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LINKING RHEMA GRADUATES AROUND THE WORLD

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fall/winter 2010

Staying on Top of Your Game

How to Keep Your Edge in Life and Ministry



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people
passion
anointing
[EXPERIENCE]

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FEBRUARY 20-25, 2011

SERVICE TIMES

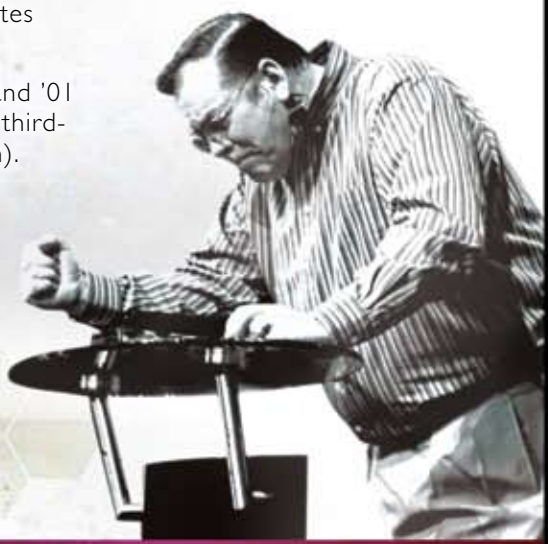
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Alumni! Don't miss any of the exciting activities.

- Access to RBTC classes
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- Missionary luncheon for graduates ministering overseas
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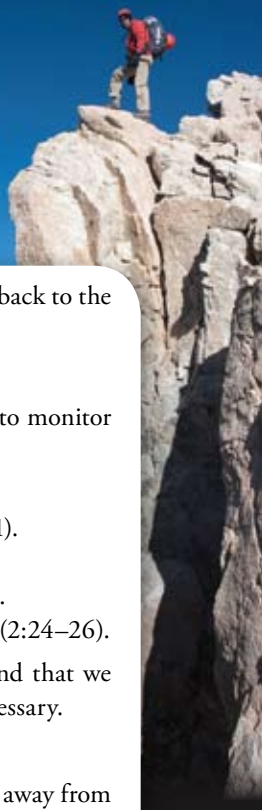
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The Bottom Line

Getting Back to the Top of Your Game

DOUG JONES | RMAI/RAA National Director



Second Timothy was the last letter that the Apostle Paul wrote. Throughout its pages, a genuine concern emerges for the welfare of this young pastor who was showing signs of weariness. There were signs indicating that Timothy was drifting toward a timid, cowardly posture in the face of the continual assault of false doctrine that was eating away at his church from within, and the persecution that was warring against his church from without.

It is noteworthy that while Paul is maintaining a very watchful eye on this young pastor, he himself is experiencing the most difficult challenge of his personal life: imprisonment in the dungeons of Rome. This imprisonment would end with his martyrdom.

Within the pages of Second Timothy, Paul provides an example for today's minister: one must never allow what he is going through personally to sidetrack him from being concerned about the welfare of others.

Count Your Blessings

The first thing Paul does is remind Timothy of what he has:

- Unfeigned faith (1:5).
- The gift of God (1:6).
- Power, love, and a sound mind (1:7).
- A holy calling (1:9).
- Sound words, which he has heard (1:13).
- The Holy Scriptures that he had been taught as a child (3:15).

Sometimes the only way to return to the top of your game is to look back and consider what you have been given.

Navigate Through Trouble

The second thing Paul does is remind Timothy that he himself has also suffered what Timothy is suffering:

- I have suffered exactly what you are suffering (1:11–12).
- I have suffered and am suffering physically and socially just as you are (2:9–12).
- Timothy, you know what I have suffered (3:10–13).

Remember: We are not the first to experience what we are going through, and we won't be the last. Others have lived through and successfully navigated seasons of trouble. We can

too. We will need to remember this in order to climb back to the top of our game.

Change Some Habits

The third thing Paul does is admonish Timothy to monitor his personal habits, attitudes, and behavior:

- Personal study time is a must (2:15).
- Determine to be a vessel unto honor (2:20–21).
- Flee youthful lusts (2:22).
- Don't participate in every conversation (2:23).
- Put on gentleness and meekness as you teach (2:24–26).

Climbing back into the saddle might just demand that we strip ourselves of the unnecessary and put on the necessary.

Refocus

The last thing Paul does is direct Timothy's focus away from the problems and back to what is truly important:

- Stir up (arouse from dormancy) your call within you (1:6).
- Pass on to others what you have been given (2:2).
- Focus on pleasing Him Who has chosen you to be a soldier (it will empower you to endure hardness) (2:3–4).
- Continue in what you have been taught—remembering that people will act ugly, so don't be surprised when that happens (3:1–9).
- Preach the Word. Make full proof of your ministry (4:1–5).

Proverbs 9:9 says, "Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning."

It is my prayer that each of us in the RHEMA family finish our course at the top of our game.

A fellow laborer,

Douglas E. Jones
RMAI/RAA National Director

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Staying on Top of Your Game

How to Keep Your Edge in Life and Ministry

We asked several of your fellow grads what practical things they do to keep their lives and ministries “fresh.”

Here are some of their keys to success.

STAYING ON TOP
OF YOUR GAME

When You Hit a Plateau

Dean Hawk ('80, '81)

Dean Hawk served as youth pastor at RHEMA Bible Church in Broken Arrow, and now he and his wife, Kim, pastor Rock Family Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado. www.RockFamilyChurch.com



Earlier this year, Dean Hawk says he felt as if he had hit a plateau as a leader. He knew in order for his church to grow, he had to grow.

“As the old saying goes, a rubber band is only useful when it is stretched,” he says. “So I prayed a dangerous prayer. I said, ‘Lord, stretch me. Help me to become a better leader, father, husband, pastor, and believer this year.’”

Almost immediately, the Holy Spirit challenged him to read one book a week while still maintaining his normal devotional and study habits.

“It’s been both a difficult and an amazing ride,” he says. “It seemed like a huge undertaking, but when I simply cut back on TV time, it was a no-brainer.”

Dean began reading books to build his faith, grow as a leader, and strengthen his marriage.

“The more I read, the more I am grasping for more!” he says. “I feel like I have grown 10 ‘dog years.’ Imagine the knowledge and wisdom gained by reading 52 books a year on top of a disciplined reading of God’s Word. I hope to maintain it as a habit in my life from here on!”

‘A rubber band is only useful when it is stretched.’

✓ *Some of Dean’s most recent favorite books are:*

- *Lead On* by Wayne Schmidt
- *Three Feet from Gold* by Lechter and Reid
- *L.O.V.E.* by Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott
- *Leading on Empty* by Wayne Cordeiro
- *Integrity* by Dr. Henry Cloud
- *The Purple Cow* and *Tribes* by Seth Godin

Stay Connected

Jim Dumont ('80, '81)

Jim Dumont and his wife, Pam, pastor Erie Christian Fellowship in Erie, Pennsylvania. www.ecfchurch.org



According to Jim Dumont, one important way to stay on top of your game is to be *connected*—to the Lord, to family, and to other believers.

“When I stay vitally connected to the Lord, things flow naturally,” says Jim. “One thing I do constantly—with awe and gratitude—is look back at my salvation experience. And I never forget the day Jesus called me!”

Jim also advocates staying connected to family. “My wife, Pam, and I have different interests, but we are united in our call,” he says. “She loves to garden, cook, and love people. I enjoy reading and riding my Farmall tractor or a motorcycle.”

This connection also reaches to extended family. “We always make it a point to stay connected with our families back in Maine,” he says. “Every year we go back home to visit. Getting away from ministry and being with our roots has helped us keep things in perspective. And over the years our steadfastness has become a testimony to our families and enabled us to minister to them in remarkable ways.”

Jim says that staying connected is especially vital as middle age approaches.

“Feeling lonely and disconnected is what leads to a man’s midlife crisis,” he says. “There is a huge need for guys to experience a safe, nonjudgmental, noncritical environment where they can talk about what’s happening in their lives. This environment is the greatest gift that anyone could ever experience. It’s an amazing thing to see what happens when men open up and find out they are not alone!”

‘When I stay vitally connected to the Lord, things flow naturally.’

✓ What Jim’s been reading:

- *Morning and Evening* by Charles H. Spurgeon
- *My Utmost for His Highest* by Oswald Chambers
- *Masterplanning* by Bobb Biehl.
- *Bible Faith Study Course* by Kenneth E. Hagin

📌 TIPS FOR STAYING ON TOP OF YOUR GAME

Multitask. During my morning exercise times, I always listen to digital audio files of Brother Hagin and other ministers. Currently I am listening to a fantastic series by T.L. Osborn titled *Winning Our World*. This one series has inspired me to better love people and encourage them to win!

Connect with fellow ministers. I meet once a month with a group of pastors from various denominations (from a Catholic priest to a Salvation Army major). We have no agenda but to have lunch and talk. We’ve also done various activities. The group members have changed over the years, but our focus has remained being friends and caring for each other.

Get help. Last year our church began working with a consultant who is helping us organizationally. I wish I had done this years ago, but it took time and enough pain for me to realize my need for outside help. We also visit other churches that are further along than we are to inspire and encourage us. Most successful pastors and ministers are thrilled to help if you will take the time to ask questions.



Lighten Up!

Paul Foslien ('87, '88)

Paul Foslien and his wife, Maria, pastor Living Word Family Church in Naples, Florida.

www.NaplesChurch.com



Paul Foslien says ministry never gets old to him, and one reason is that he knows how to keep things fun.

"I keep ministry fresh by not taking things too seriously," he says, "and by realizing that I am not Jesus. As ministers, we tend to overspiritualize things. I believe we have to take a more natural approach. If I start to feel tired, discouraged, or ineffective, I go out and have fun! We go to movies, play golf, go on family vacations, or just get away for the weekend."

Paul also says that consistency is a key to staying on top of his game.

"Keeping my daily walk consistent is how I stay inspired and encouraged," he says. "My worship time and prayer time are a top priority. I also read books and listen to different ministers. I'm constantly learning and studying what others are doing successfully, and I'm setting goals that force me to change and grow."

✓ What Paul's been reading:

- *Ten Guidelines to Help You Achieve Your Long-Awaited Promotion!* by Rick Renner
- *The Five Love Languages* by Gary Chapman
- *Margin: Restoring Emotional, Physical, Financial, and Time Reserves to Overloaded Lives* by Richard A. Swenson

➤ TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR EDGE

Realize you need help from others. If it hadn't been for a couple of guys in our lives these last few years, we would have made some major mistakes. We'd taken time to cultivate relationships, and their guidance and help was priceless. Having the right people around us really helped us through this season in our lives as we built a new building.

Develop mentoring relationships. Be connected to an organization. If you don't go to meetings, reach out, ask questions, and spend time with people, mentoring relationships will never happen. You have to be proactive. Too many leaders get frustrated, discouraged, and isolated when things get hard. They won't come to meetings—they won't reach out. **As much as you pray and believe God for these associations, they're not going to come if you sit at home. You have to get out and**

allow God to develop them. Find someone who's been there, who's smarter than you are. I didn't use to pursue these kinds of relationships, but now I know I wouldn't have survived without them.

"If you're the smartest guy in your group, you need a new group."—**Gerald Brooks**

Work on your marriage. My marriage—my relationship with my wife—is what makes me a "success." As a couple, we are constantly improving our personal lives. We keep our relationship top priority. When God confronts us with areas that need to be changed, we work on them. We keep boundaries and margin in our lives.

Keep the Balance

Bracken Christian ('91, '92)

Bracken Christian and his wife, Donna, pastor Harvest Church in Lubbock, Texas.

www.harvestlubbock.org



'Success is not a one-time achievement; it is crossing the finish line and having lived a successful life.'

Bracken Christian has a pretty commonsense outlook on life and ministry.

"Staying on top of your game in ministry comes from a life that is in balance," he says. "That means if you are married, take time for your spouse. If you have children, make time for them. Take time for yourself and do something you enjoy."

According to Bracken, balance is the opposite of burnout.

"Burnout is the result of a life out of balance," he says. "If *you* fall apart, so does your ministry. As a minister, you have to 'get a life!' We are called to be Christians before we are called to minister. Living it comes before ministering it! People can get so busy with ministry that they forget to rest and have some recreation (re-creation). We should ask questions such as 'What does your wife think about you?' or 'What do your kids think about you?' before we ask, 'How many people attend your church?'"

Bracken also says there is a balance to success. "Peter Daniels says, 'Success is the willingness to bear pain,'" he observes. "If you are a success, you have felt the blast of pain. I believe another key to being a success is recognizing that no one succeeds alone. The people around me—my staff, close friends, and mentors—are all responsible for any success that I have. I also keep in mind that people can be a success today and a flop tomorrow."

"Success is not a one-time achievement; it is crossing the finish line and having lived a successful life—a life that is only possible as we depend daily upon the Master, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

➤ TIPS FOR STAYING ON TOP OF YOUR GAME

Don't compare yourself. Feelings are connected to what you think on. I guard my thoughts and look at things from a broader perspective. We can all feel tired, trapped, or as if we're not making progress. This usually comes from comparing ourselves with someone else. When frustration comes my way, I make sure I'm guarding my heart and casting my cares upon the Lord.

Be a self-feeder. I've built a library of books, CDs, and downloads that gives me the information I need to minister what people need to hear (see list below). This also gives me the tools for leadership and vision. There are so many great teachers and leaders in the Body of Christ. I try to listen to and get around people who are doing what I want to do. We are to follow the faith of others (Hebrews 6:12.)

Stay current. I go to a local health club, but not just to exercise. I put my iPod on and usually listen to messages and great praise music. This is where I determine what kind of music we want to sing in our services, and it's where I stay current on the latest releases of new stuff. Walking on a treadmill and listening to some good Word is a great way to build a healthy life—spirit, soul, and body.

✓ What Bracken's been reading:

- *177 Mental Toughness Secrets of the World Class* by Steve Siebold (www.simpletruths.com)
- *The Unseen Realities of God's Kingdom* by Dr. Shirley Christian (www.shirleychristian.org)
- *Sit, Walk, Stand* by Watchman Nee
- *Focus: What's in Your Vision?* by Art Sepúlveda
- *Soaring Higher* by Pat Mesiti (www.mesiti.com)
- *Boundaries in Marriage* by Cloud and Townsend
- *Faith Food Devotions* by Kenneth E. Hagin ("This is a really good one!")
- *Paul's System of Truth* by Mark Hankins



Manage the Little Things

Shane Rhodehamel ('98, '99)

Shane Rhodehamel and his wife, Amie, pastor Faith Family Church in Wilmington, Ohio. www.OneFaithFamily.org



Shane Rhodehamel thinks it's not always the big things but the small, consistent things we do every day that keep us on top of our game.

"I believe success is in the little things," he says. "It's in your daily habits. Success is in what you do with what you have been given."

That boils down to staying challenged and humble each day.

"Like many ministers, I read constantly to fuel my spirit and my mind," Shane says. "As a pastor, I purposely read and study in areas that challenge me. One of the quickest ways to get stale and dry is to coast in the areas of your strengths and risk thinking too highly of yourself."

Shane says that paying attention to the little, daily things in life can even help us avoid things like midlife crisis.

"To me a crisis is anything we were not prepared for," he says, "so I try to take it upon myself to stay prepared for anything and everything. When things don't turn out exactly as we planned, that's not an excuse to act like an idiot or hurt the people we love. If we keep our edge and try to make adjustments as they come, we are less likely to wake up one morning and want a new car or a new wife."

One thing I do intentionally is spend time with people who are not like me. It's helped me have more compassion for many types of people.

✓ What Shane's been reading:

- *Put Your Dream to the Test* by John C. Maxwell
- *Courageous Leadership* by Bill Hybels
- *In Search of Timothy* by Tony Cooke

📌 TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR EDGE

Do ministry together. One of the greatest ways to keep ministry fresh is to do ministry together. If you are married, there is nothing like the synergy that comes when husband and wife are passionately advancing the ministry. We also train our kids to be part of the ministry team. Do life and ministry with people you would actually like and enjoy even if you weren't their pastor. That keeps ministry fun and fresh.

Be relational. Our influence for the Gospel is directly tied to our ability to relate to people where they are. Some of the

greatest preachers have very few people in their churches because they refuse to work hard relationally. One thing I do intentionally is spend time with people who are not like me. It's helped me have more compassion for many types of people. The more time I spend with young people, the more I want to impact the next generation. The more time I spend with businesspeople, the more I care about them and their challenges. Being relatable is less about age, race, or even background and more about the desire to show love and invest time.

The Purpose and Identification of the Spiritual Disciplines



Marty Blackwelder ('92, '93)

Marty Blackwelder was an instructor at RBTC and an associate pastor at RBC. He is currently in full-time itinerant ministry. www.blackwelderministries.org

One of the identified purposes of every believer according to Scripture is conformity to the image of Christ. This conformity, though desired, will never transpire without discipline. The spiritual disciplines include such exercises as prayer, Bible study and meditation, silence, solitude, fasting, praise and worship, and Christian service.

Each of these disciplines serves as a pathway to transformation and spiritual development. Our human effort, combined with God's divine influence upon our lives—received through these disciplines—promotes not only transformation, but longevity, stability, and fruitfulness in our Christian walk and ministry.

Live Purposefully

Jay Adkins ('00, '01)

Jay Adkins and his wife, Amy, pastor Faith Church in Danville, Kentucky. www.TheFaithChurch.com



Jay Adkins has six keys for staying on top of your game:

1. Distance yourself from the “sponges.” Identify the people who suck the life out of you—those who are negative in their conversation and are only interested in themselves. Give them a smaller portion of your time. Yes, you must love them, but you can't let them rob you of your effectiveness. Jesus spent time with the multitude and the Pharisees, but He didn't spend the *majority* of His time with them. You are not a poor leader if you distance yourself from negative people—you are a wise leader!

✓ What Jay's been reading:

- *Ever Increasing Faith* by Smith Wigglesworth
- *9 Things You Simply Must Do* by Dr. Henry Cloud
- *Tongues: Beyond the Upper Room* by Kenneth E. Hagin

2. Strengthen the relationships that refresh you. Identify the people who add to your life and ministry. These people are interested in you and in helping your vision. Give them a larger portion of your time. When you do, they will encourage not only you but the whole group. Jesus spent the majority of His time with those who were *with Him* and *for Him*.

3. Sow encouragement. We all need to receive encouragement, and the more you sow, the more you will reap. Go out of your way to encourage people. You can do it face-to-face or through phone calls, texts, e-mails, or Facebook. Random, unsolicited encouragement produces tremendous results in relationships.

4. Develop close friendships with other ministers. Have a group who are not your mentors or students but your friends. I pastor in Kentucky, but my closest friends are pastors and ministers in other towns and states. We meet at conferences such as *WBS* and *Campmeeting*. We support each other's major meetings and conferences whenever possible. We preach in each other's churches. These are the friends with whom we share life—the good times and the bad.

5. Serve your mentors. Everyone needs a pastor and spiritual fathers. They give us direction and wisdom. Serving their vision with your time and money connects you to something larger than yourself or your ministry. And it's the student's job to pursue the teacher, not the other way around.

6. Refresh yourself daily. Don't wait until you are empty to fill up. Remaining “full and refreshed” is a daily task. We were never designed to be effective running on empty.

Pray in the Holy Spirit every day. Sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Take retreats and vacations. They are essential to longevity in ministry.



LEAN ON THE STRENGTHS OF OTHERS



There's no reason to "reinvent the wheel" when you are part of a large RHEMA family. None of us has to do this on our own! We are stronger together.

Feel free to contact these fellow grads to help you in various areas of ministry with their insight and experience.

RUNNING A CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Bill Sammons ('81) has retired from pastoring but still remains active in ministry. Bill successfully pioneered a 1,600-member church in Delaware and also started Eagle's Nest Christian School, K-8. www.eaglesnest.ch

Audio/Sound

Kim Ernst ('79) pastors Grace Family Church in Fairbury, Illinois, and holds sound seminars that can dramatically improve your sound quality, sound personnel knowledge, and confidence. www.ffmin.org



Creative Ideas for Services

Jeff ('87, '88) and Beth ('85, '86) Jones pastor Valley Family Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and have a lot of resources for creative services and cutting-edge ministry. www.valleyfamilychurch.org



Pastoring Two Rural Churches

David Rauch ('83, '84) pastors two rural churches in Iowa that are 30 minutes apart and does a service in both locations each Sunday. www.gcffamily.org

Jail Ministry

Chris Campbell ('78, '79) is a chaplain and has been active in jail ministry since 1991. He ministers out of **Mike Kalstrup's ('78)** church in Oakland, Iowa (www.FellowshipOfFaith.cc). Chris works with local jails and with inmates once they're released. CCampbellMinistries@gmail.com

Insurance

Denny Beavers ('89, '90) pastors Living Word Church in Jonesboro, Arkansas, and has helped ministers with general information about life insurance, health insurance, liability insurance, and so forth. www.lwcjonesboro.org

Youth Ministry Volunteers and Outreach

Dan and Renee Lenn ('99, '00) are youth pastors at Grace Christian Church in Sterling Heights, Michigan. They saw 1,500 youth born again in youth services in 2009. Ninety-five percent of their leaders are volunteers. www.GraceSterling.com



RETIREMENT/ESTATE PLANNING

Gary Hayhurst ('76), who pastors Faith Christian Family Church in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, has had experience planning for retirement, no matter what age a person is. www.FaithChristianFamilyChurch.com

Merging Ministries

Jerry Weinzierl ('82, '83) pastors Grace Christian Church in Sterling Heights, Michigan. He has not only merged three times, but he has walked other ministries through the process. www.GraceSterling.com

STREAMING LIVE CHURCH SERVICES on the Web

Skip Henderson ('93, '94), pastor of World Outreach & Bible Training Center in Glendale, Wisconsin, near Milwaukee (www.WorldOutreachBTC.org) and Aaron Weinzierl of Grace Christian Church in Sterling Heights, Michigan (www.GraceSterling.com), both have experience in getting weekly church services live on the Web.

Pastoring in a Small Town

Rob Wynne ('90, '91), who pastors Cornerstone Church in Linden, Alabama, can help other pastors reach out in their small towns. www.CornerstoneChurch4u.org



Local Cable Access

Artie Kassimis ('91, '92) pastors Word Alive Bible Church in Norwalk, Connecticut, and has been airing their church services on local access cable (on about 100 stations) for 10 years. He has much good information for helping you to do likewise. www.wordalive.us

Bivocational Pastor

Tommy FiGart ('87, '88) and **Bill Yanney ('91, '92)** can offer help and insight to pastors who work at a secular job in addition to pastoring. Tommy pastors Grace Family Church in Vinton, Virginia (www.GraceInTheValley.com), and Bill pastors Family Worship Center in Sioux City, Iowa (www.fwcSiouxCity.com).



Have you thought about contacting the RHEMA Alumni office when:

- You are a pastor having a conflict with a staff member or church worker?
- You're in helps ministry having a conflict with your pastor?
- You have legal questions?
- You have accounting or money questions?
- You have questions about building or purchasing land, etc?
- You are thinking of leaving?
- You or someone near you:
 - has suffered the death of a loved one?
 - is battling cancer or other severe/prolonged illness?
 - is suffering from emotional trauma or addictions?
 - is dealing with marriage trouble? An affair? Divorce?



In addition to years of experience available to you in this office, we can also refer you to fellow grads who have gone through similar situations and might be of help to you as you walk through it. Don't face it alone. You're part of the RHEMA family and we help each other. Call us! (918) 258-1588, ext. 2256

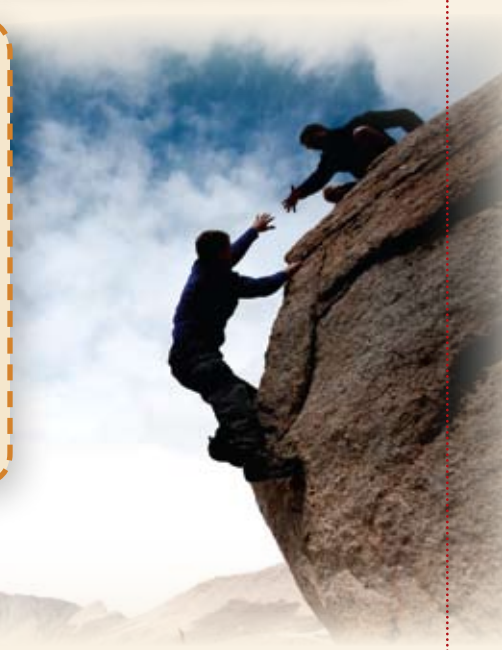
DAY CARE CENTERS

If you need to know more about starting or running a day care, both these pastors can give advice and help: Reggie Knowles, The Rock Family Church in Ocala, Florida (www.therockfamilychurch.com), and Mont Herdman, Shining Light Celebration Church, in Charleston, WV (304-344-5959).



Community Outreach Programs

Terry Frazier ('84, '85) pastors Liberty Foursquare Church in Warren, Michigan, and has had many large-scale community outreaches, including Summerfest. This annual event helps people with basic needs like groceries, hair cuts, and bike repairs; provides a lot of fun; and unites the community (www.WarrenSummerfest.com). www.LibertyFoursquare.org



RBTC/RBC UPDATE

New Second- and Third-Year RBTC Program Begins



Biblical Studies Specialty Added to Curriculum

Starting with the 2010–2011 school year, Biblical Studies has been offered as a new second- or third-year program at RHEMA Bible Training Center. This course of study will be open to all first- and second-year RBTC graduates each school year. The Biblical Studies curriculum includes 24 in-depth Bible courses:

Courses

- Genesis & Exodus
- Leviticus–Deuteronomy
- History: Joshua–Ruth
- Pre-Exile: Samuel–Chronicles
- Post-Exile: Ezra–Esther
- Psalms
- Proverbs: Wisdom Literature
- Isaiah
- Jeremiah/Lamentations
- Ezekiel
- Minor Prophets
- Synoptic Gospels
- Acts
- Romans
- First & Second Corinthians
- Galatians
- Philippians & Colossians
- First & Second Thessalonians
- Hebrews
- James
- First & Second Peter
- Johannine Epistles
- Pastoral Epistles
- Revelation & Daniel

For more information on the Biblical Studies program, visit www.rbtc.org or call (918) 258-1588, ext. 2260.

Did You Know?

We want your current contact info! Some of you have moved or changed your e-mail, phone number, or marital status. Be sure to tell us! We want to stay in touch with you to serve you better. If your info has changed, contact the Alumni office at (918) 258-1588, ext. 2256, or rmai@rhema.org.



New RAA/Missions Secretary

Ryann Isley ('03, '04) is the newest member of the Alumni Office staff, serving as RAA/Missions secretary. She assumes the position formerly held by Christina King, who moved to the Executive Offices.

Ryann, who is from the tiny burg of Johnstown in upstate New York, started her new position on August 15. She is in charge of processing renewals for all RHEMA Alumni Association (RAA) members, handling finances for RMAI missionaries, and facilitating missions housing.

"I have a heart for missions," says Ryann, "so it's awesome to be able to serve in that capacity and to help our alumni in any way that I can."

Missionaries and RAA members are encouraged to get in touch with Ryann. Introduce yourself and get to know her. She is a great addition to the Alumni Office staff.



New Associate Minister

Bob Keich ('99, '00, '01) came on board August 1, as an associate minister at RHEMA Bible Church. His duties include assisting Pastor Hagin in the administration of the church, and he also teaches at RHEMA Bible Training Center.

"I'm excited to be here," says Bob. "When you have a fresh set of eyes and you look at things, it's really a lot of fun."



Bob was born in Wisconsin and grew up in the St. Louis area, where he graduated from high school and earned an Associate's Degree in political science from Jefferson College. After that he worked in the insurance industry until he came to RBTC in 1998. After graduating from the third-year pastoral ministry program, he served as an associate pastor, a senior pastor, and an executive senior pastor in three different churches.

Bob and his wife, Dana, have two girls—Lauren, 14, and Emma, 10.

Returning to Itinerant Ministry

After four-and-a-half years on the RHEMA Bible Church pastoral staff, **Jay ('92, '93) and Tammy ('87, '88) Hoskins** feel led, with the blessing of Pastor and Mrs. Hagin, to return to itinerant ministry.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Jay taught at the Training Center and Tammy was active in music ministry. Together they also led the Synergy singles ministry for several years.

Jay and Tammy believe their time at RHEMA has strengthened their ministry to make them an even greater blessing to churches. "Our time here on the pastoral staff has been invaluable," says Jay. "Everything we've learned has deepened our ministry. We look forward to this next phase with anticipation and excitement. We know for sure we're being led to help local churches, because the harvest is ripe, and it will be won through the local church."

Jay and Tammy are available for meetings. www.jayhoskins.org





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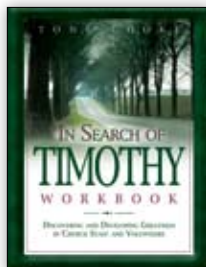
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The Art of Delegation

By Mike Kalstrup ('78)

When many of us started in ministry, we did nearly *everything* ourselves. But if we want to stay on top of our game in life and ministry, doing everything alone is not going to get us there.

Have you ever seen someone spinning plates on sticks and keeping several Hula-Hoops spinning, all while juggling? That's the way many of us are attempting to handle the responsibilities of ministry!

I would like to suggest that God never intended it to be that way. Yet many of us have a sense of obligation to try and "keep all of this going." I'd like to give you permission to let some of the balls drop.

What to Do

Here are some suggestions for changing the way you do ministry so you can enjoy it, still have a life, and yet have a powerful impact upon the lives of the people you serve.

"What has God called me to do, and where do my giftings lie?" Those are the things you need to focus on and give yourself to.

Ask yourself, "What has God called me to do, and where do my giftings lie?" Those are the things you need to focus on and give yourself to.

Realize that you (and your spouse) can't possibly do everything, and that God has "gifts differing according to the grace that is given to each of His people" (Romans 12:6). There was no way Jesus could meet all of the needs in His day, and He didn't try to! Neither should you. Jesus focused on the mission He was given by the Father and delegated everything else to the disciples.

Narrow your involvement down to the two or three things you *must* do, and eliminate the rest by finding someone else to do it.

Howard Hendricks said, "If anything has kept me on track all these years, it's been skewed to this principle of *Central Focus*. There are many things I *can* do, but I have to narrow it down to the one thing I *must* do; the secret to concentration is elimination."

Gary Crowl ('78, '79) recently wrote, "When I focus on what I'm called to do—graced to do—and I don't get concerned about what others are doing, it is then that I experience God's anointing in my life in a greater measure. It is then that I am the most content and fulfilled."

Select a "Supporting Cast"

One truism says, "Everything new gets into trouble at some point." Problems cropped up in the early church just as they do in your ministry.

In Acts chapter 6 the Social Justice & Food Program of the church fell into problems. But the leaders said, "It is not reasonable [right or desirable] *for us* to leave the Word of God and serve tables" (v. 2), and they appointed others to do that job.

Were the apostles *capable* of doing this task themselves? Absolutely! They were trained by Jesus to feed the multitudes on several occasions, and they also prepared the Passover feasts. So they *could* do it, but they didn't *need* to do it. Why? Because there were others who were able and willing to care for the need—*just as there are people around you to help get the job done*.

Some ministers are afraid to delegate responsibility for fear that something might not get done right. Some are afraid because they think their people aren't spiritual enough or ready yet (although they've been in their churches for 15 years!). My question is, how long does it take?

Some ministers are insecure and think that if someone doesn't do everything just right, it will reflect poorly on them. So those ministers remain bound by trying to do it alone.

One of the greatest environments for learning is the "school of experience." Many of our congregants aren't growing up spiritually because they've never been given a chance, never been empowered to do something that can make a difference. But when you give instructions, tell them that you know they can do it and that you need their help. Ninety percent of the time, people will rise to the occasion.

The apostles did outline qualifications for involvement in Acts 6:3: "those of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom." So the job wasn't left to just anyone, but to those with competencies and spirituality that matched the job at hand.

Bring Others Alongside

You can simplify your life by bringing others alongside you to help lift the load and accomplish more because of the multiplying effect. Consider this process:

1. Cast vision. Tell them what needs to be done and why.
2. Don't be reluctant to ask for their help. What you are doing has eternal consequences.
3. Set boundaries.
4. Help them succeed by following up with them and providing for their success.

One final thought—notice the results in verse 7: "And the Word of God *increased*." Think about it—the apostles did *less*, yet *more* was accomplished!

When you concentrate on your calling and giftings, it adds value to you and your organization. Don't let your life and ministry be the picture of the guy with one foot in the stirrup being dragged around the arena by the horse. You're supposed to be *riding* the horse!

Mike and his wife, Joan, pastor Fellowship of Faith Christian Center in Oakland, Iowa. www.FellowshipOfFaith.cc



Did You Know?

RBTC credits can apply toward a degree. RHEMA grads can automatically apply 40 hours toward a bachelor's degree at Southwestern Christian University. A master's degree program is available for those who already have a bachelor's. SCU's new Tulsa Metro location is the RBTC campus. For more information go to www.SWCU.edu or call Lorena Ray, program director, at (918) 872-7706. For more information on other universities that accept RBTC credits, visit www.rbtc.org.



Finishing Strong

by Gerald Brooks ('77)

Dr. Robert Clinton Jr., in his book *The Making of a Leader*, points out that in the Bible we are given 300 names of high-capacity leaders and ministers—leaders like Paul, Timothy, Moses, and Joshua.

However, what I find fascinating is that when these 300 leaders are placed under the scrutiny of scripture, only 25 percent of them finished their ministry in the will of God. Does that number surprise you as much as it did me? That means 75 percent of high-capacity leaders found in scripture finished their ministries out of the will of God.

To be honest, this conclusion is one of the most troubling exegetical reviews of Bible leadership I have ever seen. The truths of that conclusion challenged me to begin to search for the common keys among failing leaders and common keys among mature leaders. It raised questions as to why God would call and equip people who would then struggle to make it to the finish line.

Why Do Leaders Fail?

Why isn't being called enough to stay in the "game" of ministry and finish in God's will?

I think the Apostle Paul gives us the necessary insight into how to stay on top of our game so we finish well. Romans 1:1 says, "*Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God . . .*"

In this verse we find three important characteristics of Paul: (1) *Paul*; (2) Paul, a *servant* of God; and (3) Paul: an *apostle*. Each of these statements describes key elements of a mature leader.

Paul. The key element is the *person* of Paul.

Servant. The key element here is the *position* of Paul.

Apostle. The key element is lastly the *performance* of Paul.

These three thoughts are listed in order of importance. To rearrange them is to incur great risk. If you look closely at the order, you can see where many leaders begin to fail. There is a common tendency to redistribute the components.

Paul knew that lasting success for all ministers must begin with their personal identity: who are you? Dad Hagin stressed this truth over and over: "You must know who you are in Christ."

Build Your Identity Larger Than Your Ministry

If we allow it to, the ministry can warp our identity. It can tell us we are less than who Christ made us to be. We must build our identity larger than our ministry.

The sequencing of Paul's statements is critical: Person, Position, and Performance. We must never flip the script.

The quickest way to self-destruct is to base your identity on performance.

Paul placed his identity before his performance. The quickest way to self-destruct is to base your identity on performance. In ministry this will cripple you. There will be days when your performance will not meet your expectations or the expectations of others. However, your identity must not change. You are in Christ!

(Editor's Note: King Saul is an example of a leader who based his identity on performance. In First Samuel 13:5–14, Saul bowed to the pressures of people and situations instead of obeying God, and it cost him his throne and his kingdom. In today's vernacular, if our identity is not in Christ, we can easily be moved by people, circumstances, or situations, and that can cause failure in our lives and ministries.

Simply put, to stay on top of our game, we must work as hard on *who we are* as on *what we do*. It is one of the keys to keeping our edge and lasting for the whole race.)

Rev. Gerald Brooks and his wife, Geni, pastor Grace Outreach Center in Plano, Texas. www.GraceOutreachCenter.org



Did You Know?

Prayer School and Healing School are still going strong! Brother Hagin started Prayer and Healing School in 1979. Now, over 30 years later, Prayer School and Healing School are still running daily on campus. Morning Healing School (for the sick only) is held Monday through Friday at 9:30. Afternoon Healing School, open to the public, meets Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 2:15. Healing School runs all year long. Prayer School is held Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 1:00 p.m. and runs on the RBTC schedule—mid-September through mid-May. For more information, call the Prayer and Healing Center at (918) 258-1588, ext. 2980.



blog (bläg/):
a journal written by one or more contributors, often about a particular topic with the latest news and ideas.

"The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed."

—Hudson Taylor



▶ Alumni, Let's Exchange Ideas!

The Alumni Blog . . . RHEMA Alumni sharing what works, reaching the world with the message of faith! Send us your great ideas (along with your name, phone number, and photos) to rmai@rhema.org.

ideas and outreaches

▶ Aaron Butler ('02, '03) says . . .

Team up with other youth ministries. We've gotten together with other youth leaders in our area to form a citywide youth pastors network. We have a bimonthly co-op meeting to create relationships within the kids' lives, help them get to know other Christians, and reach out in a more influential way. We meet in different venues.



About . . . Aaron and his wife, Jaclyn, are youth pastors at Harvest Bible Church in Stockton, California. www.HarvestBibleOnline.org

▶ Larry Phalen ('82) says . . .



Capitalize on interests in your community. We hold an annual golf tournament to raise money for our youth group. For \$75, participants get 18 holes of golf, a sack lunch, a barbecue following the tournament, door prizes, and a chance to win a prize on every hole. We also give prizes to the first- through third-place teams, gross and net (to the best golfers of the day and also to the best scorers after figuring handicaps). In six years we have gone from a simple church fun day for about 50 people to a major tourney with 144 golfers. Businesses are now becoming hole sponsors and team sponsors, and we give away approximately \$6,000 in prizes each year. We are now one of "the" tournaments that community members schedule to participate in, and the event raises over \$10,000 for our youth group!

About . . . Larry and his wife, Sally, pastor Break Forth Bible Church in Glendive, Montana, and oversee several other churches. Larry also serves as RMAI District Director for Region 1.



▶ Betty Jo Marples ('83) says ...

Remodel for less. When we purchased our building, it had an unfinished kitchen area. The Habitat for Humanity resale shop proved to be a great resource. Individuals and builders donate used items, and the income from selling those items helps Habitat for Humanity continue its building programs. I found modern, custom-made, solid-oak cabinets, like new for a very low price. We also purchased a ceramic tiled island, a double oven unit, and vinyl flooring. With other items donated, plus contractor fees and countertops, we spent less than \$1,500 for the kitchen. Our professional contractor (a member of the church) said we have a \$10,000 kitchen!



About ... Betty Jo and her husband, Dale, have recently resigned their church and are writing books and beginning an itinerant ministry to help churches with financial issues.

▶ Robin Martin ('89, '90) says ...

Invite your visitors to breakfast. We have started inviting all our first-time guests to a breakfast the next week. It gives us a chance to meet them and make them feel special and wanted. We've found it's a great way to keep our first-time guests.

About ... Robin and his wife, Wendy, pastor The Rock of Habersham in Demorest, Georgia.
www.TheRockofHabersham.org



▶ Tommy FiGart ('87, '88) says ...

Assimilate your new visitors. We have a system in place to not only *contact* but *integrate* our first-, second-, and third-time guests.

For first-time guests: 1) We call them on the day they visit to thank them for attending and offer to answer any questions. 2) We inform the pastoral staff of those guests and mail a pastoral welcome letter. 3) We call them again on Friday or Saturday and express our hope to see them again on Sunday.

For second-time guests: 1) We call them on the day of their visit to tell them we enjoyed seeing them again. 2) We send them a "Week 2" letter. 3) We inform the appropriate Connections leader of their guests so they can follow up in the coming week, and we include their contact information. 4) We call them again on Friday or Saturday and offer to introduce them to a Connections leader when they attend Sunday's service.

For third-time guests: 1) Prior to service we make sure the Connections leaders have the guest's contact information and know who they are so they can reach out to them and assimilate them into the Connections program. 2) We call them, informing them of an upcoming Get Acquainted with Grace reception. 3) We send them an invitation to the reception or a "Week 3" letter.



About ... Tommy FiGart and his wife, DeLisa, pastor Grace Family Church in Vinton, Virginia.
www.GraceInTheValley.com

Did You Know?

It's renewal time! Great joy and rejoicing (not to mention saving of time and money) happens in the Alumni Office when you get your RAA renewal in before December 31! You can renew online at www.rhema.org/alumni.



▶ Angie Davis ('91, '92) says . . .



Share the Bible in any language. The Bible Stick is a compact, easy-to-use, preloaded audio player that requires just one AAA battery and can be used as a personal study device or an evangelistic tool. The Proclaimer—a larger player powered by the sun or a hand-cranked generator—can be used by more than one person. Currently available in more than 350 languages, these audio drama New Testament players are perfect for illiterate or underdeveloped areas. Free audio Bible downloads are also available.

www.FaithComesByHearing.com

About . . . Angie has ministered for years on various Native American reservations. She now lives with her daughter in Tulsa but still travels and ministers on the reservations when she can.

▶ Harold Jewell ('89, '90) says . . .

Use music videos for worship. If you don't have your own musicians yet, www.youtube.com has excellent Christian music videos you can use to back up your singers. Search "Christian songs with lyrics" or "worship songs with lyrics" or even a particular artist if you prefer. If you have a CCLI license, you're covered to use them in your services. Copy them to your computer hard drive and feed them right to your projector. You can mix and match the songs to set them up for your worship service. We have a team of five people doing vocals. It's worked really well.

About . . . Harold and his wife, Deborah, pastor The Oasis of Love Family Church in Coldwater, Michigan.
www.OasisOfLove.us

▶ David Fleming ('90, '91) says . . .

Use video for all occasions. I use a Flip camera for small recordings that don't need a lot of editing. It's quick, it's fun, and people aren't intimidated when you pull it out like they would be with a big video camera. It's unobtrusive, not distracting. You can take it with you wherever you go and capture spur-of-the-moment ideas. It's a great way to get your message across. You don't have to download any software—it comes with its own. It has its own USB connector that plugs right into the computer—no cords or anything. You can upload your video to Flipshare, YouTube, or Facebook. Churches can use a Flip camera in kid's church, youth church, special meetings, events, retreats, and so forth. I know of churches that have used them for missions trips as well. (Only costs about \$100.)



About . . . David Fleming is a full-time itinerant minister with Fleming Ministries.
davidjfleming@gmail.com

What's working in your church or ministry? Tell us about it!

Send your name, phone number, details, and photos to rmai@rhema.org.



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www.ConcessionStands.com

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www.DistributorCentral.com/websites/ArioPromoGear/default.cfm

Church nursery. Everything you need for your church nursery—from security labels, wristbands, and diaper bag tags to paging systems, crib sheets, and changing stations. **www.ChurchNursery.com**

Kids curriculum. A Web-based curriculum that helps you discover the joy of introducing children to the vibrant truths of Jesus.

www.252basics.com

Parking lot flags & foyer kiosks. Brochure holders, poster frames, lecterns and podiums, bulletin boards, restaurant supplies, store displays, book stands, and much more! **www.Displays2go.com**

Movies from your photos. Automatically produce beautifully orchestrated, completely unique video pieces from your photos, video clips, and music. It's fast, it's easy, and it's free. **www.animoto.com**

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Napkins/Forks/Plates/Stirrers. Free shipping on larger orders! **www.restockit.com**

Coffee Condiments. **www.bigtray.com**
(search condiment center, tri-bowl)

Great Reads

Leadership That Builds People

by Dr. James B. Richards

No matter how many leadership conferences we attend or how many books we read, it will all be futile until we develop the heart of a leader. The heart of leadership is serving. This book will help take you through a process whereby you can rediscover your call to restore the heart of a leader.

Safe People

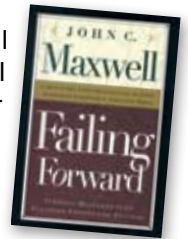
by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend

How to find relationships that are good for you and avoid those that aren't. Help for people who have been in relationships where they've been used, abused, or abandoned. Learn how to make wise choices in relationships.

Failing Forward

by John C. Maxwell

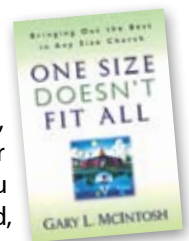
We have all experienced professional or personal failure. This book will encourage you to look at your failures as stepping-stones rather than stop signs. It will help you face your failures with faith and not dwell on the facts that caused you to fail.



One Size Doesn't Fit All

by Gary L. McIntosh

How do churches grow? How does change take place? The answers to these key questions depend on whether your church is small, medium, or large; denominational or non-; rural or urban; pioneered by you or by someone else; or run by a board, a family, or the pastor. This book helps address different growth dynamics within different church styles.



Domestic Violence: What Every Pastor Needs to Know

by Rev. Al Miles

An informative look at domestic violence for every spiritual and religious leader who wants to help victims and perpetrators heal. How to get educated and minister effectively to this hurting group of people.

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ALUMNI BLOG



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

1977

Gerald Brooks ('77) was honored by Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, when he was inducted into the Martin Luther King Jr. Board of Preachers in May 2010. Gerald and his wife, Geni, pastor Grace Outreach Center in Plano, Texas. www.GraceOutreachCenter.org



1993



Jack and Marilyn Yurus ('92, '93) announce the birth of their daughter, Alexa Marie, born August 13, 2010, weighing 6 pounds, 6 ounces and measuring 18 inches long. She joins her older sisters, Jaclyn and Deanna. Jack and Marilyn pastor Hudson Valley Family Church in Elmsford, New York. www.hvfc.org

1979



Bert ('79) and Joanne (Gentry '78) Midyette traveled from September 1995 until August 2007 presenting educational programs for preschool and elementary-aged children. In 2007 they began focusing on the preschool audience. Now "Bert and Jo's Preschool Shows" travels in North and South Carolina, ministering to kids ages 2-5 with puppets, music, action songs, and storytelling. www.bertandjo.com

www.bertandjo.com

1994

Sean Hirschy ('93, '94) and his wife, Kirsten, are serving with their children, Gabrielle, Smith, and Marissa as missionaries in Trostberg, Germany. They serve as youth and music ministers and teach at the local RHEMA Germany campus. www.pureflow.org



1984

Clifton Martin ('83, '84) and his wife, Stacey, celebrated their 20-year anniversary as founders and pastors of Better Way Bible Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in October. The Martins also serve as RMAI District Directors in their area. www.BetterWayBibleChurch.org



Gary and Kimberly (Orf) Isbell (both '83, '84) celebrated 25 years of ministry and 26 years of marriage this year. The Isbells have four children. They pastored for several years in Trail, British Columbia, Canada, and currently pastor Spectrum Church in Chula Vista, California. www.SpectrumChurch.org

1992

Florine Thompson ('91, '92) serves as chaplain at St. Luke's-Roosevelt hospital in New York City. She is director of pastoral care and she was recently featured in the *New York Daily News*.



Alumni Spotlight



Cory Wall ('93, '95) is a professional bullfighter and was named PRCA Bullfighter of the Year in 2009. He was also 2007 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo alternate Bullfighter, PRCA Tour Finale Bullfighter in both Omaha and Dallas, and four-time Texas Circuit

Finals Bullfighter, and he was selected to work the prestigious Dodge National Circuit Finals Rodeo in Pocatello, Idaho.

Cory is not only a talented athlete in the arena but a great ambassador for his sponsors, rodeo committees, and young people. Cory spends countless hours promoting the sport of professional rodeo in the communities he visits throughout the year, and he shares his faith everywhere he goes.

"I get to use rodeo as a tool," says Cory, "to let people know that God loves them and He has provided a way for them to be in right standing with Him."

Cory and his wife, Nikki, are the proud new parents of Sayler Kai, born July 12, 2010, and weighing 7.3 lbs. www.corywall.com



1996

Richard Odom ('95, '96) has served in several areas of ministry. In 2006 he went to Iraq and Afghanistan and currently works at the U.S. Embassy in Iraq. In his off time he teaches discipleship classes.



1997



Mark Shrauger ('96, '97) was married to Sarah Dager on September 6, 2009, in Centerville, Massachusetts. They currently reside in South Yarmouth on beautiful Cape Cod.

Marie Zellmer ('96, '97) recently graduated magna cum laude from Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma, with a bachelor's degree in Christian Care and Counseling. She is a retired Wisconsin state employee and currently works as a real estate broker. Marie and her husband, **Harlow ('96, '97)**, pastor Living Word Family Worship Center in Springbrook, Wisconsin. They have one grandson, age 2.



2002



Matt McDonald ('01, '02) and his wife, Linnea, celebrated the birth of their first child, James Alistair McDonald, on May 28, 2010. Matt and Linnea pastor Midcoast Christian Fellowship in Belfast, Maine. www.MidcoastChristianFellowship.org

Thomas ('01, '02) and Colleen (Fenton '00, '01) Taylor in July celebrated one year of pastoring Church at the Crossroads in Ahoskie, North Carolina. They have two sons—Tommy, 6, and Ben, 4—who are both homeschooled. www.catcAhoskie.com



2003

Grady ('02, '03) and Becky (Clark '96, '97) Pickett announce the birth of their son, Samuel Grady, on May 1, 2010. He was born in Erbil, Iraq (where the Pickett family serves as missionaries), and weighed 9 pounds, 14 ounces. He was escorted from the hospital by a security guard with a machine gun, and his paperwork was processed through Baghdad. He may well be the first RHEMA baby born in Iraq!



2004



Michael Johnson ('98, '04) has been serving as associate pastor over singles ministry at Family Church in Bryant, Arkansas, since May 2009. Before accepting that position, Michael worked for six years at Kenneth Hagin Ministries as supervisor of Faith Library Publications. www.CrossoverSingles.org

2005

Justin Goodson ('04, '05) married Megan Quatrevingt on March 21, 2010, in Southern California, where they currently live and work as youth pastors.



2006



Jacob Graham ('05, '06) married Sarah in 2008 and moved to Highland Heights, Kentucky, where he became student life minister at Word of Life Church in Wilder, Kentucky. In the fall of 2008 he started Campus Flood, a powerful ministry to students at Northern Kentucky University. www.CampusFlood.org

Daniel and Kauren Ndede (both '04, '05, '06) are founders of Power of Faith Christian Ministries and Bible Training College in Takoradi, Ghana, Africa. They graduated 28 students in 2010 and a new school year is underway. They have a two-story ministry building which houses students and classrooms. www.pfcmiGhana.org



2008



Mic Christensen ('07, '08) married Gina White on June 27, 2008. They live in Oklahoma City where Mic works at the Will Rogers World Airport. They attend victorychurch.tv where he ushers and Gina works in the children's ministry.

Candice Powers ('06, '07, '08) married Daniel Romero on June 6, 2009, at Glorious Bible Church in Wichita, Kansas. They live in Wichita and oversee the church music ministry.





Jack and Ruth Springer (both '92, '93, '08) are missionaries in Bundang, South Korea, where they work with Pastor Oh Tae Young at Abundant Life Church. They lead youth services, English services, and prayer services. In August 2010 Jack received a bachelor's degree in Ministry and Leadership from Oklahoma Wesleyan University. Ruth will receive an associate's degree in December 2010.

2009

Leslie and Lu Ann Dallas (both '08, '09) traveled on a missions trip to Romania in 2009. Now, along with their daughter, Elizabeth, they teach the 5- and 6-year-olds at Family Worship Center in Pawnee, Oklahoma.



Jacob Geuss ('08, '09) married Jill Thomas in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on August 22, 2009. He is going into the Albuquerque police force and will eventually work in the chaplain unit.

Justin ('08, '09) and Violet (Morris '09, '10) Hecksel were married on August 8, 2010, and are currently starting the youth group at Eternal Word Church in Grandville, Michigan.
www.EternalWordChurch.org



Donna Ray ('07, '09) has been associate pastor at Sunrise Family Fellowship in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, since October 2009.

Jonathon Wilson ('07, '09) and his wife, Jaclyn, live in Columbia, Illinois, where this year they have become the youth pastors at Bethany United Methodist Church. Their student ministry group, 412, ministers to both junior and senior high school ages.
www.TheFourOneTwo.com



2010



Timothy Tyler Braden and Miranda (Jaggers) Braden (both '09, '10) were married on June 25, 2010, at the home of Pastor **Don and Mary Ann Adkins ('85, '86)** in Lexington, Kentucky. Tyler is attending RBTC's third-year Biblical Studies program and Miranda is employed by Case & Associates in Tulsa.

Andrew Brenden ('08, '09, '10) has been hired to assist with youth and worship at Living Word Church in Jonesboro, Arkansas, for Pastor **Denny Beavers ('89, '90)**.



Angel Clark ('09, '10) served a summer internship at Words of Life Fellowship Church in Miami, Florida, and then assumed an interim position in youth ministry there through the end of the year. She has also started a girls ministry called "His Love."
www.WordsOfLife.com

Emily Cook ('09, '10) married Rhema Ingram on May 22, 2010, in the RHEMA Park. The two met during Emily's dating assignment for the Marriage, Family, and Ministry class at RBTC. Rhema is attending RBTC as a first-year student this year.



Kelly Kissinger ('09, '10) is the new K-1 teacher at Stevens Point Christian Academy in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. She is also helping with children's ministry at Good News Fellowship Church in Stevens Point.
www.gnfchurch.org

Thomas Smith ('08, '09, '10) spent the summer working at Camp Sonshine before being hired as the new youth pastor at Living Word Church in Jonesboro, Arkansas, for Pastor **Denny Beavers ('89, '90)**.





Cisco and Lena (Allen) Trotter (both '09, '10) were married on June 19, 2010, at Meadowlake Ranch in Sand Springs, Oklahoma. They are youth pastors at Piney Creek Fellowship Church in Longtown, Oklahoma, where Lena's father, **Milton Allen ('92)**, is the pastor. Lena is also the children's director and Cisco also travels as a minister and rap musician. www.PineyCreekFellowshipChurch.org

HOMEGOINGS

- '79 '80..... John B. Fox.....June 8, 2010
- '80, '81..... LeRoy DykeJuly 20, 2010
- '82, '83..... Dale McCownMay 19, 2010
- '85, '86..... Carroll BruceMay 20, 2010
- '85, '86..... Celeste Henzel.....November 6, 2010
- '89, '90..... Laura LangeSeptember 3, 2010
- '91, '92..... Ernie SanchezJuly 6, 2010
- '92, '93..... Pamela HillJanuary 8, 2010
- '92, '93..... Vicki MeyerJuly 31, 2010
- '94, '95..... Dale Ferguson.....July 10, 2010
- '99, '00..... Anne MinyardJuly 19, 2010
- '98, '01..... Scott RussellAugust 28, 2010
- '05, '06..... Patricia Coleman ...June 24, 2010

Did You Know?

You can come back to classes. When your RAA dues are current, you can come back and visit five days of RBTC classes every term, anytime you want! Just check in with the Alumni receptionist when you get here.



We Want to Hear From You!

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

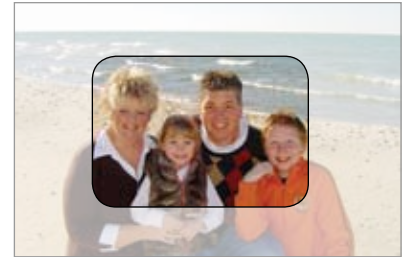
PLEASE help us make the most of your updates and photos by following these tips.

Tips for writing to us:

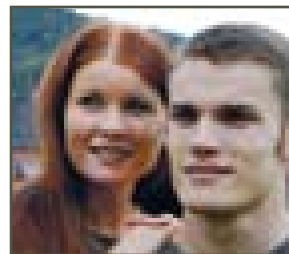
- Look at past issues and see what others have sent us.
- Tell us where you live, what you're doing in life or ministry, and how long you've been doing it.
- Remember to include your spouse's and children's names.

Tips for sending photos:

- Send close-up shots with faces close together, as in this example. →
- For baby pictures, please include Mom and Dad too. (Your fellow alumni want to see you as well as your baby!) →



- *Digital Photos:* Send only sharp, good quality photos with high resolution—300 pixels/inch on your computer or digital camera. (If you are unsure of what pixels/inch your camera gives you, set your picture size to its highest resolution and largest file size; then we can adjust accordingly.) **Low-resolution photos used for Internet sites and e-mail do not work well for print magazines like *Connections*.** ↓



Low resolution photo



High resolution photo

Send your updates and photos to us at rmai@rhema.org

WE'RE HERE TO SERVE YOU!

Take advantage of our online resources today at www.rhema.org/alumni or call the alumni office at (918) 258-1588, ext. 2256.



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With Kenneth and Lynette Hagin
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JAN 23-26 Living Word Family Church
10910 IMMOKALEE ROAD | NAPLES, FL 34119
PASTOR PAUL & MARIA FOSLIEN | (239) 348-7400
SUN. 7:00 P.M. | MON.-WED. 10:30 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.

MAR 27-29 Tree of Life Church
5513 IH 35 SOUTH | NEW BRAUNFELS, TX 78132
PASTOR DON DUNCAN | (830) 625-6375
SUN. 7:00 P.M. | MON.-TUES. 10:30 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.

MAR 30-APR 1 Harvest Church
7201 MARSHA SHARP FREEWAY | LUBBOCK, TX 79407
PASTORS BRACKEN & DONNA CHRISTIAN | (806) 798-7770
WED. 7:00 P.M. | THURS.-FRI. 10:30 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.

APR 3-6 Lebanon Family Church
1450 TOWER ROAD | LEBANON, MO 65536
PASTOR MATT & AIMEE FLANDERS | (417) 533-3655
SUN. 7:00 P.M. | MON.-WED. 10:30 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.

MAY 22-25 Redeeming Love Christian Center
145 WEST ROUTE 59 | NANUET, NY 10954
PASTOR SARAH W. UTTERBACH | (845) 623-9300
SUN. 7:30 P.M. | MON.-WED. 10:30 A.M. & 7:30 P.M.

JUN 5-8 Worship Center
2384 NEW HOLLAND PIKE | LANCASTER, PA 17601
PASTOR SAM & SHERLYN SMUCKER | (717) 656-4271
SUN. 7:00 P.M. | MON.-WED. 10:30 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.

AUG 28-31 Believers Christian Fellowship
2577 SCHENLEY AVE. N.E. | WARREN, OH 44483
PASTORS JOE & GINA CAMENETI | (330) 372-3333
SUN. 7:00 P.M. | MON.-WED. 10:30 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.

SEP 11-14 Word of Life Christian Center
100 DERBY PARKWAY | BIRMINGHAM, AL 35210
PASTOR SCOTT & PHYLLIS WEBB | (205) 833-8500
SUN. 7:00 P.M. | MON.-WED. 10:30 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.

OCT 16-18 Heart of the Bay Christian Center
24800 HESPERIAN BLVD. | HAYWARD, CA 94545
PASTORS MARK & BRENDA THOMAS | (510) 786-3232
SUN. 7:00 P.M. | MON.-TUES. 10:30 A.M. & 7:30 P.M.

OCT 19-21 Antelope Valley Christian Center
304 W. LANCASTER BLVD. | LANCASTER, CA 93534
PASTOR TOM & MINISTER DONNA PICKENS | (661) 949-7200
WED. 7:30 P.M. | THURS.-FRI. 10:30 A.M. & 7:30 P.M.



2011 EVENTS On the RHEMA USA campus

www.rhema.org/events | 1-866-312-0972



Winter Bible Seminar & Homecoming
February 20-25
www.rhema.org/wbs



Conozca RHEMA
April 8-10
www.cebrhema.org



Spring RHEMA College Weekend
April 15-17
www.rhema.org/rcw



International RHEMA Day
May 1
www.rhema.org/ird



RHEMA Worship & Technology Conference: Amplify
June 15-18
www.amplify2011.com



Campmeeting
July 24-30
www.rhema.org/cm



Kindle the Flame® Women's Conference
September 22-24
www.rhema.org/ktf



Fall RHEMA College Weekend
October 21-23
www.rhema.org/rcw



A Call to Arms® Men's Conference
November 3-5
www.rhema.org/cta