



Ambassador

We Connect. Ministry and Media.

MARCH
2017
UPDATE



“SHOWING MERCY
to one another
IS WHY ALL OF US
are here.”

INSIDE

Don Stephens' Top 10 book recommendations (Page 3)
Your photos from around the country (Pages 4-5)
What millennials think of marriage (Page 7)

DON STEPHENS

DID YOU KNOW?



The Africa Mercy (as featured on the cover) is home to more than **400 men and women who serve as volunteers** (actually, who pay for their room and board)—and children as well who are schooled in the on-board classroom. The ship includes everything from the medical services in operating rooms and patient wards to dining rooms, offices, and even a small gym. Interested in a short-term service? Check the ministry website for details . . . you don't have to be a physician to serve!

Much to the delight of several gals on our team who grew up reading the publication, **Focus on the Family** is bringing back **Brio** magazine. Designed for teenaged girls, the magazine provides a great counter messaging to what is heard in popular culture. The first edition will be available in May 2017.



Throughout the month of March, **The Book** (1:00 Daily) will feature stories of women and the Bible in celebration of **"Women's History Month."** Each spot will remind listeners of the impact the Bible has had in the lives of influencers over the centuries.



Cru has partnered up with YouVersion to create a brand-new **"Making Your Life Count"** 5-day audio plan, where listeners will find ideas on how to be responsive to what God wants us to do about the role of faith, God's grace and deepening our relationship with Him.

Share Life Today (John Sorensen) has a terrific outline on "Growing Spiritually" at the **Evangelism Explosion** website—a practical guide for deepening in the areas believers often cite as a goal. Daily prayer, Bible study, witness, worship and fellowship—it's all amplified with helpful tools to make 2017 a growing year!

TECH UPDATE WITH JIM SANDERS

Focus on the Family Custom for Your Station!

Your Amb-OS receiver has been updated with the latest firmware so you will soon be able to air a custom version of **Focus on the Family** for your station every day. But you'll also need the latest User Interface software (version 030). You can download it through your UI ("SUPPORT" and then "UPDATE UI") or via the support page of our website: <http://www.amb-os.com/support.html>.

New to the Amb-OS Family:

We've long carried **Science, Scripture, & Salvation** but the program is now available daily featuring scientists and speakers from the Institute for Creation Research. Your listeners will be encouraged by showing the scientific evidence which supports the Bible. For more information, contact James Turner at jturner@icr.org.



There are two new programs from The Widow Connection: **New Beginnings** and **Starting over Financially**.

Everyone faces a new beginning at some point in their life. Change happens, ready or not. Career moves, marriages, job losses, financial challenges and becoming single again are just a few. **New Beginnings** is from longtime broadcast friend, Miriam Neff, founder and president of Widow Connection. With spiritual insights, a touch of humor and candor, she brings wisdom and encouragement to each one-minute feature.



Starting Over Financially often accompanies starting over. When life gets bumpy and "money" becomes a dreaded word, that's when your listeners most need help with their finances. With clear, practical, conversational content, Miriam Neff and daughter Valerie Neff Hogan are here to help. They talk about what to do when there's more month left than money. Valerie Neff Hogan is a Certified Financial Planner and attorney who works with Widow Connection.

For more information on either feature, contact Miriam Neff at miriamjneff@me.com.

BACK TO SCHOOL

With the goal of helping individuals and families develop a stronger Christian worldview, **The Colson Center** is launching its first online "short course" (March 7) in what will be an ongoing program. First up is a four-week course on **"Cold Case Christianity"** featuring popular speaker/author J. Warner Wallace. For details and to check what will be offered in the future, check out the website: colsoncenter.org.

TOP TEN READING LIST

Don Stephens

TOP
PICKS

Every month we enjoy providing some good reading recommendations from the Ambassador family. This month we've asked the President of Mercy Ships to share his recommended "Top 10" for your reading stack!

With the growth we have experienced at Mercy Ships over the past decade, I find myself referencing several of my favorite books.

1. **Good to Great** (*Jim Collins*) — This book really helped Mercy Ships focus on our core competencies. The "Hedgehog Concept" continues to be a guiding principle in our decision making!
2. **Crucial Conversations** (*Kerry Patterson and Joseph Grenny*) — Our staff, both in Texas and onboard our hospital ship, attended book clubs based on this book. It's encouraging to see the results of people having more effective crucial conversations.
3. **The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People** (*Stephen Covey*) — We've had several workshops based on this book to help us with our personal and interpersonal development – I recommend it highly!
4. **On Hallowed Ground** (*Robert M. Poole*) — A moving documentation of how our nation's most revered cemetery originated and flourished. In an affront to local slaves, they were buried off to the side, not far from their ghetto that was eventually leveled

for expansion, and now are resting in America's most cherished soil.

5. **A Tale of Three Kings** (*Gene Edwards*) — The story of King Saul, King David and King Absalom speaks deeply to anyone who is in a leadership position. A must-read for any young leader, in my opinion!
6. **Eternity in Their Hearts** (*Don Richardson*) — Wonderful evidence of the knowledge of God in even the most remote cultures. A favorite for those working in cross-cultural situations.
7. **The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks** (*Rebecca Skloot*) — Fascinating book about the origin of the HeLa cells that have been used throughout the world and in countless medical breakthroughs.
8. **Amazing Grace** (*Eric Metaxas*) — Eric is a brilliant writer and doesn't disappoint with the story of William Wilberforce in *Amazing Grace*.
9. **Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy** (*Eric Metaxas*) — Eric's passion for research and detail sheds new insights to the plight of those persecuted in Europe during WW2.
10. And, last but not least, my favorites must include everything and anything written by *Louis L'Amour*!



ABOUT DON

When research demonstrated that 95 of the 100 largest cities in the world were port cities, Don Stephens began the thoughtful consideration of how a hospital ship might deliver healthcare to the world's neediest. The birth of a profoundly disabled son inspired Don and his wife, Deyon, to move forward with the vision of a floating hospital.

ABOUT THE AFRICA MERCY

A converted rail ferry, *The Africa Mercy* is the world's largest non-governmental hospital ship. Volunteers from more than 45 nations serve onboard (see page 2). A new ship is currently being constructed, being built with its purpose in view—which will double the capacity in delivering free healthcare to the poorest of the poor.

ABOUT THE MERCY MINUTE

The giving of mercy is not only a core value for Mercy Ships—it's a biblical mandate for all believers (Micah 6:8; Isaiah 1:17). Each day Don reminds listeners how they can engage in fulfilling that calling with the 1:00 feature.

BEFORE



AFTER



COVER STORY

Mercy Ships volunteer nurse Rachel Lapin holds a little patient named Fifalina on the dock in front of the *Africa Mercy*, the world's largest private hospital ship. Photos at the left show Fifalina's remarkable transformation.

©Mercy Ships/credit: Ruben Plomp

SNAP SHOTS



1



2



3



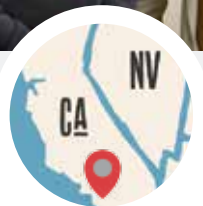
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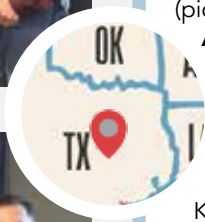


SoCal sightings...

1. It was front row center seating for Selah (L) when KWVE hosted Priscilla Shirer and Anthony Evans for their Fervent event locally. Thank you, KWVE GM **Lance Emma** and wife, **Angie**, for your hospitality.
2. Tested on her Radio Call Letter skills, Michelle also had opportunity to share a bit of her personal testimony with the entire Grace to You staff recently. Gracious host was **Jay Flowers**, Managing Director of GTY.
3. Welcome back to AAA, **John Bracken**—whose mom happens to be a Scottie owner as well. See back cover for more about John's heart for ministry. (BTW—this is our own version of Where's Waldo ... can you spot the black Scottie?)
4. Salem co-founder **Stu Epperson** had time to chat with **Jim Daly** when the Focus on the Family president was in Camarillo to speak to the Salem Managers gathering, held annually.
5. Look hard and you'll know where this was taken—that's the collection of golf bag tags displayed in Jim Sanders' office. Also in the shot—the team from Haven: **Charles Morris**, **Andrew Canavan** and **Tamara Turner**.
6. It was a delight to host **Callie Briese** from Thrivent, a nationwide organization (based in Minneapolis) that has connected faith and finances for good for more than 100 years.

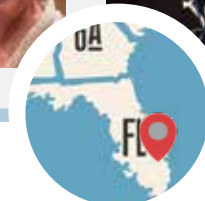


Planning to be in our area? As a reminder, visitors get candy!



Dallas

It was a double-header for **John Fuller** (Focus on the Family) when he made a trek to Dallas recently. First was a stop at KCBI (pictured with **Matt Austin**-GM, **Sharon Geiger**-Assistant GM and **Bernie McPartland**-Production Director) and then KWRD (with **Chris Gould**-VP National Programming for Salem, **Easy Ezell**-Director of Ministry Relations and **Jeff Mitchell**-GM). Our Michelle Blood was privileged to join both visits.



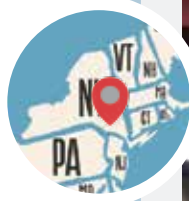
Orlando

Here's the report from AAA's Evelyn Gibson: In January 150 plus members of the 2016/2017 Colson Center Fellows Program—of which I am one—were together in Orlando for a weekend residency headed by **Dr. Bill Brown**, Director of the Program (left photo). And such a privilege to spend time with **Emily Colson**, the daughter of Chuck Colson (right photo). Ask me about this unique worldview discipleship program. But be ready! I can go on and on in expressing my enthusiasm!



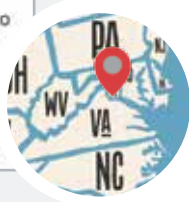
New York City

New York City?!? Yes! **Charles Morris** (center top) was recording "Haven Today" with guest **Sally Lloyd-Jones** when **Eric Metaxas** happened by—joining serendipitously in the Facebook Live fun ☺. Thanks to the WMCA team including Matthew Sambolin (Operations Manager) who helped make the session possible.



Washington D.C.

If you don't yet follow these guys on social media, we encourage you to do so—both **Jim Garlow** and **Barry Meguiar** (fast friends in "real life") are frequent "posters" on Instagram. Love staying in touch!



Where are you?
Send your
photos to
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NEWS & NOTES

[inbox]

We were SO thrilled to read this news, we decided to share it ... two tremendous ministries at work, and all made possible because of Christian radio stations!

Last summer one day, the Ambassador Team tweeted about recording a "Life Issues" radio program about Caring to Love's Care Pregnancy Center that was devastated by the floods near Baton Rouge. I actually saw that tweet as I was preparing to go to the Baton Rouge area to help with flood relief. So, I approached our Option Ultrasound team to see if there was anything Focus could do to help the clinic.

Through their network, the OUP team was able to find someone to donate a mobile clinic to the Care Pregnancy Center. Focus has also replaced their materials and will be providing at least one ultrasound machine for the clinic. Yesterday, we heard the update that in the past two weeks, 10 babies have been saved through the mobile clinic.

We were so excited about the news that we wanted to be sure to share it with your team as well. I'm not sure who manages your Twitter account, but they were certainly instrumental in helping to save these babies' lives...and hopefully many more to come!

Rejoicing in how He works all things together!



Christine Beebe
Scheduling Producer
Focus on the Family

(Pictured with Shannon Easley,
a local church parter)

[**NOTE:** Just two months later, that number was already at 47 lives saved.]

Thanks be to God for "Life Issues" and "Focus on the Family" ... for those stations airing these programs ... and for all the many ways technology affords us opportunity to make an impact!

[all new]

Both **Grace to You** (gty.org) and **The Colson Center** (colsoncenter.org) have introduced new websites to give visitors an even more effective experience. Take a look at both—mobile access is at the ready too!



American Family Radio has a new animated series for kids—*Ryan Defrates* is a first-rate production that creatively delivers a biblical message in a contemporary format for children.



Carter Conlon can now be heard every weekend in "A Call to the Nation." Launched 2/5, the half-hour broadcast is a companion to the daily 1:00 "It's Time to Pray."

[on the move]

At **Joni and Friends**, Laura Pulido has been designated the new EVP and Chief Financial Officer while Steve Bundy moves into Senior VP of Integration and also ministry Chaplain. At the same time, Cate Given steps into the role of VP for Human Resources. This coincides with retirement of longtime JAF staffer Billy Burnett.



Laura
Pulido



Steve
Bundy



Cate
Given



Billy
Burnett

At **Museum of the Bible**, veteran educator and author Dr. Tony Zeiss has been appointed as Executive Director of the Museum which is due to open in Washington DC later this year. Zeiss was formerly president of Central Piedmont Community College and has frequently been a speaker on the topic of recruiting, developing and retaining peak performers in the workplace. His appointment concludes a year-long search for the assignment.



Dr. Tony
Zeiss

[by the numbers]

These stats highlight the great need for the work of **Boundless**, the young adult ministry of Focus on the Family. See & share more at ambaa.com/infographics



WHAT THEY BELIEVE



WHAT THEY WANT



MEET BOUNDLESS

Boundless is an award-winning ministry of **Focus on the Family** with the goal of helping young adults grow up, own their faith, date with purpose and prepare for marriage and family.

For more about the vision for this generation, plus resources and media for today's Christian young adult, check out boundless.org.



290,000

the number of unique monthly visitors to boundless.org

Boundless
Find your place. Focus your future.



Sources: boundless.org, gallup.com, pewforum.org, pewsocialtrends.org

[what's up this month]

In addition to seeing friends at NRB—possibly just as you receive this edition of *Update* ... here's what else is going on this month!

We look forward to beginning the month together in Orlando ... don't miss the **"Meet and Greet"** followed by the **Hymn Sing with Joni Eareckson Tada** on Wednesday, March 1, in the Anaheim Hospitality Suite!

proclaim17
NRB INTERNATIONAL
CHRISTIAN MEDIA CONVENTION

MAR 3 Connecting ministries who minister to women ... **Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth** will be speaking on Titus 2 at the **Women's Event** at Harvest Bible Chapel (where James MacDonald pastors) in Elgin IL.



MAR 9 **Eric Metaxas** stays on in Florida post-NRB to speak at the **Signature Annual Gala Event** for Community Pregnancy Clinics (Naples FL).



MAR 9-11 Marking the Reformation milestone, **John MacArthur** will be speaking at Ligonier's annual national conference **"The Next 500 Years: Reformation 500 and Beyond"** (Orlando FL).



MAR 17 Speaking in Winston-Salem, NC, **Anne Graham Lotz** will join John Ortberg, Gary Chapman and others to address a statewide gathering for **Baptist Men & Women on Mission**.



MAR 21-31 Along with worship leader, Matt Maher, **Max Lucado** ("UpWords") will host a tour to **Israel**, visiting notable biblical sites.



MAR 23-25 Aviva Nuestros Corazones, the Spanish ministry of **Revive Our Hearts**, will hold its second international **True Woman Conference** ("Mujer Verdadera '17") in Queretaro, Mexico.



NEXT MONTH: It's a LIVE event from **FamilyLife Blended** on April 29 when **"Blended & Blessed: Keys to StepFamily Success"** will be made available nationwide. Go to the BlendedandBlessed website for details!



Ambassador

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FROM SEA TO SEA

LEFT: Even on a cruise, Michelle Blood (with husband, Steve) isn't far from Ambassador news. We're thrilled the couple was able to join **Emmitt & Jane Fowler**, and others from FamilyLife—and a host of couples ready to learn how to “Love Like You Mean It”—for a week away. Sail on, friends!

TOP: Meanwhile—and far away from the warm Caribbean—the radio missions team from Calvary Chapel Merritt Island (FL) headed to Naknek, Alaska, to help put a new station on the air. Pictured (L-R) is: **Mark Shropshire**, **Pastor Tim Capo** of Kings Chapel Bristol Bay, **John Bracken** (WRDJ), **Bob Lee** (KAKN SM) and **Jeremy Crowell**, Aviation ministry leader.



Where are you? Send your
photos to peg@ambaa.com