

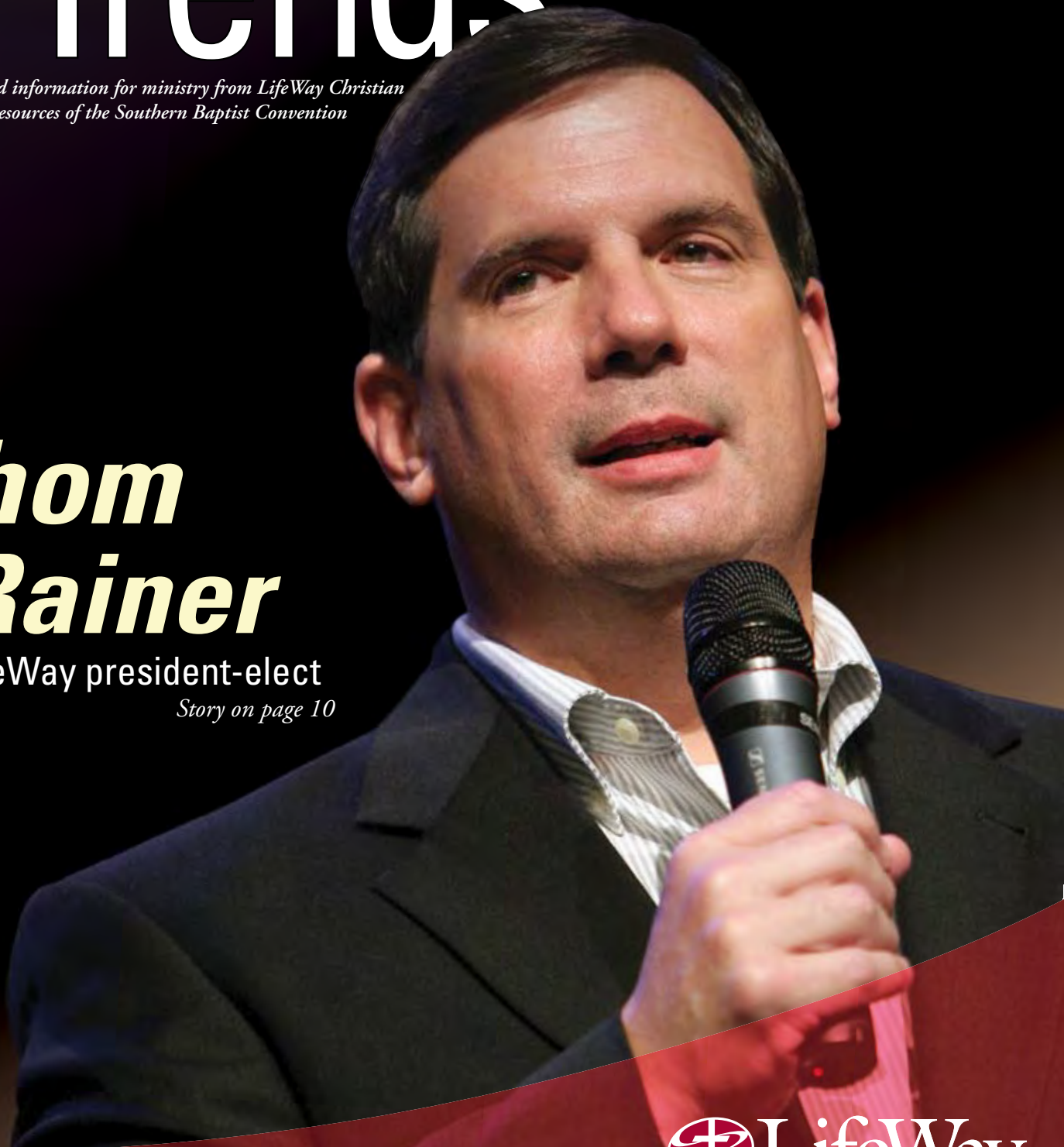
Facts & Trends

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

Thom Rainer

LifeWay president-elect

Story on page 10



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2005

 **LifeWay**
Biblical Solutions for Life

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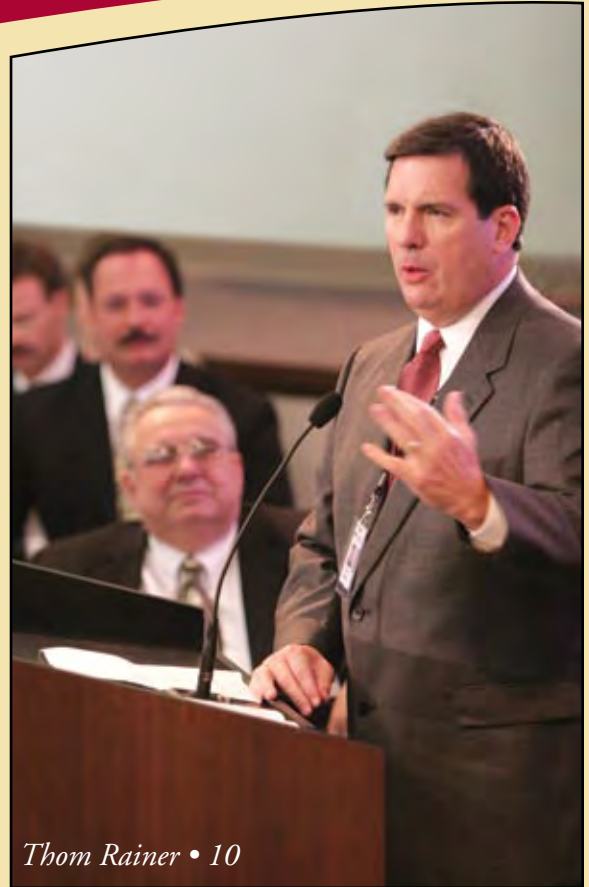
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Cover photo: Thom Rainer photo by Kent Harville

Notice to readers: Phone numbers, Web addresses and content referenced in articles were verified at the time of printing. Please understand, however, that addresses and content may have changed.



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Coming in the January/February issue:

- James T. Draper Jr. retires as LifeWay president, but not from ministry
- Huge 2006 training and enrichment event preview
- California churches merge into one amazing multi-ethnic congregation

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Our purpose

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

Our format

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

Our people

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

From my
heart to yours



Evangelism through discipleship

I found two recent national surveys somewhat disturbing.

The first revealed that most adults feel accepted by God but only about half of those surveyed claim they make their moral choices on the basis of specific principles or standards they believe in. That means only about half of those surveyed have a biblical worldview concerning issues like funding for stem cell research, the war in Iraq and against terrorism, sexual abuse by clergy, the Terri Schiavo case, gay marriage and more.

The second survey that gave me pause revealed that more than 60 percent of those professing to be Christians said they believe there is more than one path to God. Unfortunately, it doesn't appear anyone has introduced that population segment to John 14:6. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

That statement narrows the path considerably – actually exclusively.

So why are so many people apparently so superficial in their faith and spiritually shallow in their understanding of absolute truth? I believe to a large degree it is because the church is failing them. A recent study done by Ellison Research exclusively for *Facts & Trends* bears that out.

You can read that report on pages 6-9, but I wanted to highlight a couple of points from the study. The first is that the type of Christian education most regularly offered by churches has nothing to do with building a biblical worldview. Financial management,

exercise and weight loss, spiritual gifts inventories, recovery programs – these are all good things but do nothing to spiritually deepen Christians. We live in a time when Christians desperately need to communicate absolute truth to our world but the bell is calling us to the cultural fray and we are not prepared enough to respond effectively.



*James T. Draper Jr., president,
LifeWay Christian Resources of the
Southern Baptist Convention*

Subscribe

In addition to this column in *Facts & Trends*, LifeWay President James T. Draper Jr. writes LifeWay@Heart, a periodic e-mail message addressing trends and ministry ideas. Add your name to the LifeWay@Heart mailing list by going to www.lifeway.com/form_heart.asp. On the form, type in your e-mail address and name, then click the "Join List" button.



The second point is that Southern Baptist churches, which traditionally have emphasized discipleship training, have diminished its priority. Disturbingly, Southern Baptist churches are somewhat less likely, according to the study, to offer classes on the basics of Christianity, denominational beliefs and how to study the Bible, but are more likely to talk about evangelism and outreach.

Understand me, I can't imagine anyone being any more of a proponent for evangelism than myself, but we have a huge back door to our churches. If we want to keep in church the people we've won to the Lord, we need to grow them from spiritual milk to spiritual meat. That's the purpose of meaningful discipleship.

"If we want to keep the people in church that we've won to the Lord, we need to grow them from spiritual milk to spiritual meat."

– James T. Draper Jr.

There is certainly no lack of resources for Southern Baptists interested in emphasizing discipleship in churches. We have a limited number of a free administrative planning guide, *Discipleship, God's Life Changing Work*, that churches may find useful. You can request one by e-mailing us at discipleship@lifeway.com. Jay Johnston, our director of FAITH/discipleship, and

his staff will be glad to help churches discover the many options available.

I strongly encourage churches to "hit the gym," so to speak, and "bulk up" the spiritual lives of their members. We live in troubling days and we need serious Christians who can respond in grace and in truth to the pressing issues of the day. I bet there will be many who'll be surprised what evangelistic opportunities are available as a result of meaningful discipleship. ■

In His love,

Jimmy Draper

We recommend

- *Experiencing God* by Henry Blackaby and Claude King
- *Transformational Discipleship* by Roy Edgemon and Barry Sneed
- *Jesus on Leadership* by Gene Wilkes
- *Countering Culture: Arming Yourself to Confront Non-Biblical Worldviews* by Chuck Edwards and David Noebel
- *Essential Gear: Your Guide to Life After High School*
- *Vital Truths* series (for youth)

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

Survey shows churches offer limited training opportunities

The only type of class or education a majority of all Protestant churches offer to their congregations is a new member class.

This is according to research results being released for the first time in this edition of *Facts & Trends*.

The study, conducted by Ellison Research (Phoenix, Ariz.) among a representative sample of 872 Protestant church ministers nationwide, explored what types of classes or education churches offer at least once a year (not including sermon topics on the subject).

The average Protestant church offers classes or education on 4.6 different topics in a typical year. However, this number is 3.5 topics or classes among churches with an average attendance of under 100 people; 4.5 among churches with 100 to 199 people; and 7.9 among churches with 200 people or more.

The most common type of class or education churches offer is for new members (60 percent offer this at least once a year). Following this are classes on the basics of Christianity (47 percent), how to study the Bible (43 percent), evangelism or outreach training (39 percent), spiritual growth or spiritual renewal (37 percent) and effective prayer (35 percent).

Other relatively common types of education include a spiritual gifts inventory (31 percent), marriage enrichment (28 percent), leadership development (26 percent), the basics of the church's denominational perspectives (25 percent) and parenting or child development (20 percent).

Types of education regularly offered by relatively few churches include financial management (17 percent), a skills and talents profile (15 percent), grief recovery (9 percent), substance abuse recovery (8 percent), health/weight loss/exercise (7 percent), ministry in the workplace (5 percent), divorce recovery (5 percent) and life skills (4 percent). Only 4 percent of all ministers named any other type of class offered by their church at least once a year.

There are significant differences in what churches offer according to their size and denomination. For almost every type of class, larger churches are significantly more likely to offer that type of education than are smaller or midsize churches. Only ministry in the workplace shows no difference by church size. Sometimes the differences are relatively small (such as the basics of the church's denominational perspective, which is offered annually by 33 percent of large, 25 percent of midsize and 21 percent of small churches); sometimes the differences are dramatic (such as marriage enrichment, offered by 56 percent of large, 33 percent of midsize and only 16 percent of small churches).

There are also differences by denominational or theological perspective (mainline versus evangelical). Churches from mainline denominations are more likely than those from evangelical denominations to offer regular education on how to study the Bible, denominational basics and grief recovery. Evangelical churches are more likely than mainline churches to offer regular education on evangelism or outreach training, marriage enrichment, financial management and parenting or child development.

What is offered per year by size

Small Church
Medium Church
Large Church

Classes/Education Offered

	Small Church	Medium Church	Large Church
New membership	50%	64%	87%
Basics of Christianity	39	52	65
How to study the Bible	38	41	60
Evangelism/outreach training	29	43	62
Spiritual growth/renewal	33	34	53
Effective prayer	31	30	52
Spiritual gifts inventory	23	31	55
Marriage enrichment	16	33	56
Leadership development	21	25	45
Basics of church's denominational perspectives	21	25	33
Parenting/child development	9	15	55
Financial management	10	13	40
Skills and talents profile	9	17	34
Grief recovery	5	7	25
Recovery from substance abuse	6	6	15
Health/weight loss/exercise	4	5	19
Ministry in the workplace	5	4	7
Divorce recovery	3	2	16
Life skills	2	5	9

Marriage enrichment is offered by 56 percent of large churches, compared to 16 percent of small churches.



Raymond Bentley, minister of education at The Kingdom Church in Jacksonville, Fla., listens during the Minister of Education Boot Camp training event at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center.

Getting down to specific denominations, the sample size is large enough to allow analysis of six distinct denominational groups: Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Southern Baptist, other Baptist and Pentecostal/charismatic churches (although many other denominations are represented in the total sample).

Southern Baptist churches are somewhat less likely than average to offer regular classes in the basics of Christianity, the basics of their denominational beliefs and how to study the Bible, but they are more likely than average to offer education on marriage enrichment and evangelism or outreach training. As a group, Baptist denominations other than the Southern Baptist Convention are fairly average in what they offer their congregations.

Methodist churches are less likely than average to offer regular education on evangelism or outreach training, but more likely than average to offer classes on the basics of their denominational perspectives.

Lutherans are much less likely than average to hold regular education on effective prayer, but much more likely than average to hold new member classes and education on their denominational perspectives.

Presbyterians are less likely than average to educate people on marriage enrichment, financial management and evangelism or outreach training and more likely to have classes for new members and on denominational perspectives.

Pentecostal and charismatic churches rarely offer regular education on grief recovery, but are somewhat more likely

than average to offer education on marriage enrichment, effective prayer, leadership development and financial management.

Ron Sellers, president of Ellison Research, noted that this study did not include topics that are the focus of a sermon series or that are offered on an irregular basis. “What we measured in this study were the issues to which churches have a regular, ongoing commitment – offering them at least once a year,” Sellers explained.

Sellers also noted that the study helps demonstrate what churches really emphasize. “Churches are focusing on the basics: what is Christianity, what is necessary for church membership, how to study the Bible. When they go deeper, they tend to focus on basic Christian practices: prayer, evangelism and spiritual growth. These are all critical, but churches also need to recognize why many people come through their doors in the first place. Often they’re seeking real life answers to marriage problems, issues at work, raising children or financial worries.

“Many of these ‘daily life’ issues are not regularly dealt with in churches,” Sellers said. “Even in large congregations, a majority is not offering regular education on financial management, divorce recovery, leadership, workplace ministry or health issues, and just over half consistently offer anything on parenting, spiritual gifts or marriage. The more a church can move the congregation’s involvement from a ‘religious’ experience to living out their faith on a daily basis, the more that church can effect a real change in people’s lives and in their communities.” ■

What is offered by denomination and perspective

Southern Baptist

Methodist

Lutheran

Pentecostal

Presbyterian

All others

Mainline

Evangelical

	Southern Baptist	Methodist	Lutheran	Pentecostal	Presbyterian	All others	Mainline	Evangelical
New membership	52%	58%	84%	62%	76%	66%	67%	61%
Basics of Christianity	36	39	58	55	41	53	48	49
How to study the Bible	32	45	55	37	50	53	56	38
Evangelism/outreach training	54	24	31	38	19	32	22	49
Spiritual growth/renewal	34	36	38	31	47	39	40	34
Effective prayer	34	26	15	46	23	38	27	36
Spiritual gifts inventory	37	30	22	37	23	36	28	32
Marriage enrichment	36	20	16	37	12	28	17	34
Leadership development	22	22	20	38	29	31	22	27
Basics of church's denominational perspectives	17	36	43	26	45	22	38	23
Parenting/child development	25	12	10	16	25	20	14	21
Financial management	24	11	7	29	4	17	6	21
Skills and talents profile	18	14	22	16	16	21	18	16
Grief recovery	11	16	16	2	7	11	14	7
Recovery from substance abuse	8	10	10	8	7	7	6	8
Health/weight loss/exercise	12	9	12	4	12	8	7	8
Ministry in the workplace	6	2	2	6	2	7	3	6
Divorce recovery	8	8	4	5	2	5	3	6
Life skills	2	4	3	5	4	5	4	3

Classes/Education Offered

Lutherans have the highest percentage of new membership classes at 84 percent, compared to Southern Baptists who have the lowest percentage at 52 percent.

Only 49 percent of evangelical churches actually have classes on evangelism/outreach training.

Southern Baptists have the lowest percentage of classes teaching basics of denominational beliefs with only 17 percent.



Ron Sellers is president of Ellison Research (Phoenix, Ariz.), which is conducting exclusive research for Facts & Trends on issues important to our readers.

LifeWay welcomes Thom Rainer as president-elect

by Russ Rankin



Photo by Kent Harville

Thom Rainer embraces his wife, Nellie Jo, as LifeWay President James T. Draper Jr. and his wife, Carol Ann, applaud the unanimous decision to name Rainer president-elect of LifeWay Christian Resources.

LifeWay's trustees, on Sept. 12 during their semiannual meeting, unanimously approved the nomination of Thom S. Rainer to become the ninth president of LifeWay.

Rainer began Oct. 17, and will work alongside LifeWay President James T. Draper Jr. until Draper's retirement on Feb. 1, 2006.

"This is a great day for all Southern Baptists and for LifeWay Christian Resources," said Rick Evans, pastor of Dalraida Baptist Church, Montgomery, Ala., and chairman of the LifeWay presidential search committee. "Dr. Rainer will provide the kind of leadership that will enable us to be the leading producer of Christian materials for years to come. His theological and doctrinal positions are synonymous with who we are as Southern Baptists. He is a visionary who possesses the skills to both communicate and administer the goals of LifeWay."

Rainer, 50, was dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. A 1977 graduate of the University of Alabama, he earned the Master of Divinity and Ph.D. from Southern Seminary. He served as pastor of churches in Alabama, Florida, Kentucky and Indiana prior to joining Southern Seminary in 1994 as founding dean of the Billy Graham School.

He has served as a church consultant and church growth conference speaker for several years and is in frequent demand as a speaker in Southern Baptist churches. Rainer is author of 16 books, including *Surprising Insights from the Unchurched*, *The Unchurched Next Door* and *Breakout Churches*. He is a member of both the Academy for Evangelism in Theological Education and the American Society for Church Growth.

Rainer founded and served as president

and CEO of the Rainer Group, one of the nation's leading church and denominational consultant organizations. He and his wife, Nellie Jo, have three sons: Sam, Art and Jess.

Draper said he is "incredibly excited to have a man of Thom Rainer's gifts and vision to work alongside in the months ahead. He is a proven leader, a brilliant statesman and a gifted visionary. That's why I believe LifeWay's best days are still ahead."

Responding to the trustees, Rainer spoke of the passions that will drive his method of leadership at LifeWay:

Evangelism. "The Southern Baptist Convention is a denomination of fierce love for missions and evangelism," he said. "As we work with other agencies, churches, and Christians across the globe, LifeWay must be at the forefront of a great renewal for evangelism in our denomination and beyond."

Denominational memory, or "that which defines who we are as a people called Southern Baptists ... Doctrine is not a word from which we should hide," he said.

Relevancy. LifeWay must understand culture and help the church connect in a relevant way for the purpose of evangelism.

Rainer also expressed admiration for Draper's leadership. In assuming the presidency of LifeWay, Rainer said he stands "on the shoulders of giants" who made LifeWay what it is today. ■



Photos by Kent Harville

Top: Thom Rainer addresses trustees following their unanimous vote on Sept. 12. Above right: Nellie Jo and Thom Rainer. Directly above: Thom Rainer answers questions about his election at a press conference Sept. 13.

We recommend

- *Breakout Churches*
- *Surprising Insights from the Unchurched*
- *The Unchurched Next Door*

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

LifeWay trustees approve record budget for 2006

LifeWay's trustees approved a record budget for fiscal 2006 during their semiannual meeting Sept. 12-13, 2005. LifeWay set its 2006 budget at \$453 million and projects growth in every division of the company.

However, LifeWay will see a \$4.4 million decrease company-wide in funds provided from operations due to higher expenses. These expenses, however, are considered investments in LifeWay's future, according to Ted Warren, executive vice president and chief operating officer.

"These expenditures will include new stores, product development, filling vacancies and increased advertising," Warren told trustees.

LifeWay is projected to finish fiscal 2005 with a record \$441 million in revenue, a \$12.5 million increase over 2004 (2.9 percent growth), but \$4.8 million below budget. Hurricane Katrina is responsible for part of the shortfall, along with higher fuel prices, according to Warren.

Divisional reports

Corporate affairs

Corporate affairs vice president Mike Arrington drew attention to the 648 professions of faith, 4,005 rededications and other ministry commitments at Glorieta and Ridgecrest conference centers. Arrington also announced that Draper is leading a two-year major donor campaign, "A Defining Moment," aimed at raising \$30 million for evangelism, leadership, Bible distribution and abstinence programs.

Finance and business services

Finance and business services vice president Jerry Rhyne said projects planned for completion next year include a 100,000-square-foot expansion of the undated

distribution center and the implementation of Oracle software as LifeWay's new financial and order entry business system. Expenses have increased slightly due to growing fuel and shipping costs and employer-paid medical premiums, as well as standard salary increases.

Broadman & Holman

Broadman & Holman division vice president Ken Stephens said Bibles now comprise 48 percent of the division's sales. The Holman Bible Outreach International, created this year to get low cost Bibles into the hands of people around the world, is working to produce a simplified Mandarin Chinese Bible translation. An early draft of the New Testament is already complete.

Technology

Technology division vice president Tim Vineyard said that LifeWay.com has more than 25 million users and online catalog sales grew from \$55 million in 2004 to \$63 million in 2005. E-business and church resources launched VBS Tools, an online VBS management program, this year, which about 800 churches used. The division sent about 13 million e-newsletters in 2005.

LifeWay Christian Stores

LifeWay Christian Stores division vice president Mark Scott reported that 12 LifeWay Christian Stores closed, at least briefly, because of Hurricane Katrina. While 10 reopened quickly, the stores in Gulfport, Miss., and on the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary campus remained closed due to sustained water and wind damage. In fiscal 2005, LifeWay added three stores, relocated two stores and acquired three others.

Church resources

Church resources division vice president

Editor's note:

LifeWay's report to the trustees took place before Hurricane Rita hit the Texas and Louisiana Gulf coasts Sept. 24.

John Kramp highlighted church resources-related events and camps, including 104,034 recorded professions of faith. In response to requests from some churches, in fall 2006 church resources will offer a new leader pack exclusively using the King James Version of the Bible to accompany the Life Words Sunday school curriculum. A price increase of 3.2 percent will be implemented with the spring 2006 curriculum.

International department

The international department has invested 1,349 man-hours conducting 595 workshops in 28 countries, training 802 pastors and leaders from 6,018 churches in the use of LifeWay products, according to director Luis Aranguren. Through licenses, LifeWay partners have requested to produce 797 different titles in 114 different languages and dialects. There are currently 1,683 active licenses on LifeWay products.

Other trustee action

The trustees voted unanimously to rename the Centennial Tower in Nashville the James T. Draper Jr. Centennial Tower in recognition of Draper's role in LifeWay's achievements during his 15-year tenure. ■



Above: President James T. Draper Jr. enjoys a lighthearted moment speaking with the LifeWay trustees Sept. 12.
Left: Carol Ann and James T. Draper shake hands with trustees during the close of Draper's last trustee meeting as LifeWay president on Sept. 13.

LifeWay sends \$6 million to disaster relief efforts

LifeWay donated \$6 million to Southern Baptist disaster relief efforts for survivors of Hurricane Katrina.

During their Sept. 12-13 meeting, trustees authorized LifeWay's executive leadership to use reserve funds to assist in disaster relief efforts. President James T. Draper Jr. recommended the action to the trustees' executive committee, which brought the matter before the full board of trustees. The vote was unanimous.

The funding began immediately following the vote and will continue throughout the 2006 fiscal year, which runs from Oct. 1, 2005, through Sept. 30, 2006.

"We will disperse these funds based on specific identified needs," said Draper. "The expectation is that assistance will go to the state conventions in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, to states assisting in handling evacuees, and to the North American Mission Board and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary."

An estimated 925 Southern Baptist churches in the three states were destroyed or severely damaged. The North American Mission Board is leading the denomination's relief efforts.

Immediately after Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast in the worst natural disaster in U.S. history, LifeWay donated \$10,000 each to the Baptist state conventions of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

LifeWay continues to work directly with scores of churches in the three states to restore damaged libraries at deep discounts and to replace at no cost any dated LifeWay curriculum lost in the storm.

"We're partners in ministry with the state conventions of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, but even more important, we're their friends," Draper said. "When their churches hurt, we hurt, and with these donations we simply wanted to provide a tangible sign that we are praying for them and standing beside them."

In addition to contributions to state conventions, LifeWay for years has provided disaster assistance to Southern Baptist churches impacted by natural disasters, fires, explosions, theft and vandalism. For affected churches, LifeWay replaces 100 percent of the churches' dated LifeWay church literature for the current and following quarter. The company also offers steep discounts for LifeWay undated church literature such as hymnals, as well as Broadman & Holman books and audiovisuals, Holman Christian Standard Bibles, choir robes, Lord's Supper supplies, church furniture and more. ■



Above: Mike Arrington, vice president of LifeWay's corporate affairs division; Jay Johnston, director of FAITH/discipleship; Don Elbourne Jr., pastor of Lakeshore (Miss.) Baptist Church; and LifeWay President James T. Draper Jr. pray together at Elbourne's outdoor pulpit. Right: The fury of Katrina left neighborhoods in Gulfport, Miss., in piles of rubble.



Photos by Michael Yarber

Editor's note:

This story was prepared prior to Hurricane Rita's landfall Sept. 24.

Photo by Jay Johnston



First Baptist Church, Slidell, La., operates a clothing and relief center in the parking lot. With damage sustained to the sanctuary, the church holds services in the parking lot.

LifeWay trustee affected by Katrina

LifeWay trustee Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, knows things could be worse, but it's hard to imagine how.

"I lost my house, my church, everything except a couple of changes of clothes and a few things my wife and I threw in the car," Luter told trustees. "But, the Lord was not surprised by any of this. He is still in control and He will sustain."

Luter said by mid-September he had heard from about 200 of his 8,000 church members who had scattered to stay with family and friends and in evacuation shelters. "But I know that we lost one dear elderly lady," he said. "It hurts to know I won't be there to do her funeral. No one who knows her is there."



Photos by Norma Miller

Top: After seeing Franklin Avenue Baptist Church seemingly afloat in stinking water, pastor Fred Luter dries his eyes while aboard a helicopter flying over New Orleans. "We're gonna rebuild. We're gonna rebuild," he later said. **Above:** A Sept. 12 aerial view shows Franklin Avenue Baptist Church and its surrounding New Orleans neighborhood. Flood waters from Hurricane Katrina reached an estimated height of 7 feet there.

**LifeWay's disaster assistance line
(800) 357-7029**

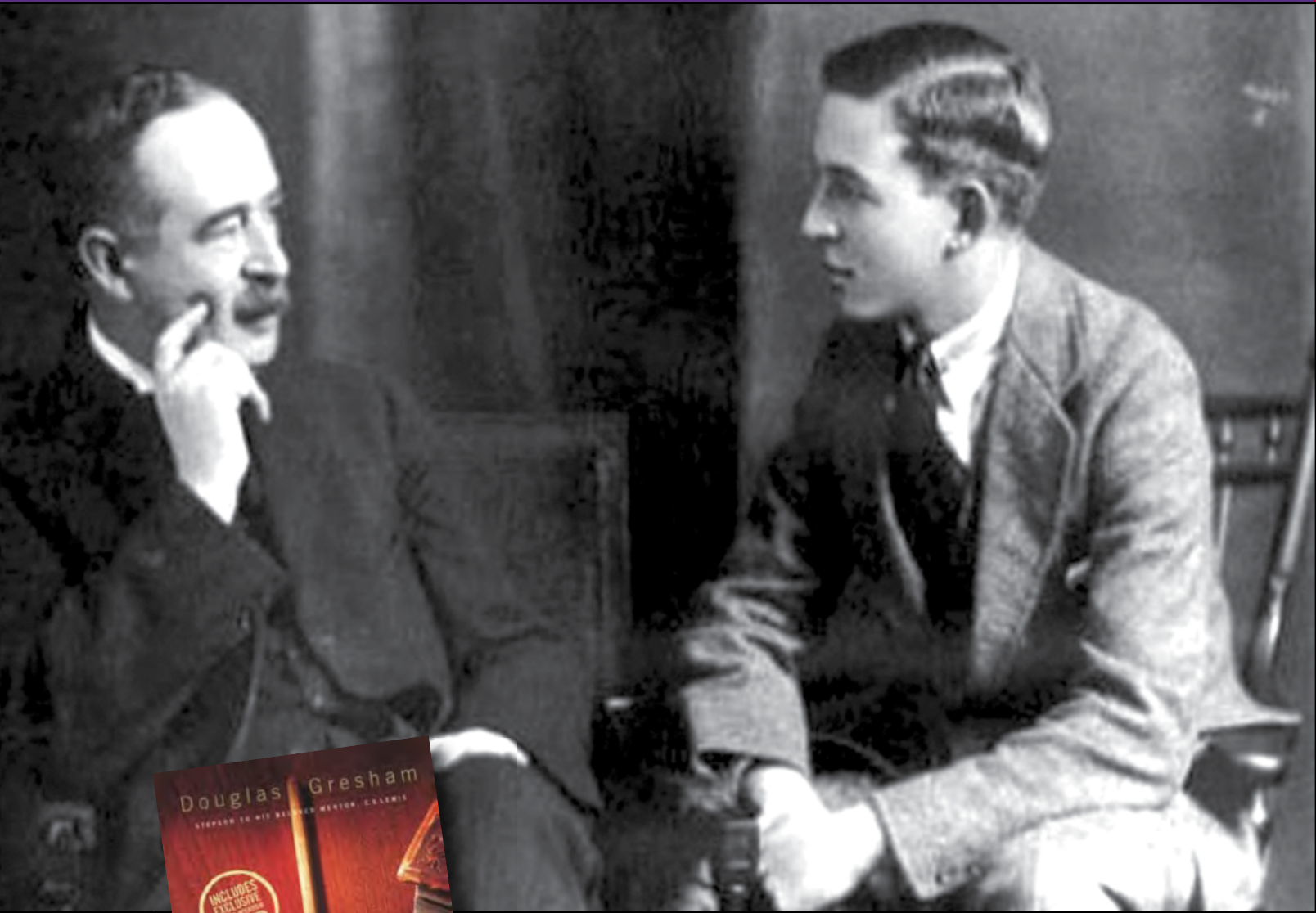
For help replacing church materials or pastors' libraries

**LifeWay's LeaderCare Helpline
(888) 789-1911**

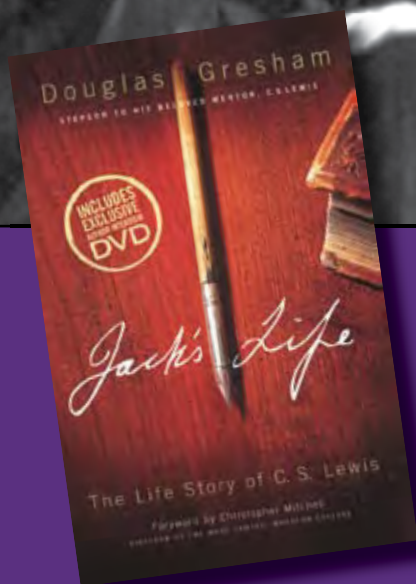
Free professional counseling for ministers and their families

C.S. Lewis's life chronicled in new B&H book

by Kelly Davis



C.S. Lewis with his father



C.S. Lewis offered the world *Mere Christianity*, *The Screwtape Letters*, and most notably *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, part of *The Chronicles of Narnia* series. To many, Lewis was a literary genius, but to Douglas Gresham, Lewis was “the finest man and the best Christian” he ever knew.

In *Jack’s Life: The Life Story of C.S. Lewis*, released by Broadman & Holman publishers, Gresham traces the life and times of the best-selling author.

Gresham was 8 years old when he met the extraordinary mind behind *The Chronicles of Narnia*. He eventually lived as Lewis’s stepson in England for many years and wrote, “I am sometimes asked what it is like living in the shadow of such a great man, and I always point out that Jack did not leave a shadow behind him but a glow. If I am able to reflect even the slightest spark of that glow, I am more than happy to do so.”

Gresham explained that the memoir is not a scholarly work filled with academic analysis, but a “simple recounting of the story of what I believe to be the extraordinary life of an extraordinary man.”

Clive Staples Lewis was born near Belfast in Northern Ireland in 1898. Lewis didn’t like his name and soon changed it to “Jacksie” in honor of a small dog that he cherished.

Jack, as he later became known, and his older brother, Warren, spent their childhood reading and making up stories about an imaginary country called Boxen. “I suppose the beginnings of Narnia can

be seen in this childhood occupation, which was their way of combatting the boredom of hours spent in the house while the soft Irish rain fell slowly and steadily outside,” Gresham wrote.

Losing family and faith

Tragedy struck early in the Lewis household. At age 10, young Lewis lost his mother to cancer and was sent to England for schooling. He wandered from school to school until William Thompson Kirkpatrick recognized Lewis’s potential to become a great writer. Under Kirkpatrick’s tutelage, Lewis began to take writing seriously. Kirkpatrick, however, passed on one belief to his young pupil that remained for years: atheism.

Lewis studied at Oxford University and fought in World War I. Despite serious injuries sustained as a soldier, he worked “with a dedication rarely to be found either then or today,” Gresham



C.S. Lewis with his older brother, Warren

explained. Lewis eventually became an elected fellow in Magdalen College at Oxford.

Gresham noted that Lewis suffered from illness and bore overwhelming personal responsibility much of his life, but found reprieve with friends at Oxford. Lewis's contemporaries included J.R.R. Tolkien, Owen Barfield, Neville Coghill and Henry Victor Dyson. The friends formed a group called The Inklings, an unofficial literary round table for aspiring writers.

It was at The Inklings meetings that Tolkien first read aloud the beginnings of *The Hobbit*. Lewis also revealed to the group something new that he was working on, called *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

A light for Lewis

Lewis lost all faith in God during his childhood and became a convinced atheist, Gresham explained. In Lewis's adult life he began to read and study about God and "the more he learned and the more he experienced, the more he became convinced that there was actually a God," Gresham wrote.

"It was no sudden instant revelation for Jack but a slow grinding process of learning and studying, always seeking to find the truth for its own sake," Gresham explained. "But even a mind as powerful as Jack's cannot determine the truth without the help of the Holy Spirit of God."

Lewis became a Christian and lived out his faith

TimeLine

The Chronicles of Narnia



1939

- Lewis began writing *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* as a story for children evacuated to his home at the beginning of World War II. He returned to the story several years later.



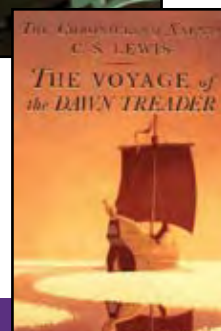
1949

- Completed *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*
- Began writing *Prince Caspian*
- Began writing *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*
- Completed *Prince Caspian*



1950

- Completed *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*



through his pen. In 1950, Lewis published *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, which went on to become one of the best-selling children's books of the 20th century.

Gresham believes that in his writing of the book, "Jack was influenced by the Holy Spirit of God because within a completely fictional fairy tale it manages to give a guide to its readers of how to understand what God did for us in this world by coming here and sacrificing himself for us."

Gresham further detailed Lewis's short, but meaningful marriage to Joy Davidman, who died of cancer a few years following

their wedding. "Jack triumphed over many difficulties throughout his life," Gresham wrote in the last chapter. Lewis defeated the setbacks of poverty, illness and exhaustion, but in the end found love and happiness with his wife, Joy.

Broadman & Holman also has released a series of books about C.S. Lewis and *The Chronicles of Narnia*, including *Further Up & Further In: Understanding C.S. Lewis's The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, by Bruce Edwards; *The Keys to the Chronicles: Unlocking the Symbols of C.S. Lewis's Narnia*, by Marvin D. Hinten; and *Narnia Beckons*, by Ted Baehr and James Baehr. ■

- Began writing *The Horse and His Boy*
- Began writing *The Silver Chair*
- Published *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*
- Completed *The Horse and His Boy*



1953

- Completed *The Last Battle*
- Published *The Silver Chair*

1954

- Completed *The Magician's Nephew*



- Published *The Horse and His Boy*

1955

- Published *The Magician's Nephew*

1956

- Published *The Last Battle*

1951

- Completed *The Silver Chair*
- Began writing *The Magician's Nephew*
- Published *Prince Caspian*



1952

- Began writing *The Last Battle*
- Published *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*



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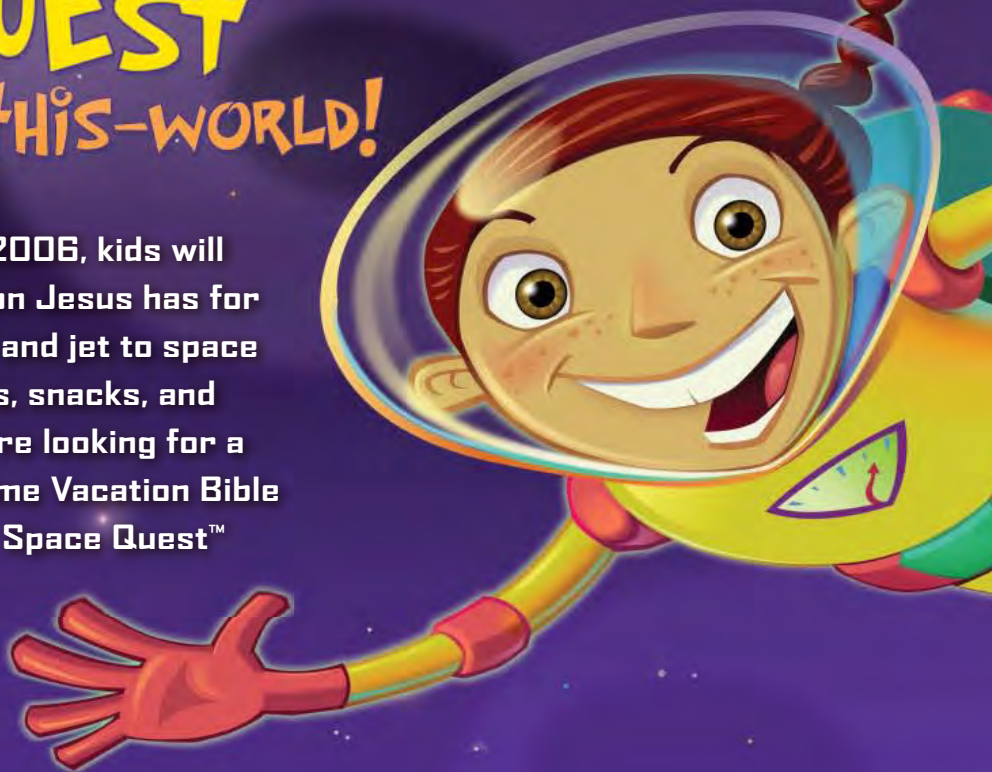
- *Further Up & Further In: Understanding C.S. Lewis's The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by Bruce Edwards
- *The Keys to the Chronicles: Unlocking the Symbols of C.S. Lewis's Narnia* by Marvin D. Hinten
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Source: books.narnia.com

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Young B&H author defends Boy Scouts

By Shawn Hendricks

Hans Zeiger decided long ago that being a Boy Scout was about more than just camp tricks, “uncool brown uniforms” and learning to tie square knots.

Zeiger, a 20-year-old sophomore in college, reflects fondly on his years with the Boy Scouts of America. For this Eagle Scout, the organization has always been about honor, integrity and standing up for Christian values.

But the past few years haven't been kind to the Boy Scouts. They've been hammered with scandalous headlines and criticism for refusing to allow homosexuals, atheists and women into their organization. Most recently, the Scouts made headlines when four scout leaders were killed in a freak power line accident at last summer's national Boy Scout Jamboree.

After various celebrities, columnists and groups like the American Civil Liberties Union showed no signs of slowing their attack on the Scouts, Zeiger decided at the age of 16 that he needed to begin his own counterattack by writing his side of the story.

Larry Pollard and son, Jonathan, practice their knot tying skills. The Pollards are members of Troop 624 in Bellevue, Tenn.

In *Get Off My Honor: The Assault on the Boy Scouts of America*, published by Broadman & Holman, Zeiger defends the organization against years of criticism, while throwing in a lot of its history.

“I wanted to speak up for the Boy Scouts because the organization has done so much in my life,” Zeiger said in a recent interview. “The future of this country is riding upon our capacity to preserve self-government and honor ... I see that ultimately, in our world of sin,

(continued on page 22)



honor can only come from God.”

Zeiger comes from a family of Scouts and is president and founder of the Scout Honor Coalition. He wrote how the organization always has stood for moral values and faith in God. He contended the recent attacks are not only an attack on the Boy Scouts, but Christianity as well.

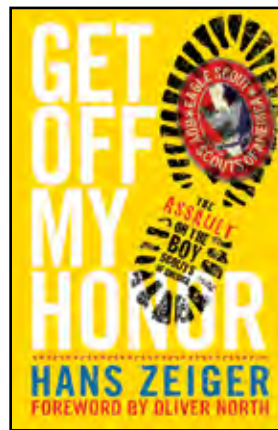
“There is a culture war raging across America, and the Boy Scouts are at the forefront of the battle lines,” he wrote. “Whether the larger religious community will have the guts to rise up and defend Scouting will be a strong indicator not only of Scouting’s future but of the future of churches in America.”

Since it first began in 1910, the Scouts not only have received support from past U.S. presidents – going back to Theodore Roosevelt – but from various Christian organizations and church leaders.

“The Scouts have been fairly consistent in their views on life and their associations with religious groups,” Zeiger wrote. “The Scouts haven’t moved to the right, but the middle has moved to the left.”

Zeiger said he hopes the book will stir more support from the Christian community. “It is time for churches to rally behind the Boy Scouts,” he wrote.

“But churches must go further than merely sponsoring troops and providing a place to meet,” he continued. “They must



actively go to bat for the Scouts in this most intense of culture wars – indeed, in what is more accurately a spiritual war.”

Retired Lt. Col. Oliver North, who wrote the foreword to the book, explained how Americans are not only at war with terrorists, but also against those in this country who challenge their core values.

“(Zeiger) not only exposes the agenda of the radical left but offers prescriptions as well,” he wrote. “This is a valuable work for every parent and community in a nation that should be concerned about the kind of young men we will have in the future.”

“The Scouts haven’t moved to the right, but the middle has moved to the left.”
– Zeiger

After years of losing funding and support from organizations and donors like the United Way, Zeiger says the Scouts need public support and encouragement more than ever. The book includes a list of how they can do just that.

“(The public) needs to volunteer with their local Boy Scout troop,” Zeiger added. “Speak up at school board and city council meetings, contribute money to conservative legal groups, withhold money from local charitable agencies that discriminate against the Scouts. And pray.”

Zeiger wrote that he hopes he never has to write a sequel about the death of the Boy Scouts of America.

“As long as there are real Boy Scouts, there will be real Americans.” ■

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Illustrations by Doug Jones

Liven up a Christmas party with Christmas music games

A Christmas party is part of just about every church's December schedule. Whether at the church building or in someone's home, a holiday gathering is a great way for church members to fellowship together. Holiday parties offer guests and prospects a comfortable avenue into the church's fold.

These Christmas music-related games were compiled by Terry Terry, manager of music development for the LifeWay Worship Music Group. Some are easy and some are hard. Some are just plain silly and some others, well, let's say we took great liberties! Put on your thinking caps, good luck and have fun!

Name that Christmas tune

For this game, give the common song title described by these names.

1. Bleached Yule
2. Singularly Specific Yuletide Melody
3. Singular Yearning for the Twin Anterior Incisors



4. Righteous Darkness
5. Arrival Time: 2400 hours
– Weather: Cloudless
6. Loyal Followers Advance
7. Far Off in a Feeder
8. Array the Corridor
9. Bantam Male Percussionist

10. Monarchical Triad
11. Nocturnal Noiselessness
12. Jehovah Deactivate Blithe Chevaliers
13. Red Man En Route to Borough
14. Frozen Precipitation Commence
15. Proceed and Enlighten on the Pinnacle
16. The Quadruped with the Vermillion Proboscis



17. Query Regarding Identity of Descendant

18. Delight for this Planet
19. Give Attention to the Melodious Celestial Beings
20. The Dozen Festive 24-Hour Intervals
21. Exalted Heavenly Beings to whom Harkened from Above.
22. The Christmas Preceding all Others
23. Small Municipality in Judea, Southeast of Jerusalem
24. Obese Personification Fabricated of Compressed Mounds of Minute Crystals
25. Geographic State of Fantasy during the Season of Mother Nature's Dormancy
26. Tintinnabulation of Vacillating Pendulums in Inverted, Metallic, Resonant Cups
27. Jovial Yuletide Desired for the Second Person Singular or Plural by Us

All quiz answers on page 26

Christmas song quiz

How well do you know your Christmas songs?



1. Who danced with the silk hat on his head?
2. When did I see three ships?
3. Where do you find reindeer paws?
4. What were the cattle doing when they woke the poor baby?
5. What helps to make the season bright?
6. Who wants a pair of hop-a-long boots and a pistol that shoots?
7. Who still wants a hula hoop?
8. Who kept time to the drum?
9. Where are the hopes and fears of all the years kept?
10. Why does the child want his two front teeth?
11. What was the other reindeer's name? (the one who used to laugh and call Rudolph names)
12. What color is Christmas without you?

13. Where do you hear silver bells?
14. When will I finally go?



15. What was the horse in "Jingle Bells" named?
16. What is the name of the snowman/parson in the meadow?
17. Where does one go a wassailing?
18. ABCDEFGHIJKLMN
OPQRSTUVWXYZ?

CHRISTMAS



Carol Shorthand

All of these Christmas song titles have been shortened; can you guess what they are? The first one and a half have been done for you.

1. **SCICTT** – "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town"
2. **ISMKSC** – "I Saw Mommy ..."
3. **JB**
4. **IDOAWC**
5. **RTRNR**
6. **TCS**
7. **DYHWIH?**
8. **AIAM**
9. **FTS**
10. **OCAYF**
11. **ICUTMC**
12. **OLTOB**
13. **JTTW**
14. **SN**
15. **WWYAMC**

All quiz answers on page 26

Christmas music games - answers

Name that Christmas tune

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. "White Christmas" | 11. "Silent Night" | 20. "The Twelve Days of Christmas" |
| 2. "The Christmas Song" | 12. "God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen" | 21. "Angels We Have Heard on High" |
| 3. "All I Want for Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth" | 13. "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" | 22. "The First Noel" |
| 4. "O Holy Night" | 14. "Let It Snow" | 23. "O Little Town of Bethlehem" |
| 5. "It Came upon a Midnight Clear" | 15. "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" | 24. "Frosty the Snowman" |
| 6. "O Come, All Ye Faithful" | 16. "Rudolph, the Red-nosed Reindeer" | 25. "Winter Wonderland" |
| 7. "Away in a Manger" | 17. "What Child Is This?" | 26. "Jingle Bells" |
| 8. "Deck the Halls" | 18. "Joy to the World" | 27. "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" |
| 9. "Little Drummer Boy" | 19. "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" | |
| 10. "We Three Kings" | | |

Christmas song quiz

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Frosty ("Frosty the Snowman") | Teeth") |
| 2. On Christmas Day in the morning ("I Saw Three Ships") | 11. Olive "(all of) the other reindeer" ("Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer") |
| 3. Up on a housetop reindeer paws (pause) ("Up on a Housetop") | 12. Blue, according to Elvis ("Blue Christmas") |
| 4. The cattle were lowing ("Away in a Manger") | 13. On every street corner ("Silver Bells") |
| 5. Everybody knows some turkey and some mistletoe help ("The Christmas Song") | 14. When I get some figgy pudding ("We Wish You a Merry Christmas") |
| 6. Bobby and Ben ("It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas") | 15. Must have been Bob, since the bells on Bob-tail rang ("Jingle Bells") |
| 7. ALVIN!!! ("Chipmunk's Christmas") | 16. We'll pretend that he is Parson Brown ("Walking in a Winter Wonderland") |
| 8. The ox and lamb kept time ("The Little Drummer Boy") | 17. We go wassailing amongst the leaves so green ("Here We Go A-Wassailing") |
| 9. The hopes and fears of all the years are kept in "thee" ("O, Little Town of Bethlehem") | 18. You noticed, of course: No L ("The First Noel") |
| 10. So he can wish you Merry Christmas ("All I Want for Christmas is my Two Front | |

Carol Shorthand

1. "Santa Claus is Coming to Town"
2. "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus"
3. "Jingle Bells"
4. "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas"
5. "Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer"
6. "The Christmas Song"
7. "Do You Hear What I Hear?"
8. "Away In a Manger"
9. "Frosty the Snowman"
10. "O Come All Ye Faithful"
11. "It Came upon a Midnight Clear"
12. "O Little Town of Bethlehem"
13. "Joy to the World"
14. "Silent Night"
15. "We Wish You a Merry Christmas"

LifeWay.com broadens its online learning options

By Brooklyn Noel

In October, LifeWay's e-business group launched a series of online classes. This marked the beginning of a comprehensive online learning program that will include curriculum ranging from developing office skills to recognizing first-time church guests.

LifeWay has provided instruction in many of these areas before, but offering them in an online format helps meet the needs of today's busy individuals.

"By being on the Web, we can help people manage their time," said Bruce Mills, LifeWay's manager of online learning. "We want to bring LifeWay's expertise in the areas of biblical and church growth and evangelism to the Web in a way that impacts the Kingdom."

LifeWay is making the classes available in stages and eventually will offer hundreds of options.

For the initial round of classes, e-business is partnering with Thomson NETg to provide world class instruction in basic office tasks and technology, people skills and other areas that do not specifically relate to a religious setting or function, but will benefit a variety of people, such as church receptionists and staff. Ministry assistants can gain access to LifeWay's Ministry Assistant Course Certification via this online instruction.

Mills stressed that the Web classes are not intended to diminish the importance of in-person instruction; rather the technology can enhance that system already in place.

"We don't want to replace face-to-face instruction, but develop skills to make that teaching more applicable," Mills said. "We want to create focused conversation in our churches after people receive the fundamentals from the Web."

Mills said the online First Impressions training offered in the next group of classes,

Phase I, is an example of a class that works best when the church provides practical training that allows church members to apply the skills they learned online.

All of the Phase I classes, provided exclusively by LifeWay, were added throughout the fall and train individuals specifically in church-related skills. The classes include First Impressions for ushers, greeters, parking lot attendants and hosts. Instruction for department ministers and other professional ministry workers, leadership courses designed for Sunday school teachers and other lay leaders, and additional offerings for receptionists and office personnel will continue to be added throughout the year.

"I hope that it [online learning] empowers believers to fully exhibit their spiritual gifts," Mills said. "I hope churches find they have a body of engaged believers."

A subscription to the training offered through the partnership with Thomson NETg is available for a flat rate of \$120. That fee allows the subscriber unlimited access to 100 courses for 12 months. The classes offered in Phase I are available as individual purchases.

Mills said e-business is working to establish a notification system integrated into the online classes that will notify the appropriate church staff member when a layperson completes a course. The idea, he said, is to connect church members with particular skills to the staff member most able to put those skills to use.

For instance, the notification system would notify the preschool minister when a church member completed training in preschool instruction.

"With this system, we could take people engaging on the Web and people who need the help, and put them together," Mills said. ■

For more information about online learning opportunities and a list of courses available, visit www.lifeway.com/learning.

Turn the radio on ... and listen to Sunday school

By Carrie Brown McWhorter

Gary Farley, director of missions, Pickens (Ala.) Baptist Association (left), and Mike Hall, pastor of New Salem Baptist Church, Reform, Ala., take part in recording commentary on the week's Sunday school lessons.



Photo by Gary Franklin

Broadcasting worship services on local television and radio stations has long been a tradition for many churches. But for the past several months, radio listeners in west Alabama have had the opportunity to hear a broadcast devoted to Sunday school as well.

For almost a year, the WALN Radio Sunday School Program has been broadcast twice weekly on WALN 89.3 in Carrollton. The idea for the show was born out of discussions between Mike Hall, WALN's station manager, who also serves as pastor of New Salem Baptist Church in Reform, and Gary Farley, Pickens Baptist Association director of missions.

For many years, Farley, Hall and other pastors in the association have met on Tuesday mornings for a pastors' prayer breakfast. At one of the breakfasts, Hall and Farley were discussing a slot that had come open in the radio station's programming schedule, and the idea for the show began to develop.

"We usually had a church service on during that time and they had cancelled," Hall said. "We wanted to include Sunday school teachers in some way, and the show kind of bloomed from there."

Each week after the prayer breakfast, Farley, Hall and other local pastors record a 50–55 minute program about the week's Sunday school lesson. Using LifeWay's Family Bible Study series, they discuss the Scripture and commentary for the lessons, offering reflections and applications based on the focal passages.

Since the participants try to limit their responses to about 90 seconds, the discussion stays lively, which Farley said is better than one person do all the talking.

"It's pretty much unscripted, kind of like a bunch of good friends sitting around with a cup of coffee talking about the Bible," he said. "There's a good bit of humor, and we can play off one another in the sense of setting one another up for good answers."

Farley listed two target audiences for the radio program – Sunday school teachers for the 8 p.m. Thursday broadcast, and homebound and unchurched adults for the 11 a.m. Sunday broadcast.

“We try to keep the show focused on our audience,” he said. “The commentary in the Sunday school literature often seems to be targeted to median adults, so we try to tweak it around to senior adults who aren’t able to attend Sunday school.”

The response from homebound church members has been positive. Hall said an employee at a local nursing facility told him they can put a radios in residents’ rooms and let them listen to the program, which gives them a connection to their local church.

Farley said he has heard similar comments. “They say the show is a blessing,” he said. “Some have even asked for quarterlies from their churches so they can study along and be ready when we come on the radio.”

He added that they don’t forget that lost and unchurched people might be listening in as well.

Hall recalled one listener who called him after hearing the program. The lesson for that week dealt with abortion, and the woman, a truck driver from Houston, told him she had had an abortion 30 years ago.

“She said to hear a panel of pastors talking about forgiveness after abortion had helped her, and she had gone to the Lord and asked for forgiveness,” Hall said.

Stories like this emphasize the need for such a program on the air and encourage the pastors who participate, he said.

“The program has been effective for a lot of people,” Hall said. “They feel more connected to their local churches and to the Lord, and we want that to continue.” ■

Carrie Brown McWhorter is a correspondent for The Alabama Baptist. This story was used by permission.



Creating a virtual Sunday school class

By David Francis

What a delightful story about Sunday school over the radio! From the format, it sounds like listeners get a chance to “eavesdrop” on something like an actual class. That is so much more appealing than the voice of one person, because it allows

the listener to get an idea of what an actual Sunday school class might be like. The gathering of a group of listeners, like those at the nursing home, just enhances that community experience.

How might your church reach out to your homebound members, even if you don’t have access free radio time? Some churches set up a conference call with members – on Sunday morning or some other time during the week. A teacher leads the group in understanding and discussing the Bible lesson over the telephone. Perhaps the outreach leader and/or group leaders also participate. These leaders serve the same function as in a class that assembles at church, reaching out to prospects and staying in touch weekly with the class members.

My college-age son has religious discussions frequently in Internet chat rooms. If you have some really tech-savvy folks in your church, you might consider trying such an approach with your “Adults Away” group. This group includes such folks as college students, military personnel and others on temporary work assignments.

Do you know of any other “virtual” approaches to delivering Bible study? Mobile phones? iPods? If your church has a creative approach, please let us know at sundayschool@lifeway.com.

David Francis is director of LifeWay’s Sunday school area.

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LifeWay's Amazon mission challenge: 'Don't skip a house'

By Rob Phillips

With a sweep of her weathered hand, Mariana motioned for Kenny Spurlin and his Brazilian translator to follow.

They slipped past a row of stilted houses built above the Solimoes River, which, along with the Rio Negro, meet to form the world's widest river – the Amazon. Two young children played with tethered goats while pigs, chickens and threadbare cattle jockeyed for a place to escape the afternoon sun. At the end of the path, just beyond a curious shanty with a generator and a satellite dish, Mariana ushered her guests inside her one-room home.

"I want to receive Jesus as my Savior but am afraid," she said in the soft staccato of Portuguese. "My husband gets drunk and breaks things. He accuses me of having relations with another man. I am afraid he will hurt me."

Spurlin, a corporate services employee with LifeWay, repeated the same simple truth he had just shared with two dozen adults in the village schoolhouse. "Jesus will never leave you or forsake you," he said. With tears streaming down her face, Mariana prayed to receive Christ as her personal Savior. Spurlin then prayed with the middle-age woman for her husband and family.

(continued on page 32)



Photo by Michael Yarber

Kenny Spurlin uses pictures to share the gospel at a village schoolhouse in Brazil.

Photo by Derek George



A few minutes later, her sister-in-law – the sister of the abusive husband – also prayed to receive Christ. “The unconditional love of God is an amazing thing,” said Spurlin, one of 11 volunteers from LifeWay who took part in a 15-day evangelism trip to Amazonas, one of the largest states in northern Brazil. Throughout the trip, the team covered 350 miles of river, visited 42 river communities, shared the gospel with 974 people, and saw 320 profess faith in Jesus Christ.

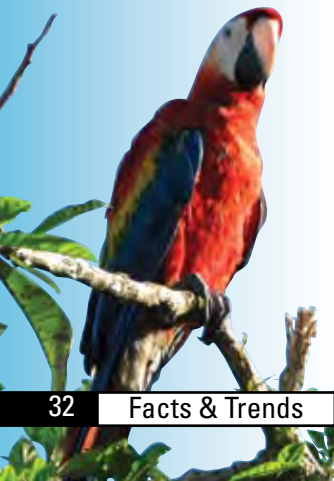
Rob Tudor, a manager in LifeWay’s information technology department, led the LifeWay team, and International Mission Board (IMB) specialists Victor and Janice Nickerson directed the team’s efforts. The Nickersons have served in Brazil 17 years and coordinate the work of 28 other IMB missionaries in six Brazilian states that cover the full Amazon basin. The IMB has a vision to evangelize the Amazon basin and plant churches that are reachable by boat

within two hours of any village.

Many of the villages profess a form of Christianity but stress works-based salvation. So Victor Nickerson challenged the LifeWay team to do two things: “Share the old, old story of Jesus and His love, and don’t skip a house.”

The LifeWay team traveled the river on the Marco Polo, a houseboat owned and operated by Amazon Vision Ministries. Each day the LifeWay team, along with translators and Brazilian volunteers, loaded into 17-foot johnboats and set out for villages along the river. In addition to fast currents, the river environment provided additional challenges, most notably biting insects and intense heat. A thermometer on the stern of the Marco Polo registered a temperature of 128 degrees one afternoon.

There are 33,000 villages along the Amazon River, more than 20,000 of which have not been evangelized, according





Mission Stats

Since 1997, LifeWay has sent 798 employees, retirees and other volunteers on 50 mission trips to 25 countries, resulting in 67,681 professions of faith and 170 new church starts.



to the IMB's Nickersons. They have rich and unusual names – Tamaniqua, Ginipapo, Capoti, Cruzeiro, Nova Canaa and Boco de Tupe – but share a common need, according to Tudor, “to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.”

“One of the main challenges of this trip is the logistics – finding a way to reach the people,” said Tudor, atop the Marco Polo as it headed downstream toward Tefe near the end of the trip. “But God made the effort worthwhile. He provided a great team, wonderful translators and guides, and He brought more than 300 new believers into His Kingdom.” ■

Photos on this page by Michael Yarber

***Facing page:** Brazilian children like this young girl gladly listened to Bible stories. **Top:** Wayne Cole, LifeWay retail employee, shares the gospel in a floating house on the Amazon River. Cole was one of 11 LifeWay volunteers who ministered in the Amazonas. **Directly above, left:** A boy reads through a tract distributed by the mission team. **Directly above, right:** Stephen Williams, LifeWay church resources employee, pilots one of the five johnboats used to visit villages along the Amazon River.*



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CHURCH RESOURCES
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Glorieta Collegiate Week focuses on the cross

By Brooklyn Noel



Photo by Chris Sinclair

Heath Vogt, a student at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, carries wooden crosses to a field at Glorieta for the morning prayer service.

The murmur of lowered voices mingled with the melody of worship songs being sung by groups of students huddled in the morning sunlight shining on a field opposite Glorieta's Prayer Garden.

Without warning, the staccato notes of a hammer connecting with its target cut through the quiet morning, interrupting the calm of prayer and praise.

The sounds of hammers pounding wood quickly multiplied as groups of college students from all over the country and as far away as Australia staked more than 70 crosses into the ground. Written prayer requests covered the two-foot crosses – petitions for nations, friends and college campuses.

Each cross represented students “staking down a claim on your campus this fall and spring.” Collegiate Week speaker Jon Randles told the crowd during the opening morning celebration of National Collegiate Week, held Aug. 3-9

Next year's Collegiate Week will be Aug. 4-9 at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center and Aug. 5-10 at LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center. For more information about Collegiate Week visit www.lifeway.com.

continued on page 36



Photo by Chris Sinclair

at LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center outside Santa Fe, N.M. Another Collegiate Week was held concurrently at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina.

Randles, a popular collegiate ministries speaker, encouraged Collegiate Week attendees to understand and nurture their passion for Christ.

“This isn’t the first generation to have passion,” Randles said, citing the Vietnam and civil rights generation as an example. “But that generation lost it.

“God has given the passion back to you in a more spiritual, theological way.”

Many of the 1,200 students who attended the LifeWay-sponsored conference came with their school’s Baptist student organization or their local church’s college class. Each group received one of the wooden crosses on which students could write their petitions for prayer or otherwise decorate. Some used a simple pencil to cover their crosses with writing while purple cloth and pictures of national flags adorned others.

As Collegiate Week worship leaders Ross King and Band played quietly from a makeshift stage, students held hands or wrapped arms around each other’s shoulders



and prayed for one another and their world.

The prayer crosses helped Joni Watanabe from the University of Hawaii focus less on herself and more on the people and circumstances around her during a week designed to grow her personal walk.

“It helped our group come together in unity,” said Watanabe, attending her third Collegiate Week conference at Glorieta. “We’re all fighting the same fight.”

One by one, groups staked their crosses into the ground and trickled out of the field to attend the next of many activities that filled the week. But the crosses remained in place throughout the conference, and individual students as well as whole groups returned to the field at undesignated times to add new requests or pray for those already expressed.

This is the second time students have gathered to display crosses with prayer requests during Glorieta’s annual Collegiate Week conference, and Bill Wade, LifeWay’s national collegiate ministry specialist, said he would like to see the tradition continue.

“This is a group you invest in for the future,” Wade said. “We did this once before and it was just extremely popular. We’d like to make it a yearly thing.” ■

Melinda Scoggins, a student at the University of North Texas in Denton, reads Scripture on the lawn before the morning prayer service at Glorieta.



The Collegiate Learner Guide, also known as the *collegiate+* magazine, has been super-sized to a newsstand size and quality magazine to provide more relevant content for college students. The 13 Bible studies are designed to be relevant to the needs of college students. The magazine also challenges students to incorporate a

disciplined, daily devotional life that will empower them to be more devoted to Christ. From cover design to timely content, the *collegiate+* magazine is truly relevant.

We recommend

- *collegiate+* magazine
- *The Pursuit: Knowing Christ Intimately – Sharing Him Intentionally* by Milt Hughes
- *Experiencing God: Collegiate Edition* by Henry and Richard Blackaby
- *Leveraging Your Influence: Impacting College Students for Christ* by Tim Elmore

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

Collegiate Week provides unexpected chance to serve

by Brooklyn Noel

The typical lack of disposable income didn't stop a bunch of college students from donating about 400 meals to hungry servicemen and women passing through LifeWay's Glorieta Conference Center during National Collegiate Week.

About 800 soldiers from a Brigade Combat Team stopped at Glorieta during the Aug. 3-9 Collegiate Week conference for a bite to eat on their way from Fort Carson, Colo., to the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif. The soldiers were looking at probable deployment to Iraq.

When the 1,200 students at National Collegiate Week heard of the soldiers' plans to stop at the conference center, several organized an effort to raise money for their meals, created banners for display and placed a prayer table in the Glorieta Dining Hall.

The project began with students in the foyer of Holcomb Auditorium before Friday evening worship. There, they collected money and meal tickets for the soldiers and allowed conference attendees to write an encouraging message or prayer on banners later displayed in the dining hall.

"They [students] saw a need and an opportunity to serve," said Bill Wade, LifeWay's collegiate ministry specialist. "They met a person who had a need and they met that need expecting nothing in return.

"They just wanted to help," he said, adding that the students' thoughtfulness nearly brought him to tears.

LifeWay's Collegiate Week 2005 focused on the theme "Worship with Your Life," and throughout the week platform speakers Jon Randles and Landon Dowden helped students understand what it means to live passionately for Christ.

Conference organizers, however, didn't know students would have such a practical opportunity to practice worshipful living.

Chaplain Cpt. Daniel Middlebrooks, U.S. Army Chaplain 1st Recruiting Brigade, attended Collegiate Week as a North American Mission Board chaplaincy representative, but had no idea the soldiers would be stopping by.

The chaplain explained that the donated meals meant much more than full stomachs to the military men and women who received them. When a soldier asked him why students and staff would give food and support to a stranger, Middlebrooks replied, "We may not know you, but we know the One who does."

He said the involvement of the students helped create a "bridge of relationship" between college students and the military because the students realized the servicemen and women were "kids just like them."

"The military is not just an organization that goes out," Middlebrooks explained. "It is a generation that stands up."

LifeWay's national director of conference centers, Byron Hill, said he was impressed by the way students embraced the event with this "grassroots effort."

"It was just a spontaneous way for them to respond in God's service," he said.

Students collected money or meal tickets for the equivalent of 400 meals, which cut the meal price nearly in half for the 1,400 soldiers that passed through Glorieta.

Hill said the money didn't have an impact on the military guests themselves because the government pays for their meals, but the attitude of those willing to give touched even the non-Christians.

"The soldiers knew people were saying, 'Here, take my meal,'" Hill said. ■

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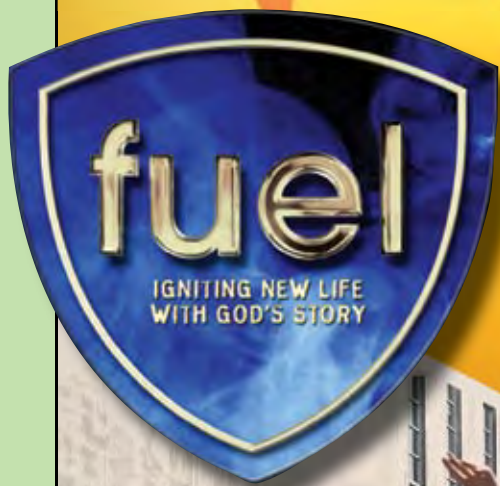
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Fuel is a 'monster' production

by Brooklyn Noel

The streets of downtown Murfreesboro, Tenn., are generally quiet on Sunday afternoons when most of the shops are closed. But a fictitious dinosaur caused quite a ruckus one Sunday this past summer.

In August, filmmakers blocked off a section of Murfreesboro's streets to film a scene from the latest installment of LifeWay's digital youth Bible study, *Fuel: Igniting New Life with God's Story*. This particular scene involved about 60 extras following directions and receiving motivation while standing on the pavement in sweltering heat.

"Run fast," production coordinator Danny Ayala told the crowd through his bullhorn. "You're running from a dinosaur."

The cooperative extras obeyed by letting their imaginations run wild as they disrupted the quiet afternoon with realistic screams of terror, flailing arms and even some feet that literally ran right out of their flip-flops.

The scene filmed in Murfreesboro is part of a *Fuel* episode that follows an oblivious teenager through his day as he leaves home, goes to work and walks through a crowd of fleeing people without ever noticing the giant creature destroying his town.

Most people probably wouldn't expect a reptilian monster to make an appearance in a Bible study video, but *Fuel* is all about reaching youth in unexpected ways – and it's working.

David Buckley, the youth director at Stonebrook Church in Smyrna, Tenn., began leading his group of about 15-20 students through *Fuel* when the study premiered last summer. Since then, regular attendance has grown to 25-30 students.

"I really like the study," said Buckley, who, along with several of his students and all eight of his sons, served as an extra in Sunday's filming. "It's in settings that kids can see, so it has more of an appeal and impact."

Another extra, 17-year-old Mellie Riddle, said she came to the filming just to see what a professional video production looked like, but was impressed with the idea of a Bible study like *Fuel*.

"I think it's [the scene] hilarious," Riddle said. "I think [students] my age and a little bit younger would appreciate that there's a video and stuff. They can really learn something from it."

Glenda Arbuckle's son, Ryan, served as an extra in the scene and has been studying *Fuel* as part of the youth group at Stonebrook. She said she's glad to see him so interested in a Bible study.

"I think it appeals to the youth and all their technology," Arbuckle said. "You've got to meet them on their level."

The *Fuel* curriculum is designed to teach 96 Bible stories through eight volumes and two years of study. Volume 2.2 is scheduled to be released this month and includes the dinosaur scene.

While the premise of the scene may seem bizarre, the location is one of the least exotic *Fuel* staff have visited to film the Bible study. So far, they have filmed in places such as Hawaii, Alaska, Washington and even Egypt.

"I absolutely believe in the study," Ayala said. "The state of the youth culture in today's society has just taken a nosedive, so anything we can do is worth it." ■

For more information and previews of *Fuel* curriculum, visit www.lifeway.com/Fuel.

Marriage Impact: a relationship-building adventure

by Andrea Higgins

The romantic hike through the lush Pisgah National Forest in the pristine Blue Ridge Mountains was just a prelude to what was to come.

A mad-cap, rollicking splash down Sliding Rock – a natural water slide that plunges riders down a smooth rock formation into a seven-foot deep icy mountain pool – screamed romance for Kevin and Laura Naugle of Carlinville, Ill.

“The water was so cold, my feet went numb. It took my breath away. We were laughing [and] gasping for air,” said Laura Naugle.

The Naugles went to LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina for Marriage Impact Weekend expecting adventure. They didn’t, however, expect the biggest challenges to take place away from the great outdoors.

The true adventure unfolded as conference participants explored the “plunge” they took when they got married, and searched for a deeper level of intimacy that God wants them to have with their spouses.

“The goal for this weekend is for you to understand something about your marriage that you did not know before,” said conference leader Ric Cadle, associate pastor of Graceland Baptist Church in New Albany, Ind.

Cadle’s “Extreme Marriage Makeover” presentation focused on keeping Jesus Christ at the center of the relationships He has ordained, avoiding “marriage destroyers” through better communication and learning what makes spouses feel loved.

“One of the most frequent comments I hear at marriage conferences is, ‘I do not believe my spouse can change,’” Cadle said. But, he reminded them, people do change all the time, and become new again in Jesus Christ.

“I can’t change my spouse. What I’ve learned is I’ve got plenty of work to do on myself,” Cadle added.

Stepping outside of comfort zones, exploring the natural elements – and revealing their true feelings to each other – made for a memorable, possibly relationship-changing, experience, said Laura Naugle.

“I finally feel like he wants to work on it,”



Photo by Gibbs Frazier

“In your marriage, God has put two people together. That can be a beautiful thing if you include one thing – God. This three stranded cord is not easily broken.”

— Ric Cadle, associate pastor of Graceland Baptist Church in New Albany, Ind.

said Laura Naugle, who described their 18-year marriage as full of hardships.

Kevin Naugle, his tail bone a bit sore from the couple's comical excursion down Sliding Rock, was surprised at what he learned about his wife.

As Cadle outlined the five love languages, Naugle knew precisely which areas appealed to his wife, and suddenly realized he had never made an effort to be sensitive to them.

"At least we started learning how to communicate," he said. "Now that I know what means a lot to her, I expect things will be better."

Couples who came expecting a lighthearted weekend of physical challenges and outdoor entertainment were amazed at the intensity of the workshops and the insight they gained into their partner's needs. Cadle encouraged the 20 couples present to pray out loud together and about each other, and not just at the dinner table, as most people do.

"When your spouse hears you say something to God, that's powerful," even though it seems awkward at first, Cadle said.

Even after nearly 30 years of marriage and several LifeWay marriage conferences, Gary and Joan Bowden of Upatoi, Ga., said there is always something to learn about each other. The pair went on their first whitewater rafting trip, enjoying the beautiful mountains rising up around them.

Many people have storybook expectations of what marriage should look like, Cadle said, and are disappointed when their own marriages don't measure up.

What they fail to recognize is that the plan God has for them as a couple far exceeds any fantasy they ever dreamed up on their own. It is no accident that they undoubtedly ended up with a spouse who is their opposite. This, Cadle said, is God's way of helping each of them grow in areas where they are weak.

"Guys, we were not taught the language that women know," Cadle said, particularly when it comes to understanding intimacy.

"I thought intimacy was physical. What I found out is that it is spiritual. It's not even candlelight. If you want really good sex, you've got to have spiritual intimacy," Cadle said during a session called "Incredible Intimacy & Meaningful Touch."

He said society has so warped the meaning of touch, so that couples need to re-learn how to touch each other in a non-sexual way.

"I believe that the Bible is the most practical guide of what a marriage is supposed to look like," Cadle said.

"In your marriage, God has put two people together. That can be a beautiful thing if you include one thing – God. This three stranded cord is not easily broken."

At the close of the retreat, the couples – some with tears and some with giggles that gave way to deep emotion – held hands as Cadle instructed them to tell each other that they look forward to spending their lives with each other.

"Embrace your destiny together," he said, before sending them out on the next phase of the adventure called married life. ■

We recommend

- *The Five Love Languages* by Gary Chapman
- *Covenant Marriage* by Gary Chapman

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

LifeWay hosts numerous Marriage Impact conferences throughout the year. For more information, visit www.lifeway.com.

Seven steps to a more consistent prayer life

By Richard E. Dodge

Prayer is a discipline, much like fasting, meditation and confession, but in our multi-tasking, instant gratification world, how can you focus on and make time for the discipline of prayer? Consider some suggestions for developing a more consistent, disciplined prayer life.

Step 1: Accept your need to pray.

Consider how much Jesus depended on prayer. Jesus prayed not only to set an example, but also to teach us that even the Son of God needed to be connected through prayer to the Father.

Step 2: Admit your need to learn.

Even the apostles asked Him to teach them to pray (Luke 11). Prayer is not a formula or code; prayer is one heart talking to another, expressing our sincere desire to know the heart of God.

Step 3: Align yourself with God.

Jesus knew God's will because He prayed and listened to Him. God lets us know His will when we spend time with Him, whether through prayer, Bible study, worship, or conversation with others who also seek God's will.

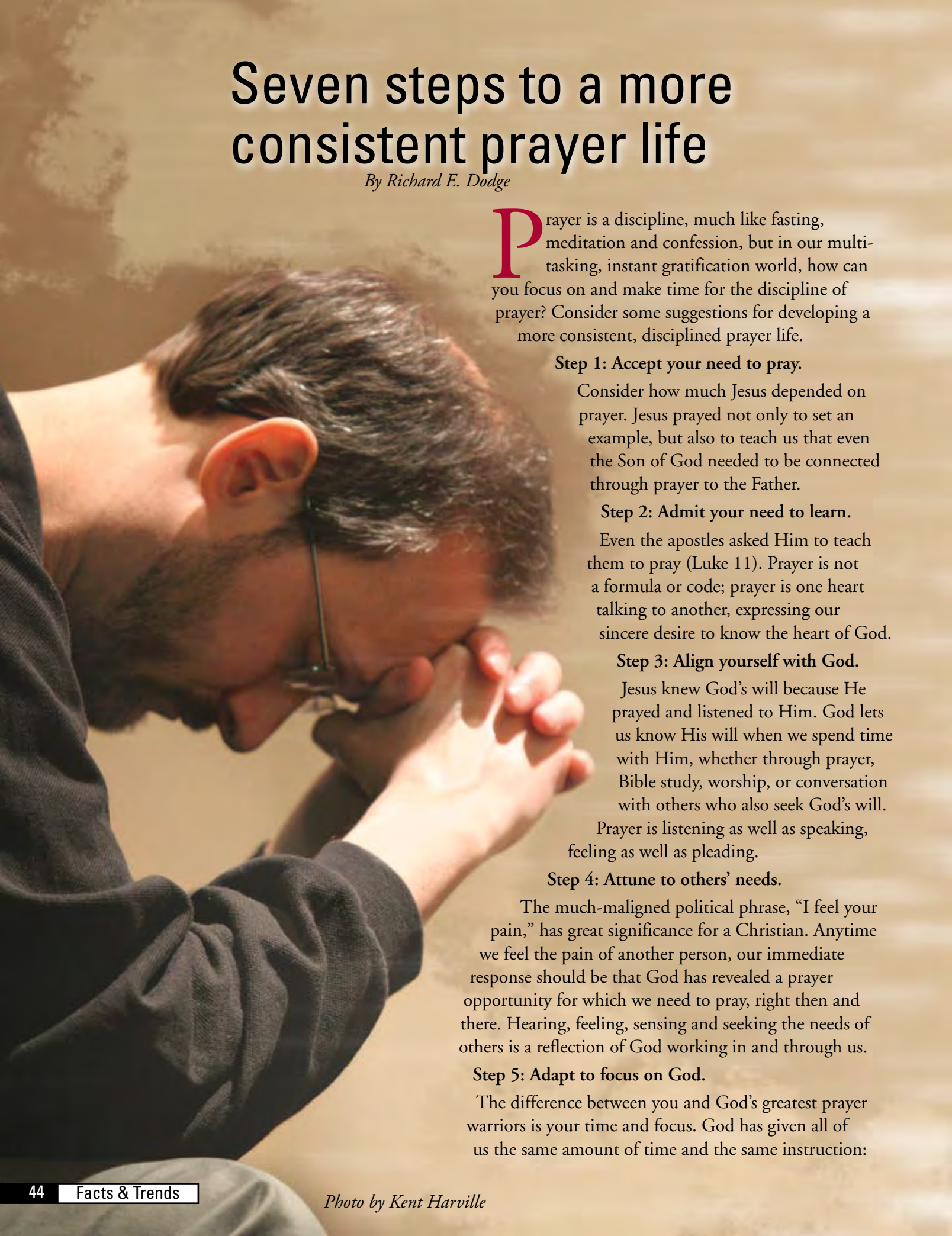
Prayer is listening as well as speaking, feeling as well as pleading.

Step 4: Attune to others' needs.

The much-maligned political phrase, "I feel your pain," has great significance for a Christian. Anytime we feel the pain of another person, our immediate response should be that God has revealed a prayer opportunity for which we need to pray, right then and there. Hearing, feeling, sensing and seeking the needs of others is a reflection of God working in and through us.

Step 5: Adapt to focus on God.

The difference between you and God's greatest prayer warriors is your time and focus. God has given all of us the same amount of time and the same instruction:



Seek Him and invest ourselves in prayer for others. Whether we do this depends on whether we want to do this.

Step 6: Accept God's help.

The Bible tells us that our prayers are not efforts to inform God of needs or concerns. He already knows them. Our prayers help us acknowledge our trust in and dependence on Him to handle our prayers, seek His encouragement and strength, and trust Him with the results.

Step 7: Adopt a plan.

Certainly prayer should not be mechanical, but prayer should be disciplined. In fact, that's one reason we suggest that prayer is a Christian discipline

– it's something we should practice and make a habit. Adding structure – such as a place, time, pattern, even having a prayer partner – encourages consistency and growth.

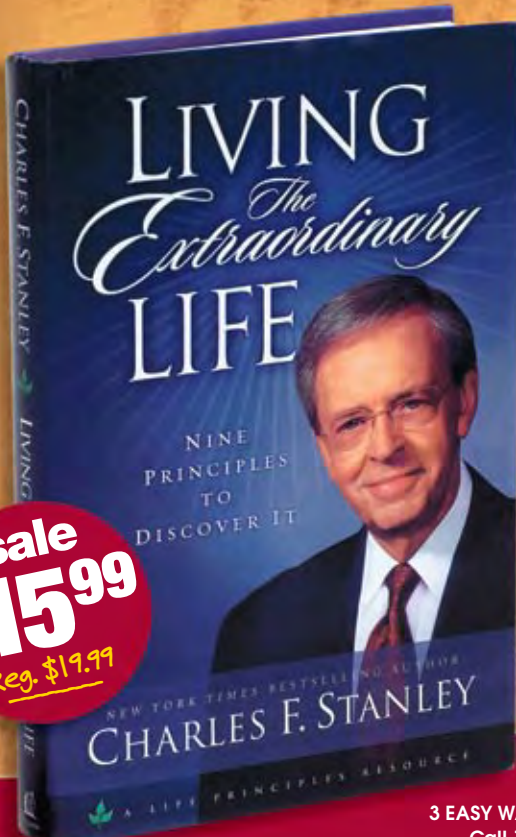
I gave certain family members and friends a unique Christmas gift one year. I promised to pray for each individual for at least five minutes each day for one year. I spent 20-30 minutes each way driving to and from the office, and decided that this time could be used to pray rather than listening to the radio. That time in prayer helped me get closer to God and closer to each person for whom I prayed.

Richard E. Dodge is an Internet producer at LifeWay. ■

We recommend

- *The Life-Changing Power of Prayer* – Member Book by T.W. Hunt
- *Acts in Prayer* by E.W. Price
- *Prayer, the Great Adventure* by David Jeremiah

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



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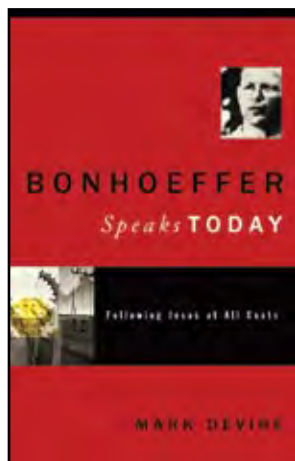


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■ ***Bonhoeffer Speaks Today***

by **Mark Devine**

Imprisoned and eventually executed for his opposition to Hitler's regime, Dietrich Bonhoeffer continues to fascinate and inspire Christians across the world. His life epitomizes authenticity, commitment and sacrifice. This book is published to coincide with the 100th anniversary of Bonhoeffer's birth in 1906. It allows Bonhoeffer to speak to today's believer about the importance of knowing

and doing the will of God, the importance and role of the church, the call to witness, the role of suffering and the path to hope. Releases Nov. 1. Paperback. B&H product #0-8054-3261-2; \$19.99

■ ***The Associate Pastor***

by **Martin E. Hawkins**

Like the second-chair position in an orchestra, a well-prepared associate pastor complements and harmonizes with the senior pastor's ministry to create an exquisite symphony. Yet more often than not, we consider the position of "second fiddle" second rate. How long will we let the growing number of assistant pastors struggle to recognize their significance within the church?

Martin Hawkins feels he is fulfilling his calling by faithfully serving in the role of associate pastor, and this book affirms the role of the assistant pastor as a God-honoring ministry worthy

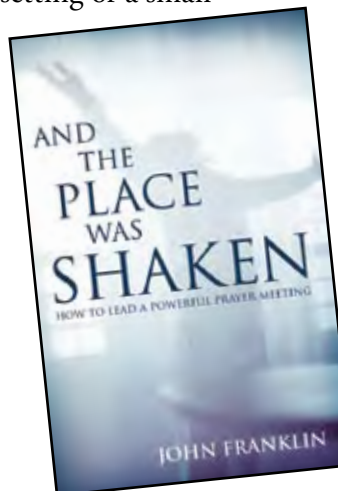


of a calling and lifetime of service. Releases Nov. 1. Paperback. B&H product #0-8054-4064-X; \$12.99

■ ***And the Place Was Shaken***

by **John Franklin**

Prayer for the church is not a casual practice, but rather communion between Christ and His body that is as intimate as communion between a husband and a wife. And for the church, corporate prayer is not an optional ritual but a commanded expectation. However, having an effective corporate experience of prayer – whether in a large congregational setting or a small



group – depends on many factors. John Franklin highlights not only the theology behind powerful corporate prayer times but also the effective habits of a praying church. Know why God especially requires corporate prayer. Know what motivates God to move in power. God wants to reveal Himself to His people, to move them onto His agenda and to minister to His people particularly through His people. A God-centered prayer format is central to having a "God experience" in the corporate church setting. Releases Nov. 1. Paperback. B&H product #0-8054-3298-1; \$14.99

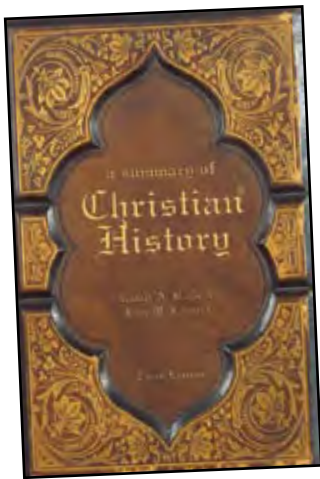
■ ***Ready for Reformation?***

by **Tom Nettles**

Tom Nettles believes that Southern Baptist churches are still in the

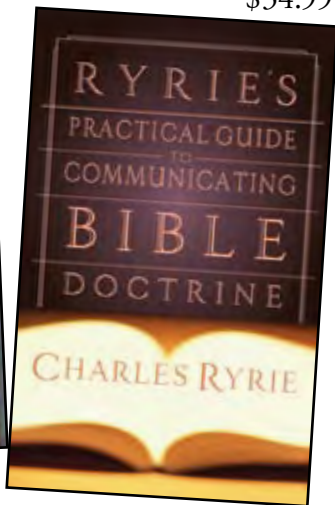


middle of reformation – reformation that began with the conservative resurgence but continues today. It continues because reformation requires much more than the recovery of biblical authority. Reformation must penetrate deep; it requires time, patience, sacrifice and honest self-criticism. Modern-day reformers must enact a serious reengagement with doctrinal and practical ideas of the past, for failure to do so may result in an aborted reformation. Releases Nov. 1. Paperback. B&H product #0-8054-4059-3; \$14.99



■ ***A Summary of Christian History***
by Robert A. Baker and John M. Landers
Originally published in 1959, *A Summary of Christian History*

has been a classic text for introductory-level studies of Christian history for more than four decades. Even in the face of advancing history, new findings and changing perspectives, Baker's original classic has remained popular decades beyond the normal life expectancy of a textbook. In this third edition, John Landers, a former student of Baker, builds on the original goal of helping students grasp the broad contours of Christian history without becoming lost in a maze of detail. Releases Nov. 15. Hardcover. B&H product #0-8054-3288-4; \$34.99

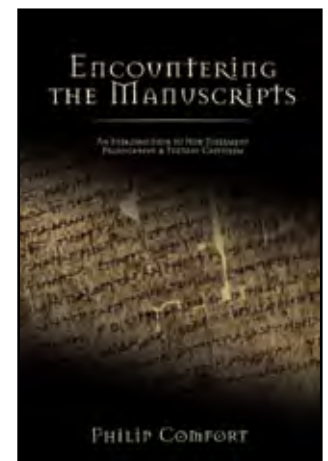


■ ***Ryrie's Practical Guide to Communicating Bible Doctrine***
by Charles C. Ryrie
In this concise and

compelling handbook, respected evangelical theologian Charles Ryrie writes to Bible students and practicing pastors alike about the importance of communicating the doctrines of Scripture. He clearly explains why doctrinal truth from the Bible must be a key part of every preacher's message. Using practical illustrations and applications, Ryrie addresses the reasons why so many people neglect doctrine and offers helpful ways of embracing doctrine through the use of major Bible passages, systematic theology, biblical theology, concordances and more. Well-written and sure to be well worn, *Ryrie's Practical Guide to Communicating Bible Doctrine* is a trusted resource that readers will enjoy referring to time and again. Releases Nov. 15. Hardcover. B&H product #0-8054-4063-1; \$12.99

■ ***Encountering the Manuscripts***
by Philip Comfort
Encountering the Manuscripts focuses on the most significant New Testament manuscripts from the perspective of

paleography and textual criticism. This volume merges the two areas of study by looking at both as we encounter the New Testament manuscripts. Releases Nov. 15. Hardcover. B&H product #0-8054-3145-4; \$34.99



LifeWay Church Resources

■ ***VBS 2006 Arctic Edge: Where Adventure Meets Courage™***

Introduce children to Bible characters who were pushed to the edge of their convictions and belief in God. Elijah, Esther, Nicodemus, Saul, Ananias, Peter and John all faced situations that required courage to follow God and demonstrate their faith. They depended on God to give them courage to face the challenges in their lives and to reveal

Resources

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God's power to those they encountered. Throughout VBS, biblical courage is defined as facing dangers or difficulties with confidence in God. Each day of the *VBS 2006 Arctic Edge: Where Adventure Meets Courage™* experience, kids are challenged with a "daily act of courage" that will inspire them to put into practice what they are learning in Bible study. All release Nov. 1.

Transform high traffic areas in your church into an Arctic scene by displaying the giant excursion posters from the *Arctic Edge Visual Pack*. At 4x3 feet, these posters pack a huge decorating punch for a great price, and the string flags will attract attention from the community when placed outside your church. Kids will love the new VBS 2006 inflatable moose.

Displaying the 5-foot inflatable moose with the 12-inch VBS 2006 puffin inflatable and Arctic Edge Stand-up to create a fun setting for taking photos.

What's VBS without crafts? Each craft pack provides enough supplies for 10 children to create their own Arctic Edge souvenir. Ranging in price from 59¢ to \$1.59 per child, the VBS craft packs offer you easy and affordable options for the Crafts Depot rotation.

VBS 2006 Arctic Edge Sampler, LifeWay church resources #4158-2232-8, \$54.99; *VBS 2006 Arctic Edge Super Sampler*, LifeWay church resources #4158-2230-1, \$169.99; *VBS 2006 Arctic Edge Visual Pack*, LifeWay church resources #4158-2299-9, \$24.99

VBS 2006 Arctic Edge String Flags, *VBS 2006 5-foot Inflatable Moose*, *VBS 2006 Puffin*

Inflatable, *VBS 2006 Craft Packs (pkg. of 10): Polar Bear Invitation, Moose Memo Magnet, ABC Story Stick, Icy CD Cover, Rustic Lodge Coaster, Forget-Me-Not Keychain* and *Vinyl Photo Holder* are also available.

■ **VBX for Preteens**
LifeWay recognizes that preteens aren't young children, but neither are they teenagers.

They embody a very unique group with very unique needs. Our VBX curriculum follows a schedule that allows preteens to stay together during the week of VBS, with the exception of the worship rally. Multimedia also is used throughout VBX. The leader pack contains an enhanced CD with music, sound effects, a PowerPoint® presentation and other helpful files.

VBX is very flexible. A traditional VBS schedule is included on the CD-ROM with the VBX *Preteen Bible Study Leader Pack* and the *Leader Guide* features icons that alert you to activities for traditional opening and closing of Bible study sessions. Releases Nov. 1.

VBS 2006 Preteen Bible Study Leader Guide, LifeWay church resources #4158-2324-3, \$4.69; *VBS 2006 Preteen Bible Study Leader Pack*, LifeWay church resources #4158-2321-9, \$20.99; *VBS 2006 Courage Cards for Preteens (Preteen Learner Guide)*, LifeWay church resources #4158-2365-0, \$2.39

■ **Club VBS: Space Quest**

Blast off to adventure! During Club VBS 2006, kids explore biblical truths about Jesus' mission while jetting to space stations for crafts, snacks and recreation. Club VBS is a great alternative Vacation Bible School program, or outreach event.

Each *Club VBS: Space Quest* event begins with the *All-in-One Pack* that comes with everything you need for 40 children (20 children grades 1-3; 20 children grades 4-6) and 10 preschoolers. Add-on accessories to enhance the *Club VBS: Space Quest* experience also are available for



There are moments

when we catch

a glimpse of God.

It's not just His *grace* that's amazing.

Maybe you've seen

His awesome power

in a cascading waterfall.

Or sensed His sovereignty

when faced with

a difficult decision.

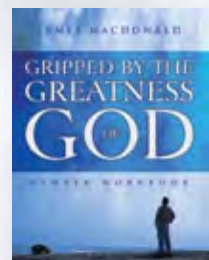
At times like these,

when we grasp all

that makes God great,

we naturally

respond in worship.



 LifeWay
CHURCH RESOURCES
Biblical Solutions for Life

To learn more about James MacDonald and his new LifeWay resources and events, visit www.lifeway.com/jamesmacdonald.

Resources

for you from LifeWay

purchase separately. And remember, all *Club VBS: Space Quest* products may be purchased year 'round for year 'round fun! Releases Nov. 1.

Club VBS 2006 All-in-One Pack, LifeWay church resources #4158-2577-7, \$279.99

■ *Attending the Bride of Christ: Preparing for His Return*

Attending the Bride of Christ: Preparing for His Return helps women see the church as Christ sees her – a shining bride preparing for the Bridegroom. Author Martha Lawley explains how Jesus often used marriage to teach us about Himself and His purpose.

This new, six-week Bible study helps women better understand God's plan for the church and how they can prepare for Christ's return. By the conclusion of this study, women will discover biblical truths that point to the climax of history – the marriage feast of the

Lamb. This study includes five daily lessons per week to prepare for the group sessions. A leader guide is available in the back of the member book. Releases Nov. 1.

Attending the Bride of Christ: Preparing for His Return (member book with leader helps), LifeWay church resources #4158-2091-0, \$8.95

■ *Women Reaching Women: Beginning and Building a Women's Enrichment Ministry, Revised and Expanded*

Women Reaching Women: Beginning and Building a Women's Enrichment Ministry is an updated release of the popular, handbook that provides the foundational

for women's enrichment ministry. New chapters include: The Generations in the Postmodern World, Leading Well:

Life Lessons for Leaders, Women's Ministry in the Smaller Church, Ministry to Women Whose Husbands Are Not Spiritual Leaders,

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Women Reaching Women: Beginning and Building a Women's Enrichment Ministry, LifeWay church resources #4158-2590-4, \$16.95

■ *Fuel: Volume 2.2*

Fuel is an entirely multimedia-based curriculum for grades 7–12; there are no workbooks needed. It's the kind of Bible study that teens want – fresh and cutting edge.

Each volume of *Fuel* includes 12 sessions presented on two DVDs and three CD-ROMs. Through eight volumes of study, students will have the opportunity to hear 96 of the major stories of the Bible in chronological order over the course of two years.

This winter's release of Volume 2.2 continues with studies from the New Testament. Each

session engages learners using a wide variety of visual media including: drama, skits, animation, interviews, parody and

music. Releases Nov. 1.

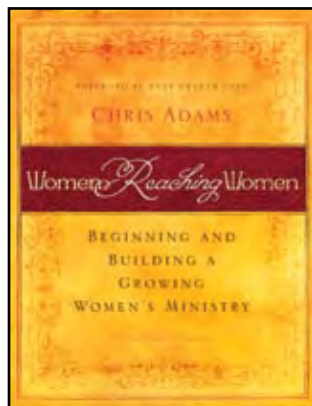
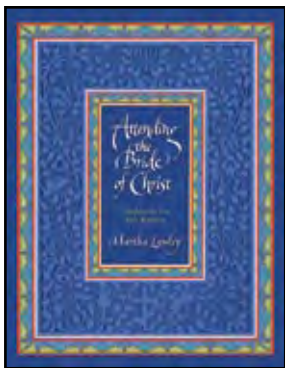
Fuel 2.2 DVD and CD-ROM Leader Set, LifeWay church resources #4158-2276-X, \$149.95; *Fuel 2.2 Small Group Leader Guide (CD-ROMs only)*, LifeWay church resources #4158-2609-9, \$9.95

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Today's students need strong character and guidance to be able to influence their world for Jesus Christ. That's why *Vital Character* makes an excellent choice for discipleship and Sunday school!

Vital Character provides students with examples of godly character traits, challenging them to model those traits in their lives. Each interactive, four-session study uses reproducible worksheets called "Foundations," along with reproducible devotional guides called "Blueprints," and includes an inspirational leader article and specific helps for teaching. Releases Nov. 1.

Spring 2006 topics highlight mercy, self-control and thankfulness. *Mercy*, LifeWay church resources #4158-2281-6, \$12.95; *Self-control*, LifeWay church resources #4158-2282-4, \$12.95; *Thankfulness*, LifeWay church resources #4158-2283-2, \$12.95



■ **LifeTrak 6.2**

If you're looking for a curriculum that specializes in younger youth (grades 7–9) and older youth (grades 10–12), *LifeTrak* is an excellent choice! Each undated, quarterly issue of *LifeTrak* features a multipurpose, multimedia-based CD-ROM with adaptations for small-group, contemporary music, Holman CSB® text, and reproducible pages. Leaders will love the fact that they can get a big-picture focus, because the scope and sequence is printed in each edition. Both the older and younger youth editions include at least one evangelism lesson each quarter. Releases Dec. 1.

LifeTrak 6.2 Younger Youth Edition, grades 7–9 LifeWay church resources #4158-2545-9, \$29.95; *LifeTrak 6.2 Older Youth Edition*, grades 10–12 LifeWay church resources #4158-2544-0, \$29.95

Serendipity House

■ **FLOOD**

FLOOD is a new and exciting turnkey, issues-driven, six-week, DVD-enhanced youth ministry Bible study resource from Serendipity House. Each *FLOOD* kit includes a leader manual and two DVDs that incorporate 12 short films to generate discussion and discovery-oriented Bible study. The film clips use contemporary Christian artist interviews, along

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LifeWay commends the efforts of Southern Baptist disaster relief workers meeting needs during times of crisis. Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus in a very direct way with those affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Monetary donations are still critically needed. Go to www.namb.net/dr to give.

LifeWay continues to minister to the many victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and their churches as they put their lives back together.

Contact the LifeWay disaster assistance line at (800) 357-7029 for help with churches' curriculum and supply needs.

Call the LeaderCare Helpline at (888) 789-9111 for professional counseling for ministers and their families.

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