

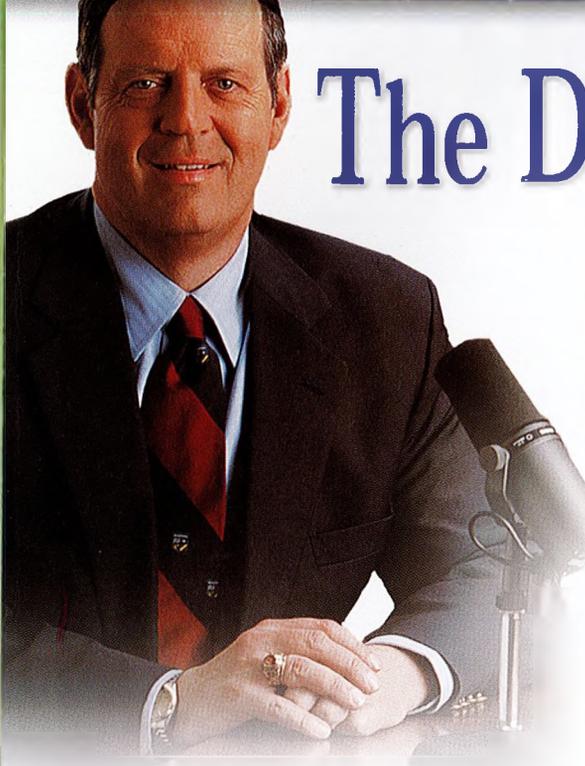
# The Magazine **LIGHT**

For Faith & Family

A photograph of four diverse teenagers (two girls and two boys) smiling and standing in front of a large American flag. The flag is draped across the background, showing the stars and stripes. The teenagers are dressed in casual clothing. The girl in the foreground has her arms crossed and is wearing a purple shirt. The boy next to her is wearing a blue plaid shirt over a blue t-shirt. The other two teenagers are partially visible behind them.

## Coming Together

Will America ever truly be "one nation, under God"? It can be, says Richard Land, if Christians will recognize that the work of reconciliation God accomplished in their lives through Jesus extends to the work of breaking down walls between races and ethnicities. "I share Dr. Martin Luther King's dream," Land continues, "that our children will someday live in an America where they will be judged not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."



# The Dream and the Future

BY RICHARD D. LAND, III\*

My grandfather, a Baptist preacher, often told me how his life was forever changed at the age of sixteen as he watched Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech on his family's black-and-white television.

Like countless millions, my grandfather was challenged, convicted, and changed as Dr. King framed a vision of an America where racial prejudice and injustice were largely vanquished and deeply stigmatized in public policy and public opinion. Dr. King's powerful words still stir the soul: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

My grandfather realized Dr. King's dream wasn't about judgments not being made; it was a call to personal righteousness. Throughout the conflicts of the past century, it seemed many forgot that Dr. King's call was to personal righteousness. But not everyone forgot, and that is how my own denomination came to be. The Continental Baptist Convention was forged by a merger of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) with the evangelical elements of the National Baptist Convention (in which Dr. King ministered) and the American Baptist Churches (formerly the American Baptist Convention). This merger, based on theology and racial reconciliation, was finalized in 2045, the SBC's 200th anniversary.

My grandfather didn't live to see the merger, but he saw the first stirrings of conviction within his own church and his own heart. I remember him saying, "What was Dr. King doing but appealing for us to live out the truths we sang about in my racially segregated Sunday school: 'Red and yellow, black and white—they are precious in His sight?'"

My grandfather told me how he'd been taught at home that it was against the teaching of Jesus to see or treat anyone as less than yourself for *any* reason—including ethnicity. Yet he lived in a racially segregated neighborhood and attended a segregated public school and church.

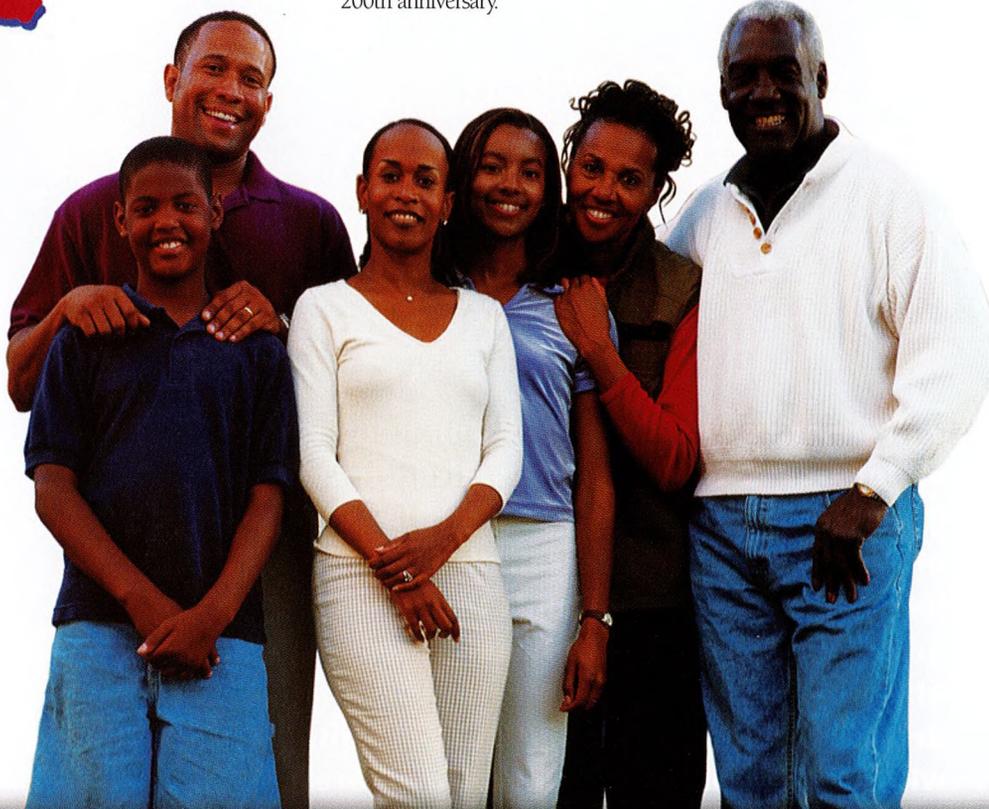
What Dr. King's "Dream" speech settled for my grandfather



**FOR FAITH**  
*& Family*



Many families share Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream for his four children of one day living in an America "where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." In writing this article from the perspective of his grandson in the year 2063, Richard Land acknowledges that Dr. King's dream wasn't about judgments not being made; it was a call to personal righteousness. Here Dr. Land "dares to dream," envisioning a future congregation made up of all races, spiritually fused as they minister together in the name of Jesus.



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.

This article is adapted from a feature that originally appeared in a special edition of *World*, Sept.-Oct. 2001. See [www.worldmag.com](http://www.worldmag.com).

# A Vision for a Changed America

THE ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

## OUR VISION

An American society that affirms and practices Judeo-Christian values rooted in biblical authority.

## OUR MISSION

To awaken, inform, energize, equip, and mobilize Christians to be the catalysts for the biblically-based transformation of their families, churches, communities, and the nation.

was this: It is not enough to believe racism is wrong. We must challenge it whenever we see it.

Tremendous progress was made in the mid-20th century. The Civil Rights Laws liberated regions of the nation shackled with legalized segregation. In the brief period from the *Brown vs. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision in 1954 that desegregated the nation's schools through the 1960s, we progressed toward racial equality under the law.

Yet for the rest of the 20th century progress slowed, and America remained at the dawn of this century a nation wracked by racial and ethnic divisions. The Sunday morning worship hour remained the most segregated moment in public life.

Just before the turn of the century a great spiritual renewal began in America and affected all kinds of issues, including race. Christians of all ethnicities began to understand that the shame of a racially divided church compromised the Gospel witness. They saw that people of faith must lead the nation to move beyond legislative and judicial remedies and apply spiritual balm to the racial wounds afflicting the American soul. In doing so, they were heeding the prophetic call of Dr. King's sermons delivered at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in April 1961, more than two years before his "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, D.C.

Dr. King spoke of the church's opportunity and responsibility on the frontiers of racial tension, asserting that racism was a moral issue that had to be confronted by

people of faith. He said people must have "sense enough to resist physical force with *soul* force... and to do so nonviolently."

As American Christians reached across racial boundaries and worked to heal the problems exacerbated by racial tension and mistrust, they came to understand and trust each other. The friendships formed overshadowed divisive debates. As they ministered together to bind up their neighbors' wounds, they were spiritually fused.

As true racial reconciliation was experienced, two events marked our progress. The first was the establishment of an American Slavery Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. Denominations born in the antebellum South, such as the SBC, joined with the National Association of Evangelicals, the historic black denominations, U.S. Catholics, and others to raise funds to build that magnificent museum modeled on the U.S. Holocaust Museum, which memorializes the Jewish victims of the European Holocaust.

The museum now stands majestically on the shores of the Potomac, in sight of the nation's capitol. I do not believe anyone can experience the museum's centerpiece, a life-sized reproduction of the hold of a slave ship, including wax replicas of slaves packed tortuously and lethally close together, and not be deeply moved and forever changed.

The second event was the creation of the Continental Baptist Convention. The SBC grew, even in the midst of the Babylonian

Captivity of segregation, to be the largest Protestant denomination in America. In the wake of the civil-rights revolution, the once-segregated denomination gradually became more ethnically diverse (17% non-Anglo membership by 2000; 20% by 2010).

The pace of multiethnic integration within the SBC accelerated rapidly after the resolution on racial reconciliation was passed overwhelmingly during the Convention's 150th anniversary in 1995. Beginning in the 1940s, the SBC had passed more than 30 resolutions condemning racism, but this one was different. It apologized "to all African-Americans for condoning and/or perpetuating individual and systemic racism" and asked for "forgiveness from our African-American brothers and sisters." This acceptance of culpability and request for forgiveness lanced the boil of racism in Southern Baptist life, culminating in the transition into the Continental Baptist Convention. Now our Convention is as ethnically diverse as the nation, as it should be, with approximately 50% Anglo membership.

History teaches us that what *should be* seldom is without courage and leadership. As an American descendant of both slaveholders and abolitionists, as a Christian whose ancestors served in a denomination born in slavery, I say, "Thank you, Dr. King. You have your country's profound gratitude for dreaming the dream, living the vision, and calling us to live our ideals. We have 'been to the mountaintop' and we have 'seen the promised land.'" †

With increasing opportunities to impact the culture, the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission has adopted the above mission statement to provide a filter so as to ensure what we are doing is directed toward the biblically-based transformation of our nation.

Our vision presupposes a spiritual awakening in America. Yet we know this cannot happen without a preparatory revival (1 Chron. 7:14). Great movements of God always begin with a revival among His people.

Lasting renewal and reformation in America will start with individuals, spread to families, then churches, and finally our nation. Washington, D.C., will not save us. Washington will reflect the fact that a change has occurred at a very basic level in American society.

Whether or not America has this kind of future is up to the people of God all over this country.

We have seen the dire consequences of a culture that denies absolute truth. Yet that does not mean that we cannot shift back in the right direction.

Our vision and mission statements offer a formula for reformation—a reformation that will shake America as Luther and Calvin shook Europe, as Whitfield and Wesley shook England, and as Whitfield and Edwards shook colonial America for Jesus Christ. *That is our vision.*

RICHARD D. LAND, ERLC PRESIDENT



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*, (ISSN 1538-0734), a magazine that equips and encourages readers and their families to think biblically and act Christianly, is published six times a year by The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and its outreach ministry, *For Faith & Family*. The magazine looks to Scripture for a proper response to the critical moral, ethical and cultural issues of our day. *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.

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\* The fictional author of this piece, Richard D. Land, III, was elected president of the Continental Baptist Convention in 2062. He is the son, grandson, and great-grandson of Southern Baptist ministers.



# Where Do We Go From Here?

## NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPROVING RACE RELATIONS

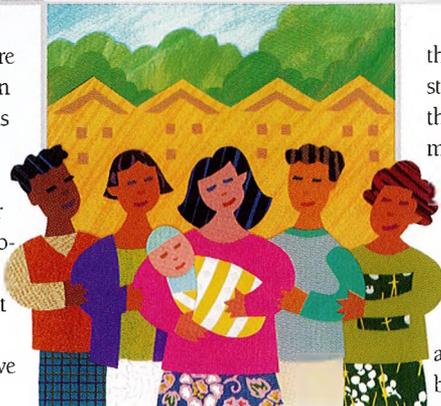
BY CLARENCE SHULER

Few would disagree that there has been some improvement in race relations among Christians in recent years, but the questions remain: Has enough progress been made? With our nation's rapidly changing demographics, where do we in the Body of Christ go from here? It is my contention that we have taken only the first few tentative steps on this critical journey.

This *Light* magazine series on racial reconciliation (Spring 2000, Winter 2001) has addressed several critical issues: (1) As Christians we don't know what we are missing because the Body of Christ isn't unified; (2) We need to explore the connotations surrounding the term *racial reconciliation*; (3) We need to more closely examine 2 Corinthians 5:11-21 and Ephesians 2:14-16 to show that any attempt at racial and ethnic reconciliation apart from spiritual reconciliation will be doomed; and (4) Finally, we need to focus on consummating racial declarations and confessions of repentance with concrete actions.

### MATCH OUR CONFESSIONS WITH OUR ACTIONS

Christians need to follow Jesus Christ's example in this area, as in all other areas of life. Southern Baptists have taken some effective first steps, such as passing the 1995 resolution



**Christians desiring racial unity must strive to live, work, worship, and play together in integrated neighborhoods and churches.**

on racial repentance and producing materials that accurately portray biblical characters as people of color. Southwestern Seminary has a Black Think Tank in which a group of African Americans meet with President Ken Hemphill on a regular basis to address cross-cultural issues of the past, present, and future. Numerous churches across the convention are making intentional efforts to worship and fellowship together. Other faith groups are actively addressing this issue as well.

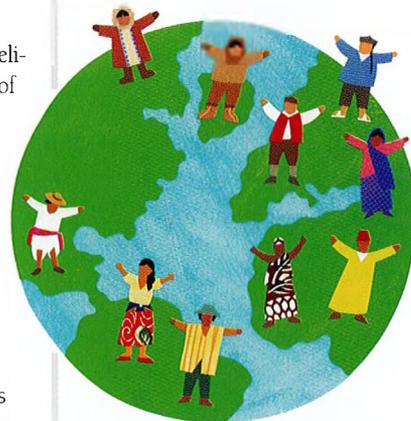
Yet before these steps could be taken, a spiritual maturity and willingness to hear and understand minority perspectives had to exist among the white leadership. And, before

the white leaders could understand the minority perspectives, they had to understand the minority language.

### LEARN THE LANGUAGE

In the first two articles we explored how effective cross-cultural relationships are similar to marriage. Husbands and wives don't always agree, but if they are to have an effective marriage and serve each other, they must understand each other! This requires learning another "language." For example, men and women use the same words but often are speaking a different language. Godly husbands and wives learn the language of their spouses because the relationship is worth it. White evangelicals must learn the language of African Americans by understanding African-American history. This will help whites understand African-American perspectives on social issues and their priorities. Understanding, not necessarily agreement, is crucial before trust and ministry can happen. First Corinthians 12:25-26 states, "So that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it."

Minorities know the language and priorities of the majority culture in America because of the survival dynamics of majority/minority systems. In diversity consulting for various organizations, I often demonstrate how ethnic groups process information differently. Each of us uses our own culture-rooted perspective when making judgments and decisions. The white culture must now learn about minority cultures and their histories so it can demonstrate equal concern, realizing when minorities are suffering and when they are celebrating.



**While whites do a good job of recognizing persecuted Christians in other countries, they often fail to display a similar concern for their historically "persecuted" black Christian brothers in America, feeding blacks' distrust of white Christians.**

*Clarence Shuler leads seminars on racial unity across the U.S., and he and his wife, Brenda, conduct marriage seminars as part of their ministry, Building Lasting Relationships. He served with Focus on the Family as manager of Black Family and Pastors Ministries and is co-pastor of Northview Church in Colorado Springs as well as an instructor at Denver Seminary's Institute of Urban Studies and Colorado Christian University.*

**DIFFERENCE DOESN'T MEAN SUPERIOR OR INFERIOR, JUST DIFFERENT.**

Understanding that the races process information differently is a critical step in building relationships with one another, says Clarence Shuler. Results of studies he shares in diversity consulting for various organizations indicate, in general:

**Whites tend to be program oriented and think in a linear fashion.** He likens it to working on an assembly line without having the end product necessarily developed. One of white culture's strong points is that they pay attention to detail, while a weak point is that they often don't grasp the big picture.

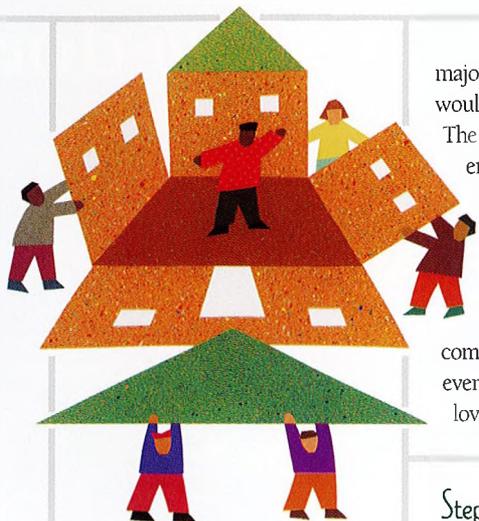
**Blacks and Hispanics are holistic and relationship oriented.** These cultures tend to be gifted in problem-solving and desire to be inclusive. Their major weakness seems to be a lack of attention to detail.

As a result, perspectives most often will vary. For instance, when a white hears *success*, he thinks *numbers*. When an African American or Hispanic hears *success*, he thinks *relationships*. Is one viewpoint "more right"? No, just different.



**LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF**

White Christians must respond to injustices suffered by blacks in America. Whites recognize persecuted Christians in other countries, but they fail to display a similar concern for their historically "persecuted" black Christian brothers in America. This lack of concern feeds blacks' distrust of white Christians. Until white Christians acknowledge the discrimination and harassment experienced by their minority brethren, the Corinthian verses can't be fulfilled and it will be difficult for the Body of Christ to become one in practical reality. This is one example of why the term *racial reconciliation* is troublesome to many minorities. Apart from the spiritual context, a black man might well resist being "reconciled" to any member of a race that enslaved his grandfather.



**One step Christians should prayerfully consider in moving toward racial unity is to be intentional in having minorities in decision-making positions.**

The late Dr. T. B. Maston served as a grandfather in the faith to me while I was at Southwestern Seminary. In 1959 he received hate mail for writing *The Bible and Race*, which stated that blacks and whites were equal.

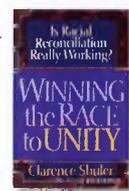
Maston knew the risk and took it—both professionally and personally. Author Gary Chapman introduced me to Jesus Christ and has spent much of his life discipling me. He was practicing racial partnership before it had a name.

With some amount of international pressure, the white South African minority gave the rule of their country to the black

majority, knowing that they would never be in power again. The majority of these Afrikaners were not Christians; but as a people they did the morally correct thing, even though it meant sacrificing life as they knew it. Change in America will come only when Christians of every hue, motivated by their love of Christ, exhibit that

same degree of self-sacrifice and commitment on both a personal and corporate level.

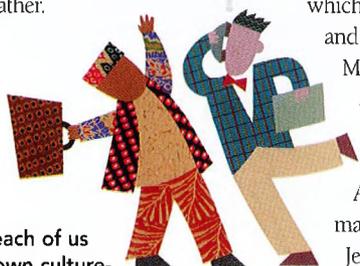
Winning the Race to Unity by Clarence Shuler is featured in February's Champion Action Kit (available on page 7). This book shares the blessings that can be ours if we seriously consider the issues that separate us and obediently follow Jesus.



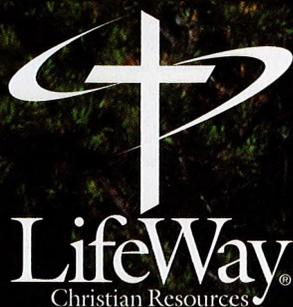
**Steps to Prayerfully Consider in Moving Toward Racial Unity:**

- 1 Be intentional in having minorities in decision-making positions.
- 2 Work on some mission projects "across the tracks" instead of out of town to create long-term, cross-cultural relationships.
- 3 Strive to live, work, worship, and play together in integrated neighborhoods and churches.
- 4 Work to develop an inclusive mind-set by reading periodicals produced by Christian and non-Christian minorities.
- 5 White evangelicals need to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr.'s holiday and Black History Month as passionately as African Americans. Businesses including McDonald's and State Farm Insurance wisely promote Black History Month, understanding that supporting African-American issues pays financial dividends down the road and reaps loyalty for generations. While these companies may be motivated by money, it is difficult to explain to minorities why their white Christian brothers do less than corporate America.

Because each of us uses our own culture-rooted perspective when making judgments and decisions, white evangelicals must take a look at African-American history to gain an understanding of African-American perspectives on social issues and their priorities.



*We don't have  
all the answers,  
but we know  
Who does.*



*View of the scenic Blue Ridge  
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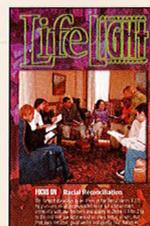


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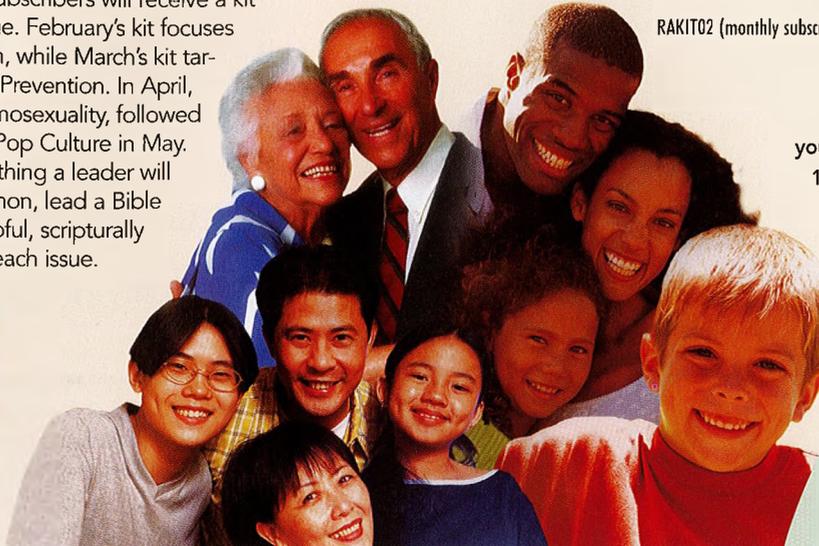
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## The Bible Speaks on Race

Examples from Scripture that can be applied to race issues, evidencing God's sovereignty over all men.

BSRACU \$3.80/20

## Racism and the Evangelical Church

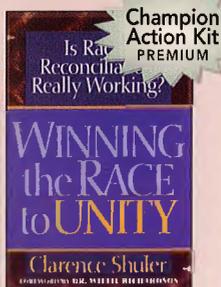
Evangelist Billy Graham defines racial hatred as sin and offers Christians insight into the ongoing struggle for racial reconciliation.

RARACU \$1.80/20

## Winning the Race to Unity

Despite progress in some areas, the gulf between white evangelicals and African-American Christians remains wide and deep. Clarence Shuler shares the blessings that can be ours if we seriously consider the issues that separate us and obediently follow Jesus.

BKRAC (231 pages) \$12.99 ea.



## Colors of the World

This set of crayons includes a variety of skin, hair, and eye colors for coloring people of the world. When used with the children's coloring poster or activity booklet above, they make a great tool to teach children to "love one another" across racial and ethnic lines.

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## Dear Mrs. Parks

On Dec. 1, 1955, Rosa Parks changed the course of history when she refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger, launching the 381-day boycott of the Montgomery bus system by African Americans. *Dear Mrs. Parks* is a collection of letters between Rosa and children over the last 40 years in which she challenges young people to be a force for positive change in society.

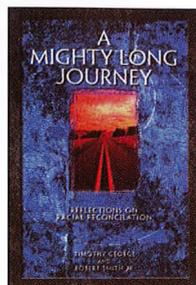
BKDEA (111 pages) \$4.48 ea.



## A Mighty Long Journey

Timothy George and Robert Smith reflect on the state of race relations in the church, the sins of the past, repentance in the present, and redemption for the future.

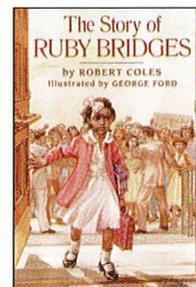
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## The Story of Ruby Bridges

The first black child to attend an all-white elementary school, Ruby faces angry mobs as she is escorted to and from first grade by federal marshals. With courage beyond her years, she becomes an important part of American history.

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When generators failed on the RC-135 aircraft, knocking the highly accurate navigational computers out of commission, Maj. Kevin Dailey turned back to the training he had received long ago using a compass and sextant. Much like Magellan centuries before, he tracked the plane's position across the sky using the stars. A slight miscalculation could cost the crew of 35 their lives.

BY MAJ. KEVIN DAILEY, USAF

## So do not fear, for I am with you and help you; I will uphold

It was on a late winter flight in 1993 that I came to a deeper understanding of God's grace. I was the navigator on an RC-135 (reconnaissance aircraft) mission out of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and faced a standard redeployment back home: two air refuelings, multiple navigation legs, and a lengthy trip across the pond to our home base in Nebraska. This flight started out uneventfully enough and after completing our second air refueling, we coasted out of the United Kingdom and into the Atlantic.

### *So do not fear*

We had been flying for several hours and were about halfway across the Atlantic Ocean. Looking down at the #1 generator gauge, I began to notice it fluctuating—first mildly and then wildly. Within seconds, the generator disintegrated. While this wasn't good, it wasn't serious enough to get overly worried. But within a very short time, our two remaining generators went off-line and then failed. We had no generator power. This definitely wasn't good.

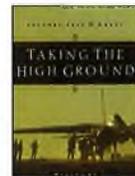
Things began to go from bad to worse. As we sat in the dark, we realized the #1 constant speed drive overheat light had just come on as well. To keep an engine fire from developing, we shut down the #1 engine.

### *I am with you*

We were three hours from landfall and all of our awesome electrical systems were reduced to one aircraft battery the size of a shoebox! Power available now was barely sufficient to sustain us. As I looked at our navigation system to determine our position, the entire system went off-line—the victim of inadequate power.

Without highly accurate computers, I turned back to the training I'd received long ago using the old compass and sextant. Much like Magellan centuries before, I tracked our position across the sky using the stars. The only difference was

Excerpted from *Taking the High Ground: Military Moments with God* by Jeff O'Leary. © 2001 Cook Communications Ministries. Used with permission. May not be further reproduced. All rights reserved.



# Bligh

do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you with my righteous right hand.

— Isa. 41:10

That at 35,000 feet we were traveling twenty-five times faster than he did. Our crew of thirty-five turned to their duties. Many of us also turned to the Lord as we thought about the very real possibility of a winter ditching in the freezing North Atlantic waters. That scenario, if we survived the impact, meant about twenty minutes of life before freezing. I just knew God hadn't forgotten us. "God won't leave us now," I whispered. It was my prayer of faith.

### *I will strengthen you and help you*

All of us onboard were professionals and approached our problems calmly in spite of ever diminishing alternatives. We wanted to maximize our survival in the event we ditched. Meanwhile we pointed the aircraft to the nearest safe landing field. While Newfoundland was closer, it had whiteout conditions from a snowstorm. Our next alternative was Goose Bay Labrador, in northeast Canada. As we got closer to Canadian landfall, we had to descend to stay both visual and out of icing conditions. Without electrical power, we didn't have the ability to use our anti-ice systems which put us in a very dangerous flying condition.

### *I will uphold you*

I sat in the jump seat doing visual navigation as we approached land. Through the intermittent clouds, I saw the Goose Bay inlet. Closer and closer we came. Finally we crossed over land and our hearts jumped for joy. Our emergency radio did not work initially—"Mayday, Mayday, Mayday—this is *Snoop 46* on guard," I called. Switching the aircraft battery on for a brief moment, the copilot called on guard and picked up a Canadian C-130. "Thank you God," we all whispered. He passed us to a Canadian approach controller. He immediately climbed us 3,000 feet as we were below the minimum safe altitude for the sector. God had been with us again.

### *With my righteous right hand*

As we dumped extra gas in preparation to land, it was still a bit unnerving as there was no way to read our electrically driven fuel panel. How much fuel did we have? What was our burn rate? Were our tanks balanced or was our aircraft in danger of landing out of balance and out of control? There was no way to know other than by roughly estimating our burn rates.

Our major concern was if we landed too heavy we might not be able to stop before running off the runway. We could have survived all that happened to still not survive the landing. It was a sobering thought as the pilot dropped the landing gear, and I confirmed it was down and locked. I counted the gear and confirmed my finding. "That's three down and locked," and the pilot nodded.

The approach controller gave us perfect vectors as we came down final. The pilot flared and the heavy jet touched down on the wet runway. We screamed down the runway as the pilot fought to keep the nosewheel on centerline. The "runway remaining" markers flew by us—8,000 feet remaining, 7,000, 6,000. The two pilots using all their leg strength, pressed their combined weights against the metal brake pedals trying to bring the jet to a stop. 5,000, 4,000, 3,000 remaining. Were we too heavy? The pilot's jaw clenched as the 2,000 foot marker passed and the runway overrun came into view. 1,000 feet and the brakes were finally having their full effect. Less than one thousand feet before the overrun, the jet lurched and finally settled on the runway—dead stopped with a razor's edge of runway to spare. We had made it!

As we taxied to park, the entire field was hit with a massive blowing snow creating complete whiteout conditions. It was at that point when the entire situation hit me. One half hour later and we couldn't have landed at the last airfield we had fuel to reach. The cold Atlantic would have been our only choice that winter's eve. I bowed my head and heart to the unseen hand that saved us that night. 🙏

After attempting to explain the horrifying events of Sept. 11, 2001, to her children, Christian recording artist Crystal Lewis was moved to write a song that could bring hope to Christians and remind us that prayer is bigger than any situation we face. The song hit the airwaves on Sept. 14 and has been a blessing to untold numbers since. Listen to "When God's People Pray" at [www.crystallewis.com](http://www.crystallewis.com).



### RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

#### *Can Prayer Save America?*

Our nation is great because it was founded on God's Word and prayer, but that foundation has been replaced with the notion that our private and national affairs can be run without God. This tract reminds us that so great are the dangers, so tremendous our problems that it is imperative that we seek the Lord God in prayer for His will.



#### *In God We Trust*

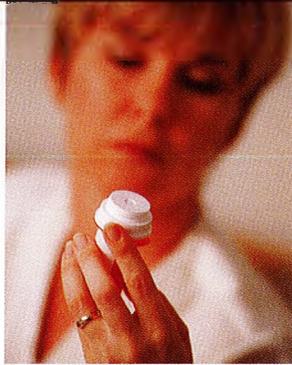
Printed boldly on the back of U.S. currency is the motto "In God We Trust." Though it may have lost its meaning to many, this phrase holds the secret to national and personal greatness. This tract shows us that only by trusting in God and returning to the values of His Word in our public and private lives will He heal our land.



Both tracts are available from Good News Publishers, 1-800-635-7993.

**Are you interested in providing religious ministry to military personnel and their families?** SBC chaplains have served in all major conflicts for over 150 years and currently serve with all components of the nation's military. Commitments range from full-time employment to volunteer service.

For more details contact the North American Mission Board's Chaplaincy Associate for Military Chaplaincy, Dr. David Mullis, at 770-410-6366 or e-mail at [dmullis@namb.net](mailto:dmullis@namb.net).



## THE HIDDEN EPIDEMIC OF

# Prescription Drug Addiction

For Faith & Family's Light magazine recently talked with Rod Colvin, author of *Prescription Drug Addiction: The Hidden Epidemic*.

### Why did you write a book on prescription drug addiction?

This book grew out of my family's own experience with prescription drug addiction. My younger brother was addicted to prescription drugs for about fifteen years. The stress on his body caused him to have his first heart attack at age thirty-two, and he died from another heart attack on his thirty-fifth birthday.

This hidden epidemic continues to claim victims from all walks of life—executives, health care providers, homemakers, students, and celebrities. I wanted them to know that there is hope for them.

### There is much more information available on illicit drug use than on prescription drug abuse. Why?

Society has been slow to react to the abuse of prescription drugs. Prescription drugs are dispensed under the aegis of medical care. They've been prescribed by physicians and dispensed from the corner pharmacy. You don't have to frequent a liquor store or visit a street corner in a dangerous part of town

to get them. Historically, this problem has been swept under the rug. Addiction in a family member carries a tremendous amount of shame, and the denial aspect is greater with prescription drugs. If someone is getting cocaine from a street dealer, we think, *Oh, that's terrible*. But if someone is getting a bottle of pills every week from a pharmacy, we don't judge as quickly. We think, *She must need these*. The doctor prescribed them for her. Prescription drug abuse is the least understood and most underreported substance abuse problem in the country.

### How does addiction to prescription drugs begin?

It usually begins when a person takes a legitimately prescribed drug for a real medical problem. These are people with no history of drug abuse. Unfortunately, they may have an underlying emotional problem or a predisposition to addiction

that was overlooked. They may take a sedative for insomnia or a narcotic analgesic for physical pain, and they feel better. They take a little more the next time, and they feel even better. Soon their body is adapting to the drug and demanding more. Eventually, or sometimes very quickly, the addiction process kicks in.

### How do addicts continue to get drugs?

They are afraid to tell their doctor what is happening for fear of being cut off from the drugs, so they begin doing illegal things. "Doctor shopping" refers to the practice of going from doctor to doctor for the purpose of getting a new prescription from each. Some people fake illness at emer-

## Symptoms of Addiction

- ❖ Showing relief from anxiety
- ❖ Changes in mood
- ❖ False feelings of self-confidence
- ❖ Increased sensitivity to sights and sounds, including hallucinations
- ❖ Altered activity levels, such as sleeping for 12-14 hours or frenzied activity lasting for hours
- ❖ Unpleasant or painful symptoms when the substance is withdrawn
- ❖ Preoccupation with running out of pills

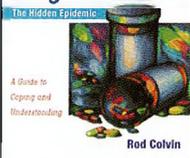
### CONCERNED ABOUT PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE?

Narcotics Anonymous  
(818) 700-9999  
[www.no.org](http://www.no.org)

[www.prescriptionabuse.org](http://www.prescriptionabuse.org)

[www.prescriptionanonymous.org](http://www.prescriptionanonymous.org)

### Prescription Drug Addiction

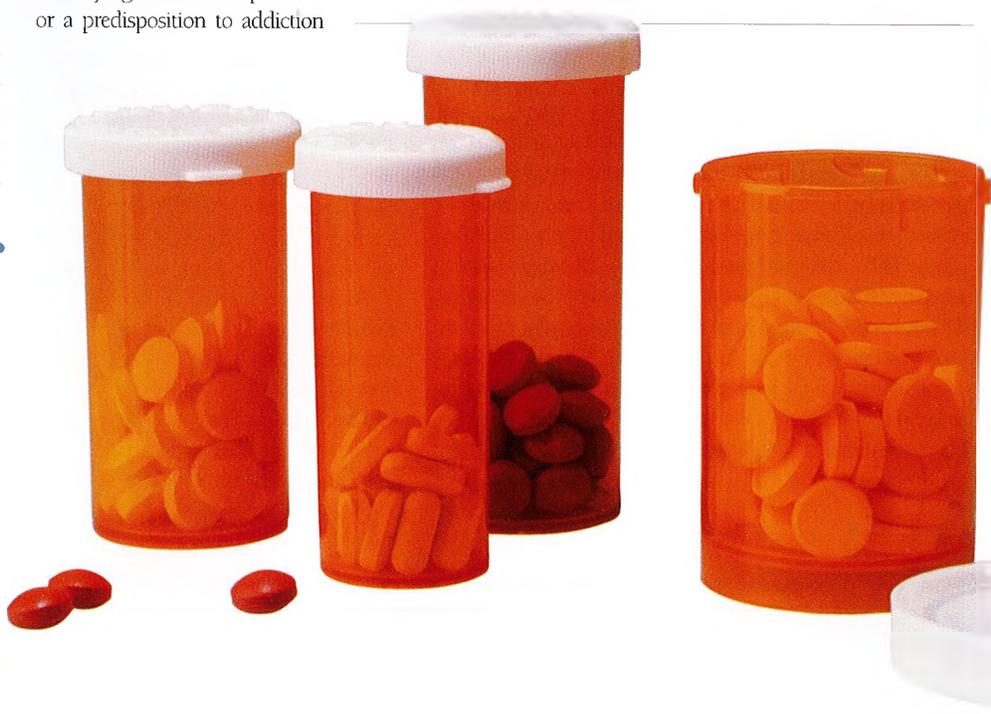


### RECOMMENDED READING

Millions of Americans are abusing prescription drugs. Rod Colvin has seen the problem personally; his brother died at age 35 as a result of a long-term addiction to prescription

drugs. Colvin, a former counselor, balances factual data with compelling anecdotes of recovery and the perspectives of addiction specialists.

Call 800-352-2873 or visit [www.addicusbooks.com](http://www.addicusbooks.com) for ordering information.



**Addiction to legal or illegal substances runs counter to God's expectations of our behavior and is a grievous sin before Him (Rom. 13:13; 1 Cor. 5:11). One who abuses drugs, including prescription drugs, is rebelling against God (Deut. 21:20). It is God's desire that we turn to Him for comfort and relief from that which plagues us instead of turning to dangerous chemicals (Matt. 6:25-34; John 14:16-18). We can be sure that whenever we are tempted He will provide a way for us to escape the temptation (1 Cor. 10:13). Only in Christ can we know true joy or find the strength to overcome difficulties in life (Matt. 19:26).**

gency rooms. After my brother died, we got bills from three or four hospitals that he had visited within the last month. And people forge prescriptions on pads they steal from doctors' offices. Amazingly, a majority of forged prescriptions are filled. Nearly all—eighty to ninety percent—of the drugs that are diverted come from legitimate sources—doctors' offices, hospitals, and pharmacies.

#### **There must be a fair number of doctors who knowingly write these unnecessary prescriptions.**

Actually, the American Medical Association believes that only about one percent of doctors are considered "script docs" who will write a prescription for anything for a price. But one percent of American doctors is five to seven thousand. Even one doctor can be responsible for the diversion of tens of thousands of pills, however, so one percent of the total can do a great deal of damage.

#### **Are many health professionals addicted themselves?**

It's believed that health professionals have a slightly higher rate of addiction because of the stressful nature of their work and their easy access to medication. I've been told that Demerol is a drug of choice among addicted hospital nurses. They give the patient an injection of saline solution, and they take the Demerol. The patients just assume the doctor is underestimating their pain. Many hospital nurses will tell you that they are aware of other nurses abusing prescription drugs.

#### **Are any demographic groups especially susceptible?**

Women are more susceptible primarily because they are more inclined than men to seek medical help. There simply are more women getting prescriptions.

Seniors are at risk because of their exposure to multiple drugs and because a slowing metabolism increases the time a drug stays in the body. People sixty-five and older make up thirteen percent of the U.S. population, but they take thirty percent of the prescription drugs. It is not unusual for an older patient to be taking ten to fifteen medications a year, many of them at the same time. And seniors often get prescriptions from multiple doctors who may not know that other drugs are being prescribed. This unintentional misuse can lead to addiction. Some conditions attributed to aging—confusion, slurred speech, and memory loss—are also side effects of prescription drug abuse.

However, a 1999 study showed the sharpest increases in the twelve to seventeen and eighteen to twenty-five age groups.

#### **What can a family member or friend do?**

- **Educate yourself about the nature of addiction.** Learn about the physical aspects of dependence and withdrawal and the emotional aspects of denial.
- **Accept that addiction affects everyone** in the addict's life. I used to think my brother was the one with the problem, not me. But the chaos affected all of us.
- **Examine your relationship with the addict** to determine if you are enabling his or her behavior by trying to minimize the consequences of drug use.
- **Find a support group.** You will benefit from the support and insight of others in similar situations.
- **Realize that addiction is a chronic disease** that gets worse over time. Family and friends too often believe the problem will get better. Work to get help for the addict now. Don't wait until a more serious health problem arises or the addict injures himself or others.

Remember, there is hope. ☉

#### **EDITOR'S NOTE:**

As this issue went to press, Noelle Bush, 24, daughter of Florida Governor Jeb Bush, was arrested for allegedly forging a prescription for the anti-anxiety drug Xanax, which can be addictive. Also, a Nashville hospital pharmacist was indicted for stealing at least \$150,000 in drugs with a street value of millions of dollars. Investigators said the pharmacist worked late and was able to falsify patient records to account for the missing medication.

## One Nation, Over-Medicated

BY TED G. STONE AND PHILIP D. BARBER

According to the 2000 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, nearly three million Americans used prescription medicines for non-medical reasons for the first time in 1999.

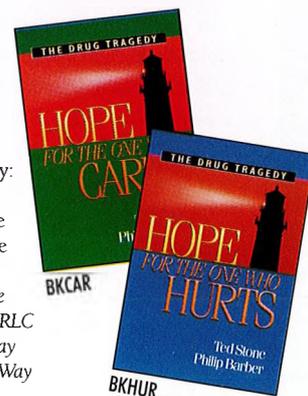
This should come as no surprise. We are inundated by television commercials and magazine ads full of happy, beautiful people touting the pharmaceutical industry's newest wonder drug. Unfortunately, many are looking for a "respectable" way to escape reality; they believe they have found a route to do so using alcohol or a host of powerful prescription drugs.

Most people benefit from the use of prescribed medications that provide cures for diseases, maintain healthy lifestyles, or allow temporary relief from pain. Yet there are those who are drawn to dependence on these potentially harmful chemical crutches without a medical reason. These people become common drug abusers, whether by personal choice or by the choice of those responsible for their welfare.

As long as we continue to promote the message to "feel good, no matter what the cost," we will continue to reap the harvest of our miscalculations. Tragically, this ready acceptance of dependence on prescription drugs sends our children a dangerous message that conflicts with society's call to "Just say no!"

Most Americans acknowledge the problems of alcohol abuse and the use of "street drugs"; let us now acknowledge and address the scourge that is prescription drug abuse.

Stone and Barber are speakers and writers on the subject of drug abuse. They are co-authors of *The Drug Tragedy: Hope for the One Who Hurts* and *The Drug Tragedy: Hope for the One Who Cares*. The books are available from the ERLC for \$8.95 each or may be purchased at LifeWay Christian Stores.



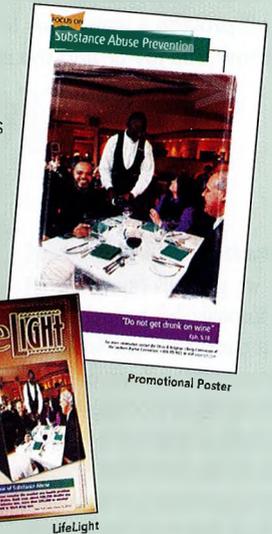
# Filled with the Spirit

While Paul sat in a Roman prison, the Holy Spirit led him to write to the churches in Asia Minor to instruct them in matters of faith and practice. Included in his instructions is the crucially important issue of substance abuse: "Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:18, KJM). These Christians could not afford the negative consequences of substance abuse for themselves, in their relationships with each other and the Lord, and before the unbelieving world. Paul instructed them to give themselves to the controlling power of the Holy Spirit instead of drunkenness. Through the Spirit's power, they could be assured of vibrant lives, a dynamic church, and a positive witness in the world. The same holds true today.

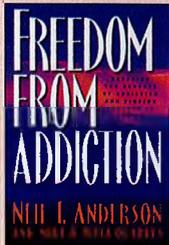
*Substance Abuse Prevention is the focus of the March edition of For Faith & Family's Champion Action Kit, which includes valuable resources that offer biblical insights on critical life issues. For more information on Champion Action Kits, see p. 7.*

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION CHAMPION ACTION KIT CONTENTS\*

- Bible study and sermon helps
- LifeLight handouts (qty: 100)
- Good News for the Chemically Dependent and Those Who Love Them (description at left)
- The Bible Speaks on Alcohol pamphlets (qty: 20)
- Substance Abuse Prevention Fact Sheets (qty: 10)
- Full-Color Promotional Posters (qty: 2)



ADKIT02 (monthly subscription) \$24.95



### Freedom from Addiction

This book offers hurting people tools to help them grasp the Truth that can set them free from the vicious cycle of addiction.

BKFRE (356 pages) \$16.99 ea.



### Good News for the Chemically Dependent AND THOSE WHO LOVE THEM

Author Jeff VanVonderen describes how people become dependent; steps to overcoming

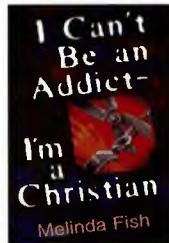
dependency; why total family wellness is essential to long-term recovery; and what friends, loved ones, and the church should (and shouldn't) do to help the dependent person.

BKGOO (226 pages) \$12.99 ea.

### I Can't Be an Addict—I'm a Christian

This book helps Christians identify the symptoms of addictive behavior and offers a biblical approach to overcoming many kinds of addictions.

BKICA (286 pages) \$6.99 ea.



## PAMPHLETS

### The Bible Speaks on Alcohol

This pamphlet examines the dangers of alcohol and drunkenness from a biblical perspective.

BSALCU \$3.80/20



### Critical Issues: A Case for Abstinence

This pamphlet takes a look at the negative effects of alcohol abuse and issues a challenge to churches to address the devastation left in its wake.

CIACAU \$6.50/20

### Children's Activity Sheet

Revised every year, this informative and fun activity sheet makes a wonderful educational tool to share with children when emphasizing Substance Abuse Prevention.

ADCHIU02 \$1.80/20

Amounts shown are suggested donations.

## ISSUES & ANSWERS PAMPHLET SERIES

### I&A: Alcohol

This pamphlet looks at the history of alcohol in our society and defines drinking as a physical and economic issue, offering practical advice for alcohol abuse education and rehabilitation.

IAALCU \$3.40/20

### I&A: Drug Abuse

This pamphlet offers statistics on drug abuse and addresses prevention and rehabilitation, suggesting practical ways Christians can make a difference.

IADRUU \$3.40/20

### I&A: Smoking

A look at the deadly effects of smoking, the American Cancer Society's steps to help smokers quit, and actions Christians can take to effect positive legislation.

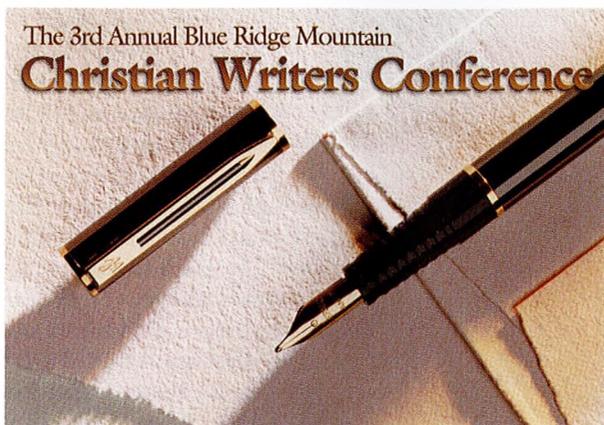
IASMOU \$3.40/20



*The epidemic of drug use that continues to plague our nation is symptomatic of a deeper crisis of the spirit and the soul. As believers, we are called to be salt and to do our best to stop the illicit traffic in, and use of, these terrible drugs. In obedience to our Savior's command to be light, we must proclaim the inherent meaning and purpose of every individual human life to answer the void and emptiness that have driven so many of our fellow Americans to seek, if not happiness, at least momentary pleasure or oblivion in substances—legal and illegal.*

*Richard D. Land*  
ERLC President Richard D. Land

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LifeWay Ridgecrest Conf. Ctr.

This highly-attended conference allows you to interact with editors, agents, professional writers and readers, and provides superb workshops and continuing classes to fine tune your skills in a wide array of creative categories.

The 2002 Christian Writer's Conference is set in the panoramic mountains at beautiful LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center—an absolutely perfect setting for reflection and inspirational renewal.

Don't miss this won-

derful opportunity to interact with some of the most respected names in the publishing industry. Invite a friend or fellow writer, and enjoy a week of growth, development, and spiritual renewal.

To register, call LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center at **1-800-588-7222**.



## ■ Marriage Impact 2002 Offers Exciting Blend of High Adventure and Meaningful Worship

May 24-26, 2002  
LifeWay Glorieta Conf. Ctr.

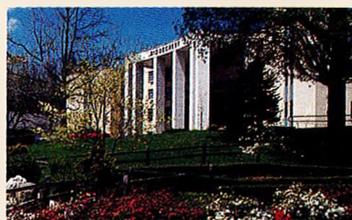
Whether you're into rappelling, rock climbing, kayaking, white-water rafting, horse-back riding, hiking or mountain biking, *Marriage Impact is where high adventure collides with meaningful worship and Bible teaching.*

Wrapped within the breathtaking beauty of the Sangre de Cristo mountains, LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center near Santa Fe, New Mexico, offers the ideal setting and backdrop for this action-packed yet spiritually rewarding event. *Marriage Impact* truly is a premier getaway adventure for married couples.

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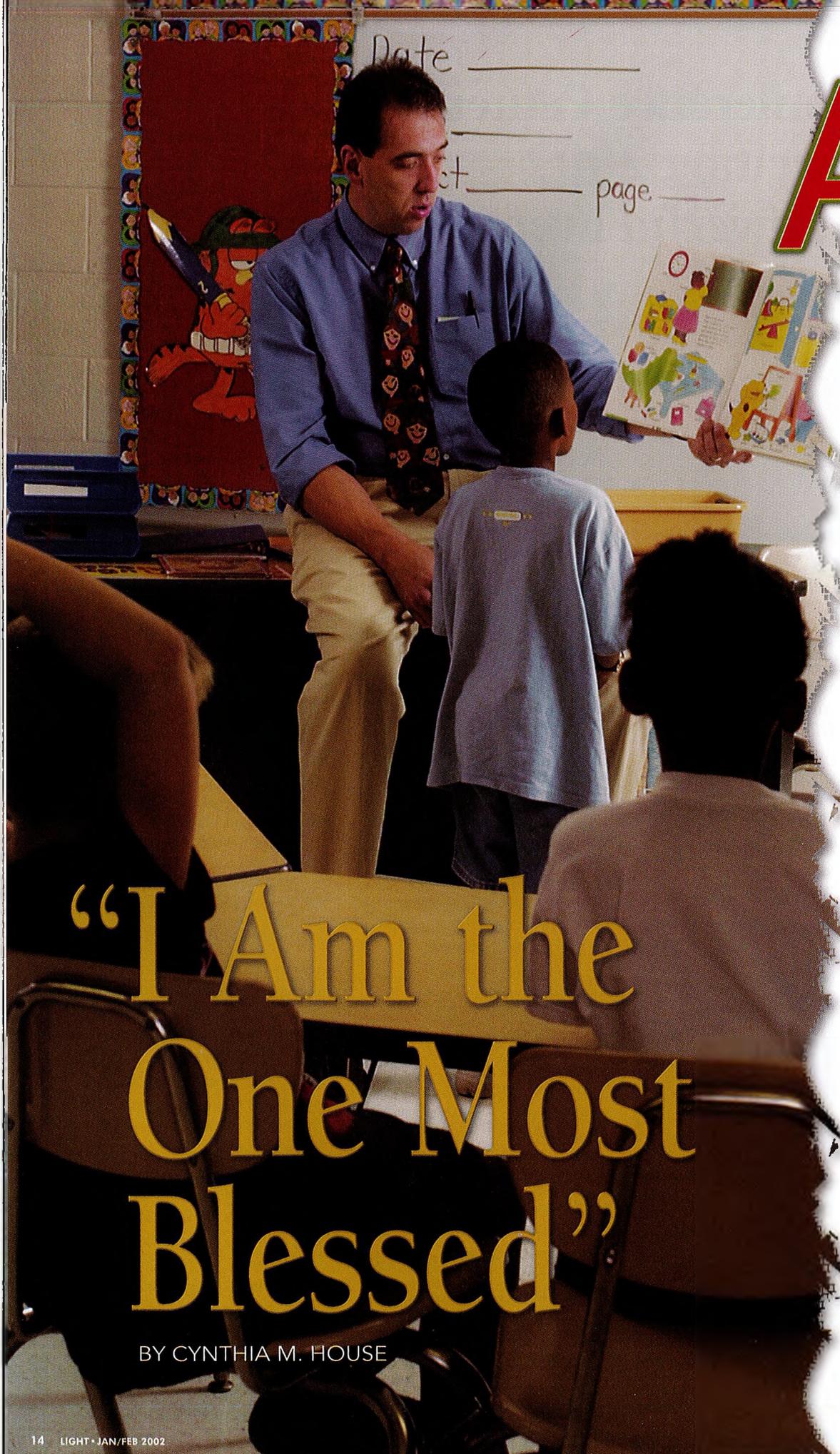
### Ridgecrest Reservations

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# A

s David Taft walked into his kindergarten classroom last fall, he began his seventeenth year of teaching in an inner-city public school. For David, too many children go to bed hungry and alone. They are not a priority for anyone. They do not feel safe, secure, and loved. While many feel one cannot resurrect what is put to death in the home, David Taft has made it his life's calling to touch and change the lives of these children.

Ephesians 4:1 requires one to "live a life worthy of the calling you have received," and David has never doubted that God called him to a lifelong vocation as a teacher and preacher (he serves as senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Hermitage, Tenn.). David explains, "In the end God will not say, 'Well done, thy good and faithful teacher or preacher,' but 'Well done, thy good and faithful servant.'" David truly sees himself as God's representative, a servant, in the classroom or pulpit—not a champion for the faith, but a servant for the faith who works to be worthy of the calling received.

A fourth generation teacher, David feels he owes a lot not only to his parents, but numerous other educators who instilled in him not only the desire to teach, but to teach children with many needs. To David, these needy children represent the Bible story about Rahab (Josh. 2), one of his favorites. "I love this woman because she represents to me where our society is as far as a Jericho," David explains. "There are parts of our society that think the walls are so thick we cannot reach that class of people. Rahab became one of God's children because someone said, 'When the walls fall down we will be there to pull you out; we're not there to watch you be destroyed.' And when I look at each of these children, I think, *You are my Rahab.*"

David is grateful for his parents and other dedicated teachers and adults whom God allowed to cross

# "I Am the One Most Blessed"

BY CYNTHIA M. HOUSE

his path, and for his wife, Lynn, who is an encouragement and help in his ministries. He sees unconditional support from his children, Emily and Eric, and his congregation. David simply desires to touch lives the way his has been touched.

One of the biggest challenges David faces, even in kindergarten, is the loss of innocence, the erasure of childhood. Many children are exposed to situations unimaginable to most. There are homeless students whose address may be an abandoned car under a bridge, those who have seen a family member shot, or those who were sent to the bus stop barefoot and in pajamas because their mother brought home a boyfriend and wanted the children out of the house.

This lack of a firmly established family is another challenge David faces. Seldom does ten percent of a given class live with both biological parents. Many of the children are raised by second generation family members such as grandmothers, who may be raising the child, siblings, cousins, and others.

Because of these challenges, David sees his role in the classroom as one of not only teacher, but parent. David observes, "Paul often called Timothy 'my son,' but we know Timothy wasn't his son, but his student." So, from the moment the children touch the school property until they are released in the afternoon, David views each child as his responsibility. Daily he asks God to help him see each student as "my child, as close to me as my own precious children."

To do his job well, David has several hurdles to overcome. In the late 1960s a book came out lamenting that Johnny couldn't read, and people became aware that many students were graduating from high school lacking

basic skills. David sees a bigger obstacle: Johnny can't behave. He says, "I've seen people who can read but can't behave, and they lose their jobs and support for their family. And I know people who can't read a word, but they work and provide for their families because they know how to get along in a group and take instructions from a boss."

So David spends much classroom time on values, character, and life skills. Sometimes his prayers are not just for wisdom and patience, but are as simple as *Please don't let Jane get upset because she doesn't have ice cream money*. Many of the children David teaches have no idea how to handle conflict. Many have learned from experience to resort to hitting, and this is a constant classroom issue. He continually must teach that there are some absolutes in life, such as not hitting others, and that there are rules for a reason.

David feels that his faith is the only thing that sustains him through many days. Through fights, rude behavior, vulgar words, and disrespect, his faith is what keeps him going. He quotes 1 Corinthians 1:27-29: "But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him." This Scripture is one of David's favorites and is one of the main reasons he teaches.

David is the first to tell you that he is not intellectual or gifted, but in fact he's "the most backward teacher you will ever meet." The assurance and ability he possesses come as he steps into a classroom and, with faith in God, knows that his students will see God in him, God teach-

ing them, and God disciplining them, only using David Taft as His instrument. David remarks that "on my own ability I have no ability, but God has plenty."

David knows that prayer is essential to his teaching. "I've always prayed for my students, and I've never seen it hurt them. I've never seen a child not benefit from prayer, care, love, and people that demonstrate Jesus." While parents have complained

And David uses every opportunity to teach. He explains to the students, "Yes, Mr. Taft carries a Bible in his pocket. Yes, Mr. Taft uses his 'moment of silence' to pray to God," and that is his constitutional right. He tells the children that they might not choose to use that right; but he does, and it cannot be taken from him.

Jesus died on the cross for David Taft, and David sees his

*Cynthia M. House is a freelance writer who lives in Nashville, Tenn., with her husband, David, and children, Megan, Kristin, and Nathan.*



**David Taft has a gift for communicating with children, and his ability to play the guitar makes him a favorite in the classroom and on the playground. "Music gets their attention," he says. "It makes everyone want to join in and be a part of the group. Songs can teach any concept—language, math, even history. We also sing songs about standing in line and following directions, and inserting a child's name in a song is a great way to recognize good behavior. One of my favorites is the song 'Oh, What a Miracle Am I.' Every child needs to hear that."**

about many things, in seventeen years no parent has asked David not to pray for their child.

Time and time again, David has seen the power of prayer in the schools: principals praying for teachers and encouraging them through the Scriptures, teachers praying for teachers, and all of them praying for the students they teach.

teaching and preaching as his opportunity to give back. His driving motivation is to "live a life worthy of the calling" he received. He ministers daily to those in his church, and the children he teaches never leave his mind. David Taft balances family, preaching, and teaching, and still says, "I am the one most blessed." ☪

## Building a Foundation for Life

## Crayons and Neighbors

BY DWAYNE HASTINGS

When I was a little boy my family lived where a large, white cement block wall separated our neighborhood from a small community nearby. The people who lived there had darker skin than mine. They had their own school and baseball fields. I can't remember even wondering why they were on their side of the wall and we were on the other side.

There were other people who didn't live in my neighborhood either. They spoke a different language, and I couldn't understand them. Once a week we would watch a television show in our classroom, and a nice lady on the program would talk in that language I couldn't understand. Our teacher wanted us to learn Spanish. I barely remember learning to say some things in that language like, *adios* (goodbye) and *¿Cómo se llama usted?* (What's your name?).

When I was little all of the people in my school had skin just like mine—it matched the crayon called "flesh" in the big box of colors. And when that crayon was missing I could use the pink crayon to color in arms and legs and faces if I didn't press down too hard. Along with my schoolmates, I used the brown crayon to color tree trunks and the black crayon to color heavy clouds in a rainy sky.

As I got older, boys and girls whose skin was a different color than mine were going to school with me and working next to me when I got my first part-time job. I found out they were just like me. They had moms and dads and brothers and sisters. They didn't like homework, and they liked playing baseball and going to movies, just like me.

I am glad that now in most schools in our country there are children drawing their faces and arms and legs using many different crayons from that big box of 64 colors.



Whatever the color of your skin, you are special because God made you. God is sad when people are not nice to other people because of their skin color or the way they talk.

Jesus tells in the Bible that we are to love our neighbor as ourselves (Matt. 22:37-40). Your neighbor is more than the person who lives next door. Your neighbor is in your classroom, on your baseball team, and in the grocery store. Your neighbor is everyone you see around you, even if that person doesn't look or talk like you.

If we don't love and care for our neighbors, the Bible tells us we are not loving God the way He wants us to love Him. Red, yellow, black, and white—all of us are precious in His sight!

**Bible truth:** If we truly love God, we will love others.

**Bible verse:** 1 John 3:10

## RECOMMENDED READING

**The Legend of the Valentine**

Marcus is a nine-year-old boy living in Alabama during the height of the Civil Rights Movement.

His daddy is in jail even though he didn't do anything wrong. And Marcus is having problems of his own—some of the kids in school are mean to him because his skin is a different color. As Valentine's Day approaches, Marcus doesn't want to make cards for the people who are hurting him, and he's faced with the difficult question of forgiving his enemies. His granny tells him about the first Valentine—not a card, but a person.

This wonderful, character-building story weaves together the faith and bravery of a third-century Christian with the courage of a young boy to follow Jesus' command to love our enemies. Children will gain a new appreciation for Valentine's Day and learn what it means to express true love. Zondervan, ISBN 0-310-70039-6



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