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Folder Title:

Focus on the Family 25th Anniversary Celebration 07/27/2002

# Withdrawn/Redacted Material

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DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
001	Form	Schedule Proposal [page 2] - To: Bradley Blakeman - From: Karl Rove	1	05/15/2002	P6/b6;

**COLLECTION TITLE:**

Public Liaison, White House Office of

**SERIES:**

Smith, Matthew

**FOLDER TITLE:**

Focus on the Family 25th Anniversary Celebration 07/27/2002

**FRC ID:**

1223

**RESTRICTION CODES**

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advise between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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**SCHEDULE PROPOSAL**

**MAY 15, 2002**

**TO:** Bradley A. Blakeman  
Deputy Assistant to the President For Appointments and Scheduling

**FROM:** Karl Rove  
Assistant to the President and Senior Advisor

**REQUEST:** Video taping

**PURPOSE:** To address the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Focus on the Family.

**BACKGROUND:** Focus on the Family began in 1977 in response to Dr. James Dobson's increasing concern for the American family. A Ph.D. in child development (University of Southern California), he had served 14 years as associate clinical professor of pediatrics at the USC School of Medicine and a concurrent 17 years on the attending staff of Los Angeles Children's Hospital in the divisions of Child Development and Medical Genetics. What he had seen included massive internal and external pressures on American households, causing unprecedented disintegration. Yet there seemed to be no comprehensive, rational and biblically based conception of the family for those in greatest need.

From a two-room suite in Arcadia, Calif., Dr. Dobson began with radio—a 25-minute weekly program heard on only a few dozen stations. Focus on the Family has since become an international organization with more than 74 different ministries requiring nearly 1,300 employees. On the now-daily broadcast heard on over 6,000 facilities worldwide, Dr. Dobson still explores family issues, usually with one or more recognized experts as guests.

Meanwhile, other parts of the organization produce six additional broadcasts, ten magazines sent to more than 2.3 million people a month, award-winning books, films and videos. Focus also responds to as many as 55,000 letters a week, offers professional counseling and referrals to a network of 1,500 therapists, and addresses public policy and cultural issues.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: N/A

DATE AND TIME: July 27, 2002  
Time: TBD

DURATION: TBD

BRIEFING TIME: TBD

LOCATION: Pepsi Center – Colorado Springs, Colorado

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
Dr. James Dobson, Focus on the Family President  
40,000 Focus on the Family Supporters

OUTLINE OF EVENT: TBD

REMARKS REQUIRED: To be prepared by speechwriting

MEDIA COVERAGE: Open Press

FIRST LADY'S ATTENDANCE: Not required

FUNDING SOURCE: Focus on the Family

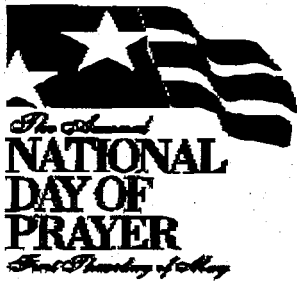
WORKING CONTACT: Matt Smith  
(202) 456-7702 direct  
(b)(6) cell

RECOMMENDED BY: Karl Rove // Tim Goeglein // Matt Smith

ACCEPT

REGRET

PENDING



**National Day of Prayer**  
*“America United Under God”*

**MAY 2, 2002**

**F A X C O V E R S H E E T**

*From the desk of Bobbie Hill—719-268-4802*

*Fax: 719-548-4520*

DATE: May 16, 2002

TO: Tim Goeglein

FAX: 202-456-2130

# OF PAGES: 2 (including cover sheet)

RE: Video Greeting from Focus on the Family

Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks,  
Bobbie

*Bobbie Hill*

**President George W. Bush's Suggested Video Greeting for Focus on the Family 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, July 27, 2002**

Greetings, Dr. and Mrs. Dobson and all our friends at Focus on the Family! I consider it a privilege to pass along warm wishes and heartfelt congratulations to each one of you as you celebrate 25 years of ministry. Although Laura and I wish we could be with you in person on this momentous occasion, we hope you know that we're with you in spirit.

Jim and Shirley, I want to commend you for the passion and conviction with which you have so boldly spoken out in defense of the institution of the family over the years. Millions of fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, and grandfathers and grandmothers across this country owe you a great debt of gratitude. Jim, you have dedicated your life to reaching out to those who are hurting and helpless – the unborn child, the elderly, the disabled – and to standing up in defense of the moral truths and biblical principles upon which this great nation was founded. And Shirley, you have played a critical role in that work as well, particularly by bringing Americans together every year to humble themselves before God on the National Day of Prayer. Only eternity will know the number of lives that have been impacted through your humble efforts to serve the Lord and to reach out to your fellow men and women.

It's no secret that the institution of the family is the foundation upon which civilization is built. If that foundation crumbles, everything that you and I hold dear will falter. Please know that my administration stands shoulder to shoulder with you as you endeavor to strengthen marriages, promote two-parent, traditional households, and give families the support and encouragement that for too long have been denied them by our culture.

By making families stronger, you are making America stronger – and that strength will carry this great nation into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond. My prayer is that Focus on the Family's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration will mark only the beginning of what will be a very long and exciting journey. May the ministry's legacy and work carry on long after you and I are gone, shining the light of faith, family, and freedom to every nation on earth. May God bless you, Jim and Shirley, and may He bless the ministry of Focus on the Family. Thank you.

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ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

FOCUS  
ON THE  
FAMILY.



25 YEARS  
Turning Hearts  
Toward Home.

FOCUS ON THE

MARCH 2002 ■ 75¢

# Family®

WITH DR. JAMES DOBSON

**25** Years  
of Turning  
Hearts  
Toward Home



# Turning Hearts Toward Home

F O R



# 25



Y E A R S

by Dr. James Dobson

In his classic *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis said, "If you picture Time as a straight line along which we have to travel, then you must picture God as the whole page upon which that line is drawn." Professor Lewis' observation is particularly striking to me as I reflect on the 25-year timeline that comprises Focus on the Family's history.

We can follow the ministry's progress and remember significant events by placing them in chronological order, but we must never forget that it is God who has been writing the story and commanding the ship all along. I have always said that Focus on the Family does not belong to me or any person. God owns it all, and we are simply doing our best to be good stewards of the resources He has entrusted to us. Our 25th anniversary, then, is a celebration, not of human accomplishment, but of our heavenly Father's faithful guidance and provision over the past quarter-century.

The Lord's constant care for this ministry has been evident since the beginning. After the warm response to my first three books, I sensed in 1976 that He was calling me to resign from my positions at the University of Southern California School of Medicine and Children's Hospital in Los Angeles. I felt led to start a radio broadcast to address the breakdown of the traditional family with an even larger audience than would have been possible through my books alone.

It has been said that God never opens a door without providing the means to walk through it, and that certainly proved true in the mid-1970s. A generous \$35,000 grant from Tyndale House, offered as part of an agreement in relation to what would become my next book, *The Strong Willed Child*, provided the much needed seed money that would get the ball rolling. Our first broadcast aired in March 1977, and three months later Focus on the Family was

incorporated. It is almost impossible to believe that from such humble beginnings the ministry now reaches more than 200 million people in more than 100 countries daily.

## Growing like crazy

The 25 years since our incorporation have brought successive reminders of God's faithfulness; every point on the timeline produced a testimony of His goodness. The physical growth of the ministry alone demonstrates how He has paved the way for us. After first opening in a tiny shoebox of an office, Focus moved to a larger facility in Arcadia, Calif., in 1981. We moved again in 1984, occupying space in several buildings that could house our rapidly expanding staff. We moved our operations a third time in 1987 to a much larger campus in Pomona, Calif.

But we found ourselves needing additional space *again* in just a few short years! In 1991 we left the sunny shores of Southern California for the

majestic mountains of Colorado, taking up residence in four rented buildings in downtown Colorado Springs. But this was only temporary housing while new facilities were being built. In September 1993, we dedicated the 83-acre campus that houses Focus on the Family today and now comprises four buildings totaling more than 500,000 square feet. Our main building is adorned with a verse

Lord has continually provided us with opportunities to defend righteousness and help struggling families. While our early efforts primarily emphasized issues such as discipline and child-rearing, our outreach is now composed of more than 80 different ministries and projects. They include our Love Won Out conferences, which have provided help and healing to those who are struggling



that reads: "And all the people were very happy because of what God had accomplished so quickly" (2 Chronicles 29:36, The Living Bible).

But increased staff size and bigger buildings don't really tell the story. Focus on the Family could be housed in the Taj Mahal or the Louvre with a million employees and yet achieve nothing of any significance. The true evidence of God's blessing is found in the numerous lives He has touched as a result of our meager and imperfect efforts to follow His calling.

For example, one man wrote to tell us that, after hearing the gospel presented on a "Focus on the Family" broadcast, he pulled his car off the side of the road and prayed to receive Christ at that moment! More recently, a participant in our National Bike Ride for the Family testified that, prior to taking part in the event, he had been contemplating suicide. However, his experience on the bike ride and his interaction with the Focus staff changed his heart and enabled him to embrace life with renewed vigor!

## Just a sampling

As the ministry of Focus on the Family has grown over the years, the

with homosexuality. Focus on the Family's Crisis Pregnancy ministry has reached out to thousands of women whose lives have been scarred by the tragedy of a past abortion and has helped many other pregnant girls choose life for their unborn babies. And Pastoral Ministries—staffed with former ministers—has provided a safe haven for pastors, missionaries and chaplains, offering resources and services to help them balance their ministry and family lives.

## True purpose

There is another milestone that merits special attention. In 1996, the leadership at Focus on the Family became increasingly aware that many of the people who listened to our broadcasts and read our magazines did not have an understanding of the basics of the Christian faith, nor did they truly grasp what it meant to be followers of Christ. Therefore, our board of directors met for the specific purpose of discussing the changing role of this ministry in a post-Christian world. From those discussions—and after a season on our knees in fervent prayer—we developed what came to be known as the Campaign for Righteousness. It was designed to

## Timeless Advice

For more than 25 years, Dr. James Dobson has provided trusted advice on child development, parenting and marriage. His advice from a biblical and clinical perspective is included in 19 books. Families around the world have used his research and writing to raise their children and build godly homes. His most recent book, *Bringing Up Boys*, was published last fall. If you'd like to tap into Dr. Dobson's resources, check out these popular books:

*Night Light* is a devotional collaboration of Dr. Dobson and his wife, Shirley. *Night Light* includes inspiring stories, Scripture, provocative questions, prayers and straightforward commentary, guiding couples toward deeper intimacy and new spiritual communion. (Item code: BK093. Suggested donation \$20, \$28 in Canada.)

*Love Must Be Tough* and *Straight Talk*, two of his best-sellers, are combined in one volume. In *Love Must Be Tough* Dr. Dobson addresses the topic of respect and how the lack of it can destroy marriages and family life. He encourages "tough love" to bring back health to a relationship that's floundering. In *Straight Talk* Dr. Dobson clarifies men's roles, reassuring them that their leadership is very much needed at home and in our culture. He also discusses money, midlife, career, sexuality, marriage, children and more. (Item code: BK091. Suggested donation \$15, \$21 in Canada.)

*The New Hide or Seek* presents 12 solid strategies for building self-esteem in any child plagued by inferiority. The book provides practical pointers to help parents raise self-confident, healthy children. (Item code: BK098. Suggested donation \$13, \$19 in Canada.)

*The New Dare to Discipline*, a revision of the 20-year best-seller, is written for parents who grew up without proper role models in their homes. Dr. Dobson offers time-honored parenting principles that will help any new parent become a good mother or father. (Item code: BK064. Suggested donation \$13, \$19 in Canada.)

To request these or any other books written by Dr. Dobson, use the center envelope, call (800) A-FAMILY (232-6459), or log on to [www.family.org/resources](http://www.family.org/resources).

retool every single department in the ministry to conform to this new emphasis. The following statement has guided our efforts ever since:

*The Campaign to which we are called is as straightforward as the Gospel itself [known to believers as the Great Commission]. Our goals are: to bring people to Christ who have never understood Him; to deepen the walk of those who have been nominal*



mind as we move further into the 21st century. Most notably, after a powerful interview with Dr. Bruce Wilkinson concerning his book *The Prayer of Jabez*, five primary areas of emphasis have emerged, in accordance with the words recorded in 1 Chronicles 4:10: "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain."

*"And all the people were very happy because of what God had accomplished so quickly."*

—2 Chronicles 29:36 (TLB)

*believers; to clearly introduce the doctrines of His Lordship, sin, repentance, forgiveness and justification by faith to those who don't know God or those who only know Him as "Friend" and Creator; to point everyone to the resurrection and to judgment in the next world; to encourage young people and their parents to live by His standard of holiness and obedience to the Lord; to encourage intensive scriptural study and application of His Word to all areas of life; to motivate the people of God to practical action in their communities and our nation in defense of righteousness; and to inspire those working at Focus to love one another in a way that is pleasing to Him and displays to all the love of Christ. Let this mission burn within the hearts of every member of the Focus on the Family staff, and let it take root in each department, program, magazine and broadcast of this ministry.*

## Where now?

Given the twists and turns of the past 25 years, we are often asked, "Where do you go from here?" If it is the Lord's will that Focus on the Family exists for another quarter-century of operation, what significant events and achievements will be added to the timeline? Several things come to

The five objectives for the next few years are outlined as follows:

1. Significantly expand our international outreach in an effort to promote biblical values and family principles in every country.
2. Step up our outreach to young families—married couples and first-time parents who are just getting started but might not know the "basics."
3. Minister to families representing various ethnic minorities in our increasingly diverse society.
4. Place an even greater emphasis on bringing our message to those in the secular marketplace who may not be familiar with Christian principles.
5. Expand our ministry on the Internet, which has become the primary source of information for millions of people.

I know I speak for every employee here at Focus on the Family, both past and present, when I say that we are humbled by how God has used this ministry to touch so many lives over the past 25 years. As we reflect on the blessings of the past and prepare to open the next chapter in our history, may Paul's words to the church at Corinth carry us forward: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 1:31). ■

FOCUS ON THE  
**Family**  
WITH DR. JAMES DOBSON

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by Lisa Anderson

Never underestimate the reach of the "Focus on the Family" broadcast—geographically and through time.

# From One to Many



Molly participated in the Ohio Bike Ride for the Family to give back to those who had saved her life 16 years ago.

It had been an especially long day. Molly Saunders, a young Ohio woman with a husband and small daughter, was tired. She had fought her nemesis, bulimia, again that day and lost. She'd been losing for the last six years. Being diabetic didn't help, nor did dealing with the ramifications of repeated childhood abuse. But Molly confided in no one.

That day she decided to end it all. As she planned her death, she turned on the radio. A new station, WNZR, had just hit the airwaves in her hometown of Mount Vernon. Molly's dial landed unwittingly on its frequency, and a program called "Focus on the Family" began to air. The topic was drug addiction and addictive behaviors; it caught Molly's attention. At the end of the program, an address was provided. Molly sat down and began a four-page letter to Focus.

Within days, Molly received a call from Lon Adams, a counselor at Focus on the Family. He listened to her, prayed with her and gave her the name of a counselor in her area. Molly began counseling and told her husband about everything she had been struggling with. Soon after, she began attending church and gave her life to Christ.

Sixteen years later, Molly vividly remembers her first months as a Christian. "When I first began to read the Bible, it was like giving food to a starving man," she says with a smile. "I would read my Bible while waiting in line at the store. I'd read while sitting at a stoplight in my car. Sometimes people would honk at me!"

During this time, Molly received a letter from Lon Adams that she carried in her wallet for years until it fell apart. She reread it often, hoping that some day she would be able to thank Lon and Focus for saving her life.

In the spring of 2000, Molly heard about the National Bike Ride for the Family. Wanting to give back to those who had helped her, she applied to ride but felt sure she would be rejected because of her diabetes. She was accepted. "I couldn't believe it," she says. "I grabbed my 19-year-old daughter, swung her around the yard, then ran over to church to tell my pastor."

With the help of WNZR and a group of pastors, Molly's

hometown hosted the Ohio Family Fest, a citywide day of music, games, food and fun designed to coincide with day two of the Ohio Bike Ride. Despite hailstorms, more than 1,500 people turned out to celebrate and welcome the riders. Even better than the celebration was that church leaders joined forces to continue reaching their community.

Since the Ohio Family Fest more than 300 people from the Mount Vernon area have accepted Christ as a result of church events and initiatives.

And all this happened because Molly Saunders chose to turn on the radio 16 years ago. ■

*There are still several state rides to come. For more information on the National Bike Ride for the Family's last rides of 2002, go to [www.bikerideforthefamily.org](http://www.bikerideforthefamily.org).*



Molly and her husband, Clyde, and daughter Rebecca live in Mount Vernon, Ohio.

1960

James Dobson and Shirley Deere marry

1970

Becomes member of faculty at USC School of Medicine  
Dare to Discipline



1967

James Dobson earns Ph.D. from University of Southern California  
Dr. Dobson joins staff of Children's Hospital in Los Angeles

# Foundational

**Focus on the Family's primary purpose is to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ through a practical outreach to homes, based upon five guiding principles. These principles, called "pillars," are drawn from the Bible and Judeo-Christian ethics. Our pillars reflect what we believe to represent ultimate values from the Creator Himself, who ordained the family and gave it His blessing.**



## The pre-eminence of evangelism

*We believe that the ultimate purpose in living is to know and glorify God and to attain eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord, beginning within our own families and then reaching out to a suffering humanity that does not know of His love and sacrifice.*

All of our efforts are motivated by and secondary to our aim of introducing people to Jesus Christ. Our approach is to "turn hearts toward home" by offering reasonable, biblical and empirical insights so that people will be able to discover the Creator of families and the principles He has established.

Just as a red blood cell carries life-sustaining oxygen to every part of the body, the family is the transport that allows us to deliver the gospel in ways that otherwise may not be possible. Addressing the relational needs of families often affords us the opportunity to share the gospel and meet spiritual needs as well.



SW PRODUCTIONS

## The permanence of marriage

*We believe that the institution of marriage was intended by God to be a permanent, lifelong relationship between a man and a woman, regardless of trials, sickness, financial reversal or emotional stresses that may ensue.*

God ordained marriage as the most sacred and intimate of human relationships. The Bible equates marriage to Christ's relationship with His bride, the church.

Scripture maintains that both spouses are equal in value, yet different in roles. Husbands are instructed to love their wives in the same way that Christ loves the church, while wives are to respect their husbands as the church respects Christ (Ephesians 5:22-23).

Focus is painfully aware that many marriages are in trouble today. We strive to do all we can to extend compassion, care and resources to those who are struggling.



GETTY IMAGES

1974 — Hide or Seek

1976

- ↪ Negotiations with Tyndale House publishers to fund first year of broadcast
- ↪ Dr. Dobson leaves Children's Hospital

1975 — What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew About Women

- 1977
- ↪ Focus on the Family incorporates as an Arcadia, Calif.-based nonprofit
  - ↪ First "Focus on the Family" weekly broadcast airs

# Principles

## The value of bearing and raising children

*We believe that children are a heritage from God and a blessing from His hand. We are therefore accountable to Him for raising, shaping and preparing them for a life of service to His kingdom and to humanity.*

Parents have no greater responsibility than to provide their children with a spiritual heritage. Research indicates that the development of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ most frequently occurs before a child leaves home.

Children are extremely observant and impressionable and thus are greatly influenced by their daily interaction with parents. Simply put, values are "caught" more than taught.

Parents also have a biblical mandate to properly discipline their children. The crucial element is balance, avoiding the extremes of harsh discipline without affection or permissiveness without reasonable limits.

Last, we recognize that raising a child alone is an incredibly demanding task. Therefore, Focus exhorts churches to assist single parents in any way possible.



GETTY IMAGES

## The sanctity of human life

*We believe that human life is of inestimable worth and significance in all its dimensions, including the unborn, the aged, the widowed, the mentally handicapped, the unattractive, the physically challenged and every other condition in which humanness is expressed from conception to the grave.*

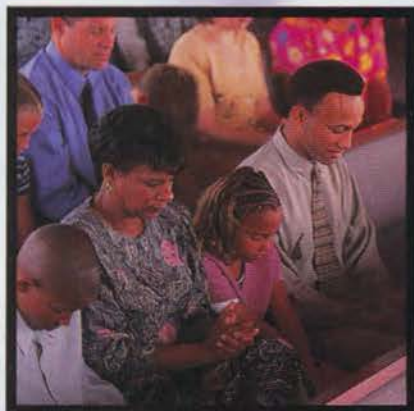
All human life is unique and precious in God's sight. Therefore, every individual in any stage or condition deserves equal respect and protection.

Abortion is never the answer to an unwanted pregnancy. As Christians, we must be ready to offer love and assistance to expectant mothers facing difficult circumstances. For women who do not wish to raise their children, adoption is *always* the more courageous, noble and ethical decision.

Like abortion, euthanasia is the intentional taking of an innocent human life and therefore is morally wrong. Both reveal a profound irreverence for life.



GETTY IMAGES



CSW PRODUCTIONS

## The relationship of church, family and government

*We believe that God has ordained three basic institutions—the church, the family and the government—for the benefit of all humankind. The family exists to propagate the human race and to provide a safe haven in which to nurture, teach and love the younger generation. The church exists to minister to individuals and families by sharing the love of God and the message of repentance and salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ. The government exists to maintain cultural equilibrium and to provide a framework for social order.*

The family, founded upon marriage and centered in the nuclear circle of a father and a mother and their biological or adopted children, is the primary social unit. The health and vitality of families largely determine the well-being of a society.

Government is ordained by God to promote justice and protect a nation's citizens. The ultimate authority of a government does not come by force but by the wise counsel of God and the will of the people.

The church is God's worldwide community that functions as His body on earth. It is the responsibility of every Christian to serve as the hands and feet of Christ. Though the church's primary focus is to preach the gospel and disciple Christians, it also serves to strengthen families and influence secular authorities, such as government, law, media and education. ■

1978

- The Strong-Will'd Child
- Preparing for Adolescence

1980

- Daily 15-minute broadcast begins

1979

- Word Publishing releases seven-part "Focus on the Family" film series

1981

- Daily 30-minute broadcast begins



# From Generation to



The Johnson family

Shannon and Jennifer Kusilek had a problem. When their 9-year-old son spent the night at friends' houses, he sometimes watched inappropriate movies. They'd voiced their concerns to their son and the other families, but the situation didn't quite feel settled.

Then during a family car trip last fall, the Kusileks heard something on an "Adventures in Odyssey" broadcast that gave them a simple answer to their situation.

"We were listening to the episode 'All the Difference in the World,'" Jennifer explains. "The father on the tape told his son to call home before he watched any movies at a friend's house. So now that's a rule in our house."

"It was wonderful, because then our 6-year-old was also enthralled," Jennifer adds. "So right in the middle of an eight-hour car trip, I grabbed my Bible and opened it to 2 Peter 1:9, which was men-

tioned at the end of the program. We had a little devotional about how following Jesus means that we'll make choices in our lives that set us apart from people who don't know Him. It was really great. We've taken a lot of Focus on the Family's principles and made them our own."

And Jennifer knows plenty about Focus. Her parents, Dan and Phyllis Johnson, implemented Dr. James Dobson's ideas when she and her sister, Julie, were growing up.

"We raised our kids using the ideas in *Dare to Discipline*," Phyllis says. "And when Jennifer had children, I began talking right off the bat about the principles that I had learned."

The Johnsons are just one household that's seen Focus have a multigenerational impact on their family. Many others first learned of Dr. Dobson and Focus on the Family when their children were young—but now their kids have kids of their own.

## Prepared for parenthood

Before Dan and Phyllis Johnson had children, they were listening to Dr. Dobson.

"I was pregnant at the time our Sunday school class started listening to cassettes of Dr. Dobson talking about the principles in *Dare to Discipline*," Phyllis remembers. "I've always been a voracious note-taker, so I took some notes and stored them away. Then my husband and I raised our girls using those things."

As instrumental as *Dare to Discipline* was in the early years of Jennifer and Julie's lives, the *Preparing for Adolescence* tapes were even more helpful as the girls transitioned into teens. (Julie now works at Focus on the Family.)

"I was about 9 or 10 when my mom started taking us individually to a hotel for a girls' special weekend," Jennifer says. "We'd listen to a tape, go shopping,

1983

- Broadcast goes worldwide via Armed Forces Radio satellite
- Start of *Focus on the Family* magazine
- Focus Canada opens

1984

- "James Dobson Family Commentary" begins

1985

- "Weekend" broadcast begins
- Dr. Dobson accepts appointment to Attorney General's Commission on Pornography
- "Turn Your Heart Toward Home" film series

## The Focus on the Family message now spans three generations.

by Jesse Florea

# Generation

then go out for dinner and listen to another tape. Then we'd sit in the sauna and listen to another tape. That was such a blessing that she took the time to do that."

Phyllis planned these events with each daughter for three years, each time listening to different tapes from the series.

"It gave me a forum to bring up issues," Phyllis explains. "I wouldn't sit down at the table one afternoon and say, 'Let's talk about peer pressure.' But listening to a tape would bring up questions that we could talk about."

Communication is still important to the Johnsons. Jennifer is married to Shannon Kusilek and has three boys.

"Jennifer and I talk every day," Phyllis says. "And we've chatted a lot about things regarding her kids."

Phyllis has passed on copies of *Dare to Discipline* and *The Strong-Willed Child* to Jennifer, who's put the books to good use.

"Dr. Dobson's ideas are totally ingrained with how my husband and I raise our kids," Jennifer says. "Little phrases that he uses, like 'I love you so much that I cannot allow you to behave this way.' I say that before every discipline I give, whether it's a spanking or just a talking to."

And as the Kusileks' children grow up, Jennifer has already gotten ready for next step.

"Now I have those *Preparing for Adolescence* tapes," she says. "And Shannon is going to get away on special weekends and go through them with our boys."

### Tuned in to parenting

Dr. T.A. Body says Dr. Dobson has always been a tremendous resource for him. In fact, Dr. Body and Dr. Dobson's career paths have numerous similarities. Both are trained psychologists, and both turned away from the medical profession to follow God's call.

More than a decade ago, Dr. Body left the National Institute of Mental Health to go into ministry. Since that time he's founded the One Accord Community Church of God in Christ and a radio program called "Lifeline 2000."

"My radio talk show deals with the family and fundamentals of the Christian faith," Dr. Body says. "Now I've never told anybody this, even on my broadcast, but Dr. Dobson was the reason I wanted to start a talk show to deal with the black family. He was the person who got me thinking."

Today, Dr. Body's program can be heard twice daily on the 50,000-watt station WGUN in Decatur, Ga.

"I often quote Dr. Dobson on the broadcast, but I don't tell people he said it because I want to look good myself," Dr. Body says, laughing. "I'm kidding, of course. But I use James Dobson to death, because I'm talking about husbands, wives, parenting—all that stuff." ➤



Dr. T.A. Body's family

1987

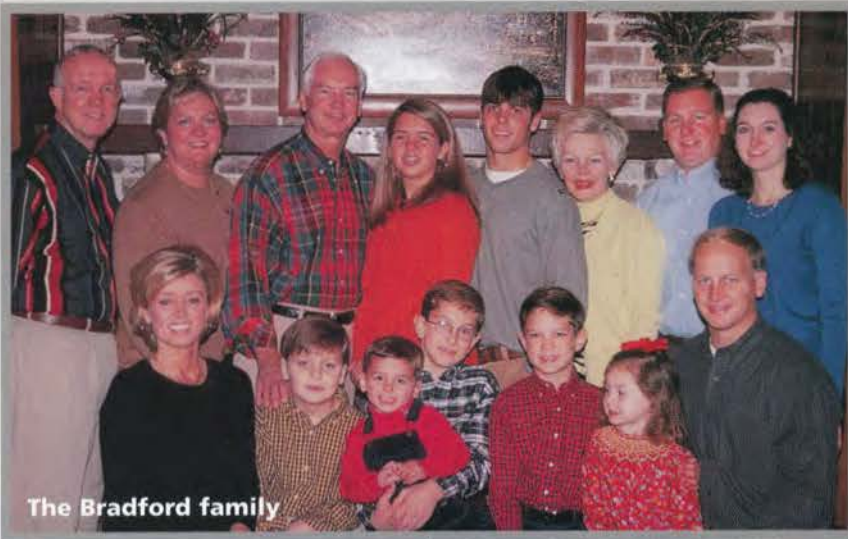
- ↳ Clubhouse magazine premieres
- ↳ Citizen magazine premieres
- ↳ Crisis Pregnancy Ministry starts

1986

Focus releases its first book, *Twice Pardoned*







The Bradford family

phenylketonuria (PKU) for five western states.

Both of Tom's sons had PKU, a dietary deficiency where the body can't absorb the phenylalanine that's in protein so it builds up in the brain and stunts brain development. His sons, Jim and Bill, were doing better than most children with PKU because they discovered the condition early on and put them on a very restrictive diet.

"They couldn't get any protein," Tom says. "No meat products, such as fish, chicken or beef. They couldn't have nuts, beans or dairy products. Fruit and some vegetables—that's all they could eat."

Tom picked up the phone, called Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, asked for Dr. Dobson and got straight through to him. Tom told him how much he enjoyed his book and that his sons had PKU.

After talking awhile, Tom set up an appointment with Dr. Dobson. Two months later, the Bradfords flew from their home in Alabama to California.

Following a series of tests, Dr. Dobson determined Jim and Bill did have classic PKU, but because of their age both boys could be taken off their restrictive diets.

"That was great news!" Tom says.

Over the course of the next 20 years, Jim and Bill grew up to be healthy adults, and Tom helped start the Alabama Family Alliance (now the Alabama Policy Institute), a state group that fights for family values in gov-

ernment. Tom also continued to follow Dr. Dobson's career in writing and founding of Focus on the Family in 1977. Then in 1991 the two met again when Tom visited Focus.

"We spent around 30 minutes together and had a great time," Tom says. "And we talked about my boys."

Several years ago, Jim met Dr. Dobson

Almost everything in Dr. Body's life is related to family. When he started his church 14 years ago it had eight members: six of his children, his wife and himself. Now One Accord has more than 1,000 people attending every week.

"And our church feels like a family," Eumika Body-Griffin says. "My dad strives to keep that feeling."

Eumika is Dr. Body's youngest daughter and the minister of praise at One Accord. Her husband, Kevin, is a gospel-jazz pianist and the minister of music. They're raising three children: Brooklyn, Kevin and Kerrington.

"Because I'm the last and was at home the longest, I spent a lot of time with my parents in the Word and as a family," Eumika says. "And that really helped me to be a godly parent."

Eumika first read one of Dr. Dobson's books when she was co-producing her dad's radio show.

"I read *The Strong-Willed Child* years ago," Eumika says. "I remember it well. But my husband and I were just talking about getting it out and reading it again, because our two youngest children [ages 4 and 2] are extremely strong-willed."

Dr. Body dealt with a few strong-willed kids of his own. With eight children, 24 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, there's very little he hasn't experienced in family life. And as he looks at his family, he can't help

but speak with pride.

"All the way down to my great-grandchildren, they are all godly and in the church," he says. "And they're raising their children with the same principles that Dr. Dobson gave out those many, many years ago."

### Family doctor

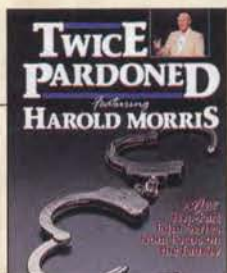
Tom Bradford has known Dr. Dobson for so long that it was still possible to telephone him directly.

"In 1971 a friend of mine gave me the book *Dare to Discipline*," Tom remembers. "I read it and identified with everything Dobson was saying. There was a lot of pressure in those days not to spank or discipline our children, saying you could mess up their little personalities. But here was a professional

and a Christian who was basing his philosophy on biblical truth, saying you *should* discipline your children. That you do them harm if you don't discipline them, as long as you do it in love."

When Tom finished the book, he read on the flyleaf that Dr. Dobson was a psychologist and in charge of work on

*"In 1971 a friend of mine gave me the book Dare to Discipline. . . Here was a professional and a Christian who was basing his philosophy on biblical truth, saying you should discipline your children . . . as long as you do it in love."*



1987

- Focus office moves from Arcadia to Pomona, Calif.
- Releases its first film, *Twice Pardoned*
- Group of physicians meets and forms Physicians Resource Council
- *Clubhouse Jr.* magazine premieres



in Colorado Springs, although he doesn't remember meeting him as a child.

"I hate to say it, but I don't remember going to California and doing all those tests," Jim says. "But when I got married 19 years ago, I started listening to Dr. Dobson's radio program. I always like to hear Dobson's ideas, because he has very practical suggestions on how to handle daily stuff."

Jim and his wife, Carolyn, have three children ranging from 7 to 17.

"It's amazing how different three children can be," Jim says. "Their makeups are just light-years apart. So while the parenting principles remain the same, we have to re-evaluate and rethink how to communicate and handle issues with each child."

Jim says a lot of those parenting principles came from *Dare to Discipline* and *The Strong-Willed Child*. And he adds that he and Carolyn have enjoyed going through *Night Light*, a devotional book written by the Dobsons.

"I've probably got a half-dozen or more of his books in my room that I refer to," Jim says. "And we've got a cabinet full of 'Adventures in Odyssey' and 'McGee and Me' videos that the kids grew up watching."

## Family tree

Every Sunday at the Bingaman home in eastern Pennsylvania looks like a mini-family reunion. After church everybody gathers at Max and Martha Bingaman's house to eat dinner before evening church. And when you consider that Max and Martha have five married children and 18 grandchildren, it is a houseful.

"I have 30 to 35 here every Sunday, and I love it," Martha says. "Everybody enjoys coming, and we all live around here and go to the same church."

With so much emphasis on family, it's not surprising the Bingamans are good friends of Focus on the Family. And if you visit Focus' headquarters, you'll find a plaque that tells how the Bingamans donated the seven miles of red oak molding that adds a touch of beauty to the buildings.

But even before Max thought about supporting the ministry, he was impressed with what Focus on the Family stood for.

"I've always been blessed by how Dr. Dobson presents biblical principles to child-raising and families," Max says. "The first time I heard him was when our church had the Focus on the Family film series back in the '70s."

Max and Martha finally visited Focus on the Family shortly after the ministry moved from California to Colorado Springs in 1991. Around that time their oldest child, Chris, was diagnosed with cancer. Chris and his wife, Heidi, had four young daughters when they discovered the news.

"I was really impressed with the way Focus supported me," Chris says. "Besides the books *When God Doesn't Make Sense* and *Conquering Cancer* that they sent, they also hooked me up with Dave Dravecky's ministry, Outreach of Hope." (Dravecky, a professional baseball player, lost his pitching arm to bone cancer in 1991.)

Last year the Bingamans were back on the Focus on the Family campus with some of their children to record a broadcast called "A Traditional Family." Chris told his story of receiving a bone marrow transplant from his youngest sister, Mary Beth, and overcoming cancer.

"The Lord used the opportunity to be on the Focus broadcast to encourage

others," Chris says. "That was a real privilege, and I got a tremendous amount of e-mails and letters from people dealing with the same type of cancer. I still keep in touch with many of them."

Chris and Heidi's daughters grew up reading some of Focus' magazines for children, *Clubhouse Jr.*, *Clubhouse* and *Brio*. And they still look to Focus for helpful resources.

"My wife and I have found *Plugged In* to be an invaluable publication in helping us evaluate media for our teens," Chris says. "Sometimes it's good for our children to hear advice from somebody besides their parents. I really appreciate the honest critiques they've done."

Because of the length and depth of the relationship that the Bingamans have with Focus, they've had the chance to become friends with Dr. Dobson and his wife, Shirley. A couple of years ago the Dobsons visited the Bingamans' ranch for a weekend.

"Dr. Dobson and Shirley are wonderful," Max says. "I tell people, 'What you hear is what he is.' A lot of times [on other broadcasts] you hear something on the radio and you see something different in person, but that's not the case with Dr. Dobson." ■

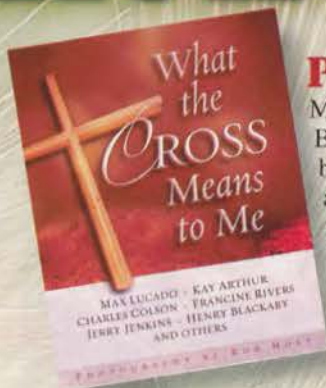
*Jesse Florea is editor of Clubhouse magazine and the Growing Years edition of Focus on the Family magazine.*



# 1988

- "Adventures in Odyssey" broadcast begins
- "Family News in Focus" first airs
- First "Enfoque a la Familia" (Spanish broadcast) airs
- Focus begins Pete Maravich basketball camps
- Care for the Family (United Kingdom) begins working with Focus

# Renew Your Heart



## Profound Thoughts on the Cross

Most of us have heard sermons about the Cross—and the sacrifice that our Messiah made there for us. But how often do we reflect on *What the Cross Means to Me*? In this unique and compelling book, beautifully illustrated by a comprehensive series of photos of the “Diamond Hill cross” by Rob Holt, a number of renowned Christian writers share personally and powerfully on the meaning behind the cross of Calvary.

**What the Cross Means to Me (hardcover)**

Suggested donation: \$13 (\$19 in Canada)\* BD519

## Christ's Death and Resurrection in Context

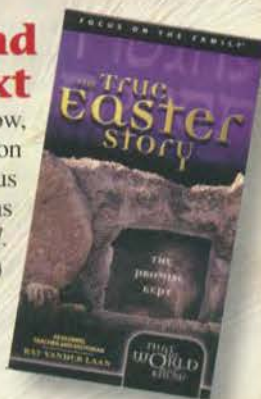
Millennia ago, the Lord promised us He would someday pay the price for our sin. And, of course, He did. Now, from the That the World May Know video series, comes *The True Easter Story: The Promise Kept*. Filmed on location in Jerusalem with historian and Bible teacher Ray Vander Laan, this fascinating presentation helps us understand the fullness of Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection in the context of ancient Jewish customs and religious ceremonies. Running time: 44 minutes including bonus faith lesson, *The Lamb of God*.

**The True Easter Story: The Promise Kept (video)**

Suggested donation: \$15 (\$21 in Canada)\* VI563

**The True Easter Story: The Promise Kept (DVD)**

Suggested donation: \$20 (\$28 in Canada)\* VD001



### Also Available . . .

**Faith Lessons: Old Testament, Vols. I-II (four videos)**

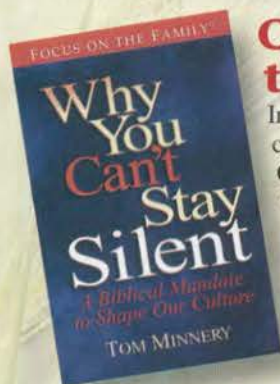
Suggested donation: \$68 (\$96 in Canada)\*† VI550

**Faith Lessons: New Testament, Vols. III-IV (four videos)**

Suggested donation: \$68 (\$96 in Canada)\*† VI551

**Faith Lessons on the Early Church: Conquering the Gates of Hell (two videos)**

Suggested donation: \$40 (\$56 in Canada)\* VI405



## Compelling Biblical Reasons to Confront Our Culture

In *Why You Can't Stay Silent*, Focus on the Family Vice President Tom Minnery responds to the most common objections and misconceptions about Christians' involvement in society. Minnery, a former Capitol Hill journalist, explains in detail what Scripture says about being salt and light in a fallen world—and discusses the tone Christians should take with people who strongly oppose them. Ordinary people compelled by God's love have great power to change the world. This book shows you how.

**Why You Can't Stay Silent (hardcover)**

Suggested donation: \$18 (\$26 in Canada)\* BL148

## A Quarter-Century of "Focused" Wisdom

Over the last quarter-century, Focus on the Family has produced a number of broadcasts that are treasures of biblical wisdom and encouragement. *Classic Focus Stories* will make you laugh, cry and sigh as you marvel at the love and mercy of the Lord. The *Parenting Collection* and *Marriage Collection* feature timeless broadcasts on topics like love versus infatuation, gender differences, commitment, positive parenting and discipline that shapes rather than breaks a child's spirit. Wonderful to play at home or in the car!

**Classic Focus Stories (10 compact discs)**

Suggested donation: \$50 (\$70 in Canada)\*† CD600

**Parenting Collection (seven compact discs)**

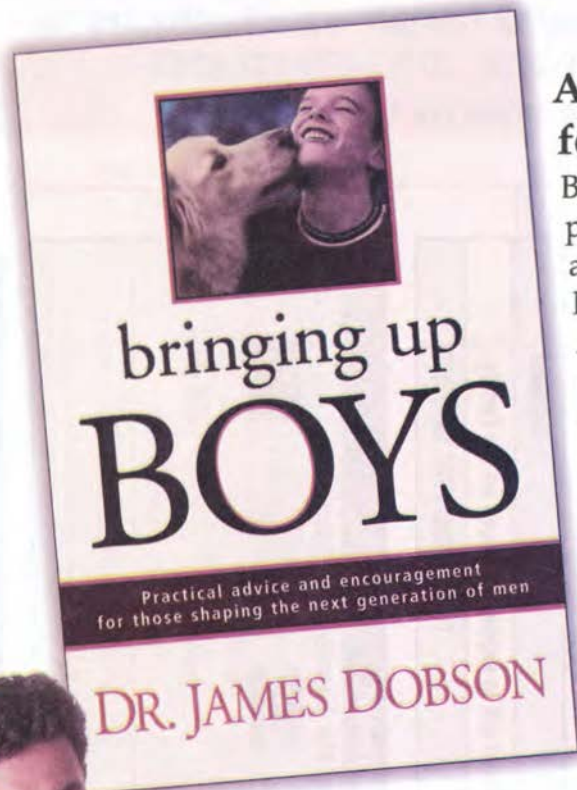
Suggested donation: \$35 (\$49 in Canada)\*† CD601

**Marriage Collection (10 compact discs)**

Suggested donation: \$50 (\$70 in Canada)\*† CD602



To request any of these resources, see the envelope inside this magazine.



## A Gold Mine of Wisdom for Raising Your Son

Boys *will* be boys! But with "gender neutral" propaganda and pressures, many assume any differences between the sexes are merely learned. Dr. James Dobson's new book, *Bringing Up Boys*, shoots straight about the many important ways boys are distinctively, instinctively different. Find out why boys are the way they are and how to understand their emotional and physical development, motivate and teach them, and guide them into dynamic, godly manhood. Essential reading for parents, teachers and leaders!

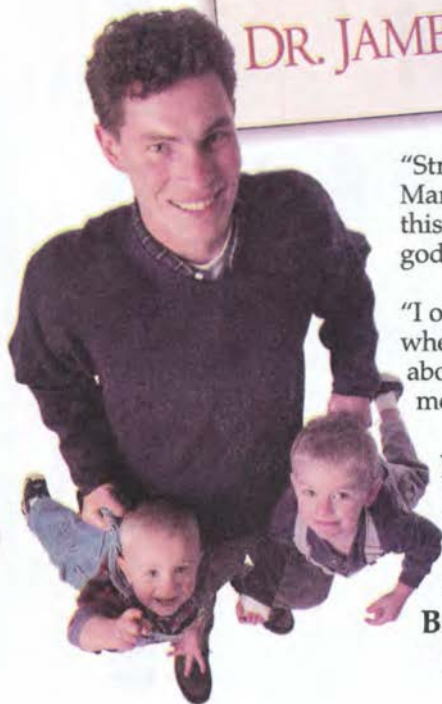
"Strong, stable, godly men are the greatest needs of our time. Married or single, if you have a son, you will want to have this book as a ready reference. It's a comprehensive study by a godly man who knows his subject."—Kay Arthur

"I only wish Dr. Dobson's book would have been available when I was raising my two boys. He touches every essential area about boys, and I'm excited about the enrichment and encouragement this book will bring to families."—Gary Smalley

**Bringing Up Boys (hardcover)**  
Suggested donation: \$23\* BK099

**Bringing Up Boys (four cassettes)**  
Suggested donation: \$23\* BT096

**Bringing Up Boys (six compact discs)**  
Suggested donation: \$27\* BT097



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Walking with Your Child Through Crisis

## WHEN A HUG WON'T FIX THE HURT



KAREN DOCKREY

### Walking With Your Child Through Crisis

Few things make a parent feel more helpless than seeing the child or teenager they love in emotional or physical pain. But as you'll see in this book, there's a lot you can do to help a child—and yourself—cope with suffering. Whether the problem is as common as not making the ball team or as severe as leukemia, this guide offers practical, biblical ways to demonstrate your love.

**When a Hug Won't Fix the Hurt (paperback)**

*Suggested donation: \$10\* BD429*

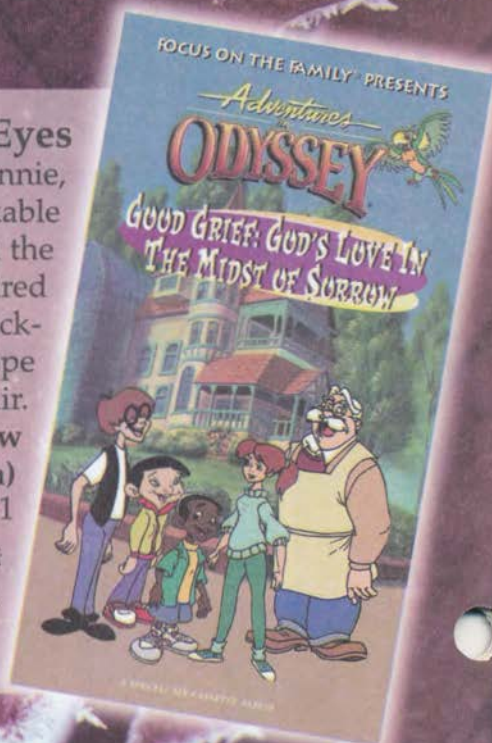
### Romans 8:28 Through Young Eyes

Wrap your child tightly in your arms and join Whit, Connie, Donna and others as they experience God's unmistakable comfort and strength in their time of need. Though the stories in this special collection of previously aired Adventures in Odyssey episodes are fictional, the rock-solid truths underscoring them point us to our only hope in times of despair.

**Good Grief: God's Love in the Midst of Sorrow  
(six-audiocassette album)**

*Suggested donation: \$25\* CC771*

Includes: *Clara/Home Sweet Home; Thank You, God/The Very Best of Friends; It Is Well/This Is Chad Pearson; Karen/Kid's Radio; Gone . . . But Not Forgotten* and *Letting Go/B-TV: Compassion*



# with Resources From Focus on the Family

## When They're Least Expecting It . . .

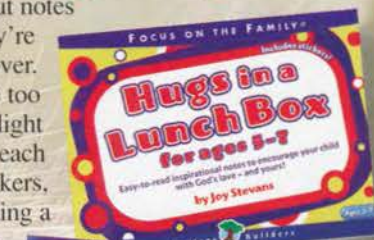
These spiritually uplifting, tear-out notes will give your kids a "hug," whether they're at school, camp, in daycare or on a sleepover. Older children, who might think they're too "cool" for *Hugs in a Lunch Box*, will delight in the surprise of each note! Included in each book are 75 inspirational notes plus stickers, Bible verses and suggestions for adding a special family flavor into daily life.

**Hugs in a Lunch Box**  
for ages 5-7 (paperback)

Suggested donation: \$8  
(\$12 in Canada)\* BL172

**Hugs in a Lunch Box**  
for ages 8-12 (paperback)

Suggested donation: \$8  
(\$12 in Canada)\* BL173

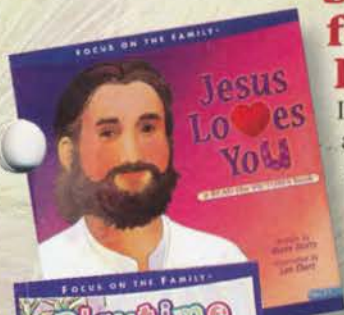


## Delightful Devotions for You and Your Little One

If a child's earliest memories of devotions are associated with happy times spent with parents, a powerful spiritual foundation has been laid. Through the *Devotional Set for Little Ones*, infants and preschoolers spend special time with the Lord and their parents. Based on familiar childhood games, *Playtime Devotions* helps parents and teachers teach infants "God loves me." And *Jesus Loves You*, a read-the-pictures book, gives preschoolers a fun introduction to the love of God.

**Devotional Set for Little Ones**  
(two hardcovers)

Suggested donation: \$21  
(\$30 in Canada)\*† BL517



## Also Available . . .

**Playtime Devotions (hardcover with wire-o binding)**  
Suggested donation: \$15 (\$21 in Canada)\* BL472

**Jesus Loves You (hardcover)**  
Suggested donation: \$11 (\$16 in Canada)\* BL470

You can now request these resources online at  
[www.family.org](http://www.family.org) or [www.fotf.ca](http://www.fotf.ca) in Canada.

## Magazine Rack



**Citizen** keeps you updated on the current events and U.S. public policy issues that affect you and your family—with tips for effectively making your voice heard by decision makers.  
FAMPK \*\*\$20 (\$28 in Canada)



**Clubhouse Jr.** Fun crafts, games, tales and more—all emphasizing scriptural principles. Perfect for young readers ages 4 to 8.  
CJMPK \*\*\$15 (\$21 in Canada)



**Clubhouse** delights children ages 8 to 12 with exciting puzzles, activities and faith-building stories.  
CHMPK \*\*\$15 (\$21 in Canada)



**Brio** The inside scoop for teen girls, with hot tips on everything from fashion and food, to fitness and faith.  
TFSUB \*\*\$18 (\$26 in Canada)



**Brio & Beyond** brings a Christian perspective to tough issues faced specifically by high school upperclassmen and college students.  
TSSUB \*\*\$18 (\$26 in Canada)



**Breakaway** Teen guys get the lowdown on sports, celebrities... even girls! Also, advice, humor and spiritual guidance.  
TMSUB \*\*\$15 (\$21 in Canada)



**LifeWise** This bimonthly magazine celebrates life after 50 for Christians.  
MPSUB \*\*\$16.50 (\$24 in Canada)



**Plugged In** offers reviews and commentary on the latest music, movies and television aimed at youth.  
PGSUB \*\*\$20 (\$28 in Canada)



**Physician** Concise, informative features that address the special needs of medical doctors: published bimonthly. Complimentary for physicians (underwritten by physicians for physicians).  
PHSUB



**Boundless** A webzine that seeks to engage the hearts and minds of young adults on college campuses. Log on to [www.boundless.org](http://www.boundless.org) and let the adventure begin!

\*\*Suggested donations.

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**B**eginning from a small two-room office 25 years ago, Focus on the Family has grown into a ministry of 1,300 people serving in some 80 outreaches. Dr. James Dobson's core family concerns in 1977 were parenting and marriage, but, of course, there is more to family than this.

Accordingly, Focus on the Family has expanded over the years to address concerns of teens, pastors' families, collegians and senior adults. Still, the full parameters of family concerns stretch beyond these, and Focus added, among others, a Public Policy department to monitor pro- or anti-family trends in the public square, Crisis Pregnancy ministries to assist those fighting for the pro-life cause throughout North America and a Youth Culture department to help parents make discerning choices when it comes to their children's entertainment choices.

At right is an outline of all that Focus on the Family is doing to help strengthen families around the world. We pray, Lord willing, that 25 years from now this list will be even larger.

## Children

*Clubhouse Jr.* magazine: For ages 4 to 8, fun crafts, games, tales and more—all emphasizing scriptural principles.

*Clubhouse* magazine: Delights children ages 8 to 12 with exciting puzzles, activities and faith-building stories.

"Adventures in Odyssey": captivating 30-minute radio dramas and videos that entertain while teaching important biblical values.

## Teens/College

*Brio* magazine: The inside scoop for teen girls, with hot tips on everything from fashion and food to fitness and faith. *Brio & Beyond*, specifically for high school upperclassmen and college students.

*Breakaway* magazine: Teen guys get the lowdown on sports, celebrities—even girls—with advice, humor and spiritual guidance.

*Plugged In* magazine: Offers reviews and commentary on the latest music, movies and television aimed at youth. Great resource for parents. Available online.

"Life on the Edge—Live!": Weekend call-in radio show addressing the unique pressures and issues facing today's teens.

# Ministering to Families



1989

- *Physician* magazine premieres
- Focus releases first *McGee and Me* video with Tyndale House

1990

- *Brio* and *Breakaway* magazines premiere
- Launch of Youth Culture department
- *Parental Guidance* premieres (later becomes *Plugged In*)



Focus on the Family Institute:  
A one-semester program for students who desire to be leaders of the family, church and society.

*Boundless*: A webzine at [www.boundless.org](http://www.boundless.org) offering articles describing the "subversive" courage of a chaste life, the how-to's for surviving a hostile professor, the danger of pagan spirituality and the wonder of serving Christ.

## Marriage/Parenting

Heritage Builders: Educates, trains and equips parents to be intentional in passing on a spiritual heritage to their children.

*Single-Parent Family*: Special edition of *Focus on the Family* magazine with articles to help single parents create healthy, stable, godly home lives.

*Growing Years*: Special edition of *Focus on the Family* magazine offering tips and encouragement for raising children from birth to age 12.

Renewing the Heart: Ministry that equips women with biblical principles and practical tools to impact their homes, communities and world for Christ. Includes weekly radio call-in show.

*Focus on the Family*: Our flagship publication that provides thought-provoking articles and helpful information for your family and marriage.

Public Policy: Produces an array of publications, seminars and radio broadcasts designed to inform and activate citizens to deal with current social issues.

## Grandparenting/Seniors

Focus over Fifty: Encourages mature adults to be involved in our culture and employ their faith to promote social change.

*LifeWise* magazine: Celebrates Christian life at midlife and beyond, addressing involvement in church and community, finances, current events and relationships.

## Cross-generational

Counseling: A staff of professional, Christian, state-licensed counselors who respond by phone to constituents who are in crisis situations.

"Focus on the Family": A 30-minute daily broadcast with Dr. James Dobson offers timeless practical advice and inspiration on subjects related to families: marriage, parenting, health, spiritual and emotional growth, and more.

*Family.org*: Offers magazine articles, broadcast schedules, Dr. Dobson's monthly letters, announcements, news updates, RealAudio broadcasts, media reviews, resource center and more. Sites for children, teens, single parents, seniors and professionals.

Crisis Pregnancy Ministry: Support for pregnancy help centers with financial aid, informational resources, conferences and broadcasts.

Love Won Out conferences: Inform teachers, youth workers, pastors and parents about the causes of homosexuality and the gay activist movement.

*Physician* magazine: Concise, informative features

that address the special needs of medical doctors. ■



# for Life



1991

☛ "Adventures in Odyssey" daily program and first Adventures in Odyssey video

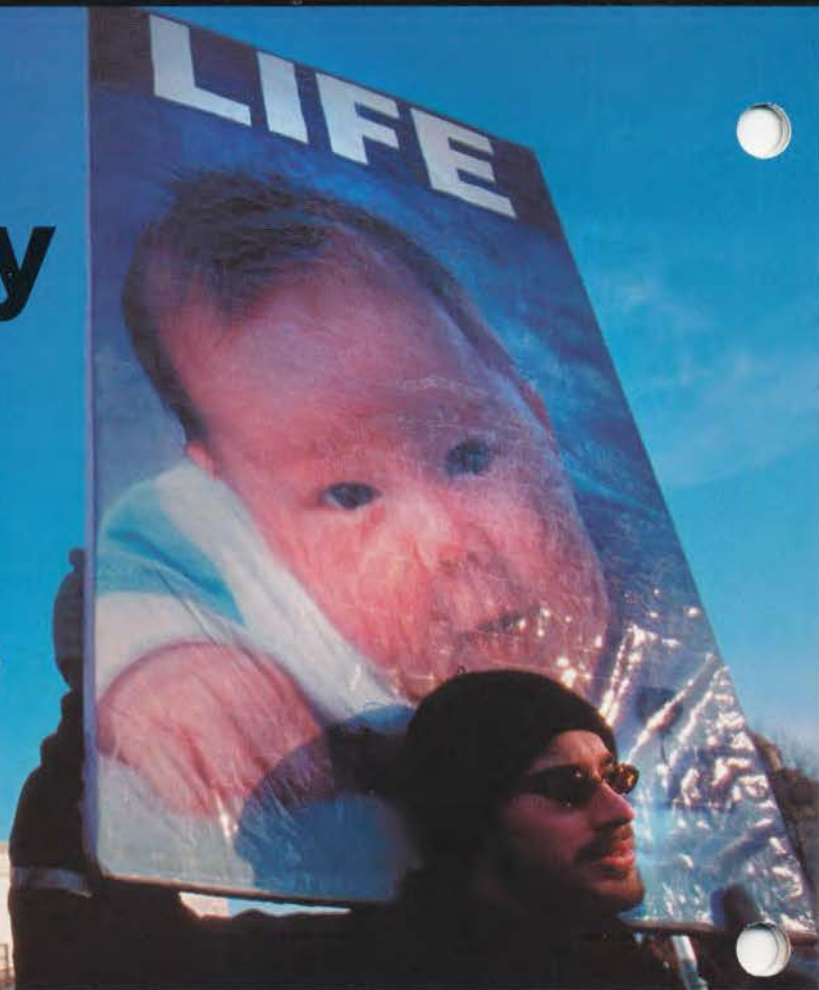
☛ Focus relocates to temporary facilities in Colorado Springs

☛ Shirley Dobson accepts leadership of National Day of Prayer

☛ Creation of Pastoral Ministries under H.B. London Jr.

by Tom Minnery

# Why You Can't Stay Silent



he pastor looked at me with his weary eyes. He was embarrassed and humiliated. He groped for words to explain why his church had suffered so much and why he and the other pastors had done so little about it.

They had been trained by missionaries only to preach salvation and to stay out of controversial social issues. This they did, until the people suffered so badly under their corrupt dictator that they turned to new saviors—left-wing ideologues who tried to help the people but who eventually plunged the country into revolution. When the guns finally stopped, 50,000 were dead.

This was Nicaragua in 1983, four

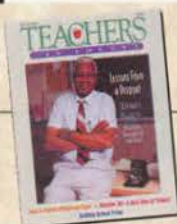
years after the Marxist revolution, and I had gone there to see what lessons might be learned from a church that had sat on the sidelines while evil grew. Could the pastors have stopped the course of events that led to the Marxist revolution? Not without God's miraculous help, certainly. But they did nothing and gave God no opportunity to work through them, and for this they were ashamed. I shall never forget them or what this means for us.

## The present situation

Thankfully, we have no such extreme in our country. We are blessed with a stable government that invites the people's participation; but there are troubling signs. Year by year fewer

Christians bother to vote, to lift their voices, to be salt and light, and we have seen hostile forces gain the upper hand. Lawsuits against public religious expressions proliferate, the very definition of the family is attacked, and abortions are deemed a constitutional right. Still, in our country, cultural decline need not be a terminal illness.

But even today we hear voices of some church leaders telling us to concentrate on evangelism and not be distracted by controversies. Are we starting down the same road that will lead to rampant immorality and the rise of a tyrant or moral chaos? May God forbid, but I do know that a silenced, isolated and irrelevant church violates the mandate of Scripture. I believe that Christian



1992

- ◀ *Teachers in Focus* magazine premieres (ends in 2000)
- ◀ Dr. Dobson Answers Your Questions syndicated column starts
- ◀ Focus on the Family Southern Africa opens

1993

- ◀ Dedication of current administration building and distribution center

leaders who tell us to ignore social problems fail to grasp the full significance of three important concepts:

**1. Our Christian calling.** "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness," Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, and four verses later He put it more directly: "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness." Righteousness is a broad term in Scripture, and it includes everything that is right. The first order of business, of course, is for people to get right with God by accepting the salvation He offers, but that does not exhaust the meaning of righteousness, and down through the years Christians have understood this and have left a legacy of reform.

In the early years of the church, Christians could make no impact on the evil Roman government because they were persecuted, but when the persecutions ended, they plunged in. They worked to end the right of fathers to beat their children, to abandon them or even sell them into

Tragically, the practice of abortion today is leading us back to the barbarism of Rome, even as some church leaders warn the church away from such "distractions" as the fight against abortion.

**2. Salvation.** When someone accepts Christ's righteousness, he should recognize not only what is right, but what is wrong. It should not be surprising that someone who begins to understand the difference between right and wrong should take a stand against the great wrongs of the day. Many Christians have done just that.

During the height of the Second Great Awakening, the national revival in the 1820s, one young convert, Theodore Weld, enrolled in seminary in Cincinnati and saw up close the evil of slavery, which was legal across the Ohio River in Kentucky. As a Christian, he could not ignore slavery, and so he began preaching against this evil in pulpit after pulpit, starting hundreds of local abolitionist organizations as a result. Thus there emerged from the changed heart of one young man a

patrons out of the bars and into his nightly preaching services. He declared war on sin and on Satan, and he recruited an army, a Salvation Army he called it, to carry out his campaigns. He employed unheard of gimmicks such as marching brass bands through the red light districts to attract attention. In its early years The Salvation Army was highly controversial.

Don't miss the irony here. Today the world hates the pro-life movement, but for pastors, creative evangelism techniques are prized. Back then, the opposite was true. The point is that controversy, by itself, shouldn't determine truth, and God's truth should always be defended by God's people.

Today, thousands of Christians, including us here at Focus on the Family, are busy doing exactly that. They understand the full meaning of righteousness and salvation, and they know that it is the fickle world that determines what is "in" or "out," not any abiding moral principle. These Christians have formed organizations

## Christians are called to be salt and light in their culture —even when it hurts.

slavery. Christianity uplifted the plight of wives and mothers by giving them a say in how children were to be raised and property inherited. Until Christianity took root in Rome, women were little better than slaves.

It is difficult to imagine how brutal this regime was, but here is a portion of a letter from a Roman citizen named Hilarion who, while away on business, wrote home to his pregnant wife Alis, whom he undoubtedly loved: "If . . . you have a boy, let it live. If it is a girl, throw it out."

The only reason people no longer write such shocking letters is that first-century Christians understood the meaning of righteousness and that it applied to the sanctity of all human life.

major boost to the new abolitionist movement that eventually freed the slaves.

**3. Controversy.** Christian leaders who strive to avoid controversy will only be blown about by the whims of the world, for while God's truth is constant, what is controversial changes with the times.

In 1871, *The New York Times* published a devastating exposé of a horrible enterprise that had opened its doors in New York—an abortion clinic. Ensuing public pressure shut it down, the result of the newspaper's crusade. At about the same time, across the Atlantic in London, a determined pastor named William Booth devised creative evangelism techniques to pull saloon

that offer alternatives to abortion, they run for political office, they help the poor and the homeless, they defend the institutions of family and marriage, and they raise moral voices in praise or protest as needed for the good of all members of society.

These are people who hunger and thirst for righteousness, and they accept the occasional persecution that Jesus said would come with this territory. They know what Christ has called them to do, and it is why they can't be silent. ■

*Tom Minnery is the vice president for Public Policy at Focus on the Family. To request a copy of his book, Why You Can't Stay Silent, see the center pages.*

1994

- Single-Parent Family magazine premieres (changed to Focus on the Family magazine edition in 2001)
- Focus on the Family Australia opens

1995

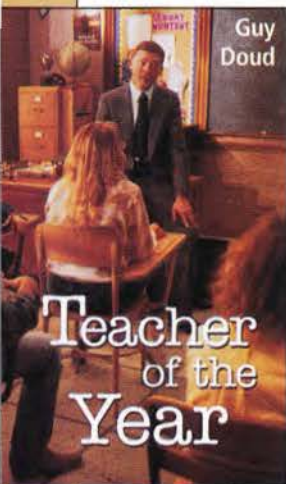
- Family Focus Japan opens
- Focus on the Family Welcome Center opens
- First set of *That the World May Know: Faith Lessons* videos releases





# The Best of the Best

In 1977 Dr. Dobson taped his first "Focus on the Family" broadcast. Since then thousands of programs have been aired covering issues from strong-willed children to stem cell research. Today 7.3 million people tune in daily. The following are the 25 programs that have had the greatest ministry impact over the past 25 years:



Guy Doud

► "Teacher of the Year" (1988) This broadcast features Guy Doud, who received this award from President Ronald Reagan in 1986, sharing his school experiences and their influence on his teaching career. He recounts the impact of teachers who befriended and loved him as a youth and his personal doubts and insecurity about each grade. From a teacher's perspective, he talks about the school mission field, types of children he teaches, the response of kids hungry to be loved and supported, and his

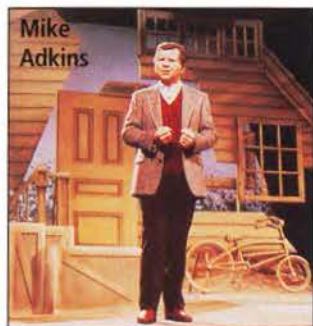
realization that academics were secondary to learning about kids' needs and struggles.

► "Love Must Be Tough" (1981) Based on Dr. Dobson's book *Love Must Be Tough*, this program examines the most devastating conflicts between husbands and wives and offers practical advice for the partner who wants to hold a troubled marriage together.

► "Tilly" (1987) This moving fictional drama illustrates the emotional trauma of abortion and the message of God's forgiveness and healing. One day as a troubled woman slept, she dreamed of a place with children who had no name or parents. One child befriended her, and she eventually realized it was her daughter, Tilly, whom she had aborted nine years earlier.

► "A Man Called Norman" (1984) Mike Adkins tells the story of how God prompted him to befriend his neighbor, Norman, an unkempt, solitary hermit. The entire town shunned Norman because of his odd behavior. Mike talks of the experiences of fixing Norman's lawn mower, taking Norman on a family vacation, cleaning and repairing Norman's house and finally leading him to Christ.

► "Love for a Lifetime" (1987) Dr. Dobson talks about difficulties with dating, the importance of premarital counseling and ways to overcome barriers of relating as a couple during the early years of marriage.

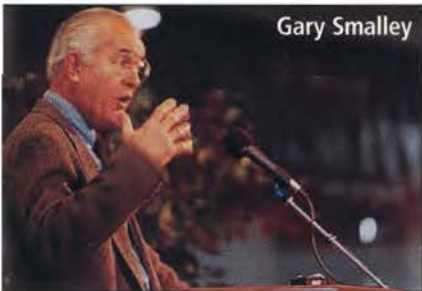


A Man Called NORMAN

1996

- Gunman threatens Focus employees in lobby of administration building; later surrenders to police
- Focus on the Family Institute opens
- *Pastor's Family* magazine premieres (changed to *Focus on the Family* magazine edition 1999)
- Start of Fokus Pada Keluarga (Indonesia), Focus on the Family Philippines and Focus on the Family Korea
- Dr. Dobson appointed to the U.S. Commission on Gambling

► "Parenting Isn't for Cowards" (1988) In order to restore parental confidence, Dr. Dobson reminds parents that children are incredibly complex and no two are alike, reaffirming that raising children can be a joyful experience.



Gary Smalley

► "The Incredible Worth of a Woman" (1986) Gary Smalley expounds on the importance of honor in relationships. He discusses the physiological differences between masculine and feminine behavior. He challenges men to honor their wives by appreciating their uniqueness.

► "The Greatest of These Is Love" (1985) Corrie ten Boom saved Jews during the Nazi occupation by hiding them in the family apartment in Holland and consequently spent time in a concentration camp. Corrie speaks of her struggles with hatred and forgiveness and her decision to become a peacemaker.

► "I Will Never Leave Thee" (1987) Darlene Rose relates her moving testimony of being captured by the Japanese while a missionary and being sent to a prison camp in New Guinea. She graphically describes the horrors of prison life and God's gentle reminders of His faithfulness and sustaining love.

► "Shaping the Will Without Breaking the Spirit" (1978) Dr. Dobson clarifies for parents the difference between childish irresponsibility and willful disobedience. He emphasizes the importance of respect between a parent and child and, during the adolescent years, the need for parents to release their children and the dangers if they don't.

► "I, Isaac, Take You, Rebekah" (1991) Ravi Zacharias discusses love and commitment, sexual temptation on Christian college campuses and dating boundaries.

► "Love Healed My Wounds" (1988) During the Vietnam War, a white phosphorous grenade exploded in Dave Roeber's hand, leaving him severely disfigured. He later tried to commit suicide, assuming that no one could love him. Sharing this story, Dave encourages young people not to throw their lives away.

► "What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew About Women" (1985) Dr. Dobson discusses the results of a survey of more than 10,000 women who were asked to rank a list of 10 sources of depression in their lives. He addresses these issues and explains from where men and women derive their self-worth and how it differentiates the sexes.

► "With Love To Hurting Teens" (1989) Teacher Guy Doud comments on how different the world is for kids today, especially in facing problems with drugs, sexual abuse, alcohol, eating disorders and suicide. He says the church must make a priority of ministering to the young generation.

► "The Mystique of a Woman" (1986) Jean Lush believes the feminine persona is lacking in many Christian women. She elaborates on the need for discipline of life and tongue, the ability to compete in the corporate world without losing mystique, self-confidence and the need for single women to relax in dating relationships.



Jean Lush

► "When God Doesn't Make Sense" (1977) Most people at sometime in their lives encounter difficulties that challenge their faith in God. Weaving together personal experiences and the wisdom of Scripture, Dr. Dobson offers insight into the trials of life and how to cope with them.

► "Getting Married: It's More Than Saying I Do" (1992) Dr. Dobson talks with Neil Clark Warren about his book, *Finding the Love of Your Life*. They discuss 10 principles of mate selection and seven deadly mate selection errors.

► "Living Joyously" (1999) Being born with cerebral palsy and the death of his parents set the Rev. David Ring on a hard life. But God took away David's sorrow and loneliness and replaced them with unspeakable joy, peace and contentment. David accomplished many things with God's strength that people told him he'd never be able to do, such as finishing college, becoming an evangelist and having a family. ►►



1997

- ◀ Life on the Edge tour events start
- ◀ Renewing the Heart ministry begins
- ◀ First Internet site launches



► "No Substitute for Daddy's Love" (1990) Pastor David Jeremiah talks about the importance of father-daughter relationships. He cites the influence some fathers have had on their famous daughters and shares the trials he has faced in his relationship with his oldest daughter, Jan.

► "Wounded Hearts" (1999) Author Frank Peretti tells of the emotional pain and inferior feelings he endured during his youth because of facial deformities. He ties emotional scars that children have to their wounded spirits.

► "For Such a Time As This" (1998) Laurence White recounts his trip to Germany with his two sons, comparing the change in German society—from Christian to one that would tolerate the Holocaust—with the social change in the United States. He calls on Christians to awaken to this danger and commit to making a difference in our nation, beginning by voting on election day.

► "How to Know You're In Love" (1990) Using humor relevant to teens, Dawson McAllister instructs them on the difference between love and infatuation.



Frank Peretti

► "Positive Parenting" (1986) Author Zig Ziglar discusses his book *Raising Positive Kids in a Negative World*, citing the Bible as the ultimate positive statement.

► "Healing Childhood Traumas" (1986) An orphan turned onto the streets for survival by her mother, Stephanie Fast describes the horrors of scavenging for food, verbal and physical abuse, repeated attempts to kill her and her rescue during a cholera epidemic by a World Vision worker who nourished her back to health and placed her in their orphanage. Missionaries adopted her when she was 9, and her healing process began. Stephanie encourages us not to rush God during the healing process because He has a timing and a purpose for every situation.

► "Seven Years Old (Going On 25)" (1999) Kyle West, a remarkable 7-year-old with cerebral palsy, tells a story of



Kyle West

how God helped him through surgery. Kyle discussed his baptism, the "tickle" machine his therapist prescribed to make his legs stronger, how he accepted Christ at a family dinner

right after his grandma finished giving the blessing and his favorite character in "Adventures in Odyssey," John Avery Whittaker. ■

If you would like to request any of these top 25 broadcasts, write the item code listed below on the envelope or see the center of the magazine for sets. (Suggested donations \$7/\$8 one cassette/CD, \$14/\$16 two cassettes/CDs, \$21/\$27 three cassettes/CDs. In Canada \$9/\$10, \$18/\$20, \$27/\$30.)

- "Teacher of the Year," CS416/CD036 (1)
- "Love Must Be Tough" CS014/CD037 (2)
- "Tilly" CS335/CD038 (1)
- "A Man Called Norman" CS115/CD039 (1)
- "Love for a Lifetime" CS343/CD040 (1)
- "Parenting Isn't for Cowards" CS368/CD041 (3)
- "The Incredible Worth of a Woman"/  
"The Mystique of a Woman" CS301/CD042 (1)
- "The Greatest of These Is Love" CS179/CD043 (1)
- "Shaping the Will Without Breaking the Spirit" CS229/CD012 (1)

- "I Will Never Leave Thee" CS355/CD044 (1)
- "I, Isaac, Take You, Rebekah" CS619/CD045 (1)
- "Love Healed My Wounds" CS377/CD046 (1)
- "What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew About Women" CS198/CD047 (1)
- "With Love To Hurting Teens" CS449/CD048 (1)
- "When God Doesn't Make Sense" CS807/CD049 (2)
- "Getting Married: It's More Than Saying I Do" CS741/CD050 (1)
- "Living Joyously" CT224/CD051 (1)
- "No Substitute for Daddy's Love" CS553/CD052 (1)
- "Wounded Hearts" CT216/CD053 (1)
- "For Such a Time As This" BR292/CD009 (1)
- "How to Know You're In Love" CS539/CD054 (1)
- "Positive Parenting" CS232/CD055 (1)
- "Healing Childhood Traumas" CS298/CD056 (1)
- "Seven Years Old (Going On 25)" CT225/CD057 (1)



1998

**BOUNDLESS™**  
WEBZINE

- ☞ "Life on the Edge-Live!" weekly call-in broadcast
- ☞ Love Won Out conference launches
- ☞ Start of Enfoque a la Familia (Costa Rica), Focus on the Family Nigeria, Focus on the Family Netherlands, Focus on the Family New Zealand and Focus on the Family Malaysia
- ☞ Boundless webzine for collegians

# The Path Before Us

*As the times change, so must Focus on the Family's approaches and methods for reaching families. So we're branching out in five areas: international families, Internet, ethnic American families, young families and health issues—all highlighted on the next two pages.*

## Help, please?

Karen turns down the paper goods aisle; her toddler, Eric, sits in the cart. *He can't possibly want anything in this aisle*, she thinks. Then she sees the party section. So does Eric. Karen says no just as she has in the previous four aisles. Eric stands up, reaching for a package of balloons as they pass by. Karen firmly tells him to sit down. Then the tantrum begins. Exasperated, Karen forgoes her last few items and makes her way to the checkout.

Any mother of young children understands Karen's situation. And most parents would love it if someone could offer a magical solution to stop tantrums forever.

When surveyed, young parents express concern about the mounting pressures of raising children. Parents work more compared to 20 years ago, kids mature faster, youths seem less respectful and exposure to adult-oriented entertainment is "normal." These external pressures—added to the typical parenting challenges—would make any adult wonder if he could make it through parenting sane.

One of Focus on the Family's goals is to help young families enjoy the formative childhood years while giving the advice, resources and encouragement parents need. In order to maintain relevance with today's culture, Focus is returning to the early successes of the books, films and broadcasts that helped millions of families in the '80s and '90s. Taking timeless principles and coordinating them with the pressures of a new century, Focus is exploring new ways to connect with today's young families.

—Leon Louman, director of Young Family Outreach

## Been around the world

“Our ministry to families in East Africa is the equivalent of being in the intensive care unit of a hospital!” says Kirabo Lukwago, one of Focus' newest international directors. His small office is taking Focus on the Family to a region desperate for biblical answers to the problems facing East African families.

*continued* ➤

# 1999

- Completion of International Center building
- LifeWise magazine premieres along with Focus Over Fifty ministry
- Heritage Builders becomes part of Focus
- Start of Focus on the Family Singapore
- Radio Theatre weekly broadcast begins





“There was a time when we were not sure whether our message would be relevant to other cultures. But we quickly realized that the message of *family* crosses all cultural barriers.”

“There was a time in the early years of Focus when we were not sure whether our message would be relevant to other cultures,” says Jim Daly, vice president of Focus’ International department. “But we quickly realized that the message of *family* crosses all cultural barriers.”

The first international office opened in Canada in 1983. About the same time, the radio broadcast began airing on select stations around the world. A Spanish language version of the broadcast began in 1988. The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 spawned an openness in Eastern Europe for materials such as those Focus produced. In response to these requests, Focus launched an international division in 1991.

Today the radio broadcast airs on 3,200 stations in 104 countries, including translations into 16 languages. The print and video resources have been distributed in 28 languages. Associate offices now number 20, located across Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and the Pacific.

Another door that has swung open is in abstinence education. It first started with the Spanish version of *Sex, Lies and the Truth*, which 11 Latin American governments endorsed as part of their official sex education curriculum. The release of *No Apologies* some years later coincided with the global AIDS crisis, and 38 more countries wanted this resource.

“The kinds of ministry opportunities we’ve experienced can’t be planned in a boardroom,” Daly says. “It has little to do with our plans or abilities but everything to do with God’s intervention in opening doors we never thought possible.” It doesn’t take long to realize that the future holds even greater promise.

—Bruce Peppin, director of the International Resource Group

### Click for assistance

In the early '90s, the Internet was changing the way families shopped, got their news and spent their leisure time. It didn't take long to realize that the World Wide Web was growing at a phenomenal rate—and Focus on the Family's online presence needed to grow with it. In 1997, Focus launched its flagship Web site, [Family.org](http://Family.org). The Internet “department” consisted of two people!

Since then the department has expanded radically—the number of full-time employees has grown to 16, along with Web editors in numerous departments around the ministry. Since [Family.org](http://Family.org)'s humble beginnings, additions have included Dr. Dobson's daily broadcast online, a resource center, an online prayer center and 13 more Web sites, which receive millions of visitors every month.

The Internet is still a wild frontier: Online casinos and pornographers operate nearly without restraint. In the midst of that darkness, we consider it a privilege to offer a beacon of hope to families.

—Greg Hartman, senior online editor

### Crossing the divide

For African-Americans, religion and parenting are important components in transmitting ethnic and biblical values. More than 90 percent state that a close personal relationship with God is a top desire. Approximately 60 percent view pastors as the most important community leaders and the church as the centerpost of their lives.

Focus on the Family's Pastoral Ministries serves thousands of pastors through a wide variety of communications. Our burden is to better reach and partner with pastors who serve the ethnic community. Currently, less than 8 percent

of our constituents identify themselves as African-American, Hispanic-American, Asian-American, etc. Our first step toward connecting more intentionally and effectively with African-American communities is by researching their needs, resources and channels under the guidance of a leading African-American consultant. With hundreds of valuable resources, we can be a tremendous blessing to these communities, just as our ministry has reached people in other nations.

—H.B. London Jr., vice president of Ministry Outreach

### A visit with the doctor

True health has spiritual, mental, emotional and physical components—and today's families are understandably concerned about all of them. Effective ministry to pressured, 21st-century families includes addressing health-related issues from a solid biblical perspective.

“Medical studies indicate that somewhere between 60 percent and 80 percent of what primary care physicians see in their offices isn't really physical in origin, although patients may exhibit physical symptoms. Quite often these problems originate in relational, emotional or spiritual issues,” says Dr. Walter Larimore, vice president of Medical Outreach for Focus.

Dr. Larimore, an award-winning family physician and medical journalist, is playing a central role in a new wave of communications addressing such issues. Already a mainstream radio call-in show with Dr. Larimore has been produced, which focuses on medically oriented topics. Focus is also assembling a unique, relevant and professional portfolio of TV programs, including the current “Focus on the Family Commentary” with Dr. Dobson and a timely, fast-paced medical feature hosted by Dr. Larimore for use in news broadcasts.

People today are seeking comprehensive, unfiltered truth on a wide variety of topics. Turning our efforts to address families' health will help meet that need.

—Jan Shober, executive director of Briargate Media ■

2000

- ☞ Focus on the Family East Africa opens
- ☞ National Bike Ride for the Family begins (will end with Colorado ride in July 2002)

2001


- ☞ Enfoque a la Familia (Mexico) and Focus on the Family Egypt open
- ☞ *Brio & Beyond* magazine launches for older teen girls
- ☞ Launch of Young Family Outreach







SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>Laughter in the Walls</b> 1 In his quiet, witty style, the late Bob Benson draws spiritual wisdom from ordinary family events.	2
3	<b>A Call to Social Action</b> 4 Tom Minnery shares a biblical vision for believers to live their faith in order to shape the culture.	To Be Announced 5	To Be Announced 6	<b>Teaching Children to Read</b> 7 Phyllis Schlafly, president of Eagle Forum, talks about a unique system designed to teach children to read and write well.	To Be Announced 8	9
10	<b>Expectations: Do They Satisfy?</b> After achieving a goal, do you find you're not satisfied? Join speaker Judy Hampton for a look at how to break the cycle of unrealistic expectations.	11	<b>Dr. Maier Answers Your Calls</b> 13 Dr. Bill Maier, clinical psychologist, answers questions from listeners on family-related topics.	14	<b>Teacher of the Year</b> 15 In one of our most popular broadcasts, Guy Doud, former National Teacher of the Year, recalls his difficult school years and how a handful of caring teachers made an incredible difference in his life.	16
17	<b>How Moving Impacts Women</b> A move can be a traumatic transition for a woman. If you are or will be moving soon, listen in as Susan Miller, author of <i>After the Boxes are Unpacked</i> , offers encouragement and practical advice to women about the emotional upheaval of relocating.	18	19	20	To Be Announced 21	<b>Being Light in the Darkness</b> 22 Chuck Colson discusses the transforming power of the gospel and the purpose of the church.
24	To Be Announced 25	To Be Announced 26	To Be Announced 27	To Be Announced 28	<b>Finding Jesus in the Old Testament</b> 29 Stan Kellner, a Messianic Jew, reveals several Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in Jesus.	30
31	<i>Schedule subject to change.</i>	<b>Hear It On Tape!</b> You can request audiocassette copies. The suggested donation is \$7 each (\$8 in Canada). Please use the envelope at the center of the magazine. Tapes of programs will not be available until the air date.			<b>Flashback Fridays:</b> In honor of our 25th anniversary, on Fridays throughout the year we will take a trip down memory lane with memorable broadcast programs from the past quarter century.	

## On the Web *www.family.org*

 Need to know where to find Focus on the Family radio broadcasts? Go to [www.family.org/station](http://www.family.org/station) to find stations in your area that carry the broadcasts. You can also find air times, get up-to-date broadcast information, request resources and hear the daily broadcast online. In Canada, [www.fotf.ca](http://www.fotf.ca).

 The new *Clubhouse* Web site design has been a hit with 8- to 12-year-old Web surfers. And younger siblings (4 to 8) can get in on the action by visiting the Clubhouse Jr. sub-site. Soon readers of [www.clubhousemagazine.org](http://www.clubhousemagazine.org) will be able to register online for games, message boards, downloadable booklets and other exclusive club news.

 If you want to give your teens something productive to do on the Internet, send them to [www.family.org/lotelive](http://www.family.org/lotelive), the online version of the teen call-in radio show "Life on the Edge—Live!" Teens can voice their opinions, check out other cool sites, read helpful articles and get a program schedule.

 Want to make the Internet safe for your family without software? Consult [www.family.org/familyisps](http://www.family.org/familyisps) to find an Internet service that filters out pornography, bomb-making tips and other questionable content.



## front porch

*Over the years Focus on the Family has reached many people with God's love and hope—sometimes through a conference, sometimes through a listening ear.*

### **Just at the right time**

In April 1999 I was sitting on the couch weeping. Our 17-year-old daughter had told us she was pregnant. I noticed the latest issue of *Focus on the Family* magazine, paged through it and found an 800 number. I called and poured out my heart to this compassionate stranger. What I remember most was that I should list the positive things about Hilary and our family. I wrote down two things: She wasn't hurt, and she was alive. Then we talked about adoption. I thought, *Yes, this would be the best gift Hilary could ever give, to make a Christian couple parents with her child at Christmas.*

We called an organization suggested by your staff. My husband, daughter and I talked to a counselor there. My husband and I knew all along we wanted adoption. But we prayed that God's will would be done.

Our daughter decided to keep her baby, and Parker was born on Christmas Eve. God is good. His ways are higher than my ways.

I especially want to thank Trudy who took my call. She sent us a packet of information and a handwritten note saying she would be praying for our family. I still have that note. God answered her prayers.

—Debra Brinkman  
Arlington, Minn.

### **Creating a legacy**

Almost seven years ago my 20-year-old son and his best friend loaded up their mountain bikes for a vacation they had always dreamed of. Mark had loved bicycling since his first little green bike at age 4. Tragically, Mark

and his friend died on their trip.

A few summers later my husband and I purchased bicycles. Now I plan to ride in the Iowa state Bike Ride for the Family in April—first, because I want to be part of something Mark enjoyed, and Mark's life and death gives me the opportunity to share Christ with others. Second, I would be honored to raise money for Focus on the Family. I want to be a part of benefiting our nation's families.

—Shirley Nelson  
Blairsburg, Iowa

### **PK connection**

We were so blessed by the Clergy Family Conference [June 2001]. Our almost 18-year-old, Jana, connected with another PK (pastor's kid) about her age, Heather, and they spent hours talking and praying about their futures, dating, purity, being PKs, etc. In fact, God worked in an amazing way as a result of their friendship. We got acquainted with Heather's parents and learned that Dave and Ann had been facing tough struggles at their church in California. They had no other clergy couples nearby to talk and fellowship with. They felt very alone.

The next day we met Curt and Jeannie from a church in the same city in which Dave and Ann pastor. We asked if they knew each other. They didn't even realize anyone was in attendance from their area. My husband got very excited about introducing these couples. Dave and Ann live about two blocks from the church where Curt and Jeannie serve. They spent a long time planning to support each other when they went home.

—Jodi Detrick  
Chehalis, Wash.

If you would like to be a part of the ministry of Focus on the Family, join our Friend of the Family program. Visit [www.family.org/left](http://www.family.org/left) or call (800) A-FAMILY (232-6459) for more information.

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