

The Magazine **LIGHT**

For Faith & Family

A Boy's Passage

Maturity doesn't automatically come with growing older; parents and even churches need to take an active role in growing boys into responsible men.

Inside:

- A godly idea — praying for your family
- Nameless casualties in a silent war
- Pursuing fool's gold in your golden years
- Will Harry Potter cast a spell on your family?
- New *LifeLights* (center) plus Anti-Gambling and Sexual Purity resources

AND MORE ▶

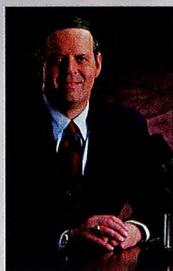
SOCIAL ISSUES: PORNOGRAPHY

Can We Stand the Costs of an X-Rated Culture?

BY DR. RICHARD LAND

In survey after survey, there is overwhelming support for laws that protect children against pornography. Yet the sex industry flourishes, and the acceptance of pornography as normative is leading hundreds of thousands of young men to adopt distorted values about sex and women. Can Christians afford to do nothing as individuals and families are destroyed by this insidious evil that permeates American culture?

Omni Hotels, Adelphia Communications and Donna Gentry say enough is enough, and they back their words with actions. ▶



Richard D. Land is president of the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and host of the nationally syndicated daily radio broadcast, *For Faith & Family*.

If your family is like mine, when we go to bed at night we lock and bolt our doors, taking comfort in motion-sensitive floodlights and a home-security system. Yet what once only prowled on the seediest back streets of America may already be in your home — on your computer! These intruders are surfing on an electronic river of slime right through your computer's modem. Sadly, these disgusting pimps for pornography have created a booming market for their corrosive wares.

America is being engulfed in a polluted tidal wave of hard-core pornography. Some 25 million Americans visit online sex sites between one and ten hours a week, according to a recent MSNBC study. Sex is the number one searched-for topic on the Internet, and experts estimate that 60 percent of all web site visits are sexual in nature.

Visits to pornographic web sites increased 27 percent

for the Internet's largest volume of business — generating an estimated \$2 billion a year with an estimated 200 new such sites launched every day. There is no question that pornography is a ravenous cancer eating away at the moral soul and fiber of our nation.

National surveys show consistent and overwhelming support for laws that protect children and families. Yet a small number of very powerful special interests are doing their best to break down these "online walls of safety." The American Civil Liberties Union brags on its web site that it has successfully challenged "every online 'harmful-to-minors' law passed" in the U.S. The ACLU immediately opposed the Child Online Protection Act (COPA), which makes it a federal crime to use the Internet to communicate "for commercial purposes" material considered "harmful to minors." Also, the American Library Association is opposing the Children's Internet

that the largest consumers of pornography are males 24 years old and younger. The proliferation and acceptance of pornography as normative is leading hundreds of thousands of young men to adopt distorted values about sex and women. Satan uses pornography to twist what God intended for good into something wicked, vicious and foul.

It's one thing to talk about the evil of pornography. It is another thing entirely to work to stop its destructive spread. We must pursue purity by avoiding opportunities to be tempted at home, at the office and on the road; loving our wives as Christ loved the Church; and working with like-minded brethren to shut down the smut peddlers in our communities and across the nation.

Last summer, Omni Hotels completed the task of removing all adult pay-per-view movies from its guest room televisions. The privately owned company has more than 40 upscale and luxury hotels and resorts in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. When the company made its decision, it said it was "morally and conscientiously driven [by] a growing need for corporate America to support pro-family issues." The company stands to lose an estimated \$4 million from pulling the so-called "soft porn" channels, yet the gain in lives shielded from this electronic toxic waste is immeasurable.

Adelphia Communications is the sixth-largest cable

"Pornography is evil. It exploits women and children. The Bible says it is wrong and that I should do something about it."

between December 1999 and February 2001. And while this shameless industry claims that children can't access pornography, most "members only" sites offer free "teasers" to anyone. Adult content web sites account

Protection Act (CIPA), which requires libraries and schools to install content filters on all computers that offer Internet access as a prerequisite to receiving federal grant funds.

Studies consistently reveal

Help families in your church take a stand for moral decency.



Sexual Purity Champion Action Kit - POKIT (\$24.95)

The ERLC's **Champion Action Kit** on Sexual Purity contains timely resources to aid churches and families alike in withstanding the attacks on our families through pornography. Each kit contains:

- Bible study and sermon helps
- *LifeLight* handouts (qty: 100)
- *The Silent War* by Henry Rogers
- Sexual Purity Fact Sheets (qty: 10)
- Promotional Posters (qty: 2)

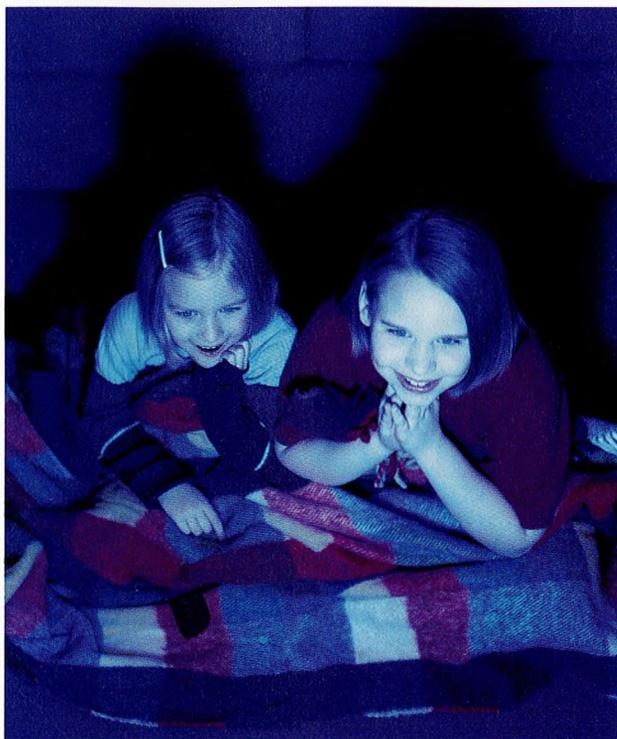
See pp. 12-13 for more information about *Champion Action Kits* or call 1-800-475-9127. Additional quantities of kit contents are available.

company in America, serving viewers in 32 states and Puerto Rico. The family-owned company has a long-standing policy of not offering sexually oriented channels to its customers, and the company says the reaction to its stance is "overwhelmingly positive."

Donna Gentry's crusade to clean up her community began in 1992 when she discovered that a convenience market near her son's school carried pornographic magazines. With the determination of a mother protecting her child, Donna asked the owner to pull the magazines. To her pleasure, the storeowner complied.

Since then this Washington, Ind., mom has worked with others to forestall the establishment of sexually oriented businesses in her town. One of her victories recently made headlines coast to coast. A video store that was going out of business was selling all its X-rated films. Fearful that the videos would find their way into other homes in her town, Donna organized a community-wide effort to buy all 273 tapes. Then she found a creative way to make her point—a local paving company sent an asphalt roller out to Washington's Main Street, where it smashed the tapes under its giant rollers.

Donna told our office recently: "Pornography is evil. It exploits women and children. The Bible says it is wrong and that I should do something about it." She said the efforts to clean up her community "woke up a lot of people who didn't



SAFER CHANNEL SURFING — *With a commitment to restoring decency to the cable industry, John Rigas, founder and CEO of Adelphia Communications Corporation, has led in systematically purging the company of all sexually oriented channels. Adelphia is America's sixth-largest cable company.*

"A Mogul Broadcasts His Morals," www.latimes.com, April 3, 2001

realize we had this evil in our small town. We needed to stand up and do something about it."

The citizens of Washington, Ind., recognized pornography for what it is—a moral plague. These people took a stand for righteousness and made their town a safer place to live.

If good and decent people decline to stand up for America's children, there are plenty of others who will continue to argue that no

restraints should be placed on this indecent and destructive material. Just like Omni Hotels and Adelphia Communications, Donna Gentry weighed the cost of doing nothing and determined it was past time to take a stand for decency and purity. The testimony in action of these champions for the faith should call us all to consider—Where is God expecting me to make a difference for my faith and my family? ☛

My foot has held fast to His steps;
I have kept His way and not turned aside.
Job 23:11, NKJV

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your concern for the state of the family in the 21st century and for your interest in *For Faith & Family's Light* magazine. It is our aim to aid you as you integrate God's truths into your everyday life. To that end, each issue of our magazine is crafted to help you and your family think biblically and act Christianly.

It is our prayer that this magazine will richly benefit you and your family as together we seek to follow in God's way. We encourage you to contact us to share your thoughts on our ministry and to recommend ideas for future issues of the magazine.

Dwayne Hastings
Dwayne Hastings
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
editor@erlc.com

P.S. Samples of the ERLC's *LifeLights* opposing pornography and gambling are included in the center of this magazine for reference. While not actual size, the samples will give you an idea of the wonderful content of these invaluable resources that are included in our monthly *Champion Action Kits*, available by subscription (see ad, p. 13).



THE ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION
OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
901 COMMERCE STREET, SUITE 550
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37203-3696

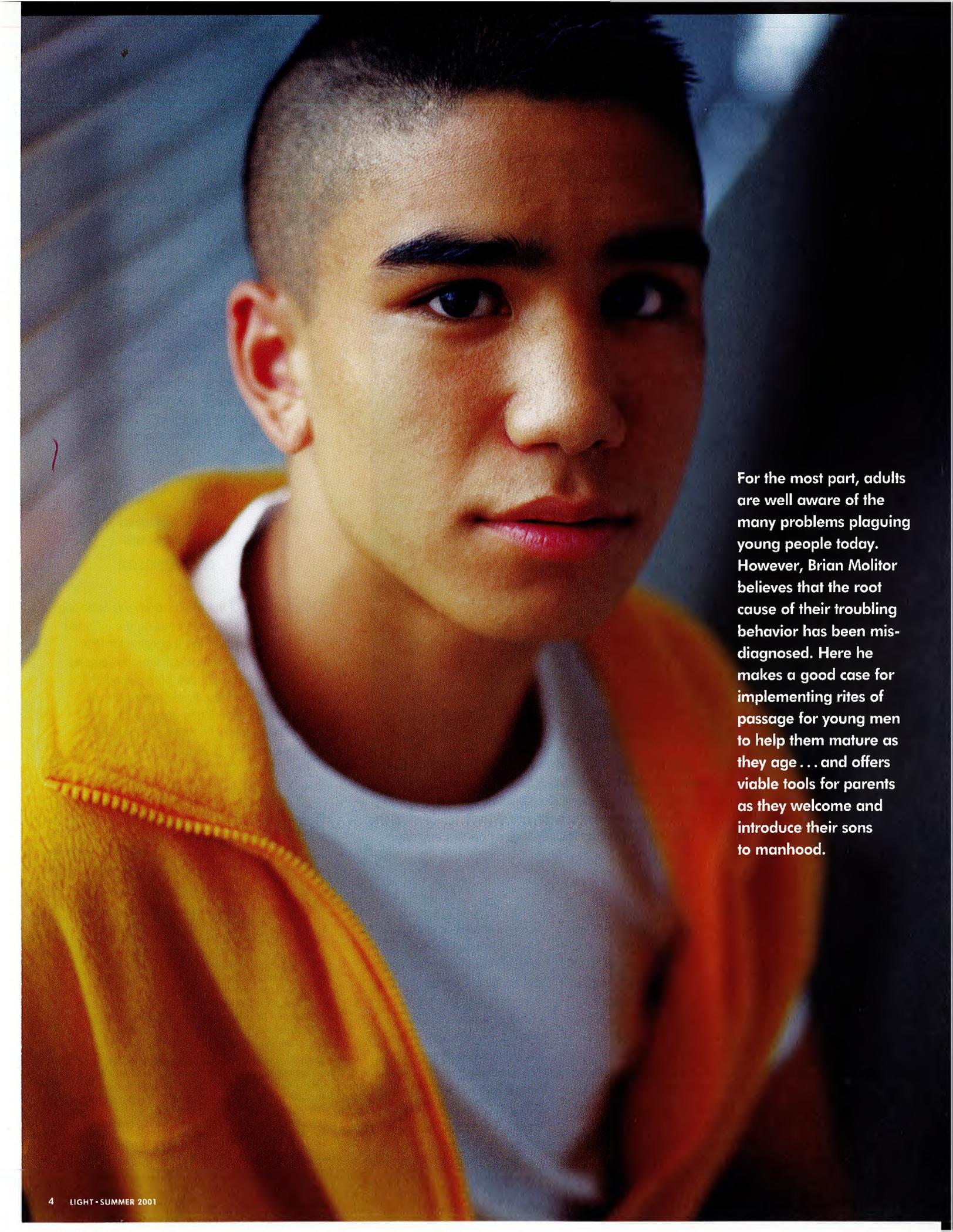
(615) 244-2495 • FAX: (615) 242-0065 • E-MAIL: editor@erlc.com

Light, a Christian ethics, public policy and religious liberty publication for pastors, teachers, state and national denominational workers and others interested in applied Christianity, is published six times a year by The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and its outreach ministry, *For Faith & Family*. *Light* is sent free to those who request it. Voluntary subscriptions, for those who wish to help defray costs of printing and mailing and to help underwrite a growing mailing list, are \$10 annually. Checks should be made payable to *Light*. Canceled checks serve as tax-deductible receipts.

©2001 The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention • Richard D. Land, President • Dwayne Hastings, Editor • Kim Coleman, Graphic Designer • Tom Strode, Washington, DC Correspondent • Karen Cole, Associate Editor • Brian Terrell, Interactive Services

A ministry partner of
FAITH & FAMILY





For the most part, adults are well aware of the many problems plaguing young people today. However, Brian Molitor believes that the root cause of their troubling behavior has been misdiagnosed. Here he makes a good case for implementing rites of passage for young men to help them mature as they age . . . and offers viable tools for parents as they welcome and introduce their sons to manhood.

A BOY'S Passage

BY BRIAN D. MOLITOR

The birth of a child. Few moments in life hold as much wonder, excitement, and promise. Months of anticipation and anxiety are quickly eclipsed as the baby miraculously appears. The new daughter or son fills a home with marvelous warmth.

From that moment on, life is never the same for any member of the family. By perfect design, the child looks to his mother and father to provide everything he needs to survive and grow during the early years. But that soon changes.

Days rush by and turn into years. Your boy's once tiny frame fills with muscle, and his mind fills with dreams. His bicycle trips around the block transcend into business trips around the world. All too soon, the baby has grown and begins to leave his own mark on history.

Throughout the process, parents do their level best to equip their son with all he needs to succeed. Nutrition, education, transportation, lectures, and love—all have been liberally supplied. Surely this is sufficient for him to prosper.

Or is it?

If these basics are all a boy needs to succeed, then why are so many males in our society today struggling with finding purpose, identity, and manhood itself? Why are so many men, young and old, depressed or anxious about life? Why are there so many horror stories involving crime, teen sex, drug and alcohol abuse, gangs, murder, and suicide?

Modern "experts" have studied these questions for years but offer no lasting answers. Our young men's lives continue to disintegrate at an alarming rate. Since the tide has not turned, we must be missing something. What is it? Do our sons need more government programs, more money, better schools, stricter punishment, enhanced youth ministries, or in-depth counseling sessions? Perhaps.

However, we can find help by looking to other societies, past and present, to discover a powerful secret of individual and national success. This secret is revealed as we study cultures that have long helped their sons' transitions into mature manhood by design rather than by default. Cultures as diverse as those of some African and Native American tribes and Orthodox Jews acknowledge a need to transit between childhood and manhood.

The rite of passage—our modern society's elusive, missing ingredient. It was something I hadn't thought much about before, and yet it now—with my son Christopher's thirteenth birthday approaching—

seemed so profound. The more I pondered the importance of a rite of passage in a young man's development, the more convinced I became that this was a key, not only to Christopher's future, but also to the healthy maturing of the other children in our society. Here is why.

For the most part, adults are well aware of the many problems plaguing our young people. However, I believe we've misdiagnosed the root cause of their troubling behavior. One of the most prominent words used to describe the baby boomers and following generations is *selfish*. While this term aptly describes many behaviors and attitudes, it doesn't go deep enough. It fails to uncover the genesis of their, no *our*, predicament.

As a business consultant, I've learned that the way we define a problem determines how the problem will be solved. The more accurate the definition, the better the opportunity to find effective solutions. The selfish label is too vague and almost always too simplistic to account for our seemingly endless problems.

As I have listened to the accounts of so many troubled boomers, busters, and Xers, I've concluded that a more foundational description of their condition can be summed up in a different word: *childishness*. Too many people today have never transitioned from children into adults, and they don't understand what prevents them from doing so. It's well documented that many of our young people haven't had the benefit of supportive family relationships, mentoring, a code of conduct, and foundations for maturity. I have no doubt that this lack has caused much of the negative behavior in our teens and young adults today.

However, even in "good" homes where these components exist, children may still increase in age without experiencing a corresponding increase in maturity. While they may avoid some of life's most obvious pitfalls, they lack purpose and direction and a clear picture of their own identity. They often retain many childlike fears, attitudes, and patterns of behavior well into adulthood. Many are haunted by a sense that something is still missing in their lives. That something is a rite of passage from childhood into adulthood. I need to underscore this point. The foundational reason childishness persists well into adulthood is because we do not create and implement transitional rites of passage for our youth.

Please see *PASSAGE*, p. 6

As I looked deeper into this issue, I made a list of negative childish actions. Selfishness was definitely high on the list, followed by complaining, quitting when faced with a difficult situation, throwing temper tantrums, spewing threats of self-destruction, struggling with short attention spans, and demanding one's own way without regard for the needs of others. Sadly, while these actions are often seen in young children, the list also describes far too many "grown" men in our culture.

We also see this childish pattern played out in even more destructive scenarios. Too many recent headlines have told the story of men who became frustrated with some aspect of their lives, so they lashed out in uncontrolled violence.

Yet another manifestation of this childish mind-set exhibits itself when adult men abandon their commitments, especially in the family arena. When we were children, we always wanted new things. Toys, sports gear, even cars were all "better" if they were new. We not only enjoyed them but also wanted to show them off to our friends. When they lost their luster, broke, or became a bit outdated, we whined. We were unsatisfied with what had previously brought us so much pride and happiness. We then wanted to throw our "old" toys away and get new ones, believing that would make us happy—which, of course, the new toys did, but just for a little while. Then the cycle of dissatisfaction and the search for a new replacement would begin again, and always with the same temporary result.

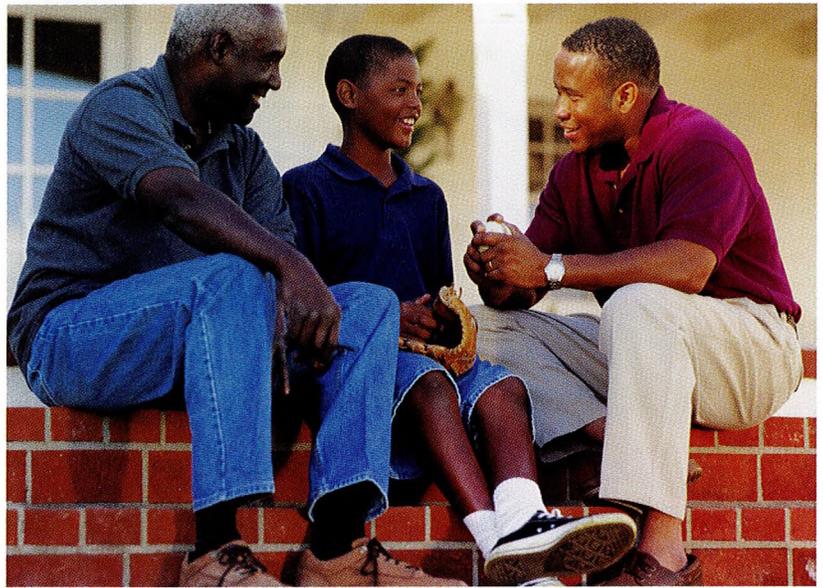
Compare this childish practice with the modern-day approach to marriage.

It's clear that the lack of an intentional transition into adulthood creates a variety of problems for men of all ages. In an attempt to compensate for the lack of a transitional event, some teens unknowingly create their own rites of passage by resorting to violence, drugs, alcohol, and sexual conquest to try to make their transition to adulthood. In the corporate world, some men in leadership positions use the authority of their job titles to threaten others into submission. Like bullies that stalk junior high schoolyards, these "grown" men live to verbally wrestle and pin their weaker opponents during staff meetings.

If we're going to solve these problems, we'll need to develop a new mind-set. We must not accept the unacceptable as inevitable. Teen rebellion, midlife crisis, and marital meltdown no longer need to be the normal pattern. In one generation, our society can reverse this destructive trend. I am convinced that rites of passage for our young people are the foundation for this reversal. 

Reprinted from *A Boy's Passage*. Copyright ©2001 by Brian D. Molitor. Used by permission of WaterBrook Press, Colorado Springs, CO. All rights reserved.

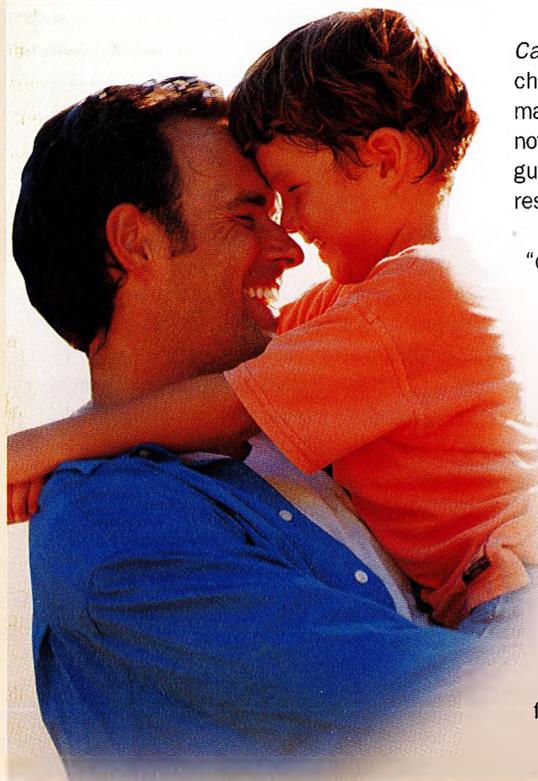
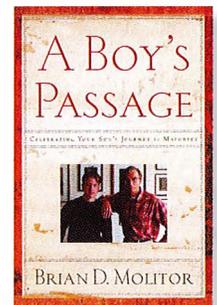
WELCOME YOUR SON TO MANHOOD.



Let Brian Molitor show you how in his book *A Boy's Passage*. He covers topics such as how various cultures recognize a boy's coming of age, the Biblical foundations for a rite of passage, how to plan a celebration, what your church can do to help boys grow into mature manhood, and how single moms and others with unique circumstances can use a rite of passage to bring stability and hope to a young man's life.

Available from the ERLC, 1-800-475-9127

BKBOY (191 pages) \$11.99 ea.



In the *New York Times* best-seller *Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys*, psychologists Dan Kindlon and Michael Thompson maintain that all boys are at risk when they do not receive "boy-friendly adult love, support, and guidance to develop a broad range of emotional response to life's challenges."

The authors insist that society discard the "distorted view" that boys lack a capacity for feeling and admit to being irritated when they hear someone excuse a boy's behavior by saying, "Boys will be boys."

"In all our years as therapists, we have never met a boy who didn't crave his parents' love and others' acceptance and who didn't feel crippled by their absence or redeemed by their abundance. Strong and healthy boys are made strong by acceptance and affirmation of their humanity. We all have a chance to do that every day, every time we are in the presence of a boy and we have a chance to say to him, 'I recognize you. You are a boy—full of life, full of dreams, full of feeling.'"

The Name of the Game

BY STEVE SCHALL

Jonesboro, Arkansas.

Paducah, Kentucky.

Littleton, Colorado.

Fort Worth, Texas.

Santee, California.

Forever these towns will be linked to the tragic unraveling of a youth culture gone awry. With each new incident, parents all over this country bow their heads in grief, and wonder if their community is next. And if their kids are safe. And what—if anything—they can do about it.

While the questions are many and the issues complex, there is perhaps a silver lining in this dark cloud hanging over our children. After decades of running from any suggestion that our problems are moral and spiritual in nature, there are some signs that this culture is finally coming to grips with the fact that what's happening to kids today has more to do with the *heart* than the *head*. In the midst of the tragedy, we're beginning to understand that knowledge and prosperity are not the answer... that, in fact, kids who are quite intelligent and who live in wealthy homes are some of the ones who are struggling the most.

Finally, it seems, we're realizing that parental involvement and interaction at a *heart* level—or the lack thereof—is THE key factor in our kids making their way through a confusing and dangerous culture. It has nothing to do with their zip code or clothing or skin color, and everything to do with the foundation that is laid during their formative years. Throughout this land, parents are

once more awakening to the need for real, meaningful, and spiritually enlightening interaction with their kids... After all, children are "factory-designed" to make lasting, lifelong connections with adults, *especially* their own parents. Without those relational ties, too many kids drift into dangerous waters... as evidenced in some of the horrific events that we've suffered through in recent years.

But becoming painfully aware of a void that must be filled is one thing. Developing deep convictions, that lead to changes in how we choose to schedule our time and align our priorities, is quite another. As has been often said, the road to hell is paved with good intentions. Lots of parents *want* a good connection with their kids. Getting there, for whatever reason, is sometimes another story.

Not long ago I was coming home from a speaking engagement. By the time I arrived, everyone was in bed. I was still charged up from the evening, not quite ready for bed, so I decided to plop down in my favorite chair in the den and engage in that great American sport known as channel surfing. Like most men, I don't really care what's on... I care what *else* is on. So off I went, happily clicking away until I came across the face of a man I knew and respected: William Bennett. He was just being introduced on a late-night talk show, so I decided to stop the surfing and listen in on what he had to say. What happened in the next two minutes is something I'll never forget.

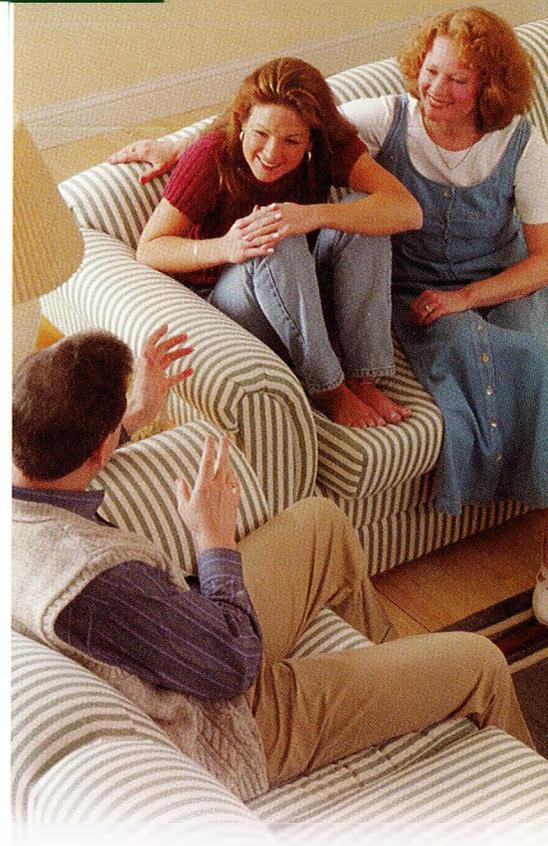
The talk show host was asking Bennett this question: "Since

protocol demands that I introduce you by your highest title, and since you've held two cabinet-level positions in the previous administration, I'm a little confused. Here's what I need to know: Is your highest title 'Mr. Secretary of Education' or is your highest title 'Mr. Drug Czar'?"

I'll never forget Bennett's reply. Without a moment's hesitation, he looked back at the host and said these words: "Well, if you want to introduce me by the highest title that I've ever held, then you're going to have to call me 'Dad'... *because that's the highest title I ever have—or ever will—hold.*" You could have scraped me out of my chair. Here was one of the power brokers of our nation, a man who continues to have a great influence in the culture... and he gets it. He flat out gets it. In fact, he gets it in a way that gives me hope for the rest of us.

But even "getting it" isn't enough, not in this crazy culture. We need more than that. We need *understanding* that leads to *positive change* in the way we think about and interact with our kids.

Making a lasting connection with your child is the single most important job you have as a parent. It's more important than getting a bigger home, or buying designer clothes so that the kids fit in with their peers at school... Frankly, it's more important than a college education at the finest school that money can buy. A lifelong relationship, firmly grounded in timeless truths, will be just that—something that endures through the years, providing the context for a rich relationship and the passing of values from one generation to the next. It's an



POP QUIZ FOR PARENTS

The most important job you have as a parent is:

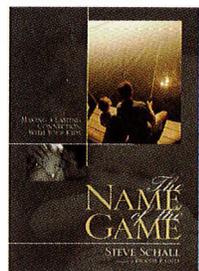
- Getting a bigger home in the right neighborhood.
- Buying designer clothes so that your child fits in at school.
- Providing a quality education.
- Making a lasting connection with your child.

While the answer may seem simple, achieving it takes time and work, along with healthy doses of blood, sweat and tears, according to Steve Schall.

investment in your own legacy—sort of like writing your own history before you die.

But don't be fooled. Good, healthy relationships won't just "happen." They take time and work, along with healthy doses of blood, sweat, and tears. And they demand an awareness of the ways the culture works against you, as it tries to disrupt what God intended all along.

A culture changes one life at a time. And kids who grow up secure, confident, and connected in their relationship with their parents will be those who are most likely to lead their own generation back to the moral and spiritual foundations from which this country has drifted. ☺



Excerpted from *The Name of the Game* by Steve Schall. Green Forest, Ar.: New Leaf Press, 2001. ISBN 0-89221-492-9

Available from the ERLC, 1-800-475-9127

BKNAM (96 pages) \$12.99 ea.

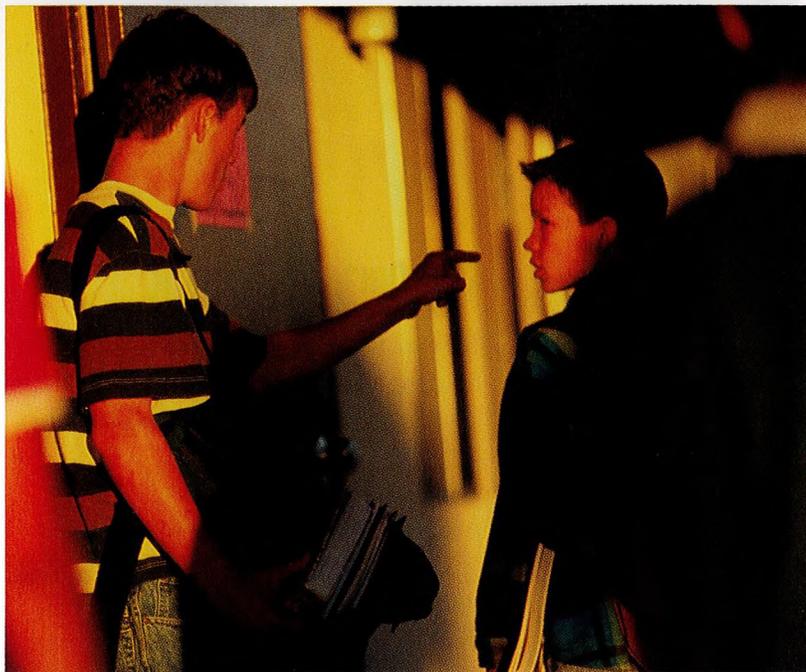
PARENTS PLAY A KEY ROLE IN SCHOOL SAFETY

BY DWAYNE HASTINGS

Chester Quarles has dedicated his life to keeping people safe around the world. Now this father of five and grandfather of ten is working to help children “stay safe” at school.

Quarles, a criminologist and professor of criminal justice at the University of Mississippi, says that while schools are safer in 2001 than they were ten years ago, he believes students can do a lot to minimize their exposure to risk.

“We can’t assume we are completely safe anywhere in America, public institutions or not, even in church,” he says, citing the killings last year in Ft. Worth’s Wedgwood Baptist Church.



Parents are responsible for providing safe environments for their children, even at school. Chester Quarles suggests that parents can learn much about the safety of their child’s school by making unplanned visits on campus, listening and looking to get an idea of what types of behavior are tolerated.

“The United States is the most violent country on the face of the earth. You have to go to Bosnia, Serbia and African countries that are actually having a rebellion or revolution to get more dangerous than our country is today,” Quarles notes.

“When we turn our children out into an evil world we need to remember the Lord’s words: ‘Behold I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; be therefore as wise as serpents and as gentle as doves.’ Our children shouldn’t be ignorant of the risks they will be facing. They need to be informed about the type of predators that are out there and then be watchful and wary.” Children are least at risk when they are obeying the rules laid down by their parents, he adds.

“Students are at the most risk in 7th through 10th grade,” he says. “This is when the hormones really come unglued. The high schools are a little bit safer and elementary schools are a whole lot safer.”

Quarles tells students, “If your parents, teachers, and school administrators are all in denial, or they’re lying to you about how safe your school is, there are still some things you can do to protect yourself.”

Quarles, the author of *Staying Safe at School: What You Need to Know*, says some crime prevention tips are obvious, such as resisting the desire to wear high-priced designer clothes and shoes.

He says the child who walks with an upright bearing and who is observant is much less likely to be assaulted than the child who walks with his head down unaware of his surroundings. “The greatest crime prevention technique a child can have is true Christ-like friendliness,” explains Quarles, a lifelong Southern Baptist and member of Tula Baptist Church just outside of Oxford, Miss. “A child who loves the Lord and feels comfortable about himself or herself is in pretty good shape in terms of social interactions in school.

“These are the children who are really friendly, who acknowledge and speak to others, and who are genuinely helpful to others,” he says, noting that friendly students are less likely to be crime victims at school.

No family should assume that just because their child attends a suburban school in a quiet community that all is well, Quarles says. “Schools are uniformly dangerous. Some of the safer schools I have been in were right in the middle of public housing developments. It’s how they are run, how they are managed, that determines whether they are safe or not.

“It is our responsibility as parents to provide safe environments for our children,” he says, noting the most dangerous room in a school is the cafeteria.

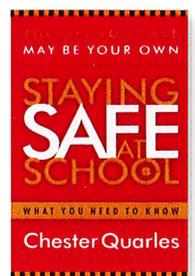
“It is incumbent upon parents to do a security audit — to see how safe their child’s school is. Go eat lunch with your child one day. Walk through the halls between class periods. Listen and look. Do you see disruptions? Do you hear profanity? Do you see predators inappropriately touching young girls? If you are seeing all this right in front of you, you need to be aware that your school has a significant potential for violence.”

Quarles says if your child consistently runs to use the bathroom as soon as he or she comes home after school, it’s not a physical problem; it’s a safety problem at school. Often students are afraid to use the bathrooms at school because of harassment and other illegal activities occurring there.

“We delegate to schools — private and public, Christian and secular — the right to educate and protect our children. Any parent in America is making a really serious error if they don’t audit that environment on occasion, such as stopping by their child’s school for an unplanned visit,” he concludes. 

Research shows that 16,000 school crimes occur each day and 3,000,000 school crimes occur each year. The “myth” is that an individual can do very little to prevent, deter or avoid crime. Chester Quarles challenges that myth by showing teens and parents how to increase their safety — both at school and in the community — and how to protect themselves.

Broadman & Holman, ISBN 0-8054-2421-0



God's Prayer Book

BY DAVID AND HEATHER KOPP

The Bible is a ready-made prayer book for God's family. In fact, many passages are recorded prayers, the best-loved being the Psalms. For more than three thousand years, believers have used the Psalms as a prayer book for private and public worship. And at the heart of the book is the 119th Psalm — 176 verses of "praying Scripture"!

We "pray the Bible" when we use passages of Scripture to form prayers or when we say the verses directly back to God, making them our own petitions. Jesus said, "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you" (John 15:7).

Moses used God's own words to intercede for his stubborn mob of desert wanderers. Jesus often used Scripture in His prayers for Himself and His disciples. In fact, throughout the Bible, we see examples of godly men and women incorporating God's promises and commands in their petitions to Him. They used the Word in their prayers for encouragement, calling to mind who God is and what He has done. Jesus and His disciples sang the psalms together as part of morning and evening prayers. And at the moment of His greatest agony on the cross, Jesus cried out the words of a psalm: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Ps. 22:1).

In our family the heritage of Bible praying traces back to my father, Joe Kopp. He grew up with a zeal for memorizing Scripture, partly as a way to overcome a serious speech impediment. But it was a passion that would shape his life and his ministry. When he and my mother went to central Africa as missionaries in 1945,

Dad relied on Bible memorization to teach villagers the gospel and help them grow in their faith. And in a very natural way, saying Bible passages back to God became part of his church services and of nearly every prayer at home, too. Now when I read certain passages, I can close my eyes and hear Dad's voice praying beside my bed.

And that's the best reason for praying Scripture. In it we hear most clearly our Father's voice.

Ways to Pray the Bible

If you've written a child's name next to a Bible verse as my mother did for me, . . . then you have begun to pray the Bible. You're saying to God, "This is my heart's desire for my child. I agree with the truth and promise of Your words here, and I claim them for my child."

Other ways to pray Scripture with your family include:

1 PERSONALIZING A BIBLE PRAYER

I Our Father in heaven, Thank you that Jesus showed us and taught us how to talk to you. *Hallowed be Your name.* We come before You with respect and love today.

2 PERSONALIZING A BIBLE TEACHING

2 Thank you, Father, for never being too busy or making us wait while You listen to someone else. Thank You for listening to us when we're happy, grateful, sad, angry, or in any kind of trouble. Your Word says, Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me (Ps. 50:15).

3 PRAYING THROUGH A BIBLE PASSAGE

3 Dear Great Shepherd, yes, You are this family's Shepherd. Because of this, we know we'll never be without anything we truly need (Ps. 23:1).

4 PERSONALIZING A BIBLE PROMISE

4 Help us to keep asking for big, big things because: *You can do more than we ask or imagine!* (Eph. 3:20). We know that even now a miracle might be knocking on our door. *You can do more than we ask or imagine!*

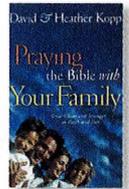
5 PERSONALIZING A BIBLE STORY

5 [Zacchaeus encounters Jesus] Thank you, Lord Jesus, that You are willing to go out of Your way to look for people who are looking for You (Luke 19:5).

6 PERSONALIZING A BIBLE TRUTH AS MEDITATION

6 I am welcome in my Father's presence today — no matter what (Heb. 10:19-22).

Reprinted from *Praying the Bible with Your Family*. Copyright ©2000 by David and Heather Kopp. Used by permission of WaterBrook Press, Colorado Springs, CO. All rights reserved.



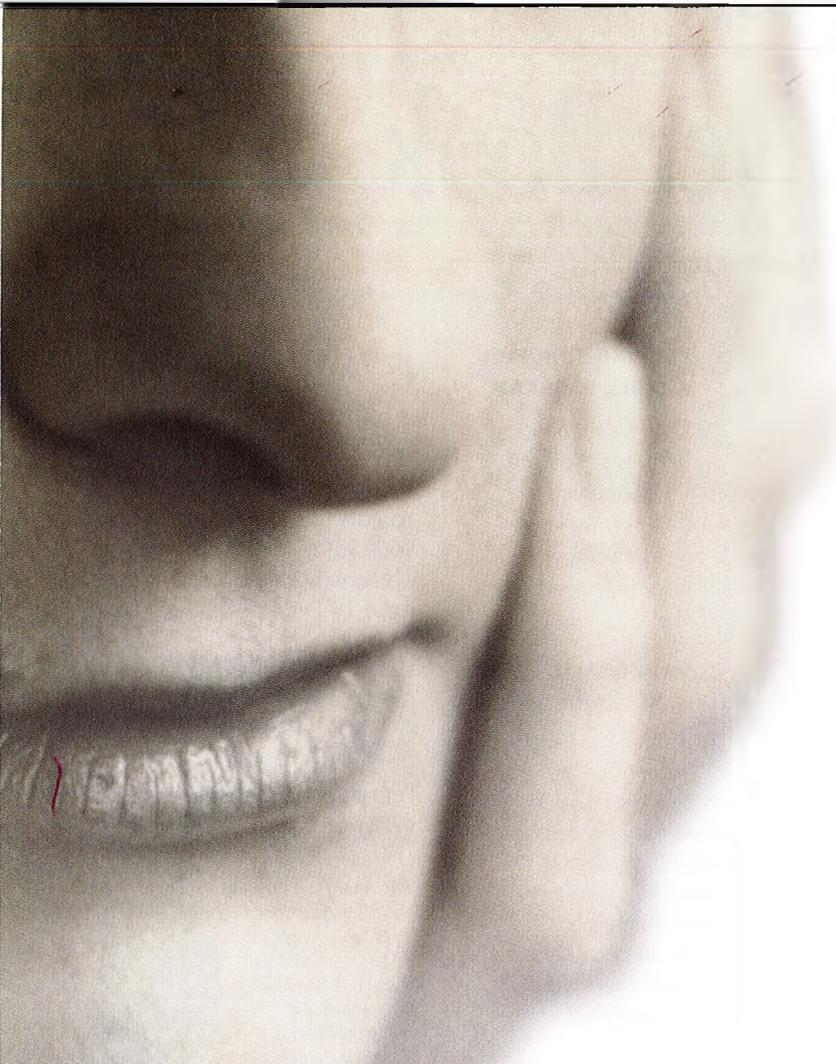
How to Pray for Your Children

GODLY GOALS

In addition to specifically dedicating your children to the Lord, here are some godly goals you can begin to pray for them.

1. That Jesus Christ be formed in our children (see Galatians 4:19).
2. That our children—the seed of the righteous—will be delivered from the evil one (see Proverbs 11:21, KJV; Matthew 6:13).
3. That our children will be taught by the Lord and their peace will be great (see Isaiah 54:13).
4. That they will learn to discern good from evil and have a good conscience toward God (see Hebrews 5:14; 1 Peter 3:21).
5. That God's laws will be in their minds and on their hearts (see Hebrews 8:10).
6. That they will choose companions who are wise—not fools, nor sexually immoral, nor drunkards, nor idolaters, nor slanderers, nor swindlers (see Proverbs 13:20; 1 Corinthians 5:11).
7. That they will remain sexually pure and keep themselves only for their spouses, asking God for His grace to keep such a commitment (see Ephesians 5:3, 31-33).
8. That they will honor their parents (see Ephesians 6:1-3).

Excerpted from *How to Pray for Your Children* by Quin Sherrer with Ruthanne Garlock. Regal Books, 1998. ISBN 0-8307-2201-7



I went to an all-male military college, and the bookstore was kind enough to provide my favorite magazines without the fear of being caught by my parents. Upon graduation I was assigned to a military post with many sexually oriented businesses nearby. The ladies looked just like the ones I had seen in the magazines, except they performed live and in person. I invested countless one-dollar bills in the g-strings of attractive dancers.

I've seen many women involved in the adult entertainment industry. Some performed onstage in smoky clubs full of men. Others were in movies and videos and magazines.

There is one other thing you need to know about these women: I never cared to know their names.

was about me and didn't hurt anyone else, certainly not the women who profited from my lust. We used each other and no one got hurt, or so I believed.

Like anyone who has ever watched trashy talk shows, I have seen strippers and porn stars talk about their work. They talk about the amount of money they make and the "family feeling" in the world of porn. They appear to enjoy their work.

Today I know the truth. I know about the drugs and alcohol and the abuse. Everything I thought I knew about this industry was based on deception. Pornographers want us to believe that no one is getting hurt. Nothing could be further from the truth.

I learned that there is a cost for lust. Every cent I spent on pornography and adult enter-

She Has a

Name

BY HENRY J. ROGERS

I grew up with pornography at my fingertips. During my formative years, there were very few issues of *Playboy* and *Penthouse* that escaped my view. Magazines discarded near my home were quickly captured and hidden. In my life, the seeds were planted, and they took root.

It is easy to dehumanize women in adult entertainment. Their reason for existence is to satisfy lust. Nothing more. Their names are insignificant. One man said he didn't see a hooker as a person. She was a possession without thoughts or a life of her own. I always thought my lust

tainment was used to keep these women trapped in a world where they were dehumanized, where their value was based on their beauty and their willingness to participate in degrading sexual activities. Those who claim to love them as "family" have perverted the word and betrayed

"Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands."

ISAIAH 49:16

them. Tragically, the family in the world of adult entertainment is about use and abuse.

Women in adult entertainment have real names, and I want to introduce you to one of them.

Elise

I hurt after speaking to Elise. Abuse 30 years earlier still brought her to tears. Her father became involved with pornographers and when she was five years old he sold his only daughter into the world of porn. For four years Elise was involved in the most heinous types of sexual sin. She spoke of sado-masochism, brutality, and bestiality. Before she was nine she witnessed the filming and death of a little girl caused by rough sex with a man. She called it a "snuff" film.

At the age of ten the abuse stopped, only to start again six years later at the pleading of her father, whose debt threatened his life. "In order to protect my Dad, I would do anything," she said.

Elise was flown in a private jet from Illinois to an estate in Miami for weekends of sex with wealthy men. In a room at the estate Elise would have sex with numerous men. The sex was often filmed and the tape was given to the men. On Monday she was flown home. She never knew when the next call would come.

Elise was lavished with beautiful gowns and expensive jewels. She was fed like royalty. Her "princess" treatment was based on her sexual performance and cooperation. She and the other young girls lived a life of fear and threats. If they disagreed or refused to submit to the desires of these men, they were punished.

On one occasion when a girl openly protested the sexual abuse, the men who operated the business led her and the other girls out to the swimming pool.

"They threw her in the pool as we watched and the shooting

practice began," she said. The girl was murdered before their eyes for her failure to cooperate. "I didn't want to get to know the other girls because I never knew what would happen to them," Elise explained.

She was cast to perform in hard-core videos for pornographers to sell. She remembers the costumes and big white sets where the filming took place. During some video shoots she was tied up and beaten.

The trips to Miami for weekends of sex ended at the age of 20. Shortly afterward she was married, but her life in the world of porn did not end. Her husband's best friend got Elise involved in print pornography without her husband's knowledge.

"I did that for a year and didn't see anything wrong with it. It was the most mild of all pornography that I had been involved with," Elise claimed.

I asked Elise about the women involved in the industry. She said she wonders how many of the girls she worked with are still alive. Drugs and alcohol are rampant. "If a woman gets in it, she has to take drugs and alcohol to obliterate the feeling that this is wrong," she said.

All she saw in the men was their selfishness. "These are men who need to satisfy themselves no matter what the expense," she cried. "It didn't matter if it destroyed children's lives. It didn't matter if it destroyed women's lives."

Elise's involvement in the world of porn left her family in ruins. Her father is dead, and her mother committed suicide. Her brother's family is in shambles as he is trapped in sexual addiction. Her own marriage experienced years of hardship.

"I still struggle with intimacy and trust," Elise said. "I may never have the sexual intimacy God designed. I was robbed. It

almost destroyed my children. The hell they went through causes me my greatest grief." As she spoke, her tears were unstoppable. It has even affected her relationship with God. "If I move into intimacy with God, I can't seem to stay there because I get too afraid," she said.

I spoke with Elise a second time a week later and she admitted she had had a bad week. Our conversation had brought back a flood of painful memories that she had to deal with once again. As I looked into her eyes, I regretted conducting the interview because of the pain it had caused.

There are many other women who could tell the same tragic story. And they have real names, too. Their names are significant to God, and I hope you and I never forget that. I hope you remember that when you are tempted by lust. I pray that you count the cost they pay for your sexual pleasure. I want it written on my heart that lust for them grieves the heart of God. ☩

Excerpted and condensed with permission from The Silent War by Henry J. Rogers, Green Forest, Ar.: New Leaf Press, 1999.

ANTI-PORNOGRAPHY ORGANIZATIONS

The mission of **Enough is Enough** is "to make the Internet safe for children and families" by: 1) educating the public, 2) working with the technology community, and 3) assisting with legal issues. Enough Is Enough is recognized as a bridge builder seeking reasonable solutions that protect children and our Constitutional freedoms. (714) 435-9056 · www.enough.org

The National Coalition for the Protection of Children and Families is an alliance working to educate the public about the effects of our sex-saturated society on communities, individuals, children and families. It also helps concerned citizens effect change in their communities. (513) 521-6227 · www.nationalcoalition.org

RECOVERY GROUPS

Exodus International is a nonprofit, interdenominational Christian organization promoting the message of "Freedom from homosexuality through the power of Jesus Christ." Exodus is the largest Christian referral and information center dealing with homosexual issues in the world. (206) 784-7799 · www.exodusnorthamerica.org

Pure Life Ministries is a faith-based, live-in program for men who are struggling to overcome addictions to pornography and sexual sin. Steve and Kathy Gallagher are the heart and soul of PLM. Steve battled a 13-year addiction to pornography and sexual sin, before God delivered him. As a result, he started a ministry for men like himself—men who are so lost they see no way out. Kathy works as PLM's administrator. (800) 635-1866 · www.purelifeministries.org

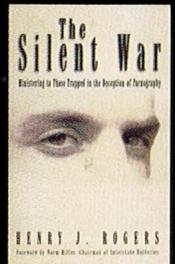
Desert Stream is a ministry that proclaims the transforming power of Jesus Christ to the sexually and relationally broken and equips the church to minister effectively in those areas. (714) 779-6899 · www.desertstream.org

The Casualties of a Silent War

Amid the smoky dance clubs and seedy sections of town, there exists a thriving pornography industry. But it doesn't end there, for in hotel rooms and trendy bookstores, on television screens and Internet web sites, there is enough viewing of pornography to trap lives forever.

It is this world that Henry Rogers reveals to us. Through interviews, statistics, and other facts, he traces the unraveling of American men by the claws of pornography. Rogers, chaplain for Interstate Batteries, discusses his own battle with this terrible addiction, then builds concrete steps for helping others climb out of the pit.

Available from the ERLC, 1-800-475-9127 BKSIL \$11.99 ea.



Champion Action Kit: Sexual Purity

God calls those in church leadership to equip those in the pews to live victorious, Spirit-filled lives. For Faith & Family's **Champion Action Kits** are chock-full of timely, biblically based resources that will aid your church in championing God's truths in your community. We recognize there is a battle raging in our culture and that families are caught in the cross fire. God calls His followers to be prepared and to be on the front lines.

That's why we've prepared this exciting new offering, the **Champion Action Kit**. Packed with valuable helps for churches and families alike, the materials in the **Champion Action Kits** are grounded in God's Word and address the pressing moral, ethical, and social issues of our day. This special packaging of some of our time-tested resources and new materials will outfit your church to strengthen families and change society for good.

Targeting 12 specific issues, the first edition of the **Champion Action Kit** focuses on Sexual Purity. (There is a new kit each month.) This kit contains everything you will need to prepare a sermon, lead a Bible study, and provide helpful, scripturally sound information that addresses the danger of raising a family in a pornographic culture. With pornography at the fingertips of anyone with Internet



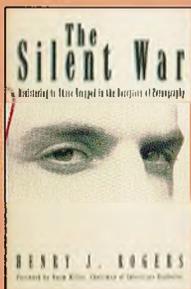
access—including Christians—the church must do all it can to aid families in strengthening their defenses against this pervasive danger.

CONTENTS

- Bible study and sermon helps
- LifeLight handouts (qty: 100)*
- *The Silent War* by Henry Rogers (see book description at left)
- Sexual Purity Fact Sheets (qty: 10)*
- Full-Color Promotional Posters (qty: 2)*

POKIT (monthly subscription)

\$24.95



The Silent War

BY HENRY ROGERS

Amid the smoky dance clubs and

seedy sections of town a thriving pornography industry exists. But it doesn't end there, for in hotel rooms and trendy bookstores, on television screens and Internet web sites, there is enough viewing of pornography to trap lives forever.

It is this world that Henry Rogers reveals to us. Through interviews, statistics, and other facts, he traces the unraveling of American men by the claws of pornography. Rogers, chaplain for Interstate Batteries, discusses his own battle with this terrible addiction, then builds concrete steps for helping others climb out of the pit.

BKSIL (240 pages) \$11.99 ea.

The War Within: Gaining Victory in the Battle for Sexual Purity

BY ROBERT DANIELS

Facing sexual temptations daily, persistently assaulted by the world, the flesh, and the Devil, can men today possibly win the war for sexual purity?

This courageous book offers a resounding "yes!" It also provides a battle strategy

based on the promises and power of God—and the author's experiences in defeating a 25-year addiction to pornography. This no-nonsense book—complete with discussion questions—will take you to a new level of purity as well as encourage you that in this private struggle, you are never alone.

BKWAR (224 pages) \$12.99 ea.

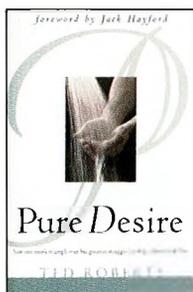


Pure Desire

BY TED ROBERTS

Churches are filled with people struggling with sexual addiction and pornography. When someone in the midst of this life-or-death battle comes to you, what do you do? What do you say? How can you help them? Writing from a pastor's perspective, the author answers those questions with sensitivity, confidence, biblical perspective, and insight borne from winning that very personal war himself.

BKDES (300 pages) \$11.99 ea.



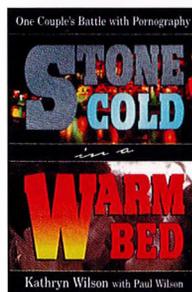
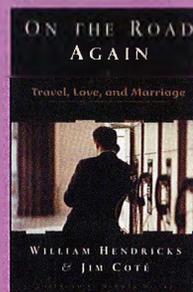
On the Road Again: Travel, Love, and Marriage

BY WILLIAM HENDRICKS AND JIM COTE

Most people whose work requires time on the road agree that business travel can place stress on a marriage. The authors gained insight from interviews with dozens of business travelers and their spouses, and offer practical help in the areas of sex, finance, parenting, communication, loneliness, trust and building a spiritual foundation. Also includes an inventory to help administrators evaluate the family-friendliness of their companies' travel policies.

BKROA (205 pages)

\$9.99 ea.



Stone Cold in a Warm Bed

BY KATHRYN WILSON WITH PAUL WILSON

An intensely personal glimpse into the dark world of sexual addiction, *Stone Cold in a Warm Bed* chronicles the passage of one couple through the painful process of healing and restoration. This book offers specific guidelines for those whose mates have a sexual addiction or whose marriages have been impacted by the effects of pornography. Also recommended for counselors and clergy.

BKSTN (133 pages)

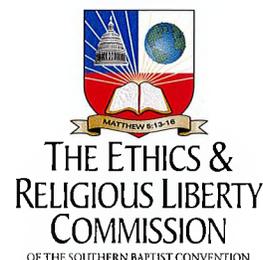
\$10.99 ea.

* Additional quantities are available. For more information call 1-800-475-9127 or e-mail questions to orders@erlc.com.

Think Gambling Is Not a Problem for Families in Your Church?

Don't Bet On It.

Our new **Champion Action Kit Series** will help equip and mobilize your church to stand against the gambling industry's immoral agenda and will aid in protecting families from its deceitful lure.



\$24.⁹⁵
per month
plus shipping & handling

Call **800-475-9127** today to secure your subscription for the Champion Action Kits and receive a free copy of *One Nation Under God*, an attractive reprinting of our country's founding documents. Subsequent monthly editions of the Champion Action Kit will focus on other critical ethical and cultural issues such as caring for the world's hungry, protecting your family's freedom of religion, and the entertainment industry's impact on the family.

"I encourage you to subscribe to our exciting new Champion Action Kits. The kits are full of valuable tools prepared from a biblical perspective and designed to aid you in equipping families to engage the most critical moral issues in our culture today."

Richard Land, President

Receive Monthly:

Bible study and devotional
and sermon helps

LifeLight handouts (qty: 100)

An insightful book or video
that focuses on the issue

Issue-specific fact sheets (qty: 10)

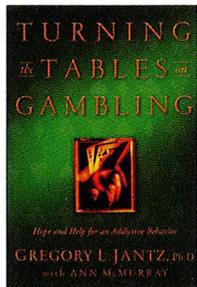
Attractive promotional poster (qty: 2)

The Comfort Payoff

BY GREGORY L. JANTZ



Many senior adults prefer the bright, lively atmosphere of a casino to the subdued, often isolated atmosphere of an empty house or a retirement home, making them prime targets for a gambling industry eager to cash in on their vulnerability and drain their bank accounts of social security income and retirement savings.



Reprinted in condensed form from *Turning the Tables on Gambling*. Copyright ©2001 by Gregory L. Jantz. Used by permission of WaterBrook Press, Colorado Springs, CO. All rights reserved. Available from the ERLC

Betty knew the bus wouldn't leave without her, but she didn't want to be late. It had been a month since the last outing, and she was looking forward to the "road trip." After about half a year at this new nursing home, she'd decided to join the group going to the big casino. It was a five-hour drive, but there were plenty of other seniors to talk to, and she liked sitting up high in the charter bus and watching the world whisk by the tinted window. She saw little enough of the world from the sterile halls of the nursing home. Oh, it was

nice and all, but sometimes it felt like slow death. The casino was bright and loud, with lots of people, good food—it was alive.

She also liked people, and not just people her age. This would be her fourth trip to the casino, and even the dealers and servers were beginning to remember her by name. Tipping generously didn't hurt, of course. It was wonderful to have younger people come up, laugh with her, and tease with her. The group she traveled with, and those she met while gambling, were becoming like a second family to Betty.

The best part about this family was she didn't have to wait for them to visit her, she could visit them. Every third day of the month, right after her social security check came in the mail, the bus showed up like clockwork. Most of her family lived far away, and the son in town never seemed to make it to see her when he promised. He'd forgotten about her in the rush of his own life and pursuits. She wasn't forgotten though at the casino.

Betty checked her wallet to count again how much money she'd brought. She usually managed to spend quite a bit, but she had great credit, and the

casino was willing to extend it every time she'd asked. Her son would probably be shocked to know just how much she spent, but she didn't care. If he wasn't interested in the other parts of her life, he had no right to be interested in this.

Looking back at her room to make sure everything was turned off, she couldn't help but think of the contrast. Her room was dark and lifeless, but she wasn't. In a few moments she'd board that bus and prove it.

Misery Loves Company

Legal scholar Erika Gosker says the casino industry tailors marketing strategies toward senior citizens because of the time and the money they have to spend. They will pick up seniors like Betty at nursing homes and senior centers, offering free rides and free food. Gosker writes that older people have a greater risk for problem gambling because of specific circumstances attributed to their age.

LONELINESS

Loneliness is a crushing weight in the lives of many people, including the elderly. For relief, the lonely will turn to almost anything. This quiet despair is not lost on those who profit from gambling.

Loneliness is, at its base, a loss of connection. Destination gambling provides the lonely a place—a place to go, a place to be, a place to connect. The price for that connection is gambling, and the forgotten, overlooked people of this world are increasingly willing to pay for it. It is worth the price to have their relationship and intimacy needs, if not met, at least acknowledged. Financial expenditures can seem a small price to pay for someone to feel noticed.

A Pastor's Perspective

BY JIM BUTLER

The second largest casino gambling center in the U.S. is located in Tunica, Miss., a short drive from the church I pastor, Trinity Baptist Church in Southaven. My heart has broken as our church has attempted to minister to men and women caught up in the false promises and empty hope offered by the glittery lights of the casino. Promises of wealth and worth quickly fade into feelings of hopelessness and despair. Our church and other churches in our area are filled with examples of lives and homes ruined by the lure of gambling.

Casinos' aggressive marketing to senior adults is well documented. Our nation should weep as we see those who can least afford to lose their money targeted as easy prey. My phone rings regularly with pleas for help. Grown children have watched their parents recklessly gamble away everything they had purposely saved for retirement. Houses lost, businesses lost, credit worthiness lost—all at a casino.

How can a local church help prevent these tragedies? Senior adults need security, companionship, stability and a safe place to live. We decided that no other agency or institution could provide for their total needs—physical, spiritual, emotional and relational—better than a local church.

Because of our love for senior adults and our commitment to make their later years truly golden years, Trinity built a housing complex for them on our church campus. These apartments provide our senior adults with a secure Christian environment, social interaction, hot meals, medical monitoring, Bible study and an awareness that they are loved. We have set one low monthly fee that includes rent, utilities, cable television and meals.

The gambling industry has the goal of taking all the money it can from the senior adult community. Trinity has the goal of meeting the needs of senior adults at the lowest possible cost to them. We are Scripture-bound to support and protect the mature adults in our community (James 1:27). It is our privilege to do so.



Jim Butler

By any measure, the people of Southaven, Miss., and Trinity have been mightily affected by the nearby casinos. Dr. Butler estimates that 25% of Trinity's adult church members are involved in or affected by gambling. Pray today for Dr. Butler and Trinity Baptist Church as they minister in such a challenging environment.

In 1999, 31% of all calls to a gambling helpline were from or about those 55 or older, up from 25% the previous year. More than 85% of the senior gamblers were identified as escape gamblers (people for whom gambling was not a problem until six months to three years prior to becoming compulsive). Escape gamblers generally play luck games such as bingo, lottery, slot or video poker machines and began the habit as recreation to "escape" their problems. Escape gamblers comprise 67% of all hotline calls. *Arizona Council on Compulsive Gambling, Inc. • www.azccg.org*

CAMARADERIE

The gambling industry takes note of all gamblers. Because of the tendency toward ritual exhibited by gamblers, many tend to be predictable. Not only can the casinos predict where they will play, what they will play, and how much they will gamble, so can other gamblers. This ability to track and predict the actions of other gamblers helps to foster a sense of familiarity within a given gambling group. Add to this the exaggerated attention of paid gambling industry employees, and the effect of gambling on the lonely can be overwhelming.

BOREDOM

If loneliness is a quiet despair, boredom can be a gnawing agitation. This is especially true for people who have been active in the past and now find themselves with little to do. Gambling gives them something to do, something with which to fill up those dead spaces in their day.

When people gamble, things happen. At any moment, the right card could be drawn, the last number could be called, the last coin could be slotted. This constant flow of events guarantees a release from tedium for the bored.

Unfair Trade

Does the gambling experience really keep this type of gambler from experiencing loneliness or boredom? Perhaps for a brief amount of time it does. The person who gambles for comfort realizes it is only for that moment.

The gambler's answer to this problem of comfort's transitory nature is repetition. It is not by chance the gambling industry targets lonely and bored populations. They know these gamblers return time and time again. These gamblers may not spend an extreme amount of money each time they gamble, but given the frequency of their gambling, over time the net effect is considerable.

The more the gambler returns to gambling, the more ingrained the pattern will be. The more ingrained the pattern, the quicker it is sought whenever comfort is needed. Pain, boredom, and loneliness all cause discomfort that can be momentarily blocked by gambling behaviors. Eventually the gambling may no longer provide active comfort but only numb the pain. The gambler then accepts momentary cessation of the pain in the place of comfort.

This pattern robs us of the vitality of life. Joy is downgraded to lack of feeling. Excitement is traded for predictability. Intimacy is bartered for acquaintance. Cheapened, the gambler begins to feel even less significant than before. Rather than providing a sense of connection, gambling loosens connections as its false promises replace relationships. ♣

Turning the Tables on Gambling by Gregory L. Jantz is available from the ERLC, 1-800-475-9127 (BKTUR, \$11.99). See full description on p. 18.

A grandmother and granddaughter can share a special bond that lasts a lifetime. Cindy had no reason to imagine that the relationship between her own mother and daughter was any different, making her mother's actions later in life baffling and painful.

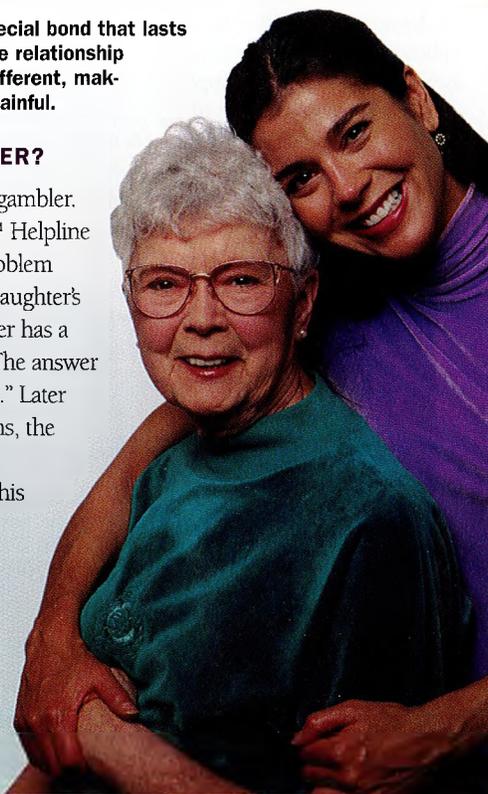
TOO OLD TO BE A COMPULSIVE GAMBLER?

Cindy is an adult child of a senior compulsive gambler. A few weeks ago she called the 1-800-GAMBLER™ Helpline because she was overwhelmed by her mother's problem with gambling. The last straw was when Cindy's daughter's engagement ring was missing. Knowing her mother has a problem, Cindy asked her if she knew anything. The answer was "No! I don't know what you are talking about." Later in the day, while checking her mother's medications, the ring appeared in the bottom of her pillbox.

What would make an 80-year-old woman do this to her grandchild? How could she become a thief after 80 years of honest living?

She was certainly *not* too old to be a compulsive gambler.

From the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey, Inc. • Helpline 1-800-GAMBLER • www.800gambler.org



The road to Tunica was paved with

The Long Road

John Eades shares what every gambling addict needs to know: A wonderfu

John M. Eades has a Ph.D. in counseling and over 20 years' experience treating drug and alcohol-addicted individuals, yet he became addicted to gambling. John was a recent guest on our radio program, *For Faith & Family*.

How did your attraction to gambling begin?

My first visit to a casino was with my wife, Karen, and some friends. They'd been before, but I never had because I didn't like being around alcohol. I really enjoyed playing the slot machines, though, and within three months I was a full-blown gambling addict.

What was your profession at the time?

I was Director of Chemical Dependency Services at a hospital in Mississippi and was considered an expert in addictions. Obviously, I didn't know much about gambling.

Was your work affected by your addiction?

Oh, yes. I drove far away to gamble, hoping that I wouldn't see anyone I knew, especially former patients. I left work early to gamble and stayed at the casino very late, which kept me from functioning well the next day. In one futile attempt at recovery, I went public with the fact that I was a gambling addict, and my employers were not pleased.

What was your spiritual state at the time?

I was out of fellowship. I went to church, but I didn't have a real relationship with God.

How was your family life impacted?

My two daughters were grown and living in other states and were not aware of the extent of my problem. My wife had a very hard time. Many wives fear their husbands are having an affair when they are really addicted to gambling. I had no interest in anything but gambling—not my wife, my children, or my work.

Naturally, Karen experienced a lot of emotional problems from my gambling. And it caused terrible financial problems as well. Karen has always paid our bills, so she suffered the most. She was under constant stress and had difficulty sleeping. One night after she and I argued she took 50 sleeping pills. I called for an ambulance, and at the hospital she had her stomach pumped and was questioned by the police. It was very humiliating for her. The next day I convinced her to go gambling with me to cheer

her up. Like a true gambling addict, I used anything as an excuse to gamble, even my wife's suicide gesture.

One Christmas I withdrew our last thousand dollars to buy presents. I decided that I could play slot machines and double my money. So instead of going shopping after work, I sat at a slot machine for seven hours, gambling away every cent. I knew Karen would be looking for me, but I ignored my name when I was paged. I had not stopped to eat or use the restroom or take my blood pressure medicine. I started feeling sick and tried to stand up but was so dizzy that I fell to the floor. I thought I was having a heart attack.

The paramedics said my blood pressure was at stroke level. I remember feeling humiliated as other gamblers walked over me to get to the slot machines. One man even stepped over me to play the credits left on my machine! They took me to the hospital and called Karen. I hoped I'd had a heart attack so she wouldn't be so mad at me for losing all the Christmas money. When she arrived, she looked at me and said, "You didn't

have a heart attack, did you?" When the doctor answered no, she just turned around and left, looking so hurt and angry. I had to find a way back to the casino to get my car—she'd already gone home.

I was overcome with guilt and fear as I drove home that night. I really looked at my life—all the money I'd wasted, all the people I'd hurt. I had cleaned out our checking and savings accounts. I had sold a truck, van, boat, motorcycle, and outboard motor. I had maxed out 17 credit cards and borrowed money from friends. I was failing professionally and facing bankruptcy. I had destroyed everything I'd worked for and broken my wife's heart. I had no self-respect, no hope. I was a stranger to myself.

I decided the only answer was to end my life with the pistol I kept in the glove compartment. I had always told my patients that suicide was a permanent solution to a temporary problem, and there was always hope no matter how bad things were. But I was too cowardly to take my own advice.

I stopped and pulled over in a deserted area. But when I looked

The Father
is waiting....

heartache and empty promises.

Road Home

celebration is down the road for anyone willing to begin the journey home.

for the gun, it was not there. I thought that Karen must have taken it out because she was afraid I might harm myself. At first I was angry, but when I realized what I had almost done, I began to cry and shake. Suddenly I had to get home and thank Karen for saving my life. When I got there, I told her what had happened and thanked her for taking the gun out. She said sadly, "Johnny, I took the gun out to sell it. I needed the money to pay the power bill so they wouldn't turn our lights off."

Your delivery from gambling addiction did not come easily or instantly. What was the final turning point for you?

We had moved several hours away, to Winchester, Tenn., to get away from the casinos. We started attending church with friends, but I didn't get close to people for fear they would find out about my gambling problem. I hadn't found a job yet, and we were paying on a Chapter 13 bankruptcy. However, my lack of money had not kept me from driving six hours to Tunica, Mississippi, to gamble several times. I had been hiding money

in the trunk of my car and had almost \$600 for my next trip when a family crisis struck.

Our daughter, Ginger, had been clinically depressed and had attempted suicide by overdose two times. After the second attempt, we brought her home to live with us. One day she went for a walk in the woods and didn't return. Later we found a suicide note.

After many hours of searching, the rescue squad found her lying in the woods—alive. God had truly worked a miracle! For several reasons she should not have survived outside overnight, but she did. Our friends surrounded us, and our preacher prayed that God would continue the miracle. He did, and today Ginger is fully recovered.

That night when Karen and I got home from the hospital, I opened the trunk of my car and handed her the \$600. I said, "We'll need this to pay some hospital bills." She smiled and took the money but never asked why I had that much cash. She forgave me with a grace that is hard to describe. From that point, I really began to seek God.

In your book, you compare your story to the parable of the prodigal son.

Yes. The casinos are glitzy places, but they were my sty. Just like the prodigal son, I did things I never thought I would. I'd sit at a slot machine for hours at a time. One time my bladder was full, and I coughed and urinated on myself. To my addicted mind it was not that noticeable. I just kept gambling. Addicts do shameful things. We become irresponsible and lose the trust of other people. We hurt people we love. After awhile it really is a stranger that stares back at us from the mirror. The Scripture says the prodigal son had "come to himself," and, finally, I came to myself. I decided I was going home to God, and the Father accepted me with open arms.

What would you say to others with a gambling problem?

Every gambling addict needs to know that there is a wonderful celebration down the road. The Father has been waiting and watching for anyone who is willing to begin the journey home. Believe me, He will rush to meet you on the road. 📍

He will meet
you on the road.

Gambling Addiction: The Problem, The Pain and The Pathway to Recovery



Can the parable of the prodigal son help individuals break the bondage of gambling addiction? "Absolutely!" says John Eades. "Not only can the lesson of this parable free us from gambling addiction, its wisdom can lead us into a transformation that will restore us to wholeness in all areas of our lives."

Dr. Eades used a Christ-centered approach to recover from his addiction and believes that a spiritual transformation is necessary for a person to have permanent behavior change. He writes frankly about his own addiction and offers practical steps for recovery. Visit www.johneades.com for ordering information.

Why do people gamble?

In a survey of 234 problem gamblers who called the Addiction Research Institute for counseling and treatment referrals in September 1996, responses given by both men and women were "financial reasons" (men, 42%; women, 21.7%) and "stress reduction" (men, 18.4%; women, 24.6%). Other responses given by men were "excitement" (29.5%) and "pleasure" (22.6%), while women responded with "boredom" (36.5%), "loneliness" (31.3%) and "anxiety" (12.2%).

From *The Wager*, July 11, 2000.

Champion Action Kit: Gambling

God calls those in church leadership to equip those in the pews to live victorious, Spirit-filled lives. *For Faith & Family's Champion Action Kits* are chock-full of timely, Scripture-based resources that will aid your church in championing God's truths in your community. We recognize there is a battle raging in our culture and that families are caught in the cross fire. God calls His followers to be prepared and to be on the front lines.

That's why we've prepared this exciting new offering, the **Champion Action Kit**. Packed with valuable helps for churches and families alike, the materials in the **Champion Action Kits** are grounded in God's Word and address the pressing moral, ethical, and social issues of our day. This special packaging of some of our time-tested resources and new materials will outfit your church to strengthen families and change society for good.

Targeting 12 specific issues, this second edition of the **Champion Action Kit** focuses on Gambling. (There is a new kit each month.) This kit contains everything you will need to prepare a sermon, lead a Bible study, and provide helpful, scripturally sound information that addresses the danger of this personally and socially destructive activity. With the number of gambling addicts growing phenomenally (even among Christians), the church must



do all it can to aid individuals and families in strengthening their defenses against this pervasive danger.

CONTENTS

- Bible study and sermon helps
- *LifeLight* handouts (qty: 100)*
- *Turning the Tables on Gambling* by Gregory L. Jantz (see book description below left)
- Gambling Fact Sheets (qty: 10)*
- Full-Color Promotional Posters (qty: 2)*

GAKIT (monthly subscription)

\$24.95



Gambling: A Christian Perspective Series

As the gambling industry entrenches itself deeper in the fabric of U.S. communities, it is important for Christians to understand the dangers that

gambling presents. These pamphlets forcefully lay out the case against gambling from the social, economic and moral perspectives.

Documented with extensive footnotes, they are useful as handouts or in sermon preparation.

CASINO GAMBLING GACASU \$4.00/20

VIDEO POKER GAVIDU \$4.00/20

STATE-OPERATED LOTTERIES
GASTAU \$4.00/20

BIBLICAL INSIGHTS ON GAMBLING GABIBU \$4.00/20

PARI-MUTUEL GAMBLING
GAPARU \$4.00/20

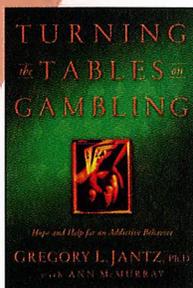
Turning the Tables on Gambling: Hope and Help for an Addictive Behavior

BY GREGORY L. JANTZ WITH ANN MCMURRAY

Nearly two-thirds of the adult population in the U.S. gambled in the last year, and research shows that Christians gamble at the same rate as unbelievers. Greg Jantz tackles the difficult questions:

Why are Christians tempted to gamble? What is the risk of becoming addicted? Is playing the lottery harmless? If gambling is a problem for me or someone I know, what can I do?

Jantz reveals the dangers of gambling and how to understand what the gambler is actually searching for. He identifies ways our culture supports the gambling lifestyle, what the Bible says about gambling, healthy ways to view and manage money, and how freedom from this destructive behavior can be found.



BKTUR (229 pages)

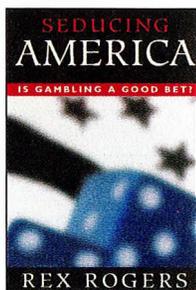
\$11.99 ea.

Seducing America: Is Gambling a Good Bet?

Rex Rogers stirs Christians into action with true stories of lives destroyed by gambling. He provides a biblical analysis and a hard-hitting look at legalized gambling's effect on America.

BKSED (176 pages)

\$10.00 ea.

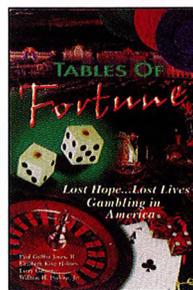
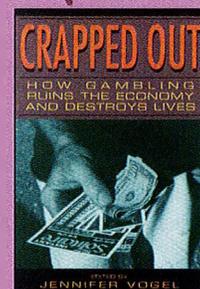


Crapped Out: How Gambling Ruins the Economy and Destroys Lives

This book includes the most significant articles ever written about gambling. It contains stories from *U.S. News & World Report*, major gambling trade publications, and national and regional newspapers. It is loaded with must-know statistics and powerful personal stories.

BKCR (233 pages)

\$15.50 ea.



Tables of Fortune

This book exposes unrelenting attempts by gambling interests to control the economic and social fabric of the nation. It points out the Bible's call to a level of lordship that values persons above things and addresses the human toll of gambling.

BKTAB (80 pages)

\$7.95 ea.

Gambling: 10 Myths vs. Real Truth

This leaflet will quickly help one understand the Bible's definite stance against gambling. It dispels arguments that people advance in support of gambling and makes an excellent bulletin insert or handout.

GATENU

\$4.00/20

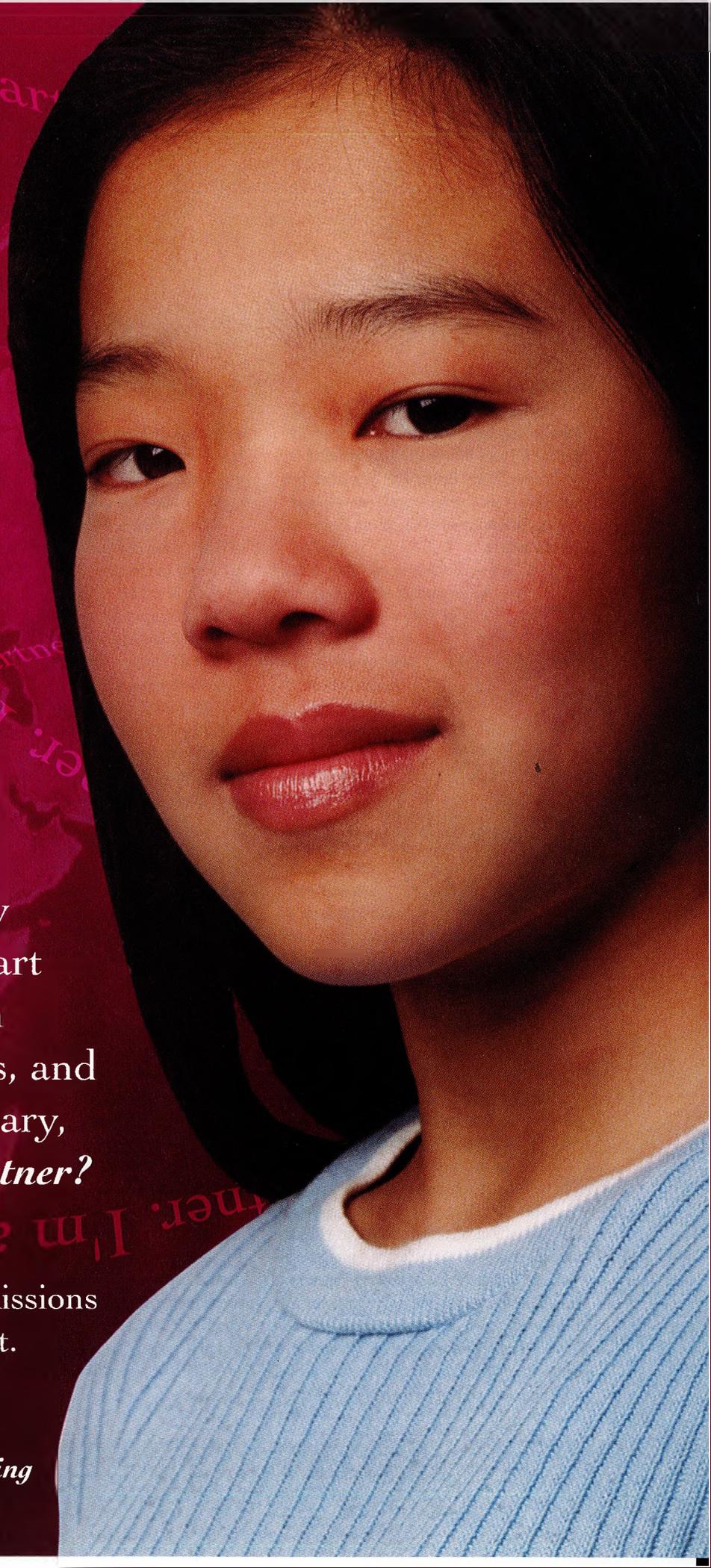


Are You a Partner?

I'm in the eighth grade, I have a dog, I get an allowance if I keep my room clean, and I think this guy in my youth group is really cute. I'm also a part of CP Missions. My youth leader says that part of my gifts to my church goes to help missionaries, and that makes me a missionary, too. Cool! *Are you a partner?*

To find out more about CP Missions visit www.cpmissions.net.

CP Missions: Caring People Partnering Together to Touch the World.



Harry Potter

BY BRIAN TERRELL

Over 76 million copies, translated into 42 different languages, hundreds of weeks on the New York Times best-sellers lists, and all about a kid named Harry Potter. This pint-sized, pre-pubescent of the literary world is now a giant of a phenomenon with a virtual army of young and old readers.

As you probably know, Harry Potter is the product of the imagination of Scottish author, J.K.

Rowling. Her fictional

series covers the seven years of schooling Harry receives at

Hogwarts School

of Witchcraft

and Wizardry,

a sort of trade

school for

magical peo-

ple. Readers

follow Harry

and friends on a

series of mystery adven-

tures that typically wind

up in a final showdown

between Harry and the evil Lord

Voldemort.

A storyteller, Rowling describes

her fantasy books as a tale of good ver-

sus evil. Some see Harry as a classic

savior-figure, in that he was the one

to originally break evil Voldemort's

rise in power and he continues to

thwart Voldemort's attempts to regain

his lost glory.

But why are the books so popular? It's a

relatively simple story, unlike the Chronicles

of Narnia to which the Potter series is sometimes

mistakenly compared, and even somewhat pre-

dictable. Although no one fully knows the rea-

sons for the books' success (some whisper it's

some sort of demonic attraction that has school

children putting down their scooters and pick-

ing up Potter), a few things are clear. Harry Potter is written about kids, and kids enjoy reading about kids—especially when the characters have feelings similar to their own. Interestingly, Rowling originally wrote the novels for adults.

Richard Abanes, an occult expert and author of *Harry Potter and the Bible*, suggests Harry's popularity can be traced to a combination of:

- the right amount of publicity
- peer pressure among children for the latest fad
- undiscerning reviewers [including many evangelical Christians] jumping on the Harry Potter bandwagon.

"They don't talk down to kids, and they're full of humor," writes Connie Neal in her recent book, *What's a Christian to Do with Harry Potter?* The Harry Potter books tap into basic needs of children like hope, wish fulfillment, and a sense of control, she notes.

But with talk of witches and magic, is there an overarching evil, an obsession with the dark side that makes these books dangerous?

Neal readily admits that Rowling freely uses occultic references in the Harry Potter books. Yet she suggests these referrals are simply a means to move the story. "Granted, Harry Potter is not a simple morality play," writes Neal, "but neither is the life of grade-school kids. I propose that the Harry Potter books are deeply moral and can be highly instructive as 'training in righteousness' if one rightly aligns these stories to Scripture. The challenge is being sure to make a proper alignment between the elements in the stories and basic elements of Judeo-Christian moral training."

When Neal read the Harry Potter books, she said during a presentation on Potter at the Christian Booksellers Association convention in Atlanta July 9, she found "some of the richest moral training." While admitting it was "complex," Neal called it "principled moral decision-making," saying, "It does go along with Scripture, but it's not the Sesame Street level of morals."

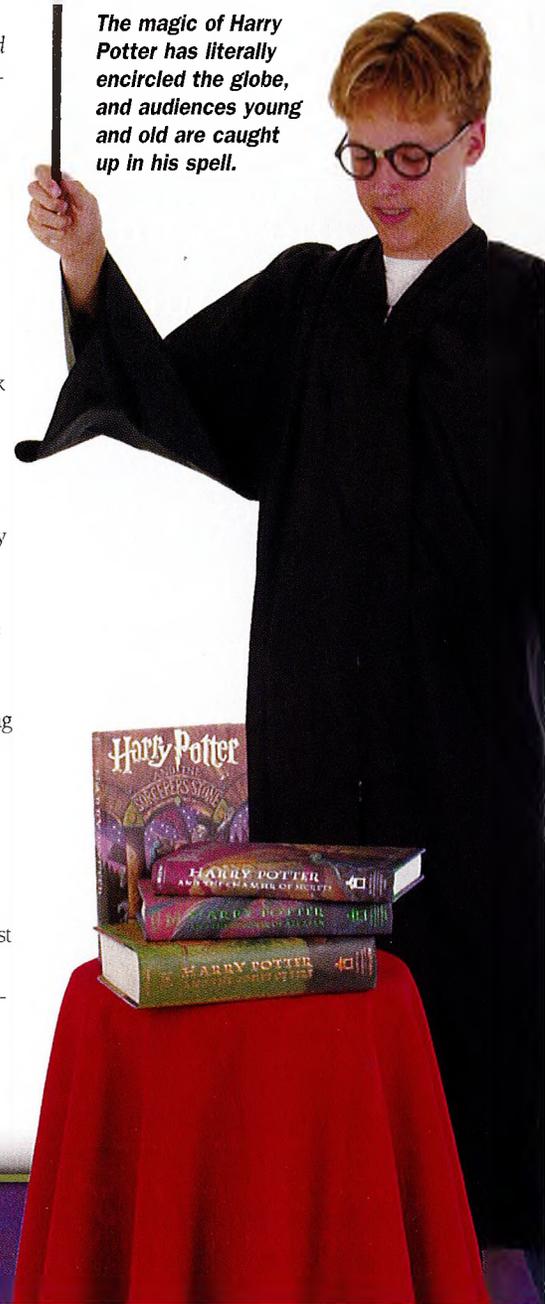
Abanes disagrees. "Whether Rowling realizes it or not, she is promoting witchcraft/occultism/Wicca in the form of ethical and moral subjectivism," he writes in his book on Potter. One of the biggest problems is that Harry Potter, the hero, is a morally inconsistent character and the story's "ethics are muddled." "In short, Rowling's moral universe is a topsy-turvy world with no

Who's reading Harry Potter?



Source: Ipsos-NPD Book Trends, www.usatoday.com, June 12, 2001

The magic of Harry Potter has literally encircled the globe, and audiences young and old are caught up in his spell.



A Christian Conundrum?

firm rules of right and wrong," continues Abanes, drawing a clear distinction from Neal's view.

"The Harry Potter books unquestionably present and glamorize real world occult practices and techniques," Abanes said. "The books glorify behavior that is inconsistent with biblical morality and ethics, and contain child inappropriate humor, gratuitous violence and a few harmful stereotypes," he said during the CBA dialogue session with Neal.

Abanes warns readers not to be confused by the few good messages Rowling presents, such as loyalty and sharing, and points to other lessons that are "far from positive," like lying, disobeying, seeking revenge, casting spells and using astrology and numerology.

While many articles have praised the "admirable morals and ethical behavior" of Rowling's characters, Abanes says Harry is far from perfect. "The morals and ethics in Rowling's fantasy tales are at best unclear, and at worst, patently unbiblical," Abanes says.

While saying Rowling refrains from teaching the exact doctrines of witchcraft, "the allusions could easily stir a child's curiosity about occultism — perhaps

enough for that child to one day dabble in it," he says.

Abanes says much of the occult material Rowling uses in the Potter books "still plays a significant role in modern paganism and witchcraft." Rowling has said that not everything in her books is imaginary; she studied mythology and witchcraft in order to make the books more accurate.

Both Abanes and Neal emphasize parents' need to thoughtfully consider every book, movie or television show their children read or watch.

And even if parents decide to keep Harry out of their homes, Abanes notes the Hogwarts student may be in their children's school. He said major publishers have prepared study guides and classroom discussion outlines so teachers can lead their students through "the origins and mysteries of Harry's world."

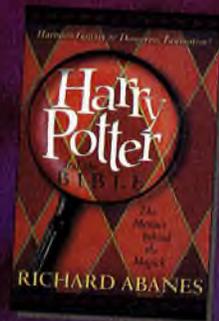
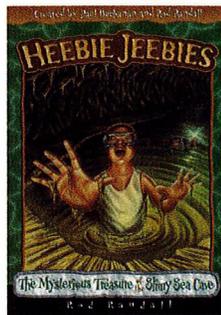
The books' popularity is not waning, and parents must confront the problem of what to do with Harry Potter. With a full-length feature film based on the first of the Potter books anticipated in theaters this fall and the expected marketing of a flood of Potteresque toys by Hasbro and Mattel, confronting this problem should best be done sooner, during the calm before the next Potter storm, rather than later. †

RECOMMENDED READING

If your children are drawn to creepy fiction, consider introducing them to the popular Heebie Jeebies series—good, clean, scary tales that are action-packed and affirm the presence and power of God. Each story teaches Christian themes and features positive Christian characters.

Titles include: *The Rat That Ate Poodles*, *Welcome to Camp Creeps*, *The Mysterious Treasure of the Slimy Sea Cave*, *Uncle from Another Planet*, *The I Scream Truck*, *Wild Ride on Bigfoot Mountain*, *Along Came a Spider*, *Dances with Werewolves*, *Piranha Picnic* and *Return to Terror Cove*.

These Broadman & Holman books are available at LifeWay Christian Stores, or by calling 1-800-233-1123.



The Harry Potter stories have quickly become part of the language of this generation. The release of a major motion picture this fall and the related children's products will only feed the interest in Harry Potter. Following are some ideas for how the body of Christ in general, and your church in particular, might consider making this cultural phenomenon pay off in ministry.

- Discuss issues of occult influence in culture and make sure that children in your congregation understand how and why to eschew occult involvement.
- Discuss and plan ways we Christians can relate to our culture in respectful and effective ways that bring biblical truths into the public forum of ideas.
- Discuss and teach how to be "in the world but not of the world."
- Discuss issues of spiritual warfare, especially the importance of educating and equipping children and adults to overcome evil and resist the devil by putting on spiritual armor and wielding the sword of the Spirit.
- Consider how popular literature reveals the heartfelt needs of a generation. Pray, asking God to show us how we can respond to these real needs.

Reprinted from *What's a Christian to Do with Harry Potter?* Copyright ©2001 by Connie Neal. Used by permission of WaterBrook Press, Colorado Springs, CO. All rights reserved.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FROM THE ERLC

In *Harry Potter and the Bible*, Richard Abanes addresses the controversy surrounding J. K. Rowling's wildly popular books. A Christian journalist specializing in cults and the occult, Abanes answers the difficult question: Should Christians read Harry Potter? The author gives a firm no and supports his conclusion with careful analysis.

BKHAR (275 pages) \$11.99 ea.

Richard Abanes explores the Potter phenomenon from a truly biblical perspective in an exclusive interview with *For Faith & Family's* Dr. Richard Land.

CTABANES (60 min. audio tape) \$8.00 ea.

For more information on fantasy books appropriate for families, visit our web site at www.erc.com/harrypotter.

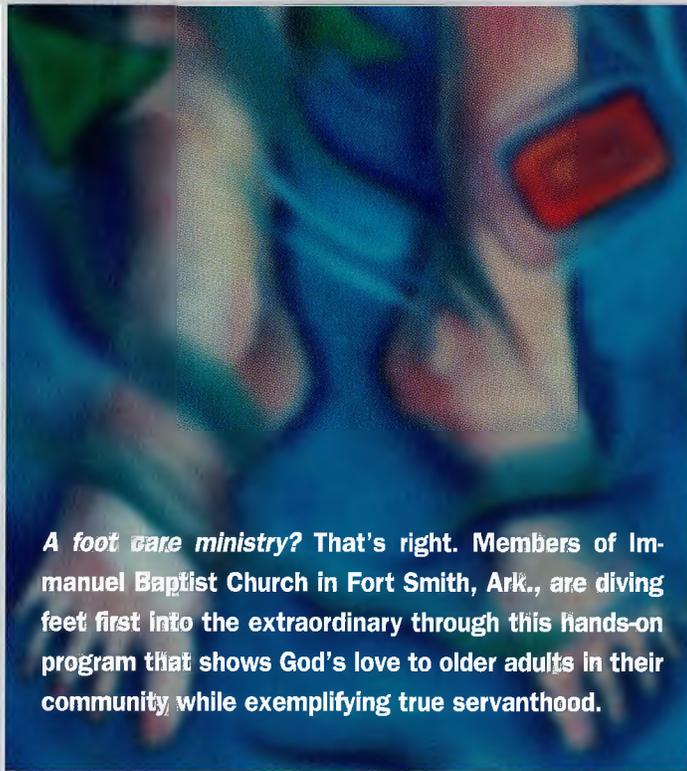
“What Did You Say?”

BY KAREN COLE

“Did you say a *foot care* ministry?” Yes, that’s right. A foot care ministry. The first mention of this endeavor invariably brings a request to repeat what you said, then a chuckle and perplexed frown. However, it doesn’t take long for a Christian to see past the unusual nature of such a ministry to the spiritual implications for all involved.

For Immanuel Baptist Church in Fort Smith, Ark., the idea of a foot care ministry began when member Anita Hammack read an article in the January 1993 *Royal Service* about non-traditional, part-time missionaries who spend “their vacations and spare time filling needs . . .” The article mentioned Frances Parker, a Virginia woman who, “after her conversion to Christ, wanted ‘to do something Jesus would do.’ She got permission from health authorities and began a foot-washing ministry in the neighborhood surrounding her church. It was targeted toward older adults who found it difficult to reach their feet and toes because of physical limitations. . . . To the question, ‘Why are you doing this?’ Frances and her group have a ready-made answer which they are happy to share.”

Mrs. Hammack, a recently retired registered nurse, was moved by this account and thought that her congregation and community could benefit from such a ministry. Her excitement was contagious, and Immanuel’s Women on Mission conducted a survey to determine



A foot care ministry? That’s right. Members of Immanuel Baptist Church in Fort Smith, Ark., are diving feet first into the extraordinary through this hands-on program that shows God’s love to older adults in their community while exemplifying true servanthood.

“The foot care clinic is an extension of what Jesus would do. Although it isn’t foot washing in the biblical sense, it is an expression of servanthood.”

VAN PAGE, IMMANUEL PASTOR

interest. After the need was confirmed, the ladies participated in several hours of training. “A medical doctor talked to us about the importance of foot care and how to properly assess feet,” Anita explains. “Teaching is an important part of our ministry. It’s also vital that we know our limitations and when to make referrals to a physician.”

Anita then went to a foot care clinic to observe and get hands-on experience and spent time with a diabetic educator to learn

about foot care for diabetics. She returned to the ladies at Immanuel and shared what she had learned.

Next the group spent time learning to trim nails by practicing on artificial nails. Then came the moment of reckoning: they would practice on each other. “That was a fun time,” Anita remembers. “We laughed and apologized about our feet. We all were embarrassed. But it helped us realize how sensitive people are about exposing their feet.”

God has visibly blessed the ministry. In June 1993 the ladies opened for business one Monday each month with 14 clients, and in May 2001 the ministry operates two days per month with 50-60 clients. One day is open to the public and the other to residents of a nearby retirement home. The clinic is funded by contributions and amazingly has missed only one day since 1993.

Anita is quick to give God the glory for the ministry’s success. “God has blessed in a marvelous way in providing workers and funds. In addition to foot care providers, we also need receptionists and people to take blood pressure readings, empty and sterilize water basins, launder towels and clean up. The men and youth of the church help by setting up on the Sunday evenings before clinic days, and ladies bring us lunch on the day we work all day. And God has led people from five other churches to participate.

“The most significant thing about this ministry is that it provides a vehicle through which we can show and tell God’s love. We have the opportunity to pray with people who are facing hospitalization or tests and those facing changes in their lives, and we’ve seen an 86-year-old man come to Christ. When we provide foot care, we are saying in a hands-on way, ‘God loves you.’”

If you would like information on operating a foot care ministry, write:
Anita Hammack
 2425 Ionia
 Fort Smith, AR 72901



“This is a good example of a ‘low tech, high touch’ ministry where Christians can literally kneel at the feet of people in need both physically and spiritually. People searching for the true God are impressed by true servants. This ministry allows people to see a true picture of Jesus Christ and to hear His message with open hearts.”

FRED LOPER, M.D., NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

The harvest is abundant
but the **Workers** *are few.*

Luke 10:2

BIBLICAL STUDIES

YOUTH MINISTRY

**MISSIONS, EVANGELISM
AND CHURCH GROWTH**

COUNSELING

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

MUSIC

INTERDISCIPLINARY

**IT'S TIME TO GET READY
FOR THE HARVEST.**

If you're ready to make a difference,
Boyce College is ready for you.
Offering seven different ministry-focused
degree plans, Boyce is dedicated to
preparing students for the real world.

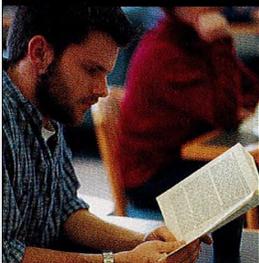
The **BA in Biblical Studies**
combines classical theological education
and practical experience. If you're called
to the ministry, this is the degree for you.

The harvest is ready. Are you?



Boyce College

a school of
The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary



<http://boyce.sbts.edu>

Come see for yourself. Ministry Preview Conference. October 18-20. Call for details.
2825 Lexington Road • Louisville, KY 40280 1.800.728.7044

Building a Foundation for Life

Rules for Living

BY DWAYNE HASTINGS

I learned when I was very young that life had rules. There were some things I wasn't allowed to do and other things I had to do. We all have rules to obey at home, at school, and even on the playground.

Some rules, like not running with scissors, are meant to keep us safe. Other rules, like lining up in a straight line to get on the bus, teach us to respect others.

When I was young, it was a rule in my house that you couldn't have dessert until you cleaned your plate. (We still have that rule in my house.) And no matter how cold your mashed potatoes got, my Mom didn't back down—you had to finish your dinner. No elbows were allowed on my Mom's table, no talking with your mouth full, and the hand that wasn't holding a fork or spoon was supposed to be kept on your lap.

We had a rule that our dog didn't like: Animals were not to be fed from the table (especially green peas). It was a house rule, like learning to put the toilet lid down. Mom really was in favor of that rule; our dog didn't like that one much, especially if his water bowl was empty.

We also had rules about staying clean and neat, such as brushing your teeth after every meal and making your bed before you left your room.

Some rules were hard to understand, like going to bed on time, especially during the summer when it was light outside and my buddies were still playing. But I know now that we have rules not to make life difficult but to help us grow up better.



Parents give children rules for a reason—to keep them safe, healthy and polite.

God gave us rules to protect us and to let us know what He considers important. We read in the Bible about the rules He gives us. God's most famous rules are the Ten Commandments.

While God expects us to try really hard to obey His rules, He understands that it is very hard—if not impossible—to obey His Ten Commandments. And that is why God sent His Son, Jesus. God showed us that He loves us when He sent Jesus.

When we obey God, we show Him that we love Him.

God gave Moses His rules many, many years ago, but they will never go out of style. God's rules never change. Some things I couldn't do as a little boy, I can do now. (I am still very careful with scissors!) But I will never grow old enough to ignore God's rules.

Bible truth: We please God when we obey His rules.

Bible verse: Exodus 20:1-17

RECOMMENDED READING

The Ten Commandments

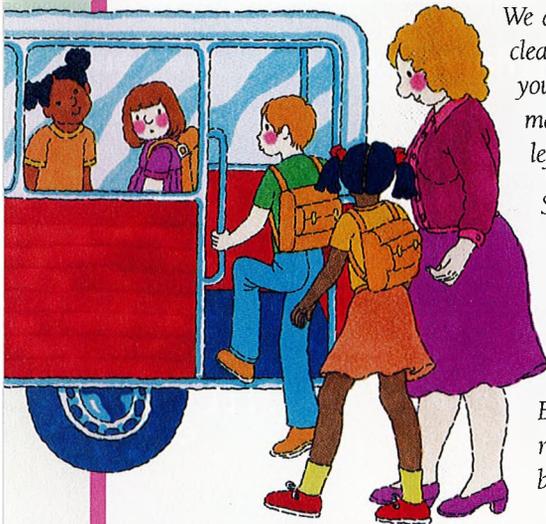
This inspiring and entertaining book for youngsters teaches them what the Ten Commandments are and why they remain important for us to follow in our day.

Zondervan, ISBN 0-310-22095-5

The Big 10 for Little Saints

Simply, yet powerfully, this beautiful book introduces children to the timeless truths of God's Ten Commandments. A wonderful book for parents to read aloud or for young readers to enjoy on their own.

Loyal Kids, ISBN 1-929125-04-6



THE ETHICS &
RELIGIOUS LIBERTY
COMMISSION
OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

901 Commerce St., Suite 550 ■ Nashville, TN 37203-3696

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Nashville, Tennessee
Permit No. 518