



# Ambassador

We Connect. Ministry and Media.

FEBRUARY  
2023  
UPDATE

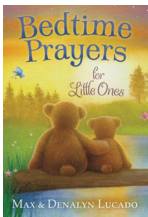
This is My  
*commandment,*  
that you  
*love one another,*  
just as  
I have loved you.  
— John 15:12



## INSIDE

- When Love Began:** Enjoy these “How We Met” stories from ministry leaders ..... Pages 3-6
- 5 Best Things For Your Marriage:** Check out this excerpt from “Marriage Done Right” by Jim Daly ..... Page 6
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## DID YOU KNOW?



New from **Max Lucado**—and wife, Denalyn!—is *Bedtime Prayers for Little Ones*, written to teach children to pray and praise with rhyming prayers about blessings, needs, fears, hopes and more.

Take a listen! Focus on the Family's VP of Communications, **Paul Batura**, has launched a new daily podcast titled "What a Life!



Lessons from Legends"—90-second (or so) obituaries that salute the lives of fascinating men and women who have lived meaningful lives. Look for it on Spotify or iTunes.



Some time ago, Well Versed (**Jim Garlow**) began inviting friends of the ministry to join a public reading of Scripture (via Zoom) each Wednesday at Noon. That

weekly Bible reading has now been amplified with reading from the Torah each Friday at 7PM ET. For full details on both regular gatherings, check for information at the website [wellversedworld.org](http://wellversedworld.org).

Expanding the impact of her teaching ministry, the "Living in the Light" (a weekly 25:00 radio feature) messages from **Anne**



**Graham Lotz** have now been added to the organization's website and the mobile app for AnGeL Ministries as well as offered on Spotify. The 1:00 feature "Daily Light for Daily Living" is similarly available.

## NEW FROM AMB-OS

*Thru the Bible* has launched a brand new one-minute feature titled, **Minute with McGee**. The content of these programs has been carefully curated from both the daily program and sermons delivered by Dr. J. Vernon McGee over the years. Your audience will get the same biblical wisdom they're accustomed to but in bite-sized pieces. There's absolutely no fundraising on the feature—it's purely a ministry tool and opportunity for Dr. McGee's timeless and trusted wisdom to be shared more broadly.



To request permission to air **Minute with McGee**, visit our permissions portal at [www.amb-os.com/permissions](http://www.amb-os.com/permissions) and choose the following program: **TBM Minute with McGee (M-F, 1:00)**. **Questions?** Please contact Daniel Noblitt at 818-865-0180 or [danieln@rkmedia.com](mailto:danieln@rkmedia.com).



**Unshackled Daily Devotionals** are built on real-life accounts and help us ponder the application of Scripture to our lives. Each four-minute devotional shares a dramatic testimony of transformation while addressing a relatable issue of the human condition. A key Bible verse is provided as well as an application point in these bite-sized episodes.

To request permission to air **Unshackled Daily Devotions**, visit our permissions portal at [www.amb-os.com/permissions](http://www.amb-os.com/permissions) and choose the following program: **UNSH Unshackled Daily Devotionals (M-Su, 4:00)**. **For more information**, contact Timothy Gregory at 312-281-1268 or [unshackled@pgm.org](mailto:unshackled@pgm.org).

New from **Family Research Council** is the one-minute **Stand on the Word** devotional with **Tony Perkins** and an outgrowth of existing content delivery via social media and [TonyPerkins.com](http://TonyPerkins.com). These initiatives have received many positive responses from listeners expressing gratitude for helping them better understand the signs of the times against the backdrop of scripture.



**NOTE:** The feature will **REPLACE** the former 60-second commentary known as the **Tony Perkins Minute** and listed as the Amb-OS Desig: FRCA\_WWD5. If you are already receiving the current commentary, listed as FRCA\_WWD5, this new devotional program will keep the same Amb-OS name on your receivers. There is nothing you need to change to begin receiving this 60-second devotional with Tony Perkins.

To add **Stand on the Word**, visit our permissions portal at [www.amb-os.com/permissions](http://www.amb-os.com/permissions) and choose the following program: **FRCA Tony Perkins Minute / Stand on the Word (Jan 2023) (M-F, 1:00)**

Should you have any questions, please contact Chris Curry at 202-624-3005 or [jcc@frc.org](mailto:jcc@frc.org).

# Celebrating Love Stories

There's nothing like the month of February to turn our focus to "hearts and flowers"—and appreciation for the commitment these speakers, who are part of the "Ambassador family," have made to their spouse! Here's a sweet reminder of when (and where) that lifetime journey began. Enjoy!

WHEN  
LOVE  
BEGAN

## **Ryan & Callie Briese | Thrivent | June 10, 2006 | Deer Lodge, MT**

Ryan and I met at the young adults group at our church. I had recently moved from Montana the year prior, and it was his home church. I think both of us knew pretty quickly that "this was it!" for both of us. We were married shortly after in a church that my grandpa helped build!



## **Jim & Jean Daly | Focus on the Family | August 24, 1986 | Santa Ana, CA**

Jean and I met at our friend's wedding. Jean was a friend of Tina the bride, and I was best man for my friend Dan. I was not dating at the time, because I felt God wanted me to yield that area of my life. Four days before the wedding, I was at a Wednesday night church service. The pastor came up to me (I did not know him) and said, "God has your wife picked out for you. She has a heart for the things of God." I thought that was odd. I gave it NO credence...and Saturday I met Jean. We married a year later and yes, she has a heart for the things of God.

## **John & Dena Fuller | Focus on the Family | November 24, 1984 | Tyler, TX**

In the summer of 1983, I was part of a group of people starting up a Christian radio station in Tyler, TX (KVNE). Several of those who were part of the effort attended a church singles group and invited me to join them for a weekend camp-out. With a desire to make new friends I happily accepted and met in the church parking lot at the appointed hour. As we waited for the rest of the group a 1966 white Chevy pickup rolled in, with a golden retriever in the back. The driver got out, a pretty brunette with bib overalls and no shoes. I was intrigued! During the course of the camp-out I got to know Dena and was impressed by her adventurous spirit, comfortable style, and heart for God. While it would be several months before we started dating, I came back from that trip determined to pursue a deeper relationship. We married the following year!



## **Jim & Rosemary Garlow | The Garlow Perspective | January 11 2014 | San Diego, CA**

We were both invited to speak at a Prayer Conference but I was just starting to come out of the deep grief of having lost my wife of 42 years of marriage, so I declined the speaking engagement. I went back months later to look at the original email. There I saw a picture of the speakers including one named Rosemary Schindler. I thought, "Hmmm." Sometime later, I asked my sister, "Do you know a woman named Rosemary Schindler?" My sister replied, "California gold!" Through help from my sister, over time we connected on Facebook ... email ... text ... phone. And then ... meeting in person. She said, "When you come, wear a suit and tie. And meet me at the gazebo at this address." I flew to San Francisco, rented a white Mercedes (so she could always say, "He arrived on a white horse"). After meeting her, I announced, "I have not come to date you. I have come to court you, meaning, I have marriage on my mind. And for our first date, we're going to drive to every house you have lived in, to every school and church you attended, so when the date is over, I will know your story and know it well." And the rest is – as they say – history.

*Be devoted to one another in love.  
Honor one another above yourselves.*  
— *Romans 12:10*

**Max & Denalyn Lucado | UpWords | March 22, 1980 | Miami, FL**

In college, if you'd asked, "Do you know Denalyn Preston?" I would have said, "Sure, I know Denalyn. She's that cute girl who rides bikes and wears overalls to class." Go forward a year to Miami, Florida, where I'm a minister and Denalyn is a schoolteacher. "Do you know Denalyn Preston?" "Of course. I see her every Sunday."

Fast-forward twelve months. "Who doesn't know Denalyn Preston?" I would answer. "You think she'd go on a date with me?" Six months later, "I can't quit thinking about her. We're going out again next week." Ask me in August of 1981. "Do I know Denalyn Preston? No, but I know Denalyn Lucado. She's my wife, and quit bugging us—we're on our honeymoon."



**John & Patricia MacArthur | Grace to You | August 30, 1963 | Burbank, CA**

Patricia was always "around the house" because she and my younger sister were good friends. However ... she was engaged to a guy in our church. One day I think I offered to take her for a ride in my VW if she got rid of the boyfriend. As the Lord would have it, even though the wedding invitations were already printed and in her car to be taken to the post office, she just couldn't bring herself to mail them. So she ended up doing something that the Lord had been directing all along—she broke up with the guy. And because she was always just the perfect kind of girl for me, I stepped in as rapidly as I could with as little sensitivity as possible and started spending time with her. It wasn't long before He knit our hearts together and we knew why He had stopped her that close to the altar. Over the years, her partnership has shaped my life, our family, church, ministry and beyond. And we've never looked back!

**Brad & Ellen Mattes | Life Issues | March 22, 1980 | Billings, MT**

I met Ellen when my pastor called and said a college student arrived on campus and needed a ride to church. She was in a body cast from her chin to her hips because of major surgery correcting scoliosis. Can't say it was love at first sight. (Although it is certainly love now!)



**Barry & Karen Meguiar | Ignite | December 12, 1963 | Pasadena, CA**

Karen and I met the night before my Freshman Year began at Pasadena College - now Pt. Loma Nazarene University. We were married 59 years ago, in the middle of my Senior Year, while I was Student Body President. God is faithful!



**Charles & Janet Morris | Haven Ministries | March 17, 1982 | Seminole, OK**

When my husband, Jeff, died in a car accident, his best friend Charles came back into our lives through a job transfer and we ended up as *the* singles in a small church in Oklahoma. My daughter Katie loved Charles and each time he came to see us, she would get out her book, *The Rabbit's Wedding*, and make him read to her. Then she'd say, "We're lonely too, my mommy doesn't have a husband, and I don't have a father!" Well, who can resist that?!

**Adriel & Ysabel Sanchez | Core Christianity | December 18, 2010**

Ysabel and I met when I was a freshman in college. She happened to run the coffee shop on the campus where I attended. I didn't even like coffee at the time, but I'd wait in line for a latte just for the chance to talk with her. Of course, so did the entire basketball team it seemed! I didn't think I stood a chance. In God's providence, we started hanging out due to some mutual friends. We just celebrated twelve years of marriage, and I give thanks to the Lord every day for her. She's my best friend, and an amazing partner to serve the Lord with.



**Don & Deyon Stephens | Mercy Ships | June 17, 1966 | Grand Junction, CO**

We met at an area-wide youth event. Don was in college at Grand Junction and came over to see his mom, dad and sister. He spotted me in the choir and when I came down to sit in the congregation, he got up and offered me the seat next to him. His cousin was staying with us during the event, and asked Don to drop by to pick up a coat she'd left behind. He seemed more than willing!

**Ken & Joni Tada | Joni and Friends | July 3, 1982 | Panorama City, CA**

One Sunday at church, I felt led to pray for a man with beautiful thick, black hair five rows ahead of me. I didn't hear a word of the sermon, I just prayed for that man. When we met face-to-face weeks later, I had him turn around to confirm it: Ken Tada was the man I prayed for!



**Robert & Nancy Wolgemuth | Revive Our Hearts | November 14, 2015 | Wheaton, IL**

Nancy Leigh DeMoss was in a groove. Her ministry and personal life was thriving when one day—out of the clear blue—she received an email from widower Robert Wolgemuth. As Robert began to pursue her, Nancy told him two things—she had to know if the Lord was redirecting her life and the Lord would then have to put love in her heart for him. Which He abundantly did! Their wonderful story has been recounted at the Revive Our Hearts website in a video titled "Unexpected Grace."

# In memory

While the Lord's ordination has been to conclude the earthly years of marriage for these communicators, we want to acknowledge (as they each do) the impact that both Karen and Danny have had on the ministries of Ron Hutchcraft and Anne Graham Lotz.



## **Ron & Karen Hutchcraft | Ron Hutchcraft Ministries | June 18, 1965 | Palos Heights, IL**

The long relationship for Ron Hutchcraft with Moody Bible Institute began when he was a student at the Chicago school. More importantly, though, it's where he met his beloved Karen, who went to be with the Lord on May 16, 2016. "She was the most amazing woman ... and I the most blessed man alive!" Looking forward to that glorious reunion!

## **Danny & Anne Lotz | AnGel Ministries | September 2, 1966**

Danny and Anne Lotz met at an evening session of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Boys Conference near Asheville, NC, in June of 1965. Danny fell in love at first sight, asked Anne to marry him on their 3rd date, but she didn't agree until about nine months later. They were married on September 2, 1966, in the same mountain chapel in which Anne's parents were married.



## The 5 Best Things You Can Do for Your Marriage

- 1 Be your spouse's best source of daily joy and respect.
- 2 When you and your spouse disagree, come up with a third alternative together instead of deciding between your two original positions.
- 3 When you're alone with your spouse, put away your cell phone.
- 4 Put your spouse first.
- 5 Banish "I know what I'm doing" from your vernacular.

Excerpted from "Marriage Done Right" by Jim Daly, President of Focus on the Family. If you'd like a copy of the book to dig deeper into these tips, let us know! You can learn more about Focus on the Family's marriage initiatives at the Focus website, including information about Hope Restored and its Marriage Intensives.

# Welcome to My Bookshelf!

In our continuing series, we've asked Brad Mattes (President of Life Issues Institute) to let us take a peek at his "book organization."

AT HOME  
&  
ABROAD

We're grateful for Brad's unfailing commitment to the pro-life message (reflected on another shelf in his library). His commentary is heard daily on the 1:00 "Life Issues" feature. A new weekend edition is also on the horizon, thanks to donors who know the power of Christian radio. The half-hour weekly is anticipated to launch Fall 2023.



## Brad Mattes

**"** Books are like new and old friends in our home. We have many!

I organize my books by category and four of my favorite categories are:



Books on my home state of Montana . . .



Various translations of the Bible . . .



A "mini" library on Ronald Reagan . . .



and, as a bonus, I have a sweet spot for pop-up books. **"**

## Ministry on the go!

A global view has long been part of the commitment at Evangelism Explosion as that's already evident as 2023 begins. Last month, **John Sorensen** (President of EE) was invited to speak on partnerships at the "Go Movement" Strategy and Board meetings. The consortium of organizations (including EE as well as Cru, YWAM and others) whose vision is to reach the world for Christ.

Left: John with Peter Hasler, President of Evangelical Alliance Church in Switzerland.



Hear John each day on the 1:00 "Share Life Today" feature which encourages reaching someone each day with the Gospel.



# Ambassador

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## Everyone Knows...

... that February 14 is Valentine's Day—but you might not know what else is filling up the month! Take a look below and then watch our A-List each Friday for the latest in our "What's Ahead" segment!



**February 1:** The National Gathering for Prayer and Repentance will be held at Museum of the Bible (Washington DC). Speakers include **Jim Garlow**, **Carter Conlon**, **Anne Graham Lotz** and Tony Perkins.



**joni&friends**

**February 3:** It's a **Joni and Friends**-hosted "Marriage Getaway" in Granbury TX—days for families living with disability to refresh and revive in all life dimensions.



**February 7:** Exciting day as the **Global Mercy** is scheduled to land in Senegal for its first full service assignment. Thrilling!



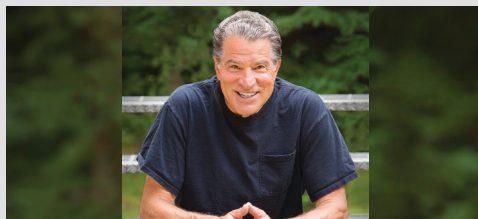
**February 12:** In case you didn't know, it's **Super Bowl** Sunday, held in Glendale AZ. Watch for details on special events and programming in conjunction with The Big Game!



**February 20:** **Presidents' Day** ... praying for ours!



**February 24-25:** **Focus on the Family's** "Resist the Drift Marriage Conference" will be held in Colorado Springs. (Later this year in Dallas, Phoenix, Atlanta and Los Angeles.)



**February 28:** Happy birthday #75 to **Robert Wolgemuth**. We're pretty confident that Nancy has something very special planned for the celebration!

## Worth Considering.

"Our God is abundant in love and steadfast in mercy. He saves us, not because we trust in a symbol but because we trust in a Savior."

— Max Lucado