

# FACTS *and* TRENDS

Summer 2012



**Ministering to  
ministers &  
their families**

*Coverage begins on page 10*

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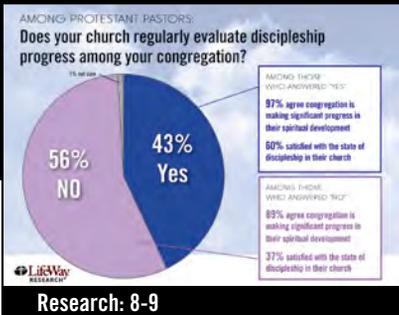
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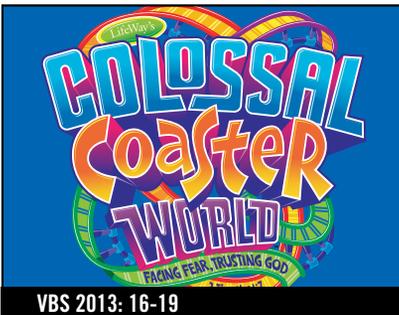


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VBS 2013: 16-19



Church Architecture: 24-25

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*On the cover: Brad and Katie Dunlap and their sons, Riley, Cole and Yohannes. Brad is pastor of Mercy Hill Church, a church plant in midtown Memphis, Tenn.*

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## The 10 warning signs of an inwardly obsessed church

**A**ny healthy church must have some level of inward focus. Those in the church should be disciplined. Hurting members need genuine concern and ministry. Healthy fellowship among the members is a good sign for a congregation.

But churches can lose their outward focus and become preoccupied with the perceived needs and desires of the members. The dollars spent and the time expended can quickly become focused on the demands of those inside the congregation. When that takes place the church has become inwardly obsessed. It is no longer a Great Commission congregation.

In my research of churches and consultation with churches, I have kept a checklist of potential signs that a church might be moving toward inward obsession. No church is perfect; indeed most churches will demonstrate one or two of these signs for a season. But the real danger takes place when a church begins to manifest three or more of these warning signs for an extended period of months and even years.

**1. Worship wars.** One or more factions in the church want the music just the way they like it. Any deviation is met with anger and demands for change. The order of service must remain constant. Certain

instrumentation is required while others are prohibited.

**2. Prolonged minutia meetings.** The church spends an inordinate amount of time in different meetings. Most of the meetings deal with the most inconsequential items, while the Great Commission and Great Commandment are rarely the topics of discussion.

**3. Facility focus.** The church facilities develop iconic status. One of the highest priorities in the church is the protection and preservation of rooms, furniture and other visible parts of the church's buildings and grounds.

**4. Program driven.** Every church has programs even if they don't admit it. When we start doing a ministry a certain way, it takes on programmatic status. The problem is not with programs. The problem develops when the program becomes an end instead of a means to greater ministry.

**5. Inwardly focused budget.** A disproportionate share of the budget is used to meet the needs and comforts of



the members instead of reaching beyond the walls of the church.

**6. Inordinate demands for pastoral care.** All church members deserve care and concern, especially in times of need and crisis. Problems develop, however, when church members have unreasonable expectations for even minor matters. Some members expect the pastoral staff to visit them regularly merely because they have membership status.

**7. Attitudes of entitlement.** This issue could be a catchall for many of the points named here. The overarching attitude is one of demanding and having a sense of deserving special treatment.

**8. Greater concern about change than the gospel.** Almost any noticeable changes in the church evoke the ire of

many; but those same passions are not evident about participating in the work of the gospel to change lives.

**9. Anger and hostility.** Members are consistently angry. They regularly express hostility toward the church staff and other members.

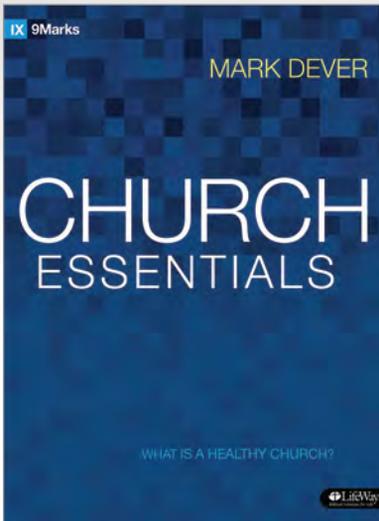
**10. Evangelistic apathy.** Very few members share their faith on a regular basis. More are concerned about their own needs rather than the greatest eternal needs of the world and community in which they live.

My list is not exhaustive. You may have some items you could add. Have you ever been a part of an inwardly obsessed church? What signs were evident that led you to know the church was inwardly obsessed? Do you affirm some of the items on my list? ■

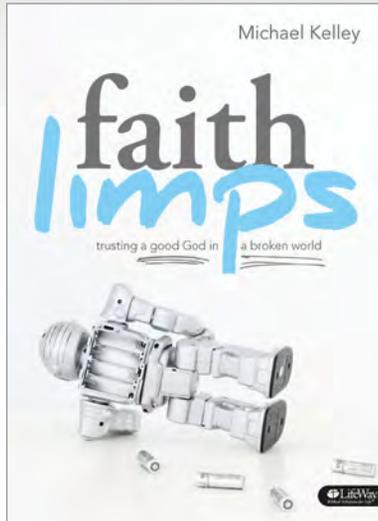
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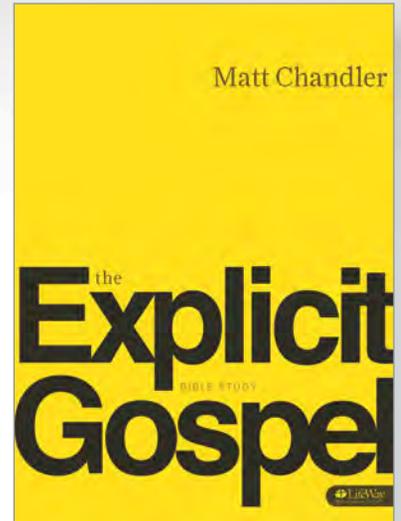
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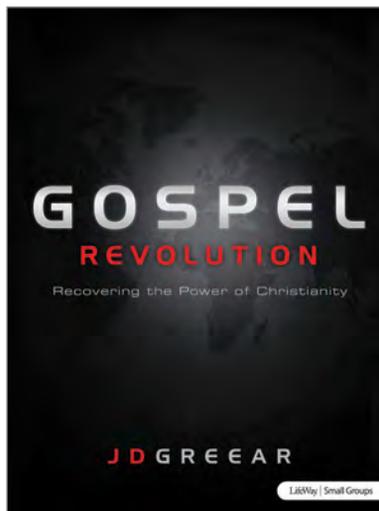
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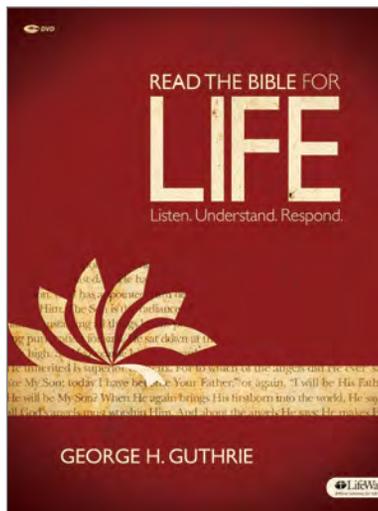
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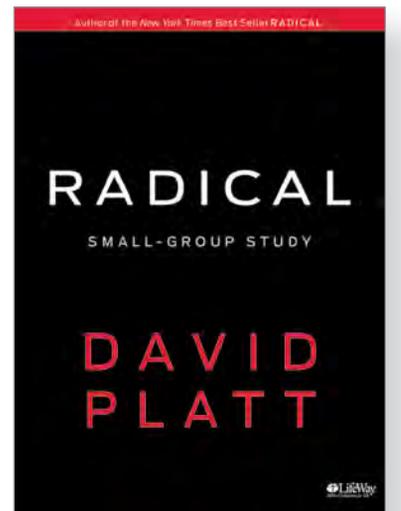
Shatter your preconceptions. Discover unexplored dimensions of God's grace and the massive and awesome implications of the gospel.



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Challenge your group to get out of comfortable Christianity, to embrace Jesus as their richest treasure, and to truly live for the glory of God.

# *Biblical Solutions for discipling*

Every resource on this page can help you in your mission to make disciples—whether it's learning how to recover from loss or simply



understanding the power of the gospel. To see a video about *Church Essentials*, scan the barcode with your phone's QR code reader.

## Commands and privileges

**O**ne of the most basic commands – and perhaps one of the greatest privileges – we have from Christ is that we “make disciples.” In *Transformational Church*, the book I coauthored with Thom Rainer, our research revealed the need to change the scorecard of how a church measures success. The numbers of people converted, attending, serving, and giving are still important and should be measured, but we must value the measurements that include changed lives, missional engagement and leadership development. In a sense, we need an expanded scorecard.

In the Transformational Discipleship research project, Protestant church attendees across North America were asked about their spiritual development. The purpose was to identify the issues that facilitated their spiritual maturity and to measure how that maturity happened. Church leaders, more specifically pastors, were interviewed as well. The view gained from pastors (as you can see in the following article) is they believe transformational discipleship is taking place but have few ways to measure it. After reviewing the research, let me suggest three steps to help in the process of transformational discipleship.

First, leaders must objectively assess discipleship in their church. Some may think this to be unspiritual. But, as I’ve said often, facts are our friends. Before a growth plan can be plotted, you must first know where your people are in their spiritual development.

Second, your course for growth must be based on an informed view of discipleship.

Start with a biblical portrait of a healthy disciple and plan for growth. Yes, you read that right, plan for growth. Too many leaders are satisfied with maintenance mode. They don’t want to rock the boat. As we stated in the book, *Transformational Church*, a church should not be like a carousel with bright lights and upbeat music with people moving but no one going anywhere. A church is called to make disciples, not promote complacency.

Finally, lead by taking people with you. I would challenge church leaders to be the first in line to measure their own spiritual maturity by some objective measures. From the Transformational Discipleship research, eight attributes of discipleship were discovered that diagnose where you stand in spiritual maturity. Consider taking the Transformational Discipleship Assessment ([LifeWay.com/TDA](http://LifeWay.com/TDA)) and ask some key leaders to do it with you. Use it as a time for personal development in your faith and developing a sense of what is next in the future of your church. ■



Follow Ed Stetzer’s thoughts on Twitter @EdStetzer. His blog is available at [EdStetzer.com](http://EdStetzer.com).

# Pastors see discipleship progress despite lack of regular evaluation

by Russ Rankin

**While nine out of 10 Protestant pastors believe their congregation is making significant progress in spiritual development, a LifeWay Research study found the majority admits regular evaluation of progress is not occurring in their local church.**

LifeWay Research conducted the survey of 1,000 randomly selected Protestant pastors in conjunction with another survey of Protestant laity as part of the Transformational Discipleship study.

In the Transformational Discipleship study, 90 percent of Protestant pastors agree, “We are consistently hearing reports of changed lives at our church,” including 49 percent who strongly agree. Even more pastors (92 percent) agree with the statement: “Our congregation is making significant progress in their spiritual development,” including 42 percent who strongly agree.

In contrast, however, the majority of pastors disagree with the statement “I am satisfied with the state of discipleship and spiritual formation in our local church,” including 18 percent who strongly disagree and 34 percent who somewhat disagree with the statement.

“Making disciples is the work of the church,” said Scott McConnell, director of LifeWay Research. “Clearly, pastors want to see improvement in the spiritual formation of the people in their church, but the question is, ‘How is this being evaluated?’”

When asked “Does your church regularly evaluate discipleship progress among your congregation?” 56 percent of pastors said their church does not.

“The danger is that church leaders may assume progress based on what they want to happen rather than what is actually taking place,” said McConnell.

Among the 43 percent of pastors answering “yes” to regular evaluation of discipleship progress, 97 percent agree their congregation is making significant progress in their spiritual

development and 60 percent agree they are satisfied with the state of discipleship in their local church.

Of the 56 percent who answered “no” to the question of evaluation, 89 percent agree their congregation is making significant progress in their spiritual development and 37 percent agree they are satisfied with the state of discipleship in their local church.

The study revealed the percentage of pastors who regularly evaluate discipleship progress among their congregation increases with the size of the church. Pastors with congregations of 250 and above are the most likely (64 percent) to say they regularly evaluate discipleship progress, compared with 45 percent of pastors with congregations of 100-249, 39 percent of pastors with congregations of 50-99, and 33 percent of pastors with congregations of 49 and below.

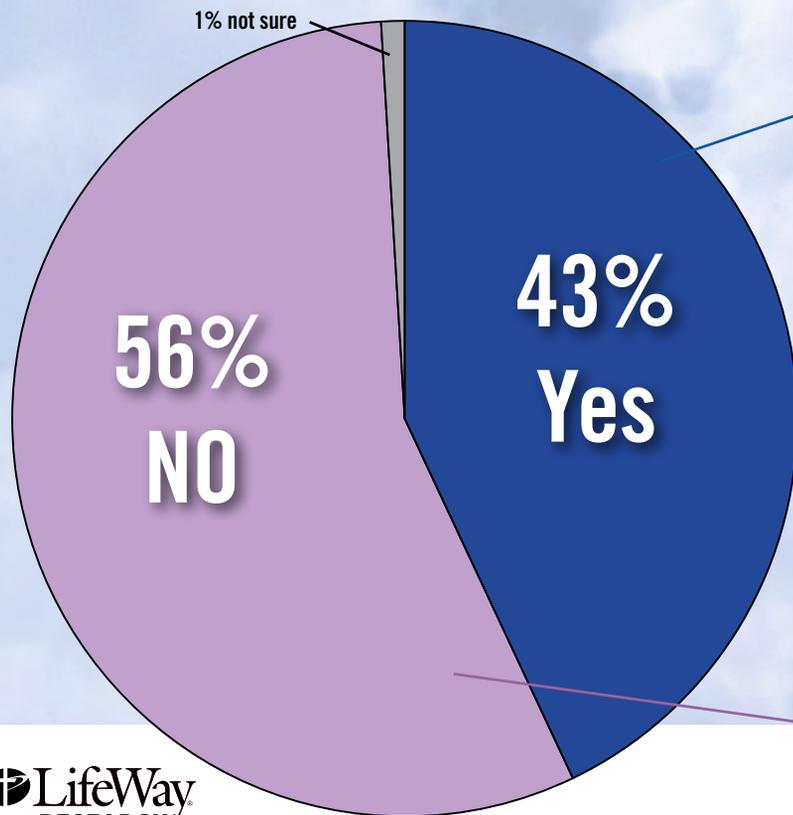
“It is critical for pastors to have an objective source for measuring spiritual growth in their congregation,” said McConnell. “Assessment prevents the latest church member

**“The danger is that church leaders may assume progress based on what they want to happen rather than what is actually taking place.”**

— *Scott McConnell*

AMONG PROTESTANT PASTORS:

## Does your church regularly evaluate discipleship progress among your congregation?



AMONG THOSE WHO ANSWERED "YES"

**97%** agree congregation is making significant progress in their spiritual development

**60%** satisfied with the state of discipleship in their church

AMONG THOSE WHO ANSWERED "NO"

**89%** agree congregation is making significant progress in their spiritual development

**37%** satisfied with the state of discipleship in their church



victory or failure from distorting the perspective of reality.”

“How people really grow is at the heart of the Transformational Discipleship research and the book *Transformational Discipleship* written by Eric Geiger, Michael Kelley and Philip Nation,” McConnell said. “Churches and pastors with a passion for discipleship produce disciples. While this is a work of the Holy Spirit and not a formulaic approach, there is a great deal that can be learned by studying those individuals who are experiencing growth.”

The pastor survey also revealed demographic differences by age, region and church size:

– Pastors of churches with more than 250 attendees are the most likely to strongly agree (67 percent) they consistently hear reports of changed lives at their church, and pastors identifying themselves as evangelical are more likely (49 percent) to strongly agree than self-identified mainline pastors (42 percent).

– Pastors age 65 and over are the most likely to strongly agree (53 percent) and the least likely to somewhat agree (39 percent)

that their congregation is making significant progress in their spiritual development.

– Pastors of churches with 49 attendees or fewer are the least likely to somewhat agree (23 percent) they are satisfied with the state of discipleship and spiritual formation in their church.

McConnell pointed out the Transformational Discipleship research also generated the Transformational Discipleship Assessment (TDA), a comprehensive tool to help churches gain a better understanding of the spiritual health of their congregation and the effectiveness of their methods of discipleship. Information on TDA and the entire Transformational Church emphasis can be found at [TransformationalChurch.com](http://TransformationalChurch.com) and [TDA.LifeWay.com](http://TDA.LifeWay.com). ■

*Methodology: The phone survey, conducted in August 2011, sampled randomly selected Protestant churches. Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister or priest and responses were weighed to reflect the geographic distribution of Protestant churches. The completed sample of 1,000 phone interviews provides a 95 percent confidence that the sampling error does not exceed ±3.2 percent. Margins of error are higher in subgroups.*

# Transformational research identifies eight attributes of growing disciples

**A**s LifeWay Research approached the Transformational Discipleship project, two primary questions needed to be answered to get a clear picture of the state of discipleship in North American churches.

One concerned the church as a whole: What is the state of discipleship within the Protestant church?

The other concerned individuals: How do people really grow in their Christian faith?

Starting in June 2012 and continuing throughout the year, LifeWay Research will begin to release new findings to answer these and other questions about individual discipleship.

In 2011, as part of their biggest discipleship study to date, LifeWay Research interviewed discipleship experts from eight countries, as well as surveyed 1,000 pastors and more than 4,000 Protestants from North America.

The intensive research revealed eight attributes of discipleship that consistently show up in the lives of believers who are progressing in spiritual maturity:

1. Bible engagement
2. Obeying God and denying self
3. Serving God and others
4. Sharing Christ
5. Exercising faith
6. Seeking God
7. Building relationships
8. Unashamed (transparency)

“The results unpack the state of discipleship in the North American church,” said Scott McConnell, director of LifeWay Research. “Many church leaders across the country are rediscovering the need to pay attention to disciple-making.”

According to Philip Nation, director of ministry development for LifeWay Research, one statistic from this project shows the importance of intentional discipleship.

“Christians are seven times more likely to disciple another person when they have first been discipled themselves,” said Nation.

“Spiritual growth does not happen by accident,” said Nation.

“Rather, churches must be intentional in helping Christians grow. The need to return to an intentional plan of discipleship is obvious. The only decision forward is the manner in which we will accomplish it.”

To help pastors, churches and individuals measure their development, LifeWay Research developed the Transformational Discipleship Assessment.

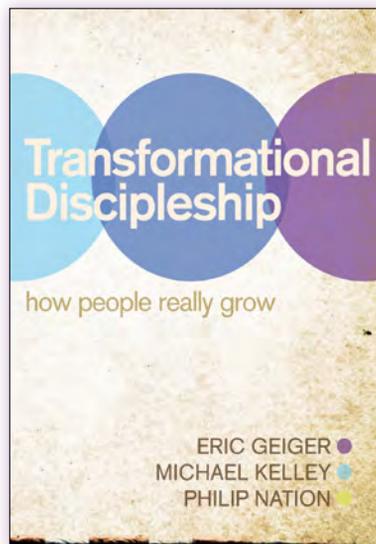
Using this online tool, people can complete the 80-question assessment to receive a report on their spiritual maturity using the eight attributes of biblical discipleship. The online tool also provides helpful and practical suggestions to help individuals take the next steps in their spiritual development.

McConnell said this new assessment tool zooms in to the personal level.

“It answers, ‘Are you growing? Are you consistently following Christ?’” said McConnell. “The Transformational

Discipleship Assessment helps people see how they are doing with those eight attributes.”

Using the underlying research, a framework of discipleship leading to a “transformational sweet spot” was developed by Eric Geiger, Michael Kelley and Nation. The three authors collaborated on the book *Transformational Discipleship: How People Really Grow* released earlier in May.



**“Protestants in North America are 7.2 times more likely to disciple another person when they have first been discipled themselves.”**

— Philip Nation

The subtitle of the book, *How People Really Grow*, is the key, McConnell said.

“The authors bring in the biblical, practical pieces. The discipleship experts provide focus and recognition while LifeWay Research measures all those things with Transformational Discipleship Assessment, suggesting customized next steps for individuals and churches.

“Scripture describes what a mature disciple looks like, but no book reveals where a congregation is on that journey,” he said. “You have to ask people about their beliefs, their desires and their activities. The Transformational Discipleship Assessment helps church leaders do that.”

*Transformational Discipleship* is the next phase in a long-term research project, called the LifeWay Transformational Initiative. In this initiative, LifeWay Research is focused on discovering

common traits of churches experiencing transformation in the lives of individuals, the church and the community.

The first findings were compiled in the book *Transformational Church*, released in June 2010 by B&H Publishing Group.

“Transformational Church provides a big picture scorecard for the church, whereas *Transformational Discipleship* digs into the details at the individual level,” said McConnell.

Over the next five years, LifeWay Research will continue to study the issues of faith and growth in believers and the church as part of the Transformational Initiative, Nation said.

“We anticipate that the findings will enable leaders to better understand how churches can minister more effectively and believers can grow more deeply in their faith,” he said. ■

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Visit [LifeWayResearch.com](http://LifeWayResearch.com) to learn more about Transformational Discipleship research. The Transformational Discipleship Assessment is available at [LifeWay.com/TDA](http://LifeWay.com/TDA).

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# 10 Tips for Ministering to ...

## Give a shout-out to the ministry family

A ministry family lives in:

- a. the proverbial fishbowl
- b. constant fear of being judged
- c. a crazy, hectic world like everyone else
- d. all of the above

There was probably no one who had to scratch his head before choosing option “d” from the list.

Ministering to a minister is crucial. Whether by “minister” you mean the senior pastor, worship leader, education, student or children’s minister, they all have tough jobs. Few professions are more demanding, time consuming, frustrating, but all the while, deeply fulfilling and eternally significant than a minister’s.

When you add in the minister’s family, it gets even more important to extend the love (and grace).

*The Dunlap Family – Riley, Brad, Yohannes, Katie and Cole moved to Memphis in July 2011 to start a new church.*

A minister will do a better job if his family is being taken care of, too. Ministry families are unique. They are looked at as something special – which they are – but it’s important to remember they are still normal families.

Why not take some time now, in the middle of the busy summer, to show some special appreciation for the ministry family. Some of our LifeWay people who work with ministers and ministry families have offered these tips.

# The Minister

**1. Pray.** Specifically pray for him and his family. Pray for wisdom, courage, protection, patience, brokenness, godliness, leadership, and passion.

**2. Be an encourager.** A written note can be kept and reread on those lonely and confusing days when the “call to ministry” seems to be the only thing he has to hold on to.

**3. Remember him throughout the year.** Send birthday, anniversary and special occasion wishes. In addition, when a minister actually sees his spouse and family being genuinely cared for by others, it calms his spirit. “Genuinely” is the operative word.

**4. Be his prayer warrior.** Those serendipitous emails from prayer warriors are often written prayers laced with Scripture, authentic love and appreciation. An inbox filled with these types of emails can be treasured and timely.

**5. Speak positively and genuinely about him in public as well as in private.** Be accountable to speak more often and more highly of your minister.

**6. Give a gift card.** Who doesn't love to eat! Give him a card of appreciation and include a gift card to go out to eat somewhere nice. This can make for a date night as well.

**7. Tell him to go away.** Ministers need time away to be refreshed and renewed. A Sunday school class or small group could give him (either by himself or with his wife or family) an opportunity to get away for a day or two to pray, retool or rest. A minister gets tired and needs a break. You can't imagine the pressure.

**8. Support him by serving.** There are countless ways to support your minister by just serving in your church. It's frustrating that most church members serve inconsistently, if at all. Don't just volunteer, but be a recruiter of volunteers.

**9. Speak the truth in love.** This does not give anyone the right to be rude. A minister will be more appreciative and open when he knows the speaker is motivated by godliness.

**10. Be a disciple.** The best thing you can do to support your minister is to be a part of the plan and process of becoming a disciple who thinks and acts like Christ. This makes you part of the solution in fulfilling the Great Commission.

---

*Gary Jennings (gary.jennings@lifeway.com) is a consultant in LifeWay's church partnerships area.*



# The Minister's Wife

**1. Support her ministry passion.** Do not assume your minister's wife WANTS to be a leader or member of your leadership team. Find out what her passion is for ministry and support her in it.

**2. Ask how you can pray for her and her family.** For a large staff, each month pray for a different minister and spouse. Find out specific requests and send a note of encouragement during that month.

**3. Remember special dates.** Send birthday and anniversary cards to your ministers and their family members.

**4. Let her be known as an individual.** Ask your minister's wife if she would be willing to share her story with your women at an event or small group. Let her know you want to get to know her personally, and you want the women in your church to know her, too.

**5. During staff appreciation times, do something special for the wives.** Provide them with a “pamper time” that could include manicures, pedicures, massages or facials.

**6. Do not complain to her about her husband!** If you have an issue to discuss, go directly to the minister you need to talk to.

**7. Give her a night off.** If she has young children, offer to take the kids so that she and her husband can have a night alone. Or, offer to keep them overnight so they can go out of town for a night or two.

**8. Let her serve.** If she loves to teach, ask if she would lead your next Bible study for a short period of time. If she's not a teacher, ask her to be a part of the study as a member.

**9. Buy her a great book.** Give her a copy of *In Our Shoes: Real Life Issues for Ministers' Wives*. This is a ministers' wives Bible study written by real life ministers' wives Jennifer Landrith and Rachel Lovingood. If you have more than one staff wife, give each one a copy so they can do the study together.

**10. Cut her some slack.** Remember, she is just like you ... a

busy woman who has a heart for God and is seeking how to grow and serve Him. She struggles with some of the same issues you do, but hers may be much more visible!

---

*Chris Adams (chris.adams@lifeway.com) is the senior lead women's ministry specialist at LifeWay.*



# The Minister's Husband

- 1. Don't think my wife works one day a week.** While Sunday is typically "game day" for ministers, the rest of the week is much busier. The worst question to ask me is "What does your wife do the rest of the week?"
- 2. Don't complain to me about my wife or her ministry.** If you have an issue, go to her. I'm not your emissary.
- 3. Keep me informed.** Communication differs from church to church, but don't assume she tells me everything. If you need to get a message to me, come to me, not my wife.
- 4. Encourage my wife.** When my wife is encouraged, I am encouraged. Ministers hear complaints nearly everyday, and it's hard for them not to take it personally. Words of encouragement can seem few and far between. Every exhortation makes a difference.
- 5. Keep conversations confidential.** If I confide information or a prayer need to you, please keep it close. Gossiping churches are not healthy churches.
- 6. Don't hold our kids to a higher standard.** Our kids will sometimes do dumb things just like your kids do. Extend the same grace toward them you would want to be shown toward your children.
- 7. Volunteer and serve.** If you are breathing, you are qualified to serve. A ministry can never have too many volunteers. I'm usually called on to fill the gaps in my wife's ministry. I can only fill so many gaps.
- 8. Respect our family time.** Unless it's an emergency, your call, email or text can wait until tomorrow.
- 9. Offer to keep the kids.** Ministry is hard on families. A random offer of childcare often provides a welcome respite from the hectic schedule ministry requires.
- 10. Pray for our marriage.** Ministry is not easy. Pray for our spiritual growth. Pray for our family. Pray for us.

---

*Jonathan Howe (jonathan.howe@lifeway.com) is married to Beth Howe, the minister to children and preschoolers at CrossPoint Church in Trussville, Ala. He is a social media facilitator with LifeWay.*



# The Minister's Teenager

- 1. Treat him like a normal teen.** Give the minister's kid room to breathe and just be a teen, rather than expecting him to have all the answers, behave a certain way or be an absolute rebel.
- 2. Give him room to doubt and question.** Give him room to deal with doubts and questions, while you strive to be a safe person he can trust as he struggles and grows in his faith.
- 3. Show up.** There may be times when your minister simply can't be at a game, play or other event in his teen's life because of ministry duties. Show up and cheer the teen on.
- 4. Pray.** Pray for your minister's teens like you would your own – that he would seek God as he faces temptations, encounters opportunities to follow Christ daily and confronts fears, doubts and questions.
- 5. Remember special days.** Know the important days in the teen's life and make them special. Try cards, care packages, phone calls and texts.
- 6. Include them.** Your minister's teen may not feel like he fits in anywhere in the church. Be the person who helps him feel less alienated, while also helping him find unique ways to serve.
- 7. Embrace his individuality.** Find out about his gifts, talents and passions. Encourage him to find ways to use those passions to bring glory to God.
- 8. Listen.** Make opportunities to really listen to him without expectation, judgment or pat answers. Be a safe person to talk to and respond in Christ-like love.
- 9. Be a mentor.** Find ways to come alongside him and walk through life with him, showing him what it means to follow Christ day-to-day.
- 10. Encourage your minister to spend time with his family.** Children of ministers may feel like they take second place to the church. Make sure your minister knows that the church honors and encourages his commitment to his family.



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*Mandy Crow (mandy.crow@lifeway.com) is editor of ec magazine for students.*

# The Minister's Kids

**1. Allow your minister to put his family first.** Nurturing and building relationships with family takes effort, energy and time. Your minister needs to know that he has permission to be the husband and parent God has called him to be. Allow him to set the standard for the rest of your church.

**2. Treat their dad with love and respect.** Most kids think their dad is the greatest! Their relationship with their dad is often the basis for their relationship with their heavenly Father. It's amazing how many ministers' kids become disillusioned with God because of the way the church treated their dad.

**3. Allow your minister's kids to be human.** The minister's kids are just like any other kids. They have good days and bad days. They enjoy some things more than others. They want to be treated like the rest of the group.

**4. Offer a helping hand.** Have you ever noticed that when your minister is at church he's pretty busy? Have you noticed that during worship your minister's kids might need some extra love? Offer to sit with your minister's family when he's not available.

**5. Offer to be adopted grandparents.** Every kid needs to be spoiled rotten by their grandparents, yet many of our ministers' kids live a long way from their extended family and don't get that opportunity. Consider adopting your minister's kids a couple times a year for some VIP treatment.

**6. Give gifts that include your minister's kids.** Ministers often receive gifts of appreciation during the year. Consider giving a family-inclusive gift like theme park passes, a zoo membership, gift cards to a local movie theater or tickets to special events in your community.

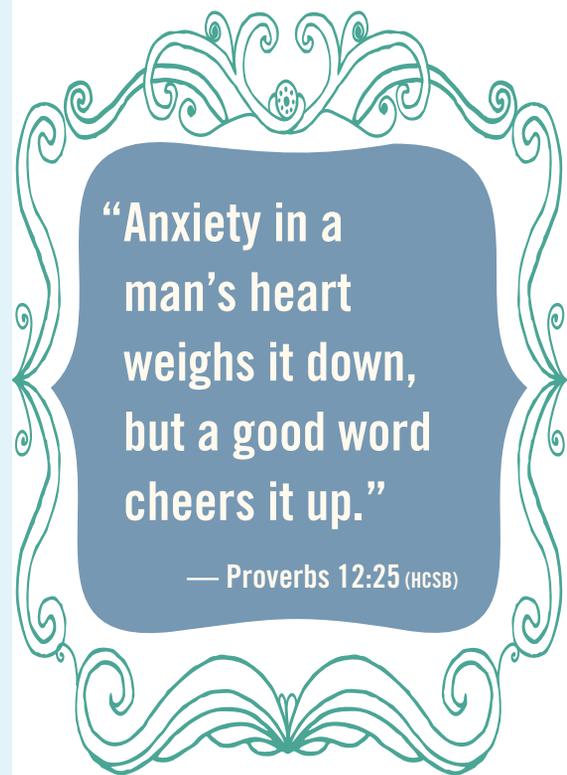
**7. Recognize the kids' sacrifice to the church.** On special occasions, celebrations, milestones and anniversaries, acknowledge the entire family's service and sacrifice. Kids often share their dad during evenings and weekends because of church ministries and needs. Recognize and appreciate their part in their dad's ministry.

**8. Talk with the kids about themselves.** Speak to the kids, not just the minister. Resist the urge to always bring up their dad and church stuff. Take the time to discover their interests and have conversations with them about them. Find ways to make them feel special.

**9. Take your minister and his family to lunch.** The next time you take your minister and his family for a meal, ask his kids to pick the restaurant.

**10. Make your minister's kids feel valued.** Look for opportunities to encourage, congratulate and dote over your minister's kids. Celebrate good grades, recitals, sports games and school achievements.

*Bill Emeott (bill.emeott@lifeway.com) is LifeWay's kids ministry specialist.*



## MORE

Books: *Raising Dad* by Thom and Art Rainer; *5 Love Languages* series of books by Gary Chapman. Gift idea for your ministers and spouses: a get away to a Festival of Marriage ([LifeWay.com/FOM](http://LifeWay.com/FOM))

# LifeWay releases 2013 VBS theme: **Colossal Coaster World**

by Polly House

**W**ho doesn't love a theme park? There's that excitement at the gate when you can hardly wait to see what's on the other side. And which ride calls the loudest? The biggest, tallest and loop-de-loopest roller coaster, of course!

LifeWay will use an amusement park theme for its 2013 Vacation Bible School material. Colossal Coaster World: Facing Fear, Trusting God will be built around the Scripture, "For God has not given us a spirit of fearfulness, but one of power, love, and sound judgment" (2 Timothy 1:7; HCSB).

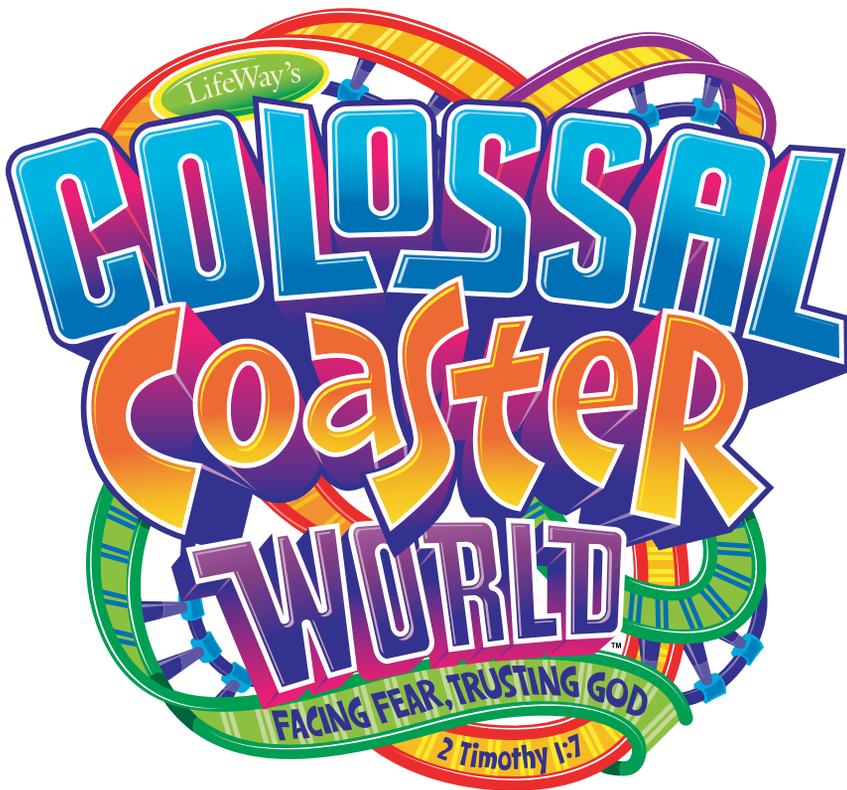
"Professions of faith made during Vacation Bible School consistently equal about 25 percent of the number of baptisms in the Southern Baptist Convention," said Jerry Wooley, LifeWay's VBS specialist.

Nearly 3 million children, youth and adults register for VBS at more than 25,000 Southern Baptist churches each year and report nearly 90,000 professions of faith in Christ.

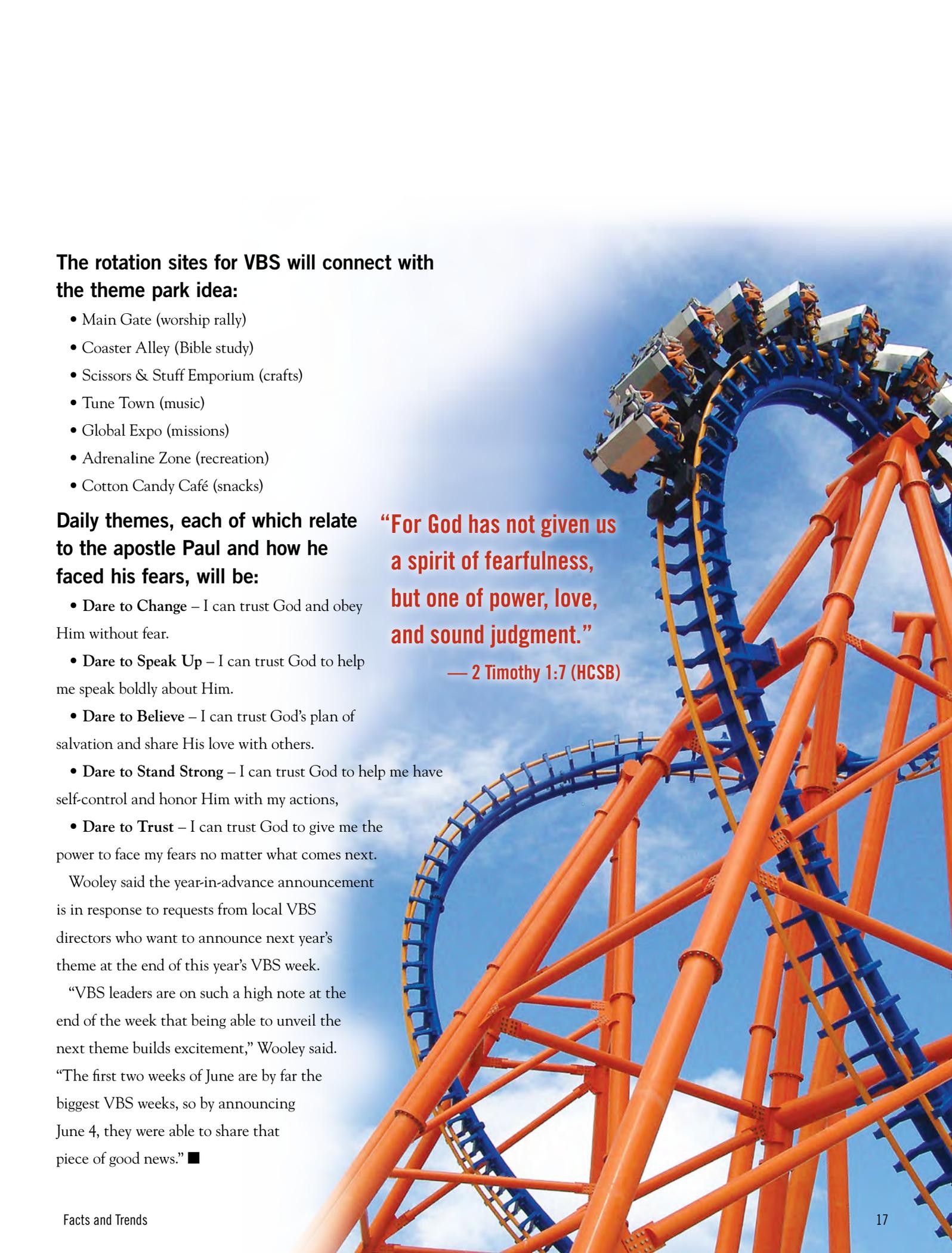
In the 2013 VBS theme-park world, participants will be challenged to tap into God's promise to give them the courage to face their fears by trusting Him. Whether this sense of fearfulness comes from changing the familiar to the unfamiliar, speaking up when it's the right thing to do or making the ultimate decision to follow Jesus and trust Him as Savior, they will learn they can trust God for the spirit of power, love and sound judgment.

"We have had great confirmation from children's ministers about next year's theme," said Wooley. "They have said this theme will appeal to kids whether they've visited a amusement park or not."

Wooley said the focus on trusting God when facing fear will also resound with kids. "They have a lot to be afraid of these days, but we want them to learn that whatever it is that scares them, they can trust God to be with them and help them be brave. This is an important lesson."



Follow @LifeWayKids for the latest in kid's ministry. Visit [LifeWay.com/VBS](http://LifeWay.com/VBS) and [Facebook.com/LifeWayVBS](https://www.facebook.com/LifeWayVBS) for more information.



## The rotation sites for VBS will connect with the theme park idea:

- Main Gate (worship rally)
- Coaster Alley (Bible study)
- Scissors & Stuff Emporium (crafts)
- Tune Town (music)
- Global Expo (missions)
- Adrenaline Zone (recreation)
- Cotton Candy Café (snacks)

## Daily themes, each of which relate to the apostle Paul and how he faced his fears, will be:

- **Dare to Change** – I can trust God and obey Him without fear.
- **Dare to Speak Up** – I can trust God to help me speak boldly about Him.
- **Dare to Believe** – I can trust God’s plan of salvation and share His love with others.
- **Dare to Stand Strong** – I can trust God to help me have self-control and honor Him with my actions,
- **Dare to Trust** – I can trust God to give me the power to face my fears no matter what comes next.

Wooley said the year-in-advance announcement is in response to requests from local VBS directors who want to announce next year’s theme at the end of this year’s VBS week.

“VBS leaders are on such a high note at the end of the week that being able to unveil the next theme builds excitement,” Wooley said. “The first two weeks of June are by far the biggest VBS weeks, so by announcing June 4, they were able to share that piece of good news.” ■

**“For God has not given us a spirit of fearfulness, but one of power, love, and sound judgment.”**

— 2 Timothy 1:7 (HCSB)

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# Jamie Grace, new songwriters team up for LifeWay's 2013 VBS

by Staff

**T**he five new songs for LifeWay's VBS 2013 theme, *Colossal Coaster World: Facing Fear, Trusting God*, were written and will be performed by a new creative team.

Dove Award-winning artist Jamie Grace will sing three of the five songs to help teach Bible truths to the next generation.

Grace, 20, from Atlanta, won the Dove Award for New Artist of the Year after the smash hit, "Hold Me," released last year.

Growing up in church and attending VBS, Grace credits the evangelism outreach as a formidable time in her faith. She said LifeWay's VBS gave her "some of the best summers of my life – filled with moments that encouraged me and have made me want to give back."

"We are thrilled to have Jamie Grace adding not only her award-winning talent, but her passion and love for VBS to our project," said Jerry Wooley, LifeWay's VBS specialist.

Also joining the creative team are songwriters Paul Marino and Jeremy Johnson.

"For more than 20 years, Paul has been quietly making a name for himself in music," said Wooley. "His expertise and experience makes him one of the top consultants in the areas of producing,



Jamie Grace

writing, publishing, leading worship and concert performance."

As a songwriter, Marino has penned many chart-topping hits, including 16 top ten national radio singles. He wrote the theme song for the movie *Road to Redemption*, produced by Billy Graham's World Wide Pictures.

While Marino isn't an employee at LifeWay, he has been crafting songs for LifeWay Worship since 2004. He was named LifeWay songwriter of the year for 2010 and 2011.

As a performer, Marino has sung with the vocal trio, River, for 20 years, serving as the group's producer, vocalist and primary songwriter. River has performed more than 1,500 concerts around the world and amassed numerous top 10 national radio hits.

Originally from Shreveport, La., Jeremy

Johnson moved to Nashville in 1994 to attend Belmont University. He signed an exclusive publishing contract with LifeWay in 2004 when his songs gained the attention of producer/songwriter Greg Nelson.

"While he isn't a LifeWay employee either, Jeremy is a full-time songwriter for LifeWay Worship Music Group," said Wooley.

Since signing with LifeWay, his songs have been recorded by Steve Green, Michael W. Smith, Elliott Yamin (American Idol finalist), Brian Free and Assurance. His music has been featured in more than 200 choral and print projects.

Three of Johnson's songs were included in the 2008 Baptist Hymnal. ■

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*Samples of the VBS music can be heard at [LifeWay.com/vbs2013](http://LifeWay.com/vbs2013). Visit LifeWay's VBS blog to learn more about the theme, craft ideas and other VBS enthusiasts.*

# Enter LifeWay's blogosphere



**L**ifeWay offers many options for you to hear what leaders are saying about their areas of ministry expertise. Not only will you learn something, you will probably find yourself entertained as well.

## Blogs are offered for these areas:

**B&H:** B&H Publishing Group updates this blog daily with giveaways, author spotlights and special guest articles.

**CentriKid Camps:** This is your place for all things CentriKid Camps. In addition to big camp announcements, the buzz on new and upcoming projects and tons of other behind-the-scenes info, you can also find great ministry resources for your children's ministry including game ideas, practical ministry helps and leadership tips.

**Digital Church:** Stay up to date on all things in the cloud with the Digital Church blog. You'll find great resources pertaining to church management and administration, eGiving and stewardship, properly managing your Web presence, safeguarding your children's ministries, updates on new product releases, contests and more to help you become more effective in your ministry.

**EdStetzer.com:** Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research, writes and speaks on theology, being missional, church planting, church revitalization and church innovation.

**EricGeiger.com:** This is the blog of Eric Geiger, vice president of LifeWay's church resources division.

**FLYTE:** Stay informed on all things facing preteens today. From product updates to theological questions and entertaining features like music features and contests, the FLYTE blog is a great place to help build your preteen ministry.

**Growing Disciples:** Join LifeWay's discipleship specialist Claude King in his discussion about growing disciples.

**HomeLife Magazine:** Here is an online meeting place for HomeLife readers. Look for a monthly family devotional guide, more insight from our experts, the occasional behind-the-scenes look into how HomeLife is planned and free giveaways.

**Inside Girls' Ministry:** This site is dedicated to the needs, issues and development of preteen and teen girls and those who care about them. It features discussion of trends and issues facing girls, spiritual formation and nourishment, ministry ideas, resources for girls and other topics relevant to girls' leaders and parents.

**Kids Ministry 101:** This blog offers an in-depth look at ministering to kids through topics like leadership, evangelism and training, as well as info on resources, events and other fun ideas to keep your kids ministry exciting.

**LifeWay Prospect Services:** Find out how to reach your community with a mailing list and customized direct mail postcards. This is a great way to connect with families in your community and share what God is doing in your church.

**LifeWay VBS:** Be in the know with the VBS Blog. Get to know the people who create the VBS you love. Participate in giveaways, share your VBS photos and success stories and keep up with all that's happening behind the scenes as LifeWay's next exciting VBS is developed.

**LifeWay Women All Access:** This blog is a behind-the-scenes community where you'll find all the latest info on LifeWay Women products and events. Join them for free giveaways, devotions, videos and even the occasional recipe.

**Ridgecrest Camps – Just for Parents:** Ridgecrest Summer Camps strives to partner with parents. Relevant articles, interesting books and conversation starters help parents navigate challenging topics with their kids or simply do their

Go to [LifeWay.com](http://LifeWay.com) and click on the Learn and Engage tab, then on LifeWay Blogs to access these blogs.



best to stay connected to their teen. Updated weekly, this blog is an excellent resource for any parent.

**Ridgecrest Camps for Boys:** Funny videos, cool pictures of Camp in the winter months, relevant weekly devotions and even fun games ... the Camp Ridgecrest Blog help keep new and returning campers and staff connected to their favorite place to be each summer.

**Ridgecrest Camps for Girls:** From weekly devotions to camp news, we want to keep our campers, parents and staff connected to camp. Check out the blog to find the most up-to-date information on Camp Crestridge.

**Ridgecrest Conference Center:** Keep up-to-date with the Ridgecrest Blog for news and events and how you can plan your

next conference or reunion at Ridgecrest.

**Threads:** Get the inside information for what's going on with young adults and the threadmedia team.

**Thom Rainer:** This is the official blog of LifeWay President and CEO Thom Rainer. He writes about Great Commission, church health, leadership, social media, technology and family.

**True Love Waits:** Follow @TrueLoveWaits for the latest stats, studies, and pressures facing teens today in order to help them make a commitment to sexual abstinence until marriage.

**Women Reaching Women:** Here is a leadership community to inspire, equip and challenge you as a women's leader. Watch for practical ideas and spiritual insights to encourage you as you encourage other women. ■

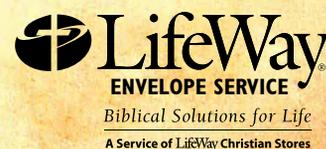


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## Blogs

**I**t has not been that long ago the words “blog” and “blogging” entered the English language. In fact, blogs were around as social media before Twitter or Facebook stormed onto the scene. Blogs (web logs) are Internet journals consisting of independent entries called “posts.” Some blogs gravitate toward photo displays (photoblogs), self-made video content (vlogs) and audio production (podcasts). Blogs are limited only by the interest of the blogger. Early blogs appeared in the mid-1990s. Now there are more than 150 million public blogs online.

Although many blogs begin with a blaze of glory, a significant number fall on hard times as the owner loses interest in what can become a time consuming endeavor. However, for those who decide to persevere there is much reward.

Many blogging pastors write devotionals daily and post them on their blog. This provides another tool for their people to remain engaged

with God’s word daily. Others write about leadership or ministry experiences that would help other pastors or church leaders.

Blogs are a great way to engage culture.

Commenting on current events, the arts, music or your

local community through the lens of the gospel brings truth to people who might not come to your church. What you may find as you blog is the people you engage might not be in your community, your state or even the United States. People from all over the world can find your blog, read it and comment if they wish.

When you blog, the content of your posts is reviewed by search engines (Google, Bing, Yahoo, etc.) and “indexed” for fast and accurate retrieval of the information on it. Then, when people search the Internet for things you previously have written about, your blog will be included in search results. The more often your blog is accessed, the higher in the search results your content will appear. This means more and more people will access your content more quickly. Your influence for truth will extend farther than you can imagine.

You can blog free at several places online. Wordpress.com, Blogger.com, and Tumblr.com are three places you can start. If you are not sure exactly how to go about it, almost any teenager in your church (or your own teen) can show you how. Start posting once or twice a week, then find a level where you are comfortable and does not cause time issues for you. Let people know you have started your blog, then respond when people comment on things you have written. It will not take long before you see fruit from your labor.

*Marty Duren is LifeWay’s social media strategist. He can be reached at [marty.duren@lifeway.com](mailto:marty.duren@lifeway.com).*



### *To get started try these sites:*

- [Wordpress.com](http://Wordpress.com)
- [Blogger.com](http://Blogger.com)
- [Tumblr.com](http://Tumblr.com)

### *Some of Marty Duren’s recommended blogs:*

- Ed Stetzer: The LifeWay Research Blog ([EdStetzer.com](http://EdStetzer.com))
- Thom Rainer’s blog ([ThomRainer.com](http://ThomRainer.com))
- Kingdom People ([TrevinWax.com](http://TrevinWax.com))
- Kingdom in the Midst ([MartyDuren.com](http://MartyDuren.com))

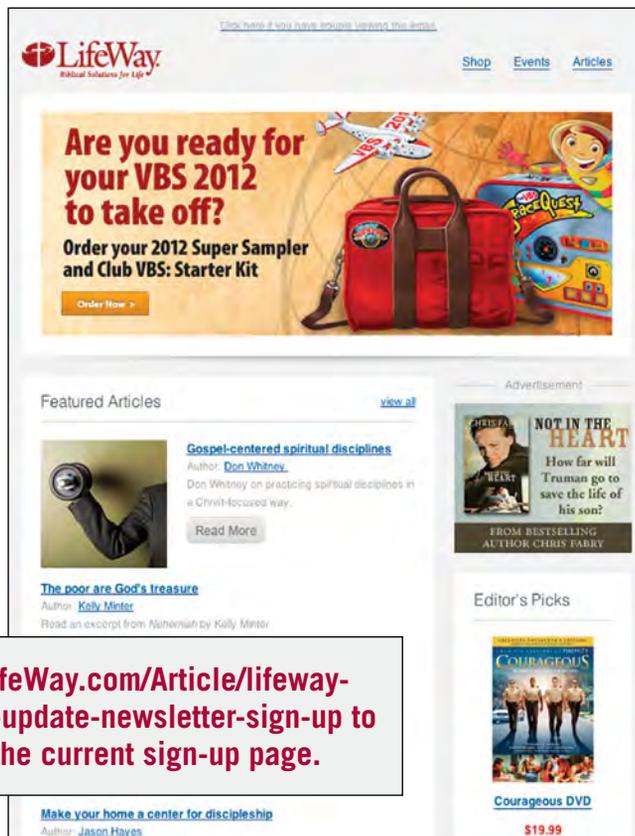
# Free weekly e-newsletter offered by LifeWay.com

**T**he LifeWay.com team has launched a new e-newsletter highlighting LifeWay's weekly home page content to more than 30,000 initial subscribers.

*LifeWay.com Weekly Update* features the latest online information and offerings from LifeWay. Delivered directly to your in-box, the *LifeWay.com Weekly Update* offers practical solutions to ministry challenges and opportunities, while empowering readers to effectively serve their churches, families and communities.

Each edition features articles on Christian living and ministry topics, Bible study and book releases, events and training opportunities and even offers a place for online community discussions.

The newsletter is designed to inform and remind subscribers of the weekly home page content and encourage individuals to check out the website every week. ■



**Go to [LifeWay.com/Article/lifeway-weekly-update-newsletter-sign-up-to-link-to-the-current-sign-up-page](http://LifeWay.com/Article/lifeway-weekly-update-newsletter-sign-up-to-link-to-the-current-sign-up-page).**

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# MORE THAN A FACELIFT

*New construction will give a new face  
to Franklin Avenue Baptist Church*

by Polly House



**N**ew Orleans is once more a grand lady putting on her make-up and dressing up for company.

New construction continues to make the city more livable and bring a new prosperity to the area.

Franklin Avenue Baptist Church and LifeWay Architecture have collaborated to make a big impact with a new church building project, set to break ground in the spring of 2013.

Gary Nicholson, director of LifeWay Architecture and a graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, was working with the church to design a new building in 2005 when Katrina hit. He and FABC Pastor Fred Luter have spent much time together in the seven years since Katrina talking about the needs of the church, which was devastated with eight feet of water after the hurricane.



*Top: Artist's rendering of construction plans for  
Franklin Avenue Baptist Church*

*Directly above: Aerial view from Sept. 15, 2005,  
of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church inundated by  
floodwaters from levees broken during Hurricane  
Katrina. Photo by Norm Miller*

Nicholson served as a consultant to the church to help them make decisions about how to get back to a habitable state. They restored their location in the 8th Ward, not knowing if many in the congregation would ever return after being flooded out of their homes.

Today, the church has once again outgrown its building and its landlocked location, so LifeWay Architecture has again been invited to help. This time, LifeWay Architecture is designing a brand new facility for the church on property in New Orleans East, a few miles away from its current location.

Luter learned more about LifeWay Architecture during his tenure as a LifeWay trustee and developed a greater appreciation for the skills the team brought to the table.

“When they [FABC] decided to do this new construction, they asked us to take the project from ‘soup to nuts’ for them,” Nicholson said.

LifeWay Architecture has provided a master plan for the new site, based on a series of conversations and site visits to New Orleans. A construction company will do the actual building, but LifeWay’s architects will remain as the architect of record for the entire project.

Nicholson said LifeWay Architecture has worked with as many as 110 churches in a year in an advisory capacity, but the number has been far less in the past few years.

“The economy has been a big factor in the number of churches we work with,” he said. “Churches are still building and redesigning space, but they have been more hesitant to start large projects given the economy. However, that trend seems to have begun reversing itself in recent months.”

He said one reason churches that are looking to build or redesign space are eager to work with LifeWay Architecture has to do with the value LifeWay brings to the project.

“In addition to our experience and knowledge of church design, with LifeWay a church gets a bottom line fee,” he said. “We quote the church a fixed fee for our services. After we



*Interior rendering of FABC*

**“We want to help the churches be attractive and highly functional so they can better serve the communities they have been called to reach.”**

**– Gary Nicholson**

define the cost of the project, we set our fee and that doesn’t change. With most architects, fees are based on a percentage of the construction cost and their fee will rise as the job cost rises. So their initial quote often won’t be the fee a church has to pay by the time the job is over.”

LifeWay Architecture starts with an on-site consultation. This is usually a two-day intensive study at the church to determine what, how and when they need to build.

“The cost of this consultation will vary,” Nicholson said.

“We are always honored when we get to work with a church on their facility needs,” Nicholson said. “We want to help the churches be attractive and highly functional so they can better serve the communities they have been called to reach.” ■

# B&H technology targets enhanced customer experiences

by Jon D. Wilke

**“B&H’s top concerns are spreading the Good News of Christ and discipling the church.”**

– Aaron Linne

**A**t a glance it would be easy to confuse B&H Publishing Group for a technology firm. With more than 50 mobile applications, 750 e-books and an online Bible study website, B&H is clearly a technology leader in the religious publishing industry.

“B&H’s top concerns are spreading the Good News of Christ and discipling the church,” said Aaron Linne, executive producer of digital marketing for B&H. “Leaders here at B&H and LifeWay understand the value in developing new technology that furthers the reach of the gospel.”

Paul Mikos, B&H’s executive editor of digital publishing, agreed, saying, “The investments we’re making in technology are good for LifeWay, but they are really great for the Kingdom of God.”

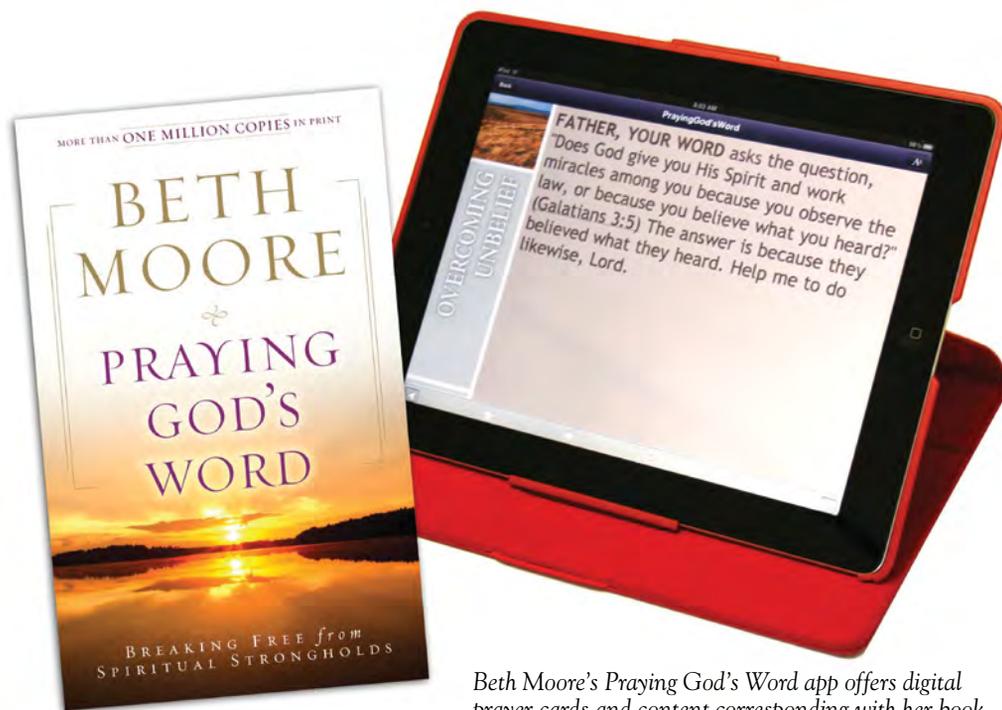
B&H has three main distribution channels for technology: apps, e-readers and websites.

## Popular B&H apps

One of B&H’s first investments in mobile technology was an app called Love Dare: 40 Dares. This simple checklist gave 40 dares to fans of *The Love Dare* book and Fireproof movie, designed to strengthen marriages through devotional readings, prayers and conversation starters.

To date, the most popular app has been Beth Moore’s Praying God’s Word app which offers digital prayer cards and content corresponding with her book of the same name.

B&H currently has apps for Apple, Android, Xbox and Windows 7 with more in various stages of development.



*Beth Moore’s Praying God’s Word app offers digital prayer cards and content corresponding with her book of the same name.*

## Growth in e-reading

Growing e-book reading trends also mean B&H must continue to meet shifting customer expectations.

According to the Reading Habits Survey released by Pew Internet and American Life Project in early April, 21 percent of Americans have read an e-book in the past year. The Pew Research Center findings reveal the growth in e-reading, the public's consumption of books, as well as people's attitudes about the changing ways books are made available to the public.

For example, the average e-book user reads 24 titles a year compared to 15 for paper bound readers. The study also found people prefer e-books while travelling, commuting and reading in bed.

"This research and the steady stream of new devices means people potentially have books in their pockets at all times," said Linne. "People can choose to carry a few physical books or their entire digital library. The very nature of media is changing and becoming more interactive.

"A book is becoming about more than the content – it's also the experience," he said. "As iPads and browsers and e-readers enable publishers to do more than put content on the screen, the entire idea of *reading* a book disappears and it becomes *experiencing* a book."

## Social reading

"Before the printing press, reading was experienced by the masses in large, social settings and gatherings," Linne noted. "But now, our current print culture calls for us to put our noses down and have an individual or personal experience. With today's technology and interconnectedness, books are poised to become social again."

It is thoughts like these that keep B&H's technology team buzzing with ideas.

"We've been exploring more with 'enhanced books,'" said Mikos. "E-books are still being defined."

For example, he said, social sharing is what B&H developers had in mind with the release of the Pure Enjoyment: Discussion Presenter app.

Small groups leaders will be able to share a pre-written book presentation from their device with group members through this free app. Presentations are built upon a book's content to draw readers into a deeper spiritual discovery. Content can come in many forms such as author videos, discussion questions and Bible passages.

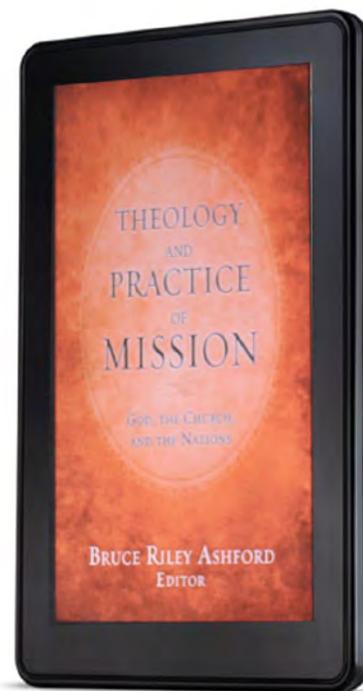
So far, B&H has created free downloadable presentations for several titles, including *Rooms* by Jim Rubart and *Over the Edge* by Brandilyn Collins.

## Outside the cover

"Right now, a book's content is contained inside the covers. Even a reference Bible's footnotes don't take the reader outside that book," said Linne.

That's why B&H launched MyStudyBible.com, allowing users to study the Bible in-depth using reference materials such as commentaries, maps, dictionaries and more than 500 other Bible-related titles all on one website.

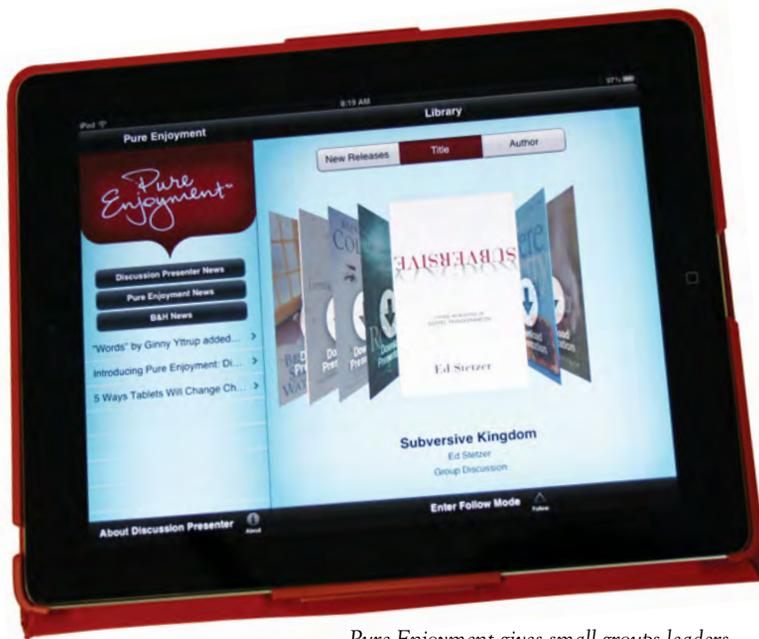
Recent updates included linking 1,500 video commentaries to Scripture and introducing a radical new model that lets users buy access to content on an as-needed basis with three time



Kindle e-reader



To watch a video interview with Aaron Linne, go to [Youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com), search for Aaron Linne and click on Every Word Matters. Find the Pew Forum research at [Libraries.pewinternet.org/2012/04/04/the-rise-of-e-reading](https://www.libraries.pewinternet.org/2012/04/04/the-rise-of-e-reading).



*Pure Enjoyment gives small groups leaders pre-written book presentations and tools to facilitate discussions.*

frames – 24 hours, 30 days or unlimited.

Mikos said MyStudyBible.com is popular among pastors and church leaders.

“People don’t have to spend \$400 for commentary sets or Bible software. They can dive as deep as they need when they need for as long as they need,” said Mikos.

### Problem-solving technology

“Every new piece of technology we release needs to solve a

reader’s problem,” said Linne. “We try to deliver the right thing to the reader. That starts by listening.”

“You have to put yourself in the mind of the customer,” Mikos said. “Being customer-centric is essential to being successful, which is much easier to say than do.”

According to Mikos, developing new ideas from a customer perspective is imperative because “technology is getting to the point where nearly anything is possible. It’s more a question of if it’s worth it.”

“We have to be careful to not overdevelop an idea,” Linne said. “Apps can have the coolest features, but if readers don’t want them, it’s a waste of time and effort.”

“B&H has great authors and great content, and we are convicted about the message,” said Linne. “If we decide to withhold technology from the world, we may be stealing someone’s opportunity to hear a life-changing message.” ■

# LifeWay Church Interiors

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# LifeWay now fits in your pocket

by Jon D. Wilke

**C**ustomers of LifeWay Christian Resources can now purchase the latest Christian book or Bible study, learn about upcoming events or read ministry articles on their mobile devices through the recently launched LifeWay.com mobile site.

“This mobile-optimized site was designed to help customers find the information they are looking for when, where and how they are looking for it,” said Dave Thoma, director of eCommerce and LifeWay.com.

Thoma said the mobile experience is a reflection of the full version of the site specifically built after studying customers’ mobile patterns and preferences.

“User activity on smartphones differs substantially over PC or tablet usage as a result of the smaller screen size,” said Thoma. “We took this feedback and made it very easy for them to find articles and products on the mobile site.”

To help users find the right resource, a drop-down menu is located at the top of the site. Customers can shop by categories such as “Bible studies” or “camps” or by roles such as “church leadership” or “home and family.” This top navigation bar also hosts the site’s search menu, shopping cart and store locator.

If users activate “location services” on their phones and click on the store locator option, the site automatically will display the closest LifeWay Christian Store to their location.

Current customers can login to their LifeWay accounts at the bottom of the site or – within a few clicks – a new user can register for a free account.

According to Thoma, when people log in using their mobile devices, the site automatically displays the right-sized graphics and text.

Thoma said his team had great challenges due to the diverse backgrounds of LifeWay’s customer base.

“Some customers know LifeWay only as a bookstore,” said Thoma. “But many church leaders know LifeWay as more of

a church resource provider for Vacation Bible School, Sunday school curriculum and Bible studies, so LifeWay has a chorus of ministry voices and subject matter experts.

“We had to balance these two main audiences with the vast number of content articles and media-rich resources available on our full site and deliver a similar, excellent experience,” he added.

Thoma said his team “loves to serve our customers online. They offer helpful feedback on how to make their experience better and are pleasant to work with. We hope we can continue to adapt our mobile experience to match the evolving needs of our customers no matter where they are.” ■

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To see the new mobile site, visit [LifeWay.com](http://LifeWay.com) on your mobile device.



# NEW RESOURCES

Order online at [LifeWay.com](http://LifeWay.com) or call (800) 458-2772

## B&H PUBLISHERS

### *The Lion and the Lamb*

by Andreas J. Köstenberger, L. Scott Kellum and Charles L. Quarles

This concise summary of *The Cradle, the Cross, and the Crown* covers each New Testament book's key facts, historical setting, literary features and theological message. Releases in July.

Product #9781433677083. Hardback. \$39.99

### *A Plain Death*

by Amanda Flower

The first novel in the Applesed Creek mystery series features a computer whiz turned amateur sleuth who finds herself trying to solve a murder against the backdrop of Ohio's Amish country. Releases in July.

Product #9781433676970. Paperback. \$14.99

### *Hide and Seek*

by Jeff Struecker and Alton Gansky

A U.S. Foreign Affairs officer witnesses an abduction attempt that puts her on the run and in need of a Special Ops rescue, in this novel written by a military veteran Jeff Struecker and award-winning Christian fiction author Alton Gansky. Releases in July.

Product #9781433671425. Paperback. \$14.99

### *Beauty to Die For*

by Kim Alexis and Mindy Starns Clark

In the first book in the Spa Mystery series, a former supermodel turned Christian entrepreneur finds herself a prime suspect when her spa products seem to be connected with a patron's death. Releases in August.

Product #9781433672934. Paperback. \$14.99

### *The Forgiven Duke*

by Jamie Carie

A young girl searching for her parents finds God's plan for her life in this Regency-era, Forgotten

Castles Novel series. The second book in the series, *A Duke's Promise*, is due in September. Releases in July.

Product #9781433673238 (book one). Paperback. \$14.99; Product #9781433673245 (book two). Paperback. \$14.99

### *Chasing the Wind*

by Pamela Binnings Ewen

When a female lawyer's life collides with a young Cambodian refugee and a resort casino builder, she discovers an important spiritual lesson about responsibility for both action as well as inaction. Releases in August.

Product #9780805464313. Paperback. \$14.99

### *The Essence of the Old Testament*

edited by Ed Hindson and Gary Yates

A team of leading biblical scholars provides a practical and insightful introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures in canonical order. Releases in August.

Product #9781433677076. Hardback. \$44.99

### *The Essence of the New Testament*

edited by Elmer Towns and Ben Gutierrez

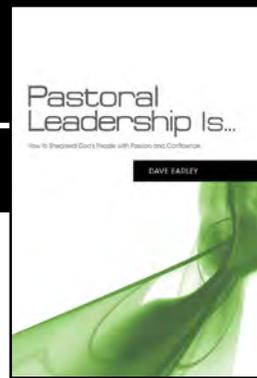
This is an illustrated, full color volume that surveys the books Matthew to Revelation, including book introductions, background studies, outlines, theological concepts, practical applications, study questions and word studies. Releases in September.

Product #9781433677052. Hardback. \$44.99

### *Pastoral Leadership Is ...*

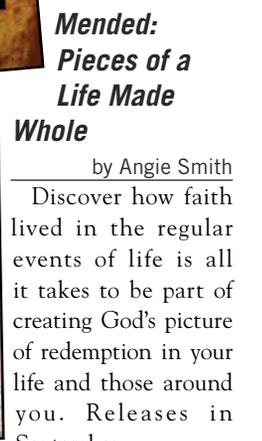
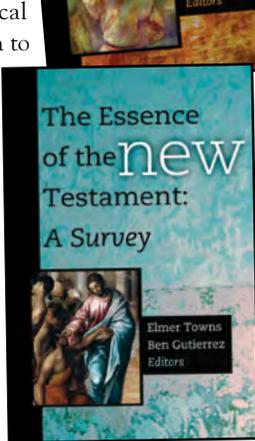
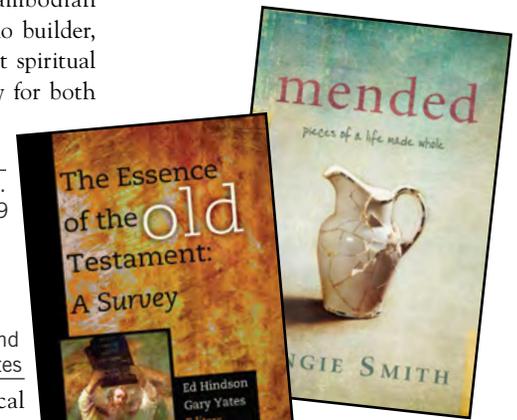
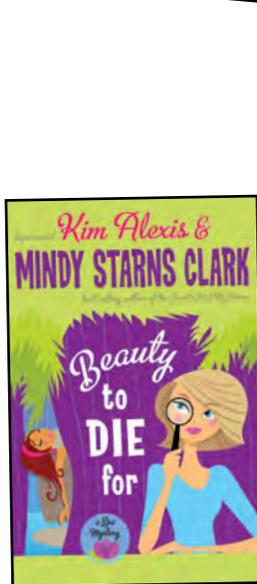
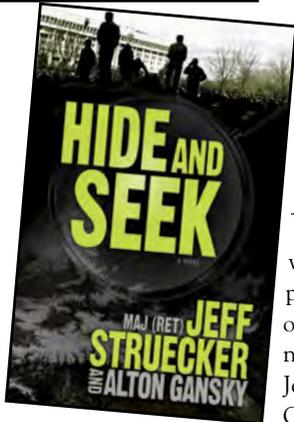
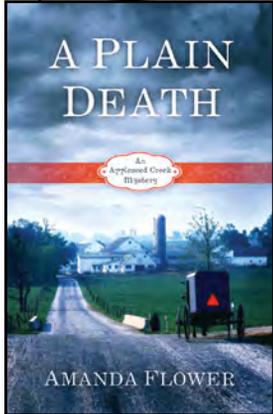
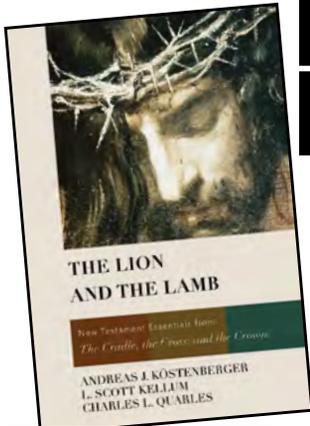
by Dave Earley

Here is a practical, Bible-based, readable guide to leading the local church that follows the



directions God gave to Moses in order to effectively shepherd Israel: pray, teach and preach, lead and multiply. Releases in August.

Product #9781433673849. Paperback. \$24.99



Product #9781433676604. Paperback. \$14.99

### *To Write a Wrong: A Justice Seekers Novel*

by Robin Caroll

An eager reporter, a wrongly incarcerated man, his struggling daughter and a harried police commissioner find themselves trying to understand why God would let bad things happen to good people. Releases in September.

Product #9781433672132. Paperback. \$14.99

## Courageous Teens

by Michael Catt and Amy Parker

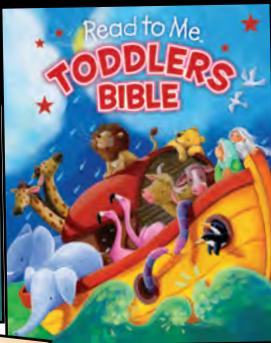
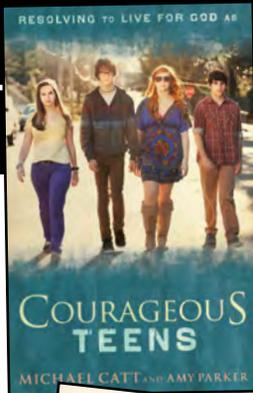
A student-focused presentation of *Courageous Living* that inspires teens to resolve to live for God as they study what it means to have courageous faith, courageous leadership, courageous priorities and courageous influence. Releases in September.

Product #9781433679063.  
Paperback. \$9.99

## October Baby

by Eric Wilson

A novelization of the film *October Baby*, this is the inspiring story of a college student who



learns she is adopted and also the survivor of a failed abortion attempt. It includes powerful themes of hope, love and forgiveness. Releases in September.

Product #9781433678479.  
Paperback. \$14.99

## Read to Me Toddlers Bible

This padded hardback book for children comes with a carrying handle and features 20 Bible

stories from creation to the life of Jesus. This is also available in Spanish. Releases in September.

Product #9781433679247.  
Hardback. \$14.99

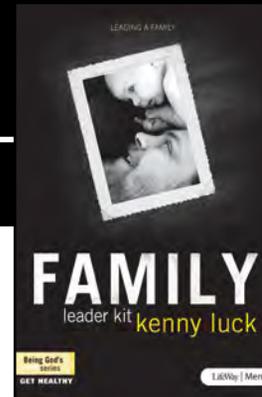
## CHURCH RESOURCES

### Family: Leading a Family

by Kenny Luck

More than ever, families are desperate for spiritual leadership from their husbands and fathers. This study will help men accept their calling to their families through discussion of topics such as taking ownership of their own spiritual journey, modeling a relationship with God, and fostering spiritual connections in the home. (8 sessions) LifeWay.com/LeadingaFamily. Releases in July.

Workbook, Product #005469699,



\$8.95; DVD leader kit, Product #005469698, \$19.95.

### The Greatest Week in History: Luke's Account of the Passion Week

by Timothy Paul Jones and John McClendon

January Bible Study has featured several studies from the gospels through the years. This study will be the first in the 66-year history of JBS that focuses on Christ's final week. Those seven days serve as the foundation for both the character and substance of Christianity. This study's purpose is to call people back to the cross and the events leading up to His resurrection. (7 sessions) LifeWay.com/JBS. Released in May.

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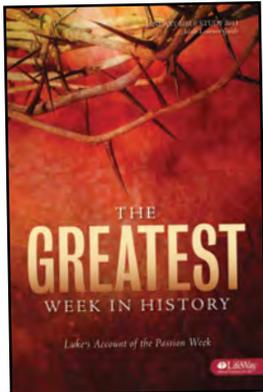
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# NEW RESOURCES

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Learner guide, Product #005367720, \$6.95; Leader guide with CD-ROM, Product #005371578, \$12.95

## ***Sleeping Giant: Men's Ministry in a Box*** by Kenny Luck

Looking to launch a viable men's ministry? This proven model moves men along an intentional spiritual pathway from affiliated with the church to activated in the church. The experience begins with a core team chosen by the pastor, which becomes a leadership engine that drives his vision and creates a multiplying effect that spills over into the rest of the church and the community. (6 sessions) [LifeWay.com/SleepingGiant](http://LifeWay.com/SleepingGiant). Released in May.

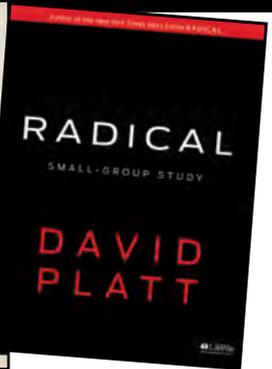
Core team workbook, Product #005469853, \$10.95; DVD leader kit, Product #005469852, \$79.95

## ***The Gospel Project for Adults***

edited by Ed Stetzer and Trevin Wax

This new ongoing curriculum is a Christ-centered Bible study resource that deeply examines the grand narrative of Scripture and how it transforms the lives of those it touches. Every session immerses participants in the gospel through every story, theological concept, and missional charge from Genesis to Revelation. Also available for students and kids. (13 sessions) [GospelProject.com](http://GospelProject.com). Releases in September.

Personal study guide, Product #005461524, \$3.95; Leader guide, Product #005438061, \$6.95



## ***Radical: Small-group Study***

by David Platt

Combining the messages of the *Radical* and *Radical Together* books, this resource will help your congregation discover what could happen if the message of *Radical* were lived out by every member of your church. It challenges individuals to discover a true biblical worldview that dramatically affects their daily lives, while guiding church leaders through an evaluation process of their church

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structure, programming, budget, etc. (6 sessions) LifeWay.com/Radical. Releases in June.

Member book, Product #005471378, \$11.95; DVD leader kit, Product #005471377, \$49.95

**Explicit Gospel**

by Matt Chandler

The gospel changes everything. Yet too few people attending church today are exposed to the gospel explicitly. In an explanation that embraces the whole of Scripture, Matt Chandler defines what the gospel is – and what it is not. This is a call to true Christianity, to know the gospel explicitly, and to unite the church on the amazing grounds of the Good News of Jesus. (6 sessions) LifeWay.com/ExplicitGospel. Released in May.

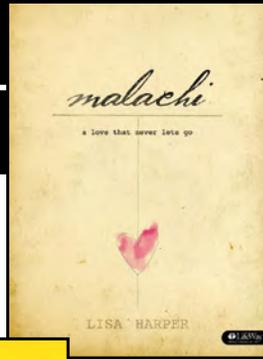
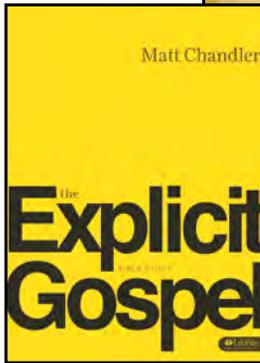
Member book, Product #005500792, \$11.95; DVD leader kit, Product #005500793, \$79.95

**Transformational Discipleship DVD**

by Eric Geiger, Michael Kelley and Philip Nation

This resource introduces church staff members, church leadership teams, and small groups to the content found in the B&H book *Transformational Discipleship*. In the past, discipleship focused on knowledge and behavioral modification. But true spiritual transformation is the result of Christ-centered discipleship. Discover the factors at work in the lives of believers who are progressing in spiritual maturity. (4 sessions) Releases in June.

Product #005471381, \$29.95



**Malachi: A Love That Never Lets Go**

by Lisa Harper

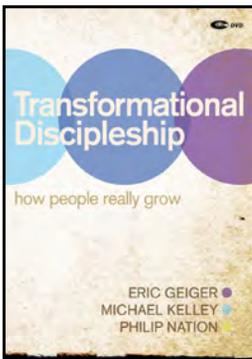
This video Bible study – Lisa Harper’s first with LifeWay – focuses on God’s mercy. On our worst day, God doesn’t walk away from us. And His love for us is not determined by our performance. No matter how many times we mess up, God loves (and never leaves) broken people. “I the LORD do not change” Malachi 3:6. (8 sessions) LifeWay.com/LisaHarper. Releases in June.

Member book, Product #005474743, \$12.95; DVD leader kit, Product #005474742, \$149.95

**More Living**

This new magazine for adults 46-64 encourages Boomers to accomplish great things for God; embrace the opportunity to go to a lost world for Christ’s sake; mentor younger generations; and so much ... more. In every issue, this 78-million-strong, youthful generation will find applicable, authentic information and wisdom to help them make the most out of this wonderful season of life. LifeWay.com/MoreLiving. Releases in September.

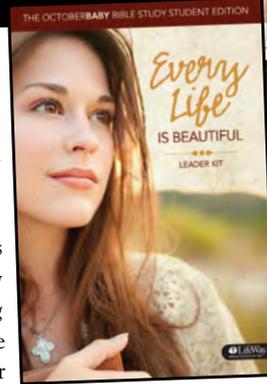
Product #005490044, \$4.80 (bulk rate; includes 3 monthly issues)



**Every Life is Beautiful Student Edition**

This four-week Bible study takes participants through a journey of overarching themes from the movie *October Baby*. Through movie scenes, Bible study and group discussion questions, students will dig deep into the power of secrets, forgiveness, who they are in Christ and restoration. This uplifting film paired with this heart-hitting study will change the way teens look at the world, their families and life. (4 sessions)

Leader kit, Product #005512172, \$19.95; Member book, Product #005488879, \$6.95



**Wholly Kids**

Helping leaders understand child development just got a whole lot easier. *Wholly Kids* is an easy-to-read book full of fun images and details about how kids learn. Releases Aug. 1.

Product #005490111, \$12.99

**FLYTE remix: The Importance of Purity**

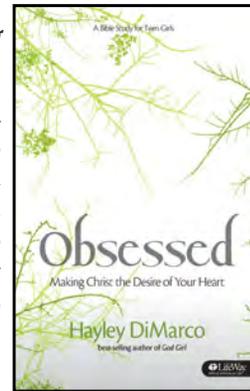
This throws down the truth about purity and helps preteens to develop boundaries, understand the changes they are going through, and take a stand for purity.

Product #005490142, \$24.95

**Obsessed: Making Christ the Desire of Your Heart**

We were made to be obsessed – with God and His call on our lives. Yet, so often, we give our hearts to lesser gods – guys, appearance, popularity, grades, goals, sports and even friends – rather than Jesus. This study will challenge teen girls to confront their obsessions through Scripture and allow Christ to redeem the desires of their hearts. Because with the right desire, obsession can be a good thing. (6 sessions) Release date June 1.

Product #005488880, \$10.95



**FLYTE remix: Bully or Bullied?**

This discusses physical, emotional, social, and cyber bullying – helping preteens learn to recognize and move beyond bullying.

Product #005490141, \$24.95



# NEW RESOURCES

Order online at [LifeWay.com](http://LifeWay.com) or call (800) 458-2772

## LIFEWAY WORSHIP

### CHRISTMAS/FALL 2012

For a listing of all companion products and costs, visit [LifeWay.com](http://LifeWay.com).

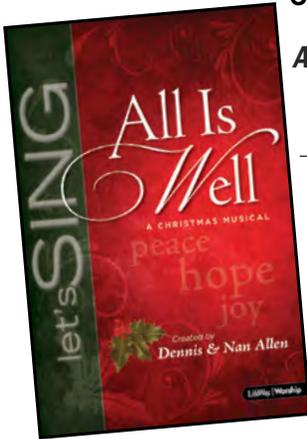
### COLLECTIONS/MUSICALS

#### *All Is Well – from Let's Sing*

created by Dennis & Nan Allen, arranged and orchestrated by Dennis Allen

SATB/40 minutes

With Michael W. Smith's well-known classic as the centerpiece, *All Is Well* provides your choir and congregation with songs of hope and celebration for the season. This SATB musical from multiple Dove Award-winners, Dennis and Nan Allen, offers opportunities for soloists, as well as the congregation. Rehearsal tracks make learning a breeze.

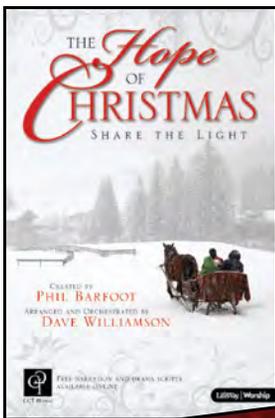


#### *The Hope of Christmas*

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

SSATB

*The Hope of Christmas* is packed full of high-energy celebration songs, warm nostalgic moments, fresh contemporary settings, seasonal favorites and meaningful worship moments. Following in the tradition of Phil Barfoot's best-selling series of Christmas collections, you'll find all the moments you'll need to maximize your celebration this year in *The Hope of Christmas*.

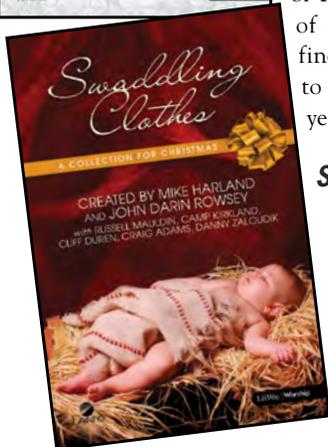


#### *Swaddling Clothes*

written by Mike Harland and John Darin Rowsey, arranged and orchestrated by Russell Mauldin, Camp Kirkland, Cliff Duren and Craig Adams, Narration by Mike Harland

SATB / 24 minutes

This new Christmas musical, from the Dove Award-nominated producers of *Love Won*, invites worshippers into the



two intimate moments in Jesus' life when he was wrapped in swaddling clothes by his mother, Mary: first, at His birth; and then at the foot of the cross.

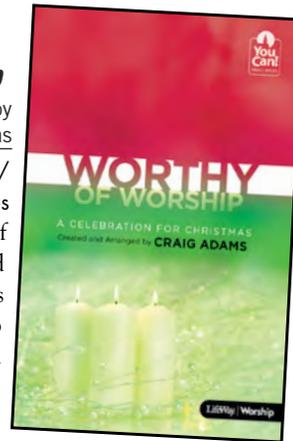
#### *Worthy of Worship*

created and arranged by Craig Adams

Unison/2-Part/  
Easy/25 minutes

The creators of the highly acclaimed You Can! series are thrilled to introduce a powerful new Christmas musical titled *Worthy of Worship*.

A wonderful combination of treasured songs, timeless carols, heartwarming manger-side moments and inspirational narration by Mike Harland, make this a truly unforgettable Christmas celebration.



#### *An Irish Christmas Blessing* *5 contemplative selections from Joy: An Irish Christmas*

adapted from the recording by Keith & Kristyn Getty, created by Keith Getty and Don Cason, written by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend, choral arrangements by Don Cason, Paul Campbell and Michael McGlynn, orchestrated by J.A.C. Redford

SATB and children's choir

New from the collaborative efforts of Getty Music and ClearCall Music is this mini-collection of five selections from the Getty's 2011 Christmas recording – *Joy: An Irish Christmas*.

Choral settings have been created to match the actual recorded tracks from the recording, orchestrated by Los Angeles film-score composer J.A.C. Redford. Each of these songs was selected for its adaptability



to choral singing, its rich text and music and for the unique opportunity they individually bring to those who program their own Christmas presentations.

### CHILDREN'S COLLECTION/MUSICAL

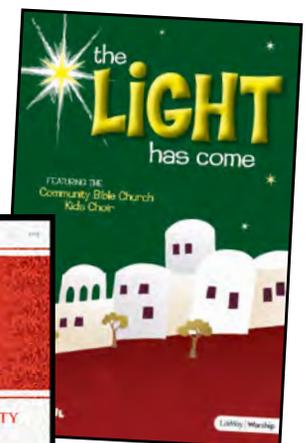
#### *The Light Has Come*

written by Ray and Andrea Jones and Amanda Singer

From the Community Bible Church, San Antonio, this

versatile new collection featuring the Community Kids Choir from Community Bible Church in San Antonio also works very well as a musical when incorporating one of three optional scripts. One dramatic narrative is easily staged with three masters of ceremony (sitting on a stool or behind a desk) and eight scripture readers. The musical concludes with a clear presentation of the gospel and a salvation prayer.

An accompaniment DVD (split track) includes bonus demonstrations and choreography suggestions.



Go to [LifeWay.com/Worship](http://LifeWay.com/Worship) to find a number of new Christmas anthems.



“Greg Laurie is a dynamic pastor, gifted evangelist, and trusted friend. Prestonwood is thrilled to be an anchor church in Harvest America. I hope you will be a part of this amazing opportunity too!”

— Jack Graham

Pastor, Prestonwood Baptist Church



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