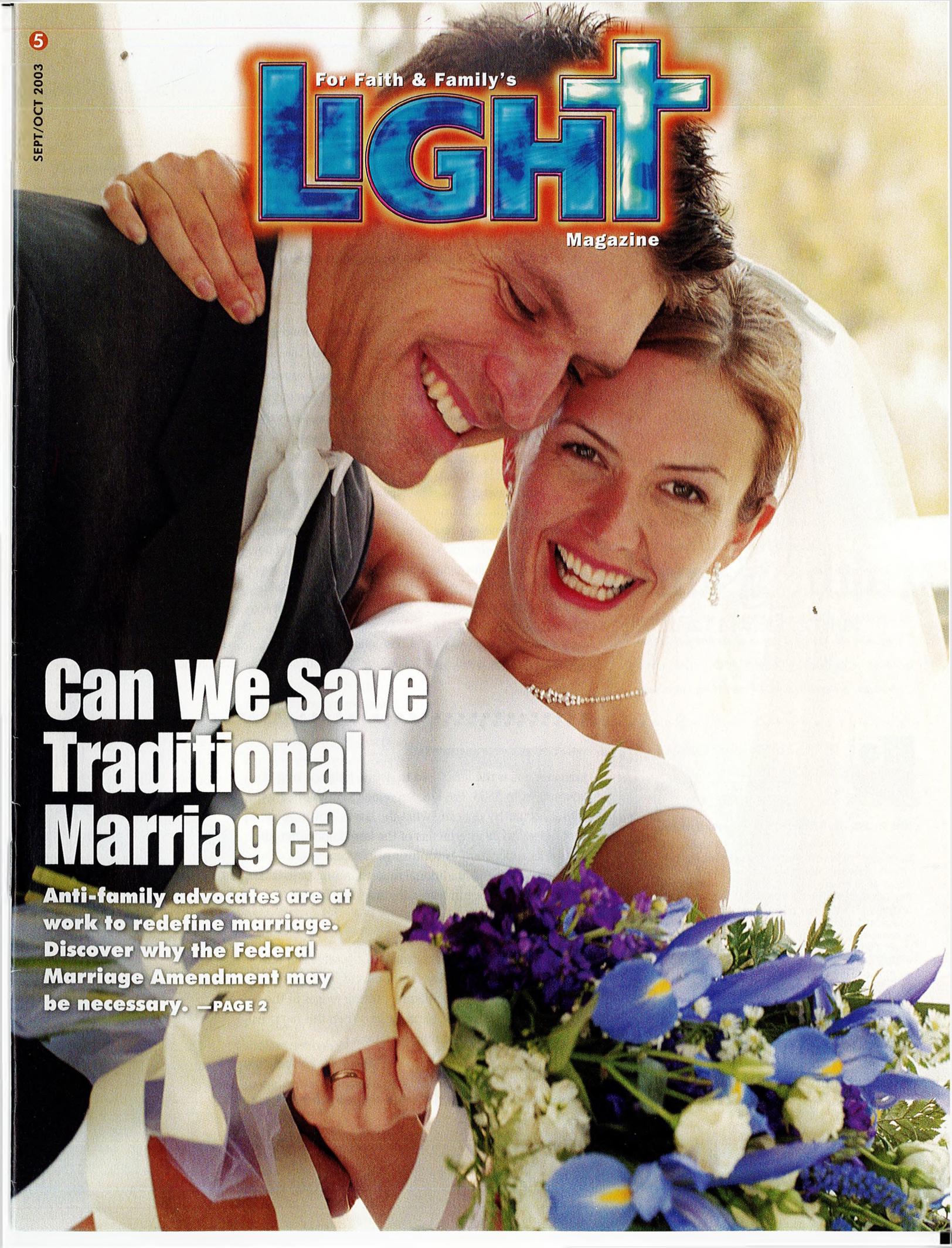


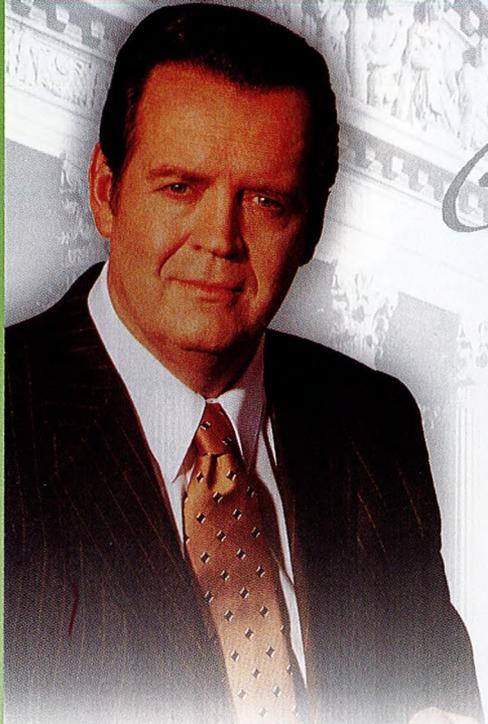
For Faith & Family's
LIGHT

Magazine

Can We Save Traditional Marriage?

Anti-family advocates are at work to redefine marriage. Discover why the Federal Marriage Amendment may be necessary. —PAGE 2





CAN WE SAVE TRADITIONAL Marriage?

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

Thirty years ago we saw an elite group of black-robed justices rewrite the law and alter the course of the nation. In the infamous *Roe v. Wade* decision, the Supreme Court flaunted their disregard for long-standing constitutional precedent and dramatically changed our culture. What abortion advocates could not win in the Congress or the state legislatures, they won in the courts. Unfortunately, it appears that anti-family advocates may soon have another court victory in their pockets.



In March, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court heard arguments in a case seeking to allow homosexual couples the same right to marry that historically has been allowed only to one man and one woman. The deadline for a decision was July 14, and the case is still

pending. Legal scholars almost unanimously expect the Court to allow homosexual "marriage" in the state of Massachusetts. Some may be troubled but wonder, *Why should that matter to me? I don't live in Massachusetts.* It matters because Article IV, section I of the U.S. Constitution has a clause called the "Full Faith and

Credit" clause that may be little known to the public but is well known in the legal community. It requires that "Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State." Practically speaking, that means if Massachusetts' Supreme

FOR Faith & Family with Dr. Richard Land



THE ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
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WHAT IS JUDICIAL ACTIVISM?

Judicial activism is the term used to define judges acting as lawmakers. In 1803, the U.S. Supreme Court defined its role as accurately defining what the law is. This means that judges act as interpreters of the law, if and when the law, or its application, is confusing. In recent years, judges have left this traditional understanding of judicial review and have begun legislating from the bench.

WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

Judicial activism violates the balance of powers laid out in the state and federal Constitutions and takes authority away from the elected legislature, putting judges in the position of both lawmaker and judge. When this happens, people lose their right to representation.

Source: Ohio Freedom Forum



OUR VISION An American society that affirms and practices Judeo-Christian values rooted in biblical authority.
OUR MISSION To awaken, inform, energize, equip, and mobilize Christians to be the catalysts for the biblically-based transformation of their families, churches, communities, and the nation.

USA TODAY/CNN/GALLUP POLL SHOWS BACKLASH ON GAY ISSUES

A recent poll found Americans less accepting of homosexuality since last summer when the Supreme Court struck down a Texas anti-sodomy law, a Canadian court allowed gay couples to marry in Ontario, and Wal-Mart expanded anti-discrimination protection to gay workers. After years of growing tolerance, the survey showed a return to more traditional attitudes and rising opposition to civil unions that would give gay couples some of the rights of married heterosexuals. ➤

Court (or some other state's Supreme Court, such as New Jersey's, which has a similar case pending) mandates homosexual "marriage," any "marriage" performed there must be acknowledged and validated in every other state. Homosexuals from around the nation can be expected to flock hand-in-hand to Massachusetts to "marry" as soon as the Court rules, and then return home to challenge their own state laws on traditional marriage. Neither the Federal Defense of Marriage Act nor state defense of marriage acts passed in thirty-seven states can be expected to stand against this constitutional challenge.

The Massachusetts case is just one more step in a long line of defeats on traditional marriage.

Canada just approved same-sex marriage as a right under their constitution. Our own Supreme Court ruled in *Lawrence v. Texas* that there is a right to "privacy" which trumps all other considerations in forcing legal acknowledgment of homosexual relationships.

There is one last hope for the constitutional crisis that is being created in the Massachusetts case. Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave (R-Co.) has introduced the Federal Marriage Amendment to the Constitution, which simply states, "Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution or the constitution of any State, nor state or federal law, shall be construed to require that marital status or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon unmarried couples or groups."

This amendment was specifically crafted to address the crisis being created in the courts. We do not have a problem with the American people; polls show overwhelming support among the American people for the notion that marriage is between one man and one woman. If homosexual advocates had to win their issue in the Congress or state legislatures, they would not be able to do so. That is why they have gone to the courts, where they expect they can win.

Part one of the amendment simply states the obvious: Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. The second sentence speaks to judicial activists who would try to

rewrite the law on this issue. It says that only the people, through their elected officials, can change the law on granting some or most of the benefits of marriage, without granting marriage itself. The Federal Marriage Amendment allows state legislatures to maintain their historic authority over family law.

The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission has endorsed the Federal Marriage Amendment. We believe it is the last hope to protect traditional marriage in the United States. Homosexual activists

Continued on page 4

Would you favor or oppose a law that would allow homosexual couples to legally form civil unions, giving them some of the legal rights of married couples?

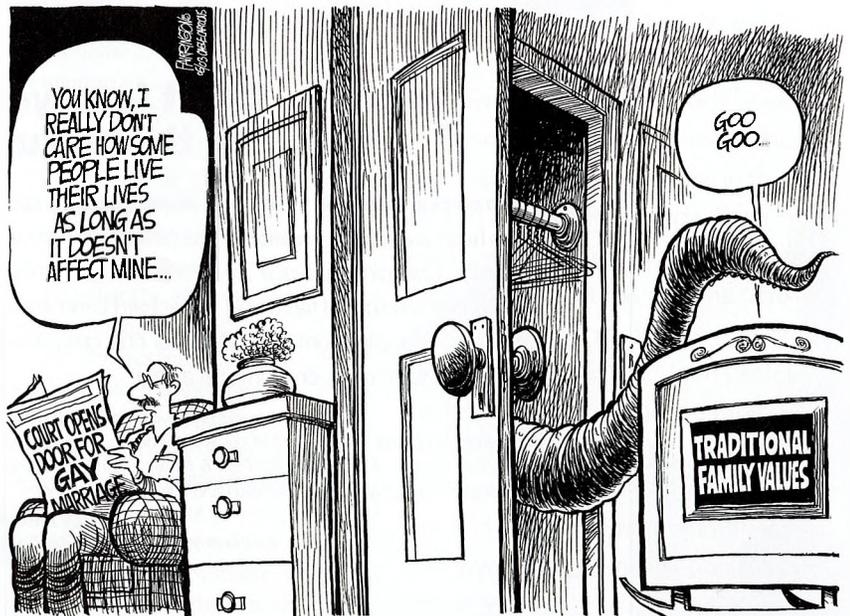
	Favor	Oppose	No Opinion
2003 Jul 25-27	40	57	3
2003 May 5-7	49	49	2
2002 May 6-9	46	51	3
2002 Apr 8-11	45	46	9
2002 Feb 8-10	41	53	6
2001 May 10-14	44	52	4

www.gallup.com

What can you do?

Visit www.nogaymarriage.com and sign the petition supporting the Federal Marriage Amendment (H.J. Res. 56), which will be forwarded to members of Congress.

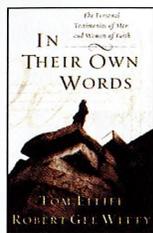
Contact your representative expressing your support of an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that establishes marriage as the union of one man and one woman. Visit www.faithandfamily.com, entering your zip code in the "Write to Congress" section.



Brian Fairrington, www.caglecartoons.com

A Boy, A Bat, A Believer

Learn how God used a baseball bat to change the life of an impressionable young boy as Richard Land shares his conversion experience in Broadman & Holman's *In Their Own Words*. This powerful book is a collection of personal salvation accounts from sixty-eight influential Christian leaders including Bill and Vonette Bright, Charles Colson, Elisabeth Elliot, and Josh McDowell.



Available on-line at www.familybookstore.net

don't want to be left to live quiet lives. They want to change the culture to accept and approve of their lifestyle. Evan Wolfson, a homosexual rights lawyer who heads the advocacy group Freedom to Marry, said, "People are going to look back thirty years from now, and say, 'What were we thinking? Why would we deny committed couples the protections of marriage?'" His comments are illustrative of the

future that will be at hand if we do not respond swiftly and surely to establish the vision of one man and one woman as marriage.

The ERLC will do everything in its power to make sure that we do not look back thirty years from now on yet another travesty of judicial imperialism that devastated our culture. We will work tirelessly to see that the Federal Marriage Amendment is approved

in Congress and sent to the states for ratification.* While a constitutional amendment is a difficult hurdle to accomplish, our children and our culture deserve our best effort to protect traditional marriage from the cultural elitists in the federal and state judiciary who wish to force same-sex marriage on a populace that justifiably rejects such a perversion of God's precious gift of marriage.†

* If approved by a two-thirds majority in both houses of Congress, the amendment would then have to be ratified by three-fourths (38) of the states to become part of the Constitution.

Join the movement to protect marriage.

www.MarriageProtectionWeek.com

The divine institution of marriage is under assault. Homosexual activists and their supporters have made startling progress toward redefining marriage far beyond what God intended. These groups are seeking the legal right to "marry" or enter into "civil unions" to secure the same privileges and approval society customarily bestows upon traditionally married couples. Christians need to speak up in defense of the biblical model of marriage. Visit www.MarriageProtectionWeek.com or call our offices for information on what you can do.

Don't lose your family to the culture.

The cultural assault on the home is fully engaged. At stake is the heart and soul of America. In his new book, *For Faith & Family: Changing America by Strengthening the Family*, nationally syndicated radio host Dr. Richard Land identifies timeless principles from God's Word for changing America from the inside out—one family at a time.

A PROFOUND CHALLENGE TO THE FAMILY
"For those interested in the survival of our social order, to say nothing of the Christian doctrine of the home, *For Faith & Family: Changing America by Strengthening the Family* by Dr. Richard Land is imperative reading."

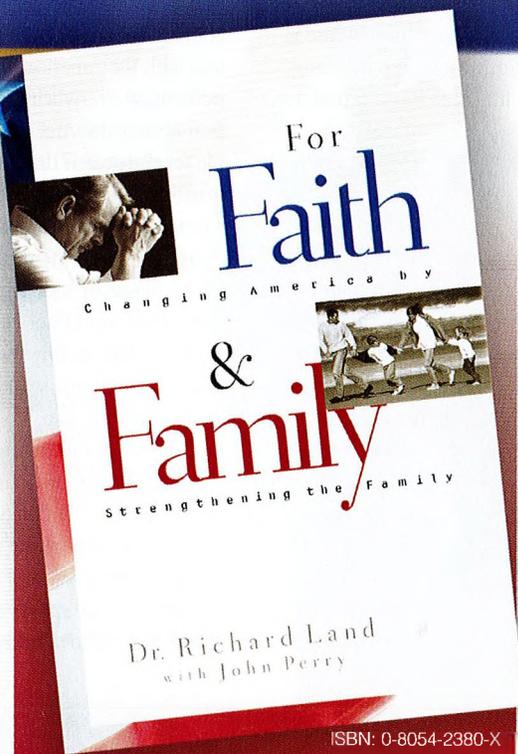
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"I've discovered that in ministry to homosexuals, *being* is often more important than *doing*. I share biblical truths, but most say what helps the most is having someone who simply loves them and will be there for them when they struggle and when they fall."

—Bob Stith, Texas pastor

Freedom in Christ

The church of Jesus Christ is a safe place, a refuge, for *all* the broken people of our society—including the homosexual.

BY BOB STITH

Listening to a group of men who are coming out of homosexuality is a sobering experience for a pastor. Believe me, I know.

I could tell you about their anguish over feelings they have not chosen.

I could tell you about the hurting and confused man who finally mustered up the courage to attend a church only to hear the pastor make an offhand "humorous" remark about homosexuals. Many months passed before he found the spiritual help he needed to leave behind the sin that had dominated his life.

I could tell you about a successful businessman who, after years of fighting same-sex attractions, gathered his courage and made an appointment with the assistant pastor of his church. The pastor listened sympathetically but afterward avoided the man in the halls and on occasion pretended not to see him. The man finally left a prestigious

job and moved to an area where he knew help was available.

These stories—and others like them—always make me uncomfortable because at one time either of those pastors could have been me.

For much of my life, my words and actions regarding homosexuals were entirely negative and judgmental. Had any homosexual strugglers heard me preach, it is extremely unlikely that they would have sought help from me. If they had, I don't know that I could have been of more help than the pastors mentioned above.

Several years ago God got my attention. I began to realize that my entire approach to "ministry" to homosexuals was just an argument against whatever activists were doing or saying. The words I had thought were courageous and prophetic were redemptively bankrupt. God opened my eyes to a group of people who were largely unreached with the message of

true freedom in Christ. While God had shown me that my approach wasn't working, I didn't know the right thing to do, either. After months of seeking help, I discovered Exodus International. I wrote to them for information, expressing my belief that this would be a watershed issue for the evangelical church and that no other single issue is so poised to erode confidence in the total trustworthiness of Scripture.

Since that time I have seen the evidence of this time and again.

I've seen mothers and fathers, family members and friends, even sincere pastors who have drifted into some level of acceptance of homosexuality because they have not been presented with a genuine redemptive model. Some unwittingly accept the belief that homosexuality must be genetic, and God would not call it sin if He made them that way. Even though not one legitimate scientific study supports this conclusion, most

WHAT IS EXODUS?

Exodus is a nonprofit, interdenominational Christian organization promoting the message of "Freedom from homosexuality through the power of Jesus Christ." Since 1976, Exodus has grown to include over 175 ministries in 17 countries, including over 100 local ministries in the United States and Canada. Each member ministry is an independent organization that has met the criteria for membership. While most of the members are "lay" (non-professional) ministries, some are professional counseling centers. Each provides unique services and resources. For a listing of member ministries, visit www.exodus-international.org/ministry.shtml.

FREEDOM IN CHRIST — Continued from page 5

have heard it repeated so often they think it must be true. They are left to explain away the Scriptures that call it sin. (As former homosexual Sy Rogers has said, even if you do think you were born that way, it simply shows that you need to be born again.)

Many parents have been drawn to PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) because they felt unable to share their pain with their own church. I once sat in a parents' group where not one had felt safe in sharing their story with their pastor or even their Sunday School class. Nor is this fear without merit. Recently a fine Christian mother told me with tears of a pastor telling her she must cut off all contact with her son until he repented of his homosexual behavior.

Certainly our commitment to the authority of Scripture should be greater than our personal experiences. But when we do not openly and positively address an issue and make it known that the church of Jesus Christ is a safe place, a refuge, for all the broken people of our society, we provide an opportunity for the enemy to mislead even the faithful. In my case, I had to admit my lack of ability to deal with homosexuality in a proactive and redemptive way. I simply had very little knowledge of this issue, so I went to those who did.

Exodus sent me an information packet and an invitation to their annual conference. That brought a smile to my face, for the chances that I would spend a week with several hundred homosexuals—ex- or otherwise—were slim to none.

However, a few months later, to my own amazement and with much fear and trembling, I walked into a conference that would change my life. I met some of the most incredible Christians I've ever known. The workshops were extremely

helpful, the testimonies were incredible, and the worship was unlike any I had ever experienced. I decided that this must be because the people were so aware of the sin from which God was setting them free and so thankful for the forgiveness and cleansing that comes from true repentance. The Lord reminded me, *I've set you free from just as much. You're just not as aware and thankful.*

As a pastor I wanted to establish an Exodus-type

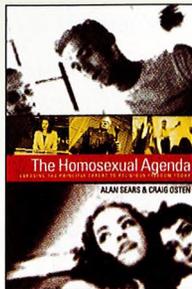
During that learning period I discovered an amazing truth: *Being* is often more important than *doing*. While on many occasions I was able to share biblical truths, most of those to whom I ministered commented that the most helpful thing in their recovery was having a pastor who simply loved them and who would be there for them when they struggled and when they fell. Others in the ministry had greater knowledge and understanding of the struggle, but I could love these hurting men and women. I could be a father figure to those who

RECOMMENDED READING

The Homosexual Agenda

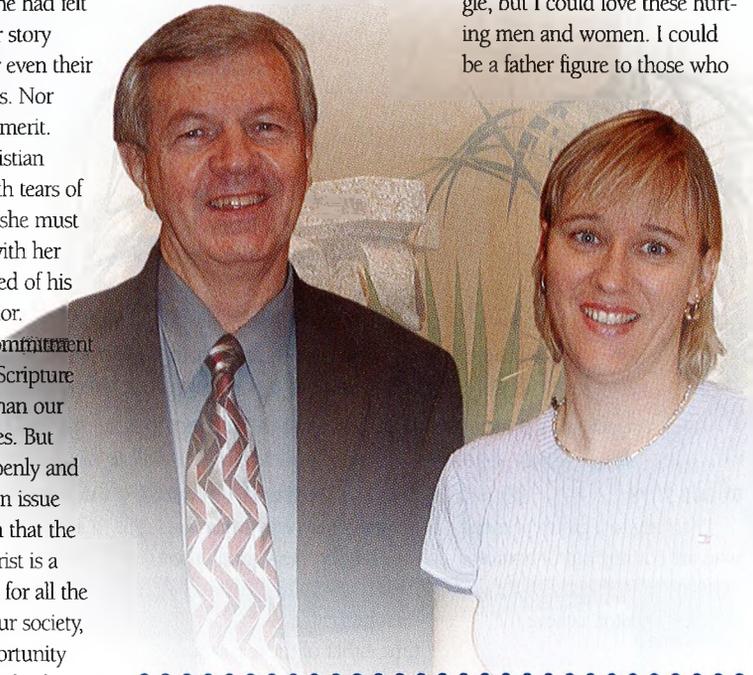
Authors Alan Sears and Craig Osten expose the goals of the homosexual movement and its rising legal activism. The homosexual agenda has as its primary aim to "trump" the rights of all other groups, especially those of people of faith. The saddest part of the story is that it is working.

In 1988, 74.9 percent of the American public thought that sex between two people of the same gender was always wrong. By 1998, the percentage had fallen to 54.6 percent. Sears and Osten provide well-documented proof that America is not only becoming more tolerant of homosexuality through the indoctrination of children, positive exposure on TV, and the support and approval of corporate America, it is becoming less tolerant of those who disagree.



Recommended reading available on-line at:

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Bob Stith, left, pastor of Carroll Baptist Church in Southlake, Texas, requested at the 2001 annual meeting that the SBC "establish a task force to inform, educate and encourage our people to be proactive and redemptive in reaching out to those who struggle with unwanted same-sex attractions." Christine Sneeringer, right, a lesbian for six years, came to Christ in 1989 after she experienced genuine love from members of Idlewild Baptist Church in Tampa, Florida.

ministry in our Dallas-Fort Worth area church as quickly as possible, but it was five years later when this came to pass. Had God allowed this to be realized sooner, it would have been disastrous, for it took me two years to realize how much I didn't know about this kind of ministry! Instead, He allowed me to become a part of the existing Living Hope ministry that reaches out to the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

had never had one, and I could model the heart of the Father for them all.

I will always be thankful for the men and women I've met on this journey and for the privilege of sharing their fight. Undoubtedly there are those in your community who need to know that your church is a safe place for all the broken people of our society and that you are eager to extend God's unconditional love to them. ☩

◀ Richard Land (ERLC president, left) and Jimmy Draper (president, LifeWay Christian Resources) report on the work of the Task Force on Ministry to Homosexuals during the Southern Baptist Convention's 2003 annual meeting.

The Gospel Compels the Church to Minister to Homosexuals

Churches must speak the truth about homosexuality while ministering to homosexuals, the Southern Baptist Task Force on Ministry to Homosexuals told the Southern Baptist Convention in session June 17-18, 2003.

Richard Land joined LifeWay Christian Resources president Jimmy Draper to report to convention-goers on the work of the eight-member task force formed by LifeWay and the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission after the 2001 annual SBC meeting in New Orleans. There, messenger Bob Stith, once a self-described "hardened, redneck pastor," requested that the SBC "establish a task force to inform, educate and encourage our people to be proactive and redemptive in reaching out to those who struggle with unwanted same-sex attractions."

"What we are calling Southern Baptists to do is to practice lifestyle-blind evangelism in the same way we have called upon our denomination to practice color-blind and ethnic-blind evangelism," Land said. "That does not mean we accept the homosexual lifestyle. It means we accept homosexuals as people for whom Jesus Christ died. If we get ourselves correctly centered under the lordship of Christ, we understand . . . that every human being is a person of incalculable value because Jesus Christ loved them enough to die for them."

ERLC president Richard Land said during the report that it is possible to reach homosexuals for Christ, citing 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. "Homosexuality is neither the unpardonable sin, nor the worst possible sin, nor the sign of God's permanent rejection," he said.

The apostle Paul believed Christ had the power to change all types of sinners, including homosexuals, Land said. "The operative part of this passage for the task force is 'some of you were like this.' These people were no longer 'like this.' In other words, through the Spirit of God, homosexuals can find freedom from this sinful, destructive lifestyle. They can be redeemed, and they can be liberated," he said.

As evidence of the power of God to transform lives through the love of Christ, Land cited the examples of Christine Sneeringer (see photo at left) and Tim Wilkins, both former homosexuals who were featured during the task force's report to the convention.

Sneeringer, a lesbian for six years, said she had her first homosexual experience at age fifteen. She later became involved with a married woman and was surprised by God's willingness to pursue someone who was both "a lesbian and a home wrecker." But she reached the point where she "wanted God more than homosexuality" and came to Christ in 1989 after she experienced genuine love from members of Idlewild Baptist Church in Tampa, Florida.

"We want to encourage you to consider how God could work through you and your church to reach homosexual men and women," Land said. "Churches must become places of healing."

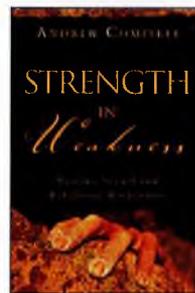
For more information on ministry to homosexuals, visit www.lifeway.com/thewayout ☪

(Compiled from Baptist Press releases, www.bpnews.net)

RECOMMENDED READING

Strength in Weakness

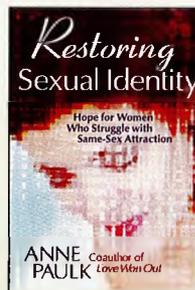
Andrew Comiskey sees our weakness as "a threshold for holy power"—the point at which God can meet us for healing and equip us for service. In *Strength in Weakness*, he shares real-life stories of despair,



hope, and lasting change, while laying out the foundations for healing from relational and sexual sin. With chapters on particular areas of vulnerability for men and women, the battle over homosexuality in the church and culture, and the essential role of the church in healing, Comiskey shows clearly the way to the cross—God's sufficient answer to our deepest needs.

Restoring Sexual Identity

Anne Paulk, author of *Restoring Sexual Identity*, says, "Whenever I speak about lesbianism, people ask, 'Where can I learn more?' As a wife, mother of three young sons, and ex-lesbian, I've mentored many women



dealing with same-sex attraction. The fruit of those conversations led me to write down the biblical principles, theories, and practical steps that have made a difference for many of them. I surveyed women who have overcome lesbianism, and 265 women's responses enabled me to confirm or challenge current theories on the development of lesbianism, lesbian experience, and the process of change." (Harvest House)

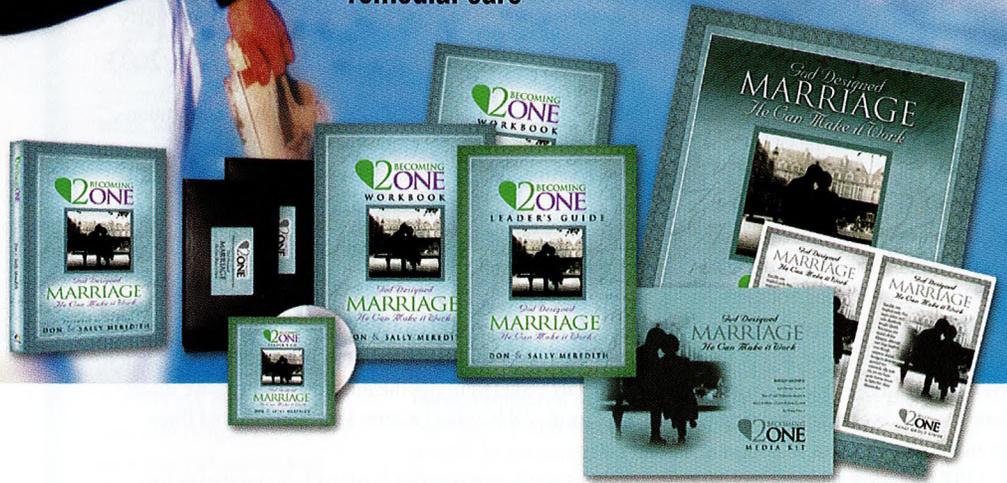
Pastor: How to Stop Marriage Messes Before They Happen



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Howard Dayton
CEO, Crown Financial Ministries

www.2becoming1.com

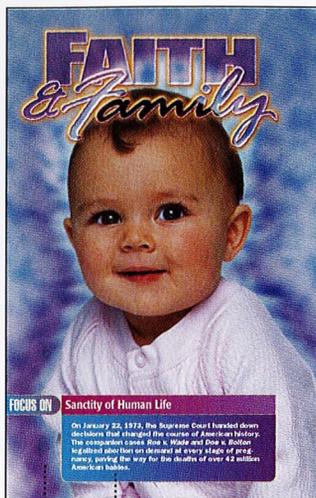
A "bulletin insert" with the power to change lives!

Our faith and our families are at risk. America is facing the deepest moral and spiritual crisis in her history. Families are looking for solid biblical resources. They will appreciate *Faith & Family*—a resource crafted each month to educate, equip, and encourage believers to stand for righteousness in difficult days.

Faith & Family is a cutting-edge monthly resource that addresses some of the most critical issues of our day—a new topic each month—in an expanded 4-page format. The full-color resource not only gives biblical insight on a wide variety of issues built around real-life stories of victory, but also offers prayer points, specific action steps Christians can take, suggested resources to help those who find themselves ensnared by cultural influences, and more. Most important, *Faith & Family* includes a step-by-step outline of the plan of salvation.

Faith & Family can be used as a bulletin insert or informational hand-out in conjunction with social issues Sundays on your church's calendar or anytime you address these topics, such as gambling, substance abuse, religious liberty, and the sanctity of human life.

With *Faith & Family*, your church members will do more than barely survive in these desperate days, they will find a readable and informative resource that will help them to be victorious as they stand up and make a difference for all of eternity.



FOCUS ON Sanctity of Human Life
On January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court handed down decisions that changed the course of American history. The notorious cases *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* legalized abortion for almost all stages of pregnancy, setting the way for the deaths of over 42 million American babies.

Powerful cover photo
Scripture context
Synopsis of issue

Commentary written in layman's terms relating real-life scenario along with biblical application
Insight from ethicist Dr. Richard Land

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- Specific prayer points related to issue
- Action steps for concerned Christians as well as individuals ensnared by the featured cultural issue
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- "Factoids" on featured issue relating current statistics from real-life situations

How Can You Respond?

PRAY

- Pray that women, and those who influence them, would choose life.
- Pray that the millions of women and men who are living in the shadow of a pro-abortion world would know how to pray.
- Pray that those facing infidelity and marital discord and their families would mark each other with love, kindness and that God would surround them with Christian compassion.
- Pray that those seeking an elective abortion would know how to pray. Pray that Doctors would enter the 6.02 and that there would be no health care for them in the future.

ACT

- Study Scripture to know the value God places on human life.
- Think about the concept of an 20 or 40-day family members.
- Give to the babies that have with no way to pay for their care.
- Advocate at a local pregnancy resource center.
- Advocate at a state level.
- Support pro-life candidates. Share your own stories with those who are pro-life. Educate and correct misconceptions through the FAITH's web site.

TEACH

- God loves and values you to reach—even before you were born—what He will only have to do, to see you, to see you, to see you. He sees in your mind and he sees your soul and he forgives and eternal life will be yours.

How Can You Know Jesus Came?

- Believe that you are not in control of your future. Admit that you are a sinner and need the grace of God's love and forgiveness.
- Turn your heart to God and confess your sins to Him.
- Know that you are not in control of your future. Admit that you are a sinner and need the grace of God's love and forgiveness.
- Know that you are not in control of your future. Admit that you are a sinner and need the grace of God's love and forgiveness.

Resources

- How to Respond to the Supreme Court's Decision on Roe v. Wade
- How to Respond to the Supreme Court's Decision on Roe v. Wade
- How to Respond to the Supreme Court's Decision on Roe v. Wade

Back Cover

Inside Professionally designed

SCRIPTURE CONTEXT

Psalm 139:14

"I am fearfully and wonderfully made."
Psalm 139:14

Who Has Abortions: Religious Identification

The majority of women who abort are Protestant (43%), Catholic (27%), and Other (8%).

YOUR RESOURCES

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HELP FOR USING TECHNOLOGY IN MINISTRY

Great News from India

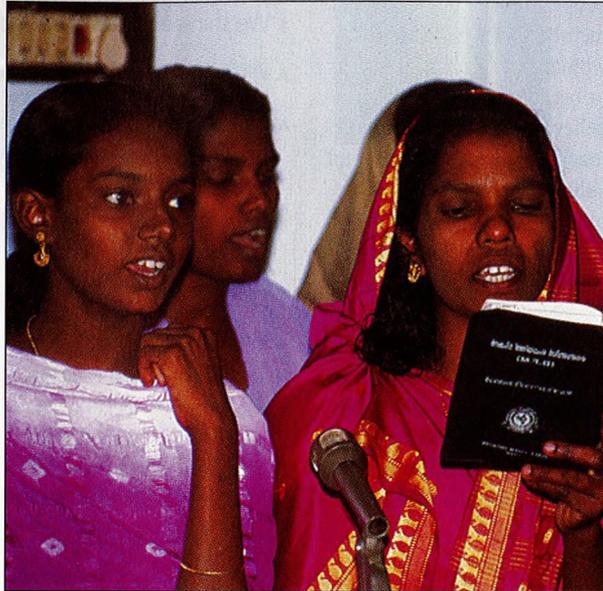
Despite attempts to silence them, Christian voices are being heard as churches are planted in India.

BY SILAS MASIH

India is a religiously diverse country that generally respects religious freedom. It has a democratically elected government and is governed by the rule of the law. However, just a day after the October 10, 1999, announcement of the victory of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and its coalition, an attack on a Christian gathering left two church leaders with serious injuries. Many feared it was the beginning of a new wave of persecution against Christians in India.

While the BJP-led government may not be directly responsible for instigating the violence against religious minorities, there is concern that the government is not doing all it can to pursue the perpetrators of the attacks and to counteract the prevailing climate of hostility. These attacks against persons and institutions based entirely on religious affiliation are an alarming development in India. Most of the attacks come from Hindu fundamentalist parties.

Several incidents have taken place since 1999. Pastor Sunil Paul's church in Central India is one of many destroyed by Hindu extremists. In southern Orissa, 157 out of 250 Christian homes were burned down. Australian missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons, Philip and Timothy, were burned to death while sleeping in their Jeep. A group of Christian youth were beaten in Assam by Hindu fanatics.



These Dalit women have learned to read and write so that they can share God's Word with other women in their villages. (Photo by Gayle Wafrock, in *Daughters of Hope*, IVP, 2003)

Pastor Moses of Gospel for Asia was kidnapped for ransom, but thank God he was delivered. Last year the Tamil Nadu government in southern India passed an anti-conversion law with penalties of up to three years imprisonment and a fine of 50,000 rupees (\$1,000). On March 26, 2003, the state of Gujarat in western India passed a similar anti-conversion bill.

But thank God in spite of all the persecution, there is great news from India about the Christians and the churches. There are about 300 million Dalit (untouchables) in India, and many want to leave Hinduism and become Christians. In March of this year more than 4000 of India's

Dalits received Christ in one state. Another 2,400 received Christ but must fill out the legal forms that are now required by the anti-conversion law before they can be baptized.

There is mission work in north, central, and southern India. Hundreds of people receive Jesus Christ every month, and many churches are planted. Jesus said in Matthew 10:16, "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves," and in verse 6, "Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give." ☩

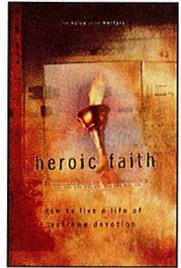
"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves."

—JESUS (Matthew 10:16)

RECOMMENDED READING

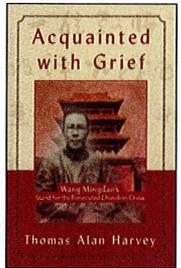
Heroic Faith

Heroic Faith takes the eight life principles common to persecuted believers throughout history and challenges readers to practice them in their own lives. This encouraging book devotes a chapter to each of the principles, including love of God's Word, self-sacrifice, courage, and more. (W Publishing Group)



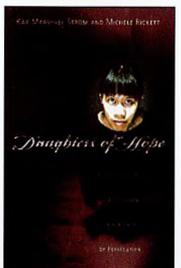
Acquainted with Grief

Acquainted with Grief provides the fascinating account of how evangelist and minister Wang Mingdao emerged from humble roots to take a dramatic stand against the state-sponsored Chinese churches. After twenty years in prison, Wang was finally released as an old man, securing his legacy as "Dean of the House Churches" in China. (Brazos Press)



Daughters of Hope

Kay Marshall Strom and Michele Rickett share intensely moving accounts of persecuted Christian women from around the world. From Africa to the Middle East to Asia, they give voice to our sisters suffering under the yoke of oppression and injustice and provide specific prayer points and action steps to equip us to respond. (InterVarsity Press)



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The International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church will be observed November 9, 2003. For more information, visit www.persecutedchurch.org.

Safe and Sound

BY DWAYNE HASTINGS

PROTECTING PERSONAL AND MINISTRY RELATIONSHIPS

While the Bible says no man is above temptation, many pastors act like they are, Steve Hayes observes.

Whether it is because people view their church staff members as super men and women who can do no evil or because those in ministry believe a seminary education inoculates them against moral failure, Hayes, the author of *Safe & Sound: Protecting Personal and Ministry Relationships*, says ministers are poised to fall to temptations more often than the public at large.

Why? Ministers have greater freedom and less accountability than most individuals in the business world.

"In the ministry, you are involved with people at a variety of levels. Relationships are more casual than professional," he said. "When you find yourself attracted to someone, do you kick them out of your friendship loop, tell them they can't serve on any more committees, or that they can't sit in the front pews because they distract you?"

Ministers have to set boundaries where they can, he continued, noting that the expectations of a minister are often unrealistic and greater than anticipated. Pastors get in trouble when they fail to determine their boundaries ahead of time. "Most pastors are aware of the obvious things, such as not counseling a woman more than three times and not being alone in an office or a vehicle with a woman," Hayes said.

But subtle temptation grows step-by-step, he added,

The Warning Signs of Enticement

- ▲ We think about that person more often than usual.
- ▲ We're tempted to find reasons to initiate contact.
- ▲ Our imagination produces scenarios of what it would be like if this person were our spouse.
- ▲ We're disappointed when we expected to see this person and she didn't show.
- ▲ We get excited when this person appears unexpectedly.
- ▲ We start paying more attention to our appearance with the prospect of crossing paths with this person during the day.
- ▲ When we're in this person's presence, we're tempted to position ourselves closer to her than to others.
- ▲ There is usually more incidental touching.
- ▲ There is flirtation that is sensed but not easily identified.

noting that James 1:13-16 spells out the progression of temptation. "We have desires, then we are enticed. When we respond to the enticement, sin is conceived as we act on those desires," said Hayes, minister of counseling at Two Rivers Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee.

"Relationships don't just go from A to Z overnight," Hayes said. "You hear people who have been caught say that it just happened, or there was nothing they could do about it. But things don't just happen."

It is Hayes' contention that ministers can avoid marriage- and ministry-destroying temptations if they recognize the subtle persuasion of enticement. "While everyone

experiences the power of enticement at one time or another, the wise man is not drawn to it," Hayes said.

The key to guarding your heart is keeping your mind pure, your emotions in check, and your will in line with God's will, Hayes said, looking to Proverbs 4:23-27. It is important to monitor where you go as well as what you say and what you see, he continued.

"Sin is not conceived until you commit your heart to sinful action," Hayes said. "Accountability partners offer prayer support to strengthen us in the spiritual attack and remove the sense of isolation and power of secrecy before sin is conceived."

Satan will attempt to get

"Relationships don't just go from A to Z overnight. You hear people who have been caught [in affairs] say that it just happened, or there was nothing they could do about it. But things don't just happen."

—Steve Hayes, author and minister

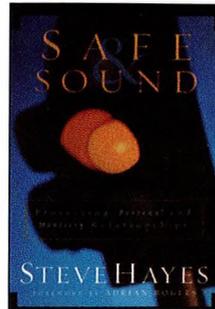
between a couple in ministry, he observed. Scripture tells us Satan takes what God has made and distorts it, takes sex and distorts it, takes the marriage union and distorts it, takes what men and women are supposed to be and distorts it.

He tells us lies about our self and our spouse and presents a false view of reality, Hayes said, pointing out that Cain believed Satan's lie that Abel was his problem, just as some ministers accept Satan's lie that their spouses are the source of their problems.

"All it takes for sin to mature is to have an individual other than your spouse who respects you and believes

in you, loves your ideas, and helps you conquer things in the church world. If you're not prepared for that and haven't set limits, you may find yourself in trouble," he said.

Don't think you are safe if you have just set boundaries to keep you sexually pure. There are other temptations besides those pertaining to sex, Hayes warned. "Anything that distracts you from your godly objectives is a temptation. That is why it is so important to set priorities and make sure your choices in ministry reflect your commitment to God, your spouse, and your family," he explained. 



Safe & Sound

Protecting Personal and Ministry Relationships

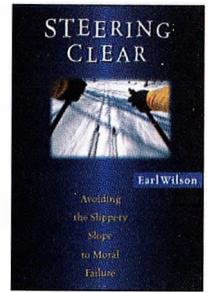
In *Safe & Sound*, Steve Hayes pleads with those in ministry to "have the courage to tell the truth to themselves, God, and their spouses" in order to come to grips with tough issues such as honesty, integrity, and vulnerability. (Broadman & Holman)

OTHER RECOMMENDED READING

Steering Clear

Avoiding the Slippery Slope to Moral Failure

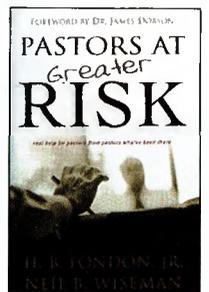
Christians don't plan to make moral compromises, but many find themselves trapped in patterns of sexual, emotional, and financial sin. In *Steering Clear*, psychologist and counselor Earl Wilson identifies how distorted thinking leads to secretive behavior and offers practical help for prevention as well as hope and healing for those picking up the pieces. This book is for those who want to live with integrity and those who minister to them. (InterVarsity Press)



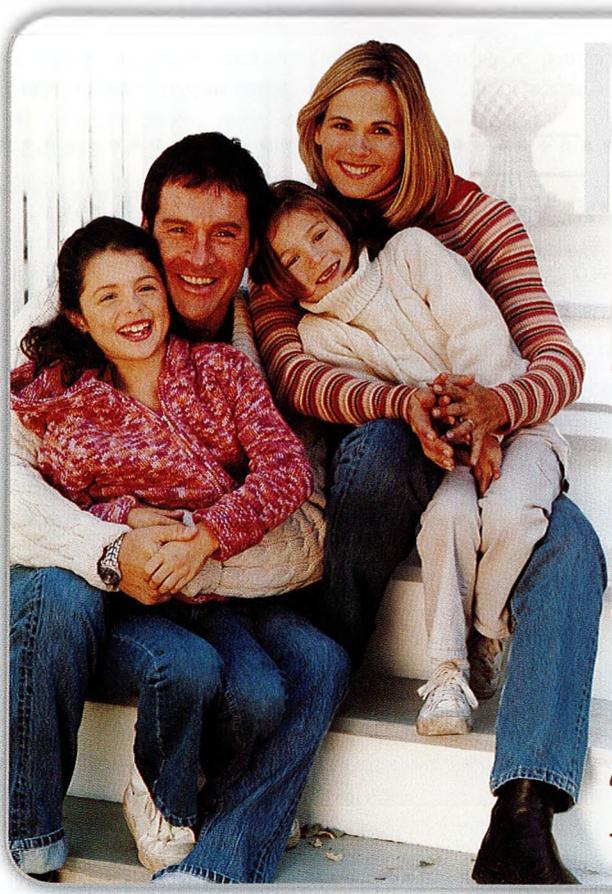
Pastors at Greater Risk

Real Help for Pastors from Pastors Who've Been There

H.B. London, Jr., and Neil Wiseman provide pastor-to-pastor help for today's hot-button issues for ministers—job stress, congregational turnover, pornography, spiritual burnout, healthy marriage and family life, and more. (Regal)



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Setting Priorities

Steve Hayes says ministers who have lasting ministries know how to set priorities—for themselves and the church.

- 1 Priority One**—Guard your relationship with God and your spouse. Communicate openly, honestly, and consistently with God and your spouse.
- 2 Priority Two**—Protect your relationship with your children by refusing to allow church demands to steal you from them.
- 3 Priority Three**—Protect your relationship with yourself. Schedule getaways for yourself and your family. Establish habits that include proper diet and exercise. Set up your accountability system.
- 4 Priority Four**—Prioritize and lead your ministry. Do not allow it to lead you.
- 5 Priority Five**—Eliminate behaviors or choices that undermine priorities one through four (Heb. 12:1-2).

can people which
their legislature
no law respecting
shment of religion,
the free exercise
building a wall
separation

The Truth

"ACCOMMODATION" POSITION MOST REASONABLE

BY TOM STRODE

When Thomas Jefferson used the phrase "wall of separation between church and state" in a letter to some Baptist pastors in 1802, little did he know the controversy that would swirl around that term two centuries later.

Some envision a wall so wide and so tall that it reaches all the way to heaven, effectively segregating God on one side from the affairs of state on the other, while others dismiss the notion of a wall altogether. The most reasonable conjecture is somewhere in the middle.

Americans with opinions on the subject appear to divide largely into three camps regarding the term:

- The "wall of separation" metaphor perfectly describes the correct

the reality in a communist state. In fact, the concept may be from the pit of hell.

- The "separation of church and state" is an appropriate term for the rejection of dominance by either institution of the other, but it should not be used to prevent religious expression in the public arena.

"Separation of church and state" has been a much-utilized phrase among Baptists. *The Baptist Faith and Message*, the Southern Baptist Convention's confession of faith, says, "Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others." It also says a "free church in a free state is the Christian ideal."

graduations, as well as nearly every government acknowledgment of religion. For those on the other end of the spectrum, it requires government acknowledgment of America's Judeo-Christian roots, including policies that might disadvantage religious minorities.

The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission has sought to find a position that assures proper church-state separation while protecting individuals' rights to the maximum. This "accommodation" position, as ERLC President Richard Land describes it, calls for government to accommodate its citizens' right to exercise their religious beliefs freely, including in public settings. It also promotes the church's freedom from state control and the state's freedom from church control.

One of the problems with terms such as "wall of separa-

"Mr. Jefferson, WHAT were you THINKING?"

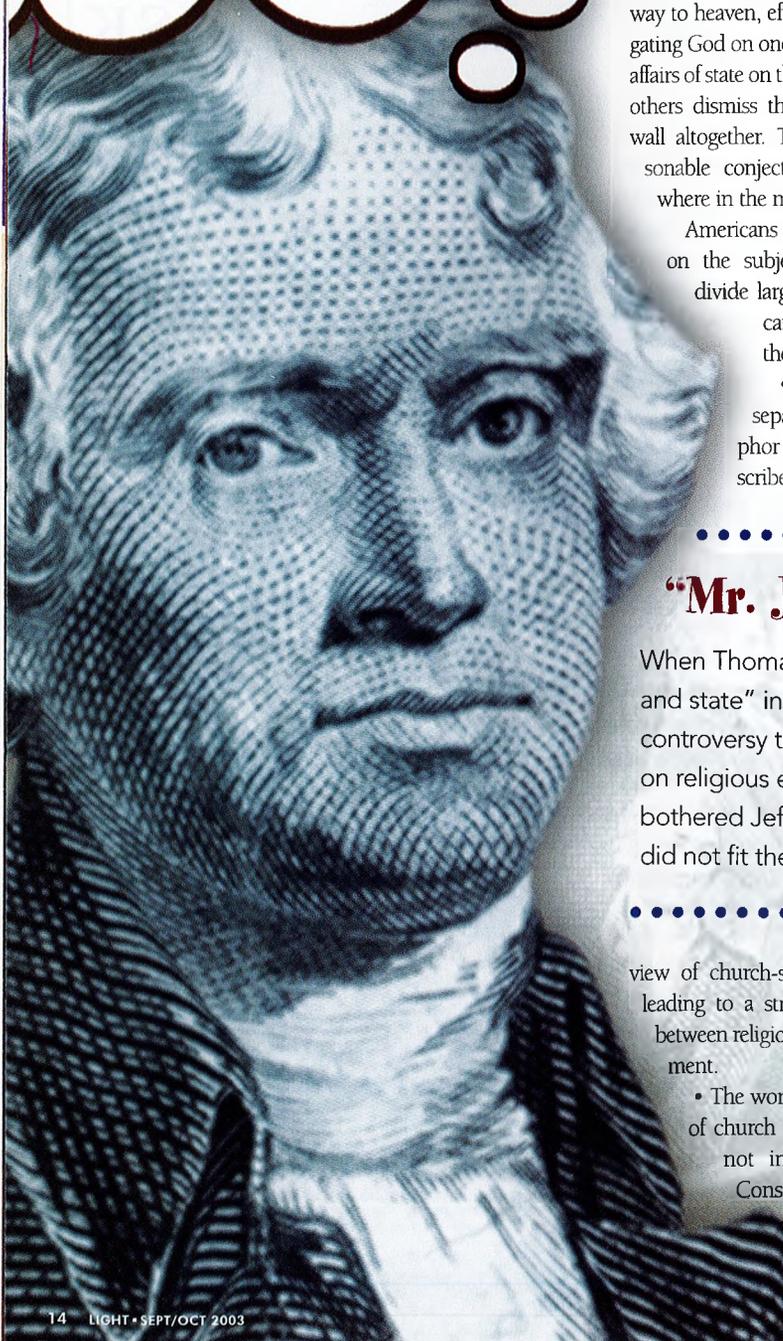
When Thomas Jefferson used the phrase "wall of separation between church and state" in a letter to some Baptist pastors in 1802, little did he know the controversy that would swirl around that term two centuries later. The limitations on religious expression produced by today's separationist doctrine would have bothered Jefferson, some scholars contend, as some of his practices as president did not fit the separationist mold for which he is known.

view of church-state relations, leading to a strict separation between religion and government.

- The words "separation of church and state" are not in the federal Constitution and are more fitting to describe

Baptists, other religious adherents, and Americans in general have differed, especially during the last few decades, about what our nation's Founding Fathers really considered church-state separation to mean. For some, it entails finding violations of the concept in many places, including student-led prayers and testimonies at

tion" and "separation of church and state" is they originate from outside the U.S. Constitution. The concepts they allegedly represent are more contrived than actual. The constitution's statement on church-state relations and religious rights is contained in the first sixteen words of the First Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an



about the Wall

establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.”

With those words, the Constitution puts all limitations on the government, Land noted. “The First Amendment was intended to protect freedom *for* religion, not freedom *from* religion. Government is not to honor one religion or no religion over other religions. To say the First Amendment’s guarantees of religious freedom and separation of church and state were intended to restrict the political participation of people of faith or to disqualify their religious convictions and beliefs from consideration in the public arena of ideas is to twist and to distort the First Amendment’s intent and meaning beyond all recognition,” he said, adding the government instead should “adopt an attitude of benevolent, accommodating neutrality toward the ‘free exercise’ of religion, recognizing and protecting its citizens’ rights to exercise freely their religious convictions in the public arena.”

This stance, he said, would permit individuals to express their own religious convictions in government settings, including prayers initiated by and led by students at school events and voluntary prayers led by judges and other employees in courtrooms. It also would allow vouchers given to parents to be used at Christian and other religious schools if they may be used at other private schools.

Though the “separation” controversy stems from Jefferson’s letter to a committee from the Danbury (Conn.) Baptist Association early in his presidency, its full effect was not felt until nearly a century and a half later. By then, the Supreme Court had applied the First Amendment to the states, not just to Congress. In

decisions in 1947 and 1948, it invoked the “wall of separation” as a guide for church-state relations. The court has yet to abandon that concept, despite the encouragement of current Chief Justice William Rehnquist.

That reliance on an extra-constitutional metaphor from a single letter by Jefferson has proved unfortunate, says First Amendment scholar Daniel Dreisbach, author of *Thomas Jefferson and the Wall of Separation Between Church and State* (New York University Press, November 2003). “The metaphor emphasizes the concept of separation, unlike the First Amendment, which speaks

in terms of disestablishment, or nonestablishment to be more precise, and of the free exercise of religion,” Dreisbach said in a 2002 interview with The Rutherford Institute. “The wall metaphor implies that the First Amendment restricts people of faith, religious spokesmen, and religious leaders also, but that’s far beyond the requirement of the text of the First Amendment.”

The limitations on religious expression produced by separationist doctrine would have bothered Jefferson, Dreisbach and others contend. Some of his practices as president did not fit the separationist mold for which

he is known. Only two days after Jefferson sent his letter to the Danbury pastors, he attended a worship service in the House of Representatives, according to Library of Congress research published in 1998. John Leland, a well-known Baptist pastor and religious liberty advocate, preached at the service. Jefferson apparently decided it was okay to attend if Leland, a friend, did not object to helping conduct worship in a government building, reported James Hutson, the library’s chief of manuscripts. For the rest of his two terms, Hutson wrote, Jefferson attended the services “constantly.”

3 POSITIONS

STRICT SEPARATION

Supports separation of religion from government settings

Opposes education vouchers and tuition tax credits

Opposes direct government aid to religious schools

Opposes government-accommodated, student-initiated prayer in public schools

Opposes display of the Ten Commandments in government settings

ACCOMMODATION (ERLC)

Supports government accommodation of individuals’ religious rights

Supports education vouchers and tuition tax credits

Opposes direct government aid to religious schools

Supports government-accommodated, student-initiated prayer in public schools

Supports display of the Ten Commandments in government settings, as long as privately funded and other religious symbols permitted

NEO-ESTABLISHMENT

Supports government acknowledgment of religion on behalf of “the people”

Supports education vouchers and tuition tax credits

Supports direct government aid to religious schools

Supports government acknowledgment of student-initiated, majority-determined prayer

Supports display of the Ten Commandments in government settings, including when publicly funded and other religious symbols excluded

Light: The phrase "separation of church and state" is not included in the Constitution, and its use has been highly criticized by some Christians. Is it a proper way to describe church-state relations?

RL: Though the phrase has been misused, it is valid when applied appropriately. *The Baptist Faith and Message*, Southern Baptists' statement of faith, says, "Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others." When I speak of the separation of church and state, I am referring to a separation between the institution of the church and the institution of the state. There should be such a separation in

the sense that there is not a dominance of a church by the state or a dominance of the state by a church. That does not mean there should be a separation of morality from politics or a removal of the godly influence of Christians and other religious adherents from the public square.

to distort the First Amendment's intent and meaning beyond all recognition. The government should adopt an attitude of benevolent, accommodating neutrality toward the "free exercise" of religion, recognizing and protecting its citizens' rights to exercise freely their religious convictions in the public arena.

be genuine, heartfelt prayer, not some dumbed-down, lowest-common-denominator, nonsectarian prayer that would likely gain approval for quasi-sponsorship but not be a true accommodation by the schools. Students should be able to pray in keeping with their beliefs.

Separation

with Dr. Richard Land

Light: The Constitution's First Amendment begins: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." How are we to understand this statement?

RL: Notice the restrictions are on the government, not individuals of religious faith. Government is not to honor one religion or no religion over other religions.

Government is not to restrict the religious rights of its citizens. The First Amendment was intended to protect freedom *for* religion, not freedom *from* religion. To say the First Amendment's guarantees of religious freedom and separation of church and state were intended to restrict the political participation of people of faith or to disqualify their religious beliefs from consideration in the public arena of ideas is to twist and

Light: What is the best way to approach religion in the public schools?

RL: It is certainly not by accepting the hostile neutrality that has permeated the public school environment for nearly two generations. As the courts have acknowledged, students do not leave their First Amendment rights to freedom of speech, assembly, and worship at the boundaries of public school property. The government should be firmly committed to maximum accommodation of students' "free exercise" rights while remaining careful not to allow teachers and administrators to sponsor or impose any religion upon students in violation of the First Amendment's establishment clause. Students should be free to pray and to discuss spiritual or religious issues with their peers before, during, and after the official school day. Having teachers pray on behalf of their classes, however, would give the impression of government approval of whatever prayers the teachers offered, and that would violate the spirit of the establishment clause. To favor state sponsorship of particular religious practices would violate our beliefs as Baptists, inevitably infringe on some students' constitutional protections, and corrupt religious doctrine and practice. When students initiate and lead in prayer, it should

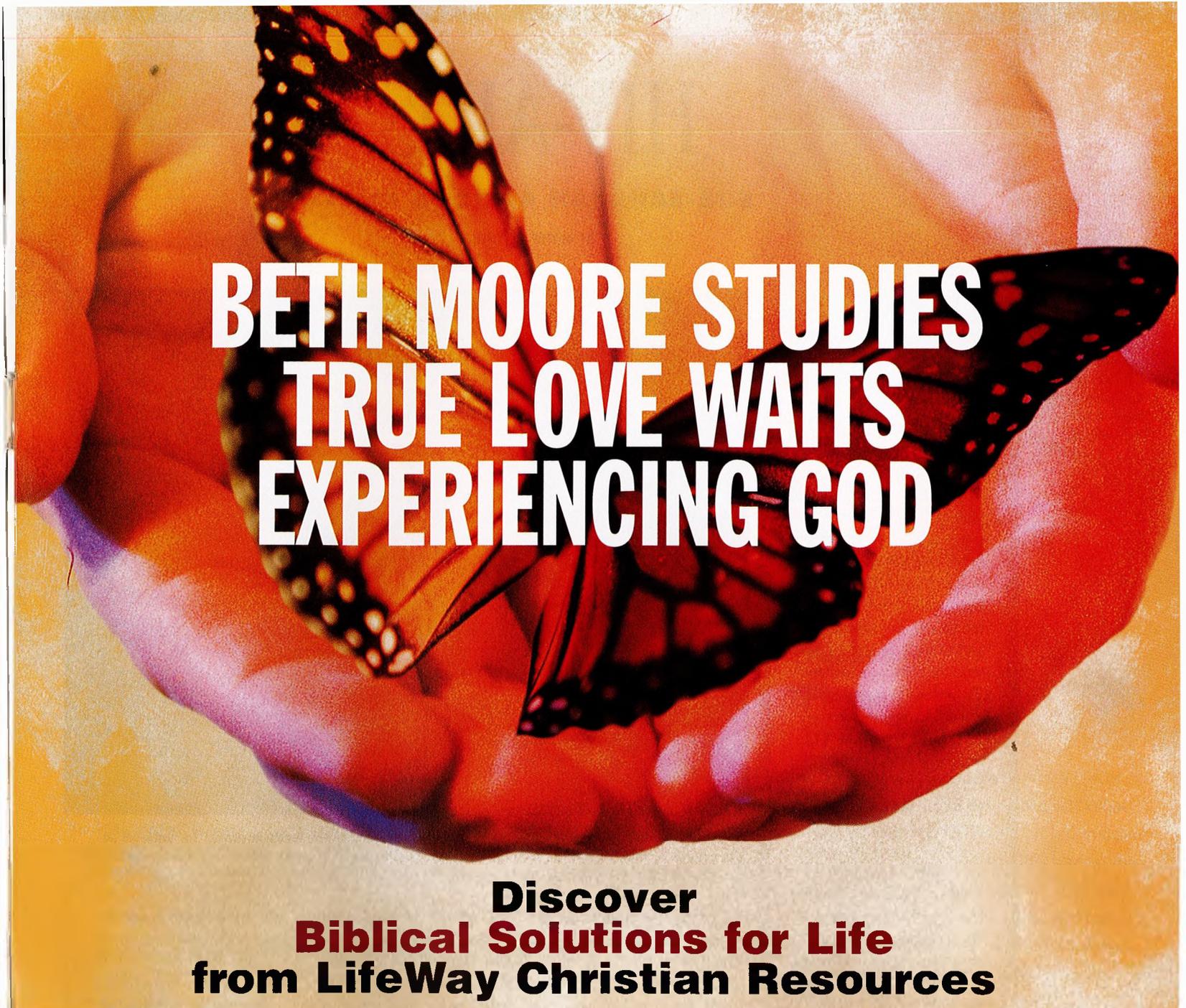
Light: What about vouchers and religious schools?

RL: I don't believe there should be any direct government aid to religious schools. Vouchers, however, do not aid schools; they go directly to the parents, who in turn choose where they will be used. Such freedom of choice does not violate the separation of church and state. There is no requirement upon government to provide such a benefit, but if it does, the government cannot then say that the only place the benefit cannot be used is at a religious school. Any other decision than the one the Supreme Court issued last year in upholding a voucher program would have been to affirm the rankest kind of discrimination against religion.

Light: Are acknowledgments of religion such as "one nation under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance and "In God We Trust" on our coins appropriate?

RL: Such acts are an *acknowledgment*, not an *establishment*, of religion. These are not efforts to force any form of religion upon our citizens. They are, however, consistent with the Declaration of Independence, in which our forefathers spoke of the "Creator," the "Supreme Judge," and "divine Providence" in describing the basis for all of humanity's rights and in admitting this country's dependence upon Him. 

To say the First Amendment restricts the political participation of people of faith or disqualifies their religious beliefs from consideration in the public arena of ideas is to twist the First Amendment's intent beyond all recognition.

A pair of hands, one light-skinned and one dark-skinned, are shown cupping a monarch butterfly. The butterfly's wings are orange with black veins and spots. The background is a warm, textured orange and yellow.

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HIV-AIDS:

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA'S KILLER

BY DEBBIE MCFERRON

Debbie McFerron serves in Harare, Zimbabwe, with her husband and two sons. They serve with the SBC's International Mission Board (www.imb.org).

As I sit here thinking about what I am about to write, I have to stop and pray for all the people and families I know who have been touched by this disease we call AIDS. They call the HIV-AIDS virus a pandemic (*pan* means "all" + *demos*, "the people").

Yes, I have seen the statistics. Most of those, as horrendous as they appear, are lower than reality. There is no systematic or mandatory AIDS testing here. If you want an AIDS test, you can get one. But who voluntarily goes to see if they have a death sentence written upon them? The attitude of most people is, "If I don't know, then I won't get sick," or "If I ignore it, perhaps it will go away."

There is so much written about finding a cure, a vaccine, anything to stop this killer. There is so much talk about funding for AIDS education and condom distribution. We even have an AIDS awareness week. We are trying to find a bandage big enough to put on a wound that is breaking wider and wider apart. We will not find one. The answer is not testing, not funding, and certainly not condom distribution! The answer is holy living. The answer is found in Jesus Christ.

In much of the world, AIDS is a disease that hits an isolated segment of the population. If you fit in a particular category, then you are at risk. If you are a drug user, if you are in the sex industry, if you are a homosexual man, then you are in the high-risk category. But in Africa you can be at risk if you are married or simply plan to be married, because AIDS in Africa isn't a disease that hits certain pockets of the population. It is a disease that hits adults as well as the young. The repercussions



In the Malawi village of Mphindo, Baptist pastor Redson Mkaka leads in prayer for widows at the graves of their husbands who died of AIDS. AIDS—and in some cases starvation—has made casket making a growth industry in Malawi.

reverberate in families and touch the lives of those who are left behind.

Funerals are seen every day in every town, trading center, and village. In the city of Harare, Zimbabwe, traffic lights are stolen to be cut up and molded into handles for coffins. Metal vases used to hold flowers to mark the graves are stolen for the same reason. In some places people are buried in blankets because the number of deaths is overwhelming the coffin makers.

One reason why the AIDS virus is hitting Southern Africa so hard is the area's cultural practices. In many African cultures it is not unusual for a man to have more than one wife. A woman I will call Mrs. Chikone (fictitious name) is the first wife of a man who now has three wives. He married the third wife

just last year. She was married to his brother who had recently died. Of what, one might ask. Well, let's see, he was in his late forties, he had been sick for several months, and at the end of his life he was a shrunken skeleton of the man he once was. Don't you know, very few people here die of AIDS? They die of tuberculosis or pneumonia or malaria as their bodies are weakened by HIV-AIDS. Mr. Chikone married his brother's widow so that he would not lose his brother's children. By his culture's standards, this was a noble gesture. But the reality is that if he had not already brought the AIDS virus into his immediate family, he definitely has now. AIDS isn't always the simple issue that it is in other parts of the world. Praise God, Mrs. Chikone, (the first wife) is a believer in Jesus Christ. She

knows she is at risk, but she also knows she has a Savior.

Thankfully, the True Love Waits program is reaching young people in Zimbabwe. Its purpose is to target unmarried young people and present the Gospel message. It also gives them an opportunity to make a commitment to God that they would keep themselves and their future mate sexually pure before marriage. Africa is inundated with videos, television shows, and music that portray the world's idea of love (sex). We are trying to combat that with God's idea of love: faithfulness, purity, and holiness.

Would you commit today to pray for the spreading of the Gospel in Southern Africa? The numbers of people in Southern Africa dying every day without Jesus are astronomical. They need the Gospel today.

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AFRICAN AIDS CRISIS POSES WORLDWIDE IMPACT

Sub-Saharan Africa's AIDS crisis is a "social and economic disaster-in-waiting" concluded a panel at the Center for Strategic and International Studies meeting in Washington, D.C.

"The future of Africa is facing a flood, a flood of rising AIDS cases. Will we, will the world, be prepared to deal with this cataclysm?" asked Dr. Alan Whiteside of South Africa's University of Natal at the February 27 HIV/AIDS forum.

Whiteside said the issue is important to U.S. national security because the disease has shown to be a "significant destabilizing force" throughout the developing world, according to a U.S. State Department

report of the meeting. "It has removed many of the most productive members from society," he said, "and devastated the social, political, and economic infrastructures of those countries hardest hit," the professor said.

"The challenge of the epidemic is the challenge of prevention. In the absence of an effective, affordable, and deliverable cure," said Whiteside, "we will see AIDS deaths. That is predictable, and that is inevitable." But, he said, the predictable is reversible as seen in "the stark contrast between the falling mortality rates in Uganda with the rise in deaths in Swaziland due to that coun-

try's absence of a unified, workable national AIDS policy."

Whiteside detailed another issue the AIDS pandemic presents—"a generational challenge." "Today we have the phenomenon of the elderly orphan," he said, noting with the deaths of their children, an entire generation is at risk for losing their caregivers in their older years.

Alex de Waal of the London-based organization Justice Africa said that the pandemic in Africa is further aggravated by a food shortage that is creating a famine crisis, particularly among children, and has a further chain reaction effect. "The lack of food has prompted many women to become prostitutes in order to feed their families," de Waal said, "and in the process, they are infected with HIV."

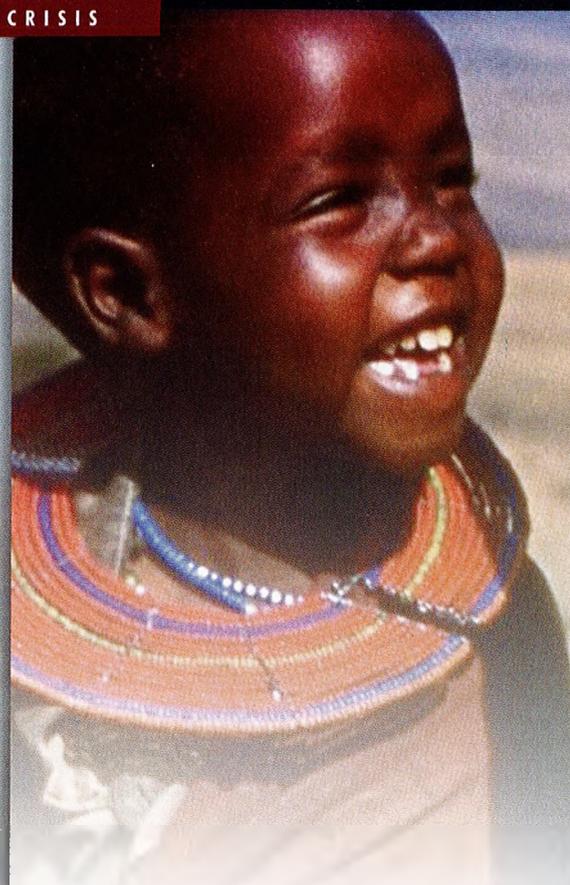
Political conflicts and war also add to the rise in mortality rates as they disrupt the flow of medicine, food, and social services to the ill.

"Today, the chance of a fifteen-year-old girl making it to the age of sixty is 52 percent. By 2010 . . . it will be about a 30 percent chance. This will have a sizeable impact on the future of African society. With this kind of outlook for African youth, investment in education, careers, and economic advancement practically become non-issues." 

AFRICAN AIDS PANDEMIC

- ▲ Approximately 71% of all HIV/AIDS cases are in sub-Saharan Africa.
- ▲ Of the nearly 19 million deaths, almost 15 million have been in sub-Saharan Africa.
- ▲ There are 16 countries in Africa with infection rates higher than 10%.
- ▲ In 1999, there were 4 million new infections in sub-Saharan Africa.
- ▲ There are 5,500 funerals each day in Africa.
- ▲ In 1999, 2 million Africans died of AIDS.
- ▲ There are 12.1 million orphans in Africa because of the AIDS pandemic.
- ▲ Ten of every 11 people newly infected with HIV each minute are from sub-Saharan Africa.

The magnitude of the devastation caused by HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa prompted the author of the bestselling *Prayer of Jabez* to relocate his family to South Africa, where he works with World Vision to help local churches counter the spread of this deadly disease. "I had positioned the issue of AIDS in a little box to the side and didn't want to deal with it," said Bruce Wilkinson.



AIDS ORPHANS -

"Please help us," the children say.

Thousands of people in Africa die of AIDS each day. We may wonder, "What can I do from so far away?" A lot! Imagine a child orphaned due to AIDS having the ability to move in with a family and have access to schooling, blankets, and food they would otherwise live without. Every \$100 given to the International Mission Board's **AIDS Orphans Project** will help missionaries provide for an AIDS orphan for an entire year. How many lives of AIDS orphans can you invest in?

To give to this project, simply send a check to the International Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230. Write project ID # 88101.665.228.01 on the memo line of your check. For more information or other questions, call Leslyn Benfield at the IMB at 800-363-1322, ext. 1624, or e-mail her at lbenfield@imb.org.

True Love Waits IN AFRICA

On July 11, 2003, President George W. Bush visited with a crowd gathered at an AIDS clinic in Entebbe, Uganda. Noting the success of Uganda's triple emphasis on abstinence, marital fidelity, and the use of condoms within marriage, Bush commended the country as a model for AIDS treatment across the African continent. The Ugandan HIV/AIDS approach serves as the model for President Bush's Emergency HIV/AIDS Plan for Prevention, an effort that will provide \$15 billion over the next five years to fight AIDS abroad. This is the largest single commitment in history for an international public health initiative involving a specific disease.

Why aren't Southern Baptists building orphanages to care for the children left behind after their parents die of AIDS?

We consider it more effective and culturally appropriate to assist families with orphans than to sink precious dollars into buildings.

Culturally, Africans prefer to keep families together. If possible, orphans are assimilated into the family of an aunt, uncle, or grandparent. We assist these families by offering them monetary assistance through local churches.

Another aspect of effective ministry is making those at risk of future HIV/AIDS infection aware of biblical truths, so we send missionaries to teach True Love Waits.

Above all, we focus on the main thing: The answer to this crisis is in Christ. The more churches we can plant and multiply, the more broadly the truth will be ingrained into the culture. AIDS could easily divert us from being a missionary organization—ministering eternal answers—to an aid organization—ministering only to short-term suffering.

We focus on church planting, evangelism, and discipleship while meeting some humanitarian needs. This often opens doors to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

*D. Ray Davis, Richmond Associate
Southern Africa and Indian Ocean Islands Region
International Mission Board (IMB)*



Among those behind President George W. Bush at an AIDS clinic in Entebbe, Uganda, during his July 11, 2003, visit are Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, in gray suit, and his wife Janet, in white, who has been a leading abstinence advocate in the country. PHOTO BY CLINTON WOLF

Baptists working with the True Love Waits program in East Africa are encouraged following President George W. Bush's commitment to U.S. support of abstinence-based programs in the war on AIDS.

While in Africa, President Bush visited a clinic run by The Aids Support Organization in Entebbe. Noting the success of Uganda's triple emphasis on abstinence, marital fidelity, and the use of condoms within marriage, Bush commended the country as a model for AIDS treatment across the continent. More than 30 million people in Africa live with the virus, but in Uganda the infection rate of the disease—how fast it is spreading—has fallen from 30 percent to 5 percent since the early 1990s.

Andrew Mwenge, senior pastor of Kampala Baptist Church in Kampala, Uganda, and longtime volunteer with True Love Waits, believes the president's comments will increase the credibility of True Love Waits' focus on abstinence. Although True Love Waits has been in Uganda since 1994, Mwenge feels the program has often been sidelined by agencies.

"The money is here, but the problem is sometimes getting to it," Mwenge said. "I think we will have a better hearing. This has brought it to the forefront." Mwenge and his staff already have been at work on proposals to fund True Love Waits in its next phase, taking the message of abstinence until marriage to teacher-training colleges. "We will be dealing with the people who deal directly with young people," Mwenge said.

In neighboring Kenya, staff at the Baptist AIDS Response Agency—a joint effort between the Baptist Convention of Kenya and the International Mission Board's Baptist Mission of Kenya—were equally encouraged by the president's support.

Debby Marshall, strategy consultant for AIDS work in Kenya, noted that the True Love Waits program has faced challenges in obtaining funding because of its insistence on abstinence, rather than the use of condoms. Marshall said she hopes the president's support of abstinence-based programs will ease some of this difficulty. "It's encouraging because abstinence is biblically based, and the president is supporting something from a biblical perspective, not a secular perspective."

Though skeptics have charged that abstinence is not important in the war on AIDS, Mwenge sees it as a critical component in the decline of the AIDS infection rate in the last dozen years. "The problem was that people had gotten used to unplanned sex," said Mwenge, referring to conditions in Uganda a decade ago. "Whether it was in the right relationships or the wrong ones, it was too casual. An abstinence message causes people to think deliberately, rather than causally about sex."¹

Adapted from a Baptist Press story, "Africa's True Love Waits supporters encouraged by Bush words on abstinence," by Clinton Wolf [July 14, 2003]

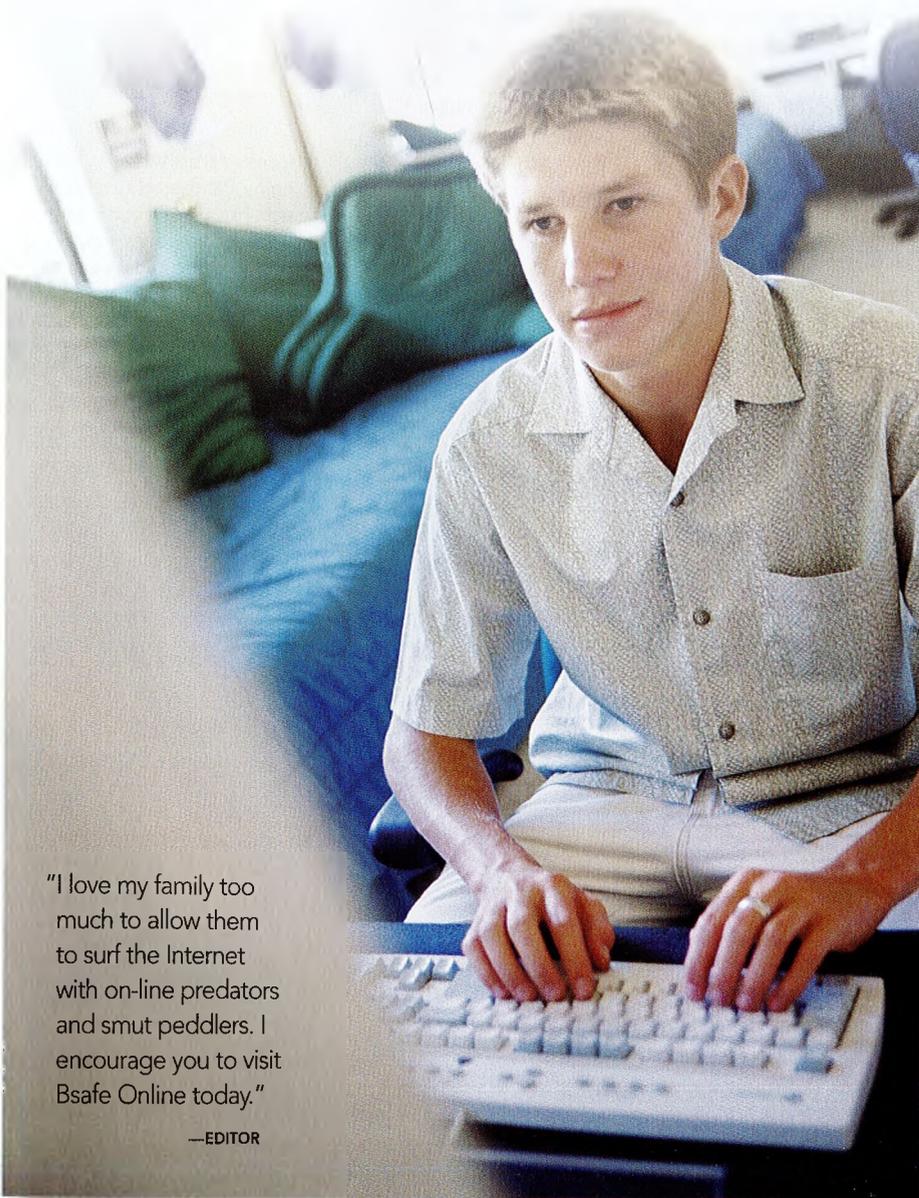
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—EDITOR

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.



What's up with reports I've heard linking my trusted Pampered Chef with pro-abortion groups?

A Dejected Chef

We've got bad news ... and good news. Pampered Chef, the purveyor of premium cooking products, was acquired last fall by Berkshire Hathaway, a conglomerate headed by billionaire Warren Buffett. Berkshire owns nearly forty companies as diverse as GEICO Auto Insurance, Fruit of the Loom, Dairy Queen, and Acme Brick Company.

Berkshire Hathaway is known for its generosity in donating millions of dollars to schools and other charities through a unique shareholder-designated contributions program and through donations by

Buffett himself. The problem arose when some Pampered Chef sales representatives (more than 67,000 "kitchen consultants" market Pampered Chef kitchenware through direct sales in homes) discovered Buffett and his corporation regularly supported pro-abortion causes.

Berkshire and Buffett through his foundation supported so-called reproductive rights groups, including Planned Parenthood and International Projects Assistance Services, a promoter of abortion rights in Third World countries and a manufacturer of suction pumps used in abortions.

That's the bad news; now for the good news. In a July 3 press release Berkshire announced it was terminating its charitable dividend program, expressing concern that the "careers of many of [the Pampered Chef] consultants are now suffering because of the contributions

program." Pampered Chef's mission statement encourages people to "develop their God-given talents and skills to their fullest potential."

The release noted the "harmful criticism" the program was causing Pampered Chef as "kitchen consultants" and customers alike expressed their deep concern with Berkshire's support of pro-choice groups. The pressure on Buffett built steadily after Cindy Coughlon, a Pampered Chef consultant living in Peoria, Arizona, mounted a campaign to protest Berkshire's donations, reported *Fortune* magazine (July 21, 2003). Her petition asked Buffett to "consider what kind of a world you will leave where human life is so devalued that 'excess' humans are considered disposable." ❶

Cooks across America who enjoy Pampered Chef products but were put off by the parent company's support of pro-abortion causes can rest easy now that the company has discontinued the practice.

Buffett's decision was greeted with a great sigh of relief in our kitchen, where the Pampered Chef brand is emblazoned on many of our cooking tools. — Ed.



I'm sick and tired of my children being exposed to what passes as entertainment on television these days. We restrict their TV viewing, but what we can do to reclaim the airwaves from these producers of immoral and profane programs?

Unplugged Parent

We encourage you to visit www.OneMillionDads.com, www.OneMillionMoms.com, and www.OneMillionYouth.com and join tens of thousands of other concerned Americans who are fed up with the violence and vulgarity on television. These Web sites were begun by the American Family Association to give moms, dads, and youth a united voice to let the decision-makers in the entertainment media know many Americans are upset with the messages they are sending and the values (or lack of them) they are pushing.

In the eighteen months since the first site was launched, ten national advertisers have pulled their ads from offensive programs after having been swamped with e-mails prompted by alerts from the "One Million" sites.

The effort's goal is "to stop the exploitation of our children, especially by the entertainment media," by using the economic power of tens of thousands concerned mothers, fathers, and youth joined together to pressure advertisers over their sponsorship of family-unfriendly programming, networks that produce such programs, and corporations, such as Abercrombie & Fitch, that display unwholesome values in their marketing. ❶

Want to keep television entertaining for your youngest family members and worry-free for parents? Discover what thousands are doing to uphold standards of decency during prime-time. You can make a difference!

you've been asking

I heard Wal-Mart was doing something about those trashy magazines that line the racks at their checkout counters. What's the company doing about these embarrassing periodicals?

Wal-Mart Shopper

You heard right. The company made a family-friendly move in taking steps to at least hide the covers of those offensive magazines from your family as you check out of your local Wal-Mart. Plastic "blindings" will shield the front covers of magazines like *Cosmopolitan*, *Glamour*, *Marie Claire*, and *Redbook*, which often contain provocative and downright disgusting headlines and photos.

Wal-Mart isn't the only national retailer to cover the covers of racy magazines at the cash registers. Both Publix and Kroger supermarkets are among other companies that provide store managers the plastic shields to make checkout lines a little more family-friendly. (For more information, visit www.americandecency.org.)

Wal-Mart also has announced it no longer carries some sex-saturated men's magazines—*Maxim*, *Stuff*, and *FHM*—because of their family-unfriendly content. This is news that should please folks who are concerned about morality and decency in the culture, says

the ERLC's Richard Land.

"We should applaud the Wal-Mart Corporation for taking a pro-decency and pro-family stand in the marketplace," Land says. "The company's decision to no longer sell certain magazines and to hide the covers of other issues, along with monitoring the contents of CDs they choose to sell in their retail outlets and strictly enforcing age restrictions when selling video games labeled for mature audiences, underscores the company's commitment to family-friendly operations."

But a more recent decision suggests the retailing monolith doesn't use the same family-friendly standard when it comes to corporate employment policy. In a July 2 letter to its 3,500 stores, Wal-Mart announced it was amending its anti-discrimination policy to protect homosexuals, much to the chagrin of Land and other Christian leaders.

"Wal-Mart took one step forward, then several back," Land said, expressing regret over the mainstream retailer's decision to regard the homo-

sexual lifestyle as normative.

The new policy states, in part, "We affirm our commitment and pledge our support to equal opportunity employment for all qualified persons, regardless of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability or status as a veteran or sexual orientation."

"It's the right thing to do for our employees," Mona Williams, Wal-Mart's vice president for communications, told the *New York Times*. "We want all of our associates to feel they are valued and treated with respect—no exceptions. And it's the right thing to do for our business."

With Wal-Mart's decision, nine of the ten largest Fortune 500 companies now have anti-discrimination policies protecting homosexuals, according to the Human Rights Campaign,

a gay rights group in Washington, D.C. The one company to abstain is Exxon Mobil.

Wal-Mart still does not provide medical coverage for domestic partners of its employees.

Wal-Mart, the nation's largest private employer, reportedly made the decision to alter the policy after a Seattle-based gay rights group called Pride Foundation invested in the company's stock two years ago and proceeded to lobby for a change, the *New York Times* reported July 2. The Pride Foundation and several investment management firms holding stock in Wal-Mart met as shareholders with Wal-Mart officials to discuss the issue.

Williams said investors like the Pride Foundation had a role in the decision, but the most important factor was a letter to senior management from homosexual Wal-Mart employees saying they would "continue to feel excluded" if Wal-Mart did not change its policy. 

Wal-Mart's decision to hide the covers of racy magazines such as *Cosmopolitan*, *Glamour*, *Marie Claire*, and *Redbook* in check-out lines is a positive step toward providing a family-friendly shopping experience for shoppers of all ages.



Building a Foundation for Life

Living Forever

BY DWAYNE HASTINGS

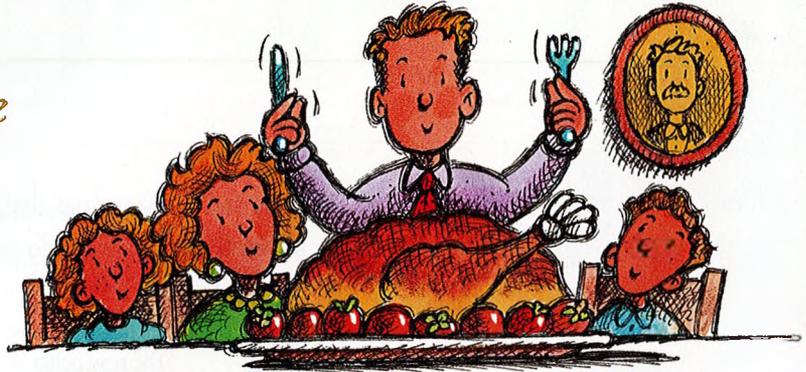
Growing up in Florida I had plenty of opportunities to capture bugs and hold them for observation.

I had some small, clear plastic boxes where I would put the insects so I could view them up close. Often I would forget and leave the little bugs in the box. When I remembered a few days later, they were no longer moving around. They were dead. I wasn't too sad about that since they were just bugs. But I remember once when I was visiting a friend's house and a car hit his dog. Unfortunately, the dog died. I was very sad about that.

Up to that time, I had never thought much about death. A few years later, a friend of mine in elementary school lost his father. He was a jet fighter pilot who died while trying to land on an aircraft carrier. I was very, very sad about that. I really didn't know what to think. I had never faced the death of a person that I knew.

Now I understand better about life and death. I understand that no one lives forever on this earth. But I understand that God has a plan for that. I understand He sent His Son, Jesus, to provide a way for us to have a forever life with Him in heaven.

I have an even better understanding now because recently my dad died after being sick for a little over a year. And while I know that no one can live forever on the earth, it still hurts when you lose someone you love. Even though now I have children of my own, I miss my dad. I am grateful that God sent His Holy Spirit, who comforts us when we hurt even though we can't see Him. I like to talk to people about what a special man my Dad was. I also like to talk



As the holidays approach, we will be reminded how much we miss Dad. But though we hurt when we lose someone we love, we can be happy to know that, because of Jesus, we can live forever.

to people about how special it is to know Jesus because only through Him can we have victory over physical death.

I have to admit that I don't know how God does it, but I know the Bible is clear that real forever life is found in the fact that Jesus' tomb is empty. If you believe in Him, your future is in very good hands.

Bible truth: Place your trust in God, and you will live forever in heaven with Him.

Bible verse: Jesus said, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." (John 6:51)

RECOMMENDED WEB SITE

www.gotlife.com

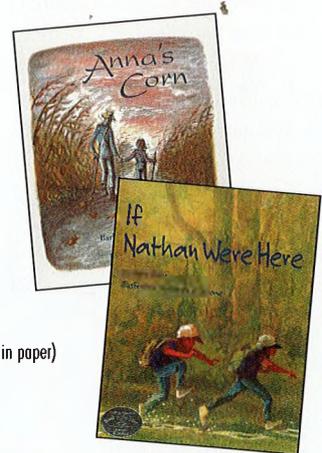
RECOMMENDED READING

Anna's Corn

By Barbara Santucci
Eerdman's Books for Young Readers
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If Nathan Were Here

By Mary Bahr
Eerdman's Books for Young Readers
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