

eternal

perspectives

Summer 2015

25 years of
— GOD'S —
FAITHFULNESS
to EPM

Why an eternal
perspective
changes everything

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An interview
with Randy and
Nanci Alcorn

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We hope you enjoy this 25th anniversary edition of *Eternal Perspectives*. Don't miss the invitation on page 5 to join us for an evening of celebrating God's kindnesses to EPM!

about

Eternal Perspectives, a publication of Eternal Perspective Ministries, seeks to encourage readers to learn to live in light of eternity.

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Shop online at www.epm.org/store for Randy Alcorn books and products.

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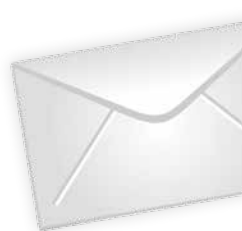
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Why an ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE Changes Everything

BY RANDY ALCORN

Having an eternal perspective is in many ways the key to living a true Christ-following life. Scripture says in 2 Corinthians 4:18, “So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal” (NIV). If we let this reality sink in, it will forever change the way we think and live.

In our ministry, we encourage believers to look at life differently—like Elisha’s servant whose eyes were opened so he could see the angels surrounding and protecting them (2 Kings 6). It wasn’t that suddenly those angels were there. They were there all along. He finally had the eyes to actually see the invisible realities.

I’m *not* saying that we’re going to be seeing angels and demons if we have an eternal perspective! What I am saying is we need to ask God to open our eyes to what’s at stake—to the unseen world and the reality of Heaven, our eternal destination.

Most of us see no further than the horizons of this world. To correct our short-sightedness, God prescribes a vision correction that allows us to look through the lens of eternity. Suddenly we realize this present life is but a brief window of opportunity to invest in what will last for eternity.

Knowing that this present world will end and be resurrected into new heavens and a New Earth should profoundly affect our daily behavior. “...You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God. . . . In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him” (2 Peter 3:11-14, NIV).

If we understand what “a new heaven and a new earth” means, we’ll look forward to it. (And if we’re not looking forward to it, we must not yet understand it.) Anticipating our homecoming will motivate us to live spotless lives here and now.

Joni Eareckson Tada writes in *Heaven: Your Real Home*,

When a Christian realizes his citizenship is in heaven, he begins acting as a responsible citizen of earth. He invests wisely in relationships because he knows they’re eternal. His conversations, goals and motives become pure and honest because he realizes these will have a bearing on everlasting reward. . . . He gives generously of time, money, and

We can invest
this life in
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Living with eternity in mind will infuse us with a joy and purpose that can sustain us in daily life, even as we face hard things.

talent because he's laying up treasure for eternity. He spreads the good news of Christ because he longs to fill heaven's ranks with his friends and neighbors. All this serves the pilgrim well not only in heaven, but on earth; for it serves everyone around him.

When we view today in light of the long tomorrow, the little choices become tremendously important. Whether I read my Bible today, pray, go to church, trust Christ through suffering, share my faith, and give my money—actions graciously empowered not by my flesh but by His Spirit—is of eternal consequence, not only for other souls, but for mine.

After all, what will last forever? God. God's Word. People. Spending time in God's Word and investing in people will pay off in eternity and bring me happiness and perspective now. This life need not be wasted. In small and often unnoticed acts of service to Christ, we can invest this life in eternity, where today's faithfulness will forever pay rich dividends.

Not only will an eternal perspective change our actions, it will also change our attitudes. Living with eternity in mind will infuse us with a joy and purpose that can sustain us in daily life, even as we face hard things. Recognizing our future life on a resurrected Earth can help empower us to stick with a

difficult marriage, to persevere in the hard task of caring for an ailing parent or child, or to stay with a demanding job. Moses stayed faithful to God because "he was looking ahead to his reward" (Hebrews 11:26).

Christ-centered righteous living today is directly affected by knowing where we're going and what rewards we'll receive there for serving Christ. After all, if we really believe we're going to live forever in a realm where Christ is the center who brings us great joy, and that righteous living will mean happiness for all, why wouldn't we choose to get a head start on Heaven through Christ-centered righteous living now? Do we really want to miss out on the true happiness that Jesus offers us here and for all of eternity?

Father, you tell us not to fix our eyes on popular culture, not on fleeting accomplishments and wealth, but upon what is eternal, what will still matter a billion years from now. Give us the eyes of faith, and remind us to focus on you, our soon-returning Savior, and on eternity with you that awaits us. ■

Spend Your Day with Eternity in Mind



A life once spent is irrevocable. It will remain to be contemplated for eternity. The same may be said of each day. When it is once past, it is gone forever. All the marks which we put upon it, will exhibit forever. Each day will not only be a witness of our conduct, but will affect our everlasting destiny. How shall we then wish to see each day marked with usefulness? It is too late to mend the days that are past. The future is in our power. Let us then each morning resolve to spend the day into eternity in such a garb as we shall wish it to wear forever. And at night, let us reflect that one more day is irrevocably gone indelibly marked.

—Adoniram Judson

Adoniram Judson (1788-1850) was America's first foreign missionary. He served as a missionary to Burma for almost 40 years, through great personal suffering and sacrifice. Judson also translated the Bible into Burmese, as well as established a number of Baptist churches in Burma. Learn more of his story in John Piper's short ebook Adoniram Judson: How Few There Are Who Die So Hard!, available for free at www.desiringgod.org/books/adoniram-judson.

join us on October 16, 2015 to celebrate

25 Years

of God's kindnesses to EPM

An Invitation for You

We invite you to join us for an evening of celebration: come hear the stories, participate in the worship, connect with the Alcorns and EPM staff, pick up some free resources, enjoy some dessert, and laugh and celebrate with us. (This isn't a fundraiser so leave your checkbook at home!) All are welcome. A special invitation goes to those who've supported EPM through prayer, finances, or words of encouragement, and anyone else who's interested. We'd love for you to come. (And if you live a distance away, Oregon is a great place to visit!)

Friday, October 16, 2015, doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Good Shepherd Community Church
28986 SE Haley Road, Boring, Oregon

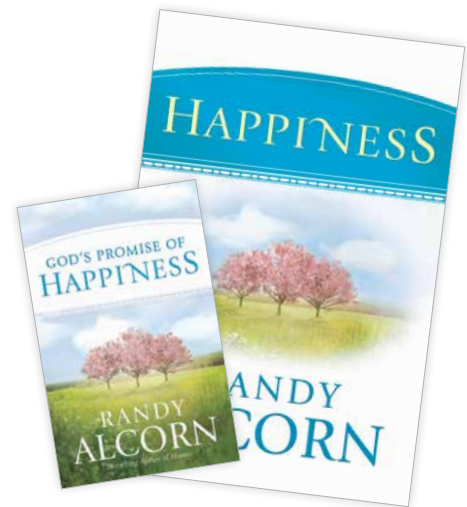
Happiness, coming October 2015

We know we'll experience unimaginable joy and happiness in Heaven, *but that doesn't mean we can't also experience joy and happiness here on earth.*

In his new nonfiction book, Randy dispels centuries of misconceptions about happiness and provides indisputable proof that God not only wants us to be happy, He commands it. The most definitive biblical study on the subject of happiness to date, this book is a paradigm-shifting wake-up call for the church and Christians everywhere.

Happiness will be available both in print and on audio CDs (read by Randy) from www.epm.org/store in October. (You can preorder the hardcover book at www.epm.org/happiness.) We'll be sharing an excerpt in a coming issue of *Eternal Perspectives*!

Also coming this fall: the booklet *God's Promise of Happiness*, which will contain select passages and Scriptures from the book *Happiness*. It will be gospel-centered, designed for believers and unbelievers alike.



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Randy at IMPACT 2015

Randy will be one of the speakers at the National Christian Foundation's IMPACT 2015, a conference for givers being held in Dallas, Texas, October 1-3, 2015. Learn more at www.nationalchristian.com/impact.

Introducing EPM's new logo

In anticipation of our newly designed website, this year we introduced an updated version of our logo. It continues to incorporate the infinity sign, highlighting the importance of an eternal focus in all our ministry does.



25 Years

of God's Faithfulness to EPM

An interview with Randy and Nanci Alcorn

BY STEPHANIE ANDERSON, EPM STAFF



Twenty five years ago, Randy and Nanci Alcorn stood at a crossroads. An abortion clinic had recently won a lawsuit against Randy for his participation in peaceful, nonviolent rescues of unborn

children, and he could not make more than minimum wage without 25 percent of his income being taken by the abortion clinic. As a matter of conscience, Randy resigned as a pastor of the church he and Nanci helped start thirteen years earlier. It was a job he loved, and the Alcorns depended on it.

The future looked bleak for a while. But what others intended for evil, God intended for good (Genesis 50:20). Those trying circumstances led to the founding of Eternal Perspective Ministries (EPM), a nonprofit ministry that allowed the Alcorns to pursue things close to their hearts.

In this interview, Randy and Nanci recall God's faithfulness to their family and to this ministry in the years since EPM was founded.

Take us back 25 years. Your family had just come through a stressful few years. What emotions were you feeling at EPM's beginning?

Nanci: The prevailing feeling was not knowing what was ahead. We had faith in God and knew He had a plan. But sometimes, speaking from other experiences, that plan isn't your favorite thing to go through. There were a lot of unknowns and huge question marks about what was in front of us: *How were we going to have an income? Would our kids still*

be able to attend their Christian school? Were we going to lose our house?

Randy: Just your basic, daily uncertainties of life! (Laughs.) I would say that pain and excitement were the prevailing emotions for me. The pain was largely due to the uncertainty Nanci mentioned. Some had to do with the fact I was leaving a job I loved, and some was due to my fellow pastors and elders understandably not agreeing with all our decisions. We were doing something we felt was right, but we knew it was controversial.

Also, there was pain in missing the relationships that came with being on the pastoral staff. We had been at Good Shepherd Community Church from the beginning, as one of the original two pastors and their wives. It was a big loss to step out of that position. We continued attending Good Shepherd—and we're still there and love our church—but we didn't know what the future held. If you had asked me before this all happened, "What will you be doing twenty-five years from now?" I likely would have said, "I'll still be a pastor at Good Shepherd."

The excitement was, "What's next, Lord?" I knew God was sovereignly at work, and He was doing something good, even though we weren't sure what that was!

What was the most difficult aspect about beginning your own ministry?

Nanci: We didn't know anything about a 501(c)(3). One of the hardest parts was trying to get everything set up. It was just Randy and me. I did most of the office tasks. I didn't know much about bookkeeping or how to do mailings, but I learned how to do them. Those weren't things I would necessarily have chosen to do.

Also, even though as a pastor you're in a sense living off of other people's donations, you don't think of it that way because you have a job with a salary. So setting up an organization where we're receiving support was hard for both of us. Randy and I have gladly supported missionaries over the years. But being on the other side was difficult.

Randy: There was a lot of self-consciousness about raising support. To this day, I hate asking for money. But I'm comforted by the fact that in Scripture, Paul can say, essentially, "Here's our need," and "Thank you for supporting us" [see Philippians 1:4-5]. I'm also comforted knowing it actually helps people to give them the opportunity to invest in eternity [see Philippians 4:17]. But back then, it was hard.

One of the touching things was how a core group of supporters rallied around us and supported us. We've never forgotten this. Some of those same people are *still* giving monthly to EPM. That blows us away.

Why the name Eternal Perspective Ministries?

Randy: Certainly 2 Corinthians 4:18 was very much on my mind: "We look not at things which are seen, but things which are unseen. The things that are seen are temporary. But the things which are unseen are eternal." That was huge in the decision-making process related to doing the rescuing and civil disobedience, putting our entire financial future in question, and experiencing the controversy that came with it. We did it because we believed God wanted us to and because we were seeking to please Him.

Though missions and prolife work were at the forefront of our thinking, we didn't yet know the specifics of what the ministry would involve. And I wasn't sure *how* to combine both of those into a ministry name without limiting us. With the idea of an eternal perspective being so important to us, it seemed right to call it "Eternal Perspective Ministries" which describes a point of view, not what our ministry does and doesn't do.

How do you think the experience of starting EPM shaped your daughters, Angela and Karina (then 9 and 11)?

Nanci: Tremendously. We were the kind of parents who didn't shield them from things. We thought the best way to teach our children how to process difficult things was to do it *with* them.

The night before the big trial started, our lawyer called and said, "I don't know why this is happening, but Lovejoy [abortion clinic] said they'll take you off the lawsuit, and you don't have to be a defendant. But you have to agree and sign off on it. Obviously, I'd advise you to do that!"

We talked it over with the girls, explaining we had a chance to get out of the lawsuit. We said that if this lawsuit goes through, there might be no more trips to Disneyland, we'd be pinching our pennies, and they might have to leave Good Shepherd School because

I knew God was sovereignly at work, and He was doing something good, even though we weren't sure what that was!

—Randy

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE >

we couldn't afford the tuition. We could even lose our house. Randy and I very gently laid it all out in front of them.

Karina's response was, "Well, I'm thinking if Lovejoy wants you off, then we should stay on!" And Angie nodded in agreement. We would have made the final decision. But we actually brought them into it, and that's a big deal for a nine and an eleven year old. From that, they understood a lot of things.

Randy: Years later, Angela and I were riding bikes in a neighborhood where there was a \$500,000 house for sale, which at the time in Oregon was a huge house. While we were admiring it, I realized that with all the royalties that came in the previous year, we could have paid cash for it. I asked Angie, "Do you wish we would have done that?" She laughed and said, "Dad! It's just a house!" Why would we do that, considering what we were doing with the book royalties? Karina and Angela knew the money was going to support missions and Bible translation and to save lives, something far better than raising our standard of living.

Nanci: I strongly believe that faith is putting your trust in Christ when you really don't have all the answers. If our girls didn't go into this with a lot of question marks, just like we did, how could their faith have grown? We didn't tell them, "We're sure we won't have to pull you out of Good Shepherd School, so don't worry." We didn't know. We could only promise them God would watch over us.

However, within that month, an anonymous donor paid their tuition, and for the rest of their time at the school, it was paid for. What they would have missed if they hadn't realized how high the stakes really were! If God wanted them to stay at the school, He would have to come through with a financial miracle. And He did.

It's not like we tested God, or He said, "Here, I'm giving you a house in Tahiti." But He always took care of us. Karina and Angela both got married the summer of 2001. Karina was just finishing an expensive college, Angela was halfway through nursing school, and we had two weddings to pay for. We were debt-free. How do you explain that? We were living on minimum wage plus my secretary's salary (which was equivalent to Randy's). Both girls graduated debt-free and were able to have nice weddings. Our daughters saw all of this provision.

So to answer the question, our daughters are different people having gone through this, and I'm



The Alcorn family: (L to R) Angela, Randy, Nanci, and Karina (2001)

so thankful. I believe they really trust God.

One of the poignant things now is seeing how our girls are modeling some of the ways we parented, with their own children. Four years ago, Angela was told she had a cancerous tumor. (It later turned out to be benign.) She and her husband Dan didn't hold back with their boys. They explained she was going to have surgery and brought the medical issue to its logical conclusion: mom could die from this eventually. Jake and Ty were 6 and 4 at the time. Obviously their parents were very careful with them.

But the boys had an opportunity to pray that God would spare their mom's life, and He did.

Some people might have felt it was too much to tell the boys. But how could their faith have grown if they weren't given huge opportunities to trust God?

Randy: On the day of Angie's surgery, the boys were included in the circle with the elders from their

church who came to pray for her. We were there too. The boys prayed along with the rest of us that God would preserve their mom's life. Now, He could have chosen to not answer that prayer, or answer it differently than they wanted. But the fact is, they were in on it.

What are some specific ways you've seen God's faithfulness to this ministry?

Randy: In twenty-five years, there have only been a half dozen times when the ministry has had financial challenges. Recently it happened three consecutive summers. Even then, it was a great reminder that this ministry has been in the Lord's hands all along. And as much as I've hated to do it, when we've had to say, "Here's our situation," people have stepped forward, and now it's been two years since our last

I strongly believe that
faith is putting your trust
in Christ when you really
don't have all the answers.

—Nanci

financial challenge. We're incredibly grateful to the Lord for our supporters.

Nanci: And we get letters and emails all the time telling us how the books have blessed people and changed their lives. We're sitting here in this little corner of Oregon and amazing things are happening all over the world because of this ministry.

Randy: The impact the books have had is way beyond anything we imagined. My favorite spot in my office is a shelf filled with my books that have been translated into more than sixty other languages. Many of them have been distributed all over the world—China, Russia, Indonesia, Albania, Cambodia. A few books are in Hebrew, the *Heaven* book is in Nepali, and *The Treasure Principle* is being translated into Arabic. Who would have thought? While we occasionally receive a letter from an international reader, most often we won't hear from these people. So it's exciting to anticipate meeting some of them in eternity!

The vast kingdom outreach of the books themselves is incredible. Then there's the royalty money distributed to God's Kingdom as a result of the same books. In a sense, EPM is paid, in the form of the book royalties, to have kingdom impact—and we get to give that all away! This is the best of both worlds, and what makes it my dream job, even though it's at times a challenging one.

I loved being a pastor. But I've said many times to my pastor friends that I wouldn't go back to being one. God made me to do this.

To date, EPM has given away over \$7 million just in book royalties to ministries working around the world. When you think of that, what comes to mind?

Randy: I think of all the people reached and helped, churches planted, pastors trained, children fed and given clean water and medical care, the lives saved. There are Bibles in languages that would not have been, at least not nearly as soon, and there are all my books being given away by Operation Mobilization, and the *Logos Hope* ship that takes my books and many others into ports all over the world, including Muslim countries.

People have asked me, "Do you realize what you could have done with all that money?" My standard response is—and I mean it with all my heart—"Nothing that would have brought us nearly as much joy."

There isn't an asterisk next to it. If I had bought a beautiful house with the royalty money, the asterisk would be, "You know, it's also been a headache whenever something goes wrong and needs repair, and it's moved our hearts away from God's kingdom

priorities."

But there's no asterisk next to the giving. It's all upside. It doesn't mean that every dime has been spent perfectly, but we choose the ministries we support carefully. The point is, we know great things have been done with the money to further God's kingdom and help the needy all over the world.

You've just written a comprehensive book on happiness that will be out this October. What part has laughter/humor/joy/happiness played in your life and ministry?

Nanci: It's huge for both of us. We laugh a lot.

Randy: We do. Laughter not only has a spiritual and emotional and mental effect, but also a physical effect. Studies have been done on this.

We love to laugh with our kids and grandsons, and our close friends Steve and Sue and many others. I find myself laughing with Nanci every day. We laugh at our Golden Retriever Maggie a lot, and at each of the dogs we've had. They bring us joy. We watch certain comedies that we find pleasure in.

Laughter is therapy. Many years ago, my assistant Kathy told me she could tell when I was under a lot of stress because I would joke and laugh more to cope with it. It's true. If you're facing difficulties, laughter is a gift from God.

I'm convinced—and I say this in *Happiness*—that Jesus' laughter will be the loudest and most contagious on the New Earth. We didn't come up with this thing called laughter; we got it from Him.

Randy, do you see yourself continuing to write more books?

Randy: Yes, I will continue to write more books as God gives me strength, probably as long as my body and mind still function. But I may slow down.

I recently told the EPM board and staff that likely *Happiness* could be the last of my "definitive" books, which attempt to provide a thorough, detailed perspective on a subject (my previous books of this sort include *Money, Possessions and Eternity*; *ProLife Answers to ProChoice Arguments*; *Heaven*; and *If God Is Good*). After doing spinoffs related to *Happiness*, I will likely take on some other medium or small-sized books.

People have asked, "Do you realize what you could have done with all that money?"

My standard response is—and I mean it with all my heart—"Nothing that would have brought us nearly as much joy."

—Randy

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What are your hopes for EPM as we head into the 26th year of ministry?

Randy: More than anything else, I want us to expand the international reach of the ministry. There's a world of people out there who search online for content in their own languages. It's exciting to think that someone could Google the Chinese word for Heaven and find an article on our site that's an extract from the Chinese *Heaven* book.

With the earthquakes in Nepal earlier this year, I would love to know that some of these despairing people are reading the *Heaven* book, and those in areas where they again have internet access can get online and read what I've written about the hope of Heaven. To me, that's worth more than anything else.

What is one major lesson you feel the Lord has taught you both through this journey?

Nanci: To trust Him. Not that I've arrived there completely—it's a life-long lesson He's teaching me. Borrowing an analogy from *The Hobbit*, Smaug the dragon had one vulnerable soft spot. Well, God knows all of our soft spots. He's hit me with a couple things over the last few years that were pretty tender and challenged me to trust Him. Here we are,

having just told you all these wonderful things, yet we're like the children of Israel. They were led out of Egypt and saw all these miracles, and yet repeatedly asked, "God, where are you?"

Randy: God's sovereignty and Genesis 50:20 have come to my mind many times. Joseph said to his brothers, "You intended it for evil, but God intended it for good to save many lives." The first large book I did after EPM began was *ProLife Answers to ProChoice Arguments*. For years, that book was a major resource for prolife not only for personally responding to prochoice arguments, but also for training other prolife. Many high school and college students used it to write papers. Ironically, the abortion clinic lawsuits that resulted in my resigning from pastoral ministry ultimately ended up saving the lives of many unborn children—not directly through my efforts, but indirectly through people I was able to influence.

When this all first happened, it was hard to see the good in it. But looking back 25 years later, we see the lessons learned about God's faithfulness and also the wonderful things He's done. It's overwhelming. He is truly a God of sovereign grace, and we love Him for it. ■

Meet the EPM staff

Over the years, the Lord has blessed us with a team of people who love Him, truly enjoying working together, and believe in what God is doing through this ministry. We're grateful for His provision!

Every book sent, every phone call, every email, and every social media post is an opportunity for us to extend the grace and truth of Jesus. Each month, we have on average 200 meaningful interactions with those contacting our ministry. We value your prayers for all those opportunities to represent Christ! (And the next time you call or email us, or receive an order of books, maybe you'll be able to match a face to the name of the person who assisted you.)



Brenda Abelein
Ministry Assistant



Doreen Button
Editor



Karen Coleman
Ministry Assistant



Chelsea Weber
Executive Assistant



Bonnie Hiestand
Ministry Assistant



Linda Jeffries
Office Manager



Dwight Myers
Shipping Clerk



Sharon Misenhimer
Ministry Assistant



Kathy Norquist
Ministry Development



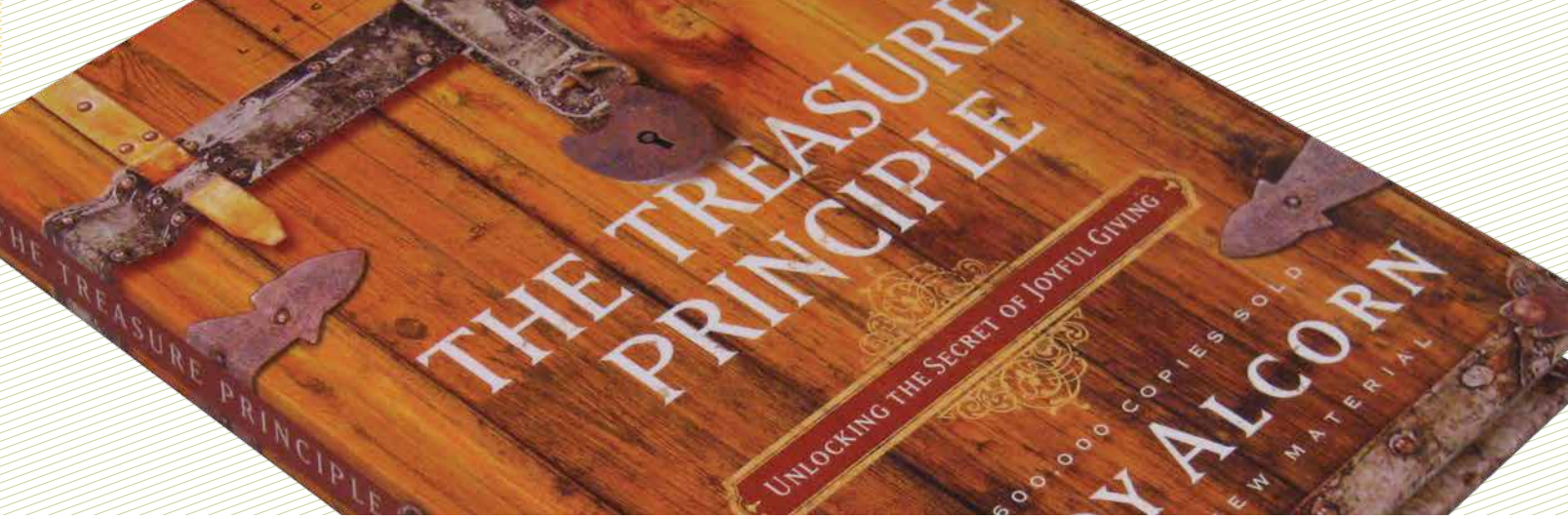
Stephanie Anderson
Communications and Graphics Specialist



Tami Yeager
Customer Service



Julia Stager
Research and Marketing



The Cost

BY TIM CHALLIES

of Radical Generosity

I was actually just starting to feel a little sorry for myself. I was on the sidelines at my daughter's soccer game while a group of parents stood behind me laughing and chatting. As the game went on they talked and talked about all the great things they've done, the homes they've bought, the vacations they've enjoyed, the lessons their kids have taken. One even talked about his bright yellow Corvette that was parked conspicuously nearby.

Their lives sounded pretty good. They sounded better than mine, if I was comparing. I thought about what it must cost to take that annual trip to the Caribbean. I thought about what it must cost to get that new kitchen. I thought about the difference between a second car that is a sensible, family-friendly sedan and a second car that is built purely for thrills. And for a moment I wanted it. I wanted it all.

But my pathetic little pity party lasted only a moment before it struck me: The cost of all of that stuff is the cost of generosity. At least, it is for most of the people I know. Those donations to the church, those checks to the missionaries, those gifts to the min-

istries, those bills slipped discreetly to the person in need—tally them up and they could equal some extra vacations. Put them together and you could probably upgrade your kitchen this year instead of five years from now, or you could go up a model or two on the second vehicle. The Christians I know choose to downgrade their lifestyle in order to upgrade their giving.

And this, I think, is the enduring power and comfort of what Randy Alcorn calls the treasure principle: You can't take it with you—but you can send it on ahead. The money isn't gone. The money isn't misused. It's simply been redirected into a different kind of investment. "If we give instead of keep, if we invest in the eternal instead of in the temporal, we store up treasures in heaven that will never stop paying dividends. Whatever we store up on earth will be left behind when we leave. Whatever treasures we store up in heaven will be waiting for us when we arrive." We find when we commit to this kind of generosity that there is greater joy both now and then.

You can't keep up with the Joneses when you're committed to radical generosity, and I think that's exactly how God intends it. ■

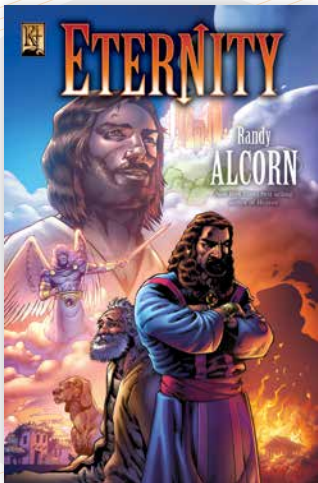
Tim Challies serves as a pastor at Grace Fellowship Church in Toronto, Ontario. He is an author and writes regularly at www.challies.com.

Over 40 books, and countless CHANGED LIVES

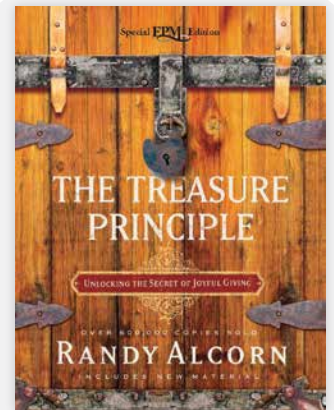
We love the fact that God uses Randy's books to change people's lives in two ways: through the reading of the words and through the giving away of the royalties. Randy writes, "I seek to write with all my heart, as a service to the Lord. By God's grace, there are over nine million of my books in print, and they've been translated into over sixty languages. It's fun to know the Lord is using both the books and the royalties to touch lives."



Here's just a few of the many book responses we've received over the past 25 years.

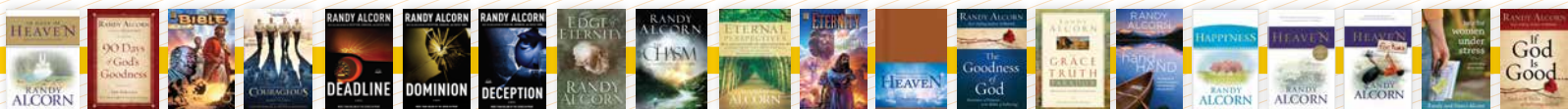
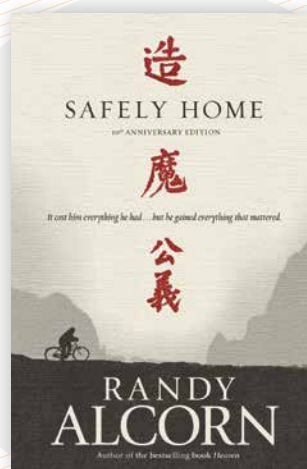


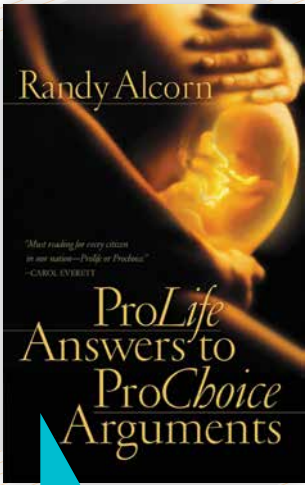
I read your graphic novel *Eternity*, and I really liked it. I was at camp this week and felt God working in me through the book. I loved how you portrayed Heaven and Hell in this story. This really made me wonder if I was really saved, and this week I think was the week of my true salvation.
— I. A. (age 12)



Other than the Bible itself, few books have changed my actions as quickly as this standing little book. I read it aloud to my husband and together we made decisions about the money and possessions God has entrusted to our hands. These choices have brought us great joy. — F. E.

Your book, *Safely Home*, played a role in developing my heart for China. After I read the book, I literally wept and found my heart wanting to be part of God's work here in China. I've been here now for almost five years and I must say it's been an amazing journey and blessing to be here! — D. P.





Since its inception in 1990, EPM has given **over \$7 million** in book royalties to ministries around the world.

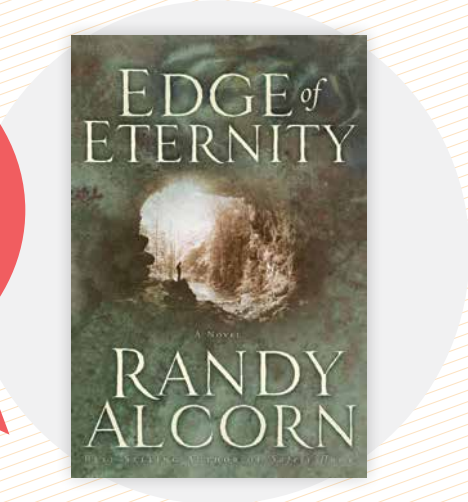
A recent book advance allowed us to disperse significant funds to over three dozen ministries, including Mercy Ships, Voice of the Martyrs, Samaritan's Purse disaster relief, The Seed Company, and many more. We thank God for the privilege of investing in His kingdom!



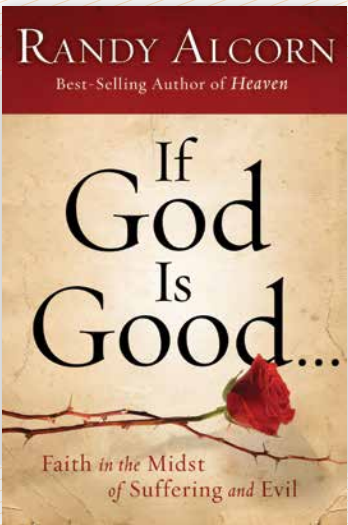
I just want to take the time and tell you how much your book has impacted my life. I have always been prolife but was afraid to speak out because I did not feel like I had the answers. I have learned so much from your book. Thank you for helping me. — P. L.

This book has a special place in my heart. I read it many years ago and I can't even talk about it with out crying! This book led me to Jesus! It's the second most important book I've ever read and I tell people all the time about Randy's books, especially this one.

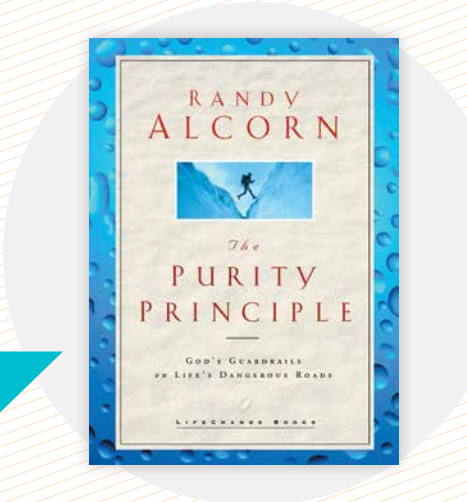
—R.M.



I've been in a wheelchair since 2000. I've read and heard so many things that I was jaded and didn't want to hear any more. I appreciate your diligent use of Scripture in *If God Is Good*. You restored my hope in God and His goodness, showing me that I still have purpose. —W.C.



I am almost 12 and my dad is taking me through *The Purity Principle*. It has really helped me with that issue. And now whenever I am tempted I just remember your words which were "impurity is always stupid and purity is always smart." —J.P.



ged
out-
loud
made
posses-
care.
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See the full list of all Randy's books at www.epm.org/books.
Which ones have you already read? Which are on your summer reading list?

INTRODUCING RANDY'S NEW GRAPHIC NOVEL

THE APOSTLE

The Apostle is my second graphic novel, and is based on the epic life and missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul. I've included, with painstaking accuracy (though having to condense), most of what the Bible tells us about Paul, while adding fictional details and dialogue to make the story work as a graphic novel. For instance, based on Paul's fondness for his friends, it was only natural to portray them talking and joking together.



The biblical content of *The Apostle* is inspired by God. The added speculative elements are not. My design is never to contradict Scripture—only to fill out the story on these pages.

I recently read through the finished book. I felt I wasn't reading a story I wrote, but one which I merely assembled in a creative way (which of course is the case!).

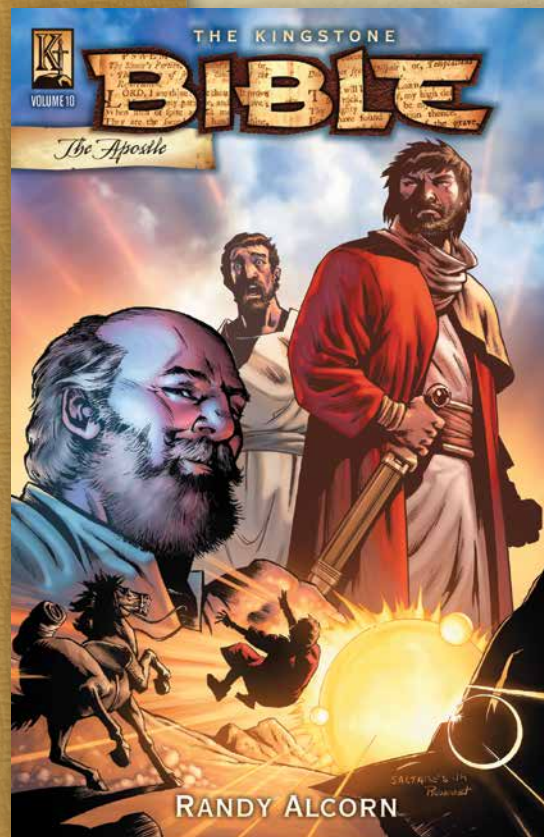
Luke is the narrator, which I feel gives the story an immediacy and personal connection that really pays off in the end when he invites the reader to join the beloved characters of the book by turning to Jesus. I was weeping tears of joy at the end, not as a writer, but as a reader. This surprised and touched me.

Because it includes a large amount of Scripture, and because the gospel is so woven into the story line and there are many people coming to faith, my prayer is that God might choose to use *The Apostle* powerfully. I hope that the warmth of the relationships between Luke, Paul, Timothy, Titus and Peter, as well as Paul's good humor along with his failings, will make it seem real and attractive.

The graphics took two artists, a colorist and a letterer (who've worked with Marvel Comics, and who also did the art for my first graphic novel *Eternity*) over a year to complete. I think they did an amazing job. I've loved writing *The Apostle*, and working with these marvelous artists. I hope you enjoy the results. (The following page is a sample from the book, portraying Paul on the island of Malta.)

If you like my other fiction, I think you'll like this as much, maybe more. And for sure, you'll know a young person to share it with!

—Randy Alcorn



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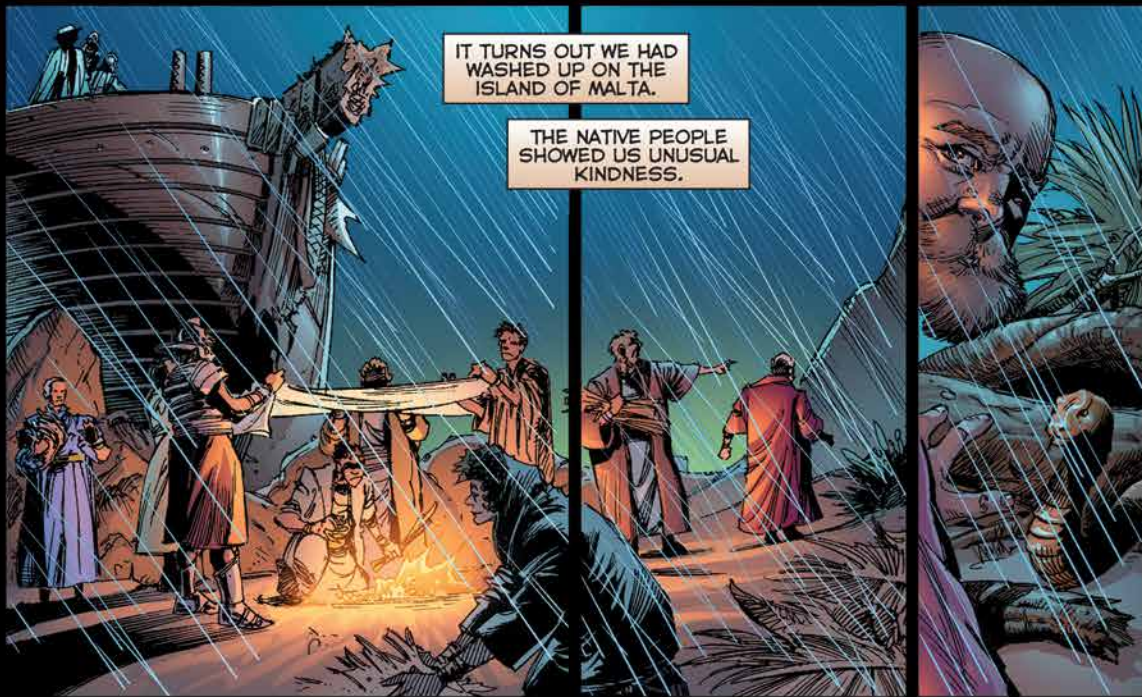
WE MUST KILL THE PRISONERS LEAST THEY ESCAPE!

NO!

ALL WHO CAN SWIM: INTO THE WATER NOW!

THE REST, GRAB PLANKS FROM THE SHIP TO FLOAT ASHORE!

RUN AGROUND ON A REEF, THE BOW STUCK, THE STERN WAS BATTERED BY THE SURF.



IT TURNS OUT WE HAD WASHED UP ON THE ISLAND OF MALTA.

THE NATIVE PEOPLE SHOWED US UNUSUAL KINDNESS.



SSSSSSSS

ACTS 27:41-28:3



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