



Ambassador

We Connect. Ministry and Media.

OCTOBER
2023
UPDATE

The flush of red and gold ...
the reminder that
everything is sweeter
when we know
it cannot last.

– Gabriel Andreas

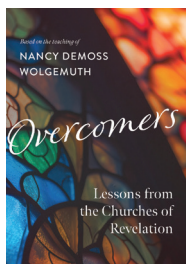
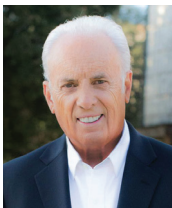


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DID YOU KNOW?

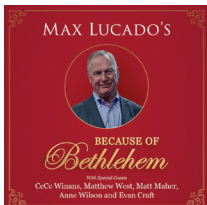
Developing Your Discernment is the newest booklet from **John MacArthur**, offered to constituents without charge this Fall. The goal is instructing believers in the knowledge of the Word so they can live discerning lives.



New from **Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth** is a study guide entitled *Overcomers: Lessons from the Churches of Revelation* which

includes a map and summary of the seven churches—and the core message John notes about them.

Max Lucado will be featured in a new Christmas special for K-Love titled "Because of Bethlehem" (the title of one of Max's classic holiday publications). In addition to Max CeCe Winans, Matthew West, and others, will also join the lists of guests..



The **A** LIST

Every Friday, we deliver the latest news for the ministries Ambassador serves—and just a little bit more that we hope you'll find interesting—in our e-delivered "**A-List**" newsletter. If you don't yet receive it, ask Jennifer@ambaa.com to be added to the list—join those already "in the know"!

THE LATEST FROM AMB-OS

We realize not **every** person who reads *Update* will be excited about what follows from Dick Becvar, General Manager for Amb-OS. But, rest assured, **we** are as it means increasingly effective delivery of content to all partner stations. And that's great news!

Svl: Is it Internet Via Satellite or Satellite Via Internet?



In past *Update* columns, we've hinted at an additional Amb-OS transmission mode that will debut in Q4 of this year. This coincides with the **roll-out of our second-generation satellite/Internet receiver, the AMR-200**. The good news is that we're adding the same functionality mode for our existing AMR-100 constellation of receivers with the hope of beginning that phased integration in approximately the same time frame.

Recent advancements in satellite launch capabilities have enhanced rural and urban **access to increasingly higher Internet bandwidths** available via satellite. It's occurring simultaneously with the FCC's re-allocation of cell services, designating some of the frequency spectrum previously allotted to satellite distribution.

With all the discussion involving satellite and Internet these days, here's a brief look at the direction we believe the Lord is leading for Amb-OS into the future.

The backbone of Amb-OS has been built on a hybrid model of transmission: satellite for primary delivery and internet for secondary and back-filling missing packets. For the near-to-midterm, **we're continuing to invest in our satellite platform while concurrently developing more Internet infrastructure.**



With the advent of the more powerful processor in the AMR-200, we've seen that a new mode of transmission is possible whereby we can take the information presently contained in our traditional satellite carrier (both live and pre-recorded), re-format it as IP (Internet Protocol), and then send it on a low-latency Internet connection to AMRs in the field.

We're calling this new mode **Svl**, or **Satellite via Internet**. The new Svl mode will serve as **an automatic Internet backup** (for both live and pre-recorded content) if our traditional satellite-fed stations experience an outage. **It will also operate as a stand-alone service for stations that don't have satellite reception capability.**

We're indeed grateful to the Lord for this new Svl mode which will simplify several back-office procedures as well as eliminate the necessity for the previous either/or provisioning system. For those keeping track: the answer to the title question is, "Svl, it's NOT Internet via satellite and it's NOT just satellite or just Internet." 😊

— Dick Becvar

Celebrate the Season with Holiday Special Programming

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS!**

In addition to Christmas-themed content for regular program release thru December, these special resources are offered to further enhance the spiritual focus of Christmas.

Check our website for full details (as well as tool kit options) or email Rebecca@Ambaa.com if you can't find what you need!

Merry Christmas, indeed!



"The Christ of Christmas" Evangelism Explosion | 1:00

Underscoring the opportunity to share Christ during the holiday season when friends and family may be more receptive to that message, **John Sorensen** has voiced 25 x 1:00 "episodes," each featuring a Scripture and an invitation for non-believers to come to Christ. A unique evangelistic tool for all stations.



"Celebrating Christmas as a Family" Focus on the Family | 60:00

Gather 'round the fireplace with the Robertson clan from A&E's *Duck Dynasty* as they share their favorite family Christmas stories. In an hour-long special, hear Phil, Kay, their four sons and wives, Phil's long-lost daughter and Uncle Si recall Robertson Christmas memories.



"'Twas the Night Before Crisis" Carter Conlon | 25:00

We are living in a turbulent time in history. The good news is that Jesus Christ, God coming to each of us in our need, is still the best and only lasting hope in this world. You don't have to be afraid of the future. God has everything you need to face the days ahead—at Christmas and all through the year!

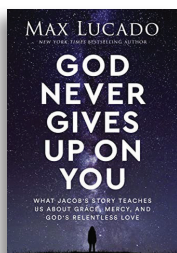


"A Child is Born" – A Selection of Christmas Scriptures from the Heart of a Child

And ... a package of 12 x :30s that are the voices of children reciting Christmas verses with customizable close ... a Christmas gift from Ambassador to participating stations. (No commercial content whatsoever.) Delivered to Amb-OS receivers for use throughout the season! Email Rebecca@ambaa.com for more information.

WHAT'S NEW & NEWS

— Put These On Your Christmas Wish List! —

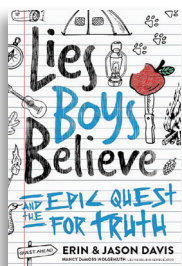
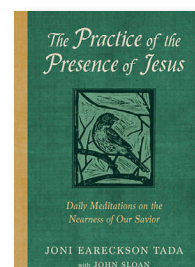


God Never Gives Up on You: What Jacob's Story Teaches Us About Grace, Mercy, and God's Relentless Love

In the newest release from **Max Lucado**, an Old Testament character is the focal point of a message that God's love is unending, unbending, unswerving ... and His grace transforms our lives. Whatever the story of failure, God's relentless love and forgiveness guarantees coming through the desert and home to Canaan.

The Practice of the Presence of Jesus: Daily Meditations on the Nearness of Our Savior

Discover the joy of intentionally dwelling in the presence of God as **Joni Eareckson Tada** weaves contemporary spiritual insights with the timeless wisdom of seventeenth-century monk Brother Lawrence. Original artwork accompanies the wisdom on such themes as humility, thankfulness, fear, obedience and more.



Lies Boys Believe: And the Epic Quest for Truth

Graphic novel meets meaty Bible teaching in this new book from **Erin Davis** (*Revive Our Hearts*) and husband, **Jason**, who are parents to four boys themselves. The book is designed to help boys identify lies and replace them with Truth to stand firm in a fractured world. For mom and dad, A Parent's Guide accompanies the creative presentation.

— Mission Accomplished! —

This summer, Evangelism Explosion International hosted its 5th Congress of Nations—uniquely meeting in four locations (Dominican Republic, Kenya, Finland and Malaysia) over a four-week span.

Representation from 214 nations met to discuss the vision and direction of Evangelism International that will set the course for the next three years.

Speaking at each of those gatherings was Evangelism Explosion International President **John Sorensen** who voices encouragement to "Share Life Today" in the daily 1:00 feature from EE. (*Audition the feature at our website or contact Charley@ambaa.com.*)





Let's Get Acquainted!

PLEASE
MEET!

Last month, the baton passed for “The Mercy Minute” as **Raeanne Newquist** stepped into the role that Mercy Ships founder Don Stephens fulfilled for two decades. No newcomer to media or Mercy Ships, Raeanne has served aboard the *Africa Mercy* with her entire family and currently (in addition to the on-air assignment) helps to craft communication on behalf of the ministry.

We knew you’d enjoy getting to know Raeanne more personally as she joins the Christian broadcasting family!

→ How did you initially become acquainted with Mercy Ships?

A dear friend was leaving to be the Kindergarten teacher on board the *Africa Mercy* and invited us to support her financially and in prayer. Through her, we fell in love with the mission.

→ What did you most enjoy as a family living on the ship?

Many things! The **stripped down simplicity of family life was a huge gift** to us. We all lived in about 500 square feet, sharing one bathroom, and our lives weren’t cluttered with running in all different directions. Our circle was radically reduced to the ship and we loved growing together as a family in the everyday moments and great adventures!

→ What excites you about adding this role to your assignments for Mercy Ships?

Doing voice-over work was something I thought about pursuing in my 20’s while working for E! Entertainment Television. **Passion for ministry** and a calling to serve college students took me away from that. But now, many years later, it’s amazing to get to use my voice in the Christian media industry to share the hope and healing of Jesus through Mercy Ships.

→ You studied at Pepperdine University (Malibu) as well as Fuller Theological Seminary—how did those institutions mark your life?

During my college years, Jesus truly became my Savior. Although I had invited Jesus to lead my life as a 5-year-old in Sunday school, I did so because I didn’t want to go to hell when I died *one day*! At school I realized I didn’t need Jesus to save me when I died, I needed Him to save me in that moment! **That changed everything for me.** Then, Seminary was another profound season for learning and discovery—not just about the course work but also about myself and my own theology.

→ Church ministry has been a significant commitment for you ... are you serving now in a local congregation?

We have recently joined a church in our new area and God has opened doors for me to get involved. I have just **joined the teaching team for Women’s Ministry** and I will be in rotation to teach a weekly Bible study to the women of our church. I will also be mentoring another woman this year and I’m thrilled to grow alongside her as we share life together.

→ Who would you name as a spiritual mentor or influencer in your life over the years since college?

Hands down ... **that would be my mother.** She seeks God with her whole heart and longs to share the love of Jesus with everyone she knows. She has a beautiful way of making everyone feel at ease. She’s a prayer warrior (including face-timing her grandchildren to pray with them) and is never without a word of encouragement. I am who I am today because of my mother.

→ What do you and your husband enjoy doing with the kids?

Having left the ocean in Southern California for the lakes and trees of Northern California, we bought a used water ski boat to ease the blow! **We have had an absolute blast being out on the water as much as possible**, learning new tricks, taking a few spills, and making memories. We also love to travel together and seek out new foods to try.

→ How do you cultivate a global outlook in the lives of your children now that you’re back to the USA?

Our children’s time on board the *Africa Mercy* afforded them exposure to many people and cultures that they would not have normally experienced. Seeds were planted in Senegal and those continue to grow for our children as they have a new curiosity and comfort with other cultures. We have kept the conversation going about our time on the ship and often compare and contrast our current “American struggles” with global struggles. As our daughters look to college next year, they both want to study abroad and one will be studying nursing with the hopes of returning to the ship one day. **They all are forever changed.**

→ If you could hop on a plane tomorrow and go anywhere ... where would you go?

Well, Paris, of course! But if I’m being honest – **it would be anywhere the *Africa Mercy* is docked.** That ship got under my skin and still feels like the home I am missing. (And I just might make a stop in Paris on my way!)

Mercy Ships’ one minute daily feature “The Mercy Minute” encourages listeners to make a lasting difference in a world of need by following the example of Jesus.

Want to air the feature? Contact Rebecca@ambaa.com for clearance!

Jim Sanders on the Road



It was special fellowship indeed when Jim and wife, Diane, were able to enjoy dinner in Florida recently with longtime friends **Frank & Ruth Wright**. Grateful for Frank's faithful leadership over so many years with NRB.



Later in the month, Jim & Diane spent a delightful few hours in Kansas City with **Rich & Faye Bott**, touring BRN facilities and comparing notes on the longtime history for Sanders and Bott families in Christian broadcasting.



While in KC, it was great to connect face-to-face with Amb-OS team member, **Boyd Gafford**, and wife, Angela. Boyd was the original genius who wrote the code for the original AMR-100, and now continues as a software developer for our new AMR-200 receivers and the constellation of Amb-OS File servers.



Wonderful to enjoy fellowship with the team at *Grace to You* at the ministry HQ recently especially when it happened to be on a day when **John MacArthur** was in to record. *Pictured:* (Back) Phil Johnson; Jay Flowers; Charley Mefferd; John MacArthur; Jim Sanders; Steve Ostini; Matt Jones and Bill Fickett. (Front) Jay Morissette and Peggy Campbell. (Thanks to Michelle Blood, part of the crew, who took the photo!)



Nice we are back to conference room meetings for brainstorming—and coffee with the team from *Focus on the Family* including **John Fuller**, **Rob Kirkpatrick** and **Brian Krause**. Just so happened Apple was making their big announcement—should we get a new iPhone?!?

A Broadcasting Veteran's Shelves

Our friendship with **Bob Lepine** began too long ago to tell! Our appreciation for his abilities in station management was the reason for recommending him to Dennis Rainey as a potential co-host for a new program to be called *FamilyLife Today*.

The friendship has continued post-FamilyLife service as Bob's wisdom and voice remain heard widely in Christian media and beyond—including from the pulpit as pastor of Redeemer Community Church (Little Rock AR).

Knowing he's an inveterate reader and thinker, we thought a glimpse at Bob's bookshelves would prove fascinating. Check below ... we were right!

WELCOME
TO MY
BOOKSHELF

Bob Lepine



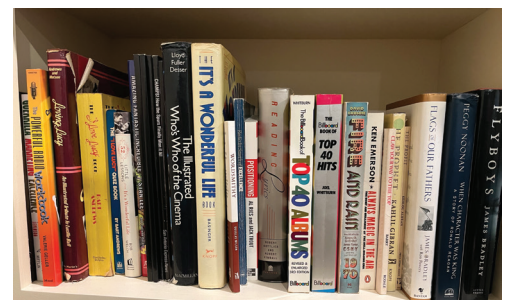
“ The selfie of me with the bookcase behind me shows about half of my books mixed in with family pictures and our photo albums (all begging me to hurry up and have them digitized!). The other half of my library is in our bedroom.

The shelves are divided into about three general sections. There are my Bible commentaries and theological reference books on the right side of the shelves, my collection of other books that have shaped me through the years found on the left side of the shelves, while across the top are books grouped by about a dozen authors where I have five or more of their titles.



One of the close ups shows the left side of the bookcase, where I have clearly run out of room and where new books are stacking up because, like with Joseph and Mary, there is no room for them!

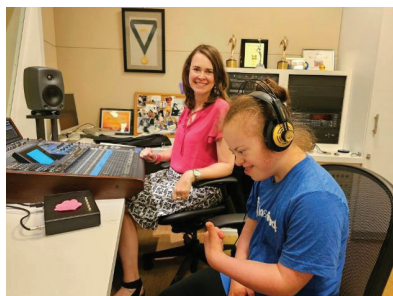
And, finally, I've included a shot of the one shelf that displays some of my favorite books on music, movies, marketing, and a variety of topics that defy further categorization. The History of my beloved San Antonio Spurs sits alongside a quiz book that covers every *I Love Lucy* episode and another title that tells the remarkable story of the amazing songs written by teenagers working in the Brill Building in New York City in the 50's and 60's. ”



Growing Broadcasters of Tomorrow . . . Today!

Longevity in Christian broadcasting isn't unique to Bob Lepine (above) ... but you've got to start early. Here are two youngsters ready to get at it!

Sarah Amick (seated beside Catherine Cobb, Manager of Radio Ministry at Joni and Friends) was in the studio when mom, Shauna McPadden, was doing some recording work. Shauna has recounted her moving story of having a child prenatally diagnosed with down syndrome in the book *Learning to Live Happily Ever After*.



Ethan Tran is one of the kids featured in the Christmas Scripture series (see page 3). Too young to read scripts 😊, Ethan was coached through the session as Jim Sanders sat on the other side of the microphone. Ethan's energy is contagious—and his love for Jesus sealed deep in his heart, even at age 5.





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#AmbassadorLife

The season is turning ... again!

A favorite season for many, we're welcoming October for good reason ... just check out below some of the events already on the calendar. And watch our A-List, delivered every Friday AM to your inbox, for more as the month unfolds!



October 5: From **Focus on the Family**, today's the date for the now annual "Bring Your Bible to School Day." Check the website for resources and information.



October 6: Happiest Birthday wishes to **John Fuller** (Focus on the Family) whose long leadership in Christian broadcasting has made him friend to many—we're fans!



October 7: Launching today, "Straight Talk on Life Issues," a new weekly half-hour with in-depth focus on pro-life concerns anchored by **Brad Mattes** and Victor Nieves.



October 13-21: A "Wheels for the World" team heads to Cuba again for delivery of wheelchairs. (Last week it was to Chile, next week to El Salvador then Thailand!)



October 14-27: Join **Jim Garlow** ("The Garlow Perspective") and wife, Rosemary, for an extraordinary tour of Israel with very well-versed hosts!



October 15: Send up the balloons! Best celebration wishes to **Joni Eareckson Tada**, marking another birthday today. As is our own Jim Sanders!



October 28: In Dallas (Comerica Arena), **Max Lucado** joins the "Women of Joy" including Sheila Walsh, Chonda Pierce and others for an evening of inspiration.

Worth Considering

"There is no season when such pleasant and sunny spots may be lighted on, and produce so pleasant an effect on the feelings, as now in October."

— Nathaniel Hawthorne