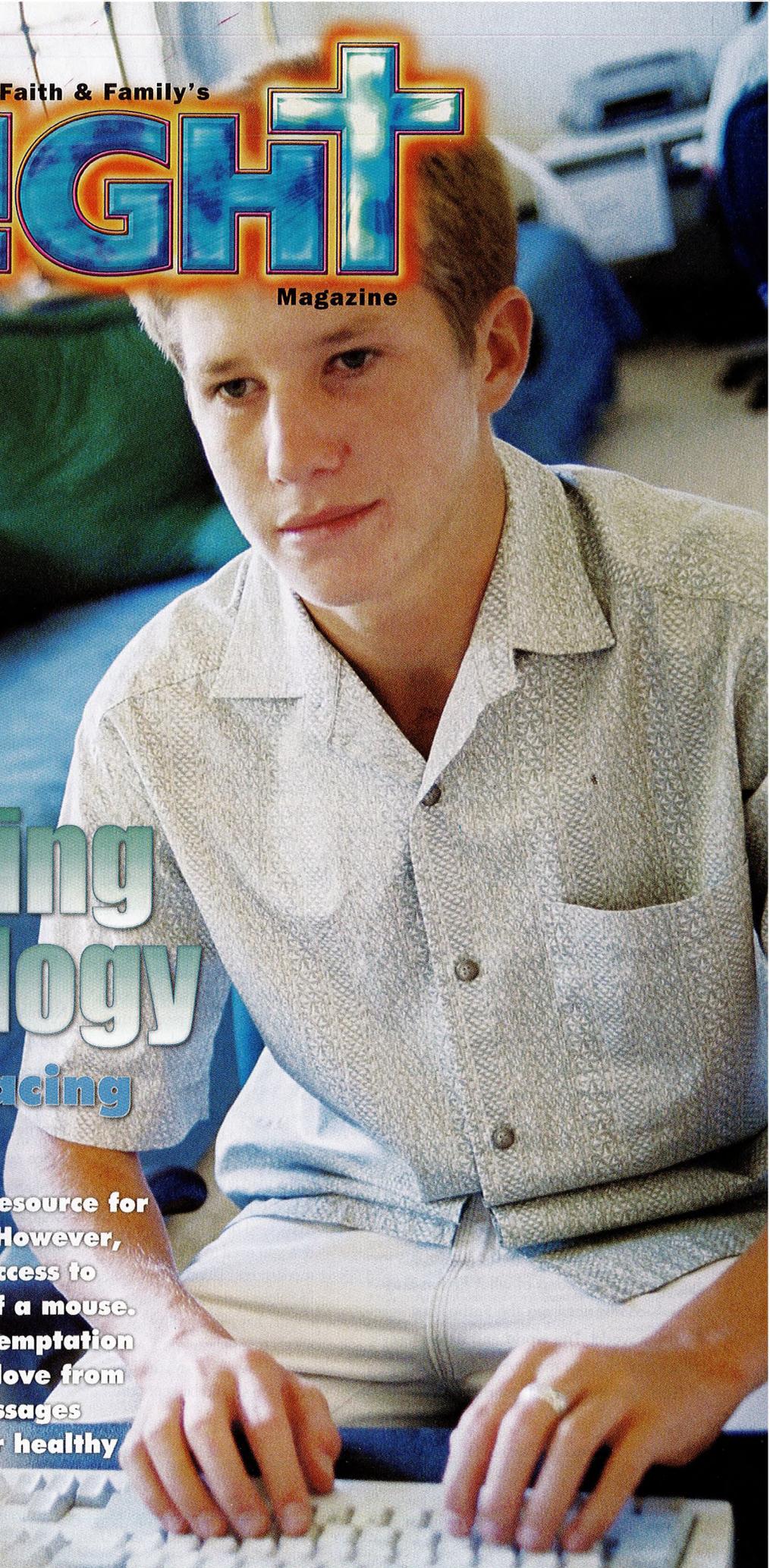


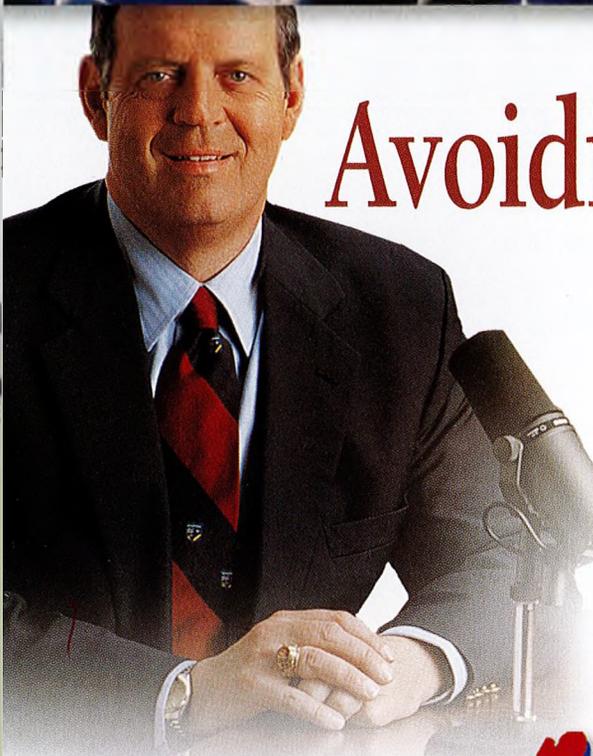
For Faith & Family's  
**LIGHT**  
Magazine

# Embracing Technology

## Without Embracing Its Dark Side

The Internet is a wonderful resource for family members of all ages. However, it has a dark side—instant access to pornography with the click of a mouse. Inside are tips for avoiding temptation and protecting the ones you love from pornographers' distorted messages that contradict God's plan for healthy sexual relationships.





# Avoiding Moral Shipwreck

Tuning Out Porn's Siren Song

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

Pornography is a medium of both mental and physical images. We must constantly remind ourselves that we live in a world distorted by sin and must be careful what we allow our eyes to see.

Unfortunately, one reason many in our society have been so susceptible to pornography is that far too often in American churches, particularly in conservative churches, we have shied away from teaching the full biblical revelation concerning human sexuality.

We know all about the *don'ts*. We know that First Corinthians 6 says our bodies are not intended for sexual immorality. But too often evangelical Christians have failed to adequately understand the Song of Solomon and share its truths with our young people. If First Corinthians records the *don'ts*, the Song of Solomon records the *do's*. The Song of Solomon says that sex is holy and that God created us as sexual beings to bring about the most loving, caring, giving union that a man and woman can know this side of heaven. If you think God doesn't approve of sex, you need to read a good modern translation of the Song of Solomon. However, our culture has made it dirty by selfish misapplication.

Hebrews 13:4 says the marriage bed should be kept pure

and that marriage should be honored by all. If anyone needed to be told the appropriate place and purpose for sexual relations, it was the first-century Corinthians. Corinth was the cultural cesspool of the Roman Empire. The Romans had a word for someone who had been hopelessly debauched. They'd say, "Well, he has been Corinthianized." That's how bad it was in Corinth.

It was out of this degenerate society that the Corinthian Christians were saved. And Paul admonishes them in 1 Corinthians 6:18, "Flee from sexual immorality! 'Every sin a person can commit is outside the body,' but the person who is

sexually immoral sins against his own body." Paul knew that God created us as sexual beings to make of two people one flesh, and that we cannot separate ourselves from our sexuality.

Paul says there is no such thing as casual sex, for a person who has been promiscuous in mind or body is profoundly changed. This flies in the face of those in the pornography industry who insist pornography is a private matter and doesn't affect anyone else. People who view pornography are changed in their view of women, their view of procreation, and their view of the world. And that means they affect you and me.

**No man—Christian or not—is totally above temptation when it comes to pornography, particularly with its easy accessibility on-line. If you have Internet access on your home or office computer, make sure you have a reliable filter such as LifeWay Online ([www.lifewayonline.com](http://www.lifewayonline.com)) that screens out the so-called "adult" sites.**

Pornography is one of the most powerful weapons in Satan's arsenal. He uses it to corrupt God's beautiful plans for us as sexual beings. Pornography encourages lust, which then enslaves us, for sexual desire is the second most powerful motivation human beings have after the survival instinct. Unfortunately, the Internet has given this perversion nearly unimaginable reach and power.

The Bible tells us, "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever" (1 John 2:15-17).

**FOR FAITH**  
*& Family*

**ERLC**

OUR VISION

OUR MISSION

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

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

"People who view pornography are changed in their view of women, their view of procreation, and their view of the world. And that means they affect you and me."

Pornography perverts and distorts all of the God-given purposes for sexual intimacy. Pornography teaches people to disregard the sanctity of marriage and the gift of knowing one person intimately within its confines. It teaches people to view sex as a form of recreation, without regard for the welfare of one's sexual partner.

We are weak, fallible creatures and subject to temptation. Adrian Rogers offers sage advice when he says, "To avoid falling down, don't walk on slippery surfaces."

Steer clear of temptation and see that your family does the same. Don't pick up that magazine or click that mouse if it will subject you to temptation. The Bible tells us to "flee from such" (2 Timothy 2:22).

Don't underestimate the lure of this sordid material. No man — Christian or not — is totally above temptation when it comes to pornography, particularly with its easy accessibility on-line.

If you have Internet access on your home or office computer, make sure you have a reliable filter such as LifeWay Online ([www.lifewayonline.com](http://www.lifewayonline.com)) that screens out the so-called "adult" sites.

Otherwise, having the Internet is like ordering magazines about subjects that interest you, then having them delivered in a box that also contains pornographic magazines you didn't order and don't want.

"Well," most Internet providers would say, "if you want a maga-

zine about baseball or American history, you have to take delivery of these others too. You don't have to look at them, though." For the sake of yourself and your family, get a good filter or get off the Internet.

Another way you can protect families from Internet pornography is by supporting legislation to control it. When a bill is introduced that will reduce the exposure of children — and everyone else — to pornography on the Internet, support the politicians who champion it. They are fighting against long odds, for the porn industry is powerful and will do all it can to keep the electronic river of slime flowing unimpeded. Let morally responsible leaders know you're behind them. Pray for them and for yourself. And pray for the victims of pornography that they will feel the presence of God in their hearts soon, climb out of that fetid river, and bask in His glory. 

*For more information on the battle against pornography and other critical moral and ethical issues, order a copy of Richard Land's latest book, For Faith & Family: Changing America by Strengthening the Family, by visiting [www.familybookstore.net](http://www.familybookstore.net) or calling 1-800-475-9127.*

## Attention, Pastors and Church Leaders!

Keeping your congregation informed about the latest issues in American culture that affect the Christian faith and family values has never been easier. Call 800-475-9127 to learn more about receiving bulk quantities of *For Faith & Family's Light* magazine for your church.



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## GUARD YOUR HEART BY GUARDING YOUR MIND

Pornography is a Pandora's box that leads to a multitude of sins and, ultimately, destruction. Christians, particularly men, would be wise to recognize that it is one of Satan's most effective weapons and flee situations that can lead to temptation.

BY KAREN COLE

**P**ornography in some form has existed since ancient times, but only in the last two hundred years have courts and commentators attempted to define it. A common modern definition is "all sexually oriented material intended primarily to arouse the reader, viewer, or listener." Modern pornographers pushing the limits of the First Amendment parse words in order to have their work considered not "obscene" or "pornography," but "art," "erotica," or "adult entertainment." Some of their customers surely justify their patronage with those terms as well. I have a simple theory about obscenity and pornography, however: I think all of us—believers and unbelievers, men and women, the legally astute and the legally ignorant—know exactly what is obscene and what is pornographic, even without a definition.

We generally think of obscenity and pornography in their most common forms. "Girle" magazines have been available for years, becoming more explicit for each generation. We can speculate that in 2003 every sexual perversion has its own publication. Cable television seemingly knows no boundaries, with sexually charged programming, adult channels, and pay-per-view movies. Network television,

in its quest to regain viewers from the cable channels, pushes its historic envelope of "acceptable" content until the "family hour" is often too embarrassing for a Christian family to endure. Your local video store probably has X-rated videos to rent or buy. Adult bookstores are accessible to most. (It is widely stated that in America there are more outlets for hardcore pornography than there are McDonald's restaurants.) And, most pervasive of all, the bottomless pit of Internet porn is only a click away.

### "My Problem Isn't Really Pornography."

Let's be frank and acknowledge some of the things outside the strict definition of pornography that Christian men have admittedly allowed to become sexual sin. Some are obsessed with glossy lingerie ads. Some subscribe to *Sports Illustrated* and eagerly await the annual swimsuit issue—to add to their collection of past swimsuit issues. Some get up early to watch aerobics instructors on

television or join a health club just for "the view." Some lunch in parks frequented by female joggers. Some are happy to accompany their children to the pool because of the visual feast that awaits them.

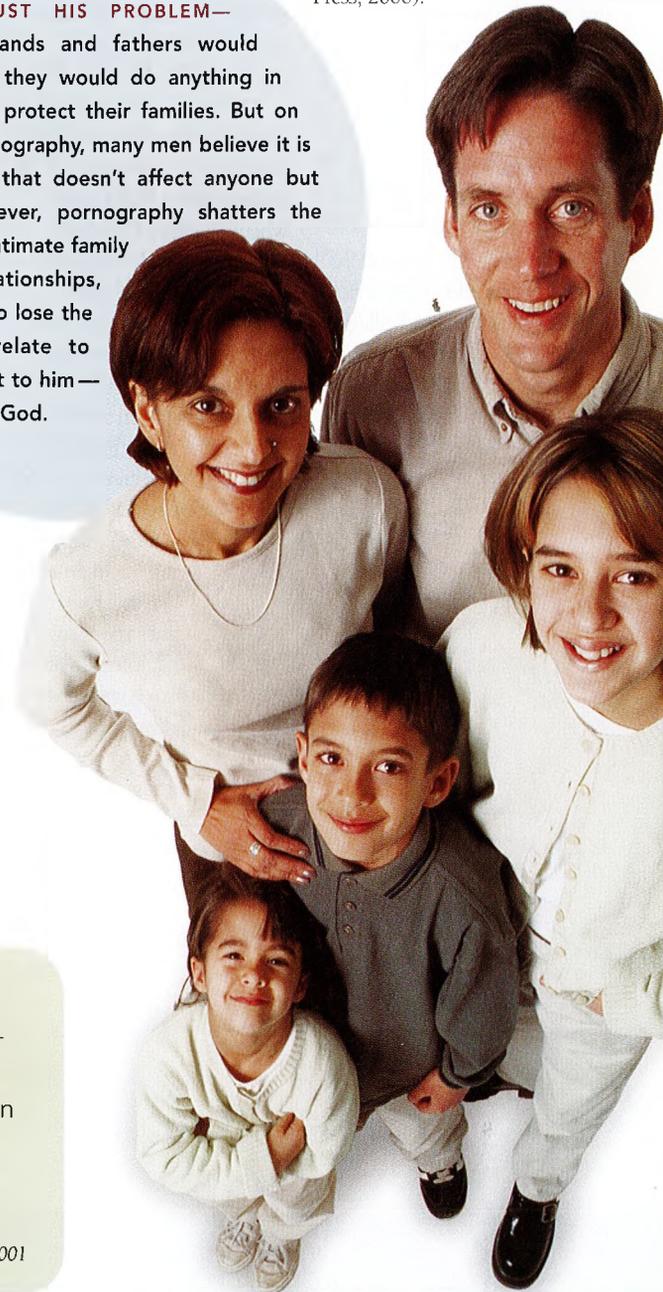
From years of counseling experience, Stephen Arterburn

and Fred Stoeker estimate that men fall into three categories of sexual sin: Around 10 percent have no problem with sexual temptation, either with their eyes or minds. Another 10 percent are plagued by sexual addiction that controls their lives. The remaining 80 percent of the male population falls between the two extremes (*Every Man's Battle*, WaterBrook Press, 2000).

**NOT JUST HIS PROBLEM—**  
Most husbands and fathers would probably say they would do anything in their power to protect their families. But on the topic of pornography, many men believe it is a personal issue that doesn't affect anyone but themselves. However, pornography shatters the fragile bonds of intimate family and marital relationships, causing a man to lose the capacity to relate to those closest to him—including God.

"One of the key indicators of the changing values of Americans relates to the nation's comfort with pornography. Half of all adults stated that watching a movie with explicit sexual behavior is morally acceptable. That view was shared by three out of ten born again adults. In like fashion, more than four out of ten adults (43%) claimed that reading magazines with explicit sexual pictures and nudity is morally acceptable. Half as many of the born again adults embraced that perspective (21%)."

Barna Research Online, September 10, 2001



This article is reprinted from Caregiving, Winter 2002/2003.

"How can I compete with hundreds of anonymous others who are now in our bed, in his head? Our bed is crowded with countless faceless strangers, where once we were intimate."

—the 34-year-old wife of a minister addicted to pornography  
*New York Times*, May 16, 2000

**"I'm Only Hurting Myself."**

A man is truly fooling only himself when he decides his use of pornography is his problem alone. Pornography is fully capable of destroying not only the man, but also his marriage and his family.

*Pornography has the power to change a man from the inside out.* Scripture paints this chilling word picture: "Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (1 Pet. 5:8). Pornography is surely one of Satan's most effective weapons. Ted Roberts describes sexual bondage as a "spiritual noose around the . . . soul" (*Pure Desire*, Regal Books, 1999). "The first consequence of sexually addictive behavior is always emotional numbness," Roberts continues. "He begins to lose the capacity to honestly relate to those closest to him and to God."

Consider the way a man views the women involved in pornography. Henry Rogers describes this from personal experience in *The Silent War* (New Leaf Press, 1999). "I've seen many women involved in the adult entertainment industry," Rogers writes. "All of these women had one thing in common. They appeared to enjoy their work. . . . There is one other thing you need to know about these women. I never cared to know their names. It is easy to dehumanize women in adult entertainment. Their reason for existence is to satisfy lust. Nothing more." This mindset is an excellent example of what Scripture

teaches will happen when we disregard the God-given worth of others: "You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other" (Gal. 5:13-15). CNSNews.com reported in 2001 the results of a survey of convicted sex murderers. Not surprisingly, 81 percent were porn users.

*The wife of a man who views pornography pays a very high price.* As a woman, I can read and hear about the sexual temptations inherent in being a man—but I can never experience or truly understand them. In the same way, I wonder if a man truly can understand the sense of betrayal that a woman feels when their intimate relationship has been violated by a third party—even an anonymous one in a magazine or video. At the very least, the knowledge that he has chosen to expend his emotional and sexual energy with another woman over her is crushing to her self-esteem. Women in the adult entertainment industry spend countless hours and untold dollars on cosmetic enhancements to become the artificial creations that will hopefully catch and hold a paying customer's attention. Also, the pornography industry would have us believe that a normal sexual partner should enjoy any sexual activity at any time. Naturally, a real woman with a real body, a real life, and real emotional needs cannot meet those expectations. In the same way, the woman who will

someday marry a man who has viewed pornography will pay a price, for the physiology of sexual arousal causes those images to be permanently engraved on his memory.

If her husband's use of pornography served as a stepping stone toward actual physical contact with another person, it can destroy her health. Many women have sexually-transmitted diseases—including AIDS—after being infected by an unfaithful husband. In her book *An Affair of the Mind* (Tyndale, 1996), Laurie Hall gives a gut-wrenching description of going to a clinic for an AIDS test after discovering her husband's addiction to pornography and how it had led to multiple sexual encounters with nameless women.

*Continued on page 6*



**"MY PROBLEM ISN'T REALLY PORNOGRAPHY."**

Some men, including Christians, have admitted to allowing obsessions with glossy lingerie ads or *Sports Illustrated's* annual swimsuit issue to become sexual sin.

Counselors estimate that men fall into three categories of sexual sin: 10% have no problem with sexual temptation, either with their eyes or minds; 10% are plagued by sexual addiction that controls their lives; and 80% of the male population falls between the two extremes.

*Every Man's Battle*, WaterBrook Press, 2000

**77%** of on-line visitors to adult content sites are male. Their average age is 41, and they have an annual income of \$60,000. **46%** are married.

**26%** report multiple weekly sojourns. Mostly high-income, these frequent users—**84%** of whom are men—spend 17 hours on-line per week.

*Forrester Research Inc., April 2001*

"In my clinical experience, the major consequence of being addicted to pornography is not the probability or possibility of committing a serious sex crime (though this can and does occur), but rather the disturbance of the fragile bonds of intimate family and marital relationships. This is where the most grievous pain, damage, and sorrow occur. There is repeatedly an interference with or even destruction of healthy love and sexual relationships with long-term bonded partners. If one asks if porn is responsible or causes any sex crimes, the answer is unequivocally, 'Yes,' but that is only the tip of the iceberg."

from "Pornography's Effects on Adults and Children" by Victor B. Cline, Ph.D.,  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist

**Pornography use harms a man's children.** First, many accounts of pornography addiction begin with a young boy finding his father's stash of magazines or videos. Not only was the boy exposed to the images and their portrayal of womanhood, but he also associated them with his father, his main role model of manhood. Second, because it is impossible for a man to use pornography and love his wife as he should, he cannot model a biblical marriage for his children. Third, the time a man spends using pornography is stolen from some other area of his life—usually his family. Fourth, a man who has home-computer access to pornography is allowing that same access to his children. Finally, pornography use is a predictor of child sexual abuse of either his own children or others.

**SHAPING HIS SON'S FUTURE—**  
Many accounts of pornography addiction begin with a young boy finding his father's stash of magazines or videos. Not only was the boy exposed to the images and their portrayal of womanhood, but he also associated them with his father, his main role model of manhood. Any man who views pornographic material in his home is allowing that same access to his children, opening the door to distorted views and attitudes that can affect the health of future relationships.

**The Escape Plan**

Scripture tells us, "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. . . . But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it" (1 Cor. 10:13). These are some practical ways to minister to a man trapped by pornography use.

**Educate yourself about pornography addiction and sexual addiction.** The ERLC offers several good books written by and for Christian men. These are also helpful to women trying to understand the problem. See the resources on p. 21 and online at [www.familybookstore.net](http://www.familybookstore.net).

**Encourage him to control the computers in his office and home so that they don't control him.** Basic guidelines include placing your office computer so that the monitor can be seen from the door, keeping your home computer in a "public" area, and installing filtering software or using an Internet provider that filters at the server level. (For a review of these software programs and Internet Service Providers, visit [www.filterreview.com](http://www.filterreview.com).)

**Encourage him to give control of the television to his wife.** A man who is tempted by pornography should allow his wife to block objectionable channels using the parental control feature. Under no circumstance should he subscribe to premium movie or

"adult" channels. Some should remove the television completely.

**If his work requires travel, help him make a plan.** Most hotels will block "adult" channels from the desk. He should confirm this before he makes a reservation, then ask again at check-in. He should call home to talk to his wife and children and take appropriate reading material from home. He might choose not to travel alone.

**Give him ongoing support.** Henry Rogers writes: "I believe sexual temptation is different than many other temptations. If I struggled with greed, I would not have a problem asking anyone in my church to remember me as I battled greed. . . . In our minds, however, the sin of sexual lust brings on incredible shame for the Christian man. . . . Satan wants us to believe we are alone in our shame. Yet God assures us that what we are facing is common to man. Sure, others may have a greater struggle while some may face less of a fight. However, you are not alone."

Many men find victory over pornography through Christian counseling, support groups, and accountability partners. You probably know men who could benefit from one or all three. You can be a part of that "way out" for the men in your sphere by educating yourself and them, helping them spiritually and practically, and teaching them God's promises for His provision from temptation. Will you make yourself available? 

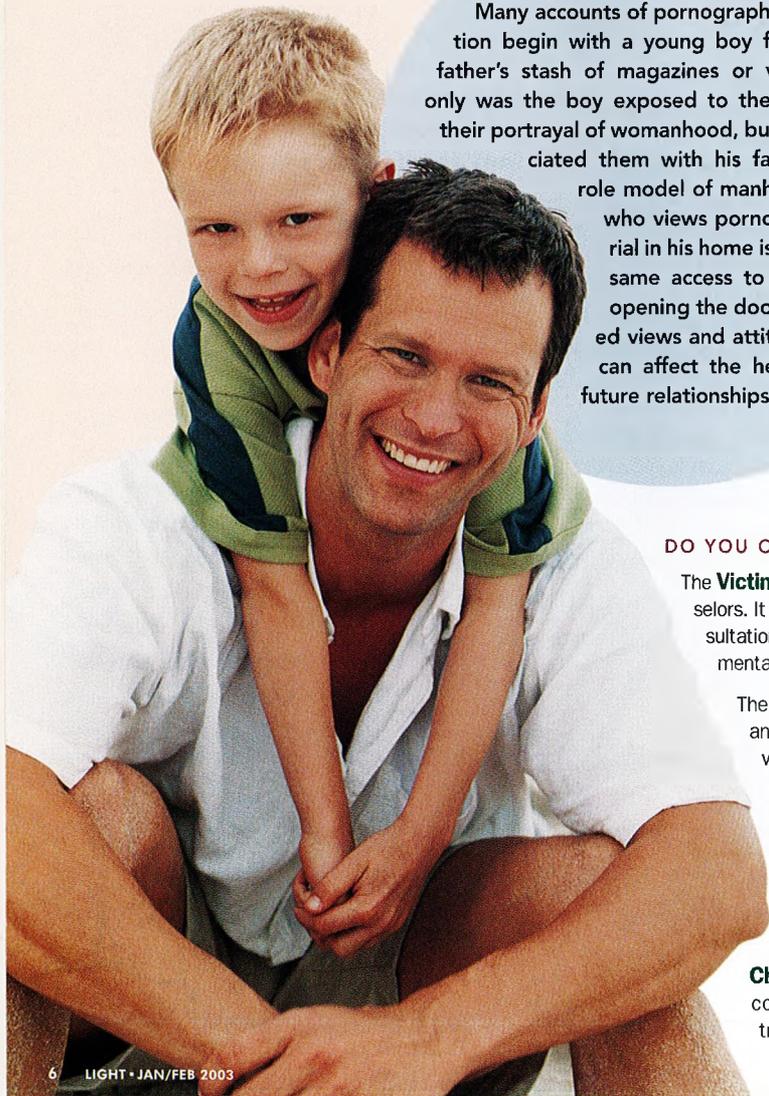
**DO YOU OR A LOVED ONE NEED HELP?**

The **Victim Assistance HelpLine** is for pornography users, their friends and family members, and counselors. It offers crisis intervention, referral to a treatment resource in the caller's community, and consultation for pastors and counselors. Services are confidential and provided by trained master's level mental health therapists. Call 800-583-2964 Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EST).

The **American Association of Christian Counseling** is an organization of pastors, therapists, and psychologists who provide help from a Christian perspective. To reach a member in your area, visit [www.aacc.net](http://www.aacc.net) or call 804-384-0564.

**Pure Life Ministries** helps Christian men achieve lasting freedom from sexual sin through counseling and study. PLM offers a residential program on the campus in Kentucky (6-12 months) and a 3-month program of correspondence work and telephone counseling for those who cannot come to Kentucky for the live-in program. They also counsel wives of men in sexual sin. For details visit [www.purelifeministries.org](http://www.purelifeministries.org) or call 800-635-1866 Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EST).

**Christian Recovery International** is a coalition of ministries dedicated to helping the Christian community become a safe and helpful place for people recovering from addiction, abuse, or trauma. For information visit [www.christianrecovery.com](http://www.christianrecovery.com) or call 714-529-6227.



You can ignore their knock at your door. You can throw their direct mail offers in the trash on the way in from the mailbox. You can block them from calling you on the phone. Unfortunately, these faceless solicitors have almost unlimited access to your e-mail inbox.

# Spammed!

## PORNOGRAPHERS TARGET COMPUTER USERS VIA E-MAIL

BY DWAYNE HASTINGS

**It is a marketer's dream gone wild.** It is fondly referred to as "bulk e-mail" by the industry, but it is reviled as "spam" by computer users who are bombarded by the messages that promise more rewarding sex, clean septic tanks and colons, once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for debt consolidation, below-market mortgage refinancing, cheap airfare to Prague, sure-fire weight loss remedies, and personalized memberships to the most prurient and

scandalous sites on the Internet.

These unsolicited messages comprise 36 percent of the e-mail traffic on the Internet, up from just 8 percent last year, reports Brightmail, a developer of anti-spam software, in *The Wall Street Journal* (11/13/02) on-line. An estimated two billion of these e-mails zip along the Information Highway each day, and observers suggest that number will grow ten-fold over the next year.

"It's like stomping on cockroaches

in your kitchen," said Joyce Graff of Garton, Inc., an international leadership and strategic consulting firm, on the E-Commerce Times Web site. "You can get rid of some, but there are always more coming from somewhere else."

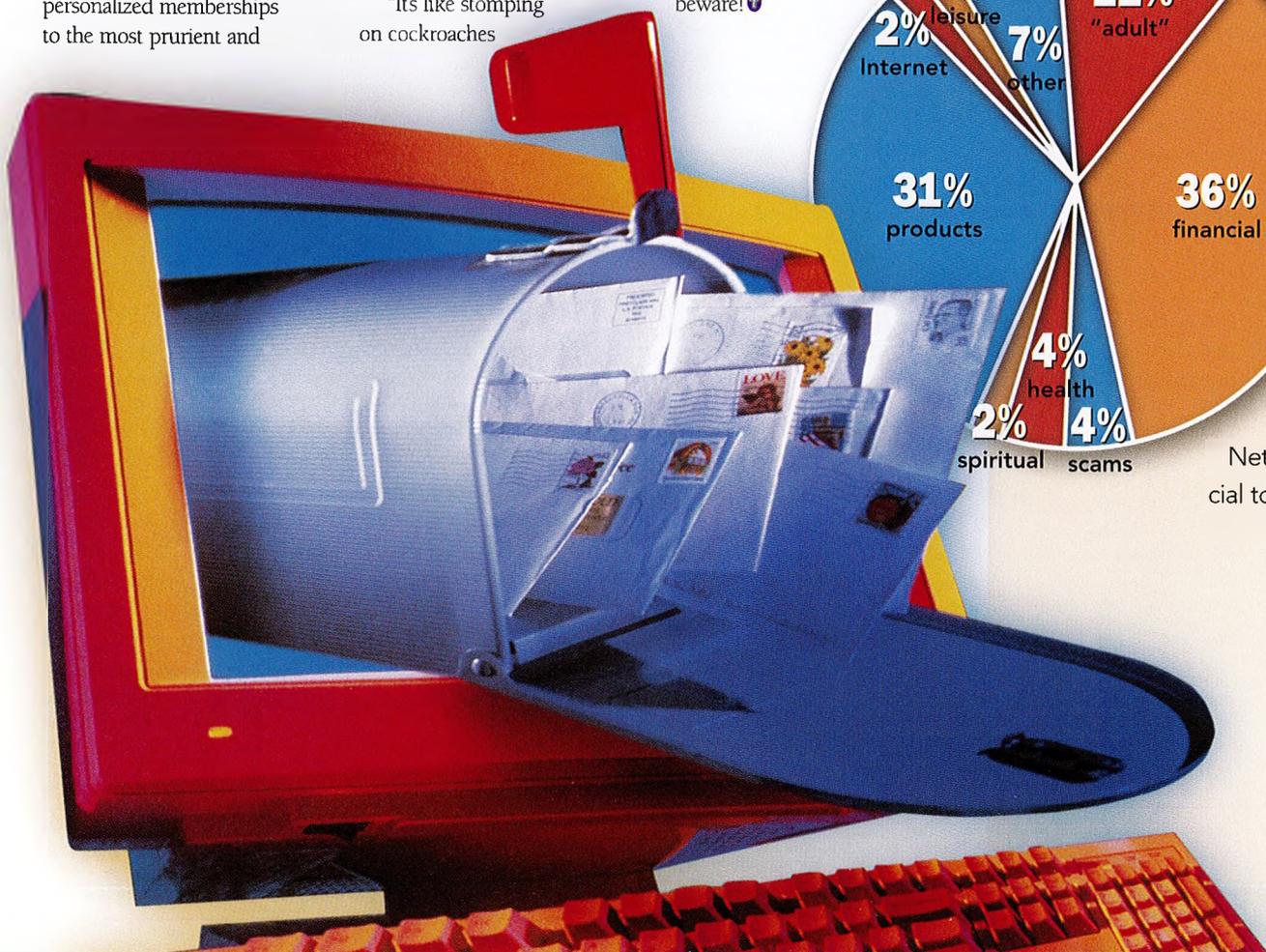
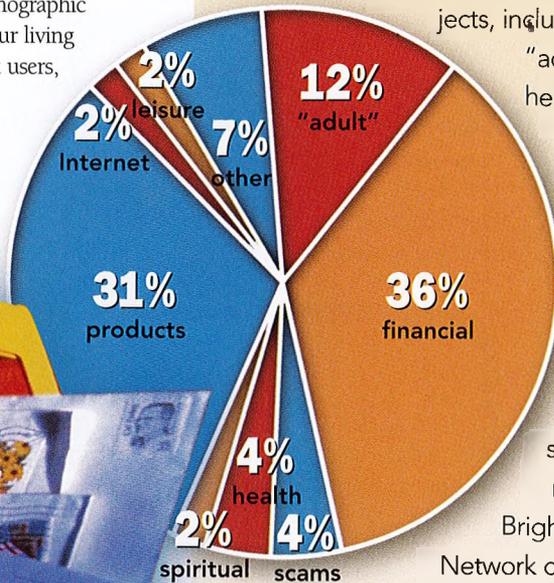
You wouldn't let these solicitors on your property, but they have found a new way to market their miracle cures and pornographic ventures in your living room. Internet users, beware! ☹

## Unique Spam Attacks

Brightmail's Probe Network measured spam attacks at **879,253** in June 2001. By October, spam attacks had nearly doubled, totalling **1,592,333**. From October 2001 to February 2002, attacks more than doubled, reaching **3,187,430**. The dramatic increases continued throughout 2002, reaching **4,825,144** in June and **5,352,325** in October.

### WHAT DOES "spam" LOOK LIKE?

Spam can cover a wide range of subjects, including Internet, "adult," leisure, health, and spiritual topics. Some transmittals are outright scams. As of October 2002, the largest share of spam monitored by Brightmail's Probe Network covered financial topics, with products a close second.



# What Can I Do About Porn Spam?

How I can stop receiving unsolicited pornographic e-mail messages? I've never accessed this kind of site and don't know how I have been put on such a mailing list.

*Morality in Media is a national, not-for-profit, interfaith organization established in 1962 to combat obscenity and uphold decency standards in the media. MIM offers these suggestions for dealing with spam. Because spam can address any subject matter, the suggestions deal with all kinds of Unsolicited Commercial E-mail, not just pornographic spam.*

*For more information about the work of Morality in Media, visit [www.morality-inmedia.org](http://www.morality-inmedia.org).*

**First, if you've been spammed by someone you don't know, do not reply to the sender or follow any removal instructions that might be included.** Why? By "unsubscribing," you're telling the sender that your e-mail address is working, and they often turn around and sell your address to other spammers.

**Second, if you receive porn spam, complain to your United States Attorney.** Don't accuse anyone of a crime; just ask your U.S. Attorney's office to investigate the porn spam as a possible violation of the Federal Obscenity Laws that prohibit the use of computers to transmit obscene material (18 USC 1462 and 1465). Morality in Media has a list of the 93 U.S. Attorney's offices across the country on their Obscenity Enforcement Web page, [www.obsenitycrimes.org](http://www.obsenitycrimes.org) as well as instructions for reporting the spam.

**Third, complain to your Internet Service Provider (ISP).**

**Finally, complain to the sender's ISP.** Most ISP administrators are responsible and don't want their machines used for spamming. Most ISPs have policies prohibiting spamming through their accounts. Once they are notified that a user has been abusing their account, many ISPs will shut down the offender.

## WHY IS IT CALLED spam?

"Unsolicited commercial e-mail" (UCE) is informally known as "spam." If it's pornographic—typically with links to pornographic Web sites—it's called "porn spam."

**Why is UCE named after the famous luncheon meat?** The name comes from a routine by the British comedy group Monty Python in which the word "spam" is repeated over and over again in an increasing crescendo, drowning out other conversation. Years ago a techie connected the "spam, spam, spam, spam, spam, spam, spam, spam" with the blizzard of junk e-mail because it tends to drown out normal discourse on the Internet... and the name stuck.



So how do you know whom to contact? In the body of the spam message, there are usually instructions for how the sender wants you to respond to the message. Often they will want you to visit a Web site or send mail to an e-mail address. This address is almost always bogus.

Find the domain name in the bogus address. This is the part after the @ sign of an e-mail address or the last part of the server name in a URL (Internet address, or "Uniform Resource Locator"). For example, in <http://www.bogus.com/somepage.html>, the domain is "bogus.com."

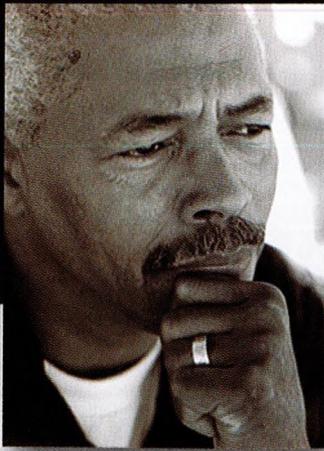
If the links in the spam message are just a line of numbers, you can translate them into a normal IP address. The anti-spam people at [www.abuse.net](http://www.abuse.net) have a translator for that.

You then need to track down the administrator of that domain. How? If the domain is in the ".com," ".org," ".net," or ".edu" domains, you can find the administrative contact through InterNIC, the official registrant of names in those top-level domains (TLDs). You can go directly to the Web site for the InterNIC Directory and do what's called a WHOIS lookup to find the administrative contact. It's very easy—the first thing you'll see on that page is "Search Our WHOIS Records." Type in the complete domain name, with the ".com," ".org," etc. Or, type in the "dotted quad" IP address if that's what you have. Under "Search WHOIS By," check "domain name" or "IP address" as appropriate. Click on the "GO!" button, and you'll have your information.

Once you've tracked down the administrator, simply e-mail the entire message to the person listed as the administrative contact. Explain that you've been "spammed." The administrator may have further requirements, but this is the person or group who can help you.

An "entire message" is one with complete "headers." Headers are typically hidden in e-mail messages, but e-mail software can be set to "view full headers." The procedure differs by program. In Microsoft Outlook, open or highlight a message, pull down the "File" menu, go to "Properties," then click the tab that says "Internet." The site [www.spamcop.net](http://www.spamcop.net) has instructions on how to find headers on several e-mail programs, including Eudora, Hotmail, Yahoo! Mail, WebTV, and others.

If there's more than one domain name in the headers, you'll have to look back to see which was the first e-mail (SMTP—Simple Mail Transfer Protocol) server to receive the message. There should be a time reference on it. Send the headers, along with the main text of the spam message, to the administrators to whom you're complaining. 📧



# Finally, help for addressing tough cultural issues.

Whether preparing a life-changing sermon or leading an in-depth Bible study, the *Culture Response Kit* equips you with the information you need to respond to the social and ethical dilemmas facing your community. Each month a different kit responds to issues impacting faith and family—sanctity of human life, pornography, gambling, homosexuality, world hunger, substance abuse, and more. Finally, there's help for addressing tough cultural issues.



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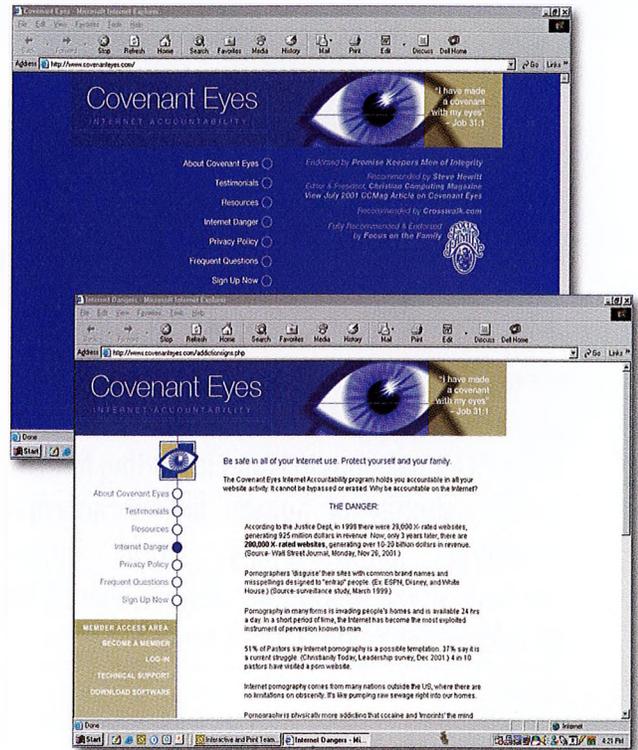
# you've been asking

## How does the Covenant Eyes program work?

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Covenant Eyes is great for families, college students, church staff, counselors, and anyone recovering from an Internet addiction. Although many associate Covenant Eyes with Internet pornography addiction, it also guards against compulsive shopping, on-line gambling, visiting chat rooms, etc.

There are pricing programs for individuals, households, businesses, and church/ministry staffs. For more information, visit [www.covenanteyes.com](http://www.covenanteyes.com).



## Why are abortion statistics always given as estimates? Doesn't anyone know how many abortions are done per year?

Actually, no, no one knows exactly how many abortions have been obtained during any period of time because incredibly, there are no strict federal standards for reporting abortions.

Everyone who watches abortion trends relies on two sources for abortion statistics: the federal government's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI), a research group affiliated with Planned Parenthood. The CDC reports numbers it receives from fifty-two health agencies (each of the states plus the District of Columbia and New York City), while AGI gets its numbers from surveys of abortion providers.

AGI consistently reports higher numbers of abortions than the CDC, probably because there is little consistency in reporting laws from state

to state, and some abortion providers are unwilling to admit to the federal government just how many abortions they perform.

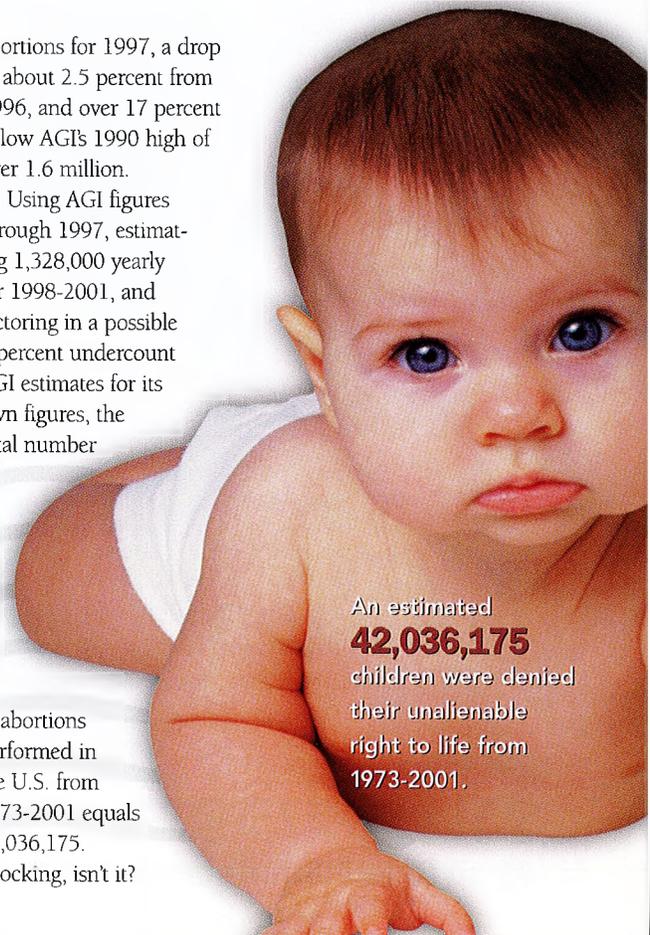
Nevertheless, because increases and decreases in CDC and AGI numbers have always been roughly the same, both sources provide useful information on abortion trends and statistics. One must be careful, however, to read between the lines of both organizations' reports. Keep in mind that the CDC is an entity of the federal government and that AGI is closely affiliated with Planned Parenthood, which is America's largest abortion provider and a recipient of a massive amount of government money. Both groups certainly want the numbers to show that their programs and funding are vital.

Thankfully, abortion statistics are showing a downward trend. AGI reported 1,328,000

abortions for 1997, a drop of about 2.5 percent from 1996, and over 17 percent below AGI's 1990 high of over 1.6 million.

Using AGI figures through 1997, estimating 1,328,000 yearly for 1998-2001, and factoring in a possible 3 percent undercount AGI estimates for its own figures, the total number

of abortions performed in the U.S. from 1973-2001 equals 42,036,175. Shocking, isn't it?

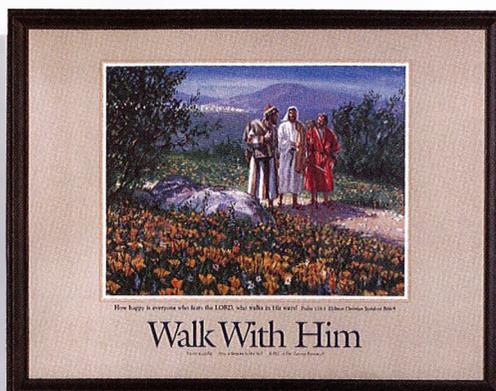
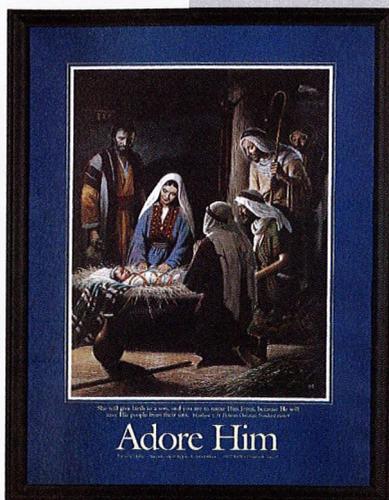


An estimated **42,036,175** children were denied their unalienable right to life from 1973-2001.

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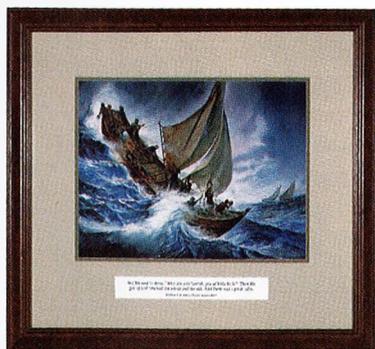
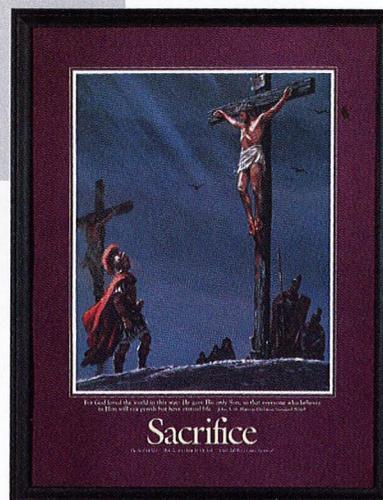
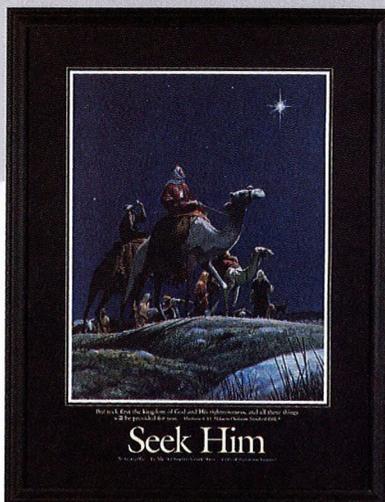
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# Can You Tell Them About Jesus?

"I don't believe you can really help a child reach his highest potential apart from Jesus. It would be wonderful if every child who needs someone had someone who loves Jesus to mentor him."

*Brad Rhoads, head of QUEST for Kids, Inc., a Christian mentoring program that reaches out to at-risk children*



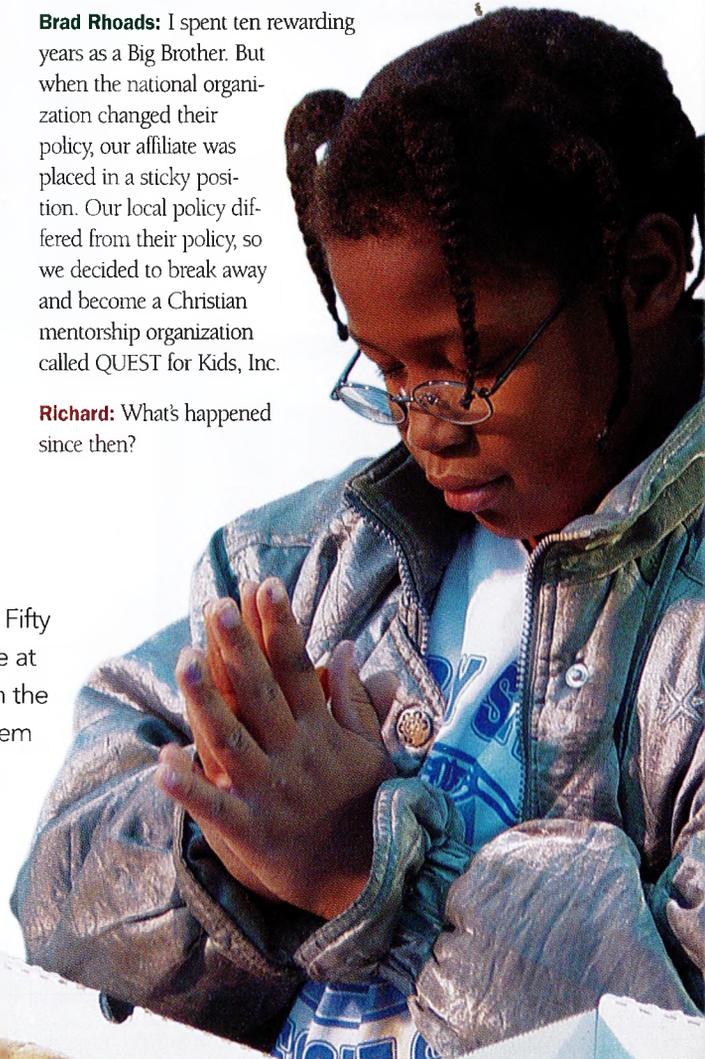
Early in 2002, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America adopted a policy making it mandatory, beginning in July 2002, that all local affiliates allow homosexuals to be mentors for at-risk youngsters, a move that has caused great consternation among many of the local affiliates. The Big Brothers Big Sisters affiliate in Owensboro, Kentucky, used the national organization's unfortunate decision as a springboard to something better — a Christian alternative headed by Brad Rhoads, who was a recent guest on *For Faith & Family* with Dr. Richard Land. ▶

**Richard Land:** A mentoring program like Big Brothers Big Sisters appears to provide a way for believers to fulfill Jesus' command to care for youngsters who are in families without a mother or father. But after the organization changed their policy on homosexual mentoring, you wrestled with the fact that their policies were not compatible with your Christian convictions.

**Brad Rhoads:** I spent ten rewarding years as a Big Brother. But when the national organization changed their policy, our affiliate was placed in a sticky position. Our local policy differed from their policy, so we decided to break away and become a Christian mentorship organization called QUEST for Kids, Inc.

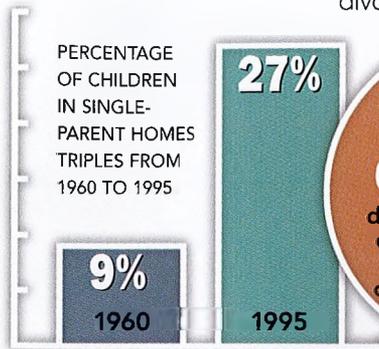
**Richard:** What's happened since then?

Glenda, 8, gives thanks to God before eating her pizza. Fifty QUEST children were treated to a college football game at Murray State University. Afterward, they enjoyed pizza in the endzone, where the MSU quarterback came to meet them and share how he depends on God daily. Glenda, who lives with her mother, two brothers, and one sister, is waiting for a mentor. ABOVE: Bill has been mentoring Shane, 6, for several months. Shane lives with his grandmother, one brother, and one sister, and thoroughly enjoys his time spent with Bill.

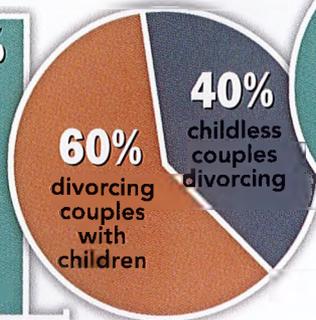


HOW MANY CHILDREN ARE "AT RISK"?

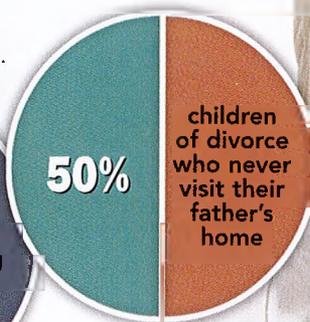
From 1960 to 1995, the percentage of children living in single-parent homes tripled, from 9 percent to 27 percent.



About 60 percent of divorcing couples have children. Approximately one million children each year experience the divorce of their parents.



About 50 percent of children living absent their father have never set foot in their father's home.



From Father Facts, National Fatherhood Initiative, 2002



**Brad:** We've continued to mentor children, and the community has really supported us. We've had new volunteers and received financial support from many churches.

**Richard:** It seems that God used the controversy over homosexual mentors as a catalyst to move you into a new work.

**Brad:** Yes. Our goal isn't to tear down the national Big Brothers Big Sisters organization. Our goal is to serve the Lord through enabling Christians to spend time each week with children who need to know firsthand of God's love for them. Scripture tells us to love not only with words, but also with actions. I would encourage believers across the U.S. to step forward and overwhelm their community with their love for children.

**Richard:** The Bible tells us to care for the widows and orphans. Most of the children you mentor are from single-parent households, headed by women who are desperate to have godly role models for their children.

**Brad:** Parents, especially single parents, say, "I need someone who will be a positive influence on my children to spend some time with them." There are waiting lists of desperate parents who need help; when that help is not there, it's a poor reflection on the church body. If there is a waiting list, it should be a waiting list of believers waiting for the opportunity to pour their lives into a child.

**Richard:** What is your vision for QUEST for Kids?

**Brad:** My vision is that Big Brothers Big Sisters' decision to affirm homosexuals as mentors would prompt Christians to serve as mentors in Christian mentorship agencies. I would love to see a national Christian agency that pairs children who need Jesus with mentors who love Jesus, rather than delegating the care of these at-risk children to secular organizations. I believe that the motives of the people in the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization are to help children, but I don't



Zoe and her friend Kelsey, 11, spent time together at the October Fest that QUEST held for the children and their mentors. Zoe is a mother of two, with six other foster children, yet makes time to spend with Kelsey.

believe you can really help a child reach his highest potential apart from Jesus. It would be wonderful if every child who needs someone had someone who loves Jesus to mentor him.

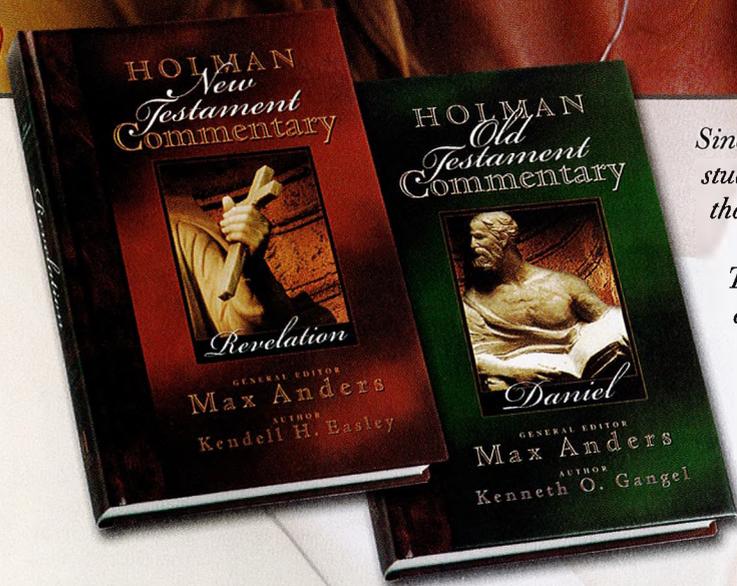
**Richard:** You're throwing out a lifeline to children at risk. QUEST for Kids is not cursing the darkness; it is lighting candles by not only modeling biblical gender roles, but also teaching kids about Christ.

**Brad:** Matthew 18:5 says, "Whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me." Christians have a special responsibility to children. I don't believe we can sit silently, and I don't believe that we can just complain about what other people are doing. We need to get in there and do it. I often hear, "Well, it's not a good time" or "I've got my own family" or "I'm too busy." If we all have that attitude, we're going to lose every one of these at-risk children. We should be looking for ways to touch kids for eternity. ❶

For information about beginning a mentorship program in your community, contact:

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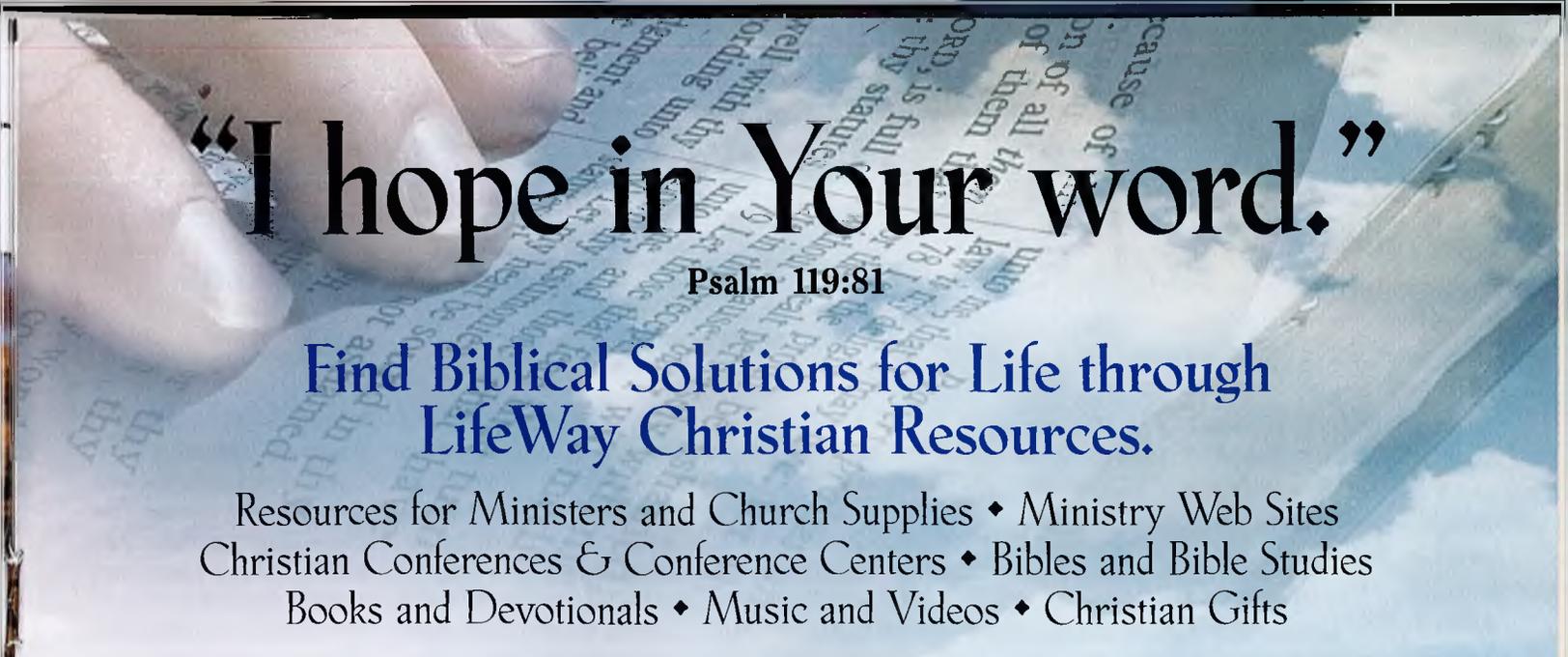
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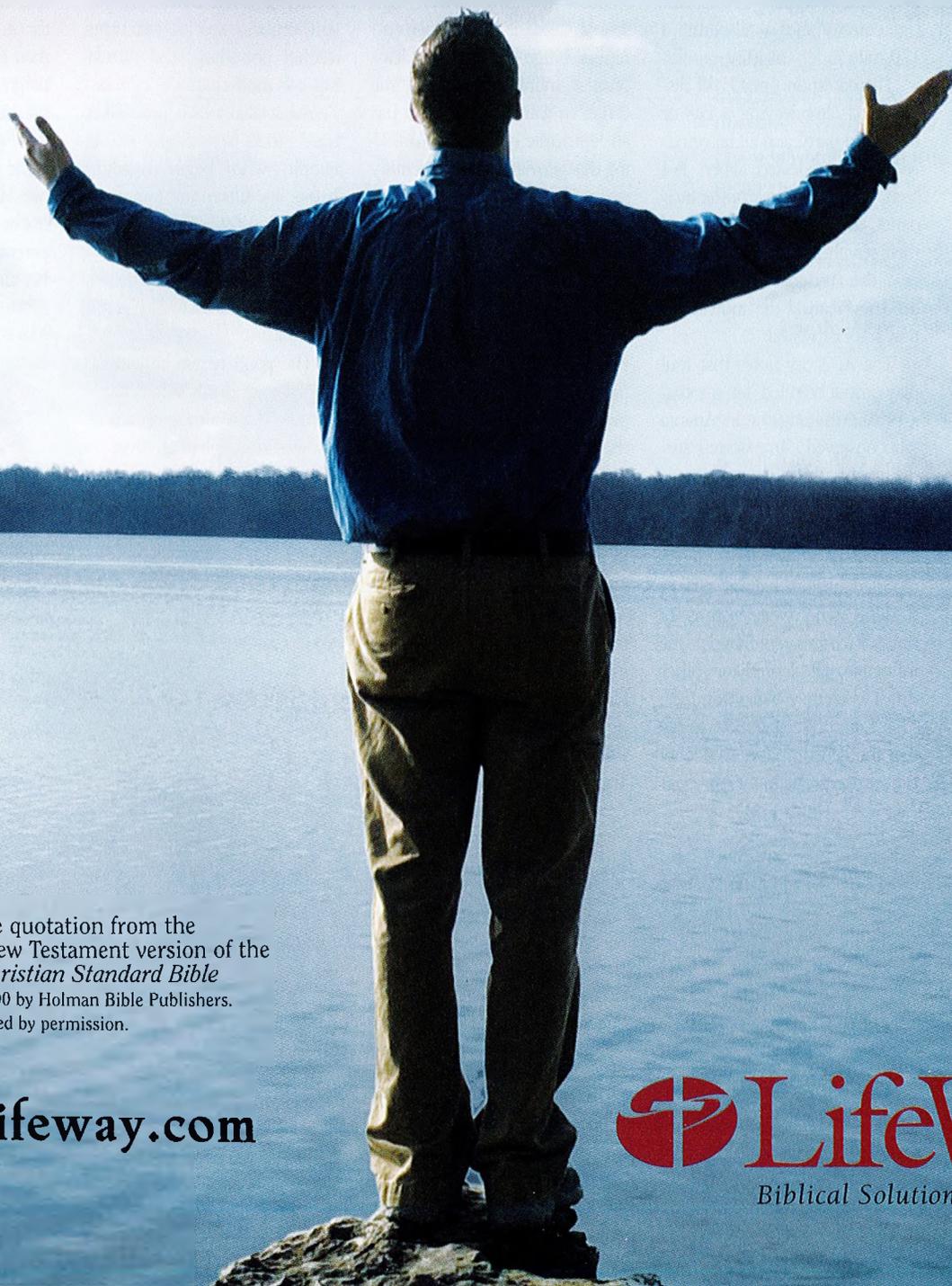


# “I hope in Your word.”

Psalm 119:81

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# Wooing Students to the Party

## ALCOHOL MARKETERS TARGET ENTRY-LEVEL DRINKERS

BY DWAYNE HASTINGS

### Are your kids heading for college soon?

Talk to them about alcohol use before you drop them off at the dorm. Teens whose parents regularly talk with them about the dangers of drugs, including alcohol, are **42%** less likely to use drugs than those whose parents don't broach the subject. Amazingly, **75%** of students say their parents never bring it up.

**N**ews reports tell of massive searches for four college students who mysteriously disappeared in four apparently unrelated incidents. The Associated Press reported the four students each apparently vanished without a trace in their Upper Midwest college communities—all within a 120-mile radius of Minneapolis.

The common thread: All disappeared after leaving a bar or being at a party, and all reportedly were intoxicated when last seen. In at least three of the incidents, authorities have targeted their searches to bodies of water near the students' campuses or the bars, fearing the individuals may have drowned.

The AP story notes that foul play cannot be ruled out, quoting a private investigator in Atlanta who observed, "Intoxicated students are vulnerable and potential targets in bars." A 1990 report by the Center for Study and Prevention of Campus Violence reported almost half of college students who were victims of campus crimes were under the influence of alcohol or other drugs when they were victimized.

It is an understatement to say that the consumption of alcohol is a serious problem for America's

young people. While twenty-one is the legal drinking age across the country, the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (NCASA) reports that individuals under twenty-one drink 25 percent of the alcohol consumed in the U.S.

More than five million high school students (31.5 percent) report binge drinking at least once a month, prompting the center to warn that America has an "epidemic of underage drinking that germinates in elementary and middle schools with children 9 to 13 years old and erupts on college campuses." A 2002 study by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research revealed that approximately 38 percent of eighth graders, 60 percent of tenth graders, and 71 percent of twelfth graders said they had used alcohol during the past year.

The federal minimum drinking age is not a complete answer to the problem; approximately two-thirds of teenagers who drink report they are able to buy their own alcoholic beverages, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The personal and societal price for this alcohol use is high: Teen drinkers are seven times

likelier to engage in pre-marital sex, and alcohol use is estimated to be complicit in up to two-thirds of sexual assault and "date rape" cases among teens and college students.

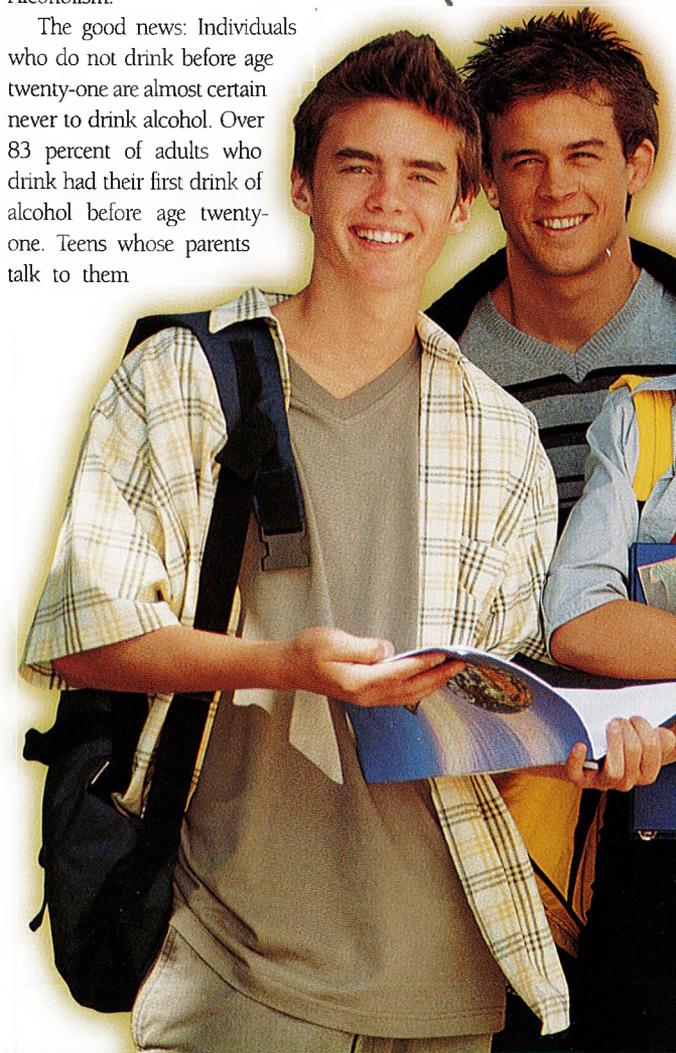
NCASA reports the annual cost of youth alcohol use—including traffic accidents, violent crimes, suicide attempts, alcohol poisoning, and drowning—is more than \$53 billion.

Adult alcoholism most often has its roots in teenage drinking. People who begin drinking before age fifteen are four times more likely to develop alcoholism than those who begin at twenty-one, reports the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

The good news: Individuals who do not drink before age twenty-one are almost certain never to drink alcohol. Over 83 percent of adults who drink had their first drink of alcohol before age twenty-one. Teens whose parents talk to them

regularly about the dangers of drugs, including alcohol, are 42 percent less likely to use drugs than those whose parents don't discuss drugs. Most students, 75 percent, say their parents never broached the subject.

With such a stunning statistic, it is no wonder the Partnership for a Drug-Free America built their latest anti-drug media campaign, "Parent Talk," on the premise that parents who talk to their children about alcohol and other drugs diminish the likelihood that their child will try alcohol or drugs—that is, unless the parents or another family member already drinks or uses drugs.



### PERCEIVED BARRIERS TO REDUCING UNDERAGE DRINKING

Barrier	Percent
Lack of or Limited Parental Involvement in Teens' Lives	52.2
Ineffective Enforcement of Current Laws or Regulations	18.6
Lack of Effective Prevention Programs	6.8
Media	6.8
Insufficient Laws or Regulations	6.0
Alcohol Advertising	3.5
Lack of Effective Treatment Programs	3.0

Data: "Teen Tippers: America's Underage Drinking Epidemic" National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, February 2002

"Alcohol is the number one drug of choice among our nation's youth. Yet the seriousness of this issue does not register with the general public or policymakers."

— Enoch Gordis, M.D., former director  
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

The 2002 National Survey of American Attitudes in Substance Abuse (NCASA) confirms the important role of family in keeping youth drug-free. The survey determined that sibling behavior has a major impact—for better or for worse—on a child's "substance abuse risk" and that parents seem to believe they have little power over their child's decision to consume alcohol or other drugs, saying many parents feel "paralyzed" regarding the subject.

The opposite is true: Study after study proves that when parents share their opinions about drugs—in word and deed—a majority of teenagers listen. "Parent power is the most underutilized tool in helping teens steer clear of tobacco, alcohol, and ille-

gal drugs," says the press release announcing the survey results.

The alcohol industry appears determined to reach children whether their parents do or don't, and one of their latest lures is "alcopops"—fruit-flavored malt beverages that pack an alcoholic punch (6.9 percent alcohol) and bear innocent names such as Mike's Hard Lemonade, Hooper's Hooch Lemon Brew, Bacardi Silver, and Coors' Zima. "It doesn't taste like alcohol, it just tastes like a normal drink," says a seventeen-year-old in an article at [www.drinksmart.org](http://www.drinksmart.org).

"It's targeted to the entry-level drinkers," admits Eric Shepherd, executive director of the industry newsletter *Beer Marketer's Insights*.

And many teenagers realize they are being targeted. A CNN/Scholastic survey showed that 56 percent of students in grades five to twelve believe alcohol advertising is designed to encourage them to drink. Evidently the hype is working; a poll conducted for the Center for Science in the Public Interest reveals 41 percent of teens fourteen to eighteen have tried an "alcopop."

"Without underage drinkers, the alcohol industry, and the beer industry in particular, would suffer severe economic declines and dramatic loss of profits," said Joseph Califano, former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services and chairman of the National Center on Addiction, in a February 2002 address at the National Press Club.

His assertion prompts one to seriously consider the sincerity of the alcohol industries' claim that "alcopops" are not being offered as part of an elaborate marketing plan to woo new drinkers to the party. ☹

## Prevention by Example

The most important part of any successful prevention strategy is personal example. Our actions always speak louder than our words; yet this critical element is often ignored, even within the Christian community, when we wish that others would do as we say, not as we do.

In Luke 6:39, Jesus presents us with this challenge: "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit?" How can we influence others to live more wholesome lives than we are willing to live ourselves? And why would we want to?

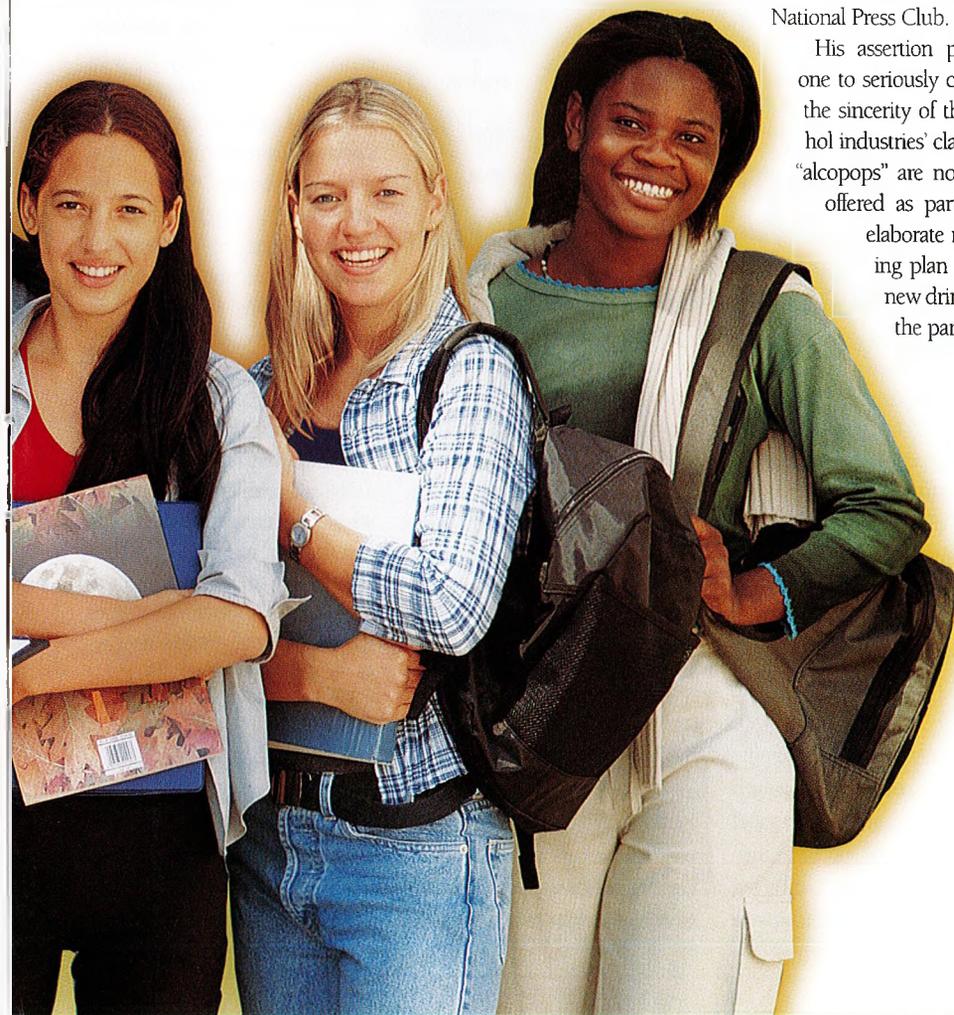
We will be on very thin ice if we attempt to discourage drug use among our young people while sipping a cold beer. Embarrassing questions will certainly follow. If we take prescription tranquilizers merely to provide relief from the stresses of life, we will find ourselves up the same proverbial creek. Someone somewhere is watching and trusting each of us to set the example. It behooves us to be true to that trust.

*Ted Stone and Philip Barber are coauthors of two books on substance abuse, The Drug Tragedy—Hope for the One Who Hurts and The Drug Tragedy—Hope for the One Who Cares, both available from LifeWay Christian Stores.*

### A CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS

- ▲ Set rules and expectations and enforce consequences.
- ▲ Eat dinner together.
- ▲ Monitor TV and Internet use and CD purchases.
- ▲ Know your children's friends and where they go.
- ▲ Send clear messages about alcohol use.
- ▲ Discuss negative consequences of drinking.
- ▲ Give your children perspective on media messages.
- ▲ Don't show your children that it takes a drink to relax.
- ▲ Don't accept underage drinking as a rite of passage.
- ▲ When your child needs help, get treatment—fast!

*Data: "Teen Tipplers: America's Underage Drinking Epidemic," National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, February 2002*



Do you yearn to be free of habits and hurts that keep you from living a victorious life? Celebrate Recovery offers a haven of love and acceptance as broken believers show others how to experience God's blessings. This "umbrella" program has helped people overcome stumbling blocks ranging from eating disorders, substance abuse, sexual addictions, and physical abuse to post-traumatic stress in veterans.



# Celebrate Recovery:

**BIBLICAL HELP FOR OVERCOMING HURTS, HABITS, AND HANG-UPS** BY RICK WARREN

**I believe great churches are built on broken people.**

Brokenness—a willingness to abandon our pride, our pretensions, and our self-righteous posturing—is the prerequisite to God's blessing on our lives and our congregations. Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:3). It is when we reach the end of our rope and give up our self-sufficiency that God

moves into our lives with healing and growth.

One of the secrets of Saddleback Church's amazing growth is a biblical recovery program based on the Beatitudes. Over forty-five hundred hurting people have participated in Celebrate Recovery at Saddleback, with most of them eventually joining our church and getting involved in ministry. Nearly one-third of the over six thousand lay ministers at Saddleback have emerged from this single program.

You may be thinking that a recovery program is only for drug addicts and alcoholics, people whose lives seem out of control. The Bible teaches that all of us have some form of addiction; sin is addicting, and "all have sinned." That means we've all created ungodly and unhealthy methods for handling life.

Because of sin, we've hurt ourselves, we've hurt other people, and others have hurt us. Each of us needs repentance and recovery in order to live our lives

the way God intended. The goal of Celebrate Recovery is not simply to recover from past sins and hurts, but to become Christlike in our character.

No doubt you've heard the expression that "time heals all wounds." It isn't true! I talk with people who carry incredible hurts, habits, and hang-ups from thirty or forty years ago. The truth is that time often makes matters worse. Wounds that are left unattended fester and spread like an infection through your body. Time only extends the pain if you don't face and resolve the problem.

With all that in mind, I determined there needed to be a biblically balanced approach to helping people overcome their hurts, habits, and hang-ups.

At Saddleback we take seriously the statement by Jesus in Mark 2:17, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." For twenty-three years, we've focused on reaching out to unbelievers instead of attracting other believers. That's why we've baptized over eight thousand new believers in the past seven years.

Of course, if you're serious about dealing with broken people, then they're going to bring a lot of problems with them when they come to church. My first thought was to use the classic twelve-step program of Alcoholics Anonymous. After studying that approach, however, I was very uncomfortable with its vagueness about the nature of God, the saving power of Jesus Christ, and the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

So I started my own intense study of Scripture to discover what God had to say about "recovery." To my amazement,

**DOES TIME HEAL ALL WOUNDS?** "I talk with people who carry incredible hurts, habits, and hang-ups from thirty or forty years ago. The truth is that time often makes matters worse. Wounds that are left untended fester and spread like an infection through your body. Time only extends the pain if you don't face and resolve the problem."

—Rick Warren, founding pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., a congregation that averages 16,000 in attendance each weekend



Rick Warren is also author of *The Purpose Driven Church* and founder of [Pastors.com](http://Pastors.com), a global Internet community for those in ministry. For more details or to order resources, visit [www.celebraterecovery.com](http://www.celebraterecovery.com) or [www.pastors.com](http://www.pastors.com).

I found the principles of recovery—even their logical order—given by Christ in His most famous message: the Sermon on the Mount.

My study resulted in a ten-week series of sermons called "The Road to Recovery." To accompany that series, my good friend John Baker, a recovering alcoholic, developed the workbooks that became the heart of our Celebrate Recovery program.

Seven features make Celebrate Recovery unique:

**1 Celebrate Recovery is based on God's Word.**

When Jesus taught the Sermon on the Mount, He began by stating "Eight Ways to Be Happy." Today we call them the Beatitudes. From a conventional viewpoint, His statements seem like contradictions. But once you fully understand what Jesus was saying, you realize these eight principles are God's road to recovery, wholeness, growth, and spiritual maturity.

**2 Celebrate Recovery looks forward.**

Rather than wallowing in the past or dredging up painful memories, Celebrate Recovery focuses on the future. Regardless of what has happened, the solution is to depend on Christ's power to help us make wise choices now.

**3 Celebrate Recovery emphasizes personal responsibility.**

Instead of playing the "accuse and excuse" game of victimization, this program helps people face up to their own poor choices and deal with what they can change. We cannot control all that happens to us, but we can control

our responses. When we stop wasting time fixing blame, we have more energy to fix the problem. When we stop hiding our own faults and hurling accusations at others, the healing power of Christ can begin working.

**4 Celebrate Recovery emphasizes spiritual commitment to Christ.**

Celebrate Recovery is thoroughly evangelistic in nature and calls for people to make a total surrender of their lives to Christ. The first time I took our entire church through this program, over five hundred people prayed to receive

.....

"Rather than wallowing in the past or dredging up painful memories, Celebrate Recovery focuses on the future. Regardless of what has happened, the solution is to depend on Christ's power to help us make wise choices now."

.....

Christ in a single weekend. It was an amazing spiritual harvest. During the ten-week sermon series we used to kick off this program, our attendance grew by over fifteen hundred people. Don't be surprised if this program becomes the most effective outreach ministry in your church. Changed lives always attract others who want to be changed.

**5 Celebrate Recovery is fellowship-focused, not individual-focused.**

It is built around small group interaction and the support of a caring community, because fellowship and accountability are two important components of spiritual growth. I would even say that I believe Celebrate Recovery is the best expression of what

God intends the Body of Christ to be. It is gut-level real, and it allows the Holy Spirit to miraculously change lives.

**6 Celebrate Recovery addresses all types of habits, hurts, and hang-ups.**

While some programs deal with a single issue, Celebrate Recovery is a "large umbrella" program under which a limitless number of issues can be addressed. At Saddleback, we have groups for eating disorders, smoking addiction, sexual addictions, physical abuse, post-traumatic stress in veterans, and many other problems.

**7 Celebrate Recovery produces lay ministers!**

Because Celebrate Recovery is church-based it produces a continuous stream of people moving into ministry after they've found recovery in Christ. This is because the final step of recovery is to help others through Christ-like servanthood.

Finally, the size of your church is no barrier to beginning a Celebrate Recovery ministry. We've helped hundreds, if not thousands, of small churches begin. You'll see lives changed in dramatic ways and seemingly hopeless marriages restored. You'll see people set free from all kinds of sinful habits, hang-ups, and hurts as they practice the lordship of Jesus and live out the Beatitudes. ☺

## The Road to Recovery

Based on the Beatitudes

BY RICK WARREN

**R**ealize I'm not God; I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and my life is unmanageable. "Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor."

**E**arnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to Him, and that He has the power to help me recover. "Happy are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

**C**onsciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ's care and control. "Happy are the meek."

**O**penly examine and confess my faults to God, to myself, and to another person whom I trust. "Happy are the pure in heart."

**V**oluntarily submit to any and all changes God wants to make in my life. "Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires."

**E**valuate all my relationships; offer forgiveness to those who have hurt me and make amends for harm I've done to others when possible, without expecting any reward. "Happy are the merciful." "Happy are the peacemakers."

**R**eserve a daily time with God for prayer, Bible reading, and self-examination in order to know God and His will for my life and to gain the power to follow His will.

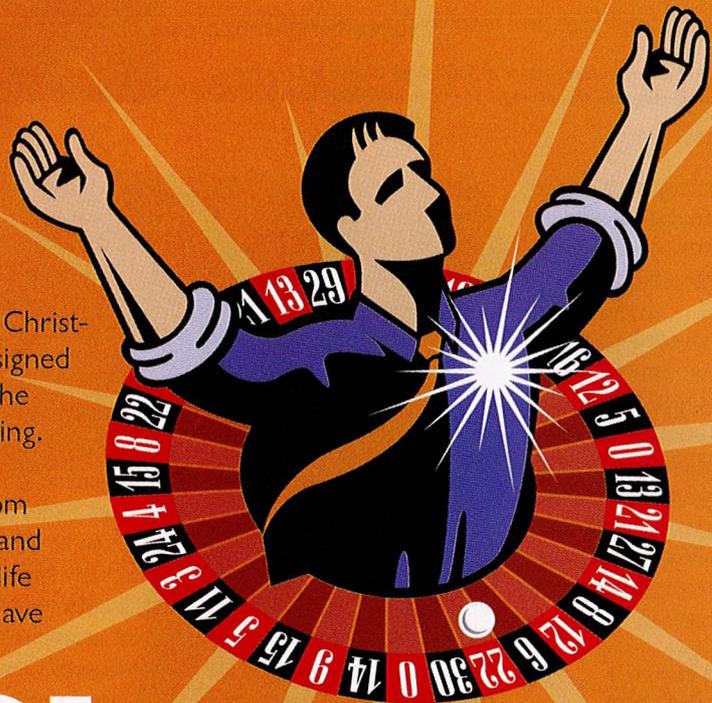
**Y**ield myself to be used by God to bring this Good News to others, both by my example and by my words. "Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires."

**Christ-Centered**  
*Gambling Recovery*

**“My life was ruined by gambling. I didn’t see any way out except suicide until I found hope in *Chance to Change*.”**

*Chance to Change* is a powerful new Christ-centered, 13-week video curriculum designed to help churches reach out to those in the community ensnared by problem gambling.

*Chance to Change* features advice from gambling counselors, Christian leaders, and financial experts, while highlighting real-life stories and testimonies of people who have recovered from gambling addictions.

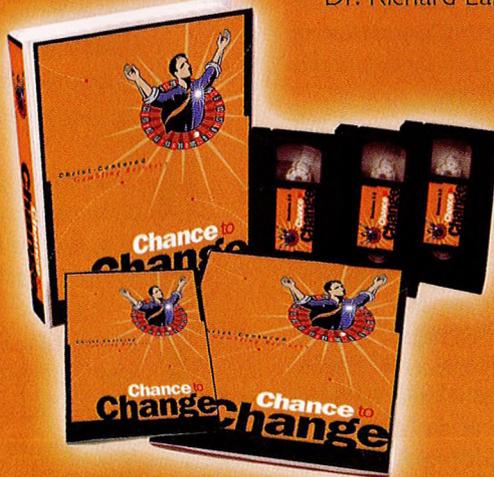


**Chance to Change**

# Chance to Change

“*Chance to Change* is more than just a ‘recovery program’— it is a ‘beyond recovery program’ that shows gamblers not only how to quit gambling, but also how to live the victorious life God intended for them.”

— Dr. Richard Land, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission



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at [www.faithandfamily.com/gambling](http://www.faithandfamily.com/gambling).**

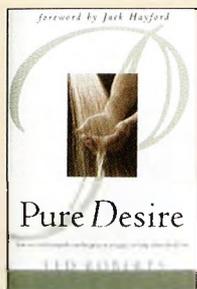
Developed by Church Initiative, a  
ministry partner of For Faith & Family

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

# Churches Can Help Instill Biblical Values of Sexual Purity

Christians who struggle with greed may not hesitate to ask for prayer support in their battle. But when it comes to sexual addictions, it is difficult for the Christian to ask for help because the sin of sexual lust brings incredible shame—and Satan wants us to believe we are alone in our shame. So when someone in the midst of this life-or-death battle does admit his struggle and comes to you for help, what do you say? How can you help him?

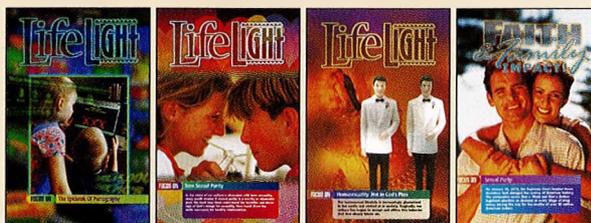
In *Pure Desire*, pastor Ted Roberts answers those questions with sensitivity, confidence, biblical perspective, and insight borne from winning that very personal war himself.



BKDES (300 pages) \$14.99 ea. (Featured in the 2003 Sexual Purity Culture Response Kit)

## RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS SEXUAL PURITY

The ERLC publication *LifeLight* (renamed *Faith & Family Impact!* as of 4/1/03) is a wonderful resource for ministerial staff and lay leaders to use as they address critical issues that affect our faith and our families in today's culture. The editions listed below specifically target sexual purity and can be ordered in multiples of 50. For Culture Response Kit\* subscribers, 100 of the 2003 *Faith & Family Impact!* are included in the kit.



LifeLight: Pornography  
POBULK01  
\$4.95/50

LifeLight: Teen Sexual Purity  
TEBULK02  
\$4.95/50

LifeLight: Homosexuality  
HOBULK02  
\$4.95/50

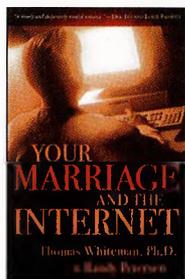
Faith & Family Impact! Sexual Purity  
POBULK03  
\$4.95/50

Cover art may vary.

\* Subscription rate for Culture Response Kits is \$24.95 per month. Individual kits can be ordered for \$29.95 each. Call today for subscription information.

## Your Marriage and the Internet

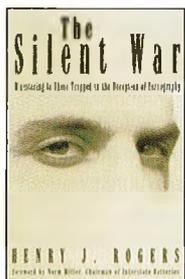
Marriages are being torn apart because of Internet chat rooms, easy-access pornography, and the lure of endless private entertainment. Dr. Thomas Whiteman, founder and president of Life Counseling Services, and coauthor Randy Petersen offer practical guidelines for using the Internet wisely, tackling the issues of pornography, escapism, on-line fantasies, and how to overcome Internet addiction.



BKYOU (224 pages) \$12.99 ea.

## The Silent War

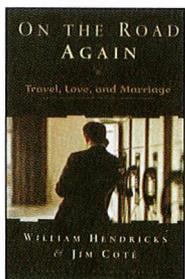
Through interviews, statistics, and other facts, Henry Rogers traces the unraveling of American men by the claws of pornography. Rogers, chaplain for Interstate Batteries, discusses his own battle with this addiction, then builds concrete steps for helping others climb out of the pit.



BKSIL (240 pages) \$11.99 ea.

## On the Road Again: Travel, Love, and Marriage

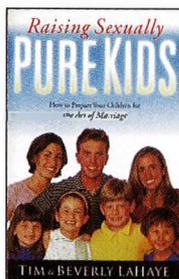
Business travel can place stress on a marriage. Authors William Hendricks and Jim Cote share insight from interviews with dozens of business travelers and their spouses, offering practical help in the areas of sex, finance, parenting, communication, loneliness, trust, and building a spiritual foundation.



BKROA (205 pages) \$7.99 ea.

## Raising Sexually Pure Kids

Authors Tim and Beverly LaHaye address 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.



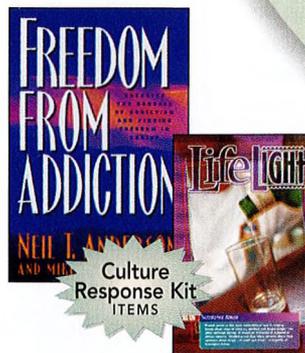
BKRAL (271 pages) \$12.00 ea.

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION RESOURCES

### Freedom from Addiction

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

BKFRE (356 pages) \$16.99 ea.



### God Is For the Alcoholic

A recovered alcoholic, Jerry Dunn uses this book as a platform to share tips for understanding alcoholism, ways to help the alcoholic, and ways the alcoholic can help himself.

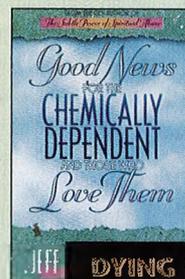
BKGODIS (237 pages) \$10.39 ea.

LifeLight: Substance Abuse Prevention  
AOBULK03  
\$4.95/50

## Good News for the Chemically Dependent

Author Jeff Vonderen shares what friends, loved ones, and the church should (and shouldn't) do to help the dependent person.

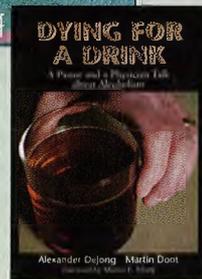
BKGOO (226 pages) \$12.99 ea.



## Dying for a Drink

Pastor Alexander DeJong shares how family support, group therapy, and the care of a Christian physician helped him recover from alcohol addiction.

BKDYI (63 pages) \$6.40 ea.



Culture Response Kit subscribers will receive 100 copies of *LifeLight* in their monthly kit. This unique and timely publication can be ordered separately in lots of 50.

Amounts shown are suggested donations.

# “Debtly Sins” Undermine Marriage

BY DWAYNE HASTINGS

Americans are saving less and spending more. Statistics indicate money, or the misuse of it, is one of the main reasons for our culture's marriage crisis. With consumer debt at an all-time high, finances are cited as the number one reason for marital breakups.

“There is an intimacy and a trust factor when it comes to money in a marriage,” says Julie Ann Barnhill, author of *Til Debt Do Us Part: Answers and Healing for Money Conflicts in Your Marriage*. She knows firsthand the importance of a shared understanding of family finances between a husband and wife. “It was more difficult to come clean to my husband about the way I handled money than anything else. Finances were our only sore spot, but that one issue almost ruined our marriage.”

“There are certain ‘debtly sins’ that undermine a marriage,” Barnhill says. “These are emotional and relational issues

Visa International reported June 30, 2002, that its global sales volume had surpassed \$2.3 trillion (U.S. dollars), an increase of 17 percent over the previous year. “It is very encouraging that, despite the downturn in the global economy over the past year, we continue to see strong double-digit growth . . .” said Malcolm Williamson, President and CEO of Visa International. “We are confident that we can obtain a 12 percent share of personal consumer expenditure by the end of the decade.”

*Visa International press release, October 7, 2002*



**Is increasing debt driving a wedge between you and your spouse? Has the pursuit of things left you discontented with your life? Julie Ann Barnhill helps couples examine their spending habits and offers hope for restoring relationships with the people that matter the most.**

pertaining to how we view money and how we spend money that lead to the breaking down or building up of a marriage relationship.” Borrowing from Gary Chapman's bestseller, *The Five Love Languages*, Barnhill

says we all have unique “money personalities” and that it's a “debtly sin” when husbands and wives fail to note their spouse's money personality—how they regard and spend money—early in their marriage.

“I like money, and I like the things money buys,” Barnhill confesses, noting she's not alone. Many couples embrace the adage: “I possess; therefore, I am.” This leads to the “debtly sin” of discontent, she says, and the belief that what you have is never good enough. “I remember a time when my husband, Rick, and I would drive around nice neighborhoods and feel lousy because we couldn't even afford the riding lawn mowers people were using,” she recalls.

“Believers and non-believers alike are drawn into this pursuit of stuff, and it naturally leads to regret. Unfortunately, many marriages are stuck in ‘should of, could of, would of’ land.”

“Crafty communication” is another “debtly sin” Barnhill names. “It sounds better than saying we are liars. We

give our spouse financial information on a need-to-know basis. I like to buy gifts to show some-

one love, but that caused real problems when I used a credit card my husband didn't know about,” she says.

“About ten years ago I received a credit card with my name on it, and it had a \$3,500 limit. All I had to do was call an 800 number to activate it,” she remembers. “We were a single-income family and didn't have much money. I told myself I would keep it for emergencies, and I never told Rick. I eventually pushed that card to its limit, spending on some actual emergency needs and other things I felt I deserved just because life

## LITTLE LEFT FOR SAVINGS

The Federal Reserve estimates that for April-June 2002, 14.04% of Americans' disposable income was required to pay their “household debt-service burden,” which includes consumer debt and mortgage debt.

[www.federalreserve.gov](http://www.federalreserve.gov)



## AMERICANS IMMersed IN CREDIT CARD DEBT

- ▲ The average balance on a credit card is \$7,000, and the average household has 10 credit cards.
- ▲ Credit card companies solicit the average American 7 times per year through the mail.
- ▲ Almost half the households in America report having difficulty paying their minimum monthly payments.
- ▲ Last year, over 1.3 million Americans filed for bankruptcy, the highest in our nation's history.
- ▲ If your credit card balance is \$8,000, and you make the minimum monthly payment at 18% interest, it will take you 25 years and 7 months to pay off the debt. You will also pay \$15,432 in interest charges (almost twice the balance), bringing your total to \$23,432.
- ▲ If you eliminated a credit card payment of \$218 a month and invested that money in a 12% savings plan, you could retire in 25 years with \$1,354,930 saved. That credit card payment not only costs you thousands in interest, but it also prohibits you from saving for retirement.

from American Consumer Credit Counseling: [www.consumercredit.com](http://www.consumercredit.com)



was hard. I got to the point where I couldn't make the minimum payment, and I had to confess to Rick that I had credit card debt that he didn't know about."

"It was a devastating time. I may have appeared to have it all together, but I was living a lie. I was ashamed that I wasn't a truth-teller. I had to reevaluate my perspective on money and determine why I felt I couldn't tell my husband things and why I was hiding bills from him."

The answer to the "debtly sins" is rooted in telling the truth, Barnhill explains. "I'm a liar. That's the truth the Lord showed me," Barnhill says, noting God told her: "You lie about money. You lie about what you spend and what you have and what you want."

Barnhill says she needed to be reminded by God that her marriage was a covenant relationship, not a contractual agreement. "For better or for worse? No, I wanted it better. For richer or for poorer? No, I wanted it richer. But the fact is that I made a vow, a covenant, with my husband before God," she says.

There are many families

## CREDIT CARD DEBT DANGER SIGNS

- 💰 Pay only monthly minimums or miss payments on charge accounts?
- 💰 Consolidate debts by borrowing from a high-interest lender?
- 💰 Depend on overtime or moonlighting to cover monthly bills?
- 💰 Find it impossible to save money or immediately withdraw money from your savings to cover bills?
- 💰 Panic when faced with an unexpected expense, such as car repairs?
- 💰 Hope that checks you've written don't clear the bank before payday?
- 💰 Borrow from friends and relatives to cover basic expenses?

from American Consumer Credit Counseling® [www.consumercredit.com](http://www.consumercredit.com)

with big incomes who are in the same financial wasteland, where truth is absent and marriages are in trouble, Barnhill says. In too many marriages "debtly sins" build up, and couples give up and bail out.

"These sins also impact our relationship with God," she adds. "Yet He was faithful even when Rick and I were faithless, when we weren't communicating with

each other or Him, when I didn't trust Him with our money, and when I was self-centered and having things was more important than being obedient to Him."

She freely admits to having a problem with giving up control. "I think I can do it better than anyone else," Barnhill says, noting that God has given her the ability now to trust her husband with their finances.

"The more I love Jesus, the less I want to do things that hurt Him," Barnhill says. "I constantly pray, 'God, help me love You more and trust You more.' When I do that, God's heart is in the heart of my marriage."

Barnhill says she and her husband had placed their confidence in many things when it came to marriage and money, but now their faith is solely in God. "We have to get a sense of contentment in our relationships with our spouse, our family, and our finances." In her conferences, she has the audience say aloud: "Right here, right now, if nothing ever changes, it is enough."

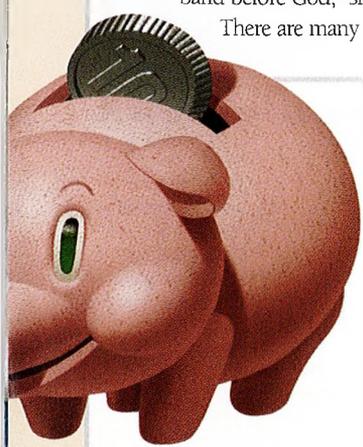
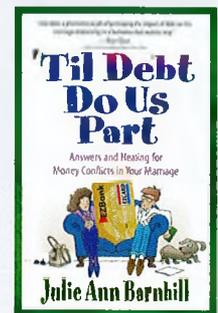
She holds tight to the psalmist's confession in Psalm 20:7: "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God."

"He has proven His trustworthiness again and again," Barnhill says. "No one has to remain in the pit of debtly despair, because there is hope in the name of the Lord our God. You can't trust in things, and you can't trust in your checking account. But you can trust in God. He is our provider. He will meet our needs." 🙏

**If money problems have driven a wedge between you and your spouse, Julie Ann Barnhill has some advice that might help. Freely sharing the "been there, still am sometimes!" foibles of her own marriage, Julie Ann offers generous doses of humor along with solid principles from God's Word to help you come clean about the real issues—the heart issues that keep you and your spouse unhappy and in budget bondage. This thought-provoking book will help you move toward honesty, healing, and real change.**

Interested in this resource?  
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## Building a Foundation for Life

# What bugs you the most?

BY DWAYNE HASTINGS

*When I was growing up, it bugged me that some of my friends' parents always bought them the latest and coolest toys—even when it wasn't Christmas or their birthday. And it really bothered me when people would ride my bike without asking permission.*

*It annoyed me when I had to come inside to eat supper and do my homework when my friends got to stay outside and play. And I really didn't like it when I got in trouble for talking in class but the person who talked to me first didn't.*

What are some things that bother me now that I am grown up?

-  A dirty towel left behind after my children don't wash their hands very well.
-  People who drive too slow in the left lane of the interstate.
-  People who use the last paper towel but don't put on a new roll.
-  People who pick up something in the grocery store, then decide they don't want it and leave it on a shelf where they are, like a package of pork chops left in the cereal aisle.
-  People who don't wear a watch but always ask what time it is.
-  People who think they can add to or subtract from Scripture. (It's God's Word, you know. He didn't give us permission to change His words around.)

What bugs God the most? When we don't obey Him. When we disappoint Him by doing things our way and not His way. When we pretend that He doesn't exist.

Some people think they can do anything they want and that God will just chuckle and look the other way. There is a price to pay when we disobey Him. God is a loving God who is full of

grace, but He can't stand sin. And when we bug God, we are sinning.

Just look at what happened to Pharaoh when he refused to set the Hebrew people free as God commanded through His servant, Moses. God sent frogs and flies and a host of other plagues to bother the Pharaoh's people and their property. It really bugged God that Pharaoh wouldn't do what He told him to do.

We all are bothered by what other people do or don't do. But don't let those things bug you. Just relax. Know that we all do and think plenty that bothers God, yet He is faithful and patient with those who know Him through Jesus Christ. You see, Jesus took the ultimate penalty for our disobedience upon His back. When you give your life to Jesus, you will probably continue to do things that bug God. But because of what Jesus has done for you, He'll keep on loving you.

**Bible truth:** God is faithful.

**Bible verse:** Exodus 8:1–12:42

## RECOMMENDED READING

*Bugs!* by Pat Matuszak will fill children with delight as they read this imaginary rhyming tale about the creepy, crawly, flying things that caused quite a stir in Egypt. Children ages four to eight will enjoy the vivid illustrations and the three bugs—a beetle, a locust, and a fly—attached in a resealable plastic clamshell. The book also includes factual information about the bugs and the role they played in Bible times (Zonderkidz).



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