Feature:
Living in the Balance of Grace & Faith

Outreach Journal:
Like Father, Like Son
Greetings from Jamie and me in the name of Jesus. Have you ever taken the time to sit alone and meditate about God’s plan and purpose for your life? I do often, and recently I had a wonderful and unexpected encounter with the Lord.

I was sitting on the porch of a lodge in a small town in South Africa when the Lord began to speak to me. It was a powerful time that helped me see the Lord’s plan for my life and this ministry in a clearer way. Although most of us would like to have God map out our entire futures in advance, that just isn’t the way the Lord usually does it.

I have written about this in the section called, Power of Partnership, on page 18. Please take the time to read it. I believe it will give you hope and encourage you to take the limits off God in your personal life.

We love you,

Andrew and Jamie
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by Andrew Wommack
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LIVING IN THE
BALANCE OF
Grace & Faith
At our Gospel Truth Seminars, I always take time before meetings to talk with friends and partners. One of the most common questions I’m asked is, “What do I need to do to receive the blessings of God?” It is usually followed by this explanation: “I have been praying, reading my Bible, going to church, and paying my tithes, yet I don’t seem to be able to get my prayers answered.”

In that question and explanation lies the root of the problem: They have fallen into the trap of linking God’s response to their performance. They have not properly understood the balance of grace and faith and their relationship to each other.

By definition, the word grace means unmerited, unearned, undeserved favor. Therefore, the good news is, grace has nothing to do with you. Grace existed before you ever came to be. Another way of saying it is, grace is God’s part. Faith is defined as being a positive response to what God has already provided by grace.

In other words, faith is your positive response to God’s grace, or faith only appropriates what God has already provided for you. Therefore, faith is your part.

Grace and faith work together, and they must be in balance. Ephesians 2:8-9 says,

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

The good news is, grace has nothing to do with you.

Grace is God’s part...
faith is your part.

Sometimes we read a passage from Scripture that is so familiar, we don’t stop to think about what it is really
saying. In this verse, a profound truth is being declared. It says we are saved by grace through faith, not one or the other. Think of it this way—grace is what God does; faith is what we do. It takes both working together to receive salvation.

Salvation is not dependent on grace alone. If it were, everyone would be saved and going to heaven, for God’s grace is the same toward everyone (Titus 2:11). He has already brought the gift of salvation to everyone through Jesus. It is by faith that a person receives what was done 2,000 years ago.

Most of us believe that in order to be saved, we need to ask God to forgive us of our sins. But that isn’t what the Bible teaches. In 1 John 2:2, it states that Jesus was the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for the sins of the whole world. Jesus didn’t just die for those He knew would accept Him; He died for every sinner who has ever lived on this earth. And He died before you or I ever committed a single sin.

**Most of us believe that in order to be saved, we need to ask God to forgive us of our sins. But that isn’t what the Bible teaches.**

Here is a radical truth that would get me kicked out of most churches: Sin is not an issue with God! The Lord isn’t waiting for us to ask Him to forgive us of our sins. The sins of the entire world—past, present, and future—have already been forgiven. Even a man like Adolf Hitler had grace extended to him! Jesus loved Hitler and paid for his sins just as He did for you and me. God is no respecter of persons (Rom. 2:11).

God has already done His part; it is now up to you to receive the truth by faith and make it a reality in your life. Amen!

John 1:29 says,

> “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (New International Version).

In John 16:8-9, Jesus said,

> “And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me.”

The church often misinterprets this scripture and preaches that the Holy Spirit is here to convict you of all your sins. That is not what the Holy Spirit is here to do. He is here to convict you of the single sin of not receiving Jesus as your Savior. The only conviction is that of believing in Jesus Christ.

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**Sin is not an issue with God!**

People do not go to hell for committing adultery, stealing, or even murder. Those, like all sins, have already been paid for. This is what the Bible says in John 16:8-9—the only sin that is going to send people to hell is the sin of rejecting Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. So stop magnifying sin in your life!

The message that much of the church is preaching causes us to become conscious of sin instead of conscious of righteousness (Rom. 3:19-20). It also causes us to link our performance to all the other blessings of God.

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**The only sin that is going to send people to hell is the sin of rejecting Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. So stop magnifying sin in your life!**

God’s grace has provided not only for salvation but also for every need of your life. That provision is not based on whether you are reading the Bible enough, praying enough, going to church, or even paying your tithes. Before you ever had a financial need, God created the provision. Before you were sick, God, through grace, provided your healing (1 Pet. 2:24). Before you ever became discouraged, God blessed you with all spiritual
blessings (Eph. 1:3). God anticipated every need you could ever have and has met those needs through Jesus before you existed. That's grace.

Jesus hasn’t saved, healed, delivered, or prospered a single person in the last 2,000 years. What God has provided by grace 2,000 years ago becomes a reality now when mixed with faith. Faith appropriates what God has already provided. Faith doesn’t move God; He isn’t the one who is stuck. Faith doesn’t make God do anything. Grace and faith work together, and our part is to accept what God has already done. Grace must be balanced with faith.

Many Christians believe that God moves sovereignly as He wills when He wills. That is because religion teaches that God controls everything, and nothing can happen without His permission. However, it’s not true; everything isn’t up to God. I have a teaching called The Believer’s Authority that explains this more in detail.

For instance, when my father died, I was told God needed him in heaven more than I needed him here. Even at twelve years old, I knew better than that. Why would God need my dad in heaven? God didn’t kill my dad. That is not what the Word of God teaches. The Scripture makes it very clear that Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (Heb. 2:14 and 1 John 3:8). Satan is the one who goes about seeking whom he may devour (1 Pet. 5:8). Satan is the one who comes to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10).

God is being misrepresented. If He was guilty of all the things we blame Him for, there isn’t a civilized nation on the face of this earth that wouldn’t convict Him of crimes against humanity. I think the idea that God either causes or allows evil so that somehow we will grow spiritually is the worst heresy in the body of Christ. It renders people passive and takes away their hope.
If you really believe that God controls everything, what’s the use of doing anything? After all, it’s all up to God. If you believe that God is trying to teach you something through sickness or poverty, why see a doctor or look for a good job? Why not suffer as much as you can and really learn the lesson? I mean, how dumb can you be and still breathe?

Brothers and sisters, that is terrible doctrine. The Bible says that in the last days, people will call evil good (Is. 5:20). There are denominations today teaching that when you get sick or experience financial problems, God is causing it so He can teach you something or humble you. That is an example of calling evil good.

God is not responsible for killing babies, for rape, violence, poverty, or sickness. Satan is the author of evil, and the Bible clearly states that we are to resist the Enemy (James 4:7). Resist means to actively fight against something. If we aren’t fighting against sickness, for example, then we are submitting to it. To casually say to Satan “Please leave us alone” is not resisting the devil. We need to get angry at the devil, and we won’t get angry if we believe that God is the one either causing or allowing the problem.

God’s will doesn’t automatically come to pass. Jesus said that not everybody will be saved (Matt. 7:13), yet Scripture says it is the will of God that none should perish (2 Pet. 3:9). God has provided salvation, healing, financial provision, and everything else we need. But if we don’t respond in faith to what has been provided by grace, we won’t receive.

God’s will is for everyone to be healed. Acts 10:38 says that Jesus went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by the devil, and it called what He did “good.” And 1 Peter 2:24 tells us that we were healed by His stripes, yet most of us still do not receive His healing into our lives.

It is not the truth that sets you free; it’s the truth you know that will set you free (John 8:32). The truth is that you need to put your faith in what God has already done, not in what you do. God, by His grace, has already provided healing, prosperity, forgiveness for sin, and much more. However, it must be appropriated by faith.

God has done His part by giving His Son, Jesus. His grace has provided everything through the sacrifice of Jesus. This is nearly too good to be true because there is absolutely nothing we can do to earn it and nothing we can do to lose it. Our part is simple: We respond to His grace by faith and appropriate what has already been accomplished.

As simple as this sounds, most Christians don’t understand this concept. Make sure that is not you. This is foundational to your relationship with God and the reason you may not be seeing your prayers answered. To help, I have just released my new book, Living in the Balance of Grace & Faith. It is also available in CD and DVD formats.

Don’t confuse this with my very first book, which I wrote in 1987, entitled Grace & Faith. This was a short version of what has now evolved into a more complete teaching, Living in the Balance of Grace & Faith. I believe this message is at the heart of the Gospel, and it’s the heart of the message God has given me to help transform the world. Because of that, I am releasing this new book in hardcover.

Many emphasize grace, while others emphasize faith. But too few emphasize balancing grace and faith. It’s like sodium and chloride: Taken individually, both are poisons and can kill you. When mixed together, they become salt, which you must have to live. Grace without your positive response of faith won’t save you. Faith that isn’t a response to God’s grace will bring you into condemnation. Put your faith in what God has already done for you, and you have the victory that overcomes the world (1 John 5:4).
In the body of Christ, grace and faith are often seen as opposing forces. Many who emphasize God’s grace believe that once you are saved, His blessings (healing, prosperity, etc.) are then distributed sovereignly as He wills. Many of those who emphasize faith believe that what you receive from God is up to you—your willingness to study the Word, pray and fast, attend church, and even pay your tithes all determine God’s blessing in your life. In this book, Andrew exposes many of the misconceptions that have led to these opposing views about grace and faith and teaches how to receive from God by bringing them into balance.
Ask yourself this question: Is there an earthly pit into which a person can sink so deep and a depth of darkness so black and evil that even Jesus’ arms cannot rescue his or her soul?

Imagine that a child, a girl, age thirteen, gives away her virginity and becomes pregnant. At the same age, she begins using intravenous drugs and becomes a junkie and an alcoholic. Can Jesus’ arms still reach? Maybe, but that was just the beginning. When she grows up, she runs the roads, drinks, and sings in bars, even entertaining in gay bars. She sleeps with more men than she can remember, with women, and with multiple people at once. Let’s go a little further…what if, as a result of these poor choices, she becomes, at least in the eyes of Christians, a murderer, using multiple abortions as birth control—can God still reach her? If He can, can He still use her? Can she still fulfill the destiny He has for her?

Meet Carol Odenwald, the woman who lived that nightmare. At the age of five, Carol suffered a traumatic wound when her father, a Southern Baptist preacher, committed suicide. The event left Carol angry and scarred. Carol says, “I closed off my heart toward God. I was pretty mad actually.”

Carol describes the image behind which she hid during her adolescence and early adulthood as a self-created façade. Struggling with feelings of rejection, Carol began to build her chameleon-like, party-girl façade, seeking acceptance anywhere and from anyone she could—doing anything to be accepted. Carol says of her thin disguise, “I learned to smoke and drink and do all of those kinds of things. And the kicker is, I did all those things as a Christian.”

Carol remembers accepting the Lord at the age of eight. She recalls feeling the Lord’s presence and knowing He was speaking to her heart as she walked forward in response to an altar call during a Sunday church service. “I know I would have gone to heaven had I died in my sin, but I didn’t know there was a relationship to be had. I had no idea about intimacy. I had no idea you could have anything more than ‘turn or burn.’”

In January of 1997, Carol experienced a life-changing moment of clarity. As she stared at herself in
As Carol became more involved in the church, she turned her musical talents toward worshiping the Lord. She describes this season of her life as “coming out of the bars, straight into the [band] pit.” She became part of the band at her church and, within a year, rose to the position of worship leader. She continued to find favor within the church and was ordained as a minister. During this time, through mutual ministry opportunities, Carol also drew closer to the man she would eventually marry. Though the Lord was prospering her, she recalls being very legalistic, manipulative, and controlling. “That’s all I knew,” she explained.

In 2003 Carol and her husband came across Andrew’s Gospel Truth program on television. His teaching, The True Nature of God, caught their attention, and they began to tune in regularly. After six months of watching, Carol heard the Lord say to her, “I want you to go to Bible college.” Carol again responded to God’s outstretched hand, and in 2004, she and her husband enrolled in Charis Bible College–Colorado (CBC).

Carol enjoyed her experience at CBC, and shortly after her completion of the three-year program, she became part of the college staff and Andrew’s ministry as the director of night school. Her new life in the Lord was moving forward. However, in August of 2007, the walls of Carol’s world came crashing down once again when she received unsavory news about her husband: He had been involved in the abuse of a child. Carol’s marriage ended in divorce following her discovery that her husband had been living behind a deceitful façade of his own. She realized that he had been going through the external motions of living a godly life but internally was struggling with deep darkness. Carol is quick to point out that the things in her past do not qualify her to judge anyone, including her ex-husband, but she also acknowledges that there are horizontal consequences to sin in the natural. She says Jesus paid the price for the vertical consequences of our sin, but the principle of sowing and reaping still applies in this world.

The Enemy had come to steal from Carol once again. Only this time, a supernatural work was birthed
in her broken heart. Instead of running from God, she chose to run to Him to receive comfort. Through a process of prayer and evaluation, she understood that she had still been sitting behind a self-controlled and guarded wall of religion. But, she also realized that she had truly come to the end of herself.

As she opened and fully surrendered her heart, God began to minister His love to her in new and amazing ways. The promises of Jesus became a reality to her, and true healing and freedom began to manifest in her life. Carol says of the last two years, “[God] has revealed Himself in the most intimate ways—as my friend, as my lover, as my husband, as my Savior, my redeemer, my provider. Everything that God is, He has shown me.”

Through Carol’s time at CBC, her involvement with Andrew’s ministry, and most importantly, her personal face-time with Jesus, she established the kind of relationship with Jesus that she hadn’t known was possible just a short time earlier. In Him, she found the most intimate strength, capable of sustaining her even through the most tumultuous times.

God’s arms reached Carol when she was seemingly beyond rescue. Over the course of time, He has miraculously healed and delivered her from the oppression of the pit of religion, multiple addictions, depression, obesity, and various diseases, including hepatitis C, diabetes, and hypothyroidism. The Lord filled Carol’s heart with Himself, and in doing so, He freed her from bondage. “He so lovingly pulled out all of those hurts and healed them so beautifully,” Carol says.

Can God still use her? Can she still fulfill the destiny He has planned for her? Of course, praise God! The freedom Carol has found in Christ burns inside and shines brightly for all to see. She now teaches her heart’s message of intimacy with Jesus in a powerful and effective way and ministers her story through speaking and worshipful song.

When asked about her future, Carol’s face lights up. “My only place to be is at His feet, whether that’s here or wherever.”

Carol’s story is one of encouragement for those who think they have gone too far or sunk too low for God to love or care about them. If that’s you, think again. Romans 8:38-39 says,

“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

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Arkansas

- Ft. Smith: KFTA/24, 7:00 a.m.
- Hot Springs: KTVI/26, 6:00 a.m.
- Jonesboro: KTVJ/48, 3:00 a.m.
- Little Rock: KVTN/25, 6:00 a.m.
- Stockton: KCTS/36, 7:30 a.m.

California

- Los Angeles: KDAS/48, 5:30 a.m. (Mon. 10:30 a.m.)
- Modesto: KDTL/16, 5:30 a.m.
- Sacramento: KJRS/47, 5:30 a.m.
- San Francisco: KTLN/68, 6:30 a.m.
- Stockton: KCTS/52, 5:30 a.m.

Colorado

- Colorado Springs: KJCS/38, 6:30 a.m.
- Ft. Collins: KKDF/44, 6:30 a.m.

District of Columbia

- Washington: WDCG/20, 7:30 a.m.
- WDDN/23, 8:30 a.m.

Florida

- Crestview: WG GOX/18, 7:30 a.m.
- Ft. Myers-Naples: WRXJ/49, 9:00 a.m.
- Jacksonville: WCJW/17, 7:00 a.m. (Mon. 12:30 p.m.)
- Miami: WHBT/45, 6:00 a.m. (Mon. 1:30 p.m.)
- Mobile-Pensacola: WPMP/21, 6:30 a.m. (Mon. 12:30 p.m.)
- Orlando: WDTF/60, 8:30 a.m.
- Panama City: WBBB/33, 5:00 a.m.
- Tallahassee: WUPJ/45, 6:00 a.m.
- Tampa: WCLF/22, 6:00 a.m.
- WFTV/23, Sat. 5:00 a.m.
- West Palm Beach: WFGO/61, 12:30 p.m.
- Wewahitchka: WEWA/17, 7:30 a.m.

Georgia

- Atlanta: WATL/38, 6:00 a.m.
- Augusta: WBPI/49, 1:00 p.m.
- Columbus: WYBU/16, 6:00 a.m.
- Gainesville: W2BC/28, 8:30 a.m.
- Macon: WDM/31, 8:30 a.m.
- Savannah: WTGS/28, 7:30 a.m.

Hawaii

- Honolulu: KAAH/26, Mon. 10:30 a.m.

Illinois

- Chicago: TLN (Cable), 6:30 a.m. (Mon. 12:30 p.m.)
- Decatur: WLEC/45, 5:00 a.m.
- Quincy: WTJR/16, 5:00 a.m.
- Rockford: WCF/51, 6:30 a.m.

Indiana

- Ft. Wayne: W6BB/66, 11:00 p.m.
- Indianapolis: WCLJ/42, Mon. 1:30 p.m.
- WDTN/99, 8:30 a.m.

Kansas

- Hesston: KOCW/14, 7:00 a.m.
- Kansas City: KSMO/62, 9:30 a.m.
- Salina: KAAS/18, 7:00 a.m.
- Wichita-Hutchinson: KSAS/24, 7:00 a.m.

Kentucky

- Lexington: KDKY/56, 6:00 a.m.
- Louisville: WBNA/21, 10:30 a.m.
- Paducah: W5AE/64, 10:00 p.m.
- WDKA/49, 8:30 a.m.
- WCTC/27, 10:00 p.m.

Louisiana

- New Orleans: WHNO/20, 11:00 a.m.
- Shreveport: KSHV/45, 8:00 a.m.

Maine

- Portland: WLWB/15, 8:30 a.m.

Massachusetts

- Boston: WYDN/48, 8:30 a.m.

Michigan

- Ann Arbor: W27CJ/27, 11:00 a.m.
Detroit
WADL/38  12:30 p.m.
WDWO/18  11:00 p.m.
Flint-Saginaw
WAQP/49  11:00 p.m.
Grand Rapids
WTLJ/54  11:00 p.m.
Kalamazoo
W26B/K26  11:00 p.m.
Cleveland
WCDN/53  8:30 a.m.
WDLI/17  11:00 p.m.
WRLM47  11:00 p.m.
WUAB/43  6:00 a.m.

Columbus
GTN/23  7:00 a.m.
WCLI/19  8:30 a.m.
WSFJ/51  Mon. 1:30 p.m.
WTTE/28  6:00 a.m.
WKOI/43  Mon. 1:30 p.m.
WLMB/40  10:30 a.m.
The Joshua Channel
7:30 a.m.
Youngstown
KZIS/29  11:00 p.m.

Dayton
KBB/CN/46  7:30 a.m.
KOB/CN/34  6:30 a.m.
KBOI/14  Mon. 12:30 p.m.
KDO/17  Mon. 12:30 p.m.
KGB/19  5:30 p.m.
KTZT/29  7:30 a.m.
KWHB/47  11:30 a.m.

OKLAHOMA
Oklahoma City
KOFC/46  7:30 a.m.
KOB/34  6:30 a.m.
KBOI/14  Mon. 12:30 p.m.
KDO/17  Mon. 12:30 p.m.
KGB/19  5:30 p.m.
KTZT/29  7:30 a.m.
KWHB/47  11:30 a.m.

Oregon
John Day (Cable FM)
KNJ/10  9:15 a.m.
KSOP 101.5
7:30 a.m.
Portland
KMT/24  Mon. 10:30 a.m.
KPDJ/49  6:00 a.m.

Pennsylvania
Altoona
WKBS/47  7:00 a.m.
Brookville
W45XT/47  7:00 a.m.
Elliotsburg
W12CA/12  7:00 a.m.
Harrisburg
W55BT/35  7:00 a.m.
WGCB/19  9:00 a.m.
Middleburg
W18BC/18  7:00 a.m.
Philadelphia
WELL/18  8:30 a.m.
WGTV/48  Mon. 1:30 p.m.
WPHL/17  6:30 a.m.
Pittsburgh
WPCB/40  7:00 a.m.
Sharon
W29C/29  7:00 a.m.

South Carolina
Charleston
WMPP/36  6:00 a.m.
Columbia
WZR/47  7:30 a.m.
Greenville-Spartanburg
WG/156  7:30 a.m.
Spartanburg
WSYQ/151  8:30 a.m.

SOUTH DAKOTA
Sioux Falls
KS3EG/53  7:30 a.m.

Texas
Amarillo
KCI/14  7:00 a.m.
Austin
KVV/44  8:00 a.m.
Beaumont
KUTJ/34  Mon. 12:30 p.m.
Dallas-Ft. Worth
KDFX/48  Mon. 12:30 p.m.
KTAQ/47  7:30 a.m.
Harlingen
KLJU/44  Mon. 12:30 p.m.
Houston
KETH/14  Mon. 12:30 p.m.
KLJ/22  7:30 a.m.
Longview
KLPN/58  6:30 a.m.
Paris
KIVD/49  7:30 a.m.
San Antonio
KHE/23  Mon. 12:30 p.m.
KMY/35  6:30 a.m.
KQVE/46  7:30 a.m.
Tyler
KTPN/49  6:30 a.m.
Waco-Temple-Bryan
KWKT/44  6:00 a.m.

Virginia
Front Royal
WAFF/23  10:30 a.m.
Harrisonburg
WAFF/23  10:30 a.m.
Harrisonburg
WZCH/10  10:30 a.m.
Luray
WAZC/16  10:30 a.m.
Lynchburg
WWCN/47  6:00 a.m.
Norfolk
WHRE/21  Mon. 1:30 p.m.
WTV/32  7:00 a.m.
Richmond
WRID/48  8:30 a.m.
Roanoke-Lynchburg
EVCW/20  6:00 a.m.
WWJR/27  6:00 a.m.
Staunton-Waynesboro
WAZM/25  10:30 a.m.
Tri-Cities
WEMT/39  7:00 a.m.
Winchester
WAWS/48  10:30 a.m.

Washington
Seattle
KTBW/20  Mon. 10:30 a.m.
KWDK/42  5:30 a.m.

West Virginia
Charleston
WTS/61  8:30 a.m.
Clarksburg
W2/118  7:00 a.m.

Wisconsin
Milwaukee
WWRS/52  Mon. 12:30 p.m.

Sky Angel - IPTV
Angel Two
Channel 102  6:00 a.m.(ET)
Channel 102 Sun. 7:30 p.m.(ET)
The Church Channel
Channel 134  6:00 a.m.(ET)
Channel 134  12:00 p.m.(ET)
TLN
Channel 113  7:30 a.m.(ET)
WPCB(Cornerstone) Channel 128  7:00 a.m.(ET)

All progra ms air Monday through Friday unless otherwise noted.

FALL & WINTER 2009 15
CANADA SATELLITE TV BROADCAST

The Church Channel
City West Cable, Ch. 97 / Cogeco, Ch. 186 / Conuma Cable, Ch. 399 / Cross Country Cable, Ch. 399 / MTS TV, Ch. 21 / Omega Cable, Ch. 42 / Rogers Digital, Ch. 396 / SaskTel, Ch. 282 / Source Cable, Ch. 122 / Star Choice, Ch. 399 / Telus, Ch. 158 / Your Link, Ch. 399
4:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.(ET)

The Church Channel
G23, Olympusat / G19, T3 / G14, T1
9:00 a.m. (PT)

Daystar Int’l
AMC 4, T3 / G10R, T5
2:30 a.m. (CT)

Internet access to the TV programs is available at http://www.awmi.net/tv.html

INDEPENDENT RADIO STATIONS

ALABAMA
Mobile
WMOB 1360 AM
5:00 a.m.
8:00 a.m.
5:30 p.m.

ARIZONA
Phoenix
KXXX 1010 AM
8:45 a.m.

CALIFORNIA
Los Angeles
KTYM 1460 AM
10:15 a.m.

COLORADO
Colorado Springs
KCBR 1040 AM
10:00 a.m.
KLTT 670 AM
6:45 a.m.

FLORIDA
Cocoa
WMIE 91.5 FM
7:15 a.m.
Daytona Beach
WKTO 88.7 FM
10:30 a.m.
11:00 p.m.
Jacksonville
WYMM 1530 AM
8:00 a.m.

GEORGIA
Atlanta
WAEC 860 AM
10:30 a.m.
WRMK 100.3 FM
10:30 a.m.
WRMK 100.3 FM
3:30 a.m.
WRMK 100.3 FM
4:15 p.m.
Augusta

IDAHO
Twin Falls
KAGF 105.5 FM
6:00 a.m.
KAGF 105.5 FM
11:00 a.m.
KAGF 105.5 FM
9:00 p.m.
KAGF 105.5 FM
12:00 a.m.

ILLINOIS
Rockford
WHJG 93.3 FM
3:30 p.m.

KANSAS
Kansas City
KCNW 1380
11:00 a.m.

LOUISIANA
New Orleans
WVOG 600 AM
12:15 a.m.
Shreveport
KSYB 1300 AM
9:45 a.m.

MARYLAND
LaVale
WWPN 101.1 FM
5:00 a.m.
WWPN 107.9 FM
5:00 a.m.

 MASSACHUSETTS
Boston
WROL 950 AM
11:00 a.m.
New Bedford
WFHL 88.1 FM
6:40 a.m.

MICHIGAN
Grand Rapids
WFUR 1570 AM
8:30 a.m.

MINNESOTA
Minneapolis
WLKX 95.9 FM
9:15 a.m.

MISSISSIPPI
Jackson
WTWZ 1120 AM
11:15 p.m.

MISSOURI
Branson
KOZO 89.7 FM
3:30 a.m.
Joplin
KKLL 1100 AM
12:45 p.m.
Kansas City
KCNW 1380 AM
11:00 a.m.
Springfield
KOZO 93.7 FM
3:30 a.m.
St. Louis
KKX 1010 AM
9:00 a.m.

NEBRASKA
Omaha
KCRO 660 AM
5:45 a.m.

NORTH CAROLINA
Albemarle
WSPC 1010 AM
7:00 a.m.(Sat.)
WSPC 1010 AM
10:30 a.m.(Sun.)
WKY 1580 AM
8:00 a.m.(Sun.)

Cherryville
WCSS 1590 AM
11:15 p.m.
Wiston Salem
WBFJ 1550 AM
12:15 p.m.

OHIO
Canton
WOFN 88.7 FM
4:30 a.m.
Cincinnati
WCNW 1560 AM
9:00 a.m.

OKLAHOMA
Enid
Translator 89.1 FM
3:30 a.m.
Translator 89.1 FM
11:30 a.m.
Translator 91.1 FM
10:00 a.m.
Translator 91.1 FM
11:00 a.m.
Translator 91.1 FM
11:30 a.m.
Translator 91.1 FM
11:30 a.m.
KJRC 91.1 FM
9:00 a.m.

Lawton
KJRC 91.1 FM
10:00 a.m.
Translator 96.3 FM
3:30 a.m.
Translator 96.3 FM
11:30 a.m.
Translator 96.3 FM
11:30 a.m.
Monitoring 91.1 FM
3:30 a.m.
Translator 91.1 FM
11:30 a.m.

McAlester
Translator 91.1 FM
3:30 a.m.
Translator 91.1 FM
11:30 a.m.

Miami
Translator 91.1 FM
3:30 a.m.
Translator 91.1 FM
11:30 a.m.

Oklahoma City
KMSI 88.1 FM
3:30 a.m.
KMSI 88.1 FM
11:30 a.m.

Ponca City
Translator 90.3 FM
3:30 a.m.
Translator 90.3 FM
11:30 a.m.

Tulsa
KNYD 90.5 FM
3:30 a.m.
KNYD 90.5 FM
11:30 a.m.
KDIM 88.1 FM
3:30 a.m.

OREGON
Portland
KKPZ 1330 AM
9:30 a.m.

Pennsylvania
KCLW 1090 AM
11:30 a.m.

TEXAS
Austin
KFIT 1060 AM
11:30 a.m.
Brownwood
KBUB 90.3 FM
11:15 a.m.
 Corpus Christi
KCTA 1030 AM
11:00 a.m.
Dallas
KKDR 91.3 FM
10:30 a.m.
Perryton
Translator 92.3 FM
10:00 a.m.

VIRGINIA
Falls Church
WFXA 1220 AM
9:00 a.m.

West Virginia
Charleston
WJYX 1300 AM
9:30 a.m.

INTERNET RADIO

By Faith Radio
www.byfaith.tv
6:30 a.m.
1:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m.
11:30 p.m.

Living Word Radio Network
www.livingwordradio.com
9:00 a.m.
9:15 a.m.
9:00 a.m.
9:15 p.m.(PT)

Prince of Peace Radio
www.princeofpeace.com
2:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m.
6:00 p.m.

Word of Faith Broadcasting
www.wofr.org
8:30 a.m.
11:30 p.m.

Sky Angel - IPTV
Oasis Network, Ch. 214
4:30 p.m.(ET)
11:30 p.m.(ET)

Internet access to the radio programs available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at http://www.awmi.net/radio.html
It was Christmas 2003 when Oswaldo and Carolina Santos decided that the time had come for them to serve the Lord full-time. With their extensive background as medical doctors, they thought a natural path for them was to serve as physicians on the mission field. One thing was clear—the destination was Mexico.

In March 2004 a friend asked them to take him to an evangelistic meeting, since he was unable to drive himself. Oswaldo agreed, knowing this would postpone his preparations for moving to Mexico. The meeting turned out to be the annual Charis Bible College (CBC) Men’s Advance.

It was in this meeting that God revealed that their next step was to attend CBC in Colorado Springs. They were very happy when they learned that CBC would train them in areas of discipleship, church planting, counseling, and more. Knowing that Proverbs 16:9 says “a man’s mind plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps,” (Revised Standard Version), they gladly accepted God’s new direction for their lives.

A few months after graduating, God opened a door of opportunity for them through Andrew’s longtime friend, Bobby Crow, who pastors Palabra de Vida church in Ciudad Victoria, Mexico. Finally, Mexico had become a reality for Oswaldo and Carolina. They took over the leadership of the thirty-four home cell groups of the church and are now very busy equipping the saints for the work of the ministry. They use the Discipleship Evangelism course—teaching, baptizing, counseling, and ministering the love and grace of God. They also teach at the Bible school founded by Pastor Bobby, where pastors and leaders from all over Mexico come to be trained. Full of joy and excitement, they have put their hands to the plow without looking back.
As I sat on the porch of a guest ranch in South Africa watching a breathtaking sunset over rolling hills with beautiful mountains in the background, I couldn’t help but reflect on what the Lord had done in my life over the last forty-eight years.

As a twelve-year-old boy listening to our pastor sing “How Great Thou Art” at my father’s funeral, I was confused. It didn’t look like God was great. I had just lost my father after praying for months that he would live. I remember saying to the Lord as I looked at my father’s lifeless body and listened to his favorite song, “If You really are great, reveal Yourself to me. Show me what You want to do with my life.” That prayer led to an encounter with the Lord on March 23, 1968, when He flooded my life with love like I never imagined possible.

Since my prayer at my father’s funeral and the forty-one years since my dramatic encounter, the Lord has been good to this boy. Life has been exciting. He’s revealed His Word to me and taken me places I never imagined. In just the previous two weeks, I have ministered in England, Uganda, and South Africa with truly supernatural results.

I’ve known since 1968 that the Lord called me to reach a lot of people with the message of His unconditional love. But the vision was so far off in the future, it was like looking at something from a great distance. It could be vaguely seen, but the details weren’t clear. As Proverbs 4:18 puts it,

“But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.”

That’s the way it’s been with me. The Lord has progressively revealed His plan to me, step by step. In July of 1999, after being in ministry for thirty-one years and just six months before going on television, the Lord told me I was just beginning to fulfill what He had called me to do. That was a bit discouraging and exciting at the same time. I had pastored three churches, had a nationwide radio ministry for twenty-three years, and had been traveling and sharing the good-news message for nineteen years, and I was just getting started. It proved to be true.

Our ministry doubled in the next two years. But that was only the beginning. The Lord spoke to me on January 31, 2002 that I was limiting Him by my small thinking. He challenged me to take the limits off Him (Ps. 78:41). I did and the results have truly been miraculous.

As I continued to sit there, watching the sunset, I got a picture in my mind of Jamie and me rolling a huge stone up a steep hill. It was hard and there were times that it looked like it might roll back on top of us and crush us. But then we crested the hill, and for a while it was relatively easygoing. Then we started down the other side, and the stone took off. It was getting away from us. We were running to keep up. That perfectly describes how things in our ministry have been and are now. Things are getting out of our control (hallelujah!), and the Lord is moving us forward at an alarming pace.

I had the privilege of visiting with Oral Roberts in his home this past June. I got a lot of powerful things from that meeting, but one of the most important things that happened was that my vision became clearer. Just like when you are walking toward a distant point, you have
to keep your eyes on the trail so you don’t stumble, but you also occasionally have to look up at the destination to make sure you are moving in the right direction. The Lord used Oral to stir me to look at my vision again. And suddenly, it was clearer than ever.

My path is brighter, and I can see what’s ahead more clearly than ever before. I can’t share it all with you in this article, and some of it is not yet ready to share. But in the coming days, I hope to reveal some major things to you.

Let me just focus on one part of my clearer vision. I believe that Charis Bible College (CBC) and its extension schools around the world are one of the most powerful and lasting ways that the Lord wants to use this ministry. If the Lord tarries, I see CBC lasting long after we are gone. And the Lord has shown me some very specific ways to increase CBC’s effectiveness and its impact on the world.

We have been teaching the students a revelation of God’s nearly-too-good-to-be-true unconditional love, with an emphasis on practical application and mentoring. It has produced thousands of changed lives. This certainly gives the graduates a head start with the right message. But the Lord has challenged me to do more.

We are expanding CBC to equip those changed lives for leadership and ministry positions in a way that we haven’t done before. This year we started the School of Worship and Music Ministry led by Charlie and Jill LeBlanc. In the next few years, we will start others: the School of Business/Administration, to equip those called to the very important “helps” ministry, making a difference in churches, ministries, and the marketplace; the School of Church Planting and Pastoral Care, to raise up good new churches all over the world; the School of Children and Youth Ministry, to reach the next generation; and a school to teach graduates how to start CBCs throughout the world.

There are many other steps the Lord is showing me, but suffice it to say that I can now see that training leaders through CBC is one of the important ways the Lord has given me to reach our world. I’m just one person, but through CBC, I can leverage what the Lord has done in my life in a way that will impact nations.

This is already happening. CBC has already picked up speed. Enrollment has increased 50 percent, as 450 students will be attending our Colorado campus this year. Three new schools have started or will start in the next few months, in India, Uganda, and South Africa. I anticipate an even greater acceleration in growth as we implement what the Lord has been showing me. Our present facility is strained to handle this influx of new students, and as the future quickly approaches, we will need more space for our college. So the next steps are already in process.

Sitting on that porch in Africa, I was also working on my computer. But honestly, I was looking at the scenery, getting a clearer vision and praying more than I was using the computer. So my screensaver came on, which randomly selects pictures I have on my laptop. I looked down, and there was a picture I took in Vietnam of a sunrise over a bunker. I vividly remember taking that picture.

I had just returned from the States on emergency leave, after suffering the biggest tragedy of my young life. I was finishing my bunker guard duty and marveled at that sunrise as I took the picture. Life wasn’t going well for me at that time. I was asking the Lord just to take me home to heaven so I could be with Him. I was trying to see my future and was wondering what would happen to me. That picture brought all this back to me, and I was overwhelmed. The Lord has done more than I could ask or even think at that time (Eph. 3:20).

The Lord has a destiny for all of us. I believe I’ve found mine. Part of that destiny is to help you find and achieve yours. Jamie and I sincerely pray that the Lord will help us to represent Him to you in a way that will cause your relationship with Him to increase and impact others. Jesus is the only hope for this world, and God’s people are the only ones the Lord has to use. We all have to do our part.

We are doing what I believe the Lord has led us to do. Thanks for being a part of it. Together we are making a difference, and that is about to increase.

Andrew and Jamie
Like Father,

Like Son

Sitting alone in a dimly lit room, Russ Forgoston concentrated on the rhythm of his breathing. Deep breath in...hold...slowly exhale. Deep breath in...hold...slowly exhale. Incense filled his lungs as he endeavored to empty his mind and reach the heightened sense of enlightenment so sought after by other Hindus. Russ had begun meditating regularly, each time hoping to get a little closer to God.

Hindu mysticism was a new path for Russ. Raised Jewish, he dutifully studied Jewish law throughout his childhood, but his search for more of God eventually took him beyond where his rabbi could lead. At sixteen Russ began studying metaphysics, and this led to mysticism. After encountering various supernatural experiences that Russ believed were bringing him closer to God, he decided it was time for a pilgrimage to India. “Because of those experiences,” admits Russ, “I desired to go to India, to actually live in ashrams, find a guru, and sit under that person so I could have further experiences.”

And he did just that. In India, Russ sat under a Hindu spiritual teacher, called a guru, in an effort to find “truth.” Even though he saw and experienced the supernatural, he realized he had not grown closer to God. He returned from India disillusioned and confused—and no closer to the truth. It seemed to elude his grasp like wisps of smoke. One final dead-end effort was Russ’s experimentation with the New Age religion.

Finally... Truth

Up until this point, Russ resisted any requests from those he knew to pursue Jesus or the Bible, but the day finally came when he could resist no longer. “After many years, I started to really feel like I ought to check into Jesus. And so I started a process of studying the Bible, as well as extra-biblical materials, so I could verify if this was really the truth.”

Hebrews 11:6 tells us that God “is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” Russ’s reward came in the form of a Christian friend who witnessed to him and gave him some of Andrew’s tapes. “I started listening
to [Andrew],” remembers Russ, “and it just started resonating with me inside. I had the sense that, wow, this man is really talking about God!” Soon Russ had ordered every tape series Andrew had and listened to each one twenty or thirty times. An excitement grew as he realized for the very first time that he could actually have a real relationship with God.

One Sunday at church, the Holy Spirit let him know his time had come. “I was sitting in the back row, and there was an altar call. I really didn’t have any feeling that I wanted to get up,” says Russ, “but all of a sudden, my legs started to become vertical, and I was in a standing position. And almost like an automaton, I was walking, just straight-legged, to the front. It was almost like I was being drawn to the front of that church. I knew I could stop the process, but I knew that it was something that was drawing me.” It wasn’t something, of course, but someone—God Himself! At the altar, he went to a prayer minister and simply said, “I want Jesus.”

Those three simple words filled Russ with the peace, the satisfaction, and the ultimate truth he had been searching for his entire life. Looking back, he could see God’s hand drawing him, even though he couldn’t put himself on the right path. “I believe God was drawing me the whole time,” says Russ. “But since my heart was not open to really receive Him, I just moved in the direction that I knew to move—the area of metaphysics and mysticism. I think it took a lot of faithfulness on His part to keep pursuing me…Even though I was roaming around in the wilderness for years, seeking Him as best I could in my own strength, it was ultimately His faithfulness and my heart opening to His message that allowed me to receive Him as the one true God.” Now if Russ could only convince his son about the Truth he had found…

A Different Kind of Lost

Russ’s son, David, had been heavily involved in the party scene throughout high school and college—drinking, taking drugs, and smoking marijuana. After a while, he went from being a drug user to a seller. “Before I knew it,” says David, “I found myself driving across the country buying duffle bags full of pot…dealing with tens of thousands of dollars and just living the crazy life that goes with it.” David admits that no matter how deep he got into the drug scene, it was never enough. His “crazy life” was rapidly spinning out of control.

Meanwhile, Russ was trying to get close to David. “My dad always wanted to be in relationship with me, but a long time before, I had pretty much written him off.”

Russ remembers, “We would still have a lot of fellowship, but we would meet for dinner or lunch, and he would quickly want to leave. But in those times, I just told him how my life had become transformed by God’s love.”

David remembers discovering a Bible in the backseat of his dad’s car. “I asked him about it, and he said he became a Christian. I was totally shocked. How could he have sold out to some religion? My dad had always talked about God. He was a real spiritual guy. He was into mysticism and things like that, and I thought that was cool. I thought that one day, I would follow that path and find out the truth. What he said to me was, ‘This is what I believe is the absolute truth, and if you don’t believe it, that’s fine. If you ever want to talk about it, you can, but I think you just need to find the truth for yourself.’ I didn’t make a big deal about it and never thought about it again.”
Won by Love

David started thinking about his father’s word once he realized how much of an identity crisis he was in. He couldn’t understand why nothing could satisfy him and why he always needed more. He took Russ up on his offer to talk. David recalls, “I started telling him about my life and the drug dealing and the big entrepreneur I was becoming, and he just sat there and listened. I could tell he really cared about me. He shared some wisdom with me. He wasn’t preaching, but I could just tell he knew stuff I didn’t.” David could also tell that his dad had a newfound peace he’d never seen before on his father. The stress and anxiety were completely gone. “I couldn’t put my finger on it,” says David, “but there was definitely something different about him.”

Pretty soon David was asking Russ about God and the Bible. Russ shared about God’s love and grace and how it’s possible to actually have an intimate relationship with the Creator of the universe. Russ also told his son about the people he’d seen healed and other accounts of amazing miracles he had heard about. Although the stories seemed quite far-fetched to David, he believed them because his father had never lied to him before. But, David figured, even if the stories weren’t true, the change he witnessed in his father was reality.

All that David had seen and heard from his dad got him thinking seriously about this Jesus he kept talking about. One afternoon while David was sitting in his apartment, the Holy Spirit brought revelation to him that Jesus was, in fact, the Son of God. “It just came,” David remembers. “I couldn’t explain it. I just knew that I knew that I knew, and I was so excited about it. When I went to sleep that night, I remember lying down and, for the first time ever, feeling safe, totally secure. I was just lying there thinking, God, thank You.

The Call to Charis

When Russ heard the good news of his son’s salvation, he quickly equipped him with resources to start him off right in his walk with Christ. Along with buying him a Bible, Russ gave David several of Andrew’s tapes. “Every tape I got was just more confirmation,” says David. “Everything [Andrew] said was feeding me. Everything Andrew taught pointed to the Word of God.” David soon began diving into the Word for himself—so much so that he dropped out of school, moved in with Russ, and sometimes spent all day reading the Bible. When he wasn’t reading the Word, he was listening to Andrew’s tapes. David soon learned that God had a very specific plan for his life.

The following spring, David was praying one day, and the Lord spoke to his heart about attending Charis Bible College (CBC) that August. He didn’t hesitate to tell his dad the good news. Two months later the two of them went to a Gospel Truth Seminar together. At this particular seminar, several Charis graduates shared testimonies of the impact the school had on their lives. The testimonies moved strongly on Russ’ heart. He
recalls, “I just knew as I heard their testimonies that I was going to Charis Bible College. I was completely excited.”

His excitement changed to anxiety, however, when he thought about all the preparations involved in moving to Colorado. “I didn’t really know how I was going to do it,” says Russ. “I had a condominium. I had my chiropractic business. It was too short a time for me to take care of all the things I needed to.” Instead of the August session, he decided to prepare for November. It turned out that November was not God’s plan. God moved on Russ to give away his practice and bless others with it. He was now free to move to Colorado and begin college with David in August.

The Call to India

Russ and David soon learned that Charis was the first of many steps of faith God would require of them—steps that would lead them on an adventure of a lifetime. Russ remembers, “One morning at 4:00, I heard what seemed like an audible voice, saying, ‘You went to India many years ago seeking the truth. You now know the truth. Go back and tell them.’”

Just a few weeks prior, David planned on tagging along on a missions trip to India with a fellow CBC student. The student told David that he really didn’t know why God had put it on his heart to go to India. David remembers, “He said to me, ‘I don’t know why I’m going there. I think this is really about you.’” As soon as they arrived at the village where they were to minister, they discovered that the people there had never before even heard the name of Jesus. “I remember thinking,” says David, “There’s nobody here that’s preaching the Gospel of grace and unconditional love. From that moment, David knew exactly where God wanted him.

“When my dad picked me up at the airport after my trip, I began explaining to him the experience I had,” says David. “I told him, ‘I really think we need to go to India.’ He then told me that during my trip, God woke him up to tell him the same thing.” Convinced that God had a destiny waiting in India for the two of them, Russ and David could hardly wait to begin their ministry together. They knew from the start that it would require total dependence on God. “We didn’t have a plan,” says David. “We didn’t know what we were going to do.”

A Family Affair

The Forgostons didn’t seem to mind not having a plan, because they knew the Planner. Russ admits, “I was so convinced that God was going to be faithful to direct us, we could be dropped from a helicopter anywhere on the subcontinent of India, and somehow He would direct us to where we needed to go for the ministry He had planned for us.” With that kind of faith, Russ...
and David boarded a plane for India immediately after graduating from CBC in May 2007.

Within months of arriving in India, Russ and David were on another plane, this one headed to Switzerland where David married Judith, a former CBC classmate. Russ, David, Judith, and their newest addition, baby Hannah, born December 2008, are all a part of God’s new missionary team in India—a team that continues to grow by God’s grace. God has provided the Forgostons with help in every area, including a newsletter writer, a website developer, a praise and worship leader, and a television director. Additionally, some 2009 CBC graduates have also committed to join the Forgoston team on their mission field.

The work to be done in India is monumental, but the Forgostons are off to a tremendous start. One of their initial endeavors was to train leaders to teach the Discipleship Evangelism course, which has now led hundreds into a deeper walk with Christ. They are also helping establish micro-businesses for the poor, where people are given small loans of twenty or thirty dollars so that they can start their own businesses, such as making baskets or operating food stands. A third area of ministry will be a new CBC, scheduled to open in Chennai, India, in August 2009.

Before David and Russ left to start their new lives in India, they had a meeting with Andrew they will never forget. Because they had no strategy for when they arrived in India, Andrew felt the need to talk to them. David tells the story: “[Andrew] said to us, ‘You know this really doesn’t make any sense. Normally, I would always tell people not to do what you are doing. This isn’t smart…but I think it’s right for you guys. I don’t know why. I don’t know what’s going to happen. But I think you are right and are doing the right thing.’”

As it turns out, Andrew was right. It certainly didn’t make sense in the natural, but what does when God’s involved? As Russ says, “It’s living in the impossible!”
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A TRIBUTE TO LAVELLE Wommack
“Andrew, are you still praying for me to die?” asked his mother, Lavelle.
“Yes, Mom, I’m still praying for you to die,” responded Andrew.
“I’m so sorry I’m still here. I’m sorry I haven’t died yet,” she said.

This came to be a regular conversation between Andrew and his mother during her final months, in the spring of 2009. After ninety-six years, Lavelle had seen enough and had lived long enough. Her time was about up, and she couldn’t wait to be with the Lord.

Andrew and his mom have always had a very close, very special relationship. When Andrew’s dad died when Andrew was only twelve (Lavelle was forty-seven), he and his mom became best friends. “She didn’t always understand everything I did, but she didn’t try to stop me from doing what I felt I needed to do,” remembers Andrew.

This was especially true when Andrew had a life-changing encounter with God in March 1968. “I was completely turned on to the Lord in a way that I had never been before. And even though my mother loved God, she couldn’t understand what had happened to me.”

Once Andrew realized that God had called him into ministry, he decided to quit college and follow the Lord. “She definitely didn’t like that plan,” says Andrew. “But she just told me that she wasn’t going to tell me to do something that was contrary to what I felt God wanted me to do. So even though she didn’t understand it, she didn’t try to stop me.”

Lavelle shouldn’t have been surprised that Andrew was called into ministry—she had always prayed that one day, he would be a preacher! But she was still concerned about the radical direction the Lord was leading him.

Her anxiety was totally put to rest one night when God appeared to her in a dream. “The Lord came to my mother in a dream when I was nineteen years old,” recalls Andrew. “He told her that I was doing exactly what He wanted me to do and that she needed to take her hands of of me and put me completely into His hands. From that point on, she was behind me 100 percent.”

She became so committed to Andrew’s call, in fact, that she moved from Texas to Colorado Springs...
in 1980 to work at his ministry. She had already been retired for two years from a career as a school teacher and school administrator. But when her health began deteriorating from inactivity, she knew she needed to go back to work. “She volunteered to open our mail and make our bank deposits,” Andrew says. “After all, I figured if I can’t trust my mother to open my mail and make my deposits, who can I trust?”

Lavelle worked at AWM for twenty-one years and was a tremendous blessing to the ministry. “The only problem I had with my mom working for us was that she was overly sensitive to any criticism I encountered. A very small percentage of the mail we received was written strictly to criticize me. She always made sure I personally saw each of those letters. She would take it personally if someone said something negative about me or the ministry. That was hard because I knew I couldn’t afford to focus on criticism like that personally.”

In 2001 Lavelle left AWM and returned to Texas. It wasn’t long before she began losing strength due to a lack of exercise. (When she lived in Colorado Springs, she purposely put her bedroom on the third floor of a three-story townhome so she would have to climb stairs.) Then, in 2007, she fell, resulting in her needing a walker to get around. By August of 2008, Lavelle was admitted into hospice, where the nurses initially said she wouldn’t live through the night. They soon changed their diagnosis to give her a few weeks, but she ultimately lived another nine months.

When asked what about his mother had the most impact on him, Andrew replies, “My mom was always upbeat and positive. She had a really rough life with a lot of tragedy and negative things happening to her, but she never let it get the best of her. She was never one to complain.” Andrew admits he probably picked up those attitudes from his mother. Complaining and quitting when things are tough are just not part of his makeup.

She’s certainly not complaining now. On June 1, 2009, God answered Lavelle’s and Andrew’s prayers, and her turn came to enter heaven’s gates. She now spends her days in a perfectly healthy body, praising God alongside her husband, whom she hadn’t seen in nearly fifty years. What a glorious ending to a wonderful life filled with God’s blessings!

A Tribute to Lavelle Wommack

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A recent news story from the Associated Press tells of a dog owner who was sentenced to a maximum of six months in jail and a fine of up to $2,000 because her dog killed a black bear cub that happened to wander onto her property. Apparently, the bear had more of a right to go wherever he pleased than the dog owner did to protect herself. Over the years, animal rights proponents have been increasingly defending animals around the world, even to the point of usurping people’s rights! Those in favor of such an extreme view of animal rights are called anti-speciesists.

The term *speciesism* was first coined in 1973 by Richard Ryder, a British psychologist and author who believed that all species should be treated equally. He likened speciesism to “racism or sexism—a prejudice based upon morally irrelevant physical differences.” Mr. Ryder claims that “since Darwin, we have known we are human animals related to all the other animals through evolution; how, then, can we justify our almost total oppression of all the other species?”

Ingrid Newkirk, the president of PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), shares Ryder’s view that all species are equal: “There’s no rational basis for saying that a human being has special rights. A rat is a pig is a dog is a boy. They are all mammals.”

Many animal rights activists believe animals should not be considered property under the law, because, unlike inanimate objects, they are sentient beings with their own lives and interests.

On the surface, saying that animals deserve to be taken care of seems right. After all, we know they are all part of God’s creation. And Proverbs 12:10 even says, “A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast.”

The problem, however, is when people believe that animals and other forms of God’s creation deserve the same rights of protection as people, with the view that they are equal with people. Evolutionists, of course, would tend to think this way because they believe that people actually came from an animal form. So to them, it makes sense that we as humans should not be considered “better” than the animal chain we were once a part of.

Taking anti-speciesism one step further are those like Andrew Brennan, a scholar and advocate of eco-humanism, the argument that all entities—animate and inanimate—can be given ethical worth purely on the basis that they exist. This means that rocks, trees, plants—anything—should have their own set of rights.

For Christians, this topic, as any other, needs to be filtered through God’s Word. What does God say about the proper place of animals (and other entities) in His creation? Two passages of Scripture in particular make it very clear where God stands on the issue of speciesism:

> “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every
tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat” (Gen. 1:26-29).

“The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord’s: but the earth hath he given to the children of men” (Ps. 115:16).

It is clear that we have been made by God to be quite different than any other creature on earth. We are made in His image, meaning we are spirit beings. We have the power to reason, to make decisions, and to exercise our will. The most intelligent and highly advanced animals can never be compared to humans, because only humans are made just like God Himself.

For Christians to hold an anti-speciesism view is, in essence, placing a higher value on creation than we should. We are to worship the Creator, not His creation. His creation was made for our enjoyment and provision. Yes, we are to be good stewards and not waste or abuse that which God has given us, but we also need to be mindful of the relationship God has bestowed on us with the rest of creation.

For many, like Richard Ryder, speciesism is simply arrogance. But, according to the Bible, it is the truth. There is a bumper sticker that reads “Humans were made for the earth,” but according to Psalm 115:16, God made the earth for us! He intends for us to “subdue” it and have “dominion” (Gen. 1:28) over it. Anything less and we would not be fulfilling His will.

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