

Quarterly Newsletter  
Winter 1997

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

## Sexual Purity:

### What You Need to Know

by Randy Alcorn

**I**t is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God." (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5)

When it comes to sexual purity, we don't have to wonder what God's will is. Scripture tells us straight out. His expectations of his children are much higher than for those who don't know him.

In light of the critical importance of sexual purity, I've developed the following material and presented it to many young people and their parents over the last fifteen years.

In the past five years I've honed it further for sharing and discussion with my own teenage daughters and the young men who have asked to date them. Until we have gone over these principles together (my wife and I, our daughter and the young man) and made sure there is complete agreement, we don't allow a dating relationship to begin.

We have found this is a great help not only to our daughters but to the young men wanting to date them. We make our expectations clear, give them specific guidance and principles (not just rules), and tell them we'll be asking them if they are living up to these standards. This deepens our rela-

tionship, opens communication and creates healthy accountability.

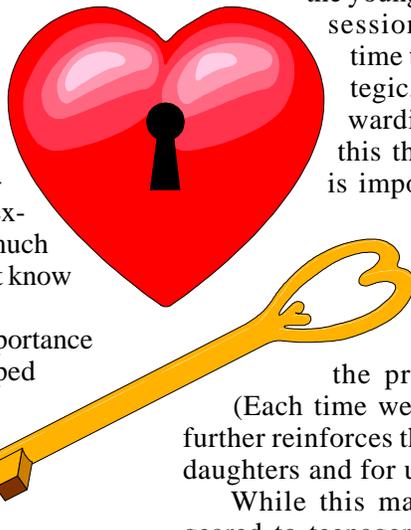
Though there are sometimes nervous jitters as family members (and especially the young men) anticipate these sessions, in each case the time together has been strategic, encouraging and rewarding. Having practiced this these last five years, it is impossible for us and for our daughters to imagine them dating a young man without first openly addressing with him all the principles that follow.

(Each time we do this, of course, it further reinforces these principles for our daughters and for us.)

While this material is specifically geared to teenagers and those in potential dating relationships, the biblical principles apply to people of all ages, and the practical guidelines are helpful for many people in different life situations as well. I hope you find them helpful in your own life and with your children. Feel free to use this material and pass it on as you wish.

### Sexual Purity: What You Need to Know

**1. Sex is good. God created it, God called it "good," and it existed before there was any sin in the world. Sex was not created by Satan, Larry Flynt, Playboy,**



*(continued on page 2)*

Hollywood, HBO, rock musicians, the Internet, or some pervert lurking in the shadows of a porno shop. Sex was created by the holy God of heaven, where purity reigns.

God made sex physically desirable by creating us with sex drives, without which sex wouldn't exist and neither would people. God's Word speaks openly of the pleasure of sex (Proverbs 5:18,19; Song of Solomon 4:5; 7:1, 6-9).

We shouldn't be ashamed to talk about what God wasn't ashamed to create. However, when we do talk about it, God demands that we address the subject in terms of *his* intentions and requirements, not the world's. He designed sex for the sacred union of marriage, and reserves it for that union. It is both the means by which children are conceived (something very close to God's heart) and a means by which marital intimacy is expressed and cultivated. When it takes place in its proper context, God is definitely pro-sex.

**2. Like all good gifts from God, sex can be misused and perverted.** Water is a gift of God, without which we couldn't survive. But floods and tidal waves are water out of control, and the effects are devastating. Fire is an energy-producing gift of God that gives warmth and allows us to cook. But a forest fire or a house burning to the ground or a person engulfed in flames is fire out of control—it is horrible and frightening. Water and fire are good things which, when they occur outside their God-intended boundaries, become bad.

Likewise, God designed sex to exist within certain boundaries. When exercised in line with God's intended purpose, it is beautiful and constructive. When out of control, violating God's intended purpose, it becomes

ugly and destructive. Sex is a good thing which, when it occurs outside its God-designed boundaries, becomes bad. The problem isn't sex—the problem is us. We're sinners who can pervert, abuse, and rip away from their proper place the good things God created. The greater the gift from God, the more power it has both for good *and* bad.

**3. The boundaries of sex are the boundaries of marriage.** Sex and marriage go

together. Sexual union is intended as an expression of a commitment, a symbol of the spiritual union that exists only within the unconditional commitment of marriage. Apart from marriage, the lasting commitment is absent and the sex act becomes a false expression, a lie. Every act of sex outside of marriage cheapens both sex and marriage. Sex is a privilege inseparable from the responsibilities of marriage. To exercise the privilege apart from the responsibility perverts God's intention both for sex and for marriage. Sex is designed to be the joining of two persons, of two spirits, not just two bodies. Sex should be giving to someone to whom I'm 100% committed (as measured by the state of legal marriage), not taking from someone to whom I'm uncommitted or partially committed. "But we really love each other" has no bearing on the ethics of sexual intimacy—sex does not become permissible through subjective feelings, but through the objective lifelong commitment of

marriage.

**4. Your sexual purity is essential to your walk with God.**

Sexual purity is not an option for an obedient Christian, it's a requirement. God's will is centered on our character and moral purity much more than on our circumstances, such as job, housing and schooling. You want to know God's will? You don't

have to wonder. Here it is: "It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality" (1 Thessalonians 4:3).

There is no sense seeking God's will in other areas when you are choosing to live in sexual impurity in your mind or body.

"Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place?"

He who has clean hands and a pure heart." (Psalm 24:3-4)

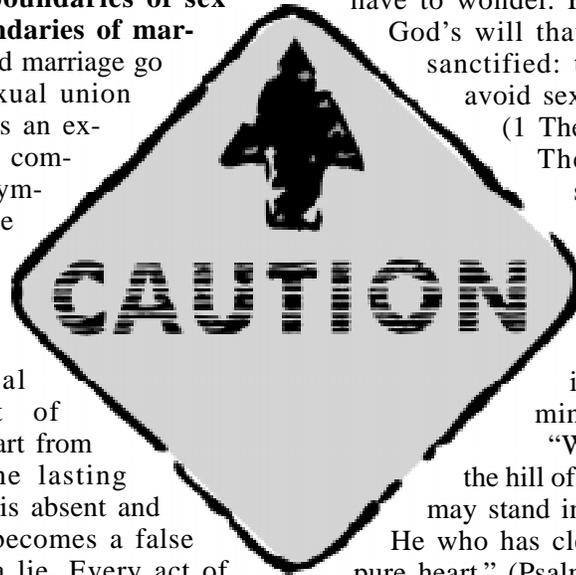
"If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened." (Psalm 66:18)

"If anyone turns a deaf ear to the law, even his prayers are detestable." (Proverbs 28:9)

"When I called, they did not listen; so when they called, I would not listen," says the LORD Almighty." (Zechariah 7:13)

Sexual purity is inseparable from a committed Christian life. If you are not living in sexual purity, God will not hear your other prayers until you offer the prayer of confession and repentance and commit yourself to a life of holiness.

**5. You are vulnerable to sexual immorality.**



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Don't kid yourself that it can never happen to you—it *can*. And if you don't think it can, it almost certainly will.

"Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." (Proverbs 16:18)

"So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!" (1 Corinthians 10:12)

"Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin . . . watch yourself, or you also may be tempted." (Galatians 6:1)

If you think you'll never be burglarized, you'll fail to take precautions to keep it from happening. If you think you'll never fall sexually, you'll fail to take precautions to keep it from happening.

#### **6. You are targeted for sexual immorality.**

Years ago there was scuttlebutt concerning an international "hit list," a calculated plan for paid assassins to murder strategic world leaders. The Enemy, Satan, has maintained a spiritual and moral "hit list" throughout the ages. Since God's children are close to God's heart, Christians are at the very top of that list. The more involved you are in ministry, the greater vested interests Satan has in destroying you and God's work in and through you. God requires that we be holy and pure instruments to be used by him (2 Timothy 2:20-21). More Christians (including Christian leaders) are lost to serving Christ due to sexual immorality than anything else. (See my booklet *Sexual Temptation: How Christian Workers can Win the Battle.*)

This means that the forces of evil have taken out a contract on you. There is a price on your head. Satan has declared war on you: "Our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers of darkness, against spiritual forces of evil in the invisible realm" (Ephesians 6:12). These evil beings have vested interests in your moral collapse. They will do everything in their power to strike out at Christ and his church through enticing you into immorality.

Satan is neither omnipresent nor omnipotent—there are only so many demons and none of them can be two places at once. Therefore, fallen angels

attack and tempt not indiscriminately but with strategic purpose. Satan does not have to waste his time on those who have already made the biggest messes of their lives. Rather, he specially targets those whose fall would have the greatest negative effect on the kingdom of God. That's why God's Word warns Christians:

"Be self-controlled and alert. Your

*"Flee from sexual immorality.*

*All other sins a man commits*

*are outside his body,*

*but he who sins sexually sins*

*against his own body.*

*Do you not know that your*

*body is a temple of the*

*Holy Spirit, who is in you,*

*whom you have*

*received from God?*

*You are not your own;*

*you were bought at a price.*

*Therefore honor God*

*with your body."*

*(1 Corinthians 6:18-20)*

enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

The devil wants to derail you from serving God. He wants you imprisoned to sin. God wants you free. Only by exercising self-control and being on alert can we expect to resist the enemy's plan to lead us into sin. Satan "scouts us out" and knows only too well the chinks in the armor of every Christian. His aim is deadly, he excels at tailor-made temptations, and it is at our points of greatest vulnerability that he will attack. Don't forget,

though, that "the one [Christ] who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world" (1 John 4:4). As powerful as the evil one is to tempt us, God is infinitely more powerful to deliver us.

#### **7. Your body belongs to God, not you.**

"You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body" (1 Corinthians 6:20).

If it's my house, I have the right to do what I want with it. If it's someone else's, I don't. Sometimes when I'm speaking I ask to borrow a pencil from someone in the audience. Then I break it in half, throw it to the floor and stomp on it. There's always a wide-eyed silence and expressions of shock and discomfort in the audience. I ask them why they're bothered by what I've done, why they think I did something wrong, and someone always says "because it wasn't your pencil." I then explain that it really *was* my pencil, that I gave it to the person ahead of time and asked her to hand it to me when I called on her. Suddenly it changes everything, because if it belongs to me, then (and only then) do I have the right to do with it as I please. If it belongs to someone else, I have no such right.

When you came to Christ, when you affirmed him as Lord of your life, you surrendered your entire self, including your body, to God. Christ owns you and your body. You are bought and paid for. "Your body" is really *his* body. He paid the ultimate price for it. What price? The shed blood of God Almighty! We are his both by virtue of his creation and his redemption. God has *every* right to tell me what to do with my mind and body. I have *no* right to do with it what I want instead.

#### **8. Sexual purity begins in the mind, not the body.**

"As a man thinks in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7).

"For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality . . ." (Matthew 15:19-20).

"But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matthew 5:28).

You will inevitably adopt the morality of the programs, movies, books, magazines, music, Internet sites and conversations you participate in. GIGO—Garbage in, garbage out; Godliness in, godliness out. The cognitive is basic to the behavioral—you become what you choose to feed your mind on.

**Sow a thought, reap an action;**

**Sow an action, reap a habit.**

**Sow a habit, reap a character.**

**Sow a character, reap a destiny.**

Your future can be accurately predicted by what you allow your mind to dwell on. Sinful actions don't come out of nowhere—they are the cumulative product of little moral compromises made over time, which ultimately culminate in ungodly behavior.

There's nothing new about sexual temptation—what's new is how it has invaded our homes. In first century Corinth there were prostitutes all over the streets, but when you entered your home you had a sanctuary from the temptation. We live in a technological Corinth, where immorality can come into the privacy of our home through airwaves (television) and modems (the Internet). Most of us are only a few pushbuttons away from sexual immorality of the mind. Every choice we make to view and contemplate immorality desensitizes us to its evil.

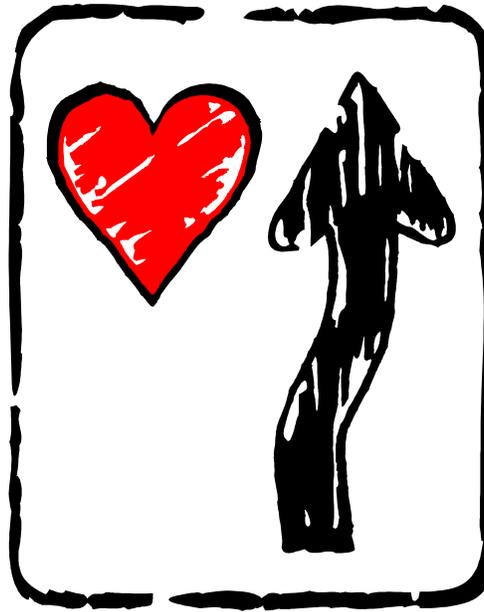
Actions, habits, character and destiny all start with a thought, and thoughts are fostered by what we choose to take into our minds. Therefore we should take extreme care about what we feed our minds on.

"Above all else, guard your heart [mind, inner being], for it is the well-spring of life" (Proverbs 4:23).

If someone wants to pollute water, he pollutes it at its source. If he wants to purify water, he purifies it at its source. Our thoughts are the source of our lives. All our lives flow from our mind, and through the choices we make every day we program our minds, either for godliness or ungodliness.

"Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word" (Psalm 119:37)

Our minds are not a vacuum—they will be filled with something. It is necessary to turn our minds from the worthless, but it's not sufficient. We also must fill our minds with good thoughts that crowd out and combat the bad ones. It's not enough to say "don't think about anything bad." (If I say, "don't think about spiders," what do you think about?) We must also choose to think about the good. (If I say "think about your favorite dessert," pretty soon you



stop thinking about spiders.) Time in the Word, in prayer, and in conversations with Christ-centered friends reinforces our commitment to purity.

"Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure . . . think about such things" (Philippians 4:8).

We cannot avoid every temptation, but we can avoid many of them, and we can certainly resist their attempts to take hold of us. Martin Luther said, "You can't keep the birds from flying over your head, but you can keep them from making a nest in your hair."

Your body will go where your mind allows it to. When it comes to your sexual purity, the ultimate battle is in your mind. Don't give your mind junk food. Be sure you're getting spiritual nutrition.

**9. Since God doesn't want you to have premarital sex, neither does he want you to do that which prepares your body for premarital sex.**

"How far can I go?" This is a com-

mon question, but it isn't the best question because usually it means "how close can I get to disobeying God without actually doing it?" If a parent tells his child "Don't step out on the freeway," an obedient child won't go dangle his leg over the freeway, he'll stay far away from it. By putting himself close to the freeway, he subjects himself to unnecessary temptation to act on his impulses, disobey and put himself in grave danger.

God made the body and mind with sex drives, and as those drives are stimulated they move toward a climax—this is a simple fact of life that no one should be naïve about. Caressing each other in sexually stimulating ways is foreplay, and foreplay is designed by God to culminate in sexual intercourse. Since intercourse is forbidden outside marriage, so is foreplay. Since sexual intercourse before marriage is wrong, it is also wrong to engage in activity that propels mind and body toward sexual intercourse.

"Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart." (2 Timothy 2:22)

There is a continuum of physical contact that begins with things like sitting close and hand-holding on the near side and graduates (or, rather, degenerates) to sexual intercourse on the far side. In between might be a brief hug, a kiss on the cheek, a kiss on the mouth, a longer hug, fondling, etc. Scripture does not spell out exactly what "intermediate" behavior is permissible, but one thing is certain—the line must be drawn before *either* of you becomes sexually stimulated. This means that fondling—and anything else that results in a "turn on"—is forbidden.

If one of you begins to be stimulated even by an apparently innocent physical contact, then both of you should back off immediately. If you don't back off, you are choosing to stay on a canoe headed toward a waterfall. This is not just wrong, it's stupid. (Those who allow their minds to dwell on what's immoral and who engage in sexual stimulation together

shouldn't be surprised when they have sexual intercourse. It's simply the natural result of the choices they've made. If you want a different outcome, you must make different choices.)

Guys are more quickly and easily stimulated than girls. A girl often thinks extended kisses and hugs are fine, naïve to the fact that the guy is sexually stimulated and is tempted to push for more. Again, make sure you draw the line far enough back that *neither* of you crosses it.

**10. Once you let your body cross the line, it will neither know nor care about your Christian convictions.**

Some Christians pray God will protect their purity, then willfully put themselves into temptation and wonder why God didn't answer their prayer. This is like putting a book at the corner of a table and praying "God please don't let this book fall," when all the while you keep pushing it further and further off the edge. No matter how fervently you pray that the book won't fall, it *will* fall if you continue to choose to push it. No matter how fervently you pray that you will not fall into immorality, you *will* fall if you continue to make choices that feed your temptation toward immorality. Don't allow your choices to undermine and invalidate your prayers.

**11. If you have sexual intimacy with someone outside marriage, you are stealing from God and the other person.**

Since he or she belongs to God, not you, that means you are borrowing this person for the evening. Be careful what you do with what doesn't belong to you. You'll be held accountable to his or her Owner.

**12. God has your best interests in mind when he tells you not to have premarital sex.** What's right is always

smart, and always for your good. Sex is not just something you do—sex is someone you are. It is linked to the welfare of your whole person.

Having sex outside of marriage is self-destructive in every sense. Sexual purity is always for the best—not only for God and others, but for you.




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*The lifelong consequences of sexual impurity are worse than we can imagine.*

*The lifelong rewards of sexual purity are greater than we can imagine.*

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**13. God would not tell you to abstain from impurity if it was impossible to obey him.**

God is not cruel. He doesn't command you to abstain from necessities, such as eating or drinking or breathing. Sex is something everyone can abstain from—it is a strong desire, yes, but never an emergency, never a necessity. Christ has given us the resources to resist every temptation:

"The grace of God teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age" (Titus 2:12).

"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires" (2 Peter 1:3-4).

You do not *have* to watch that video. You can turn it off, walk out, go in the other room. You don't *have*

to click on that link to an ungodly website. You don't *have* to fondle the person you're dating. You can and should draw upon your resources in Christ, and say "no" to temptations to sin.

**14. You must learn to think long term, not short term. Good or bad, you will always reap what you sow—you will always harvest the consequences of your choices.**

"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:7-9)

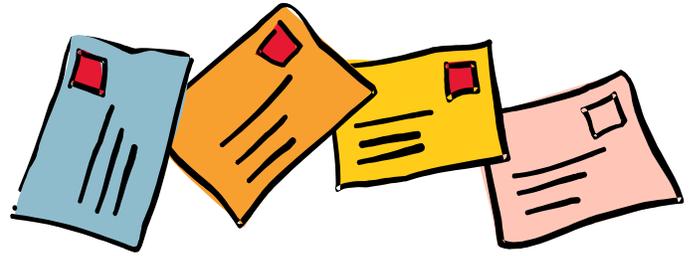
It doesn't matter how smart you think you are. It doesn't matter whether you have a Ph.D. in physics, if you step off the tenth story of a building, you will fall to your death. Gravity is law—there's just no getting around it. Likewise, God has set up spiritual laws that govern the universe, including laws concerning our sexual behavior. If we break his commandments, ultimately *we* get broken.

Scripture teaches two basic alternatives in life, the way of God and the way of men, the way of holiness and the way of sin. Proverbs speaks of the path of wisdom and the path of foolishness, and calls upon us to make right choices, which are also wise, and avoid wrong choices, which are also foolish. After laying out the blessings of obedience and the curses of disobedience, God said, "This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live" (Deut. 30:19).

The lifelong consequences of sexual impurity are worse than we can imagine. The lifelong rewards of sexual purity are greater than we can imagine.

Part 2, "Sexual Purity: What You Need to Do," will appear in the Spring 1998 EPM newsletter.

# Letters to EPM



**T**hanks for radically changing my perspective on abortion. I have been a Christian for many years, but have never really concerned myself with abortion. Your book *Deadline* has totally altered the way I perceive abortion and the role that I see Christians taking to fight against it. Keep the books coming!

Love in Christ, Andrew White

I have just finished reading your novel and I loved it! As I was reading, I found it has probably done just what you intended, that is, spark my imagination of heaven. I believe I have a very temporal perspective in general. Not anymore! Life is richer and more significant from an eternal perspective! I didn't realize how narrow my focus had become. Thank you for setting me on a new path in my walk with our Lord.

In Him, Paula Guttemeyer, RN

I just finished reading both *Deadline* and *Dominion*, one right after another. (Not much housework got done those couple of weeks!) Of course, I've been recommending them left and right, as they are extremely creative and inspired, but that's not what this letter is about. I want to relay how it helped change one person's viewpoint on a very important topic...

I have a non-Christian friend that I often talk to about issues of faith and ethics. We have vastly differing stands on abortion, and the topic comes up now and then. After reading the scene in *Dominion* where Clarence compares abortion with rape, and comes to the conclusion that a person either has to support both or neither, I knew I wanted to share this analogy with my friend.

So I did, I read him the section of the book. Well, he failed to see the analogy, he said. We went round and round with this, with his continued insistence that the unborn child is not a person. "Until when?" I wanted to know. Was it okay, then, to abort a day before the child's birth? No, he said, that was too late. The first trimester was when the baby wasn't a person yet, he concluded. I told him that was a myth, that the only reason abortion in the first trimester was any different than any other point in the pregnancy was possibly because the procedure, as a medical procedure, was less invasive, maybe safer for the mother. But he still couldn't seem to see that the unborn child was a person from the moment of conception.

At one point, for some reason, I felt compelled to ask, "What if you got a girl pregnant? At what point would she be carrying your baby?" He didn't have an answer for that really, but at

the same time, or shortly thereafter, the conversation seemed to reach a stalemate, and I dropped it, as there was nothing else to say, and we went on to talk about other things. I was a bit disappointed that he had failed to see the abortion/rape connection, and that this argument hadn't done anything to change his mind. But I got over that and sort of forgot about the conversation.

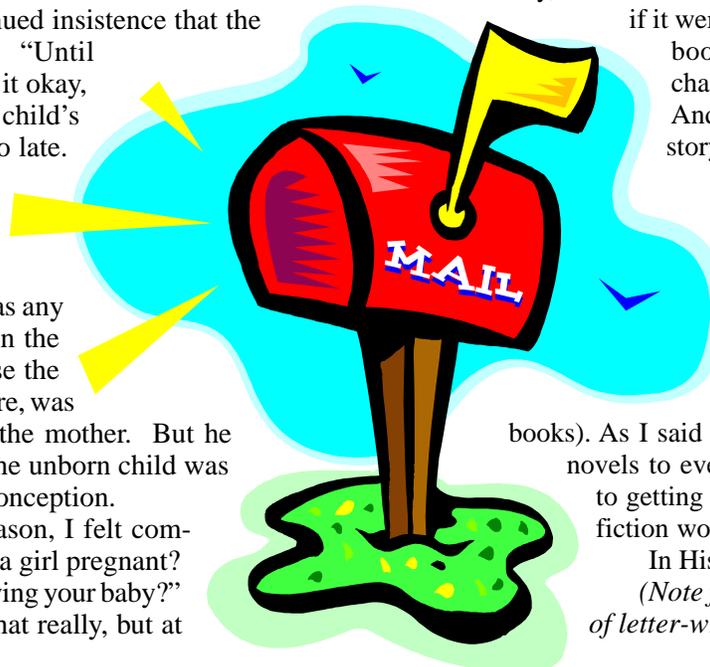
**BUT!** Two days later, this came in my email:

I also wanted to comment on the conversation we had the other night about abortion. You brought up a very valid point by pointing out that I didn't think an unborn child was really a person, and then asking how I would feel if someone were pregnant with my child. I have to say that that whole discussion brought forth a major revelation to me. How could I say that an unborn child wasn't really a person, but then think of it differently when it was *my* child? Surely if I found out someone were pregnant with my child I would think of it as a person, as *my* son or daughter from the moment it was conceived, not from the moment it was born. Now that I realized that, I have to agree with you that yes, an unborn child really *is* a person. Believe me, that was a MAJOR revelation to me. A whole new way of looking at it. I always thought, "ehhh, it's just a fetus, not a person," until I was forced to think of how it would apply in my life. Anyway, thanks for helping me with this new revelation. You were very influential when it came to that new realization.

Ha!! Is that wonderful or is that wonderful?! And I must say, the conversation never would have happened if it were not for your book. Both of the books were rich with inspiration, challenge, vision, unabashed truths. And I just had to share this one small story, one of many, I'm sure, of how your work was instrumental in changing one life in a significant way.

Thank you *so much* for writing both books, for your obedience and faithfulness (I can't even imagine how much work must have gone into these books). As I said earlier, I'm recommending your novels to everyone, and am looking forward to getting my hands on some of your non-fiction work.

In His Service, Sandy Tavilla  
(Note from EPM: We only print names of letter-writers with their permission.)



# Dominion on Death Row

by Kathy Norquist

While Randy was writing his novel *Dominion*, several people gathered together more than once to pray not only for Randy's strength and perseverance but for the eternal impact it would have on people's lives. God is faithfully answering those prayers hundreds and thousands of times over. This is just one of the stories.

I received a phone call from a woman named Novella in Leavenworth, Kansas. Sixteen years ago she was a stay-at-home mom and was looking for a way to reach out. She made contact with a death row prison ministry and began writing to a man convicted of brutal crimes.

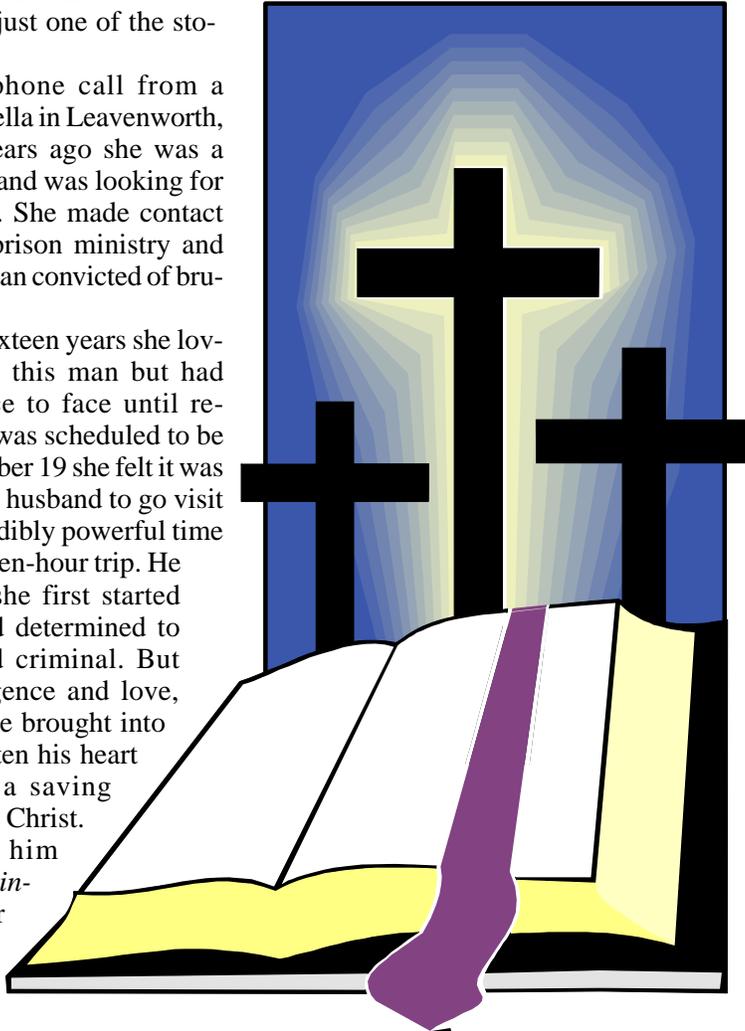
Over the past sixteen years she lovingly witnessed to this man but had never met him face to face until recently. Because he was scheduled to be executed on November 19 she felt it was time for her and her husband to go visit him. It was an incredibly powerful time and well worth the ten-hour trip. He shared that when she first started writing him he had determined to remain a hardened criminal. But God used her diligence and love, along with others he brought into his life, to help soften his heart and draw him to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Novella sent him Randy's book *Dominion* and he wrote her this:

I want to thank you for the book *Dominion*. It's amazing. I'm half way through it. But it's as if once you start it's hard to just put it down. But I have to go over it in my mind because so much of it is true. And once it gets to the part about the Lord and heaven and what all takes place, your mind just opens up. Being at home with God and his angels, that's a lot to think about. It's a wonderful book and I thank you so much for thinking of me.

During their visit he shared how he had stopped reading *Dominion* when he

got to the part about Dani being in heaven and Elyon showing her around and telling her "this is all yours." He wanted to save the last half of the book to savor reading just before he was executed. In so many ways the book seemed to have been written just for him.



Novella was calling EPM to ask if Randy would write this man a letter in his last days. It would mean so much to hear from the man who wrote *Dominion*. Immediately Randy wrote the following:

Dear Durlyn,

Novella talked to my assistant Kathy and said you were reading *Dominion*, and that the parts on heaven had been an encouragement to you. She also said you were waiting to read the last half of the book in the last few days before your

execution.

I'm glad our Lord has spoken to you through *Dominion*, and above all I'm delighted you have come to a knowledge of Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

None of us deserves God's grace—if we deserved it we wouldn't need it. Despite our complete unworthiness, he offers us the gift of eternal life, based on his death for our sins on the cross. It's an awesome thing to realize God has seen us at our worst and still loves us.

No matter what sins we've committed, Durlyn, I know that if we have both repented and accepted Christ's gift of eternal life, we are brothers and will see each other again on the other side. I look forward to meeting you there.

I have a request for you. My mother, a devoted follower of Christ, died sixteen years ago. My father was very hostile to the gospel. After years of saying "no" to God he accepted Christ as his Savior five years ago, at the age of 84. Dad died in February, at 89, and my wife Nanci and daughters Karina and Angela and I, and my brother Lance, were all with him when he made the exodus from this world to the next. In fact, Dad's birthday—his 90th—is November 19th.

So, Durlyn, I'd like to ask you to give my Mom and Dad a hug for me, and say Happy Birthday to my Dad. They may well be seeing a lot of what's going on here, but please tell them I love them and can't wait to see them again. And when you talk with our Lord, even though he knows this and everything else, tell him how much I love him and how much I look forward to seeing him face to face. I tell him that myself, but if you wouldn't mind passing on the message I'd appreciate it.

I have marked my calendar and will be praying for you between now and the 19th. I do look forward to meeting you, brother. It won't be long before we're both living in the world for which we were made.

Your brother, Randy Alcorn

# The World's Street Children: Is There Hope?

*Note from Randy Alcorn: The following is from Action International, an outstanding international ministry that, along with other Christ-centered strategic work, specializes in reaching out to street children. I have met many Action International staff members, including Doug Nichols, the director. I believe in their integrity, doctrine, ministries, and dedication to the Lord. I highly recommend that individuals and churches help support this worthy ministry. It is truly close to the heart of our Lord and a great investment in eternity. (See the end of the article to find out how to contact Action International.)*

## HOW DO WE RELATE TO THESE HUGE NUMBERS?

Let's put it this way—if you counted one street child per second, it would take you over 1,157 days, or three years and two months, to count the 100 million street children of the world. If one missionary could minister to a group of 5,000 children, then 20,000 missionaries would be needed—just for street children ministry.

**W**e all have heard about the global problem of street children, but just how serious is the problem? What do the experts say?

## WHO ARE THE STREET CHILDREN?

Street children live or work on the streets; they make their living by selling flowers or cigarettes; some watch cars, others sell their bodies or engage in crime. They often work in groups and are found in commercial areas, especially where tourists are found.

## WHAT IS THE STREET CHILDREN SCENE WORLDWIDE?

There are 100 million street children in the world today and by the year 2020 they will have reached 800 million in number.

By the year 2000, half of the global population will be children, 2 billion of whom will live in extreme poverty or be at risk.

The UN estimates that one million children enter the trade of child prostitution each year.

According to the United Nations, by the year 2000, the street children situation will be one of the worst crises facing the nations of the world.

## WHAT ABOUT IN THE PHILIPPINES?

The cities of the Philippines have an estimated 1.5 million children living or working on the streets and Metro Manila alone has more than 75,000.

There are an estimated 60,000 prostitutes under the age of 18 in the Philippines. According to the Bangkok-based "End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism" (ECPAT), there are at least 100,000.

## TAKING THE STREET OUT OF STREET CHILDREN . . . IS THERE HOPE?

In Metro Manila, one of the world's largest cities, the ACTION Urban Street Ministries team faces an overwhelming task of reaching Filipino street children for Christ. At times it seems as though this task is impossible. We are sometimes asked why we "waste" our time and money working with street children—it seems hopeless. But we believe there is hope . . . it is found in Jesus Christ.

## WHAT IS OUR VISION FOR BRINGING THE GOSPEL TO FILIPINO STREET CHILDREN?

Our vision for all USM ministries is to ignite and encourage churches—both in the Philippines and abroad—so they will join us in loving street children, and spreading the hope of the Gospel to them and their families. ACTION has

developed its entire ministry on this truth from the Bible: "the Gospel . . . is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes . . . ."

## HOW DO WE REACH THESE CHILDREN?

Answer: One at a time . . . like Jose.

Here is a true story of how the various ministries of ACTION worked together along with a local church to help one street boy and his family.

Divisoria is a tough part of town, well known for its sprawling open-air market, its harbor, multitudes of people and crime. Street kids and families are everywhere. Our research has shown that very few of them are being helped. Divisoria is a desperate place.

When ACTION was planning to hold a camp for street children, we wanted to recruit kids from Divisoria. We networked with local churches who also desired to help the kids that they had met during their street outreaches.

When the workers from a church in Divisoria went out to recruit campers, they tried to recruit 14-year-old Jose. Jose was from a very poor family and had dropped out of school. He spent all his time hanging out on the streets. When the workers approached Jose's father to get permission for camp, Jose's father Pedro—a violent, unemployed drunkard—cursed the workers and accused them of having bad intentions. But the boy's mother gave permission.

At camp Jose was only one of 60 campers, but he was one who trusted Christ to be his personal Savior. His life changed! Before he trusted Christ, he had no hope for his future and lived without direction. However, when Jose returned to Divisoria, instead of hanging out on the streets, he started hanging out at the church's drop-in center and attending Bible studies and helping however he could. People at the church saw that Jose was a changed boy and that he needed to get back in school. They took action and helped him get started again.

Jose's parents were impressed by the change in their son's life as well as the loving concern of the church for their son. Pedro's heart was further softened when ACTION and the church provided a free medical clinic for street families. When ACTION conducted a camp for street families, Jose's entire family attended and they also trusted Christ.

Today Pedro's whole family is fully involved in the life of the church and have dramatically changed. Pedro is no longer involved in crime and drunkenness but is joyful and full of hope. He now assists the church and ACTION whenever there are ministries for other street kids and their families.

There *is* hope!

Only the power of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ can accomplish this in a family. How many other street kids and hurting families will Pedro and his family touch in Christ's name? That, my friends, is a hope-filled question!

## ACTION Street Children ministries include:

Networking	Camping
Researching	Street outreach
Christmas parties	Drop-in centers
Easter activities	Home training for workers
Sportsfest	Medical clinics

## Give to Action International via EPM:

Any gift to EPM or portion of a gift designated "Street Children" will be forwarded in full to Action International. EPM, 2229 E. Burnside #23, Gresham, OR 97030.

## Or contact/give to Action International Ministries directly:

U.S.A.: PO Box 490, Bothell, WA 98041-0490 Tel: 206-485-1967 CompuServe: 75702,31

Canada: PO Box 280, Three Hills, AB TOM 2AO Tel: 403-443-2221 CompuServe: 75342,663

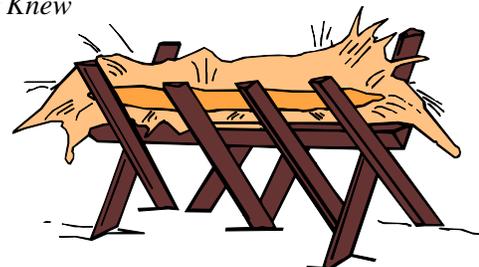
United Kingdom: PO Box 694, Rhl Clwyd, LL18 1JU Tel 01-492-535718 CompuServe: 100647,1636

Philippines: PO Box 110, Greenhills, 1502 M., Manila. Tel/Fax: 531-0642 CompuServe: 74677,2150

## Mary's "Choice"?

Malcolm Muggeridge observed that in our day, with family-planning clinics offering convenient ways to correct "mistakes" that might disgrace a family name, "It is, point of fact, extremely improbable, under existing conditions, that Jesus would have been permitted to be born at all. Mary's pregnancy, in poor circumstances, and with the father unknown, would have been an obvious case for an abortion; and her talk of having conceived as a result of the intervention of the Holy Ghost would have pointed to the need for psychiatric treatment, and made the case for terminating her pregnancy even stronger. Thus our generation, needing a Savior more, perhaps, than any that has ever existed, would be too humane to allow one to be born."

Excerpted from Philip Yancey's book *The Jesus I Never Knew*



Eternal Perspective Ministries is a nonprofit organization with two goals:

1) *to teach* the principles of God's Word, with emphasis on an eternal viewpoint;

2) *to reach* the needy in the name of Christ, assisting the church in ministering to:

- *the unreached*, who've never heard the gospel;
- *the unfed*, unclothed, unsheltered, and poor by circumstance, not choice;
- *the unsupported*, Christians suffering in hostile spiritual environments;
- *the unborn*, targeted for abortion, and their mothers deceived and exploited by the child-killing industry;
- *the unreconciled*, those of different races and cultures who are alienated, hostile, or suspicious of each other,
- *the untrained*, a generation of children growing up in a society without values, whose parents need help in training them to think and live in light of eternity.

*I value all things only by the price they shall gain in eternity."*

## The Teaching Goal

The **teaching** goal is accomplished in conferences and church services, as well as through Randy's books and newsletters. Speaking engagements deal with a variety of subjects, including money and possessions, morality, eternal rewards, prolife issues, missions, and racial reconciliation.

The common element in all *Eternal Perspective Ministries'* speaking and literature is an emphasis on **seeing life through the eyes of God, with eternity in mind**. Our conviction is that we should learn to live now with the perspective that will be ours one minute after we die. We will have no second chance to relive our lives on earth. Now is our window of opportunity. Now is our chance to invest our lives in eternity.



As one missionary put it, *"Only one life 'twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last."* Another said, *"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."*



EPM's teaching ministry is designed to help churches and families live in light of eternity. Our thought- and action-provoking quarterly newsletter, *Eternal Perspectives*, is free on re-

## The Reaching Goal

EPM undertakes new, strategic, and distinctive ministries. It also provides personal and financial support to other ministries doing the work of Christ. EPM avoids provincialism, competition, turf-consciousness, and re-inventing the wheel. Our philosophy is that much more is accomplished for eternity when it doesn't matter which group gets the credit. Committed to the unity and cooperation of Christ's body, EPM invests its funds in worthy, strategic, and eternity-impacting projects and ministries.

Many fine overseas ministries are unknown to most Christians in the west. EPM seeks to serve in a partnership role with such ministries. EPM has seen firsthand the work of many organizations, and has contacts with Christian leaders of high integrity across the globe. EPM identifies and supports strategic Christ-centered ministries. By raising funds for such organizations, EPM acts as an eternal investment brokerage for



*"I will use my possessions to promote the glory of Him to whom I owe all."*

David Livingstone

## EPM and Churches

those desiring to

EPM is led by a former pastor and a board committed to local churches. It does not replace church ministries, but complements, strengthens and facilitates them.

Contributions to EPM are needed and welcome, but we ask that they be above and beyond regular giving to a Bible-believing local church. Those willing to commit to monthly support, or willing to give one-time gifts, are all deeply appreciated.

Pastors and churches are invited to avail themselves of EPM's teaching and reaching ministries. They are welcome to call EPM for no-cost consultations regarding stewardship, missions, prolife work, and racial reconciliation. If they so desire, churches may support EPM through their own budgets. The two-page "EPM's Financial Principles and Priorities" is available on request.

The convictions and priorities of *Eternal Perspective Ministries* are reflected in the book **Money, Possessions and Eternity** by Randy Alcorn, EPM director. A free copy will be sent to pastors or leaders of Christian organizations who write requesting it.

## EPM Leadership

store up treasures in heaven.

Randy Alcorn was one of two original pastors of Good Shepherd Community Church near Portland, Oregon, where he served for fourteen years before founding EPM in June, 1990. Randy and his wife Nanci, along with daughters Karina and Angela, have observed firsthand the work of ministries on four continents. They have also been active in intervening on behalf of unborn children and their mothers, and reaching out to the inner city.

Randy has served on the part-time faculties of Multnomah Bible College and Western Seminary. He is a frequent church and conference speaker, nationally and internationally. Randy has written for many magazines including *Leadership Journal*, *Discipleship Journal*, and *New Man*. He is the author of eleven books including **Lord Foulgrin's Letters, In Light of Eternity, Edge of Eternity, Restoring Sexual Sanity, Women Under Stress** (co-authored with wife Nanci), **Money, Possessions and Eternity, Is Rescuing Right?, ProLife Answers to ProChoice Arguments**, and the best-selling novels **Deadline** and **Dominion**. He has also written two booklets, **Sexual Temptation: How Christian Workers Can Win the Battle** and **Does the Birth Control Pill Cause Abortions?**



## Why all the EPM info?

Eternal Perspective Ministries has existed seven years now. God has quietly and graciously expanded our ministry throughout the Pacific Northwest, across the country and around the world.

Every day we hear from people whose hearts have been moved for God and for missions, prolife work and other eternity-shaping ministries. Recently I received letters from a twelve-year-old and a retired missionary to Africa, both saying their lives had been touched deeply by EPM. We get letters from prisoners, from people wrestling with moral dilemmas, and disciples wanting to know how to invest their resources in eternity. We have established a website on the Internet at minimal expense, accessed by hundreds of people per week. Every day we send out eternity-impacting literature at no cost or low cost, and offer guidance to those who wish to stand up for the Lord and what's right. Many around the world have been touched through EPM, and for this we praise our great God.

This EPM newsletter, in one form or another, and with gaps from time to time, has been going out for our entire seven years. We've never before talked about our general fund needs, nor included a response form in the newsletter. We still haven't enclosed giving envelopes, though we seriously considered it this time. We've very seldom talked about EPM at all, focusing instead on biblical and moral issues, opportunities to invest in other ministries, etc.

So what's up? Why are we dedicating four pages to talk about EPM this time, and what's with the response form?

It comes out of some serious financial needs we faced this fall. (More about that in a moment.) In October the board met and decided we needed to send out a letter to everyone who has given to EPM in the last few years. 6,000 people receive this newsletter, but we have a core of about 100 regular givers, and another 100 periodic givers. That is perfectly fine. We have no complaints. We provide the newsletter free of charge—

that's what we want to do and that's what we'll continue to do.

But because of our significant financial needs we sent the letter to our regular givers—the first of its kind since we started seven years ago. People responded graciously, and the Lord provided what we needed. But the EPM board believes we should not limit this information to past givers, but also in-

A second expense is the 850 square foot EPM office we are building in our (the Alcorns) back yard. We've used our family room as the EPM office for these seven years, which saved lots of money. However, this arrangement has become inefficient. Nanci has been very patient, but with volunteers, employees, delivery and repair people constantly coming in and out of our house . . . well,

**“God’s work done in God’s way will never lack God’s supply.”**

*—Missionary Hudson Taylor*

form our larger newsletter audience. The point is not to put pressure on anyone to give—that's the last thing we want to do. God doesn't want you to give to every organization, and it's likely he doesn't want you to give to this one. But we believe some of you would want to know what's been going on.

In October we were two weeks late paying some of our salaries. We had no bills unpaid, because we don't believe in that—our staff will voluntarily forgo salaries and benefits before EPM does not pay a bill. We stopped nearly every expenditure we could control, but we were down to no financial reserves.

How did this happen? Part of our higher financial needs are due to bringing on Kathy Norquist last spring to work three days a week as my ministry assistant. She's doing a *great* job. Having worked the last seven years without a secretary, I can tell you that it's hard to imagine how we got by without Kathy, who is in the thick of ministry with us. Her presence has definitely picked up the quality and breadth of our ministry.

you can imagine. The EPM board determined last spring to take on this building project. Thanks to a lot of donated time and discounted materials, the total cost of the office will be about \$20,000.

EPM's current expenses are \$15,000 a month, which includes four and a half salaries, plus all our overhead, utilities, printing costs, mailings and everything else. We currently are bringing in \$12,000 a month. \$5,000 of that are the royalties from my books, which are owned by the ministry. About \$6,500 comes from general fund contributions to our ministry, and another \$500 from miscellaneous sources. Ron Norquist and I continue to make minimum wage due to past lawsuits for peaceful nonviolent rescuing. Nanci and Kathy both work for the ministry and are able to receive normal salaries.

We needed \$8,000 to get us into the office building, and the Lord provided this through our past EPM givers after we sent them the letter. To cover our current ongoing expenses, we needed about \$3,000 more per month. The good

news is that \$945 of that was committed in response to the letter, leaving us with the need of \$2055 more per month.

To most of you this is brand new information. Someone told me, "You never talk about financial needs, so we just assume EPM is doing fine. If you don't tell us, how can we know? How can we pray?" That really convicted me. Over the years we have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for worthy ministries, especially missions, famine relief, and prolife work. We do not deduct a portion for our administrative costs, because we don't want to "take a cut" from these ministries. In addition, as a matter of policy we tithe to missions off our general income, both because we believe it is right to do so and because we want to enjoy God's blessing. We have gotten into a habit of never referring to our own financial needs. Perhaps that is why at the very time when we needed our first significant increase of giving in years, we experienced a shortfall.

Missionary Hudson Taylor said, "God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply." I firmly believe this. We were on our knees about the shortfall, asking the Lord if we are doing anything wrong that needs changing, and where we should cut expenditures. God definitely got our attention and we are better off for the process.

In this newsletter you'll find two pages about EPM, in case you're not familiar with our ministry. There is a response sheet which allows you to indicate a prayer commitment, a one-time gift, or a level of monthly support if you so choose.

As I mentioned, we are praying for about another \$2100 of monthly support from families, individuals or churches. Again, please do not feel obligated—if God doesn't want you to give to EPM, we don't want you to!

Thanks for understanding, and thanks for your prayers. May God bless you as you invest your life in eternity.



**Y**ou can help EPM cut down on costs by sending us your new address, hopefully before the next newsletter comes out. Though we mail them out bulk rate at a cost of \$.17 per newsletter, for every returned newsletter with the wrong address we are charged \$1.36 in return postage. Not only that, but you don't receive your newsletter. And if we re-mail it to you it will cost us another \$.78. So the sooner we receive your change of address, the better. Thanks!

## EPM Response Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street/apt. or box # \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

- I'd like to pray regularly for EPM. If there's a special prayer request I'd like to be reached by telephone at \_\_\_\_\_ and/or email at \_\_\_\_\_.
- I'd like to become a regular supporter of EPM in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month.
- I enclose a one-time gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be used by EPM as most needed.

Mail to:

Eternal Perspective Ministries  
 2229 E. Burnside #23  
 Gresham, OR 97030

by Randy Alcorn

Recently I called various relief, development and missions organizations to get some accurate information on the physical and spiritual needs in the world today. As you and I pray and consider what to do with our lives and resources, I hope God will use these facts to touch our hearts.

### HUNGER AND RELIEF RELATED

■ Over 1.1 billion people in the world live on less than one U.S. dollar per day.

■ 500 million people are hungry and another 500 million are so poor that they get too little food to be fully productive.

■ The proportion of the world's population that lives in hunger is slowly declining, but due to population increases the total number of people who are hungry is higher than ever in history.

■ Every day 25,000 people, many of them children, die from the results of dirty drinking water.

■ 35,000 children under five die in the developing world every day. The great majority of these deaths are preventable by adequate food and basic medical care. (Almost 60% of these deaths are from three diseases: pneumonia, diarrhea and measles, all of which could be prevented or cured by adequate food and medical care.)

■ 13,600 children die every day because of a combination of the effects of malnutrition and disease.

■ One third of all children under the age of five in developing nations are so poorly nourished that their physical and mental development is permanently impaired.

■ One out of four people on the planet have no access to any form of healthcare.

■ Though they represent 75% of the world's population, developing countries have 5 percent of the world's health expenditures and 10% of the education.

■ There are 47 million refugees and displaced people.

■ Half the world's people are unable to vote; over three billion people are denied the freedom to teach their ideas and beliefs.

bal population will be children, 2 billion of whom will live in extreme poverty and/or in high risk situations.

■ The United Nations estimates that 1 million children enter the trade of child prostitution each year. The UN says by the year 2000, the street children situation will be one of the worst crises facing the nations of the world.

### MISSIONS AND WORLD EVANGELIZATION RELATED

■ 85% of the world's poorest countries lie within the unevangelized world.

■ Muslims are the fastest growing religious group, largely as a result of a high birth rate.

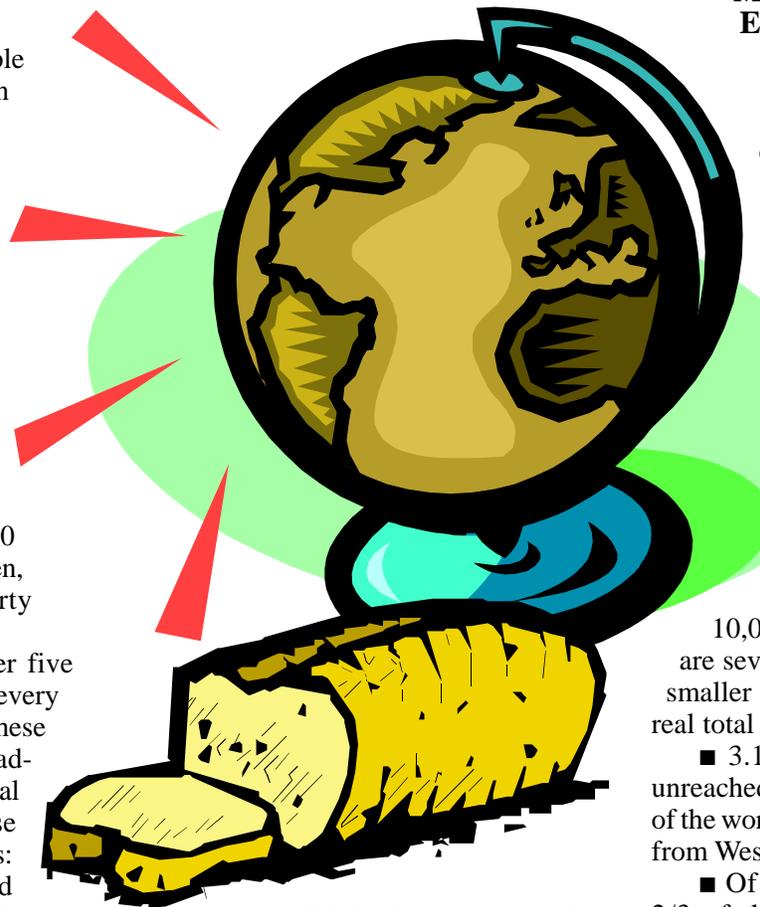
■ There are about 1,700 unreached people groups (defined linguistically). "Unreached" means that they do not have a nationally led, viable, reproducing church.

(Each of these groups is 10,000 or more in size, so there are several hundred more unreached smaller groups, perhaps bringing the real total to 2,000.)

■ 3.1 billion people and 95% of unreached groups are located in an area of the world called the 10/40 Window—from West Africa to China.

■ Of those in the 10/40 window, 2/3 of them—two billion people—have never heard of Jesus, at least not as Savior.

■ According to UNESCO, 85% of the "poorest of the poor" also live in the 10/40 window. (From InterDev: "There is a powerful correlation here that cannot be ignored—that where Jesus Christ is believed on and His Church is established, He brings not only spiritual transformation, but also socio-economical transformation. He meets the people where their needs are. His healing is holistic.")



■ Of the 27 countries where human suffering is greatest, 20 are in Africa, 6 Asia and one (Haiti) in the Western Hemisphere.

■ If current trends continue, by the year 2000 the number of hungry people in Sub-Saharan Africa will increase by another 25 million, to total more than 165 million.

■ There are 100 million street children in the world today and by the year 2020 there will be 800 million. (From *Action International*)

■ By the year 2000, half of the glo-

■ 95% of missions money and resources in the western world go to areas of the world where there is already an established or emerging church and 5% goes to areas where there is no church.

■ 90% of the full-time Christian workers in the world live in countries that constitute 10% of the world's population.

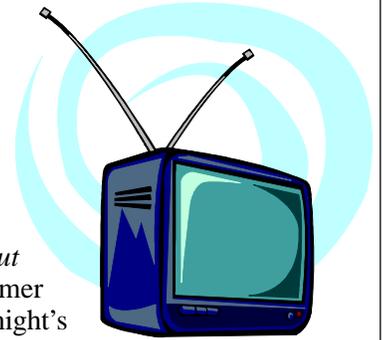
### AN ADDITIONAL NOTE FROM A MISSIONS AGENCY:

"At InterDev, we believe that a strategic area of focus is among the unreached Gateway People Groups in the 10/40 Window. Each of these groups are 1 million or more in size and tend to dominate the political life, social life, language, and religious life of the smaller groups around them. There are 132 Gateway People Groups (GPGs) in the 10/40 Window. There is wide agreement among the front-line agencies working in the 10/40 Window that if a nationally led church can be established in each of these GPGs, they will have a much higher success rate of evangelizing the smaller groups around them and giving them a chance to say 'Yes' to Jesus Christ. These groups include the Wolof of West Africa, the Kazaks of Central Asia, and the Bengalis of India. Interdev's vision is to see a Strategic Evangelism Partnership operating in each one of the GPGs in the next 7 years.

China is an area of huge need and strategic value. The Mandarin language is the main language in China. There are, however, 55 minority groups there—15 of which are 1 million or more in size!

By the way, when mission agencies come together to work in partnership, the relief and development agency sitting at the table plays a very key role in opening the doors to a closed people group because they are meeting the people where their needs are. Then scripture translators, evangelism teams, radio programming, etc. can come in behind that group with the Good News. Therefore, contrary to popular opinion, an investment in relief and development work will change the face of eternity as much as an investment in a scripture translation agency or an evangelism agency!"

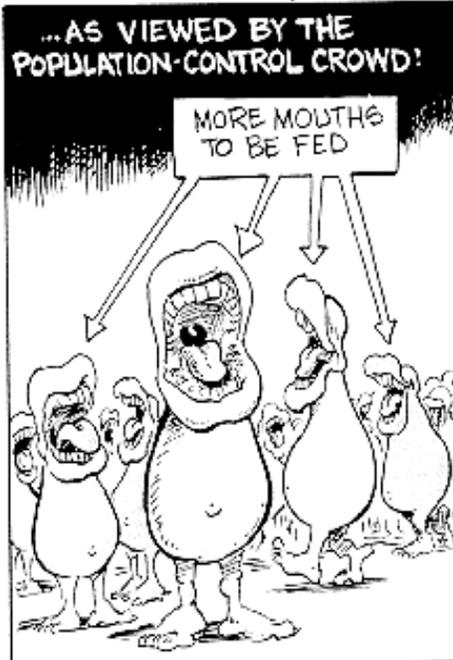
In Beaumont, Texas, Calvary Baptist Church sponsored TV commercials on the ABC affiliate that offer homosexuals a way out of their deathstyle. The commercial following comedian Ellen DeGeneres *coming out* as a lesbian, featured Michael Johnson, a former homosexual saying: "The subject matter of tonight's



"Homosexuality...  
it's full of broken promises."

episode is not a laughing matter. Looking back at the emotional and spiritual consequences of homosexuality in my own life ... standing here tonight with AIDS, I find it difficult to relate to the humor." In a separate commercial, Johnson lays it on the line: "There is a lie out there. It promises acceptance, but delivers loneliness. It promises freedom, but delivers spiritual and emotional bondage. It promises life, but delivers death. Homosexuality ... it's full of broken promises. Hello, I'm Michael Johnson. I chose to believe those lies for years. Today, I've been set free. There is a key to freedom ... his name is Jesus Christ."

## PEOPLE...



# Who Qualifies to be Called Human?

by Angela Alcorn

*Note from Randy Alcorn: My sixteen-year-old daughter Angela wrote this story for a high school class. I asked her if I could print it here because it captures the heart of our faith.*

Folks back then said it all started when I moved away from my parents at eighteen. They said I was young and stupid, and was pushed into crazy beliefs because I had no one to guide me. But I knew there was something different inside me ever since I was ten, when Maddie died.

Maddie was a mama to me—more than my own mother ever was. But I was always told not to get too close to her, because she was different. Well, even as a child I could tell she was different, but not in the way they meant it. They saw Maddie as inferior because of the color of her skin. I saw her as better than the people who put her down, because I saw her heart.

My parents didn't teach me the standards I've lived by—they'd be the first to tell you that, especially after all the trouble I've gotten into lately, all the embarrassment I've brought to the family name. They taught me the value of power and wealth, but Maddie taught me the value of truth and faith. And most of all, the value of a person's soul rather than his status. My parents disowned me and took away my inheritance. They gave me life, but Maddie gave me a reason to live.

I guess it all started when I was a little girl. I wondered why it was that Maddie couldn't look my mother in the eye, and why my father yelled at her

and called her names, and why she had to live in that leaky shack with her five children and her husband who tried to hide those strange scars on his back. Maddie loved me more than anyone in this world ever has, and I loved and admired her more than anyone I knew. No matter what anyone said, I just couldn't understand how a woman like Maddie was labeled "inferior," and why my parents treated her that way.

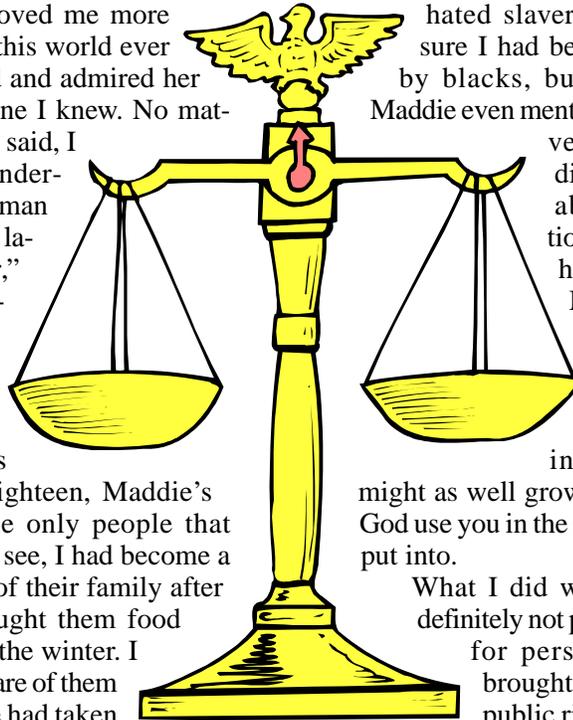
When I moved away from home as soon as I hit eighteen, Maddie's family were the only people that missed me. You see, I had become a secret member of their family after she died. I brought them food and blankets in the winter. I wanted to take care of them because Maddie had taken care of me. It was the least I could do.

I suppose I didn't do it just for them. I needed them to give me the love I wasn't getting from "my own kind," who wouldn't tolerate my "crazy" beliefs about God creating everybody equal. I found parts of Maddie's character in her family, and they were things that I wanted in my life. They were dirt poor, barely surviving through the winter, but they had so much more wealth and happiness in their hearts than my blood family ever had.

What I took with me when I left them a few years later was a desire to change the world—or at least my corner of it. Everything in me hated slavery. People were sure I had been brainwashed by blacks, but not once did Maddie even mention the word slavery; never once did she complain about her situation and ask me for help. If anything, Maddie told me that no matter who it is, a person is going to have struggles in life, and you might as well grow from it and let God use you in the situations you're put into.

What I did wasn't easy and definitely not popular. It wasn't for personal glory—it brought me nothing but public ridicule and a jail cell. I lost all my rights as a free person when I stood up for what I believed in. But I'm not concerned with my loss of wealth and status. I'm not worried about the punishment I received when I was caught helping lead the Railroad, or even about the loss of my freedom when the bars were slammed shut and my cell was locked.

I'm only concerned about the millions of other people just like me, only with a darker shade of skin. The ones we've dared to strip of their God-given right to be called human.



**Eternal Perspective Ministries**  
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 Gresham, OR 97030

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