



ETERNAL PERSPECTIVES

*We fix our eyes not on what is seen,
but on what is unseen...*

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER • WINTER 2001

Eyes on Eternity

(Excerpted from *The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn)

The streets of Cairo were hot and dusty. Pat and Rakel Thurman maneuvered down an alley. We pulled past Arabic signs to a gate opening to overgrown grass. It was a graveyard for American missionaries.

As Nanci, Karina, Angela and I followed, Pat pointed to one of the sun-scorched tombstones. It read, "William Borden: 1887-1913."

Borden, a Yale graduate and heir to great wealth, rejected a life of ease in order to bring the gospel to Muslims. Refusing even to buy himself a car, Borden gave away hundreds of thousands of dollars to missions. After only four months of zealous ministry in Egypt, he contracted spinal meningitis and died at the age of twenty-five.

I dusted off the message on Borden's grave. After describing his love and sacrifices for the kingdom of God and for Muslim people, the inscription ended with a sentence I've never forgotten: "Apart from faith in Christ, there is no explanation for such a life."

The Thurmans took us straight from Borden's grave to the Egyptian National Museum. The King Tut exhibit was mind-boggling.

Tutankhamen was the boy king, only seventeen when he died. He was buried with solid gold chariots and thousands of gold artifacts. His gold coffin was found

within gold tombs within gold tombs within gold tombs. The burial site was filled with tons of gold.

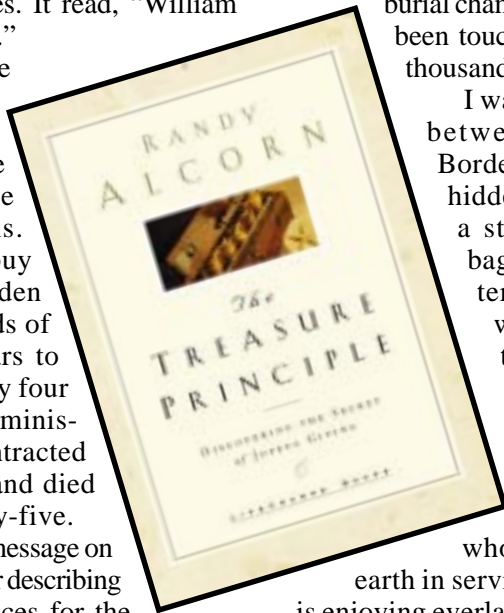
The Egyptians believed in an afterlife—one where they could take earthly treasures. But all the treasures intended for King Tut's afterlife enjoyment stayed right where they were until Howard Carter discovered the burial chamber in 1922. They hadn't been touched for more than three thousand years.

I was struck by the contrast between the two graves. Borden's was obscure, dusty, hidden off the back alley of a street littered with garbage. Tutankhamen's glittered with unimaginable wealth. Yet where are these two young men now? One, who lived in opulence and called himself king, is in the misery of a Christless eternity. The other, who lived a modest life on earth in service of the one true King, is enjoying everlasting reward in the presence of his Lord.

Tut's life was tragic because of an awful truth discovered too late—he couldn't take his treasures with him. William Borden's life was triumphant. Why? Because instead of leaving behind his treasures, he sent them on ahead.

Eternal Rewards

If you imagine heaven as a place where you'll strum a harp in endless tedium, you'll dread it. But if you trust Scripture, you'll



Moral Objections to Embryonic Stem Cell Research

4

What is EPM & How Are We Supported?

8

Are Graphic Pictures Effective in the Abortion Debate?

10

Olympics in China

11

Letters to EPM

13

Helping Children in Need

15

(continued on page 2)

be filled with joy and excitement as you anticipate heaven. As I've written in my book, *In Light of Eternity*, "Heaven will be a place of rest and relief from the burdens of sin and suffering, but it will also be a place of great learning, activity, artistic expression, exploration, discovery, camaraderie and service."

Some of us will reign with Christ (Revelation 20:6). Faithful servants will be put "in charge of many things" (Matthew 25:21, 23). Christ will grant some followers leadership over cities, in proportion to their service on earth (Luke 19:12-19). Scripture refers to five different crowns, suggesting leadership positions. We'll even command angels (1 Corinthians 6:2-3).

We are given rewards for doing good works (Ephesians 6:8, Romans 2:6, 10), persevering under persecution (Luke 6:22-23), caring for the needy (Matthew 25:20-21), and treating our enemies kindly (Luke 6:35).

God also grants us eternal rewards for generous giving: "Go, sell your possessions, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven" (Matthew 19:21).

Jesus is keeping track of our smallest acts of kindness: "If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward" (Matthew 10:42).

God's keeping a record of all we do for Him, including our giving: "A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name" (Malachi 3:16).

Imagine a scribe in heaven recording each of your gifts on that scroll. The

bike you gave to the neighbor kid, the books to prisoners, the monthly checks to your church and missionaries and pregnancy center; they're being chronicled. Scrolls are made to be read. I look forward to hearing your giving stories and meeting those touched by what you gave.

Jesus said, "If you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?" (Luke 16:11-12)



If you handle His money faithfully, Christ will give you true riches—eternal ones. He says He'll give you "property of your own."

By clinging to what isn't ours, we forego the opportunity to be granted ownership in heaven. But by generously distributing God's property on earth, we become property owners in heaven!

Many benefits of our present giving will come to us in heaven. After speaking of the shrewd servant's desire to use earthly resources so that "people will welcome me into their houses," Jesus told His followers to use "worldly wealth" (earthly resources) to "gain friends" (by making a difference in their

Jesus is keeping track of our smallest acts of kindness

lives on earth). The reason? "So that when it is gone [when life on earth is over] you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings" (Luke 16:9).

Our "friends" in heaven will be those whose lives we've touched on earth, and who will have their own "eternal dwellings." Luke 16:9 seems to say these "eternal dwellings" of our friends are places where we stay and fellowship, perhaps as we move about the heavenly kingdom. The money we give to help others on earth will open doors of fellowship with them in heaven. Now *that's* something to get excited about!

John Bunyan wrote *Pilgrim's Progress* in an English prison. He said,

Whatever good thing you do for Him, if done according to the Word, is laid up for you as treasure in chests and coffers, to be brought out to be rewarded before both men and angels, to your eternal comfort.

Is this a biblical concept? Absolutely. Paul spoke about the Philippians' financial giving and explained, "Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account" (Philippians 4:17). God keeps an account open for us in heaven, and every gift given for His glory is a deposit in that account. Not only God, not only others, but we are the eternal beneficiaries of our giving. (What's the balance in your account? Have you been making regular deposits?)



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*As surely as the
compass needle
follows north,
your heart will
follow your
treasure.*

“But isn’t it wrong to be motivated by reward?” No, it isn’t—if it was wrong, Christ wouldn’t offer it to us as a motivation. Reward was his idea, not ours.

Our instinct is to give to those who will give us something in return. But Jesus told us to give to “the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind...Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous” (Luke 14:12-14). If we give to those who can’t reward us, Christ guarantees he will personally reward us in heaven.

Giving is a giant lever positioned on the fulcrum of this world, allowing us to move mountains in the next world. Because we give, eternity will be different, for others and for us.

A Heart in the Right Place

Ever hear that Ray Boltz song that says “Thank you for giving to the Lord”? It pictures us meeting people in heaven who explain how our giving changed their lives. Whether we were their Sunday school teacher or put money in the offering, these people say to us, “I am so glad you gave.”

God promises us generous heavenly rewards, in a magnificent new heaven and new earth, no longer under the curse, no longer suffering (Revelation 21:1-6). We’ll forever be with the person we were made for, in the place made for us.

Nevertheless, many Christians dread the thought of leaving this world.

Why? I think the answer is this: we’ve stored up our treasures on earth, not in heaven. Each day brings us closer to death. If your treasures are on earth, that means each day takes you further from your treasures.

John Wesley toured a vast estate with a proud plantation owner. They rode their horses for hours and saw only a fraction of the man’s property. At the end of the day they sat down to dinner. The plantation owner eagerly asked, “Well, Mr. Wesley, what do you think?”

Wesley replied, “I think you’re going to have a hard time leaving all this.”

I recently spoke with Laverne, a woman with terminal cancer. She was crying, not because she’s going to die, but because I asked her to talk about giving. Through tears she said, “Giving melts me. It blows me away to know God’s chosen me to give. It won’t be long before I see him face to face. I just want to hear him say, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant.’”

Suddenly Laverne laughed. She said, “I mean, what else matters? Why should I care about anything else?”

What’s the difference between that plantation owner and Laverne? One’s heart was set on earthly treasures. The other’s heart was focused on heavenly treasures. Because Laverne is storing up treasures in heaven, each day brings her closer to those treasures.

In other words, giving prepares us for heaven.

Jesus said, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” It’s a key to the Treasure Principle: *My heart always goes where I put God’s money.*

By telling us our heart follows our treasure, Jesus is saying, “Show me your checkbook, your VISA statement, and your receipts, and I’ll show you where your heart is.”

Suppose you buy shares in General Motors. What happens? You suddenly develop interest in GM. You check the financial page. You see a magazine article about GM and read every word, even though a month ago you didn’t care.

Suppose you’re giving to help African children with AIDS. When you see an article on this, you’re hooked. If you’re sending money to plant Indian churches, when an earthquake hits India, you watch the news and fervently pray.

As surely as the compass needle follows north, your heart will follow your treasure. Money leads, hearts follow.

I’ve heard people say, “I want more of a heart for missions.” I always respond, “Jesus tells you exactly how to get it. Put your money in missions—and your church and the poor—and your heart will follow.”

Do you wish you cared more about eternal things? Then relocate some of your money, maybe most of your money, from temporal to eternal things. Watch what happens.

God wants your heart. He isn’t just looking for “donors” to his kingdom, those who stand outside the cause and dispassionately consider acts of philanthropy. He’s looking for disciples immersed in the causes they give to. He wants people so filled with a vision for eternity that they wouldn’t dream of not investing their money, time and prayers where they’ll matter most.

Of course, giving isn’t the only good thing we can do with money. We need to feed, clothe, house, and transport our families. But when the basics are taken care of, why shouldn’t the rest go to treasures in heaven?

Moses surrendered Egypt’s treasures “because he was looking ahead to his rewards” (Hebrews 10:26).

He who lays up treasures on earth spends his life backing away from his treasures. To him, death is loss.

He who lays up treasures in heaven looks toward eternity face-on, moving daily toward his treasures. To him, death is gain.

He who spends his life moving away from his treasures has reason to despair. He who spends his life moving toward his treasures has reason to rejoice.

Are you despairing or rejoicing?

* * * * *

The Treasure Principle has just been published. Its small, hardcover format (*Prayer of Jabez* size) lends itself to taking it anywhere and passing it on as a gift. Single copies of the book can be bought in bookstores. Churches and ministries desiring to buy the book in quantity can contact EPM for more information.

Moral Objections to Embryonic Stem Cell Research

by Scott Klusendorf

Despite the alleged benefit to patients, ESCR [embryonic stem cell research] is morally problematic for at least five reasons.

First, you must kill the embryo to harvest its stem cells. If the embryo is a human person, killing it to benefit others is a clear-cut evil. It treats a distinct human being, with his or her own inherent moral worth, as nothing more than a disposable instrument to be used for someone else's benefit. The daunting prospect of creating a class of human subjects for the purpose of destructive research led Congress to ban federally funded [destructive] embryo research in 1996. Currently, the law specifically states (under Section 511 of the Labor/HHS Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 1999) that no funds may be used to create or destroy human embryos for research purposes.

Advocates of ESCR replied that research would be limited to those embryos scheduled to die anyway, specifically, ones left over from in vitro fertilization (i.e., so-called "spare" embryos) and those slated for elective abortions. In both cases, researchers would secure parental consent before harvesting the cells.

Critics of ESCR were quick to point out that this turns the nature of parental consent on its head. Following the Nuremberg Trials in 1948, the United States joined several nations in publishing ethical protocols for human experimentation. Those protocols clearly state that no human can be subjected to medical experiments without his or her full knowledge and consent. If that individual cannot give consent, a parent or guardian/protector can be appointed to make the decision. However, no experiment should be conducted where there is an

priori reason to believe that death or disabling injury will occur. Concern for the interests of the subject must always prevail over the interest of science and society. When a mother consents to an elective abortion or the discarding of leftover embryos, she abdicates her parental role as protector of the child's best interest. She has, in fact, signed her child's death warrant. Therefore, neither she nor anyone else can give authentic consent to destructive research because there is no honest attempt to serve the best interest of the child.



Furthermore, the claim that research is justified because "these embryos are going to die anyway" is specious. Even if an individual's death is imminent, we still do not have a license to use him for lethal experiments. We cannot, for example, conduct experiments upon death-row prisoners or harvest their organs without their consent. Nor can we extract body parts from mortally wounded soldiers while they are dying on the battlefield.

Second, ESCR is morally problematic because an evil means is used to secure a good end. In essence, accepting embryonic stem cells obtained through elective abortion makes one an accomplice to a crime after the fact. Unlike adult organ donations, the death

of the embryo is intentionally caused. This is hardly the same as when organs are recovered from someone killed in a tragic accident. Consider the case of a hospital that becomes the beneficiary of a gang of killers who supply it with fresh cadavers. Surely one could question the moral appropriateness of the hospital's continuing cooperation with the suppliers. Or, as Scott Rae points out, what about a banker who regards the drug trade as morally wrong, yet agrees to accept drug money to finance housing for the poor? The banker in this case would be involved in complicity with the drug trade, even though he is not involved with the actual sale of narcotics.

German doctors convicted at the Nuremberg Trials argued passionately that they were only using the brains of Jews for the common good. They claimed that SS troops, not doctors, killed the Jews. Therefore, physicians had a moral imperative to make beneficial use of bodies the SS troops supplied them. The Court at Nuremberg rejected this claim. In the United States today, the *New England Journal of Medicine* and nearly every other peer-reviewed journal refuses to publish any results from the Nazi experiments because of the nature of the crimes committed.

Third, the rationale used to disqualify the embryo as a person strips all human beings, born and unborn, of inherent dignity. The 1994 NIH panel concluded that the human embryo deserves "profound respect," but does not have the status of a human person. Panelists relied on the theory of panel member Ronald Green, who argued that human beings could be excluded from "personhood" if recognizing them as "persons" would block beneficial research. By this approach, there is no inherent value in any human being—of any age or condition—obliging us to respect that individual as a member of the human family. Put simply, Green's ethics are thoroughly utilitarian. Right and wrong are determined solely by the consequences of a given act. Actions are

moral if they increase happiness (benefits) and decrease pain for the greatest number of people.

However, some things—rape, slavery, murder—are wrong in themselves and cannot be justified with an appeal to overall benefit. Common sense dictates that we weigh both the rational intent of an act (deontological ethics) with its foreseen consequences (utilitarian ethics). If morals are strictly consequential, as Green implies that they are, how do we condemn a scientist who tortures toddlers to benefit pain research? Or, what if killing a child in the Roman Coliseum helps 50,000 sadists permanently overcome depression at the expense of only one person experiencing pain? Clearly the benefit to the thousands would exceed the pain of one child, but would that make the act just?

Green, of course, cannot say that the pain of the child outweighs the pleasure of the crowd because according to his view, a human child needed for medical research is no longer a “person” with rights we ought to respect. Furthermore, how would he know that the pain of the child is greater than the happiness of the crowd? What if the torture victim was not a child, but an adult who actually enjoyed the perverse treatment? Given that everyone benefits, it’s hard to imagine how Green could condemn such an act.

Fourth, the distinction between “spare” embryos and “research” embryos is morally incoherent and practically unworkable. The NIH panel insists that human embryos deserve “profound respect,” though destroying them for research purposes is not wrong. To hedge its incoherent position, the 1994 NIH panel proposed that destructive harvesting of cells be limited to so-called “spare embryos” from fertility clinics (which the NIH now calls embryos “in excess of clinical need”). Panelists insisted this was less immoral than creating embryos specifically for research. Congress in 1996, however, soundly rejected the distinction, with the House of Representatives voting 256-167 to deny federally sponsored research on any human embryo. They were right to do so. Morally, if it is wrong

to *create* human embryos for destructive research, that is largely because *destroying* embryos for research purposes is itself an egregious moral wrong. It treats a distinct human being, with inestimable moral worth, as nothing more than a disposable instrument for someone else’s benefit.

Morally, if it is wrong to create human embryos for destructive research, that is largely because destroying embryos for research purposes is itself an egregious moral wrong.

Conversely, if one takes the view that human embryos have no inherent moral worth—that their value is purely instrumental—then why not create them solely for destructive research? ABC News ran a story four years ago about a woman whose father was suffering from Parkinson’s Disease. Having heard that brain cells from aborted babies could be used to treat the disease, she sought to conceive a child for the express purpose of aborting it four months later so its body parts could be used to treat her father. The

NIH panel strictly forbids using tissue this way, but on what moral grounds? If the human embryo or fetus has no inherent worth, why not decide in advance that its sole purpose is to treat others?

Fifth, there is evidence that ESCR (and fetal tissue harvesting in general) could enhance abortion’s image as a moral good. At a minimum, it will convince some women that killing their unborn offspring redeems a desperate situation. While ESCR may not dramatically increase abortion rates among women not inclined to abort (pro-life advocates must be careful to not overstate their case here), it could influence those who are undecided. Research shows tremendous ambivalence among women facing crisis pregnancy, with many suffering intense anxiety in the 24 hours before the abortion. The prospect of “redeeming the abortion” to provide tissue for someone else throws a powerful motivation into a psychologically complex situation.

A 1995 study by the Joint Centre for Bioethics at the University of Toronto found that, among women who would consider abortion, 17 percent would be more likely to have one if fetal tissue could be donated for medical use. When one considers the 1.4 million abortions performed annually in the United States, the increase that may occur is a genuine public health concern.

(Complete article may be found at *Stand to Reason* website: www.str.org)

The war [World War II] creates no absolutely new situation; it simply aggravates the permanent human situation so that we can no longer ignore it. Human life has always been lived on the edge of a precipice... We are mistaken when we compare war with “normal life.” Life has never been normal.

C. S. Lewis, “Learning in War Time,”
in *The Weight of Glory*, pp. 42-43.

Fantasy, Fiction, and Faith: The Harry Potter Question

by Chuck Colson

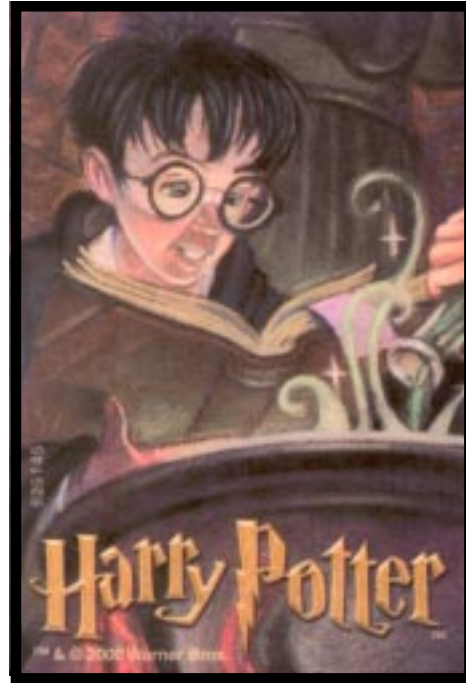
The series of children's books is popular with kids around the world—but the British author was taking heat from the Christian community. People argued that since the books are full of witchcraft and wizardry, crystal balls and spell-casting, they weren't fit for kids to read.

You may think I'm talking about J. K. Rowling, the author of the hugely popular Harry Potter books and the movie that opens today. But I'm not. I'm talking about C. S. Lewis. Fifty years ago, Christians charged that Lewis was teaching kids witchcraft. Yet today, most Christians—myself included—consider the *Chronicles of Narnia* classics and the Narnia books and movies are in most church libraries.

There are Christians who say that there's no difference between the Narnia stories and Harry Potter. Some say both should be condemned, some say both should be praised. Other Christians love Lewis and yet have major reservations about Harry Potter. I fit into that latter category and here's why.

There's no denying that Lewis's Narnia tales feature witches and werewolves; the spirits of trees, rivers, and stars; and characters who cast spells—including characters on the side of good. In this sense, there is little difference between the Narnia stories and the Harry Potter stories. And even in

Lewis, these characters should not be treated lightly. Christian parents should exercise discernment with their kids.



The big differences lie in three other critical areas. **First**, Narnia is clearly not of this world. Lewis posits a wholly other world where the laws of nature are different from our world. Narnian magic is wrong and doesn't work in England. Harry Potter's world, by contrast, is this world. The divide is between the

initiated—that is, wizards and witches—and everyone else, who are derisively called “Muggles.”

Second, Narnia is governed by Aslan and his Father, the Emperor Beyond the Sea. Lewis makes it very clear that he's writing allegory. Aslan is Christ and the Emperor is God the Father. Harry Potter's world is free from any reference to God.

Finally, the Narnia stories are allegories of the great truths of the Christian faith: the atonement, resurrection, repentance, faith, justification, sanctification, creation and redemption, and Christ's return and our heavenly home. *Book Three, The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, is filled with wise insights into Christian living. Harry Potter, as has been argued by many—including my friends—is a moral tale. Okay, it's a moral tale. But that's all it is.

It's a simple risk/reward calculation. Both authors include fantastic and preternatural material. Both series should be handled with care—especially if your children have an unhealthy interest in the occult. Parents need to be wise and attentive to the bent of their children.

The reward with the Harry Potter books and movie is a moral tale. The reward with the Narnia books, on the other hand, is nothing less than Christian truth embedded in stories that have delighted and stirred the hearts of Christian kids for generations.

My advice? Use all the hoopla today over Harry Potter to introduce your kids to the real thing: C. S. Lewis and the Narnia Chronicles.

Originally presented on “BreakPoint with Chuck Colson,” 11/16/2001, Copyright © 2001 Prison Fellowship Ministries. Reprinted with permission.

A Teacher's Patience

A teacher was helping one of her kindergarten students put his boots on.

She could see why he had asked for help. With her pulling and him pushing, the boots still wouldn't go on. When the second boot was finally on, she had worked up a sweat.

She almost whimpered when the little boy said, “Teacher, they're on the wrong feet.”

She looked and sure enough, they were. It wasn't any easier pulling the boots off than it was putting



them on. She managed to keep her cool as together they worked to get the boots back on—this time on the right feet.

He then announced, “These aren't my boots.” She bit her tongue rather than get in his face and scream, “Why didn't you say so?!” like she wanted to. Once again she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off.

He then said, “These are my brother's boots. My mom made me wear them.” She didn't know if she should laugh or cry, but mustered up the grace to wrestle the boots on his feet again. “Now, where are your mittens?”

“I stuffed them in the toes of my boots...”

A. W. Tozer on Evangelism . . .

Salvation Apart from Obedience

I must be frank in my feeling that a notable heresy has come into being throughout our evangelical Christian circles—the widely accepted concept that we humans can choose to accept Christ only because we need Him as Savior and we have the right to postpone our obedience to Him as Lord as long as we want to!

I think the following is a fair statement of what I was taught in my early Christian experience and it certainly needs a lot of modifying and a great many qualifiers to save us from being in error.

“We are saved by accepting Christ as our Savior; we are sanctified by accepting Christ as our Lord; we may do the first without doing the second!”

The truth is that salvation apart from obedience is unknown in the sacred Scriptures. Peter makes it plain that we are “chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit for obedience” (1 Peter 1:2).

I Call It Heresy, 1-2.

Spiritually Worthy

The task of the church is twofold: to spread Christianity throughout the world and to make sure that the Christianity she spreads is the pure New Testament kind....

Christianity will always reproduce itself after its kind. A worldly-minded, unspiritual church, when she crosses the ocean to give her witness to peoples of other tongues and other cultures, is sure to bring forth on other shores a Christianity much like her own....

The popular notion that the first obligation of the church is to spread the gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth is false. Her first obligation is to be spiritually worthy to spread it. Our Lord said “Go ye,” but He also said, “Tarry ye,” and the tarrying had to come before the going. Had the disciples gone forth as missionaries before the day of Pentecost it would have been an overwhelming spiritual disaster, for they could have done no more than make converts after their likeness, and this would have altered for the worse the whole history of the Western world and had consequences throughout the ages to come.

Of God and Men, 35-37.

Modern Salesmanship

In our eagerness to make converts I am afraid we have lately been guilty of using the technique of modern salesmanship, which is of course to present only the desirable qualities in a product and ignore the rest. We go to men and offer them a cozy home on the sunny side of the brae. If they will but accept Christ He will give them peace of mind, solve their problems, prosper their business, protect their families and keep them happy all day

long. They believe us and come, and the first cold wind sends them shivering to some counselor to find out what has gone wrong; and that is the last we hear of many of them....

By offering our hearers a sweetness-and-light gospel and promising every taker a place on the sunny side of the brae, we not only cruelly deceive them, we guarantee also a high casualty rate among the converts won on such terms. On certain foreign fields the expression “rice Christians” has been coined to describe those who adopt Christianity for profit. The experienced missionary knows that the convert that must pay a heavy price for his faith in Christ is the one that will persevere to the end. He begins with the wind in his face, and should the storm grow in strength he will not turn back for he has been conditioned to endure it.

By playing down the cost of discipleship we are producing rice Christians by the tens of thousands right here on the North American continent.

That Incredible Christian, 116-117.

Sovereign Calling

There is another and worse evil which springs from this basic failure to grasp the radical difference between the natures of the two worlds. It is the habit of languidly “accepting” salvation as if it were a small matter and one wholly in our hands. Men are exhorted to think things over and “decide” for Christ, and in some places one day each year is set aside as “Decision Day,” at which time people are expected to condescend to grant Christ the right to save them, a right which they have obviously refused Him up to that time. Christ is thus made to stand again before men’s judgment seat; He is made to wait upon the pleasure of the individual, and after long and humble waiting is either turned away or patronizingly admitted. By a complete misunderstanding of the noble and true doctrine of the freedom of the human will, salvation is made to depend perilously upon the will of man instead of upon the will of God.



What is EPM and How Are We Supported?

by Randy Alcorn

In our newsletter, we deliberately speak very little about EPM or our financial needs. Sometimes people wonder why. More than anything, we want to keep the focus on the Lord, and issues of eternal concern. We don't want to draw people's giving away from their churches or worthy Christian ministries. And we really want to provide this newsletter as a no-cost service to people. Jesus said, "Freely you have received; freely give" (Matthew 10:8).

Still, sometimes we're asked "How's EPM doing financially?" We usually say "just fine." God is our faithful provider. However, our EPM board has encouraged me to communicate more about our finances.

We have a core group of supporters who give regularly to our ministry. Some of them started giving when the ministry began in June 1990 and our office was in the Alcorn basement. Nanci and I were the only employees and funds were never an issue. (Because of lawsuits from abortion clinics, due to peaceful nonviolent civil disobedience in 1989-90, I can only make minimum wage anyway, which really helps with EPM's overhead expenses!)

As the years have gone on, moving into an office and expanding our ministries have involved greater financial needs. However, only twice in our history have we faced what I'd call serious financial challenges. Last spring was one of those times. Because giving normally goes down in the summer, we decided to reduce staff hours, eliminate one staff position, and close the office on Fridays. We decreased the outflow and God graciously increased the inflow. Believing that these cuts were good stewardship, we've kept them in place.

EPM is active in many ministries, and serves as a resource for everything from people with questions about eternity, heaven, missions or famine relief, to students wanting to make a prolife speech or pray for persecuted Christians or go to the mission field. Most of these contacts are spurred on by my fifteen books and our newsletter.

I am the only full-time employee of EPM. Kathy Norquist (30 hours a week) is my ministry assistant, Bonnie Hiestand (20 hours) is our office secretary and newsletter designer, and Janet Albers (20 hours) is our bookkeeper and financial secretary. Nanci still balances the checkbook, handles taxes and some special contributions. Rick Rizzo is our webmaster. As our financial reports testify (you're welcome to one on request), the salaries we pay aren't high.

With every new book, newsletter, speaking opportunity, phone call, email and visit to our website (which has had 160,000 visits from all over the world), EPM continues to expand. Our newsletter is now received at no cost by over 10,000 people representing every state and many countries. We find ourselves in contact with more and more people each month. We're joyfully laboring to keep up.

One of our reasons for existing is to help fund worthy organizations. We call to people's attention some of God's most strategic kingdom efforts. 100% of all contributions sent to EPM and designated to special ministries go there.

Some people like to centralize their giving and have chosen to do this through EPM. In a sense, they use us as an eternal investment counselor or broker. They write one check, with a note designating the gift to one or several specific ministries or areas of ministry. We keep up with a number of different worthy ministries. If we become aware of problems that raise concerns about this ministry's effectiveness or integrity, we send our support elsewhere until this is resolved.

All of my books and royalties are owned by EPM.

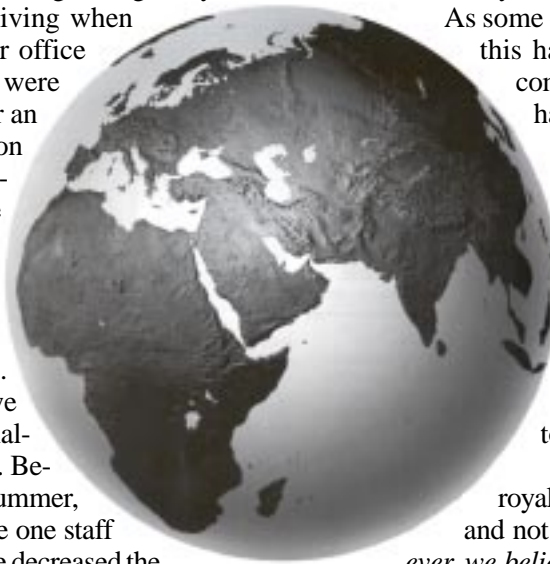
As some of the books have been selling well, this has been a significant source of income. It's been my desire, and the board has agreed, to use as much of this royalty income as possible to fund worthy missions projects. Generally speaking, when advance and royalty checks come in we keep 10% for EPM and send 90% to different worthy ministries. (There are a couple of dozen of these we support—people often ask us for a list of these ministries and we're glad to provide it.)

It may seem strange to give away royalties like this when we could keep them and not need to rely much on donors. *However, we believe the giving and prayers of people are vital to what we're doing.* Jesus said our hearts follow our treasure, and we want some of God's people's hearts and prayers to be in our ministry. We also believe God's hand is on the book sales and He is pleased when we dedicate those to Him and give them to His work. (Sometimes when I see my books on the bestsellers list I think "God, you're just raising funds to help ministries you love, aren't you?")

Partly because of our emphasis on special giving to other ministries, rather than to EPM's general fund, our monthly support sometimes falls considerably short of our needs, even though we labor to keep expenditures at a minimum. God provides in the form of periodic gifts from some of you, but these are not enough to offset our expenses.

As I write this, the three months of operating expenses the board likes us to keep in the bank are at a one-month level (less than \$14,000). I'm not at all worried. God has always provided, and He will again. No one should feel pressured to give. I'm just giving information for those interested.

If God does lay on your heart to give to our ministry, or to pray for us (the greatest gift you can offer), know that we deeply appreciate it. If you decide either to regularly or periodically support EPM, it would be helpful for us if you'd let us know by filling out the information on page 9 and returning it to us.



Mercy Corps Campaign for Afghan Children

Mercy Corps has fifteen years' experience in Afghanistan providing humanitarian aid and community development programs, including hospitals, clinics, seeds, farm tools, and food. Since 1986, Mercy Corps has assisted more than a half million Afghan

people, delivering \$20 million of assistance.

Now funds are urgently needed to provide food and shelter for 50,000 displaced children. With the onset of winter, severe hunger and hardship have fallen on families fleeing from Kabul and other Taliban-controlled

areas where bombs have fallen, making already poor people destitute. Many families are wandering in heavily landmined mountainous terrain, encountering military forces demanding their possessions in exchange for safe passage.

Mercy Corps staff are positioned in the isolated Panjser Valley, where many more refugees arrive each day—hungry, exhausted, and frightened. Mercy Corps workers in Afghanistan and neighboring countries have drawn up plans to meet basic survival needs of 10,000 families for six months. This includes emergency shelter, food, heating and supplies, and water and sanitation. They are providing families with winterized tents and plastic tarps. Estimated cost per person to keep them alive for six months, through the harsh winter: \$71.45.

All funds given to EPM and designated to "Afghanistan relief" will go to this Mercy Corps project. Or, you may send gifts directly to:

Mercy Corps
Dept. W, PO Box 2669
Portland, OR 97208-2669.



EPM Response Form

Name: _____

Street/Apt. or Box #: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

If you feel led of the Lord to do so, indicate one or more below:

- I'd like to pray regularly for EPM.
- send special requests to my email address: _____
- mail special requests to my home address
- I'd like to become a regular supporter of EPM in the amount of \$_____ per month.
- I would like to enclose a one-time gift of \$_____ to be used by EPM as most needed.
- I'd like to designate the following to go (100% and immediately) to support worthy ministries through one of EPM's special funds: missions, relief, suffering church, prolife, handicapped, family, legal defense, salt & light, racial reconciliation.

Please send to: Eternal Perspective Ministries, 2229 East Burnside #23, Gresham, OR 97030. (No envelope is enclosed to prevent waste.)

Are Graphic Pictures Effective in the Abortion Debate?

The Center for Bio-Ethical Reform uses a convoy of large trucks to display oversized pro-life photographs in their Reproductive Choice Campaign to those on freeways and city streets. These displays receive many different responses. Among them, the following:

From a Physician...

While on the freeway here in San Diego, I came across two of your "illustrated" trucks. The pictures were so disgusting that traffic refused to pass them, staying well behind and clogging lanes...causing potential traffic accidents.



Since you seem compelled to shock people and misrepresent the abortion debate, you then won't mind if I tell you that you're simply * nuts! Keep this * off my roads.

If you think you're gaining support, you're * stupid as well as nuts.

Nothing like * moral crusaders like yourselves to make me affirm my opposition to the kind of archaic, fundamentalist, jingoistic * you people portray as "sensible reasoning."

You're doing a great job of making converts to the other side.

H.H., M.D.

Dear Dr. H.,

Thank you for taking the time to offer your thoughtful insights on the influence our Reproductive Choice Campaign is having on motorists in San Diego. I am puzzled, however, by one aspect of your note. Our photos are neither polemical nor judgmental. They merely

depict aborted human embryos and early fetuses with age captions adjacent to the word "CHOICE." If abortion is such a good idea, why do pictures of it make its proponents so angry?

And by the way, ad hominem ill-become a man of your expansive vocabulary and obvious erudition. We would never resort to name calling (it is a poor substitute for a well-reasoned argument) nor would we dream of trying to "convert" hard-core, dogmatic, pro-abortion ideologues. Our photo campaign is aimed at rather more objective viewers in the undecided middle. If the feedback we regularly receive from that demographic is a reliable indicator of success, I would say we are doing pretty well.

Regards,

Gregg Cunningham

The Center for Bio-Ethical Reform
www.cbinfo.org

From a Pregnant Girl...

(The Center for Bio-Ethical Reform received the following email survey.)

Did seeing the trucks and viewing the pictures of the aborted babies have any influence on your thinking? "Yes."

Do you support or oppose legal abortion? "I am pro-life."



Have you seen the images before? "Yes."

How much thought have you given to abortion? "Lots."

What influence have the pictures had on you? "I'm a 22-year-old Spanish girl. I got pregnant by my ex-husband. He wants me to get an abortion and he says that he is not going to be responsible for my child. I was thinking on it. I'm in college and I haven't done anything yet."

But I was looking at these pictures and this is horrible. I don't know how people can easily kill like this. I'm going to keep my baby. I know we are going to be happy. This is hard for me, especially now that I'm only 6 weeks pregnant and I don't have support even from my family. They want me to get an abortion because they say that I'm only 22. They want me to be a professional. I'm not going to kill my baby. I love my baby. My baby is part of me.



One of our heroes in the faith, J. Hudson Taylor, founder of China Inland Mission (now Overseas Missionary Fellowship) said years ago: "We did not come to China because missionary work here was either safe or easy, but **because He had called us**. We did not enter upon our present positions under a guarantee of human protections but relying on the promise of His presence. The accidents of ease or difficulty, of apparent safety or danger, of man's approval or disapproval, in no wise affect our duty. Should circumstances arise involving us in what may seem special danger, we shall have grace, I trust, to manifest the depth and reality of **our confidence in Him**, and by **faithfulness to our charge** to prove that we are followers of the Good Shepherd who did not flee from death itself..."

Olympics Could Turn World Attention to Ongoing Persecution in China

by Janet Chismar, editor of *Religion Today*

The world will be watching—and not just the games. When Beijing was named host of the 2008 Olympics, some Christians were outraged. Is it morally right to hold the Olympics in a country notorious for violating basic religious freedoms and human rights? Randy Alcorn, the author of *Safely Home*, a new novel about the persecuted church in China, says, “Ethically speaking, it was a poor decision, but it will put China under the greatest world scrutiny it’s been under in modern times.”

Alcorn is the founder and director of Eternal Perspective Ministries (EPM), a nonprofit organization devoted to helping the unreached, the unfed, the unclothed and the unborn—in addition to unsupported Christians who face persecution. All of *Safely Home*’s royalties will go to assisting persecuted Christians and spreading the gospel in their homelands. “I wanted to make this my gift to the Lord and the suffering church,” Alcorn explains.

“So should a country that violates human rights in such dramatic ways be rewarded by the global community by being given the Olympics?” asks Alcorn. “No. It sends the message that human rights aren’t a big deal. You can persecute people, imprison them for religious and political reasons, but we’ll still honor you by making you host of the Olympics.”

His concern, he says, is that the decision could give China the impression that their propaganda efforts are working. And, unfortunately, with some they are. “But since China is extraordinarily

image-conscious, this may restrain the hand of persecution against believers and it will certainly result in the gospel being brought into China,” Alcorn adds.

Another benefit, he continues, is that Christians around the world will be praying: “It will usher in unprecedented intercession for believers in China.”

Alcorn likened the situation to that in Genesis 50, where Joseph said of his brothers, “You intended it for evil but

God intended it for good.” He says, “I think it was a wrong decision, yet I think that God will bring much good out of it. He is bigger than wrong decisions and He can use things for His glory—and I believe He will.”

Long-term benefits are more debatable: “There will be a huge flow of money into the country,” Alcorn says. “Beijing will no doubt demolish ghetto housing that would be visible to cameras. But will these poor people be compensated and relocated to better conditions? Probably not. Will they be allowed to inhabit whatever nice structures are built in place of the old hovels? Probably not. Everything in China is calculated for image and prestige and economic prosperity.”

Alcorn does believe that the influx of Christian athletes, coaches, journalists and spectators—and the Bibles and literature they will bring—will be good for China. Alcorn is skeptical that persecution of Chinese Christians will end with the Beijing Olympics, but he is certain that this persecution will be well hidden from international cameras.

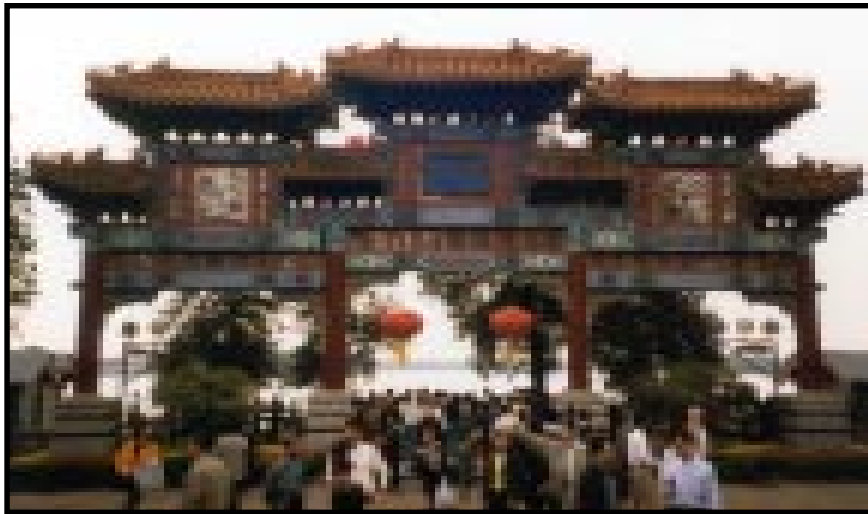
And yes, persecution is very much alive in China. In spite of the image the government portrays, Alcorn has found that the Chinese have very limited religious freedom. “China is historically the place that most Christians have been persecuted and martyred, and some are still dying even today.”

China today is a paradox, according to Alcorn. Some churches are able to worship freely while other church leaders are being arrested, persecuted and jailed. While not always enforced, all churches have legal government restrictions regarding worship gatherings, evangelism and education.

“The widespread myth is the unqualified statement that you can be a registered church in China and freely preach the gospel,” says Alcorn. “This is a great oversimplification. It depends on where you are and what you are allowed to see.”

Overseas business executives are often taken to a “showcase” church where people are permitted to worship freely. Yet they don’t realize that in a city of four million people, there are

(continued on page 12)



Olympics Could Turn World Attention to Ongoing Persecution in China

(Continued from page 11)

only three registered churches. "And they can't speak about the resurrection or the second coming of Christ," Alcorn explains. "They can't preach from the book of Revelation or teach religion to anyone who is under the age of 18.

"It is literally illegal every time a Christian parent reads the Bible to or prays with their child."

While visiting the country two years ago to do research for *Safely Home*, Alcorn interviewed a number of believers and witnessed first-hand the faith and trials of China's exploding Christian population.

"Under the Communist Party, the number of Christians in China has grown

to more than 60 million," says Alcorn. Other estimates place the total at between 100 million to 200 million. "The number of people coming to Christ is absolutely staggering," he adds, estimating that over 20,000 people each day put their faith in Jesus.

One of Alcorn's most vivid memories of China is of going into an illegal gathering in a private home, where they were showing *The JESUS Film* in Mandarin. "They had brought 38 people into this tiny house—the house was the size of an office—and I was sitting there thinking of the risk that they were taking by inviting non-Christian neighbors to come and see the film."

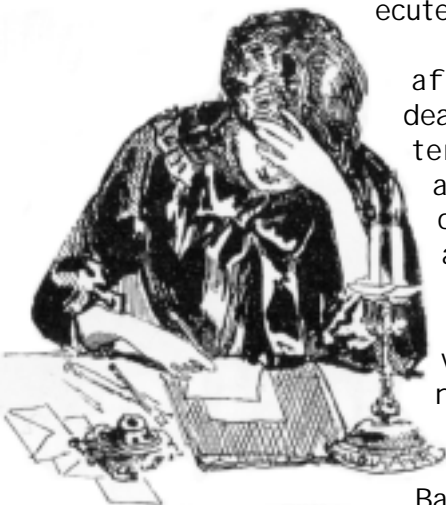
Any of the non-Christians could have reported the believers to the authorities. In fact, says Alcorn, there are incentives given to people to spy on and report each other. "So the risk that they were taking to get the gospel to their neighbors was huge. They could very well go to prison where beatings are common."

Alcorn asked a man who works with one of the Christian ministries in that particular town, "How many believers locally do you know who are presently in jail for their faith?" The man replied there were over two dozen—in that one little area.

"I was very humbled at the freshness and vitality and simplicity of the faith of the Chinese Christians I met," says Alcorn. "They don't focus on their suffering or that at any given time their lives could be much easier if they'd be quiet about their Lord."

A Grace Returned...

When their son died unexpectedly, Joseph and Mary Lou Bayly received comfort and help from a poem sent to them by the young woman their son loved and planned to marry. The poem was "New Year, 1945," written by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Bonhoeffer, imprisoned by the Nazis, had written the poem for his fiancée—just three months before he was executed.



Then, thirty years after Bonhoeffer's death and 12 years after their son's—Joe and Mary Lou received a letter from a young Massachusetts pastor. He told of frequently visiting a woman seriously ill in a Boston hospital, and one day giving her Joe Bayly's book, *Heaven*.

The next day the woman told the pastor that she had stayed awake late the previous night to read it, and told of the comfort and help she had received from it. Shortly afterward she died.

The woman, the pastor added, had emigrated from Germany after World War II. She was Dietrich Bonhoeffer's fiancée.

A Life Given...

On the Slave Coast of West Africa in 1880, a land governed by witchcraft and superstition and where human life was cheap, torture by poisoning and boiling oil was the order of the day. Twins, believed to be children of the devil, were abandoned to die, and the mothers banished. But into that suffering



came a woman who had been afraid to cross the street alone, who once refused to cross a field because there was a cow in it, who was terrified of crowds and public speaking. She immediately contracted malaria, responding with, "Heaven is now nearer to me than Britain." Many times she looked death in the face—everything from crocodiles to angry witch doctors with cauldrons of oil. Meanwhile, she began saving twins from slaughter. If all the twins she rescued had remained alive, they would make up a big town, and it was her own money she used in all this endeavor. She said Christ had sent her with the Gospel and that He would look after the results.

Mary Slessor, as described in *More Than Conquerors*, John Woodbridge, editor.

Mary Slessor, as described in *More Than Conquerors*, John Woodbridge, editor.

Letters to EPM

I am a 52-year-old federal prison guard. I write this letter from my patrol truck. I am not a book reader, but thank God I read *Lord Foulgrin's Letters*. I first heard your book being read on a religious radio station.

I bought the book at a religious bookstore. The short chapters were perfect for reading in my patrol truck. I read at work because there is no quiet time at home (I have five children and several grandkids). I tell everyone I meet about your book. The information in those letters should be required reading for all humans.

Well, I'd better get back to watching this fence line before one of our convicts escapes!

J.T., Fort Worth, TX

I have been in full-time youth ministry (church staff) for 7 years. Before that I worked in residential treatment centers (group homes) for 4 years. I loved *The Ishbane Conspiracy*. I agree that it should be required reading for all parents—not just parents of youth. I feel I battle the same things mentioned in your book all the time. Most parents never get it. Thank you for writing the book.

J.D.

I have never been so inspired by a book other than the Bible in my life. After finishing *Safely Home*, I fell to my knees in tears begging God for the boldness and desire reflected by Quan. The written words expressed in the love Quan had for Yesu and His Word pierced my heart. The desire he had for others to drink of the living water and to taste what joy could become of knowing Him is now more of a desire for me. You have no idea how much this book has touched me, and I want to thank you.

A.R., Gresham, OR

Just a few minutes ago I finished reading, *Deadline*, which incidentally took just a few days to do.

I'd like to thank you for writing the book which I feel will make a profound change in my life.

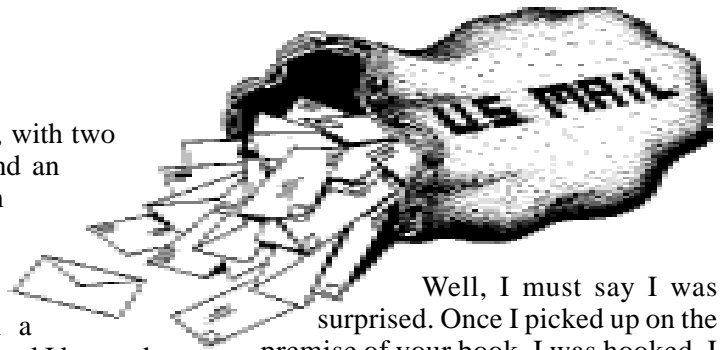
At 45 years old, with two teenage children, and an incredible wife, I am working toward a relationship with God. My wife became a Christian a couple of years ago and I know she is praying that I will soon know Him as she does.

Deadline was recommended to me as I boarded a plane at Heathrow London in October, coming home to Canada. The fellow sitting next to me (who recommended it) was a pastor from Holland. He was flying to Canada for his father's funeral. I think that God put him in the seat next to me as part of His plan. It was quite a while before our plane taxied to the runway and we discussed Christianity while waiting. Shortly before take-off, the pilot introduced himself over the P.A. and said that he hoped that we would all enjoy our trip to "Paradise." He was referring to Vancouver, B.C., of course and was proud of his home town. My pastor friend looked at me and said, "Oh—he must have been listening to our conversation!"

I feel that God is encouraging me to step out, and your book is helping me make decisions.

M.H., Vernon, BC

My mom gave me a book, *Edge of Eternity*. My dad is a Nazarene pastor, and my mom is always trying to get me to read books that she likes. We have both always been big fans of Frank Peretti, but that is about the extent of our common interest in books. When she handed me your book, I thought to myself, "Great, just what I need; another book she gives me I have to find an excuse not to read." I even decided to read a couple of chapters just so I could say that I tried.



Well, I must say I was surprised. Once I picked up on the premise of your book, I was hooked. I have never before seen so clearly the Christian's walk so personally personified. The symbolism that you used put things in such a clear perspective, I had to thump myself on the head for not seeing it sooner. I think this is why Jesus spoke in parables. It helps us "dummies" see what's been right in front of our noses the entire time.

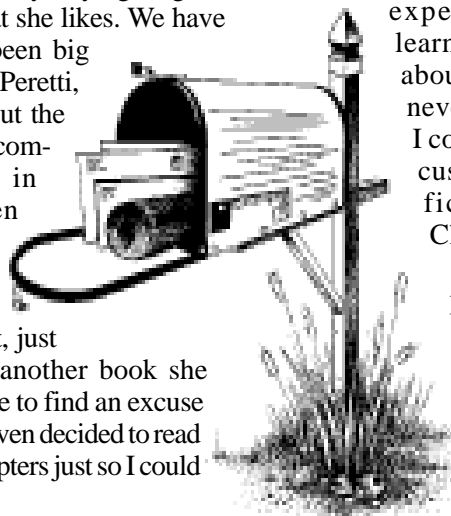
Before I was halfway through with your book, I told my wife that I would be writing you a letter to thank you for writing this. It has been an inspiration and an eye-opener for me, and I will be sharing this one with my friends and family. I am also sending a copy of this letter to my mom to tell her that she was right this time.

M.T.

I just read *Edge of Eternity* this past year. It is the GREATEST fiction book I've ever even thought about reading. Thank you, Mr. Alcorn, for writing that book. It really served as a "kick in the pants" for my spiritual walk. As I'm sure you've heard many times, the other-worldly situations in the story are so similar to what I experience everyday. I truly learned a lot about myself and about the work of Christ that I never knew, through your book. I continue to suggest it to all the customers who ask for a great fiction book. (I work at a Christian bookstore.)

Please keep working to protect the rights of unborn babies and spreading the wonderful truth of our Father's love to the world. I will be praying for you all.

D.C., Charlotte, NC



Thirteen Statistics Regarding Child Slavery

(Compiled by Action International Ministries)

1 There are around 3000 enslaved Albanian children used for begging and cleaning windows and cars without payment in Italy and Greece. (CRCA, *The Vicious Circle*, 2000)

2 An estimated 496,000 children are in slavery in Bangladesh. (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, *Report on National Sample Survey of Child Labour in Bangladesh*, October 1996)

3 Over 10-20 million people are subjected to debt bondage largely in India, Bolivia, Brazil, Peru and the Philippines. (*Debt Bondage: The Challenge for the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery*, submission to the UN Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, June 1996)

4 Of 20 million bonded labourers in Pakistan, 7.5 million are children. (ILO-IPEC, *Mainstreaming Gender in IPEC Activities*, 1999)

5 Of 35 million soccer balls stitched in Pakistan, children produce one quarter of the balls, most of them as bonded servants. (Mary E. Williams, *Child Labour and Sweat Shops*, 1999, citing Sydney Schanberg, *Life*, 1 June 1996)

6 Nearly 500,000 minors work in virtual slavery conditions in Senegal. (Jorge Piña, "Italy to Help Vulnerable Children in Senegal," *IPS World News*, Rome, 29 May 2000)

7 "Restavek," the practice of sending children to serve as unpaid domestic labour for more affluent city dwellers, exists in the country of Haiti. UNICEF estimated that 25,000 to 300,000 children, 85% of them girls, are victims of this practice. (US Dept of State, *Human Rights Report*, 1999)

8 Information gathered by the British charity, Christian Aid, and reported by Reuters, indicates that up to 10,000 children between ages 6 and 14 are enslaved in brothels in Sri Lanka. (CATW, *Child Sex Tourism is Flourishing in Sri Lanka*, *Coalition Report*, 1997)

9 There are no universally-accepted figures for the number of bonded child labourers in India. However, in the carpet industry alone, human rights organizations estimate that there may be as many as 300,000 children working, many of them under conditions that amount to bonded labour. (US Dept of State, *Human Rights Report*, 1999)

10 Some NGOs estimate that the number of bonded labourers in India is 5 million persons. However, in a report released during the year, Human Rights Watch estimated that 40 million persons, including 15 million children, are bonded labourers. The report notes that the majority of bonded labourers are Dalits, and that bondage is passed from one generation to the next. (US Dept of State, *Human Rights Report*, 1999)

11 90% of the 100,000 women in prostitution in Bombay, India, are indentured slaves. (CATW Fact Book, citing Robert I. Friedman, "India's Shame: Sexual Slavery and Political Corruption are Leading to an AIDS Catastrophe," *The Nation*, 8 April 1996)

12 Persons sometimes are sold into virtual slavery. Many boys from India, some of whom are as young as 4 years, end up as riders in camel races in West Asia and the Gulf States, especially in the United Arab Emirates, or begging during the Haj. Girls and women end up either as domestic workers or sex workers. (US Dept of State, *Human Rights Report*, 1999)

13 It takes up to 15 years for girls held in prostitution via debt-bondage in India to purchase their freedom. (Robert I. Friedman, "India's Shame: Sexual Slavery and Political Corruption are Leading to an AIDS Catastrophe," *The Nation*, 8 April 1996)

Action Intl. Ministries (*Street Children Ministry— Children in Crisis*)
PO Box 398, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043-0398
Phone: (425) 775-4800, Email: d_nichols@earthlink.net

JESUS!!!

Jesus is gracious.

Jesus is great.

Jesus is a hero.

Jesus is holy.

Jesus is loving.

Jesus is kind.

Jesus is my Lord!!

Ellie Campbell
Age 7



Helping Children in Need

(Information from Viva Network, an international organization that links Christians working with children at risk worldwide)

PRAY...

- **Prayer Diary:** Subscribe (\$15/year) and pray daily for children at risk. Contact prayer@viva.org.
- **Email Prayer Link:** Join the rapid response prayer chain. Send your email address to pray@viva.org and get regular updates.



GIVE...

- **“Children at Risk” gift-day:** Organize an annual “gift-day” in your church and support a project or an organization working with “children at risk”. For information on who to support, contact Viva Network.
- **Your coffee:** Buy Pura Vida Coffee and get your church to do so as well! Contact: John Sage 206-328-9606
- **Sponsor a child:** Many agencies exist that offer this opportunity. For further information contact: www.viva.org
- **Sponsor a project:** Twin your church with a “children at risk” project in Russia or the Ukraine. Contact: kingsjill@aol.com

GO...

- **Get trained:** Resources, courses, consultants listed on www.viva.org/helpme/train
- **Find a placement/workers:** Vacancies listed on www.viva.org/ican/volunteer/

- **Find currently available staff** on www.viva.org/helpme/recruit/
- **Foster:** Thousands of children need a home—provide one! Become a fosterer. For more information contact pmk@viva.org
- **Big Brother/Big Sister:** Many at risk near you need a friend. Join the “Big Brother” project and befriend a child. For more information contact www.bbbsa.org or call 215-567-7000
- **Near you:** Contact your local authority and ask how it.

INFORM

- **Read:** Buy a copy of *Children at Risk* by Patrick McDonald from MARC Publishers (800) 777-7752, or a bookstore near you. Buy one for your pastor and other key leaders.
- **Journal:** Subscribe (\$20/year) to “Reaching Children at Risk” magazine for those working with children at risk. Contact: pstockley@viva.org
- **Connect:** Subscribe (\$15/year) to the “Connect Magazine” and stay informed! Contact: 01865320100 (UK)
- **Church magazine:** Get a regular “Children at Risk” column into your church bulletin/magazine. Contact: egarrow@viva.org
- **Web protection:** Make the web a safe place for your children. Get screening software and promote to your school/others. For further information contact: www.childnet.org

For more information, contact Viva Network:

In the USA: Kids Link USA, 1-803-358-0572

Internationally (UK): 011-44-1865-320-100

Website: www.viva.org

Email: helpdesk@viva.org

EPM Book Prices and Ordering Information

The Treasure Principle	\$10.00	The Ishbane Conspiracy	\$15.00	Safely Home	\$20.00
Deadline	\$14.00	(4-pack cassette tapes)	\$20.00	(4-pack cassette tapes)	\$20.00
(4-pack cassette tapes)	\$20.00	Is Rescuing Right?	\$ 5.00	Sexual Temptation: <i>How</i>	
Does the Birth Control		Lord Foulgrin's Letters	\$15.00	<i>Christian Workers Can</i>	
Pill Cause Abortions?	\$ 3.00	(4-pack cassette tapes)	\$20.00	<i>Win the Battle</i>	\$ 2.00
Dominion	\$15.00	Money, Possessions		Women Under Stress	\$ 6.00
(6-pack cassette tapes)	\$25.00	& Eternity	\$11.00	The StoryTellers'	
Edge of Eternity	\$12.00	ProLife Answers to		Collection	\$17.00
(4-pack cassette tapes)	\$20.00	ProChoice Arguments	\$13.00		
In Light of Eternity	\$14.00	Restoring Sexual Sanity	\$ 7.00		

Please include 10% shipping & handling.

You may purchase these resources from your local bookstore or order them on our website, at www.epm.org/books.html or call us at 503-663-6481. Quantity discounts are available.

A Note to Readers: If you cannot afford to purchase a book, please send whatever you can, whether that's \$5 or \$2 or nothing. We'll be glad to send you single copies of books. We only ask that you read them and share them with others. (This offer does not apply to The StoryTellers' Collection, since Randy is a contributor, but not the sole author.)

One Family Responds to *Safely Home*

Dear Mr. Alcorn,

I wanted to share with you the miracle that has happened, and what a privilege it has been for my family to be a part of it.

After reading your book, *Safely Home*, I shared some of the information with my children whom I homeschool. We decided to make a project for the school year of raising money for Bibles for China. We got the information from your website and set a goal of 300 Bibles. We knew that \$1,200 would be a lot to raise, but we had until the end of the school year to do it.

We spoke to another family that goes to a large church nearby and also homeschools, and they asked if they could join us. With that, we raised our goal to 500 Bibles. The mother in that family has parents who are very active in their church, and who are very involved with the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. We asked them if we could put up a table at their I.D.O.P., but they informed us that the church did not allow ministries to collect money at that event but only to give out information. We thought the door there was closed.

We planned two upcoming events, one a walk-a-thon to be held on November 3 (the day before the I.D.O.P.) and the other a garage sale on December 1. Meanwhile, we were excited to learn that The Bible League of China currently is offering a matching grant, dollar for dollar, for all money donated for Bibles for China. This meant we could now buy a Bible for \$2.00, rather than \$4.00. My children began giving up birthday money, tooth money, chore money, and babysitting money for Bibles. They would talk about how many Bibles we can buy by skipping Taco Bell! We set up a change jar, where all my husband's change got deposited at the end of the day, along with any other coins in the house (they come running with them to put in the change jar). Even my three-year-old came in with a penny yesterday and asked, "Tan I div dis to China?" Before we knew it, we had \$272, which would originally have purchased 68 Bibles, but through the matching program would now purchase 136 Bibles! But it gets better....



My friend's parents went to the pastors of their church to talk about the idea of providing Bibles this year in honor of the I.D.O.P. for the Persecuted Church. One pastor spoke up and said it was time for them to put their money where their mouth is and give \$5,000 for Bibles. Then it was decided that they would make it a matching program, and match dollar for dollar any money given for Bibles through them, and then pass the money on again to be matched at The Bible League. Suddenly the cost of Bibles was reduced to \$1.00, which they would make \$2.00, and which Bible League would make \$4.00! We now had enough for 272 Bibles! But it gets better still....

A local Christian radio station has a talk show host who is widely broadcast. He is also a member of that large church. He decided to do a show on The Bible League and China. My friend's parents called in and talked about the matching program. Then my friend called in and told about our walk-a-thon and our efforts with our kids to raise money for these Bibles.

The host of the program then challenged everyone out there to call in and give money for these Bibles to be used in the matching program. Before we could even realize what was going on, people were calling in and giving money for the Bibles. Some even came in their cars to the radio station. When the night ended, they had enough money in hand to provide over 4,100 Bibles to the people of China. (We're walking three miles.) The radio host was so inspired, that they began giving away tickets to Magic Mountain for anyone giving \$100 or more. (I know, it doesn't compare to heaven but they did it anyway!) Besides that, family members, friends, and the people of our church poured out generous sponsorships of our walk-a-thon, even with one family sponsoring my 8 yr. old daughter \$50 per mile!

Through the many cogs of the wheel of the body of Christ, what began as inspiration from reading *Safely Home*, and turned into a hope of being able to provide 300 Bibles for China, we at this point, already have seen the hand of God move and multiply efforts and provide 4,557 Bibles for the Chinese Christians. To make it more amazing, it has taken less than a month!

I thought it would bless you to learn of this. It isn't even finished yet, sponsorships are still coming in!

Thank you for inspiring the body of Christ!

A family in Mesa, AZ

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