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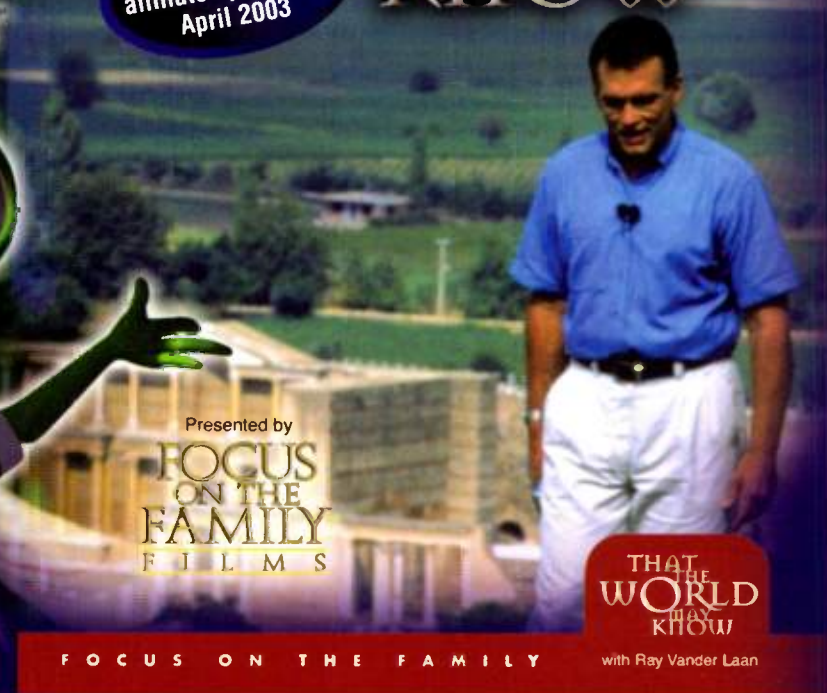
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## THAT THE WORLD MAY KNOW

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Presented by  
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THAT THE  
WORLD  
MAY  
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with Ray Vander Laan

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- June 8-11**  
 National Cable Television Association Annual Convention; Chicago, IL; www.ncta.com.
- June 25-28**  
 Midwestern NRB; St. Paul, MN; Ray Hashley, Ray.Hashley@moody.edu
- July 14-16**  
 Southeastern NRB; Asheville, NC; Chuck Burge, c.burge@coralridge.org
- July 24-26**  
 Southeastern NRB; Dallas, TX; www.swnrb.com
- August 24-26**  
 Western NRB; San Diego, CA; www.flc.org/wnr
- September 18-20**  
 Eastern NRB; Philadelphia, PA; www.wpel.org/enrb.htm
- February 13-17, 2004**  
 61st Annual NRB Convention & Exposition; Charlotte, NC; Patsy Smith, psmith@nrb.org.

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Pulpits Aflame With Righteousness

In recent years, scholars have questioned the authenticity of a famous quotation about the moral fabric of America, which has been attributed to Alexis de Tocqueville. This French philosopher was fascinated by the success and vitality of what our Founders called the American Experiment. His landmark work, *Democracy in America*, was based on his extensive travels in this country in 1831-32.

In his writings and speeches subsequent to his travels, de Tocqueville is reported to have made this observation about America:

*I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers – and it was not there ... in her fertile fields and boundless forests – and it was not there ... in her rich mines and her vast world commerce – and it was not there ... in her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution – and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be great.*

While politicians ranging from Dwight Eisenhower to Bill Clinton have cited this quotation extensively, it is, in fact, unverifiable. It does not appear in *Democracy in America* or in any of de Tocqueville's other published works. He may have used this memorable description in one of his many speeches, but there is no record of his having done so.

This is, of course, scandalous to many liberal scholars. How can anyone use this quotation, they ask – why, it is downright dishonest! Such an observation is almost side-splittingly funny coming from the same academics who tell us there is no such thing as truth in the first place. Clearly, their real objection lies elsewhere. Were we to catch them in a fevered fit of genuine honesty, they would likely admit that what they really object to is the quotation itself. They object to any notion that America was or is good.

For me, what is passing strange about this whole controversy of attribution is that it really matters little whether de Tocqueville actually made this statement or not. Please don't misunderstand; I am not calling for "three cheers" for shoddy scholarship. We should always strive for accuracy in our content. This is part of our commitment to "excellence in all things and all things to God's glory." Yet the central question is not who said it. The central questions must be: Is this statement true? And, more importantly, is it true of us today?

Biblically, this statement, which connects righteousness and national blessing, is incontrovertibly true. Scripture says, "Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34). But is it true of us today?

This is an important question. We are a people exceedingly blessed; yet in times of great prosperity it is easy to lose sight of the Source of those blessings. The Scriptures are, of course, unambiguous about this. They boldly proclaim: "Blessed is the nation

whose God is the Lord, the people He has chosen as His own inheritance" (Psalm 33:12). Our blessings – all of them – come from the Giver of every good and perfect gift.

These blessings are a gift of God's grace, unmerited and undeserved. But if de Tocqueville is right, they are also linked to our fidelity to the Word of God. Remember, he spoke of "pulpits aflame with righteousness." Whose righteousness is in view here? Is it that of the pastors occupying those pulpits? Is it that of the churchgoers attending to the messages from those pulpits? Hardly.

Pulpits are truly aflame with righteousness only when it is the righteousness of God in Christ that is being proclaimed, not the mere wisdom of men. Pulpits are only truly aflame with righteousness when that proclamation is direct, unashamed, unconstrained and bathed in a holy fear. Pulpits are only truly aflame with righteousness when pastors believe with all of their heart that they are proclaiming the very power of God unto salvation.

If the secret of American greatness is pulpits aflame with righteousness, what is the temperature of your church's pulpit? What is the spiritual temperature of your media outreach? Is your proclamation everywhere based upon the righteousness of God that is now revealed to men (Romans 3:21)? Are we still a people desiring to know God and make him known to others?

The wisdom of another observer of America might provide a helpful perspective. Roger Ward Babson authored a series of books on business and religion. In his book *Fundamentals of Prosperity*, Babson recounts a conversation he had with the President of the Argentine Republic. He asked the President why South America, with all its natural resources and wonders, was so far behind North America in terms of progress and marketing. The President's cogent reply bears repeating often:

*I have come to this conclusion. South America was settled by the Spanish who came (here) in search of gold, but North America was settled by the Pilgrim Fathers who went there in search of God.*

From this viewpoint, the great questions of our day become: Are we still a nation in search of God, or have we forsaken our first love? Are we still a blessed nation whose God is the Lord, or is our greatness as a nation behind us? The answers to these questions will shape our destiny. As de Tocqueville might have said, the answers to these questions may well be found in the pulpits of our churches.



**Dr. Frank Wright is President of NRB. Contact him at [fwright@nrb.org](mailto:fwright@nrb.org) or 703-330-7000.**

# NRB

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# CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

## The African-American Family

Since this month's theme is "Ministering to the Family," I want to remind you of the challenge and opportunities we all face regarding the African-American family. As Christian broadcasters and communicators, we have enormous opportunities to help minister to Black American families. Therefore, it's important for you to know some facts and some fiction attributed to them.

Star Parker, a young African-American single mother, and a former long-term welfare recipient, who is now the head of a successful national organization, recently gave the following surprising statistics regarding Black America:

- 70% of African-Americans do not live below the poverty line today.
- 61% of these new members of the American middle class own stocks.
- 40% live in suburban neighborhoods.
- African-Americans generate and circulate half a trillion dollars per year.

At first glance, this looks very encouraging. Especially when one considers the fact that only 40 years ago, Blacks in America were subject to Jim Crow laws and aggressive racial segregation. But if you look throughout America, Blacks are in positions of power, influence and great responsibility.

African-Americans are directors of major corporate boards, university presidents, astronauts, national political leaders and military generals. Several Blacks are named as some of the wealthiest individuals in the nation. Only 10 years ago, who would have thought that an African-American would be Chairman/CEO of NRB?

It is logical to assume that the Black family has followed this trend of improvement, however, it is a wrong assumption. The following statistics paint a very different picture:

- In 1960, out of wedlock (illegitimate) births in Black America were at 22%. Today, illegitimate births in Black America are at 75%.
- 70% of the young African-American boys in our criminal justice system today come from single-parent households.
- AIDS is the No. 1 killer of inner-city women aged 19-25.

Parker contends that the primary problem facing the broken African-American family is illegitimacy. She correctly points out that the top three moral crises facing the Black family are rooted in sexual immorality: illegitimacy, AIDS and abortion. Interestingly, the likes of Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson tell us that the primary problems facing the Black family are still poverty and racism.

With Jackson's recent revelations of infidelity and fathering an illegitimate child, it's no wonder why he would take such a position. Sharpton's stance is similarly tainted by his recent revelations

of selling (prostituting) his influence for hundreds of thousands of dollars and his openly vehement support of the pro-abortion, so-called "pro-choice," agenda. It is apparent that these men are out of touch with what is really at the root of Black family problems today.

What they fail to understand is that 50-to-60 years ago, racism and poverty in Black America was exponentially worse than today.

Although faced with open lynching, legal segregation and abject poverty, the Black family was incredibly stronger. We had far less illegitimacy, formed stronger marriages, and taught our young people restraint regarding violence and sex. Contrastingly, in many of America's Black homes today, messages on radio and TV display open lawlessness, extreme profane vulgarities and lewd sexual behavior.

When these negative media messages are combined with a welfare-state mentality and a secular worldview, it is a poisonous mixture that undeniably contributes to the destruction of the Black family. This clearly shows that poverty and racism, as offensive as they both are, absolutely are not the cause of the problems Black families now face.

Black American families must hear positive messages from strong voices such as Parker, Armstrong Williams, Dr. Tony Evans, Bishop Dwight Pate, Matthew Parker, Crawford Loritts, Dr. A.R. Bernard, Shannon Reeves, Kay Cole James, Bunny Wilson and many other articulate and powerful Black voices. These men and women have not only a biblical worldview, but also an extreme sensitivity to the social concerns that Black families face.

This is where we Christian communicators come in. By providing these strong voices access to our media programs, stations, Web sites and publications, we directly impact these seemingly overwhelming problems. Psalm 82:3-4 reads, "Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy: rid them out of the hand of the wicked." What will you do?

My article last month asked for response to President Bush's challenge for Christian broadcasters to lead the way in bridging the relationships between the Black and White (urban and suburban) church. Please contact me and let me know what you are doing to help in this noble cause.



**NRB Chairman/CEO**  
Glenn R. Plummer is president/CEO of Christian Television Network in Southfield, MI. Contact him at [pastorplummer@aol.com](mailto:pastorplummer@aol.com) or 248-559-4200.

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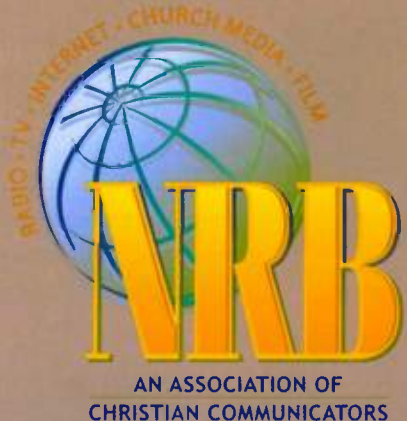
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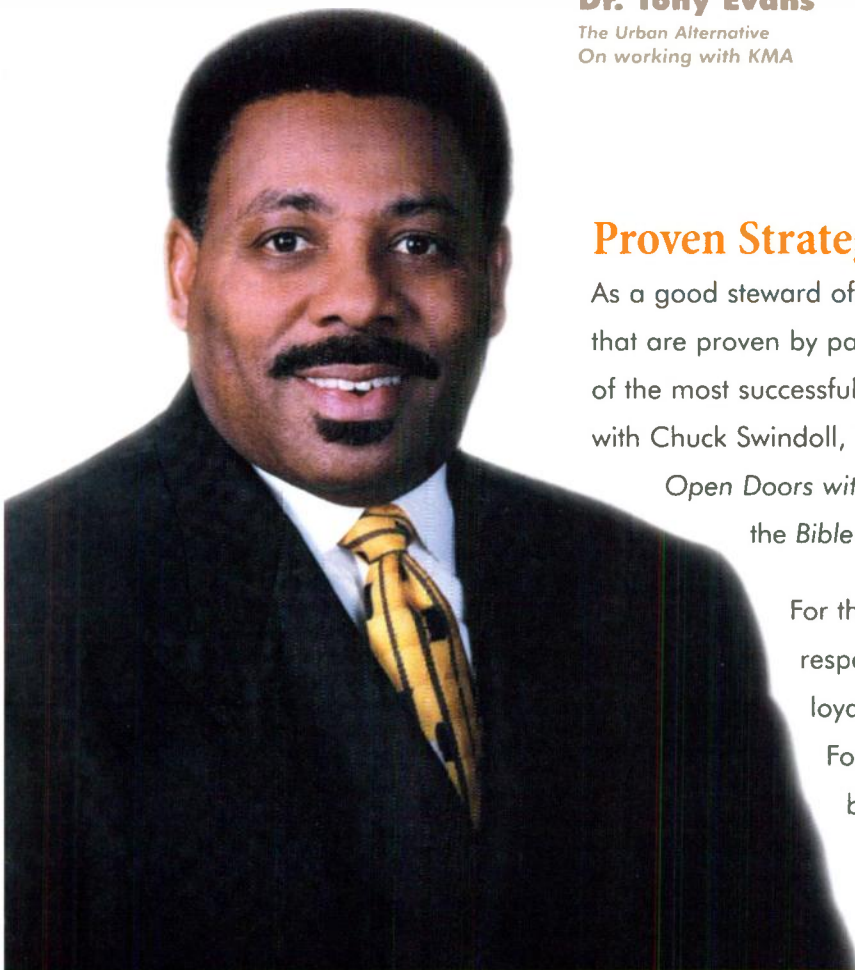




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## Dr. Tony Evans

*The Urban Alternative*  
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## The Myth of Creativity

**T**hey lied to me. And for years, I believed it. They told me that creative types couldn't be held responsible for such mundane things as budgets and schedules. There were the "creatives," and there were the "bean counters," and never the twain shall meet.

With regrets to those who use the title "creative" like James Bond's storied License to Kill, I've found that almost anyone can be irresponsibly creative, unburdening themselves of their highly subjective issues and opinions on an unsuspecting culture. Turn on the TV, flip on the radio, log on to the 'Net; this kind of "creativity" is everywhere.

Face it, anyone in a turtleneck and Skechers with a California 'tude can spray a camcorder around like a garden hose and record the saga of the local Volunteer Fire Department rescuing a kitten.

But how many (with or without the khakis) can shape that prosaic event into a compelling story, place it within a structured 60-minute time frame – complete with commercial breaks – and transform the moment into an emotional appeal that causes viewers to open their wallets and donate cash for new ladders and equipment... all on an impossible schedule and a Lilliputian budget?

Now that's creativity: telling a story, with purpose and meaning, while counting a few beans along the way.

The auteur theory of filmmaking, a single blindly brilliant creative force in absolute dictatorial control of every aspect of a project, has been the working model in Hollywood for some years now. That's how you take a \$10 million idea and transform it into a \$100 million movie that makes \$6 million at the box office.

Yeah, I know – it doesn't make sense to me either. But this auteur philosophy has been making its way into our world as well, where budgets are in the tens or hundreds of thousands. And it is having the same effect: shattered schedules and runaway costs with dubious results. The real shame is that we have so much more at stake with our work than mere profit-making.

I lived with the lie for a long time, and paid the price. But what I've learned through countless television series, specials and projects is that true creativity is a happily-ever-after marriage between art and commerce, between ambition and budget, goals and resources, diplomacy and responsibility.

Life without limits, without boundaries, is chaos. So is creativity. The art, the vision and the dream must be partnered with discipline in order to yield truly great and lasting results. Making magic, creating enduring moments, telling engaging stories is not a matter of power or bean counting – it is a matter of judgment, of doing the very best work possible within boundaries.

Even the Creator of the universe worked under a deadline: six days to create all of heaven and earth. And no one can fault His work.

**H. Ossie Mills, President, Belmont Mills Entertainment, [Ossie@belmontmills.com](mailto:Ossie@belmontmills.com)**



## Basic Understandings

**I** don't know about you, but sometimes I need to take a little bit of time to remind myself why I do what I do. There are so many things to try to keep up with in the Internet part of "Internet Ministry" that the foundational issues can sometimes fade. When I feel that happening, I know it's time to get back to the basics.

When it comes to reminders of the foundations of ministry, one of my favorite Scripture passages is Paul's exhortation to Timothy in the beginning of II Timothy 4. Paul knows that his time to disciple Timothy is coming to an end, and he wants to make sure that his last words carry with them a strong statement of how Timothy is to carry on.

Paul reminds Timothy of the central purpose of his ministry: "Preach the Word." I need to remember, in all the day-to-day busyness of what I am doing, that my core goal is to communicate God's Word to a world that desperately needs to hear it.

Paul's next exhortation is to "be prepared in season and out of season." Part of carrying out this command is always to be looking for opportunities, but I think a major part of being prepared is recognizing and using the appropriate tool. I need to be sensitive to that for which my audience is looking and be ready to use that felt need to get to the real need of the Gospel.

I think it's also important to heed Paul's warning

not to get stuck on one note in ministry: "correct, rebuke and encourage, with great patience and careful instruction." We are to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and not fall for the easy path that "one size fits all" in our ministry. And we are to minister knowledgeably, understanding the cultures of our medium and our audience.

Look at Paul's description of the modern Internet audience: "For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths."

So what do I need to do in reaching out to this needy world? I need to remember who I am and Who has called me. I need to be ready to face the hardships that may come from following Him rather than following the crowd. And I need to do the work of an evangelist – giving people an opportunity to hear, understand and respond to the message of salvation in Jesus Christ.

So, having been reminded of what I am called to do and why I am called to do it, I am ready to get about the task of Internet ministry.

**Robby Richardson, Director, International Internet Ministries, Gospel Communications International, [robby@gospelcom.net](mailto:robby@gospelcom.net)**

## TELEVISION



## Success ... Without a Recipe

**Y**esterday's cooking show was set in a sterile kitchen where a wide-angle shot established the expert cook in her workspace. Armed with the proper cooking utensils, recipes were facilitated in a linear fashion: 1 cup of this, 2 teaspoons of that, stick it in a 350-degree oven for 30 minutes, etc. With the magic of television, the cooked and beautifully garnished version was brought out, displaying what the proper result should look like.

Fast-forward to 2003. Flipping on a network like The Food Channel reveals dynamic shows such as *The Naked Chef*, *Nigella Bites* and *Emeril Live*. You won't find a recipe in sight. Camera angles are varied and some are blurry and creative. Hosts with spare personality turn vivid ingredients into mouth-watering delicacies – often in the kitchen of the host's home – and all in the interest of delicious food, not merely the completion of a recipe.

So what happened and why the change? It seems that people became bored with recipes and started to desire real food – and real entertainment. I enjoy cooking shows and must have watched hundreds of them, but I don't think I've ever prepared a cooking show recipe. I watch because I love food, and boy, do I get hungry just watching! Cooking show producers caught on to that trend, realizing they were spending time preparing recipes when all along it was the food people were interested in.

I'm starting to wonder when we are going to catch on and realize that most people aren't interested in the stuff we Christian producers, media developers and broadcasters are talking about. It's no secret that Christian-purposed media offerings have taken a beating in the past and continue to be discounted in the present. What will the future hold?

I have a vision for NRB members: That secular media producers will emulate what we do. What will it take? First, a realization that although we can work in the latest formats and styles, if the result is Christian propaganda, then it will roll off the back of popular culture and be relegated to the high-number cable channels where we pay to broadcast our programming instead of the other way around.

It isn't a challenge of relevancy, obsolescence, technological aptitude, budgetary constraints or any of the typical reasons we use to explain our shortcomings. Yet our message has been left behind by a young and popular culture. Can we stop giving people recipes to live by and show them the real food of life? Jesus was a master storyteller because He knew that people yearned for true life.

I want to challenge us all to begin telling the ultimate story of the one true God who transforms us in ways we can only begin to express.

**Javad Shadzi, VP Marketing, Highway Video, [javad@highwayvideo.com](mailto:javad@highwayvideo.com)**





# Radio License Renewal Begins

Radio broadcasters soon will file station license renewal applications. The rolling bi-monthly deadline schedule begins June 1, 2003. The discussion below provides an overview of the tasks involved in pulling together renewal applications. Additional details are available on the FCC's Web site at <http://www.fcc.gov/mb/audio/renewal/index.html>.

**Notice of deadline.** Licensees will receive a postcard from the FCC five-to-six months before the current license expires. Since applications are due four months before the expiration, don't wait for the postcard before you begin the process. No detailed information packet follows the postcard; broadcasters are expected to consult their communications counsel and the agency's Web site for instructions.

**On-air announcements.** The FCC requires every station to air announcements (pre-filing and post-filing) inviting public comment on whether the licensee has "operated in the public interest" during the current license term. Visit the FCC Web site for more specific information.

**Electronic filing.** Broadcasters must file electronically after September 2003. The electronic application, FCC Form 303-S, should be available via the agency's Consolidated Database System (CDBS) by the time this column is published.

**EEO component.** Broadcasters must electronically submit the Broadcast Equal Employment Opportunity Program Report (FCC Form 396) in advance of Form 303-S. Although religious broadcasters may legitimately "discriminate" on the basis of faith, they will be required to answer questions with respect to claims concerning race, gender or ethnicity.

**Public inspection file.** Make sure public files are up to date for two reasons: 1) the renewal form requires licensee certification of compliance with requirements, and 2) the public is more likely to review the files when the station's application is pending.

**Possible challenges.** The FCC will consider whether a complaint is factually supported and sufficiently serious to require some form of sanction. At the very least, the filing of such objections likely will extend the agency review period.

**Timing of FCC action.** Electronic filing mandates and FCC staff turnover since the last renewal may increase the review time to more than four months for uncontested renewal applications. Challenged renewals could take a year or longer to resolve. As long as a licensee filed the

renewal application on time, it may continue to operate the station while the review is pending.

Stations are advised to work with communication counsel to prepare the application, to respond to any objections that may be filed at the agency and to secure their renewals.

*NRB general counsel Richard E. Wiley is a former FCC chairman. He is a partner in the law firm of Wiley Rein & Fielding. Partner Rosemary C. Harold assisted in the preparation of this column.*

## RADIO



### Pray About News

News has a place in Christian broadcasting ministry, and it takes only one event such as 9/11 to see that clearly. One response is Christian Emergency Network ([www.christianemergencynetwork.com](http://www.christianemergencynetwork.com)), initiated by a number of ministry and denominational leaders working through the Mission America Coalition.

By partnering and preparing ahead for the next emergency, Christian broadcasters can present a powerfully clear, consistent Christian message to shocked and stunned Americans. It will be a message that is timely, pertinent and, above all, reflects the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

But what about the place of news in Christian broadcasting the rest of the time?

Surveys of radio listening habits consistently show that news is a key criteria for choosing a station, second only to music. This was confirmed once again by *The American Radio News Audience Survey of 2000*, from the Radio and Television News Directors Foundation.

"News is an accepted and expected part of the medium's programming," the survey reported, adding that, "About one-third of adults turn to radio for their news when they get up and are getting ready for their day. More than three quarters of commuters rely on radio for news while traveling to and from work."

Forty-one percent of respondents agreed that radio news broadcasts are too short to provide useful information. And, about a quarter of them agreed they often switch from one radio station to another to find a news broadcast. One of our listeners last year thanked us for not having "lame" news, like other stations.

The survey found that most radio listeners expect information about local events. In other words, news that is relevant to where they live.

A Christian radio station's news staff will cover important news that often goes unreported by other media. Those same staff members also will be rubbing elbows with other reporters as they cover other news events. What a mission field!

Most importantly, Christian stations can use their news reports to help their listeners focus on how God is working in the world. Every news story contains multiple prayer issues. Whatever makes it a news story makes it a prayer opportunity.

**Gordon Gouvier, News Director, WNWC-AM-FM/Madison, WI, [scribe@broadcast.net](mailto:scribe@broadcast.net)**

## CHURCH MEDIA



### Stay Behind the Curtain

In the classic movie *The Wizard of Oz*, Dorothy's dog, Toto, pulls back the curtain to reveal that the frightening, seemingly all-powerful Wizard is just a man manipulating controls behind the scene. As he is revealed, he makes the Wizard shout: "Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain!" in an attempt to re-focus attention back to the performance.

That's exactly what the best church media producers do: make decisions behind the scenes to transform a church service into an effective television program. If we do our job well, we're invisible and the audience is focused on the music, the speaker and the worship. It's only when we miss the mark that we're exposed and the effectiveness of the program collapses. Few church media producers understand the key differences in the forms. Recognizing them can transform your program.

1. Understand the difference between a live presentation and a television program. At a live event, you feel the electricity of the moment. But when you watch that same event on a television, you're usually watching by yourself. We must do different things to translate the spirit of the live event to the screen.
2. Use the cameras to capture that experience effectively. Your job as a director is to represent the audience, so use

your cameras to capture the spirit of that live event.

3. Speak to one person. Although thousands may be sitting in the church services, in the vast majority of cases, people are watching TV alone. Create an intimate atmosphere that enables people to feel that you're speaking directly to them.
4. The distraction factor. When looking through the lens of a television program, distractions become magnified. Most viewers take three-to-five seconds to decide to watch your program, so every distraction must be eliminated.

I call this technique "Selective Focus": finding the elements of a church service that most effectively work as a television program, and enhancing those elements to make the program as compelling as possible. But stay behind the curtain and eliminate distraction, help the viewer focus and create an atmosphere where the power of God can change lives.

**Phil Cooke, president, Phil Cooke Pictures, Inc., [phil@cookefilm.com](mailto:phil@cookefilm.com)**





**Boise, ID** – Hundreds of KTSY-FM listeners received discount tickets in a reserved seating section for an Idaho Stampede CBA basketball



**KTSY listeners at the Stampede game. KTSY staff and family (L-R): Crystal Woods, Wanda Agee, Mike Agee, Michelle Yeager, Brian Yeager, Daniel Agee**

game at the Idaho Center. During timeouts, KTSY staff threw prizes into the crowd. In other news, the station delivered a signed Valentine's Day banner from its listeners to two Idaho military installations, along with hundreds of cookies donated by



**Jerry and Crystal Woods receive a commemorative medal from Colonel Blair Hansen, commander of Mountain Home Air Force Base.**

Albertson's Grocery Store. The station broadcast a remote from a Boise Albertson's during the *Morning Show* with Jerry Woods, Crystal Woods and Brian Yeager to encourage listeners to come by and sign the banner. (Jerry Woods, [jwoods@ktsy.org](mailto:jwoods@ktsy.org))

**Nashville, TN** – Multnomah Publishers and



GSF & Associates partnered to produce and distribute a short-form radio program, *Big Change Moments*, which debuted during the 2003 NRB Convention and Exposition. The 60-second feature offers a teaching segment blending drama, contemporary music and the voices of best-selling Christian authors. (Susan Meredith, [susanm@gsfmedia.com](mailto:susanm@gsfmedia.com))



**Chicago, IL** –

Recently, the radio station of the Louisiana State Penitentiary (LSP) in Angola officially became a Moody Broadcasting Network (MBN) affiliate. KLSP, which is known as The Incarceration Station, broadcasts primarily Christian music and teaching programs and is operated by inmates. Once called the bloodiest prison in America, LSP recently received a portion of the 40,000 books collected through WMBI's annual Harvest of Hope Campaign. (Phil Shappard, [phil.shappard@moody.edu](mailto:phil.shappard@moody.edu))

**Midland, MI** – Family Life Radio recently co-sponsored a free concert in Frankenmuth, MI, that featured Discovery House Music recording artist Corey Emerson as part of Family Night at the annual Snowfest. More than 1000 people attended the event. (Jeremy Lawrence, [jlawrence@flc.org](mailto:jlawrence@flc.org))

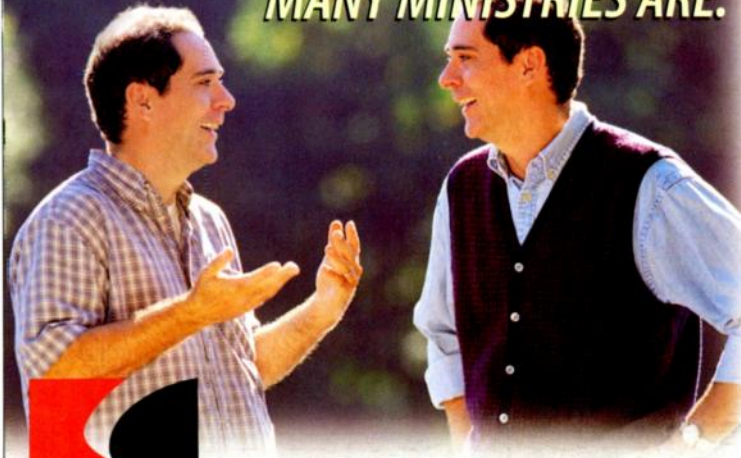


**Los Angeles, CA** – On February 28, KFSG-FM ceased operation and was sold to Spanish Broadcasting. The station, which was founded by evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson and the Church of the Foursquare Gospel, began broadcasting in 1924 as a pioneer in Christian broadcasting. (Mary Anderson-Harris, 818-729-9291)

**Colorado Springs, CO** – Christian Hit Radio Satellite Network (CHRSN) added a new affiliate in Indiana, PA. WFSJ-LP began airing CHRSN programming February 22. Chris Lash, president of Godstock Ministries, Inc., is the station's operations director. (Faron Dice, [faron@chrsn.com](mailto:faron@chrsn.com))

## Are You Talking To Yourself?

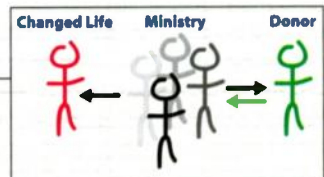
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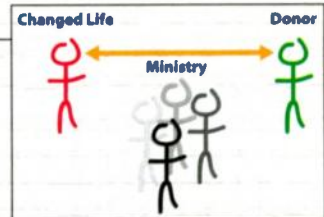
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**Washington, DC** – WAVA-FM staff and The Central Union Mission teamed up with area businesses to offer products for auction to area listeners. The On-Air Auction ran two days, raising thousands of dollars for the mission's support services to the homeless and underprivileged in the area. (*Radio Active News*, radioactivenews@wava.com)

**Los Angeles, CA** – The first KKLA Hall of Fame Award was presented during NRB 2003 in Nashville, TN. The award was bestowed posthumously to broadcast ministry pioneer J. Vernon McGee and the Thru The Bible ministry he founded more than 35 years ago. Salem Communications Corp. President/CEO Ed Atsinger and Chairman of the Board Stuart Epperson presented the award to Thru The Bible Chairman Leo Karlyn and ministry board members Bob Kern, Jim Stone, Andre Delgado and Steve Shwetz. KKLA-FM plans to confer a Hall of Fame Award annually. (Mary Anderson-Harris, aharrism@pacbell.net)

**Boca Raton, FL** – Relief and development ministry, Cross International, credits its partnerships with more than 20 Christian radio stations in the U.S. for creating major benefits for the poor overseas, particularly in Haiti and Belize. During 2002, radio appeals in 12 U.S. cities helped fund medical outreaches, housing construction, help for orphans, educational projects and the transformation of an impoverished rural village in Haiti. The ministry hopes to expand its outreaches through Christian radio in 2003, partnering with stations to present at least 20 new "radiothons." The programs will be organized under the direction of ShareMedia President Todd Isberner, who sits on the ministry's board of directors, along with Christian leaders Dr. Joe White, president of Kanakuk Camps and Kids Across America; Mark Kielar, president of WJMK-TV and Cross TV; and Colonel Paul Bollwahn, national director of Social Services for The Salvation Army. (Robyn Lees, 561-392-9212)

**West Palm Beach, FL** – According to Interep's quarterly analysis of radio trends based on Arbitron's Fall 2002 ratings for the 92 continuously measured metros, more than one in five radio share points are now concentrated among stations that feature either Spanish or Urban formats. Spanish-oriented formats, led by a rise in shares for Mexican formats, reached record high totals in the Fall 2002 Survey. At the same time, Urban shares remained at their high levels, with gains in Urban AC. (*Radio Ink*, www.radioink.com)

**Miami, FL** – WMCU-FM's three-minute radio broadcast, *The Clash: In Your Face with Grace*, received the 2002 Communicator Award of Distinction for Inspirational Audio Programming. Debuting in 1993, the Communicator Awards represent peer recognition of outstanding work, regardless of size or budget, solely based upon quality, creativity and resourcefulness. (John Thomson, SPCThomson@aol.com)



**Portland, OR** – KPdq-FM announced a new lineup of programs on True Talk 800 AM: *Focus On the*

*Family with Dr. James Dobson; FamilyLife Today with Dennis Rainey; The Michael Medved Show; and The Hugh Hewitt Show.* (Leslie Pfau, 503-231-7800)

**Dayton, OH** – In March, WFCJ-FM sent PD Bill Nance to assist with a three-day Sharathon at its adopted missionary stations in Puerto Rico: WBMJ-AM/Santurce and WIVV-AM/San Juan. WFCJ's *Morningview* program simulcast segments of the Sharathon, enabling Ohioans to make Faith Promises for the sister stations and the Bible Correspondence School of the Caribbean. WFCJ adopted the stations in 1989, after Hurricane Hugo struck the island. (Janet Luttrell, jluttrell@icepr.com)

**San Luis Obispo, CA** – K-LIFE 89.5 FM signed on the air March 11, marking Ventura County's first full-time Christian music station. (Jon Fugler, 805-541-4343)

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## PEOPLE

**Los Angeles, CA** – The Rev. E.V. Hill, 69, longtime pastor of the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles, died February 24 after a bout with pneumonia and other undisclosed medical problems. Hill was well known in the National Baptist Convention and frequently spoke at Promise Keepers rallies. Hill was tapped as an advisor to several prominent Republicans, including President Reagan. (*WorldNetDaily*, Feb. 26)



E.V. Hill

**Chicago, IL** – Broadcast Cable Financial Management Association appointed Mary Collins as its new president/CEO. Collins, who replaces Buz Buzogany, is a 20-year veteran of the telecom and broadcasting industries, most recently serving as VP of regional sales for DIVA. (Jamie Smith, [jsmith@bcfm.com](mailto:jsmith@bcfm.com))

**Chicago, IL** – On March 10, WMBI-AM welcomed Collin G. Lambert as director of Promotions and Marketing. Lambert has 20 years' broadcasting experience at several Texas stations, including KIXL-AM and KNLE-FM, and extensive involvement with concert/event management, media buying and promotions at Great Hills Baptist Church and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. ([Collin.Lambert@moody.edu](mailto:Collin.Lambert@moody.edu))



Collin Lambert

**Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX** – Emmy Award-winning broadcast journalist Jody Dean announced the signing of The Barnabas Agency, a new division of The B&B Media Group, Inc., as his agent of record. Dean, a 30-year broadcast veteran, is a news anchor at CBS11 in the Dallas/Fort Worth market. (Lauren Olson, [olson@tbbmedia.com](mailto:olson@tbbmedia.com))

**Nashville, TN** – Mike Newman was named VP of distribution services for Provident Music Distribution. A nine-year distribution veteran, Newman was promoted from director of distribution services. (Jackie Marushka, [jmarushka@providentmusicgroup.com](mailto:jmarushka@providentmusicgroup.com))



Mike Newman

**Tucson, AZ** – The Envoy Group, a Christian communications firm, hired Judy Hannestad as VP of Broadcast Services. Hannestad previously served as director of Marketing and Syndication at Westar Media. (Lisa Chastain, 520-219-0987)

**Virginia Beach, VA** – Maureen McDonnell was tapped as VP for Development and Communications at Regent University. McDonnell comes to Regent from IBM. (Baxter Ennis, 757-226-4093)

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# LAURIE IS NOT A NUMBER.

*She's a working mom of 2. She's been married for 11 years. She supports her local Christian radio station, sings in her church choir, and volunteers at the county hospice.*



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# TRADE TALK

## PEOPLE, Continued

**Charlotte, NC** – The Inspiration Networks hired A. Bruce Chastine as Executive VP and Finance/CFO. Chastine's previous position was controller/assistant secretary/assistant treasurer with Cox Enterprise for WSOC-TV, its ABC affiliate in Charlotte. Bart Palmer also joined the organization as director of Engineering. Previously, Palmer held the same position for Fox Sports Net in Houston. In other staff news, The Inspiration Networks promoted the following: Larry Sims to senior VP of Network Sales and Ron Shuping to senior VP of Programming. (Sara Lowe, 704-561-7728)



**Huntsville, AL** – Tim Sinclair was named program director/morning host for WAY-FM, owned and operated by WAY-FM Media Group, Inc. Sinclair came to WAY-FM from WMBI/Chicago, IL, where he was the afternoon host and senior creative services director (Thom Ewing, thom@wayfm.com)

**Toronto, CANADA** – Gary Koftinoff, composer for many Cloud Ten Pictures' films, was recognized by *DVD Premieres Magazine* for his musical score for the film *Deceived*, released March 2003. To hear part of the musical score, visit [www.deceived-the-movie.com](http://www.deceived-the-movie.com). Koftinoff's instrumental theme for the film *Judgment* was selected by the Guild of Canadian Film Composers to be part of a promotional CD entitled *Great Canadian Film and Television Cues*. (Jessica Parker, [Jessica.parker@cloudtenpictures.com](mailto:Jessica.parker@cloudtenpictures.com))



**San Luis Obispo, CA** – The Parable Group restructured to form a new division, Parable Source, to be overseen by Wayne Hastings, formerly Parable's VP of Merchandising/Retail Development. Also, Kay Cementina was named VP of Retail Sales and Marketing, while Marilyn Largent was promoted to VP of Wholesale Sales and Marketing. (Jana Muntsinger, [jana@mmpublicrelations.com](mailto:jana@mmpublicrelations.com))



## INTERNET

**Muskegon MI** – *The Message*, a contemporary



paraphrase of the Old and New Testaments by Eugene Peterson, is the 16th English language version to be made available on the Bible Gateway at Gospelcom.net ([www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)). In addition to the English versions, the Bible is searchable in 27 other languages on the site. (Duane Smith, [dss@gospelcom.net](mailto:dss@gospelcom.net))

**Nashville, TN** – *The 34th Annual Dove Awards*, hosted by CeCe Winans and Steven Curtis Chapman, aired live from the Gaylord Entertainment Center in April via a pay-per-view Webcast in partnership with StarOne Networks. Sponsored by LifeWay Christian Stores, *Dove Awards Live* included pre-award as well as exclusive behind-the-scenes coverage at [www.doveawardslive.com](http://www.doveawardslive.com). (GMAil, March 13, 2003)

**Eugene, OR** – Broadcast Software International (BSI) announced the debut of its Spanish-language Web site. Mirroring the company's English site, the Spanish version includes online ordering and product information. The site follows a Spanish-language Simian manual, allowing Spanish-speaking users to access information originally on the English site. A multi-lingual version of Simian will be available soon. (Chris Kehoe, 541-338-8588)



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## MUSIC

### Nashville, TN –

To centralize distribution operations, the Butterfly Group relocated its Diamante-Butterfly Distribution from Newport Beach, CA, to Franklin, TN. (Emily Kohl, emily@turningpointpr.com)



### Franklin, TN – Doxology Records and The Presidential Prayer Team

corroborated to create a musical collection encouraging the nation to pray for the President and the United States. In conjunction with the project's



release, the two entities began The Presidential Prayer Team Tour in March. (Marlei Daugherty, marlei@doxologyrecords.com)

### Nashville, TN – Shirley Caesar

recently performed on BET's *Third Annual Celebration of Gospel*. Caesar shared the stage with George Duke, Michelle Williams (Destiny's Child), Dru Hill, Bobby Jones and many other Gospel greats. (Anita Crawford, Anita.Crawford@WBR.com)



Shirley Caesar

**Nashville, TN –** Multi-platinum-selling band Jars of Clay continues to garner secular television coverage, including features on *The CBS Early Show*, TV Guide Channel, *The Late Show with David Letterman*, *Conan O'Brien*, *CNN's Music on the Road* and *Headline News*, as well as spins on MTV and VH1. (Rich Guider, RichGuider@comcast.net)

**Nashville, TN –** On May 1, Grammy and Dove Award winner Larnelle Harris takes the stage at the 52nd Annual National Day of Prayer in Washington, DC. President Bush and all U.S. governors are expected to sign proclamations setting aside the first Thursday in May as a day of intercession for the nation. This year's theme, Righteousness Exalts a Nation, is based on Proverbs 14:34. (Gina Adams, GAdams@aol.com)



Larnelle Harris

**Nashville, TN –** Celebrating its grand opening in March, Full Life Christian Center (FLCC) kicked off a weekend of festivities in the church's state-of-the-art audio/video showcase venue, The Foundation. Featured performers were Dove Award winner Jeff Deyo, Latin girl group Chica and rock band Seventh Day Slumber. The free concert was slated as the first in a series dubbed "Fast Forward Friday Nights." (Lynn McCain, lynn@mccainpr.com)

## CLASSIFIEDS

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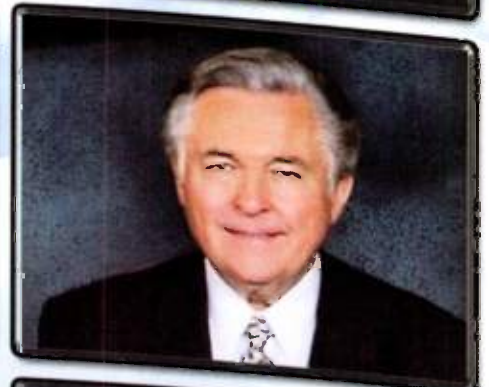
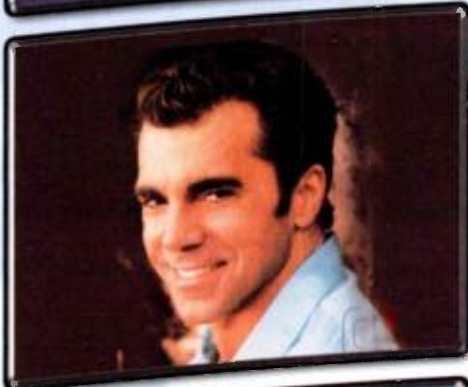
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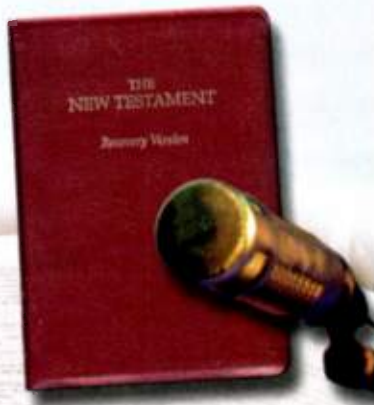
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# TRADE TALK



AIRWAVE NEWS  
TELEVISION

**Louisville, KY** – During NRB 2003, Namesake Entertainment, Ralph Winter Productions and the Total Living Network announced that a distribution agreement was signed with Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment for *Hangman's Curse*. This is the first feature film to be made from a Frank Peretti novel. (Melany Ethridge, 214-912-8934)

**Ft. Worth, TX** – FamilyNet Television joined the Adelphia digital lineup in Ontario, Santa Ana, City of Industry, Ventura and Simi Valley, reaching a combined 60,000 households. In other news, FamilyNet's original broadcast programming received 13 awards during The 24th Annual Telly Awards. Eight programs received bronze awards and five programs earned the Silver Telly Award. Also, FamilyNet celebrated Easter by airing the following special network programming throughout April: *He Chose the Nails* with Max Lucado; *The Life of Jesus Christ*; *Messiah Prophecy Fulfilled*; *The Promise*; *A Life God Rewards*; and *He's Alive*. (Cook, Denise, dcook@familynet.com)

**Toronto, CANADA** – Visual Bible International commenced filming its feature length motion picture adaptation of *The Gospel of John*, to be released in late summer 2003. The film will include an original musical score with instrumental sounds of the period. (Peter Block, 416-848-1373)

**Toronto, CANADA** – Cloud Ten Pictures received Golden Reel Award nominations for two of its films: *Deceived*, starring Judd Nelson and Louis Gossett Jr., and *Left Behind II: Tribulation Force*, starring Kirk Cameron, Brad Johnson, Clarence Gilyard and Chelsea Noble. Andre van Heerden directed *Deceived* and was production supervisor for *Left Behind II*. (Jessica Parker, Jessica.parker@cloudten-pictures.com)

**Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX** – *Travel the Road*, a groundbreaking reality television series that documents an 18-month journey to present the Gospel to the people of the world, announced the signing of The Barnabas Agency, a new division of The B&B Media Group focused on public relations management. Each episode of *Travel the Road* focuses on three aspects of the missionary team's journey: travel, ministry and the travelers themselves. (Lauren Olson, lolson@tbbmedia.co)

**Charlotte, NC** – LaFamilia Network, the new Hispanic digital cable television network from the Inspiration Networks, was launched by Time Warner Cable of New York and New Jersey as part of its new Hispanic digital package, DTV en Espanol. In other news, the following ministry programmers joined The Inspiration Networks to air on INSP: *Love Worth Finding* with Dr. Adrian Rogers; *Catch The Fire* with John and Carol Arnott; and *Jewish Voice* with Jonathan Bernis. i-Lifetv Outdoors launched with the following shows: *Outdoor Expeditions*, *Hunter's Journal*, *Spiritual Outdoor Adventures*, *Lindner's Fishing Edge*, *Athletes in Action*, *Adventure Bound Outdoors* and *Beyond the Checkered Flag*. (Sara Lowe, 704-561-7728)



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## Inspiring Member: Jon Campbell

### The Lessons Are in the Journey

"Don't worry; be happy!" "The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence." "Hang in there. Everything will work out."

Wow! I feel better already, don't you? These overly simple phrases typify our human view of what it takes to make life better. Our culture, many of our educators and even some theologians would have us believe that it is the power we discover in ourselves that will ultimately influence our lives each day.

I grew up in a home espousing those familiar edicts of the possibility thinker. My father, a Navy pilot, educator and doctor, demanded a discipline that was both self- and success-oriented. Education was the key to that success.

My father was often disappointed – even offended – when we didn't achieve a straight-A academic report. I didn't come close to his ideal. Additionally, my innate desire to be relational and involved in people's lives was often ridiculed as irrelevant to success. It wasn't the creed of the self-made man.

As with most young people, leaving home for Biola University was one of the most impacting decisions of my life. God's timing moved me into an environment where truth was discussed and lived. It was liberating! Of course, falling in love with Peggy profoundly added to my discovery and walk with Christ.

Biola requires 32 units of Bible, and it was in a book study of Psalms that my life verses came into focus: "How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your Word. With my whole heart I have sought You; O let me not wander from Your commandments" (Psalm 119:9-10).

While my father meant well with his instruction, I was now on the path of pursuing Christ and His precepts. And like many of us, I've learned through the challenges, struggles and obstacles. As a result, this season of my life is the most purposeful it has ever been. Let me explain.

Today, I had a tough time just getting out of bed. That simple exercise has become more challenging as the months go by. I'm completely worn – from the inside out – from two bouts of cancer and their related radiation and experimental chemotherapy. This morning, I understood perfectly David's cry to God when he said, "I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint." A good part of my physical get-up-and-go is gone.

In March 1976, I was told I had six months to live. Recently, I learned how the drugs and radiation pumped into me have negatively impacted my body in these cancer survivor years. I'm living with what doctors call "severe body fatigue." My major organs have been irreparably compromised from the cancer treatment of years ago. By God's providence, I'm the longest-living guinea pig of that particular cancer protocol. And yet, this is the best season of my life!



Jon and Peggy Campbell at Game 7 of the 2002 World Series in Anaheim, CA.

There's nothing I would do to change a thing, even if I had the power to do so. I'm continuing to discover and learn that the lessons are in the journey.

While God cares intimately about the events and circumstances of my life, He is absolutely passionate to have my heart and mind. If it takes cancer and its devastating toll on my body to teach me that lesson, then it's one I'm not only learning, but also wholeheartedly embracing.

I've found a new liberty in my relationship with Christ. I'm learning to surrender my will to His and I've discovered that each day is best lived with an open Bible on bended knee, with the thorough understanding that life is all about Christ and others.

While meditating on God's grace and sovereignty, my daily prayer focus helps me to address my inadequacies and His purpose for each day. In addition to surrendering my will and mind, I want to submit my heart to His authority, to walk in obedience, to live my faith and to practice mercy.

For me, Hebrews 11 is one of the most powerful chapters of the New Testament. It's all about faith, the very substance of things hoped for: by faith we understand, offer ourselves, obey and overcome.

Hebrews 12:1-2 frames it perfectly: "... let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us ... looking to Jesus, Who is the Author and Finisher of our faith."

Come to think about it ...

- I don't worry and I'm happy, as I live by faith.
- I know the grass is greener on the other side because it's heaven.
- I'm hanging in there because everything works together for good. God promised.

The lessons are in the journey, but so is the joy!

**Jon Campbell is president of Ambassador Advertising Agency, based in Fullerton, CA. Reach Jon and Peggy at [pcampbell@ambassadoradvertising.com](mailto:pcampbell@ambassadoradvertising.com).**

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# Fighting for Families

BY CHRISTINE L. PRYOR

**M**anaging Editor Christine L. Pryor recently spoke with Dennis Rainey, executive director of FamilyLife, who shared about the importance of keeping teachable hearts, the culture's effects on the family, the Church's silence on divorce and the increasing difficulty of raising godly families.

**Pryor:** What are the cornerstones of a strong family?

**Rainey:** I believe it's the fear of God, the Word of God and obedience to God ... practically applying what we know and keeping a teachable heart.

**Pryor:** What are the roadblocks to keeping a teachable heart?

**Rainey:** We live in a world of cynicism and I think a lot of Christianity today is marred by

cynicism toward Christian leaders who have disappointed us and significant people who have betrayed us. We have to guard our hearts lest we become cynical toward God, because I think even sometimes God will disappoint us. Another roadblock is a calloused heart that has been scarred by sin and becomes hardened. Yet another is a cold heart, where we lose our love for Christ and Christianity becomes a list of dos and don'ts and is not really a heart-to-heart relationship between the heart of God and the heart of a man.



**Pryor:** *How do you communicate to children that a relationship with God is heart-to-heart rather than a list of dos and don'ts?*

**Rainey:** We model a teachable heart with God. When our children see us fail, we also need to let them see us repent. They need to see our hearts broken with the things that break God's heart. Our children need to see us wanting to reach out compassionately to the world with the Gospel. There is something about sharing your faith and about offering people forgiveness of sins and peace with God that breaks us out of our own holy huddle and keeps the message alive within us. It reminds us of where we've come from, that we are sinners in need of forgiveness, and that it was God who adopted us in the first place.

For those of us in ministry, it is important that our children do not see our Christianity as our job. They need to see that our Savior is our life. He is not our paycheck; He is our life preserver. In His words, apart from Him we can do nothing. We have no meaning, no purpose and no life in and of ourselves apart from our relationship with Him. Our children also need to see us reflecting the love of Christ for people in need. Sometimes too much of our Christianity is in a comfortable zone that has us ministering to people who are like us. James 1:27 puts it like this, "Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world" (NASB). There is not much that is natural about visiting a widow or an orphanage. It demands death to self. Our children need to see us practicing "pure and undefiled religion."

**Pryor:** *Dying to self is alien in contemporary culture. What effects do you see the culture having on the family, both externally and internally?*

**Rainey:** Our culture is eliminating boundaries, standards and commitment, and completely redefining what marriage and family are all about. It is a culture that is attacking the biblical blueprint for building a godly family. One of the great tragedies is when the Christian community buys into the cultural lies around marriage and family.

An example of this is the roles of men and women in the family. There has never been a greater need for strong, compassionate, servant-based, godly male leadership than

there is today. Yet the culture wants to erase the biblical distinctions that are spelled out in Scripture and replace them with a gospel of equality. I believe a husband and a wife are equal in value and worth; I don't believe that a husband and wife have the same functions. As a husband, I'm exhorted by Scripture to do some things that my wife is not and I believe my wife is exhorted to do some things that I am not.

One additional cultural battleground with great losses occurring over the past 30 years within the Christian community is the erosion of the marriage covenant. For the most part, the Christian community has been woefully silent as a culture of divorce, both inside and outside the Church, has been created.

**Pryor:** *What causes the Church to be silent?*

**Rainey:** I think the Church lacks biblical courage. It's easier to nod our heads and look the other way than to confront difficult situations. This is because we lack biblical conviction and the fear of God. We don't really believe we're accountable for our actions. If we're not accountable, then "eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die." The Church is the standard bearer, the protector and the guardian of the marriage covenant. If we in the Christian community do not uphold the sacredness of the marriage covenant, who will?

Another internal threat to the family is the loss of biblical standards. I think we are watching a systematic dumbing-down of the Christian family to such a low moral point as to be virtually no different from its secular counterpart. The lifestyle of the Christian family in terms of standards, boundaries, and convictions around issues of modesty and moral purity — how our children dress and what television shows and movies we expose them to — has to be a great point of sorrow to God. We simply don't talk much about holiness in families today.

The Christian family used to have difficulty raising children because of cultural pressure that was being placed upon the family. They were fighting the cultural current in terms of modesty, morality and issues of absolutes. Now, that same cultural crosscurrent is not only outside the walls of the Church, but also inside the walls as well. Families raising children all look like they have the same biblical standards and values until the children hit the junior high or early adolescent years — and it's during those years that the true values and standards, or lack of

them, begin to expose themselves. Christian parents who attempt to have godly standards and take a stand are ostracized in many cases, not only by the world, but also by their Christian peers.

Something happened in the last five-to-seven years that made it exponentially more difficult to raise a family than a decade ago. I think it's that the Christian community is capitulating to the world and we're not supporting one another. It really does take a community to raise a family. We were meant to have extended family: other groups of adults standing alongside parents reinforcing values and calling children to step up and do the right thing. People are so exhausted today that they don't have any time to help others raise their kids. They feel like they're failing raising their own.

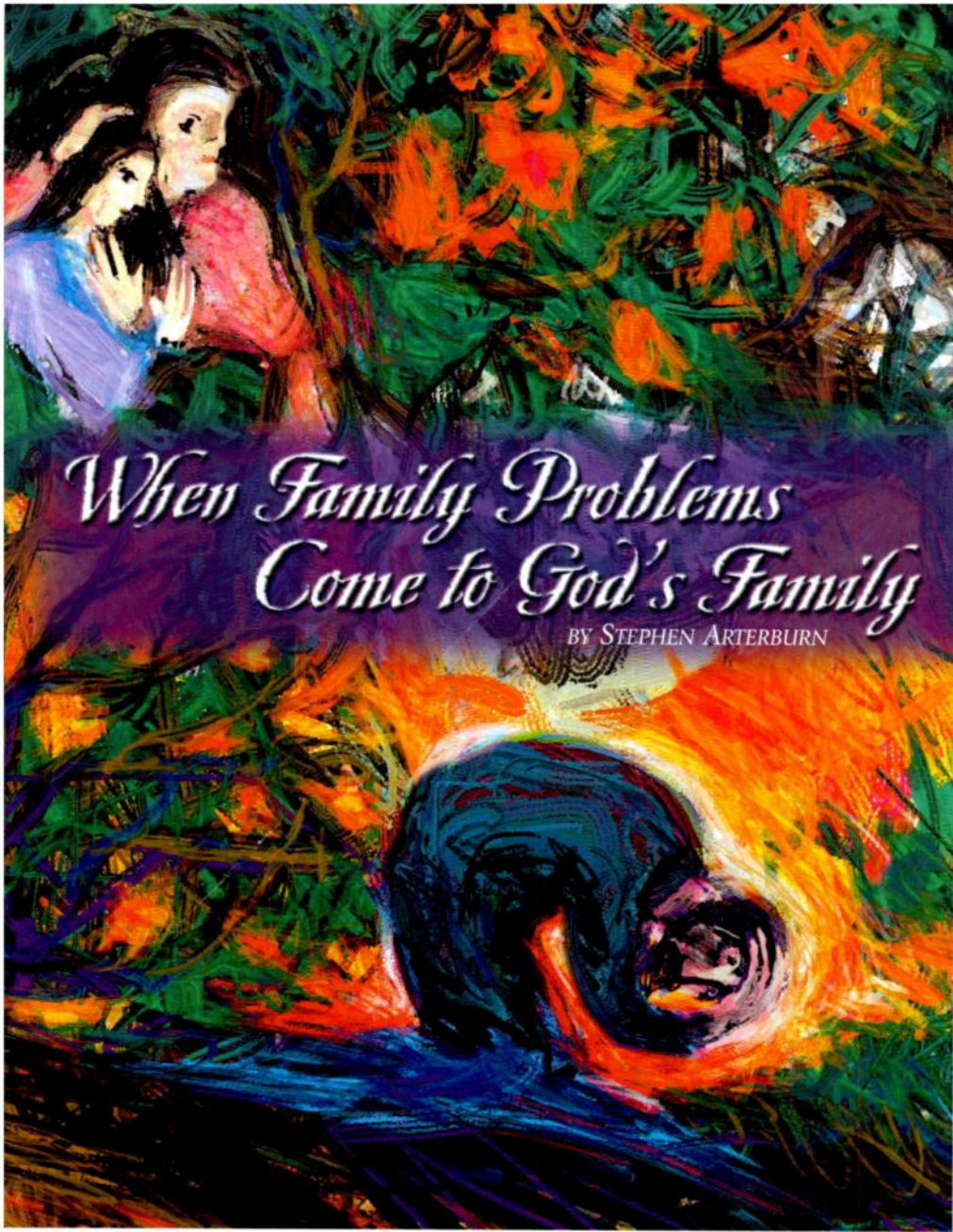
**Pryor:** *What can parents do when they feel they are failing?*

**Rainey:** I believe in the prayer of the helpless parent. God delights in reaching out and helping the parent who says, "I don't know what to do, God. Would You help me?" I also believe there is a need today for courageous Christian parenting. We need to ruthlessly go after our standards, our boundaries and our values and begin to rebuild what is a biblical Christian family in terms of how we dress, how we speak, where we go and what we choose for entertainment. We don't need to be weird, but we do need to be different than the culture.



*Dennis Rainey, executive director of FamilyLife, hosts the FamilyLife Today radio program. Contact him at [jlogan@familylife.com](mailto:jlogan@familylife.com).*





# When Family Problems Come to God's Family

BY STEPHEN ARTERBURN

**G**od's Word is full of examples of families with big problems. We cannot even read past the first pair of brothers without one of them killing the other. And that was just the beginning.

As we continue reading, we meet King David, the man after God's own heart, but whose family is after each other. Sexual sins and murder are included in the story of David's family, right there for all of us to read. One might think that God would have edited His inspiration and made things look a little better. After all, that is what many of us do so we won't embarrass the Church or make ourselves look bad.

But God chose to present the reality of humanity in all its ugliness and imperfection. Even the men who walked by His side were presented with all of their flaws and

failures in full view. God, being the God of truth, was not involved in a coverup of our character flaws. He inspired it like it was and is. With this open and honest presentation in Scripture as our example, you might think that it would be easy for Christians to be open with each other and to share family struggles. Sadly though, many feel the Church is not the place to share openly. They fear ridicule and rejection. They would rather hide and cover problems than bring the reality of who they are into the light of God's truth and His people. As a Church, we need to look at how we deal with situations and avoid three very destructive ways of handling problems: being too quick to answer, too quick to fix and too quick to retreat.

## Too Quick to Answer

This is the old problem of "fire, ready, aim!" We spew something out of our mouths before making an effort to connect with another person's soul. Often in a family crisis, people don't need an answer; they just need us. They don't want or need to hear our superficial platitudes about their situation; they need our presence. It is so much more difficult to spend time serving the person rather than preaching at them.

Only fools are quick to speak and slow to listen. When we are quick to speak, it comes across as uncaring and insensitive, probably because we are uncaring and insensitive. When we are slow to speak we invite true grief, true expression of emotion and eventually authentic healing. Your being there is more important than anything you might say. Galatians 6:1 reminds us to be gentle in our attempts to bring restoration. We need to measure our words and seek to connect rather than say something we think is correct. Superficial stabs in the darkness of the unknown situation are anything but gentle to a troubled family. God's love is spread when we hold our tongues and share our hearts.

## Too Quick to Fix

Foolish helpers also provide a solution before they know all the dimensions of the problem. It is so tempting to give a simple three-part plan or suggest two steps to healing, hoping to invoke instant change into the situation. Most family problems are too complex to be fixed quickly. Sadly, these problems often have been years in the making.

These complex problems require a long process rather than a quick fix. The process takes time because rebuilding relationships and mending broken hearts and strengthening character always takes time. We need to look at the bigger picture of the person's needs rather than our own needs to look good and be perceived as having wisdom. The wise don't try to fix — they facilitate the healing that God desires.

Sometimes the best thing we can do is to be realistic. When we tell someone that this situation is not going to go away overnight, or acknowledge that God has some long-term character building to do, we are sincerely helping the person to be realistic about the future. We all want the



pain to go away, but often it is the pain that dredges out sin and allows for new paths of restoration to be created.

### Too Quick to Retreat

Too often when the family problem does not miraculously work out, we move on and even reject those involved. We need to realize that not all family problems have a happy ending. All of the prayer in the world does not take away a person's free will to choose a path away from God. When things don't work out the way we "know" they should or could, we must persevere with that family. Our tendency is to back away when it gets messy or looks like it may stay that way. It is in these messy situations that God can use us the most to show His unfailing love.

Humble submission to God's calling may lead us to stay with the struggling family and identify with them and their pain. Rather than treat the broken as if they have leprosy, we need to minister to them as a fellow leper. Recently, Mark and Colleen came into my life in the middle of my family crisis that did not have a happy ending of reconciliation. They made a commitment to me that they kept: to just be there when I needed someone. Their sacrifice of time has meant more than anything else they could have provided. They have not retreated. It has strengthened my commitment not to retreat from others.

When we avoid these three tendencies of quick answers, quick fixes and quick retreats, we can replace them with groups, programs and services to meet the deepest needs of the family in trouble. When we abandon the simple and superficial, we can see what God does according to His own timing. When families start to fall apart, we have an opportunity to reflect the undying love God has for us into the broken hearts of those who need to experience that love. Your being there may be the only evidence that God is there for them in their time of suffering and brokenness.



*Stephen Arterburn, host of New Life Live, is the founder of Women of Faith and a best-selling author of more than 40 books. Reach him at [Sarterburn@newlife.com](mailto:Sarterburn@newlife.com).*

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*Wanda Franz, Ph.D.*

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# The State of the Family in 2003: a Study in Navigation

BY DR. JAMES C. DOBSON

As the 21st century progresses, it is clear that our culture is at war with the institution of the traditional family like never before. Parents who wish to instill biblical values in their children – or even just teach them a basic sense of right and wrong – face an uphill battle. It's difficult, after all, for moms and dads to instruct their children in what it means to be moral when the culture is telling them that morality doesn't exist.

But what is the root cause of this conflict? I believe that the single greatest threat to family stability in 2003 is the prevalence of postmodernism. It is the sickness from which all of the other symptoms grow: sexual immorality, abortion, divorce, pornography, etc. This system of thought teaches that truth is unknowable – whether from God (whom postmodernism perceives as a myth) or from man (who has no right to speak for the rest of us). In fact, for the postmodern mind, "truth" varies according to the perceiver. Nothing is right or wrong; nothing is good or evil; nothing is positive or negative.

Everything is relative. All that matters is "what's right for me and what's right for you."

## Postmodernism's Problem: No True North

To say that something is inherently wrong implies that a great Judge sits somewhere in the heavens issuing ultimate values and commandments for the world. But the postmodernist is convinced that no such Authority exists. In the absence of a Supreme Being, tolerance becomes a "god" who endorses anything and everything – except Christian beliefs. This line of thinking can be seen throughout our culture, on every level. For example, there are some college professors today who would seriously contend that not

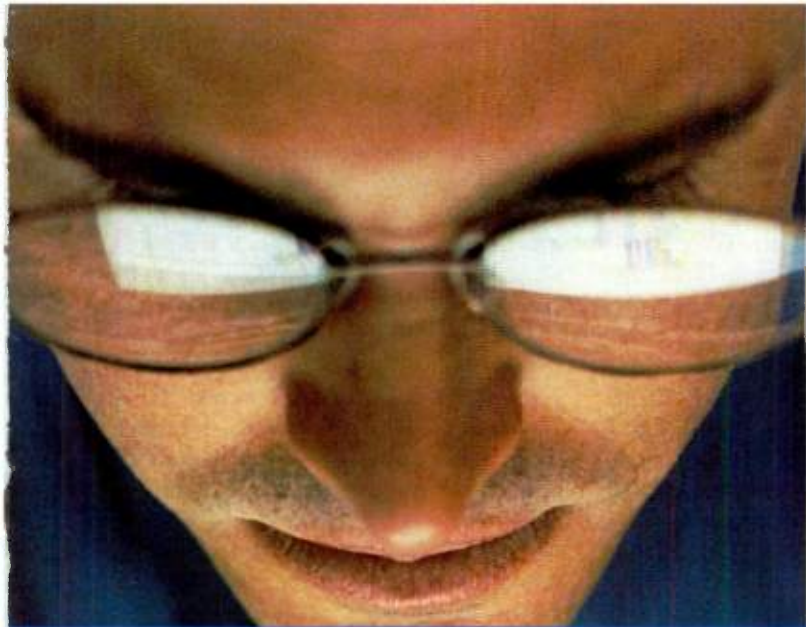
even the extermination of 6 million Jews and other "undesirables" in World War II was immoral. Why? Because the idea of morality itself is bogus!

Addressing our theme, what does this moral relativism have to do with the traditional family? Everything, in fact. It makes parents' efforts to raise their children "in the fear and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4) exponentially harder. This philosophy has given free rein to every evil influence on family life. Young children, and particularly boys, are enticed by our permissive culture into terribly destructive behavior that would have been stopped cold in its tracks by previous generations.

Postmodernism teaches children, teens and adults that they owe their existence to random chance in a chaotic universe with no

Continued on page 28





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On an immediate level, the most aggressive purveyor of postmodernism and its accompanying baggage is the entertainment industry. Sex and violence in their most despicable forms are readily available to children through television, movies, CDs and the Internet. Meanwhile, parents are either too busy to intervene or too helpless to stem the tide.

Columnist Ellen Goodman wrote an insightful article about this phenomenon in the *Boston Globe* a few years ago. She rightly observed, "Americans once expected parents to raise their children in accordance with the dominant cultural messages. Today they are expected to raise their children in opposition."

This assault on the family isn't being carried out only by the entertainment industry, however. We also see it in the "safe-sex" ideology being preached in our public schools, in the influence of homosexual activists on our courts and legal system and in our society's continued acceptance of the practice of abortion. Only in a culture like ours could we celebrate human dignity and racial harmony as precepts in one breath, and in the next advocate the killing of the elderly, the unborn and even full-term healthy babies as they exit the birth canal! The postmodern mind has no trouble embracing such contradictions because, as we have already established, what is "true" or "right" depends on one's personal feelings.

## Rediscovering a Compass

Thankfully, there have been encouraging signs over the past couple of years that families might not have to "go it alone" in the battle to defend morality and preserve traditional principles. Many of our elected leaders are demonstrating a renewed willingness to listen to the concerns of American families and to enact laws that respect the Judeo-Christian values upon which our nation was founded. I believe that the situation in Washington is more encouraging now than it has been in the past 30 years.

This renewed commitment on the part of our leaders to embrace policies that clearly distinguish between "right" and "wrong" can be seen in a number of arenas, such as the rise in federal funding for abstinence-based sex education programs. The most encouraging progress, however, has been made in the battle to defend the sanctity of human life. For the first time since *Roe v. Wade*, some

leaders in Congress and the White House are together taking a long, hard look at issues such as abortion and euthanasia, and concluding that such concerns do have moral implications, after all. The decision to terminate the life of a developing baby is not merely a question of personal preference or convenience.

Consider the following legislation that is currently moving forward in the corridors of power: the Human Cloning Prohibition Act, which would ban all human cloning; the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act, which would prohibit the barbaric procedure except when the mother's life is at stake; the Child Custody Protection Act, which would make illegal the clandestine transportation of minors across state lines to undergo abortions without parental consent; and the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, which would punish assailants who kill an unborn child while committing a violent crime.

In addition, 43 states have passed parental-notice or parental-consent laws. A study in the January 18, 2003, edition of *World* magazine revealed that in states with parental notice laws, abortions have dropped by a third, and that in states with parental consent laws, abortions for teenagers have dropped by more than half. Finally, a recent Wirthlin poll indicates that 68 percent of Americans are in favor of restoring legal protections for unborn babies, and a *Time* magazine/CNN poll revealed that 65 percent of Americans believe life begins at conception. Most significantly, that same poll revealed that 53 percent of young women of child-bearing age (18-35) believe abortion is "murder." These are significant and encouraging developments.

Even so, I'm sure most would agree that it's not primarily the government's responsibility to teach children about moral absolutes. That job rests with mom and dad. But what are parents to do when the pendulum of public policy is only beginning to swing back in their favor while the rest of the culture is still blissfully wallowing in moral relativism? Let me encourage you with the thought that, even though you're fighting an uphill battle – it is a battle well worth fighting!

Thankfully, there are steps we can take to help our kids navigate the postmodern wasteland that is festering all around them.

## Navigational Points

First, let's give priority to our children. In days gone by, the culture acted to shield them from harmful images and exploitation. Now

it's open season for even the youngest among us. Let's put the welfare of our kids ahead of our own convenience and invest the time and effort to teach them the difference between right and wrong. They need to hear also that God is the Author of their rights and liberties. Let's teach them at an early age that He created them, loves them and holds them to a high level of moral accountability.

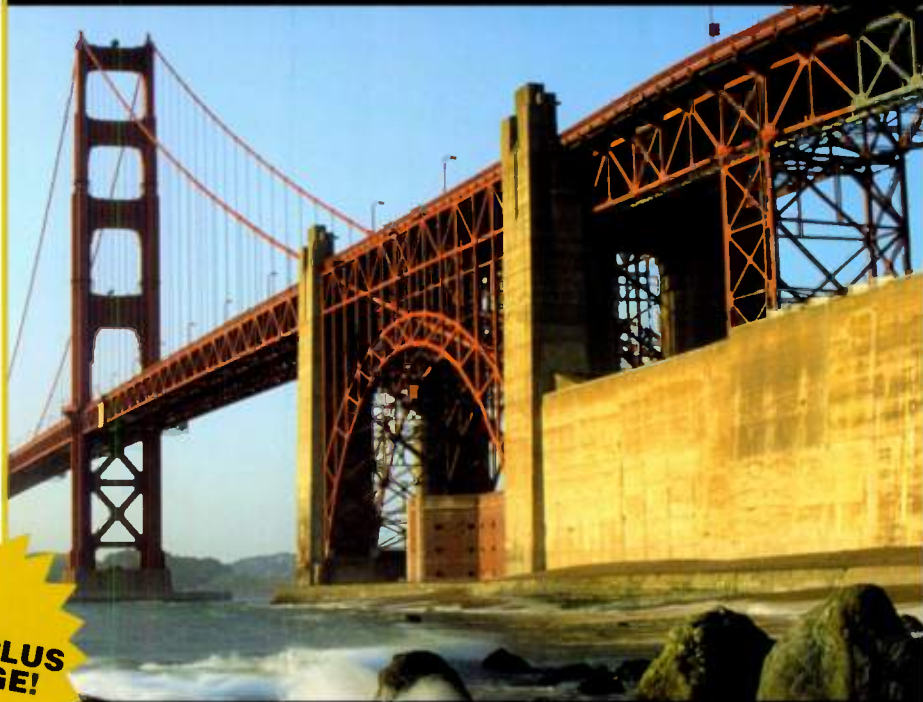
Second, let's do everything in our power to reverse the blight of violence and lust that has become so pervasive in America. Let's demand that the entertainment industry stop filling our eyes and ears with an endless barrage of debauchery. Let's support legislators who will stand on principle, rather than cater to passing trends and political correctness. And let's hold ourselves to the highest standards of personal accountability. The mantra "If it feels good, do it!" has filled too many hospitals with drug-overdosed kids, too many prison cells with sex offenders, too many abortion clinics with teenage mothers and caused too many tears for bewildered parents.

There are countless practical ways that moms and dads can help their children safely navigate our postmodern world, and I will not expound on them here. It's sufficient in this article to say that the most important investment parents can make in their kids is time. It is imperative that we carve a few hours out of each day, away from bills, jobs, meetings and other engagements, to nurture quality relationships with our sons and daughters. That's a tall order in our fast-paced, over-committed world. But for the sake of the young ones whom God has entrusted to our care, as well as the future well-being of our society as a whole, it is a sacrifice that must be made.



*Dr. James C. Dobson is founder/president of Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs, CO.*

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