

PASSION

Magazine

"Everything With Excellence"

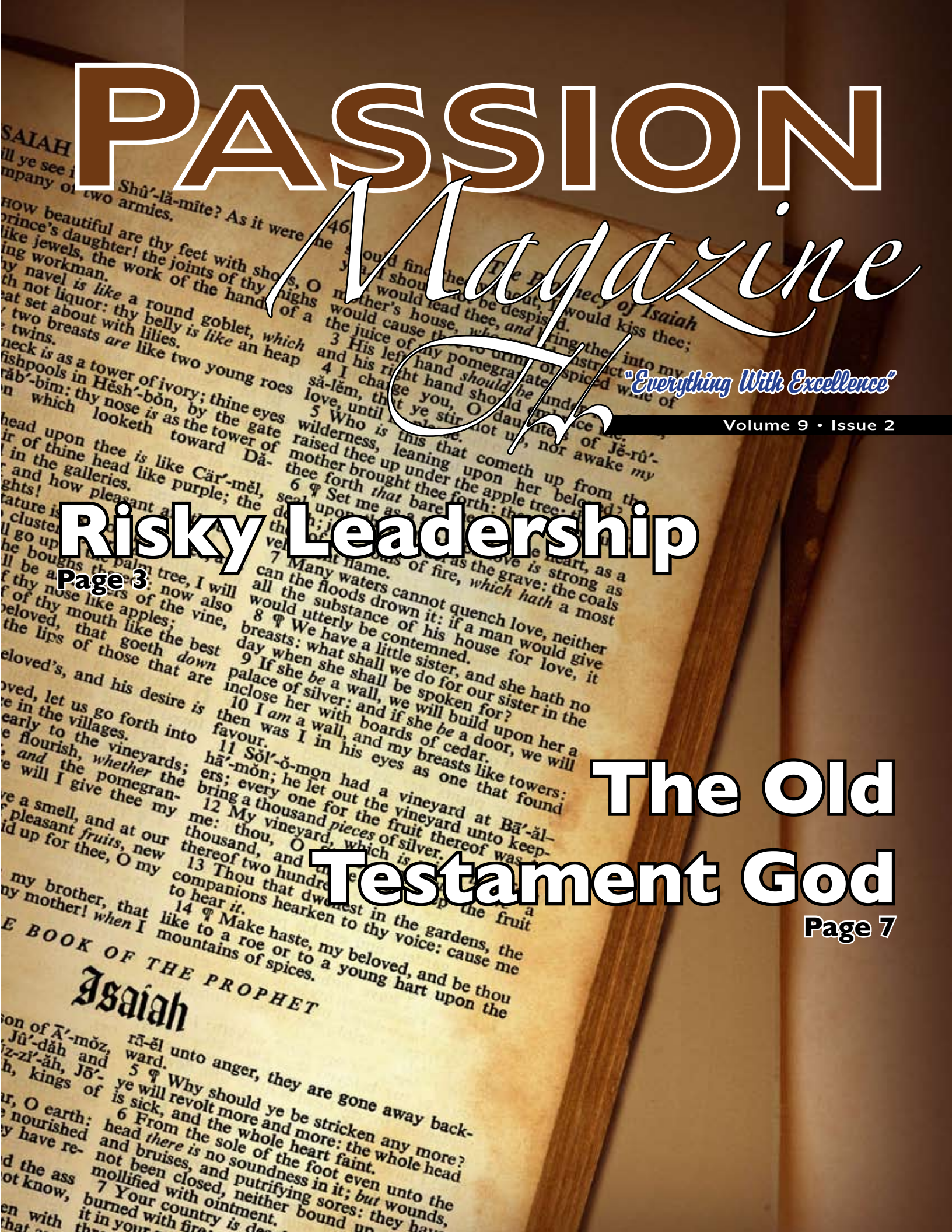
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Isaiah

BOOK OF THE PROPHET

son of Ā'-mōz, Jū'-dāh and z-zī'-āh, Jō'-h, kings of ar, O earth: e nourished y have re- d the ass ot know, en with that

rā-ēl unto anger, they are gone away back- ward. 5 ¶ Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. 6 From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, nor mollified with ointment. 7 Your country is des- burned with fire, it in your

SAIAH will ye see i mpany of Shū'-lā-mite? As it were he 46 ye would find the The P... of Isaiah... I should be despis... would kiss thee;... I should lead thee, and... would cause the... the juice of... 3 His left... hand should... and his right hand should... 4 I change you, O daughter... love, until ye stir not up, nor awake my... 5 Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her... mother brought thee forth: the... 6 ¶ Set me as a seal upon... 7 Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be contemned. 8 ¶ We have a little sister, and she hath no breasts: what shall we do for our sister in the day when she shall be spoken for? 9 If she be a wall, we will build upon her a palace of silver: and if she be a door, we will inclose her with boards of cedar. 10 I am a wall, and my breasts like towers: then was I in his eyes as one that found favour. 11 Sōl'-ō-mōn had a vineyard at Bā'-āl-hā'-mōn; he let out the vineyard unto keep- ers; every one for the fruit thereof was bring a thousand pieces of silver. 12 My vineyard, O thou, which is... a thousand, and thereof two hundred... 13 Thou that dwellest in the gardens, the companions hearken to thy voice: cause me to hear it. 14 ¶ Make haste, my beloved, and be thou like to a roe or to a young hart upon the mountains of spices.

PASSION Magazine

About

Passion Magazine is a monthly magazine produced by the High Desert Association, a California Southern Baptist Association. It is free to all members and subscribers.

Submissions

Submissions for the magazine may be sent to: Passion Magazine • 3053 Rancho Vista Blvd. Suite H262. Palmdale CA 93551. Ideally, all submissions would be made by email: passion@hdba.net. Passion Magazine reserves the right to reject submissions as they determine necessary or prudent.

Regular Contributors

The following is a list of contributors to Passion Magazine.



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Dr. Albert Mohler is the President of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville Kentucky. Time.com called him the "reigning intellectual of the evangelical movement in the U.S."



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Resolved:

Four personal finance goals you can achieve in the New Year

We all have resolutions for the New Year. And chances are that managing personal finances is near the top of the list. Fortunately, a little planning can help prevent this from being a repeat resolution in 2010. Here are four goals you can set this year to help shape up your personal finances.

Go above living below your means. "I'm going to live below my means" is a common resolution this time of year. But without a plan, it's not uncommon to see this resolution falter. Say you cut the fat out of your budget and spend 80% of your income, after tithe and taxes. If you don't have a plan for that unallocated 20%, you can enter into a dangerous scenario. Without a specific goal, you can get used to that extra income and make it much more difficult to cut back in the future. So while spending below your means is important, it's only the first step. What you do afterward makes the difference.

Increase retirement contributions. While not the most familiar resolution, one reason we run into financial trouble in the future is because we didn't do much to prevent it in the past. Don't get caught in that web. Increasing your retirement contributions by at least 1% each year can have a dramatic impact on your retirement savings. GuideStone has created the 1% Club specifically for the purpose of helping you achieve this important goal. Log in to your account and click the 1% Club quick link to learn more.

Have a purpose for every penny saved. Saving just for the sake of saving is a journey without a destination. If there's no plan, you're more likely to spontaneously spend a little here and a little there until very little is left. Know your savings goals and begin with an emergency account. Most advisors will tell you that it needs to be equal to three to six months of your expenses, but the important thing is that you have a balance and make consistent, measureable progress.

Stay accountable. Most of us are despairingly aware that the average life span of a January resolution is about 90 days. We'll spend hours or even days making elaborate plans and goals, but then we'll forego any measure of accountability. Don't let that happen this year. Accountability is the glue that keeps resolutions intact. Create and consistently evaluate a list of goals and how you'll strive toward them. Recruit a friend, spouse or family member to question you about your progress each month. Make notes on your calendar. However you do it, do it.

Indeed, there are several ways to strengthen the outlook of your personal finances in 2009, and the above represent a small fraction. If you're unsure of where to begin, just remember that the best thing you can do is start somewhere and stay the course. You may take on more or less as you move forward, but the only way you can make progress tomorrow is by starting today. •



Risky Leadership

by Rick Curtis

TAKE A CHANCE. The riskiest idea may turn out to be the most innovative and transforming. In a culture that despises change, this is a paralyzing thought. True transformation seldom comes without a leader determining something drastic needs to happen. If God is telling you to do it... do it!

DON'T LOOK BACK. There was no crystal ball when you made the decision, and come-what-may you work through your objectives. Be confident. The decision you made was thought out, and if you believed in it's transforming power (unless the environment has changed), continue to believe. As a man of God, you should never doubt what you have heard from God.

MOVE FORWARD. Rather than setting the reward at the final objective, allow yourself to reward the team in incremental steps. Too often we lose our drive because we see the final goal as the only victory moment. Celebrate each landing on the staircase to your vision.

STOP WORRYING. If God's in it, the consequences of a radical decision are His to deal with. Besides, the worry will affect the outcome. Place your concentration on the future. If you must worry, use it profitably by asking; "What's the worst that can happen?" We tend to forecast doom and the actual answer to that question will often remove worry entirely.

Remember, **THERE ARE NO MISTAKES.** The lessons learned through missteps will be instrumental in driving you closer to the Father to refine your understanding. Mistakes are nothing more than invaluable learning opportunities.

True, people will see one mistake and overlook one hundred profitable decisions, but that

is their lack of vision and shortcoming, not yours.

STEP OUT. Dynamic leaders move beyond their comfort zone. The more success you experience by risk-taking, the more comfortable you will be outside of the zone. God wants to do a new thing and no matter how hard you look, the answer is not inside your box.

RELEASE YOURSELF. Perfectionist tendencies will keep you from attaining success in new areas. Perfection is only reached when you have been at something for some time. This does not apply to new ventures. Shelf the perfectionism and do something new.

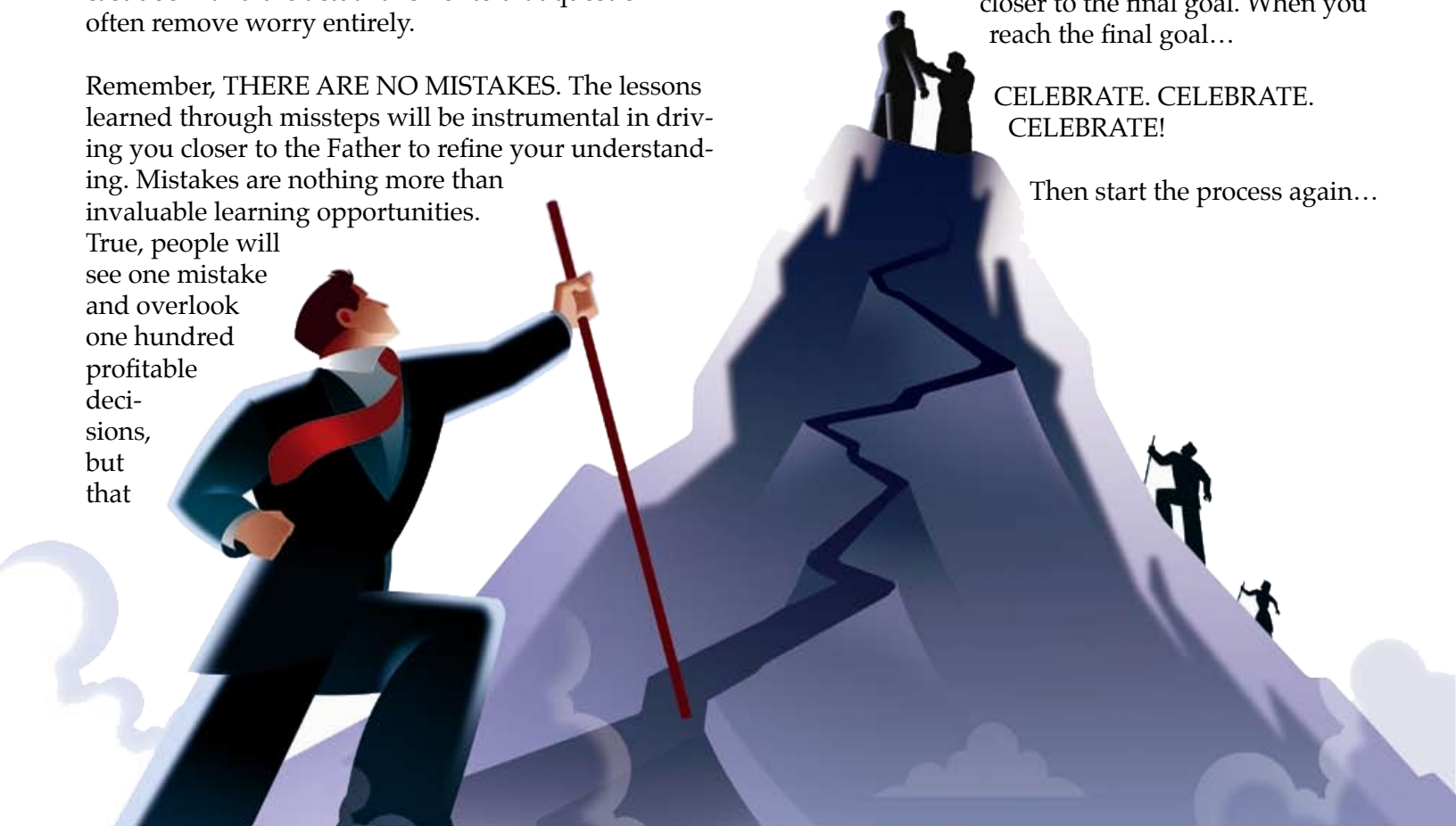
RELEASE OTHERS. Build your team, empower them, and let them make mistakes (remember, there are no mistakes). Do not micromanage and allow them the victory celebration at each step. Never rob them of the glory of success. Their glory speaks of you as a leader so let them receive it.

EVALUATE AND MEASURE. Every step of the doing should be evaluated and measured. What are the results we are seeking? Are the results coinciding with the plan of God in this endeavor? If the results are contrary to the greater vision then stop and reevaluate. On your knees (with your team) is the best place to start.

DON'T STRESS. The big victory will come. Celebrate the small victories, regroup after the detours, and find camaraderie with the team. Build the relationships and center them on the Father. Each victory will draw you closer to the final goal. When you reach the final goal...

CELEBRATE. CELEBRATE. CELEBRATE!

Then start the process again...



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2009

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sorry, no refunds and no child care provided

Sponsored by the Inland Empire Baptist Association, Riverside, California

April 25, 2009

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

At Magnolia Avenue Baptist Church and
California Baptist University
in Riverside

Keynote Speaker

Johnny Hunt

President of the Southern
Baptist Convention

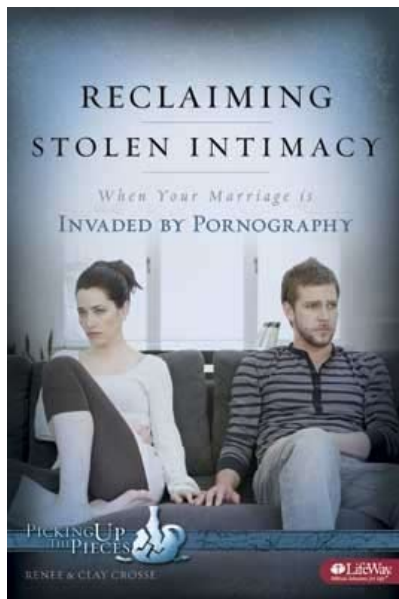
RECLAIMING STOLEN INTIMACY

Powerful study helps victims of pornography find the path to healing through honest, interactive Bible study. Walks you through the experiences, feelings, and struggles that are common to homes invaded by pornography and other sex addictions.

Target Audience: Women

Eight Sessions

Every Christian man in our X-rated society faces the constant challenge to remain sexually pure. The temptation from Internet pornography is only a mouse click away. This study helps women, no matter how long they've been married or dating, to know how to compassionately but firmly deal with this tragedy. Reclaiming Stolen Intimacy will help women address their own emotional responses as well as relational issues in the rebuilding process.



AVAILABLE AT WWW.LIFEWAY.COM

HIGH DESERT PRAISE REPORT

January saw the first session of our new Spanish Bible Institute. The praise is two-fold, One, we were at first concerned it would not happen, but the addition of a last-minute instructor allowed for the semester to go (thanks to Rodolpho Martinez for his hard work), Two, we had 12 students instead of the 8 we expected. We hope to build on these 12 next semester.

If you would like more information about the institute, please contact the HDBA's Director of Hispanic Ministries, Jorge Lopez. jlloylore@gmail.com or (760) 247-1381. The institute is located in Adelanto, CA.

This one achievement addresses a huge need in our association.



VBS Jump Start

Two Location & Dates

Thursday, Nov. 13, 2008

Meridian Southern Baptist
660 S 3rd St
El Cajon CA 92019-2516

10:00 am to 1:30 pm

Linda Thompson Brewer
LifeWay Church Resources

Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008

Fourteenth Avenue Baptist Church
6240 14th Ave
Sacramento, CA 95820-3232

10:00 am to 1:30 pm

Debbie Wolfrey
LifeWay Ministry Multiplier



Who Should Attend?

Association VBS Leaders, Pastors, Church VBS Directors, Church Staff with VBS responsibilities, and anyone interested in getting a Jump Start on knowing about Boomerang Express and Truth Trek Club VBS curriculum.

LUNCH

A light lunch will be provided as part of the meeting.



To Register

Call
559.229.9533 Ext. 235

E-mail
dcampbell@csbc.com

Please provide the names of those attending, the church name and the city.



2009 Ministers' Wives Retreat
May 15-17, 2009 ♦ Jenness Park

Any Road, Any Cost

"You have made known to me the path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand." Psalm 16:11



CINDI McMENAMIN, an award-winning writer and speaker, offers a message that enables women to revive their hearts through rest and worship, turn loss and disappointment into new paths, and avoid burnout by leaning on God for daily power. Cindi's books include *When Women Walk Alone* and *When God Pursues a Woman's Heart* (visit strengthforthesoul.com for a complete list). Cindi and her husband Hugh have been married for 20 years and have a teenage daughter. They live in San Marcos, CA, where Cindi's husband is pastor of Valley Bible Church.

KRISTI FOSS is a singer, songwriter and instrumentalist. She has created and produced numerous recording projects including a solo album entitled *More than a Dream*. She's been married to Steve for 23 years and has two sons.



MEG SLIVOSKEY is a drummer and percussionist and a member of the Christian/African drumming troupe called Bembe Project. A hairdresser for 32 years, Meg is currently back in school to earn a degree in marriage and family counseling. She has been married to Dave for 12 years and has a 20-year-old stepson. Together, Kristi and Meg serve on the worship team for Celebrate Recovery at NorthPointe Community Church in Fresno.

WHO CAN ATTEND?

The Ministers' Wives Retreat is for wives of vocational ministers, including wives and widows of full-time, part-time, or retired ministerial church staff (e.g., associate pastors, music, youth or education ministers), vocational chaplains, and denominational staff. Because the retreat is designed to address the unique challenges and privileges of having a husband in vocational ministry, participation in the retreat is limited to the above. Children cannot be accommodated at this retreat. For more information, please contact Leslie Lee in the Church and Pastoral Care office at 559/229-9533, ext. 212, lee@csbc.com.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Your registration fee covers lodging for two nights, program expenses, and six meals. Register early to ensure your spot! Scholarships are available for one-third of the registration cost—contact the Church and Pastoral Care office at 559/229-9522, ext. 212 for more information.

WHAT EVERY WOMAN WANTS TO KNOW: HOW SHOULD I DRESS?

Jenness Park is high in the Sierra Nevadas and temperatures can be quite cold in the evenings yet warm in the afternoons. For current weather conditions and a live webcam, go to www.jennesspark.com. No formal attire is required; however, many women enjoy dressing up for the gourmet meal on Saturday evening. This year's theme is 1950's style dress.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS YEAR'S RETREAT OR, WHY YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IT!

- Two craft times (Friday and Saturday afternoons)
- Friday afternoon seminar sessions
- Prayer Path
- Seminars on topics relevant to your life
- Friday night variety show
- Personal counseling with counselors from California Baptist University
- Amazing dinner on Saturday (1950's style dress optional)
- Optional Thursday night stay (extra charge)
- 1950's soda fountain/coffee bar
- Saturday afternoon recreation, shopping, relaxation

REGISTER EARLY AND SAVE!

\$165 through 4/15/08

\$175 after 4/15/08

Stay Thursday night (extra charge)

Register online at www.csbc.com: click on Events for May 2009

For more information, contact Leslie Lee at Church and Pastoral Care 559/229-9533 ext. 212 or lee@csbc.com



Church Music Workshop South • Saturday, February 28, 2009

Magnolia Avenue Baptist Church • 8351 Magnolia Avenue, Riverside, CA 92504

Featuring: LifeWay Worship Project: hands-on online training!
www.lifewayworship.com (Yes, bring your laptop)

\$29 Registration includes training, continental breakfast, & lunch
Online Registration is open. Click here to register online.
Online registration will be open through February 25.
On site registration is \$40.

Mail-in Registration: \$29 before Feb 23. (\$40 after that date)
You can mail your registration (mail by Feb 23)
Make your checks to: IESBA
Be sure to include names, church name, church city.
Mail to: Workshop South, IESBA
6857 Indiana Avenue.
Riverside, CA 92506

Senior Pastors are FREE – with 3 paid registrations from their church.

Pastor, do not register yourself online for this – just call us at 951-748-2655.

Schedule:

- 8:00 AM On Site Registration (\$40)
- 9:00 AM General Session – Worship (Immanuel Praise Band)
- 9:45 AM Morning Classes
- 12 noon Lunch
- 1:00 PM Afternoon Classes
- 3:00 PM Dismiss

Half Day Classes:

- o Worship Project Online Training – Ellen Beery (PC Lab)
- o Worship Project Online Training – Roger Byrd (wireless online)
- o Worship Project Online Training – Paul Plunk (bring your Laptop)
- o Planning and Leading Worship – Jim Ricks
- o Strengthening Your choral Ministry – Jerry Green
- o Strengthening Your Praise Team – Nathan Platt

Full Day Classes:

- o Planning and Leading Worship (Spanish) – Eric Bonilla
- o The Church Soloist - Susanne Reid
- o Leading Worship with Guitar (Beginning) – Jason Bennett
- o Leading Worship with Guitar (Advanced) – Steve Brown
- o Keyboard Accompanists (piano) – Kim Gustafson
- o Bass & Drums Working Together – Ryan Webb & Mike Levitsky
- o Leading Children's Choirs – Melodie Cunningham
- o Trilogy of Tech Worship: Audio, Video, and Lighting – Phillip Reid
- o Worshiping God with Dance - Katherine Williams

This is a Workshop

Bring your guitar, your voice, your skills, dancing shoes, laptop, and come prepared to participate and sharpen your talent and knowledge with skilled leader/teachers. See you there!
www.CaliforniaWorship.com

The Old Testament God

by R.P. Nettelhorst

In Deuteronomy 13:1-3a Moses warns the people of Israel, “If a prophet, or one who foretells by dreams, appears among you and announces to you a sign or wonder, and if the sign or wonder spoken of takes place, and the prophet says, ‘Let us follow other gods’ (gods you have not known) ‘and let us worship them,’ you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer.” Some Jewish people hearing the message of Jesus, imagine that Jesus is just this sort of “other god.” They believe that Jesus is a new god that they have never heard of before.

There is a reason for this false impression. Something that many Christians are confused about is which member of the Trinity is revealed and discussed in the Old Testament. If asked about who the God of the Old Testament might be, most Christians would probably say that he is the Father. But in point of fact, the Father is not much revealed until the New Testament. The member of the Trinity that the ancient Israelites interacted with, the one who led them out of Egypt, the one who is called by the name Yahweh (or Jehovah), the one who created the heavens and the earth, is not the Father.

Rather, it is the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

Consider some interesting points that will make this truth obvious. The apostle John writes near the beginning of his Gospel that:

“No one has ever seen God, but God the one and only who is

at the Father’s side has made him known.” (John 1:18)

Likewise, in John 6:46 he writes:

“No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father.”

These are key verses, since they tell us no one has seen the Father. Ever. Yet, we know from the Old Testament that people did see God. For instance, Exodus 24:9-11:

“Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel.

“Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself. But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank.”

Notice also Genesis 18, where Abraham has three visitors, one of whom turns out to be Yahweh. See also Isaiah 6:1-3 where Isaiah saw God “high and lifted up” in the same way he saw the Seraphim; Numbers 12:6-8 tells us that Moses spoke to God face to face, rather than through visions or dreams, and that he sees “the form of God”; Judges 13:20-23 explains that the father of Samson is afraid he might die because he has seen God. He is reassured by his wife when she points out that God would not have accepted their offering if he intended to kill them. Job 42:5 says that Job saw God.

To explain the apparent contradiction between John 1:18 and 6:46, which very clearly state that no one has seen God—and Exodus 24 which just as clearly says that Moses and seventy-three other folks did (not to mention the problems raised by the other passages), there is only one possible explanation: since no one has seen the Father, the only conclusion, then, is that the God of the Old Testament, Yahweh, is none other than the Son of God!

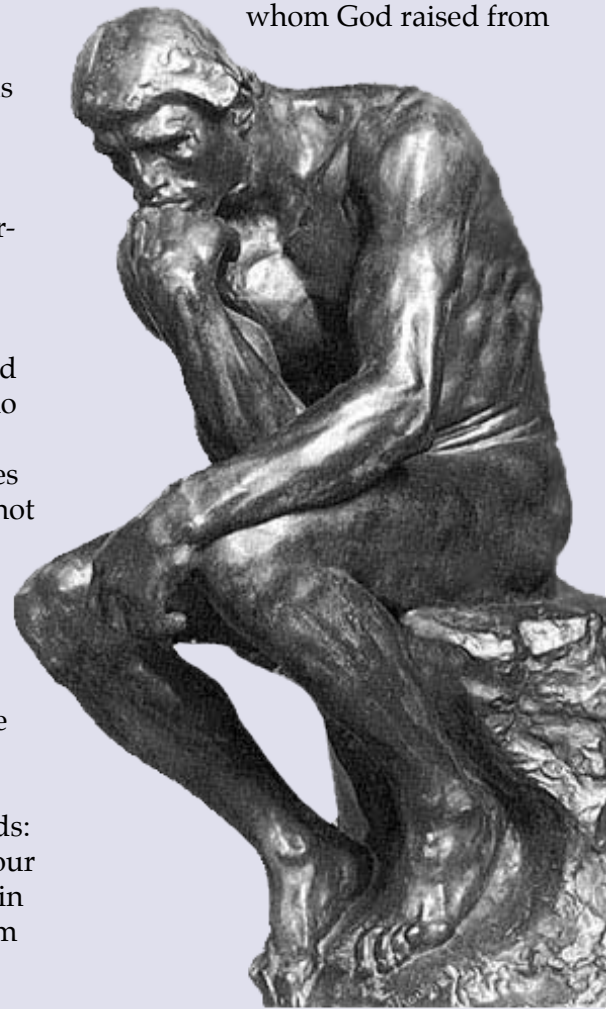
This isn’t so surprising considering that Romans 10:9-13 records:

“That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from

the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, ‘Every one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.’ For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”

Paul has here quoted from Joel 2:32: “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” You’ll notice in English translations that the word “Lord” is all in capitals. That lets you know that the underlying Hebrew word is actually God’s name: Yahweh (sometimes translated Jehovah). Yet Paul identifies the Lord—Yahweh—as being Jesus. Consider also Acts 2:21 where the same passage is quoted from Joel and Peter again applies it to Jesus. Or Acts 4:10-12, where Peter says:

“Then know this, you and everyone else in Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from



the dead, that this man stands before you completely healed. He is 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.' Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Salvation is through the Son, whether in the Old Testament or the New. Notice also what Isaiah 43:11 says:

"I, even I, am Yahweh, and apart from me there is no savior."

Jesus is the savior of the world. If there is no other savior than Yahweh, Yahweh must be Jesus. Therefore, Yahweh—the God of the Old Testament—is the Son of God.

Salvation has always been the same: by the simple act of people putting their faith in the Son of God. There is, and can never be, any other Savior than Jesus.

Jesus is also the creator of the universe. Genesis 1:1 tells us that "in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Then Paul explains in Colossians 1:15-17 that the Son is the one who created the universe: "The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all

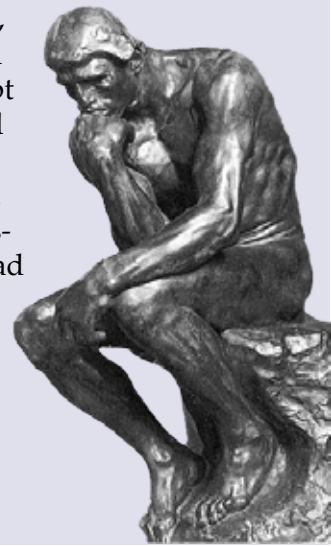
creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together" (see also John 1:3).

And finally, consider this: in the time of Jesus, the Jewish people had become sticklers for keeping the Law of Moses, fearful of doing anything that might cause God to send them back into captivity. Therefore, they had a tendency to build hedges around the law: that is, they added extra commandments that, if kept, would prevent a person from ever getting to the place of breaking God's actual commandment. Thus, the commandment in Exodus 20:7 about not "taking the name of God in vain" was protected by a prohibition against ever speaking God's name at all. In reading the Bible, instead of saying God's name "Yahweh" they would say the word "Adonai"—the Hebrew word that means "Lord." When they translated the Old Testament into Greek, they used the Greek word meaning "Lord" whenever God's name appeared in the text. For

them, the Greek word "Lord" was a word that meant "God." (And, in fact, this Jewish tradition is why even today, in just about all English translations, you'll see the word "Lord" in the Old Testament instead of God's name, Yahweh.)

And so, as we read the New Testament, what do we find? Jesus is consistently referred to by this Greek word that is translated "Lord," a word that the Jews reserved for God himself: a replacement for his name. The New Testament authors were very well aware of what they were doing. For them, there was no question at all.

Jesus is Yahweh, the God that led them from Egypt through the Red Sea, now made flesh, dying as a sacrifice, and rising from the dead three days later. The God that they had always worshipped. •



2009 On Target Evangelism Conference • Reaching the Next Generation February 23-23 - Riverside Convention Center, Riverside

Why this conference is for YOU!

Older pastors – You cut your teeth on confrontational evangelism, you memorized outlines, went door-to-door and took others along with you. You read books by Jerry Falwell and Billy Graham and watched Graham and Luis Palau crusades on television. Yet you now feel the world around you has changed and you are trying to figure out how to relate to this next generation.

Younger pastors – You are committed to sharing the Gospel but are not completely comfortable with some of the conversations coming out of the emergent church dialogue. You are trying to discern how evangelism fits in today's culture.

The conference highlights second-generation ministers who are "Reaching The Next Generation" and ready to share their story with you.

Early registration is only \$89 per person and includes Innovatchurch: 8 innovative ways to lead and grow the church by Jonathan Falwell, a \$14.99 value. Also, discounts are given for ministry teams of four or more.

For On Target registrants a reduced hotel rate of \$89 per night has been secured at the Marriott Riverside. Be sure to make your reservations as soon as possible. Be sure to use the special group code to receive the special rate.

Check out <http://www.ontargetevangelism.com/> for more detailed information about the conference including:

For immediate information, e-mail the CSBC Healthy Church Group or call 559.256.0843.



For the Ladies

The Friendship Connection

by Michelle Adams (courtesy of HomeLife)

"Happy New Year!" you say, greeting the friend you haven't seen in months. "How are you? I can't believe it's been so long!"

"We really should try to get together more," she replies. "Yes — let's do lunch next week!"

No sooner do the words escape your mouth than you remember all the things you have to accomplish in the next several days. You were caught up in the moment. It was a holiday party. "Auld Lang Syne" was playing in the background. Why did you suggest such a thing?

Maybe it's because Proverbs 17:17 says a friend loves at all times — and don't we all need a little more of that in our lives? With marriage, parenting, work, and church commitments, staying connected with friends can be challenging; but it's important to make time for relationships that really matter.

We need friends because God created us to be in relationship with people. Friends are those people who love us by choice and journey with us through both the good times and the hard times of life.

Maybe you've let some friendships lapse over time, and you'd like to reconnect. If that's one of your resolutions this year, here are several ways to make time for important relationships:

Be Realistic

"First, you have to be realistic about how much time you have available. Then you need to commit to making time for your friends," says Dr. Jan Yager, author of *Friendshifts®: The Power of Friendship and How It Shapes Our Lives* (Hannacroix Creek Books).

Yager also advises not trying to invest major amounts of time in every friend on your Christmas card list. If you do, you'll start diffusing the intimacy you share with the friends who are most important to you. Once you've determined which friendships you want to rejuvenate, take active steps. These five tips can put you on the path to meaningful reconnection:

1. Call just to say hello. Don't wait for disasters or monumental moments to dial the important people in your life. Find 20 minutes for a "just because" phone call every week.

2. Make birthdays a big deal. Celebrating birthdays together will guarantee at least two days each year for special friendship time. Go out to your favorite restaurant, celebrate with tickets to a movie, or go shopping at a

nearby mall.

3. Choose neutral locations for get-togethers.

Don't always meet in each other's homes; then you won't have the pressure to get your places organized, decorated, or spotless before you can spend time together.

4. Be flexible. Understand that your friends have obligations and unexpected situations that may prevent them from keeping a date with you. Show your friends the same understanding you'd expect.

5. Return calls quickly. If a friend calls and leaves you a message, do your best to return that call within 24 hours. This communicates the friendship is important to you.

Reach Out

Liz H. Kelly, a Los Angeles-based author, has adopted a no-fear attitude about reconnecting with old friends.

"Even if I have not talked with someone in 10 or 20 years," she says, "I will not hesitate to call."

When Kelly relocated from Baltimore to Los Angeles, she called a high school friend she hadn't seen in 10 years who was also living in Los Angeles. That friend helped her adjust to a new city by introducing her to several people during her first week in town.

Real friends are friends for life, so don't be afraid to reach out.

"True friendships do last the test of time," says Terri Levine, author of *Work Yourself Happy* (Lahaska Press), who helps others balance their careers and personal lives. "These are people you may speak to or write to only at Christmas time, yet a 10-year absence is nothing when you meet up again."

"Part of planning for a balanced life is making time for friends," Levine adds. "Without the outlet that friendships provide, our lives would be narrow and unsatisfying."

So make time today for those relationships that really matter. Mail a card. Make a call. Send an e-mail. Write a letter. Friendships are worth your time and energy. Connecting with friends is one New Year's resolution that's definitely worth keeping!

Michelle Medlock Adams is a freelance writer in Fort Worth, Texas.





I felt compelled to finish off the magazine with this photo. There are times when we lack clarity in Vision and Mission, so we put up another sign. Let's remember to pause, find clarity from the Father, and then proceed in the direction He is leading.

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