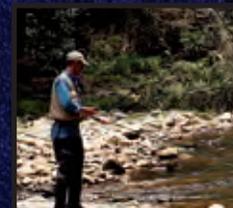


# FACTS & TRENDS

Winter 2010



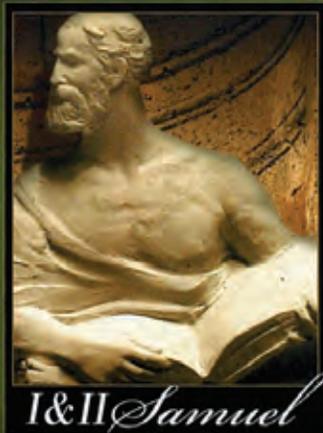
## 2010 TRAINING & EVENTS



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Cover photo: LifeWay will offer more than 100 training and enrichment events in 2010.

Phone numbers, Web addresses and other content referenced in articles were verified at the time of printing, but are subject to change. When searching the Web, please use discretion.

LifeWay Christian Resources is an entity of the Southern Baptist Convention. It receives no Cooperative Program funds but is self supporting through the sale of its resources.



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# FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

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

## Disciple-making in the local church

“So what do I do now?” The pastor asked the question with seriousness and a level of expectation. He knew that many of his members were woefully lacking in biblical knowledge. And he had full awareness that many members were attending less frequently, and that some had dropped out altogether.

So he asked me what he should do. I responded from my research and consultations that his church needed a clear process for discipleship with clear expectations for members.

I could tell by his look that more questions were coming. “OK, what’s that look like? So what do I do now?”

### The Solutions of Old

There was a day for most churches when the solution to this dilemma was to turn to some organizational entity, such as a denomination, and get the needed programs to meet the needs of the church. Disciple-making through the local church was thus simple as ordering the material, advertising the program, and getting the members to attend.

Not so today.

In many cases the programs became worn and stale. They no longer met the needs of the church. In other cases, the programs became the end instead of the means. Churches became program-driven, but they could no longer see the purpose behind the programs. Many churches, understandably so, abandoned the programmatic approach.

The problem is that little was available to replace what was eliminated. So today thousands of church leaders are asking, “So what do I do now?”

### Listening to Effective Disciple-Making Churches Today

As we heard from churches across America, we began to see a common pattern in churches that were more effective in making disciples. The attendance rate of members of those churches was higher, and the dropout rate was lower. Look at some of these common traits:

**The church has an entry point class that all new members attend.** Though these classes have different names, they have similar purposes. The classes did provide information, but they weren’t limited to dispensing facts about the church.



The classes also established expectations of members. Some of the expectations are noted below.

**Members are expected to attend an open group Bible study.** An open group is an ongoing class that allows entry at any point. Historically, they have been called Sunday school classes, but today they have a variety of names. The point is to get members connected to a common group of people in regular Bible study.

**Members are expected to be involved in one or more deeper studies throughout the year.** These classes are set for a predetermined number of weeks, a twelve-week study for example. They tend to dive deeper into Bible study, doctrinal study, or studies of critical issues for the Christian. They also tend to be closed groups, because attendance every week is important to grasp the material. It is difficult for someone to enter the class after it begins because the material usually builds on itself.

**Members are expected to attend a corporate worship service each week.** This is the time for the people to gather for the preaching of the Word and to worship the One True God together.

**Members are expected to be involved in at least one ministry or mission activity a year.** The church has clear expectations that members are to be involved in those activities that cause them to look beyond themselves and to care for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of others.

**Members are expected to read and study the Bible daily.** Our research has shown that daily personal Bible study is the clearest indicator that a Christian is growing spiritually. These disciple-making churches exhort, encourage, and provide resources for the members to be involved in daily Bible study.

## Raising the Bar

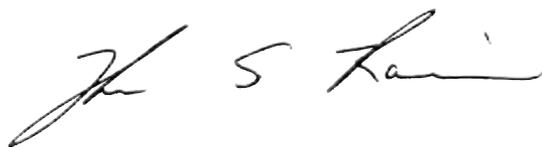
It is not unusual to hear objections when we present this research. “If I led my church to have these high expectations of members,” the argument goes, “we would have a mass exodus.” But our research shows just the opposite. Higher expectations get more positive behavioral patterns. People want to be a part of something that makes a difference.

If church leaders expect little, they will get little. If they raise the bar of expectations, most members will respond positively.

And as more church members get involved in open groups, deeper studies, corporate worship, ministry, missions, and daily Bible study, they will become more effective disciples for Christ. And thus churches will grow stronger and become healthier.

May God grant us more true disciple-making churches.

In His service,



## ONLINE

*ThomRainer.com offers columns by Rainer, offering his insights into the local church and drawing from years of experience as a father, pastor, researcher, seminary dean and LifeWay president.*

# Pastors' long work hours can come at the expense of people, ministry

story by Mark Kelly

**P**rotestant pastors in America are working long hours, sometimes at the expense of relationships with church members, prospects, family and even the Lord.

A telephone survey of more than 1,000 senior pastors indicated a full 65 percent of them work 50 or more hours a week – with 8 percent saying they work 70 or more hours. Meetings and electronic correspondence consume large amounts of time for many ministers, while counseling, visitation, family time, prayer and personal devotions suffer in too many cases.

The results of the LifeWay Research study “How Protestant Pastors Spend Their Time” show the typical pastor works 50 hours a week. Scott McConnell, associate director of LifeWay Research, pointed out, however, that this average actually understates the number of hours because it takes into account bivocational pastors (11 percent of survey participants), part-time senior pastors (5 percent of survey participants), and volunteer pastors (2 percent of survey participants) – the majority of whom work, by design, less than 40 hours for their church each week.

“Since the phone survey went to church offices, it was pastors who were at the church office and more likely to take the phone call who are included in the survey,” McConnell explained. “But, of the bivocational pastors who participated, the median number of hours bivocational and part-time pastors work for their churches each week is 30 hours.

“Bivocational pastors often follow the apostle Paul’s example of ‘working night and day’ in Thessalonica as they hold a job outside the church in addition to their job as pastor.”

When factoring out those who are not full time, the median number of hours full-time senior pastors work for their churches each week is 55 hours, with 42 percent working 60 or more hours.

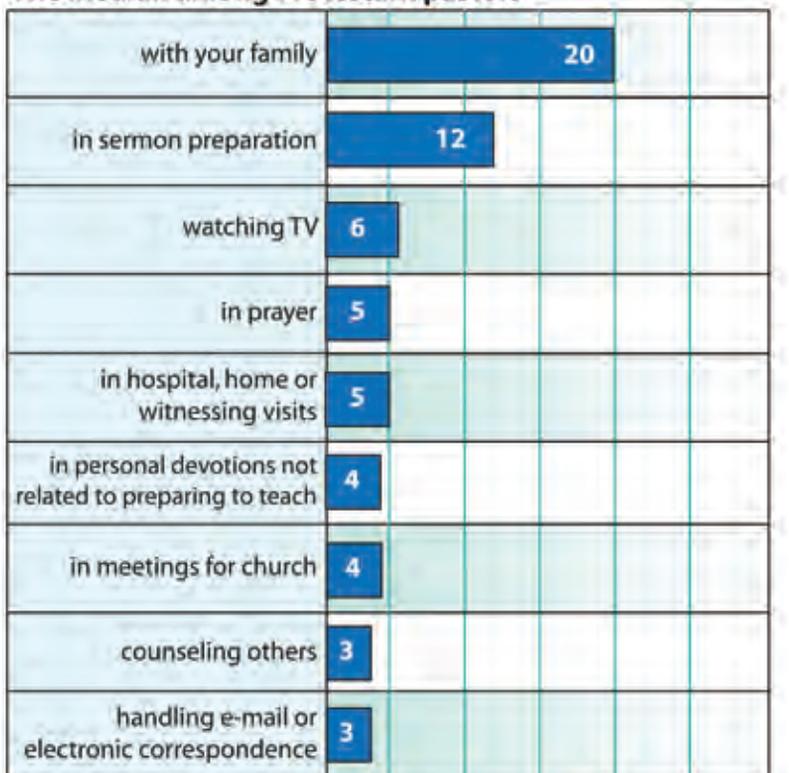
Among ministry activities, pastors spend the most time on sermon preparation. Half of them spend five to 14 hours in sermon preparation. Nine percent say they spend 25 hours or more in sermon preparation each week, and 7 percent

report they spend less than five hours preparing to preach.

Ministry-related meetings and electronic correspondence drive the number of hours worked even higher. More than 70 percent of pastors say they spend up to five hours a week in meetings,

## In a typical week, how many hours do you spend...

The median among Protestant pastors



Note: Each question was asked independently; some responses could overlap.

hours 5 10 15 20 25 30

LifeWayResearch.com



and 15 percent put their meeting load at 10 hours or more. E-mail and other electronic correspondence eat up between two and six hours a week for half the pastors, while 14 percent indicate they spend at least 10 hours a week in electronic correspondence.

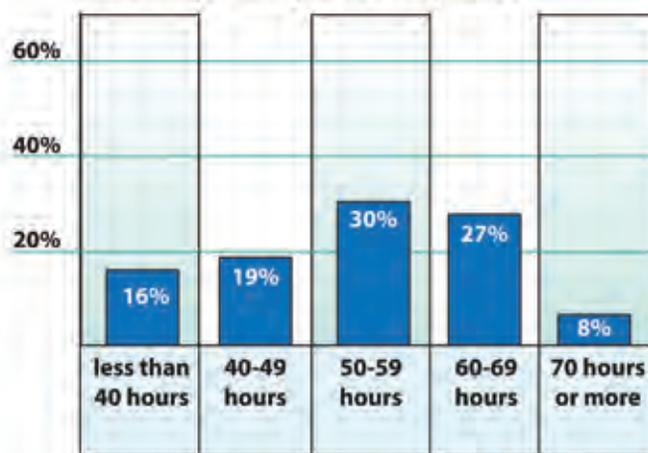
Many pastors, however, find it difficult to make time for two primary ways of relating to church members and prospects: counseling and visitation. While 24 percent say they spend six hours a week or more in counseling

ministry, the same percentage reports spending an hour or less. By the same token, while 12 percent of pastors say they spend 11 or more hours a week in hospital, home or witnessing visits, 12 percent also indicate they spend an hour or less. Forty-eight percent say they spend between two and five hours a week in visitation.

Time with family rates as a priority for many pastors, but some find alarmingly little opportunity to be with their spouses and children. While 30 percent of the pastors report spending 20-29 hours with their families each week – and 16 percent indicate spending 40 or more hours with them weekly – almost 10 percent say they spend nine hours a week or less with family members. At the same time, 24 percent say they watch 10-14 hours of television each week, and 13 percent put their TV time at 15 hours or more.

## In a typical week, how many hours total do you work as pastor of your church?

The average among Protestant pastors



LifeWayResearch.com

LifeWay RESEARCH

“While the priorities are right, they may need better protection.” McConnell continued. “The total hours pastors work in addition to these biblical priorities shows that more of the other ministry tasks need to be shared. Jesus Christ designed the work of the church to be done by believers together in unity.”

The research also turned up some interesting contrasts between evangelical pastors and those who serve churches in mainline denominations:

- 30 percent of evangelical pastors say they spend 20 or more hours a week in sermon preparation, contrasted with 20 percent of mainline pastors.

- 49 percent of evangelical pastors report they spend three hours or less each week in ministry related meetings, while 38 percent of mainline pastors report the same number; 62 percent of mainline pastors report spending five or more hours a week in meetings, contrasted with 52 percent of evangelical pastors.

- 39 percent of evangelical pastors indicate spending less than four hours a week in personal devotions unrelated to teaching preparation, contrasted with 47 percent of mainline pastors. ■

The amount of time spent in prayer and personal devotions raises questions about the vitality of many pastors’ spiritual lives. While 52 percent report spending one to six hours in prayer each week, 5 percent say they spend no time at all in prayer. Furthermore, while 52 percent say they spend two to five hours a week in personal devotions unrelated to teaching preparation, 14 percent indicate they spend an hour or less in personal devotions each week.

“In the early church, the apostles recognized the need to focus their time on prayer and studying the Scripture, as evidenced in Acts 6:4, for instance,” McConnell said. “They shared other ministry tasks – even pressing issues – with qualified believers. Pastors’ top two uses of their ministry time today show this same priority in sermon preparation and prayer.

*LifeWay Research conducted the telephone survey of 1,002 randomly selected Protestant pastors Oct. 13-29, 2008. Responses were weighted to reflect the geographic distribution of the churches, and the sample size provides 95 percent confidence that sampling error does not exceed ±3.2 percent.*

# 2010 Training & Enrichment Events

## Good economic choices are learned and taught

story by Polly House

In every newspaper, magazine, online news site and television news program, one word jumps out – economy! People are looking for the wisest way to use their money.

I don't know about you, but I learned about being economical a long time ago from money-conscious parents and a grandmother who made good use of everything she owned.

My family did the reduce, reuse and recycle thing before it was trendy!

I would roll my eyes at my mother for washing and reusing aluminum foil. I was slightly embarrassed by my dad using a manual push plow in our vegetable garden instead of having a nifty gasoline powered tiller like our neighbor. We didn't take our own bags

to the grocery store, but we reused the paper bags they gave for everything from lining drawers to making patterns.

I was taught to give God what is His, put money in savings for a rainy day, then use the rest wisely and generously. Buy what you need and buy good quality. Quality lasts; cheap doesn't.

So, you may be asking, how does that relate to the 100-plus LifeWay sponsored training and enrichment events in 2010?

If you fill your mind with good things, things of quality, you will receive long-term benefits. When you get good information and learn new skills, you can reduce the myriad

of ideas floating around into a manageable number by only keeping what is best. You can immediately reuse what you learn by sharing it with your church. You can recycle ideas by adapting them to your church's specific needs.

One of the best tips I can offer is to come to one or more of LifeWay's training and enrichment events this year, but don't come alone! Fill your car or van with other people who can benefit from the event, too. Carpooling is a great way to save money. You will get quality training at a reasonable price. What you learn will improve your worship, your churches, your families and your own soul. Doesn't that sounds like a wise investment?



Rally to Ridgecrest



Centrifuge



Living Single in Faith

## Registration and Information



### **LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center**

For more information or to register for 2010 Ridgecrest conferences:

Phone: (800) 588-7222

Online: [LifeWay.com/Ridgecrest](http://LifeWay.com/Ridgecrest)



### **LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center**

For more information or to register for 2010 Glorieta conferences:

Phone: (800) 797-4222

Online: [LifeWay.com/Glorieta](http://LifeWay.com/Glorieta)



### **LifeWay Events Registration**

For more information or to register for 2010 conferences:

Phone: (800) 254-2022

Online: [LifeWay.com/events](http://LifeWay.com/events)

## **Taping and photography disclaimer**

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

## **Training credit information**

Participants may be able to earn Continuing Education Unit credits during the following: Sunday School, 4G and Black Church Leadership & Family conferences. Christian Growth Study Plan credits may be earned for many morning and afternoon conferences. Doctoral students may be able to receive credit through their seminaries. For more information, go to [LifeWay.com/cgsp](http://LifeWay.com/cgsp).

## Ridgecrest goes green

For people who have been to LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, it's no stretch to think "green" with the center's abundance of beautiful trees, shrubs and grass.

What may come as a surprise is Ridgecrest's commitment to being a good steward of its finances by reducing energy consumption and finding eco-friendly alternatives to traditional ways of doing things.

Among the environmentally friendly initiatives and practices that have been put in place are:

- All of the guest rooms use fluorescent lighting.
- More than 80 percent of the conference and public spaces use fluorescent lighting.
- Occupied space, outside ambient conditions and temperature determine the operational parameters.
- The facility participates in a fluorescent bulb recycling program, keeping mercury out of local landfills.
- Conference and public spaces are monitored throughout the day with an energy management system to optimize HVAC efficiency.
- Fireplaces are equipped with timer controls.
- Recycling bins are available throughout the campus to encourage recycling by guests.
- A linen exchange program is in place to cut down on unnecessary washing of linens, saving hundreds of gallons of water each day.
- Ongoing steps include recycling of wood pallets and paper.
- Metals and other recyclables are salvaged from demolition projects.
- Vehicle fuel usage has been cut in half by downsizing to non-highway vehicles where possible and adding the use of electric vehicles.
- A master plan for sidewalks and covered walkways is being followed to make the entire conference center pedestrian friendly, thus encouraging guests to walk instead of using their vehicles to move about campus.

"These steps make sense for us, environmentally and economically," said Byron Hill, director of LifeWay's conference centers. "I am proud of our staff and engineers who are helping us find new ways to protect our beautiful campus. I'm also grateful to our guests who appreciate what we are doing and join us in recycling when they're on our grounds. When conservation is done well, everyone wins."



# 2010 Training & Enrichment Events

## Events by Date

### January

7-8, 8-9	VBS Preview, Ridgecrest Conference Center
14-15, 15-16	VBS Preview, Fort Worth, Texas
22-23	VBS Preview, Las Vegas
28-29, 29-30	VBS Preview, Nashville, Tenn.



VBS 2010: Saddle Ridge Ranch

### February

5-6	Fireproof Your Marriage, Bossier City, La.
6	HomeLife Presents: Love and Marriage Conference, Austin, Texas
12-13	Valentine Event, Ridgecrest Conference Center
19-20	Going Beyond, Fort Worth, Texas
26-27	Girls' Forum, Nashville, Tenn.
26-27	Going Beyond, McLean, Va.

### March

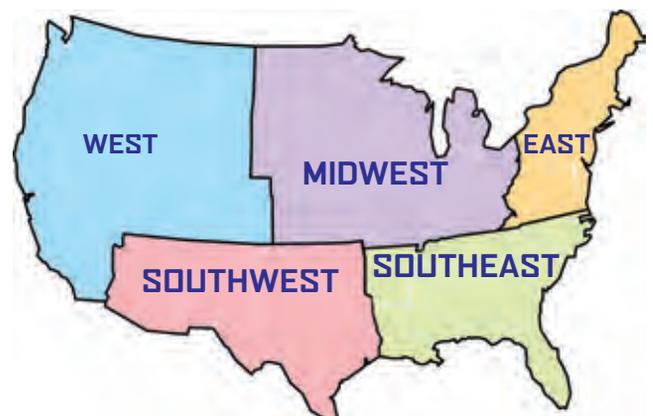
6	HomeLife Presents: Love and Marriage Conference, Nashville, Tenn.
6-12	BeachReach, Panama City, Fla.
12-13	Living Proof Live, Toronto
13-19	BeachReach, Panama City, Fla.
19-20	Fireproof Your Marriage, Saraland, Ala.
20-26	BeachReach, Panama City, Fla.
25-26	You Lead: Women Reaching Women, Tucson, Ariz.
26-27	Fireproof Your Marriage, Tampa, Fla.
26-27	Living Proof Live, Tucson, Ariz.
27	You & Your Girl, Olive Branch, Miss.

### April

2-4	Living Single in Faith, Ridgecrest Conference Center
9-10	La Escuela Dominical Sencilla, Nashville, Tenn.
11-14	Senior Adult Convention & Forever Praise, Branson, Mo.
15	Mid-South Building Conference, Nashville, Tenn.
15-16	You Lead: Women Reaching Women, Tampa, Fla.
16-17	Community U, Smyrna, Tenn.
16-17	La Escuela Dominical Sencilla, Charlotte, N.C.
16-17	Living Proof Live, Tampa, Fla.
16-17	National Sunday School Directors, Wichita, Kan.
17	You and Your Girl, Carrollton, Texas
19-22	Law Enforcement Summit, Ridgecrest Conference Center
25-29	Rec Lab, Ridgecrest Conference Center
30-May 1	La Escuela Dominical Sencilla, Houston
30-May 1	Southeast Black Sunday School, Decatur, Ga.



Rec Lab



Color coded by region

All conferences, dates and locations were verified at the time of publication, but changes may occur. Go to [LifeWay.com/events](http://LifeWay.com/events) for the most up-to-date information.

## May

4-6	Senior Adult Southern Gospel Spring Fest, Ridgecrest Conference Center
14-15	I'm the Man, Ridgecrest Conference Center
16-20	Blue Ridge Mountains Christian Writers Conference, Ridgecrest Conference Center
17-18	Equipping Churches for Evangelistic Effectiveness, Hermitage, Tenn.
17-20	Fly Fishing Adventures, Ridgecrest Conference Center
20-21	You Lead: Women Reaching Women, Grand Rapids, Mich.
21-22	Community U, Oak Creek, Wis.
21-22	La Escuela Dominical Sencilla, Upland, Calif.
21-22	Living Proof Live, Grand Rapids, Mich.
21-22	National Sunday School Directors, Columbus, Ohio
21-23	Sisters Arise, Ridgecrest Conference Center
24-27	Senior Adult Southern Gospel Spring Fest, Glorieta Conference Center
28-30	Marriage Impact, Ridgecrest Conference Center
28-30	Rally to Ridgecrest, Ridgecrest Conference Center

## June

4-5	Downhill@Dawn Half Marathon, Ridgecrest Conference Center
4-8	Gideon Media Arts Conference and Film Festival, Ridgecrest Conference Center
4-5	La Escuela Dominical Sencilla, Oklahoma City
11-12	Deeper Still, Denver
21-25	SonPower, Orlando, Fla.
23-25	Building a Kingdom School Institute, Nashville, Tenn.
24-25	You Lead: Women Reaching Women, St. Louis
25-26	Living Proof Live, St. Louis
28-July 2	4G: Engaging Groups in Transformational Disciple-Making, Glorieta Conference Center
28-July 2	Worship Leadership Conference, Ridgecrest Conference Center



Downhill@Dawn



# 2010 Training & Enrichment Events

## Events by Date

### July

5-10	Glorieta Family Camps, Glorieta Conference Center
8-9	Between Us Ministers' Wives, Irvine, Calif.
9-10	Living Proof Live, Irvine, Calif.
9-12	Sunday School Week, Ridgecrest Conference Center
11	Great Expectations: Live Online Sunday School Training, Ridgecrest Conference Center
12-15	Mission Shift, Ridgecrest Conference Center
12-17	Glorieta Family Camps, Glorieta Conference Center
16-17	Community U, Irvine, Calif.
19-23	Black Church Leadership & Family Conference, Ridgecrest Conference Center
19-23	Sunday School Week, Glorieta Conference Center
23-26	4G: Engaging Groups in Transformational Disciple-Making, Ridgecrest Conference Center
24	HomeLife Presents: Love and Marriage Conference, Virginia Beach, Va.

### August

2-6	Worship Leadership Conference, Glorieta Conference Center
6-7	Going Beyond, Tulsa, Okla.
8-13	Collegiate Week, Glorieta Conference Center
13-14	Living Proof Live, Lexington, Ky.
13-14	TRANSFORM! Sunday School Conference, Spartanburg, S.C.
14	HomeLife Presents: Love and Marriage Conference, New Orleans
20-21	Community U, St. Peters, Mo.
20-21	TRANSFORM! Sunday School Conference, Raytown, Mo.
21	HomeLife Presents: Love and Marriage Conference, Dallas
20-22	Marriage Impact, Ridgecrest Conference Center
26-27	Between Us Ministers' Wives, Richmond, Va.
27-28	Living Proof Live, Richmond, Va.
27-28	TRANSFORM! Sunday School Conference, Fort Worth, Texas



All conferences, dates and locations were verified at the time of publication, but changes may occur. Go to [LifeWay.com/events](http://LifeWay.com/events) for the most up-to-date information.

## September

3-6	Singles Labor Day Adventure, Ridgecrest Conference Center
10-11	Fireproof Your Marriage, Woodstock, Ga.
10-11	Going Beyond, Hattiesburg, Miss.
10-11	National Sunday School Directors, Apex, N.C.
11	You & Your Girl, Syracuse, N.Y.
13-15	LifeWay National Youth Workers, Nashville, Tenn.
17-19	Southern Gospel and Bluegrass Festival, Ridgecrest Conference Center
18	Living Proof Live Simulcast, Chicago
20-23	Fly Fishing Adventures, Glorieta Conference Center
20-24	Senior Adult Getaway, Ridgecrest Conference Center
22-24	Refresh Worship Conference, Lynchburg, Va.
22-25	Fly Fishing Adventures, Glorieta Conference Center
24-25	Community U, Redmond, Wash.
24-25	National Sunday School Directors, Chicago
25	HomeLife Presents: Love and Marriage Conference, Knoxville, Tenn.
28- Oct. 2	Retired Ministers & Missionaries Retreat, Glorieta Conference Center
30- Oct. 1	You Lead: Women Reaching Women, Boston

## October

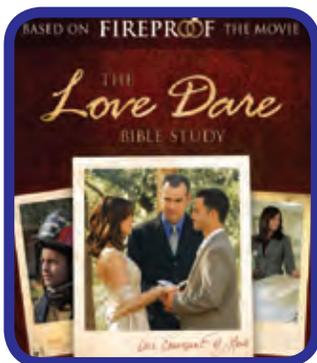
1-2	Living Proof Live, Boston
3-7	Blue Ridge Mountains Christian Novelist Retreat, Ridgecrest Conference Center
8-9	Going Beyond, Columbia, S.C.
8-10	Boomstock, Ridgecrest Conference Center
8-10	Festival of Marriage, Glorieta Conference Center
11-14	LifeWay Kids Conference, Birmingham, Ala.
15-16	Community U, Fulton, Md.
15-17	Festival of Marriage Conference Center
18-22	Senior Adult Getaway, Ridgecrest Conference Center
19-22	Southwest Christian Writers Studio, Glorieta Conference Center
22-23	National Black Sunday School Conference, Nashville, Tenn.
22-24	Festival of Marriage, Ridgecrest Conference Center
23	You & Your Girl, Covington, La.
23-24	Youth 2 Christ: The Urban Connection, Ridgecrest Conference Center
28-29	You Lead: Women Reaching Women, Mead, Wash.
29-30	Living Proof Live, Spokane, Wash.

## November

4-5	Community U, West Palm Beach, Fla.
4-6	Festival of Marriage, Branson, Mo.
9-11	Women's Leadership Forum, Ridgecrest Conference Center
9-12	Senior Adult Getaway, Branson, Mo.
14-19	Law Enforcement Summit, Ridgecrest Conference Center
19-20	Living Proof Live, Rapid City, S.D.

## December

2-3	You Lead: Women Reaching Women, Birmingham, Ala.
3-4	Deeper Still, Birmingham, Ala.



Fireproof Your Marriage



Law Enforcement Summit

# 2010 Training & Enrichment Events

## Adults

### **Black Church Leadership & Family Conference**

This event is for anyone serving God in the church, from pastor to usher. Each day begins early with praise and worship. You can choose to attend morning and afternoon conferences on topical subjects as well as book studies. All classes are led by skilled practitioners including leaders from LifeWay, North American Mission Board, International Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union and GuideStone Financial Services.

*LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center,  
July 19-23 • LifeWay.com/events*

### **Blue Ridge Mountains Christian Novelist Retreat**

This is the perfect setting for a time of improving the craft of novel writing, fellowshiping with other novelists, writing, discussing and critiquing. Requirements are that you have attended some writers' conference or class and have a novel in progress. Bring your laptop and your novel.



Blue Ridge Mountains

All novelists are welcome to come and learn the craft that applies to all novel writing. The faculty is Christian and some emphasis will be directed to the CBA market. Enrollment is limited so register early.

*LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center,  
Oct. 3-7 • LifeWay.com/events*

### **Blue Ridge Mountains Christian Writers Conference**

Whether you are a professional writer expanding your skills and networking contacts or a new writer just beginning, this event is the ideal opportunity to take your writing to a higher level.

*LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center,  
May 16-20 • LifeWay.com/christianwriters*

### **Building a Kingdom School Institute**

LifeWay Christian School Resources, in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Association of Christian Schools, presents the Building a Kingdom School Institute. The institute is designed to meet the needs of administrators and board members who want to develop Kingdom-focused schools. The institute provides school leaders with practical help to enable them to drive the Kingdom philosophy of education.

*LifeWay, Nashville, Tenn.,  
June 23-25 • LifeWay.com/christianschools*

### **Boomstock**

This three-day event offers workshops on topics that concern the baby boomer generation – people born between 1946 and 1964. Topics include care giving for parents, second careers, marriages dealing with empty nest and “boomerang kids” moving back home. A boomer specialist will lead the general sessions. One day is set aside for either an off-campus mission project or an adventure day.

*LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, Oct. 8-10  
• LifeWay.com/events*

### **Downhill@Dawn Half Marathon**

Our third annual half marathon will go from Ridgecrest to Old Fort. Worship and family activities make this a weekend you and your family won't want to miss.

*LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center,  
June 4-5 • LifeWay.com/halfmarathon*

### **Fly Fishing Adventures**

Whether you're an experienced fly fisherman or just want to catch some trout on a spinning reel, consider coming along with us to New Mexico or North Carolina. Hook a rainbow trout and hook into God's Spirit too.

*LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center,  
May 17-20; LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center, Sept., 20-23, 22-25 • LifeWay.com/flyfishing*

### **Gideon Media Arts Conference and Film Festival**

The Gideon Media Arts Conference and Film Festival is a Christian camp and venue for the media arts. This conference is designed to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ through all types of media with an emphasis on radio, church drama, music, television and film.

*LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center,  
June 4-8 • LifeWay.com/gideonmediaarts*

### **Glorieta Family Camps**

Beginning in summer 2010, Glorieta Summer Camps will begin offering Family Camp. These weeklong programs will give your family opportunities for adventure in the southern Rocky Mountains. Through good times, your family can grow closer together and grow closer to God.

*LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center, July 5-10, 12-17 • LifeWay.com/familycamps*

### **I'm the Man Conference**

Many have said a constant problem the church faces is the absence of male spiritual leadership in both the church and the home. This year's “I'm the Man” conference is about the spiritual legacy of a man. Bring a group for this incredible time with superb worship, inspirational music and powerful Bible study with some of today's leading speakers.

*LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center,  
May 14-15 • LifeWay.com/man*

### **Law Enforcement Summit**

Our mission at the Law Enforcement Summit is to provide tools for character and ministry designed, developed and taught by cops and their families. The Law Enforcement Summit provides an opportunity for Christian officers and their spouses to talk about their own life experiences, to share strengths and to maintain their faith. This conference is designed to say, “It is OK to be a cop and be a Christian.”

*LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center,  
April 19-22, Nov. 14-19 • LifeWay.com/lawenforcement*

All conferences, dates and locations were verified at the time of publication, but changes may occur. Go to [LifeWay.com/events](http://LifeWay.com/events) for the most up-to-date information.

### **LifeWay Kids Conference**

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The LifeWay Kids Conference adds a new dimension to your childhood ministry, providing you with fresh ideas, usable strategies and insight into what's ahead for children's ministry. Visit the exhibitor booths packed with new resources and get personally refreshed through worship and teaching each day.

Birmingham, Ala.,  
Oct. 11-14 • [LifeWay.com/kids](http://LifeWay.com/kids)

### **LifeWay National Youth Workers Conference**

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Join us at LifeWay for a time of encouragement and training. This year's event features Ed Stetzer, Jeff Iorg, The Skit Guys and more. Choose from more than 20 seminars.

LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn., Sept. 13-15 • [LifeWay.com/lnywc](http://LifeWay.com/lnywc)

### **Mid-South Building Conference**

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LifeWay Architecture offers the Mid-South Building Conference to help pastors and their building project teams get ready to build. It's an ideal start to the building team's training and is designed to prepare your key building project leaders for the planning and construction process. Your team will leave with sound advice from experienced ministry leaders and building project professionals who have a heart for serving churches. You'll also get a guided tour of several recently constructed local church facilities.

LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn., April 15 • [LifeWay.com/arch](http://LifeWay.com/arch)

### **Mission Shift**

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Mission Shift with LifeWay Research Director Ed Stetzer looks at framing the missional conversations and forging a missional manifesto. Join him and other missional church leaders for this event.

LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, July 12-15 • [LifeWay.com/events](http://LifeWay.com/events)

### **Rally to Ridgecrest**

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Join Christian motorcyclists from all over the country on Memorial Day to honor the many men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice to ensure our precious freedom. That freedom

guarantees our right to worship Jesus Christ.

Ride long, winding roads through green forests and majestic mountains. Open yourself to God's Word and His leadership in your life. Meet friends, attend seminars and explore the ministry value of motorcycling. Challenging speakers and great music will fill each night.

LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, May 28-30 • [LifeWay.com/motorcycleraly](http://LifeWay.com/motorcycleraly)

### **Rec Lab**

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God is ready to do great things in your recreation/sports and family ministry. You believe it. Rec Lab will help you see it!

LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, April 25-29 • [LifeWay.com/events](http://LifeWay.com/events)

### **Retired Ministers & Missionaries Retreat**

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This event is open to anyone who has served on the staff of a local church, association, denomination, college, university, seminary or hospital, or in childcare, aging care or chaplaincy. The program includes worship, Bible study, conferences and free time for fellowship.

LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center, Sept. 28-Oct. 2 • [LifeWay.com/events](http://LifeWay.com/events)

### **Senior Adult Convention**

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For the first time, the senior adult convention joins Forever Praise in one location. For four great days your seniors will enjoy some of our country's top inspirational speakers and entertainers, soul-stirring music, sweet fellowship with seniors from around the nation and, of course, the sights, sounds and shopping of Branson. Traveling together to this convention is a great way to energize and build your senior adult ministry.

Tri-Lakes Center and Welk Resort, Branson, Mo., April 11-14 • [LifeWay.com/senioradults](http://LifeWay.com/senioradults)

### **Senior Adult Getaways**

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A LifeWay senior adult event is an experience you will not want to miss. From the Appalachian Mountains of Ridgecrest N.C., to the dazzle of Branson, Mo., to the scenic Sangre de Cristo Mountains of Glorieta, N.M., you will

come together with others from around the country for worship, music, Bible study, spiritual renewal and lots of fun. Each of these events will offer something for every senior in your church.

LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center, Sept. 20-24; LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, Oct. 18-22; Tri-Lakes Center and Welk Resort, Branson, Mo., Nov. 9-12 • [LifeWay.com/senioradults](http://LifeWay.com/senioradults)

### **Senior Adult Southern Gospel Spring Fest**

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LifeWay Ridgecrest and Glorieta conference centers are offering these two wonderful senior adult events. Come join hundreds of other senior adults celebrating southern gospel music.

Seniors love these events. They sleep, eat and enjoy worship with great preaching and music all in one place with no lines!

LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, May 4-6; LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center, May 24-27 • [LifeWay.com/southerngospel](http://LifeWay.com/southerngospel)

### **Singles Labor Day Adventure**

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Join single adults of all ages for an experience with God in the mountains. It's a great time for connecting with old friends, meeting new friends, learning, trying new things, worshiping God and enjoying the beauty of Ridgecrest.

Choose a conference track with 20+ conferences with lots of choices and a variety of topics. Or opt for an outdoor adventure track with challenging add-on-cost activities like rafting, biking, rappelling and horseback riding.

Customize your weekend. Spend one day outdoors and the next day taking in as many conferences as you like.

LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, Sept. 3-6 • [LifeWay.com/singleslaborday](http://LifeWay.com/singleslaborday)

### **Southern Gospel and Bluegrass Festival**

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There is nothing like the sound of southern gospel and bluegrass music echoing around the Blue Ridge Mountains in September. There will be incredibly talented, award-winning gospel bluegrass music by groups like the Issacs and Jeff

# 2010 Training & Enrichment Events

and Sherri Easter, along with solo artist Marty Raybon. Bring a group of gospel bluegrass lovers from your church and participate with us. This event is being hosted by the Tim Williams Evangelistic Association and the LifeWay Conference Centers ministry.

*LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, Sept. 17-19 • LifeWay.com/bluegrass*

## **Southwest Christian Writers Studio**

Whether you are a professional writer expanding your skills and networking contacts, or a brand new writer just beginning to chase your dream, this event is the ideal opportunity to take your creative goals to a higher level.

*LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center, Oct. 19-22 • LifeWay.com/events*

## **VBS Previews**

Round up your posse and join composer Jeff Slaughter and other VBS leaders from across the country for a hands-on, two-day event that's packed with information about LifeWay's VBS 2010.

Hear firsthand from the creators of LifeWay's VBS by attending sessions designed especially for VBS directors, preschool VBS leaders, children's VBS leaders, youth VBS leaders, adult VBS leaders, special needs VBS leaders and Club VBS leaders. The previews are happening at four locations.

*VBS Preview Sneak Peek (no performance of the VBS musical), Jan. 7-8; VBS Preview, Jan. 8-9, LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center.*

*VBS Preview 1, Jan. 14-15; VBS Preview 2, Jan. 15-16, Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas.*

*VBS Preview Sneak Peek (no VBS Expo or visual experience), Jan. 22-23, Green Valley Baptist Church, Las Vegas.*

*VBS Preview 1, Jan. 28-29; VBS Preview 2, Jan. 29-30, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn. • LifeWay.com/vbs*

## **Marriage Events**

### **Festivals of Marriage**

A Festivals of Marriage event is a three-day retreat where you can relax, refresh and reconnect at your choice of five delightful destinations. You and your spouse can finally find time for yourselves plus listen to speakers who encourage, inspire and inform; workshops that provide practical tips and advice; praise and worship to get closer to God; and a candlelight renewal of vows ceremony.

*LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center, Oct. 8-10; LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, Oct. 15-17, 22-24; Chateau on the Lake, Branson, Mo., Nov. 4-6 • LifeWay.com/fom*

### **Fireproof My Marriage**

These will be the hottest events of 2010! This two-day Love Dare event will show you how to withstand the inevitable fires that all marriages face. Led by the creators of the movie "Fireproof" and "The Love Dare Journal," this unique marriage conference provides biblical teaching, true worship and practical help for married and engaged couples. You'll laugh. You'll cry. You'll learn. Your marriage will never be the same.

There will also be an optional training opportunity at each location on the Friday preceding the event, from

11 a.m.-2 p.m. The host church will offer training on how to start or improve a marriage ministry, led by instructors from Sherwood Baptist and/or Life Innovations (Prepare-Enrich). This opportunity is only open to the first 75 conference attendees who sign up for the training.

*First Baptist Church, Bossier City, La., Feb. 5-6; First Baptist Church North Mobile, Saraland, Ala., March 19-20; Idlewild Baptist Church, Tampa, Fla., March 26-27; First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga., Sept. 10-11 • LifeWay.com/fireproofevent*

## **HomeLife Presents: Love and Marriage Conference**

Three of today's top Christian marriage counselors help you discover the two key ingredients in any biblical marriage – empathy and love – and improve your marriage in just one day. Plus, it's convenient, affordable and no lodging or overnight baby-sitters are needed.

Learn about "Trading Places" with Les and Leslie Parrott. Stepping in your spouse's shoes will absolutely revolutionize your relationship.

Find out about "Love as a Way of Life" with Gary Chapman. Love is the key ingredient in a biblical marriage. But what does love look like? Chapman will help you adopt the seven traits of love and change the way you treat people.

Marriage ministry training is available for church staff and marriage ministry leaders each Friday at the same location as the Saturday event.

Les Parrott will lead "Marriage Mentoring," during which LifeWay will give you a copy of the Parrotts' resource, "The Complete Resource Kit for Marriage Mentoring: Everything You Need to Launch a Marriage Mentoring Program."

LifeWay's Mark Satterfield will lead "Developing a Marriage Ministry Plan." Learn how to develop a marriage ministry, plan marriage enrichment emphases, handle intervention and recovery, and use on-going marriage Bible studies. Only 75 spots are available.

*Bannockburn Baptist Church, Austin, Texas, Feb. 6; LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn., March 6; London Bridge Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, Va., July 24; First Baptist Church, New Orleans, Aug. 14; First Baptist Church, Dallas, Aug. 21; First Baptist Concord, Knoxville, Tenn., Sept. 25 • LifeWay.com/loveandmarriage*

## **Marriage Impact**

Marriage Impact is a premier marriage event that invites couples to experience exciting outdoor adventures combined with powerful Bible study and inspirational worship. Couples can select from a fantastic list of recreational adventures, including whitewater rafting, canoeing, a ropes course and a 40-foot climbing wall. Each evening they can relax with a couple's devotional, turndown



Marriage Events

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service and our special amenities chosen just for you.

*LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, May 28-30, Aug. 20-22 • [LifeWay.com/marriageimpact](http://LifeWay.com/marriageimpact)*

### **Valentine Event**

It begins with a drive to the mountains of Ridgecrest, N.C. Then you enjoy a nice dinner together, a concert, some comedy and perhaps a little do-not-disturb time. That by itself would be a great Valentine's Day gift for each other. But on Saturday, you give a gift to your marriage – hours of mentoring, advice and information to help you get to that level of uncommon love, that Solomon-style relationship you've always wanted. We'll even throw in breakfast and lunch. Join Tim and Darcy Kimmel, comedian Kenn Kington and worship with Warren Barfield for a most amazing weekend.

*LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, Feb. 12-13 • [LifeWay.com/valentine](http://LifeWay.com/valentine)*

## **Music & Worship**

### **Forever Praise at the Senior Adult Convention**

We're all watching our pennies these days and downsizing seems to be one of the easiest ways to do that. But this spring, senior adults can take one trip and attend LifeWay's two most popular events. Forever Praise will be held in tandem with the LifeWay Senior Adult Convention.

Join great leaders and seniors for worship, rehearsals, Bible study, seminars, hymn sings and much more!

*Tri-Lakes Center and Welk Resort, Branson, Mo., April 11-14 • [LifeWay.com/senioradults](http://LifeWay.com/senioradults)*

### **LifeWay Worship Leadership Conference**

Find practical help for starting a worship ministry or learn techniques that will keep your ministry strong. The LifeWay Worship Leadership Conference can be tailored to your worship ministry needs, regardless of your church's size or

worship style. Relevant breakout sessions and activities are available for every attendee – minister of music, pastor, worship team, music staff, children's choir workers, laypeople and families.

*LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, June 28-July 2; LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center, Aug. 2-6 • [LifeWay.com/worshipevents](http://LifeWay.com/worshipevents)*

### **Refresh Worship Conference**

This is a different kind of worship conference featuring Stuart Townend, Charles Billingsley, Mike Harland, Ergun Caner and Graham Kendrick. It's co-sponsored by Kingsway Music, Red Tie Records, Thomas Road Baptist Church and LifeWay Worship.

*Lynchburg, Va., Sept. 22-24 • [RefreshWorshipConference.com](http://RefreshWorshipConference.com)*

### **SonPower 2010**

SonPower provides students with an intense week of rehearsals, Bible study, worship and missions. New songs, new biblical insights and relevant mission opportunities are all shared by key experts in student ministry. The week culminates in a live recording session for students to lay down vocal tracks of the music they've learned. Doubletree Hotel at the entrance to Universal Orlando, Orlando, Fla., June 21-25 • [LifeWay.com/sonpower](http://LifeWay.com/sonpower)



LifeWay Worship

## **Sunday School, Discipleship & Evangelism**

### **4G: Engaging Groups in Transformational Disciple-Making**

This conference will highlight the distinctive characteristics of four different groups: Sunday school, discipleship, small groups and missional groups. Practitioners will address each area and participants will attend sessions that allow for transformation in and through groups. We will offer a worship experience that is

the centerpiece. It will have the relevance of the Catalyst conference and the professionalism of an A-list conference.

*LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center, June 28-July 2; LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, July 23-26 • [LifeWay.com/4G](http://LifeWay.com/4G)*

### **Community U Small Groups Conference: Connecting Your People to Your Church and Your Community**

Community U is a new training event that will show you how to take community groups to a deeper and wider level. You will experience two intense days of teaching, learning and growing in an innovative format that will help you to create powerful plans for your church.

The first day is aimed at small group point people and offers two unique courses: a foundation track for those in the initial stages of small group ministry development and an advanced leadership track for seasoned small group pastors. The second day is aimed at both small group point people and their leaders.

This is a low-cost, high-impact conference, and we are bringing it to a location near you.

*Life Point Church, Smyrna, Tenn., April 16-17; Parkway Church, Oak Creek, Wis., May 21-22; Mariners Church, Irvine, Calif., July 16-17; Calvary Church, St. Peters, Mo., Aug. 20-21; Washington Cathedral, Redmond, Wash., Sept. 24-25; Grace Community Church, Fulton, Md., Oct. 15-16; Christ Fellowship Church, West Palm Beach, Fla., Nov. 4-5*

• <http://purposedrivenchurch.com/sg>

### **Equipping Churches for Evangelistic Effectiveness**

This is a joint training effort among LifeWay, the Tennessee Baptist Convention and Hermitage Hills Baptist Church. Large-group experiences and multiple breakouts are designed to help churches build evangelistic intentionality and practice, resulting in greater effectiveness in evangelism.

*Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Hermitage, Tenn., May 17-18 • [LifeWay.com/events](http://LifeWay.com/events)*

# 2010 Training & Enrichment Events

## **The Gathering**

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Join us for unprecedented discipleship and evangelism guidance. At The Gathering you'll be immersed in workshops and breakouts, roundtable dialogue, collaborative learning, networking and fabulous fellowship – all focused on the critical issues impacting your church's health.

*Nashville, Tenn., September 2010 (date to be determined) • [LifeWay.com/events](http://LifeWay.com/events)*

## **Great Expectations: Live Online Sunday School Training from LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center**

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Great Expectations: Live Online Sunday School Training from LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center will be interactive, inspirational and designed to help you build a God-empowered, God-focused and connected Sunday school class. Based on David Francis' book, "Great Expectations," the training is for teachers, directors, class leaders and church staff. You can text questions beforehand or post tweets real-time and become a virtual audience member. Now you can have an authentic conference center experience without leaving town.

Ask your church to register online. Invite other teachers and your director to a group viewing.

*July 11, 4-6 p.m. (EST) • [LifeWay.com/events](http://LifeWay.com/events)*

## **La Escuela Dominical Sencilla (The Simple Sunday School Seminar)**

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This day-and-a-half conference, conducted in Spanish, will teach Hispanic church leaders and church planters how to establish a Sunday school from scratch or revitalize an existing Sunday school. Participants will receive a 50-page manual and a conference notebook that will provide a step-by-step process to establish a "Simple" Sunday school. Don't miss this ground-breaking event that will help your church reach and assimilate Hispanic families and engage them in life-changing Bible studies.

*Nashville, Tenn., April 9-10; Charlotte, N.C., April 16-17; Houston, April 30-May 1; Upland, Calif., May 21-22; Oklahoma City, June 4-5 • [LifeWay.com/escueladominical](http://LifeWay.com/escueladominical) or [LifeWay.com/espanol](http://LifeWay.com/espanol)*

## **National Black Sunday School Conference**

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This training event provides skills in building strong Sunday schools and addresses issues within the context of traditions and culture of the black church. The seminar, comprised of general sessions and specialized conferences by role, is for pastors, ministers of education (directors of Christian education), Sunday school directors and age group Sunday school leaders. Through worship, speakers and seminars designed for personalized, individual attention, you will return home inspired, energized and equipped.

*LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn., Oct. 22-23 • [LifeWay.com/events](http://LifeWay.com/events)*

## **National Sunday School Director Seminars**

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The National Sunday School Director Seminar is for Sunday school directors, division and department directors, pastors and ministers of education.

The NSSDS will equip you to serve effectively in all areas of Sunday school.

Facilitate opportunities to network with Sunday school directors from churches similar to yours. Build team cohesiveness among your minister of education, your pastor, and your division and department directors.

*Wichita, Kan., April 16-17; Columbus, Ohio, May 21-22; Apex, N.C., Sept. 10-11; Chicago, Sept. 24-25 • [LifeWay.com/sundayschool](http://LifeWay.com/sundayschool)*

## **Southeast Black Sunday School Conference**

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This event is designed to help Sunday school leaders gain a new understanding of the importance of their roles, how to build and grow a strong Sunday school and how to reach people for Christ. This event will teach skills in building strong Sunday schools and addressing issues within the context of the traditions and culture of the black church. This conference is for Sunday school directors, age-group Sunday school leaders, pastors and ministers of education (directors of Christian education).

*Greenforest Community Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga., April 30-May 1 • [LifeWay.com/events](http://LifeWay.com/events)*

## **Sunday School Weeks 2010**

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"Great Expectations for Sunday School in the Transformational Church" is the theme for LifeWay's Sunday School Weeks. These events are like no other training experiences in the country. Participants can choose from a fantastic group of conferences led by experienced facilitators that will bring this 2010 theme to life. You and your leaders will discover the remarkable power of a God-empowered, focused, connected Sunday school and its impact on a class, the community and its commission. In addition, each day you'll enjoy inspiring worship, preaching and networking opportunities galore.

You have two options for this great event – a weekend at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center or a week at LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center. Both conference centers offer unique retreat environments nestled in the mountains near vacation-type attractions.

Speakers scheduled at Ridgecrest are Thom Rainer, Craig Conner, David Francis, Bruce Raley and worship leaders Chris and Diane Machen.

Speakers scheduled at Glorieta are Ed Stetzer, Steve Horn, David Francis, Bruce Raley and worship leader John Frank Reeve.

*LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, July 9-12; LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center, July 19-23 • [LifeWay.com/sundayschool](http://LifeWay.com/sundayschool)*

## **TRANSFORM! Changing Lives through Sunday School**

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Sunday school teachers are critical servants in the life of a church and in the lives of church members. The Sunday school teacher is a linchpin in reaching, teaching and ministering. As a result, training for Sunday school teachers often focuses on the broad scope of the work in leading an effective Sunday school class ministry. But how many teachers feel adequately equipped to lead a class on Sunday morning? How many teachers feel they know how to prepare, are ready for any surprises that pop up in a class, how to shepherd class members to become self-feeders, or even how to study the Word for themselves?

All conferences, dates and locations were verified at the time of publication, but changes may occur. Go to [LifeWay.com/events](http://LifeWay.com/events) for the most up-to-date information.

One of the greatest struggles for churches is finding – and equipping – the right leaders to lead others through department life-transforming group Bible study experiences. TRANSFORM! takes aim at the heart of this problem by delivering an in-depth training process to equip teachers with the know-how to lead life-changing Sunday school experiences.

TRANSFORM! regional Sunday school training events are a convenient and effective way to strengthen those who take on the critical work of Bible teaching.

*First Baptist Church, Spartanburg, S.C., Aug. 13-14; First Baptist Church, Raytown, Mo., Aug. 20-21; Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, Aug. 27-28 • [LifeWay.com/events](http://LifeWay.com/events)*

## Women

### Between Us Ministers' Wives Conference

Between Us is an event created specifically for the unique needs and challenges of ministers' wives. Be inspired and get equipped for your role as you learn from and mingle with other ministers' wives who can speak into the pressures related to being a woman in ministry. You'll leave knowing that you've been empowered to continue the incredible journey to which God has called your family.

*Irvine, Calif., July 8-9; Richmond, Va., Aug. 26-27 • [LifeWay.com/betweenus](http://LifeWay.com/betweenus)*

### Deeper Still

Deeper Still with Kay Arthur, Beth Moore and Priscilla Shirer is the ultimate intergenerational spiritual retreat. Learn from the biblical wisdom and life experiences of three of the country's top Bible study teachers. Worship with Travis Cottrell and participate in a special creative worship time. You'll leave knowing there's no limit to the depth of your love for God's Word.

*Denver, June 11-12; Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 3-4 • [LifeWay.com/deeperstill](http://LifeWay.com/deeperstill)*

### Girls' Forum

Girls' Forum is a refreshing time for staff and volunteers in girls' ministry

to network their ideas and needs in ministry while taking time to focus on their own personal development. High school-age girls also are invited to attend. A leadership track is available to prepare leaders to reach the next generation of girls. You'll leave knowing the training and renewed focus you received will help you to encourage a girl who is longing to be accepted.

*Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 26-27 • [LifeWay.com/girlsforum](http://LifeWay.com/girlsforum)*

### Going Beyond

Going Beyond is an intimate and inspiring women's conference like no other. Come spend time with passionate Bible teacher Priscilla Shirer as she encourages you from God's Word and leads you in an unforgettable prayer experience. Enjoy worship with leader Anthony Evans. You'll leave knowing that the challenge to take your relationship with the Lord to the next level is worth your every effort.

*Fort Worth, Texas, Feb. 19-20; McLean, Va., Feb. 26-27; Tulsa, Okla., Aug. 6-7; Hattiesburg, Miss., Sept. 10-11; Columbia, S.C., Oct. 8-9 • [LifeWay.com/goingbeyond](http://LifeWay.com/goingbeyond)*

### Living Proof Live

Living Proof Live continues to be the perfect mix of biblically sound messages and worship from beloved teacher Beth Moore and worship leader Travis Cottrell. This fun and authentic ministry team prepares a unique message from God for each location, so you'll experience a fresh encounter with God.

*Toronto, March 12-13; Tucson, Ariz., March 26-27; Tampa, Fla., April 16-17; Grand Rapids, Mich., May 21-22; St. Louis, June 25-26; Irvine, Calif., July 9-10; Lexington, Ky., Aug. 13-14; Richmond, Va., Aug. 27-28; Boston, Oct. 1-2; Spokane, Wash., Oct. 29-30; Rapid City, S.D., Nov. 19-20 • [LifeWay.com/livingproof](http://LifeWay.com/livingproof)*

### Living Proof Live Simulcast with Beth Moore

Living Proof Live Simulcast brings beloved teacher Beth Moore and worship leader Travis Cottrell via simulcast from the windy city of Chicago directly to the

women in your community. Enjoy the perfect mix of biblically sound teaching and worship from the comfort of your home church.

*Chicago (and other locations across the country), Sept. 18*

• [LifeWay.com/lplsimulcast](http://LifeWay.com/lplsimulcast)



Beth Moore

### Sisters Arise

Come grow in your understanding of your purpose and value in Christ at the Sisters Arise conference. This conference is designed to help black women discover or recommit to ways to honor and serve God in all aspects of their lives. Women will come to Sisters Arise

ready to dispel the challenge of stress or difficult circumstances through the light of our Lord. They can embark on a spiritual journey that will empower them to unlock their God-given potential and learn practical ways to share the goodness of Christ with others. This conference will energize and uplift women through breakout sessions that remind them of the hope they have in Christ and the wonderful, unique gifts that He has placed in each of them. The meditative atmosphere of Ridgecrest Conference Center is the perfect place to reflect upon and renew commitments to God.

*LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, May 21-23 • [LifeWay.com/sistersarise](http://LifeWay.com/sistersarise)*

### Women's Ministry Forum

Plan now to attend the National Women's Leadership Forum 2010, featuring valuable ideas, information and inspiration for a church's women's ministry. Led by Chris Adams, LifeWay's senior lead women's ministry specialist, this three-day leadership event includes breakouts, a reception and sessions with LifeWay trainers and authors.

*LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, Nov. 9-11 • [LifeWay.com/wmnforum](http://LifeWay.com/wmnforum)*

# 2010 Training & Enrichment Events

## You & Your Girl

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You & Your Girl creates the perfect setting for moms and daughters to be encouraged in their own unique ways. Join author and speaker Vicki Courtney and girl band The Sonflowerz for a weekend filled with positive messages, worship, girl time and opportunities to talk about the tough stuff. You'll leave knowing that, together, you and your daughter have created a bond that can't be broken by the outside world.

*Olive Branch, Miss., March 27; Carrollton, Texas, April 17; Syracuse, N.Y., Sept. 11; Covington, La., Oct. 23 • LifeWay.com/yourgirl*

## You Lead: Women Reaching Women Pre-Conference

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You Lead is a motivational and encouraging event for leaders who are eager to reach and disciple women for Christ. With cutting-edge training in discipleship, evangelism, missions and prayer, your entire women's ministry team can learn how to begin and continue to build a balanced ministry. You'll leave knowing that God can use you and your spiritual gifts to reach women in your church and community for Christ.

*Tucson, Ariz., March 25-26; Tampa, Fla., April 15-16; Grand Rapids, Mich., May 20-21; St. Louis, June 24-25; Boston, Sept. 30-Oct. 1; Mead, Wash., Oct. 28-29; Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 2-3 • LifeWay.com/youlead*

## Young Adults & Students

### BeachReach

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BeachReach is a unique mission experience that combines service with hands-on evangelism during Spring Break in Panama City Beach, Fla. BeachReach requires students to demonstrate a special boldness in sharing their faith with their college peers on Spring Break, which then transfers back to their campuses.

*Panama City Beach, Fla., March 6-12, 13-19, 20-26 • ThreadsMedia.com/beachreach*

### Collegiate Week

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At Collegiate Week, college students are discipled and immersed in biblical

teaching just before the fall semester begins. Students are encouraged to go home and impact their campuses for Christ.

Leaders love Collegiate Week too. As a training event for leaders, they will have a great opportunity to network, share experiences and continue learning how to reach college students in their communities and on their campuses.

Go to Glorieta Conference Center to relax in the mountains and reconnect with your students before the craziness of the fall semester begins.

*LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center, Aug. 8-13 • ThreadsMedia.com/collegiateweek*

### Living Single in Faith

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"Embracing Faith with Change" is the theme for 2010 Urban Singles weekend retreat at Ridgecrest Conference Center. Single adults of all cultures will have an opportunity to participate in a life-changing conference to increase their faith through prayer, fellowship and commitment to God.

Come and hear encouraging messages by speakers who include host JoAnne Scaife, co-host Darren Washington, Joel A. Freeman, Benita Bellamy, Veryl Howard, Clifford Carter, and Chris and Casey Sanders.

*LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, April 2-4 • LifeWay.com/urbansingles*

### Fuge Camps

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Visit LifeWay.com/fuge to learn about all the student camp options for summer 2010. Whether you are looking for discipleship camp, missions, middle school only, shorter camps, even camps where you can get your own lodging and save, we have options. Check out our new site at University of the Cumberlands.

Look at the Fuge Web site to find out what's new in 2010, along with a list of all the costs, dates and locations.

*LifeWay.com/fuge*

### CentriKid

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CentriKid is a five-day, four-night camp for 3rd-6th graders to experience the time of their lives and learn more about the message of Jesus Christ. From the future



Fuge Camps

sports star to the young scientist to the rising chef, all the kids get to participate in exciting activities of their choice and take part in Bible study, recreation, track times and worship. We'll do all the planning so group leaders can focus on relationships with their kids. Camps are staffed by college and seminary students who can't wait to hang out with your kids and share Christ's love through every aspect of camp!

Look at the CentriKid Web site to find out what's new in 2010, along with a list of all the costs, dates and locations.

*LifeWay.com/centrikid*

### Youth 2 Christ: the urban connection

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This is a youth weekend that will bring youth groups (grades 7-12) together from across the country, teaching, encouraging and empowering them to be more Christ-like, while setting themselves apart from the negative influences of today's world. It's packed with praise and worship, Bible study, fun and fellowship!

The conference takes place at Ridgecrest Conference Center where youth can be free to express themselves as they learn the necessity of living by God's Word. This event emerges from the Be The Man conference and The Zone, a youth camp held during LifeWay's annual Black Church Leadership and Family Week.

*LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, Oct. 23-24 • LifeWay.com/events* ■

All conferences, dates and locations were verified at the time of publication, but changes may occur.

Go to LifeWay.com/events for the most up-to-date information.

# PraiseGathering, LifeWay Worship sign co-publishing agreement

story by Staff, photography by Kent Harville

**L**ifeWay Worship and PraiseGathering Music Group have signed an exclusive co-publishing agreement resulting in one of the largest selections of Christian choral music in the industry.

The agreement provides churches with a vast selection of music from artists and writers like Randy Vader, Jay Rouse, Bill and Gloria Gaither, Camp Kirkland and other contributors to the PraiseGathering catalog.

“We are honored to bring the sales and distribution of PraiseGathering Publications, the Gaither Music print catalog, and our various imprints to LifeWay Worship,” said Randy Vader, owner and senior executive of PraiseGathering Music Group. “We’re eager, focused and ready to begin this new chapter in our ministry as we work with LifeWay to create outstanding resources for the church.”

“Randy Vader and Jay Rouse have been two of the most significant contributors to choral music for the last two decades,” said Mike Harland, director of LifeWay Worship. “Now, instead of admiring their work from a distance, we get to partner with them on the journey. What could be better than that?”

PraiseGathering Music Group, located in Anderson, Ind., is a church music-publishing house that equips local churches with musical resources that are theologically sound, scripturally accurate, aesthetic and utilitarian. More information is available at [PraiseGathering.com](http://PraiseGathering.com).

LifeWay Worship produces materials, events and online resources that touch all aspects of the worship and music experience. LifeWay Worship is a ministry of LifeWay Christian Resources, one of the world’s leading providers of Christian products and services. More information may be found at [LifeWay.com/worship](http://LifeWay.com/worship). ■

*Randy Vader and Jay Rouse (at the piano) were at LifeWay for the signing of the co-publishing agreement between LifeWay Worship and PraiseGathering. They led the worship time during employee chapel.*





# 'Life Truths' draws parents of preschoolers to new class

story by Karen L. Willoughby

One person saw the need; another, the opportunity. But it was the Sunday school teacher equipped with a “perfect fit” curriculum who brought the vision into focus.

Deleece Nichols, daycare director at Florida Boulevard Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, La., noticed too many parents of her preschoolers were not attending Sunday school. She mentioned her observation to Pastor Randy Johnson who then asked his assistant, Dottie Gore, to pray about starting a class specifically for parents of preschoolers.

Using “Life Truths,” a resource in the Bible Studies for Life adult curriculum series produced by LifeWay, Dottie and her husband, Odie, accepted the challenge. Within its first

six weeks, the class relocated twice – first for comfort, then, for growth.

As a woman active in the lives of her children and grandchildren, Gore knew the importance of parents being in a Sunday school class.

“Bible study is important, but so too is the fellowship and the support that comes from other people with similar issues,” Gore said. “That’s what so neat about this new ‘Life Truths’ material. It’s for people who are at the same place in their lives.”

Gore searched the church’s database for all the preschool-aged children at the church or daycare and then asked which of those children’s parents hadn’t attended Sunday school within the last year. “We didn’t want to

take from another class,” she said. “We wanted to start a paper class – names on paper – and build it from there.”

She also called each of her three married granddaughters, as well as other parents of preschoolers at the church. “I asked them, ‘What would be an ideal Sunday school class for you?’ and I took their advice,” Gore said.

While she prayed with her husband for the 28 couples on the list she’d developed, Gore also put together a brochure titled, “A Brand New Sunday School Class Created with YOU in mind! That’s right – Just for You!” It went in the mail two weeks before the class was scheduled to start. On Saturday before that first Sunday morning class, Gore spent 30 minutes on the telephone, calling each of the couples and mostly getting voice mail.

Five or six people at the first class would have been confirmation that God was behind the formation of this new class, Gore said. Instead, 18 showed up.

“We were blown away,” she said. “Then, we had to relocate” because the air-conditioning malfunctioned – in hot and humid Baton Rouge, La., in mid-August.

The next Sunday, 26 people were in the class, and over the next six weeks, at least 20 people – sometimes as many as 27 – participated each week in the class.

Gore attributes the blossoming of this class, which relocated again when 24 chairs in a semicircle were several too many for comfort, to God blessing the church’s efforts.

The Gores’ efforts include providing

breakfast for the class members in the form of a casserole, sausage balls, fruit and coffee cake, or something similar. The church provides coffee.

“We’re just trying to meet needs,” Gore said. “Ideally, we’re hoping to sit around several small tables, to have more opportunity to interact. That’s what young parents are wanting these days.”



Among the “Life Truths” material most often cited by class members is the “Parent2Parent” online resource (Parent2Parent.ning.com), Gore said. Additionally, one class member has made it his responsibility to send out the “Life Truths” eDevotions, with prayer requests, each week.

Bradley and Lee Cormier, who have two preschoolers, are among the every-week attendees. He was reared

Catholic; she, Baptist. Peyton, 4, and Elise, 3, attended the church’s daycare and impressed their dad with their Bible knowledge, which was greater than his own. For this reason, he was willing to try the new class. Now he hates it when his job requires him to miss.

“It’s so hectic in your life with girls 16 months apart,” Bradley Cormier said. “It’s a challenge to get up Sunday morning, but this class is worth it. Everyone has good input and good life lessons.”

“I’m not used to Sunday school,” Cormier continued. “You had religion classes, being raised Catholic. You heard verses, but you didn’t sit down and read the Bible. You learn in this class how to get closer to God through the challenge of being a young parent and having young children. As a father, I need to guide my children in the right path.”

Nine new classes started last fall, including targeted classes like the one for parents of preschoolers, helped attract members to the church. Florida Boulevard Baptist is located in a transitioning and declining area of east Baton Rouge, and some members live far from the church’s neighborhood. But the church now has a new vision, Johnson said. That vision focuses on making every member a missionary whose assignment is to be a disciple and to make disciples. ■

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*Karen L. Willoughby is managing editor of the Louisiana Baptist Message and a member of Kingsville Baptist Church in Ball, La. She is a freelance writer for LifeWay.*

Go to [LifeWay.com/LifeTruths](http://LifeWay.com/LifeTruths) for more information about LifeWay’s “LifeTruths” curriculum.

★ ★ ★ **WORSHIP** ★ ★ ★  
**REVERENCE VS RELEVANCE**



**Worship Wars —**  
*LifeWay leaders weigh in*

*story by Micah Carter, photography by Kent Harville*

**T**he hotly debated issue of worship reverence vs. relevance was the focus of a Web event featuring Mike Harland, director of LifeWay Worship, and Ed Stetzer, director of LifeWay Research. About 1,500 people registered to watch the live webcast, and nearly 100 people gathered in the studio to participate in the event. The online video has since been viewed by thousands more.

Prior to the live debate, registrants were invited to submit questions for Stetzer and Harland. Debate organizers grouped the 600-plus questions received into three main topics: Why does worship have to be either reverent or relevant? Will the music debate ever go away? And should Christians be concerned with reaching unbelievers through styles of worship?

### **The debate begins**

Stetzer noted that the reverence vs. relevance debate exists because most churches are striving for one or the other, when they should be considering both. "I don't think the terms are helpful because they point to a problem that doesn't need to be there," he said. "If we look at worship in a biblically discerning, culturally appropriate manner, I think we can see both reverence and relevance."

Harland agreed and suggested that before concerning themselves with relevance or reverence, church leaders should define the term worship.

"Worship is a response – our response – to who God is and what He has done," Harland said. "It's not trying to get God to respond to us – that's paganism."

Often the issue boils down to the musical style of worship.

"If at the core of our worship we have a stylistic or a predetermined acceptable cultural response that we consider worship to be, we can lose our focus on God quickly," Harland said.

### **Endless debate?**

Harland appealed to church and music history to show that there has long been debate and division over what kind of music, if any at all, is appropriate for Christian worship.

"Music is something that God gave us to use to respond to Him in worship," he said. "Why would we not expect the enemy to take it and try to divide God's people?"

Stetzer agreed, adding that there is no such thing as "Christian" music, which means that no one musical style can be labeled more biblical or spiritual than another. "There are only Christian lyrics," Stetzer said. "God can and does use any form of music for His glory and honor."

Both leaders affirmed that worship is meant to be a unifying event in the church, not a source of debate and contention. Harland went on to insist that debate and division over musical styles will continue as long as people seek unity around music.

"We need to realize that God has not called us to lead music, he's called us to lead people," Harland said. "We will never achieve spiritual goals with a musical means."

Stetzer said he doesn't think answering the question "How can our

**"Worship is a response – our response – to who God is and what He has done."**

– Mike Harland

**"Worship doesn't need to be 'seeker sensitive' as much as it needs to be 'seeker comprehensible.'"**

– Ed Stetzer

worship best reach people?" is a good way to plan worship.

"I think what we should say is 'How can worship best be planned that people in this time and culture can focus on God to give Him praise, glory and honor?'" Stetzer explained.

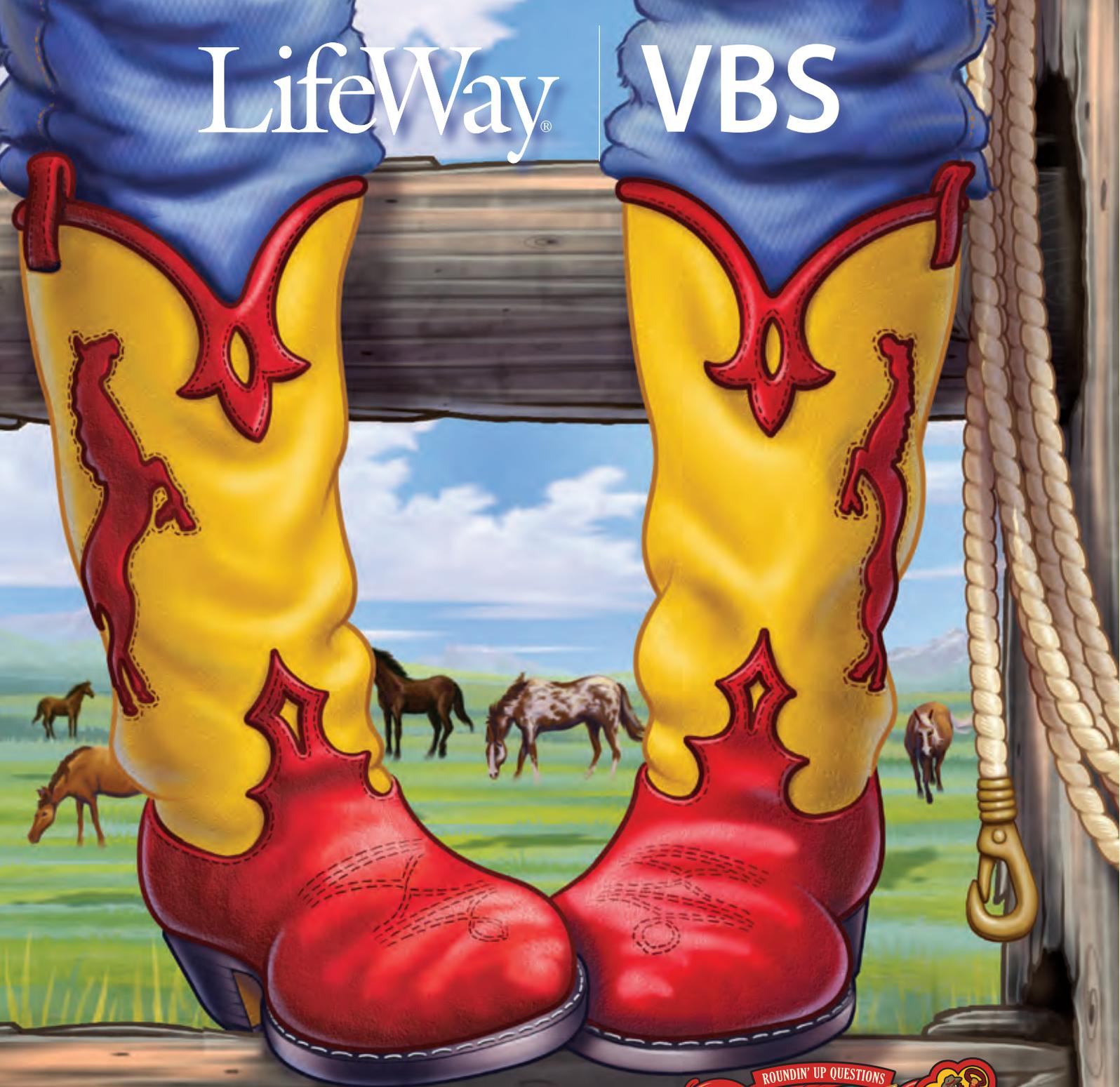
Worship doesn't need to be "seeker sensitive" as much as it needs to be "seeker comprehensible," Stetzer said, appealing to 1 Corinthians 14. "Are we ready for company in our worship services, and if they come, will they understand what we are doing?" he added.

Ultimately, Stetzer said, the issues of reverence vs. relevance can be resolved through a proper reading of Scripture and culture. "When we put others as more important than ourselves, and when we ask the question 'How can we do what God is calling us to do in this place and in this time?' then churches will be focused on worshiping in spirit and in truth." ■

### **WATCH THE DEBATE**

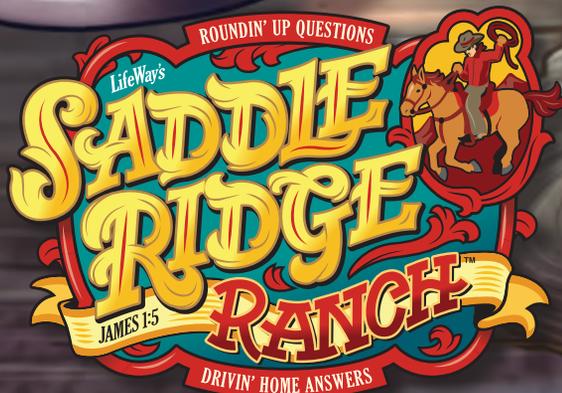
You can download a video version of this debate at [LifeWay.com/rvr](http://LifeWay.com/rvr). There is no charge for this webcast.

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LifeWay | Kids

# LifeWay launches 'Bible Navigator X' for Xbox 360

story by Brooklyn Lowery, photography by Kent Harville

In early December, B&H Publishing Group will introduce an Xbox 360 application featuring the complete Holman Christian Standard Bible.

"Bible Navigator X" is thought to be the first complete Bible available on a video game console and will be downloadable through the "Indie Games" channel of Xbox.com.

"The application will bring the Bible into people's living rooms and onto their televisions in a completely new and innovative way," said Aaron Linne, B&H Publishing Group's executive producer of digital marketing. "The Xbox isn't just secular entertainment anymore. We can use technology that other people developed to study Scriptures through a new medium. Some people are just more comfortable with a controller in their hands than a book."

The application will consist of the complete Old and New Testaments as well as three additional tools: a basic search function that operates much like a concordance, a bookmarking function that allows for marking passages and reorganizing those bookmarks into an order appropriate for teaching or study, and a presentation mode that features a larger display suitable for projecting on a screen.

Additionally, "Bible Navigator X" features 10 themes that will allow users to customize the look of the Bible while maintaining the readability. Themes geared toward students, including one based on LifeWay's Fuge Camps, will be available in addition to others.

Linne explained that the tools were designed for everyone, but particularly with youth ministers in mind. "Certainly it's convenient to be able to quickly pull up a Bible verse on your television at home," he said, "but this is also a great tool for youth ministers who teach in youth spaces that already have Xbox consoles in them. It's a quick way to create teaching aids from equipment you already have." ■



Aaron Linne demonstrates the new "Bible Navigator X."

## MORE ONLINE

For more information about "Bible Navigator X" on Xbox 360, visit [BibleNavigatorX.com](http://BibleNavigatorX.com).

# Conference examines Christian education in black culture

story by Polly House, photography by Kent Harville

**S**unday school is about Bible study. But cultural differences need to be considered to help attendees get the most out of the (mostly) Sunday morning experience.

More than 250 Christian educators from black churches across the country gathered at LifeWay Oct. 2-3 for the National Black Sunday School Conference.



Chandra Bennett leads a session on keeping teaching exciting.

Facing page: Harry Zimmerman makes a point during the breakout session "Making Fellowship Meaningful."

Participants chose from more than 40 breakout sessions relating to age-group education, leadership development, learning styles and fellowship ideas. In addition, there were general sessions aimed at NBSSC veterans and new attendees.

A theme throughout the conference was helping Sunday school leaders and teachers become more effective.

## Effective teaching

Chandra Bennett, editor of the "YOU" curriculum, a quarterly Bible study resource created with urban/multicultural believers in mind, said that enthusiasm for teaching was crucial to success.

"If you aren't having fun teaching, see if you really have the joy of the Lord," she said. "Don't be boring!"

She proposed three questions teachers can ask themselves to determine whether their teaching is effective:

1. Are believers changing into the likeness of Jesus?
2. Are believers growing in their love and trust of God?
3. Are believers becoming more obedient to God?

## Enthusiasm for church

During a session for conference veterans, Art Groomes, LifeWay's discipleship and evangelism specialist, said a passion for your church is one of the first things people notice when you invite them to come.

"If you don't exhibit an excitement when you talk about your church, no one will want to come," Groomes said. "Nobody wants to go to a dull church!"

Gizelle Kirkwood from New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in East St. Louis, Ill., agreed. "Our church is a place of community," she said. "We love our church and are excited about it. We want to share it with others. Enthusiasm shows and is contagious."

## Leadership development

Leadership development is key to having successful Sunday schools, according to Charles Grant, a LifeWay church consultant. Developing and motivating your Sunday school leadership has to be an ongoing process.

"It's difficult to develop leaders," he said. "The people you want as leaders are often over committed in other areas. They are typically strong willed and have personal agendas. Sometimes they are drawn away by opportunities that look more exciting or meaningful."

Grant acknowledged that keeping Sunday school leaders motivated takes work. He said it is important to encourage leaders, letting them know they are appreciated and respected. He added that even seasoned leaders benefit from a mentor who will provide one-on-one motivation and encouragement.

Communication is crucial. "People like to have information," Grant said. "Build a system that allows everyone to know what others are doing. This helps them learn from each other and develop the team mentality." ■



# Changing lives through Sunday school

**W**ayne Poling, LifeWay's senior lead Sunday school specialist, said he hoped each participant walked away from the NBSSC with a strong, ministry-changing understanding of the work of Sunday school. He summed up this understanding with the acronym GOSS, or Growth Oriented Sunday School.

"A Growth Oriented Sunday School is committed to teaching those who show up on Sunday, but it is also a Sunday school in which the leadership and class members are committed to reaching people and seeing lives transformed," Poling said. "Conference participants examined the purpose, ministry and growth of their Sunday schools; the teaching for life change; and the developing of plans for their Sunday schools in the context of the history of traditions within the black church."

Participants learned to implement each of three primary principles involved in building their Sunday schools: invite, discover and connect.

**Invite.** GOSS groups invite people to be a part of their group because the class is compassionately committed to attending to the lives of people.

**Discover.** GOSS classes are focused on seeing people's lives transformed through discovering the truths of God's Word and hearing the faith stories of others in their group.

**Connect.** GOSS group members work together to provide people the opportunity to connect through fellowship and ministry. ■

*Sandra Hucks, left, and Diane Jolly, both from Milwaukee, review several resources offered by LifeWay.*



## Preaching a Sunday school lesson

Can a preacher take a Sunday school lesson and use it as a sermon topic? Absolutely! Just ask Mark Croston Sr.

Croston, pastor of East End Baptist Church in Suffolk, Va., demonstrated that at the National Black Sunday School Conference.

Using a lesson titled “Fool’s Gold” from LifeWay’s “YOU” curriculum, with Luke 12:13-31 as the text, Croston led the opening session of the conference.

“God has blessed you. Our problem is we don’t realize we are blessed. We compare ourselves with Oprah Winfrey and Bill Gates, so we go around saying, ‘poor me, poor me.’

“But brothers and sisters, we are not poor,” he said. “We are blessed! If you want to see poor, let me take you on my next mission trip. I’ll show you poor.”

Elgia “Jay” Wells, LifeWay’s director of black church leadership and consulting, said Sunday school can follow learners to the sanctuary. “With good, solid lessons from the Word of God, a pastor can find gold.”

In a written testimonial, Croston praised the “YOU” curriculum. “This is a great product for those of us who are trying to reach adults in the urban environment,” he wrote.

Go to [LifeWay.com/YOU](http://LifeWay.com/YOU) for more ideas.



Top: Mark Croston tells the NBSSC attendees, “You are blessed.”

Bottom: Conference breakout sessions gave attendees the opportunity to talk about a variety of topics and ideas to make their Sunday schools better.

The NBSSC is designed to provide skills in building strong Sunday schools in predominately black churches and addresses issues within the context of traditions and culture of the black church. The conference is geared toward pastors, ministers of education (directors of Christian education), Sunday school directors and age-group Sunday school leaders.

The next NBSSC will be in Nashville, Tenn., Oct. 22-23, 2010. LifeWay is teaming up with the Georgia Baptist Convention to offer the Southeast Black Sunday School Conference April 30-May 1, 2010 in Decatur, Ga. More information will be available soon at [LifeWay.com/blackchurchlife](http://LifeWay.com/blackchurchlife).



Larry Mucker teaches one of the five adult Sunday school classes at St. Paul Baptist Church at Shively Heights.

## LifeWay's urban curriculum works for church in transition

story by David Winfrey, photography by Kent Harville

**F**ive white, older adult Sunday school teachers aren't part of the first image that comes to mind when you open a copy of "YOU," LifeWay's curriculum for urban, multicultural churches.

But the teachers and their recently merged, mixed-race congregation are proving the Bible study literature has fans even in the suburbs.

The teachers are all members of St. Paul Baptist Church at Shively Heights, a church in Louisville, Ky., that launched in August when the mostly white Shively Heights Baptist Church merged with the mostly African-American St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church.

The new congregation averages about 350 at worship and 160 for Sunday school, according to Mark Payton, who was pastor of the Shively Heights congregation. "This has been the smoothest transition that I've been a part of."

When combining the adult Sunday schools, Orlando Allen sought both a structure and literature that would serve all members well. "We don't want to end up with white classes and black classes," said Allen, director of adult Sunday school.

For the new structure, Allen created five adult classes, each led by a team of three teachers from both prior congregations. Teachers rotated monthly through the end of 2009 to promote variety and prevent burnout. "If we mix the teachers, you can typically mix the students," Allen said. "At least that was my hypothesis, and it has proven to be true."

Allen proposed the "YOU" curriculum, which the St. Paul congregation started using shortly before the merger. "'YOU' is not about the African-American congregation nor is it about the Caucasian congregation," Allen said. "It is a culturally diverse curriculum."

Allen said St. Paul chose "YOU" for three reasons: "One is it has excellent content. The second is it has excellent object lessons. And the third is it has good practical applications."

It also helps classes be "growth-oriented" instead of "teaching-oriented," he said. Allen said he wants lessons that encourage members to be proactive and excited about sharing their faith.

"Basically we're trying to get our class out of the church building and into the break rooms

and the boardrooms,” he said. “We want the participants leaving the classroom thinking, ‘Now, what do I need to do?’”

The initial test came the first month of the merger when former members of the mostly white Shively Heights church taught “YOU” to all five adult classes.

Payton said he initially was concerned how teachers from his former church would accept the new literature. “It’s unusual that all your teachers would be on board with it, but they loved it,” he said. “The main thing they’re saying to me is there’s almost too much information.”

Payton said he’s impressed with the formatting, which includes word studies and other resources all in one book. “It was easy to navigate,” he said. “All the information you needed was in that book, but you didn’t have to go hunting for it. They told you where to go.”

Teacher Jim Hornback said Shively Heights members have taken to the new curriculum as well as they had to previous LifeWay literature.

“It seems to have worked really well,” Hornback said. “The lesson itself does not make any difference if you were teaching it to an all black [class] or all white or a mixture. I’ve gotten a lot of good responses back from the class.”

Allen said teachers like the object lessons and practical applications in “YOU.” Hornback agreed.

“Typically, the previous material we used was pretty much dissecting the Scripture from theological standpoints,” Hornback said. “This one seems to offer a whole lot more builtin illustrations and examples, so that a teacher who may not have a lot of resources available otherwise would not have to go outside the material to fully round out the lesson.”

Lincoln Bingham, pastor of the former St. Paul church, said he is delighted to be using “YOU.” “The main quality of the material is the content. But the recognition of various ethnic groups is also very important to us.

“I’ve always preferred LifeWay in terms of biblical content, but it had no positive images of African-Americans to show that we are strong Christians, we are advancing the Kingdom of God,” he said. “But now this material reflects multicultural images.” ■



Top: Lincoln Bingham is co-pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church at Shively Heights. Shively Heights Baptist Church and St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church combined on the last Sunday of August 2009.

Bottom: Mark Payton, co-pastor at St. Paul Baptist Church at Shively Heights, makes announcements during the morning worship service.

Visit [LifeWay.com/you](http://LifeWay.com/you) for more information about LifeWay’s “YOU” curriculum. Read a Q&A with Chandra Bennett, editor of “YOU.”

Go to [LifeWay.com/FactsandTrends](http://LifeWay.com/FactsandTrends) to read more about this merger in “Two churches become one in Louisville.”

# Youth leaders encouraged to make parents the ‘heroes’

story by Brooklyn Lowery, photography by James Yates

**I**t was ministry to parents, not necessarily to youth, that took center stage during LifeWay’s 2009 National Youth Workers Conference last fall.

“How do we incorporate families into our ministries?” asked Jeff Pratt during the opening night of the conference. Pratt serves as student minister at First Baptist Church, Nashville,

Tenn., and works as LifeWay’s director of student ministry training.

It was a question the 400-plus attendees pondered and discussed throughout the three-day conference held at LifeWay. Speakers and entertainers ranging from award-winning Christian recording artists to experienced pastors and youth

ministers from around the country offered their encouragement and tips.

On the conference’s opening night, award-winning singer Steven Curtis Chapman took the stage with his two sons, Caleb and Will. Chapman told the audience he hopes his life can be viewed as a “case study” for families working as units in ministry. He explained that his ministry as a Christian musician has allowed him to intentionally involve his family in his work, whether that means performing with his sons or drawing inspiration for his songs from life with his wife and kids.

Bob Bunn, content editor in LifeWay’s student ministry publishing area, said the idea of involving parents in their kids’ spiritual development isn’t a new concept, but it has been overlooked in recent years. “Youth ministry went through a stage when it was

**“How do we incorporate families into our ministries?”**

– Jeff Pratt





viewed as a one-stop resource for making kids look like Jesus,” Bunn said. “As a result, parents abdicated their role and youth ministers sort of usurped that role.”

Bunn pointed to Deuteronomy 6, which calls upon parents to make permanent marks upon the lives of their children. Parents, he said, are an “invaluable” element in students’ development into godly adults. “We are seeing a renaissance of the idea that God says parents should be the primary spiritual developers of their kids.”

The first step in reintroducing (or introducing) parents to this idea is getting to know them, Bunn said. “Find out who they are and what they are going through,” he insisted. “Relationships with the parents will allow you to be transparent with them so that you can, at some point, share the truth of Deuteronomy 6 with them.”

Part of this mindset shift in youth ministry involves more than simply involving parents – it requires youth ministers to think about how their youth groups can be part of the larger church body.

“This is not about adding events to the church calendar,” said Sherry Spillman, a student ministry specialist at LifeWay, during a breakout session. “Think outside of the box to create a holistic, unified church.”

Two-time attendee Andy Carr said he is blessed to work with a “wonderful church and wonderful parents,” but he recognizes a need to do a better job ministering to parents.

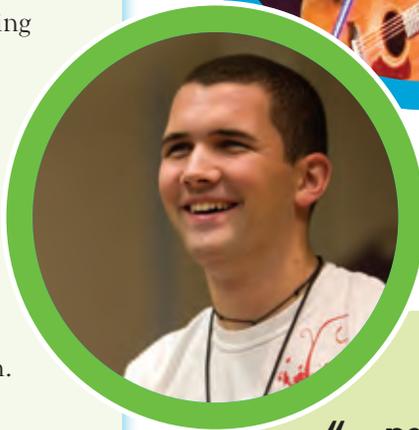
“I’m fortunate to have parents who want to be involved,” said Carr, who serves as associate pastor and minister to students at Sand Ridge Baptist Church, Lexington, Tenn. “We need to help them even better understand their kids with things like culture education. Parents need to know what this youth culture looks like.”

Throughout the conference, speakers stressed that involving parents in the spiritual development of students does not mean youth ministers are irrelevant in that development.

“It’s your job to make Mom and Dad the heroes,” Pratt said during an afternoon panel discussion. “My goal as a student minister is that my students go to Mom and Dad when they have a theological question.” He added that he is happy to help parents answer those questions should they request his assistance.

Youth ministers are the “resident experts” when it comes to student ministry, Pratt said. They must focus on ministering to, not functioning as social directors for, the students they’ve been given.

“Seeds planted [in my life] by people faithful in youth ministry helped us survive this last 14 months,” said Chapman, referring to when his 5-year-old daughter “went to heaven” in 2008. “I want to encourage you and remind you that what you’re doing is incredibly important.” ■



**“... parents should be the primary spiritual developers of their kids.”**

– Bob Bunn

For more information about student ministry resources and events, visit [LifeWay.com/students](http://LifeWay.com/students).

# NEW RESOURCES

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## B&H PUBLISHING GROUP

### **A Church in the Making: God's Plan for Starting New Churches**

by Ben Arment

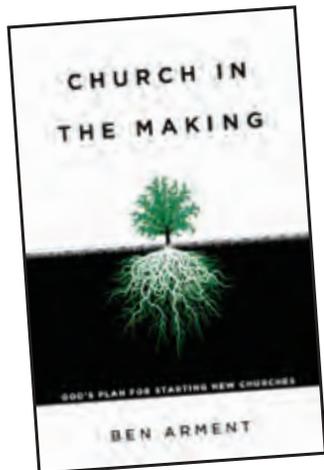
Nearly 80 percent of all new churches fail, leaving countless discouraged church planters wondering why. Ben Arment answers their questions with "Church in the Making" by identifying and expanding on three God ordained conditions that make for a successful church plant even before the doors open:

Good Ground – Just as Jesus based his ministry on the openness of people's hearts, we must gauge the spiritual receptivity of our community before planting a church.

Rolling Rocks – Momentum is also key to the success of new churches. If God truly builds His church, then our job is to identify where He is already bringing people, funds and other resources together for his purposes.

Deep Roots – Wherever there's a church in the making, God provides a group of leaders who can align people and resources in order to achieve and sustain the church's mission. Lone planters have much less hope of succeeding, let alone surviving.

B&H Product #978-0-8054-6473-3. Hardcover. \$17.99



### **One in a Million: Journey to Your Promised Land**

by Priscilla Shirer

The Egyptians in Exodus 1 were intent on enslaving the Israelites, wearing them down so that God's chosen people would become disillusioned and not live up to their destiny. Of the original two million Israelites who received God's invitation to enter the Promised Land, only two actually entered.

Similarly, modern day Christians often hear and understand the promises of God each Sunday morning at church, but they rarely choose to experience them in everyday life. In "One in a Million," Bible teacher Priscilla Shirer invites us to change that pattern for good, living beyond our circumstances and expecting to see God move in miraculous ways day after day. Without a doubt, we can find and follow God's purpose for our journey. We can make it to the Promised Land.

B&H Product #978-0-8054-6476-4. Paperback. \$14.99

### **The Love Dare Day by Day: A Year of Devotions for Couples**

by Stephen and Alex Kendrick

Topping the New York Times list and already selling three million copies, "The Love Dare" has established itself as more than a book; it's an unstoppable marriage movement. And like the husband in "Fireproof" (the

film where "The Love Dare" originated), readers know this 40-day challenge to practice unconditional love with their spouse need not end when the book does.

With that in mind, "The Love Dare Day by Day" encourages couples to take new steps in faith and love with 365 marital encouragements, reminders, and action points worth repeating year after year.

Unconditional love is eagerly promised at weddings, but rarely practiced in real life. As a result, romantic hopes often are replaced with disappointment in the home. But it doesn't have to stay that way. Whether your marriage is hanging by a thread or healthy and strong, "The Love Dare Day by Day" is a journey you need to take. It's time to learn the keys to finding true intimacy and developing a dynamic marriage. This also is available in a white simulated leather wedding edition with two-piece gift box.

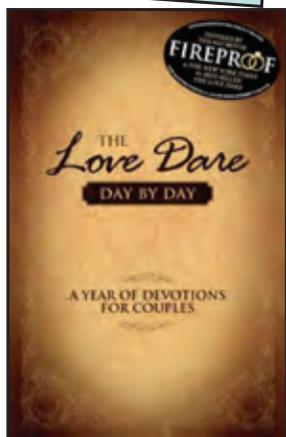
B&H Product #978-1-4336-6823-4. Hardcover. \$19.99;

Wedding edition, B&H Product #978-1-4336-6862-3. \$29.99

### **The Power of Prayer and Fasting: God's Gateway to Spiritual Breakthroughs**

by Ronnie Floyd

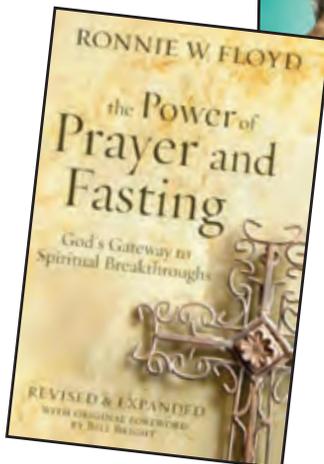
The hand-in-hand spiritual disciplines of prayer and fasting are not gimmicks or a spiritual fads, although they have been neglected in recent decades. They may be



new discoveries for many Christians. Ronnie Floyd explains prayer and fasting are Scripture-ordained acts of obedience, a means of humbling ourselves before God, drawing closer to Him, and making room for Him to speak and act in our lives.

This newly revised and updated edition of "The Power of Prayer and Fasting" offers fascinating firsthand stories of the difference prayer and fasting have made in Floyd's life and the lives of others, compelling explanations of how these disciplines work in a Christian's life, practical guidance for those who never have fasted before and a stirring call to revival. New material includes a chapter on fasting together as a church for the needs of one person, family or the church itself.

B&H Product #978-0-8054-6483-2. Paperback. \$12.99

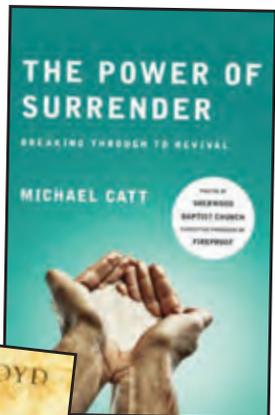


**The Power of Surrender: Breaking Through to Revival**

by Michael Catt

Michael Catt, senior pastor of Sherwood Baptist Church and executive producer of hit films "Facing the Giants" and "Fireproof," believes the word "revival" has been used in so many ways it has lost its meaning altogether.

"The Power of Surrender," his third book in the ReFRESH series, reminds the church that revival really means focusing on confession and cleansing, making repentance and restoration a priority, and walking in the fullness of the Holy Spirit and abiding in Christ. Surrender is the key to revival which is



the key to spreading the Gospel.

Catt has witnessed the fruits of these disciplines at his congregation firsthand. "We are

now seeing people walk through the baptismal waters. People are being saved. Members are inviting their lost friends and unchurched neighbors. Attendance shot up. Why? Revival produces evangelism."

B&H Product #978-0-8054-4869-6. Paperback. \$14.99



**The Promise: God Works All Things Together for Your Good**

by Robert J. Morgan

In "The Promise" – now available in paperback – best selling author Robert J. Morgan illuminates the power of Romans 8:28 through real life stories of hope overcoming heartache and points readers to an unshakable basis for faith and joy. With gentle yet certain power, the book inspires us to deal more effectively with everyday stress and strain and to be more equipped for serious trouble. You can use and share "The Promise" with others through all things, in every hour of need.

B&H Product #978-0-8054-6482-5. Paperback. \$14.99

**Detox ... for the Overly Religious**

by David Putman

Over time, Christian people can run the risk of becoming "too religious" – too wrapped up in programmatic church activities and less focused on Christ alone. In response, David Putman has written a new



book detailing 21 ways to reinstate the centrality of Jesus into our daily lives. Divided into three action-ready topical areas – Live like Jesus, Love like Jesus, Leave What Jesus Left Behind – Putman offers what he calls "detox for the overly religious." Here is a chance for you, your small group or your entire church to lose religion and rediscover Jesus – simple and yet profound – is all we really need.

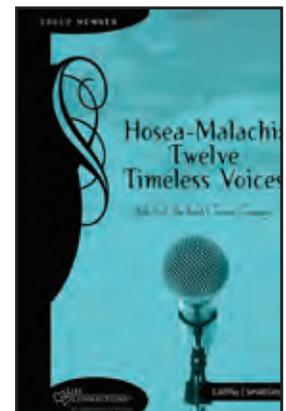
B&H Product #978-0-8054-4882-5. Paperback. \$12.99

**CHURCH RESOURCES**

**Hosea to Malachi: 12 Timeless Voices**

by Barry Cram

This is an introduction drawing Jesus' references to "the law and the prophets"

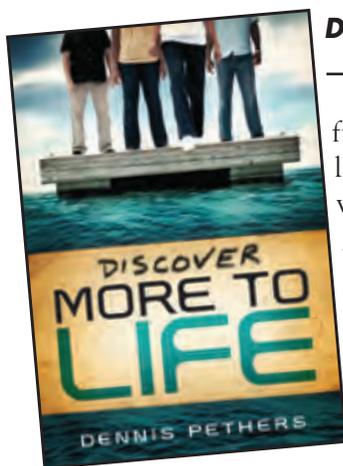


# NEW RESOURCES

LifeWay Church Resources at [LifeWay.com](http://LifeWay.com) and (800) 458-2772  
 LifeWay Christian Stores at [LifeWayStores.com](http://LifeWayStores.com) and (800) 233-1123

followed by 12 minor prophets with application to life today. It's the 18th title in the Life Connection series. 13 sessions. Released in November.

Learner Guide, LifeWay product #0-0524-2575, \$6.99; Leader Guide, LifeWay product #0-0524-8674, \$13.95



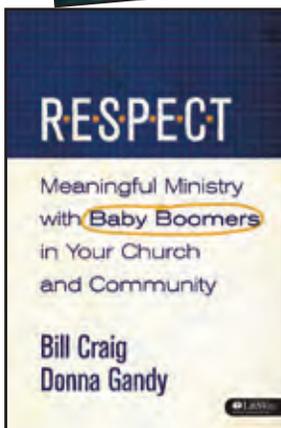
## **Discover More to Life** by Dennis Pethers

Invite your unbelieving friends to explore the life of Jesus through this video-led discussion group. Dennis Pethers teaches through four personal encounters Jesus had with individuals in the Gospel of John.

Discussion-oriented group sessions allow unbelievers to state their opinions about Christ and religion while being exposed to the truth of Scripture.

4 sessions. Released in December.

Kit, LifeWay product #0-0524-4945, \$14.95; Member book, LifeWay product #0-0524-4946, \$3.95



## **R.E.S.P.E.C.T. Boomer Ministry Guide**

This is a concise look at the baby boomer generation and how its members are relating to the church. Written in a conversational voice, this study includes testimonies from boomers represented in extensive research and demographics into boomers and boomer ministry. It highlights several

representative churches doing ministry with the boomer age group. 8 sessions. Released in December.

LifeWay product #0-0518-9413, \$3.95

## **Influya al estilo de Jesús: Libro del miembro (Influencing Like Jesus member book, Spanish)** by Michael Zigarelli

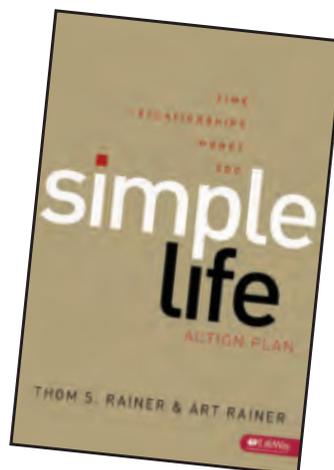
The Bible points to 15 principles used by Jesus that were neither demanding nor manipulative. This small-group study shows you how to adopt Jesus' powerful methods of persuasion. Whether in the classroom, the courtroom, the boardroom or your kid's room, it will show you how to be more persuasive by using Christ as the model for redemptive influence.

Released in December.

LifeWay product #0-0518-9417, \$12.95

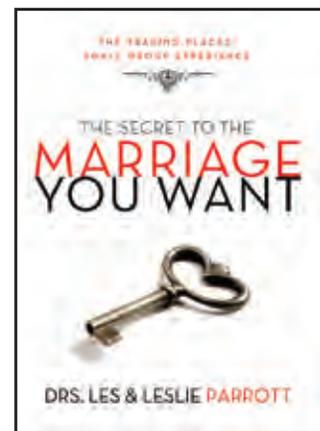
## **Simple Life Action Plan** by Thom Rainer and Art Rainer

Research reveals today's adults feel their lives are overly stressful and misguided, not allowing time for what really counts. Individuals



create mission statements based on principles of clarity, movement, alignment and focus. Four areas of life are considered: time, relationships, money and God. It includes a 30-day action plan to move the reader toward a simple life. 5 sessions. Released in January.

DVD Leader Kit, LifeWay product #0-0525-4025, \$79.95; Member Book, LifeWay product #0-0523-8065, \$9.95



## **The Secret to the Marriage You Want** by Les and Leslie Parrott

A fresh addition to your marriage-enrichment ministry, this small-group study with practical applications helps spouses ages 30-45 learn to successfully apply one simple, transforming principle to their relationship – empathy. Couples discover that putting this one attribute to work in their relationship improves communication, lessens conflicts, makes them better friends, curbs criticism and heightens intimacy on every level. 6 sessions. Released in January.

Member Book, LifeWay product #0-0524-3409, \$9.95; DVD Leader Kit, LifeWay product #0-0518-9420, \$89.95.

**EBV 2010 El Rancho Vaquero Muestrario (VBS 2010 Saddle Ridge Ranch Spanish Sampler)**

Now samples of all our Spanish VBS resources are packaged together in one handy tote bag. It includes samples of curriculum, music, crafts, witnessing resources and promotional items designed for Spanish Vacation Bible School.

Releases in January. LifeWay product #0-0518-7689, \$69.99

**Serie Vital, Tomo 6 (Vital Series Volume 6, Spanish)**

This new Spanish print resource includes three four-week studies each quarter that support LifeWay's Student KNOW, OWN, KNOWN Spiritual Development Strategy. Topics for this study are: Vital Truth: Jesus; Vital Character: Compassion;



and Vital Skills: How to Deal with Emotions. Releases in November. LifeWay product #0-0526-3285, \$29.95

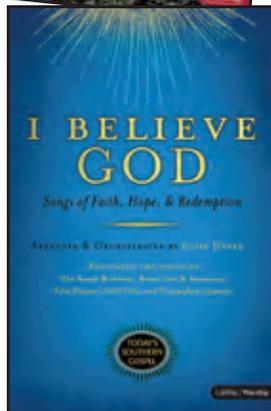
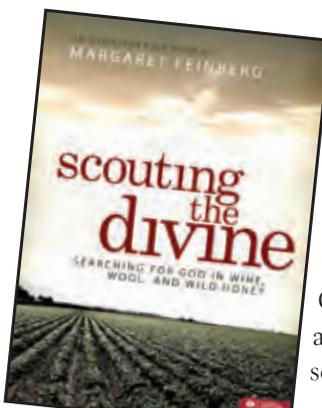
**Scouting the Divine: Searching for God in Wine, Wool, and Wild Honey**

by Margaret Feinberg

The author spends time with a shepherdess in Oregon, walks the fields with a farmer in Nebraska, explores a vineyard of California and talks with a veteran beekeeper in Colorado. Along the way, she gains deeper insight about how Scripture applies to life today and discovers answers to puzzling questions. Do sheep really know their shepherd's voice? How often does a grapevine

need to be pruned? What does it mean for a land to be described as overflowing with honey? 6 sessions.

Releases in January. Member Book, LifeWay product #0-0525-8265, \$9.95; DVD Leader Kit, LifeWay product #0-0518-9433, \$74.95



**LIFEWAY WORSHIP**

**"I Believe God" Songs of Faith, Hope & Redemption**

arranged and orchestrated by Cliff Duren

SATB/Moderate

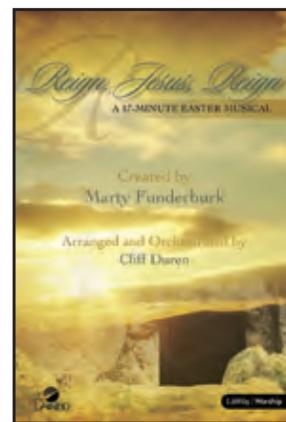
You asked for more Southern gospel with the same quality as other

LifeWay Worship resources. The latest release in the Today's Southern Gospel series, "I Believe God," combines artistry and selections from our good friends at Daywind Records. Cliff Duren has orchestrated another accessible collection featuring the songs of The Booth Brothers—

yes, that's them singing on the very first cut of the listening CD product – along with songs popularized by well-known groups like Brian Free & Assurance, Gold City and Triumphant Quartet. These arrangements also offer opportunities for trio, soloists, and even Scripture readers. Most importantly, every song contains a strong

message that will speak into hearts and lives, giving your choir bold opportunities to proclaim the truth of God's Word while challenging them to remember all that God has done for them.

SATB choral book, Product #005213852, \$8.95; Listening CD, Product #005213843, \$9.98; Accompaniment CD, Product #005213759, \$90; Orchestration CD-ROM (PDF), Product #005213760, \$350; CD promo pak, Product #005213761, \$12



**"Reign, Jesus, Reign"** created by Marty Funderburk arranged and orchestrated by Cliff Duren

SATB/Moderate

There may be any number of reasons your special Easter music and/or presentation may not include a full-scale musical production: budget or rehearsal restraints, resources, or even "we've just never done one." As a partnership resource between LifeWay Worship and Daywind Music, "Reign, Jesus, Reign" specifically caters to situations like yours. Four

# NEW RESOURCES

LifeWay Church Resources at [LifeWay.com](http://LifeWay.com) and (800) 458-2772  
LifeWay Christian Stores at [LifeWayStores.com](http://LifeWayStores.com) and (800) 233-1123

brand new songs with very brief and optional narration lend themselves to limited rehearsal time without compromising the celebratory effect for your congregation. The beauty of this collection is that the songs may be used in stand-alone settings (dividing them among various Holy Week services) or presented altogether with time to spare.

SATB choral book, Product #005256960, \$4.95; Listening CD, Product #005256961, \$9.98; Accompaniment CD, Product #005256962, \$50; Rehearsal Tracks (soprano), Product #005256963, \$5; Rehearsal Tracks (alto), Product #005256903, \$5; Rehearsal Tracks (tenor), Product #005256901, \$5; Rehearsal Tracks (bass), Product #005256902, \$5; Orchestration CD-ROM (PDF), Product #005256964, \$100; CD promo pak, Product #005256988, \$12



## ANTHEMS

(For each title: SATB anthem, \$1.65; CD anthem tracks, \$29.95; Orchestration CD-ROM (PDF), \$69.95)

### **"That's Why We Sing About Heaven"**

words and music by Rebecca J. Peck, arranged and orchestrated by Cliff Duren

From the collection, "I Still Believe," this piece offers great rhythm accompaniment that will draw both the choir and congregation alike to focus on heaven, our eternal home.

### **"The Beautiful Body of Christ"**

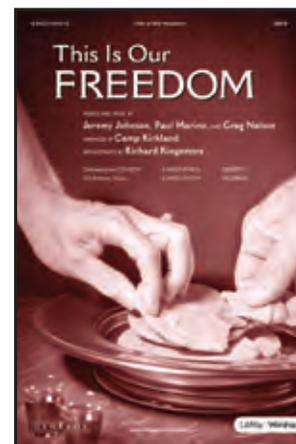
words and music by Jeremy Johnson and Wendy Wills, arranged and orchestrated by Bradley Knight

This new anthem features a beautiful, mysterious opening, full orchestration and accompaniment that quietly deliver the saving message of the crucifixion and resurrection.

### **"All Praise to You, Almighty King"**

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

choral arrangement that provides beautifully blended harmonies, yet each part has its highlighted moment.



### **"This Is Our Freedom"**

words and music by Jeremy Johnson, Paul Marino and Greg Nelson, arranged by Camp Kirkland, orchestrated by Richard Kingsmore

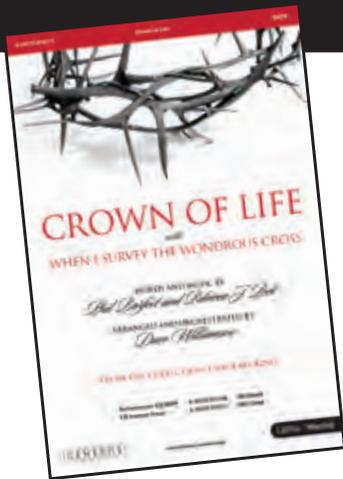
This is a beautiful new hymn detailing our freedom purchased by Christ on the cross. A communion theme makes this an excellent selection for a Lord's Supper service.

### **"The Lord Strong and Mighty"**

words and music by Cliff Duren and Rebecca J. Peck, arranged and orchestrated by Dave Williamson

This anthem is a powerful piece from the collection, "That's My King." The rhythmic orchestration features flute, piccolo or penny whistle and more.

This is a very pure



**"Crown of Life" with  
"When I Survey the  
Wondrous Cross"**

words and music by Phil Barfoot  
and Rebecca J. Peck, arranged  
and orchestrated by Dave  
Williamson

This is a magnificent  
anthem to use any time  
during the Easter season  
from the collection "That's  
My King."

**"You Can"**

words and music by Rodney  
Griffin, arranged and  
orchestrated by Cliff Duren

From the collection, "I  
Still Believe" comes this  
powerful proclamation that  
will inspire believers.

**ORCHESTRAS**

**"I Sing the Mighty  
Power of God"**

arranged by David Hamilton

This stand-alone  
orchestration is the latest

arrangement in the popular  
"Celebration Series" for  
church orchestras. This  
classical treatment of a well-  
loved hymn is ideal for a  
call to worship or offertory.  
Substitute parts are  
included. Level 3, medium  
difficulty. Demonstration  
available at [LifeWay.com/worship](http://LifeWay.com/worship).

Orchestration CD-ROM (PDF),  
Product #005249869, \$69.95

**CHILDREN'S CHOIRS**

**Plans & Pluses, Volume  
5.1/5.2**

Choir leaders will love this  
cost-effective and convenient

organizational planning  
tool, which comes complete  
with postcards, stationery,  
an enhanced CD containing  
songs, Hymn-of-the-Month  
(which is different from the  
hymn arrangements used in  
"Strong Tower"), activities,  
colorful posters, drama  
ideas, devotions, articles,  
theme art, clip art and  
promotion suggestions. This  
year's Renaissance-inspired  
theme, "Strong Tower:  
Knowing My King" includes  
art that may be replicated  
to turn your room into a  
castle.

Plans & Pluses, Vol. 5.1/5.2,  
Product #005132807, \$24.95

LifeWay | VBS

**Buckle up for a sightseeing road trip along Route 254  
where serious fun can be found at every stop.**

As your group travels across America, kids will learn that by choosing God as their guide,  
they'll arrive at the ultimate destination—a relationship with Jesus!

Book your church's road trip today. Order your *Club VBS Starter Kit* (005187673) for \$99.99.  
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## Features

- David Francis addresses Sunday school topics
- Q&A with LifeWay Student Ministry's Jeff Pratt
- Connect to Training & Enrichment Event details
- Read how an urban church combined congregations and view a slide show from the church
- Q&A with Chandra Bennett, editor of 'YOU'
- Download Worship Wars debate
- Holiday Special: Valentine's Day quiz and downloads to share at your Sunday school class party

