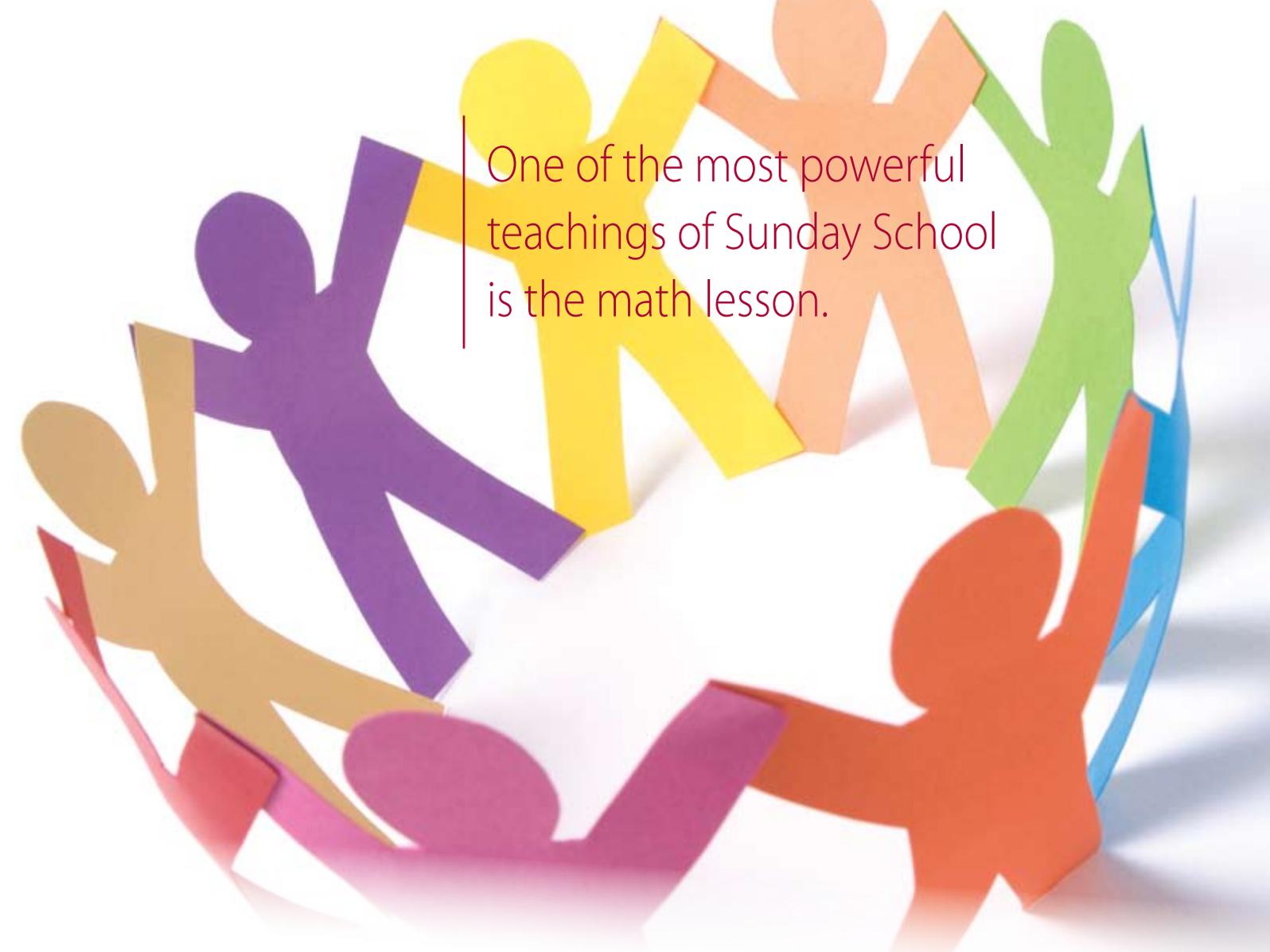
Now, with the integration into LifeWay.com/news, FTO is updated frequently throughout the week with new feature stories, photos of the week, podcasts and other materials.

“As we have continued to develop the FTO site, our goal has been to provide an even greater online experience for the reader,” said Jenny Rice, editor of FTO. “The integration of LifeWay.com/news and FTO better positions the LifeWay news team to meet the demand for immediate news and multimedia enhancements while also providing links to articles in the print magazine and archived issues.”

New features in the LifeWay newsroom include the LifeWay News Blog (www.lifeway.com/newsblog), where members of the news team offer thoughts and personal insights gathered during their story coverage, and a weekly interactive poll that invites visitors to vote on various issues. LifeWay’s communication department also will continue to offer a free weekly e-newsletter and *Inside LifeWay* podcasts.

Visit LifeWay.com/news to learn more about the updated newsroom. ■





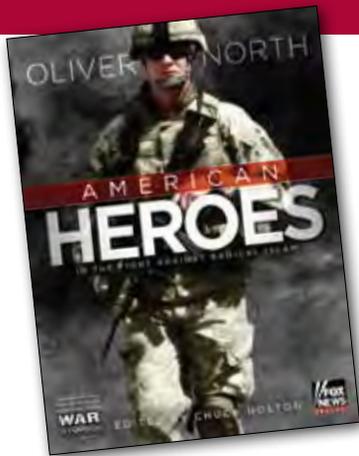
One of the most powerful teachings of Sunday School is the math lesson.

Research shows that new Christians who get involved in Sunday School are five times more likely to be in the church five years later than those who are active in worship only.* Sunday School is more than a place to learn about God. It's where people get connected to the church, where new converts become disciples, where evangelism flourishes. That's why we provide so many options for your classes, including information on how to multiply your numbers. Visit us online to learn more.

* from *High Expectations*, Broadman & Holman, 1999

Resources

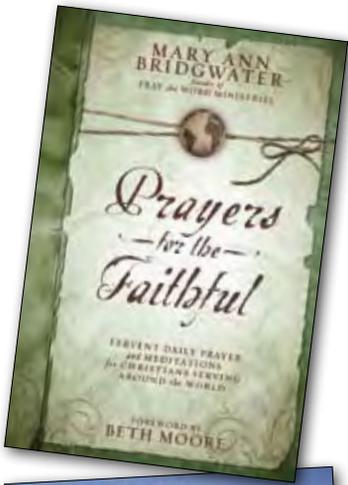
for you from LifeWay



Broadman & Holman

■ *American Heroes: In the Fight Against Radical Islam* by Oliver North

In *American Heroes*, New York Times best-selling author Oliver North addresses issues of global terrorism and jihad from his firsthand perspective as a former military officer, national security advisor and current Middle East war correspondent. The patriotic book also pulls in reports and full-color photographs from “War Stories,” the award-winning FOX News Channel series hosted by North. “Despite the way they are presented by too many in the press and politics, the men and women in uniform today are overwhelmingly good,” writes North. “I never cease to be amazed at the self-discipline of these brave young Americans. They can endure the adrenaline-pumping violence of an enemy engagement – and then, just minutes later, help school children get safely to their classes ... No nation – ours included – has ever had a military force better than the one we have today.” Releases May 1. Hardcover. ISBN 0-8054-4711-3, \$22.99



■ *Prayers for the Faithful: Fervent Daily Prayer and Meditations for Christians Serving Around the World*

by Mary Ann Bridgwater, foreword by Beth Moore

A few words from Beth Moore: “About 10 years ago God began leading me to take a far more active role in missions ... primarily through daily intercession. I recall wondering, How does a person approach praying for the entire world? God graciously placed tools in my hands along the way, but I can assure you I’ve never seen one quite like *Prayers for the Faithful*. Mary Ann Bridgwater has done her homework.

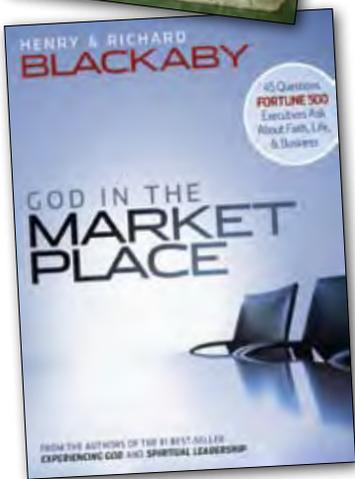
This guide is packed full of Scripture. All we need to do is add some faith, open our mouths and pray them! The testimonies she has included will cause our fellow servants on the field to become more than names to you. Their stories and requests will steal your heart.” Releases June 1. Hardcover. ISBN 0-8054-4752-0, \$18.99

■ *God in the Marketplace: 45 Questions Fortune 500 Executives Ask about Faith, Life and Business* by Henry Blackaby and Richard Blackaby

Aside from *Experiencing God*, Henry Blackaby has made his greatest impact by ministering directly to Fortune 500 CEOs, advising them on how to effectively blend their faith with their business. Out of that ministry’s success comes *God in the Marketplace*, a book to help everyone from the front desk to the executive suite best experience God’s will in his or her work. Blackaby helps readers better understand what the Bible says about integrating Christianity with work by answering 45 questions Fortune 500 executives have asked him about faith, life and business. Releases May 1. Hardcover. ISBN 0-8054-4688-5, \$16.99

■ *Breaking the Discipleship Code: Becoming a Missional Follower of Jesus* by David Putman, foreword by Ed Stetzer

Ed Stetzer and David Putman’s popular church leadership book, *Breaking the Missional Code*, is helping pastors and ministry staff guide their collective congregations toward becoming missionaries in their communities. But the need remains for this concept to be further defined at an individual level. *Breaking the Discipleship Code*, written this time by Putman with a foreword



from Stetzer, opens the door to a greater understanding of what it means to be a missional follower of Jesus. Balancing cultural relevance with biblical faithfulness, the book invites ordinary believers to have an extraordinary spiritual impact in their unique context. Releases May 1. Hardcover. ISBN 0-8054-4676-1, \$17.99

■ ***The Father Connection: How You Can Make the Difference in Your Child's Self-Esteem and Sense of Purpose***

by Josh McDowell

"As a young father I was running scared ... I feared the culture would capture my kids ... but I figured if I could find the ultimate model of fatherhood and then emulate that model, I had a fighting chance." Updated and redesigned for a new generation of dads, Josh McDowell's ECPA Gold Medallion Award winner *The Father Connection* looks at 10 parenting qualities inspired by the ultimate model of fatherhood. Embracing these godly characteristics will make all the difference in a child, boosting self-esteem and sense of purpose. Releases May 1. Paperback. ISBN 0-8054-4742-3, \$12

■ ***The Leadership Lessons of Jesus: A Timeless Model for Today's Leaders***

by Bob Briner and Ray Pritchard
Jesus had no paid staff or sales and marketing department behind him, yet he inspired others to carry His message around the world. Simply put, He was the greatest, most inspiring leader in history. This newly redesigned edition of *The Leadership Lessons of Jesus* is expanding to include more than 70 unique easy-length readings that explore and adapt the individual techniques that made Christ's leadership so powerful. Releases May 1. Hardcover. ISBN 0-8054-4520-X, \$14.99

■ ***The Moon in the Mango Tree***
by Pamela Binnings Ewen

Set in Siam and Europe during the 1920s, a glittering decade of change, *The Moon in the Mango Tree* is based upon the true story of Barbara Bond, a beautiful young opera singer from Philadelphia who is forced to choose between her fierce desire for independence and a deep abiding love for her faithful missionary husband whose work creates a gap between them. But when you choose between two things you love, must one be lost forever? Releases May 1. Paperback. ISBN 0-8054-4733-4, \$15.99

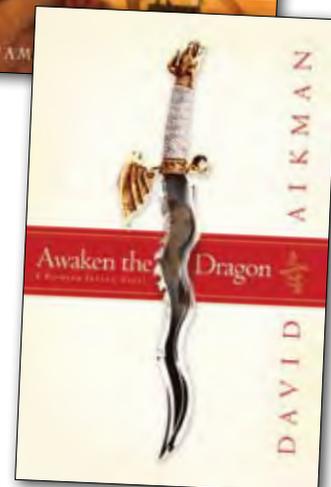
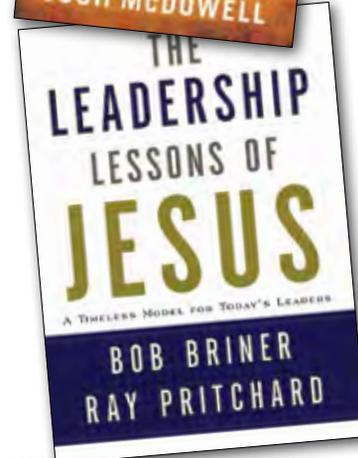
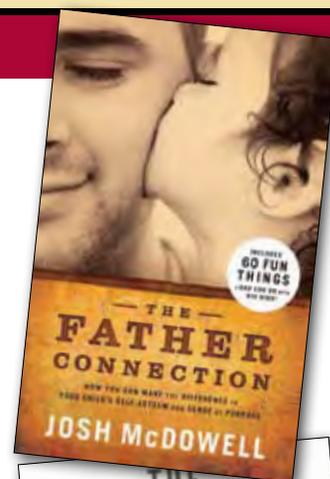
■ ***Awaken the Dragon***
by David Aikman

Richard Ireton, a Hong Kong-based correspondent for America's top news magazine, is about to discover dangerous new political currents flowing through South China. Assigned to investigate the disappearance of an American businessman, he uncovers the growing influence of Qigong, a Taoist meditation and martial arts movement, among Chinese organized crime gangs and plotting army troops. This subversively spiritual, anti-foreigner cult rallies around an enigmatic leader, Great Master Wu, posing an imminent threat to peace in Asia and the continent's relations with the United States. As Ireton's reporting takes him closer into the story, he stumbles across a political conspiracy with strange spiritual dimensions and secret hideouts of China's underground Christian church. Releases June 1. Paperback. ISBN 0-8054-4531-5, \$14.99

■ ***Fresh Ideas for Women's Ministry: Creative Plans and Programs that Really Work!***

by Diana Davis

Fresh Ideas for Women's Ministry compiles Diana Davis' enthusiastic



Resources

for you from LifeWay



knowledge of church organization to help others with creating and sustaining a vibrant, outward-focused women's program. Part resource book and part planning tool, it all adds up to a proven plan that joyfully blends discipleship, missions, fellowship and special events with an emphasis upon hands-on ministry. Releases June 1. Paperback. ISBN 0-8054-4723-7, \$16.99

■ ***The Last Men's Book You'll Ever Need***

by David Moore

Guys may hate asking for directions, but they certainly won't resist the guidance found in *The Last Men's Book You'll Ever Need*. Author David Moore combines his Bible scholar background with a humorous Dave Barry-esque style of writing that makes sensitive subjects like sexual temptation, love of money, busyness and "the shrinking American soul" much easier to ponder. Moore is concerned about the overabundance of spiritual "how-to" books that fail to put enough emphasis on the sufficiency of the Bible. "One very clear tactic of the Enemy is trying to get us away from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ," he says. Releases May 1. ISBN 0-8054-4681-8, paperback, \$12.99

■ ***God Is and God Will***

by Ken Hemphill

Building on the popularity of the *Kingdom Promises* devotional gift book series (more than 60,000 books sold since 2006), *God Is* and *God Will* further assure readers of their Maker's bold power and faithfulness. Each includes approximately 52-page readings of encouragement that are easy to retain and share with others. They go beyond "bite-sized theology" thanks to author Ken Hemphill's clearly impassioned writing style. *God*

Is (originally released as *He Is*) looks closely at the unique names of God and the aspects of His character throughout Scripture. *God Will*, an entirely new book, traces the promises throughout Scripture that begin with the statement "God will." Releases May 1. Paperback. *God Is*, ISBN 0-8054-4766-0; *God Will*, ISBN 0-8054-4768-7; \$3.99.

■ ***Bible Promises for Women and Bible Promises for Men***

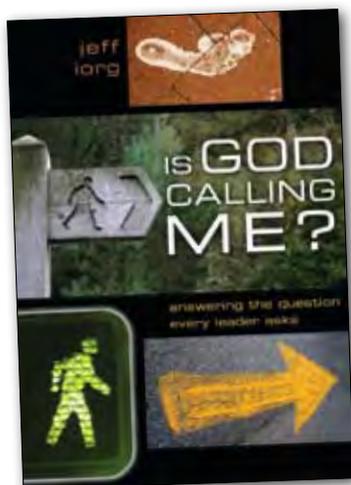
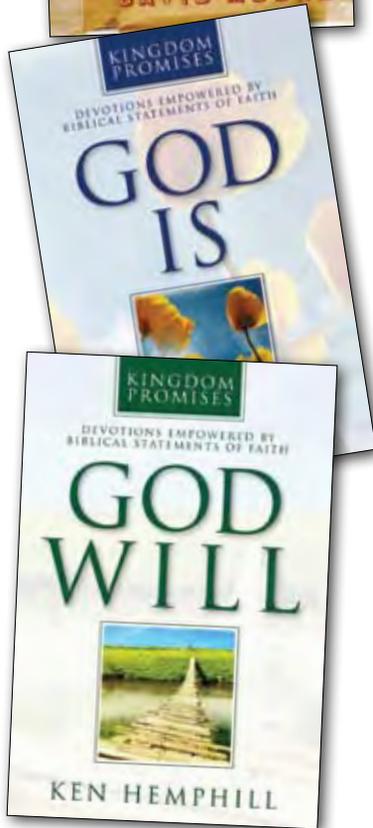
People have a way to experience the power of God's Word speaking right into their ear, right by their bedside, right where they live. Perfect as pick-up gifts for any occasion, *Bible Promises for Women* and *Bible Promises for Men* cost little more than a greeting card, but the promises they leave behind make their value practically priceless.

Each book features chapters of encouraging topical verses, arranged in a format that flows so tightly, they almost speak with a seamless voice even though they come from every corner of the Scripture. Releases May 1. Paperback. *Bible Promises for Women*, ISBN 0-8054-4769-5; *Bible Promises for Men*, ISBN 0-8054-4767-9; \$3.99

■ ***Is God Calling Me? Answering the Question Every Leader Asks***

by Jeff Iorg

"Is God calling me?" is the foundational question that must be asked by anyone considering entry into the field of ministry leadership. In fact, it is a question that must be revisited over a lifetime. Writing to a student and young adult audience, Golden Gate Seminary President Jeff Iorg declares the purpose of his brief yet powerful book: "God is calling out a new generation of passionate Kingdom leaders who will accelerate the fulfillment of the Great Commission in this generation My goal is to cut



straight to the heart of the matter and give you tools to work through the call process.” Releases June 1. Paperback. ISBN 0-8054-4722-9, \$9.99

LifeWay Church Resources

■ ***Vibrant Church: Becoming a Healthy Church in the 21st Century (2009 Baptist Doctrine Study)***

by Daniel L. Akin and Thom S. Rainer

This book looks at one of the most crucial topics in Christianity today – the doctrine of ecclesiology, or the study of church. It helps answer some tough questions such as: Why can't I practice my faith without attending church? What does the church really do anyway? Does the church really matter today? It defines what a healthy New Testament church should look like. Activities are included throughout the text. A leader guide also is provided. (6 sessions) Releases in June. LifeWay product #0-0512-5346, \$7.95

■ ***Living in Awe of God: Studies in Exodus (January Bible Study 2009)***

by Duane Garrett
The study focuses on the book of Exodus and four essential truths we can trust: God is always faithful, God is absolutely powerful, God is continuously good and God is eternally present. A planning and promotion pack assists leaders in preparation; contains posters and promotion ideas, an administrative guide, and a worship planning and preaching guide with ideas for connecting this study to worship experiences. The learner guide is deep in content, yet easy to read, and features interactive learning exercises to challenge readers to apply the Bible to their lives. The leader guide includes teaching helps, in-depth expository notes, tear-out teaching items for copies, and a CD that includes *Biblical Illustrator* materials, a PowerPoint

template and photos.

Learner guide, LifeWay product #0-0509-3577, \$6.95; Leader guide, LifeWay product #0-0509-3578, \$12.95; Planning and promotion pack, LifeWay product #0-0509-3579, \$24.95

■ ***Share Jesus Without Fear, Revised***

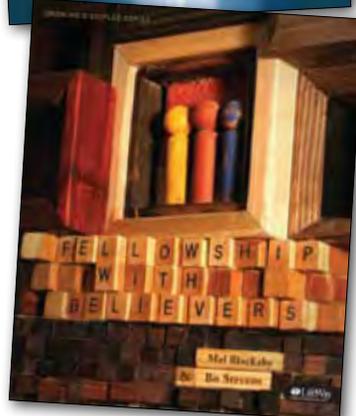
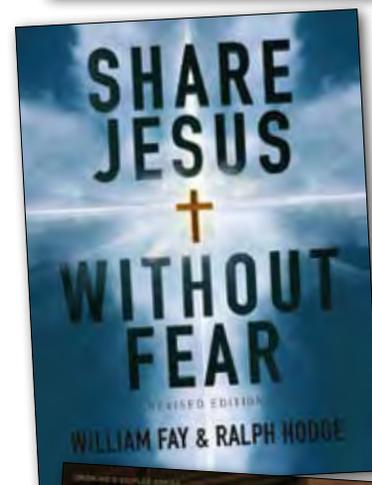
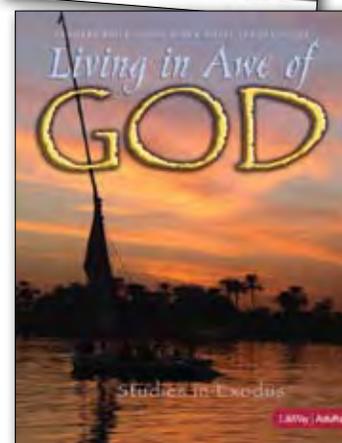
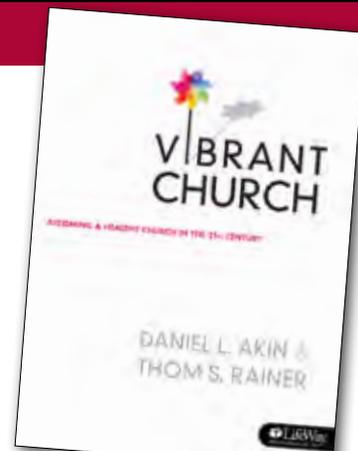
by Bill Fay

The revised edition of this popular evangelism resource presents a simple and relational approach to witnessing that underscores the dependence of God's power for the results. Birthed out of the radical life-transformation of its author, a former brothel owner turned follower of Christ, this method teaches believers how to navigate a witnessing conversation in everyday situations. Now it's even easier to teach and implement with a new DVD format; new video introductions with Fay; a word to pastors and helps for churches in implementing *Share Jesus* as a part of their evangelism strategy; leader helps on CD-ROM; and revised member book that includes 36 responses to objections. (4 sessions) Releases in June. DVD leader kit, LifeWay product #0-0503-5520, \$79.95; Member book, LifeWay product #0-0514-6133, \$7.95

■ ***Growing Disciples: Fellowship with Believers***

by Mel Blackaby and Bo Stevens

Discipleship and assimilation is key in nurturing new Christians. The fifth volume in this *Growing Disciples* series helps new believers understand the nature of the church as a whole and how it functions as the body of Christ. In addition, it helps them develop healthy relationships, spend time with other believers, encourage one another to grow strong in the Lord and serve together to accomplish His Kingdom purposes in the world. (6 sessions) Releases in June. LifeWay product #0-05085-766, \$9.95



Resources

for you from LifeWay



■ ***Return to the Garden: Embracing God's Design for Sexuality***
by Kay Arthur

Adapted from the trade book, *The Truth About Sex*, this interactive Bible study is an honest, redemptive call to recognize and return to God's standards for purity. It offers straightforward messages about love, sex in marriage, modesty, and includes positive and negative examples of how men and women should relate to each other. The leader kit includes a DVD with Arthur's teaching segments and bonus content, plus a member book with leader helps. The audio CD set contains the audio portions of the video messages, plus a PDF listening guide. A member book and audio CD set are available separately. This is a timely message for women, whether married or single, mother or daughter. (6 sessions) Releases in June.

Member book, LifeWay product #0-0514-6923, \$11.95; DVD leader kit, LifeWay product #0-0503-5532, \$149.95; Audio CD set, LifeWay product #0-0514-7046, \$29.95

■ ***Inside Out Parenting: A Mom's Mission***

by Linda Anderson

Third and newest *Mom to Mom* release examines what God's Word says about the mission of moms – and what that looks like today. Mothers are encouraged to gain godly confidence in a confused world, create Christian community that thrives in the middle of chaos and learn to build Christlike character in their children. Using multimedia leader and member resources, the series' flexibility allows churches to offer these in any order, with sessions designed to fill a traditional school year calendar. (16

sessions) Releases in May.

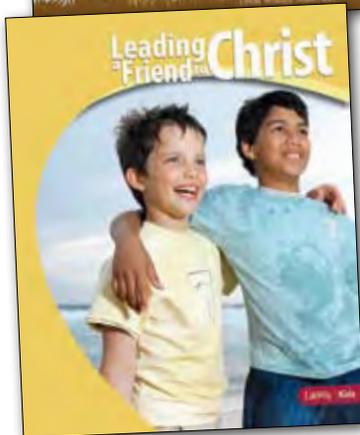
Member book, LifeWay product #0-0512-3617, \$16.95; Leader pack, LifeWay product #0-0503-5529, \$174.95; Audio CD set, LifeWay product #0-0512-3616, \$39.95

■ ***TeamKID: Step Out***

Encourages kids to step out and do what is right in all parts of their lives. Study great stories and people in the Bible in chronological order to learn about issues ranging from: the courage to make the right choices, admit when they are wrong and follow God's leadership. This makes for a strong children's program for Sunday or Wednesday nights and also doubles as a highly effective outreach tool. Releases in May. Grades 1-3 activity book, LifeWay product #0-0503-5641, \$5.99; Grades 4-6 activity book, LifeWay product #0-0503-5627, \$5.99; Leader guide and enhanced CD, LifeWay product #0-0503-5657, \$59.99; Missions DVD, LifeWay product #0-0503-5628, \$24.99

■ ***Leading a Child/Friend to Christ***

Equips leaders and parents to confidently share their faith with children. Includes detailed conference plan for training parents/leaders and DVD designed to guide them in talking to a child about salvation. Available in an adult (*Leading a Child*) and children's (*Leading a Friend*) edition, both are designed with a detachable placeholder that fits inside a Bible for reference. It's great for use alongside our popular *The ABCs of Becoming a Christian* tracts, or as a stand-alone witnessing tool. Releases in June. *Leading a Child to Christ* (pkg. of 25), LifeWay product #0-0514-7982, \$9.99; *Leading a Friend* (pkg. of 25), LifeWay product #0-0514-7983, \$9.99; Training pack with DVD, LifeWay



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LifeWay | Worship

product #0-0512-5104, \$19.99; *The ABCs of Becoming a Christian: KJV* (pkg. of 25), LifeWay product #0-0512-5106, \$6.99; *The ABCs of Becoming a Christian: Holman CSB* (pkg. of 25), LifeWay product #0-0512-5105, \$6.99

■ **Fuel2: Vol. 8 (Other Religions and Cults)**

This new volume in the popular *Fuel* series examines other religions and cults and uses Scripture to affirm Christianity. It addresses and answers questions about Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Scientology, LDS, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Scientists, humanists, New Age, Judaism and distinctions among many Christian denominations. (12 sessions) Releases in May. CD-ROMs, LifeWay product #0-0509-9527, \$9.95; DVDs & CD-ROMs, LifeWay product #0-0509-9526, \$159.95

■ **Insider**

by Shaunti Feldhahn and Lisa Rice
This new resource provides key insight for teenage girls who are trying to understand boys. It cuts through all the mumbo jumbo to deliver answers. Using data from a national scientific survey and in-depth personal interviews, this book reveals an unprecedented look inside the teenage male mind. The magazine-format member book is packed with articles, quizzes and devotions. It is supported by DVD-driven video segments featuring teaching clips with Feldhahn and Rice, interview clips with Britt Nicole, and interviews with lots of guys. Each DVD pack includes leader guide and member book. (7 sessions) Releases in May. Student book, LifeWay product #0-0511-3491, \$11.95; Leader guide, LifeWay product #0-0511-6687, \$9.95; DVD pack, LifeWay product #0-0511-6688, \$62.95

■ **Indelible Parenting: Keys to a Lasting Impression**

by Bob Bunn

This leads parents through the biblical principles of spiritual leadership found in Deuteronomy 6 – a key passage for identifying and understanding that truth. Although designed for a small-group Bible study setting, it may be used for individual study. It includes devotions and “Family Time” plans to help parents put ideas into action at home using concepts that are considered as a family together each week. (4 sessions) Releases in June.

Member book, LifeWay product #0-0510-4084, \$7.95; Leader guide, LifeWay product #0-0511-6689, \$9.95

■ **Live It, Tell It: Learning to Share Your Story**

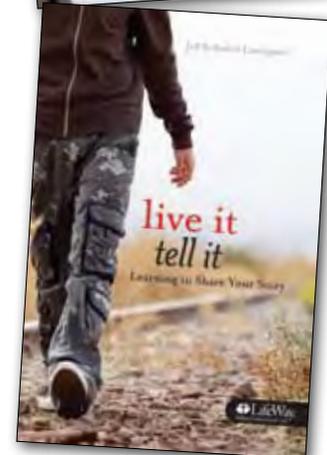
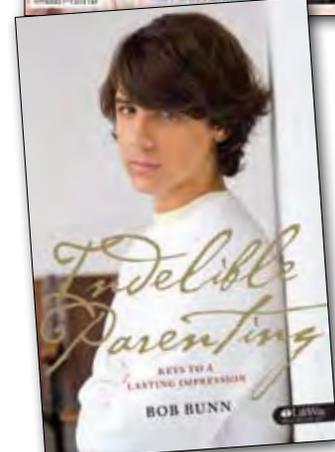
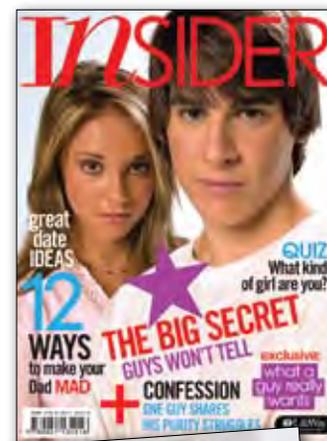
by Jeff and Rachel Lovingood

Based on the life of Nicodemus, students learn to answer questions related to sharing their faith. It addresses concepts of spiritual rebirth, behavior, testimonies, etc., and helps boost student confidence. Students learn Scripture that will substantiate their beliefs. It's great for use in workshop and retreat settings and versatile enough for just about any short-term Bible study. (5 sessions) Releases in June. Learner guide, LifeWay product #0-0511-8919, \$6.95; Leader guide, LifeWay product #0-0511-8920, \$9.95

■ **Repurposed: Memoirs of a Community Builder**

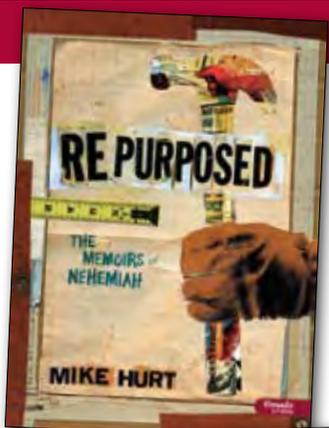
by Mike Hurt

This new resource implores young adults to actively participate in repurposing their own lives and building community. It gleans lessons from Nehemiah's life to show young adults how the people of God can be rebuilt into a stronger community of faith. The video sessions use present-day film shorts



Resources

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shot in New Orleans; discussion-driven resource features stories of rebuilding that will connect with the hearts of your young adults. The kit includes member book, leader guide, enhanced CD and DVD video segments, as well as music playlists, PDFs for leaders, audio files to send throughout the week, and a way to discover more and to connect deeply with Bible stories heard years ago in Sunday school. (5 sessions) Releases in June. Member book, LifeWay product #0-0515-3937, \$7.95; Kit, LifeWay product #0-0514-6602, \$69.95

■ **Canvas 3: Heart**

This DVD-driven small-group experience has been created to lead group members on an expedition to understand what God reveals to them in the inmost places. It incorporates Scripture, small-group activities, thematic videos and deep conversation. Group members will take the abstract concept of “heart” and grasp its concrete purposes. *The Canvas* is designed for flexibility, offering opportunities for personal reflection, casual meetings, movie nights and more. (6 sessions) Releases in May. Experience guide, LifeWay product #0-0503-8429, \$6.99; DVD kit, LifeWay product #0-0503-8428, \$49.95

LifeWay Worship

■ ***The Splendor of Christmas: Celebrate the Wonder***
 created by Phil Barfoot, arranged and orchestrated by Dave Williamson
 SATB/Medium

Phil Barfoot has taken your ideas about what would make the very best Christmas collection and created *The Splendor of Christmas*. You’ll find a Broadway-style opener, familiar carols, secular favorites, a song of invitation and much more, all arranged in fresh, unique musical styles and genres.

In addition to stand-alone Christmas songs, these selections can be enhanced with the available narration, drama script and production notes. Copyright permission is available for you to record this project with your choir.

Titles include “Celebrate the Wonder,” “Son of the Highest,” “Righteous and Eternal One,” “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” and many more.

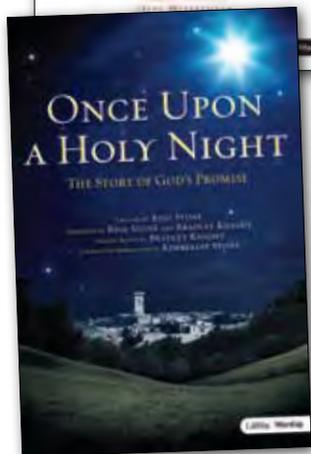
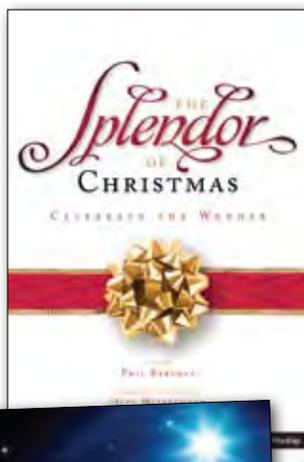
SATB choral book, ISBN 0-0511-0725, \$8.95; Listening CD, Accompaniment CD, Rehearsal tracks, CD-ROM orchestration (PDF) and CD promo pak are also available.

■ ***Once upon a Holy Night***
 created by Regi Stone and Bradley Knight, narrations by Kimberlee Stone, orchestrated by Bradley Knight
 SATB/Medium/50 minutes

This Christmas season, celebrate the One who has radically changed lives past, present and future as creators Regi Stone and Bradley Knight present *Once upon a Holy Night*. Through the dramatic narrative, biblical characters Isaiah, Elizabeth, Joseph and a shepherd – poignantly reflect on the long-awaited fulfillment of the prophesied Messiah. But an additional and unexpected character, a broken and desperate modern-day woman, experiences the relevance of that fulfilled promise as the Child born in a manger brings healing and salvation to her longing heart. Woven through the drama is a brilliant and diverse musical score.

Titles include “Processional/For unto Us Overture,” “Sing We Now of Christmas,” “Messiah,” “God’s Promise,” and more.

SATB Choral book, ISBN 0-0512-5325, \$8.95; Listening CD, Accompaniment CD, Accompaniment DVD, Rehearsal tracks, Bulletin (pkg. of 100), CD-ROM orchestration, and CD promo pak are also available.



■ **Welcome to Our World**

created and arranged by Craig Adams

SATB/Easy/30 minutes

The publishers of the highly acclaimed *You Can!* series are delighted to bring you *Welcome to Our World*, a festive Christmas celebration for choir and congregation. Created, arranged and orchestrated by Craig Adams, this decorative bouquet of heartwarming music has been uniquely fashioned for smaller choirs, as well as large choirs with minimal rehearsal time.

Welcome to Our World is a manger-side worship experience that includes best-loved Christmas songs, treasured carols, and brand-new, soon-to-be favorite anthems. Share the wonder and adoration of Mary and Joseph, bow at the manger throne with the shepherds, follow the Bethlehem star with wise kings, and lift songs heralded by angels in celebration of Christ's birth.

Titles include "Come, Emmanuel Medley," "Behold Emmanuel," "Welcome to Our World" and many more.

Choral book, ISBN 0-0510-4497, \$5.95; Listening CD, Accompaniment CD, Kit, Bulletin (pkg. of 100) and CD promo pak are also available.

■ **Visions of Christmas**

compiled by Jeff Slaughter

Unison, opt. 2 & 3-part/Easy

Creative VBS music veteran Jeff Slaughter presents *Visions of Christmas*, a dynamic collection for children that couples eight songs and medleys with dramatic vignettes so your children can share a little "vision" of Christmas. From a family's hilarious attempt to decorate the house for Christmas in "Christmas Tree Medley," to a tender reenactment of the manger scene in "Christmas Carol Medley," each of these mini-musical moments is sure to delight. From drama ideas to costume

suggestions, the detailed production notes provide everything you need to create your own unique visions of Christmas!

Titles include "Visions of Christmas," "Christmas Tree Medley," "The Thought-that-Counts Blues," "The Miracle," and many more.

Choir book, ISBN 0-0511-0890, \$7.95; Listening CD, Accompaniment CD, Poster (pkg. of 10), Bulletin (pkg. of 100), and CD promo pak, are also available.

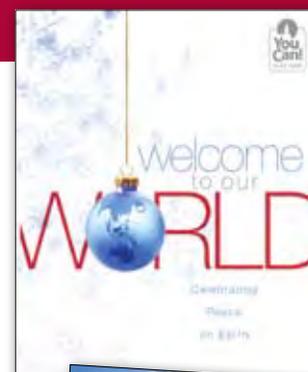
■ **Children's Music Series 4.1**

In *Passport to Adventure*, CMS has partnered with the International Mission Board to pair music and missions for 2008-2009. Join us as we travel around the globe, learning how missionaries share Jesus with the world and how we can, too!

The three product lines of Children's Music Series (*Music Time*, *Music Makers*, and *Young Musicians*) form a complete music program for ages 3 through 6th grade. CMS includes age-appropriate vocal range, music, text and theology;

recordings by LifeWay children's choirs; stylistic variety; and activities that teach biblical truth and musical concepts.

Designed in semester format (Fall 4.1 and Spring 4.2), CMS features a teacher's planning guide (*Plans & Pluses, Vol. 10*), flexible lesson plans, colorful art and photography, diverse musical styles, accompaniment tracks, DVDs with choreography/teaching/worship enhancements, and more. For products and prices, call (800) 436-3869 or visit www.lifeway.com/cms.

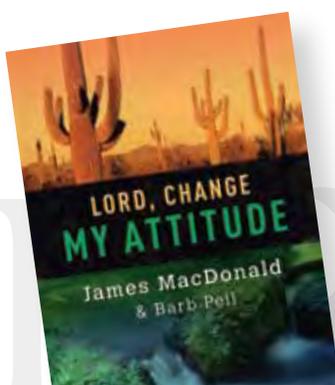




Know someone in need
of an attitude adjustment?

An attitude is simply a pattern of thinking formed over a long period of time. It's not a product of our genes or our circumstances. It's our choice—which means we can change it. In a new 11-session study called *Lord, Change My Attitude*, James MacDonald shows how to lead others (and even yourself) out of attitudes God hates into those He honors.

Order your study online, call 800.458.2772, or visit the LifeWay Christian Store serving you.



www.lifeway.com

LifeWay | Adults

Christmas Anthems*

■ “Bless That Wonderful Name”

Traditional African-American tune; new words and additional music by Dennis and Nan Allen, arranged by Dennis Allen, orchestrated by Kyle Hill

This up-tempo, accessible gospel anthem from *You Can! musical Born to You This Day* is a favorite that’s sure to please.

■ “A Classical Christmas”

words and music by G.F. Handel, words to “Jesu” by Phil Barfoot and Rebecca Peck, music by J. S. Bach, arranged and orchestrated by Dave Williamson

From *The Joy of Christmas*, this festive medley of traditional and classic songs offers an exciting orchestration. Titles include “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring,” “For Unto Us a Child Is Born” and “Hallelujah, Amen!”

■ “Cry in the Dark”

words and music by Regi Stone and Christy Sutherland, arranged and orchestrated by J. Daniel Smith

This tender selection from

Imagine reflects on how Christ’s birth changed the world.

■ “The Glory of Christmas”

words and music by Jeremy Johnson, Paul Marino and Greg Nelson, arranged and orchestrated by J. Daniel Smith

“Glory of Christmas” in its grandeur resounds in this tremendous anthem from *A Christmas Prayer*.

■ “Imagine a World Without Christmas”

words and music by Regi Stone and Jeff Ferguson, arranged and orchestrated by J. Daniel Smith

This gentle ballad calls us to imagine what this world would have been like if Jesus had never been born.

■ “Joy!”

words by Regi Stone and Geron Davis, music by Geron Davis, arranged and orchestrated by J. Daniel Smith

This energetic selection from *Imagine* celebrates the joy of Christ’s birth.

Nonseasonal Anthems*

■ “At Your Mercy Seat”

words and music by Jeremy Johnson, Paul Marino and Ginger Millermon, arranged and orchestrated by Lari Goss

This stirring selection from *First Look* draws us to our knees before the mercy seat of God.

■ “Feels Good to Be Free”

words and music by Karen Peck Gooch and Twila LaBar, arranged and orchestrated by Cliff Duren

This dynamic service opener from *You Changed My Name* celebrates our freedom in Christ.

■ “Orphans of God”

words and music by Joel Lindsey and Twila LaBar, arranged and orchestrated by Dave Williamson

This gorgeous song from *Joy in the House* tenderly says no one is an orphan of God.

* Price for each song: Anthem, \$1.60; CD anthem tracks, \$24.95; CD-ROM orchestration (PDF), \$69.95

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