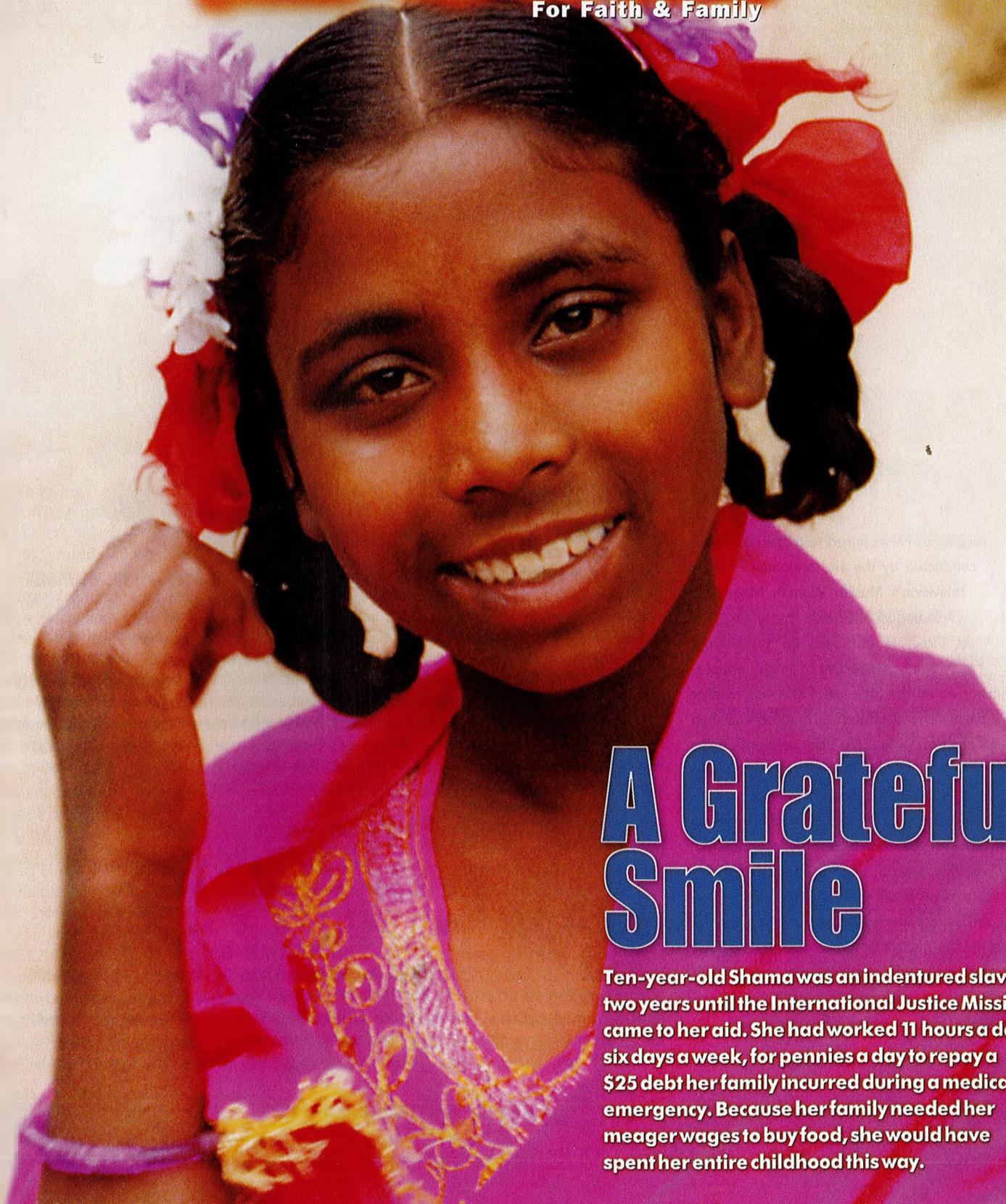


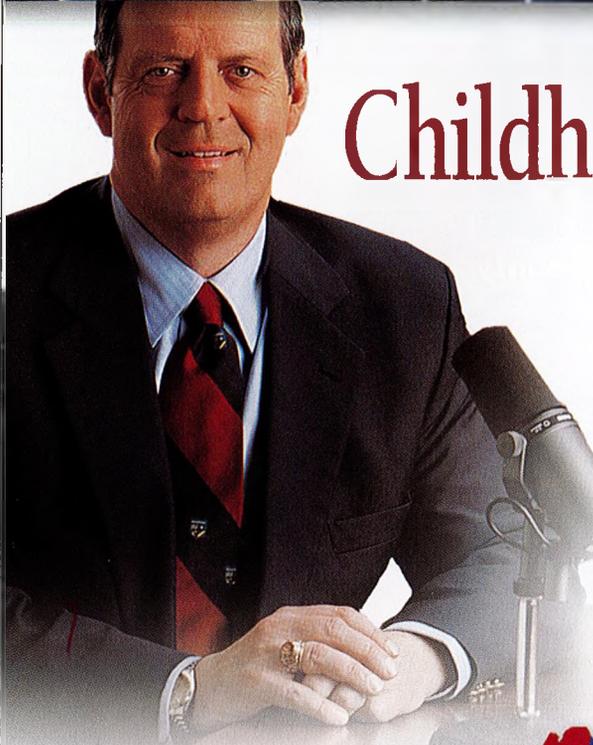
# The Magazine **LIGHT**

For Faith & Family



## A Grateful Smile

Ten-year-old Shama was an indentured slave for two years until the International Justice Mission came to her aid. She had worked 11 hours a day, six days a week, for pennies a day to repay a \$25 debt her family incurred during a medical emergency. Because her family needed her meager wages to buy food, she would have spent her entire childhood this way.



# Childhood Diet of Anti-Semitism Nourishes Terrorism

BY RICHARD D. LAND, *President of the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and host of the nationally syndicated daily radio broadcast, For Faith & Family*

Basmallah is just one of thousands of Muslim children—pawns of the state—who have been emptied of the innocent wonder of life and systematically fed the bitter fruit of a state-condoned, and at times, state-sponsored diatribe against the Jews. We shouldn't be surprised that Muslims young and old are willing to strap on belts of plastic explosives and stride into Israeli public places, for this hatred appears to be nurtured from the cradle in many Muslim households.

Any real hope for peace must overcome the virulent strains of anti-Semitism that emanate from many Muslim countries, much of it poured out ceaselessly by the government-controlled Arab press.

I have read translations of statements, opinion columns, and broadcasts in the state-controlled Arab media that are as vile and vicious in their anti-Semitism as anything that came out of Nazi Germany. These views have poisoned the minds and hearts of a whole generation of Arab youth who do not look upon the Israelis as human beings but instead, as tiny Basmallah said, "apes and pigs." They are training their children to be killing machines. A recent poll revealed that 68% of Palestinians approve of the strategy of "suicide bombings."

We must speak out against anti-Semitism. The moral and spiritual bankruptcy of this mindset is beyond any realm of civilized behavior and demeans us all.

The U.S. and its allies should

suspend normal relations with countries that allow this to be perpetuated within their borders. Further, any attempt to allege moral equivalency between Israel and the Palestinian Authority or any other terrorist-sponsoring state is grotesque.

its recent statements to track down the perpetrators and hold them to account, making it clear such behavior will not be tolerated in France. The U.S. government should follow this issue carefully and urge the French authorities to treat these inci-

.....  
"We must speak out against anti-Semitism. The moral and spiritual bankruptcy of this mindset is beyond any realm of civilized behavior and demeans us all."  
.....

Acts of anti-Semitic behavior are not limited to the Middle East.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, on which I serve, issued a statement April 15 deploring the recent flurry of attacks on synagogues, other Jewish sites, and individuals in France and Belgium. The commission noted that firebombs had seriously damaged several synagogues, and one in Marseille burned to the ground.

"Shots were fired at a kosher shop, a Jewish couple was attacked on the street, a bus full of schoolchildren was stoned, and high school soccer players were beaten by a gang wielding metal bars," states the commission release. There have been more than 400 anti-Semitic incidents documented in France since October 2000.

"These attacks on Jews in France and Belgium are despicable," said Michael K. Young, USCIRF chairman. "We hope the French government, in particular, will follow through on

its recent statements to track down the perpetrators and hold them to account, making it clear such behavior will not be tolerated in France. The U.S. government should follow this issue carefully and urge the French authorities to treat these inci-

.....  
"Today, we are witnessing what future historians may yet call a watershed in the very long and gloomy history of anti-Semitism on the continent. These days no Jew with a kippa on his head feels comfortable walking the streets of any city or town in Europe," said Avi Beker, secretary-general of the World Jewish Congress, in the April 9 *Jerusalem Post*. He said the first week or so of April saw the worst anti-Semitic activity in Europe since the end of World War II.

We who value human life must do more than talk about respect and tolerance. We must insist that the countries guilty of disseminating anti-Semitism in word and deed stop this behavior and begin reeducating their citizenry, especially their children. Targeting Jews and their supporters with violence and mayhem must never be approved, encouraged, or even tolerated in the world community of nations. **✠**



A recent Fox News report told of an interview conducted by the anchorwoman of Iqraa Television's Muslim Woman Magazine.\*

Amazingly, she was interviewing a three-year-old child on the youngster's perspective of Jewish people.

The anchor asked the little girl if she was familiar with Jews. Basmallah responded affirmatively and then was asked if she likes Jews. "No," she answered flatly. "Why not?" the anchor continued. "Because they are apes and pigs," Basmallah replied.

The interview continues as the anchorwoman repeatedly stresses that Basmallah is a "true Muslim." And why was this network diva so insistent that this toddler was a "true Muslim"? Because at only three years old, she is programmed well enough to recite the venomous Muslim mantra of hatred toward the Jews on the Arab Radio and Television Network, which bills itself as "the leading producer of premium Arabic family programming and entertainment worldwide."

\* [www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,55321,00.html](http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,55321,00.html)



**OLIVER NORTH HOSTS RADIO SHOW AT SBC**

BY KENT HARVILLE

ST. LOUIS, June 10 — Lt. Col. Oliver North, USMC (Ret.), seated right, interviews Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, during a live broadcast of North's radio show, "Commonsense Radio." Standing beside North is his producer, Griffen Jenkins. The interview was held at the Broadman & Holman Publishers' area in the exhibit hall of America's Center, site of the 2002 Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in its 145th session in St. Louis.

**Prominent Radio Network Taps SBC's Richard Land to Host Weekend Talk Show**

The Salem Radio Network (SRN), a division of Salem Communications Corporation and a leading radio news and program provider, announced June 6 that it had signed Richard Land, president of the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, as host of *Richard Land Live!* The nationally syndicated program premiered on SRN Saturday, June 8, 2002, from 12:00-3:00 p.m. (EST).

*Richard Land Live!* is a three-hour, caller-driven, Saturday afternoon talk show that showcases Land's commentary on the pressing issues of the day that impact families across America.

Land said *Richard Land Live!* will focus on prominent matters in the news and issues the mainstream culture might ignore but that should concern Christian families. "It is my prayer that

*Richard Land Live!* will aid its listeners in examining issues in light of the presuppositions of a Judeo-Christian worldview and help them integrate such a process in their everyday lives," Land explained. "In short, we want to help listeners think 'Christianly' about the issues of the day."

For more information on the *Richard Land Live!* radio show or to learn where you can hear the program in your community, contact Jason Elwell at Salem Radio Network at (972) 831-1920, extension 131, or via e-mail at [jelwell@srnradio.com](mailto:jelwell@srnradio.com). For more information on the Salem Radio Network, visit [www.sronline.com/land.shtml](http://www.sronline.com/land.shtml). For more information on the *For Faith & Family* broadcast ministry, visit [www.faithandfamily.com](http://www.faithandfamily.com).



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(615) 244-2495 • FAX: (615) 242-0065 • E-MAIL: [editor@erlc.com](mailto: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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**In Thailand,** many parents have sold their daughters into prostitution for payments as high as \$8,000, often in exchange for a job at a beach-resort restaurant or other trade. **In Central and South America,** street children have been rounded up and shot. **In nations around the world,** children are used to fight wars and sell drugs. **In Bangladesh, Pakistan, and many Central American countries,** children work 12-16 hours a day, earning about 5-8 cents an hour, making products for consumers in developed countries — and the United States is the world's largest importer of child-labor products.

**God hates injustice** and calls each of us to do something to seek justice for the oppressed. We're to seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow (Isa. 1:17). Along with mercy and faithfulness, justice, Jesus said, is one of the "more important matters," one that none of us can neglect (Matt. 23:23).

## CHILD EXPLOITATION A GLOBAL PROBLEM

BY LYN LEEBURG

The stories are gut-wrenching. In Russia, eight-year-old Marik is sold to a pimp named Sasha for a case of vodka. Sasha finds nine-year-old Volodya abandoned at the Moscow railway station. Both boys are dressed as girls, along with thousands of other youngsters by other pimps in Russia, and sold for sexual favors for \$20 a day.

In India, 10-year-old Shama sat 11 hours a day, six days a week, as an indentured slave to a moneylender closing the ends of cigarettes for pennies a day to repay a \$25 debt her family owed for a medical emergency for another child in the family two years ago. She got one 15-minute break for lunch. If she didn't fold enough cigarettes, she was beaten. Because her family needed the money she made to buy food, she would never have been able to pay off the debt. Thankfully, she was found and rescued by the International Justice Mission after two years. There are 15 million children sold into bonded labor in India alone; and,

although there are laws against this type of slavery, they're not often enforced unless someone intervenes.

In Bangladesh, Pakistan, and many Central American countries, children are making clothes, shoes, carpets, dolls, soccer balls, cutlery, fireworks, surgical equipment and many other products for consumers in the United States and other developed countries. They often work 12-16 hours a day, earn about 5-8 cents an hour, and receive corporal punishment if production is down or mistakes occur. Globally, the International Labor Organization believes there are 250 million children currently working exhaustingly long days, 30 percent of them in Latin America. The United States is the world's largest importer of child-labor products.

In the Philippines, Pia was sold into prostitution at the age of nine by her aunt for \$3 per encounter. In the United States, there are an estimated 90,000-300,000 prostitutes under the

age of 18. In Thailand, more than 50 percent of child prostitutes are HIV-positive. Most of them have been sold into prostitution by parents willing to sacrifice their daughters for payments as high as \$8,000, often in exchange for what they believe is a good job at a beach-resort restaurant or other trade. In Latin America, research has shown that sexual abuse of boys and girls cuts across class and income divisions, and child prostitution is often an outcome of incest in the home.

In a number of Central and South American nations, street children have been rounded up and shot by the police. In many nations of the world, children as young as seven and eight years old are used to fight wars. And in almost every nation, children are used by drug dealers to push drugs and keep them from being caught themselves.

Many of us are appalled as we read the headlines and articles, but we think, *That's just the way it is. There's nothing we can do. It's too far away . . . not on our*

street anyway. We cite the complex causes of these crimes against children as an excuse for looking away. And they are complex, ranging from the poverty/lack of education/poverty cycle to globalization and the pressure of international investors upon governments needing to gain investment dollars to the indebtedness of many countries to the World Bank and the effect this has, turning their priorities from caring for their people to economic gain no matter what the cost. They're also simple: lust, power, greed, no value for human life, apathy.

But God doesn't buy our logic. He hates injustice and intends for the Church to be His hands and feet, bringing saving grace, advocacy, rescue, and justice to the weak and powerless.



**Twelve-year-old twins Ramael and Lakshmi and work across from each other on a single gem-cutting machine in Kilaveliyur, India. The girls and their mother work all day long to pay off an illegal bond that will take years to repay even if they are able to save their entire income. Lakshmi hopes to become a doctor, but there is no time or financial opportunity to attend any kind of school. Unless someone intervenes, they will remain enslaved.**

We're to seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, and plead for the widow (Isaiah 1:17).

Too often we abdicate that role, not wanting to get involved or not knowing how. And so, the injustice continues. The unjust and wicked think God has forgotten and doesn't see (Ps. 10:8-15); and the land is torn, bloodied, and becomes desolate in its mourning as injustice roams the streets, devouring victim after victim. Through it all, though, God

holds the Church accountable for not fulfilling its purpose (Isa. 59:15-16; Ezek. 22:25, 27, 30).

While secular organizations and individuals are stepping up in many countries to decry the lack of laws and protection for these little ones, their rescue operation isn't complete; they can't share the love of Christ and the concern of the Father who sent them. Where is the Church, that transforming agent and vehicle of His power and love that God meant it to be?

In his book *Good News About Injustice*,\* Gary Haugen, president of the International Justice Mission ([www.ijm.org](http://www.ijm.org)), dissects injustice into two main components: coercion and deception. He then discusses the strategy for overcoming the deception and coercion of the oppressor,

justice for the oppressed. Why? Because along with mercy and faith, justice, Jesus said, is one of the "more important matters," one that none of us can neglect (Matthew 23:23).

Haugen contends that while Christ came to set us free from sin and death through His sacrifice on the cross, He also came to deliver the poor, the prisoner, and the oppressed. "The prophet Isaiah made this clear to the leaders of Israel who were tiring God out with their prayer meetings and their spectacles of fasting in sackcloth and ashes," he writes about Isaiah 58:6-9.

"In the twentieth century," he concludes, "we grew in our understanding of evangelism, world missions, care for the poor, healing of the sick. We also learned how to be a voice of moral integrity within an idolatrous and promiscuous society. But we have a wonderful journey ahead of us in understanding a Christian's role in a world where power is used to abuse the weak."

With every country on the globe rife with injustice and the exploitation of these little ones whom God calls a heritage and blessing from Him, it's time we take up our call and follow Him, or we're contributing to their suffering by our silence and inactivity. And there's accountability for that, both here in the rampant increase in evil worldwide and in eternity, when we meet Him face-to-face. ☩

*Reprinted with permission from the Web site of God's Love in Action, [www.gospelcom.net/glia](http://www.gospelcom.net/glia).*

"Over the past year, at least 700,000, and possibly as many as four million men, women, and children worldwide were bought, sold, transported, and held against their will in slave-like conditions. In this modern form of slavery, known as "trafficking in persons," traffickers use threats, intimidation and violence to force victims to engage in sex acts or to labor under conditions comparable to slavery for the traffickers' financial gain. . . . [They] are trafficked into the international sex trade for the purposes of prostitution, sex tourism and other commercial sexual services and into forced labor situations in sweatshops, construction sites, and agricultural settings. The practice may take other forms as well, including the abduction of children and their conscription into government forces or rebel armies, the sale of women and children into domestic servitude, and the use of children as street beggars and camel jockeys."

*U.S. State Department, "Trafficking in Persons Report," June 5, 2002*

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO

The International Justice Mission takes referrals from overseas missionaries and relief and development workers who encounter cases of abuse and injustice in the communities where they are serving but cannot rely on local authorities for help. After receiving the referrals, IJM personnel conduct thorough investigations to document the abuses. Armed with this documentation, the IJM works with national authorities to rescue and care for the victims, bring the perpetrators to justice, and encourage changes to prevent future abuse. For more information on how you can be involved in the work of the International Justice Mission, call (703) 465-5495 or visit [www.ijm.org](http://www.ijm.org).

\* *Good News About Injustice* is available through the ERLC. For more information, see ad, page 11.

# Gifts of Hope

WMU's WorldCrafts Catalog Helps Men and Women Earn Living Wages

BY KAREN FLOWERS

**A**s we look around the world, we see multitudes who are disadvantaged. It is easy to feel so overwhelmed by their needs that we retreat into our own comfortable lives and do nothing.

Yet Christ commanded us to love one another. While only some believers are called to go to other countries and minister, all of us are commanded to love and to care. Let's not ignore the plight of the world around us. Instead, let's open our eyes and look with compassion at four distinct groups and their concerns.

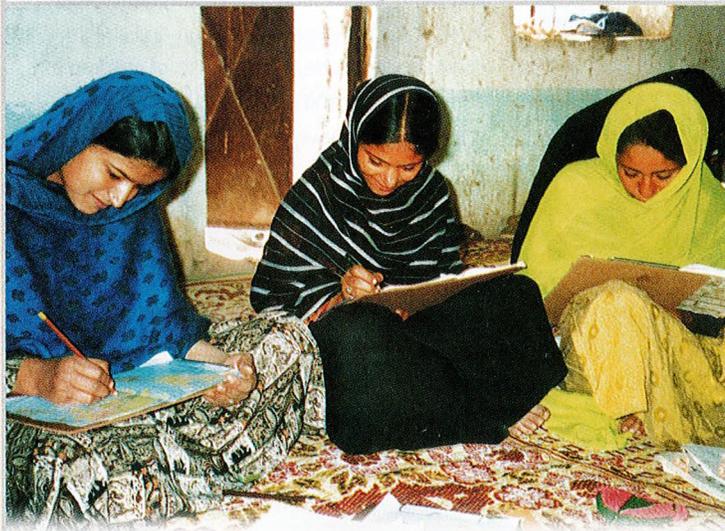
## Victims of Violence

"Remember those . . . who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering." *Hebrews 13:3*

We are horrified by the acts of violence occurring today. From terrorist acts in Pakistan to the armed conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians, we see people on all sides living without hope and dying without Christ.

In Pakistan, one American woman offers hope by teaching literacy classes to women and girls. The school, which meets in a rented, one-room mud house,

has helped twenty women learn to read and write. Our contact writes, "The school is immensely popular because in contrast to the harsh treatment and rote memorization in local schools, my wife uses disciplined compassion and lots of games for teaching and learning." The same women embroider items in their homes to sell to help support their families.



In Pakistan, women and girls enjoy literacy classes. The same women embroider items to sell to help support their families.

## Prostitutes

"Was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?" *James 2:25*

Just as Rahab had faith and went on to become the mother of Boaz and an ancestor of Jesus, today's prostitutes also can be brought to faith and restored to live a life pleasing to God.

Rahab Ministries in Thailand is doing just that. They reach out to the prostitutes in Patpong and offer a place of refuge in the form of a free beauty salon. The ladies first come for the free services and companionship, but many begin to see the salon as a place where people truly care about them.

As the women decide to turn away from prostitution, Rahab offers them new ways to make an income, such as working in the salon or making handmade greeting cards.

One of the missionaries working with the ministry shared the story of a 22-year-old prostitute. The girl had not responded the night they met her, although two of her friends had. The missionary wrote, "She came in this week after learning she is HIV positive. She was scared and depressed. She didn't

know where to go or what to do." After the girl watched the *JESUS* movie, she talked with the missionary. She said she was ready to accept Christ. The next night she made her decision public at a Thai church and testified, "I want to thank God that I now have a new life in Christ. Thank you to everyone here for the encouragement and love that you have shown me." The missionary continued, "Two days earlier this new Christian saw darkness caving in on her. Now she has hope for her future."

Another ministry to prostitutes is the Friendship House in an Indonesian city that is home to 20,000 prostitutes. Although the women have been receiving medicine, food, and clothes from Friendship House for several years, they recently began to weave and sell baskets as an alternative source of income. Our contact writes, "I don't know how these ladies can leave their profession without help . . . I hope we can work together to help these 'ladies of the night' become women of God."



# WORLD CRAFTS

## Helping Families Worldwide

Cornhusk angels from Tanzania, greeting cards from Thailand, and whimsical letter openers from the Gaza Strip are just a few of the products offered through WorldCrafts. The angels are made by a Christian woman whose husband died of AIDS four years ago. Greeting cards such as these offer prostitutes an alternative way to earn a living. The letter openers are made by some of Gaza's 19,000 deaf residents.

*WorldCrafts, a non-profit ministry of WMU, will import crafts from 34 groups in 24 countries this year. To order the 2002-2003 WorldCrafts catalog or the new WorldCrafts party kit (to be released Sept. 1, 2002), call WMU Customer Service at 1-800-968-7301.*



### The Poor

"He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God." *Proverbs 14:31*

From Asia to Africa to South America, there are entire villages living in poverty, often depending on a local craft for their sole income.

In Bolivia, the Guarayo Indians have a per-capita income of less than \$1.00 per day. Missionaries have been able to reach out to them by selling their beautiful, handwoven handbags; several of the women have given their lives to Christ and are involved in Bible study. One missionary said, "This gives not only income but also self-esteem and a witness of God's power and provision for His people."

The Miskito Indians of Honduras make and sell necklaces from seeds gathered in the rain forest. This is their only income. A missionary writes, "The workers have been elevated in the social structure of the village and in their families. Self-worth is now evident as these ladies walk through the village. They are realizing that Christ has changed their lives as a result of the work they are doing. Many have stopped drinking, joined the church, been baptized, and are looking at their children through the eyes of God—a new concept for this culture that saw children only as laborers."

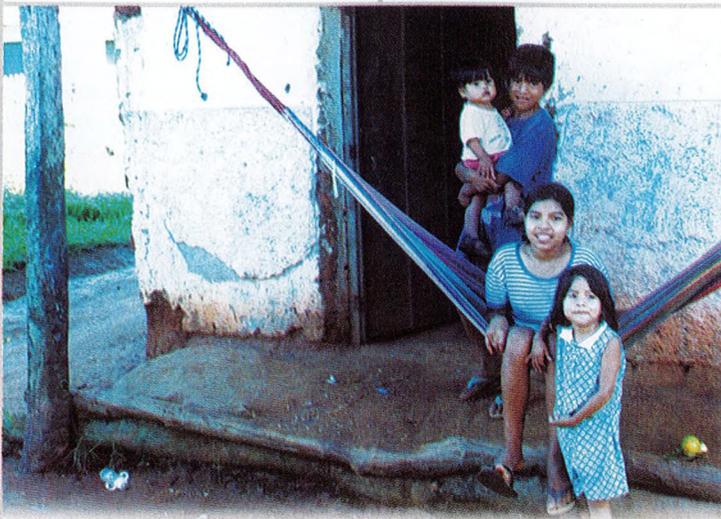
### Widows

"A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows is God in his holy dwelling." *Psalms 68:5*

Scripture tells us that God has a special concern for widows. Even in modern society, especially in other parts of the world, widows are somewhat defenseless. They often have no source of income after their husbands die. Life is very lonely and difficult for them, especially if they have children to provide for as well.

In Kenya, a group of widows has formed the Bananas of Hope Widow's Basket-Weaving Project to help provide income for themselves and their children. They begin each workday with Bible reading and end it in

prayer. Our contact writes that the project has "changed lifestyles and restored the hopes of ladies who were otherwise without hope. Widows often are forced into sexual encounters with fishermen who attach sex to the sale of fish. Desperate for a way to earn a living, the ladies succumb to the pressure and offer themselves for sex in exchange for the sale of fish, which they resell at a small profit. In contrast, the Bananas of Hope widows earn a living wage and even a surplus in a manner that brings glory to God."



The Guarayos typically have hammocks hanging inside and out. Here, Saul, Carlitos, Cintia, and Lolli wait for their breakfast. The money their mother makes weaving bags helps pay for their schooling.

### What Can You Do?

# you can help

"Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed." *Psalms 82:3*

As we have looked at four distinct groups of the needy—those living with violence, prostitutes, the poor, and widows—we have seen one common thread: They all are working to change their seemingly hopeless situations by making handcrafts.

WorldCrafts, a non-profit ministry of WMU, imports their handcrafts and markets them in the United States in order to

make their needs known. Why? So that God's people can address those needs by praying and by providing income to the people by purchasing their crafts.

In this simple way, you can make a profound and eternal difference. You can offer hope and demonstrate God's love and compassion to more than 1,000 individuals around the world. 

*Karen Flowers is project manager of WorldCrafts.*



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## BEAT HUNGER WEEKEND DESIGNED TO AID "NEEDY" WORLD HUNGER FUND

BY DWAYNE HASTINGS

A May 2002 United Nations report underscores the reality that the problem of hunger still looms large for many people around the world. And a recent U.S. Department of Agriculture study, covering 1996-1998, noted that some 10 million U.S. households did not have enough food to meet their family's basic needs.

"Most Americans hardly ever miss a meal unless it is their choice to do so, but many people in the U.S. and around the world are not so fortunate," said Steve Nelson, director of hunger concerns for the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. "However, Southern Baptists have an extremely efficient funding vehicle for domestic and international hunger projects," Nelson explained. "Gifts to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund provide the means for Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteers in the U.S. and around the world to feed the hungry while introducing them to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. One hundred percent of every dollar that is given to the fund goes to the field, with nothing taken out for administration or promotion."

Yet Nelson said giving to the World Hunger Fund is down dramatically from previous years, and that leaves many missionaries unable to start or sustain relief projects. "Gifts to the fund were down over

15 percent in 2001," he explained. "And for the first four months of 2002, giving is off over five percent when compared to the same period in 2001. That's a shame, because Southern Baptists are more than able to make a real dent in the number of families who are starving or malnourished. If a small number of families gave \$20 to the World Hunger Fund every month, hunger receipts would skyrocket."

Because of the drop in giving and out of concern for the plight of the needy and for the missionaries stymied in their ministry evangelism efforts, Nelson and the SBC's Inter-Agency Hunger Council decided to challenge churches to hold a BEAT Hunger Weekend.

BEAT Hunger, which stands for Believers Everywhere ATtack Hunger, was launched three years ago as a program for youth groups to dedicate 24 hours to gaining an awareness of the hunger issue and then devising a "hands-on plan to attack" the hunger problem in their community. Nelson said BEAT Hunger Weekend is an extension of the original emphasis and is designed to include the entire church.

"Too often ministry to those in need is little more than a footnote in a church's ministry plan," Nelson

said. "BEAT Hunger Weekend will introduce church members to an easy and effective way to help people who are in need. Hopefully, it also will spur some local churches to start a local hunger ministry in their area."

Nelson said churches that participate in the BEAT Hunger Weekend are asked to address hunger needs in their town by hosting a canned food drive or serving at a local shelter, and to have church members raise money in support of the SBC World Hunger Fund. The event is designed to reap a spiritual harvest as well. "When a congregation is introduced to hunger ministry, many will be prompted to get involved in caring for the hungry and needy," he explains. "In church after church I visit, I see those who involve themselves in this type of ministry experience spiritual growth like never before."

Registration for the event, with a suggested date of October 11-13, 2002, is available at [www.beathungerweekend.com](http://www.beathungerweekend.com), Nelson said, noting supporting resources are available to aid churches in this emphasis. For more information on the event, contact Nelson at [worldhungerfund@erlc.com](mailto:worldhungerfund@erlc.com) 

**More than 800 million people in the world are malnourished, and 177 million of them are children. With 100% of gifts to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund going directly to hunger relief,\* individuals and families around the world reap the benefits of your generosity. Together, we can make a difference.**

*\* SBWHF gifts are disbursed internationally (80%) and at home (U.S. and Canada, 20%).*

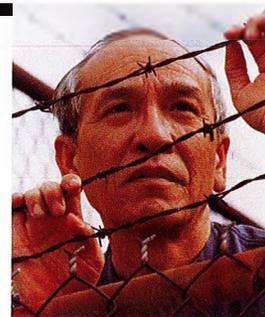
*"Unto the least of these"*

Matthew 25:40

[www.beathungerweekend.com](http://www.beathungerweekend.com)

Believers Targeted for Following Jesus

# Dying for Their Faith



## CHRISTIANS MURDERED IN THEIR BEDS IN INDONESIA'S MALUKA ISLANDS

The radical Muslim group Laskar Jihad has called all Muslims in Indonesia's Maluku Islands to renew their war against Christians.

On April 28, about a dozen men armed with guns, grenades, and daggers stormed the Christian village of Soya, leaving a trail of death and destruction. Thirty or more homes were torched, and a church was destroyed. Witnesses said the attackers went from house to house, shooting residents. At least twelve Christians were murdered, including a six-month-old child.

From his hospital bed, a father from the village said, "Those terrorists came into my house at 4:30 in the morning and started shooting. . . . My wife and granddaughter died instantly. I escaped because I was sleeping in a different room."

While Christians buried their dead, church leaders called for a government crackdown on

Muslim paramilitary groups. Violence in the Maluku province peaked in mid-2000, when thousands of Laskar Jihad fighters began driving Christians out of their villages. In three years some 9,000 people have died in the violence.

*Christian World News,*  
May 3, 2002

## MISSIONARY EXECUTED IN PHILIPPINES

A U.S. missionary held hostage by Muslim terrorists was executed by his captors and his wife was seriously wounded during a June 7 rescue attempt by the Philippine military. Martin Burnham, 42, was "executed by the Abu Sayyaf rebels" when they realized that a rescue attempt was underway, military officials told the *Philippine Star*.

Burnham's wife, Gracia, was wounded by gunfire. The 43-year-old missionary was taken to a military hospital in the southern city of Zamboanga, where she underwent surgery

on her right leg.

A third hostage, Filipino nurse Deborah Yap, also was killed in the intense firefight.

The Burnhams were career missionaries with New Tribes Mission, an interdenominational agency based in Sanford, Fla. They were among 20 people kidnapped from a resort on May 27, 2001. They were celebrating their 18th wedding anniversary.

They have three children — Jeffrey, 15, Mindy, 12, and Zach, 11 — who have been living in Kansas with Burnham's parents.

Doug Burnham, Martin's brother, told CNN, "Obviously, it hasn't turned out the way we hoped. But we are grateful Gracia is alive. Our faith in the Lord is still the same. That hasn't changed."

Philippines President Gloria Arroyo expressed sympathy for the families: "This has been a long and painful trial for [the families of the hostages]," the statement read. "Our soldiers

had tried to hold fire for their safety. We had hoped and prayed for their safe return. Gracia is safe; this is our blessing. The terrorist shall not be allowed to get away with this. We shall not stop until the Abu Sayyaf is finished."

*Baptist Press,* June 7, 2002

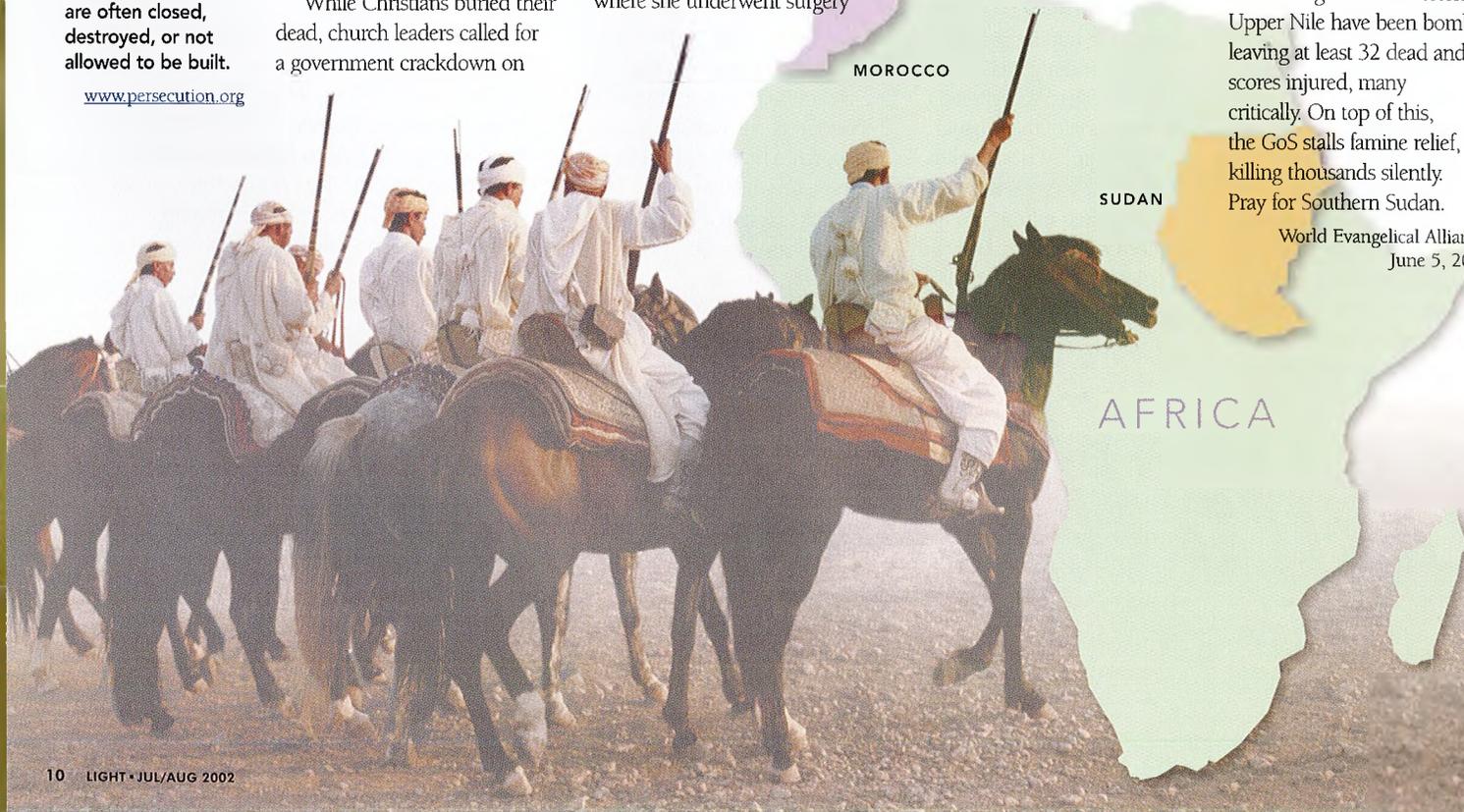
## ABDUCTION INTO SLAVERY, FORCED CONVERSIONS TO ISLAM, BOMBINGS, AND STALLED FAMINE RELIEF PLAGUE SUDAN CHURCH

While the Church in Southern Sudan is growing phenomenally, it also suffers severely under the Government of Sudan's (GoS)  *jihad*, or "holy war." An international panel investigating slavery in Sudan recently reported that abduction into slavery was "commonplace," with victims forced to convert to Islam. GoS bombing raids on Southern Sudanese civilians remain routine. In the past two weeks, a relief center and four other villages in the Western Upper Nile have been bombed, leaving at least 32 dead and scores injured, many critically. On top of this, the GoS stalls famine relief, killing thousands silently. Pray for Southern Sudan.

*World Evangelical Alliance,*  
June 5, 2002

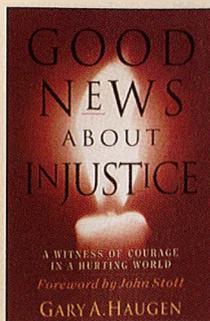
With 99.8% of Morocco's population adhering to Islam, Christianity and Judaism are tolerated. However, law and tradition call for severe punishments for anyone who converts from Islam, and proselytizing by non-Muslims is often punished even when it does not violate laws. In contrast, it is estimated that 70% of Sudan's population are Sunni Muslims, 19% are Christians, and 9.9% belong to tribal religions. There, forced conversion to Islam is a part of government policy, and churches are often closed, destroyed, or not allowed to be built.

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



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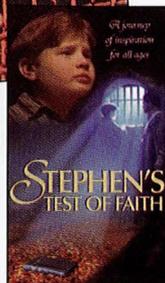
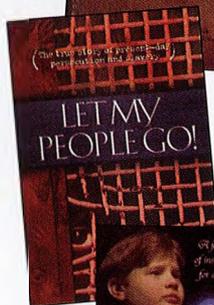
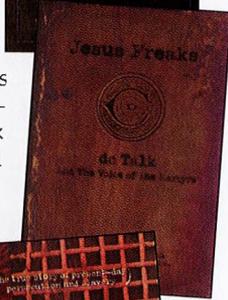
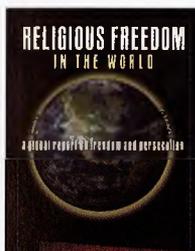
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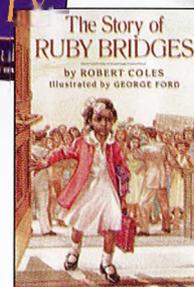
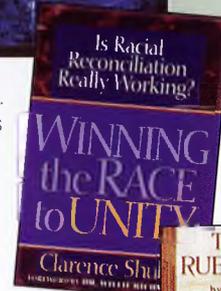
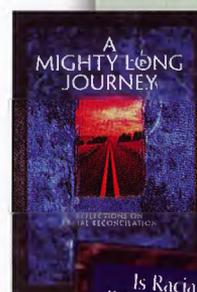
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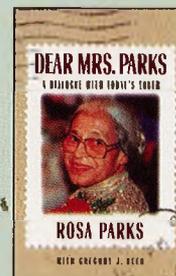


#### Dear Mrs. Parks

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.

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# The New Utopians vs a Truly Human Future

**Utopianism** — the idea that we can enjoy a perfect society of perfect people on a perfect earth—is not new at all. Novelists, playwrights, social engineers, and media moguls all have attempted to create a perfect world. The new utopians, however, are a breed

mentally by making use of reason, science, and technology. In addition, respect for the rights of the individual and a belief in the power of human ingenuity are important elements of Transhumanism. Transhumanists also repudiate belief in the existence of supernatural powers that guide us. These things together represent the core of our philosophy. The critical and rational approach which transhumanists support is at the service of the desire to

Because, as they argue, computer speed and computational power will advance a million fold between now and the year 2050 A.D., artificial intelligence (AI) will surpass human intelligence. The only way humans can survive is by merging with machines, according to the Transhumanists. Do the movies *A.I.* or *Bicentennial Man* come to mind?

Before you dismiss the Transhumanists as just another “bunch of wackos,” you need to know who some of

[www.kevinwarwick.com](http://www.kevinwarwick.com).)

The next stage of human evolution, he argues, is the cybernetic age. As Warwick told *Newsweek* in January 2001, “The potential for humans, if we stick to our present physical form, is pretty limited . . . the opportunity for me to become a cyborg is extremely exciting. I can’t wait to get on with it.” And so he has.

Rodney Brooks, professor of robotics at MIT, believes that through robotics we are reshaping what it means to be

“In the years ahead we will witness machines with an intelligence that will make all the important decisions. It will be a robot doing the thinking.”

“Humans have limited capabilities. . . . But can this be improved?”

Does this sound familiar?  
[www.kevinwarwick.com](http://www.kevinwarwick.com)  
of Reading in England

them are. One of the brains behind the movement is Nick Bostrom, a philosopher at Yale University. Bostrom’s Web site ([www.nickbostrom.com](http://www.nickbostrom.com)) sets out his worldview quite clearly: He wants to make better humans through technology.

Another Transhumanist is a professor of cybernetics at the University of Reading in England. Kevin Warwick has the distinction of being the first “cyborg.” His current project involves linking the nervous system in his left arm to a radio transmitter receiver in order to send signals from his nervous system to a computer and vice versa, all by means of the computer chip implanted in his arm. (See

human. His recent book *Flesh and Machines* (Pantheon, 2002) is an exploration of his worldview. For many of the Transhumanists, human beings are merely what AI guru Marvin Minsky has called “computers made of meat.” So, melding a biological computer (a human brain) with a silicon brain (a computer) seems like a logical thing to do.

What do the Transhumanists all have in common? First, to be charitable, they find the problems of human suffering, limitation, and death to be disconcerting. The technopian vision is of a pain-free, unlimited, eternal humanity. For that vision, we should commend them. But,

apart, so to speak. They are what we might call “technopians.” That is, they believe that technology is the key to achieving a perfect society of perfect people on a perfect earth.

The new technopians actually have a name for themselves: Transhumanists. According to the World Transhumanist Association: “Transhumanism (as the term suggests) is a sort of humanism plus. Transhumanists think they can better themselves socially, physically, and

improve humankind and humanity in all their facets” ([www.transhumanism.com](http://www.transhumanism.com)).

Again, the idea of improving society through technology is not new. In fact, most of the last century was spent doing just that. What is new, however, is how the Transhumanists intend to improve society: They intend to craft their technopia by merging the human with the machine.

C. Ben Mitchell, Ph.D., is consultant on biomedical and life issues for the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and associate professor of bioethics and contemporary culture at Trinity International University in Deerfield, Illinois. He also edits *Ethics & Medicine: An International Journal of Bioethics*.

**cy·borg** (sī'bōrg') *n.* A human being who has certain physiological processes aided or controlled by mechanical or electronic devices; part human part machine; a bionic human.

[CYB(ERNETIC) + ORG(ANISM)]

BY C. BEN MITCHELL

how to get there? That is the real question.

Second, and less charitably, the Transhumanists display what can only be called self-loathing. They are very perturbed by humanity and its finitude. The body and its limitations have become a prison for them, and they want to transcend the boundaries of this mortal coil. In their view, Transhumanism offers the greatest freedom.

Third, they are confident—even triumphalistic—evolutionists. Theirs is not the

earthly tabernacle or tent.

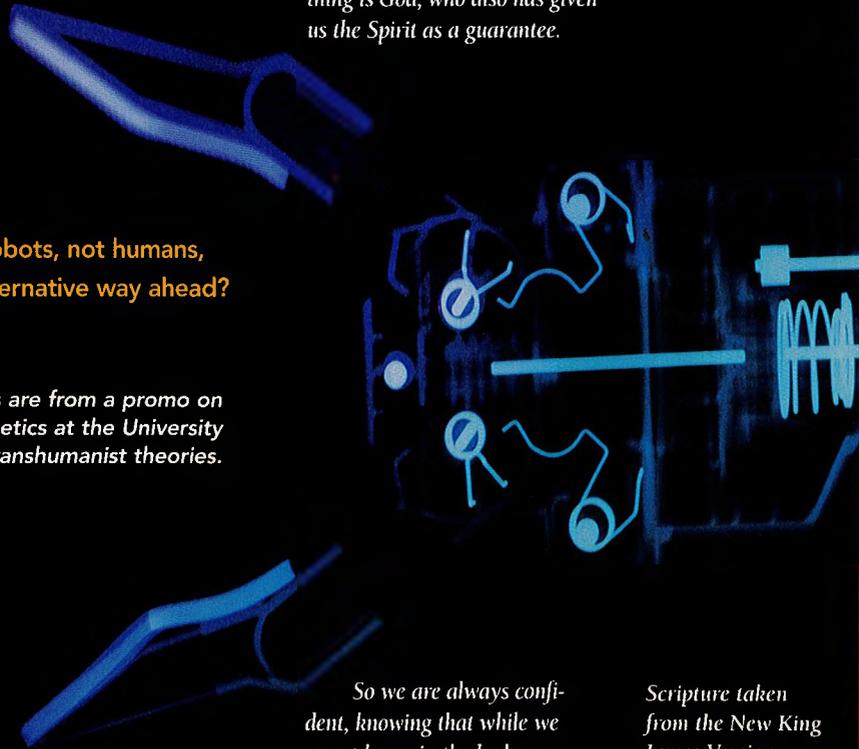
He longs to be freed from the suffering, the pain, and the finitude. Yet his hope is not in his own ability to transcend his humanity, but in God's power to transform his humanity through redemption. He is confident that this mortality shall put on immortality—that we have a dwelling place not made with human hands, eternal, and heavenly.

*But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of*

*and will present us with you.*

*For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God. Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but*

*earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.*



*for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

*For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan,*

*So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord (2 Cor. 4:7-5:6).*

Much of what the Transhumanists long for is already available to Christians: eternal life and freedom from pain, suffering, and the burden of a frail body. As usual, however, the Transhumanists—like all of us in our failed attempts to save ourselves—trust in their own power rather than God's provision for a truly human future with him. †

*Scripture taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

intelligence more powerful than that of humans. This will mean that robots, not humans, inhabit a postulated world with dire consequences for humankind. Is there an alternative way ahead?

evolutionists? Can we use technology to upgrade humans?"

Like the premise of a science-fiction movie? Believe it or not, these words are from a promo on [k.com](http://www.k.com) for Kevin Warwick's book, *I, Cyborg*. Warwick, professor of cybernetics at the University of Warwick, is so enamored with the idea that he's become a cyborg to test his Transhumanist theories.

Darwinian evolutionary view of incredibly slow, incremental progress of the fittest of the species. No, this is good old Western pull-ourselves-up-by-our-bootstraps, relatively instant, designer evolution. But, with all of our human frailties, are we going to make ourselves better through technology? Since we are so limited, error-prone, and bounded, we might just destroy ourselves! The problem of self-extinction worries a few of them, especially Nick Bostrom.

The apostle Paul was a Transhumanist of sorts. He too found the limitations of our fallen humanity bothersome. In Second Corinthians 4 and 5 he groans about this

*God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you. And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus,*

# Save the Family, Save the Culture

BY DWAYNE HASTINGS

The family is under attack, and William Bennett is a well-known advocate for this beleaguered social institution. He was a recent guest on *For Faith & Family Radio*, talking with host Richard Land about his latest book, *The Broken Hearth: Reversing the Moral Collapse of the American Family*.

"William Bennett is a voice of reason and morality crying in the wilderness."

—DR. RICHARD LAND

The key to remedying the ills of American society is rebuilding the family, says William Bennett, co-director of Empower America and founder of K12, an Internet-based elementary and secondary school. "The family is in disrepair," stresses Bennett, who served as Secretary of Education in the Reagan administration and as the nation's "drug czar" in the first Bush White House.

"The family as a monogamous, married couple living with their children is vital to civilization's success and to America's success," says Bennett. "Nothing can take the place of the family."

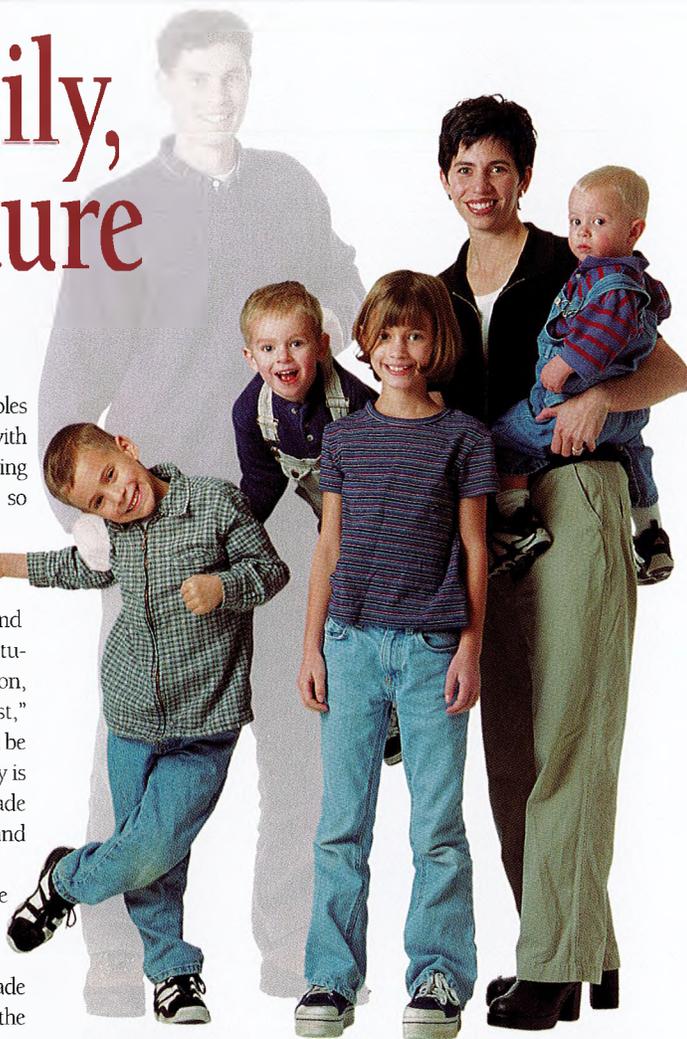
Since 1960, divorce rates have doubled, out-of-wedlock births have skyrocketed from one in twenty to one in three, the percentage of single parents has tripled, the number of cohabiting couples has increased tenfold, and there are a record number of fathers abandoning their families, Bennett reports. "This is a shipwreck for the American family."

Bennett said many couples are entering into marriage with utopian expectations, believing they understand each other so perfectly that their union is going to be the most wonderful marriage ever.

"People need to understand marriage is a difficult institution. It is a blessed institution, but it takes work to last," Bennett says. "Some days will be better than others, but the key is acknowledging they have made a commitment before God and honoring it."

And he doesn't buy into the notion that the culture is totally at fault for weakened and failing marriages: "God made us free to choose. We make the decisions in our lives, and we are responsible for those decisions. We need to throw off the excuses and take responsibility."

Yet Bennett acknowledges there are contemporary assaults from the outside that are rocking marriages: cohabitation, the



**There is a dangerous mindset in our culture today that says taking dad out of the picture is a good thing, as it liberates families from "repressive patriarchal authority." However, families without a male head of the household are a "recipe for disaster," maintains William Bennett, and America's children are paying the price.**

prospect of gay marriages, an easy-divorce culture, and the notion that kids can do without a father in the home.

Bennett recalls saying when he was he was Secretary of Education, "Give me stronger families and stronger churches and we will see 90 percent of the problems in society disappear." He calls for an end to no-fault divorce, saying divorce should be harder, not easier, to get.

"In a typical broken marriage one partner wants out and one doesn't," Bennett explains. "We have to tilt the system more to the person who doesn't want to end the marriage. The current system is weighted the other way." He says the church needs to be more involved in saving marriages and preventing bad ones. "Churches

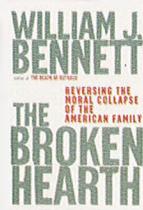
need to rally to the side of the spouse who does not want the divorce," he says. "More marriages than we might imagine can be saved, but they can't be saved if we are passive and indifferent to the couple in crisis."

There are increasing numbers of children brought into American life without the benefit of a father, Bennett lamented. He says families without a male head of the household are a "recipe for disaster," adding, "We have been conducting a social experiment in this country, and the results are not good."

Children need more than their physical needs fulfilled, Bennett says. "They need to know they are in a morally and emotionally secure environment." 

## DOES IT MATTER IF WE PRESERVE THE NUCLEAR FAMILY?

Some argue that its dissolution is a good thing—a liberation from repressive patriarchal authority. To the contrary, William Bennett maintains that it is the fundamental crisis of our time. Combining fearless conviction with acute insight, Bennett details the trends that undercut the ideal of the nuclear family as the essential foundation of society—trends that have taken root in our churches as well. He traces the effects of these trends and weighs their impact on our society, articulating not only why the integrity of families is a legitimate interest of society at large but also how we can begin to correct our mistakes and reclaim the legacy of the American family as a precious institution that safeguards the interests of men, women, and children.



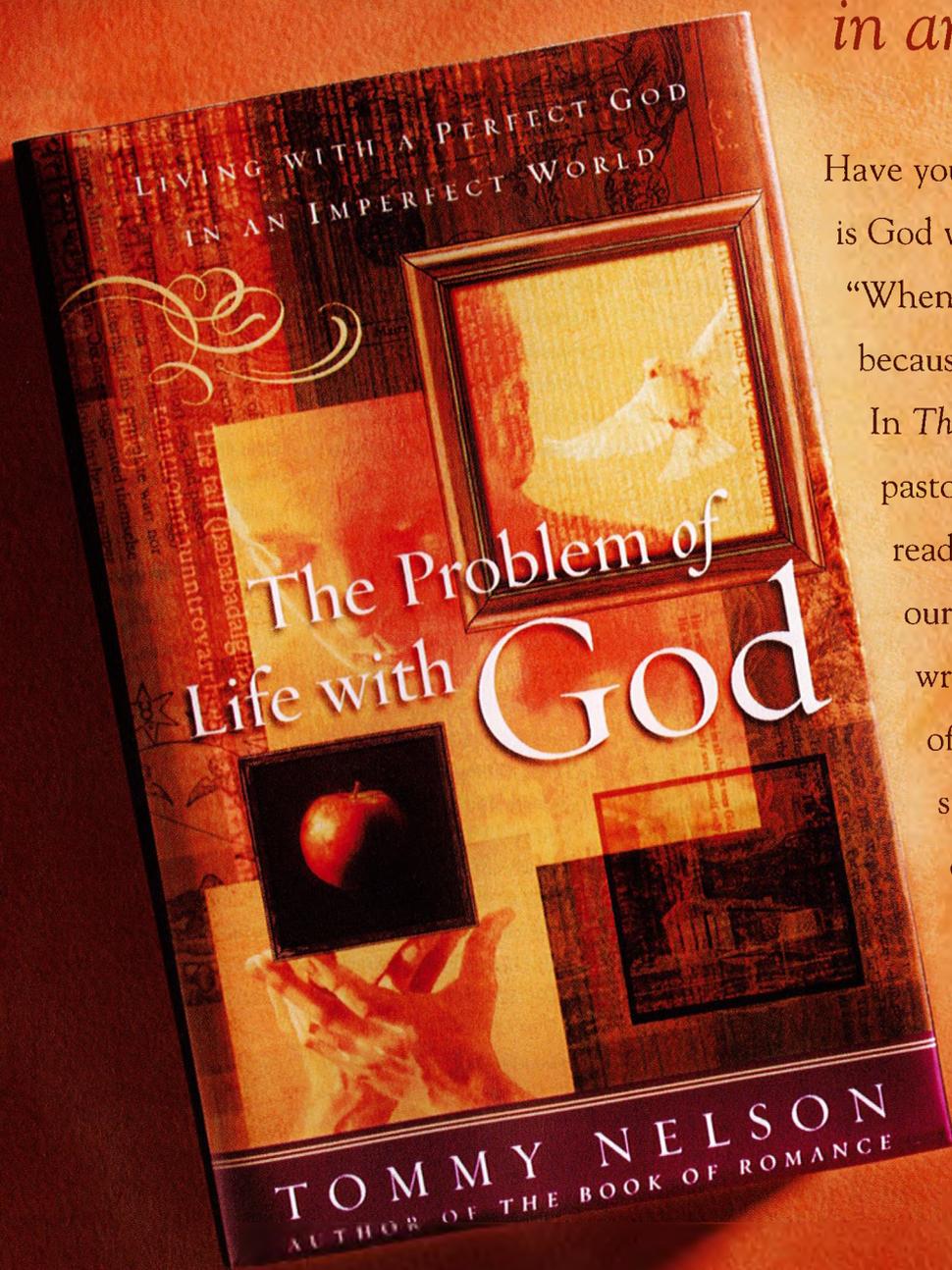
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# "I never thought it could happen to me."

Dr. Jim Butler is pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Southaven, Mississippi. He estimates that 25-30% of their church families have been negatively impacted by gambling, including many who have divorced.

## BY JIM BUTLER

"I don't have a gambling problem. I can stop going to the casinos anytime I want." As pastor of a church just a few miles from Tunica, Mississippi, one of the largest casino gambling centers in the United States, I hear this all the time.

"He who chases fantasies lacks judgment."

PROVERBS 12:11

No one intends to become addicted to gambling. No one intends to lose the respect and trust of family and friends. No one intends to destroy a marriage. No one intends to steal from an employer. No one

intends to lose a home or business. No one intends to go to prison. No one intends to contemplate suicide. However, all of these things happen every day as a result of the seductive lies of casino gambling.

While gambling certainly preys on those who can least afford to lose their money, it also has a strong appeal to the financially successful. Over the last seven years my heart has broken as I have watched faithful church leaders being sucked into the gambling lie. One of those couples gave me permission to share a brief description of their story. They were active church members and Sunday School teachers as well as successful business owners and respected community leaders. I'll call them Sam and Maggie.

Their problems began in

1996 with a trip to Tunica. Like everyone in the area, Sam and Maggie had seen and heard the ever-present ads describing the exciting things happening at the casinos, so they decided to make the trip just to look around and eat at one of the casinos' inexpensive restaurants. The casino employees were very friendly and made each person feel special. Yet Sam and Maggie were unimpressed—until they made their first win! Something about the thrill of winning made them forget their misgivings and the shame they had felt at being in a casino. They were hooked.

They began making the 45-minute drive to the casinos three, four, or five times each week. Although they were now on a first-name basis with the friendly casino employees, each

trip took them deeper into the bondage of addiction. They obtained a multi-thousand-dollar line of credit to cover their mounting losses.

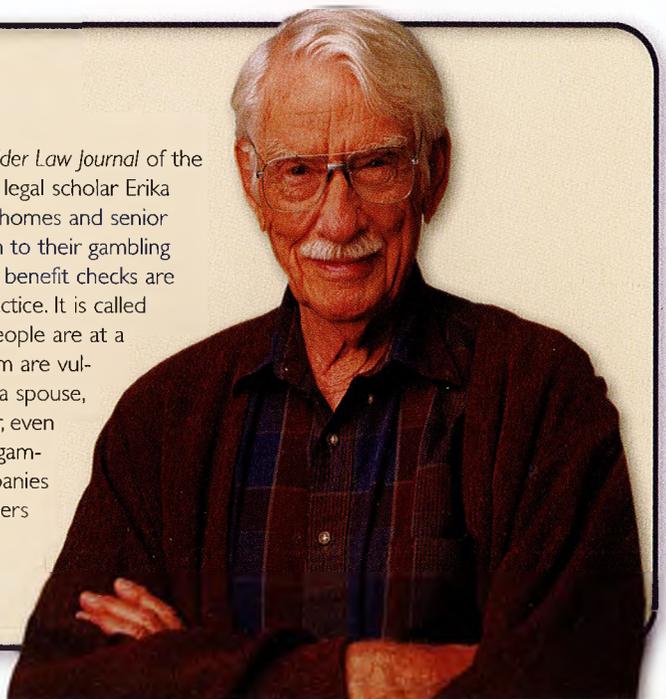
By 1998, their marriage and business were on the brink of disaster. At 3:00 a.m. on January 3, 1998, Sam and Maggie pulled their car into the parking lot of their business to talk about what was happening. Realizing how close they had come to losing everything, they made a commitment to leave the gambling lifestyle and come back to church.

We met in my office the next day, and they confessed their sinful addiction. Their business and parking lot were directly across the street from our church. They told me, "While we were having our heart-to-heart talk, we were sitting literally in the shadow

## Elderly Fall Prey to Casinos

In an article published in the October 1999 issue of the *Elder Law Journal* of the University of Illinois College of Law at Urbana-Champaign, legal scholar Erika Gosker states that casinos regularly send buses to nursing homes and senior citizen centers to pick up elderly people to transport them to their gambling establishments. This is often done just after Social Security benefit checks are received. The industry has even coined a name for the practice. It is called the "Third-of-the-Month Club." Gosker states that older people are at a greater risk for problem gambling because so many of them are vulnerable psychologically due to such things as the death of a spouse, loneliness, or boredom. Some casinos, according to Gosker, even use sophisticated video tracking systems to identify heavy gamblers. And some gather information from credit card companies about the spending habits and income of potential customers so they can contact potential high bettors.

"Are Casinos Preying on Our Elders?"  
AARP Bulletin, March 2000



Sam and Maggie were active church members and Sunday School teachers, as well as successful business owners and respected community leaders. What began as a recreational trip to Tunica turned into a living nightmare as they found themselves enslaved to greed and an overpowering desire to get rich quick through casino gambling. In five short years, they went from the pinnacle of success to the depths of despair and financial ruin with debts totalling \$450,000. Like most Christians, they never imagined it could happen to them.

of the cross at the top of our church. We had reached the bottom." And they thought they had.

Because of gambling debts Sam and Maggie were forced to sell their business and their home. They spent a year working to restore their marriage and get back on their feet financially. They got active in Sunday School again, and the desire to return to the casino life was fading. Greed, selfishness, and the desire to get rich quick were things they thought they never would struggle with again.

In the summer of 2000, Maggie's father became ill. Maggie spent several weeks with her parents in another state, but she called home regularly to check on Sam and their son. Sam was often away when she called, even when she called late at night. She was afraid that something was wrong, that the old urges had come back again.

Back at home, Maggie tried to push the worries from her mind and focus on making their new homebuilding business a success. The housing market was strong, and banks

were eager to lend money to a couple with such a good reputation in the community. As their pastor, I was excited to see things getting back to normal.

On April 16, 2001, Maggie left work to pick up their son from school and purchase gro-

were looking for him, so he decided to go away and never come back. Beside the note sat a stack of unpaid bills. Maggie was left owing \$450,000.

Panic, hurt, anger, and disbelief flooded her heart. Sam called a few days later. God

"Sin truly takes us farther than we plan to go and costs more than we want to pay."

— JIM BUTLER

ceries. When they arrived at home, the house had a strange feel. The closets were open, and there were empty places where Sam's clothes had been. All of his things were gone—everything! She had no idea what was going on. On his desk was a note that attempted to explain everything. He was gambling again. He was gone.

The note said that Sam had lost everything. The money they had borrowed from the bank to build houses—gone. Their business—gone. Their bank accounts were empty, and their home now belonged to a casino. People from the casino

again had convicted him of his sin and broken his heart. Maggie allowed him to come back home, and they entered Christian counseling for addictive behavior. They got right with God and came back to church. Our church is loving them and praying for lasting victory this time. God is working a miracle.

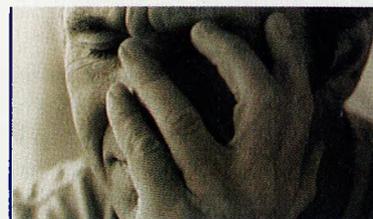
On the day I called to ask permission to share their story, they had just come from a lawyer's office where they had officially and finally lost everything. Sin truly takes us farther than we plan to go and costs more than we want to pay. ☹

**"Statistics prove that teenage Internet gambling is the fastest growing addiction of the day, akin to drug and alcohol abuse in the 1930s. It's pernicious, it's evil, it's certainly one that feeds on those who are the weakest members of society—and that's the young and the poor."**

—David Robertson, former chairman of the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling, CNN.com, March 17, 2002

"Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle."

PROVERBS 23:5



**Responses to a Survey of Gamblers Anonymous Members**

Gambled to recoup losses	<b>100%</b>
Spent more gambling than intended	<b>98.4%</b>
Would like to stop but cannot	<b>93.4%</b>
Missed work due to gambling	<b>72.7%</b>
Used household money to gamble	<b>96.7%</b>
Ever wanted to die	<b>91.8%</b>
Thought of committing suicide	<b>86.9%</b>
Attempted suicide	<b>27.9%</b>
Theft to pay for gambling	<b>65.6%</b>
Divorce related to gambling	<b>32.8%</b>
Owing more than \$10,000 because of gambling	<b>55.7%</b>
Owing more than \$50,000 because of gambling	<b>19.6%</b>
Involved in bankruptcy	<b>26.2%</b>

Excerpted from "Montana Gambling Study Commission" (1998), [www.videogamblinginfo.com](http://www.videogamblinginfo.com), June 8, 2001

## "The Bible doesn't say, 'Don't gamble.' So why do some claim gambling is wrong?"

While the Bible does not explicitly say, "Thou shalt not gamble," it teaches many principles that indicate gambling is wrong. The Bible emphasizes love for God and neighbor; gambling seeks personal gain and pleasure at another person's loss and pain. The Bible emphasizes the sovereignty of God in the direction of human events; gambling looks to chance and so-called luck. The Bible indicates that we are to work diligently and use our possessions for the good of others; gambling fosters a something-for-nothing attitude. The Bible condemns covetousness and materialism; gambling has both at its heart. The Bible praises careful stewardship; gambling calls for reckless abandon. God calls us not to be as the one described in Proverbs 12:11: "He who chases fantasies lacks judgment," but to be on a lifelong journey toward maturity and good judgment.

*Gambling is the focus of the September edition of For Faith & Family's Culture Response Kit featured at right.*

### ANTI-GAMBLING CULTURE RESPONSE KIT CONTENTS\*

- Bible study and sermon helps
- LifeLight handouts (qty: 100)
- Videos: *Losing America: The Crisis of Problem Gambling* (27 min.) and *When Gambling Comes Home* (33 min.)
- Book: *Seducing America: Is Gambling a Good Bet?* (see description below)
- Full-Color Promotional Posters (qty: 2)
- Gambling Fact Sheets (qty: 10)



Promotional  
Poster  
GAPOS2

LifeLight  
GABULK02

GAKIT02 (monthly subscription) \$24.95

Individual kits are available for \$29.95.



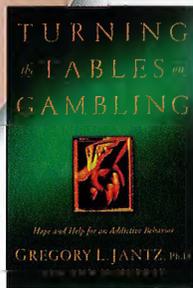
### Gambling: A Christian Perspective Series

As the gambling industry entrenches itself deeper in the fabric of U.S. communities, it is important for Christians to understand the dangers that gambling presents. These pamphlets forcefully lay out the case against gambling from the social, economic, and moral perspectives. Documented with extensive footnotes, they are useful as handouts or in sermon preparation.

CASINO GAMBLING	GACASU	\$4.00/20
VIDEO POKER	GAVIDU	\$4.00/20
BIBLICAL INSIGHTS ON GAMBLING	GABIBU	\$4.00/20
STATE-OPERATED LOTTERIES	GASTAU	\$4.00/20
PARI-MUTUEL GAMBLING	GAPARU	\$4.00/20

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

Research shows that nearly two-thirds of American adults gambled in the last year, with Christians gambling at the same rate as unbelievers. Why are we tempted to gamble? What is the risk of becoming addicted? Is playing the lottery harmless? This book answers these questions and more while identifying ways our culture supports the gambling lifestyle, what the Bible says about it, healthy ways to view and manage money, and how freedom from gambling addiction can be found.



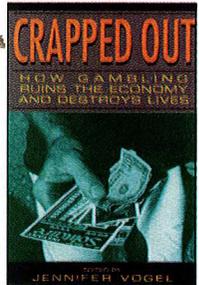
BKTUR (229 pages) \$11.99 ea.

### Crapped Out: How Gambling Ruins the Economy and Destroys Lives

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

BKCRA (233 pages)

\$7.75 ea.

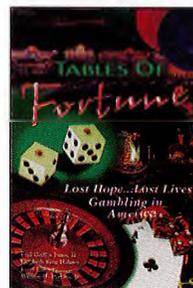


### Tables of Fortune

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

BKTAB (80 pages)

While supply lasts. \$7.95 ea.



### Seducing America: Is Gambling a Good Bet?

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

BKSED (176 pages)

\$5.50 ea.

### Gambling: 10 Myths vs. Real Truth

This leaflet outlines the Bible's definite stance against gambling, dispelling arguments that people advance in support of gambling. *An excellent bulletin insert or handout.*

GATENU

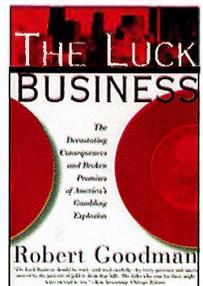
\$4.00/20

### The Luck Business

This widely quoted work on the devastating effects of government-promoted gambling draws on the landmark United States Gambling Study and features interviews with politicians, industry leaders, and experts. Robert Goodman documents that states promoting gambling enterprises consistently fail to provide new revenue and jobs and cause myriad economic and social problems.

BKLUC (273 pages)

While supply lasts. \$8.50 ea.



Culture  
Response Kit  
PREMIUM

# WHO WINS?

## THE MYTHS OF STATE-OPERATED LOTTERIES

**Lottery revenues are a consistent source of income for cash-poor states.**

Studies reveal lottery revenues fluctuate from year to year and that in many states ticket sales and profits are sagging or plateaued. States relying on lottery revenue to bolster their budgets in a weak economy have been scrambling because gambling income is suffering as well, according to a Scripps-Howard News report by Lisa Hoffman (October 13, 2001).

The article notes lotteries are facing increased competition from other members of the gambling family. Most Americans now live within a three-hour drive of a casino, and opportunities to gamble are as near as your computer's keyboard. As of early 2001, Internet gambling was expected to be a \$5 billion worldwide industry by 2003 (*National Journal's Technology Daily*, April 24, 2002).

Also, many gamblers are suffering from "jackpot fatigue," having been lured with the long-shot promise of glittering riches one time too many. A \$1 million jackpot is no longer enough to attract players. If a jackpot is not more than \$50 million, it draws more yawns than wagers. Hence the advent of multi-state games such as Powerball and The Big Game.

**If you play the same numbers in the lottery each week, your odds of winning increase.**

This is the "gambler's fallacy," believing that past gambling improves future odds. Probabilities do not increase but are constant. There is a one-in-sixteen chance that a normal coin will come up heads four times in a row, says Tyler Jarvis in his report, "Gambling: What Are the Odds?" ([www.math.byu.edu/~jarvis/gambling/gambling/gambling.html](http://www.math.byu.edu/~jarvis/gambling/gambling/gambling.html)). If a coin comes up heads three times in a row, the odds it will be heads on the fourth toss are the same as if the coin had never been tossed. Neither the coin nor the numbers in the lottery remember the past and are not inclined to even out the odds of winning. The gambling industry, however, is more than willing to exploit gamblers' ignorance of the laws of probability.

**Lots of people win the lottery.**

Mathematicians say lottery players are far more likely to be hit by lightning during the week they play the lottery than to strike it rich. At less than one in fifty-four million, the odds of winning the multi-million-dollar jackpot are almost nonexistent, Jarvis says.

However, bettors succumb to what psychologists call "availability error," the common tendency we all have to recall only "good, unusual, or easily remembered experiences." As a gambler buys his Lotto scratch-off cards, he is not thinking about the millions of people who lost money last week—his mind is on the one man who was on the evening news after he won the big jackpot. The states' lottery commissions are savvy enough to parade these big winners before us as the cameras

flash and they tell how many people they will be able to help with their newfound wealth. States never publicize the names and faces of the weeks "big losers." Interestingly enough, attorneys who see the gambling industry as prey for their trade may soon court these losers, reports *The Hartford Courant* (May 17, 2002).

One of the first state attorney generals to target the tobacco industry said recently that the gambling industry might soon feel the pinch of litigation. Former Massachusetts Attorney General Scott Harshbarger, now president of Common Cause, told a conference on problem gambling that "there is a dramatic public health cost, there is a dramatic social cost" to gambling. Just over the border in Canada, a judge has said a class-action lawsuit against Loto-Quebec can proceed. The suit seeks damages on behalf of individuals addicted to video lottery terminals. **i**

**Think you can win the lottery?**

A lottery ticket buyer is...

**5 times** more likely to be eaten by a shark,

**7 times** more likely to be struck by lightning,

**6,000 times** more likely to be hit by a car, and

**500,000 times** more likely to die in an airline crash...

... than to win a state lottery.

Rex M. Rogers in *Seducing America: Is Gambling a Good Bet?* Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1997 (featured in Faith & Family's CultureResponse Kit shown on page 18).



editor@erico.com

# you've been asking

Is there any truth to the rumor that "Touched by an Angel" will be taken off the air because it mentions God in every show?

No. The "Touched by an Angel" rumor, which began circulation in 1999, is a variation of what might well be the most famous rumor of them all—Madalyn Murray O'Hair and Petition 2493, which has been making the rounds since 1975—32 years!

We are continually amazed at the easy prey Christians make of themselves in regard to persistent rumors, myths, and urban legends. Unfortunately, the wonder of e-mail has made it possible to broadcast these time-wasters to wide audiences with just a click of a mouse.

Before you forward anything to your friends take a minute to check it out with a reliable source. Two good private sites are [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com) and [www.urbanlegends.com](http://www.urbanlegends.com), and <http://hoax-busters.ciac.org> is maintained by the U.S. Department of Energy. The computer virus software company Symantec specializes in debunking computer hoaxes, and at the time of this writing listed 140 different ones. Visit [www.symantec.com](http://www.symantec.com), then click on "Security Response."

If you find that someone has sent you something that is untrue, reply to the e-mail by sending the explanation page back along with a hint to be more discerning in the future—sometimes that works for us. Remember, God is firm about being discerning, spreading falsehoods, and using time wisely.

I understand that creating human embryos for their stem cells is wrong. But what about stem cells from adults? Do they work?

Non-embryonic stem cells hold great promise. Stem cells exist in every human being—even in cadavers. Stem cells taken from any other source than an embryo are called "adult stem cells." And, contrary to what the scientific establishment would have us believe, adult stem cells show more clinical promise than those taken from embryos, without the surrounding ethical issues.

According to the Spring 2002 "Stem Cell Report," Cedars-Sinai Medical Center has reported a total reversal of symptoms in the first Parkinson's patient treated with adult stem cells. A 57-year-old man is still without symptoms three years

after neural stem cells were removed from his brain, coaxed into becoming dopamine-producing cells, and then reimplanted. Because the patient's own cells were used, there was little concern about rejection. The technique is under study for juvenile diabetes, stroke, brain tumors, spinal cord injury, and other conditions.

A team at Emory University

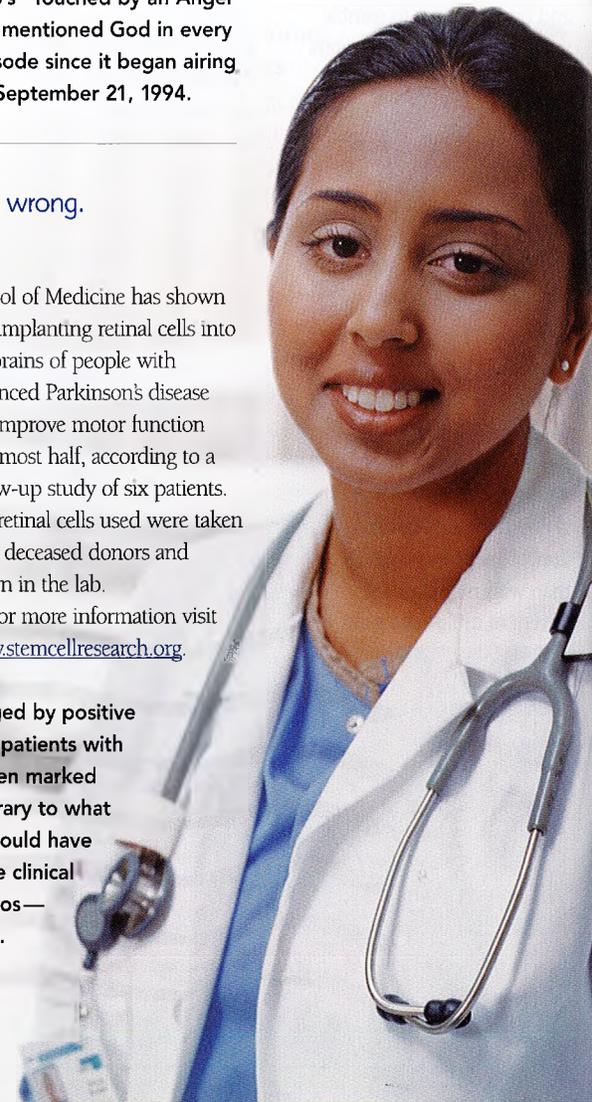
School of Medicine has shown that implanting retinal cells into the brains of people with advanced Parkinson's disease can improve motor function by almost half, according to a follow-up study of six patients. The retinal cells used were taken from deceased donors and grown in the lab.

For more information visit [www.stemcellresearch.org](http://www.stemcellresearch.org).

**Healthcare professionals are encouraged by positive results of adult stem cell use in which patients with advanced Parkinson's disease have seen marked improvement in motor function. Contrary to what many in the scientific establishment would have us believe, adult stem cells show more clinical promise than those taken from embryos—without the surrounding ethical issues.**



CBS's "Touched by an Angel" has mentioned God in every episode since it began airing on September 21, 1994.



# “I hope in Your word.”

Psalm 119:81

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# Love in Action:

## CHILDREN'S JOY IS MUSIC TO HER EARS

BY KAREN COLE

When Kathie Hill moved to Nashville in 1976 to spend the summer performing at Opryland USA, she never could have imagined the twists and turns she would find in her well-planned road map for life.

Kathie was born with the same can-do spirit and passion for performing that a teenage Mickey Rooney had in those old movies where he would exclaim with a gleam in his eye, "Let's put on a show!" So it was, with the ink barely dry on her diploma announcing a degree in musical theatre from the prestigious College Conservatory of Music of the University of Cincinnati, Kathie arrived in Nashville for a summer stop on her way to the bright lights of Chicago or New York.

Thankfully, God had other plans. "At our very first rehearsal, another performer, Tierce Green, invited me to have coffee with him," Kathie remembers. "After exchanging our 'how I got to Nashville' stories, Tierce asked, 'If you died tonight, do you know for certain that you would go to heaven?' Annoyed, I answered, 'I don't think that's something anyone can know.' Tierce told me that he had become a Christian two years earlier and that his relationship with Christ had radically changed his life. He said I could have the same experience by accepting Christ as my Savior. I angrily replied, 'I think Christianity is a crutch for people who are not smart enough or talented enough to make it on their own.'

"Soon after, God began to show me just how much I needed him," Kathie continued. "I lost my voice, which was devastating for someone dreaming of a career in musical theatre. Then I lost my dream. I realized that I did not enjoy the daily grind of professional performance. God was knocking the props out from under me to show that I was the one who was not smart enough or talented enough to succeed without Him.

"In my frustration, I lost my temper at the slightest provocation. One night while I was doing my laundry, God convicted me that it was my heart that really needed cleansing. I asked Tierce to come over, and we talked for hours. Later that night, I got out of bed and knelt to ask Christ into my life. I felt an immediate peace and knew that I was a new person in Christ."

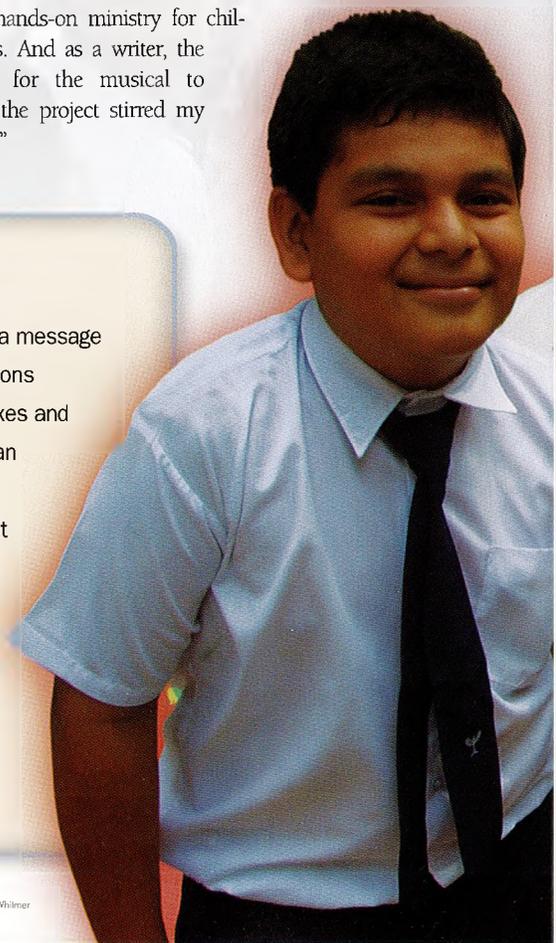
The day after her baptism, her new minister of music called to ask if she would direct a children's choir. Kathie explained that although she could sing, she was not at all sure she could teach. Also, she had never been around young children and was not even sure she liked them. She agreed to assist in the five-year-old choir, however, and quickly recognized her love for children and her affinity for working with them.

Today, 26 years and 29 musicals later, Kathie Hill is one of the best-known names in children's music and still is amazed at the way God prepared her for her work and personal ministry. She truly has a heart for evangelism to children and their parents through music, and as a result untold numbers of them have come to Christ.

One of her recent musicals resulted in an "abundawonderful" (a Kathie Hill word) blessing. In 1999, Kathie, her husband, Tim, and children, Emily and Elliot, enjoyed their annual tradition of putting together a shoe box of gifts for their church's participation in Operation Christmas Child, an international outreach that delivers the boxes to children in war-torn or impoverished countries. "As we prepared our box," Kathie relates, "I realized this would be a great hands-on ministry for children's choirs. And as a writer, the possibilities for the musical to accompany the project stirred my imagination."



**Operation Christmas Child** sends a message of hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes and Christian literature. This program provides an opportunity for individuals of all ages to be involved in a simple, hands-on missions project that reaches out to needy children while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas— Jesus Christ, God's greatest gift. In 2001, Operation Christmas Child collected over five million shoe boxes worldwide and distributed them to children in about 95 countries. To discover how you can be a part of Operation Christmas Child, visit [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org) or call 800-353-5949.



She contacted Samaritan's Purse, the organization that sponsors Operation Christmas Child. It took several months to work out the details; but the dream became reality, and the Operation Christmas Child musical was first available for Christmas 2001 performances. The musical resulted in such an increase in participation that Kathie received this letter in January 2002: "Each year, Operation Christmas Child invites a select group of individuals who have made a profound impact on the project to attend distributions, and you have certainly landed in that category. Kathie, OCC would like to invite you to travel to distribute shoe box gifts to children in El Salvador. . . ."

The trip was a life-changing experience for Kathie. "As we walked down crumbling steps into a slum of San Salvador, sunlight reflected from sheet after sheet of metal roofing, each held on the home underneath with large rocks," Kathie recalls. "Each house was a ten-foot square made of plywood and sheet metal. A few had cement walls. They were joined in two long rows facing railroad tracks and a drainage ditch. As we walked along the tracks, a dusty alley broke the row of houses and the sounds of children singing and clapping came from a cinder block building.

"We went in, and the pastor's wife, Gracia Maria, stood on a platform looking proudly over the 130 children crowded into the 20-by-40-foot room. She was thrilled that God had provided Christmas presents for them through Christians a continent away.

"I was astounded by the order in the room, but the most amazing sight was the children's appearance. Their clothes, which had been washed by hand and dried like flags over their tin

roofs, were neatly pressed. Their hair was clean and neat, and each smiling face was freshly scrubbed. You could tell this was a special day for these families.

"The huge cartons were obvious on the small platform, but none of the kids seemed impatient. They enjoyed the music, the skits, and the puppet show presented from the alley window. Then Gracia Maria explained that each child would receive a box, but no boxes were to be opened until all were distributed. The children were quiet as names were called; and although the boxes were different sizes and weights, they neither compared them nor peeked inside. Instead, they sat reading the booklet that came with each box, summarizing the main events of the Bible and presenting the plan of salvation in Spanish. (Later, they would be taught from these booklets.) After the last box had been handed out, the children paused to thank God for their gifts.

---

You can share Christ at Christmas in a language you've never heard. Though it's not a lot, with one shoe box your actions speak louder than words. Operation Christmas Child, a celebration of the season. Reaching out in Jesus' name, sharing love far and wide with Operation Christmas Child.

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Copyright © 2001, Kathie Hill Music/Word Music, Inc. 4

Then, on the count of three, they opened their gifts together.

"I expected to hear squeals and see wrapping paper flying. Instead there was a stunned awe as the children lifted the lids and looked inside. They shifted the contents to see what was underneath, but very few removed anything. As I helped a boy named Carlos put batteries in his flashlight, I encouraged him to pull out his other items—but he said no, he wanted to wait until he could share them with his family. He reached into his box for a peppermint and tried to give me the candy. 'It's for you,' I said in my broken Spanish. 'Thank you, for you,' he repeated. When I shook my head again, he pulled me down and kissed me on the cheek. 'You are my sister,' he said with tears in his eyes. 'Yes,' I answered. 'I am your sister.'"

Kathie Hill and her family worship and serve at Long Hollow Baptist Church in Hendersonville, Tennessee. For more information about Kathie and her ministry, visit [www.kathiehillmusic.com](http://www.kathiehillmusic.com) 

Kathie Hill and her family have an annual tradition of putting together shoe box gifts for their church's participation in Operation Christmas Child (OCC). In 1999, she realized that OCC would make a great hands-on project for children's choirs, so she wrote a musical about the international outreach ministry. The musical resulted in such an increase in participation that Samaritan's Purse invited her to travel with them this year to El Salvador to distribute gifts.



## Building a Foundation for Life

# To Tell the Truth

BY DWAYNE HASTINGS

When I was little, it seemed like one of my friends always had something that I wanted: a bright red bicycle with a fancy cushioned seat and brakes on the handlebars; a real leather baseball glove that smelled so good and caught a baseball just right; a new Hot Wheels® race car that rolled real fast; a fancy pen that wrote in four different colors; or a shiny quarter that would buy a candy bar at the market by the bus stop. (Wow, that was a long time ago!) Sometimes I would get so interested in what one of my friends had that I would think about ways to have it for myself.

Now that I am grown up, I still see things that other people own that I really would like to have: a bright red sports car with leather seats and a convertible top (or maybe a big pickup truck with room for my family in the cab); a TV with a really big screen; shares of stock in companies that are worth a lot of money; and a big house on top of a hill with a swimming pool with a waterfall and room for my younger daughter to have lots of dogs!

There will always be times when other people have things that look better than the things we have. The Bible tells us to be content—that means happy—with what we do have. God tells us He will take care of our needs. When I really think about it, there are a lot of things I might want but few that I really need. When we are not content with what we have and we take things that are not ours, we disappoint God and hurt other people and ourselves.

In a courtroom, a witness is told to place his hand on the Bible and then is asked if he is planning to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth. It's not by chance the court clerk has a Bible, God's

The truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth...



book for living, for the person to put his hand on while he promises to tell the truth during the trial. Most everyone knows that God wants us to tell the truth and not to lie.

God also wants us to be pleased with what He allows us to have and not to waste our time wishing for things we don't have or need. And He really does not want us to take things from others. Stealing something from another person might make us happy for a little while, but soon we will feel bad for taking something that is not ours. God wants us to trust in Him alone.

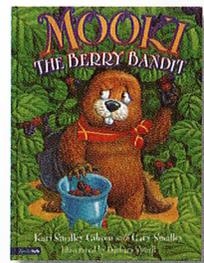
**Bible truth:** Be happy with all that God gives you.

**Bible verse:** Luke 12:27-31

## RECOMMENDED READING

**Mooki the Berry Bandit**

by Kari Smalley Gibson  
with Gary Smalley  
illustrated by Barbara Spurll



It's fall festival time in the forest, and the winner of the bake-off contest will get to ride the BuzzSaw Coaster Ride for free!

Mooki Beaver will do anything to win, even lie and steal. But when things don't go as planned, Mooki learns a bitter lesson that he'll never forget. Kids 4 to 8 will adore this delightful story that teaches the importance of honesty. (Includes notes from Christian psychologist, Gary Smalley, to help parents explain the seriousness of stealing.)

Zondervan, ISBN 0-310-70100-7



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