

Facts & Trends

Fuge
***Faith, Friends
& Fun minister
to students***

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2007

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

 **LifeWay**
Biblical Solutions for Life

Contents

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Commentary

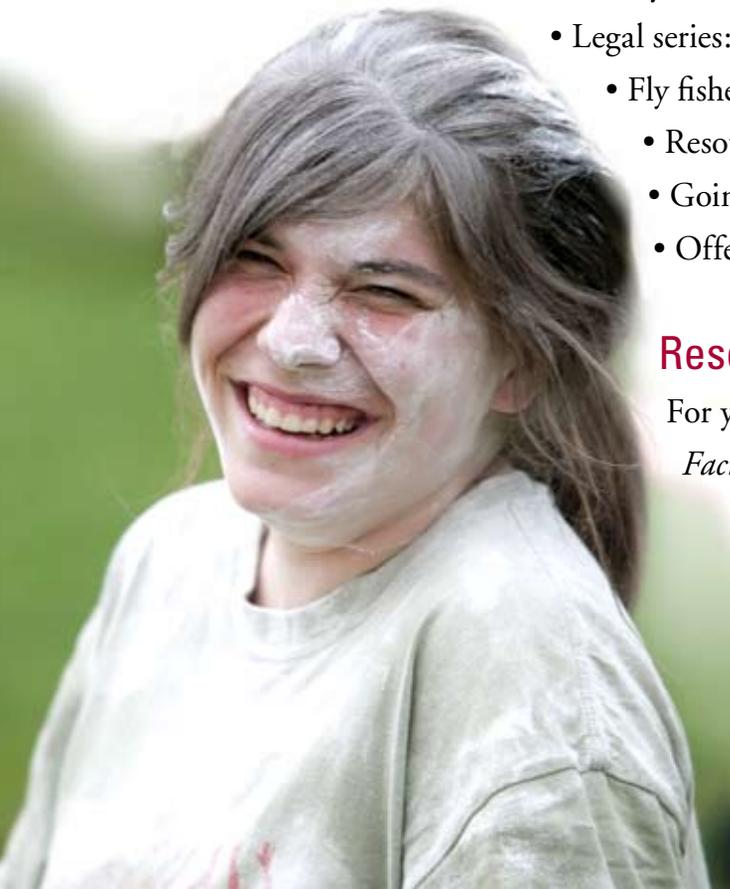
- From my perspective: Hope requires urgency4
- Survey: Teenagers' views on eternity.....6

Articles

- Fuge is largest event at Ridgecrest in decade..... 10
- Campers told to reach out, not sellout 17
- LifeWay honors churches for baptisms..... 18
- LifeWay Lessons: new online teaching resource.....20
- Beth Moore's *A Woman's Heart* updated22
- New study on Psalms of Ascent by Beth Moore released23
- LifeWay offers growing resources on iTunes24
- Legal series: Church bylaws.....25
 - Fly fishermen learn to fish for more than trout.....30
 - Resource tells parents how to navigate cyberworld..... 35
 - Going Beyond the ordinary36
 - Offering envelopes are time-tested ministry tool.....38

Resources

- For you from LifeWay.....40
- Facts & Trends Online* features50



Cover and inset: Fuge campers display their new looks after the infamous "messy games." In this game, the group pummels each other with flour-filled stockings. They soon become covered with the white powder ... and love it! Photo by Guy Lyons.



Beth Moore study updated, new study releases • 22-23



Fly fishermen • 30



LifeWay Lessons • 20



Church bylaws • 25



Offering envelopes • 38



Going Beyond conference • 36

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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 Shrout, Brooklyn Noel, Jenny Rice, Chris Turner, writers; Kent Harville, visuals specialist; Shirley Richardson, Web editor; Russ Rankin, editor in chief; Rob Phillips, director, communications department.

From my perspective



Hope requires urgency

We're losing our kids.

More frightening: we don't seem to care.

These two thoughts flashed through my mind when I read the research on teens' confusion about eternity compiled by LifeWay Research and located on the following pages of this issue of *Facts & Trends*.

In the study's summary, Scott McConnell, associate director of LifeWay Research, says, "It is surprising that only about half the teenagers who attended a Christian church in the last month are depending solely on the grace of Jesus Christ to get to heaven."

Shocking. That means statistically if you have 100 kids in your church's youth group, 50 of them are confused about the exclusivity of Christ. Fifty teenagers between 12 and 19 do not clearly understand that Jesus is the **ONLY** path to God and ultimately an eternal life worshipping Him. Every other kid is missing the truth, hope and clarity found in one of the most important passages of Scripture:

"But now, apart from the law, God's righteousness has been revealed – attested by the Law and the Prophets – that is, God's righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ, to all who believe, since there is no distinction. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. They are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. God presented Him as a propitiation through faith in His blood, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His restraint God passed over the sins previously committed. He presented Him to demonstrate His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be righteous and declare righteous the one who has faith in Jesus." (Romans 3:21-26 HCSB)

If all we did as ministers and parents were unpack the truth and theology contained in those six verses, we'd take great strides in clearing up a significant amount of confusion for our teens. Why haven't we shown an urgency to sound an alarm and address the issue?



Thom S. Rainer, president and CEO,
LifeWay Christian Resources
of the Southern Baptist Convention

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LifeWay President Thom S. Rainer writes LifeWay@Heart, an occasional 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.



Honestly, we don't do this with adults. In the previous issue of *Facts & Trends*, I referenced a study I did a few years ago where our research team found that 31 percent of the people leaving church immediately following a worship service were unable to articulate clear evidence of salvation. I would hazard a guess that many of these are not first-time guests but people who sit in our churches every week. The two studies point to passions of mine that have significant implications for the church: evangelism and discipleship.

“As we evangelize we must engage people where they spiritually are and answer their questions in language they understand.”

— Thom Rainer

As we evangelize we must engage people where they spiritually are and answer their questions in language they understand. Too often we expect people to have an insider's understanding of “churchy” vernacular. It creates confusion. Let's listen and respond with clarity and

truth in their context. Jesus is our greatest model for this. He gently led the woman at the well – uneducated, poor, ostracized – to an understanding of who He was. He did this differently than the direct manner in which he addressed Nicodemus – regal, respected, educated, and one who should have known better. The central point in both contexts was Jesus. He used two approaches to arrive at the same destination.

But once we have clearly explained the exclusivity of Jesus and have led people to follow Him, we must take them deeper and not leave them at the altar, signed decision card in hand. We must help them move on to spiritual maturity. On the one hand this is painfully obvious, but on the other it is where the church seems to have become most deficient. We will not clear up teens' confusion or reverse church dropout rates if parents and church leaders do not recover the lost art of disciple making (reference to LeRoy Eims' book, *The Lost Art of Disciple Making*, intended).

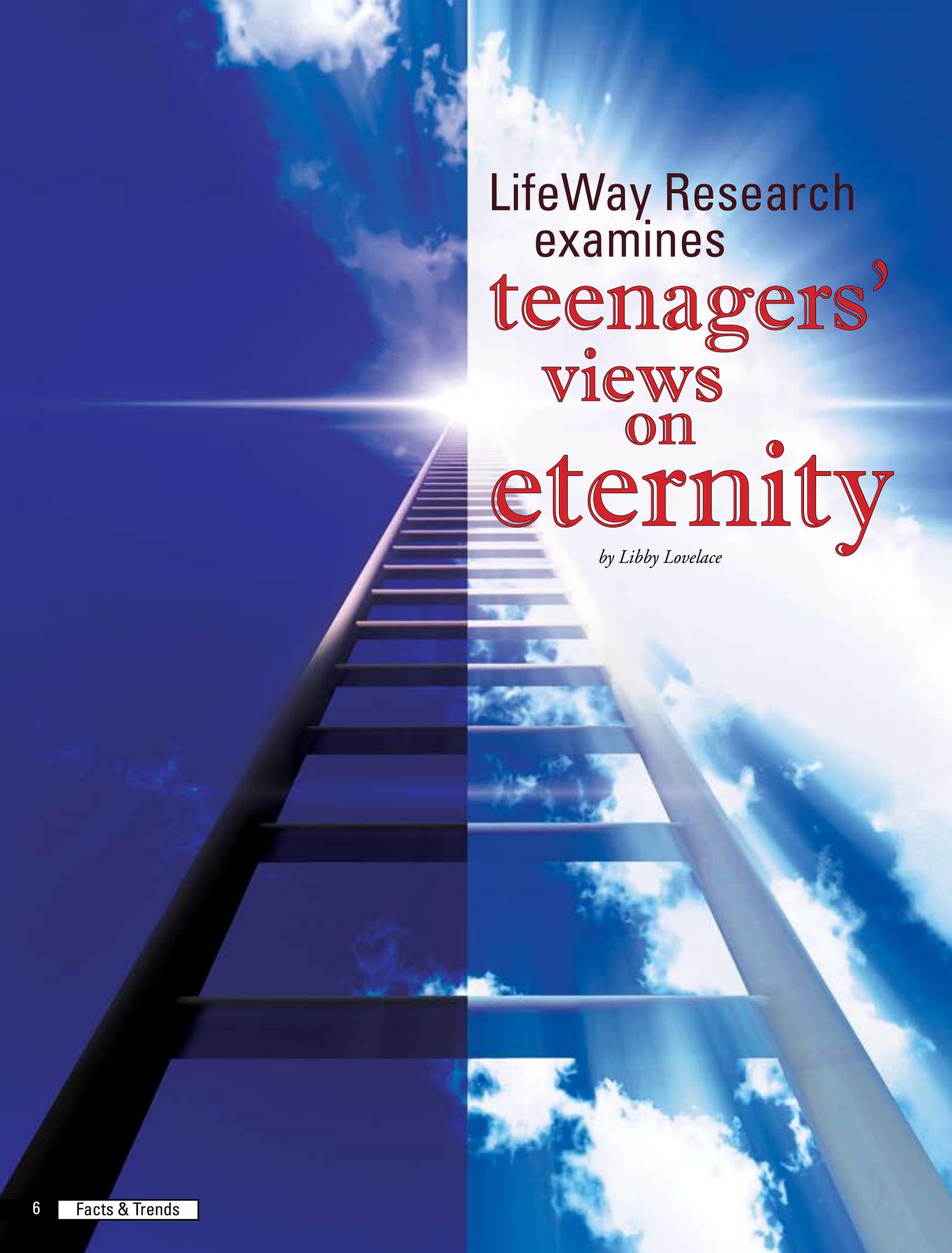
The next generation of believers needs the hope found in the truth and clarity of the gospel, but their hope rests in our sense of urgency.

In His service,

We recommend

- *The Lost Art of Disciple Making* by LeRoy Eims
- *MasterLife: Student Edition* by Avery Willis
- *Basic Student Discipleship*
- *Bible Promises for Teens*

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 Research
examines
teenagers'
views
on
eternity

by Libby Lovelace

Results from a recent LifeWay Research study indicate that many American teenagers are confused about what it takes to get to heaven.

More than 1,000 teenagers were surveyed in January and February of 2007 by mail questionnaire and results were compared to an identical survey conducted in 2005. Each sample consisted of 12-19-year-olds.

Results show 69 percent of teenagers believe heaven exists. Also, a majority of teens strongly agree with the traditional Christian belief in Jesus Christ's death for their sins as the reason they will go to heaven (53 percent).

While many teenagers believe they will go to heaven because of their belief in Jesus Christ, one quarter trust in their own kindness to others (27 percent) or their

religiosity (26 percent) as their means to get to heaven.

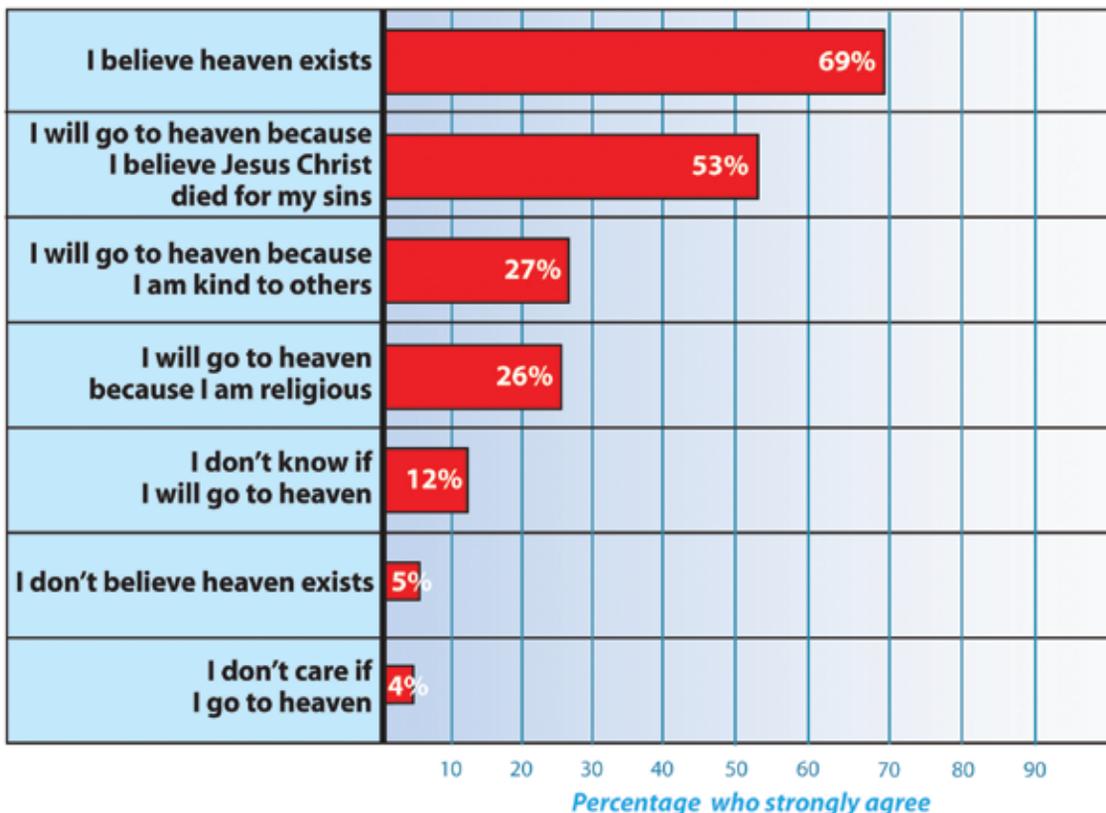
Out of the 69 percent of the teenagers who strongly or somewhat agree they will go to heaven because Jesus Christ died for their sins, 60 percent also agree that they will go to heaven because they are religious, and 60 percent also agree they will go to heaven because they are kind to others.

“ I don't care if I go to heaven.”
– 4 percent of teenagers surveyed

This indicates that approximately 28 percent of American teenagers are trusting only in Jesus Christ as their means to get to heaven.

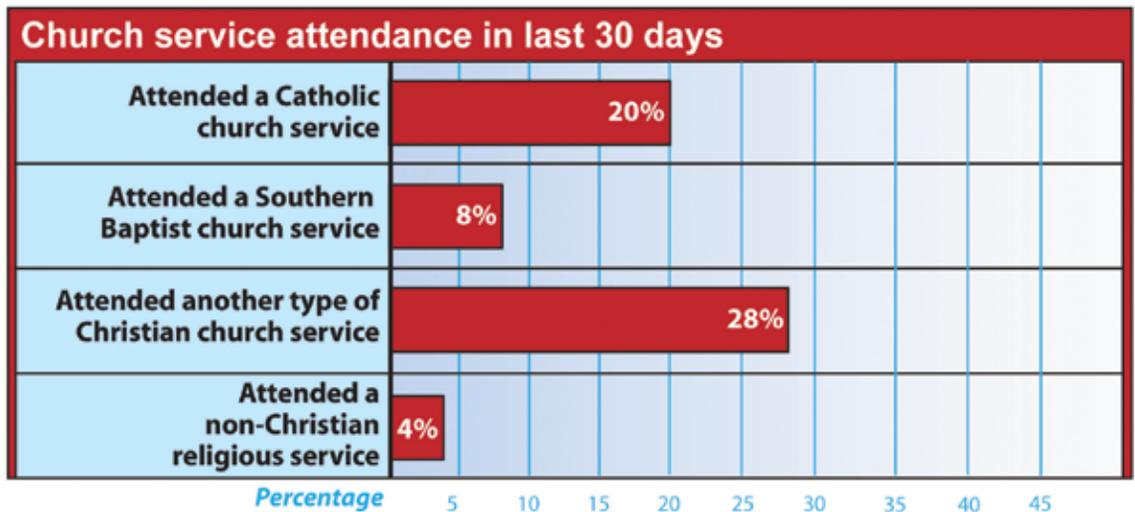
Teenagers' views on eternity

A national survey of teenagers age 12-19

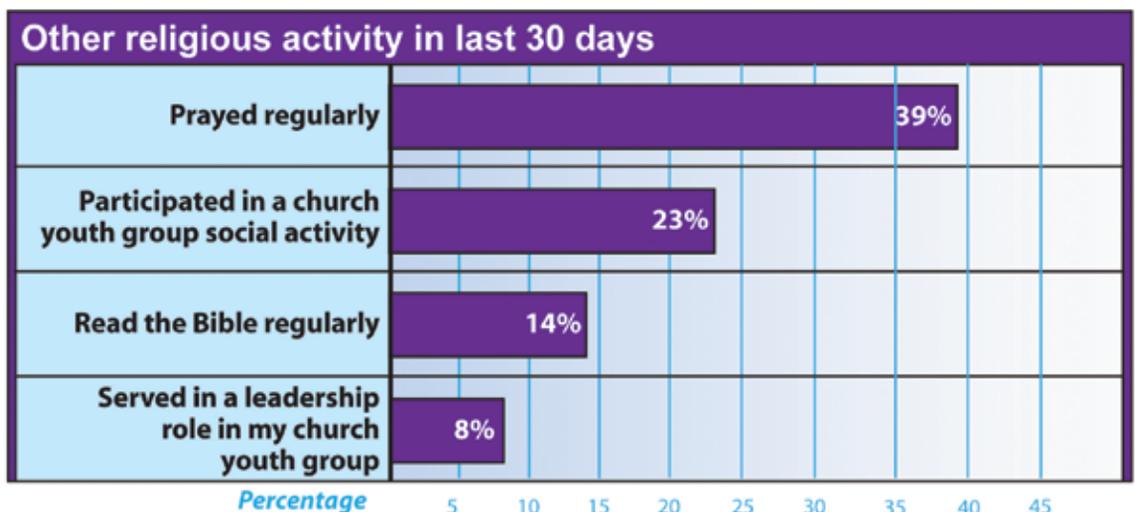


Religious activity of teenagers

A national survey of teenagers age 12-19



Respondents were allowed to choose more than one category.



Respondents were allowed to choose more than one category.

“The central theme of Christianity is the person and work of Jesus Christ – His death and resurrection,” said Scott McConnell, associate director of LifeWay Research. “It is surprising that only about half the teenagers who attended a Christian church in the last month are depending solely on the grace of Jesus Christ to get to heaven.”

Uncertainty about heaven

Though the large majority of teenagers believe heaven exists (69 percent), there has been a 6 percent drop since 2005 (75 percent) in the percentage of teens that are sure in their belief of heaven. Only 5 percent of teenagers strongly agree that they do not believe heaven exists.

African American teenagers are more likely to believe in heaven than the average teen (81 percent vs. 70 percent). Girls (73 percent) are also more likely to strongly agree heaven exists when compared to guys (66 percent).

Twenty-six percent of teenagers don't know if heaven is in their future, and similar

uncertainty (24 percent) exists among teenagers who agree they will go to heaven because Jesus Christ died for their sins.

Four percent of teenagers strongly agree with the statement, "I don't care if I go to heaven."

Religious activities and involvement

Many teenagers have attended a church or religious service in the last 30 days (60 percent). Twenty percent attended a Catholic service, 8 percent attended a Southern Baptist service, and 28 percent attended some other type of Christian service. Four percent indicated they attended a religious service of a religion other than Christian.

Involvement in other church activities is much less common than attending church services. Twenty-three percent indicated that in the last 30 days they attended a church youth group social activity. Twenty percent attended Sunday school, 14 percent attended a small-group Bible study, and 8 percent have been in a leadership role within their youth group.

When asked about personal religious activity within the last 30 days, 39 percent of respondents said they prayed regularly and 14 percent said they read the Bible regularly during that time.

Compared to the 2005 results, there are several significant statistical declines. Fewer teens are attending Sunday school (20 percent vs. 24 percent) and small-group Bible studies (14 percent vs. 18 percent).

As for outreach activity, fewer teenagers are discussing their beliefs with friends and inviting them to church activities. Twenty-four percent said they had told a friend about their religious beliefs in the last 30 days (compared to 30 percent in 2005). Fifteen percent had invited someone to a church activity in the last 30 days (compared to 19 percent in 2005).

"Previous research has shown the vital role that invitations and word of mouth have in motivating people to visit church,"

McConnell said. "As outreach has declined among teens, it is not surprising that Bible study attendance also has declined."

Age and gender differences

Older teens (18-19-year-olds) are less likely than 12-17-year-olds to attend youth group activities (13 percent vs. 26 percent), and they

are less likely to attend Sunday school (8 percent vs. 24 percent).

Female teens are more active religiously than their male counterparts. More females pray regularly (48 percent vs. 31 percent) and read the Bible regularly (17 percent vs. 11 percent) than male teenagers.

The level of teen participation is also higher for females than males for church youth group social activities (26 percent vs. 20 percent), small group Bible studies (18 percent vs. 11 percent), and leadership roles in their church youth group (10 percent vs. 6 percent). ■

"... only about half of the teenagers who attended a Christian church last month are depending solely on the grace of Jesus Christ to get to heaven."

– Scott McConnell

Facts & Trends Online

- *Participate in our online poll. Question: When did you receive Christ as your Savior?*

- *Listen to a podcast with Scott McConnell, associate director of LifeWay Research, and Scott Stevens, LifeWay's director of student ministry.*

- *Also on FTO, read more about what these findings mean for church leaders.*

Go to www.lifeway.com/factsandtrends to view Facts & Trends Online.

2,000 TEENS

make Fuge the largest Ridgecrest crowd in a decade, mark prelude to Centrifuge anniversary

story by Kelly Davis ShROUT, photography by Guy Lyons



Matt Overton, a high school senior from Gallatin, Tenn., prepared for a summer afternoon of extreme sports at Centrifuge camp. As he checked out the location of his next sports gig, someone yelled his name from the sand volleyball court.

“I just met that guy several hours ago,” Overton explained. “That’s what Centrifuge is all about – becoming friends with like-minded Christians in a matter of hours. It’s awesome!”





While Overton and other Centrifuge participants enjoyed morning Bible studies and afternoon adventure recreation, other campers opted for an XFuge missions track that sent them on local ministry assignments, such as painting a children's home, delivering meals to senior adults and feeding homeless people at a local church.

Jesse Bowling, a member of New Prospect Baptist Church in Hurt, Va., participated in the XFuge on Mission track and spent an afternoon feeding homeless people at First Baptist Church, Asheville, N.C. "As Christians we are called to out go to the less fortunate," said Bowling, who was one of hundreds of students who chose the missions track. "If we don't witness, then we don't have purpose."

The build-your-own camp experience that offers Centrifuge, XFuge and XFuge on Mission at one location is a new model for the student ministry team at LifeWay. The inaugural combo camp launched June 25-30 at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center with a sellout student crowd of nearly 2,000.

The Fuge camp featured combined morning and evening performances from Christian band Big Daddy Weave, The Skit Guys and messages from Tony Merida, associate professor of preaching and dean of chapel at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

The triple camp prototype brought in the largest group to Ridgecrest in more than a decade, sparking a fitting prelude to the 30th anniversary of Centrifuge slated for summer 2008.

"This is the largest Fuge event we have had in 29 years and I am amazed at how smoothly it has run," said Joe Palmer, director of LifeWay's student events, who

**"Through the years,
the camps have been
life changing for me
and they have been
something that I have
looked forward to
every year."**

– Matt Overton, six-year repeat camper

quickly credited the camp staff for the successful week. "In 1979 when Centrifuge began, we never dreamed that we could fill up the whole camp. Now we've taken over the entire Ridgecrest campus.

"To have 2,000 kids in one location is a dream come true," said Palmer, who added that LifeWay's student ministry team has provided camps this summer for more than 85,000 students.

The growth of Centrifuge within the last five years has been remarkable, added Joe Hicks, LifeWay camp specialist. "I remember sitting in the back of Spilman Auditorium [at Ridgecrest] during a camp five years ago and thinking to myself, 'it would be incredible to fill every seat in this place.' When I walked into Spilman for the first camp worship service for this week and saw that there were no empty seats, I knew that this night represented great things to come for Centrifuge." Hicks' ties to Centrifuge began in 1979 as a camper at the introductory camp in Glorieta Conference Center in New Mexico.

Fuge with a triple threat

Centrifuge offers an intimate small-group approach to Bible study, team-building exercises and interest track times such as

photography, jewelry making and adventure recreation. Centrifuge is designed for students entering grades seven through college and “is the staple of LifeWay’s camp ministries that allow group leaders to invest in the lives of the campers,” Palmer said. “For 30 years, Centrifuge has been about relationships and it has been a successful model.”

“I trust the Fuge events because they create a spiritual marker for students.”

– Brian Prince, student pastor, First Baptist Church, Gallatin, Tenn.

XFuge camps focus on the group-teaching approach and add a missions aspect to the camp week. Mission projects include volunteering in children’s homes, ministering at retirement centers and working with homeless shelters. XFuge also features top youth speakers, popular bands and drama teams.

In 2008, LifeWay will offer eight camps featuring simultaneous offerings of Centrifuge, XFuge and XFuge on Mission. Three events will be at Ridgecrest Conference Center and five at Glorieta Conference Center. The Glorieta camp will also feature MFuge. “Essentially, we are designing a way for students to experience two weeks worth of camp in one week,” Palmer said.

The camper’s perspective

First-time Centrifuge camper Mary Bastin, a high school senior and member of First Baptist Church in Gallatin, Tenn., followed the traditional Centrifuge track that focused on small-group devotions, adventure recreation and staff-led Bible studies. The week at Ridgecrest enriched her spiritual walk with the Lord. “God has shed a lot of light into my life,” said Bastin, who will study music at Middle Tennessee State University in the fall. “Centrifuge has been informative, yet entertaining. The teachers are great and the Bible study group time is very meaningful. I would encourage students to come if the Lord lays it on their heart.

“At first I was apprehensive to come because I am the oldest girl in my group, but it turned out for the best because I was able to have many meaningful conversations with others in my own youth group,” she said.

Overton, a six-year veteran of Centrifuge camps, said the highlight of the each camp is learning from students from other churches. “It’s also a way to get away from the world and get alone with God,” he added.

“Students should realize that they need to get out of their comfort zone and camp is a great way to do that,” he said. “Through the years, the camps have been life changing for me and they have been something that I have looked forward to every year.

“Every time I leave Fuge, I want the camp experience to stay with me all year,” he added. “Fuge has been a spiritual booster. I would encourage anyone to come to camp. MFuge is about serving and Centrifuge is about fun and spiritual growth. Both are great.”

Overton said the evening sermons on holiness most influenced his spiritual growth. “Holiness is an issue for everyone,” he said. “I realize that as I get older in my group, the younger students look up to me so I





FUGE 2008 dates, speakers set

The 2008 Centrifuge, XFuge and XFuge on Mission camps at Ridgecrest will be:

- **June 16-21**
featuring Rob Turner and Vicky Beeching
- **June 23-28**
featuring Dave Edwards and Rush of Fools
- **July 7-11**
featuring Ergun Caner and Todd Agnew

The 2008 combo camps at Glorieta will be:

- **June 9-14**
featuring Greg Pinkner and Charlie Hall
- **June 16-21**
featuring Jeremy Kingsley and Joel Engle
- **June 23-28**
featuring Tony Merida and Addison Road
- **June 30-July 5**
featuring Tony Merida and Addison Road
- **July 7-12**
featuring Wes Hamilton and Daniel Doss Band

To learn more about the 2008 Fuge camps, visit www.lifeway.com/fuge/register2008.asp.





want to represent Christ the best I can.”

Encouraging young people to serve the Lord, Overton cautioned against the ills of comfort, “whether it is at work or at school. I would encourage students to grow in the Lord and step out of their comfort zones. My student minister always reminds us, ‘Greatest is the one who serves.’ Service may not always be fun, but it’s necessary.”

A student pastor’s perspective

Following an evening worship service, students from First Baptist, Gallatin, gathered in a conference room to process the day’s events. Before long, students began sharing what the Lord taught them through the sermons and daily Bible studies. Soon, the students began to pray and minister to those in their own church group.

That’s what the Fuge experience is about, said Brian Prince, the group’s student pastor. “The students feel safe to share their hearts with one another.”

Prince has been involved with LifeWay’s Centrifuge events since 1990. He has been on staff with Centrifuge and has worked as a camp director. Prince now returns to Centrifuge, XFuge and MFuge camp each year armed with dozens of students. “I trust the Fuge events because they create a spiritual marker for students,” he said. “The kids are able to have fun, bond together as a group, and create vivid spiritual memories.”

Centrifuge and other LifeWay-sponsored camps offer solid, biblical teaching, Prince added. “As student ministers, we are accountable to the Lord for how we redeem our time with our students. At these camps, our students grow in their faith. Some of them surrender to the ministry, some are called to purity and others make decisions to become followers of Christ. This environment also creates a safe and comfortable way for the students to develop relationships with the staff members.”

The future of Fuge

The future of Fuge now involves hosting multiple camps at one location, and Prince said the change will require a switch from tradition, but ultimately will be a good model. “Combining the camps will allow all students to experience the benefits of a big event camp, like hearing music from well-known artists and learning from popular speakers.” ■

CAMPERS

told to reach out, not sell out

Tony Merida, associate professor of preaching and dean of chapel at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, nightly exhorted Fuge students to seek out ministries to the needy, poor and the unreached in society. The theme of the combo camp week, “The Underground,” served as a metaphor for tunnels or subways that house many of the world’s downtrodden.

Merida said he is praying for a generation of Bible-believing, Jesus-following, gospel-sharing missionaries who follow God at all costs. Merida challenged the crowd of 2,000 students to redeem their time on earth. “Don’t throw away your life on the American dream,” he said. “Be filled with spirit and truth.”

Merida outlined six ways students can “reach out without selling out,” drawn from verses in 1 Peter. In order to maintain holiness, he said, students should:



Tony Merida

1. **Realize they are in a spiritual war.** 1 Peter 1: 13-14.
2. **Embrace their high calling: holiness.** 1 Peter 1:15-16. “... for it is written, Be holy, because I am holy.”
3. **Remember they have been redeemed.** 1 Peter 1:18-25.
4. **Meditate on God’s Word.** 1 Peter 2:1-2
5. **Believe that God is better than sin.** 1 Peter 2:3. Merida cautioned the students and said, “Holiness is not just about saying ‘no,’ but to say ‘yes’ to God. We need to prefer God over sin because in His presence is the fullness of joy ever more. There is a culture that is saying, ‘this is the way to live,’ but God is always better than sin.”
6. **Declare and display God’s glory to the world.** 1 Peter 2:9-12. “God made us alive in Him; abstain from the passions of the flesh and declare His excellence,” he added.

Facts & Trends Online

- Download an interview with Joe Palmer, LifeWay’s director of student events.
- View a slideshow of photos from the event.

Go to www.lifeway.com/factsandtrends to view Facts & Trends Online.

LifeWay honors churches for

baptisms

by Chris Turner

Twelve years ago, Marty Souter kept everything he owned in an old box in the park where he lived. One remaining button held his only shirt closed and ground-in filth covered his only pair of shorts. He didn't have any pants or shoes, and the loneliness of being estranged from his wife and kids – who were living only blocks away – was unbearable. Life was unbearable.

But then he met Jesus.



Pastor Willie Dalgity, seen here with his motorcycle, is not your typical pastor, but then Set Free is not your typical church.

“I was desperate and had nowhere to turn,” he said. “But someone told me about Set Free Church and it was there that I asked Jesus into my heart. It changed everything.”

Set Free. It’s the name of the Yucaipa, Calif., church and its vision for ministry. Pastor Willie Dalgity started Set Free a number of years ago with the intention of going to the most destitute living in the hardest places. As a result, Set Free was recognized June 11 by LifeWay’s pastoral ministries department as one of the Southern Baptist Convention’s leading churches with 728 baptisms in 2006.

***The 200 churches
recognized accounted for
47,195 (13 percent) of all
SBC baptisms in 2006.***

“We just try to be obedient to Jesus’ command to go and share Good News,” Dalgity said. “We meet people where they are and minister to their physical needs, but then take them deeper into Scripture. We take seriously the command to disciple as well as evangelize.”

Set Free was one of 200 churches recognized at the 2007 SBC annual meeting in San Antonio.

The churches account for 13 percent (47,195) of all SBC baptisms in 2006. There were two categories: Total baptisms and baptisms by churches under 400 members. Florida had 39 churches that made both lists. There were 25 states represented, four churches that baptized more than 1,000 people and two that baptized more than 2,000.

“I’m moved knowing that there are thousands of people out there who recently have come to Christ because of all you’ve done to do the work of an evangelist,” said Tom Hellams, LifeWay’s vice president of executive communications and relations.

LifeWay President Thom Rainer used the Apostle Paul’s letter to Philemon to encourage those assembled to continue doing the work of evangelists. After telling a story of the unique circumstances surrounding the first person he baptized at a small rural church, Rainer said, “Everybody here has a story of people from the most unexpected opportunities in the most unexpected places. The important thing is a faithfulness to share the gospel.”

Rainer said that as he looked around the room, he was encouraged by the focus exhibited by the churches represented when there were thousands of churches within the denomination that had not baptized anyone. He said focus – not being distracted by any particular crisis – was one thing Paul maintained.

“If we aren’t focused on sharing the gospel then everything will fall to the wayside because the following generations will not know Christ,” he said.

Paul was also “other-centered,” Rainer added, explaining that Paul knew it would have been helpful for Onesimus to stay, but that it was still best for him to return to Philemon. Finally, Rainer said, Paul counted the cost of evangelism.

“Research shows that 75 percent of unchurched people want to hear something about Jesus Christ while at the same time Christians are becoming less interested in sharing the gospel,” he said. “We are becoming evangelistically apathetic at the very time people are most open to the gospel. Your commitment to sharing the gospel is appreciated and I thank you.” ■

**Facts
& Trends
Online**

*For the complete lists
of the top 100 churches
in each category, go
to [www.lifeway.com/
factsandtrends](http://www.lifeway.com/factsandtrends).*

LifeWay Lessons is new online teaching resource

Sunday school teachers for adults and students have a new online resource that is not only biblically solid, but also easy to use.

LifeWay launched LifeWay Lessons (www.lifewaylessons.com) in early June.

The adult lessons are adapted from LifeWay's adult curriculum:

- *Life Answers:*
Bible study for young adults, including parents of preschoolers
- *Life Truths:*
Bible study for parents of children and teens
- *Life Values:*
Bible study for adults dealing with the "empty nest" life stage
- *Life Lessons:*
Bible study relevant for adults of all ages
- *Explore the Bible:*
an eight-year systematic study of all the Bible books

Christina Crawley, a LifeWay biblical and instruction specialist, adapts the adult LifeWay Lessons and serves as editor of LifeWay Lessons.

Student lessons are adapted from the Life Focus curriculum line. LifeWay's Alice Stegemann and Barbara Hammond serve as editors of the student resource.

"[LifeWay Sunday School director] David Francis asked that we develop compelling lessons that could be used online," Crawley said. "That is what we have done. They are sound; they are brief; they are easy to follow and use as a teaching plan."

Crawley said LifeWay Lessons "put the power in the hand of the ultimate consumer. The lessons are written to be almost intuitive. They are adapted in such a way that it is for everybody, at any stage of life."

Downloadable resources include PDFs that can be copied as they are, along with Word documents that can be downloaded and then edited to meet specific needs. The teacher is in control of the materials.

Francis said, "Flexibility is the main benefit to teachers. If they've come home Saturday evening from a vacation or business trip, they can just click on the site, download the PDF version of the lesson, and with a minimum



of preparation be ready to lead the class. Or, in a normal week when they have adequate preparation time, they can completely customize the lesson by downloading the RTF (rich text) versions of the commentary and teaching plans into their word processing program, and edit their plan so that it includes only what they intend to say, ask and do. Plus, it fully integrates with our print resources.”

Because the online and print resources integrate so well, a class has the option of using both the online lessons and the printed learner’s guide, based on learner preference.

Each quarter of lessons will be available for at least two full quarters. When the 2007-08 winter quarter launches, 2007 fall will be available until the 2008 spring quarter launches. This gives customers an opportunity to make purchases after the quarter has ended.

Sample downloads and more information about LifeWay Lessons can be found at www.lifewaylessons.com. ■

Make your move smooth

Even good changes can be challenging. Make the transition to LifeWay Lessons easy by following this checklist.

- Inform teachers of the new way their curriculum will be delivered.
- Collect e-mail addresses of teachers/leaders and substitutes.
- Collect teachers/leaders’ curriculum choices.
- Collect quantities of any learners who will still want the printed piece.
- Remind teachers/leaders not to delete the e-mail they will receive from LifeWay Lessons. The sender will be “do not reply.” They may even need to check their spam folders. If they delete this e-mail they cannot register or get to their purchased curriculum.
- Remind them to bring a copy of their teaching plans and learner handouts to teacher/leader training meetings.
- Create/suggest a process for reproducing copies of the learner handouts. You may not want a long line of teachers or your administrative assistant making copies on Sunday morning.

For more ideas, suggestions and information about LifeWay Lessons go to www.lifewaylessons.com.



Christina Crawley

LifeWay releases updated version of Beth Moore's first video Bible study

Fifteen years ago, Beth Moore stepped on a stage and began her ministry to thousands of women with the taping of her first video Bible study – *A Woman's Heart, God's Dwelling Place*.

In June 2007, LifeWay released an updated version of the study and a revised workbook, along with new video sessions of Moore recorded at her home church in Houston. The theme of the study – the Tabernacle in the Old Testament – remains the same, although Moore promises Bible study participants a “fresh word.”

“I had the privilege of studying every single bit of the video work and sessions from scratch,” Moore said about the update on the *A Woman's Heart* introductory DVD. “I want you to know, in case you have done this with us before, that it came all new to me out of completely brand-new research and a whole new experience with Him.”

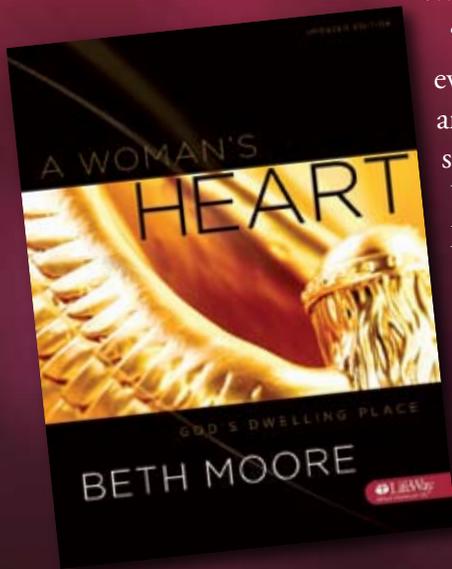
The 10-session interactive Bible study leads participants through a detailed study of the

construction of the Tabernacle as well as its representation of Jesus Christ. Incorporating daily personal study with weekly video guides, *A Woman's Heart* begins with the history of mankind from the Garden of Eden and leads up to the Israelites wandering in the wilderness.

Moore fondly recalls her preparation for the initial study – released by LifeWay in 1995 – which she considers her “maiden voyage into in-depth Bible study.”

“Nothing in my Bible study experience has ever shown me the beautiful blend between the Old Testament and the New Testament like the study of the Tabernacle,” Moore said. “God used the study of the Tabernacle to completely captivate me. He drew me into the Holy of Holies and revealed Himself in ways to me that rocked my entire world.”

Recognizing that her earlier Bible studies were notorious for extensive homework requirements, Moore “tightened up and refreshed” the participant workbook while the outline and principles remained unchanged. ■



LifeWay to release new study on Psalms of Ascent by Beth Moore

“The Lord will protect your coming and going both now and forever,” recites a Jewish woman traveling on the dusty road to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast.

“Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion. It cannot be shaken; it remains forever,” speaks a Jewish man reverently ascending the steps of the temple.

“Rescue me from my enemies, Lord; I come to You for protection,” cries out a Jewish man on the journey home to Jerusalem after a long exile in Babylon.

What words are these people commanded to speak along their separate journeys?

The Psalms of Ascent

In November LifeWay will release *Stepping Up: A Journey Through the Psalms of Ascent*, a new in-depth Bible study by Beth Moore.

The six-week study will guide participants through daily homework and weekly video sessions focused on Psalms 120-134, also known as the Psalms of Ascent. Moore's studio set for the video sessions are the south steps of the temple in Jerusalem, where hundreds of Jewish people and priests recited these specific Psalms of Ascent.

Spoken by God's people in the Old Testament during specific events, such as journeying to Jerusalem or walking up the temple steps, these psalms hold great significance in revealing more about God and a personal relationship with Him.

The daily personal study in *Stepping Up* delves into topics such as redemption, worship, God's blessing and knowing the Lord as shelter and keeper.

Different from her previous studies, Moore focused on the worship aspect of the study by featuring Travis Cottrell and

other musical performers live in the video segments to teach participants new worship songs and lead praise during the sessions. Cottrell leads worship at LifeWay's Living Proof Live events featuring Moore.

A short study on a large topic

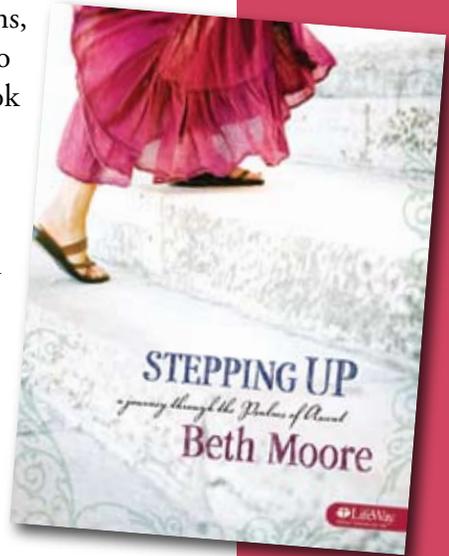
Moore previously wanted to develop a study on Psalms, but was uncertain of how to cover such an extensive book of the Bible.

“This is the first time I've written an in-depth study on the psalms,” Moore said in the introductory session of the study. “Until now I haven't had a clue how to approach a book of 150 chapters in a time frame that wasn't too demanding for participants.

“When God introduced me to this compilation of 15 psalms and began to show me its place as a 'psalter within a psalter,' I couldn't wait to throw myself into it,” she added.

In the introduction of the study, Moore expressed appreciation for the psalms and what they have meant to her in her walk with Christ, referring to them as “constants throughout [her] entire life.”

“I've turned to the psalms many times when I've had feelings that needed biblical expression,” Moore said. “Sometimes I needed a way to word overwhelming gratitude and praise to God. Other times my sorrow desperately needed an outlet for expression. Even when I've been afraid or angry, the psalms have invited me to safely pour out my heart to God.” ■



For more information on Moore and other resources written by her, visit www.lifeway.com/bethmoore.

LifeWay offers growing number of resources on iTunes

by Brooklyn Noel

Individuals searching for everything from Bible studies by Beth Moore to Vacation Bible School songs to choral tracks from LifeWay Worship need look no further than their iTunes account.

In 2006, LifeWay began placing downloadable audio files on iTunes, the world's largest catalog, that features more than five million songs and nearly 1,000 television shows and movies.

"iTunes is the easiest and most customer-friendly way to get music to our customers," said Aaron Linne, a customer experience technician at LifeWay. "It allows us to reach beyond regular channels to meet people's needs."

Today, LifeWay offers more than 500 tracks on this popular audio repository, and that list is ever-growing.

This fall, for instance, choir directors and members will even find rehearsal tracks from

LifeWay's music area on iTunes, which already houses several Christmas choral releases including Phil Barfoot and Dave Williamson's "The Joy

of Christmas" and "Finding the Christmas Star," a children's piece by Jeff Slaughter.

"This is another step in our goal to provide churches with the resources they need, in the formats they need, so that their ministries are equipped to lead their congregation to authentic worship," said Mike Harland, director of LifeWay Worship. Harland added that the familiar options of obtaining music, such as visiting

a LifeWay Christian Store or shopping on LifeWay.com, still will be available.

While choral music comprises an abundance of the content LifeWay offers on iTunes, the most popular items continue to be Bible studies by Moore such as *Jesus, the One and Only* and *Daniel: Lives of Prophecy, Words of Integrity*, the study that launched LifeWay's women's area in iTunes.

"*Daniel* included a required listening component, so it pushed it [availability on iTunes] into being," said Faith Whatley, director of LifeWay's church ministry training and events. "This allows women to have to access to materials even if they aren't near a small group, if they missed a class or want to do the study in their own time."

Linne said LifeWay will continue to expand its offerings via iTunes during the coming months to include additional VBS tunes, Bible study options and additional songs from the worship bands featured during LifeWay's various Fuge summer camps.

Whatley added that while video elements of Moore and other Bible studies already are available at LifeWay.com/women, she hopes LifeWay will one day offer those video elements on iTunes.

"It's important to reach that audience that is so tech-savvy," Whatley said. "We're finding that people like being able to pick and choose what they want."

In addition to the files available for purchase on iTunes, LifeWay offers an array of free informational podcasts such as StudentCAST, which addresses youth ministry; *Inside LifeWay*, the official news podcast of LifeWay; and Firehose, a collection of podcasts relating to young adults. ■



To access LifeWay's diverse content on iTunes, search for the title or author of the materials or visit www.lifeway.com for more information.

Church bylaws:

Are yours adequate for today's ministerial challenges? *by Steven Lewis*

We live in a litigation-happy society. Assuming your church is safe from lawsuits is a set-up for disaster.

While many suits are unjustified factually or legally, way too many suits against churches are appropriate because of inadequate ministerial practices. The very good news is that the majority of such lawsuits are preventable.

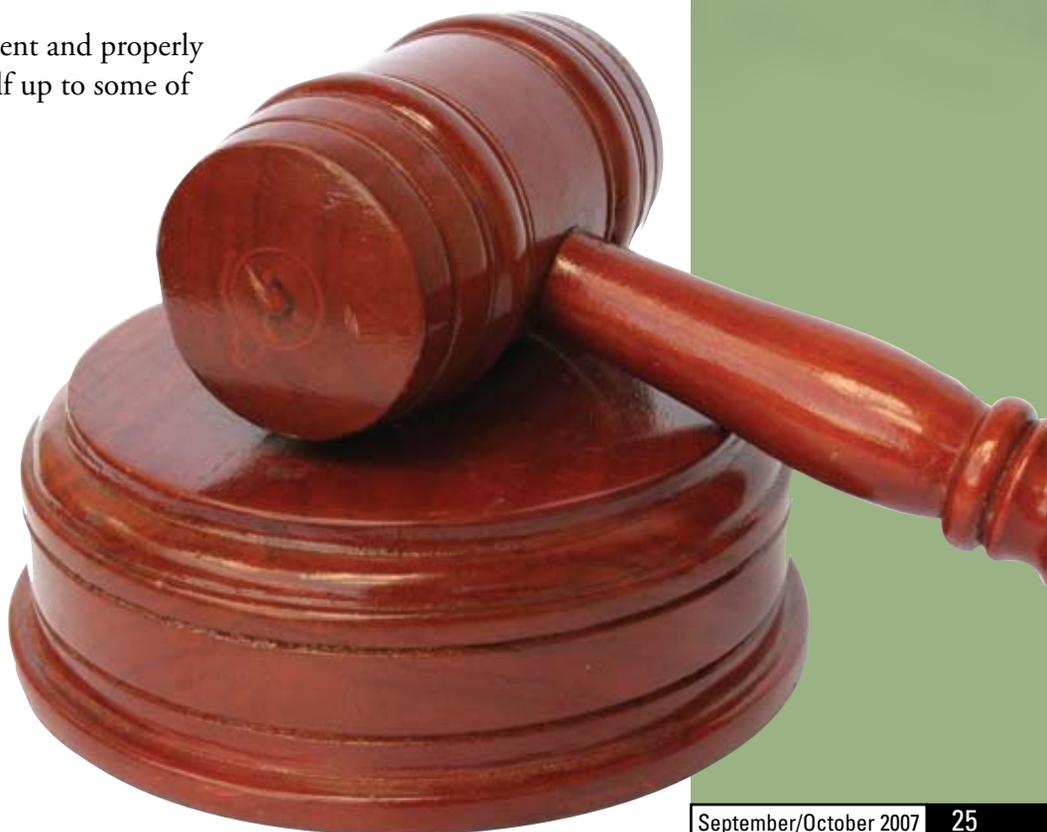
One of the most important documents a church can have in its “legal arsenal” is a church ministry plan set forth in a clearly written, proactive set of bylaws drafted specifically for churches in America today.

With churches that have been involved in internal turmoil or litigation, the quality of their bylaws is important. Churches face a higher risk of being dragged into extensive and expensive litigation, having their ministry greatly disrupted and being ordered to pay damages or suffering a variety of serious consequences when their bylaws are inadequate.

If your church's bylaws are not current and properly written, your church has opened itself up to some of the following serious consequences.

Consequence #1: The risk of serious errors increases.

Many churches don't perform some necessary functions simply because they don't know that the tasks are required or the risks of not doing them. Churches can get into significant trouble when they don't understand that they should pay overtime, have workers' compensation insurance for their employees, do background checks on certain workers, comply with copyright rules, avoid improper



political activities, and implement numerous policies governing property, transportation, discipline and other matters. Churches have been sued or suffered government intervention because of their failure – albeit ignorantly and unwittingly – to comply with these legal duties.

Churches cannot achieve their God-ordained tasks if they hide in fear. They have legal duties they have to fulfill to manage their ministerial operations properly. A church can unwittingly delegate responsibilities it didn't even know it had. One church delegated the duty to respond to an employee's sexual harassment claim to an untrained group of leaders. Predictably, this group did a very poor job as they "handled" the matter.

One year later – after the church thought the situation was resolved – the church found itself in front of a jury. The employee told the jury how the church had failed to act on the sexual harassment claim and how the staff member, determined by the church committee to be innocent, had raped her. The jury decided that the church had failed its responsibilities and awarded the employee \$2 million for her actual damages. Additionally, the jury ordered the church to pay an additional \$4 million in exemplary damages as an example to warn other churches to handle their ministerial affairs better than this church had.

After the jury had awarded a \$6 million judgment against his former church, this same staff member was hired by another church. What do

you think a jury would do to that subsequent hiring church on the first rumor of misconduct?

Proper bylaws incorporate an understanding of such legal, business and government regulatory issues. Regardless of how much church leaders want to avoid such issues, these issues are integrally involved in a church's core ministerial operations.

“Assuming your church is safe from lawsuits is a set-up for disaster.”

– Steven Lewis

Bylaws should define these critical functions and delegate accountable individuals. Church members who are trained and competent to serve on personnel committees, risk management teams, property and transportation committees, and other essential teams can dramatically reduce the risks that churches face.

Consequence #2: Incredible ministry opportunities may be missed.

Pastors, staff, employees and church members can serve God with more power and wisdom than they currently do. Church bylaws are not just a document lawyers charge you to prepare that the church files away after they

are adopted. Bylaws are a ministry operating plan that recognizes what each church participant brings to the church and utilizes the spiritual gifts, talents and resources God has brought to the church.

Proper bylaws help churches achieve the excellence Christ deserves in His body's core ministerial operations. Most pastors need support and freedom to achieve the potential of their role as the spiritual leader of the church. This demands that pastors focus on their true calling and delegate many tasks they now perform.

Giving up those tasks is not only a blessing for the pastor but also a blessing for the members who step into valuable roles of service. Using these servants' gifts and talents and in accordance with God's calling helps churches have more power and impact.

Consequence #3: The church may waive important rights.

Churches have important "potential but unactualized" rights by merely inserting them in their bylaws. A church's bylaws can authorize the church to refuse to hire employees or select leaders unless these people are Christians who personally agree to the church's doctrinal statement and agree to live in accordance with the bylaws' doctrinal statement.

Churches can require all church employees and members to agree to allow the church to complete disciplinary processes, effectively waiving potential claims for defamation or violations of privacy.

Bylaws can require that most potential lawsuits be resolved through internal Christian mediation. If a member or leader is sued, the bylaws can require that the church protect them from individual liability and pay their legal fees.

If these rights aren't adopted by the church, protections the church could have are probably waived and unavailable when really needed.

Consequence #4: The document may create obligations the church doesn't otherwise have.

Courts can force a church to do whatever the church "says" it will do in its bylaws, even if the law would not otherwise have required the church to do what it agreed to do in its bylaws. Church bylaws easily can grant more "rights" to employees or impose more obligations on itself than it is legally required to. A poorly drafted indemnification policy can require a church to pay damages caused by an employee that the church might otherwise not have to pay.

It's better to limit the bylaws to more essential policies and include more detailed ministry plans in operating policies. Churches should include a disclaimer that the church intends to follow the policies, but that the policies don't create rights that are legally enforceable against the church.

Consequence #5: Improperly written bylaws can "invite" judicial intervention.

Bylaws explain a church's doctrinal beliefs, ministerial practices and church/member relationship issues to members and non-members. Bylaws set forth the process of resolving internal church issues as they arise. A review of the bylaws can quickly tell a judge whether a church knows what it is doing. Ones that are well written can

convince a judge that it's better not to get involved in an internal church dispute.

Everyone wins when churches conduct their ministries in a way that gives the law no reason to intervene. Proper bylaws set up enforceable barriers and disclaimers that minimize the risk of judicial intervention. Member-approved mandatory Christian mediation clauses may prevent members from suing their church. Some courts may require the church to prove its members knew that such provisions were in the bylaws and agreed to be bound by them.

If bylaws are old and outdated or if multiple copies exist, a church may have trouble proving which of several versions are valid. The current copy of the bylaws must be signed and dated; and it must properly reflect the proper church name.

Make it a major goal by the end of 2007 to update your bylaws. Get started now. Review them and prayerfully prepare to lead your church to achieve greater excellence in its ministries as you implement this important operating document. Always get competent legal help to make sure your church is protected. ■

This article is derived from a resource manual Steven Lewis has written for churches to help them operate with excellence. After earning his master of business administration and law degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1984, Lewis was called to the ministry to serve as an attorney for churches. As president of Church Excellence, Inc., a ministry designed to help churches achieve excellence in their core ministerial practices, he has studied church ministerial practices and written about and led conferences on church legal leadership issues for the last two decades. He and his wife, Kim, are the parents of three children and members of Henderson Hills Baptist Church in Edmond, Okla.

Editor's note

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Collegiate

This quarterly magazine offers in-depth Bible studies, along with articles and features relevant to college students, from editorials to music, film, and book reviews. Includes daily devotional readings, articles by experienced collegiate writers, studies of issues confronting collegians, word studies, and more.



Mature Living

This award-winning, monthly magazine focuses on the personal and spiritual needs of senior adults to encourage growth, hope, and fulfillment in their lives. Popular features include "Grandparents' Brag Board," "Cracker Barrel," "Your Mind and Your Body," and "Money Matters." Each issue also includes financial advice, health tips, recipes, crafts, and puzzles.



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Journey

This monthly devotional guide for busy women offers guidance for a growing, personal relationship with God. Each weekday devotional deals with issues and real-life situations with which women easily identify. Features include a daily key verse, devotional vignettes, personal application, and suggested prayer focus. A monthly message from popular author and speaker Beth Moore and other inspirational articles are also regular features.



Stand Firm

This monthly devotional for men contains brief devotional readings, interviews, reviews, and short feature articles that fit easily into every man's busy schedule. Each colorful issue offers daily encouragement to "stand firm" by cultivating the discipline of daily Bible reading and encouraging men to stay true to their commitments and responsibilities.



For a complete list of LifeWay magazines, and to browse sample issues, visit www.lifeway.com/magazines. Order subscriptions online or call 800.458.2772.

Fly fishing retreat teaches fishing for men

story by Jerry Higgins, photography by Kent Harville

Tom Blackwell had never been fly fishing before. But, here he was, standing knee-deep in the Tuckasegee River near the Great Smokey Mountains National Park in North Carolina, flicking an “Olive Woolly Bugger” gently across the crystal clear river trying to entice a trout.

Blackwell’s efforts were rewarded as his fly pole bent with the weight of a feisty trout, which jumped and flailed in and out of the rippling river in the struggle that ensued between man and fish. This time, man won.

Blackwell wasn’t the only person on the river flicking the fly rod through the air and watching the green line whip around him toward the water on this perfect spring day.



Boyd Connally, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Hewitt, Texas, scoops up a trout during the men’s fly fishing retreat at LifeWay Ridgecrest.

Dale Connally, an accomplished fly fisherman and fellow participant at the LifeWay-sponsored Fly Fishing Adventures retreat, stood nearby and encouraged Blackwell.

“Atta boy,” yelled Connally, who may have been just as happy as Blackwell as they unhooked the fish, held it up for display and then let it go back into the gently flowing river.

This scene was played out over a couple of days on four different waterways near LifeWay's Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina, which held its first Fly Fishing Adventures retreat the week before Memorial Day. The event drew fishermen from Missouri, Tennessee and North Carolina who wanted to catch “the big ones” as well as catch inspirational Bible studies led by Jason Cruise, founder of the Franklin, Tenn.-based Outdoor Ministry Network.

“This is a conference for the heart and the soul,” said Cruise, a former pastor in Tennessee before he started Outdoor Ministry Network (OMN) five years ago, the past two as a full-time ministry. “At OMN, our No. 1 gig is teaching pastors and regular Joes in church how to use hunting and fishing as regular ministry methods,” Cruise said.

Catch (fish) and release (guilt)

Cruise helped LifeWay organize the Fly Fishing Adventures, first held at Glorieta Conference Center in New Mexico.

“I thought it would be so neat if we could host conferences that are unique to men, that speak a man's language and yet energizes his heart at the same time,” Cruise said. “And the cool thing is that he gets the endorsement from his wife. She knows it's

not just another fishing trip or another elk hunt. When we do these adventure trips of all kinds, women really seem to endorse them for their husbands because they do know [their husbands are] going for the heart as well.”

Cruise said the message he wanted the men to take home was that they should stop fighting their love of the outdoors and instead use it for Kingdom purposes.

“A lot of churches don't understand men will serve the Lord if they can find a marriage between their passion and their faith. If you give them permission to do that, boy, you are on it,” he said. “So many men feel guilty because they like to hunt and fish. I used to until I realized the day I turned hunting and fishing into a way to use my faith, the guilt left me because I knew I could use it for ministry purposes.”

At Ridgecrest and the fishing events held at Glorieta, Cruise leans heavily on the 60 years combined experience Connally and his brother, Boyd, have sharing their love of the sport and of Christ.



Boyd Connally, middle, ties a small fly on the leader for Jim Horn of Greenbriar, Tenn., as Charlie Rau settles his line.

For information on future LifeWay Fly Fishing Adventures, contact Ron Pratt at ron.pratt@lifeway.com.

“The cool thing about this for me is that it takes me out of my normal ministry area,” said Boyd Connally, minister of music for First Baptist Church of Hewitt, Texas. “This gives me an opportunity in one of my other passions. I love the outdoors so this is a plus for me.”

Dale Connally is associate professor and director of Baylor University's (Waco, Texas) recreation and leisure services program, and a veteran participant of LifeWay's Rec Labs. It was a natural fit for the duo.

Be fishers of men

Cruise picks Bible study topics he says men – including himself – struggle with, such as time management and time out with God.

In “Your Story: The Greatest Story Ever Told,” Cruise told the group their personal testimony matters.

“It's kind of like running that fly through that strike zone. You present,” Cruise

paused dramatically. “You present ... present ... present. And, finally something a little different happens, and you don't really know why. You present and – boom! It's there!

“That's how people are. They go through. They go through. They go through. And, then something happens. Their heart gets in a place ... it doesn't have to be a tragedy but something happens and then they begin to listen. At that point, your story matters.”

Both Cruise and the Connally brothers agree that the Ridgecrest location is ideal for a fly fishing retreat.

“I was freaked out by the size of the fish,” Dale Connally said.

Cruise added, “The Ridgecrest event started out like the Glorieta event in that it was smaller until people got word of it. The facilities in Ridgecrest are as incredible as they are in Glorieta. At Ridgecrest, you have five to 10 rivers. This particular event you have more waters to choose from in the immediate area. I think it will do well with what it has to offer.

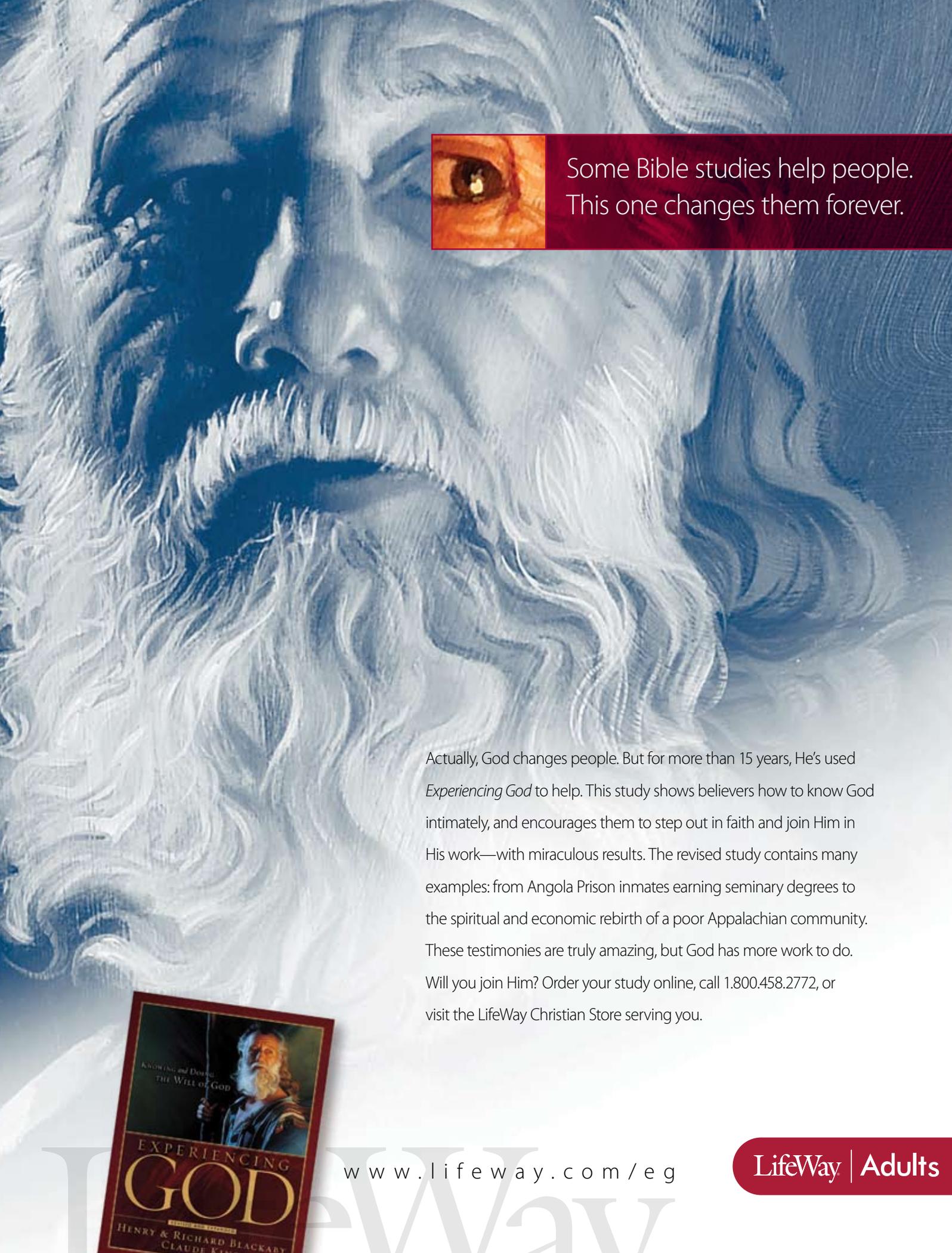
“I was surprised at the size of the fish up here,” Cruise said. “I've fished mountain streams all my life but, man, there were some big fish up here.”

Blackwell said there are a couple of things he will take away from the retreat.

“I'll remember the intense adrenaline rush of catching that first fish,” Blackwell said. “The training I received from experienced fly fishermen was excellent. The Bible studies really gave me a lot of things to think about as I go home. I would do this again.” ■

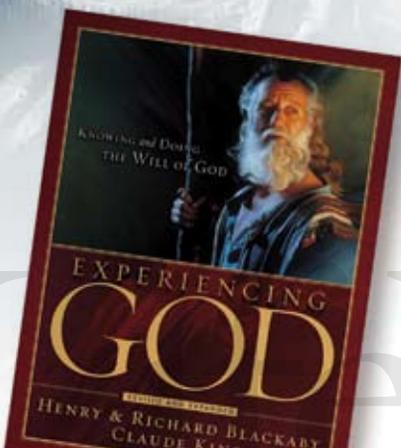


Dale Connally from Waco, Texas, shows off a brook trout he caught.



Some Bible studies help people.
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B&H author introduces parents to their teens' cyberworld

by Brooklyn Noel

Her son's innocent game of online checkers unexpectedly propelled author and speaker Vicki Courtney into cyberspace several years ago.

With her newest book for LifeWay's B&H Publishing Group, Courtney hopes to help other parents avoid the momentary panic she felt upon learning that the Internet allowed her teenage son to interact with a faceless opponent thousands of miles away during that online game.

Logged On and Tuned Out is designed to offer parents a "crash course of sorts" on the trends and goings-on within the technology-savvy culture of today's teens, Courtney explained during a recent interview with *Inside LifeWay*, LifeWay's official news podcast.

Courtney said her Virtuous Reality ministry and speaking engagements with the LifeWay-sponsored You and Your Girl conferences allowed her ample opportunity to see that constantly changing forms of technology serve as the main methods of communication for teens. In addition, ignoring that reality meant "just pushing them [teenagers] out in the world and saying, 'OK, it's a virtual free-for-all, let the culture mold you and set the rules.'"

"It was really a result of being in the trenches, tackling issues related to virtue, that I began to see that we would be remiss not to cover technology and the influence it's having on this next generation," Courtney told the podcast audience.

She added that parents need to understand the technology options and activities available to their children, but encouraged parents to realize that promoting their children's online and technology-centered safety doesn't require

them to totally master all the intricate details of tides of technology.

"I'm hearing a real desperation among parents that they desire ... most good parents desire ... to know what's going on, to monitor what their kids are doing, to set boundaries; but quite frankly they don't even know where to begin because the task is so big," Courtney said during the *Inside LifeWay* interview.

"They've got to jump in, get their feet wet and really just dismiss those feelings of inadequacy that postpone the inevitable," she advised. "I tell parents [to] get past the fear factor, that feeling of, 'Well, I'm never going to catch up so why even bother.'"

Courtney added that while parents may fail to grasp the intricacies of the technology their children use, many teens fail to fully understand the potentially lasting impact of their words and actions when communicated via technology's newest channels.

The biggest concern Courtney has when it comes to teens and technology is their willingness to share too much personal information. "They [teens] don't see it as a problem," she said, adding that *Logged On and Tuned Out* offers parents specific examples of how sharing excessive personal information can produce long-reaching consequences.

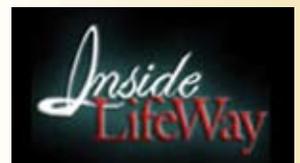
"If I don't step in and start setting some ground rules and figuring out what's going on out there in this World Wide Web of technology, and even with cell phones and such, then my kids will be molded with the culture's influence with regard to that.

"If not me, who?" Courtney asks in the book and of *Inside LifeWay* listeners. ■



Vicki Courtney

For more information about Courtney, the You and Your Girl conferences or *Logged On and Tuned Out*, visit www.lifeway.com/vickicourtney.



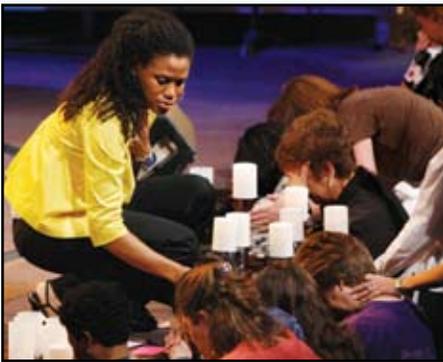
To listen to this and other Inside LifeWay podcasts, go to www.lifeway.com/insidelifeway.

Going Beyond the ordinary is goal of women's conference

story by Polly House, photography by Kent Harville

A plane breaks the sound barrier when it flies faster than 761 miles an hour. When that happens, there is a visible and audible demonstration of that plane going beyond what is normal.

LifeWay author and speaker Priscilla Shirer used that image to illustrate to more than 1,000 women that when Christians go beyond what is “normal,” people will see a visible and audible demonstration of going beyond a casual relationship with God.



Top: Priscilla Shirer prays with women during a time of invitation at Going Beyond.

Above: Women joined hearts and hands in praise and worship.

Shirer was the speaker at Going Beyond, an event sponsored by LifeWay's women's ministry training and events area July 13-14 at The Met [Metropolitan Baptist Church] in Houston.

Prayer is powerful

“I have asked God to just blow your minds this weekend,” Shirer said. “I’ve asked Him to rain down His glory and His blessing. I want you to boldly pray about what you don’t even pray about anymore, what you’ve just given up praying about – that wayward child, that healing, that marriage.

“I believe in the power of prayer,” she said. “One of the things that separates our religion from every other religion in the world is that our God is alive! He’s alive! And we can speak to Him and He will answer us.”

Shirer said, “I can’t get my mind around the fact that God’s goal is fellowship with us. He doesn’t want us to have to wait until we get to heaven to experience heaven. He gave us the Holy Spirit and He lives inside us. God is passionate about fellowship with you. He tells us in James 4:8 to draw near to Him and He will draw near to us.”

Study the Word

“Bible studies are wonderful,” Shirer said. “I am involved in studies myself, but let me tell you something, sisters. If the enemy can just keep you doing Bible studies, but not studying the Bible, he’s got you in the palm of his hand. The enemy wants you to think those people who do all those studies have an access to God that you don’t. And that is just not true!

“If you want to hear God, then you have to go to the Bible.”

Calling the Bible the means by which we hear God’s voice, she said, “Anything you think you hear God say or that you think He is telling you that contradicts or doesn’t measure up to the Bible in any way is not from God.”

Release from bondage

Shirer used passages from Exodus to show the women they could be freed from the areas of bondage in their lives in the same way the Israelites were freed from their bondage from Pharaoh.

First, the Israelites had to be released from the bondage of the person of Pharaoh. “We were born with a sin nature,” she said. “We don’t have to teach our children how to lie. As soon as we are born, we are enslaved. We can’t achieve freedom on our own. We are freed through Christ. If you are a believer, you have been offered freedom on a silver platter!”

Second, the Israelites had to be freed from the place where

Pharaoh lived. “We have been freed from the enemy, but we keep hanging around where he lives – in that movie theater, in that unhealthy relationship, in the occult,” she said. “We tell ourselves that it’s fun, that it’s harmless, but it will turn into torture.”

Third, the Israelites had to be freed from where Pharaoh reigns. “Is there something you must give up in order to make the move?” she asked. “Remember the image of that plane? When you break the barrier of sin, there will be a visible and audible demonstration that you have gone beyond that place in your life.” ■

Going Beyond: Upcoming Events

2007

• Oct. 5-6, 2007 Mariners Church, Irvine, Calif.

2008

• Feb. 22-23, The Church at Pinnacle Hills, Rogers, Ark.

• April 25-26, Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C.

• Sept. 26-27, First Baptist Church, Bossier City, La.

For more information on go to www.lifeway.com/priscillashirer.



We recommend

- *Discerning the Voice of God*
- *He Speaks to Me: Preparing to Hear from God*

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

Offering envelopes encourage giving; special colors serve as an extra reminder

Many churches overlook one of the most effective stewardship tools to encourage faithful giving – the offering envelope.

“Offering envelopes have come a long way,” said Ben Stroup, who coordinates LifeWay’s envelope service. “They used to be a black stamp on a plain white envelope. Now you can customize the design on the envelope, print in color or even order colored envelopes. There is so much churches can do now to encourage increased stewardship in their congregations.”

Stroup works with thousands of churches that have seen a growth in giving due to changes made in the production and/or distribution of their offering envelopes.

In the past, churches traditionally have sent church members one large box of offering envelopes in January to last throughout the entire year. Stroup recommends implementing a mailing program instead, sending envelopes directly to members on a monthly, bimonthly or quarterly basis.

“A mail program has consistently proven to be one of the most effective methods you can employ to increase per capita membership contribution,” Stroup said. “The mail program also provides a way for the church to maintain accurate mailing information and serves as a reminder to church members to be faithful givers.”

Jim Baker, associate pastor at Brentwood Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn., said his church has seen an average annual increase of more than 20 percent in giving since deciding to send members packets of envelopes monthly rather than annually.

“The packets coming in the mail serves as a monthly reminder for members to give,” Baker said.

Implementing a mailing program is only one change Baker made in his offering envelope strategy. When Brentwood Baptist began raising funds for their capital campaign, Baker used a colored envelope to distinguish the capital campaign envelope from the typical tithe envelope, a change that Stroup recommends.

“It is much easier to remember to place the ‘pink’ capital campaign envelope in the offering plate rather than designate funds on a specific line on your standard envelope,” Stroup said. “Also, everyone will notice the colored envelopes placed in the offering plate during the worship service. The use of a colored envelope serves as a silent reminder to those present that the capital campaign funds are as important.”

Brentwood Baptist now uses different colors of envelopes for specific stewardship campaigns, changing the color for the capital campaign versus the missions fundraiser in the winter. Baker also decided to leave the capital campaign envelopes in the offering envelope mix beyond the three-year campaign timeline. The result? An extra \$500,000 a year was raised.

Stroup said there are many ways a church can emphasize stewardship through the simple tool of an offering envelope. He added that LifeWay’s offering envelope service can help churches customize envelopes by assisting with the personalization of envelopes or creating custom envelope art.

Churches can learn more about LifeWay’s offering envelope service and mail programs by accessing www.lifewaystores.com/envelopes or by calling (800) 874-6319. ■



Facts & Trends Online

Read more tips for creative offering envelope implementation on Facts & Trends Online.

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MATTHEW 25:21

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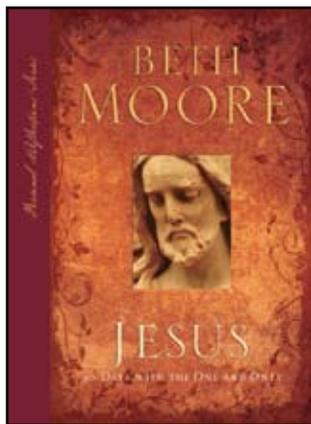


Do well. Do right.™

Resources

for you from LifeWay

B&H Publishing



■ *Jesus: 90 Days with the One and Only* by Beth Moore

Best-selling author Beth Moore has an amazing gift for insightful Bible character studies. The Personal Reflections series reintroduces Moore's most beloved character-driven books, expanding them into 90-day experiences that include nearly all of the text from her original work, plus thoughtful questions and journal space to engage readers throughout this special time of study. *Jesus: 90 Days with the One and Only* is the new presentation of Moore's classic *Jesus, the One and Only*. These intimate

reflections on God's one and only Son will invigorate and reward readers who long to grow closer and know more about our Savior. Releases Sept. 1. ISBN #13:978-0-8054-4645-1. Hardback. \$24.99.

■ *Breaking Free Day by Day: A Year of Walking in Liberty*

by Beth Moore

With 300,000 copies in print, *Breaking Free* is one of author Beth Moore's best-selling releases. It shows readers how to make freedom in Christ

a daily reality by identifying spiritual strongholds in their lives and overcoming them through the truth of God's Word. Now, the perennial favorite is available in a convenient day-by-day reading format, helping us find our satisfaction in God, experience His peace and

enjoy His presence with each glorious new sunrise. Releases Oct. 1. ISBN #13:978-0-8054-4646-3. Hardback. \$14.99.

■ *Logged On and Tuned Out*

by Vicki Courtney

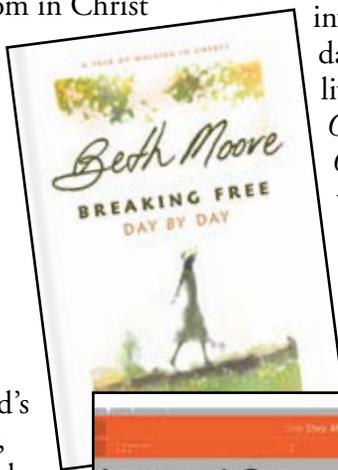
When CNN and FOX News sought Vicki Courtney to discuss child safety and the Internet on-air last summer, the best-selling author knew this urgent issue had to become the core topic of her next book. Today's children can access the world from a growing number of portable gadgets, and potentially

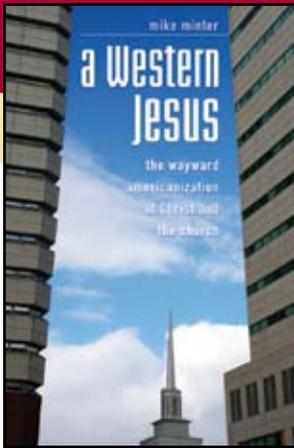
invite a world of danger into their lives. *Logged On and Tuned Out* is a timely wake-up call to low-tech (tuned out) parents whose high-tech (logged on) kids use modern computer and cell phone technology like second nature. In simple language, moms and dads

overwhelmed by today's digital world will learn the imperative basics and checkpoints of Instant Messaging, text messaging, social networking Web sites (MySpace, Facebook), chat rooms, photo and video uploading and more. Releases Sept. 1. ISBN #13:978-0-8054-4665-4. Paperback. \$12.99.

■ *A Western Jesus* by Mike Minter

Is the Jesus of modern western civilization the same Jesus found in Scripture? Is what we understand Him to be in the United States and Europe the same as what's perceived in Africa or China? How can one person pray for a great parking space while another is praying for just enough food or safety to survive that day? *A Western Jesus* looks at the Western world's tendency to read Scripture through the rose-colored glasses of a society that knows little persecution or sacrifice. Here is a book to answer the cry for authenticity being heard from today's postmodern culture. Veteran pastor Mike Minter writes in *A Western Jesus* to those who have been insulted by religious hypocrisy, who



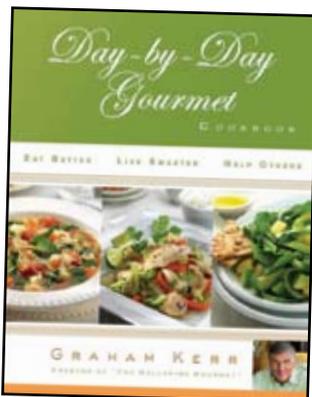


have claimed the modern church lacks relevance or perhaps even abandoned the Christian faith. Releases Sept. 1. ISBN #13:978-0-8054-4486-5. Hardback. \$19.99.

■ ***Day-by-Day Gourmet Cookbook***

by **Graham Kerr**

Eat better. Live smarter. Help others. Those are the powerful messages inside legendary chef Graham Kerr's *Day-by-Day Gourmet Cookbook*. Kerr, formerly known as "The Galloping Gourmet," presents nearly 200 recipes that show how to use nutrient-dense foods to replace calorie-dense foods. Kerr shares his popular "double benefit" concept that applies to mind, body and soul.



Replace harmful habits with healthy ones while reaching out to others in need, and everybody wins. Releases Sept. 1. ISBN #13:978-0-8054-4488-9. Paperback. \$19.99.

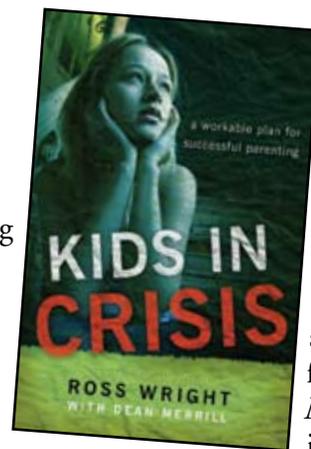
■ ***Sex and the City Uncovered***

by **Marian Jordan**

"Sex and the City," an original HBO network series (1998-2004) now seen in reruns, glorifies the lifestyles of four stylish New York women who hang out in bars and talk bluntly about their sexual experiences. However, despite claims that "Sex and the City" is ultimately about the longing for a committed relationship, the glamorization of casual sex and looks can take a toll on young women. In her first book, *Sex and the City Uncovered*, she writes, "A painful existence of 'looking for love in all the wrong places' is hidden behind images of couture fashion, witty dialogue and beautiful people. I know this to be true because I've lived it." A former party girl, Jordan now speaks to women nationwide about the unfailing love that she has found in Jesus. Releases Sept. 1. ISBN #13:978-0-8054-4669-2. Paperback. \$12.99.

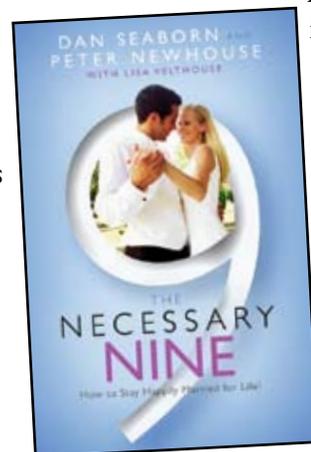
■ ***Kids in Crisis***
by **Ross Wright**

For any mom or dad who thinks a certain child is just too tough to handle, *Kids in Crisis* provides a sane, workable plan for successful parenting. Author Ross Wright culls his wisdom from the trenches, having more than 20 years of experience in the youth care field ranging from work at psychiatric institutes to his current role as executive director of a Christian foster care agency. Inside his engaging analysis of child development and behavior is the theme of identifying strengths. By helping rebellious young people focus on what they do well, they in turn learn responsibility by having something to care about, to protect and to share with others. Releases Sept. 1. ISBN #13:978-0-8054-4399-1. Paperback. \$14.99.



■ ***The Necessary Nine***
by **Dan Seaborn**

When it comes to marriage, some things are just necessary. Dan Seaborn and co-worker Peter Newhouse are proud to be regular guys turned professional marriage and family experts. They have determined the following nine actions will help couples stay married: (1) establish cherishing attitudes, (2) pursue financial security, (3) discover sexual satisfaction, (4) spend time together, (5) develop genuine friendship, (6) value physical attraction, (7) cultivate emotional oneness, (8) guard home harmony, and (9) build spiritual fusion. *The Necessary Nine* is written for men and women and is appropriate for couples in any season of marriage. Releases Sept. 1. ISBN #13:978-0-8054-4431-5. Paperback. \$14.99.

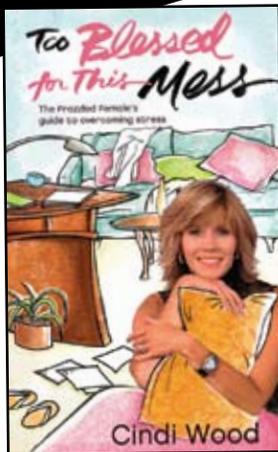


Resources

just released from LifeWay

■ *Too Blessed for This Mess* by Cindi Wood

Maybe you're burning the candle at both ends in your job, marriage, housework, children, finances, an illness, caring for parents or some other relationship. Maybe it's some of that, all of that or none of the above. Whatever the case, only God can bring true, unflinching resolve to the messes and stresses. In *Too Blessed for This Mess*, Cindi Wood, everyone's favorite "frazzled female," invites women to join her for a Bible-based study that will lift them "out of the pit, out of the mud and mire" (Psalm 40) and into a calming, empowering relationship with God. Mixed with humor and depth, Wood's concerns are clear in chapter titles like "Frazzle Friendly," "Control Freaks," "I'm Getting Old!" and "Committing to the Lord." Releases Sept. 1. ISBN #13:978-0-8054-4632-6. Paperback. \$12.99.



■ *Rest Assured*

by Nancy McGuirk
Rest Assured offers 90 soul-soothing devotionals based solidly on Scripture. Author Nancy McGuirk leads a weekly Bible study in Atlanta attended by

more than 500 women,

so her insights are well-tuned to what busy moms, singles, students and professionals long to hear from God's Word. The theme of rest doubles in meaning at the end of each devotion, with a "for the rest of your life" challenge that promotes both self-improvement and self-preservation. The book also features a foreword by Billy Graham's daughter, Ruth "Bunny" Graham, as well as a heart-centering daily prayer. Releases Oct. 1. ISBN #13:978-0-8054-4541-1. Hardback. \$14.99.

■ *Snow Angel: A Novel*

by Jamie Carie
When Noah Wesley heard the faint sound outside the door of his

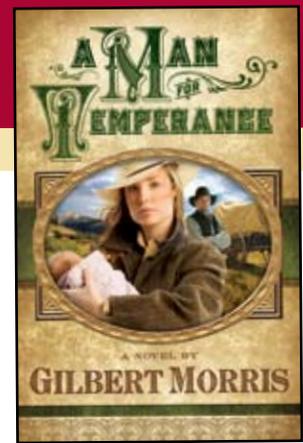
remote Alaskan mountain cabin during a violent nighttime blizzard, it was no less than the voice of God that urged him to take a closer look, soon to discover his snow angel. Unconscious and more than half frozen to death, was Elizabeth. She was a beautiful young woman intent on discovering gold like so many others in that region during the late 1800s. But why Elizabeth

was so drawn to the gold, and that she would chase it even through a pounding storm? First time novelist Jamie Carie pens a can't-put-down debut in *Snow Angel*, a romantic story

wherein two lonely hearts risk everything to find warmth and salvation. Releases Sept. 1. ISBN #13:978-0-8054-4533-6. Paperback. \$14.99.

■ *A Man for Temperance*

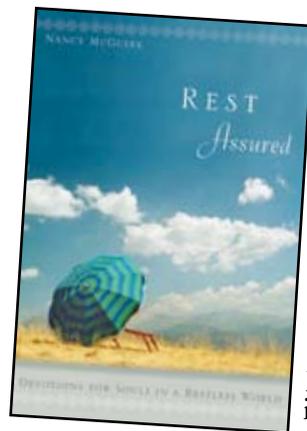
by Gilbert Morris
In 1850, Temperance Peabody, age 32, is a woman who has yet to know the thrill of romantic love. Raised in the Oregon territory, she was never allowed to have a suitor but now longs to have a family of her own. After her parents die and

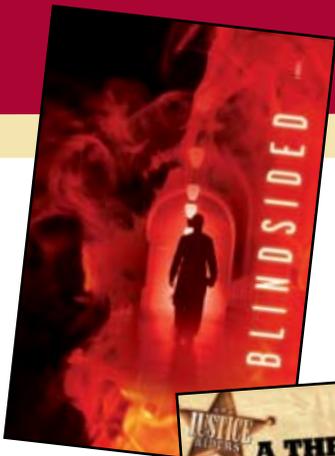


a cholera epidemic wracks the colony, Temperance feels called by God to take the surviving orphaned children back East to their extended families. But the only man available to accompany her on the dangerous journey is Thaddeus Brennan, a hard-edged drifter. Despite the mismatch, the intensities of their trek help the two find common ground, perhaps enough on which to build a lasting relationship. But life and love are unpredictable. Releases Sept. 1. ISBN #13:978-0-8054-3290-9. Paperback. \$14.99.

■ *Blindsided* by Calvin Miller

In *Blindsided*, long esteemed author Calvin Miller unleashes a modern thriller with provocative elements of the supernatural. When a Muslim terrorist group infiltrates Seattle and plots to blow up a stadium during a Christian men's rally, only a blind priest and his pet wolf know how to stop the disaster from happening. Always one to



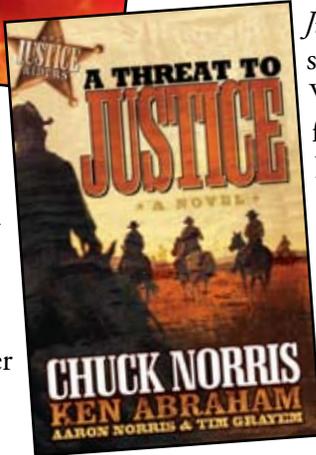


■ ***A Threat to Justice***
 by Chuck Norris, Ken Abraham, Aaron Norris
 and Tim Grayem

A Threat to Justice, the second Old West novel from Chuck Norris and friends, finds Ezra Justice and his elite group of special operation soldiers having gone their separate ways

just after the Civil War. When General Sherman needs men to combat armed resistances against

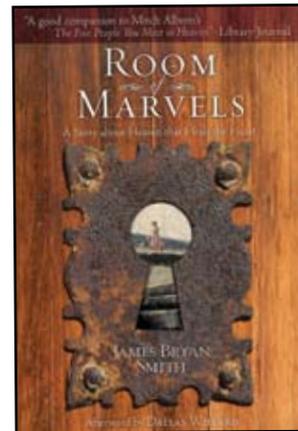
playfully challenge his readers with wildcard characters and great dialogue, Miller's greater message has to do with how to bring a peaceful end to war. Releases Sept. 1. ISBN #13:978-0-8054-4348-6. Paperback. \$15.99.



President Grant and his efforts to reconstruct America, Justice rides again. Releases Sept. 1. ISBN #13:978-0-8054-4563-3. Paperback. \$15.99.

■ ***Room of Marvels***
 by James Bryan Smith

In one tragic blow after another, accomplished Christian writer Tim Hudson lost his mother, his close friend, and his 2-year-old daughter. Now he's on the brink of losing

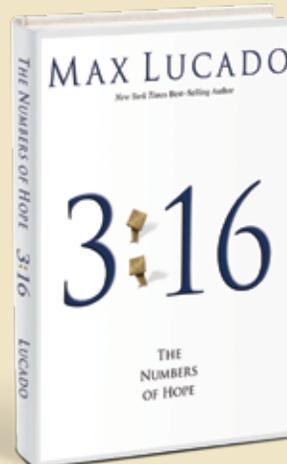


his faith. *Room of Marvels* takes readers on a silent spiritual retreat with Hudson where he is swept up in a dream vision of heaven and given a guided tour

by those he has lost. Remarkably, *Room of Marvels* mirrors author James Bryan Smith's own heart-wrenching season of loss. Updated with a new cover design and epilogue by Smith. Releases Sept. 1. ISBN #13:978-0-8054-4563-3. Paperback. \$9.99.



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If 9/11 are the numbers of terror and despair, then 3:16 are the numbers of hope. In his newest release, 3:16, best-selling author Max Lucado leads readers through a word-by-word study of John 3:16, the passage that he calls the "Hope Diamond" of Scripture. If you know nothing of the Bible, start here. If you know everything in the Bible, return here. We all need a reminder. 005098517

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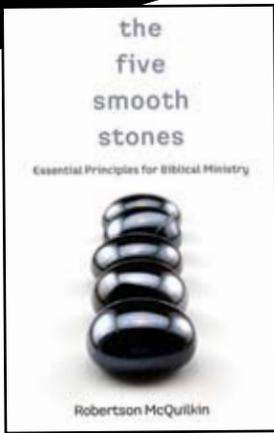
just released from LifeWay

■ ***The Five Smooth Stones***
by Robertson McQuilken

Bemused by the constant rising and falling of new methodologies when he began a career in ministry more than 50 years ago, university president Robertson McQuilken has since committed his work to enduring ministry principles that he calls “the five smooth stones.” In summary, these principles are: the Bible, the congregation, the Spirit, the plan of redemption, and the Lord Jesus. *The Five Smooth Stones* is an invitation to join in the deep reflection, evaluation and integration of each principle here in order to bless every aspect of your ministry. Releases Sept. 1. ISBN #13:978-0-8054-4547-3. Paperback. \$14.99.

■ ***Faithful to the End***
by Terry L. Wilder,
J. Daryl Charles and
Kendell Easley

In classroom and scholarly study, the Gospels, Acts and the Pauline letters receive far more attention than does



the so-called “end” of the New Testament: Hebrews; James; 1 and 2 Peter; 1, 2 and 3, John; Jude, and Revelation. Faithful to the End: An Introduction to Hebrews Through

Revelation offers a careful study of these latter biblical letters, closely examining each one’s authorship and origin, destination and audience, purpose and major themes. Releases Sept. 1. ISBN #13:978-0-8054-2625-0. Hardback. \$34.99.

■ ***Jesus in Trinitarian Perspective***
edited by Fred Sanders
and Klaus Issler

Jesus in Trinitarian Perspective features six highly respected scholars from schools such as Erskine Theological Seminary, Talbot School of Theology, Dallas Theological Seminary and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.



These scholars address an issue that has a significant impact on the way Christians should approach everyday evangelism but is often ignored: the fundamental fact that the Savior who died on the cross and rose from the dead is the eternal second person of the Trinity. This introductory Christology book is written for advanced undergraduates and entry-level seminary students. Releases Sept. 1. ISBN #13:978-0-8054-4422-X. Hardback. \$34.99.

LifeWay Church Resources

■ ***LifeWayLessons.com***

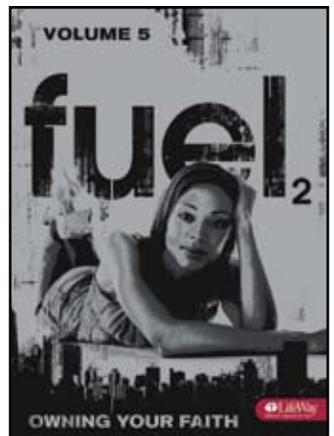
Here is the same trustworthy, doctrinally sound Bible study curriculum you expect from LifeWay in a brand new digital delivery

method that’s easy, flexible and affordable! Includes access to Explore the Bible and select Bible Studies for Life resources, including the student resource Life Focus. Once registered, users can select and download teaching plans, learner handouts and in-depth commentary. They can

then cut, paste and edit information, essentially adjusting the lesson’s content to meet the specific needs of their learners. Once registered, teachers can have 24-hour access the current quarter’s teaching plans, learner handouts, and commentaries for each of the curriculum choices they’ve made. The resources will remain available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Teachers can visit the site to download or print whenever it’s convenient for them. And it doesn’t require a long-term commitment – your church can try it for a quarter with no future obligation. Available now. Go to www.lifewaylessons.com.

■ ***Fuel2: Owning Your Faith, Volume 5: The Doctrine of Salvation***

The latest volume in this series explores basic questions like: How can I be made right with God? Why did Jesus have to sacrifice His life? Then,



it takes the exploration a step further, encouraging deep discussions through questions like, When is my salvation complete? Was it decided before I was born whether or not I would be saved? and How do I know for sure I am saved? (12 sessions) Releases in September. DVDs and CD-ROMs, LifeWay product #0-0503-5503, \$159.95; CD-ROMs, LifeWay product #0-0503-5504, \$9.95

■ **Student Survival Kit, Revised**

by **Ralph W. Neighbor Jr.** For more than 20 years, this classic resource for new Christians provides a basic understanding of

what it means to follow Christ. It's geared to help teens understand how God works in their lives and in their world. As students move beyond their critical decision to trust Jesus for eternal life, they will explore topics like sin, doubt and sharing their faith. Using an outline of stages in the Christian walk the study helps teens deal with pressures and crises. Students are reassured that there is no danger of losing salvation, but are cautioned about the danger of missing out on Christian growth. (11 sessions) Released in August.

LifeWay product #0-0503-5497, \$5.95

■ **Colossians: Embrace the Mystery**

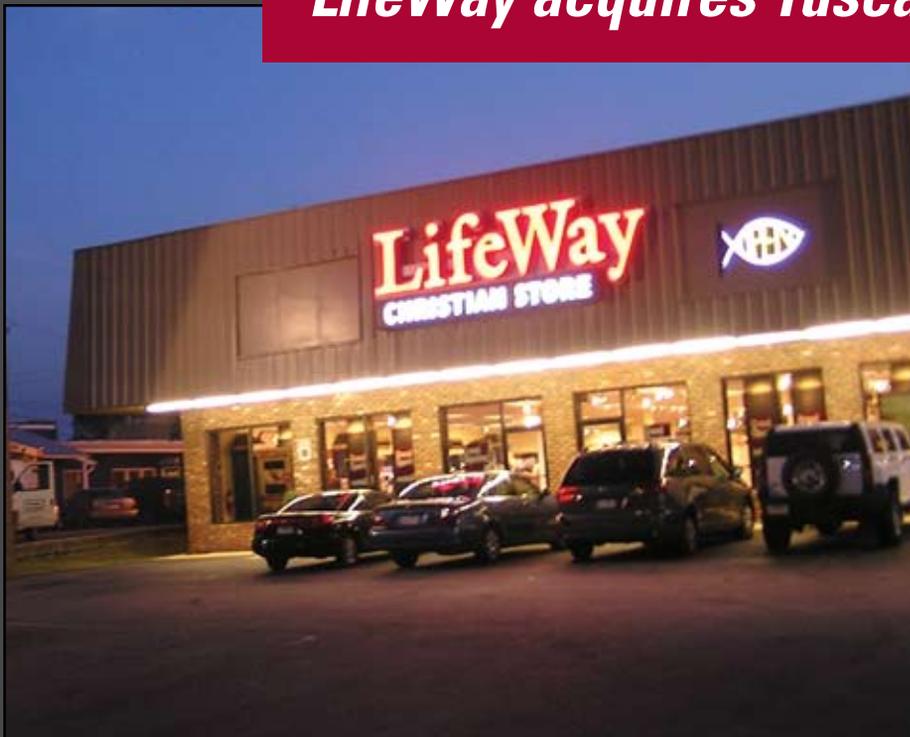
Here is the latest in the MORE series. There is a delicate tension for believers: We feel safe with the 'knowns' in our life and feel somewhat fearful about the 'unknowns.' Study celebrates the unknown and calls believers to do the same. Though we will never fully understand all the mysteries of God, we can dig deep and allow God to reveal the mystery



to us. God wants His children to know Him and welcomes our questions – even our fears. How and why He should

want to reveal Himself to us is a profound mystery in itself! Based on the premise that discovering truth through Bible study can be something other than breaking a verse down to its smallest part, the MORE series offers context, experience and other intricacies that all go

LifeWay acquires Tuscaloosa, Ala., store



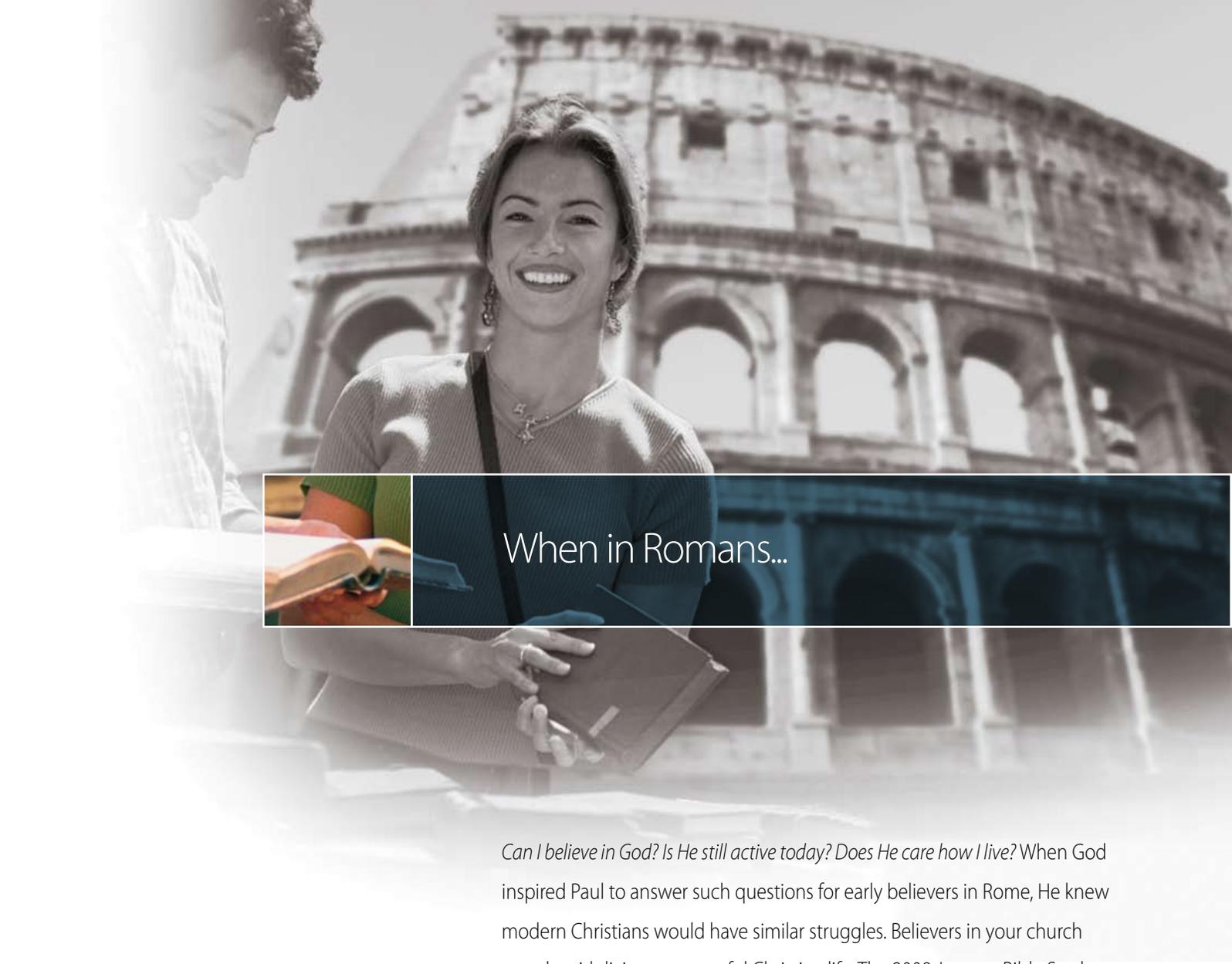
The Tuscaloosa (Ala.) LifeWay Christian Store celebrated its grand opening June 2-30.

Formerly Gospel Supply Christian Books and Gifts, the change in store ownership was announced May 22, 2007.

LifeWay Christian Stores Vice President Mark Scott said, "After previously working with Richard Thomason in 1998 with the purchase of the Huntsville store, we were thrilled when he approached us about transforming Gospel Supply into a LifeWay Christian Store upon his retirement.

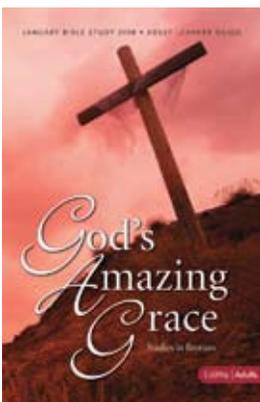
"Richard and his team have done an excellent job serving the Tuscaloosa community. We hope to honor his ministry in the local area through our service to churches and individuals," Scott added.

The Tuscaloosa store is one of 10 LifeWay Christian Stores in Alabama and one of 137 the chain operates in 23 states. To learn more, visit www.lifewaystores.com.



When in Romans...

Can I believe in God? Is He still active today? Does He care how I live? When God inspired Paul to answer such questions for early believers in Rome, He knew modern Christians would have similar struggles. Believers in your church wrestle with living a successful Christian life. The 2008 January Bible Study, *God's Amazing Grace: Studies in Romans* is so timely because that ancient letter is still so timely. Order it for your church today. And when in Romans, lead believers to do as the Romans: discover how God takes lives headed for ruin and saves and transforms them ... all because of His amazing grace. Materials for all ages available online and at LifeWay Christian Stores or by calling 800.458.2772.



www.lifeway.com/jbs

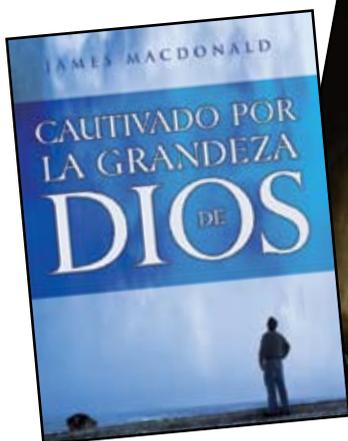
LifeWay | Adults

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into fully understanding the Word of God. (6 sessions) Serendipity House Publishers. Releases in September. LifeWay product #0-0508-1528, \$7.99

■ ***Cautivado por el poder de Dios (Gripped by the Greatness of God, Spanish edition)***

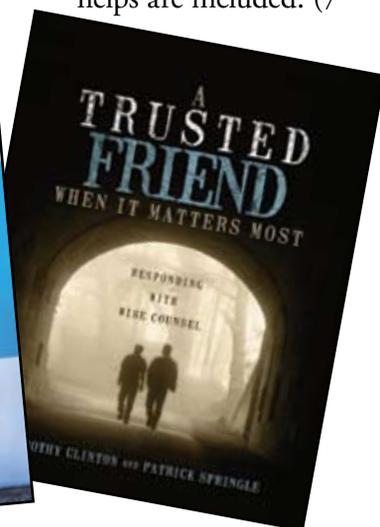
by James MacDonald
 How can we understand a love that exceeds our own capacity? It's a challenge that author James MacDonald discussed in his first study for LifeWay, now available to Spanish-speaking audiences. Designed to inspire a sense of awe for God, MacDonald uses selected passages from Isaiah to lead believers to a better understanding of the holiness, sovereignty, awesomeness and other attributes that characterize God. As believers learn to recognize God in all His greatness, they will naturally respond in worship. (8 sessions) Releases in October.



LifeWay product #0-0503-5557, \$14.95

■ ***A Trusted Friend When It Matters Most: Responding with Wise Counsel***

by Tim Clinton and Pat Springle
 Every day someone turns to your church with a pressing need. Lay members refer many of these people to the staff because they believe church staff members instinctively “know” what to do in this situation. Did you know that a church member could actually be the one best equipped to minister to a person during a time of need? This study is not intended to replace training, supervised practicum, skills or license to provide expert professional care, but it does help participants develop a heart of compassion, learn to listen and identify the root of a problem. Leader helps are included. (7

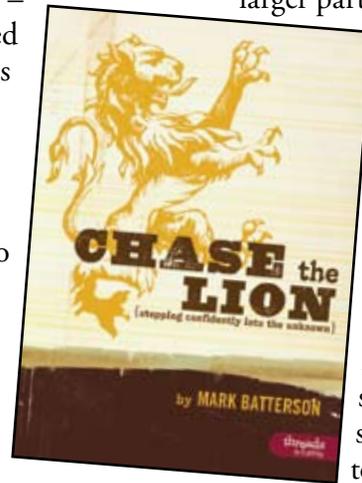


sessions) Releases in September.

LifeWay product #0-0508-9098, \$16.95

■ ***Chase the Lion***
 by Mark Batterson

What if someone suggested that some God-given opportunities are disguised as man-eating lions? No one would dare chase after an actual lion – the risk is too great. Based on Batterson's book *In a Pit with a Lion on a Snowy Day* – and inspired by a fearless warrior named Benaiah (2 Sam. 23:20) who changed the course of his future by winning a battle with a real lion – this in-depth study includes personal accounts of risk-taking, or lion-chasing. Additional Scripture references, extensive discussion and leader helps will challenge young adults to chase after the adventurous life God has waiting for each of us. Leader kit includes a member book, a DVD with video clips and an enhanced CD with leader discussion guide and tools, audio clips, songs and more. (6 sessions) Releases



in September.

Leader kit, LifeWay product #0-0503-5523, \$69.95; Member book, LifeWay product #0-0510-0606, \$7.95

■ ***Canvas: Mystery***

If an art gallery dedicated an entire section of space to display paintings that represented the individual lives in your congregation, what would people see? Everyone has a personal story that plays into the larger part of all that

God created, and these stories are displayed more beautifully in life when they are shared.

Canvas, a DVD-driven small-group series, seeks to draw those life stories out from individuals. This second release in the series explores the intrigue of transformation, the power of redemption, the wonder of the Spirit and the depth of forgiveness – topics that lead to discussions about how each of these elements touches the story God is revealing. DVD kit includes two DVDs with original short films; one experience guide (also available separately; one book per member is needed); six small-

Resources

just released from LifeWay

group setting suggestions; group and individual activities to “bridge” each group

setting. (6 sessions) Releases in September.

Serendipity House Publishers.

Experience guide, LifeWay product #0-0510-3005, \$6.99; DVD kit, LifeWay product #0-0510-3004, \$49.95

■ *FLOOD, Volume 6: Future Skills*

The competition for the hearts, minds and souls of today’s youth is fierce. Culture tends to scream the wrong message. Youth leaders from around the country have told us they need something that helps their students dig deeper into the Word of God – to learn what it means to live in true Christian community. In six different sessions – 12 short films and introductions by popular youth speaker Jeffrey Dean – *Future Skills* addresses topics such as discipline, dating, decision-making, handling success, coping, relationships and money – all viewed through the lens of Scripture.



This resource also features an exclusive interview with award-winning musician Stephen Mason of Jars of Clay.

FLOOD is versatile enough

to use in a number of settings from an issues-driven Sunday school curriculum, to a retreat/camp resource, weeknight study or even for sermon illustrations. This offers an affordable option, particularly for small- to medium-sized churches. (6 sessions) Releases in September. Serendipity House Publishers.

DVD student ministry kit, LifeWay product #0-0503-8444, \$79.95; Leader’s manual, LifeWay product #0-0503-8461, \$14.99

LifeWay Worship

■ *Made to Worship: Praise and Worship for Student Choir*

created by Dennis and Nan Allen, as

recorded live at SonPower 2007

SAT(B)/Moderate

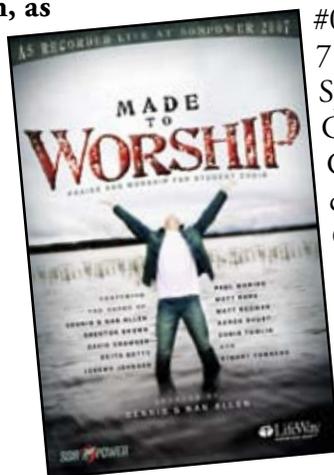
We were each created with unique personalities that allow us to express our

whole selves in worship and in everything we do. Compiled for students or adults, praise band or choir, *Made to Worship* is a contemporary collection of songs that allows worshipers to experience God in their own way. The powerful song list includes both

established and brand-new worship songs tuned to the hearts of students. Worship leaders have the option of fine-tuning the presentation of songs, with or without the corresponding drama sketches and Scripture readings, in four categories: An Invitation to Worship, Congregational Praise, Testimony and Personal Praise. Let them express the ways they were Made to Worship today!

Titles include “Made to Worship,” “O Praise Him,” “All This for a King,” “Dancing Generation,” “Everlasting God,” “My Savior, My God” and others.

Choral book, Product #0-0507-7197, \$8.95. Split-track CD, listening CD,* rhythm charts and CD promo pak are also available.



■ *SPIN 360*

Developed with the worship leader and team in mind, *SPIN 360* provides the best current worship songs, along with the tools needed to perform them. With each volume of *SPIN 360* you receive a songbook and a double CD. The songbook contains lyrics, sheet music, chord charts and a newsletter filled with great information for musicians. Disc one of the set contains vocal tracks as well as being enhanced with Power Point, Media Shout, chord charts and lyric masters. Disc two of the set contains instrumental tracks with and without background vocals. Volume 41 includes original tracks by artists such as Echoing Angels, Joel Engle and Watermark, plus SPIN 360 versions of music. Titles include “Ready to Worship,” “The Time Has Come,” “All We Need,” “Jesus Paid It All” and others. *SPIN 360, Volume 41*, Product #0-0509-9403, \$34.95

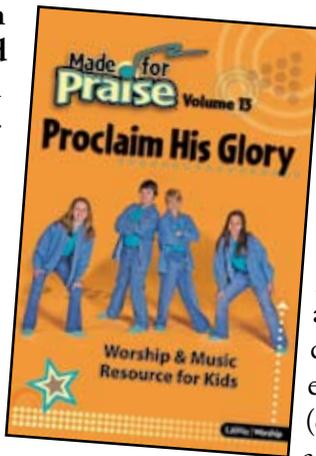
Back issues also are available. Call (800) 436-3869 for more information or visit www.lifeway.com/worshipmusic.

Children's Music Releases

■ ***Proclaim His Glory: Made for Praise, Volume 13*** arranged by **Barny Robertson and David W. Patton**

Grades 1–6/Unison & 2–3 part/Easy Proclaim His Glory (Made for Praise, Volume 13)

includes mini-performance ideas,



dramas, choral readings, activities for spiritual growth, an enhanced CD with devotional and journal pages, a DVD with worship enhancements and choreography. Your kids will have fun as they mature spiritually. Downloadable chord charts are available at www.lifeway.com/madeforpraise.

Choral book, Product #0-0507-7019, \$7.95. Enhanced listening CD,* leader's guide, piano accompaniment, chord charts, e-chord charts (download only) and CD promo pak are also available.

Non-seasonal anthems

■ ***13 non-seasonal orchestrations from Dan Goeller Music***

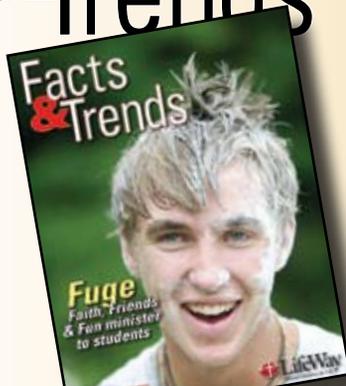
- African-American Spirituals Medley ("Somebody's Knocking at My Door," "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands," "When the Saints Go Marching In"), Product #0-0509-9715
- "Fairest Lord Jesus," Product #0-0509-9402
- "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah," Product #0-0509-9716
- "Jesus Paid It All," Product #0-0509-9717
- "Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners," Product #0-0509-9718
- "Lead on, O King Eternal," Product #0-0509-9719

- Missions Medley ("Rescue the Perishing" and "Send the Light"), Product #0-0509-9714
- "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need," Product #0-0509-9720
- "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," Product #0-0509-9721
- "Oh, How I Love Jesus," Product #0-0509-9722
- "On Jordan's Stormy Banks," Product #0-0509-9723
- "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty," Product #0-0509-9712
- "This Is My Father's World," Product #0-0509-9713.

Each orchestration is \$75. To order, call (800) 436-3869 or visit www.lifeway.com/worshipmusic.

*Listening CDs are also available on iTunes.

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Facts & Trends *Online*

Features are available now!

Teens' views on eternity

- Read “Knockin’ on Heaven’s Door” featuring insights by Scott Stevens, LifeWay’s director of student ministries, on teens’ views of eternity.
- Listen to an *Inside LifeWay* podcast as Scott McConnell, associate director of LifeWay Research, and Scott Stevens, director of student ministries, discuss the study results.



VBS Photo Contest

- View the top 10 photos submitted for the 2007 VBS Photo Contest, including our winner with the best VBS photo of the year.



Your vote counts!

- Participate in the *Facts & Trends Online* poll: When did you receive Christ as Savior?

Teens make a difference at Centrifuge camps

- Download an interview with Joe Palmer, LifeWay’s director of student events.
- View photos from this exciting week of ministry at Ridgecrest Conference Center.



What do teens believe about eternity?

Features added throughout the month – keep checking with us!

Logged On and Tuned Out

- Listen to an *Inside LifeWay* podcast featuring B&H author Vicki Courtney as she discusses her latest book, “Logged On and Tuned Out,” which offers parents insight into the trends and goings-on within the technology savvy culture of today’s teens.

Ask Ed Stetzer

Ed Stetzer



- Submit questions to Ed Stetzer, director of LifeWay Research. Find out more about his role at LifeWay, his goals for LifeWay Research, his views on relevancy in ministry or whether his Hawaiian shirts should become dress code for all SBC agencies.

Offering envelope ministry

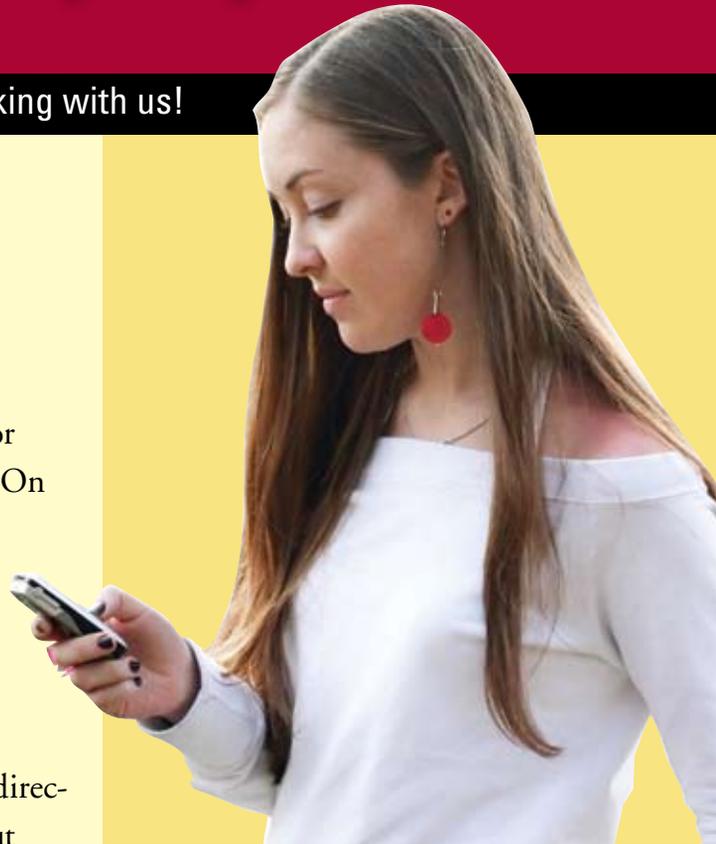
- Read how a Georgia church is putting leftover offering envelopes to good use in support of Ghana Baptist hospital.
- Read tips for creative offering envelope implementation.

Ghana ministry



What's new?

- Be the first to know about new resources offered by LifeWay Christian Resources and B&H Publishing Group.



RU texting? J2LUK, your teen is.

Have feedback?

Submit your views and thoughts on topics discussed in this issue of *Facts & Trends*.

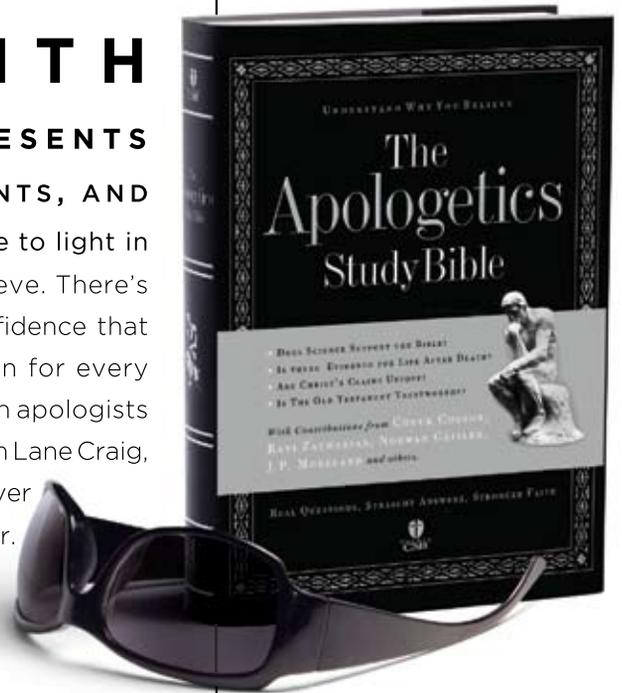
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