

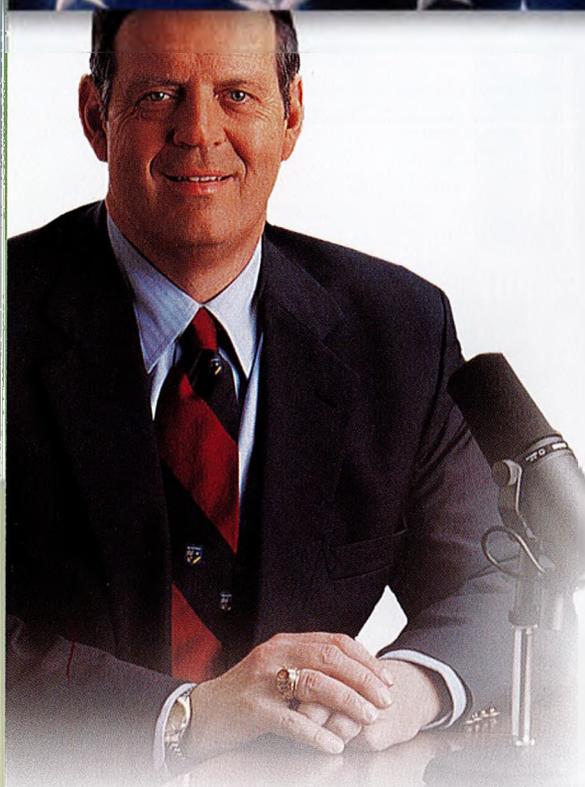
The Magazine
Light

For Faith & Family

**Family
Prime
Time**

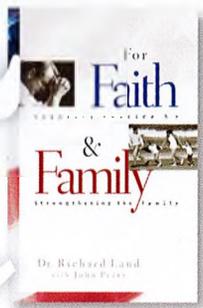
With so many demands on their time, today's families often struggle to remain connected.

Taking inventory of your family's media consumption can help preserve precious moments and ensure that *all* time together is "quality time."



Making a Case for Faith & Family*

BY RICHARD D. LAND



The institution of the family has served for all of history as the bedrock of society. The marriage of one man and one woman is the fount out of which flow the critical values that sustain and benefit societies. As Linda J. Waite and Maggie

will suffer in very specific ways. If the church is undermined, people will have a reduced opportunity to hear the counsel of God. If civil government is undermined, people are not protected from predatory evil.

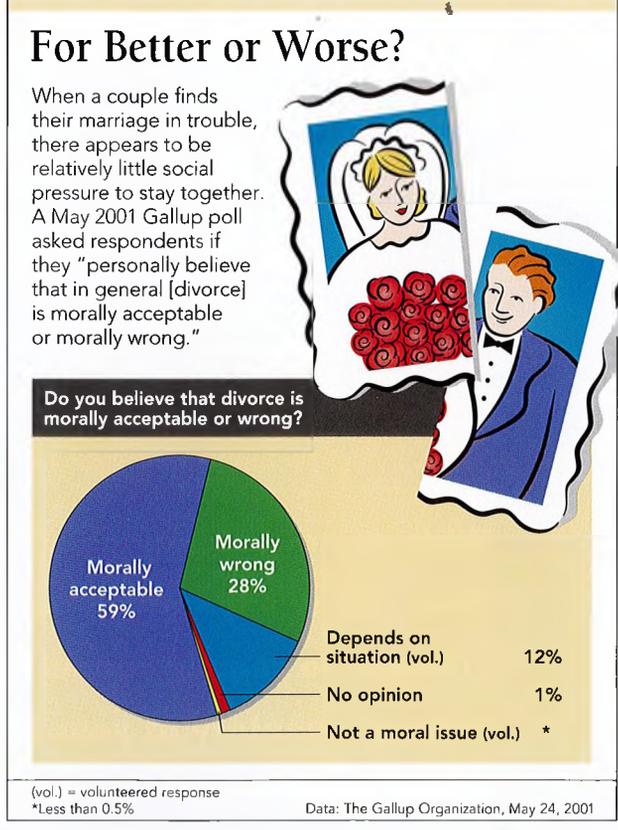
If the institution of marriage is undermined, families suffer; and the weakest and most defenseless among us—the children—suffer the most grievously. If any one of these three institutions seeks to dominate the legitimate

Gallagher write in *The Case for Marriage*, "There is incontrovertible sociological evidence that proves that when marriages fail, families are weakened; and when families are weakened, society as a whole feels the impact." It was not happenstance that the first institution established by God was marriage.

God has ordained three institutions in human society to enable individuals to fulfill their God-given purposes: the family, the church, and civil government. Each of these institutions is indispensable and makes certain uniquely valuable contributions to society. If any of these institutions are impaired, society



WHY ANOTHER BOOK ON FAITH AND FAMILY?
 Hundreds of books have poured forth from Christian publishers in the past few years as Christians have confronted, and experienced, the devastating impact of the disintegration of ever-growing numbers of American families. America is facing the deepest moral and spiritual crisis in her history. And the only sufficient cure for her potentially terminal illness is found in the Christian faith, what that faith has to say about the divinely ordained institution of the family, and what converts to that faith are empowered by God to do in and through their families.



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.

* Adapted from Richard Land's forthcoming book, For Faith & Family (Broadman & Holman, June 2002), which is available from the ERLC for \$22.99. Call 800-475-9127 to order.

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.

sphere of another or surrenders its proper sphere of influence, society's very foundations are imperiled.

The family is a critically important institution, for it is within the family that children learn the vital attributes of compassion and mercy—essential elements that compel us to care for the weak in society. Family members learn how to cooperate with each other, an essential social trait that enables individuals to combine their energies to accomplish great things for God. They learn the value of making and keeping commitments to others, two intertwined and indispensable characteristics that assure unity and success in our God-given purposes. Most important, in families individuals learn to sacrifice for the needs of others, the linchpin of healthy human relationships and a strong society. A family established upon the marriage between a man and woman

provides for the cultivation of these characteristics in ways that other relationships do not. Sadly, many marriages today fail to develop and model these characteristics. By their very nature, broken marriages and counterfeit alternative relationships such as cohabitation and same-sex unions fail to impact, bless, and benefit society in the manifold ways that intact, committed, heterosexual marriages do.

While heterosexual marriage is the primary source of society's core values, this critically important institution is under severe assault today. Divorce, domestic violence, premarital sex, pornography, substance abuse, negligence in fulfilling family responsibilities, and a myriad of other failings occur too often in marriages. Such failings occur with equal frequency among churchgoers and non-churchgoers. Consequently, the very foundation of society is threatened. For without the purest

forms of compassion, mercy, cooperation, commitment, and sacrifice flowing out of strong heterosexual marriages, there is little hope for the endurance and expansion of a just and civil society.

Given this bleak prospect, it is imperative that every Christian recognize his or her divine importance in God's grand design for humanity and make a renewed commitment to build strong families, strengthen weak ones, and restore broken ones. On the heels of its primary responsibility to reach the entire world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the church's next most critical contribution is to lay the foundation for the building of strong families. If we fail in this responsibility, families and society itself will continue to suffer. May God equip and empower us by His Holy Spirit to be instruments that encourage rock-solid families built on the Lord Jesus Christ. 

With increasing opportunities to impact the culture, the ERLC has adopted the above statements to provide a filter for determining if all we are doing is directed toward a biblically-based transformation of our nation.

Our vision presupposes a spiritual awakening in America. Yet we know this cannot happen without a preparatory revival (2 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 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



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THE FAITH & FAMILY



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Christians Share Talents in Entertainment Industry

Jimmy Neutron Animator Says Creativity Brings Glory to God

"If anyone has a reason to be artistic, to be creative, it is a Christian," claims Kirby Atkins, a 1991 graduate of Union University in Jackson, Tennessee.



Courtesy of Paramount Pictures and Viacom International Inc.

His talent as a computer animator was formally recognized by the industry in 1999, when he won the Hollywood Film Festival award for Best Animated Short for the six-minute *Mutt*, in which a fledgling canine comedian, Jerry Mutt, makes his debut at The Dogpound, a canine comedy club.

Atkins's extraordinary ability is currently on display in the movie, *Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius*. He describes his character animation work as "high-tech puppetry. I work with a 3-D computer to make a character walk, talk, blink,

say its lines—whatever it needs to do."

He sees his work in the secular entertainment industry as a broad ministry field. "Jesus is the center of my existence," he says. "The whole meaning of my life is derived from that, and I want that to come out however and whenever I express myself."

Atkins, who is also a screenwriter, is a great admirer of C. S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien, both of whom "knew how to tell a good story and smuggled their theology in through the back door," he noted. "Tolkien referred to human creativity as 'the joy of sub-creation,' which is basically mimicking God's creative endeavor. He called it the highest form of worship. Christians need to learn the joy of creating again because it brings glory to God." 

What's the Big Idea?

America's Favorite Vegetables Enter Motion Picture Arena in *Jonah*

Bob the Tomato and Larry the Cucumber have reached back into the Old Testament and fashioned the epic story of Jonah into the first VeggieTales feature film, slated for a fall 2002 release. Joining them in this animated movie will be Archibald Asparagus and the Pirates Who Don't Do Anything.

"For Big Idea's very first feature film, we picked one of the best known Bible stories, about a guy who knew what God wanted him to do, did the exact opposite, and ended up in one of the stickiest situations ever—the belly

of a whale!" said Big Idea Productions founder and creator Phil Vischer.

The writers at Big Idea, a family media company dedicated to turning vegetables into cultural icons who teach timeless biblical lessons and values, held tight to the Bible's core storyline in *Jonah—a VeggieTales Movie* but take creative license when it comes to some of the details of the adventures of the man God sent to Nineveh.

"At Big Idea, we want to infuse the culture with family entertainment that's fun and good," Vischer continued.

"We've always wanted to make movies—not just half-hour videos, but real movies with ticket takers, concession stands... and yes, sticky floors!"

Vischer founded Big Idea in 1993 while making movies with animated characters on the computer in his spare bedroom. From sales of 500 videos in 1993 to more than 25 million sold since, Big Idea Productions has debunked the notion that the market will ignore products grounded in Judeo-Christian values. 



FRESH FISH. MIXED VEGETABLES.



More information on the film is available at www.jonahmovie.com.

Living on the Horizon

Christians bring heaven to earth, says Steve Amerson, and their absence from the arts creates a vacuum.

The Magazine: You could live almost anywhere in the U.S., but you and your wife decided years ago to raise your family in Southern California—a place many folks consider a spiritual wasteland.

Steve Amerson: Some people think the continent was tipped and that everything loose rolled to the west. Yet California is a wonderful place to be, and many Christians and Christian ministries make their homes there. To some degree, however, my wife, Christine, and I feel that we are urban missionaries.

Spiritually speaking, Los Angeles is not that different than any other place. I attended a luncheon where one of my friends in the music community was honored, and I saw one of the other honorees, a well-known young record producer. As I congratulated him on his award, I noticed that he was wearing a very ornate cross. I asked him, "By the way, what does the cross mean?" He replied, "Oh, it doesn't mean anything. It's just an antique."

Some would say, "Well, that's Los Angeles for you." But no, that's Dallas, that's Atlanta, that's Denver, that's Chicago, that's our world. The cross has lost its significance for many people. It's just a piece of jewelry or, for some, an antique. We want to believe that we are representing Christ in the Los Angeles area.

The Magazine: Your newest release is *The Cross in the Road*.

Steve: The title song, "The Cross in the Road," is a reminder that every day we come to intersections in our lives where

In Hollywood, Steve Amerson is a sought-after studio singer whose voice can be heard on the soundtracks of numerous major motion pictures, television shows, and commercials. Yet he is also well known for his strong Christian faith that is reflected in his twelve inspirational recordings. We were fortunate to catch up with Steve in our For Faith & Family studio during his recent visit to Nashville.

we have to decide, *Which direction will I turn?* My prayer is that people would consciously make God-honoring decisions when they come to *The Cross in the Road*.

The Magazine: In addition to your Christian recordings and concert ministry, you have a busy career as a studio singer in Hollywood.

Steve: People have heard my voice on movies and television shows and commercials. A lot of times it's just singing in the chorus of a film or a commercial. I have sung in over 100 feature films including *Home Alone 1 and 2*, *Sister Act*, *The Patriot*, *Glory*, *Hunt for Red October*, *Empire of the Sun*, *AI*, *John Q*, and a lot of animated features for kids. God has given me a skill, and I try to use it for His glory. Along with other fellow believers who are in Hollywood, Christine and I know in our hearts we are supposed to be there, infiltrating that territory.

The Magazine: You released a recording in 1997, *Living at the Horizon*. That's an interesting title.

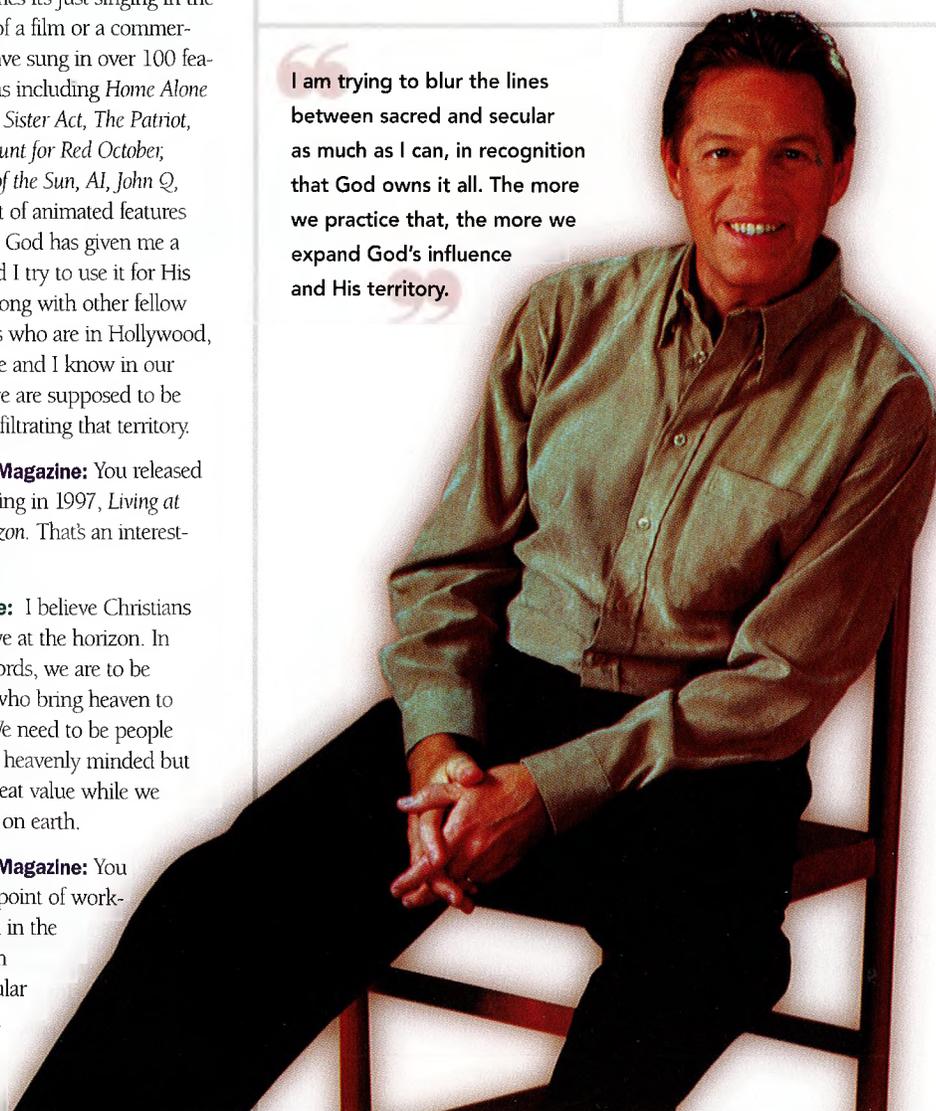
Steve: I believe Christians are to live at the horizon. In other words, we are to be people who bring heaven to earth. We need to be people who are heavenly minded but are of great value while we are here on earth.

The Magazine: You make a point of working both in the Christian and secular markets.

Steve: God needs people in all areas. We have seen people with attitudes antagonistic to the Christian faith overtake certain areas of the arts because Christians have retreated and left a vacuum. Unfortunately, the church sometimes has a very narrow definition of what is appropriate artistic expression. As an example, I believe that graphic arts, painting and drawing, is an area where God really needs people to go and take over.

Artists in any genre need to learn their craft extremely well and be grounded in the Word. From a musical standpoint, it's important that I am grounded not only for the Christian or "sacred" music that I sing, but also so I can understand that which is "secular." I am trying to blur the lines between sacred and secular as much as I can, in recognition that God owns it all. The more we practice that, the more we expand God's influence and His territory. 🙏

I am trying to blur the lines between sacred and secular as much as I can, in recognition that God owns it all. The more we practice that, the more we expand God's influence and His territory.



Walking as Children of Light

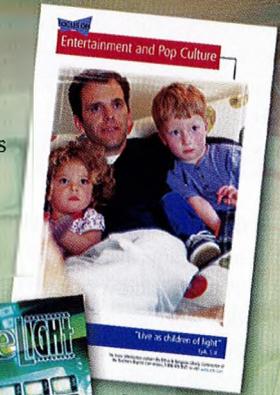
Often, it is easier for Christians to believe what is right than to do what is right. In Ephesians 5:8, Paul encourages Christians to live a life of separation from the world's practices. In his letter to the Christians in Ephesus, he describes a number of these contrary ways (5:3-4), and then he puts the issue into perspective by reminding these Christians that this kind of behavior is part of the sinful lifestyle of the world (5:8). They are now children of light, and they ought to participate in those things that are appropriate for children of light.

Today, our families are constantly bombarded by the culture's values through music, print media, television, and the Internet. The ERLC offers these products to help Christians find biblical solutions as they strive to raise godly families and live as "children of light."

The May edition of For Faith & Family's Champion Action Kit featured at right focuses on Entertainment and Pop Culture.

ENTERTAINMENT AND POP CULTURE CHAMPION ACTION KIT CONTENTS*

- Bible study and sermon helps
- LifeLight handouts (qty: 100)
- *Death by Entertainment* by Holly McClure (see description at left)
- Entertainment and Pop Culture Fact Sheets (qty: 10)
- Full-Color Promotional Posters (qty: 2)



Promotional Poster PCPOS02



LifeLight PCBULK02

PCKIT02 (monthly subscription) \$24.95



Champion Action Kit PREMIUM

Death by Entertainment

Our greatest battlefield today is for the minds and hearts of our children. Holly McClure—talk show host, film critic, and mother of three—opens parents' eyes to the

dark side of the entertainment industry, which has become our national pulpit, teaching its own culturally relative morality.

McClure shows readers how to get actively involved in making wise entertainment choices for themselves and their families and how to empower children and teens to handle the influences of the media with discernment.

BKDTH (272 pages)

\$12.99 ea.

Kids Who Kill

Kids Who Kill goes beyond instant analyses to examine the real causes of the alarming increase in juvenile violence in America.

In light of the 1998 shooting at an Arkansas middle school, Gov. Mike Huckabee shows us why legislation is not the answer. Our hope lies instead in reviving America's basic values: faith, family, work, and community.



BKKIL (180 pages)

\$6.00 ea.

21 Days to Better Family Entertainment

Bob DeMoss gives you the tools to choose better television viewing and equip your children for a lifetime of interacting with music, movies, the Internet, magazines, computer games, and the news. In three weeks, you and your family can exchange passive media consumption for smart, safe choices in entertainment.

BKTWE (139 pages)

\$3.50 ea.



Reclaiming Your Family

Even well meaning families get caught up in the whirlwind: runaway schedules, non-stop television, stressed parents and children, nightly fast food. In an informal but no-nonsense style, Robert and Debra Bruce show parents how to replace a hectic lifestyle with a healthy, God-honoring one.

BKREC (257 pages)

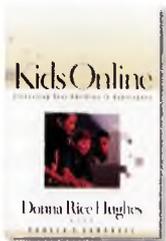
\$6.00 ea.

Kids Online

Gaining Internet skills gives today's kids a real advantage throughout their lives. But one small typing error can open the door to pornography and expose them to online predators. *Kids Online* offers parents simple steps for keeping children safe while allowing them the many benefits offered on the Internet. It's what parents need to know but may not know enough to ask.

BKKID (269 pages)

\$10.39 ea.

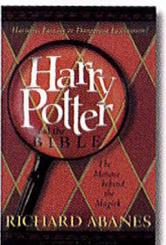


Harry Potter and the Bible

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)

\$9.59 ea.

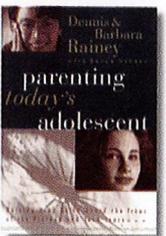


Parenting Today's Adolescent

Today's adolescents need parents who understand the challenges they face in the world. Dennis and Barbara Rainey draw from their experiences as parents and teachers to present strategies you can use to guide your child to a God-honoring adulthood. They outline a practical, Bible-based approach to raising children that has worked for thousands of families, including their own. They address issues such as peer pressure, clothes, dating, music and movie choices, jobs, spiritual growth, alcohol, drugs, smoking, grades, sports, driving and more.

BKPAR (361 pages)

\$15.99 ea.



Amounts shown are suggested donations.

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

The New Family Hour

BY DWAYNE HASTINGS

Bob DeMoss is an insightful commentator on culture and the entertainment industry. A frequent guest on For Faith & Family Radio with Dr. Richard Land, Bob stressed on a recent program that most of the time the only “winners” when we watch television are “the cash-hungry corporate sponsors and the equally greedy network executives who pollute the public airwaves by putting profits ahead of social responsibility.” He reminds us that we have the power to short-circuit that process; it’s called unplugging the TV.

We could say the entertainment industry gained a foothold in our lives and homes with the invention of the transistor radio and aluminum foil-adorned rabbit ears for our TVs.

Bob DeMoss says technology quickly provided a way for the industry to establish itself as a primary information source. And over time, we have allowed the television, instead of the family, to us teach us our values.

Noting that the family, church, and school have traditionally been society’s three centers of learning, DeMoss says there is now a fourth: “It is what I call ‘edutainment’—education through pop culture. Many people are more interested in what is going on in television or films than anything else.

“Pop culture is the heartbeat of the nation,” DeMoss continues. “It’s what young people are plugged into.” In the late 1960s, marketers decided that children were an “exploitable economic base” and began to develop pro-

gramming and advertising that targeted them, DeMoss says.

“Many adults feel like Rip Van Winkle. They’re not aware of how much the entertainment culture has changed,” he says, noting that sex is used to sell products and attract viewers to morally bereft programming. “We entertain ourselves with the very things, like displays of homosexuality and rampant promiscuity, that in public we so vocally protest against.”

Entertainment industry executives believe programming is better than ever, he says, explaining these same executives are convinced that stretching the limits of what is socially acceptable makes good television—whether it is profanity, nudity, or blatant sexual behavior.

“We don’t realize what a powerful impact television has on our lives,” DeMoss says. He has challenged families to turn off the television and see what happens. He guarantees positive results for families who can

“box up their remote controls and unwrap their self-control” for a 30-day family experiment.

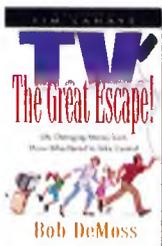
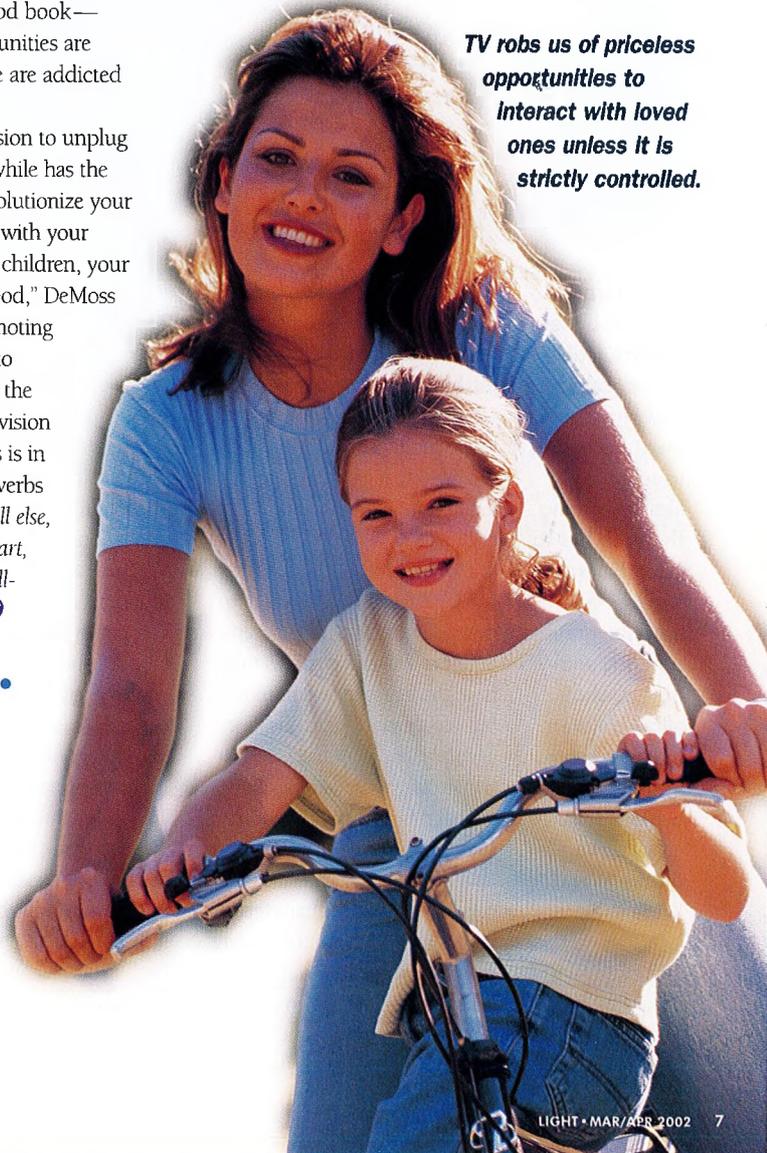
“Our excessive indulgence with television robs us of precious time that cannot be replaced,” DeMoss says. “A conversation with a child who is struggling with homework, a phone call to someone in need, reading a good book—these opportunities are lost when we are addicted to television.

“The decision to unplug the TV for awhile has the power to revolutionize your relationships with your spouse, your children, your world, and God,” DeMoss emphasizes, noting the decision to acknowledge the power of television over our lives is in line with Proverbs 4:23: *Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the well-spring of life.* ①

The amount of time people spend watching television is astonishing. On average, individuals in the industrialized world devote three hours a day to the pursuit—fully half their leisure time, and more than on any single activity save work and sleep. At this rate, someone who lives to 75 would spend nine years in front of the tube.

Scientific American, February 2, 2002

TV robs us of priceless opportunities to interact with loved ones unless it is strictly controlled.

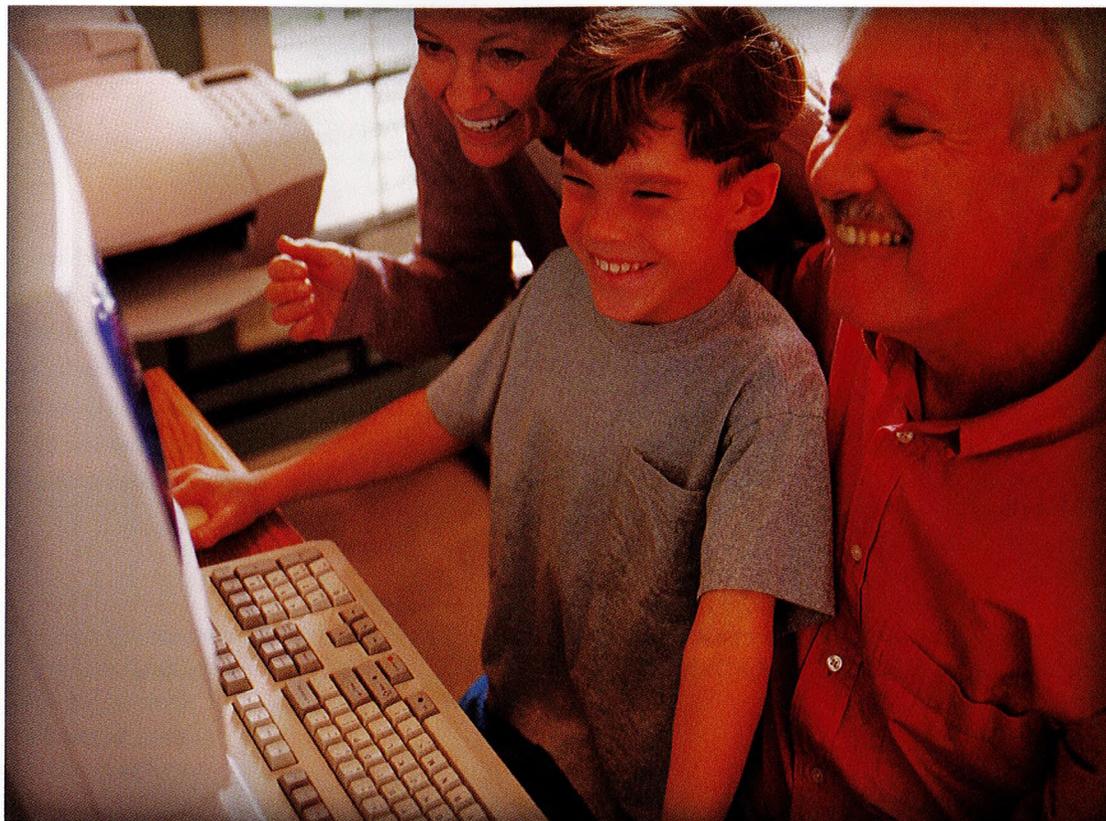


TV: The Great Escape!

Many of us reluctantly admit that we don’t know what we’d do without television. In *TV: The Great Escape!* Bob DeMoss describes the possibilities. Combining humor, time-tested advice from 18 years studying the medium, and feedback from more than 50 families who agreed to turn off their TVs for a month, he gives hope for regaining control over the television in your home. DeMoss doesn’t call for a permanent boycott; instead, he invites your family to find a balance in your viewing and rediscover the riches real life has to offer. Crossway Books, ISBN 1-58134-242-X

To Filter or Not to Filter?

BY BRUCE WATSON



The Internet offers countless opportunities for education and entertainment. However, users may not like everything the Web has to offer. Filtering services give parents, grandparents, and others who allow children Internet access in their homes options for safer surfing on the World Wide Web.

Most parents have heard startling—and true—stories of what children can encounter on the Internet, like the eight-year-old boy whose on-line research for a school project on “famous men” led to a gay porn site that left him more than a little traumatized.

Porn merchants are less than model citizens, and they aim to deceive. Sometimes the deceptions are look-alike names that have the first part in common but use different domains. For example, the legitimate site of a particular government agency is followed by [.gov](#) while a porn site uses the same name followed by [.com](#). Others are copyright abuse of character names for which children might search. One porn site not only used Nintendo’s “Pokemon” name; it “mouse-trapped” its visitors, creating an endless loop

so that the only way to escape its hard-core images was to turn off the computer. Pornographers also adopt high-traffic sites whose address registrations have expired. Visitors to one popular children’s resource site were shocked to find it had turned into a porn site overnight.

These are not isolated instances. A study by the University of New Hampshire found that one in four on-line youths aged 10 to 17 had experienced an unwanted encounter with pornography in the previous twelve months. The same study also found that 19 percent of youth who used the Internet regularly were the targets of unwanted sexual solicitation in the previous twelve months, usually through chat rooms.

Let’s not forget that young people have a perfectly normal

curiosity about sexual matters, and this generation of computer-savvy youth is accustomed to searching the Internet for any type of information. Unfortunately, the distorted lens of Internet pornography offers very destructive sexual role models.

Of course, such curiosity is not restricted to hormonally-supercharged teenagers: the *New York Times* reported that one in four regular Internet users visits a sex site at least once a month—that’s 21 million Americans. And, lest anyone feel complacent, a survey by *Leadership Journal* found that more than one-third of on-line pastors had visited a porn site within the last year.

So what is a family to do? Is filtering the “silver bullet” to solve Internet problems? Certainly there will always be filtering errors—overblocks

or underblocks—so parents using filters should neither expect perfection nor be lulled into a false sense of security. However, many parents attest that filters substantially reduce the scope of the problem.

Where to start?

If you are thinking about filtering, the first step is to understand the choices. Selecting the best option for your family will depend on a number of factors, especially the ages of the children and the computer skills of the parents.

The first distinction to be made is between parental controls and filters. The parental controls offered by some larger ISPs (Internet Service Providers) are helpful with broad-brush issues, such as preventing access to chat rooms, but they do not screen out individual porn sites to the extent of an actual filter.

The next distinction is between “white lists” and filters. A filter endeavors to provide its user with access to the entire Internet *except* sites that meet certain criteria, such as pornography or hate speech. A white list provides access *only* to selected, pre-approved sites. White lists are primarily designed for younger children, allowing them to play in the shallow end of the Internet pool in relative safety (other than the inevitable child-focused advertising). Examples of white lists include ChiBrow and Children’s Internet. Soon children will want wider Internet access, however, and the next step is a filtering system.

There are many decisions to be made in selecting a filter, such as what to filter—porn? hate speech? bomb-making information? But the most basic choice is whether to select a

A study by the University of New Hampshire found that one in four on-line youths aged 10 to 17 had experienced an unwanted encounter with pornography in the previous twelve months. The same study also found that 19 percent of youth who used the Internet regularly were the targets of unwanted sexual solicitation in the previous twelve months, usually through chat rooms.

shrink-wrapped (or downloaded) product that you install on your own computer, or whether to opt for a filtered Internet Service Provider.

The self-installed products are ideal for the Internet-savvy parent wanting a high degree of customization. Examples include CyberSitter, CyberPatrol, and Norton Internet Security Family Edition. The better products in this category have twenty or more exclusion categories (differentiating, for example, between sex, sex education, nudity, porn, etc.), so that parents can define exactly what they want to filter. Conversely, they are typically more labor-intensive and require a higher level of computer skill.

The filtered Internet Service Providers, or "clean ISPs," offer one-stop shopping, with the filtering done at the server end (that is, on their computer). Examples include Integrity Online, FamilyClick, and LifeWayOnline. Server-end filtering is, by definition, more difficult for a computer-savvy child to override or circumvent. Set-up also tends to be easier, although the trade-off is a slower response time to correct underblocks and overblocks because the user has to notify the ISP, who then reviews and decides whether to block or unblock.

For a reduced fee, many of these "clean ISPs" offer the alternative of using their remote-filtering service as an add-on to your existing ISP, for example, having AOL as your ISP with on-line filtering from FamilyClick.

A further alternative—neither white list nor filter—is monitoring software that places no restrictions what-

soever on what can be accessed, but maintains a tamper-proof log of sites visited. Examples include Spector and Cyber Snoop, with Content Watch acting as both filter and monitoring software. Many businesses are choosing the monitoring route, which is also an alternative for the computer-skilled parent with older children.

Once you understand the alternatives, where do you go for information to compare individual products? Some of the best information

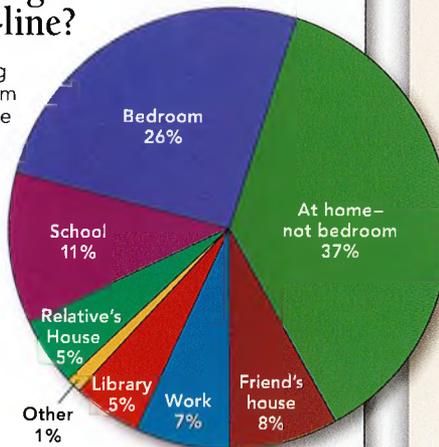
What's next?

So you have reviewed the alternatives, made your selection, and have a filter system in place. Can you sit back and relax?

Definitely not! The Internet is never a baby-sitter. You should stay in touch with your children's Internet use the same way you stay in touch with who their friends are. Filters also do not eliminate the need for other common-sense steps, such as placing any computer with Internet access in an open

Where Do Young People Go On-line?

Most Internet use among young people occurs from the home. Among on-line youth, 63% go on-line most often from their home, including 26% who do so most often from their bedrooms. About one in ten (11%) say the place they go on-line most often is their school, while 8% say it's at a friend's house, 7% from work, 5% from their local library, and 5% from a relative's house.



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation

can be found on-line. For example, there are two excellent comparison resources, www.filterreview.com, a web site of the National Coalition for the Protection of Children and Families, and GetNetWise at www.getnetwise.com, which has information on 130 different parental control tools.

part of the house instead of a room with too much privacy.

What filters do very well, however, is improve the odds by substantially reducing the probability of accessing inappropriate content and give parents support in maintaining a degree of media discernment in the home.

In today's world, those are not small things. ¹

Bruce Watson is president of Enough Is Enough, a non-partisan, non-profit group focused on making the Internet safer for children and families. For more information, visit www.enough.org.

If you've ever wondered:

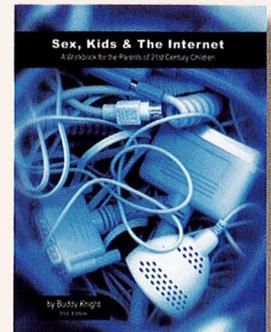
How difficult is it to find on-line pornography?

What types of pornography are out there?

Are chat rooms really dangerous?

How can I talk to my kids about on-line pornography?

How can I monitor my family's on-line activities?



Buddy Knight can help your church family answer those questions and more. Equipped with a degree in systems engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy, Knight spent several years in the military followed by stints in major technology corporations. Adding to his high-tech resume are a degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary with a concentration in marriage and family counseling and the invaluable experience of parenting four children.

Realizing that (1) Many parents know far less about computers than their children, and (2) Most adults do not have time to read detailed discussions of the Internet, Knights' Quest Ministries provides seminars and publications that offer practical tools for parents. For more information on bringing the "Sex, Kids & The Internet" seminar to your church, visit www.knights-quest-ministries.org.

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humbly
their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven"

2 CHRON

BY MARK C. FRIED

What was God telling Solomon so long ago? What is He telling us today?

First, God desires for His children to be of one accord, seeking Him in unity. Next, He wants us to live lives of purity and holiness. Finally, He offers a promise to answer our petitions.

If the body of Christ is to experience the promise of this verse, we must become sensitive to the need for prayer then respond by offering corporate prayers. The question is, "How do I mobilize my congregation to seek God's will?"

The National Day of Prayer (NDP) is a natural place to start. The NDP is an annual event that provides an opportunity for believers to pray for our country and its leaders. This year's observance is May 2, and the theme is "America United Under God." The message for the 2002 NDP is in direct response to the anxiety created by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and is based on Psalm 46:1: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."

This celebration provides an opportunity to teach on prayer. Even Jesus' disciples entreated Him, "Teach us to pray," so it is imperative that His people receive ample help in understanding the power of personal prayer. Only when our churches are filled with men and women of prayer will they truly be houses of prayer.

Here are two key reasons to use the National Day of Prayer to call your church to its knees:

We've been given a public forum. Our government signed this observance into law and provided us the opportunity to be the city on the hill that cannot be hidden (Matt. 5:14).

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

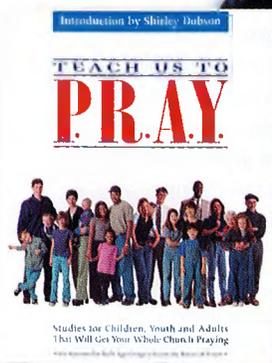
SHOULD
YOUR
CHURCH
BE
INVOLVED?

AMERICA UNITED UNDER ★ GOD

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

—Psalm 46:1

As a pastor, youth worker, Bible study leader, or Sunday School teacher, you have the awesome challenge of motivating those in your care to pray daily. *Teach Us to P.R.A.Y.* (Praise, Repent, Ask, Yield) features six lesson plans each for three groups: children aged 6-11, youth, and adults. This packed volume contains teaching materials as well as reproducible handout pages and can be used in a variety of settings, including preparing your church for the National Day of Prayer. Gospel Light, ISBN 0-8307-2778-7



... themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from
... and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

NUMBERS 7:14

Every year, the president and each state's governor proclaim the first Thursday in May as a day of prayer. Because our government officially endorses it as such, we must take advantage of this opportunity. As Matthew 5 tells us, we are called to be "salt" and "light." By boldly standing in the public square, we can have a significant impact on our communities.

We are one body. The NDP provides a common ground for Christians to set aside their myriad distinctives and call upon Him in unity.

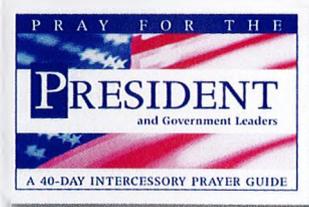
Our neighbors watch the body of Christ to see how we act in all situations. By our willingness to take a stand of unified dependence on Him, despite our differences, people see the focus of God's people on Him and Him alone.

As we move further into the twenty-first century, it is vital that we again affirm our unconditional trust in the One who has faithfully directed our course so sufficiently. If we will "pray and seek" His face, we can expect the Creator of all things to bring healing and restoration to our land.†

Mark C. Fried is Media and Marketing Coordinator for the National Day of Prayer Task Force.

Pray for the President

This little booklet from the North American Mission Board will lead you through 40 days of fervent, righteous prayer for our president, vice president, and government leaders. As you follow the prayer suggestions you'll be reminded of the awesome task of leading our country, and you'll form habits of praying specifically and personally for our leaders.



10 booklets for \$8.50, available at LifeWay Christian Stores or by calling 800-448-8032.

As you lead your family or congregation to pray for our nation, you may find yourself trying to explain the events of September 11, 2001, to a child. Psychologist David Stoop and author/speaker Stephen Arterburn offer reassuring answers in 130 Questions Children Ask About War and Terrorists (see page 20).

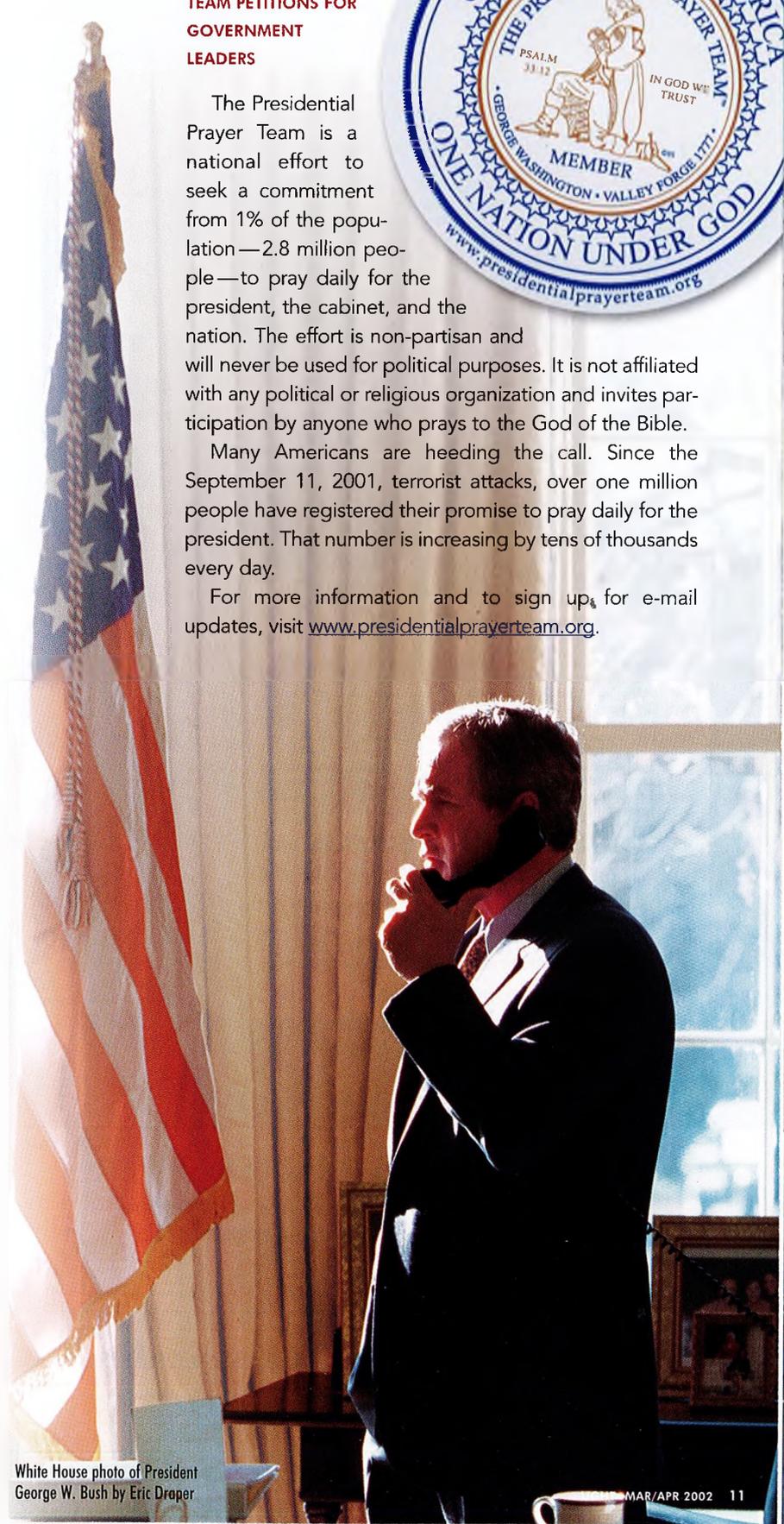
September 2, 2002

PRESIDENTIAL PRAYER TEAM PETITIONS FOR GOVERNMENT LEADERS

The Presidential Prayer Team is a national effort to seek a commitment from 1% of the population—2.8 million people—to pray daily for the president, the cabinet, and the nation. The effort is non-partisan and will never be used for political purposes. It is not affiliated with any political or religious organization and invites participation by anyone who prays to the God of the Bible.

Many Americans are heeding the call. Since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, over one million people have registered their promise to pray daily for the president. That number is increasing by tens of thousands every day.

For more information and to sign up for e-mail updates, visit www.presidentialprayerteam.org.



White House photo of President George W. Bush by Eric Droper

FREE Bulletin Inserts

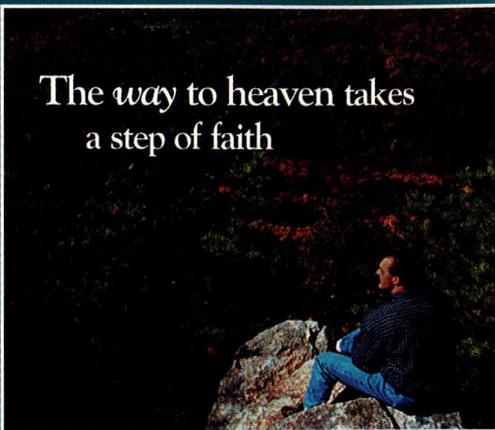
Give everyone attending your worship service a colorful bulletin insert that clearly presents God's *Plan of Salvation*. These bulletin inserts also provide your church with important information on the ministries of *LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention*. The *LifeWay* name is grounded in John 14:6: "Jesus told him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me'" (HCSB).

These *Plan of Salvation* bulletin inserts are available *free* from *LifeWay* for use in one of your worship services. Simply contact the *LifeWay* Communications Department.

Phone: 615.251.5686
or email: info@lifeway.com
or mail the order form below to LifeWay.

(Plan of Salvation Scripture quotations are taken from the Here's Hope New Testament version of the Holman Christian Standard Bible, © Copyright 2000 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission.)

The way to heaven takes
a step of faith



God's Plan of Salvation

God's power can make us secure. - "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is God's power for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16, HCSB).

God's power can result in change. - "Or do you despise the riches of His kindness, restraint, and patience, not recognizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance" (Romans 2:4, HCSB)?

Sin makes change necessary. - "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23, HCSB).

God still loves us. - "But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8, HCSB)!

Sin earns death, but God gives life. - "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 6:23, HCSB).

Confess, repent, believe, call. - "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. With the heart one believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth one confesses, resulting in salvation. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Rom. 10:9-10,13, HCSB).

Scripture quotations are taken from the Here's Hope New Testament version of the Holman Christian Standard Bible, © Copyright 2000 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission.


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OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Biblical Solutions for Life

FREE BULLETIN INSERTS OFFER

Please send our church these free *Plan of Salvation* bulletin inserts for use in one of our worship services.

Name of your church: _____

Quantity of free inserts needed: _____

Shipping address:

(street or route) _____

(city, state and zip code) _____

Send to the attention of: _____

Your phone number: (____) _____

Please print all information clearly and mail this order form in a stamped envelope to:

LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention

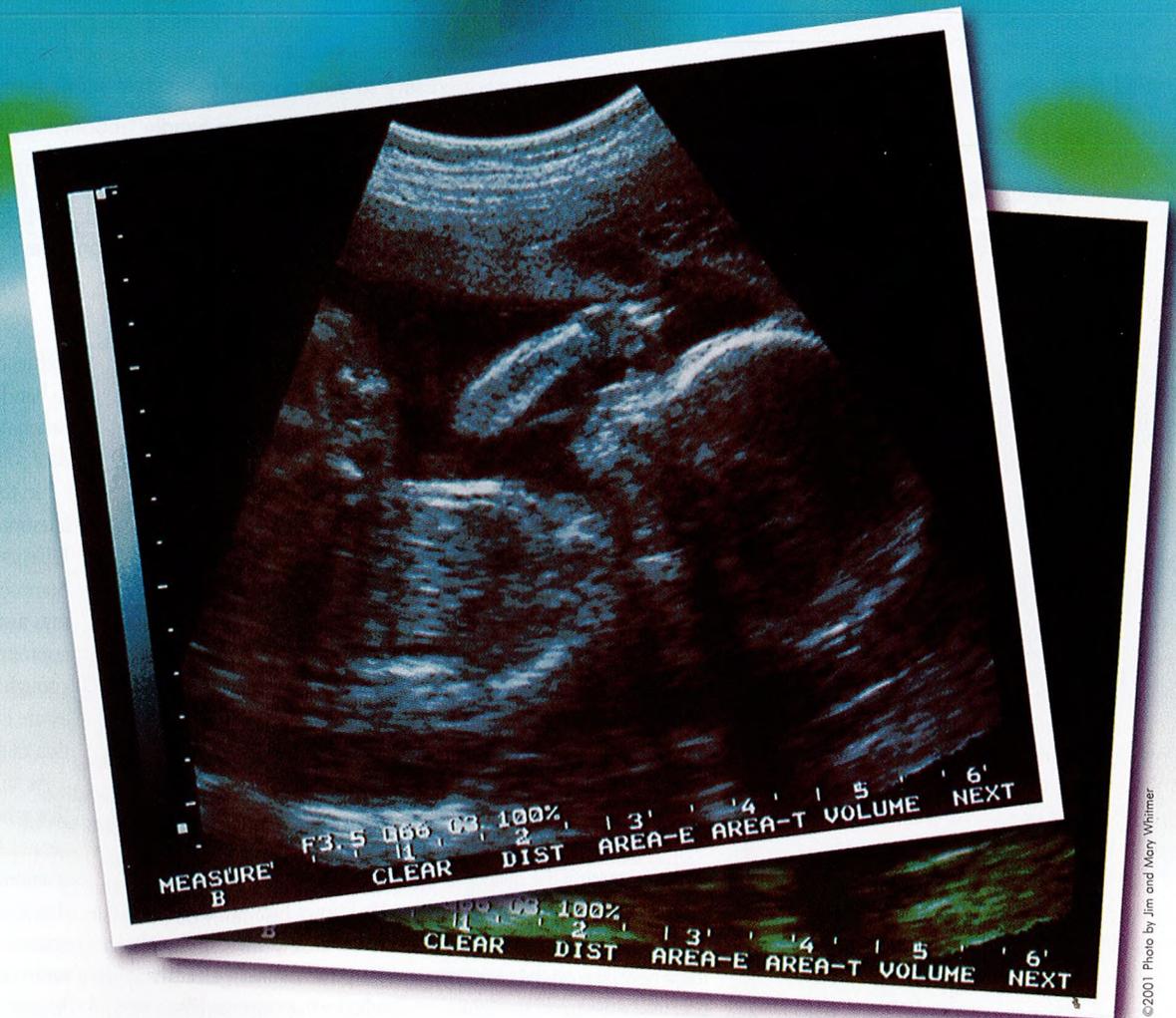
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One LifeWay Plaza

Nashville, TN 37234-0192

(allow 4 weeks for delivery)

Please be sure to include your shipping address and the quantity of bulletin inserts you need for your order of worship. All bulletin inserts are 4" x 7 1/2" in size.



©2001 Photo by Jim and Mary Whitmer

The Miracle of Life

*For you created
my inmost being;
you knit me
together in my
mother's womb...
your eyes saw my
unformed body.*

PSALM 139:13-16

An unborn baby's heart begins to beat twenty-one days after conception. At seven weeks she sucks her thumb, and sometime between nine and ten weeks, this tiny wonder squints, swallows, and makes sounds. During her sixteenth week of development, her fingerprints are completely established.

At the moment of conception, every piece of the unborn child's genetic puzzle is in place—a miraculous blueprint of life.

Modern ultrasound machines provide a window into the womb, confirming Scripture's portrayal of God's amazing creation. When given a glimpse of the life within them, *nearly 100 percent of the women in a crisis pregnancy choose life.*

However, not all crisis pregnancy centers can afford ultrasound machines, which range in price from \$12,000 to \$24,000. The Psalm 139 Project provides precious resources for evangelistically-oriented centers to purchase them.

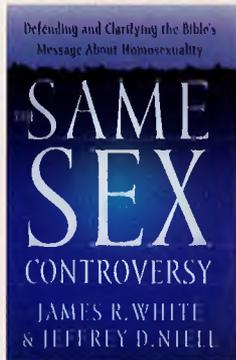
Psalm 139

PROJECT

It's all about saving lives.

Please send your tax-deductible gifts to: Psalm 139 Project ■ c/o The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission ■ 901 Commerce Street, Suite 550 ■ Nashville, TN 37203-3696
1-800-475-9127 ■ www.Psalm139Project.org

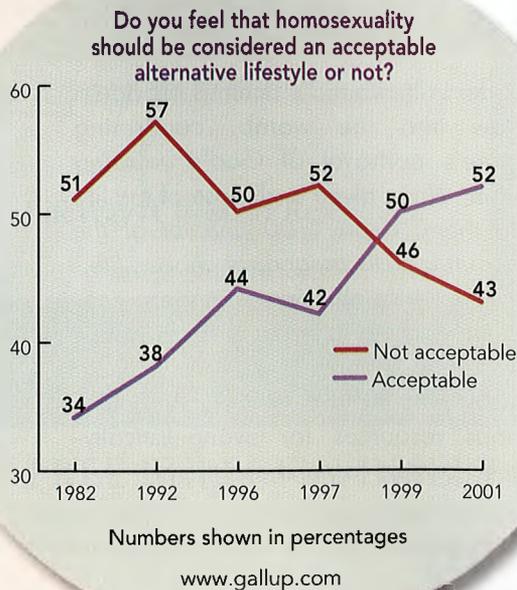
"NEW MORALITY" TWISTS BIBLE'S MESSAGE ON HOMOSEXUALITY



James White and Jeffrey Niell defend the sole and infallible rule of Scripture in *The Same Sex Controversy: Defending and Clarifying the Bible's Message about Homosexuality* (Bethany House, 2002).

AMERICANS BECOMING MORE TOLERANT OF HOMOSEXUAL LIFESTYLE

Acceptance of homosexuality has vacillated since 1982, but statistics show that overall tolerance of this alternative lifestyle continues to grow in America.



Those pushing for homosexuality to be a normative lifestyle suggest that the Bible needs an upgrade, contending that Scripture is unable to handle "modern applications" and is an out-of-date source. Revisionists even claim that the Bible does not condemn homosexuality but instead offers examples of "loving, committed, homosexual relationships" such as David and Jonathan and Ruth and Naomi. They couldn't be more wrong, says James White.

BY DWAYNE HASTINGS

It is hard to escape the contemporary mantra that insists homosexuality is a "normal, proper, and healthy expression of love between two men," says James White. "We are being told by so-called 'experts' in the media and in the entertainment industry that homosexuality is consistent with biblical morality and is approved by God and that at a fundamental level the Bible does not address homosexuality as we know it today.

"The proponents of this view are revising the historical Christian perspective on the subject of homosexuality, offering a new take on the interpretation and message of the Bible about God's creative decree regarding men and women," continues White, director of Alpha and Omega Ministries,

a Christian apologetics group, and an adjunct professor at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. He says these revisionists claim the Bible does not condemn homosexuality but instead offers readers examples of "loving, committed, homosexual relationships" such as David and Jonathan and Ruth and Naomi.

He says the same-sex controversy is a dispute over the authority and interpretation of the Bible. "Throughout the history of the church, homo-

sexuality has been regarded as contrary to biblical morality. Yet now we are being informed that this moral opposition is a rather recent phenomenon and that the Bible does not condemn homosexuality as it is known and practiced in our day."

This "new morality" is careful not to reject Scripture totally, he continues, adding, "Instead these revisionists are twisting Scriptures in the same way that various cults and 'isms' do.

"Yet Scripture speaks clearly to the issue of homosexuality," White says. "God knows best. He knows how we truly can be fulfilled as male or female. Scripture makes it clear that when we go against His revealed will we are simply engaging in further destructive behavior."

In the culture, White says, "We are witnessing what happens when God's absolute standard is removed or redefined.

"All of this eventually takes us back to a simple choice: Are we going to believe Scripture alone as the sole and infallible rule of faith for the church? Or does the church need to abandon or at least modify Scripture and start looking elsewhere — to psychology or social norms — because the Bible is insufficient for our day?" White asks.

Those pushing for homosexuality to be a normative lifestyle allege that the Apostle Paul could not have understood about mutuality, the idea of two people of the same sex falling in love for all of life, White says. "They're saying the Bible needs an upgrade," he continues, using computer vernacular

to suggest Scripture is unable to handle "modern applications" and is an out-of-date source.

In the face of this attempt to revise the Bible to condone homosexuality, White says just knowing the appropriate Scriptures is not enough; Christians must be aware of the correct interpretation of the passages in question.

As an example, White says that when revisionists say we cannot know definitively the meaning of the word *arsenokoites* that Paul uses to refer to homosexuality in 1 Corinthians 6:9 and 1 Timothy 1:10, they are in error. ❖

"We can trace the components of this word back to the original languages. Paul seems to have coined this phrase, as well as others, to communicate the truths of the Hebrew Old Testament to a new audience. We can go back to the Greek Septuagint and see those terms in Leviticus 18 and 20 in the same verses that talk about homosexuality," he explains. *Arsenokoites* is a conjunction of the terms *arsenos* and *koiten*, which translate respectively to "male" and "to lie with sexually," he says.

White recalls a recent debate he had with an ACLU attorney on this subject: "When I finished my opening statement, which was nothing more than reading through what Scripture says about homosexuality, asserting God's right to define what is and what is not proper behavior for His creatures, my opponent castigated me for my hateful speech." ❖

ONCE GAY, ALWAYS GAY?

Can homosexuals change? Few subjects arouse such strong feelings in the church today. Some churches wish the issue would disappear and still refuse to address it publicly. Other churches find a growing number of strugglers in their midst to whom they wish to offer a compassionate, biblical response. But they are not sure what to say or do. Other churches offer an open door of

welcome to practicing homosexuals and lesbians who wish to embrace both their Christian faith and their same-sex relationships. In the past twenty-five years, as thousands of homosexuals and lesbians have "come out of the closet" to declare their homosexuality, another group of people also has come into public view. They are ex-gays, a distinct and relatively unseen minority, a subgroup from within the gay community. These former homosexuals and lesbians have another viewpoint. They claim that they have left homosexuality for the sake of a higher calling, as an act of obedience to the Bible, which they believe declares that homosexual behavior is outside God's will. And many of them claim that they have changed in the deepest part of their beings, including their sexual feelings.*

Who are these people? How did they escape the bondage of homosexuality? What are they really like outside the public spotlight? In *Portraits of Freedom*, you'll meet:

Michael Lumberger, a married man who is HIV positive and has struggled with both racial and sexual identity;

Ann Phillips, who was immersed in an eighteen-year lesbian relationship;

Tye Gamey, who, though married, pursued secret encounters with men; and

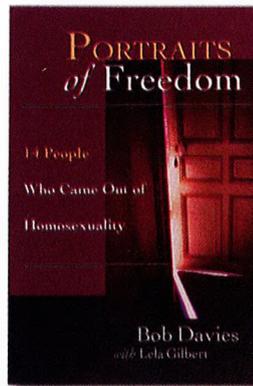
Tom Cole, whose gentle demeanor and compassionate nature branded him "queer" at a very young age.

Some so-called "experts" allege that "once gay" means "always gay." Bob Davies disputes that assertion by pointing to his own life and the experiences of others he has known through many years of ministry. In *Portraits of Freedom*, cowritten with Lela Gilbert, Davies presents the true stories of fourteen people from diverse backgrounds, ethnicities, and circumstances who have broken free from homosexual lifestyles. This volume offers no one-size-fits-all answers, but it does show that with Christ healing and change are possible.

*From *Portraits of Freedom*, available from the ERLC.

BKPOR (192 pages)

\$10.99 ea.



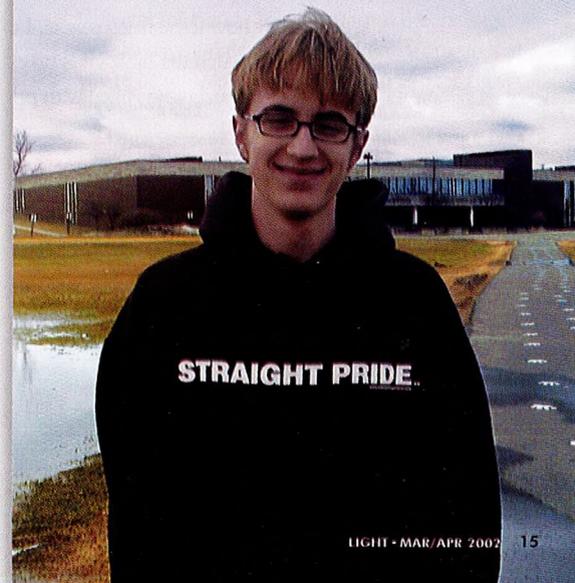
Elliott Chambers Challenges School's Double Standard in Dress Code

A U.S. District Court ruled in January 2002 that a Minnesota high school's dress code was unconstitutional. Elliott Chambers filed suit against Woodbury High School after he was told not to wear a shirt with the words "straight pride" on the front and a symbol of a man and a woman holding hands on the back.

On January 16, 2001, Chambers wore the shirt to school. He was called to the assistant principal's office and told a student had complained that homosexual students were offended. The next day, he was called to Principal Dana Babbitt's office and told not to wear the shirt to school again because it was offensive. The school dress code prohibits "items with unacceptable writing or graphic depictions, which offend anyone or distract from the educational experience . . . those which are commonly accepted as vulgar, obscene or socially demeaning or derogatory." (The school does not prohibit the display of the inverted pink triangle, the symbol of homosexuality.)

The court ruled the school failed to demonstrate the shirt "could lead to a substantial disruption of the school environment or materially interfere with school activities" and that the dress code prohibited a substantial amount of similarly protected speech, thus rendering it unconstitutional.

American Family Association, January 15, 2002



**Growing up
in a home
with an
abusive
father**

left Tim Wilkins with a need for male intimacy and protection. At an early age he turned to homosexuality in a quest for love and acceptance but found that lifestyle unfulfilling. Here he shares his story of redemption and grace as God delivered him from his sinful desires and healed his wounded heart.

BY TIM WILKINS

"Get up on your feet so I can knock you down again!" I stood horrified in the hall as my father yelled at my mother lying on the floor at his feet. Their fighting had awakened me in the night.

This is one of my earliest memories. I was five or six years old. I believe I subconsciously decided at that moment: "I will not be like that man!" Thus began my rejection of masculinity.

Chaos characterized the place we called home. The atmosphere was so tense that I began to sleepwalk. According to my mother and brother, I would walk into the hall, kneel facing my parents' bedroom door, grasp my throat, and make choking sounds. My nightly routine horrified my mother; my father slept through it.

Several decades have not erased another memory of a summer afternoon when I was playing alone on a hill beside my house, wanting to be held by a man. There were no erotic feelings, just a God-given desire for male intimacy and protection. I was no older than seven.

Rarely did I experience my father's approval and love. And my mother, who was desperately unhappy, openly expressed to me her disdain for my father and her disgust for sex.

On reaching puberty, I recognized an attraction to guys at school. *Oh God*, I asked, *why is this happening to me?* I had given my heart to Jesus and knew He died for my sin, but even that did not stop the turmoil that characterized my every thought. For years I carried a piece of paper on which I had written, "Lord, I am trusting you for healing."

Several years later I gave in to that same-sex attraction. We had gone to school together for years, and his approving smile fascinated me. For the first time in my life, I felt that another male really liked me. I quickly found that homosexuality provided excitement, but not fulfillment. My sporadic homosexual activity continued until my early twenties, when I decided that although I honestly did not know how to be heterosexual, I did know how to be obedient.

Although the Bible gives no explicit steps for coming out of homosexuality, it is filled with principles that I could apply to my

life. The Psalmist wrote about turning his eyes away from temptation (Ps. 101:3), so I refused to look at pornography and avoided the people and places that stirred temptation. Because God's Word extols the love between husband and wife, I asked the Holy Spirit to teach me the right way to love a woman. More important, I asked the Holy Spirit to teach me the right way to relate to men — and He did!

At age 22, God led me back to college. Living in a men's dorm had a healing effect on me. I was forced to interact with other guys on a daily basis, to become their peer, to learn appropriate relationships with them. My parents divorced during that time, and although the news shook me, it did not deter me.

After college I attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where I felt like a dry sponge thrown into a lake. I soaked up everything! The Bible became increasingly alive to me. Not only was I receiving a great education for a future ministry I could not imagine, I also was learning to apply biblical truth to my sexual brokenness.

Homosexual temptations continued throughout college and seminary, but to a lesser degree. I remained steadfast in refusing to yield, and my revulsion toward heterosexuality diminished.

After graduation I was called to a pastorate in my hometown. During that time my alcoholic father went through foreclosure on his home, separation from his second wife, and near suicide. With all the responsibilities of a young, single pastor on my shoulders, I brought him into the parsonage and cared for him until he could enter a treatment facility. I didn't feel I could share any of this with my congregation.

I eventually resigned, disillusioned and depressed. I cried out to God, "I've followed you as closely as I know how. I've been celibate for over ten years. What more do you want from me?"

I was about to find out! A female friend from seminary visited my town, and we spent time together. For the first time in my 33 years I felt attracted to a woman! For years I had prayed, "God, change me and I'll do whatever you want me to do," while all along He was saying, "Tim, do what I want you to do and I'll change you."

A Call to Obe

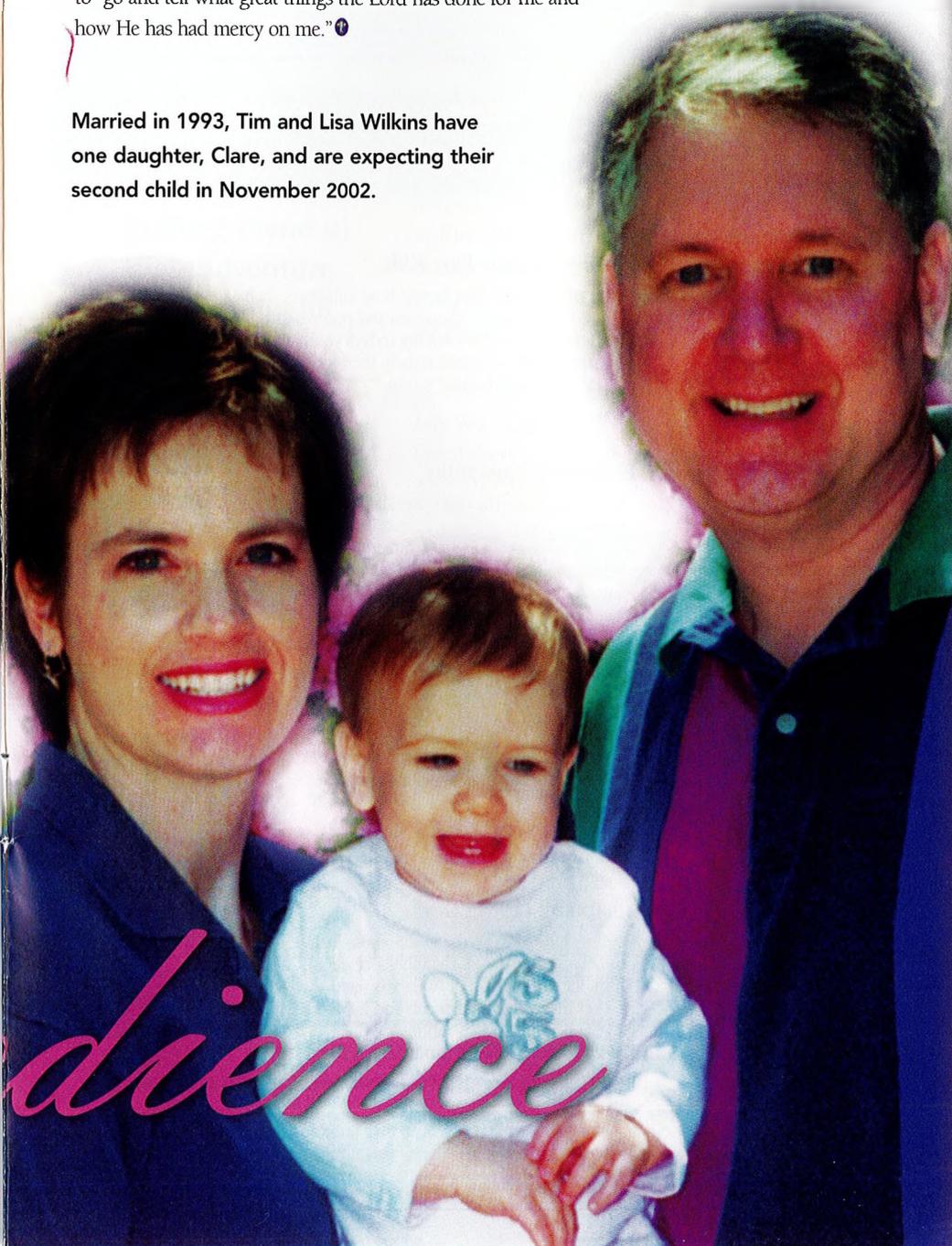
Although the Bible gives no explicit steps for coming out of homosexuality, it is filled with principles that I could apply to my life. . . . For years I had prayed, 'God, change me and I'll do whatever you want me to do,' while all along He was saying, 'Tim, do what I want you to do and I'll change you.'

Five years later I met Lisa, who was everything I longed for. Before we were engaged, I sat down with her and said, "You need to know something about my past because it may influence our future. I used to be gay." Even after hearing my story, she never wavered in her love for me. We married in 1993 and are the proud parents of a beautiful daughter, Clare, and another child who will be born in the fall.

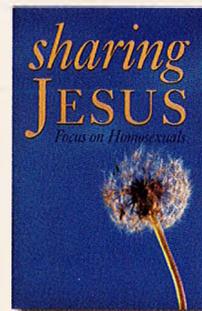
I'm happier today than I've ever been, and I owe that to Jesus Christ. When I was obedient to God, He reached down to help me and poured blessings overflowing into my life. My passion remains to "go and tell what great things the Lord has done for me and how He has had mercy on me." ①

Married in 1993, Tim and Lisa Wilkins have one daughter, Clare, and are expecting their second child in November 2002.

Tim Wilkins is the founder/director of CROSS Ministry—Equipping the Church to Evangelize and Disciple the Homosexual. He speaks and teaches across the country. For more information about Tim and his ministry, call (919) 569-0375 or visit www.crossministry.org.



- ▲ Has someone you care about chosen a homosexual lifestyle?
- ▲ Do you want to help them escape the trap of a gay or lesbian relationship?
- ▲ Are you looking for a way to tell them about Jesus?



The North American Mission Board has assembled a packet of materials to help you. You'll receive five copies each of two small booklets. One contains the testimonies of two people—a man and a woman—who left the homosexual lifestyle when they committed their lives to Christ. The second expresses the thoughts of someone like you, someone who cares deeply for an individual trapped in homosexuality. It explains your love and concern for your friend and introduces them to Jesus, the only one who can give unconditional love.

Because the homosexual culture indoctrinates and traps its victims so thoroughly, the packet also includes guidelines to keep in mind when witnessing to homosexuals.

Sharing Jesus: Focus on Homosexuals

To order, call 800-448-8032 or visit www.namb.net.

"Homosexual Music for Kids Speaks Volumes"

reported Michael L. Betsch for CNSNews.com on March 25, 2002.

According to *Girlfriends*, a magazine for lesbians, teacher Molly Universe is promoting her new children's CD, *Double Daddy*, to "target" non-homosexual families to increase "awareness."

The lyrics to *Double Daddy's* title track proudly proclaim: "Danny has a daddy and a daddy at home—It's a double double daddy and he's never alone." According to the song, "When you double the daddy . . . you double the fun."

"Oh What a Mess—Billy's Wearing a Dress" is about "a little boy who likes to wear a dress," Universe said, and "Tolerance" sings the message, "We all have a different family, it doesn't mean that you're better than me. You've got to like the difference, and that's what we call tolerance."

Universe said she's sent free copies of her CD to approximately 30 "gay-friendly" public schools across the country as well as public libraries. She also performs some of the songs in schools.

She hopes to produce more music for kids because her plan has always been "to educate kids and . . . parents about certain controversial topics, but to try to do it as least controversial [sic] as I can."

Universe acknowledged there are no sexual content warnings on the CD. "Maybe I should have put some warnings," she said, "but I guess it's a risk that I'm willing to take because to me, it's an innocent project."

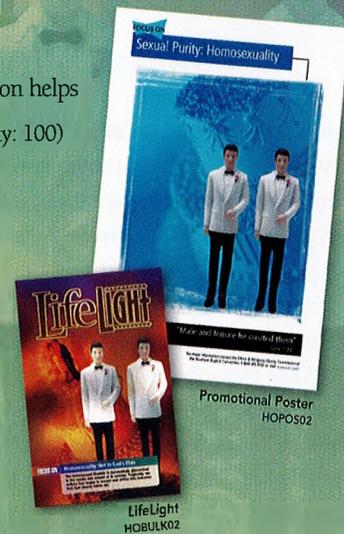
Countering a Permissive Culture

Genesis teaches that God had a specific design in mind when He created the first man and the first woman (Gen. 1:27). His design was for man and woman to perfectly complete each other (Gen. 2:20). Nothing in creation could complete the man that God created except a woman, and vice versa. This is disputed by those who claim that God makes some people homosexual. Genesis 1-2 is clear: God's only design was for a man and a woman to join in intimate union for life.

With the onslaught in our culture of mixed messages on "acceptable" sexual behavior, it is imperative that Christians look to Scripture for God's standards of sexual purity. The resources in our Champion Action Kit and others featured on this page offer biblical insight to dispel the myths being generated by a permissive society that condones sex outside marriage and homosexuality. In addition, they offer redemptive hope to those caught up in sinful lifestyles and reveal ministry opportunities for concerned believers.

SEXUAL PURITY: HOMOSEXUALITY CHAMPION ACTION KIT CONTENTS*

- Bible study and sermon helps
- LifeLight handouts (qty: 100)
- Portraits of Freedom (see description at left)
- Sharing Jesus: Focus on Homosexuals (see description, p. 17)
- Sexual Purity: Homosexuality Fact Sheets (qty: 10)
- Full-Color Promotional Posters (qty: 2)



HOKIT02 (monthly subscription) \$24.95

Sexual Purity: Homosexuality is the focus of the April edition of For Faith & Family's Champion Action Kit featured at right.



Portraits of Freedom

Some "experts" allege that "once gay" means "always gay." Bob Davies and Lela Gilbert dispute that assertion in *Portraits of Freedom*, as Bob shares his own story and they present the true stories

of fourteen others from diverse backgrounds, ethnicities, and circumstances who have broken free from homosexual lifestyles. This volume offers no one-size-fits-all answers, but it does show that with Christ healing and change are possible.

BKPOR (192 pages)

\$10.99 ea.

Critical Issues: The Homosexual Political Agenda

Perhaps never in U.S. history has such a tiny group made such a tremendous impact on culture in such a short time. Learn the history of the "gay rights" movement and how to counter its pervasive influences with biblical morality.

CIHOMSU \$6.50/20

Let's Talk About AIDS and Sex

The medical and social aspects of AIDS fill the news: What is its origin? Who is infected?

How can it be treated? Can science find a cure? Rodney Gage

looks at these questions and beyond to matters of the heart: What does God say about sex? Does He forgive sexual sin? How can you satisfy your longing for intimacy with the love of Christ? This book offers a lifesaving, biblical message for teenagers and adults alike.

BKTAL (102 pages)

\$3.50 ea.

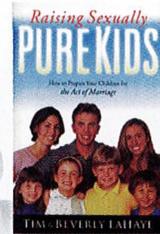


Raising Sexually Pure Kids

Tim and Beverly LaHaye look at how influences such as sex education in the classroom and pornography affect attitudes about sex among today's youth and offer steps parents can take to help their kids maintain biblical standards of sexual purity.

BKRAI (271 pages)

\$10.39 ea.

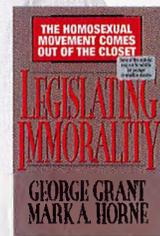


Legislating Immorality

This book shows the tragic agenda of the homosexual movement and why it must be reversed. The authors contend that the government, media, the medical profession, industry, the education establishment, and religious leaders have cooperated with the movement undermining the foundation of our society.

BKLEG (290 pages)

\$5.00 ea.

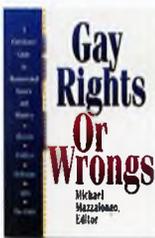


Gay Rights or Wrongs

This guide to homosexual issues and ministry helps Christians deal compassionately with those who struggle with homosexuality and equips church members to respond intelligently to the false arguments being made in support of the homosexual lifestyle.

BKGAY (290 pages)

\$13.99 ea.



Unwanted Harvest?†

Eventually, every Christian will encounter someone who struggles with homosexuality. Your response is critical in encouraging their healing and walk with God. This book shows that no sin is beyond redemption.

BKUNW (209 pages)

\$14.39 ea.



Someone I Love Is Gay†

Finding out that a loved one is homosexual can be a shock. What is the biblical response? This book is a product of Anita Worthen's own struggle over this issue with her son and her work with New Hope Ministries in San Rafael, Calif., and Bob Davies's experience with Exodus International.

BKSOM (215 pages)

\$11.99 ea.

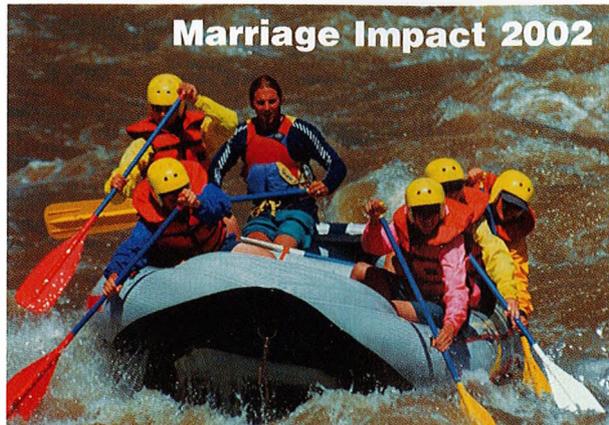


Amounts shown are suggested donations.

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

† While supply lasts.

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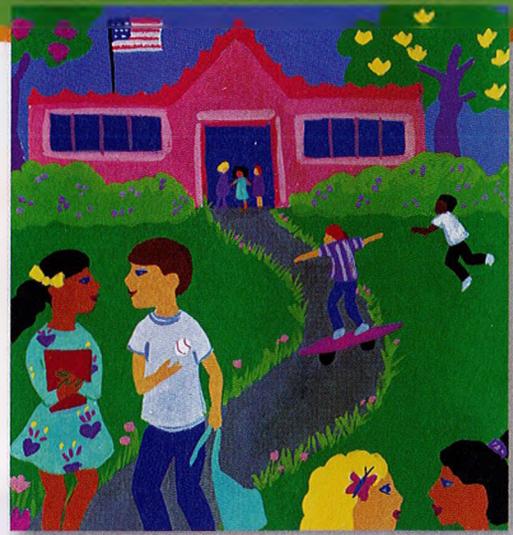
Why do we put up flags during a war?

You probably already know that each star on the flag of the United States stands for one of the fifty states. The stars on the flag seem to say that just as the stars look as though they are always there in the sky together, the states will stay together too.

When people fly flags, I think that what the people are trying to say is that they, too, want to stay together with all the other people of our country, just like the stars in the sky and the states in our country. Most of them are saying that they believe the war must be fought, even though they may want very much not to have to fight it. They "support" the war, and especially the men and women who have offered their lives to help the country fight a war. But some of them are saying that they will support our country and the people who must fight in the war, even though they do not believe that deciding to fight a war is the right way to solve problems with another country. They are all reminding each other that, even though the country is going through a hard time, they have decided to stay connected with one another. And they are reminding the people who are fighting the war that their mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, and friends (and even strangers) appreciate the very hard things they must do. People fly the American flag to show their support for the country.

From: 130 Questions Children Ask About War and Terrorists by David Stoop and Stephen Arterburn ©1991 and 2002. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved.

Whenever I see an American flag flying—in front of a school or a house, at the baseball field, or even on a big flagpole at a car dealer's lot—it makes me feel good. Our flag is more than just a pretty piece of cloth; it stands for our freedom and liberty. As American citizens, we also have certain rights and responsibilities—things we can do and things we should do. In America, we are free to worship God and tell others about Him.



When we trust in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we become citizens of God's Kingdom, too. This is not a nation with buildings and roads, but a heavenly Kingdom that will last forever. With this citizenship, we also have rights and responsibilities. Because of Jesus, we have the right to pray to God and the responsibility to tell others about Him.

I am glad to wave the American flag and be a citizen of the United States, but I am especially happy that Jesus provided a way for me to be a citizen of God's eternal Kingdom.

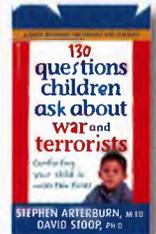
Bible truth: Jesus provided the way for you to be a citizen of God's Kingdom.

Bible verse: Philippians 3:20

RECOMMENDED READING

130 Questions Children Ask About War and Terrorists

For anyone who has struggled to explain the events and aftermath of September 11, 2001, to a child, help is at hand. These *130 Questions Children Ask About War and Terrorists* were collected from children in several elementary schools. Psychologist David Stoop and author/speaker Stephen Arterburn offer reassuring answers to personal questions such as "Will terrorists hurt me?" and "Will bombs fall on my house?" and address spiritual issues such as "Why does God let war happen?" and "Does God choose sides?" The answers are written for children between the ages of six and twelve and can be read directly from the book or put in your own words. The volume also contains related family devotions and activities. Tyndale, ISBN 0-8423-7063-3



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