

your monthly update from . . .

January 2015



AMBASSADOR

WE CONNECT. MINISTRY AND MEDIA.

RELEASE

FROM BONDAGE



MARKING SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY (January 18)

Life Issues Institute presents "Sanctity of Life: Release from Bondage" with Brad Mattes—for details see page 3



did you know?

Mercy Ships has announced a new partnership with Targeted Aquaponic Growth (TAG) to add another vital element to its "Train the Trainer" Food for Life projects in Africa. Currently *The Africa Mercy* remains in Madagascar where, in addition to this endeavor—and the work aboard the ship—volunteers are also helping teach job skills to orphans.



Phil Stacey and Chris August have collaborated on the just-released song, "**Reach Beyond**" which features lyrics by Reach Beyond missionary and musician Ty Stakes. All proceeds will go to reaching unreached people groups with the love of Jesus Christ. Listen at reachbeyond.org/media/single.



Anchor Today with **David Wollen** is the new 60-second devotional from Haven Ministries that features Scripture in each day's encouragement—and is customizable with your station ID/logo (Amb-OS delivery only). Ask Selah@ambaa.com for more information.



Another new book from **Max Lucado** releases next month—and it's a change-up for the "UpWords" speaker. *Miracle at the Higher Grounds Café* is a novel with the intriguing thought—what if you could ask God anything? What would you ask? And how would He answer?



Following the popular *Irreplaceable* film, Focus on the Family will present a nationwide release, **The Drop Box**—the deeply moving story of a Korean pastor's commitment to unwanted children. Various resources including web banners, talking points and limited ticket giveaways are available for promoting the March 3-5 showings. Contact Katie@ambaa.com for full information—or check thedropboxfilm.com for details.



JIM *tech* UPDATE

We're Growing!

It's always a delight to welcome new ministries to Amb-OS and this month is certainly no exception. If you have any questions about the programs below, please send an email to programs@amb-os.com or simply visit our Permission Portal: <http://www.amb-os.com/permissions>.

Leading the Way (Daily/Weekly/1-min)

Leading The Way with Dr. Michael Youssef is a worldwide ministry that leads the way for people living in spiritual darkness to discover the light of Christ through the creative use of media and on-the-ground ministry teams. Dr. Youssef was born in Egypt, before coming to the United States and founding The Church of The Apostles in Atlanta, Georgia. He's authored more than 30 books, including the highly anticipated *Jesus, Jihad, and Peace*—releasing in early 2015.



The daily, weekly and one-minute versions of *Leading The Way* are available on Amb-OS. For more information on "*Leading the Way*," please contact Dave King at dking@ltw.org or 404-841-0100.

Nightsounds with Bill Pearce (Daily 29-min)

One of my favorite radio voices is now on Amb-OS! *Nightsounds* airs five nights a week. Bill's humble nature, mellifluous voice and the program's soft music continues to reach listeners searching for encouragement from God's word. You'll hear topics such as singleness, depression, grief and loneliness, covered on the air—and those are timeless concerns! For more information on "*Nightsounds*," please contact Jean Brown at nightsounds@aol.com or 779-774-3821.



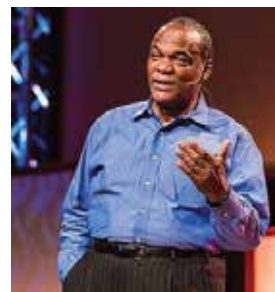
Afterglow (Weekly 30-min)

Afterglow is an award winning music/talk show hosted by Don Johnson, spotlighting music of yesterday and today. You'll hear a relaxing and inspiring program that provides notable facts on the music and artists featured. It's currently distributed on four continents! Don Johnson also produces seasonal 50-minute specials (Christmas, Easter, July 4th, etc.). The program is free to your station. For more information or to listen to previous programs, please visit oneplace.com/ministries/afterglow-music. For more information on "*Afterglow*," please contact Don Johnson at donaftergl@aol.com or 901-4709-7221.



Today's Father Radio (Daily 3-min)

Today's Father Radio is the daily 3-minute radio program of the National Center for Fathering (NCF) and is currently airing on more than 350 radio stations. *Today's Father* features NCF's CEO, Carey Casey, and encourages dads to "keep up the good work." NCF (fathers.com) is a non-profit based in Kansas City, KS and has a vision to have an actively engaged father or father figure in the life of every child. For more information on "*Today's Father*," please contact Brock Griffin at bgriffin@fathers.com or 913-378-1044.



NEW FROM LIFE ISSUES INSTITUTE

SANCTITY OF LIFE SPECIAL

Shedding light on the realities impacting urban men and women (and their unborn children), Life Issues Institute marks Sanctity of Life Sunday (January 18) with ***Sanctity of Life: Release from Bondage***—a new half-hour special that focuses on a very real concern—that women of color are being targeted for abortion.

Brad Mattes of “Life Issues” anchors the half-hour special, hosting Dr. Alveda King (niece of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.), Arnold Culbreath (Life Issues’ Urban Outreach Director), and other leaders in the African-American pro-life movement including Dean Nelson, a pastor who has helped plant pregnancy centers in urban communities—much like the safe houses of the “Underground Railroad” of a past era.

**RELEASE
FROM BONDAGE**



“The research we’ve conducted is irrefutable. The overwhelming number of abortions in the African American community are disproportionate and outrageous!”

—**BRAD MATTES**, Executive Director of Life Issues Institute



NEW PRO-LIFE FEATURE

ARNOLD CULBREATH



As a new outreach for Life Issues Institute, and reflective of their deep commitment to the urban community, the ministry will launch a new 1:00 daily feature entitled ***Urban Life Issues*** beginning February 2. Voiced by Arnold Culbreath (Urban Outreach Director at Life Issues), facilitating educational efforts through Protecting Black Life initiatives, the feature will especially focus on pro-life concerns in the African American community.



CONTACT

Contact Lee@ambaa.com for details and confirmation of placement for either of the above.



the recap

1) Congratulations to **Barry Meguiar** and his team at “Revival Outside the Walls” for winning an award for their Trinet-created website. 2-3) Terrific to welcome **Eric Metaxas** (“BreakPoint”) to AAA—pictured with AAA team including Jennifer’s husband, Matt Perez, and Bill’s wife,

Debi Reitler. After a stop at Ambassador, it was on to St. Andrews Presbyterian Church where **Pastor Rich Kannwischer** turned the tables, interviewing Eric for two hours on his latest book, *Miracles*. 4) Nice to welcome **Andy Santamaria** (KDIA-San Francisco) and **Mike Trout** (Clear Media) to Ambassador again. 5) Not at Ambassador but at the Vatican—**Jim and Rosemary Garlow** enjoyed fellowship with **Rick Warren** after their meeting with the Pope for the Vatican Conference on the Complementarity of Man and Woman. 6) This is the best “send us a pix of you reading Update” photo we’ve ever gotten. Post-liver transplant, **Jeff Jacobsen** (WFCJ-Dayton OH) wins the prize! And is coming along on the road to recovery! (You can stay updated on Jeff’s progress at Caring Bridge.) 7) Good to re-connect with former broadcaster and JAF Board member **Robin Jones**—and **Ken Tada** too!—at the President’s Retreat for Joni and Friends. 8) Working through details of the launch of *Anchor Today*, **David Wollen** with Haven teammates **Troy Lamberth** and **Adrian Crum**. 9) Though she mostly records at her ministry’s studio, it’s always a special treat when **Joni** (and **Ken**!) travel down to Irvine to tape programs. It’s an all-staff delight! 10) So glad to welcome **Lauren Libby**, President of TWR, to a first-time visit to AAA while he was in SoCal. 11-12) At Focus on the Family, Katie met with the Boundless team (**Lisa Anderson**, **Martha Krienke**, & **Anthony Ashley**) to celebrate the launch of their new weekly show. Then, nice to spend time with radio stations at a special Christian Music Broadcasters including CMB’s **Brittany Whatley** and **Al & Michelle Ross** (KAVX/KSWP). 13) Here’s the future ☺—Jim Sanders was recently part of a Strategic Marketing review panel at Biola University’s Crowell School of Business.

Guaranteed to deliver a
"HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY"!



With Valentine's Day around the corner, it's a perfect time to hear popular author/speaker, Gary Thomas on the topic of ...

A LIFELONG LOVE

Offered in two half-hour (24:55) special interviews—one for married couples and another for singles. A series of 1:00 features for airing throughout the month of February further complement the project.

Gary brings us closer to Christ and closer to others in a highly unique message that will rock your world! There's no "same/old, same/old" in the content of any one of these features—guaranteed!

Make it a Valentine's Day Month emphasis—with purpose—for everyone who listens! Contact Selah@ambaa.com for confirmed placement and give-away resources.

ABOUT GARY THOMAS

Gary's not only a best-selling author (*Sacred Marriage* is but one of his volumes) but also a much sought-after speaker and has become what many call a "thought-leader" in the areas of marriage, parenting, and spiritual formation.



On the personal side, Gary is an avid runner—having competed in 11 marathons, including Boston three times.

He and Lisa have three children. They live in Houston, Texas where Gary is a Writer in Residence at Second Baptist Church.

A LIFELONG LOVE: FOR MARRIED COUPLES



Gary's perspective on a lifelong love is so much **more than the usual marriage conversation**, underscoring from the outset that marriage really is a difficult relationship. It's not "five steps and you're done!" It's about the adrenaline of stepping out of your comfort zone. It's about making marriage matter for eternity, not just for the moment. It's about more than just staying together.

A LIFELONG LOVE: FOR SINGLES



The principles for spiritual formation in marriage are astoundingly transferable for the single listener. Gary makes a clear distinction between "infatuation" and a lifelong love and gives wise **advice to the single person** for how to avoid the pitfalls of infatuation by waiting, giving yourself time to get to know one another, and by listening to wise counsel.

Meet Lisa Anderson

As director of young adults at **Focus on the Family**, Lisa Anderson's focus—and expertise—is helping 20- and 30-somethings to “grow up, own their faith and date with purpose to prepare for marriage and family.” Her voice has anchored a weekly podcast for several years and, as an outgrowth of the popularity of that work, Focus has launched the new weekly half-hour broadcast “**The Boundless Show**”—ideal for stations who want to provide strong content for this target demographic.

So ... what is it about 20- and 30-somethings that has made for such a thorough life commitment to speaking to them? Young adults are in a season involving some of the most important decisions of their lives – decisions involving education, career and marriage, among other things. To be biblical and intentional in your 20s and 30s is to set yourself up for success for the rest of your life. Let's just say I wish I'd taken my own advice when I was in my 20s!

You just hosted the first “Boundless” Conference with over 400 young adults in attendance. Learn anything new in this setting? I was encouraged to see so many young adults committed to honoring God with their lives right now in the season they're in. We're seeing a generation of Christians rise up who are serious about their faith, their relationships and their impact on the world around them. I was also moved to see that they often feel forgotten in the church, and that solid community with other like-minded single adults is critical to them. Attending “Pursuit 2014” was for many a lifeline to feeling loved and accepted for who they are as well as who they're becoming.

What do you sense is perhaps the greatest concern of young adults when it comes to the idea of a strong marriage and family? There are probably two. First is, “Can I really do this?” As the product of the largest divorce generation in history (the Boomers), Millennials are fearful of failing at marriage. They grew up with poor examples or no examples at all. They're gun-shy, and for good reason. A second concern is around marrying the “right person.” Trying to reconcile our Hollywood ideals with a healthy, biblical construct for relationships has left many confused. As a result, many young adults are dating with little direction, dating indefinitely, or non-dating (yes, it's possible to non-date). We need to help them break these crazy cycles.

Let's ask the proverbial one ... if you could give one piece of advice to a single Christian man or woman—what would that be? If you want to be married someday, the time to start preparing is now. Begin by admitting you want to get married. Admit it out loud. Honor marriage as a single person. Grow up,

get your stuff together, and get serious about your relationship with Christ. Everything you're doing now is building into the person you'll become. Don't wait for life and marriage to “happen” to you. Travel the journey toward maturity and marriage with purpose, and with Christ at the center.

Tell us about your own journey with Christ.

Did you grow up in a Christian home? I grew up in a wonderful Christian home with parents who loved each other and stayed married until my dad died of cancer in 2001. They were missionaries in the Philippines before I was born; my dad also pastored several churches across the U.S. As the youngest of six kids, I had a front-row seat to all the craziness and love that comes with a big family. I also quickly became an overachiever, and was obsessed with success by the time I was in high school. A missed opportunity to go to Yale University moved me in the direction of a private Christian college. Due to the prayers of my parents and the example of my roommate, I renewed my commitment to Christ and His lordship of my life. In recent years I've developed a much fuller picture of the love and grace of God, and have seen myself shed the performance-centered faith I clung to for so long and instead adopt a “God loves me, and I'm his daughter!” understanding of my place in God's heart.

How did you get to Focus on the Family? Not long after college, I moved to Colorado with no job and no plan, and soon (miraculously) landed a job as a writer at Focus. After two years, I left to pursue opportunities in the corporate world and on Capitol Hill. I returned to Focus 14 years ago as a member of the public relations team. About six years ago, those running Boundless.org at the time said they were starting a weekly podcast for singles, and because I was single and liked to talk a lot, would I be interested in hosting it? I agreed, and haven't shut up since. I started managing Boundless full-time in 2010.

When you aren't creating content for “Boundless” ... what do you like to do for fun? Hey, I'm a super fun person. ☺ I hang out a lot with friends, whether hiking, BBQ-ing, playing poker, doing Bible studies (to counteract the poker playing; currently doing Beth Moore's *Beloved Disciple* with a rockin' group of ladies), or pretty much whatever. I'm addicted to travel, and am in love with our national parks, Norway, England's lake district and anywhere in the Caribbean. I'm a self-proclaimed expert on Walt Disney World (especially maximizing meal credits on their dining plan), and I randomly sing sentences.

I also run, but it is NOT fun; I get annoyed by people who run six miles a day because it's “such a great way to clear your head.” That's sick. If I want to clear my head, I play Candy Crush Saga.



Boundless
Find your place. Focus your future.

What's on your “nightstand reading stack” right now? (Or is it on your Audible downloads?) No joke, I have over 30 books stacked by my fireplace right now, waiting to be read. Among them: *David and Goliath* by Malcolm Gladwell, *Wherever the River Runs* by Kelly Minter, *Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me?* by Mindy Kaling, *Passion and Purity* by Elisabeth Elliot (scandalous that I've never read this), *One Way Love* by Tullian Tchividjian, and a few Anne Perry novels.

Before long we may see a book with your name on it, right? What are you going to say in it? Yes, the book is *The Dating Manifesto: A Drama-Free Plan for Pursuing Marriage With Purpose*, due out next August with David C. Cook. It's basically everything I learned too late about dating, relationships and preparing for marriage. It's a defiance of today's dysfunctional dating culture followed by no-nonsense strategies for dating with purity and purpose, and maximizing your singleness while you wait. There will also be a chapter directed toward the church. No idea what to “do” with all those singles standing in your narthex? No worries; I'll give you some ideas.

So ... which do you use the most—Facebook, Twitter or Instagram? Facebook. I love that everything's in one spot and neatly contained. I've been a slow adopter of Twitter and Instagram, but I'm getting there, largely out of necessity.

If you could invite three people, living or dead (and not including Jesus) to dinner—who would be at the table? John (the apostle), Jane Austen and Martin Luther. I'd also invite Beyonce and Bill and Gloria Gaither to provide dinner music.

Favorite verse or life scripture? Romans 1:16 and Psalm 77:19. When I was in Hong Kong last year, one of my hosts heard me say how much I love Psalm 77:19, and she made me a leather cuff bracelet with that verse inscribed inside. It's a gift I'll never forget.

>> check out boundless.org/radio

question of the month

What are your personal aims for 2015?

*"Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come.
We have only today. Let us begin." — Mother Teresa*



Better connect
with my 21
grandchildren.
(Psalm 112:1-2)
Dennis Rainey
FamilyLife



Be intentional about
spending quality time
with my wife & children!
Eric Nichols
On Air/Producer
WTGN FM (Lima, OH)

Every year I study and research Scripture to find "hidden nuggets." I believe I have found many. Some of which I have learned are shared with the likes of R.A. Torrey and Chuck Swindoll. My primary aim this upcoming year is to **finish and publish a book**. The working title is "What If The Church Is Wrong."

John Adams, Moffit Media



To deepen my commitment to Christ. I know it's the "church answer," but it's really what I want. The other is to **laugh more**. I let a lot of things drag me down last year. I want to laugh and enjoy what God has so graciously given me. A relationship with Him, a great job, a fantastic family, and friends beyond compare.

Scott Saunders, General Manager
WVMC FM (Mansfield, OH)



To stand unwavering in the TRUTH and to **share God's LOVE and TRUTH** with as many people as possible; building up fellow believers and reaching unbelievers, while growing personally in my own relationship with Jesus Christ. (That pretty much reflects the heart of our radio ministry, also!)

Lisa Anderson, Administrative Assistant
Prayz Network (Southwest WI)



Eating **MORE chicken wings**; plus getting back to a simple and real relationship with Jesus in the midst of my busy life.

Jeremy Tracey, Operations Director/Morning Host
WCIC FM (Peoria, IL)

Realizing the brevity of time at this stage in my life, I want to use all my available strength to **be a positive witness for Christ**. How I look forward to hearing His blessed words, *"Well done, thou good and faithful servant."*

Al Sanders, Ambassador Founder



To read the entire Bible with my family. To lead more people to Salvation through Jesus Christ. And to **teach my 15 year old daughter how to drive a stick shift**.

Mark Conner, Ambassador Producer
(You'll see Mark & more of the AAA team at NRB '15!)



>>> Find all of the "Personal Aims" from the Ambassador team on our website!

"What the New Year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the New Year." — Vern McLellan

this month

JAN 14-16 John MacArthur is one of the featured speakers for the "Truth & Life Conference" (Santa Clarita CA)

JAN 15 Hosted by KPRZ (San Diego CA), **Jim Daly** speaks to this year's annual Pastors' Luncheon

JAN 25 Wayne Pederson (Reach Beyond) speaks at Desert Springs Church (Palm Desert)—and stops in at Ambassador on the way!

next month

FEB 17 Joni and Friends hosts "Global Access Conference: Where Disabilities and Possibilities Meet" (Westlake Village CA).

FEB 19-22 Eric Metaxas speaks at "Liberate" (Fort Lauderdale FL)

preview



NRB¹⁵
INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN
MEDIA CONVENTION

Looking forward to seeing you in our NEW LOCATION at NRB 2015. No need to walk too far ... we'll be in the "middle of campus" at **Delta Island E**. Stop by anytime ... but don't miss our annual "**Meet & Greet**" on Tuesday 7:30-9:00AM including:

Lisa Anderson
Vonette Bright
Arnold Culbreath
Jim Daly
Ron Deal
Bob Lepine
Brad Mattes

Barry Meguiar
Charles Morris
Wayne Pederson
Dennis Rainey
Joni Eareckson Tada
David Wollen

And, yes, we'll have good coffee and something else to kickstart the day! We'll even do a bit of hymn-singing with Joni before the morning ends.

Wednesday evening, we hope you'll be attending the annual **Awards event** where Dennis Rainey will be speaking. Bob Lepine hosts throughout the Convention.

We'll also premier **The Drop Box** (see page 3) during the Convention. If interested in attending this "invitation only" event, let us know—happy to invite you!

Much more in next month's UPDATE so keep watching this space ☺—and, of course, our email communiques where you can always find out the latest at Ambassador!



AMBASSADOR

PRESORTED
First-Class Mail
U.S. Postage
PAID
Anaheim, CA
Permit No. 80

1641 Langley Ave.
Irvine, CA 92614-5619
PH: 949.681.7600
FX: 949.681.7660
AmbassadorAdvertising.com
All things social: AmbassadorTeam



KEEP ALERT, STAND FIRM

..... IN YOUR FAITH

BE COURAGEOUS, BE STRONG



LET ALL THAT YOU DO

BE DONE IN LOVE

..... I CORINTHIANS 16:13-14 NRSV

Selected by the Ambassador team as our 2015 verse.