

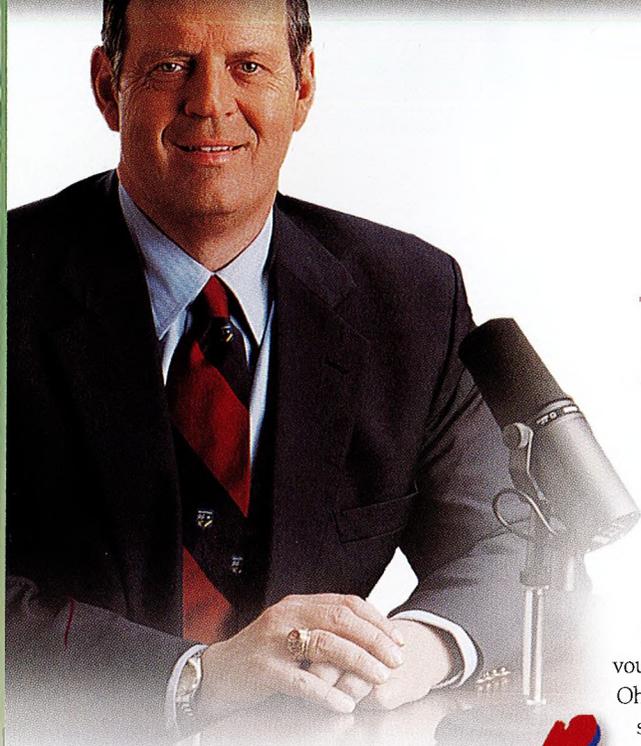
The Magazine

LIGHT

For Faith & Family

The Freedom of Choice

**Supreme Court Decision on Vouchers
Frees Students Trapped in Schools That
Won't Teach and Won't Change**



Court Rules for Children and against Education Establishment

"This decision will go down as the most important public education Supreme Court decision since 1954, when *Brown v. Board of Education* exploded the myth of 'separate but equal' and began the process of desegregating the nation's public schools."

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



In what promises to be a landmark decision, the Supreme Court stood solidly behind the nation's schoolchildren and stunned the country's powerful public education interests June 27, 2002, by upholding the constitutionality of a school voucher program.

The court held that the voucher choice program serving students in Cleveland, Ohio's, failing city school system "is neutral in all respects toward religion." This is a great ruling for religious liberty and for America's children.

In *Zelman v. Simmons-Harris*, the Supreme Court decreed 5-4 that when the government gives assistance in the form of vouchers to people who then decide where to use the funds, there is no violation of the Constitution's Establishment Clause.

In establishing the Cleveland voucher choice program, the Ohio legislature said the city's schools were in a state of extreme crisis—a fact validated by a host of statistics that revealed it was the school system failing the children and not the other way around.

The Cleveland voucher program provides parents a tuition subsidy up to \$2,250 per child to: 1) keep their child in city schools and use the money for a tutor, 2) relocate their child to a successful public school in a surrounding suburban school district, 3) help defray the expenses of enrolling their child in a private school of their choice.

This ruling is an enormous defeat for the National Education Association, the ACLU, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and People for the American Way and a tremendous victory for the children whose hopes for a good education have been revived by the Supreme Court.

In the Cleveland voucher case, the Supreme Court issued an education emancipation proclamation for poor minority children and their parents.

Echoing the freedom Abraham

Lincoln provided slaves when he issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1862, the Supreme Court decision liberates students, primarily African Americans and other minorities, with vouchers and stakes them to the equivalent of forty acres and a mule with which to begin life anew in educational freedom.

The forty acres and a mule promised to freed slaves, but never delivered, is delivered this time through vouchers. Students whom President George W. Bush recently said were "trapped in schools that won't teach and won't change" have been freed from involuntary servitude on the national education establishment's plantation.

Cleveland's low-income parents are free to do what millions of parents do every year—make the education choice that is best for their children.

This decision will go down as the most important public education Supreme Court decision since 1954, when *Brown v. Board of Education* exploded the myth of "separate but equal" and began the process of desegregating the nation's public schools. The same crisis that drove the *Brown* decision drove the Cleveland voucher

decision—millions of African American children ensnared in grossly inferior schools.

In the aftermath of this latest case, millions of predominantly African American and Hispanic children in the core of the nation's inner-cities, who themselves are the recipients of education opportunities drastically inferior to their counterparts in suburban school districts, will be afforded the opportunity to receive a safe and quality education.

Only one out of ten Cleveland ninth graders was able to pass a basic proficiency exam.

Two-thirds of high school students were dropping

IN SUPPORT OF SCHOOL VOUCHERS—

The voucher choice program offers indigent parents choices in their children's education, giving them a chance to break the cycle of poverty that threatens to enslave yet another generation.



out before graduation, and the district could not meet even one of the state's eighteen standards for minimal performance at the high school level.

Even the four dissenting Supreme Court justices in *Zelman v. Simmons-Harris* conceded that the record indicates Cleveland city schools are failing, and if anything could excuse vouchers, these schools' record would do it.

I wish I could say that Cleveland was an isolated case, but the academic conditions in this city's schools are typical of too many urban school districts.

Too many of the nation's big city schools, particularly where the parents are poor and have little leverage over teachers and administrators, are failing to provide an adequate education for the most vulnerable children in our nation.

Throwing money into the public school system is not a fix. There has been a 50 percent increase in inflation-adjusted expenditures per pupil in the last decade in America's schools.

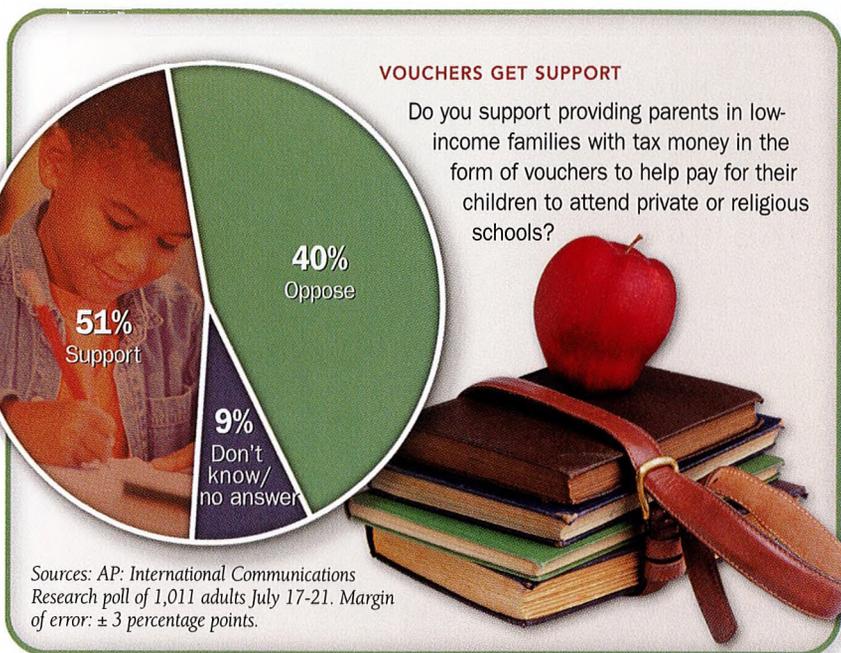
We have increased public education funding, but since 1983 over thirteen million children

have reached the twelfth grade not knowing how to read. Over twenty-seven million children have reached their senior year unable to do basic math, such as addition and subtraction. These numbers don't include the 30 percent of students who drop out before they reach the twelfth grade. We are not getting our money's worth, and we are not the only ones who are getting cheated: It is the students who pay the highest price.

The lower court had held the voucher program unconstitutional, saying it had the unintended effect of promoting religion because over 90 percent of the parents who received the vouchers chose to use them in religiously affiliated schools.

The Supreme Court disagreed, saying the city's voucher choice program passes constitutional muster because aid goes to the beneficiary. It is aid to parents, not schools.

The National Education Association will continue to rail against parents having the rights afforded them in voucher choice programs. The general counsel of the NEA



promised last year that whatever the Supreme Court ruled, this gargantuan lobby would continue to challenge voucher choice programs on "whatever grounds are available to us from lofty principles to Mickey Mouse procedural issues."

Until now it has been a debate between lawyers and judges, but the constitutional

question has been settled. The focus will move from the Supreme Court to state legislatures, and legislators have a Supreme Court-drafted blueprint for the kind of voucher programs that meet and exceed constitutional requirements and liberate children trapped in failing schools. ❏



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Most parents would probably agree that

there are few moments as precious as watching

their child sleep, safe and secure in a warm

bed, within arm's reach. They would likely find

it hard to imagine a home where love and nur-

turing don't exist and where the child's welfare

isn't at the forefront of every family decision.

Yet there are nearly a million* children in the

U.S. who, instead of feeling the comfort of

loving arms, find themselves the victims

of abuse — often by their own parents.

Child abuse must never be ignored,

and the scandal in the Catholic Church should

be a wake-up call to every church to be an

instrument of intervention and healing.

* 1999 results of Child Protective Service agencies' investigations (see www.preventchildabuse.com)

Can Child Abuse Be Ignored?

BY HAROLD AND BETTE GILLOGLY

She stumbled into the kitchen with the bags of groceries, slamming them onto the counter as she tried to catch her breath. Pictures were flashing through her mind so quickly that she couldn't process them; she could only feel them. She sank into a chair and let them come . . . the memories she had kept carefully hidden for so many years, even from herself.

She had asked for this. In fact, she had been asking God for several months to show her why she was experiencing so much trouble in her relationships. She was becoming more and more demanding, distrusting everyone around her, and the very thought of physical intimacy with her husband nauseated her. She had cried out to God, "Show me what

I cannot see—even if I don't want to see it!"

And God, in His mercy, brought the memories back . . . the memories of her older cousin molesting her when she was five. The emotional and physical pain was overwhelming, and she had wanted to cry out for her mother. But her cousin warned her that her parents would send her away if she ever told, so she hadn't. It had been her shameful secret . . . for twenty-seven years.

You might know this woman. There are women—and men—like her right in your church. In 1999, Child Protective Services agencies investigated three million reports that involved the maltreatment of approximately four million children and determined just under one million

children were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and neglect (see www.preventchildabuse.com).

Children in this country are being sexually, physically, and verbally abused and neglected. They don't wear signs, and you probably can't tell by looking at them, but they are victims—adults and children—who need the help of God's people. The pain and shame run very deep. They need you to listen, to believe them, to accept them, to help them understand that they are not to blame, and to give them a chance to heal.

Some people ask, "Why can't she just put it behind her?" "Why can't he just get on with his life?" Here's the answer. Abuse of any kind is dreadful for an adult, but

for a child it is devastating because children are in the process of “becoming.” Their personhood—their view of themselves, the world around them, their future, belief about God, love, trust—is being formed. And when something as atrocious as abuse—physical, sexual, verbal, extreme neglect—gets mixed into the process, the outcome is altered. The person that child was supposed to become may never be. No wonder Jesus spoke in such harsh terms about those who cause “little ones to stumble” (Luke 17:2).

It’s like baking a cake. If sand is thrown into the batter, the cake will still bake, but it won’t be the cake it started out to be. The process of picking the sand out is both painstaking and painful. And the victims of child abuse can no more do it by themselves than could the cake.

This is where the church comes in. Remember how Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick” in Mark 2:17? And how He commanded His disciples to heal the sick and wounded in Matt. 10:8 and Luke 9:2? There are

wounded people in every church, and they need help. A good way for us to start helping them heal is to offer a support group for adult survivors of abuse. A biblical counselor in your church or community can help you establish such a group based on God’s Word and God’s love.

If the victim is a child, then we, as the church, have a special responsibility to intervene and make sure the child is safe. Here are a few indicators that a child may be experiencing abuse. The child...

- Wears clothing that may be inappropriate to the season to purposely conceal injuries
- Gives inconsistent versions about visible injuries
- Shows little respect for others
- Is overly compliant or overly aggressive
- Has extreme fear of certain people or places
- Has sudden mood swings
- Initiates sexual activities with toys or other children.

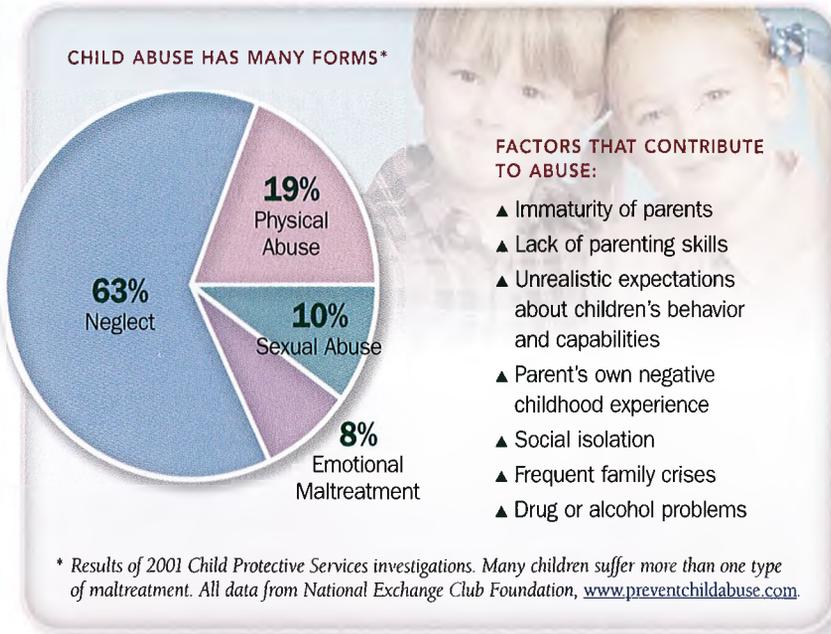
Be very careful. Any one or two of these signs does not necessarily mean the child is being abused. There might be other

stresses at work in their lives. But if you notice several of these signs over a period of weeks, it is time to take action. Report your con-

cerns to your ministry head and the pastoral staff, who should in turn report the concerns to your local Child Protective Services office.

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Child abuse cannot be ignored! We must protect chil-



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dren from abuse at any cost. And we must help heal and restore those who have been wounded by abuse.

If you suspect that abuse is occurring in a situation unrelated to your church, call your local Child Protective Services office or

Harold and Bette Gillogly are popular writers and conference leaders. For more information on their ministry to families, visit www.marriages.net.



VALUING A CHILD’S POTENTIAL

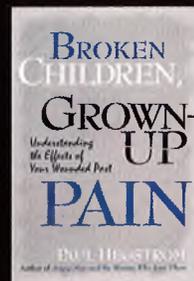
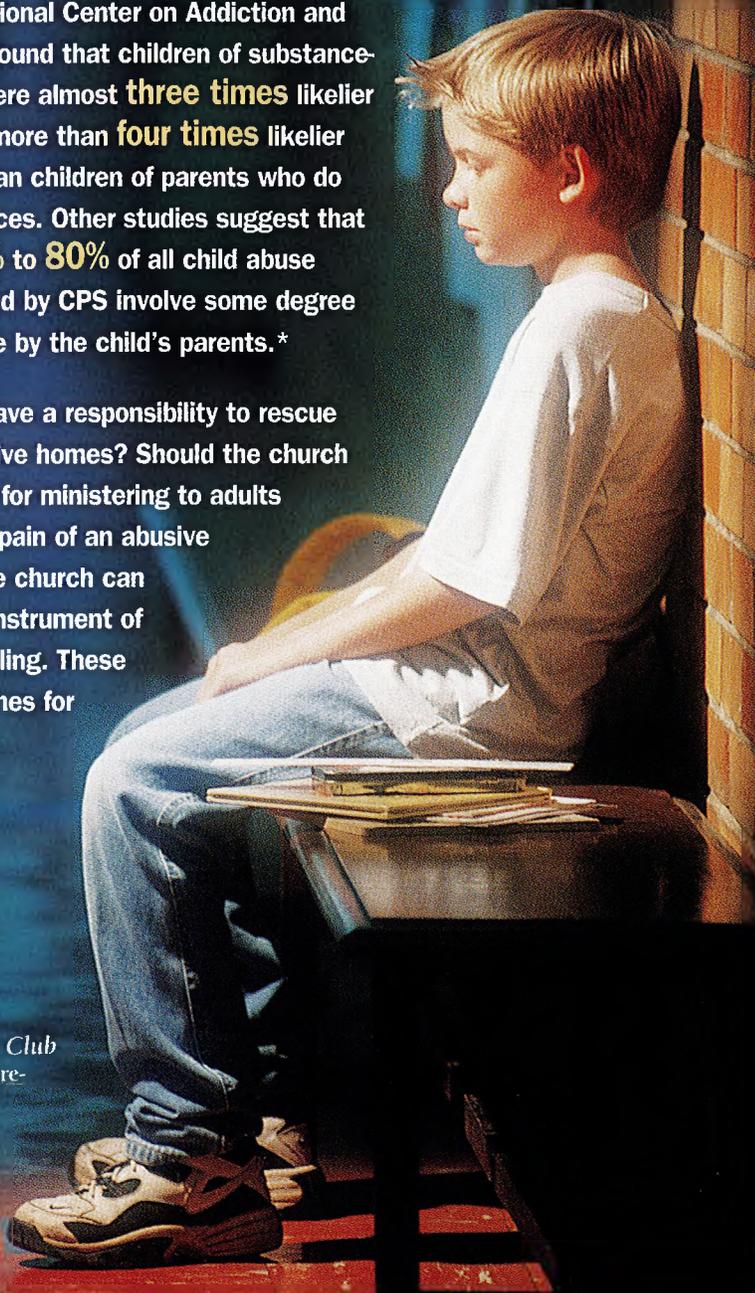
For a child, abuse is devastating because children are in the process of “becoming.” Their personhood—their view of themselves, the world around them, their future, belief about God, love, trust—is being formed. And when something as atrocious as abuse—physical, sexual, verbal, extreme neglect—gets mixed into the process, the outcome is altered. The person that child was supposed to become may never be.

For some kids, going home isn't something they look forward to.

In 1999, research revealed that **75%** of perpetrators of child maltreatment were parents, and another **10%** were other relatives of the victim. People who were in other caretaking relationships to the victim (e.g., child care providers, foster parents, and facility staff) accounted for only **2%** of perpetrators, while **13%** of all perpetrators were classified as noncaretakers or unknown. That same year, the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse found that children of substance-abusing parents were almost **three times** likelier to be abused and more than **four times** likelier to be neglected than children of parents who do not abuse substances. Other studies suggest that an estimated **50% to 80%** of all child abuse cases substantiated by CPS involve some degree of substance abuse by the child's parents.*

Does the church have a responsibility to rescue children from abusive homes? Should the church develop strategies for ministering to adults who still carry the pain of an abusive childhood? Yes, the church can and should be an instrument of protection and healing. These books offer guidelines for doing so.

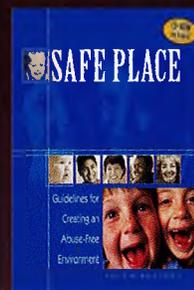
* National Exchange Club Foundation, www.preventchildabuse.com



Broken Children, Grown Up Pain: Understanding the Effects of Your Wounded Past

Molested as a child, Paul Hegstrom spent a lifetime

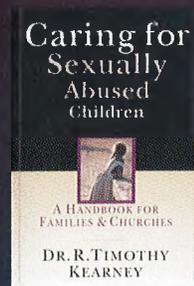
knowing something was wrong with him, something a little counseling and a fresh start didn't overcome. After destroying his marriage, betraying his children, and battering a girlfriend to the point that attempted murder charges were filed against him, Paul hit rock bottom and finally turned his life over to Jesus Christ. In his book, he examines the bitter fruit of childhood pain and points to solutions from God's Word for true and lasting healing. Beacon Hill Press, 2001 • ISBN 083-411-9102



Safe Place: Guidelines for Creating an Abuse-Free Environment

What steps should you take to minimize the risk of abuse in your

church? In *Safe Place*, editor Marv Parker provides straightforward steps and valuable resources to help you provide a safe and secure environment for every individual at every age level in your church, school, or other facility. Christian Publications, Inc., 2002 • ISBN 0-87509-979-3



Caring for Sexually Abused Children: A Handbook for Families and Churches

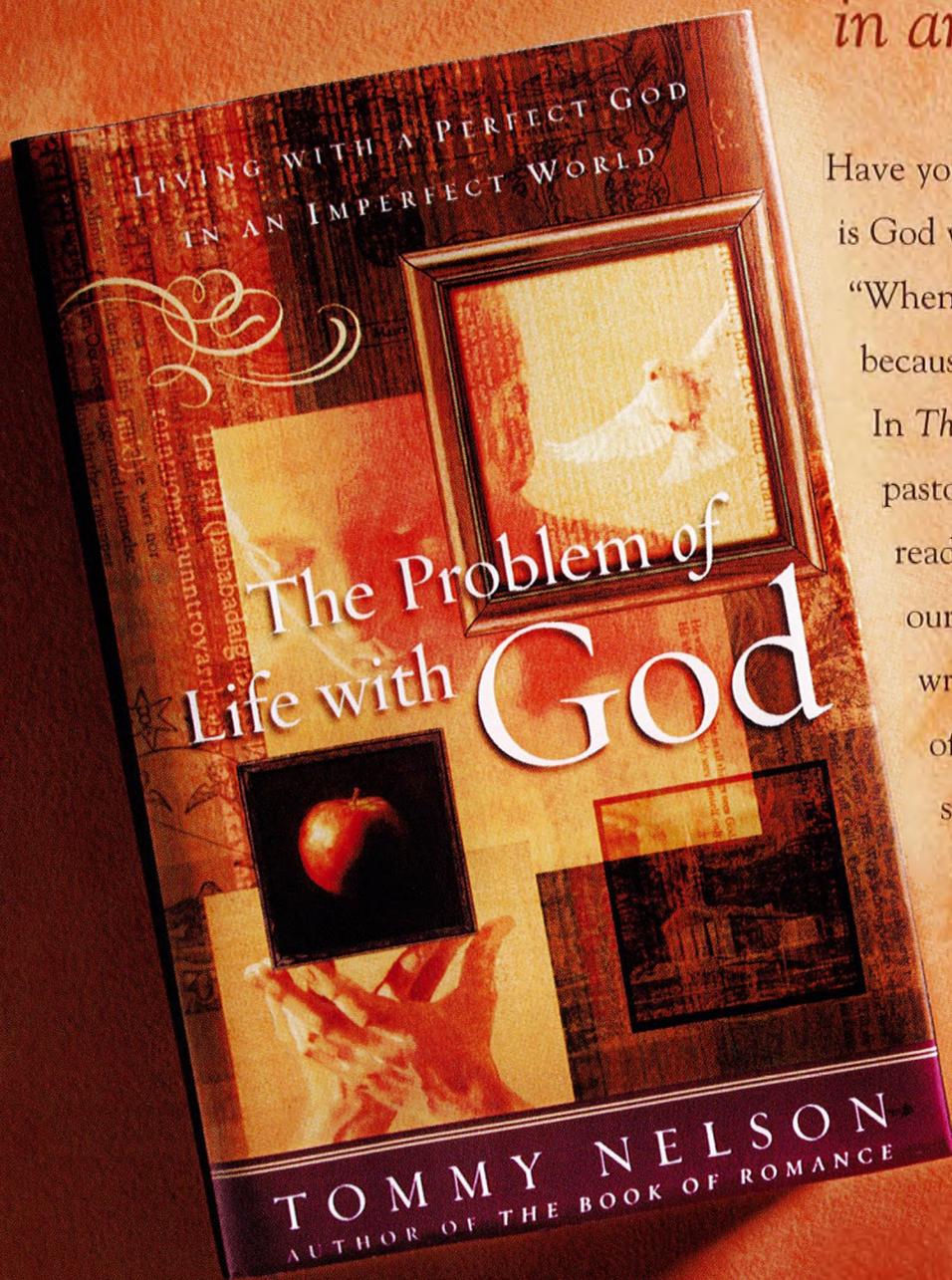
As a clinical psychologist, Timothy Kearney

has witnessed the harm that takes place when a child is abused. In his book, he covers the facts of child abuse, how to handle disclosures by children and adults, and what to expect in the healing process. Kearney's primary goal in writing the book is to equip families and churches to raise awareness of child sexual abuse and offer hope for healing in God's name. InterVarsity Press, 2001 • ISBN 0-8308-2246-1

Visit www.familybookstore.net for these resources.

FIND MEANING AND PURPOSE

in an imperfect world



Have you ever asked yourself “Where is God when bad things happen?” or “When bad things happen, is it because I don’t have enough faith?” In *The Problem of Life with God*, pastor/author Tommy Nelson helps readers make sense of the world and our existence by looking at the writings of Solomon in the Book of Ecclesiastes. In this in-depth study, you’ll find that Solomon’s conclusions ring louder than ever for those searching for answers in today’s world.

The Problem of Life with God
Tommy Nelson

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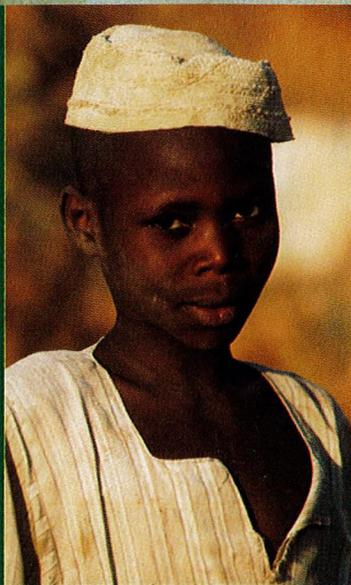
Want to be part of the solution to the world's hunger crisis?

When drought, natural disaster, or poor farming techniques push a village into a food crisis, the old and the young, like this Peruvian child, are the first to suffer. When Southern Baptists give sacrificially to the World Hunger Fund, SBC missionaries and volunteers are better equipped to aid these people who are in desperate need.



THE FACES OF HUNGER

Many people in the Republic of Chad are subsistence farmers. During the region's three months of rain, people struggle to raise enough food to feed their family and livestock for the entire year. In desert regions all over the African continent, shortages force many poor people to seek fresh water wherever it can be found. In many regions of Africa, the World Hunger Fund provides the resources for well drilling, thereby assuring fresh water supplies for years to come.



As Christians it is our simple duty, as Jesus made clear, to serve those in need. And Southern Baptists have a marvelously efficient vehicle for providing relief to them — the World Hunger Fund in partnership with the thousands of missionaries and volunteers already on the field ready to serve the hungry and hurting. Not everyone can go as missionaries and volunteers to serve the indigent and hungry around the world, but all of us can contribute to their efforts by praying and giving to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund.

BEAT Hunger Weekend Designed to Aid "Needy" World Hunger Fund

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



As Christians, it is our responsibility to care for the downtrodden. Scripture makes clear the joy inherent in doing so. Proverbs 14:21 observes that "He that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he" (KJV). Further, Proverbs 21:13 tells us succinctly that our prayers will not be heard if we close our ears to the cries of the poor.

Therefore, it seems unlikely that the church in America will experience blessing and revival if we fail to demonstrate Christ's compassion for poor and hungry people.

Southern Baptists have a marvelously efficient means of demonstrating that compassion through the SBC World Hunger Fund. It is the only fund known to utilize 100% of contributions for hunger ministry with nothing taken out for administration or promotion, which are funded through your Cooperative Program gifts.

The bottom line is that meeting physical needs — in urban Chicago, rural Arkansas, or the war-torn Gaza Strip — opens doors for sharing Christ. As believers, that's what God expects of us.

Richard D. Land

While Southern Baptists have a most efficient funding vehicle for domestic and international hunger projects in the SBC's World Hunger Fund, giving to the fund is down dramatically from previous years. It was down 15 percent in 2001 and is showing a similar trend for 2002, leaving many missionaries and volunteers unable to start or sustain critical projects for the hungry, explains Steve Nelson, director of hunger concerns for the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

"Hunger remains a serious, life-threatening issue for many people. 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 hunger ministries."

Churches participating in the BEAT Hunger Weekend program are asked to address hunger needs in their town by hosting a canned food drive

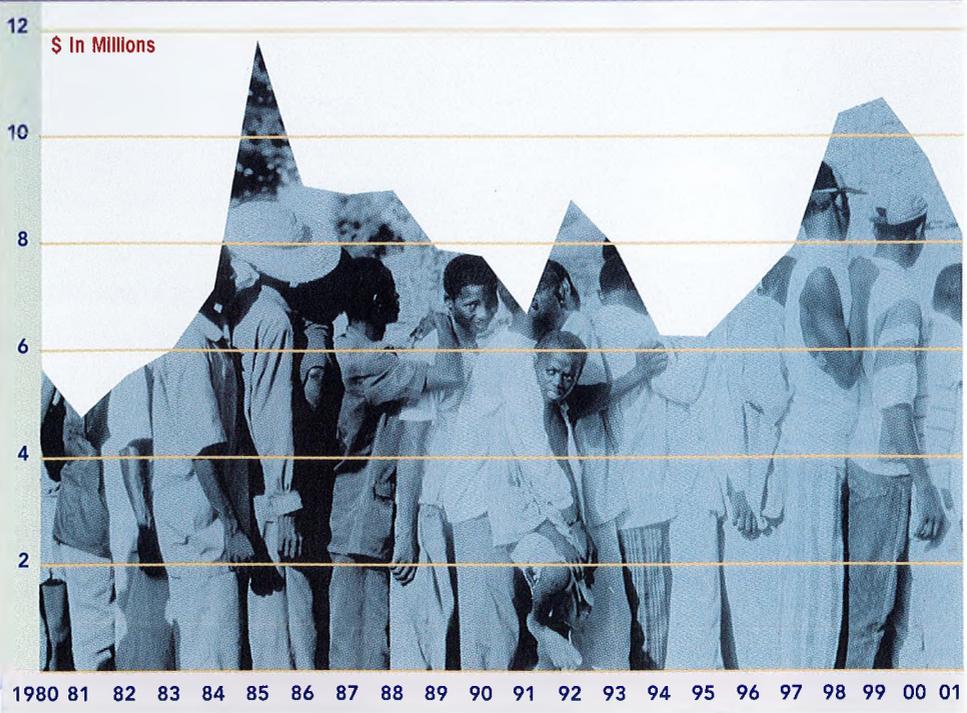
or serving at a local shelter, and having church members raise money in support of the SBC World Hunger Fund.

Registration for the event, with a suggested date of October 11-13, 2002, is available at www.beathungerweekend.com. Supporting resources are available to aid churches in this emphasis. For more information on the event, contact Nelson at worldhungerfund@erlc.com.



Steve Nelson

Southern Baptist Hunger And Relief Gifts, 1980-2001



Christian Rock Band Makes WHF Part of Their Act

They are just four young ministers who happen to play music; and according to the group's pianist, Britt Edwards, The Swift makes sure ministry always precedes their music. And everywhere the group performs, their audience hears testimonies about the Southern Baptist Convention's World Hunger Fund.

"Our goal is to follow Jesus wherever and however He wants us," Edwards says. "If God could use us better in something other than music, we would leave it behind in a heartbeat.

Music just happens to be the way we can serve Him best at this time."

"Our music is just a way to gain young people's attention and perhaps their respect so they will listen to our message," agrees Trae Drose, the band's drummer. "We want to produce good music, but our primary focus is to present the Gospel."

"We want our ministry to speak much louder than our music," Edwards continues.

Rooted in that commitment to ministry is the band's promotion of the SBC's World Hunger Fund. "We see our involvement as a way to reach a generation that might not be aware of Southern Baptists' efforts in feeding and helping the hungry and hurting," Drose says.

The youthful audiences at The Swift's concerts are responding positively and giving to the World Hunger Fund as well as telling adults in their churches about the SBC's hunger and relief ministry.

Drose says Southern Baptists' work in food and agricultural ministry resonates with the band's own mission: "Just as we use



Their musical style is piano rock, but their heart is ministry. The members of The Swift promote the SBC's World Hunger Fund along with their music. Band members (L-R) Britt Edwards, Mike Simons, Chris Byers, and Trae Drose were recently signed by Audio Adrenaline's start-up label, FlickerRecords.com.

music as a door to share the Gospel, missionaries are using food as way to gain an entry to present the Gospel to people in need."

"One of the main reasons we support the World Hunger Fund is that we don't believe it is possible to know Jesus and not have a heart for hurting people," Edwards says.

God recently expanded the band's ministry reach; The Swift just inked a recording contract with

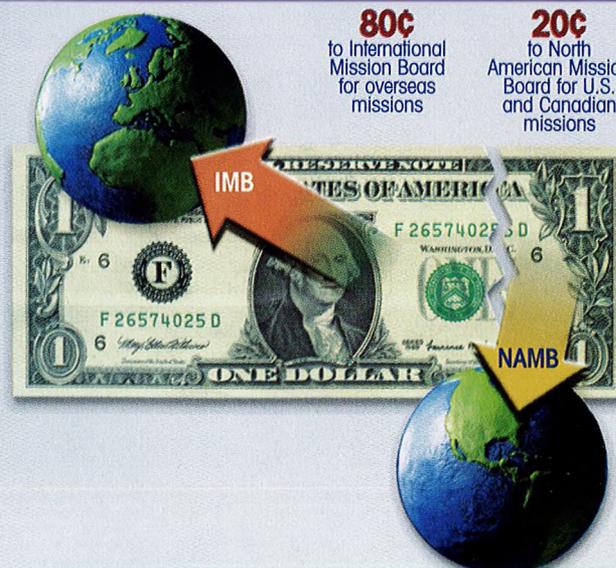
FlickerRecords.com, a contemporary Christian music label started by the well-known Christian group, Audio Adrenaline. The band expects their first album with FlickerRecords.com to be released in late December.

For more information about The Swift, visit www.the-swift.com or www.flickerrecords.com. To learn more about the SBC's World Hunger Fund, go to www.worldhungerfund.com.

What Makes the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund Unique?

- ▲ Only the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund uses 100% of all contributions to feed hungry people. (Personnel are already in place; thus, administrative and promotional costs are borne out of other budgets.)
- ▲ When Southern Baptists give food, they are there for the long haul, desiring to plant churches and make disciples for Jesus Christ. The goal is to build relationships with people and eventually lead them to a relationship with Christ.
- ▲ The Good News of salvation through Christ is always foundational. Whenever possible, the plan of salvation is shared and an opportunity to respond is given.
- ▲ In emergency situations, food aid must be given. But when possible, hunger ministries are designed to create independence from rather than dependence on food aid.

How is my dollar spent?



When a dollar is contributed

to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund, unless otherwise designated, 80¢ is sent to the International Mission Board for overseas hunger projects while 20¢ is sent to the North American Mission Board to support hunger projects in the United States and Canada. Because personnel and volunteers are already in place, and promotional expenses come through other budgets, 100% of your gifts are used to minister to the hungry in Jesus' name.

COLORADO CHURCH LOOKS PAST THE STEREOTYPES

Hope for the Homeless

CHURCH BILLY Church Billy, as he's known on the streets, sleeps in a park just north of Colfax Avenue. Billy has become a regular face at Central Baptist Church's homeless ministry and has proven to be an asset for them. After seven years on the streets in this part of Aurora, he's well connected in the neighborhood. He knows the other homeless people in the area and has brought many of them to the church's ministry. And he knows how to survive on the mean streets. For Billy and the others, it's much safer to sleep during the day and stay awake and alert during the night.

Story and photos by Allen Spencer

Colfax Avenue could be considered Main Street as it cuts across the downtown areas of Denver and Aurora. Although it's synonymous with crime, drugs, gangs, and prostitution, Colfax is home to many people. Literally. Colfax is a magnet for the homeless of Denver and Aurora.

For most people, the homeless are nuisances to be avoided. But a couple of years ago, members of one Aurora church stopped — like Jesus probably would have — and looked at the homeless population on Colfax. Amazingly, they didn't see the dirty, drunk, unshaven stereotypes. Instead, they saw people with stories to tell, people with emotions, people who need Jesus.

Central Baptist Church sits a few blocks south of Colfax Avenue. A few years ago, the men's ministry of Central Baptist organized a "chili feed" in one of the nearby parks.

The idea was to minister to the people in the neighborhood, but they also discovered quite a few homeless people.

"They came and listened to the Gospel all day long because they had nowhere else to go," said Elaine Ferguson, an organizer of Central's homeless ministry. The chili feed became an annual event and expanded to include a clothing giveaway. "But we knew we had to do something on an ongoing basis," Ferguson said. "We couldn't win them to the Lord and say, 'Okay, we'll see you next year.'"

Though the church was without a pastor at the time, God had given several people a vision for this ministry, including Terry Minas, Sunday School director and men's ministry leader. Shortly after pastor Don Garner was called, the ministry was launched.

The members spend time on Colfax each Saturday, inviting the homeless to church the next day. The people who accept are picked up on Sundays, brought to church for Bible study and worship, and fed a hot meal. "It means as much to our church

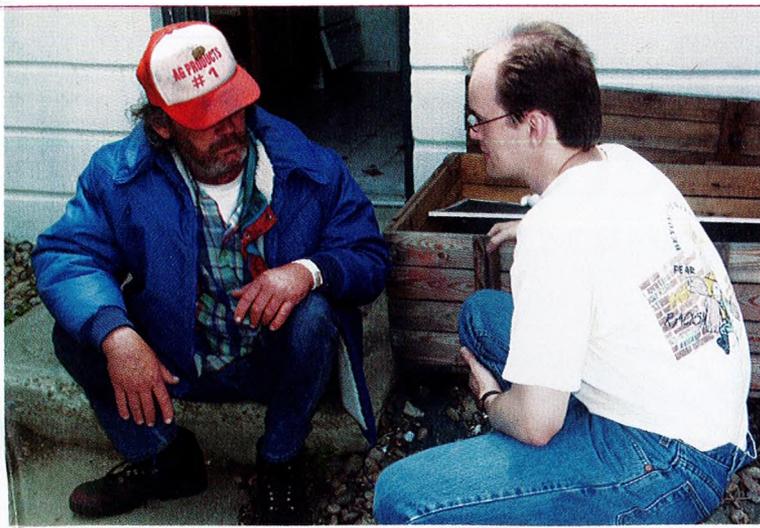
family as to the people we're ministering to," Garner said, noting that sixty-nine families are involved.

The church-funded program now ministers to over fifty people on an ongoing basis. So far, eleven people have been saved and six baptized. The church hears many testimonies of changed lives. Alan voluntarily entered a detoxification program on the day he was baptized. Diana is living in a halfway house and working. Elizabeth is living with her daughter and Mary with her grandmother. Charles lives with his brother. Peter, Regina, and Ronald have apartments now. One man left town for a job but assured the church he'd be back to visit. Another man returned to let them know he's off the streets and working.

Not all of the homeless on Colfax fit society's stereotypes of unkempt, unshaven, out-of-work men. A few women and young people live on the street. Terry Minas recently met a couple, both twenty-two years old, living in the woods. They've been on and off the streets for six years.

Minas is much like a hunter when he goes looking for homeless on Colfax. Recently he spotted a clean-cut young man with a backpack and a bicycle. Minas pulled into an alley and offered the young man a lunch, which he eagerly accepted. Soon John was in tears as he recounted





KYLE & BRUCE - Bruce Boswell (right) visits with Kyle, who remembered him from a previous visit and engaged him in conversation.

the events that put him on the street. He battles addictions to crack cocaine and alcohol. According to John, his wife kicked him out when he had "blown it" three days earlier. He left home with his bike, a

few items in a backpack, and his addictions.

As the conversation turned to spiritual matters, Minas discovered John was raised Southern Baptist but left the church following his parents'

divorce. He explored Catholicism for a while, and now he's studying Buddhism. John knew Scripture and how to be saved but was disenchanting with Christianity.

As the encounter ended, Minas was hopeful about John's future. "As long as he keeps searching, he has a good chance of discovering the Truth."

In just a few months, the church's ministry has been phenomenally successful, not only in terms of the homeless people helped, but also within the church family.

"It changes how you look at people," Minas said. "You begin to see people more like Christ would."

Reprinted with permission from the Rocky Mountain Baptist, journal of the Colorado Baptist General Convention.

THE HEART OF REVIVAL

As a city of 8 million, where it is estimated that one out of every six people is in need of food support and where 40 percent of children live in poverty, New York is a place that is in great need of hunger assistance. The Metropolitan New York Baptist Association is deeply grateful to Southern Baptists who give to the World Hunger Fund. In MNYBA we have about twenty churches that provide food pantries, soup kitchens, and other emergency food programs to the hungry of the metro New York area. Because of our limited funding, we are able to support only about half of them with approximately \$100 a month. Since September 11, 2001, we have seen an even greater need for hunger ministry because of the devastation to the economy and the shift of priority away from those who were poor prior to that date.

The great news is that when support is given to hunger ministries in MNYBA, we see our God glorified



and His people blessed. Our churches constantly tell how another soul came to know Jesus as a result of their hunger ministries. There are countless others who were once fed and are now feeders. Hunger ministry is evangelism, discipleship, church growth, church starting, and worship. This is the heart of revival.

*Kareem Goubran, hunger specialist
Metropolitan New York Baptist
Association*

Pastor Edgar Morales of Iglesia Bautista in the Bronx, New York, shares Christ with the men who just received lunch. He frequently sees people give their lives to Christ through the small church's hunger ministry. World Hunger Fund gifts help to make ministries like this possible. Photo by Steve Nelson



These children enjoy a nutritious meal each weekday at the daycare center in the Bronx Baptist Church. Photo by Steve Nelson



A recent bipartisan poll found that the problems of malnutrition in the United States and starvation abroad are of concern to American voters. As a result of September 11,

- 68.2% have become more interested in helping Americans in need,
- 70.1% are more likely to want to reduce world hunger, and
- 59.4% said the most important reason to fight hunger is that it is "the moral and right thing to do."

*Alliance to End Hunger,
July 29, 2002*

"Crazy" Volunteers Deliver F

Dyed yarn drying in the sun is sorted by a young woman in Myanmar (formerly Burma). Of the 40 million people in Myanmar, 85% are Buddhist and 4% are Christian. The World Hunger Fund is used in development projects across Southern Asia, meeting human needs and bringing the message of hope in Christ.



A BLESSING ON YOUR HOUSE — A Palestinian Muslim family watches with curiosity as Khader Khoury, a Palestinian Christian, and Tennessee volunteers Bill Curington (center) and Don Pierson pray for their family's needs after delivering food. In the refugee camps of Gaza, the needs most families mention are the same: work, food, safety—and most of all, peace. (BP) Photo by Roy M. Burroughs

By Erich Bridges (IMB)

Only a few days after the Sept. 11 terror attacks, Bill Curington went to New York to serve meals to survivors and rescue workers near the ruins of the World Trade Center. That earned the Southern Baptist disaster relief veteran pats on the back from friends back home in Tennessee. But when he announced he was heading to Israel in late June to deliver food to needy Palestinian families in bullet-riddled Gaza, some folks questioned his sanity.

Concerned friends warned him about terrorists and suicide bombers, about getting caught in gun battles. A family member begged him to

make "real sure" he heard the voice of God before going. His story was echoed by many of the nineteen Southern Baptist volunteers who crossed fortified borders and military checkpoints in June and July—under the intense gaze of Israeli soldiers—to aid Palestinian families in Gaza and the West Bank.

These volunteers were the second wave of U.S. helpers in "Project Future and Hope," a joint effort by Southern Baptists, Palestinian Baptists, and other local Christians to aid families in Gaza, the West Bank, and Palestinian areas of East Jerusalem. Southern Baptists are helping

finance the project with \$325,000 in hunger and general relief funds.

An initial group of U.S. volunteers came and distributed food in Gaza, Ramallah, Bethlehem, and other towns in early June. Additional teams are expected through September, pending current conditions. If travel restrictions allow, they'll deliver more food, conduct camps for Palestinian children, and distribute school uniforms to families who can't afford them.

Volunteers have visited some 1,800 Palestinian families, and they hope to reach at least 1,000 more. Why?



Food, Love to Palestinians

“Our primary goal is to share God’s love with these people, to tell them we love them and God loves them, to bring hope and encouragement,” said Southern Baptist project coordinator Paul Lawrence, who has worked among Palestinians for seventeen years. “We also want to change Palestinians’ attitudes toward evangelical Christians — and American evangelical attitudes toward Palestinians.”

Many Palestinians assume that Americans (particularly conservative evangelicals, who often support the state of Israel for theological reasons) hate them and regard them all as terrorists.

So a group of Americans attracted attention as they stood in line with Palestinians

amid the barbed wire, sandbags, and concrete barriers to enter Ramallah during a brief lifting of the Israeli curfew on the city.

The volunteers got even more attention as they lugged food bags through Gaza’s Jabalya refugee camp, trailed by mobs of excited kids. Areas like Jabalya spawn plenty of recruits for Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and other violent Palestinian factions. But the overwhelming majority of its residents, and of Gaza’s 1.2 million Palestinians, are families attempting to survive.

Many men in the camp haven’t worked since the renewed conflict devastated the local economy and closed the border to jobs in Israel. The United Nations and other agencies provide periodic

relief, but malnutrition is on the rise.

In the Gaza home visits, the Baptist groups delivered lentils, oil, rice, beans, and tea — enough basic food for a few weeks, plus a toy for the children. They listened to the hardships the families are enduring, then asked permission to pray. When they asked what to pray for, the first answer — almost without exception — was peace, followed by health and work.

For families facing such a life, a brief visit and a little food is “a drop in the bucket,” admitted Young Khoury, a Palestinian Baptist coordinating the food distribution in Gaza. “But you put many drops together, and you make a difference.”

Nearly twice the size of Texas,

Niger is often described as one of the hottest countries on earth. With desert comprising over 80 percent of

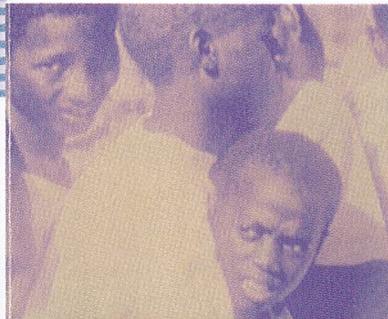
this landlocked Sub-Saharan nation, 63 percent of Niger’s over 10 million people live in grinding poverty. Plagued by recurring drought, overgrazing, and erosion, conditions are so severe that the life expectancy is a scant forty-two years and the infant mortality rate is 12.3 percent.

Yet Southern Baptist missionaries are on the ground in Niger, often at their own peril. When Southern Baptists give to the World Hunger Fund, families in need are given vital aid in Jesus’ name. This line of waiting men is evidence of the critical role of a food distribution program led by SBC missionary Brad Womble, who serves in Niger.

© Photo by IMB photographer Matt Jones

Internationally, the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund and relief funds are being used:

- To provide for the shipping of donated medical equipment that will be used to refurbish an eye hospital in West Africa
- To provide rice, beans, milk, and oil for 1,000 families affected by Hurricane Michelle in Cuba
- To provide medical supplies for treating 2,500 people who are fighting various infections in Bolivia
- To provide training in soil erosion control, vegetable gardening, seeds, and livestock production to farmers in Southeast Asia and Oceania
- To provide a bathhouse for 4,000 residents in Berkovitsa, Bulgaria
- To provide training in primary health care, gardening, and the care of small animals and fowl for 100 women enabling them to become primary change agents for their villages in Central and Southern Asia
- To provide mosquito nets, beds, plastic sheeting, and axes for four camps housing 2,000 families freed from bonded labor in Central and Southern Asia
- To provide four water wells benefiting 300,000 people in West Africa
- To provide maize, beans, and cooking oil for 9,000 people affected by drought conditions in Kenya
- To provide health care training for 500 people, vocational training for 1,115 people, and a nutritional program benefiting 1,000 families in Colombia
- To provide gardening skills for 2,000 families in Uruguay
- To provide ten literacy training centers teaching literacy, basic food production, and simple health and nutrition skills to 150 students in Mindanao, Philippines



Focusing On World Hunger

A dire United Nations report issued last spring 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. Our cutting-edge resources provide ways to help your congregation develop a proper response to this serious issue of world and domestic hunger.

For more information call the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission at 1-800-475-9127 or e-mail questions to orders@eric.com.

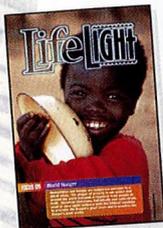
All photos courtesy of the International Mission Board except as noted.

All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

Ministry Resources

LifeLight: World Hunger

Often used as a bulletin insert, this undated 4-page piece applies Scripture to real-life scenarios. It also includes statistics, prayer and action points, and steps to becoming a Christian. It can be used on World Hunger Sunday, October 13, and throughout the year when sharing

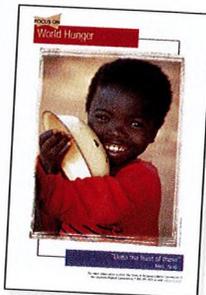


what Southern Baptists can do to help the millions who face hunger on a daily basis. One of a series.

WHBULK02 \$4.95/50

World Hunger Poster

This 11"x17" poster complements the LifeLight and helps raise awareness of the plight of 800 million people worldwide.



WHPOS02 \$1.50 ea.

Hunger Facts

This informative ministry aid contains compelling graphics and startling statistics to quickly inform your congregation regarding the awesome scope of this global problem. Also featured are details of Southern Baptist involvement in hunger ministries.

WHFACU02 \$4.00/10

Faces of Hunger

This 8-page magazine will inform and mobilize your group or congregation to get involved in supporting the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund. Readers will learn what Southern Baptists are doing all over the world and in the U.S. to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the hungry and hurting. They will also realize they can personally impact the lives of hungry people in their community and around the globe with food for the body and the Good News of Jesus Christ.

WHHUN02 \$12.50/50

Change Canisters

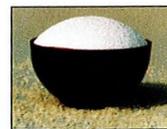
Change canisters serve as a great mission project for youth groups, mission organizations, Sunday School classes, or other church groups. They can be placed in area businesses or even prominent places in the church. Lives are touched as the sponsoring group collects the proceeds for the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund, which uses 100% for hunger relief.



WHCAN-4 (4 per box) \$10.00/4

Rice Bowls

Rice bowl banks are a great way for a church to promote awareness and raise funds for the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund. All ages will enjoy participating as each family places a bowl in their home. One-time use. Shipping paid.



WHBOW (50 per box) \$24.00/50

Hunger Fund Offering Envelopes

These envelopes feature the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund logo and are used to encourage support for the World Hunger Fund, where 100% of



gifts received are used for hunger ministry.

WHENV (sold in lots of 50 only) \$3.10/50

Dime-a-Day for Hungry People

These coin folders hold 30 dimes and are designed for children to set aside 10¢ per day for world hunger. At the end of each month, children can cash in their dimes and send \$3.00 to the World Hunger Fund. These reusable cards make wonderful teaching tools.



WHDIM (sold in lots of 10) \$5.50/10

The Bible Speaks on Hunger

The Bible speaks clearly and frequently of those who are hungry and in need. Pastors, teachers, and other leaders will find this pamphlet a valuable resource in educating and equipping the saints on this vital issue.

BSHUNU \$3.80/20



Issues & Answers: Hunger

This concise brochure explains the major causes of and opinions about world hunger. It also contains vital statistics that point out the enormity of the problem. Biblical insights plus individual applications are shared to motivate each person to do his part.

IAHUNU \$3.40/20



Bible Studies on World Hunger

These four studies boldly teach what God's Word has to say about ministry to the poor and are appropriate for a wide range of age groups.

WHBIB \$.40 ea.

When Will We Cry?

This penetrating video introduces viewers to hunger and relief ministries in the U.S. and around the world. Featuring comments of appreciation from SBC agency executives for systematic giving, the video allows Southern Baptists to see how God is using their hunger fund gifts.

VTWHE (VHS, 28 min.) \$7.00 ea.



To make a donation toward hunger relief, please send your gift to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund, c/o The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, 901 Commerce St., Su 550, Nashville, TN 37203, or to your state Baptist convention office. If you would like to donate on a monthly basis through bank draft, call 1-800-475-9127 for details.

We All Can be a **DOG** sometimes

- 🐾 Deeply loyal
- 🐾 Heart full of compassion
- 🐾 Adaptable to change
- 🐾 Hold stubbornly to what they feel is right
- 🐾 Strong need for close relationships



Dr. John Trent

Ever considered yourself a Golden Retriever?

What about a Beaver? A Lion or perhaps an Otter? Actually, we all have characteristics of these animals to some degree.

Learn how your individual strengths and communication styles can lead to improved communication between spouses. **Marriage Insights**, a behavioral assessment tool, uses the characteristics of these four animals to provide detailed feedback on participants' core strengths and styles of relating to each other.

Developed by Christian counselor and best-selling author Dr. John Trent, this 24-question assessment tool has helped countless couples for more than two decades in pen-and-paper form. LifeWay now brings it to you on-line with immediate, in-depth reports.

Unlock the secrets of effective communication in your marriage. Blend differences with your spouse. Discover your spouse's motivations and create ways to avoid conflict with them.

For more information, visit www.lifeway.com/insights or call toll-free **1.888.408.5580**

Also for your church:

- Ministry Insights:** team-building with staff, integrate new church members into ministry, leadership development and other group or individual uses.
- Marriage Insights:** couples retreats, counseling for engaged or married couples.
- Position Insights:** help match the behavioral requirements for a position with candidates' core strengths.

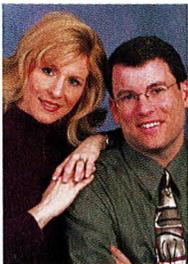


The Dating Game

HELPING TEENS STAY SEXUALLY PURE



Bob and Dannah Gresh are authors, speakers, and founders of Pure Freedom, a ministry offering interactive retreats and materials that equip youth to live lives of sexual purity. They took time recently to talk with *Light* magazine about the challenges of parenting in today's sexually permissive culture.



The Magazine: God created sex for good purposes, but society has turned God's plan on its head. How do we present the godly plan for sexuality to our children?

Dannah: First, God didn't intend for this to be a big talk we have one time when a child turns twelve. It's something that we should talk with our children about from a very young age in an age-appropriate manner. In order to get to the comfort level we need to have, we need to determine if we have confessed and healed from any personal sexual sin. If we haven't, we probably will be uncomfortable discussing sex.

Second, take advantage of the opportunities God gives you. We had an opportunity when a pregnant stray cat showed up on my mother's porch. We made sure that when the cat delivered her kittens, the whole family was there to talk about what a beautiful thing this was.

Third, we must be careful that we do not simply portray sex as a big no-no. We tell kids, "Don't have sex. You have to wait until you're married." While that is the right message, it isn't the complete message. We forget to tell them that God has a plan. In both of our books, we outline three blessings of godly sexuality. One of them is the physical blessing. God's Word says that sex gives tremendous pleasure. And study after study confirms what God's Word says; that is, if we do it His way, He blesses it. Couples that wait for marriage to have sex tend to be more sexually responsive and to have a stronger marriage. Despite what the culture suggests, married couples in monogamous, faithful relationships are the ones enjoying this gift of God most frequently and with the greatest satisfaction.

Talk about that blessing of pleasure, the blessing of having babies, and the blessing of intimacy, something that is difficult to reclaim after an individual has engaged in premarital sex.

Bob: Sex is not a taboo word or subject in our household. We have woven an appreciation of God's plan into our children's lives. There are

both sins and blessings associated with sexuality that should be talked about openly. If we parents don't take the lead, we run the risk of letting our kids go out without a plan. We don't allow them to play in the street, but the way they're playing with sexuality in our culture is sometimes more dangerous than letting them play kickball on the interstate.

The Magazine: So parents must first come to an understanding of what God intends sex to be.

Bob: Yes. Many parents' view of sexuality is not God-centered. One of the big problems today is the parents who grew up in the sixties and were sexually active and think they didn't get hurt. Often their teenagers are more concerned about a proper view of sexuality than the parents are. Parents have a very hard time passing on something to their kids that they themselves don't understand. So children look to popular culture for its perspective on sex.

Dannah: And parents need to pull *themselves* out of the culture. Parents talk about pulling their kids out of the culture, forbidding them to go to this movie or watch this TV show. Yet many times parents don't have a problem seeing that same movie or watching that television show or chuckling along with the laugh track on any of television's sex-laced situation comedies. We have to extract ourselves from the culture just like we expect our children to do.

The Magazine: The Internet is extremely dangerous because of the pornography that shows a skewed and perverted view of God's plan for sexuality.

Bob: Internet pornography is the crack cocaine of pornography because once you see it, it's hard not to get hooked. Most teenagers want accountability; they want filters on the family computers, and they don't want computers in their bedrooms. But it's very difficult for a teenager to go to his parent and admit this. Many parents will say,

On men's and women's unique perspectives on sex

Bob: Men and women come to the subject of sexuality from different directions. Parents need to recognize that a young man is visually oriented; his mind is his primary sex organ. With a young woman, it's her heart.

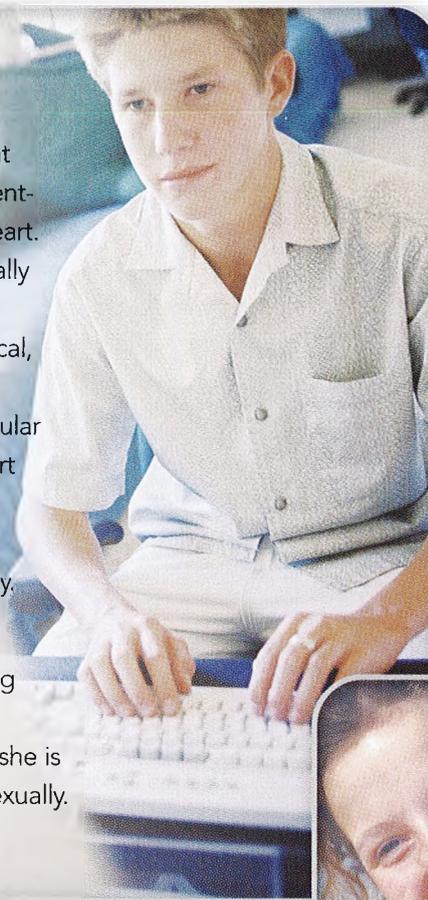
Society says that if a young lady reaches adulthood without a sexually transmitted disease or an unwanted pregnancy, she has pretty much arrived. But reality is that premarital sex leaves emotional, if not physical, scars on both women and men. It is a mystery how sex—in or out of marriage—bonds two people together, but it does. Women in particular cannot just engage in this behavior and walk away without leaving part of themselves behind.

Parents have to understand the difference in how men and women think and how to help their boys maintain mental and physical virginity.

Dannah: Parents need to strive to protect a guy's mind. Have an Internet filter in place. Talk about having standards and about handling visual temptation because he will face it nearly every day.

With a girl, help her protect her heart. When her heart is exposed, she is most at risk sexually, just as when his eyes are exposed, he is at risk sexually.

As parents, we need to protect *her* heart and *his* eyes.



Computers can be invaluable educational tools, but wise parents monitor Internet usage. On-line pornography, often available at the click of a mouse, depicts a perverted view of God's plan for sexuality. Parents with sons must protect their eyes from searing images that can be indelibly burned in their minds and influence their choices regarding sexual behavior.



"Why do you need a filter?" It's tough for a child to come right out and tell his parent that he is seriously tempted to do what he knows is wrong.

Dannah: It's important for parents to remember the curiosity they felt when they were their children's age and keep the lines of communication open. The kids who are not sexually active are talking to their parents about sex. They have what social scientists call a "connectedness" to their parents. These parents are spending time with their children.

Bob: When you talk to your child about sex, in most every case they will act like they don't want to talk to you, like they're embarrassed, because they might be. They will act like they don't ever want to have this conversation again. Don't believe them. The truth is they want to know your views on sex, but they may have a hard time showing it.

Dannah: A study asked mothers and daughters if they were adequately discussing the subject of sexuality with each other. Over two-thirds of the mothers said yes, but less than one-third of the daughters agreed. The girls told the interviewers, "My mother needs to bring up the subject more often." That really shocked the moms. They said, "She always acts like she doesn't want to hear about it. She acts like she already knows everything. She rolls her eyes at me."

A study by Josh McDowell confirmed these findings. It found the preferred source of sexual information for Christian teenagers was not books, their youth pastor, their school teachers or friends; it was their mom and dad.

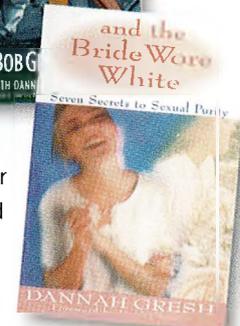
Bob: Somehow and sometime the information on sexuality—right or wrong—will be transmitted to your kids. You can choose to transmit it yourself or let them pick it up somewhere else.

Children have an awareness of sexual matters a lot sooner than youngsters did a generation or two ago. Parents need to address the issue early and often. ☺

Parents of a daughter must do what they can to help protect her heart, as a girl is most at risk sexually when her heart is exposed.

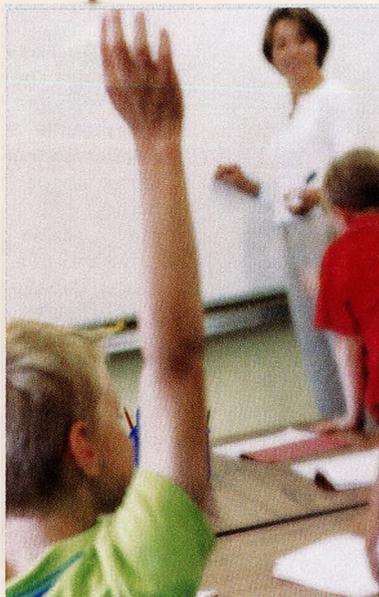
Is sexual purity an attainable goal?

In the midst of the culture's promotion of teen sex, many youth wonder if sexual purity is a worthy or attainable goal. In companion books targeted uniquely for teens, Bob and Dannah Gresh reveal the world's lies about sex and affirm that purity is both worthwhile and attainable. In *Who Moved the Goalpost?*, Bob uses a casual, humorous writing style and sports analogies to help young men understand the benefits of abstinence and provides a game plan for healthy, pure relationships. In *And the Bride Wore White*, Dannah uses a warm and revealing writing style to reach the hearts of teen girls, exposing Satan's lies about sex and giving seven secrets of sexual purity to apply during the dating years. She includes entries from her diaries that show the joys and heartaches and the successes and failures of her own dating experiences.



Who Moved the Goalpost? BKMOV \$12.99 ea.
And the Bride Wore White BKBR1 \$12.99 ea.

Available from the ERLC, 1-800-475-9127, or at www.familybookstore.net



Your kids are going to have questions about sex. Don't you want to be the one to give them the answers?

Kids are naturally curious. They hear things at school, in the neighborhood, on the soccer field. They see commercials and storefront displays. They see provocative movie posters and previews, even when they're going to the G-rated feature.

Our culture is obsessed with sex, and the messages being sent aren't lining up with God's plan. Parents hoping to raise godly children with a healthy view of sexuality must educate themselves on what their children are being exposed to and discuss a biblical perspective of sex openly with their children in age-appropriate stages.

If you don't talk about it with your kids, someone else will. And the views they hear may be very different from your own.

How should you respond when you find your little one playing doctor in the basement or negotiating "show me yours and I'll show you mine"?

The single most important principle is to not exaggerate the importance of the incident, but instead to use it as a teaching opportunity about the privacy of your child's body and what a blessed gift and miracle that body is. If a parent handles such incidents in a calm, positive, and reasonable fashion, it can be a very constructive experience. If parents overreact, they run the danger of instilling in their child a deep sense of guilt or that sexual interests and feelings are bad, and of encouraging a misplaced curiosity about this forbidden and dark aspect of life.

Your response should incorporate the following elements:

Affirm the goodness of the child's body as God's special creation and gift to him.

Use the opportunity to teach the child that because of the special nature of God's gift of sex, her body, especially her sexual organs, is meant to be private.

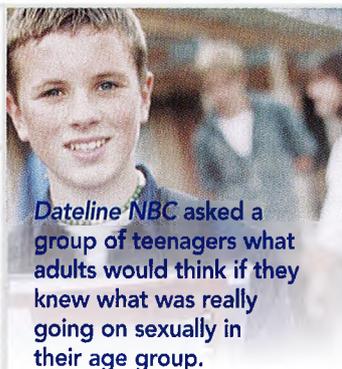
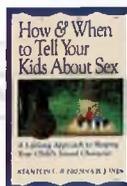
Affirm the goodness of your child's curiosity, but

Set clear boundaries and expectations about keeping private parts private.

When parents overreact, it is often because they assume that kids have the same sexual motives as adults, which is not likely the case.

If you find your little one "playing doctor," don't panic. Instead, use it as a teaching opportunity about the privacy of your child's body and what a blessed gift and miracle that body is. Overreacting can communicate that sexual interests and feelings are "bad" and is often due to an assumption that kids have the same sexual motives as adults, which is not likely the case.

Adapted from Stanton L. and Brenna B. Jones, *How & When to Tell Your Kids About Sex* (Colorado Springs, NavPress), 1993.



Dateline NBC asked a group of teenagers what adults would think if they knew what was really going on sexually in their age group.

"They'd be shocked," said Tommy, 15. "It's more like, you know, just for fun, recreation," Tommy said, and the group agreed.

The idea that oral sex is often viewed as casual behavior was familiar to the teens.

"Middle school and like the beginning of high school was like oral sex," said Laurie, 16. "Everyone was like oral sex, that's the big thing, you know, that's like third base. At least 50 percent, or maybe like 75 percent of all the people in high school have had some form of oral sex. When you have oral sex, you can be, like, it was a one-time thing, it's over. I know people who do that all the time and say, 'OK, well you haven't had sex yet. That's OK. You're still a virgin.' I mean even though literally you're not. I mean you are to your mind. You're like I did not have sex with that guy. It's OK."

www.msnbc.com

The number of teens in grades 9-12 who report having had sexual intercourse declined in 2001.

Nationwide, 46% of students in grades 9-12 have had sex, down from 50% in 1999 and 54% in 1991, according to the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance study released by the Centers for Disease Control on June 27, 2002.

www.teenpregnancy.org

Calling it the "modern-day version of Underoos," Abercrombie & Fitch is selling thong underwear in children's sizes—with the words "eye candy" and "wink wink" on the front.

"It's cute and fun and sweet," said a company spokesman.

Costume historian Jo Paoletti restated the obvious: we are experiencing an evolution toward promiscuous clothes. "It is outrageous. But we're living in outrageous times, in terms of pop culture," she said.

This is not A & F's first controversy. Last year, the company filled its catalog with youthful nude models kissing and fondling each other in a "celebration of a youthful and spirited yet responsible lifestyle."

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, May 17, 2002

Making a healthy and lasting connection with your child is one of your most important jobs as a parent.

According to Steve Schall, it's more important than getting a bigger home, buying designer clothes so that the kids fit in with their peers at school, or even providing a college education at the best school. In *The Name of the Game*, Schall asserts that a lifelong relationship, firmly grounded in timeless truths, will be something that endures through the years, providing the context for the passing of values from one generation to the next. But healthy relationships won't just "happen." They take time, work, and healthy doses of blood, sweat, and tears while demanding an awareness of the ways the culture works against you. Kids who grow up confident and connected in their relationship with their parents will be those who are most likely to lead their own generation back to the moral and spiritual foundations from which our country has drifted.



TEENS AND SEXUAL PURITY CULTURE RESPONSE KIT CONTENTS*

- Bible study and sermon helps
- LifeLight handouts (qty: 100)
- Book: *The Name of the Game* by Steve Schall
- Full-Color Promotional Posters (qty: 2)
- Sexual Purity Fact Sheets (qty: 10)



LifeLight
TEBULK02



Promotional
Poster
TEPOS02

TEKIT02 (monthly subscription) \$24.95

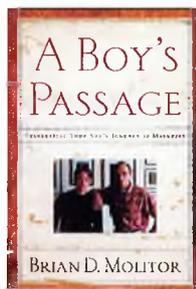
Individual kits are available for \$29.95.

BKNAM (96 pages) \$12.99 ea. Included in the Culture Response Kit featured at right

A Boy's Passage

BY BRIAN MOLITOR

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



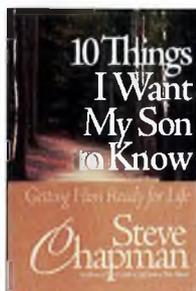
BKBOY (191 pages)

\$11.99 ea.

10 Things I Want My Son to Know

BY STEVE CHAPMAN

Being a dad requires love, humor, wisdom, and nerves of steel. Steve shares his top-10 principles drawn from the Bible's wisdom and practical experience that helped him raise a son dedicated to the Lord. Whether you're just starting out on the "papa" road or have traveled part of the distance, you'll appreciate the practical information, hands-on suggestions, and often humorous examples Steve shares to help you raise a son who will be a man of God and a man of honor.



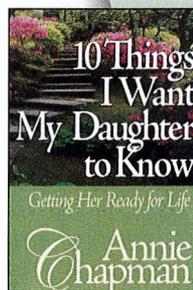
BKSON (175 pages)

\$9.99 ea.

10 Things I Want My Daughter to Know

BY ANNIE CHAPMAN

What life skills would you like your daughter to have? How can you help her become a woman of God? Drawing on her own experiences, the wisdom of God's Word, and insights from other mothers, Annie highlights 10 essential truths and how to share them with your daughter. She candidly reveals the ups and downs of motherhood to help you navigate the sometimes tricky yet always fulfilling role of "Mom."



BKDAU (178 pages)

\$9.99 ea.

Secret Keeper: The Delicate Power of Modesty

BY DANNAH GRESH

We live in the age of low-rise jeans and backless shirts. Many girls and young women cannot even define modesty, much less know how to live it out. Dannah Gresh has a message for them: Modesty itself holds a delicate yet formidable power. In a very "cool" way, she teaches that modesty expresses your love for and obedience to God and issues a challenge for one man to earn your virtue.



BKSEC (78 pages)

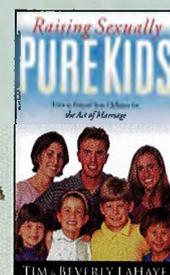
\$8.99 ea.

Raising Sexually Pure Kids

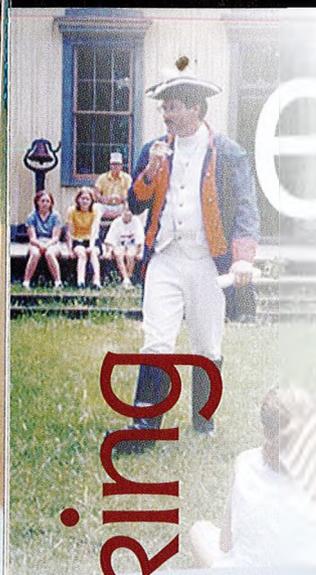
BY TIM AND BEVERLY LAHAYE

This book addresses 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.

BKRAL (271 pages) \$12.00 ea.



you've been asking



What do you know about American Heritage Girls?

A father in period costume recited the Declaration of Independence at a reenactment of a historic Fourth of July sponsored by American Heritage Girls.

American Heritage Girls is a scouting organization created in 1995 by a former Girl Scout leader who was unhappy with

the philosophical changes in Girl Scouting. For girls ages five through eighteen, American Heritage Girls offers a wholesome program of activities that promote the Judeo-Christian values upon which our country was founded. The

group's mission statement is "Building women of integrity through service to God, family, community and country." For more information about American Heritage Girls, call 513-860-4670 or visit their Web site at www.ahgonline.net.

Is a same-sex "civil union" performed in Vermont recognized as a legal marriage in another state?

Not yet, and hopefully never. The Vermont Department of Health Web site states: "A civil union is a legal relationship that provides same-sex couples in Vermont all the benefits, protections and responsibilities under law as are granted to spouses in a marriage." For \$23, you get a license that must be "certified by an authorized person" within 60 days. There is no blood test and no waiting period.

Statistics show that the vast majority of same-sex couples who have had civil union ceremonies in Vermont are not state residents; they are couples who have traveled from elsewhere in the nation in order to have their relationship validated by a state government. The apparent intention of many of these couples is to return home and challenge their state governments to accept the Vermont civil union as legal in their home states. The issue has already made its way to two state Supreme Courts.

On July 15, 2002, the

Georgia Supreme Court unanimously agreed that a Vermont civil union is not the equivalent of marriage; and even if a civil union were recognized as marriage in Vermont, it would not be recognized as marriage in Georgia. The decision also upheld the Georgia Defense of Marriage Act, which limits marriage to one man and one woman. The case was brought by a divorced lesbian who, after obtaining a civil union with her female partner in Vermont, went home to Georgia to challenge her visitation privileges with her children, who live with her ex-husband. The privileges state that she may not see her children in the presence of the person she is co-habiting with, but she may see her children in the presence of a spouse.

On June 26, 2002, seven homosexual couples who are not content with a Vermont civil union filed suit against the state of New Jersey for the right to legally marry. The likelihood of the liberal New Jersey Supreme Court ruling in favor of same-sex marriage "has actually shocked many legislators and gotten support for defining

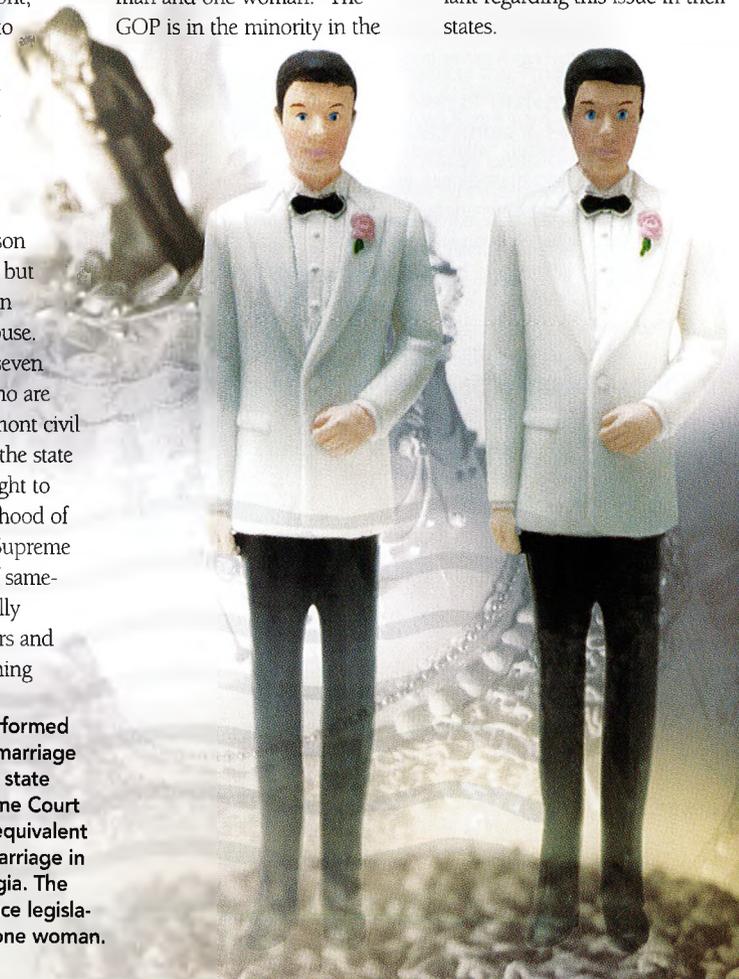
marriage as one man and one woman," said John Tomicki, executive director of the League of American Families. Tomicki said pro-family activists also are working on a constitutional amendment limiting judges to five-year terms, with retention subject to a public vote.

And two Republican legislators have introduced the Protection of Marriage Act, which defines marriage in New Jersey as only the union of one man and one woman. "The GOP is in the minority in the

House, and there is a 20/20 split in the Senate," said Len Deo, president of the New Jersey Family Policy Council. He predicts that the bill could face a rough ride.

The issue of legitimizing same-sex marriage is one of the most important ones facing our society because it would be the ultimate stamp of approval on what Scripture describes as a sinful and destructive lifestyle. Christians should remain vigilant regarding this issue in their states.

Many same-sex couples see the civil union ceremonies performed in Vermont as a positive step toward legalizing same-sex marriage in other states. The issue has already made its way to two state Supreme Courts, with interesting results. Georgia's Supreme Court unanimously agreed that a Vermont civil union is not the equivalent of marriage; and even if a civil union was recognized as marriage in Vermont, it would not be recognized as marriage in Georgia. The debate in New Jersey has prompted legislators to introduce legislation defining marriage as only the union of one man and one woman.



"I hope in Your word."

Psalm 119:81

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Building a Foundation for Life

Big or Small, God Can Use Us All

BY DWAYNE HASTINGS

I am the oldest child in my family, so I've never had a big brother.

An older cousin of mine visited our family one time. I thought he was cool. I couldn't wait to get big and tall like him.

I believed when I got big like him, no one would tell me what to do or where to go. I'd make my own choices. I'd have ice cream for breakfast, Cocoa Krispies® for lunch, and pepperoni pizza every night for supper.

I knew when I got big I'd stay up late at night and sleep late into the morning. I'd wear the clothes I wanted to wear and go places with my friends in a fancy sports car. I just knew when I got big no one would pick on me and I'd be a great baseball player.

I knew when I got big everything would be great.

And eventually I did grow up.

But people are still telling me what to do and where to go. I eat bran flakes in the morning and am grateful for the home-cooked meals my wife makes. I can barely stay awake to see the evening news, and I have to get up in the morning to go to work. My car is not new, and my children make sure the clothes I wear aren't hopelessly out of style. And I never made it from the vacant lot in my neighborhood to the major leagues. Now, I sit in the bleachers with my wife, watching our youngest son play Little League baseball.

Now I understand that God is not concerned with how big or little we are and that we should focus on what we can do today to serve Him. While you and I grow bigger as we grow older, God made many things to be little and stay little.



From glowing fireflies that dart through the sky on warm summer evenings to elegantly crafted snowflakes that fall gently on winter days, God cherishes the tiniest things in His creation as much as the larger things, like African elephants lumbering across grasslands in Kenya and massive Sequoia trees in forests out west.

Now I have children who are taller than I am. But I'm not small in God's eyes, and neither are you. For you see, being big is not just about how tall you are—God is more concerned about your heart than your height.

Whether you are a little guy who stands eye-to-eye to a yardstick or a towering linebacker in the NFL, God has you just where he wants you. Trust in Him to use you where you are, no matter your size.

Bible truth: God uses us just how and where we are.

Bible verse: Psalm 115:13

RECOMMENDED READING

The world and everything in it are God's majestic creations. In *The Big Book*, Kathleen Ruckman describes how the biggest things like high, snow-capped mountains are His handiwork. And in *The Tiny Book*, she tells how the tiniest things like the dots on a ladybug's back are His special creations too. The beautiful watercolor illustrations and rhyming text will charm young children and the adults who are privileged to read to them.

Master Books, ISBN 0-89051-358-9 (Big) and ISBN 0-89051-359-7 (Tiny)



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