



ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE

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

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2000

Lord Foulgrin's Letters

By Randy Alcorn

The following portions are excerpted from Randy's brand new novel, Lord Foulgrin's Letters. The book is inspired by C. S. Lewis's The Screwtape Letters, but is quite different in that it contains scenes, characters and a plotline.

In the letters, one demon (Foulgrin) instructs another (Squaltaint) how to deceive and destroy Jordan Fletcher and his family. Lord Foulgrin's Letters is now available in bookstores everywhere.



Prelude: The Hunt

If Jordan Fletcher wasn't happy, well, it was only because he needed something else—someone else or someplace else. All his life, happiness had been just one step around the corner. He'd spent his life chasing around that next corner...and the next and the next and the next.

Jordan never realized that all the time he'd been hunting happiness, someone had been hunting him.

Excerpt from Letter 2:

Today's lesson: To succeed with Fletcher and the other sludgebags, you must understand the differences between how we see them and how the Enemy sees them.

To us, they are food, meals to be chewed and swallowed. We seek to expand the borders of our self-hood, becoming ever bigger through absorbing their wills into ours. He, on the other hand, calls upon them to voluntarily submit their wills to His. We want them as slaves to exploit and dominate. He wants them as sons and

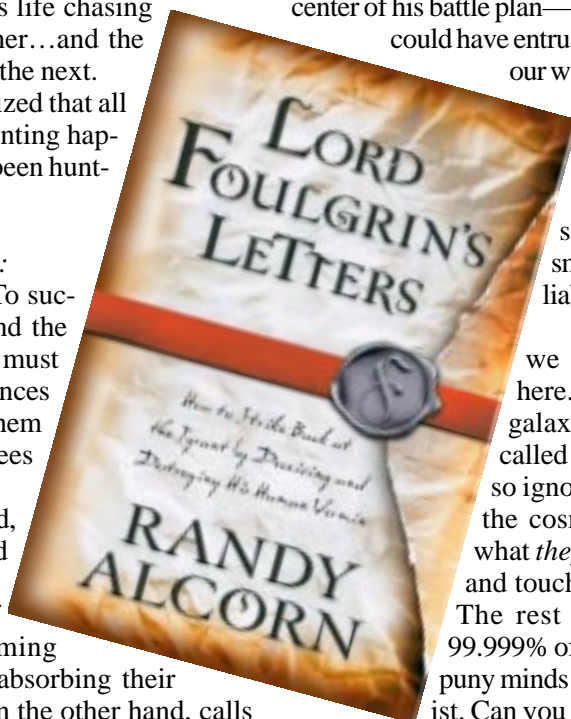
daughters to "love" and promote to higher service. We want to devour them, he wants to empower them. We would rape them, he would woo them.

The Enemy has put these misfits at the center of his battle plan—a fatal mistake! He could have entrusted his schemes to

our warrior counterparts.

True, they're a crop of fawning bellboys, but they're still a thousand times stronger, smarter, and more reliable than humans.

Consider whom we are dealing with here. This virus on the galaxy, these parasites called image-bearers are so ignorant they imagine the cosmos is limited to what *they* can see and hear and touch, taste and smell. The rest of the universe, 99.999% of all reality, in their puny minds simply doesn't exist. Can you imagine? They're like those slimy babies in their vermin mother's womb, never suspecting there's a vast world beyond the realm of their senses.



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Clearly, these ignorant fools are the weak links in the Enemy's plan.

This brings me to your Fletcher. The gnawing emptiness he's feeling affords you understandable pleasure, but beware—the Enemy draws their attention to their emptiness to fill it himself. Prompt Fletcher not to listen. When the Enemy or that flunky Jaltor whispers to him, prompt him to turn up the radio, turn on the television, pick up his cell phone. Let him do anything other than examine his life, his emptiness and especially his mortality.

Your job is to help Fletcher move impulsively to fill his emptiness with all the things the Enemy forbids. These have value not simply because they'll destroy him, but because they'll *distract* him. In the final analysis, distraction from the Enemy is all we need to accomplish.

Obsmut implores me to make clear to you what should be obvious—my letters must never fall into the hands of others except those directly under my command. Let your platoon members read my letters only while you're present. Then breathe on them and burn them completely.

Can you imagine what would happen if they fell into the hands of enemy warriors, or the sludgebags?

Fortunately for us, the Enemy has failed to take such precautions. True, he has hurt us by getting his orders out to our prey, but remember they are equally available to *us*.

The key to success in any battle is "Know your Enemy." In a grave tactical blunder, our Enemy has recorded his training instructions and strategies for us to see! This means we can devise perfect countermeasures. Think about it, Squaltaint. His designs of cosmic conquest, his battle plans—documents that should be locked in

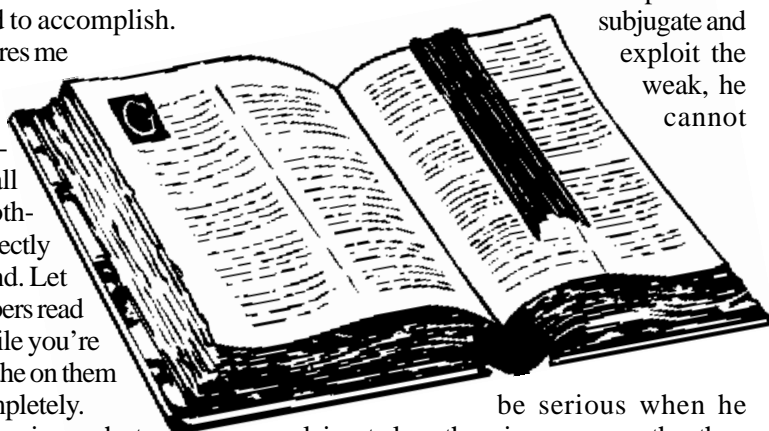
top secret file cabinets—are littered in vermin hotel desk drawers across the planet!

He's spilled the beans. He's poured out his intentions indiscriminately, allowing us full access. The humans put the forbidden book on display tables and shelves. But *we* actually read it, indeed we must, no matter how loathsome.

Foulgrin's third rule: Whatever the Enemy wants, we want the opposite. The forbidden book tells us what he wants, and therefore serves as a photographic negative of what *we* want.

Of course, the Enemy has also planted in the forbidden book false information to misdirect us. The most obvious red herring is the persistent claim that he "loves" the sludgebags. Since it's an inherent universal law that the powerful

subjugate and exploit the weak, he cannot



be serious when he claims to love them in any sense other than a man "loves" a piece of pie or a prostitute.

What is there to love about these little insects? Even before they rebelled they were weak and useless. And since those two morons in the garden first betrayed the Tyrant, their bumbling offspring have committed an unending sequence of offenses against him. (Aided and abetted by us, I'm proud to say.)

Now, think about it, Squaltaint. If the Tyrant sent us packing from Charis—we who are the vermin's superiors in every conceivable way—can anyone seriously believe he loves *them*? Obviously, this "love" is a cover for some ultimate be-

trayal he's setting them up for. He speaks to them of comfort and wiping tears from their eyes and one day saying "Well done," and welcoming them into Charis. Ridiculous! Who does he think he's kidding with this patronizing nonsense?

Nonetheless, if you can see through the propaganda, studying the Enemy's book can equip you to thwart his work. Indeed, judiciously chosen passages can serve as bread crumbs to lead your prey down the sloping path to hell.

Foulgrin's rule twenty-three: Tactics without strategy are useless.

Sometimes short-sighted demons will gang up on a skid-row bum and incite him to rob a store or jump off a bridge. Then they strut and gloat, as if they've done something noteworthy. But these maggot-feeding humans are already ruined—what help do they need from us? They are lures, I think, planted by the Enemy to distract us from more strategic targets.

Don't waste your time with low-maintenance drug addicts and petty criminals. They're already in our hands.

It's the educated and influential unbelievers and the Christians of all kinds who have most potential for the Enemy's purposes, and therefore our own. Look at Fletcher. Well-educated. Respected. An accomplished businessman. A wandering soul, confused and uncertain, but projecting an image of self-sufficiency and confidence. An ideal tool for our purposes.

Erebus is about pragmatism. Ethics, philosophies, theories and methodologies don't matter. It's long-term results we seek. Tactics count only in so far as they produce the desired impact on Fletcher—reality distortion, moral failure, thoughts and actions displeasing to the Enemy. Whatever sends them to hell, we condone. Whatever draws them to heaven we oppose.

I stress the word *long-term*. Your service record reflects a tendency to inflict great pain and suffering on the humans *today*. This is quick, cheap gratification.



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Trust me, Squaltaint, when I say I have drunk deeply of the pleasures of administering agony to the sludgebags. Sometimes, I confess, I would love to unleash a few megatons of roach spray and rid the planet of them. But this remains outside our present abilities. Be patient—set the trap, wait, then when the rodent is caught, savor your writhing prey.

Honestly, Squaltaint, accounts in your files remind me of an undisciplined little boy pulling legs off an insect. You must act more strategically. If withholding pain or even giving him a morsel of pleasure will keep your prey a safe distance from the Enemy, then by all means do it. Eternal misery—not temporary suffering—is our over-riding goal. Stay focused!

Keep Fletcher from thinking about his imminent death and what awaits him on the other side. Blind him to the obvious fact that since his last day is coming, he ought to prepare for it. Don't let him ponder hell. Or if he does, let him view hell as one big party where all the fun people will be.

Fun, in hell? A most useful illusion. Company in hell? Hilarious, aren't they? Don't let him see every vermin is alone there, in unending solitary confinement. Misery may love company, but there's no company in hell. Only misery. But for now, let that be our secret. The jaws of hell are greedy for him. Yes, we eagerly invite him to our party!

As for Charis, Lord Satan commands us to slander the Enemy's place every way we can, to convince the image-bearers it's unworthy of attention, undeserving of excitement. Let them first imagine heaven is their default destination. Second, that it's a boring habitation of stick-in-the-muds, a drab tedious residence they'd rather be delivered from than to. The less clearly they think about the Enemy, the less clearly they'll think about heaven, and visa versa.

As long as you adhere to your duties, Squaltaint, we'll have a civil relationship. (Start by giving me that detailed report on Fletcher.) If you fail me, or try an end-run around me, you will experience terror as you've never known it.



(Is the name Basteel familiar? I thought not. He's never been seen again since he betrayed me centuries ago in the Jonathan Edwards incident—an event in which my role was greatly exaggerated, by the way, as explained in footnote #29 in my vita. Review it.)

I appeal to your self-interest, Squaltaint. Serving me will prove the best way to serve yourself. Failing me is your path to unspeakable ruin. The Enemy may not give you hell before your time—but I will.

Serving the vermin...upon a plate,

LORD FOULGRIN



The background of *Lord Foulgrin's Letters*

In 1947 C. S. Lewis appeared on the cover of *Time* magazine, with an angel wing above his head on his right, and a demon standing on his left shoulder. By then Lewis had written most of his popular books, with

the exception of the *Chronicles of Narnia*. But of all the writings that could have captured the man, *Time* chose *The Screwtape Letters*, first written as a magazine series six years earlier.

The premise was ingenious—letters written by a senior demon, Screwtape, to his apprentice demon Wormwood. The letters offered instruction on how to tempt and deceive humans, and lure them into sin. The book captured people's imaginations. To the chagrin of some intellectuals, it proved more popular than Lewis's scholarly works.

Lewis wrote *Screwtape* from his home in Oxford, England, while World War II raged. The book contains references to the bombings in London, to rationing and patriotism and pacifism and other wartime issues. Now nearly sixty years later, some parts of *Screwtape* are dated, but the core is as relevant as ever. Its

timelessness is rooted in the fact that Lewis had profound insight into the human condition, as well as the spiritual forces of darkness, which are no different now than they were then.

In an age when materialism and humanism were conquering the minds of the western world, Lewis appealed to the reality of the supernatural. He reminded us we're surrounded by powers far greater than ourselves, engaged in battle for our souls.

The Screwtape Letters is the inspiration for *Lord Foulgrin's Letters*. While there are significant differences between Lewis's approach and mine, I give him full credit for the premise. Those who've read my novel *Deadline* know Lewis's *Mere Christianity* plays a pivotal role in the story. In *Dominion*, the main character reads *The Chronicles of Narnia* to his children. In fact, Lewis himself is a character in *Dominion*, where he appears in heaven instructing and guiding someone who's died. *Edge of Eternity*, Nick Seagrave's pilgrimage into a world where the spiritual realms are visible, was partially inspired by the writings of C. S. Lewis. In fact, I've never written a book, fiction or nonfiction, in which I haven't been influenced by him.

When he died November 22, 1963—the same day as John F. Kennedy and Aldous Huxley—it was all gain for Lewis, but loss for the world, which surrendered one of its greatest spokesmen for the Christian faith. There is and always will be only one C. S. Lewis. In these sixty years, why have there been so few attempts to write in the distinctive

Screwtape genre he created? Partly because every writer—including me—must realize that he will not fare well in any comparison to the master! Still, I think Lewis would approve of *Lord Foulgrin's Letters*, as he often approved of the imperfect works of lesser minds. (I'll find out for sure when I meet him, a day I look forward to.)

Lord Foulgrin's Letters is not a retelling of *Screwtape*, nor an attempt to imitate Lewis's inimitable style. One major difference is that I include between the letters scenes that create an earthly setting, tell a story, and develop characters. I hope this makes characters and issues more real, and the letters more relevant.

Fiction from the Eyes of Lord Foulgrin

Some of this fiction portrays history through the Enemy's eyes. It conveys information harmful to us, emphasizes the Enemy's sovereignty and tells stories of his...grace. Fiction is a great medium for lies. But unfortunately, it's just as effective for truth.

There are many lies in nonfiction and many truths in fiction. So your notion it's "just a novel" is hopelessly naïve. Dredge reported you said there's no danger in stories. Doesn't it occur to you the forbidden message itself is a story? Don't you realize the Carpenter told stories, and hidden in them are the most dangerous truths?

I would rather the vermin read ten nonfiction books on grace than understand the Enemy's single story of the prodigal son!

Don't you realize some of the most dangerous literature written by Carpenter-followers has been fiction? Consider *Pilgrim's Progress*. Scarblot is still under discipline for wandering the old streets of Bedford, bragging about putting this pastor in jail, while the vermin sat in his cell writing a story the Enemy has used for his purposes more than any work in history besides the forbidden book itself.

And with all the hundreds of nonfiction books written against slavery, do you remember the volume the Enemy used to change millions of hearts? *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, by that wretched little woman. A work of fiction, with truth bootlegged in, brought down our stronghold of American slavery. (Yes, we got a great war out of it, but that seems little consolation now.)

And what about that story the vermin pastor told from his pulpit that became the book *In His Steps*? "What

would Jesus do?" everyone was asking. The story is still being told, and the question still being asked.

Fiction is not the opposite of truth—indeed, it is sometimes the most persuasive vehicle for it. So, Squaltaint, don't tell me the novel given to your prey is "just" a work of fiction! And don't dare suggest again you informed me of this matter and I told you the book posed no danger. How was I to know, when you withheld vital information?

I still held out hope, since much of their fiction poses no danger to



us.

But when

I noted the title and checked intelligence reports, I was sickened to learn a great deal of truth is integrated into it. It portrays suffering as real, conflict as grave, longing as deep and the Carpenter as the only one who can fill their empty hearts.

He's defensive enough he might refuse to read the Enemy's nonfiction. But by reading this story he's allowed the Trojan horse into the gates of his mind, not knowing what's inside. Under cover, the Enemy's viewpoint may sneak out and take him by surprise, seizing his mind and heart. (Learn from this strategy—to gain entry to the man, disguise your purposes. Once they let us in their mind gates, we're free to do our work.)

Don't you see Fletcher's worldview and values are up for grabs? This book

could be the last straw. Or even the last influence he's exposed to before he leaves this world. How many in that fleeting moment before death have reached out to the Enemy for rescue? "Remember me, Lord, save me, take me." Like that stinking thief on the cross. Our work of a lifetime, up in a moment's smoke, because some miserable tempter like you fell asleep on duty!

You must immediately distract your vermin from reading this book. Keep him away from any book—fiction or nonfiction—showing the Enemy's perspective on good and evil, struggle and tragedy, sin and redemption. Let him read stories leaving him in despair or offering easy answers. Let him read books with characters who disappear when they turn sideways. (Shallow books make shallow men.)

Simplify your objectives. All that matters is whether in any given moment your prey is prompted to stay where he is, move nearer to us, or nearer to the Enemy. Either of the first two options works for us. The third must be avoided at all costs. Keep his hands, eyes and mind away from anything the Enemy can use as bait to hook him and reel him in.

Tonight, get Fletcher to watch television, read the paper, do the crossword, listen to music, make telephone calls, sit at his computer, or repair the car. Or, let him read one of our books, or some neutral one that does him no harm, but no good either. But do not let him read that "harmless book" this nuisance Ryan gave him.

The Enemy has transformed countless lives through vermin writings conveying the story of the forbidden book. For your sake, Fletcher had better not end up being one of them.

Censoring His propaganda in every form,
LORD FOULGRIN

Questions and Answers

by Randy Alcorn

Randy,

I've been wanting to ask you a question for a long time now. In your work, you make it clear that you don't believe that Satan can read our thoughts. Yet I often feel that he's not only reading mine, but in response to them, he's immediately whispering things into my brain. He also constantly distracts me when I pray, etc. Could you mention any Scripture backing up your thoughts about this? I know you have them, but I haven't been able to locate Scripture that verifies this myself. I certainly don't want to give Satan any more credit than I have to.

J.D.

Dear Jane,

Concerning the demon mind-reading issue, here's my opinion. First, we know demons aren't omniscient, since they're just angels, created finite beings. Angels don't know a lot of things, including the time of Christ's return (Mark 13:32). There are things "angels long to look into" but apparently cannot (1 Peter 1:12).

We're told that God alone can know the future (Isaiah 46:9-10). That means demons have limited knowledge and can only speculate about the future. Demons are personal beings who are self-contained and are limited in space and time, not omnipresent and therefore presumably not able to drift in and out of people at will. On the other hand 2 Corinthians 10 and other passages show demons can influence our thinking. But can they read our thoughts? Well, we know Jesus knew people's thoughts (Matthew 9:4; 12:25; Mark 2:8; Luke 6:8; 11:17). God knows

people's thoughts (Genesis 6:5, Psalm 139, etc.). But nowhere are we told Satan or demons know people's thoughts.

In Daniel 2:27-28 Daniel said to Nebuchadnezzar that no one speaking by any power but God could tell the king what he dreamed—that included "enchanters, magicians and astrologers" who could appeal to demonic sources. But apparently these demons could not read the king's mind even to ascertain what he had dreamed, much less interpret it. This is probably the primary Scripture that has direct bearing on the issue.

Of course, demons are in an excellent position to deduce what's on our minds since they can see us from the outside. They know exactly what we're reading and watching on TV. They overhear our conversations, see our physical responses, hear even our "private" words, and are no doubt skilled at reading our expressions. They see us when other people can't, any time they wish.

Now as far as putting thoughts in our minds or exercising powers of persuasion, I don't know how that works—perhaps there is a form of telepathy whereby they send a message, plant an idea, without being able to read exactly what we're thinking. I agree there's demonic activity involved in distracting us during prayer, but I don't think they have to be able to read our minds to do this. If we've had an argument with our spouse, if our child is sick, if we're tired and under deadline, he can observe all that and somehow whisper his distractions. (The world and the flesh also provide their own distractions, even apart from the devil—and the flesh definitely does know what we're thinking.)

By hearing us and seeing what we're taking into our minds, demons have a good idea the best things to pick up on in tempting us. That's a critical reminder for us and our children that what we read and watch and look at and listen to provides

either the Holy Spirit and righteous angels, on the one hand, or demons on the other hand, ammo in their efforts to wage war in our minds. If I have an enemy attacking me, it doesn't make much sense to hand him a loaded shotgun.

I do think a clear understanding of exactly what we're thinking is limited to the omniscient God who created us, died for us and indwells us. He is the Judge, the only one who

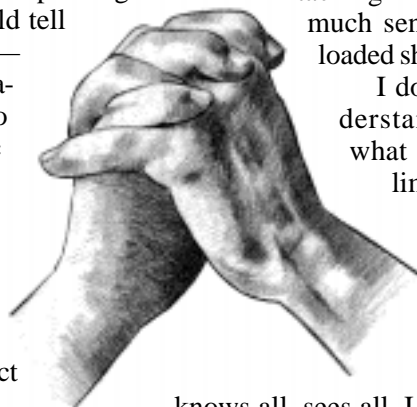
knows all, sees all. I find that comforting. It also let's me breathe a bit of a sigh of relief to know that the enemy of my soul doesn't have unlimited access to my mind. He can bang on the door and yell in the window and shout his accusations, but he can't invade the premises of my mind (which is connected with my brain, part of my body that's God's temple) because the Holy Spirit is in residence.

But of course, we must still be on the alert to wage war that demolishes Satan's arguments, and we must not be unaware of his strategies. We don't want to underestimate the power of demons in our lives, but neither do we want to overestimate it.

One other application of this notion is when we feel we're under demonic attack, as I did recently. When a hopeless sense of dread and foreboding fell on me, I called upon the blood of Christ to cover and protect me. I used to do this silently, but now I speak aloud. God hears me either way, but I want the demons to hear too, and the righteous warriors. Jesus responded aloud to Satan during the temptation. He quoted Scripture so the devil could hear it, perhaps also for the benefit of the holy angels.

When we resist the devil, it may not always be appropriate to speak aloud (or to speak loudly anyway, e.g., at a restaurant or in church or at work), but as a rule I think it has merit. By verbalizing God's Word we give shape and expression to the weapons of spiritual warfare. A.W. Tozer entitled one of his editorials, and it became the title of one of his books, "I Talk Back to the Devil." Hope this helps.

Investing in Eternity, Randy Alcorn



Out of the Fog

How America's Family Coaches Got Started

By Dr. Gary Rosberg

I was sitting in my favorite chair, studying for the final stages of my doctoral degree, when Sarah (my five-year-old daughter) announced herself in my presence with a question:

"Daddy, do you want to see my family picture?" "Sarah, Daddy's busy. Come back in a little while, honey." (Good move, right? I was busy. A week's worth of work to squeeze into a weekend. You've been there.)

Ten minutes later she swept back into the living room, "Daddy, let me show you my picture." The heat went up around my collar. "Sarah, I said come back later."

Three minutes later she stormed into the living room, got three inches from my nose, and barked with all the power a five-year-old could muster: "Do you want to see it or don't you?" The assertive Christian woman in training.

"NO," I told her. "I DON'T."

With that she zoomed out of the room. And somehow, being alone at that moment wasn't as satisfying as I thought it would be. I felt like a jerk. (Don't agree so loudly.) I went to the front door.

Sarah, I called, "Could you come back inside a minute, please? Daddy would like to see your picture."

She obliged with no recriminations, and popped up on my lap. It was a great picture. She'd even given it a title across the top. In her best printing, she had inscribed: "OUR FAMILY BEST."

"Tell me about it," I said.

"Here is Mommy (a stick figure with long yellow curly hair), here is me standing by Mommy (with a smiley face), here is our dog Katie, and here is Missy (her little sister was a stick figure lying on the street in front of the house, about three times bigger than anyone else). It was pretty good insight into how she saw our family.

"I love your picture, honey," I told her. "I'll hang it on the dining room wall, and each night when I come home from work and from class (which was usually around 10 p.m.), I'm going to look at it.

She took me at my word, beamed from ear to ear, and went outside to play.

I went back to my books. But for some reason, I kept reading the same paragraph over and over.

Something made me uneasy.

Something about Sarah's picture.

Something was missing.

I went to the front door. "Sarah," I called, "could you come back inside for a minute, please? I want to look at your picture again, honey." Sarah crawled back into my lap. I can close my eyes right now and still see the way she looked. Cheeks rosy from playing outside. Pigtails.



Strawberry Shortcake tennis shoes. A Cabbage Patch doll named Nellie tucked limply under her arm.

I asked my little girl a question, but I wasn't sure I wanted to hear the answer. "Honey, there's Mommy, and Sarah, and Missy. Katie the dog is in the picture, and the sun, and the house, and squirrels, and birdies. But Sarah...where is your Daddy?"

"You're at the library," she said.

With that simple statement my little princess stopped time for me. Lifting her gently off my lap, I sent her back to play in the spring sunshine. I slumped back in my chair with a swirling head and blood pumping furiously through my heart. Even as I type these words, I can feel those sensations all over again. It was a frightening moment. The fog lifted from my preoccupied brain for a minute—and suddenly I could see. But what I saw scared me to death. It was like being a ship and coming out of the fog in time to see a huge, sharp rock knifing through the surf just off the port bow.

She nailed me. Right between the eyes. Bull's eye. For whatever reason, I couldn't hear those words from my wife, Barbara, though she'd probably been trying to get through to me for months on end. All the cautions to keep the "balanced lifestyle" from sermons, books, and friends never filtered through my distracted head. But Sarah's simple statement—"You're at the library"—got my attention—big time.

Plain, Unvarnished Truth

I hung the drawing on the dining room wall, just as I promised my girl. And through those long, intense weeks preceding the oral defense of my dissertation, I stared at that revealing portrait. It happened every night in the silence of my sleeping home, as I consumed my late-night, warmed-over dinners. I didn't have the guts to bring the issue up to Barbara. And she had the incredible insight to let it rest until I had the courage to deal with it. I finally finished my degree program. I was "Dr. Rosberg" now, and I guess it should have been a big deal for me. But frankly, there wasn't much joy in my life.

One night after graduation, Barbara and I were lying in bed together and I found myself working up the nerve to ask her a few questions. It was late, it was dark, and as I murmured my first question, I was praying Barb had already fallen asleep. "Barb, are you sleeping?" "No," she said. Rats! I thought to myself. Now I'm committed.

"Barbara, you've obviously seen Sarah's picture taped on the dining room wall. Why haven't you said anything?"

"Because I know how much it wounded you, Gary." Words from a woman wise beyond her twenty-something years. At that point, I asked the toughest question I've ever asked anyone in my life.

"Barb...I want to come home. Can I do it?"

Twenty seconds of silence followed. It seemed like I held my breath for an hour. "Gary," Barb said carefully, "the girls and I love you very much. We want you home. But you haven't been here. I've felt like a single parent for years."

The words look cold in print, but she said them with restraint and tenderness. It was just plain, unvarnished truth. My little girl had drawn the picture, and now her mom was speaking the words. My life had been out of control, my family was on automatic pilot, and I had a long road ahead of me if I wanted to win them back.

But I had to win them back. Now that the fog had lifted, it suddenly became the most important thing in my life...

Dr. Gary Rosberg did win his family back. It took years of time, sacrifice, unselfishness, love. But two years later, Gary's three precious ladies announced they had a gift for him...a new

family picture with Daddy right in the center. Back where he belonged.



That family picture eventually led Gary and Barb to where they are today...in full-time ministry strengthening and encouraging families to finish strong and maintain hope. No matter what situations we find ourselves in, there's hope. Hope in God, hope in healing, hope in new beginnings.

America's Family Coaches is a non-profit Christian ministry led by Dr. Gary

Rosberg and his wife Barbara. This ministry consists of many different training avenues. "CrossTrainers" teach men how to strengthen their relationship with God, their wife, children, friends, church and community. "A Woman's Legacy" is a seminar emphasizing the incredible value of a woman. "Date With a Purpose" consists of an evening set aside just for couples to relax, hear practical teaching about marriage, and strengthen the intimacy in their relationship.

Gary and Barb also have national outreach through Promise Keepers, FamilyLife Marriage Conferences, Men-to-Men Leadership Conferences and "America's Family Coaches...LIVE" (a daily, nationally syndicated radio program addressing family-related issues).

For more information concerning this ministry, contact

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Des Moines, Iowa 50322
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www.afclive.com

Helping Needy Pastors with Bible Study Books

One of Action International's ministries to the poor is working with needy pastors, Christian workers and Bible school students in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The following was written by Doug Nichols, director of Action International:

During a recent visit to the Philippines (where my wife and I served for over 20 years), I spoke in a conference of over 100 Filipino pastors. It is an honor to work with these men of God who have sacrificed so much to follow our Savior in preaching and teaching the Word of God to the 60 million people of the Philippines.

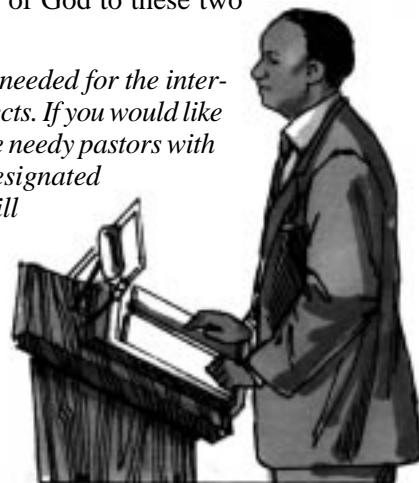
During a testimony time, one of the pastors related how he needed to go to a discipleship Bible study in a village several miles away, but he had no money for public transportation, even for the inexpensive jeepney. He searched the house for something to sell and the only thing he could find was the family's last two eggs. His wife and children agreed to sell these two eggs so he could travel to the village. This little family wanted their husband and father to teach the Word of God to people who were hungry for physical food and even more hungry for the spiritual food of the Word of God.

Our Leadership & Pastoral Development ministry works with these types of pastor-men who have very little for food, clothing, and shelter and nothing with which to purchase books

for their study, preaching, and teaching of the Word of God. This is why ACTION developed the BookShare program years ago, to get evangelical theology books into the hands of needy pastors.

I heard a missionary from Ethiopia tell of an Ethiopian student in his Bible college who walks many miles each Sunday to two different poor churches that are so destitute they can neither give the Bible college student an offering or even feed him a meal. Yet Sunday after Sunday, he sacrificially gives himself to ministering the Word of God to these two little churches.

\$55,800 is currently needed for the international BookShare projects. If you would like to be part of helping these needy pastors with books, 100% of your designated check donated to EPM will go directly to Action International's BookShare project or you may send a check directly to BookShare, Action International, P.O. Box 398, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043-0398.



Why Are There Not More Workers?

By George Verwer

(Intl. Director and Founder of Operation Mobilization)

We are in contact with church and mission agencies all over the world and the one thing they all have in common is that they need workers. Most are even praying for those who will come short-term and help in the task. The bigger demand is for long-term workers of some level of maturity.

We are especially in touch with those working in the 10/40 Window and it is clear that thousands of workers are needed there, including those who will go as tentmakers. Most people expected many more to be there by now. I am sometimes asked the question, "Why are there not more workers, especially among the more unreached peoples?"

As we have attempted to work with people around the world, we have discovered many reasons why we are not seeing more workers, especially long-term workers. In my book *Vision, Grace, Action*, I speak more extensively about this subject, but I want to briefly list some of the obstacles in this letter. I believe this will help us better to "count the cost" as we are told in Luke 14:25-33, and it will enable us to act and pray more intelligently.

1. Lack of Vision.

Only a few seem to actually have the vision in the first place, both of the need as well as the amazing opportunities. Others don't have a vision to send out workers, especially from their own church.

2. Lack of Prayer.

Matt. 9:35-38 makes the command about prayer very clear. Despite all the talk and statistics about prayer and some wonderful prayer events and movements, we have to admit that the average church is not a praying church. They may boast of a prayer meeting, but usually only a few people attend and there is often very little prayer for workers and the unreached. It seems that few leaders and believers, and even missionaries, have a disciplined prayer life and ministry. Praise God for every exception and I hope you are one of them, but I am referring to the overall average.

3. Apathy among God's People.

I think all would agree that this is the overwhelming hindrance to all we want to do for the Kingdom. This is one of the reasons the prayer for revival movements have become such a major emphasis in some places. Some people have wondered why I sometimes get associated with some people or churches, which may seem extreme, and I can only say that I am trying to stay in fellowship with the whole body of Christ. As someone once said (I think it was Brother Andrew), "It's easier to cool down a fanatic than to warm up a corpse!" Someone trying to bring this into balance however said, "Yes, but at least a corpse will not jump up and stab you in the back." I must confess I'm thrilled when I hear of people and churches coming alive and only hope and pray that the people will be disciplined and trained so that they go on as real marathon runners for God! I'm still convinced that "The crisis without the process will become an abscess."

4. Lack of Biblical Generosity.

Everyone knows that the lack of funds is hindering God's work and certainly hindering the sending out of missionaries. (I have a tape on this subject, if you are interested.) There are powerful exceptions, especially when a local church wants to put up a new building. I know that many generous people are reading this and I thank God for you. I know some people are extreme as I was (some would say I still am), as I want to live on the basic essentials and pour everything into world evangelization. By the way, many people believe that without this "extreme" Operation Mobilization might have died in the first couple of years when so little money was coming in. Who knows? All surveys show that only a tiny percentage of money goes outside one's own church and then their own nation. There are powerful exceptions, especially for relief and development when there is a huge disaster somewhere. Some even think it is better to send money rather than workers, which again is foolish because it must be both. In the midst of this, let's stay grace-awakened and realize that the Lord does lead different people in different ways, and let's beware of legalistic judgmentalism.

5. Legalism.

God is using His Word and many great books about grace to set people free from this, but it is a long hard road and in many parts of the world, legalism reigns supreme not only in local churches, but in whole denominations. Many feel very threatened by this movement of grace that is taking place. It seems easier to hold God's people together (and we all need loyalty and unity) by the law and all the added "distinctives" which are often just man-made rules and regulations than by grace, love, reality and the freedom of the Holy Spirit. We are also learning the hard way that grace without discipline can often lead to disgrace. Grace does not lay aside basic biblical commandments, but rather brings them into balance and the right priority.

6. Negative Reports.

In anything as big as the modern missions movement, there will always be lots of bad news. We know that bad news travels faster than good news and we now have the Web to help. Old-fashioned gossip and misinformation still cause more harm than the Web. I personally have failed in this area and in recent decades have tried to put a greater emphasis on Spirit-controlled speech. Some churches, after sending out one worker, sometimes only short-term, have stopped sending people after their worker came back with a bad report or maybe defeated in their own life. It's clear to me that without discernment, grace and forgiveness, there is no way forward.

7. Biblical Compromise.

I read a powerful book showing the drift even on the part of missionaries and leaders away from some of the basics of God's Word. Universalism used to be considered part of the package of liberal theologians who did not believe in any case that the Bible was God's Word. But now in various forms, it seems to have invaded our evangelical and biblical communities. Ignorance of the Bible in general seems to be on the increase and that doesn't help. That is one of the reasons we know that real unity in the years to come will be in the midst of great diversity.

I hope my words here will drive all of us to our knees. Don't worry about some little thing I have said that you don't like or agree with, but rather be pro-active and ask God what He is trying to say to you personally. We especially pray that people who read this will become more active in reaching the world with the gospel as a go-er, a sender, or both. We hope you will link with us in networking with mission mobilizers around the globe.

It is harvest time and more churches and people on the field and home are involved in missions than ever before. Of course,

Satan is attacking in vicious ways on every level. More than ever, let's take the shield of faith and stand against them in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Operation Mobilization

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Two "JESUS" Film Workers Lose Their Lives for the Kingdom

In recent months, two dedicated servants of the Lord, JESUS film workers, have lost their lives for the sake of Christ.

Getachew Tessema had just retired from the Ethiopian police force. He had recently become a believer and wanted to serve his newly-found Lord. After receiving training, he joined a traveling "JESUS" film team as a volunteer. While he was out on his first "JESUS" film showing, as his team was setting up their equipment in the dark, a shot rang out. Minutes later he was found on the ground, bleeding to death.

In the weeks before his death, Getachew had tried unsuccessfully to share Christ with his wife and six children, ages 8 to 21. They had been adamantly opposed to his joining the "JESUS" film team.

The day after his funeral his eldest son came to our national director in Ethiopia. He announced that the entire family wanted to surrender their lives to Christ, in honor of their father.

In Sierra Leone, several courageous, church-planting teams were showing the "JESUS" film in an area involved in a civil war. Conditions deteriorated rapidly and rebels overran the district. The film teams had just hidden their equipment when four of their members were captured by the rebels and commandeered as slaves. For months, they were forced to carry rebel equipment and supplies from place to place. Their shoes were taken to keep them from fleeing. As they marched for long distances, deep cuts opened on their bare feet. Severe infections set in, spreading up their legs.

One of the team members finally approached a soldier and told him he could go no further because the pain was so great. The soldier responded by putting an AKA rifle to the team member's head and killed him.

Eventually, the rebels found the hidden projection equipment and a copy of the film in their own language. They ordered the team members to set up the equipment and show the film. After watching "JESUS," a few of the soldiers became Christians and were so impressed that they showed it to their commander—who then ordered "JESUS" to be shown to all rebels in the area! A number trusted Christ. Before being released, the "slave" film team members became "chaplains" to the rebels and disciplined them in their new-found faith.

Our God is an amazing God. "His ways are past finding out." Pray for the families of these two precious servants of God who gave their lives. Pray for those soldiers, that their lives will be utterly transformed by Christ.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." Psalms 116:15

The JESUS Film Project is a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ International. You may contact them at: 910 Calle Negocio, Suite 300, San Clemente, CA 92673-6254, (949) 361-7575, Fax: (949) 361-7579, Website: www.jesusfilm.org. You may order The JESUS Film for \$19.95, the new children's version (with special interaction that appeals to children) for \$14.95, or both for \$26.90 (plus shipping and handling).



Partial-Birth Abortion: What Did the Supreme Court Endorse?

By Randy Alcorn

Abortionists, feminists, the president of the United States, many congressmen, and the Supreme Court have defended partial-birth abortion, one of the most chilling medical atrocities in human history.

On June 28, 2000, in *Carhart vs. Nebraska*, the U. S. Supreme Court struck down a Nebraska law preventing late-term abortions. The law essentially required that viable babies be permitted to be delivered alive rather than be deliberately and violently killed just before birth. Dr. LeRoy Carhart, the late-term abortionist quoted on page 11, challenged Nebraska's right to keep him from performing partial-birth abortions. The Supreme Court sided with Carhart.

President Clinton vetoed a 1995 bill that would have banned partial-birth abortions (Randy Alcorn, "Partial-Birth Abortions: What's the Big Deal?" www.epm.org/partbirt.html). Some in Congress vowed to override the veto. In September 1996, they finally failed to gain the necessary votes to do so. At that point the U.S. government became an accessory to a procedure so gruesome it would horrify most people living in the most primitive cultures. While killing children has been legal since the judicial branch's *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973, this was the first direct endorsement of the United States government's executive and legislative branches of what is, without question, infanticide. In June the judicial branch joined in.

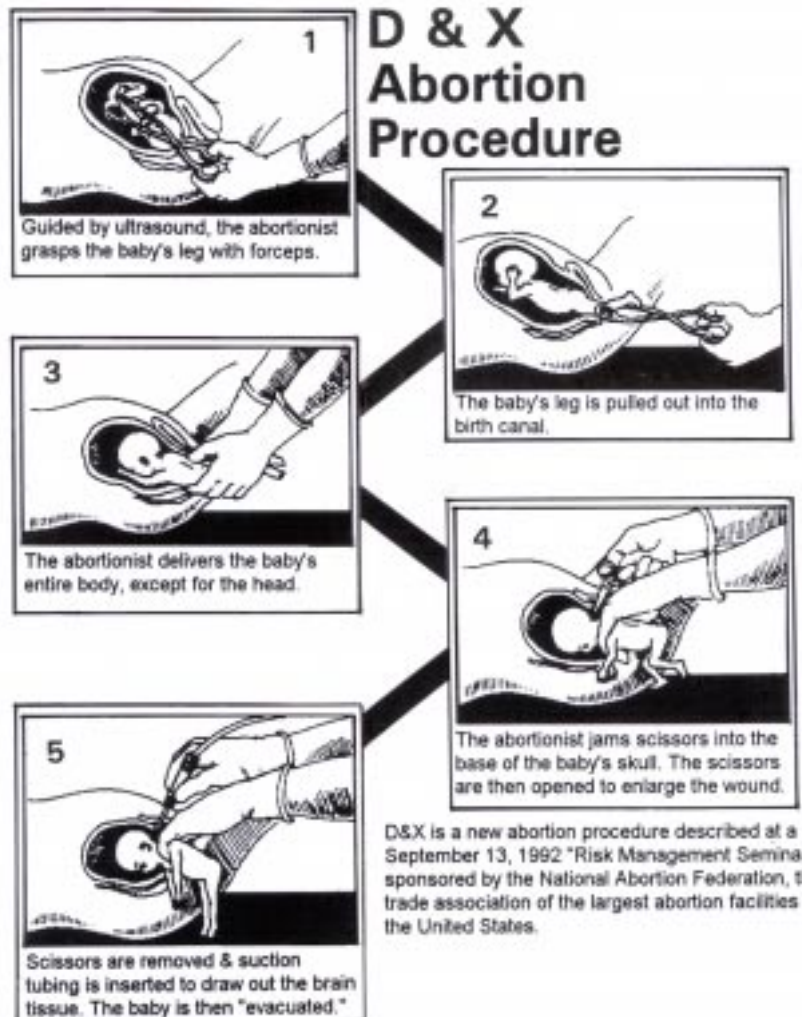
The accompanying illustration accurately depicts the process of partial-birth abortion. Keep in mind that the child pictured here is no more nor less valuable than smaller children who die in earlier abortions.

In a partial-birth (also called D & X) abortion the child is delivered live until only the head remains in the birth canal. The abortionist then uses a pair of scissors to rip a wound in the base of the living child's skull. He inserts a tube into the wound and sucks the helpless child's brain out with a vacuum pump. The now-dead infant's skull collapses, and the body is removed the rest of the way from the mother. Dr. Carhart's testimony was about this kind of procedure.

If a veterinarian performed a partial-birth abortion on a dog at his clinic, not only animal rights activists, but the media and general public would be outraged. The fact that it is being done on human beings—and that Congress could not usher enough votes to overturn the president's veto on their efforts to make it illegal—documents the moral slippery slope of abortion. It also demonstrates the shadow of evil that hangs over not only the abortion industry, but our political leaders and our nation.

In December 1999 the Nebraska University Regents Board of Regents met to discuss the situation when it was discovered the University of Nebraska Medical Center was conducting experiments using brain tissue from children aborted by Dr. Leroy Carhart, a specialist in the D & X abortion technique. When a board member tried to prevent someone from reading Dr. Carhart's testimony, it was decided that since Carhart was a specialist in an area perfectly suited for collecting live brain tissue, his testimony concerning his specialty was relevant to the discussion.

Someone then read to the board Dr. Carhart's court statement, given in July 1997. Testifying under oath, Carhart spoke of procedures which, had they been described by a prolife advocate, would have been considered outrageous. Significantly, very few newspapers and television stations reported any substantial contents from the testimony. (Dr. Carhart's clinic's website is www.abortionclinics.org/. Information about Dr. Carhart is furnished by the clinic under "Our Doctor" at www.abortionclinics.org/our.htm. The clinic also provides large pictures and other information about "antichoice" individuals under "Our protestors" at www.abortionclinics.org/our1.htm, instructing people to "avoid contact" with them.) However, the reading of the testimony was taped and played on a local radio program the following Monday, entering it into the public arena.



What follows are excerpts from that testimony, with questions from an attorney and judge. I will let the testimony stand on its own, without further comment, so the reader can judge for herself the significance of what abortion really is and why most of the public was never given the opportunity to hear this testimony:

Are there times when you don't remove the fetus intact?

Carhart: Yes, sir.

Can you tell me about that, when that occurs?

Carhart: That occurs when the tissue fragments, or frequently when you rupture the membranes, an arm will spontaneously prolapse through the os...we talk about the forehead or the skull being first. We talked about the feet being first, but I think in probably the great majority of terminations, it's what they would call a transverse lie, so really you're looking at a side profile of a curved fetus. When the patient's uterus is already starting to contract and they are starting to miscarry, when you rupture the waters, usually something prolapses through the uterine, through the cervical os, not always, but very often an extremity will.

What do you do then?

Carhart: My normal course would be to dismember that extremity and then go back and try to take the fetus out either foot or skull first, whatever end I can get to first.

How do you go about dismembering that extremity?

Carhart: Just traction and rotation, grasping the portion that you can get ahold of which would be usually somewhere up the shaft of the exposed portion of the fetus, pulling down on it through the os, using the internal os as your counter-traction and rotating to dismember the shoulder or the hip or whatever it would be. Sometimes you will get one leg and you can't get the other leg out.

In that situation, are you, when you pull on the arm and remove it, is the fetus still alive?

Carhart: Yes.

Do you consider an arm, for example, to be a substantial portion of the fetus?

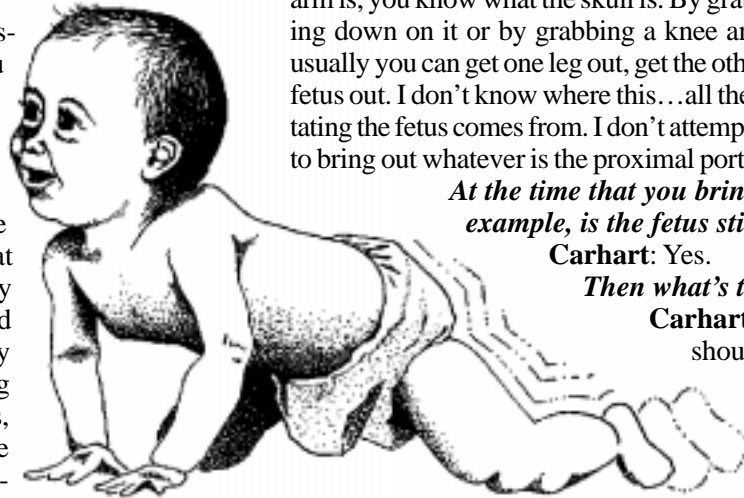
Carhart: In the way I read it, I think if I lost my arm, that would be a substantial loss to me. I think I would have to interpret it that way.

And then what happens next after you remove the arm? You then try to remove the rest of the fetus?

Carhart: Then I would go back and attempt to either bring the feet down or bring the skull down, or even sometimes you bring the other arm down and remove that also and then get the feet down.

At what point is the fetus...does the fetus die during that process?

Carhart: I don't really know. I know that the fetus is alive during the process most of the time because I can see fetal heart-beat on the ultrasound.



The Court: Counsel, for what it's worth, it still is unclear to me with regard to the intact D & X when fetal demise occurs.

Okay, I will try to clarify that. In the procedure of an intact D&E where you would start foot first, with the situation where the fetus is presented feet first, tell me how you are able to get the feet out first.

Carhart: Under ultrasound, you can see the extremities. You know what is what. You know what the foot is, you know what the arm is, you know what the skull is. By grabbing the feet and pulling down on it or by grabbing a knee and pulling down on it, usually you can get one leg out, get the other leg out and bring the fetus out. I don't know where this...all the controversy about rotating the fetus comes from. I don't attempt to do that, just attempt to bring out whatever is the proximal portion of the fetus.

At the time that you bring out the feet, in this example, is the fetus still alive?

Carhart: Yes.

Then what's the next step you do?

Carhart: I didn't mention it. I should. I usually attempt to grasp the cord first and divide the cord, if I can do that.

What is the cord?

Carhart: The cord is the structure that transports the blood, both arterial and venous, from the fetus to the back of the fetus, and it gives the fetus its only source of oxygen, so that if you can divide the cord, the fetus will eventually die, but whether this takes five minutes or fifteen minutes and when that occurs, I don't think anyone really knows.

Are there situations where you don't divide the cord?

Carhart: There are situations when I can't.

What are those?

Carhart: I just can't get to the cord. It's either high above the fetus and structures where you can't reach up that far. The instruments are only 11 inches long.



Let's take the situation where you haven't divided the cord because you couldn't, and you have begun to remove a living fetus feet first. What happens next after you have gotten the feet removed?

Carhart: We remove the feet and continue with traction on the feet until the abdomen and the thorax come through the cavity. At that point, I would try...you have to bring the shoulders down, but you can get enough of them outside, you can do this with your finger outside of the uterus, and then at that point the fetal...the base of the fetal skull is usually in the cervical canal.

What do you do next?

Carhart: And you can reach that, and that's where you would rupture the fetal skull to some extent and aspirate the contents out.

At what point in that process does fetal demise occur between initial remove...removal of the feet or legs and the crushing of the skull, or I'm sorry, the decompressing of the skull?

Carhart: Well, you know, again, this is where I'm not sure

what fetal demise is. I mean, I honestly have to share your concern, your Honor. You can remove the cranial contents and the fetus will still have a heartbeat for several seconds or several minutes, so is the fetus alive? I would have to say probably, although I don't think it has any brain function, so it's brain dead at that point.

So the brain death might occur when you begin suctioning out of the cranium?

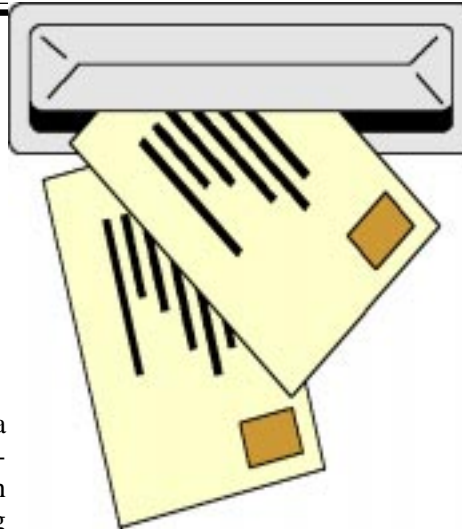
Carhart: I think brain death would occur because the suctioning to remove contents is only two or three seconds, so somewhere in that period of time, obviously not when you penetrate the skull, because people get shot in the head and they don't die immediately from that, if they are going to die at all, so that probably is not sufficient to kill the fetus, but I think removing the brain contents eventually will.

(Testimony of Leroy Carhart, M.D., www.texasrighttolife.com/whatsnew/abortionists_testimony.html; also, scanned documents of Carhart's testimony are at www.operationsaveamerica.org/streets/ne/carhart.html)

Something You Can Do To Help Stop Partial-Birth Abortion

Simply send a postcard once a week to each of your senators—no matter how they voted on the partial-birth abortion ban. Write a short note asking them to stop partial-birth abortion and include your name and address on the back of the postcard. This will cost you 21 cents per postcard and a couple minutes of your time.

Fred Yates, the man behind this postcard idea says, "The most effective



way to get results is with postcards! Millions of postcards! Telephone calls, letters, e-mails or telegraphs are reduced to a mere number, they cannot generate the impact of millions of postcards."

Try to visualize 5,000,000 postcards. How big is the stack, how much

room do they take up, how many bags does it take to hold them? Can you imagine the impact of 100,000 postcards in every senator's office every week, until they decide to do what it takes to end this human atrocity?

According to Jim Henderson of the American Center for Law and Justice, "Every legislative aid I've talked to over the course of many years says there is no single more effective way to influence a vote than through a personal letter (not a form letter) addressed to your congressman or senator."

Postcards can be purchased from the post office for \$10.50 per 50 pre-stamped cards. They can also be pre-ordered and delivered through the mail by using US Postal Service Form 3227.

You'll find additional information (including senators' addresses) at this website: www.preciouslives.org

We can make a difference for life!



Don't be surprised if there is an attack on your work, on you who are called to do it, on your innermost nature—the hidden person of the heart. It must be so. The great thing is not to be surprised, nor to count it strange—for that plays into the hand of the enemy. Is it possible that anyone should set himself to exalt our beloved Lord and not instantly become a target for many arrows? The very fact that our work depends utterly on Him and can't be done for a moment without Him calls for a very close walk and a constant communion of spirit. This alone is enough to account for anything the enemy can do...Don't be surprised if you suffer. It is part of the way of the cross...So rejoice! You are giving Him what He asks you to give Him: the chance to show you what He can do.

Amy Carmichael

Letters to EPM

Randy:

Thanks for sending me a copy of *Lord Foulgrin's Letters*. I have been reading the first couple of chapters this morning. C.S. Lewis would be very, very proud of you. Quite frankly, Randy, from what I've already read, you have exceeded Lewis. Your afterword should be required reading of every believer in the Body of Christ. I'm not saying this to flatter you, Randy. I'm telling you the truth. You have done a magnificent job of reading the enemy's mail.

I will be praying for you because Foulgrin is not pleased with you. And he will be attempting to take you out. So I pledge to pray for you. God is using you, Randy. Be encouraged.

For what it's worth, I'm going to blow the trumpet for this book as loudly and as often as I can.

Keep fighting the good fight.

Steve Farrar, Copper Canyon, TX

Mr. Alcorn,

What a blessing to read your book on heaven, *In Light of Eternity*. Finally, a realistic look at heaven. I've read so many books on this subject and always finish the book with little insight that seems realistic; not so with yours. I've always felt that earth just didn't seem like home, but lots of people call me a Pollyanna. My goal in life has always been my "after-life." This doesn't fit with the world nowadays. I've had no worldly ambition except to be a good wife, mother, and friend. God seemed to put that, and only that, on my heart. I've worked outside the home, even owning a retail clothing store, but my heart wasn't in it.

My first husband passed away in 1986 at the age of 45 of lung cancer. Just before he died he was contemplating one day and said, "You know, no matter at what age you die life will seem like only a minute. And the only thing that really matters when you take your last breath is your relationship with your maker." Ah, to live life with this in mind! Your book put it all in perspective.

God bless you in your ministry.

M.B.

Dear Randy,

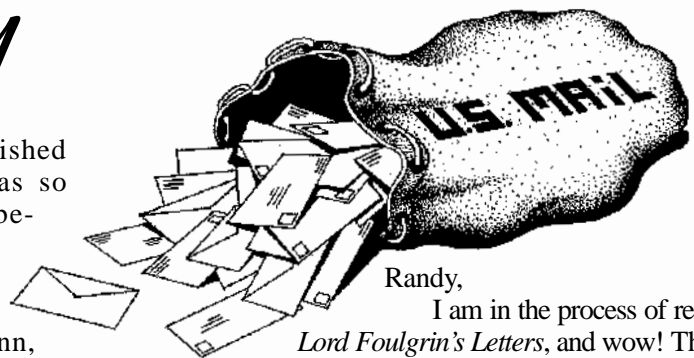
When I finished *Deadline*, I was so overwhelmed because having a special needs child, I could relate to little Finn, along with many other aspects of the story. Being a kidney donor for my brother, the entire theme of the book was impressive. But, now that I have finished *Edge of Eternity*, I have been so renewed in my faith that I just had to respond with an email. Other writings have served my spirit well in building my faith, but this one in particular has allowed me to view Christ's suffering at Calvary in a whole new respect as if it was possible. It is remarkable that I have had your book for over a month and have not chosen to read it until now. What a glorious God we serve, that he even designates the time and material of our reading with good Friday and Easter quickly approaching. Thank you for *Edge* and the spiritual renewing it has brought me. I am now sending it to a friend.

Sincerely, A.B.

Dear Mr. Alcorn,

I have just finished reading your book, *Deadline*. I wanted to thank you for writing such a wonderful novel. I'm a 32-year-old mother of one from Ohio. I lost my first child at age 15 to abortion. Through the many prayers, glorious forgiveness, and an awesome Christian counselor, the agony of that day (Sept. 21, 1983, yes I'll always remember), that agony has lessened, and I have been able to help another woman. Thank you for writing the TRUTH. I have a list of people who would benefit from this book, and maybe even find love and salvation through Christ! Thank you, Mr. Alcorn. I can't wait to read *Dominion*!

In Him, M.M.



Randy,

I am in the process of reading *Lord Foulgrin's Letters*, and wow! Thanks to your interesting, thought-provoking books, I'm totally neglecting my family, house chores, my dog, cooking, etc.

I'm only into this book a few pages, but I can already tell that I'll be reading through the wee hours of the morning; therefore, my family will have to put up with my moodiness on top of being neglected!

The Lord is already speaking to me through *Lord Foulgrin's Letters*. He's convicted me of something recent. I'm highlighting passages/words that describe the ways that demons deceive which are evident in my and my family's life. I really thank you for writing your books. You definitely present it in an interesting and sometimes unusual way (that's supposed to be a compliment). Well, enough of writing...I'm getting back to reading!

S.H., San Diego, CA

Dear Mr. Alcorn,

I received a copy of *Dominion*. I enjoyed it as much or more than *Deadline*. You opened my eyes to the other side of a lot of racial issues.

Having grown up in the South (Houston), I have been exposed to a lot of prejudice and racism. As whites are a very small minority in the Texas prison system, they are often victimized there and, unfortunately, I had that experience when I went to prison in the 70's for drug possession.

I wish I could say things have changed in "modern" Texas, but the 1998 dragging death of a black man says it hasn't. I'm personally pretty disgusted with the climate of hatred and ignorance that still persists in many places here.

Thank you for the book, I have circulated it tirelessly, to rave reviews from the other inmates (both black and white). Comments have ranged from "it changed my whole outlook on life" (a young black fella), to "the best book I have ever read" (from a 30ish white guy).

B.V., Houston, TX



The World Was Not Worthy of Them (Martyrs for Christ)

By Randy Alcorn

In April I had the privilege of speaking at a JESUS Film Conference in San Diego, California. There are many things I could say about the conference, many reports that gave me goosebumps, but let me just tell you about Gladys and Esther Staines. Nanci and I and our daughters had dinner with them one night and got to know them through various conversations.

A year ago January Gladys's husband and sons, Esther's father and two brothers, were martyred for Christ in India. (Graham Staines, a missionary from Australia who specialized in work with lepers, had showed the JESUS film to many, thus the connection with the JESUS Film Conference.)

On January 23rd of last year, Graham and his two sons, Phillip (11 yrs.) and Timothy (6 yrs.) were murdered by a large mob of militant Hindus. They had gone to a Christian camp in the jungle, where Graham was ministering. At midnight the mob attacked, setting fire to the

to show respect for Graham and his family and to show their solidarity against the actions of the killers. Despite the fact that persecution of Christians has increased in recent years, the president of India came forward and said, "that someone who spent years caring for patients of leprosy, instead of being thanked and appreciated as a role model should be done to death in this manner is... a crime that belongs to the world's inventory of black deeds."

The response of Gladys and Esther was on the front page of every newspaper in India (with one billion people, soon to pass China as the most populous nation on earth). Gladys said, "I have only one message for the people of India. I'm not bitter. Neither am I angry. But I have one great desire: that each citizen of this country should establish a personal relationship with Jesus Christ who gave his life for their sins...let us burn hatred and spread the flame of Christ's love."

Gladys shocked nearly everyone, because people assumed she and Esther would move back to Australia or somewhere else in the west. She said no, God had called them to India, and she would not leave. (In fact, she'd been very hesitant to even come to San Diego, as she didn't want to leave the work even for a brief trip.) She said, "My husband and our children have sacrificed their lives for this nation; India is my home. I hope to be here and continue to serve the needy." When asked how she felt about the murder of her dad, Esther, as a thirteen year old, said (in words that sound straight off the pages of the book of Acts), "I praise the Lord that He found my father worthy to die for Him."

After Gladys spoke at the conference, an Indian national leader stood up and said that the impact made by the response of Gladys and Esther has been amazingly powerful, with many Hindus coming to Christ because of their witness. The people of India have looked at this situation and asked, "Why would a man leave his wealthy country and serve lepers in India for 34 years? Why would his wife

and daughter completely forgive the killers of their family? Why would they choose to stay and serve the poor? Who is this God they believe in? Could it be that all we've been told about Christians has been lies? Could it be that Jesus really is the truth?" The people of India are seeing embodied in the Staines an otherworldly perspective and strength in Christ that stands in stark contrast to the dark, fatalistic and im-



Gladys Staines

personal gods of Hinduism.

I look forward to meeting Graham, Timothy and Philip in the world for which we were made, the one made for us. And if I get there first, I'm putting in a request to be there for their reunion with Gladys and Esther.

The words of Hebrews 11:35-38 are appropriate not only of Graham and the boys but of Gladys and Esther. The passage speaks of the sufferings of God's people: "Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—the world was not worthy of them."

The world was not worthy of them....

Please pray for Gladys and Esther, as well as funding for the forty-bed leprosy hospital Gladys is hoping to be built in memory of Graham, Philip and Timothy.

If you would like to contribute toward the leprosy hospital, 100% of designated gifts to EPM will be sent directly to the Mayurbhanj Leprosy Home for the new hospital.



Karina Alcorn, Esther Staines, Angela Alcorn

jeep in which Graham and his sons were sleeping. They were burned alive. When the fire finally cooled, they found the charred body of Graham Staines with his arms around the bodies of his sons.

Graham served the Lord in the jungles of Orissa for over 34 years. He was described as "a wonderful, gracious, self-effacing man of God, full of faith, confidence and humility; warm-hearted, and a wonderful father." At his funeral, the streets were thronged with masses of people—Hindus, Muslims and Christians. They were there

Leading By Serving

Excerpted from "Through the Dust"

by Denny Gunderson (YWAM Publishing)

1. The true servant, with nothing to prove and no vested interest, takes joy in seeing others grow beyond himself. In the words of Henri Nouwen, "The beginning and the end of all Christian leadership is to give your life for others."

2. The leader who wishes to emulate Jesus resists the great temptation to build a ministry around himself. He chooses to abandon himself to the will and pleasure of God on a moment by moment basis. Thus, communion takes precedence over causes, and obedience over opportunity. Leadership pleasing to God is reserved for those servants willing to enter the crucible of divine dictate, often forfeiting opportunities for advancement in the process.

3. By humbly choosing to serve behind the scenes, doing the things that others avoid doing, we are in no way negating our leadership call or gift. Rather we are strengthening it by recognizing that no one is so great that certain tasks are beneath their dignity.

Servanthood is the antidote for status, and it is the opposite of the corporate leadership structure which has invaded today's Church. The aspiring servant leader must follow in the footsteps of the Master, not the steps that lead to the top of the corporate status ladder. Again, the words of Richard Foster are so appropriate: "Servant leaders are people who are servants before they are leaders and will be servants when the tenure of leadership is concluded."

4. Accountability is another invaluable advantage of leading by example and inviting others to scrutinize our life.



Unfortunately, much of the emphasis on accountability today is in the context of organizational structure and flow charts. In addition, many of those highlighting the need for accountability want to apply it downward to those "under" them, while conveniently ignoring any application in their own lives.

But accountability is not purely a function of structure. More properly, it is a function of relationship. A leader cannot sustain a modeling relationship for long if he is a phony! A follower will tolerate flawed reality, but not phony perfectionism. Effective role-modeling presupposes close relationships and therefore serves as a protection to both leader and follower.

EPM: A Giving Alternative via United Way

For years many Christians have struggled because of the annual office pressure to have full participation in giving to The United Way. The problem is, United Way funds have gone to Planned Parenthood and similar proabortion groups, as well as prohomosexual groups and others committed to anti-Christian beliefs and actions. Naturally, of course, Christians want to lead the way in generosity and this has presented a dilemma.

Good news—several years ago United Way set up an alternative program through which Christians can still participate through their place of employment, while designating the full amount to an alternative organization they do believe in. This cannot be just any organization,



but only those United Way has officially approved. You may not be aware of this, but EPM is an approved organization.

If you would like your donation to go to EPM, simply provide your employer with EPM's name and address (Eternal Perspective Ministries, 2229 East

Burnside #23, Gresham, OR, 97080) and the donor number 2363. If you want to confirm that the money has actually come through to EPM, email or call us and let us know the amount, and when it comes through we'll notify you.

Thanks for thinking of us, and above all for being sure your money (God's money) stays away from what He doesn't approve of and goes to what He does approve of.

(Note: If you have convictions against giving to United Way even when it goes to a prolife cause, we fully respect this position. It was only after several Christians came to us and asked us to receive their United Way funding that we became involved.)



The StoryTellers' Collection

compiled by Melody Carlson

You won't want to miss this short works by some of the Christian Bookseller's Association's well-known fiction authors—including Jerry Jenkins, Randy Alcorn, Terri Blackstock, Deborah Raney, and Angela Elwell Hunt—all compiled into one gripping volume! These masterfully told short stories promise to transport readers around the globe with amazing tales of international romance, mystery, and humor. A short bio accompanying each story allows readers to "meet" their favorite author. And better yet, all contributors are donating their royalties to *The JESUS Film project*, a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ International.

The JESUS Film is likely the single greatest evangelistic tool in history apart from the Word of God itself. It's now being used by 1,000 denominations and mission agencies worldwide, and in 233 countries. More than three billion (that's not a typo) people have seen the film, and at least 110 million of those have indicated a decision to trust Christ. Tens of thousands of churches have been planted through film showings. The film is in 600 languages, with a new translation completed every three days.

Audio Version Coming in September!

Restoring Sexual Sanity

by Randy Alcorn

Recently Dr. D. James Kennedy's Coral Ridge Ministries printed an update and revision of *Christians in the Wake of the Sexual Revolution*—the first book Randy wrote back in 1985—entitled *Restoring Sexual Sanity*. We now have copies for sale at our office for \$7.00 each, quantity discounts available.

Life is war. That's not all it is. But it is always that... But most people do not believe this in their hearts. Most people show by their priorities and their casual approach to spiritual things that they believe we are in peacetime, not wartime... Very few people think that we are in a war that is greater than World War II, or than any imaginable nuclear war. Few reckon that Satan is a much worse enemy than any earthly foe, or realize that the conflict is not restricted to any one global theater, but is in every town and city in the world. Who considers that the casualties of this war do not merely lose an arm or an eye or an earthly life, but lose everything, even their own souls, and enter a hell of everlasting torment? Until we feel the force of this, we will not pray as we ought. We will not even know what prayer is... Prayer is the communication with headquarters by which the weapons of warfare are deployed according to the will of God... Prayer is the walkie-talkie of the church on the battlefield of the world in the service of the word. It is not a domestic intercom to increase the temporal comforts of the saints. It malfunctions in the hands of soldiers who have gone AWOL. It is for those on active duty. And in their hands it proves the supremacy of God in the pursuit of the nations. When missions move forward by prayer it magnifies the power of God. When it moves by human management it magnifies man.

John Piper, *Let the Nations Be Glad*, p. 41-45

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