

Dennis Pethers addresses
the state of
Christianity



Is there a secret to transforming believers into disciples?

What does it take for a church to be transformational? Why are some churches consistently creating disciples whose lives are being transformed by the Gospel and others are not? To find out, we conducted a comprehensive and unprecedented research study of the modern American church. It involved contact with thousands of churches and personal interviews with 300. The first result is the new book *Transformational Church*. It contains the research findings, along with key insights and how-to

guidance. But over the next year, we're also providing tools and resources to help you gauge the spiritual pulse of your own congregation, to introduce the Transformational Church concept to your key leaders, and to train yourself and your leaders to help other churches become transformational. To get more information, please visit us at www.transformationalchurch.com

**Transformational
Church** ● ● ●

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Cover photo: Dennis Pethers

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FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

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

Lost

I can't blame you if the television series by the same name was your first thought when you read the title of this article. After all, the recently concluded fiction/fantasy series received a lot of attention.

But my concern is about a different kind of lost, really the most important kind.

The reminder

I recently did an interview with USA Today about an upcoming book my son Jess Rainer and I are writing. The book, "The Millennials," is based on a massive research project conducted by LifeWay Research. The interview and research were reported in an article on the front page the April 27 issue of USA Today.

The interview and article served as a powerful reminder to me about the spiritual lostness of America's largest generation, the Millennials, who were born from 1980 to 1991. Though we cannot know with certainty the spiritual condition and eternal destiny of persons, we can have an idea through a series of questions we asked each of them in our research.

Our best estimate is that only 15 percent of this generation is Christian. Among nearly 80 million Millennials, only 12 million have personal relationships with Christ.

That means 85 percent are lost. That means 68 million young people are lost.

Penultimate concerns

In the interview I expressed my concern that, on the current trajectory of the Millennials, thousands of churches will close in America each year. I expressed concern that once-healthy denominations are becoming unhealthy. I expressed concern that some of the thriving ministries of today are in great jeopardy if the trends of the Millennials continue.



But those concerns are not of paramount importance. The greatest concern is that millions of young people do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. They are lost in their present spiritual condition.

Eternally lost.

Hope in the bad news

As Jess and I researched the Millennials, we did find some hope in the midst of the bad news. Although the relative number of Christians in this generation is small, those who are Christians are more likely to have a radical commitment to the gospel than Christians in previous American generations.

Millennial Christians will not settle for business as usual in our churches. They will not be content with going through the motions, programs without a purpose, and spectator Christianity. They take their faith seriously, and they have little patience with churches that focus most of their resources on the members. These Millennials are serious about taking the gospel to the nations and to their communities.

In the midst of all the bad news, there is good news: Radical commitment from radical Christians. If a few Christians turned the world upside down in the first century, we have no reason to doubt that a few million can do it again in the 21st century.

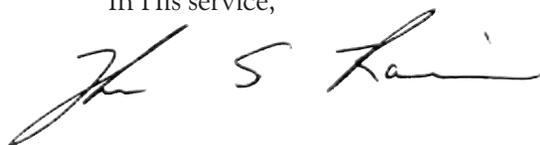
Back to lost

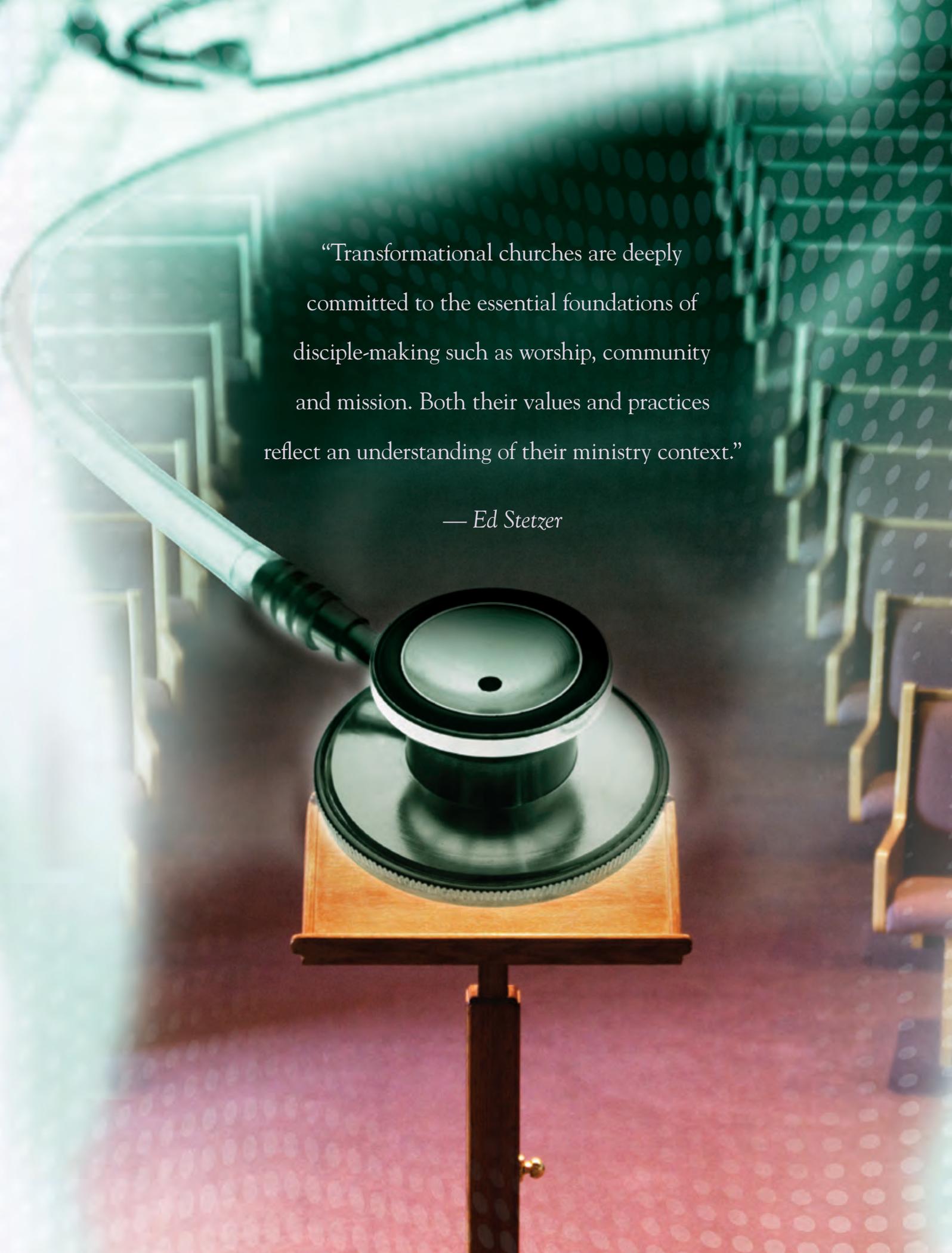
But we cannot forget the vast majority of lost young people in this generation. Our hearts should be broken with this reality. We should be convicted if we do not yet have a heavy burden to reach this generation. We should fall on our faces in repentance if their lostness does not break our hearts.

As I said in my interview, the trends are discouraging. The direction is anything but positive. But my hope is not in demographics, trends and statistics. My hope is in an all-powerful God Who can bring a real revival to our land.

Please join me in praying for this generation. Join me in praying for the salvation of the lost in this generation. And join me in praying for ourselves that we might be God's instruments to bring the gospel to the largest generation in America's history.

In His service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John S. Lamin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent.

A photograph of a church sanctuary with rows of pews. In the foreground, a stethoscope with a black chest piece and a black tubing is resting on a wooden music stand. The stethoscope is positioned centrally, with its chest piece resting on the top surface of the music stand. The background shows the interior of a church with rows of pews and a carpeted floor. The lighting is soft and even.

“Transformational churches are deeply committed to the essential foundations of disciple-making such as worship, community and mission. Both their values and practices reflect an understanding of their ministry context.”

— *Ed Stetzer*

‘Transformational Church’ takes aim at real church health

edited by Brooklyn Lowery

For decades, pastors concerned about church health sought the best counsel they could find – and ended up frustrated because their pews were filled with superficial Christians who made little impact on the world around them. Members often streamed out the back door as fast as they could be brought in the front.

“Traditional measures of church health addressed important outcomes, such as church growth and new believers,” said LifeWay President Thom Rainer. “Yet these measures seemed incomplete compared to biblical standards and proved difficult to use in leadership. New measures were needed to ensure the church’s activity is transformational.”

In a series of discussions, Rainer and LifeWay Research President Ed Stetzer hammered out the concept of a “transformational church” and developed a set of measurements that not only reflected biblical standards but also proved helpful to pastors trying to measure their progress toward church health.

“Transformational churches make disciples whose lives are being transformed by the gospel so that the culture around them is ultimately transformed,” Stetzer said. “Transformational churches are deeply committed to the essential foundations of disciple-making such as worship, community and mission. Both their values and practices reflect an understanding of their ministry context.”

A survey of 7,000 Protestant pastors illustrated the need for and helped shape the new measurements.

“Although 99 percent of the pastors agree strongly or somewhat that their congregations consider Scripture to be the authority for their churches and lives – and even though 89 percent agree strongly or somewhat that they consistently hear reports of changed lives at the church – key indicators of church health don’t support the idea that disciples are being made effectively,” Stetzer said. “Instead, the salvation and assimilation statistics reported by those churches immediately brought to mind the parable of the sower. New commitments to Jesus Christ aren’t being translated into regular involvement in congregational life and community impact.”

Among the churches surveyed, the mean number of new commitments to Christ in the previous year was 15, but the mean number of newly committed people now attending regularly was 10, Stetzer said. On average, a full 21 percent of newly committed people had not become active in congregational life at all.

While 42 percent of the congregations report a 10 percent increase in average worship attendance over five years, 33 percent say their average attendance has plateaued within 10 percent, and 25 percent report a decline in average attendance of at least 10 percent.

Three other key findings of the survey:

- The percentage of adults who volunteer their service varies widely.

Fewer than 30 percent of churches can say that at least six in 10 adults

“New commitments to Jesus Christ aren’t being translated into regular involvement in congregational life and community impact.”

— Ed Stetzer

have regular responsibilities at church, and 46 percent say fewer than four in 10 volunteer regularly. A full 14 percent report fewer than two in 10 adults helping out regularly.

- **The percentage of adults who serve in the community is even lower.**

Only 21 percent of the congregations can report more than four in 10 adults active in community service, and 48 percent say fewer than two in 10 volunteer in the larger community. A full 24 percent place the number below one in 10.

- **Also lacking is the percentage of church attendees involved in a small group or Sunday school class.**

Only 17 percent of pastors can report at least eight in 10 members engaged in small group or Sunday school, and 61 percent say that number is less than six in 10. Thirty-five percent place the number at fewer than four in 10.

“The reason we initiated the Transformational Church study was to discover what churches were doing, thinking and valuing that created

an environment where gospel transformation more easily took place,” said Rainer. “Through one of the most extensive studies ever done on the American church, we feel certain that the findings will deliver a renewed hope for disciple-making and health to all churches.”

The Transformational Church initiative launched by LifeWay has resulted in new understandings about the growth, maturity and missional focus of churches in the United States. In June, LifeWay released “Transformational Church,” a book co-authored by Rainer and Stetzer, and a companion DVD discussion guide that teaches church leaders the principles of Transformational Church through a video-driven, interactive process.

LifeWay also launched an Internet-based diagnostic instrument to help pastors measure the health of their congregations and chart a course of remedial action. ■

Transformational Church



RESOURCES

- “Transformational Church” by Thom S. Rainer and Ed Stetzer
- “Jesus by Heart” by Roy Edgemon and Barry Sneed

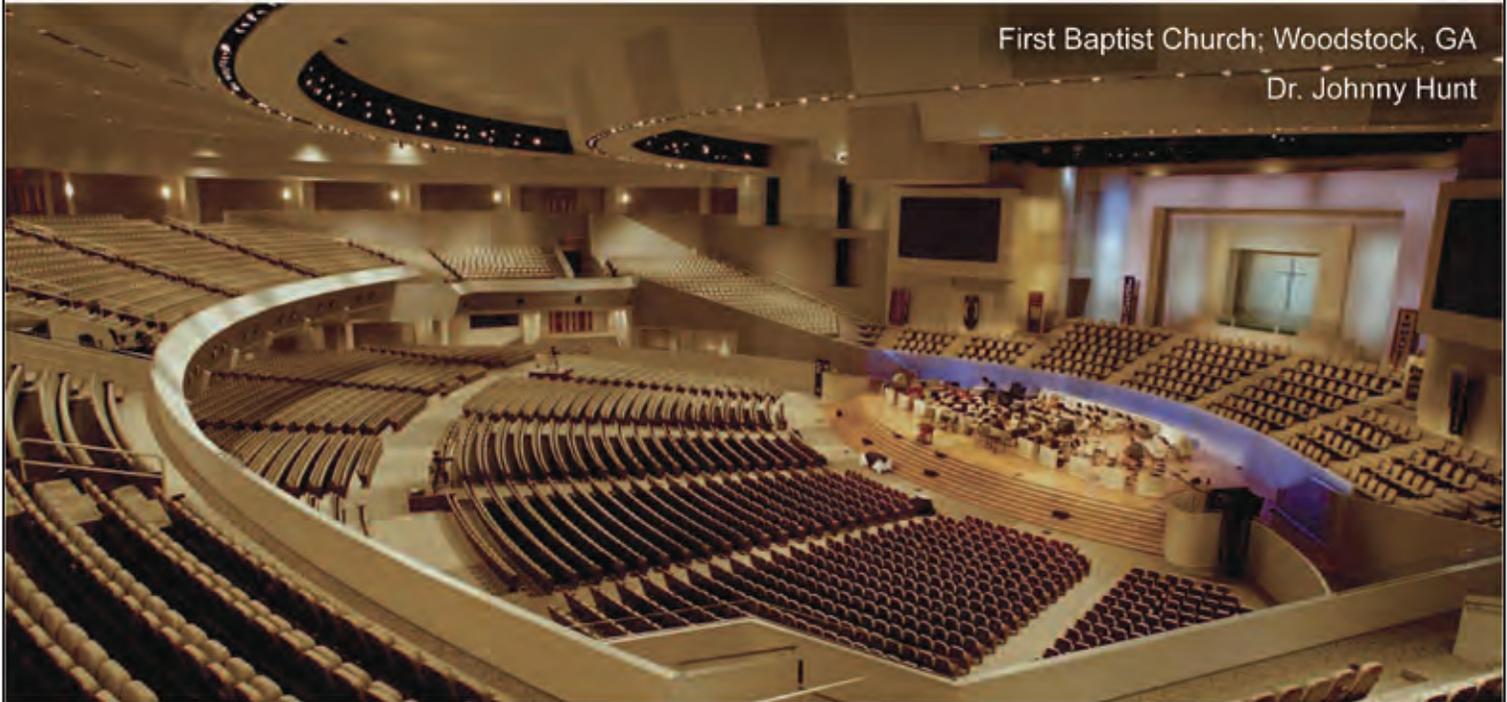
Methodology: LifeWay Research conducted a series of seven telephone surveys totaling more than 7,000 interviews among a random sample of Protestant pastors between October 2008 and March 2010. Responses were weighted to reflect the geographic distribution of churches. The sample provides 95 percent confidence that the sampling error does not exceed ± 1.2 percent.

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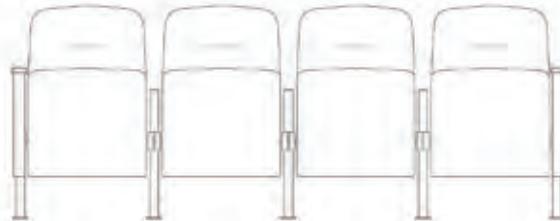
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First Baptist Church; Woodstock, GA

Dr. Johnny Hunt



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Thomas Rd. Baptist, Lynchburg, VA

Second Baptist, Houston, TX



Is the U.S. spiritually heading the way of the U.K.?

article by Staff, photography by Kent Harville

Imagine a future when most people in North America do not go to church, when many people have never even been in a church building and when more people than ever do not believe in God.

Dennis Pethers, an evangelist in the United Kingdom, said that pessimistic future view of Christian faith is Western Europe's reality.

"The U.K. is, unfortunately, farther down the road than many other western countries in terms of 'post Christianity,'" Pethers says. "Ministering within this context has provided me with valuable insights that can help other nations to avoid what seems inevitable decline."

More to Life

Pethers developed a strategy of four stories to communicate a powerful witness to people in the U.K. who didn't know the language

of Christianity. He called it "More to Life." LifeWay released an American version of "More to Life" last fall and added a companion group of resources to make communicating the message even easier.

The "More to Life" approach decodes Christianity by helping people relate to Scripture through the remarkable, true stories found in the Bible. This approach describes salvation as the ultimate way to add more to life. It communicates what salvation is like through the stories of people who were "far from God," as Pethers and his ministry define being spiritually lost. The people who were far from God explain what happened when they heard "God's story," the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

His own story

Pethers didn't grow up in a church-going family and, in fact, at one point considered himself an atheist. That changed when his boss gave him the

book "Mere Christianity" by C.S. Lewis.

"Slowly, I came to the point where ... it just struck me that it took less faith to believe there was a God than to believe there wasn't," Pethers said. "You can't prove there is a God, and you can't prove there isn't a God. Everything's built upon faith and how we understand faith, but it just struck me it took less faith to believe there was one than that there wasn't."

Then he read about Jesus.

From there things began to change for Pethers – though he notes he didn't sprout wings or hear the "Hallelujah Chorus" upon recognizing a need for Christ. Instead he developed an immediate need to share the Truth that he'd found.

"So often we think of lost people as 'them,' those people out there, whereas in fact they are people that are precious to God," Pethers said. "The motivation for evangelism, for

RESOURCES

“More to Life” is designed to engage people in conversations using a four-story approach that opens doors of dialogue to unchurched and never-churched people. Dennis Pethers, a Baptist and an evangelist from the United Kingdom, developed “More to Life” and is working with LifeWay in developing multiple “More to Life” resources. Currently, there are five distinct “More to Life” resources: “More to Life: Engaging People Through Story Training Kit” and accompanying member book; “Discover More to Life Training Kit” and accompanying member book; and the “More to Life” DVD.

In addition, LifeWay currently is working on a Hispanic “More to Life” resource as a winter release. Contact LifeWay’s Luis Lopez (luis.lopez@lifeway.com) or go to LifeWay.com/español for more information on this.

PODCAST

Dennis Pethers spent time with *Inside LifeWay* host Brooklyn Lowery talking about “More to Life” and his belief, based on personal observation, that the United States may be on the same path to secularism as the United Kingdom. Go to LifeWay.com/InsideLifeWay to listen.



me, is [that] this missionary God, who sent His Son to die for us, loves these people. And He wants me to love them as well.”

Pethers said the key to evangelism is simply being willing to talk about your faith, which is what his study “More to Life” encourages believers to do. In “More to Life,” evangelism is defined as “leaving the person I’ve met with a better understanding of God than they would have had if they’d never met me.”

He said that “More to Life” is all based around people’s stories.

“I’ve got a friend in Orlando who says when people stop reading the Bible all they have left to read is our lives,” he said. “So it arouses their curiosity when they see a believer and they see that belief in his or her life is something making a difference. That’s when they

become interested. ‘More to Life’ is all built around the phrase ‘changed lives authenticate the message of Jesus.’”

Pethers said, “I am an evangelist who came to Christ never having been inside a church. Coming to know Christ radically changed my life and since that time, some 25 years ago, I have dedicated my life to making Jesus known to people who do not attend church.” ■

Learn more at: LifeWay.com/MoretoLife

Facebook: [More to Life](https://www.facebook.com/MoretoLife)

Twitter: [dennispethers](https://twitter.com/dennispethers)

MTLResources.org

ACP:

Baptisms up, membership down

by Rob Phillips

Southern Baptists reported a 2.2 percent increase in baptisms in 2009, stemming a four-year decline, but membership in the denomination fell and the sagging economy led to a drop in missions giving according to the Annual Church Profile (ACP) compiled by LifeWay in conjunction with state Baptist conventions.

Baptisms last year totaled 349,737, up from 342,198 in 2008, a year in which Southern Baptists recorded the fewest baptisms since 1987. Total membership fell 0.42 percent to 16.16 million, and Sunday school enrollment dropped 0.04 percent to 7.75 million.

While the baptism numbers are encouraging, they do not necessarily signal a reversal of fortune for the SBC, according to LifeWay President Thom Rainer.

“Every baptism is a celebration of another person finding new life in Jesus Christ,” said Rainer. “The fact that more people were baptized this year than last year gives us a reason to hope we’re on the right path. At the same time, we as Southern Baptists continue to show signs of drifting from our historic commitment to evangelism, as reflected in the fact that it still takes 46 Southern Baptists to lead one person to faith in Christ.”

Baptism symbolizes believers’ identification with Jesus in His death, burial and resurrection; signifies their new life in Christ; and anticipates the day in which Christ will raise them from the dead, demonstrating His victory over sin and death. Therefore, the number of baptisms is a key measurement of Southern Baptists’ effectiveness in evangelism.



A baptism at First Baptist Church, Conyers, Ga. Photo by Adam Miller, provided by Baptist Press

Rainer continued, “The decline in membership across our denomination, along with the drop in Sunday school enrollment, indicate that Southern Baptists continue to be distracted from – or indifferent toward – the command of Jesus to make disciples. I pray that these discouraging numbers sound a wake-up call to all of us.”

ACP data revealed a slight rise (0.36 percent) in the number of Southern Baptist churches, to 45,010, and an increase of 0.37 percent in primary worship attendance, to 6.21 million.

Giving to missions totaled \$1.33 billion in 2009, a decline of 1.8 percent, reflecting the economic downturn. Through the denomination’s Cooperative Program (CP) and special mission offerings, local churches voluntarily pool funds to support mission efforts in their states, throughout the nation and around the world. For example, Southern Baptists support more than 10,500 missionaries who engage nearly 1,200 people groups throughout North America and around the world.

In addition, CP funds support six seminaries, the International Mission Board, North American Mission Board and other SBC entities (except for LifeWay and GuideStone Financial Resources, which are self-funding). At the state level, CP funds support a variety of ministries including children’s homes, disaster relief efforts, colleges and universities and much more.

Rainer pointed out that numeric/percent changes for certain categories could not be completely figured for the 2009 ACP. Some state conventions did not ask for certain items to be reported, or asked in a way that gave results that were not comparable to totals reported in the 2008 ACP. ■

MORE COVERAGE

Go to LifeWay.com/FactsandTrends to see ACP informational charts and read a commentary by LifeWay Research President Ed Stetzer, “Will Southern Baptists ignore the ongoing decline?”

VBS hits The Big Apple in 2011

story by Polly House



As the song says, “Start spreading the news.”

LifeWay’s VBS 2011 is gonna be a part of it – New York, New York!

Vacation Bible School 2011 will take VBSers on a “Big Apple Adventure.”

Set in the city known as the crossroads of the world, kids will discover that adventure can be found on every corner. Using the exciting sights and sounds of New York, they will hear Bible stories about people who stepped out in faith and connected with Jesus. By hearing these stories, they will find out they can step out in faith, beginning with a relationship with Jesus and move on to a life of faith that lets them share the Jesus’ message with the world.

“I think this is possibly the most evangelistic VBS we’ve ever offered,” said Jerry Wooley, LifeWay’s VBS specialist. “All of them keep the name of Jesus at the forefront, of course – the goal of each VBS is to draw kids into a relationship with Jesus – but this one lets them know how important it is to share that message with other people.”

Each day’s Bible story is all about someone having his or her faith challenged. The first day the Centurion has to decide whether to trust Jesus to heal his servant. The second day VBSers see

how a woman decided to respond to Jesus’ love by anointing His feet with perfume and was chastised by others. On day three, they will learn how Nicodemus had to decide to trust or distrust Jesus. Day four tells the story of the Samaritan woman who had to decide to trust Jesus when other men had been unkind to her. Day five tells how the disciples had to decide to carry the gospel to the world when Jesus went to heaven.

OVERVIEW

Theme: “Big Apple Adventure: Where Faith and Life Connect”

Theme verse: Romans 10:17 – *So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ.*

Motto: Hear it! Believe it! Connect it!

HIT THE BEACH WITH CLUB VBS

Scripture: 1 Cor. 1:9 – *God is faithful; by Him you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Motto: God is faithful! I can dig it!

Club VBS takes kids on a trip to the beach, and we all know there’s no place better than that!

Beach Blast gives churches a great opportunity to offer kids – and

leaders – a great summer program offering or a mission trip option.

“Many churches choose the Club option for an easy way to have a fun and evangelistic five days,” LifeWay’s Jerry Wooley said. “It all comes in one box, so it’s economical too.”





“It’s important for the kids to know they will have decisions to make about Jesus, too,” Wooley said.

Rotations will happen each day, set in New York-style locations like Times Square and Grand Central Station.

“We’re excited about this VBS,” Wooley said.

More information about VBS 2011 is available at LifeWay.com/VBS. ■

VBS Photo Contest

The Facts & Trends VBS photo contest is in full swing. Go to LifeWay.com/FactsandTrends to find out how to submit your photos. The deadline for entries is Aug. 9.

Christ should be reflected in marriage

article by Polly House, photography by Kent Harville

There is a secret formula to a good marriage. It's not money, good looks or even great sex. It's the intimate relationship that exists between Christ and the man and woman in the relationship.

"It's the godly person who makes a great spouse," said Stephen Kendrick. "The Holy Spirit pours out love."

Kendrick, senior associate pastor at Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga., and co-author of "The Love Dare" series of resources, joined co-author Sherwood associate pastor Alex Kendrick and Sherwood pastor Michael Catt as speakers at Fireproof My Marriage, a LifeWay-sponsored event. They shared the platform with Charles Lowery, a psychologist and speaker from Pilot Point, Texas. About 500 people attended the event held March 26-27 at Idlewild Baptist Church in Lutz, Fla.



Kendrick continued, “The fruits of the Spirit [love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, self-control (Gal. 5:22-23, HCSB)] will demonstrate themselves. The closer you walk with God, the better your marriage will be.”

He cautioned couples to become masters of forgiveness so their hearts would not hold bitterness.

“Bitterness is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to get sick,” he said. “It does more damage in the life in which it’s stored than the life into which it’s poured. The best marriages aren’t ones where spouses don’t sin against one another, but are the ones in which both people forgive each other.”

Lowery, well known for combining spiritual truths with humor, said, “Relationships are just fun, aren’t they? But, man, they’re confusing!”

He said that Scripture explains that people were made for relationships with God and with each other.

“It’s not good for people to be alone,” he said. “We can get weird! Have you noticed these people we read about in the newspaper – always described as ‘a loner.’ We need to be around other personalities to complete us.”

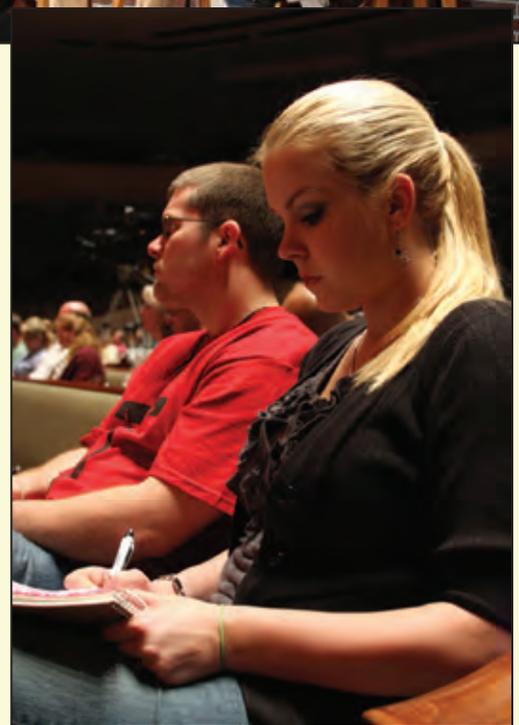
Treating people well may be the truest form of worship, he said.

“We don’t have many records of Jesus going to church,” Lowery said. “We don’t have any records of Him singing – what we tend to call worship in our churches. But, the Bible is full of accounts of Jesus treating people the way God wanted



Above: The panel of speakers answered audience questions: (l-r) Michael Catt, Ken Whitten, Charles Lowery, Alex Kendrick and Stephen Kendrick

Right: Many audience members took notes during the presentations.



them to be treated.

“People need love most when they deserve it the least,” he said. “That kind of love is worship. I think Jesus would say we worship best with our hands outstretched, not raised up.”

Alex Kendrick told the couples that Scripture says where their treasure is, their hearts will also be. He used the acronym M-A-T-E to spell out the things people usually treasure: Money, Affection, Time and Energy. “If those are your treasures, those are the things you need to be pouring into your spouse.”

In addition, he listed eight attributes of true love, as opposed to conditional love:

- True love does not depend on the one being loved, but rather on the one choosing to love.
- True love is based on choice and commitment, not feelings.
- True love is willing to be initiated first.
- True love can keep loving those who don’t love back.
- True love chooses to love regardless of another’s worthiness.



Michael Catt

MARRIAGE MINISTRY TRAINING

LifeWay offers great one-day training events for people who want to help couples build strong marriages. It precedes each of the marriage events. Go to LifeWay.com/FactsandTrends for an article and information about how you can get trained.

EVENTS

Upcoming training will precede the Fireproof My Marriage event Sept. 10-11 in Woodstock, Ga.; and Love & Marriage events July 24 in Virginia Beach, Va.; Aug. 14 in New Orleans; Aug. 21 in Dallas; and Sept. 25 in Knoxville, Tenn. Go to LifeWay.com/marriage for more information.

- True love is selfless.
- True love will sacrificially live to meet the needs of others.
- True love can go on forever.

Catt told the couples that life can wear them down. “We’re all busy, rushing everywhere, stressing out,” he said.

“We think that the only place we can really let down is at home, but that’s not true,” he said. “Don’t let down at home; let down on Jesus. He told us, ‘Come to me, all you who are weary and I will give you rest.’”

He said, “When you fall in love with the Lord, you will fall in love with your spouse.” ■

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LifeWay unveils Transformational Church website

by Micah Carter

TransformationalChurch.com is live!

Last winter LifeWay announced Transformational Church, a new ministry focus and initiative based on one of the largest and most significant research projects ever conducted on the American church. LifeWay's goal is to assist churches to see greater levels of transformation in the lives of individuals, their churches and their communities.

The website will be one of the primary sources of information, education and direction for Transformational Church. The site will be refreshed continuously with new information, and resources will be highlighted that can be used in strengthening the elements of transformation in churches.

"We are working toward a clean and fluid website that church leaders will visit often and even mark as a 'favorite,'" said Bruce Raley, director of leadership and evangelism training and events. Raley leads LifeWay's Transformational Church project team and coordinates consultant training for the initiative.

"Included on the site," he added, "will be podcasts, articles, research and data releases, ideas for ministries, leadership challenges, 'God stories' from churches where transformation is taking place and more."

The site includes information about "Transformational Church" by LifeWay President Thom Rainer and LifeWay Research President Ed Stetzer. Information on research data and consultation opportunities will be available in late summer 2010.

Rainer said there are two motivating forces behind the Transformational Church initiative. First, "we want to know reality. Facts are our friends and they help us understand the current situation of the church in real terms – good, bad and ugly." Second, "we see hope and possibilities in what God is doing in local churches. This is what our research has shown us, and we want to share this encouraging data with churches at all levels of effectiveness."

Raley noted that Transformational Church is not "just another program" or a "one-size-fits-all strategy" with a formula for immediate results.

"Transformational Church is a guide to assist churches as they examine where God is working and what they need to identify as possibilities for greater transformation, today and in the future," he said. ■



Visit TransformationalChurch.com.

LifeWay launches Digital Church

by Rob Phillips

For church leaders trying to navigate the digital age, the challenge can take on biblical proportions. While the psalmist looked to the hills in his hour of need, pastors, staff and lay leaders today find themselves looking to the “cloud” – that place in cyberspace where a host of new Web-based resources and services are found.

It’s all part of the digital church, where multimedia and social networking are as common as hymnals and printed bulletins. And LifeWay is making it easier for church decision-makers to access and download a wide range of resources through the new Web portal, LifeWay.com/DigitalChurch.

“We launched LifeWay’s Digital Church to provide solutions that will help churches be more effective in ministry,” said Tim Vineyard, LifeWay’s chief information officer. “Ministry leaders now have access, in one place, to a full range of digital resources. Digital Church services and solutions are easy to use and come from trusted resource providers.”

The “cloud services” available through LifeWay’s Digital Church include existing

LifeWay resources such as WorshipMap Pro and SongMap, the groundbreaking online services that enable users to download and customize worship music; LifeWayLINK, the church website service; and eMediaLINK, the solution for adding online video to ministry websites. It also features new services available through alliances between LifeWay, Fellowship Technologies and ServiceU.

Among these new services are:

- Church management software through Fellowship Technologies’ flagship product, Fellowship One, which provides secure, fully integrated solutions for managing members, visitors, contacts, small groups, children’s check-in, volunteers and contributions. Ministries of all sizes around the world, from new church plants to mega-size, multi-site churches, use Fellowship One.
- TransactU, software that equips churches to set up online giving and event registration. The software comes from ServiceU Corporation, a world-class software development company. ServiceU is one of the few companies in compliance with the Payment Card Industry (PCI) Data Security

Standards as a Level 1 Service Provider – meaning customers can have the highest degree of confidence in the security of their credit card information when making online purchases or donations.

“We are very excited to be a part of LifeWay’s Digital Church initiative,” said Jeff Hook, chief executive officer of Fellowship Technologies. “It is an honor to have a world-class Christian organization such as LifeWay select Fellowship One as their recommended church management software. Their vision for the Digital Church aligns perfectly with our mission to empower the local church through advanced technology.”

Tim Whitehorn, founder and CEO of ServiceU, added, “The LifeWay name carries a high degree of trust with churches nationwide. We are honored to work with LifeWay in helping churches utilize technology to further their mission.”

Other services and service providers will be added in the months ahead, said Vineyard, who added that LifeWay’s Digital Church solutions help ministry leaders in a number of unique ways: It’s easy to access from any computer with a user name and password; it’s highly secure and easy to navigate; and it’s trusted because it features well-known LifeWay resources and LifeWay-recommended services and service providers.

The Digital Church initiative is part of a larger strategy for LifeWay, according to LifeWay President Thom Rainer. Rainer told trustees in their last meeting that LifeWay will maintain its historic biblical fidelity but enhance its delivery systems to keep pace with the digital needs of the church.

Rainer cast a vision for LifeWay for the next decade. “LifeWay will be the ministry leader in the digital world,” he told the assembly. “When people think about digital Christian resources, they will look to LifeWay. A digital strategy is critical to our future.”

Rainer stressed that more people are coming to LifeWay for digital content. Church and ministry leaders are going online to download hundreds of valuable resources from multiple areas of LifeWay.com including LifeWay Kids, LifeWay Women and many others.

“We want to provide the best content and delivery that makes a ministry difference to our constituents and customers,” he said. “With cutting-edge ministry resources and a tech-savvy business strategy, we are better positioned and aware of the opportunities that lay before us.” ■



LINK

Go to LifeWay.com/DigitalChurch for more information.

Reiss is Store Manager of the Year

article by Brooklyn Lowery, photography by Kent Harville

A multi-photo frame hangs on the left wall of Mark Reiss' office. It displays three separate images of three separate young men each holding a one-word sign.

"Best Boss Ever" the signs together announce.

Leaders of LifeWay Christian Stores agreed with the employees who gave Reiss the framed images. Reiss, manager of the LifeWay Christian Store in Lexington, Ky., is their pick for 2009 Store Manager of the Year. Selection of the annual award recipient is based on criteria including financial performance, customer service feedback, leadership and operational efficiency.

"I feel extremely blessed," Reiss said, noting that the recognition caught him off-guard. "Honestly, I don't deserve it – nobody does. But it's the Lord being faithful. To be honored in this way was definitely God showing up and being faithful to me."

Reiss joined LifeWay in 2002 as assistant manager for one of the Columbus, Ohio, stores. His family relocated four years later when Reiss accepted a promotion to store manager for the store in Lexington.

"I love this job because of the variety," Reiss said. "I love the interruptions, and I love the mystery."

The "mystery," he said, is helping customers uncover the book or CD for which they are searching when they don't know quite enough details to locate the item on a shelf. "Sometimes they come in and say they heard a song on the radio, but they don't know the

name of it and they don't know the artist. I sometimes tell them, 'Sing it to me.'"

For Reiss, the request isn't a big deal. He has a degree in music and is serving as the interim music director and worship leader at Red House Baptist Church in Richmond, Ky. But he admitted it is a rare customer who takes him up on the suggestion. So his next option is the Internet. "It's like having another employee who knows everything," he joked.

Lynn Hall has worked for LifeWay for about 11 years. As the assistant manager at Reiss' store, she has had many opportunities to watch him investigate each customer's request until he reaches a solution. "He always puts customers' needs very high," Hall said. "I've learned [from

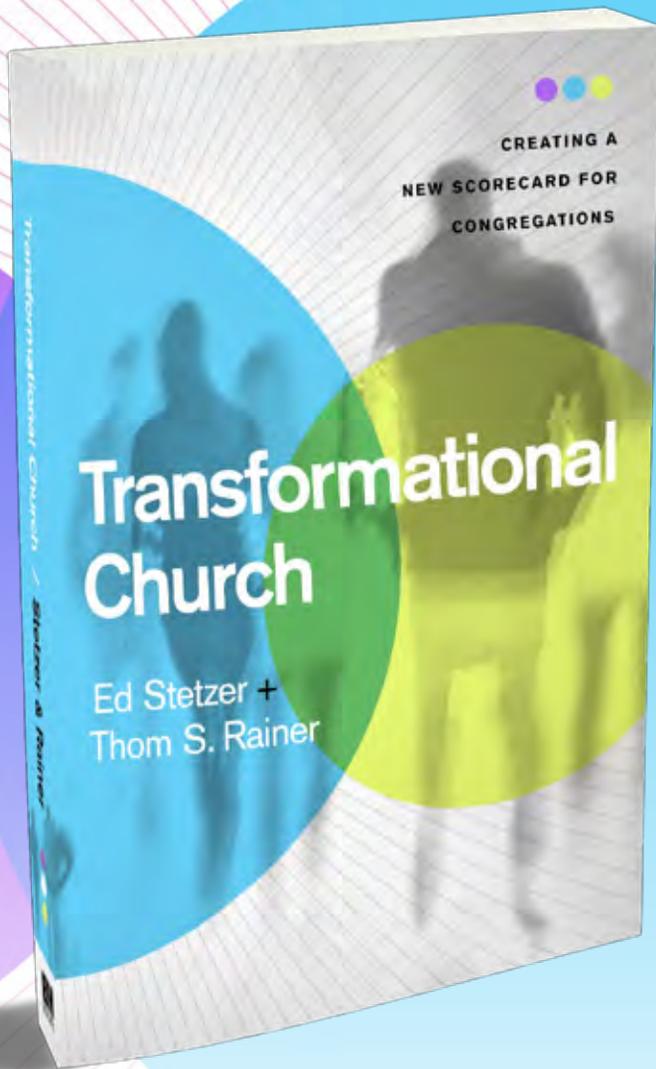
him] to always go the extra mile. Always go over and above for customers and for each other."

While he certainly values the store's customers, Reiss said his top-priority customers are his employees. "If I treat my employees with honor and respect, they do the same for my customers," he said. "I think you need to value who you're working with."

"I work very hard to put in perspective the things I do that affect my walk with the Lord and the walks of people around me," Reiss explained. "People come in [the LifeWay Store] sometimes at their very worst because they're looking for something. You have to come in here filled up or else you don't have anything to give." ■



Mark Reiss



HOW ARE WE DOING?

The church, that is. Congregations have long measured success by “bodies, budget, and buildings”—a record of attendance, the offering plate, and square footage. But the scorecard can't stop there. When it does, the deeper emphasis on accountability, discipleship, and spiritual maturity is lost. Ignoring those details, we see fewer lives changed by the gospel, more congregations fracture, and the church's cultural influence wane—a situation that is all too familiar among churches today.

Based on the most comprehensive study of its kind, *Transformational Church* takes us to the thriving congregations where truly changing lives is the standard set for ministry. Having interviewed thousands of pastors and church members, Stetzer and Rainer clearly confirm the importance of the mindset, values, and actions necessary to become a Transformational Church in the midst of God's kingdom mission. As churches and believers remain faithful to these biblical and statistically informed principles, the world will see the change:

- People being changed by the power of the gospel
- Believers growing in their faith
- Churches making an impact on their communities and the world

THE TRANSFORMATION STARTS NOW.

Transformational Church is available in bookstores everywhere or visit our website to explore all of the tools and resources available.

Sleepwalker, wake up!

article by Kelly Shrout, photography by Roy Burroughs



Bible teacher Priscilla Shirer stands at the podium and scans the 2,400-strong audience. She sees moms, grandmothers, singles, widows, believers, nonbelievers and a few sleepwalkers.

"I want to speak to the sleepwalkers," Shirer said during a LifeWay-sponsored Going Beyond women's conference held Feb. 26-27 at McLean Bible Church in Vienna, Va. "I want to speak to everyone who's waiting and wishing to go on to the next thing in life, all

the while missing what God is doing in the right here and now."

Shirer, Bible teacher and founder of the Dallas-based Going Beyond Ministries, cautioned women to not rush through life and miss out on the beauty of God, no matter what stage of life they are in.

"He wants us, the women of God, to open our eyes and be fully aware and engaged in what He's doing in this particular season of our lives," Shirer said. "No more sleepwalking.



Anthony Evans (second from right), Shirer's brother and Christian recording artist from Brentwood, Tenn., led the praise and worship time at Going Beyond.



It's time for us to be involved in what it is that God is doing."

Shirer taught from Genesis 28, recounting how Jacob, son of Isaac and Rebecca, fled to Paddan-Aram after tricking his older brother out of his birthright.

Jacob, weary from the long journey, stopped at a certain place to spend the night.

Shirer explained that "certain

places" are often "sacred places."

"If we are not careful, we'll do just what Jacob did and choose to go to sleep instead of fully engaging on the journey that God has for us," said Shirer, mentioning that the "certain place" in the text was the same area Jacob's grandfather Abraham used to offer sacrifices to God in years past.

"Certain places are where the sun of your hope begins to fade; where you've set your sights on something, but darkness has overtaken you and fatigue overwhelms you," she said. "You may feel that it's easier to disengage, and that's what the enemy would like you to do, but you will miss out on the sacredness of certain places."

Shirer encouraged the women to take advantage of the time they have in the "certain places" in life in order to yield a godly return.

"Realize that you are going to reap the harvest in a later season in life," she said. "You may never have those small children again or raise those teenagers. You may never be in that particular place on your job again, and the seeds that you sow there will be the harvest that returns to you. You will treat people and relationships differently when you know you are going to reap the harvest in a later season."

Shirer, daughter of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship senior pastor Tony Evans, cited her godly heritage as an



RESOURCES

“Jonah: Navigating a Life Interrupted”

“He Speaks to Me”

“Discerning the Voice of God”

“One in a Million”

“A Jewel In His Crown”

These and other resources by Priscilla Shirer are available at LifeWay.com/shopping, through customer service at (800) 458-2772 and from LifeWay Christian Stores at LifeWayStores.com and (800) 233-1123.

LINK

Visit LifeWay.com/Women for more information about upcoming women's events, including those featuring Priscilla Shirer.

“You will treat people and relationships differently when you know you are going to reap the harvest in a later season.”

— Priscilla Shirer

example of reaping a good harvest.

“I think of my sweet, godly grandparents, and how my grandfather was radically saved in his mid-20s,” Shirer said, mentioning that her grandmother was sitting in the audience.

“My grandmother one day realized that anything that could change my grandfather could change her too, so she accepted the Lord,” Shirer explained. “Little did she know the impact she'd have on her four kids, who would accept Jesus Christ. How could she know that one of her sons, Tony, would move to Dallas, become a pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship, have four kids of his own who he invested in spiritually? Because of the seeds that she sowed so many years ago, she's sitting here today seeing the fruit of the harvest.”

The weekend also included prayer time. Shirer invited attendees who had a need to pray with a ministry leader. Women were also invited to submit prayer cards. Shirer

and her ministry team prayed for those requests throughout the night.

“The focus on prayer during the event is extremely vital,” said Rebecca Houston from Fairfax Community Church in Fairfax, Va. “I have been praying for some time about needs I have in my family, and to know that Priscilla and her ministry team really care about our needs is extremely important to me. When the prayer time opened and Priscilla told us to come to the front and someone would pray for us, I rushed from the balcony and walked all the way to the front to

get to a ministry leader.”

Melissa Todd, Keystone Community Fellowship, North Wales, Pa., came to the conference with 18 women ranging in age from 19-50 and said the message was relevant to what she is going through as a home-school mom.

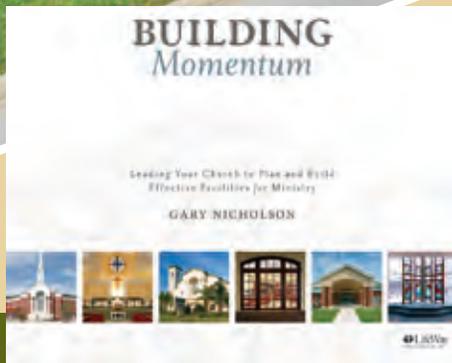
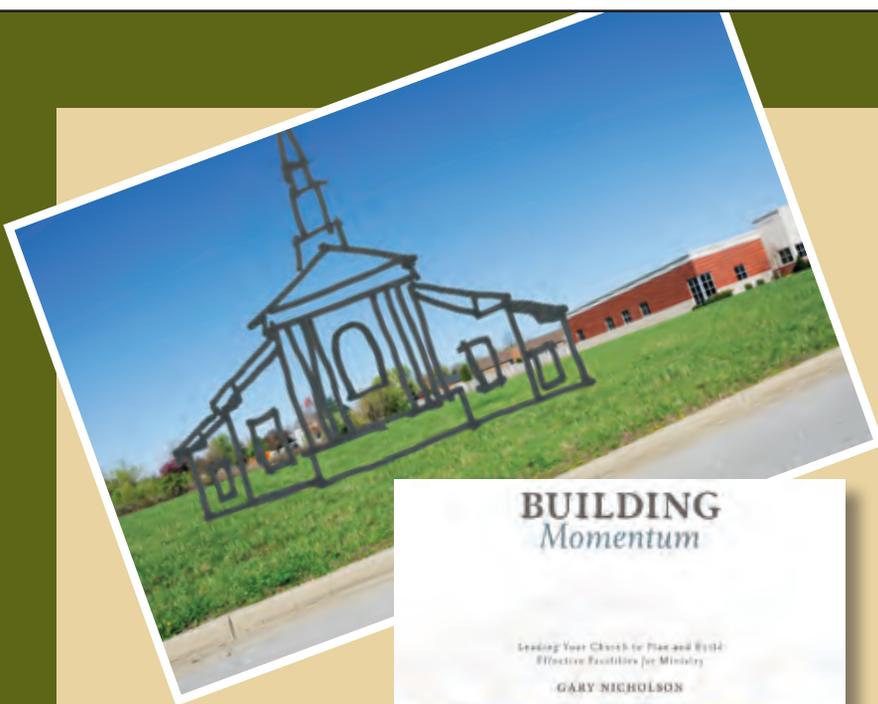
“I just read the Genesis verse with my four children during our home-school Bible class and now I can go home and share the newfound insights,” she said.

Brittney Nanni, 26, also traveled with the Keystone Community Fellowship group and said she gained

new insight about not sleepwalking through her singleness.

“I appreciate the lessons Priscilla gave us on being fully engaged in the season that God has placed you in,” she said. “For me, it was an encouragement to take advantage of the time of singleness.”

The two-day conference also included a session on how to read the Bible more effectively and worship with Anthony Evans, Shirer’s brother and a recording artist from Brentwood, Tenn. ■



Are you seeing things?

Do you have visions and dreams? Like a new worship facility, education space, or recreation center? A goal, not just to construct a new building, but to equip and move your church forward in its important kingdom work? *Building Momentum* can help you, your key staff, and church get there. *Building Momentum* is a new guide book to help pastors, key leadership, and building team members train and prepare and then walk their congregation through the entire building process from vision to building dedication. Packed with detailed information and instructions to successfully navigate each construction phase, *Building Momentum* also brings a clear spiritual perspective to each step of the process.

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LIFEWAY NEWS BRIEFS

LifeWay again in top five of Tennessee's best employers

BusinessTN magazine has named LifeWay as one of the best employers in the large company (250+ employees) category in the state of Tennessee.

BusinessTN said: "In synch with its core value of stewardship, LifeWay Christian Resources goes above and beyond to take care of its employees."

The article specifically complimented LifeWay on its commitment to employee training, development and learning, citing more than 500 in-house no- or low-cost training opportunities.

It also mentioned LifeWay's varied system of

internal communications and chapel services that keep employees "in the know" about what is going on in the company.

It also commended LifeWay's concern with the personal and family lives of employees, mentioning its sick leave policy and mission trip opportunities.

Human Resources Director Rusty Faulks added, "We are pleased to be honored as one of the state's top employers. One of our core values states that our employees are one of our most valuable resources. Meeting their needs is important to us." ■

Communications team wins 11 national awards

LifeWay's communications department garnered 11 awards in writing, podcasting, photography and design at the annual Baptist Communicators Association annual meeting held in Chicago in April.

Kent Harville captured photography awards: two from the I'm the Man conference and three from a LifeWay-sponsored mission trip to Russia. Harville and Polly House won a second place award for their photography and writing combined coverage of the Russia trip. House won two other writing awards, one for "If the shoe fits, make it a Bible study" and a second with Rob Phillips for "Arrange it yourself."

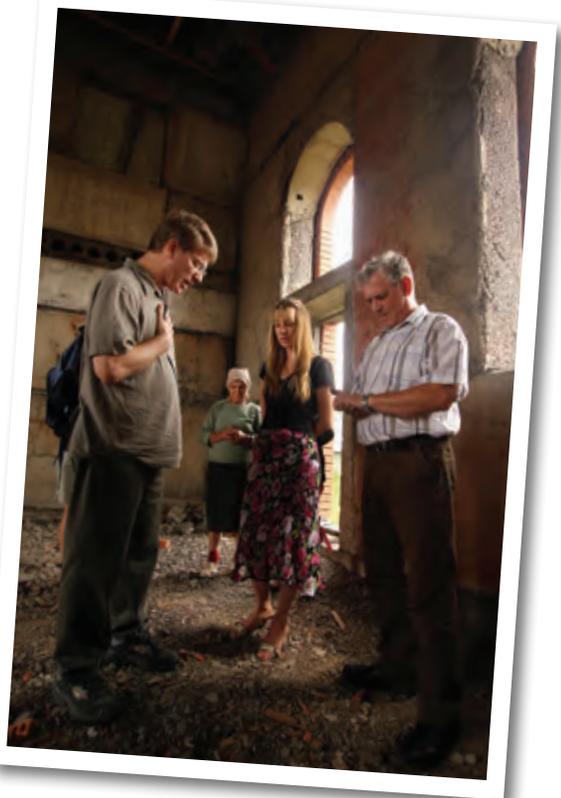
Phillips also won two first place writing awards: one for his CrossBooks-published book "The Kingdom According to Jesus: A Study of Jesus' Parables on the Kingdom of Heaven," and a news article, "Your church needs a crisis communications plan."

Each of the award-winning articles has appeared in Facts & Trends.

Phillips and Brooklyn Lowery won first place for podcast production of "Inside LifeWay."

Katie Shull and Kelly Shrout won a first

place design award for Hub Dude, a flash drive character whose purpose is to encourage employees to use the Hub, an internal communications site. ■



An award-winning photo of LifeWay's Russia mission trip by Kent Harville.

NEW RESOURCES

LifeWay Church Resources at LifeWay.com and (800) 458-2772
 LifeWay Christian Stores at LifeWayStores.com and (800) 233-1123

B&H PUBLISHING GROUP

“Jesus, In His Own Words”

by Robert H. Mounce

What if Jesus were to tell you in first person about His time on earth? “Jesus, In His Own Words” offers an account of the life and ministry of Jesus that combines all four gospels into a single narrative.

Robert Mounce’s more conversational interpretation of the Gospels allows the reader to imagine being there during Christ’s life.

Complementing the prosaic text, a full index of people, places, verse units, basic themes and paragraph headings is also included.

Releases Sept. 1. ISBN 978-1-4336-6919-4. Paperback. \$16.99

“Leading from the Lions’ Den: Leadership Principles from Every Book of the Bible”

by Tom R. Harper

“Leading from the Lions’ Den” takes pride in drawing its wisdom from ideas in the Word of God. In it, author Tom Harper expounds upon one surprising principle from each of the Bible’s 66 books.

Releases Sept 1. ISBN 978-0-8054-4442-1. Paperback. \$12.99

“Radiant: Living as Light in a Dark World”

by Marian Jordan

Combating today’s darkening culture, Marian Jordan mixes modern wit

with tender and timeless illuminations of Scripture, encouraging women to know their God-given purpose and identity, look to Christ as their true power source and reflect His glorious light in this world.

Jordan also includes a helpful section on the empowering work of the Holy Spirit, small group discussion questions and other recommended resources.

Releases Sept. 15. ISBN 978-0-8054-4672-2. Paperback. \$12.99

“Saving Leonardo: A Call to Resist the Secular Assault on Mind, Morals and Meaning”

by Nancy Pearcey

In “Saving Leonardo,” best-selling award-winning author Nancy Pearcey makes a compelling argument that secularism is destructive and de-humanizing. The book examines the ideas and events, the thinkers and artists who led to the creation of worldviews that undermine human dignity and liberty. The book offers a persuasive case for biblical Christianity as a holistic and humane alternative.

Releases Sept. 1. ISBN 978-1-4336-6927-9. Hardcover. \$26.99

“The Way Back to Mayberry: Lessons from a Simpler Time”

by Joey Fann, foreword by George “Goobar” Lindsey

“Everything I know about life, I learned from The Andy Griffith Show,” says Joey Fann, author of “The Way Back to Mayberry” and founder of BarneyFife.com.

Many factors contribute to the success of the television classic that made a small town sheriff famous.

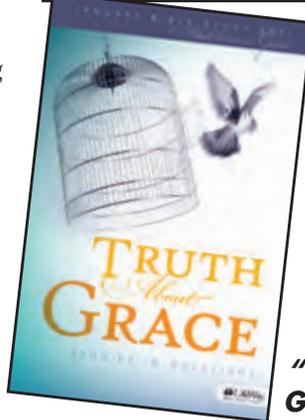
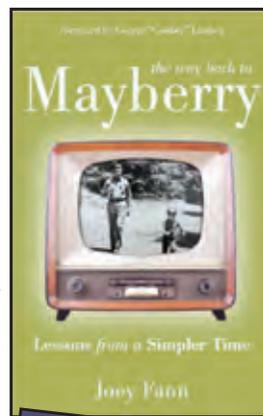
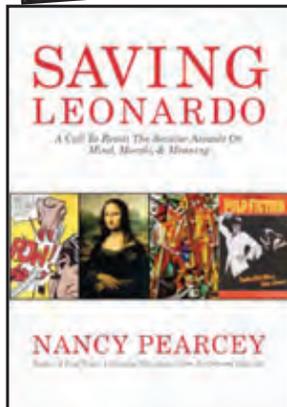
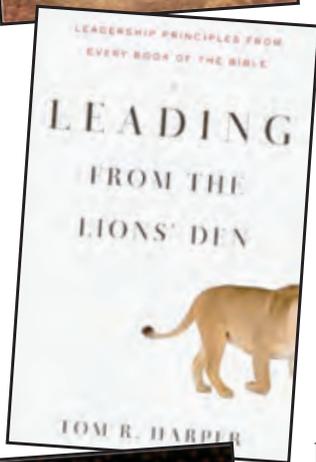
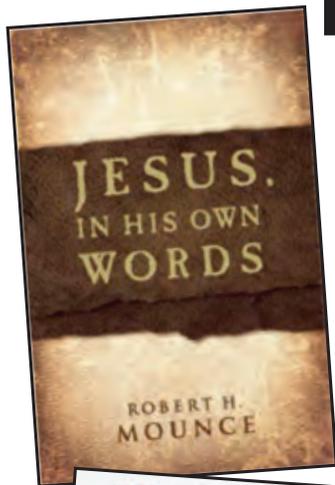
Fans know the most important element of this program’s emphasis on basic moral principles. Almost every episode provides a lesson, good example or helpful word.

Releases Sept. 1. ISBN 978-1-4336-7046-6. Paperback. \$12.99

CHURCH RESOURCES

“The Truth About Grace: Studies in Galatians – January Bible Study 2011”

This study teaches that salvation is more than adherence to the Ten Commandments and that righteousness is not relative. Join your church this January



to learn about faith, grace and liberty vs. license. (4 sessions)

Released in June. Adult learner guide, LifeWay product #0-0514-6135, \$6.95; Adult leader guide with CD-ROM, LifeWay product #0-0518-9435, \$12.95

“Transformational Church DVD Discussion Guide”

by Thom Rainer and Ed Stetzer

This video-driven, interactive guide helps leadership teams stimulate discussion about Transformational Church research and principles and how to apply those findings to individual church settings. (6 sessions)

Released in June. LifeWay product #0-0525-5385, \$29.95

“When Life Is Hard”

by James MacDonald

The study leads individuals and churches as a whole to understand the nature of trials in believers’ lives and

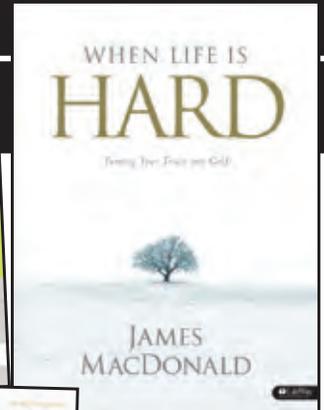
how God uses hard times to teach and refine us. (6 sessions)

Released in June. Member book, LifeWay product #0-0529-3072, \$11.95; DVD leader kit, LifeWay product #0-0527-1225, \$99.95

Bible Study Magazine

This bimonthly magazine gives sound advice, in-depth articles and enriching insights from pastors and scholars who have spent a lifetime applying the Bible to their lives and teaching others how to do the same. It tackles the difficult passages and takes the frustration out of Bible study with how-to guides, tips and tricks.

Releases for fall quarter. LifeWay product #0-0532-0246, \$1.95 per issue.



Kids releases

“TeamKID: Look at Me”

This recreation-based study helps preschoolers and kindergartners learn how to live like God

wants. Topics include Growing Up, Showing Love at Home, Making Healthy Choices, Living More Like Jesus, Praising God and Learning About the Bible. (36 meetings, plus

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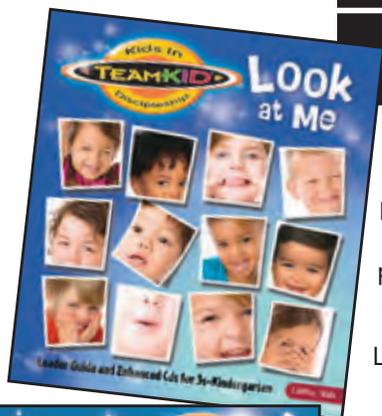


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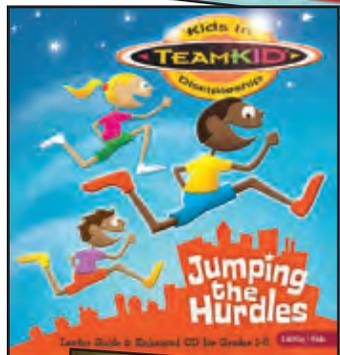
LifeWay | Adults

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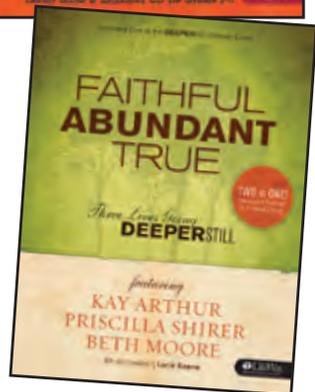
7 additional meetings on the enhanced CD)
Released in June. Leader guide and enhanced CD, LifeWay product #0-0519-1746, \$59.99; Activity book, LifeWay product #0-0519-1747, \$5.99; EZ pak, LifeWay product #0-0519-1748, \$69.95



"TeamKID: Jumping the Hurdles"

This study helps kids in grades 1-6 prepare to face with confidence hurdles like peer pressure, anger and making choices – to name a few. (36 meetings, plus 7 additional meetings on the enhanced CD)

Released in May. Leader guide and enhanced CD, LifeWay product #0-0519-1755, \$59.99; Activity book for grades 1-3, LifeWay product #0-0519-1756, \$5.99; Activity book for grades 4-6, LifeWay product #0-0519-1757, \$5.99; Missions DVD, LifeWay product #0-0519-1758, \$24.99; Replacement enhanced CD, LifeWay product #0-0519-2289, \$14.95



Women releases

"Faithful, Abundant, True: Three Lives Going Deeper Still"

by Beth Moore, Kay Arthur and Priscilla Shirer

God is faithful. His provision is abundant. His promises are true.

Join Beth Moore, Kay Arthur and Priscilla Shirer in Orlando, Fla., for the recorded-live Deeper Still event. Women can use this versatile study guide for a retreat or as a Bible study. (7 sessions)

Released in May. Retreat guide

and member book, LifeWay product #0-0527-1629, \$12.95; DVD leader kit, LifeWay product #0-0518-9430, \$149.95; Audio CD set, LifeWay product #0-0530-2391, \$39.95

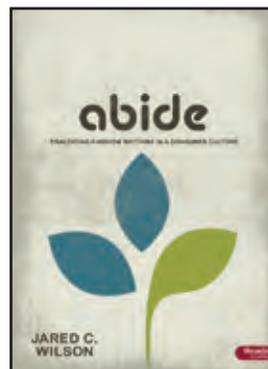
Young Adult releases

"Abide: Practicing Kingdom Rhythms in a Consumer Culture"

by Jared C. Wilson

Bible study. Prayer. Fasting. Service. These are just a few of the spiritual disciplines of the Christian life. While Christ-followers agree about the essential nature of these practices, most of us struggle with implementing them. This study will help readers see how these practices subvert the rhythms of culture so deeply ingrained in them and lead them to find the rhythm of truly being a Christian. (5 sessions)

Released in April. Member book, LifeWay product #0-0527-1630, \$8.95; Leader kit, LifeWay product #0-0512-6268, \$69.95



LIFEWAY WORSHIP

Christmas 2010

"Joy has Dawned"

Created by Dennis and Nan Allen, Arranged and orchestrated by Dennis Allen

"Joy Has Dawned," a new Christmas anthem by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend from Let's Sing, has been prepared with medium-sized

and smaller choirs in mind. Each arrangement has been prepared in an accessible fashion that provides for consistently high impact with little rehearsal time required. A free rehearsal guide and Bible study is available at LifeWay.com/Worship.

"Behold Emmanuel ... Love is with Us"

Created by Craig Adams and Alyssa Goins, Arranged by Craig Adams

The creators of the best-selling and trusted You Can! series are delighted to present this unison/2-part Christmas musical for smaller choirs. This 25-minute combination of music and narration is centered on a powerful new Christmas ballad. In perfect complement are

timeless favorites, including "Mary, Did You Know," "Isn't He" and a host of traditional carols.

Each simple arrangement is accompanied by orchestrated accompaniment tracks and/or easy-to-play printed piano accompaniment. A free rehearsal guide and Bible study is available at LifeWay.com/Worship.

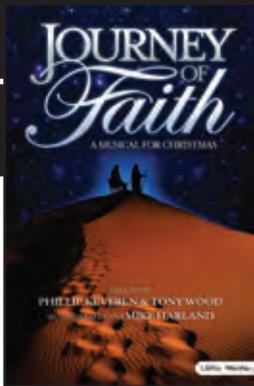
"Journey of Faith"

Created by Phillip Keveren and Tony Wood, Arranged and orchestrated by Phillip Keveren, Narrations by Mike Harland

Created by Dove Award-

winning songwriter Tony Wood and LifeWay exclusive songwriter Phillip Keveren, this 45-minute musical is a unique combination of holiday classics and new favorites.

Musical highlights include the presence of children's choir, solos, a men's trio and festive instrumentation. Your congregation will sing along with cherished carols and a fresh new treatment of "Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated." Your choir will be thrilled to introduce songs like "Glory to God," "Broken Hallelujah" (made popular by Christian recording artist Mandisa), "God Loved the World," "Sometimes Faith Leads" and others.



"The Promise of Christmas"

Created by Phil Barfoot and Rebecca J. Peck, Arranged and orchestrated by Dave Williamson, Script by Debbie Beavers

This choral collection celebrates the birth of Christ in grand fashion – with the premium quality, flexibility and passion you've come to expect from every Phil Barfoot collection.

This vibrant SATB collection can be performed as a cover-to-cover musical or be the go-to resource for the annual Christmas program needing an infusion of fresh content. "A Baby Changes Everything" (made popular by recording artist Faith Hill), "Look Who Just

Checked In" and "The Virgin Mary Had A Baby Boy" are among the numerous selections. Additionally, congregation-friendly medleys and carols round out the comprehensive list of Christmas moments.

Adding to the adaptability of an already diverse collection, extensive production notes, optional narration and/or dramatic script and a DVD accompaniment track have all been prepared in an effort to assist your worship ministry team. With the all-new Custom Track Data Disc, advanced audio users can create their own mixes of the songs using Logic, Garage Band or other multi-track audio software.

Go to LifeWayWorship.com and click on "Shop Music Products" for additional information and prices of all these resources.



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THE EXCHANGE

Ed Stetzer, LifeWay Research president and missiologist



Transforming Community

I'm a preacher who loves preaching. Even so, I know preaching doesn't accomplish the church's entire mission. In fact, preaching consumes less than an hour a week for the average preacher or listener.

In the Transformational Church (TC) research, the issue of community kept surfacing. "Community" means the small gathering of people for Bible study, ministry and accountability. Called everything from small groups to Sunday school, the purpose is the same: to provide an environment where gospel transformation can take place in the lives of individuals and the church.

Our study revealed that community is highly valued in Transformational Churches. Sixty-four percent of TC members agree (strongly or moderately, here and throughout) with the statement "New members are immediately taught about the importance of living in community with other Christians." In these churches, community is a way of life. Here are three observations from the research:

1) Valuing community empowers people to do ministry. Sadly, empowering only vocational pastors to do ministry is a common problem in our churches. But in a TC, everyone is empowered to do ministry. Seventy-two percent of TC members agree with the statement "When people are plugged into a small group at our church, they are ministered to and well cared for."

2) Strong small community structure leads to a new reality of service. The "80/20 Rule" comes up – a lot – as I speak to pastors of varying backgrounds. For all the resources consulted and prayers offered, we still struggle to mobilize people. On the other hand, TCs do not. We found that 71 percent agree "Serving is considered normal behavior at our church." It's not 100 percent, but it's worth celebrating.

If serving were "considered normal behavior" at your church, how would it change both the members and the city? The recent flooding in Nashville, Tenn., displaced thousands, but churches mobilized to help. For several weeks, service was "considered normal behavior." In a TC, that mentality lasts.

3) Multiplying groups is a blessing, not a curse. There is a rule among small-group pastors and education ministers: Never say "split." "Start," "multiply" and "reproduce" are acceptable, but never, ever "split."

Small groups in TCs work to gather and to scatter. Gathering leads people into a relationship with Christ and teaches them to participate in His mission. Thus, the scattering. Starting new small groups gives room for new people and opportunities for new leaders.

In our survey, 69 percent say their church regularly starts new small groups. People will want to forge new groups once they understand the need to engage in God's mission of transformation.

God designed us to live in relationship with Him and one another. As church leaders engage believers in small-group communities, transformation occurs. Much goes into being a Transformational Church, but community is vital. It is critical to lead people from the rows of a preaching event to the circles of a small group. ■

Community:
the small gathering
of people for Bible study,
ministry and
accountability

MORE

Follow more of Ed Stetzer's thoughts on his blog: EdStetzer.com.

RESEARCH

Go to pages 6-8 to read LifeWay Research's study on church health.

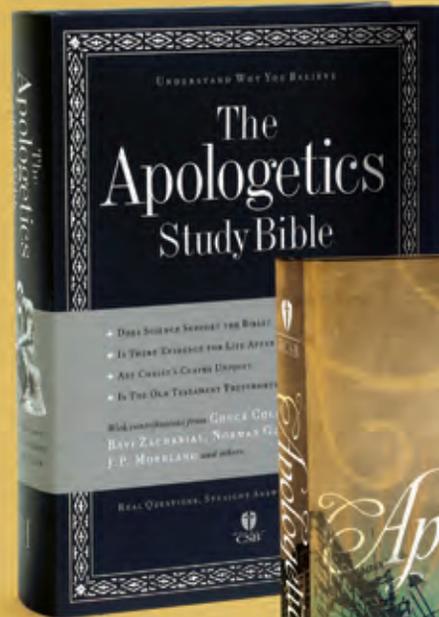
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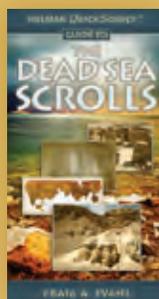
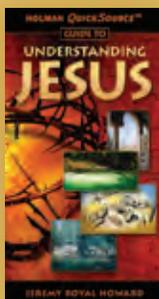
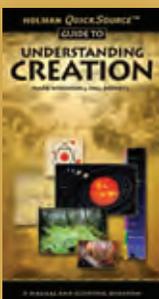
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