

Connections

LINKING RHEMA GRADUATES AROUND THE WORLD



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Building Family
Relationships

RHEMA Alumni— It's All About YOU!

HOMECOMING FEBRUARY 18–23, 2007

You're invited
to *Homecoming*
2007—"Come
Home to Family!"

It's family reunion time on the RHEMA USA campus, and it won't be the same without you! As a graduate of RHEMA Bible Training Center, you are part of the RHEMA family, and whether you were here last year or haven't been back in eons, it's time to come home.

Homecoming and *Winter Bible Seminar 2007* will be held February 18–23, 2007, and it promises to be one of the best RHEMA events ever. It's a time for you to be spiritually refueled and

refreshed. The theme for *Winter Bible Seminar 2007* is "Consecrated to the Call"—a week of meetings that will empower you, encourage you, and fire you up to be the best you can be in your life and ministry.

And for alumni, the week means even more, because you're *coming home* . . . returning to your roots, reuniting with your RHEMA family, seeing old friends and meeting new ones, making divine connections, and fellowshiping with people of like precious faith.

One of the highlights of *Homecoming* is the alumni fellowship, held on Monday night at the Ninowski Recreation Center, with great refreshments and lots of free prizes. This year, *Homecoming* is also very special if you're a RHEMA graduate of 1977, 1987, or 1997, as you'll celebrate your 30-, 20-, or 10-year reunion. There will be a special luncheon given in your honor. (We'll send more information soon about tickets for this event!) Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate with your former classmates and instructors.

Homecoming 2007 is all about YOU. Come home and enjoy a great week. We can't wait to see you!



WBS

HOMECOMING



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Here's what some of last year's attendees said:

"It's always wonderful to come home. This is our family and we need to come back and get strengthened. I already knew a lot of the things I heard, but I still needed a refreshing."

—Beverly

"We came to get reconnected and re-empowered, and we received what we came for!"

—Francisco and Liz

"What we get here at RHEMA is what produces fruit. You have to stay with what produces fruit, and that's why I stay connected with RHEMA. I know I'm part of the family. I belong."

—Darrell

WINTER BIBLE SEMINAR 2007

FEBRUARY 18–23
ON THE RHEMA USA CAMPUS

WBS
Winter Bible Seminar

FOR MORE INFORMATION—www.rhema.org/events



The Bottom Line

Letting God's Word Guide Our Personal Lives

DOUG JONES | RMAI/RAA Director

Recently, I attended the funeral of Rev. Brad Dawson, an RMAI pastor and District Director in Illinois. As I sat with the family, friends, church, and community during the service, it was very evident that this dear pastor was loved by his church and rural community.

So many things stand out in my memory about this service. But what grabbed my attention the most was that, even though the church and community were mentioned, the majority of the time was spent remembering *family* times.

Three of his four children spoke, and they recalled special times, funny times, and the like. But what caught my attention the most was that, in spite of the deep loss of their beloved father, each of them displayed an awareness—almost beyond their years—that they were to remain loyal to the beliefs that their father and mother had so tenderly placed within them over the years.

As the service progressed, Pastor Larry Millis encouraged those who did not know Brad's Jesus to accept Him into their life. But again, I found my mind drifting. As I considered the four children and Brad's wife, I thought, *What better testimony to be considered by anyone contemplating a relationship with our Lord than a family whose lives have been established on the precious instructions found within the Word of God?* The Dawson's were such a family.

God's Counsel in Our Homes

A family that has been established upon God's counsel will display a love, peace, and compatibility that cannot be created through any other means. Therefore, the question must be asked: how much have we allowed God's counsel to influence our relationships with those in our very homes?

It is not possible for a husband/wife team to experience a weak relationship when both embrace what our God has instructed us to do within the marriage union. We husbands are clearly instructed to love our wives. This demands that each husband be a love expert, knowing not only what love is, but also how to apply love in his relationship with his wife. Wives are instructed to reverence their husbands. This issue of reverence speaks of respect (Eph. 5:21–33).

The husband is to bring unconditional love into the marriage—implying that he is to love his wife even when she does not deserve to be loved. And the wife is to bring unconditional respect into the marriage—implying that she is to respect her husband even when he does not display qualities that foster respect. When we act in

this manner, we are giving God something to work with within our marriages.

When husbands and wives embrace the counsel of God individually, they will also create a platform upon which to raise well-balanced children. Kids who love God and people are the fruit of parents who have embraced the counsel of God in their marriage.

Well-Balanced Ministry

Similarly, when a family has been touched by a husband and wife who have chosen to make the Word their guide in their relationship, it creates a platform upon which a well-balanced church may be established.

First Timothy 3:1–7 indicates that the Apostle Paul believed our private lives create a platform for a successful public life in our churches. And what an influence a church will have when the families of those in leadership display evidence of following God's counsel in their personal lives!

As I sat in that funeral, I found myself feeling very proud of this man's family and church. Even though I really did not know them well, it was so evident that this little farming community had been touched by people who had embraced God's counsel in their personal lives. They had been touched by a man who allowed the Word to influence his relationship with his wife, by a husband/wife team who had allowed the Word to influence their relationship with their kids, and by a family who had allowed the Word to influence their care and presence in a little community in the heartland of America.

It is my prayer that as you read each article in this issue of *Connections*, you will be stirred to revisit the Word. Keep feeding on the counsel of God concerning your marriage (or choosing a mate) and your role as a parent, if you have children or plan to. When we follow His counsel in our private lives, we will be enabled to be effective ministers in our public life.

A fellow laborer,

Douglas E. Jones
RMAI/RAA National Director

Connections | fall/winter 2006, vol. XXXI, no. 2

Connections is published biannually by RHEMA Bible Church, AKA Kenneth Hagin Ministries, a nonprofit corporation, in association with the RHEMA Bible Training Center Alumni Association.

Editorial offices: 1025 W. Kenosha • Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

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Send all U.S. mail to: *Connections* • P.O. Box 50126 • Tulsa, Oklahoma 74150-0126

Address Corrections Requested

Did you know that every time *Connections* is mailed, hundreds of copies are returned to us? Those undelivered copies represent all the alumni who won't receive their copy of *Connections* because they haven't notified us of an address change!

Each returned copy of *Connections* costs this ministry approximately \$1.50 in postage and handling. So please—write or call us when you have an address change, and help us curb waste and unnecessary expense!

Thank you for your help!

A photograph of a man and a woman holding hands. The man is on the right, wearing a blue and white striped shirt and grey pants. The woman is on the left, wearing a pink shirt and blue pants. They are standing outdoors with a clear blue sky and green foliage in the background. The image is framed by an orange border on the left and bottom.

Marriage as a Firm Foundation:

Tips for Marrieds and Singles

How can Christians keep their marriages strong? How should we prepare for marriage? What happens when Christians have struggles in marriage? Chances are, you or someone you know is facing questions just like these right now. The good news is, there are answers. Be encouraged as you read what your fellow RHEMA alumni have to say about married and single life.



Jason ('95, '99) and Jill ('99) Shingleton have been married for 10 years and have three daughters. Jason

decided to get married. According to Jill, Jason's mother was praying for them. "She said later that God told her, 'Pray for her like she was your own daughter.' When we didn't know what to do, Jason's parents were being led by the Holy Ghost."

Walking It Out

After the wedding, Jason and Jill moved back to Tulsa, and they struggled. In fact, they almost split up for good. It wasn't until they moved back to Indiana with Jason's parents that things got better.

"We moved into the house next door to my parents' church," says Jason, "and began to faithfully attend. We became the janitors, with no thoughts of ministry. We just put our hand to something, sat under teaching, and got around people who could speak into our lives. There was a time of restoration."

Jill's life changed drastically when she began to be a doer of what she was hearing. "I would say, 'Okay God, I need you to show me how to mend this, because I'm part of the problem.' I was a very self-centered person before. But I allowed God to change me."

is the associate and youth pastor at Faith Outreach Family Church in Terre Haute, Indiana, and Jill is the praise and worship leader. Today, they have a very strong marriage.

But it hasn't always been that way. Jason and Jill met in July 1994 and got married in February 1996 . . . but in between those years, they got pregnant and had a baby, he had to leave RHEMA, and they called off a wedding. It was a long, tough journey to where they are today.

"My life was a mess," says Jill. "I came from a very dysfunctional home. I didn't have anyone to teach me right from wrong." And while Jill had no church background, Jason was a pastor's son. "I was going to church, but I was not living it," he says.

Jason and Jill separated briefly. Their baby was born, and they

Persevering Through Trouble / Jason and Jill Shingleton /

- **Learn to forgive and forget past hurts.** "I think to move forward in any kind of a lasting relationship, you just have to forgive and forget things that happened in the beginning," says Jill. "Then, in angry moments, you can say, 'Let's not do this. It's not worth it; we've already come through so much. I'm sorry.'"
- **Get involved as a family in your church.** "That's been a big key for us," says Jason, "making God the center of our lives. Don't just go to church but be involved, and be *doers* of the Word that you hear."
- **Surround yourself with godly influences.** "What makes you strong and makes your roots deep is who you surround yourself with," says Jason. "The right people can help build you up."

Jason adds, "We just had to make a decision that we were going to follow God and refuse to quit. There is absolutely a blessing in persevering. The grass is not greener on the other side. The Word works! If we'll do our part, God is always faithful."



Wyatt ('78) and Debbie ('87, '88) Brown have been married for 24 years and have two sons. They were in the full-time itinerant ministry

ideas about what makes a happy marriage.

"We made an agreement when we first started dating," says Wyatt, "that words are powerful. We've never called each other a derogatory name, and whenever we have a disagreement, we fight fair, doing our best to try to understand the other person's position. We think of the Lord as our referee. We've done that now throughout our whole marriage."

"We have differences of opinion about things," agrees Debbie, "but we take care of it as it comes. I tell people that if

you have a problem with your spouse, the person to tell is your spouse, not your mother, or your friend, or your sister. It's only going to get worked out if you tell your spouse. So if I have a problem with Wyatt, I tell Wyatt. And after we have a discussion, we always say, 'Are you good in your heart toward me?'"

Wyatt adds, "That particular expression is something that's been a regular part of our whole relationship. After we've fought it out, we'll look at each other and say, 'Are you good in your heart now?' And we don't stop until the other one is."

Keys to a Happy Marriage / Wyatt and Debbie Brown /

- **Learn about each other.** "I have a passion to know Debbie, to learn her," says Wyatt. "I know how she likes her coffee and what her favorite kind of vacation is. I can tell you what makes her happy." Debbie adds, "We basically study each other."
- **Make your spouse feel loved.** "I've learned Wyatt's love languages on purpose," says Debbie. "They weren't my love languages. For example, I'm not a natural listener, so I have to make myself listen so he feels loved." Wyatt adds, "And I feel loved when she makes herself listen, because I know she's going against her natural preference."
- **Be kind.** "We just treat each other with plain old kindness," says Debbie. "You know, like Christians." Wyatt adds, "In our wedding vows, we promised to always use tender tones of affection. It's been the joke through the years to ask one another, 'Are those your tender tones?'"
- **Impress each other.** "My quest is that Wyatt would think I am the most wonderful woman who ever walked the face of the earth," says Debbie. "I try every day to impress him. I don't know if people just get to where they don't care anymore, but I haven't ever gotten to that point. I want to wow him. And he's like that with me."

Rod ('84, '88) and Rebecca ('88, '89) Sundholm have been married for 30 years and have three grown children. After being in ministry for 21 years and pastoring Word of Faith Christian Center in Aloha, Oregon, together for 16 years, Rod and Rebecca have learned some things about being in the ministry together.

"God called both of us," says Rod. "Sometimes a wife isn't called to the ministry, and that's fine. But my wife is called by God, so I've got to realize that. I'm not threatened by her—she's the one God gave me to help us build the ministry together."

Rod gives Rebecca much of the credit for their success. "Without her, we're just not in the ministry," he says. "One of the biggest reasons we work well together is that she's always given me the respect as the head pastor. She very seldom steps over those bounds."

Avoiding a Power Struggle

Rebecca says, "We don't have a power struggle because I submit to him. It's not a 'being run over' type of submission. We function together. Whenever I've seen couples out of balance, when the wife is doing all the talking or trying to dominate her husband, things get out of order. I've seen it create an insecurity in the husband, which then flows to the Body."



There was a time early in their marriage when Rebecca was more interested in the things of God than Rod was. "Back then, I was at the forefront of our spiritual household," she says, "and I remember that when Rod—nally, I had to start making adjustments. It wasn't easy because he wasn't making the right decisions all the time, but I knew I had to sit back and let his walk with God develop. I think a lot of times, when the woman is further ahead of the husband in the things of God, it's hard for her to learn to take the backseat."

Ministering Together

/ Rod and Rebecca Sundholm /

- **Be sure of your calling.** "You have to be sure you're called to the ministry," says Rod. "If you're insecure about that call, all the problems seem bigger, and your relationship deteriorates faster. We've seen situations where the wife is trying to call the husband to be a pastor. Then you have a man being dragged around by a woman who wants to be in the ministry, but there's no call."
- **Recognize the leadership structure.** "When it comes down to the final say in our church, he's the head," Rebecca says. "I acknowledge that and I don't strive with it. I'm a pastor, too, and the pastor's wife, but he's the head pastor. I'm alongside him, but I'm under him in authority and it works. It's an attitude of the heart."
- **Nurture your relationship.** "The bottom line is that Rebecca and I have to get along first as Christians, and then as husband and wife, before we can get along as pastors," says Rod. "Our first priority is to take care of our relationship with Jesus, and make sure we're loving and submitted to one another, and then let the ministry flow out of that."

Marriage Under Pressure // Dan and Melinda Koehler //



Dan ('86, '87) and Melinda ('84, '85) Koehler met and got married on the mission field, and they've spent their entire married life living in some very volatile areas of Africa. But their story can apply to any marriage under pressure.

"In Rwanda, we lived with flesh-eating rats, no water or electricity, daily murders, and terrible racial hatred," says Melinda. "When we moved there after being married just four years, it seemed like our marriage erupted because of the pressures. And our reaction, instead of supporting each other, was to lash out. I nagged him. He was rude and unresponsive to me. We became enemies under the same roof."

Melinda says she was so unhappy that she was ready to leave Dan, and she fervently cried out to God in prayer. But His answer surprised her. "I wanted Dan to do all the changing," she says, "but God said, 'You need to change.' And then He sent a pastor all the way from Michigan to minister to us."

Committed to Change

The pastor recommended two books by Gary Smalley, *If Only He Knew* and *For Better or for Best*, and the Koehlers read them together. Both Dan and Melinda were committed to making their marriage work, even though they didn't know how to do it. "The thing that has held our marriage together under pressure is commitment," says Dan. "I made a promise to God when I married and gave up all. I don't ask, 'Does she fill my needs?' I committed to love her."

"The books really helped us," says Melinda. "And the Lord showed me I couldn't change Dan or make him do the things I wanted him to do. When I stopped nagging him, within two weeks, he was a whole different person! I found out he was a real jewel—I just didn't see it because we were fighting all the time."

Although life can still be full of pressures, their marriage is stronger than ever. "When we were both willing to change and obey God," says Melinda, "we went from hell on earth to Heaven on earth!"

In his book *His Rules* (co-authored with Pamela Toussaint), **Christopher Burge ('00, '01)** offers some advice for single people interested in marriage.

"Focus on developing your character and cultivating the fruit of the Spirit in your life," says Chris. "Know what God wants you to do with your life. If you want a fabulous, godly mate, you must become a fabulous, godly person first."



Any marriage will only be as strong as your fellowship with God. "God wants to be first in your life," says Chris. "If you don't know Him and His high-quality brand of love for you, you will not know what to look for in a spouse. Only in His presence can you experience true joy."

'Called' to Be Single?

In her book *Single and Loving It*, **Kate McVeigh ('86, '87)** agrees with Chris. "Don't let being single hold you back

from becoming all you can be in God," she says. "Make it your goal to be single and successful in this season of your life. It's important to always remember that true joy comes from God alone, and not from being married."



Kate adds, "I've met a lot of single people who ask me, 'What if I'm called to be single?' and they say it with fear in their voice. I just want you to know, if you want to be married,

then you're not *called* to be single!

"Psalm 34:7 says, '*Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.*' Notice the first part of that verse. We should not allow our thinking to be so consumed with wanting to be married that we miss what God has for us in this season of our life. You can never go back in time. So enjoy the season that you're in right now, and keep pressing into God."

Tips for Singles

/ Christopher Burge

and Kate McVeigh /



From Chris:

- **Get a clue about real relationships.** "The majority of us spend much more time planning our 5-hour wedding day than we do preparing for how we're going to live under the same roof with another imperfect person for the rest of our lives. Make the decision now to allow God's voice to become louder than your emotional fantasies or your false expectations."
- **Be ready in advance.** "Marriage will not solve your problems; it will only expose them. Just like salvation, marriage is a perfect gift, but since we imperfect humans are involved, we must work at it with fear and trembling. That work begins now! If you clean out the grimy corners in your life *now*, you won't bring lingering problems into your marriage."
- **Date like a Christian.** "Many singles have no clue how to function as a Christian in a dating or courting environment. Too many of us do what everyone else in the secular dating scene is doing. God's not getting relationship rules from *Sex and the City*, so why are you? Commit to learning what God says about how to conduct yourself."

From Kate:

- **Get busy with your vision.** "We need to live our single life as though we're never going to get married, but we believe that we are. Just like we're to live as if Jesus is coming tomorrow, but we have to prepare as if He may not come in our lifetime. Don't wait for a mate to do the things that God has put in your heart. Get busy fulfilling your vision."
- **Work for God.** "The Bible says that people who aren't married can spend their time doing the Lord's work and pleasing Him, while married people have to think more about how to please their spouse (1 Cor. 7:32-35). As singles, we can be a big blessing to our church and to the Kingdom of God."
- **Don't settle.** "Be sure to seek God instead of seeking a mate (Matt. 6:33). The Book of Ruth is a good reminder that when God rewards you, He does better than anything you could do for yourself. God has a Boaz waiting for you, so don't settle for Bozo!"

mkoehler@slmint.org

When You're Under Pressure



/ Dan and Melinda Koehler /

- **Look to yourself.** "I think that too often, one partner can get too prideful or stubborn to admit they need to bend or change," says Melinda. "When I started treating Dan with love, stopped nagging, and did everything I could to make him happy, our marriage turned around quickly." Dan adds, "I take every precaution to make sure that I fulfill my commitment to our marriage. I guard my integrity and give no place to the devil."
- **Watch your words.** "When people feel trapped in marriage, they lash out because of the hurt," says Melinda. "My big mistake was in threatening Dan, saying things like, 'I'm going to divorce you.' God told me, 'Stop using the word *divorce* because it's not an option for you.' I was destroying my own marriage with my words, and I didn't know it!"
- **Ask for help.** "Unless you admit you have a problem, you can't start to fix it," says Melinda. "Don't be afraid to ask someone for help. When the pastor came from Michigan, he could see we were hurting, so we just laid it on the line and told him, 'We're struggling.' He ministered to us and gave us the information we needed."

Marriage in the Golden Years // Neal and Louise Root //



Neal and Louise Root ('92, '93) have been in ministry together most of their married life. They are now retired and living in Florida, and both of them say that God's Word is the key to success in their marriage.

"I'd say the way to have a strong marriage is to put the Word of God into your life and do what it says," says Neal. "Because marriage is work, and if you don't apply the Word, you haven't done your homework."

"We used to administer personality profiles and do marital counseling," he continues. "I would make the men quote First Corinthians 13:4-8 and have them apply those principles to their lives. You can't have a good marriage unless you put the Word of God into you and then believe it and speak it over your life. That's what we did with the people we counseled with, and that's what we've done in our own lives."

Keys to a Long-Lasting Marriage / Neal and Louise Root /

- **Aim to be a mature believer.** "I felt like the Holy Spirit showed me that mature believers *give*," says Louise. "So when Neal and I started applying some of these principles from the Word, we got in a fun kind of competition with one another—who was really going to be more mature in this relationship and walk in the Word of God? It takes a continuous renewing of your mind and putting your flesh down to be changed into the image of Father God."
- **Enjoy things in common.** "We have a lot of things we do like to do together," says Louise. "We're enjoying retired life immensely. We golf, we swim, and we like to ride bicycles." Neal adds, "If you don't have things in common, or you're not willing to give up things for the other person, marriage won't work."
- **Be humble and do what's right.** "There are always things you'd do differently," says Neal. "But I really believe if you get the Word in you and humbly let God direct you, you can have a good marriage. I humble myself and let the Holy Spirit reveal things to me that I don't understand. Like women. No man understands women! Our job is not to try to figure them out, but just to do what's right for us to do."

Our Children Are Watching Us // Doug Jones //



After seeing our children through their teenage years, suddenly my wife and I are confronted with the 'give them wings' stage of our family's life. So many emotions ebbed and flowed as Steven, our first child, moved away, and the reality of his absence began to sink in.

Now instead of face-to-face communication, we are left with phone calls and e-mails. So when a letter came in the mail, we were somewhat caught off guard by its content. This wasn't just any letter—it was a *thank-you* letter.

In the letter, Steven thanked his mother and me for how we had treated each other. He thanked us for the love and care we had shown him and his sister while we were raising them. He mentioned how grateful he was for the example we provided him concerning nurturing relationships with our family, friends, and the like.

But what caught my attention more than anything else was the fact that there was not one thank-you about anything that I had *said* to him over the years.

As parents, we long for our kids to remember what we have said to them. But in reality, it's how we *behave* that our children will remember, long after they have forgotten the man-to-man or woman-to-woman talks that we had with them.

As parents, we must remember that *our kids are watching us more than they are listening to us*. So I encourage you to ask yourself: How am I doing with my treatment of my spouse? How do I talk to my spouse? What kind of memories will my kids carry away concerning my attitudes and conduct toward those I work for? What will my current behavior toward the Word and the church paint upon the canvas of my children's hearts?

Therefore, I encourage you—revisit the previous articles that are filled with tips and ideas from members of your RHEMA family. Ask yourself: if I implement this idea, what kind of memories will it produce in my kids' lives in the years ahead? It is our prayer that you live with the consciousness that our kids are watching us—let's give them something great to watch.

reflections

tips for Troubled Marriages

- **Go to the Word.** So often, we look to other sources first for help, but God's Word provides the only suitable foundation for our lives. Study Ephesians 5, First Peter 2 and 3, First Corinthians 13:4–8, and First Corinthians 7 to understand what God requires of you in your marriage. Study the verses that pertain to you, not to your spouse—in other words, husbands should look at the verses written to husbands, and wives should look at the verses written to wives, not vice-versa.
- **Ask yourself, “What can I do?”** When you're having trouble in your marriage, it's not about correcting the other person or finding fault. It's a time for self-examination and changes that you might be able to make in your relationship. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in adding healthy ingredients into your marriage. Maybe you can change the way you're talking to your spouse, or the way you're acting.
- **Pray for your spouse.** Matthew 5:44 and Luke 6:28 tell us how we should respond when people treat us badly: *“Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.”* Make sure you're not hating, but rather walking in love. First Corinthians 13:8 says, *“Love never fails.”*

Great books on marriage:

- **Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage**

by Kenneth E. Hagin

- **Marriage on the Rock**

by Jimmy Evans

- **Love & Respect**

by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs

- **His Needs, Her Needs:
Building an Affair-Proof Marriage**

by Willard F. Harley Jr.

- **Love Is a Choice**

by Robert Hemfelt, Frank Minirth, and Paul Meier

Web site resources:

- www.hnormanwright.com
- www.marriagebuilders.com
- www.prepare-enrich.com
- www.loveandrespect.com
- www.marriagetoday.org
- www.fivelovelanguages.com

- **Know your limits.** If you can't see things clearly because you're so closely involved, there's no shame in asking for help. It's never unwise to seek out pastoral advice.

- **Search out teaching.** Perhaps your church has had a marriage seminar—get the CDs or DVDs and listen to them. Find teaching materials from other resources, too, so you can feed on them. They will help you gain a new perspective on your marriage.

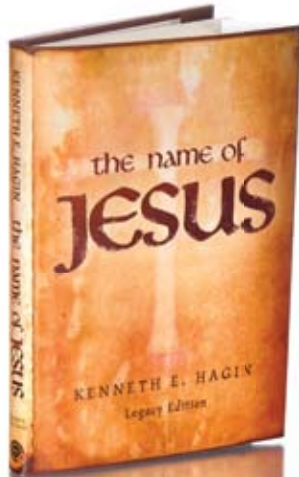
- **If infidelity is involved,** a good resource is www.marriagebuilders.com. This Web site offers an online program that couples can work through together.

- **When one spouse wants to work on the marriage but the other one doesn't:** Jimmy Evans, in his book *Marriage on the Rock*, has two excellent chapters that address this issue. See chapters 14 and 15 titled “Building Alone.” Jimmy Evans' Web site is www.marriagetoday.org.



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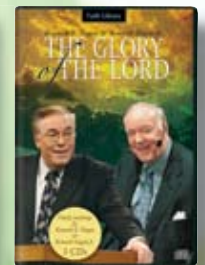
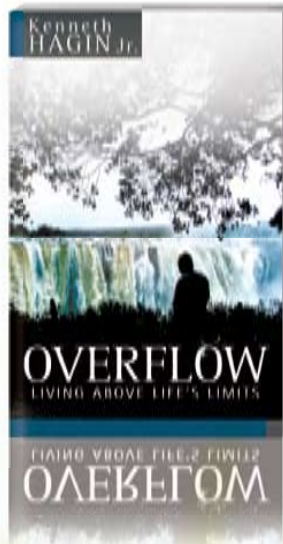


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Campmeeting Classics—Volume 2 (4 CDs) Kenneth E. Hagin,
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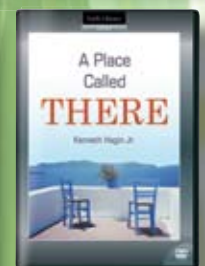
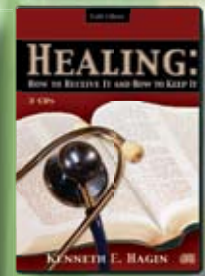
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blog (bläg/):

a journal written by one or more contributors, often about a particular topic with the latest news and ideas.

“As long as there’s one person in the world who does not know Christ, the church has a mandate to keep growing. Growth is not optional; it is commanded by Jesus. We should not seek church growth for our own benefit, but because God wants people saved.”

—Rick Warren,

The Purpose-Driven Church

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children’s ministry

➔ joe and julie overholt ('95, '96) say . . .

Plan a Wintertime Vacation Bible School. During the “cabin fever” months of February or March when kids are tired of being cooped up indoors because of the cold, we have great success with our *Beach Bible School*/VBS. It’s a summer theme and everyone wears shorts. We convert the whole sanctuary, bring in motorcycles, wading pools, and real fish to decorate. We play with water guns and do all sorts of beach games. The kids have a great time, and many are saved and baptized in the Holy Spirit.

about . . . Joe and Julie Overholt pastor Church on the Move in Massillon, Ohio. massillonchurchonthemove@yahoo.com

➔ lizetta crittle ('95, '96) says . . .

Children’s Witnessing Tool. In the Philippines, we teach our children to share the Gospel by using the five fingers on their hand. We call it “Give Me Five.” The thumb is: (1) “I have sinned.” The pointer finger is (2) “God loves me.” The middle finger is: (3) “Jesus died for me.” The ring finger is: (4) “I accept Jesus as my personal Savior.” And the little finger is: (5) “I have eternal life.”



about . . . Lizetta Crittle is a missionary in Samar, Philippines.

➔ dwight collins ('95, '96) says . . .

Bless the Children. At the beginning of every summer, we hold a free fair. We give away food and donate prizes for contests like the Hula Hoop and Football Toss. There are less than 100 people in our church, but over half the adults get involved. Our goal is to touch the lives of children and attract families who don’t attend church. Our best tip: set up a registration table to collect follow-up information and issue name tags children must have in order to eat or participate in contests. Our follow-up is conducted through phone calls and home visits.



about . . . Dwight and Jean Collins pastor Risen Christ Family Church in Duncanville, Texas. www.risenchristfamily.org

alumni blog youth ministry

john edwards ('97, '98) says . . .



Hold a College Outreach. My son, Lee, attends the University of Alabama and another one of my church members, Matt Collins, plays football there. So every Monday I go to Matt's apartment for a discipleship group. Over the school year, different kids started coming until the apartment is now full. It's my favorite ministry of the week. It may even grow into a second church.

about . . . John and Connie Edwards pastor Hillside Church in Trussville, Alabama. www.hillsideclay.com

doug and laura foutty ('87) say . . .

Prom Dresses and the Gospel. We have an annual prom dress event. People donate their once-worn prom dresses or wedding dresses, local shops donate brand-new dresses, and right before the high school prom, we have a big party. Girls start lining up at 6:30 in the morning. A Christian boutique owner in town holds a fashion show, comments about modesty, and introduces the Gospel. We staple the plan of salvation in teen lingo on every dress, and sell the outfits for \$10 each, including shoes and jewelry. Last year, 400 people attended—about 220 girls with parents and boyfriends, too.



about . . . Doug and Laura Foutty pastor Faith Fellowship Church in Washington, West Virginia. foutty@casinternet.net

alumni blog outreaches

john brady ('81, '82) says . . .

Men's Ministry. How do you get men to fellowship? We use paintball! On six acres donated to the church, our guys got together and made a rugged paintball course, complete with a picnic area. The church sold memberships to men (\$40 a year), bought some guns and insurance (not hard), and now, at least twice a month, we have guys out there playing. It has allowed for ministry to take place individually and corporately.



about . . . John and Terry Brady pastor Church of the Good Shepherd in McAllen, Texas. www.cotgs.com

andy white ('89, '91) says . . .

Bring the Church Into People's Homes. People don't have time to read a lot anymore, so we send out news flashes to our congregation on e-mail, maybe two or three a month. An e-mail can be simple or graphically advanced. It could have the pastor's picture and a quick note of encouragement, and be sent to different groups like youth or leadership or families. You might send out a message to families, such as "Here's a family idea for this week" or "Remember the special meeting." Or you could go through Ephesians one verse at a time, and send it to everyone. These communications bring your church into your congregation's homes during the week.

about . . . Andy and JoAnn White pastor Faith Family Church in Chandler, Arizona. www.faithfc.org

mary lasarski says . . .

Outreach to Young Mothers. We use a curriculum called "Earn While You Learn" (www.atcmag.com/v4n3/article2.asp). It's designed so



that young mothers can meet one-on-one with a mentoring mom once a week or so. There are video lessons covering things like fetal development, good nutrition, car seat safety, etc. As the girls do these lessons or attend church, they acquire points that they can use to buy things at our church store, from baby clothes and formula to toys, car seats, and cribs.

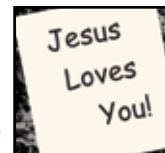
about . . . Mary Lasarski is a member of Contact Church of Christ in Tulsa, OK. www.contactchurch.net

jack yurus ('92, '93) says . . .

Keep Church Members Informed. We have around 100 people in our church, and we use a virtual office called *CommuniKate* (www.katebww.com). The price is \$25 a month. It has a lot of features, but basically, I call and leave a verbal message I want to send to people. *CommuniKate* can send an e-mail out to everyone in my church, or receive messages from them. It's how they can keep in touch with me. I can send to different recipients like the youth group or women's ministry. When the members open their e-mail, they hear my recorded voice, and I remind them of services or special events. I try to do it at least once a week.

about . . . Jack and Marilyn Yurus pastor Hudson Valley Family Church in Elmsford, New York. www.hvfc.org

john guffin ('95, '96) says . . .



Itinerant Ministry Outside the Box. With a church in

Memphis, we held an outdoor service on a Saturday morning. We set up outside the church building and had music and preaching. Many people in the neighborhood sat in their driveways to listen. On the Saturday before Easter, we went to a busy intersection and held signs that said, "Don't give up. Your miracle is on the way" and "Jesus loves you." The idea was to get people's minds on God right before the busiest church day of the year, Easter.

about . . . John and Susan Guffin travel out of Olive Branch, Mississippi. jsrguffin@juno.com

➔ **dennis michael ('95, '96) says . . .**



Use Your Passion. We use radio-controlled model airplanes and the story of the Wright Brothers to promote education and faith. We travel the country, conducting non-religious air shows during the day in public elementary schools, thrilling the kids with acrobatic airplanes and high-speed racing jets. Then, in the evening, our team opens up the free air show to the community, where we incorporate a story about the Wright Brothers and how their faith in God and their Christian upbringing instilled in them high moral values.

about . . . Dennis Michael is president of Godspeed Flight Demonstration Team, Inc. www.goGodspeed.com

➔ **buddy bell ('78) says . . .**

Live Broadcasts on the Internet. We've been doing live streaming on the Internet, and sermons can be uploaded to any Web site, all for less than \$40 a month (www.SayItBetterLive.com). Powerful Web-based video creation tools can do everything from creating original video content to coordinating and broadcasting a live event. It's a great way to share the Gospel using today's latest technologies.

about . . . Buddy and Kathy Bell travel full-time as Ministry of Helps Intl., Inc. www.mohi.org

➔ **bob and bobbie cook ('00, '01) say . . .**



Make a Place for Fellowship. Our church is in a strip mall, so we've made the whole front of it into a café that's open to the public. We have Christian entertainment there on Friday nights and Christian karaoke every couple of months. The whole idea is to make a place for fellowship and inviting people. You can go to church and sit in a pew but never develop relationships unless there's fellowship. We plan to expand, and our goal is to be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

about . . . Bob and Bobbie Cook pastor His Place For You in Canton, Ohio. www.hisplace4u.com

blog outreaches

➔ **gwyn and dot waycaster ('82, '83) say . . .**

Reach Out to People in Need. We did several outreaches to people in our area who were affected by Hurricane Katrina, but these outreaches can be used anywhere that people are in need. After we helped people get shelter and furniture for new homes, we also had a "Love Your Neighbor" Sunday, with a worship service and potluck meal for everyone. Afterwards we played games together and just loved on people. We will probably continue that activity annually. We also had a "Wrap Sunday," where everyone in our congregation brought nice coats to give away, and a "Whatnot Sunday," where we brought things that evacuees could use to decorate a house. We gave Christmas gifts to teens and kids, telling them, "We're here to help you because God loves you."



about . . . Gwyn and Dot Waycaster pastor Storehouse Church in McComb, Mississippi. www.storehousechurchusa.org

➔ **ron stauch ('87, '88) says . . .**

There's Help for Praise and Worship. We don't have a music minister or musicians right now, so we have started using praise and worship DVDs from Integrity (www.iworshipnow.com). We run the DVDs through a computer and project the video and words on a screen. You can use the DVDs with vocals, with a split track, just the background vocals, or just the instrumentals. There are several sets, even for shorter or longer services. This system is very versatile, and our people are entering into worship more than ever. They're excited about it.

about . . . Ron and Gen Stauch pastor Victory Life Christian Center in Xenia, Ohio. Ncpd2320@aol.com

➔ **mark boer ('88, '89) says . . .**

Work With Other Churches. We're part of "Mission Media," 80 local Christian churches united to get the Gospel out through TV, radio, print, etc. (www.missionmedia.com). We present a unified front, not just promoting our own churches. In each commercial, the pastor invites people to his church or "any of the other Christian churches in the valley." The past two Christmases, we have held *The Grace Gift Parable* with a budget of about \$10,000 donated by churches and businesses. First, we paid for people's parking tickets at City Hall. Last year, we gave a free tank of gas to single parents. Both these outreaches received national news coverage.



about . . . Mark and Amy Boer pastor Life Church in Boise, Idaho. www.lifechurchboise.com

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building your library

RHEMA instructors' favorite reads



👉 cooper beaty says . . .

The Complete Idiot's Guide® to Jewish History and Culture by Rabbi Benjamin Blech. The Jews have given me my Bible and my Savior (Rom. 9:4–5). Therefore, I'm interested in their history and the many benefits the world has received from them. **The New Manners and Customs of Bible Times** by Ralph Gower. After I visited Israel in 1974, my Bible came alive. That trip, combined with the information in this book, has with the help of the Holy Spirit given me a much clearer understanding when I study the Bible.

about . . . Cooper Beaty graduated from RBTC in 1975 and has been an instructor since 1977. He teaches *Old Testament Survey*, *History of the Bible*, *Church History*, and *Creative Teaching Principles*. This year, he celebrated his 89th birthday.



👉 jeanne orrison says . . .

In His Steps by Charles M. Sheldon. This book totally impacted my life as a Christian. I have read and reread it and never tire of it. It challenges me as a Christian to live the life of love. **The Life of St. Paul** by James Stalker. This book impacted my life as a teacher. It's a classic—absolutely superb. No one could say it better!

about . . . Jeanne Orrison is a 1983 graduate of RBTC and has been an instructor since 1998. She teaches *Old Testament Men of Faith* and *New Testament Survey*.



👉 brent bailey says . . .

The Journey Toward Relevance by Kary Oberbrunner. Many Christians seem to gravitate toward two extremes: they either separate themselves entirely from the culture around them, or conform to it in an attempt to be relevant. This book gives a real definition of relevance. It's not about being just like the world, or being removed from it—true relevance lies somewhere in the middle. **Understanding Your Potential/Releasing Your Potential/Maximizing Your Potential** by Dr. Myles Munroe. All three of these books really opened my eyes about what God has put in me to do! The potential inside me is the ability to fulfill my purpose in life, and if it never gets used, it just remains potential. If we die with our potential intact, we haven't done everything we could have done.

about . . . Brent Bailey is a 1993 graduate of RBTC and is currently the Senior High Youth Pastor at RHEMA Bible Church. He teaches *Communicating With Today's Youth*, as well as other youth classes.

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RBTC/RBC UPDATE

New Dean, Pastoral Staff Members, and Instructors



Rev. Marvin Yoder ('83, '84)—*New Dean of RBTC*

Marvin Yoder has pastored several churches and traveled extensively as an itinerant minister. He also served as the dean of a Bible school in Illinois. He became Assistant Dean of RBTC in 1998, Dean of Students in 2002, and an associate pastor at RHEMA Bible Church in 2005. He became Dean of RBTC this year when former Dean Gary Crowl left for the mission field in China. Dean Yoder teaches *Pulpit Speech*, *Ministerial Excellence*, *Bible Interpretation*, and *Personal Growth Strategies*, as well as directing and teaching several classes for the RHEMA School of Pastoral Ministry.



Rev. Jay Hoskins ('92, '93)—*New RBC Pastoral Staff Member, New RBTC Instructor*

Jay Hoskins has been in the ministry for 16 years, traveling extensively both nationally and internationally as a speaker for churches, seminars, crusades, and Bible schools. He and his wife, Tammy, joined the staff of RHEMA Bible Church as Singles Pastors in March 2006. Rev. Hoskins teaches *Submission and Authority* and *Traveling Ministry*.



Rev. Dave White ('92, '93)—*New RBC Pastoral Staff Member, New RBTC Instructor*

Dave White has worked with children for the past 26 years, including four years as a youth and children's pastor, and 11 years as a social worker for an adoption agency. He is the new Children's Pastor at RHEMA Bible Church, joining the staff in March 2006. Rev. White teaches *Ministry to Elementary Children*, *Children's Ministry Fundamentals*, and *Elementary Lab*, and co-teaches *Support Staff in the Local Church*.



Rev. Joseph Sprowl ('83, '84)—*New RBTC Instructor*

Joe Sprowl has pastored four churches (pioneering three of them) in Michigan, Kansas, Texas, and Ohio. He has also ministered internationally, teaching at a Bible school in Germany and doing street ministry in the United Kingdom. Rev. Sprowl is the Director of Student Housing, and teaches *Ministry Gifts* and *Church Strategies*.



Mr. Norwood Bishop ('03, '04)—*New RBTC Instructor*

Norwood Bishop has traveled and ministered to pastors and congregations across the U.S. He and his wife, Dixie, have owned and operated several successful businesses, with as many as 180 employees and \$20 million in revenue. He has also traveled internationally, building 17 glass fiber plants in 15 different countries. Mr. Bishop teaches *People Skills* and *Project Management*.



Rev. Kim Postell ('03, '04)—*New RBTC Instructor*

Kim Postell served as a children's pastor in Montgomery, Alabama, after graduating from RBTC. She and her husband, Frankie, have owned several businesses, and Kim currently serves as the Assistant Children's Pastor at RHEMA Bible Church, joining the staff in July 2005. She teaches *Ministry to Preschool Children* and *Preschool Lab*.

Raising Godly Children:

Keeping
Your
Family
Strong

There are no perfect parents, and no perfect children, but God has answers for every family! He has called us to raise our children in the way they should go and to be an example to a lost and hurting world. Here are some things RHEMA alumni have learned about keeping their families strong.

Getting a Kid Back on Track // Ed and Sherrie Gutfeld //

Allen Gutfeld is a gifted musician, and when he entered his teenage years, he joined a band to play electric guitar. But that was also when—even after growing up in church—he began to fall away from God. His parents, **Ed and Sherrie (Brusseau) Gutfeld ('77)**, pastors of Victory Christian Center in San Rafael, California, were understandably concerned.

“In Allen’s eighth-and ninth-grade years, he listened to a lot of dark music,” says Sherrie. “He was a pretty melancholy kid who wasn’t real vocal about his feelings, and there was a depression brewing in him. Listening to that music and to the kids around him just bred hopelessness. He had no interest in church, and when he did come, he was very disconnected—he sat in the back and folded his arms or took a nap.”

Ed adds, “He would sit back there with his black eye make-up on and marks on his arms from self-mutilation, and Sherrie and I would be embarrassed. But we just kept believing God. I knew he was going to be all right—I knew he was

called to preach. I think it was the gift of faith that God put in my heart.”

The Gutfelds also prayed. “There were times when the Lord would have me go right into his bedroom and just begin to pray against the forces of darkness,” says Sherrie. “We never gave up hope.”



Then one day in the middle of Allen’s sophomore year in high school, a guest minister came to preach at the Gutfelds’ church.

“He began to prophesy over Allen,” says Sherrie, “and Allen just began to weep. The Lord told him He was going to bring revival to his life, and that would light a revival in his school and around the world.”

Ed and Sherrie’s stand of faith brought forth fruit. From that point on, Allen rededicated his life to God and everything changed. He became instrumental in a revival at his school and has been overseas to minister several times. Now in his 20s, Allen has proven himself as an anointed leader and minister.



When it comes to raising kids and being in the ministry, **Mike Kalstrup** ('78) and his wife, Joan, know what they're talking about. They've been married 29 years, in ministry for 28, and have raised three children.

Their oldest son, Brian, is one of their associate pastors at Fellowship of Faith Christian Center, the church they pioneered 28 years ago in Oakland, Iowa. Their middle son, Greg, is 25 and works in music and audio/video at a church in Hobbs, New Mexico. Their daughter, Amy, is 19 and still lives at home. How did they keep their family and ministry priorities straight?

"One of the decisions we made when we first started the church was that we would not offer our kids on the altar of ministry," says Mike. "We weren't going to neglect their needs in favor of pastoring. You can have a great ministry and great kids, but the kids have to be a priority."

He continues, "As our kids were growing up, we always made it a point to attend the events they were involved in, as opposed to making a choice between what they were doing and some church activity. In the mind of a kid, if the church gets chosen over what's important to them, they can have a tendency to resent the church."

Joan agrees. "We have always made our family a priority, so we made sure we spent time with them. A person only has so much free time, and we just chose to spend it with our family instead of filling it up with other social events that excluded our kids."

↓ Balancing Ministry and Parenting

/ Mike and Joan Kalstrup /

- **Support your kids' interests.** "All three of our kids were involved in athletics," says Mike, "so whenever those events happened, we made sure at least one of us was there to support our children. We actually scheduled church events around our kids' activities, so there wouldn't be conflict. I think it's important to take an interest in *their* interests and then make priorities."
- **Be available to listen.** "Because of hectic schedules as the kids got older, we couldn't always eat together or schedule family nights," says Joan. "So we took time when time presented itself. I had some of the greatest conversations with my kids when they came home at midnight, sitting around in the kitchen. I'd just listen to them when they were ready to talk, instead of forcing them to talk when they weren't ready. I'd walk through that door when it was open, and be available to listen to them."
- **Take the pressure off.** "Allow your children to be who they are," says Joan, "and don't try to make them be somebody because their parents are in the ministry. Ministers often have unreasonable expectations of their children, and that can be a difficult spot for them to be in." Mike adds, "We tried to protect our kids from that. We let them be who they were, and we reinforced that through conversations about respecting the role they had as our kids, but at the same time giving them the liberty to be themselves."

vcc@cfaith.com

↓ Working Toward a Turnaround

/ Ed and Sherrie Gutfeld /

- **Stay as close as possible.** "One of the really important things we did was to stay close to him," says Sherrie. "A lot of kids separate themselves from their parents. But we always encouraged his friends to come to our house, and we cooked for them. We didn't lecture or preach to them; we just wanted to make Allen feel comfortable and welcome his friends."
- **Apply spiritual principles.** "I would plead the Blood over Allen," says Sherrie. "You don't know all the details of what's going on or everything they're involved in, but you can always plead the Blood over them." Ed adds, "We did what people of faith do. We confessed the Word over him. I just encourage parents to never give up on their kids, because God is faithful."
- **Find something to support.** "Allen loved the guitar and skateboarding," says Ed, "so we really invested time and money and interest in the things he had a passion for. We tried to support him and did everything we could to help him succeed at those things. That was important to him, and it also gave us a way to stay involved with him."

tips for Family

In today's society, families are often too fragmented. The great challenge parents have is in limiting a child's activities (sports, music, lessons) so the whole family can have balanced time together. A good way to create unity is to set aside one night a week as family night. It doesn't matter what you do, as long as you're with each other. Find at least one activity that everyone can participate in together, whether it's martial arts, animal breeding, NASCAR, or some other adventure.

For Single Parents // Karen Jensen //

When Karen Jensen's husband, **Brent ('83, '84)**, died suddenly in 1997, she was left to raise her sons, Josh and Ryan (then ages 12 and 13), and pastor a church alone.

"I learned a lot!" Karen says. "Now my sons are 22 and 23 years old, serving God and fulfilling His plan for their lives, and I can say this:



God is faithful! We may be surprised by where we find ourselves (most of us never planned to be single parents), but God is never surprised. He's been to our future and back, and He has a great plan for every family."

When Karen teaches on parenting, she emphasizes surrounding children with faith. "Anyone can believe what they see," she says. "It takes spiritual effort to be-

lieve what God says about our children and keep them surrounded with faith and love instead of fear and doubt. That means when our kids are acting wrong, we don't wring our hands and say what we're seeing. Instead, we meditate on God's Word until it looks more real than the circumstances, and speak it over our kids—no matter what we see."

She adds, "As Christians, we're not supposed to agree with the circumstances. We're supposed to call those things that be not yet as though they were (Rom. 4:17). Whenever my kids are in trouble, I double up on my Word time. It helps me to see them as God sees them and understand that they're on a journey to a destiny. It helps me pray *for* them, not *at* them. It helps me speak the right things over them. God's Word never fails!"

↓ Tips for Parenting Alone

/ Karen Jensen /

- **Build a network.** "Even two parents don't have everything their children need to grow up well-rounded," says Karen. "It takes other adults, including teachers, friends, and grandparents, to add to your children's lives. So, believe God for those influences, and look for people to help you—in your church, extended family, neighborhood, and so on. Be around other people. Start a babysitting co-op or activity day with families you know. Expect divine ideas."
- **Keep the boundaries.** "I see a lot of single parents who, because they feel guilty, spoil their child to 'make it up to them,'" says Karen. "In the long run, that doesn't equip a child for life. Children want boundaries—correction and guidance—and it's our responsibility as parents to give them to them. The happiest, most successful children are those who grow up with boundaries."
- **Speak the Word.** "Here are some good scriptures to pray, believe, and speak over your children: Philippians 1:6, Jeremiah 29:11, Proverbs 22:6, First Thessalonians 5:24, Isaiah 54:13, Mark 9:23, Philippians 2:13, Hebrews 12:2, Ephesians 1:16–19, Ephesians 3:16–19, Philippians 1:9–11, and Colossians 1:9–11."

Remember, the family that plays together stays together!

Here are some suggestions for family fun.

- **Have a family picnic.** Spread out a blanket on the living room floor. (Make a fire if it's winter and you have a fireplace!) Have a "dinner picnic" by candlelight. Roast marshmallows for dessert.
- **Walk down memory lane.** Spend an evening looking at old photo albums, home movies, or boxes of memorabilia from your children's babyhood, your growing-up years, or even further back into the family history.
- **Camp out.** Have everyone sleep in the backyard! Or lay blankets on the ground and then lie down and look at the sky. Get a book from the library on constellations. (This is even fun in winter, as long as you have enough blankets and coats).
- **Fly a kite.** Buy a dollar kite, find a big open space, and take turns flying it. Remember the camera!

Fun on a Budget

- **Have a treasure hunt.** Hide a stuffed animal somewhere in the house (or yard) and write out clues that will help family members find it. Variation: Do a scavenger hunt. Make a list of things to gather, split into teams, and go around the neighborhood gathering items. Set a time limit. The team with the most items wins, and the losing team has to serve ice cream to the winning team.
- **Game night.** Playing table games together teaches children social skills and good sportsmanship. Let each child pick a different game. Variation: put a puzzle together.
- **Get artsy.** Buy some sidewalk chalk and draw all over the driveway together. Play games such as hopscotch or tic-tac-toe.
- **Go for a special treat.** Go out for dessert, but not somewhere you go all the time. Drive across town, and on the way, sing in the car, play a game, or have each person tell a story.
- **Play the reading game.** Have everyone gather together in one room with a book of their choice. Set a timer for 5 minutes, 15 minutes, or a half hour, depending on your children's ages. When the timer goes off, let everyone describe what they're reading about. Play as many rounds as you want.
- **Blow bubbles.** Use homemade bubbles or buy a supply from the dollar store. You can do this at the local park or by the lake.
- **Perform!** Have a family talent show. Everyone can play an instrument, sing, do pet tricks, read out loud, lip synch—whatever they're good at. If you have a video camera, tape the show and watch it together afterwards (or on a different night).
- **Dress up.** Mom and/or Dad should dress up too! The funnier the better. Take pictures. Have a tea party in your fancy outfits.
- **Enjoy an indoor/outdoor favorite.** Play hide-and-seek or kick the can.
- **Have a driving adventure.** Gather supplies (water bottles, snacks, a camera, and a good area map). Drive in a direction you haven't been before, until you've seen enough new stuff that you're ready to go home. Stop and take pictures along the way! Another family night could be spent chronicling your adventure(s) in a scrapbook or photo album.
- **Get some exercise.** Go for a bike ride or a walk together. See how many red things can you find, or how many different bugs or birds you can see. Or give each child a baggie so they can collect leaves, bugs, or rocks.

alumni
1994
2000
1986
1975
2003

where are they now?

1975

Rick ('75) and Bonnie ('80) McKnight moved to Australia this year after traveling back and forth over the years. They hope to travel and evangelize as they did in the U.S. www.rickmcknightministries.com



1980

Sandra Bell ('80) has started three Bible schools in Northern Asia. She also takes care of two different orphanages—one for the children of prisoners and the other for physically and mentally handicapped children. In addition, she pastors a church and ministers to the homeless, and she is always interested in having people from the States come to minister. www.jesuswordmin.org

1981

John Nuzzo ('81) and the congregation of Victory Family Church in Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania, have built a new 65,000 square foot church building that opened in April 2006. The new building seats 1,000 worshippers. www.lifeatvictory.com



Michael Bang ('81) and his wife, Vicki, recently celebrated 25 years as pastors of Faith Family Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. They hosted a special anniversary celebration June 4–7, 2006.



Robert Piaskowski ('80, '81) has lived in Kathmandu, Nepal, for the last nine years, developing a Christian movie and television industry in that country. Among other commercial projects, he is currently producing a movie that will share the Gospel with Tibetan Buddhists. www.robertjohnpresents.org

1983

Brian ('82, '83) and Joslyn ('83) Severin pastor Victory Christian Fellowship in Greeley, Colorado, and have sent several family members to RHEMA. Their daughter and son-in-law, **Michael and Elizabeth Virgil**, graduated in 2005, and daughter **Jessica Severin** graduated in May 2006. Still to come: Daniel (17), Charmaine (13), and Abigail (10). www.thenewvictorychurch.org



Phyllis Turner ('82, '83) is retiring on December 1 after more than 22 years with Kenneth Hagin Ministries. As secretary to Revs. Ken and Lynette Hagin for over 21 years, she met and worked with many alumni over the years, but is excited about this new phase of her life.

1984

Melvin Burks ('83, '84) pastors New Life Fellowship in Covington, Virginia, and also ministers with the Christian Motorcycle Association, which shares the Gospel of Jesus with motorcyclists. He is the local chapter president in Covington.

Robert Dunphy ('83, '84) and his wife, Sally, have been missionaries in Burkina Faso, Africa, for 18 years. They have started 40 churches and three Bible schools. Currently, they are supporting 1,000 orphans and 500 widows in 18 different locations in Africa. www.RobertDunphyMinistries.org

John and Laura Madan ('83, '84) pastor Victoire Centre Chretien in Nice, France, and were married 25 years ago in July (see photo). They celebrated their anniversary this year with a trip to England. www.victoire.cc



1986



Dr. Kimble and Konni Tracy ('85, '86), along with their family, have started a church in Surprise, Arizona. The Tracys have been involved in world missions and church planting for the past 25 years. www.sonrizechurch.com

Marlene (Sachs) Long ('85, '86) was married in March 2001, just before her 41st birthday. She and her husband, Tony, were blessed with a beautiful baby girl, Christina Abigail, in April 2004. Their son, Nathan Anthony, was born March 13, 2006, when Marlene was 45 years old. He is "the picture of health."



1989

Joyce McNaughton ('88, '89) has been traveling back and forth to Costa del Sol, Spain, where she hopes to eventually start a church and a Bible school. www.rejoiceministries.info



Jerry Moyer ('88, '89) and his wife, Candy, founded "The Jubilee Gang," an itinerant ministry to kids, in 1991. In 2005, they saw more than 1,500 children born again, conducted three inner-city outreaches, and preached across the nation. www.jubileegang.com

Larry ('88, '89) & Yolanda ('89, '91) Brown are the founders of Turning Point Ministries. Based in Broken Arrow, Larry was formerly an employee at Kenneth Hagin Ministries and now travels in itinerant ministry full-time. They have three daughters. www.turningpointmin.org



1993

Miguel and Mai Zayas ('92, '93) welcome their new baby son, Alberto, born June 2 in Estonia, Russia. He weighed 7.28 pounds and measured 19.69 inches.



1990



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Mark Cloer ('89, '90) was elected in 2000 as Colorado State Representative for House District 17 and has served for six years. Although he was a missionary for two years following graduation, Mark decided to run for office

in Colorado because he wanted his district to be represented by a Christian, someone who was pro-life and cared about people. His wife, Tanya, said to him, "What about you?" Today, Mark is one of only two Full-Gospel legislators in Colorado, representing the last remaining swing district in Republican hands. This past year, he started Colorado's first pro-life caucus. "God has been there all the way. He's put me in office for a reason," says Mark. "The number of pro-life legislators is growing, and we have the most Christians in office that we've ever had." He says one of his goals is to get an ordained RHEMA graduate to come and do the morning prayer when the House of Representatives is in session. www.state.co.us



Larry ('88, '93) and Janice ('93) Mosley travel and start churches all over the world. They currently oversee a church in the remote town of Roskovec, Albania, where there is no other church. The Mosleys sponsored the building of the church and the second-floor residence for the local pastor and his family.

1994

Bo Lowe ('93, '94) and his wife, Cathy, operate Morning Star Outfitters in Jackpot, Nevada, a retreat for ministers and an outreach to kids. Every first and third Sunday, they hold a church service, and once a year, they host Cowboy Camp-meeting. www.morningstaroutfitters.org



Sharon Kaseman ('93, '94) has been in ministry more than 18 years and has recently started United Vessels Ministry to bring hope, healing, and support to the Native American people through kids' crusades. She also helps churches develop children's ministries. Her husband, **Tom ('89, '90)**, is building churches.

1991

Cliff ('90, '91) and Christie ('95, '96) Graham joyfully announce the arrival of their new baby daughter, Lauren Nicole Skye Graham, born April 18, 2006, at 9:06 a.m. Joining her big sister Tori, Lauren weighed 7 pounds, 15 ounces, and was 21 inches long. www.unisonharvest.com



Stephen and Jennifer (Bitely) Collins ('94, '95) pastor Family of Faith Worship Centre in Boyle, Alberta, Canada. They have two daughters, Christine and Elisabeth.



1995

1992

Gary ('91, '92) and Janet ('93, '94) Priem returned to Nairobi, Kenya, in March 2006 after a 6-month furlough in the U.S. They travel and hold pastors' meetings in Kenya, and are also planning on going to India to minister to pastors and leaders there.

Carey and Holly Dye ('91, '92) have accepted the position of Pastor at Family Worship Center in Dayton, Ohio, taking over the work from **Dean ('84, '85) and Jill ('88, '89) Berg**, who plan to travel in ministry.

Timothy Self ('91, '92) has a new ministry position as assistant pastor at Church on the Move in Tulsa, Oklahoma.



Michael Lingerfelt ('94, '95) and his wife, Patricia, were married on January 22, 2005, in Pasadena, Texas. This summer, they moved to Tepic, Nayarit, Mexico, to serve in the ministry of helps while they learn Spanish before taking on an expanded role in the ministry.

Danny and Jacquie Gaines ('94, '95) are traveling in ministry, emphasizing outreach, evangelism, and healing. They are based in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

1996

Paul Steeger ('95, '96) and his wife, Rose, spent 17 days in Haiti this past summer, ministering to over 130 pastors in two separate conferences. A blind man received his sight, a deaf man received his hearing, and many of the pastors were baptized in the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues for the first time. www.steegerministries.org

1997

Curtis Bradley ('96, '97) and his wife, Jen, moved to Yemen in late 2005, where they are ministering to Muslims in everyday settings. They plan to settle in Taiz and establish long-term relationships with the people there. They are a part of Arab World Ministries. www.AWM.org

1998

Kenney and Neja Linhart ('97, '98) welcome their new baby daughter, Kadence Kathleen Linhart. She was born April 6, 2006, at 10:08 a.m. and weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce. www.klm-international.org



Scott Nicodemus ('97, '98) operates Creative Animation Studios, producing campaign vision videos and 3-D virtual tours for churches in the process of a capital campaign. He is based in Tulsa and has already worked with some 300-plus churches in the U.S. and Canada. www.creativeanimation.com

1999

Rebecca Tucker Jantzen ('98, '99) returned to her home church in Las Vegas after graduation, where she volunteers in the nursery and media department. On November 20, 2005, she married Dean Jantzen and now has a beautiful baby boy, Jeremiah Preston Jantzen.



2000

Bryan and Cheyenne Adkins ('99, '00) are happy to announce the birth of their son, Clayton Warren Adkins, born on March 27, 2006, weighing 5 pounds, 11 ounces. Bryan and Cheyenne are the children's ministers for Pastor **Darrell Huffman ('78)** at New Life Church in Huntington, West Virginia.



Edgar and Erika (Bontrager) Gomez ('99, '00, '02) were married in 2000, and in 2002 they moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where they developed a Hispanic ministry at Resurrection Life Church. In 2004, they became campus pastors of an RLC extension campus in Holland, Michigan, where they hold services in both English and Spanish. Their son, Gabriel, was born July 8, 2004.

Jason Daugherty ('99, '00) was married to his beautiful wife, Diang, on December 16, 2005, in Shillong, Meghalaya, India. They continue to live in India, where they work as missionaries.



Carol Wyatt ('99, '00) gave up an international opera career in Europe to come to RBTC and then establish Song of Joy Ministries. With a heart for Israel and the Jewish people, she travels the world ministering in Word and song. She also considers the work she does in Tulsa area nursing homes equally as important as any of her other singing and ministry activities. www.songofjoyministries.com

2001

Mary Benson ('00, '01) is currently itinerating and has recently released two books, *The Pain and the Glory* and *Segments of Forever*. Her ministry, Higher Life Ministries, is based in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. www.myhigherlifeministries.com



James Goebel ('99, '00, '01) and Lori Konerza were married May 13, 2006, in Loveland, Colorado. They are both active in the ministry of helps at Message of Life Ministries church, and work together in James' window-cleaning business, Window King.

2002

Vidar ('96, '02) and **Catherine ('00, '01) Ligard** are working in Kenya, where they hold intensive two-week Safari Bible Schools in rural areas. During the sessions, they usually hang a bed sheet between two poles one night and show *The Passion of the Christ*. Crowds of up to 500 come, and many people have given their lives to Jesus. www.safaribibleschool.org



Tim Williams ('01, '02) and his wife, Tammy, just purchased 52 acres in Guyana to build a mission station for the Bible school they started in November 2004. They currently have 70 pastors and leaders enrolled.



Josh ('01, '02) and **Kate (Kennedy '03, '05) Richter** were married September 24, 2005, in Bridgman, Michigan. They are now living in Bridgman, where they are children's pastors at Lake Michigan Christian Center.

2003

Carl Stender ('02, '03) designs and manufactures custom motorcycle parts, shipping products to fabricators and dealers coast-to-coast. He lives and works in Climax, Missouri.

Ray ('02, '03) and Leslie (Carpenter '01, '02) Vulture were married August 10, 2002, in Phoenix, Arizona, and they welcomed the birth of their daughter, Amaraa Prosperity, on June 16, 2006. She weighed 5 pounds, 5 ounces, and was 17 3/4 inches long. The Vultures are pioneering Nikao Bible Church in O'Neill, Nebraska.



2004

Bob ('03, '04) and Nancy ('04, '05) Christensen were married on January 28, 2006, in the RHEMA Bible Church chapel in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.



Travis ('03, '04) and Erin (Price '04, '05) Cole were married on August 20, 2005. They are currently serving as youth and children's ministers at Living Hope Fellowship in Nevada, Missouri.

Joseph ('03, '04) and Stephanie (Johnson '98, '99) Krautheim announce the birth of their first child, Goldie Kay, who was born March 4, 2006. She weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces, and was 20 inches long.

Michelle Richee ('04) is the director of women's ministry at Abundant Life Church in Auburn, Illinois, for Pastors **Richard and Connie Egts ('81, '82)**. She also travels as an itinerant minister and has preached in the U.S., Ghana, Romania, Japan, Pakistan, Mexico, and Jamaica. www.mark1620.org



2005

Pat ('04, '05) and Jan ('04, '05, '06) McWilliams have moved to Santa Rosa, California, where Pat is the children's pastor and Jan leads worship at Living Word Family Church for Pastor **Larry King ('03, '04)**.



Tom and Kristi Kenley ('04, '05) visited Romania for three months in the spring of this year, working at RHEMA Romania with Directors **Max ('86, '87) and Becky ('89, '90) Dahm**. The Kenleys taught classes and worked on special projects for the church and the ministry. www.godsoloved.net



Adam and Rachel Gates ('04, '05) and their new baby daughter, Ashlyn, live in Murphy, North Carolina. Adam and Rachel are the associate pastors and missions directors at On Fire Family Church, pastored by Rachel's parents.

IN MEMORY OF:



In Memory of Pastor Bob Miller, RMAI Regional Director, Mid-Atlantic Region #15 Robert Franklin Miller was born November 1, 1946, in Baltimore, Maryland. He served in Vietnam and earned a Bronze Star. Bob held a bachelor's and two master's degrees in education from Towson State University and worked as a schoolteacher

from 1972 to 1980, when he left to attend RBTC. He returned to Maryland and founded Montgomery Faith Fellowship in March 1985. His life of faith and gift of teaching touched the lives of many around the world. He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Jeanne, as well as two children and three grandchildren. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on June 13 with full military honors.



In Memory of Rev. Roy Sprague, former RBTC instructor, 1979–1981, 1984–1986 Roy Sprague was born in December 1909 near Chandler, Oklahoma, one of five brothers. He had been married to his wife, Opal, for 67 years when she went home to be with the Lord in 1998. For years, Rev. Sprague helped build churches in Oklahoma, both through preaching and construction; he and Opal pastored churches in Bristow, Lawton, and

Shawnee, in addition to traveling as itinerants for the Assemblies of God. He was also a barber, a real estate agent, a car salesman, a hotel and restaurant manager, and a builder. After he retired from the ministry, Rev. Sprague became an instructor at RBTC, teaching (among other classes) "Nuggets of Truth." He and Opal never had any children, but he is survived by their great-niece, Lynn Oberlinder, whom they helped raise.

2006

Chris Barnett ('05, '06) is helping **Ellson Bennett ('90)** at the newly pioneered Covenant of Faith Church on the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation in Tempe, Arizona. Chris has recently become the senior pastor of the church. www.ebministries.org



We want to hear from YOU!

If you've had a wedding, a new addition to the family, something exciting in ministry, or just want to update fellow alumni about your life, write rmai@rhema.org and let us know!

TELL US about it!

HOMEGOINGS

('75) Sam Smith	June 25, 2006
('78) Joseph Pires	January 25, 2005
('80, '81) Ric Emry	February 10, 2006
('82, '83) Bob Miller	May 16, 2006
('83, '84) Bob O'Connell	March 7, 2006
('84, '85) Russ Tatro	June 1, 2006
('87) Christy Van Cleave	March 10, 2006
('88, '89) Richard Zink	February 2006
('90, '91) John Monserrat	April 20, 2006
('90, '91) Christopher Hayes	June 2006
('91, '92) John "Oscar" Rebeschini	July 19, 2006
('94, '95) Hazel Wallace	April 19, 2006
('96, '97) Barbara Hampton	June 2006
('99, '00) Dennis Goforth	February 2006
('01, '02, '03) Theda Mooney	September 15, 2006
('05, '06) Sonja Ellis	April 29, 2006
Roy Sprague	July 18, 2006



ALL FAITHS' crusade

2007

March 4-7
Washington, Missouri

Living Bread Church
6906 W. Highway 100 • Washington, MO
Pastor: Brian Bohrer
Service Times: Sunday, 7:00 p.m.
Monday-Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
For more information, call: (636) 239-5944

June 3-5
Tacoma, Washington
By His Word Christian Center
10110 Aqueduct Dr. E. • Tacoma, WA
Pastors: Jann and Sue Butler
Service Times: Sunday, 6:30 p.m.
Monday-Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
For more information, call: (253) 536-2233

January 28-31
Scottsdale, Arizona

Desert Valley Church
9382 E. Bahia Dr. • Scottsdale, AZ
Pastors: Dwain and Debbie Peregrym
Service Times: Sunday, 7:30 p.m.
Monday-Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.
For more information, call: (480) 659-7970
or visit www.desertvalleychurch.org

March 25-28
Hampton, Virginia

Victory Life Church
1741 W. Queen St. • Hampton, VA
Pastors: Phil and Barbara Privette
Service Times: Sunday, 7:00 p.m.
Monday-Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
For more information, call: (757) 838-1304

June 6-8
Vancouver, Washington
Faith Center Church
2533 NE Andresen Rd. • Vancouver, WA
Pastors: Glen and Theresa Johnson
Service Times: Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
For more information, call: (360) 253-2484

FEBRUARY 18-23

WINTER BIBLE SEMINAR:

For more information or to register,
visit www.rhema.org/wbs or call:
1-888-28-FAITH (1-888-283-2484)



JUNE 11-14

MINISTERS, LEADERSHIP,
AND HELPS CONFERENCE:

For more information or to register,
visit www.rhema.org/mlh or call:
1-888-28-FAITH (1-888-283-2484)



JULY 22-29

CAMPMEETING:

For more information or to register, visit
www.rhema.org/cm or call:
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