



# Ambassador

We Connect. Ministry and Media.

JULY  
2020  
UPDATE



*Stand beside her  
and guide her  
through the night  
with a light  
from above*

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## DID YOU KNOW?



After nearly 20 years leading Cru, **Steve Douglass** announced in April his plan to transition out of the role as President

of Cru. As the Board initiates a succession process, Steve's plan is to remain a member of the Cru staff, *continuing* to host the daily feature *Making Your Life Count*. Pray for God's leading in this important change for a ministry with tremendous legacy—and future yet to fulfill!

### Joni Eareckson

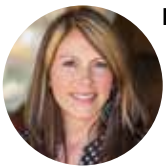
**Tada** was appointed to **The Heritage Foundation's National**



**Coronavirus Recovery**

**Commission**. The Commission's objective is to help identify what it will take to get American life back to normal in all its facets of impact.

Forced to depart earlier than planned due to Covid-19, the **Africa Mercy** concluded a seven-month tour in **Senegal**, accomplishing more than 1400 life-changing surgeries and providing help to nearly 6000 dental patients.



### Lisa Anderson's

blog for Boundless ("The Latest Buzz Around Christians and Alcohol")

took 1st Place (Blog

Post Category) in recent annual awards from the **EPA** (Evangelical Press Association). Several other entries from Boundless received recognition in the Zoom-delivered award ceremony.

**Reveille Nos Coeurs**, the French outreach of **Revive Our Hearts**, is now airing their own weekly podcast via Facebook and Instagram.

## TECH UPDATE FROM JIM SANDERS

### Coming to a Receiver Near You...

There's an axiom of electronic equipment life: you keep improving until the day you die. That's true for our AMR-100 and the accompanying User Interface (UI). Very soon, **your receiver will download a mandatory update**. Then, when it's operationally idle, the receiver will reboot into the new firmware. The changes will be imperceptible to most. But for the nerds like me who like to know, here's what's coming:

**Firmware Changes:** More efficient date format, more diagnostic and troubleshooting capabilities, new AMR file system, and enhanced customization features.

**User Interface Changes:** Added custom insert capabilities, enhancements to name changes, added SFTP transfers, enhanced MBN/XDS transfer process, and new customization (chained program playback & transfer).

Many of these features are a result of station feedback, so please keep your "cards and letters coming!"

### New to Our Amb-OS Family!

**Wisdom for the Heart** with Stephen Davey exists to equip and encourage God's people. Stephen has taught God's Word verse-by-verse for over 30 years, and continues a vibrant preaching ministry in the church he founded. In the daily 28:30 broadcast, Stephen, and co-host Scott Wylie, provide biblical insight and answers as they share what God's Word has to say on the issues your listeners are wondering about.



WISDOM *for the* HEART

Should you have any questions, please contact Rob Lincoln at (866) 482-4253 or [rlincoln@wisdomonline.org](mailto:rlincoln@wisdomonline.org).

**Teach Kids!** is a daily 1:00 and weekly 4:30 commentary designed to give parents and children's ministry workers practical help in guiding children spiritually. Teach Kids! is produced by Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF), an international ministry which reaches over 25 million children a year with face-to-face ministry. Reaching Gen Z, helping the child of divorce, and dealing with behavior challenges are all examples of the practical subjects which give timely help to anyone interacting with children.

**Teach Kids!**  
Helping You Teach the Kids in Your Life

For further details, please contact CEF Corporate Communications at 636-456-4321 Ext. 1339 or [corporate.communications@cefonline.com](mailto:corporate.communications@cefonline.com).

**Moving Forward** is a nationwide ministry committed to helping listeners take their next steps with Jesus Christ featuring Bible insights from Dr. Stephen Rummage. His style is to illustrate biblical truth with clarity, high energy, and humor. His relatable teaching encourages listeners to connect with God's Word in a way that helps them grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. *Moving Forward* is available as a daily 25:00, weekly 25:00, and 1:00 devotional formats.



For more information, please contact John Nasby at (407) 340-3623 or [jnasby@douglasshaw.com](mailto:jnasby@douglasshaw.com).

NEW  
CO-HOST



# CORE CHRISTIANITY



## Broadcast Veteran Bill Maier Joins Adriel Sanchez on *Core Christianity*

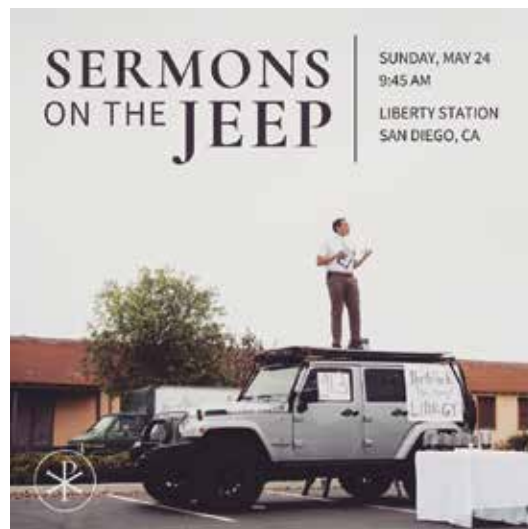
Created to address a growing problem in the U.S. (lack of understanding what the Bible really teaches), *Core Christianity* launched in 2018. From the outset, the plan was to eventually move to a 'live' format.

Recognizing the commitment required with on-air assignment, Michael Horton's critical role as a seminary professor and White Horse Inn's Editor-in-Chief meant a transition would be necessary to accomplish the program's goals.

We're pleased to share that in the midst of pandemic concerns, broadcast veteran Bill Maier stepped into partnership with Pastor Adriel Sanchez in order to provide more timely conversation. Together, Adriel and Bill answer caller questions on the Bible and the Christian life.

With Michael Horton as an occasional guest on *Core Christianity*, the plan is to achieve LIVE release sometime this fall. (Airtime will be 1:30PM CT with tape-delay feasible.)

Watch for more information about Bill next month as we "Get Acquainted" with him in Update!

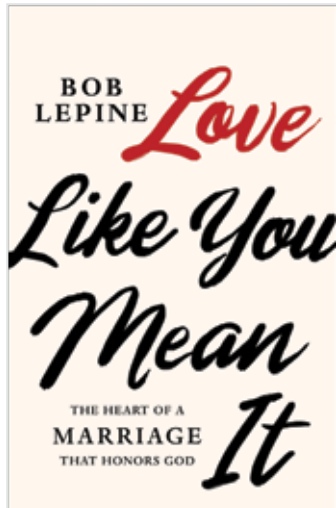


### PASTORING IN A PANDEMIC

While North Park Presbyterian Church couldn't gather in their sanctuary, that didn't mean the Word of God wouldn't go forth! Pastor Adriel used the reality of our pandemic days to take the Message to the street, nearly literally (it was actually a parking lot). Preach it, Adriel!

# We'd like to recommend!

Whether sheltering at home or enjoying "back to routine" days, here are four new publications we know will provide insight and inspiration!

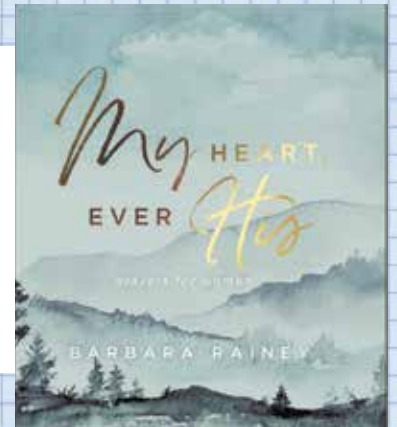


**Love Like You Mean It: The Heart of a Marriage That Honors God (Bob Lepine)**

Uniquely unpacking the ten attributes of genuine love listed in I Corinthians 13, *FamilyLife Today* host Bob Lepine helps husbands and wives discover how to nurture marital love in this practical volume.

**My Heart, Ever His: Prayers for Women (Barbara Rainey)**

Like the psalms of David, Barbara Rainey's 40 prayers are transparent expressions of common experiences to encourage us to surrender to Christ and see God as He is, tuning our hearts to the heart of God.

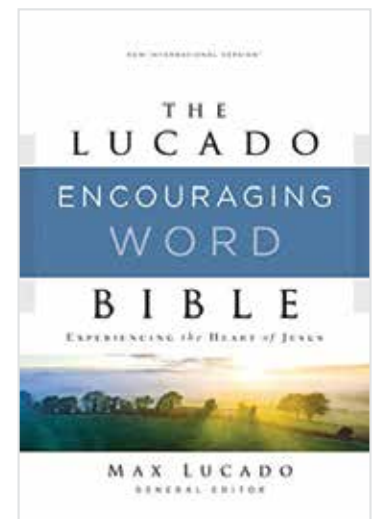
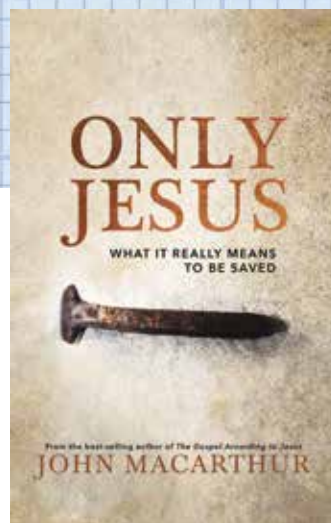


“I kept always two books in my pocket, one to read, one to write in.”

— ROBERT  
LOUIS  
STEVENSON

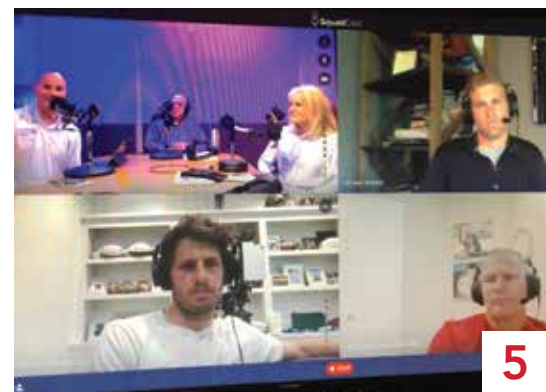
**Only Jesus: What It Really Means to Be Saved (John MacArthur)**

Based on his classic bestseller, *The Gospel According to Jesus*, John MacArthur (*Grace to You*) explores the gospel Jesus Himself preached—the radical message his followers risked everything to live out.



**The Lucado Encouraging Word Bible; NIV (Max Lucado)**

Marginal notes and various study tools reflect the warmth of author and broadcaster (*UpWords*) Max Lucado. A beautiful gift for non-believing friends—or anyone who needs some encouragement for digging into Scripture.



## What Did You Do During the Pandemic?

These folks “stayed at the stuff” to produce timely features for stations ... hats off to speakers who navigated “unusual” settings for recording—and, of course, much gratitude to station personnel who made it possible to deliver great—and timely—content!

- 1 Considering his global perspective, seems appropriate that **Jim Garlow's** home studio includes a map of the world. Trips planned for NY and Washington DC, then Israel, were postponed but may yet transpire later in 2020.
- 2 **Joni Eareckson Tada** with assist from Rainey Floreen finagled a makeshift at-home studio in order to make sure that “Joni and Friends” brought hope and encouragement in the midst of fearful days.
- 3 Proving “there’s no place like home,” **Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth** leaned on husband, Robert, for recording assistance as “Revive Our Hearts” inserted updated content.
- 4 Adapting to the social distancing guidelines, **Jim Daly** and **John Fuller** speak to each other from Studios A and D when interviewing Dr. John Townsend. Also pictured, Jim speaks with the U.S. Surgeon General for a special update on the Coronavirus.
- 5 Via Squadcast, the FamilyLife team (**Bob Lepine** with **Dave & Ann Wilson**) were able to interview three former NFL quarterbacks: Josh McGowan, John Kitna and Dan Orlovsky—all about spiritual revival in the locker room!

### AND ALL THIS!

➔ A daily videocast titled *Grounded* was launched by **Revive Our Hearts**, featuring Dannah Gresh and Erin Davis.

➔ Still the journalist at heart, Haven Today's **Charles Morris** shifted content to provide *Faith Not Fear*, a daily 1:00 update on the coronavirus.

➔ *During the height of the pandemic, we suspended publishing of Update, leaning on a special edition of our “A-List” electronic delivery to let you know the latest. We’re glad to be back and hope the news included will prove encouraging!*

... to ministries creating content and stations airing it—here’s an example of the result from a Revive Our Hearts Listener:

“ Throughout this pandemic, I have needed to cling to the truth of Scripture more than ever. How encouraging it has been to tune in each day and be reminded of what is true about God. Thank you for pointing me and countless others to Jesus. I am praying that your ministry continues to grow and flourish.”

Thank You

GET TO  
KNOW

# Adam Holz

**Director of Plugged In for Focus on the Family, Adam Holz takes the baton passed from radio veteran Bob Waliszewski as a host of the popular feature and overseer of PluggedIn.com. Get to know Adam!**

**You're the new Director of Plugged In, but not new to the team. Tell us how you came to Focus.**

I did my first stint at both Focus and Plugged In in 1996 and 1997. I'd just spent a couple of years at The Navigators, and I was looking for writing and editorial work. Providentially, I bumped into a friend whose sister was leaving a position at Plugged In, and I eventually got that job. I ended up back at The Navigators as an associate editor for *Discipleship Journal* fairly soon after that. Following a layoff in 2004, I returned to Plugged In where I have been ever since.

**What did you learn from your predecessor Bob Waliszewski?**

I think more than anything, Bob was a man of character and deep faith. He cared about the mission of Plugged In, certainly. But that passion was fueled by a deeper one, his desire to know Jesus and for others to know Him and grow deeper in relationship as well.

**How do you define the current mission of Plugged In?**

Plugged In's purpose is to help families grow in discernment with regard to their interaction with popular culture and technology. We strive to give families everything they need to make wise decisions in these areas, as well as understanding how entertainment and technology shape our hearts and minds.

**What are the current media challenges facing families today?**

The average tween spends about six hours a day engaged with technology and entertainment, and the average teen about eight hours. It's an enormous amount of time spent with shows, movies, music, games and social media that gradually mold a young person's worldview and perspective

on reality. So we want to help equip parents not only to set appropriate boundaries, but to give them confidence to enter into discussions with their kids.

**What makes Plugged In an invaluable part of the ministry of Focus on the Family?**

Each month, our website reaches about 700,000 to 800,000 unique visitors—a number that's no doubt strengthened by our short radio review features, which run five days a week on many Christian radio stations across the country.

**Tell us about the new format and team approach for the radio feature.**

We've been recording our *Plugged In Movie Review* for nearly 20 years now. A few years ago, we decided to augment that feature with four other daily radio features that focus on different aspects of pop culture. With Bob Waliszewski's departure earlier this year, we decided it was time to rethink some of what we're doing with those features. Bob's voice has been replaced with a team approach consisting of myself, Plugged In team member Kristin Smith and Focus on the Family Associate Jonathan McKee. Kristin Smith has been with Plugged In almost 3 years. She's a young mom of two, and she brings a young, energized perspective to the table with regard to these issues. Meanwhile, Jonathan brings years of youth ministry, speaking, and writing experience to the table, especially with regard to the area of technology.

**How is the new format addressing the current needs of today's parents?**

We've added a piece focusing on technology as well as entertainment reviews. Jonathan is doing a weekly feature called "The Screen in Your Teen's Pocket" that seeks to address the ever-expanding ways that teens (and adults, for that matter) interact with their

smartphones.

**What are you most excited about going forward with Plugged In?**

I'm most excited about continuing to adapt as we pivot to focus on new areas in entertainment and technology that are influencing our children. For example, we know that YouTube is the No. 1 screen destination for tween boys. So we've just started reviewing YouTube Channels, to help parents know who some of the trendsetters are. And when we were recently on stay-at-home orders, we all began to learn together how to navigate the sea of streaming content that's out there. We plan on expanding that coverage (especially streaming TV shows).

**You weekly talk about the newest films in theaters. What's a recent and all-time favorite?**

Well, I have to confess that either *Star Wars* or *Raiders of the Lost Ark* are probably my all-time favorites. A more recent film that's surprisingly moving despite its premise is *Paddington 2*. Yes, it's a kid's film. But it really illustrates the power of kindness to melt even the hardest of hearts.

**What do you and your family do for fun?**

Well, we watch movies. :) We're especially fans of the *Star Wars* and *Lord of the Rings* franchises. My son and I both play electric guitar, and we enjoy rocking out together. We frequently walk and bike together when the weather's nice. Before the Coronavirus threw everything for a loop, all three were quite active, with my oldest daughter being on a swim team, my youngest in a children's choir, and my son enjoying a variety of extracurricular activities.

**More from the team:** Next month we'll share the top ten books from Plugged In's Jonathan McKee!

# SHOW US YOUR QUARANTINE



When I am on-air for our Morning Show, my third-grade daughter Scarlett gets to sleep in a little more than she did when she went to school. She misses my show now, as she used to listen when getting ready for school and on the drive with dad. :) **So now I can talk about her more, haha!** On this day, her class had a mystery reader during their Zoom meeting.



**Heather M. Sheppard**  
On-Air Personality/Account Executive/  
Social Media & Promotions Director  
The Light Radio Network  
(Essex Junction, VT)

My favorite thing about the quarantine has been my **outdoor office**, complete with birdsongs and a yellow jacket stinging, it's been a great way to experience Spring!



**Cynthia Murphy**  
Broadcast Guest Relations Coordinator/  
Executive Assistant to John Fuller  
Focus on the Family  
(Colorado Springs, CO)



Nothing like fresh air to chase the pandemic blues away. That's (L-R) Chuck Bolte, Mike Daly, Jim Sanders & **Jim Daly** who hit **the links in Colorado Springs** as soon as allowed. That's Pike's Peak in the background!



Social distancing golfing with my precious 87 year old Dad, Bob Meyer. Instead of the traditional end of the round hug or handshake at the 18th hole, **we bumped our putters**. Mom said he was so happy afterwards as it changed his outlook to be doing something that felt like normal life.

**Ann Meyer**  
Director of Ministry  
Salem Media Group (Sacramento, CA)

**JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>  
TOOL  
KIT**



**"Blessed is the nation  
whose God is the Lord."**

—Psalm 33:12

Get the **4th of July Tool Kit** with special speaker greetings, quote graphics, and an infographic packed with fascinating facts to share with your listeners.

Check it out at our website!



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## Wait! Isn't that ...

WAY  
BACK  
WHEN



It all started as a student at American Christian College which owned KBJH-FM, later sold to Stu Epperson, becoming known as KCFO—"Christ for Oklahoma."

This broadcaster eventually moved on to Bott Radio, serving at KCCV before being wooed to Ambassador in order to lend his expertise in production, and his mellifluous voice to anchoring a variety of programs, like *Grace to You* (which he hosted for 33 years), *BreakPoint*, and *Joni and Friends* among many.

Somehow we let him be hired away by Salem Media Group, where **Carl Miller** has continued to serve for over 30 (!) years as both GM in major markets like NYC and, for the past 15 years, as Director of National Program Placement and Creative Services.

Carl—We still consider you and Louise part of the extended AAA family. Grateful for your faithful Kingdom work in broadcasting over more than forty years!



Send in your "way back when" photos to [peg@ambaa.com](mailto:peg@ambaa.com).