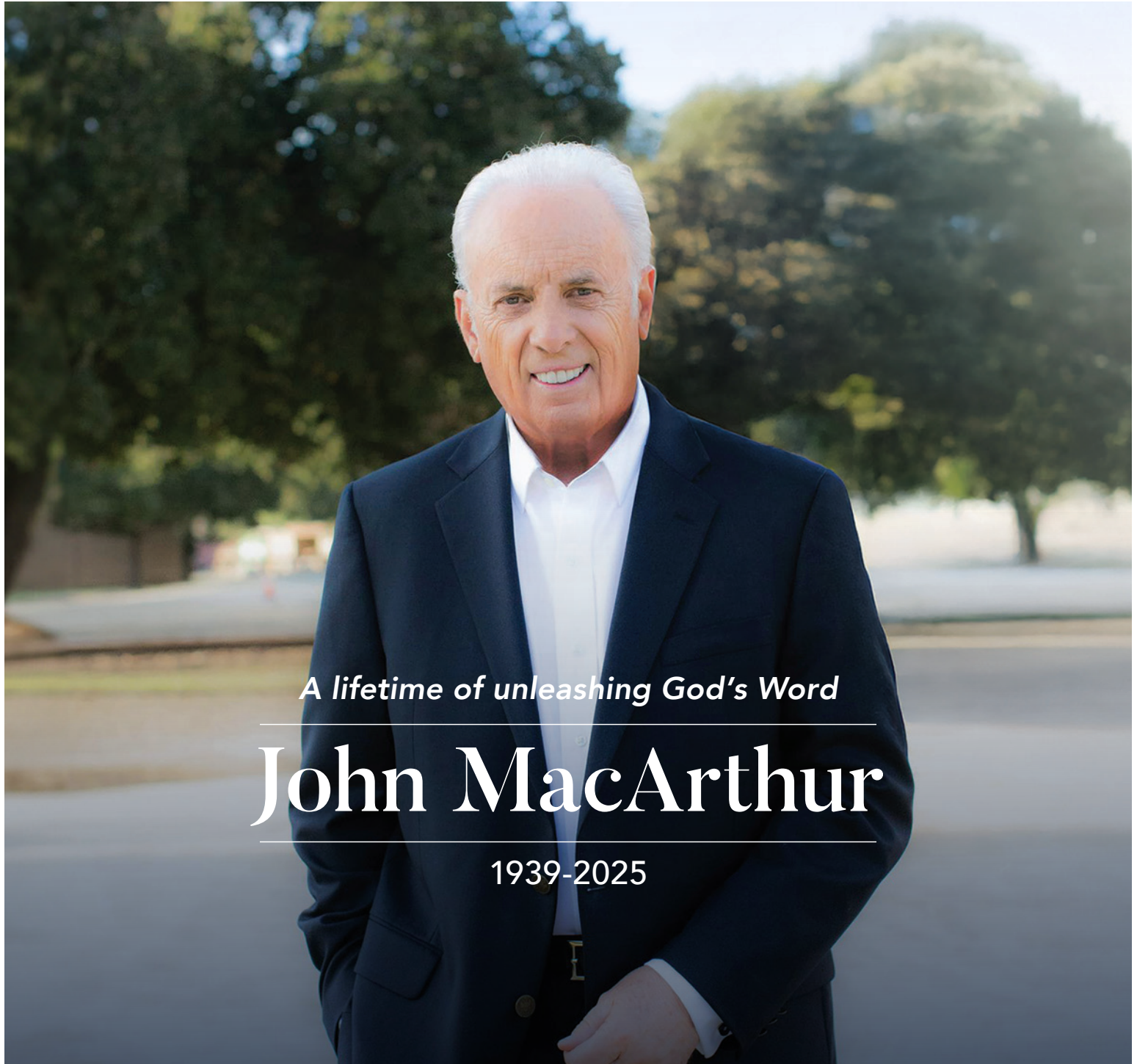




Ambassador

We Connect. Ministry and Media.

SEPTEMBER
2025
UPDATE



A lifetime of unleashing God's Word

John MacArthur

1939-2025

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DID YOU KNOW?



Grace to You officially began in 1969 following John MacArthur's appointment as pastor at Grace Community Church—and the initiation of a simple tape ministry for those unable to attend services. The first tape contained the message titled "How to Play Church."



Launched in 1977, the radio ministry fueled demand for other resources—today more than 150 books, translated into more than two dozen languages. The published work of **John MacArthur** includes several study Bibles and a Commentary series covering the entire New Testament.

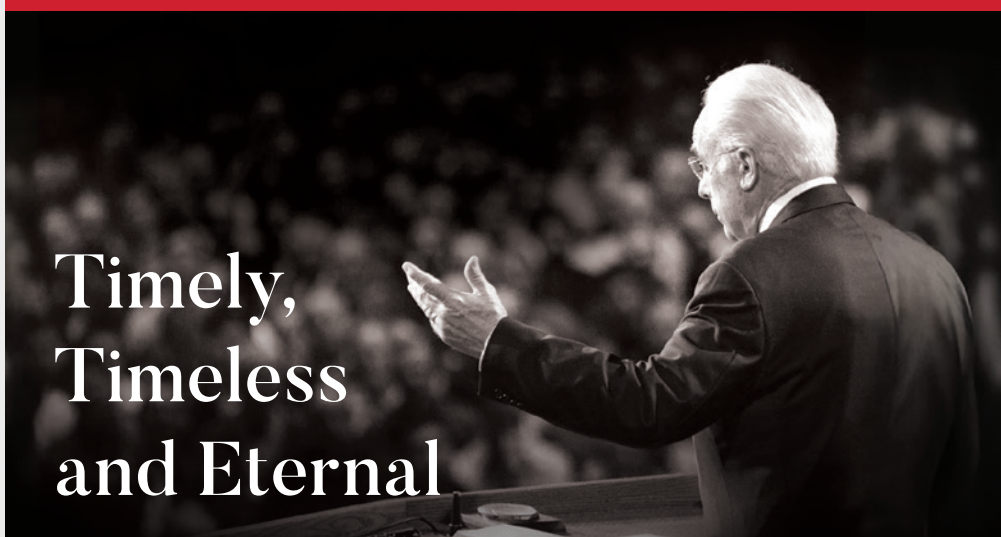


Today *Grace to You* is heard on stations thousands of times daily across the USA and internationally with translations on-air in Italian, Romanian, Russian and Spanish. In addition to the half-hour program, John's voice also continues to be heard daily on two short features—*Bible Q&A* and *Portraits of Grace*.

“God treated Jesus on the cross as if He lived your life so He could treat you as if you lived His.

— John MacArthur

THE LATEST FROM AMB-OS



Those descriptive terms can, and do, certainly apply to the **powerful truths of Scripture**. But if I may borrow the thinking, in many ways they're also true for Amb-OS.

As intimately as I know the way Amb-OS works, I was still amazed to hear our local radio station playing a replacement program from *Grace to You* just a few hours after Dr. **John MacArthur's** passing. Late in the evening of July 14, just a few hours after hearing the news of Dr. MacArthur going home to glory, special replacement programs were sent to stations. This **timely**—and automatic—means of updating content has been such a blessing, finding no better use than this purpose. Timeliness has been one of our Amb-OS hallmarks.

Some have asked about what happens next? Subsequent to the four weeks of special broadcasts, *Grace to You* will return to the previously scheduled **timeless** expositional studies, "*unleashing God's Word, one verse at a time.*" That's *Grace to You's* commitment: to deliver the messages of John MacArthur until the Lord directs otherwise.

While "**eternal**" may be a bit hyperbolic, we should note this plan was determined by *Grace to You's* leadership long ago—that the library of Bible teaching from John MacArthur will now close. Despite the potential, the ministry is determined to *never* create new material using AI or any other artificial creative technique. Friends can be assured that any teaching, video, audio or book **coming from Grace to You**, found at the ministry website, is genuine. Unfortunately there are those who have nefariously used AI-generated content to mislead consumers, often content which misrepresents Dr. MacArthur's theological perspective so this "guarantee" is significant.

We thank the Lord for Dr. John MacArthur and his commitment to the sound exposition of the Bible. And thanks to *Grace to You*, that will remain true until the Lord returns!

— Jim Sanders

Serving the Servant

As this issue of *Update* arrives in mailboxes, much will have already been published (rightly so) regarding the extraordinary life and legacy of **John MacArthur**—beloved Bible teacher, author, pastor, theologian, leader in so many circles of Christian influence. A faithful family man (son of a preacher, husband to Patricia for nearly 62 years, dad, grandfather and then great-grandfather), John was also a golfer, a proud Scotsman, appreciator of the arts, and ever ready to engage in creative repartee with friends—as he often did with our founder, Al Sanders.

Long ago, **Grace to You** began with the unpermissioned enthusiasm of a station in Baltimore that played his messages at a listener's request. It was only a few years later, having known John since he was a popular youth speaker in the 60s (and as a graduate of Talbot Seminary), when Ambassador was

invited to serve as the agency/representative for the broadcast. That initiated a partnership of 40 years ... what a privilege—then *and now*—to serve an organization so dedicated to teaching clearly God's Word.

In the years since, the warm relationship enjoyed by John & Patricia MacArthur and Al & Margaret Sanders was amplified as Ambassador staffers developed friendships with many of the *Grace to You* team. Truly, it has been as enriching spiritually and personally as it has been professionally.

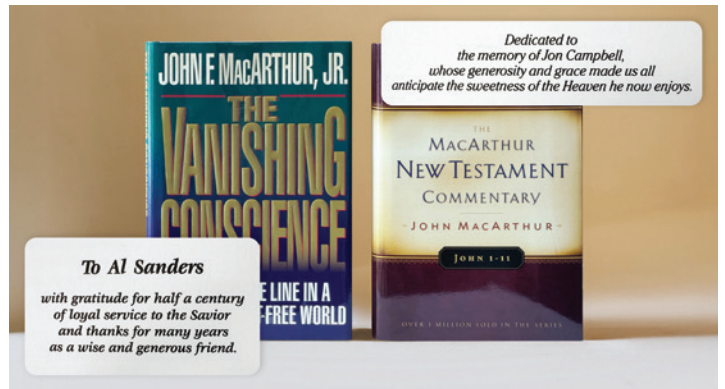
While we grieve the loss of John's presence on earth, we rejoice that his voice will still be heard through the broadcast and various other streams of communication, continuing to make the truth of God's Word preeminent in our lives. May the Lord richly bless that impact long into the future!

Some know well that one of the hallmarks of the organization has been its generosity ... just consider what it meant when Grace to You "opened the vault" years ago, making all content available without cost. Or, providing a copy of John's latest book, even a Bible, to constituents in advance. Over and over, we have been recipients of that generosity for which we are so grateful. Knowing that an organization follows the heart of its leader, we count John's commitment to generosity as another gift of his legacy.

The Gift of Friendship in Ministry



When Al & Margaret Sanders marked their 70th anniversary with a harbor cruise, Patricia and John were there to not only join in the celebration but to bring a biblical word of encouragement as well. Their friendship spanned more than five decades. In recent years, it's been a joy for Charley Mefferd, along with Jim Sanders & Peggy Campbell, to serve on the frontline for the *Grace to You* ministry.



Deeply meaningful to the Ambassador family was the dedication of John's NT commentary (John 1-11 volume) to our own Jon Campbell, following Jon's homegoing in 2005. A few years earlier, Al was honored with the dedication of *The Vanishing Conscience* by John.



Over the many years of NRB Conventions and other gatherings, fellowship with John was such a delight (pictured with Dennis & Barbara Rainey and Robert & Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth). There was a longtime special relationship with Joni & Ken Tada who met at Grace Church and were married by John in 1982.



CONSIDER
THIS

An Enduring Ministry

In his own words, John MacArthur shares the calling that became his lifetime commitment to faithfully preaching the truth of God's Word.

When I was still a young boy, my dad reminded me of the words of the apostle Paul: “Take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.” (Ephesians 6:13). Then he said something I’ll never forget: A lot of people have said and done a lot of things, but when the smoke clears, they’re not all standing. He directed me in those early years to Paul’s epitaph: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7). My father challenged me very early in my life to make that my goal.

After I had preached for more than half a century in the same church, I was often asked, “How do you have such a long, enduring ministry? What is the secret?” My answer is and always has been that I cannot take any credit for the growth of our church or the longevity of my ministry here. **God’s sovereign providence has worked** in a myriad of ways (both known and unknown to me) to keep me where I am. He has done exceeding abundantly above anything I could ever ask or think.

That is not to say that I’ve been merely passive while the church somehow flourishes spontaneously. **I have endeavored to do only one thing, and that is to focus my entire life on biblical principles, sound doctrine, and divine truth.** I learned by precept and example from both my father and my grandfather that it is **every pastor’s duty to be unwaveringly faithful**—diligent in the work of the ministry, and careful and thorough in our exposition of God’s Word.

Since those early years with my dad, I have sought to be like the man in Luke’s Gospel, who built his house by digging deep and laying a foundation on solid rock (Luke 6:48).

That doesn’t happen because we wish it to happen, however. We don’t merely speak it into existence. As Jesus said, what counts is not merely hearing or even just intellectually affirming His words, but acting on them (Luke 6:47). That is what makes a

person like the wise builder our Lord went on to describe. The blessing comes not in the knowing, but in the doing, as Jesus told His disciples in the Upper Room (John 13:17).

I’ve often said that if we take care of the depth of our ministry, God will take care of the breadth of it. We plant the seed of His Word and water it with our preaching and prayers, but it is God who gives the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6-7).

Still, pastors and church leaders often ask me for the “secret” to growth and longevity. Is there a program, a clever business plan, or a detailed strategy of some kind that today’s church leaders should follow?

I tell them immediately: I cannot recommend any clever insights, novel approaches, or imaginative ideas that I’ve managed to develop. There are none. I have no innovative technique to propose. I’ve invented no ingenious stratagem. In fact, I have no confidence in the schemes and strategies of men—even my own. That is true especially when it comes to doing the Lord’s work. Explaining a “program” for church growth and leadership is the furthest thing from my mind.

I have endeavored to do only one thing, and that is to focus my entire life on understanding, teaching, and obeying biblical principles, sound doctrine, and divine truth. **While all the circumstances of life ebb and flow and the sands of human fashions shift, the foundation I want to be building on is the bedrock of God’s Word.**

That conviction stems partly from another charge my father gave me. When I told him I sensed God’s call on my life to be a preacher, he gave me a Bible, inscribed on the dedication page with a brief message from him: “Dear Johnny, Preach the Word. Love, Dad.” That’s what his father had done with his life. That’s what my dad did with his life. And it is what I have sought to do with mine.

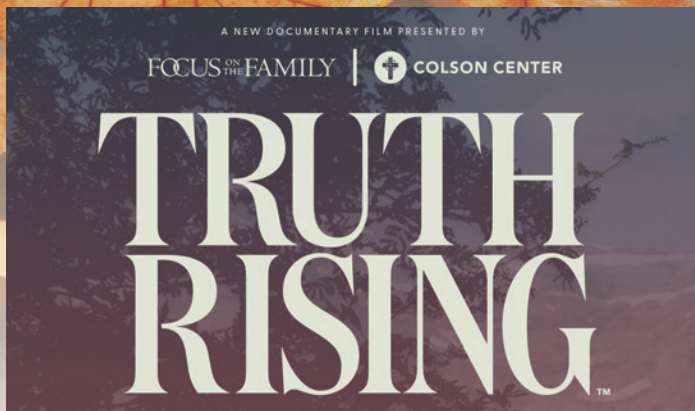


John MacArthur

THIS
MONTH

What's Up in September?

In addition to "Back to School" activities for many, as well as the milestones noted on page 8, here are a few more reasons to celebrate the onset of Autumn 2025!



The Global Premiere of Truth Rising **September 5**

From **Focus on the Family** in partnership with the Colson Center, don't miss this new documentary. Through powerful stories and expert insights, the film reveals how ordinary people can make an extraordinary impact by boldly choosing truth and courage in a world desperate for clarity, opting for a Christ-centered path within today's culture.



Saluting Grandparents' Day **September 7**

Celebrate this significant date on the calendar with resources you can find at our website under holiday toolkits which are intended for station use in whatever channels desired. You'll find speaker-voiced audio, graphics, impactful articles and much more—simply download and put to use!



Marking Patriot Day **September 11**

Now designated as a National Day of Service and Remembrance following the events of 9/11 (2001), today is a day to "never forget" those who died that day and resolve to appreciate our freedom anew. Please let us know if you would like a copy of the poster commissioned in 2002 by AAA.



National White Chocolate Day **September 22**

You think we could overlook this one? No way! Since the early 1980s, Ambassador has become renown for the white chocolate (no, it isn't yogurt!) peanut clusters we bring to NRB every year. *Hankering for a bite before then? Send peg@ambaa.com a note and we'll supply the recipe—maybe even a box if the weather allows shipping!*

New Leadership for Life Issues Institute

After more than five decades engaged in the pro-life movement, **Brad Mattes** is “passing the baton” of leadership in order to welcome **Victor Nieves** as the new President of Life Issues Institute.

Already a voice for the organization, Victor is co-host of the weekend “*Straight Talk on Life Issues*” in addition to contributing to other communications efforts at the ministry. His youthful outlook is matched by extensive experience in the movement where he has already become an eloquent spokesman for those issues that concern the sanctity of life.

Beginning in October, Victor will also be the voice for the 1:00 daily feature, “*Life Issues*,” providing the same expert perspective on pro-life concerns in our culture.

While a “new day” at **Life Issues Institute**, the message remains the same ... to impact hearts and minds on behalf of respect for all human life, defending it from conception to life’s natural conclusion.

To add the daily or weekend feature to your line-up, contact Lee@ambaa.com.



Meet Victor Nieves

A longtime prolife activist, Victor is also author of the book “*Conservative Prudence*” and has hosted both radio and podcast content prior to this appointment. A regular contributor to social media platforms, his enthusiasm for speaking into contemporary pro-life concerns is a deep passion.

A graduate of University of Central Missouri, Victor is married to Kaitlyn and resides in Texas. He’s been described as “an old soul who most importantly wants to return America to its godly values.”



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Coming Up ...

How quickly the year is passing—don't you agree? Waving farewell to summer, we welcome September and, passing Labor Day, realize that Autumn will soon be officially underway. Here's what else is underway this month! (And check Page 5 inside for more!)



September 3: Celebrating **Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth** on her birthday today—and praying as she and a team of others prepare for thousands to gather next month in Indianapolis for True Woman '25.



September 5: The first of several teams heads out to deliver "Wheels for the World" as part of the global outreach of **Joni and Friends**. This week it's Chile and Guatemala, followed by trips to Jordan and Uganda.



September 9-10: Time for CMB's seasonal **Momentum Summit** (Minneapolis) which will focus on Marketing and Leadership this session. Be sure to check their website for full details.



September 10-14: Friends will gather in Washington DC for the NRB's annual **Capital Hill Summit** for members of the President's Council—check next month's *Update* for a full photo report!



September 12-14: A truly global traveler, this time **Jim Garlow** serves on the homefront, speaking at Prairie Bible Camp (Lehr, North Dakota). *If you've been to Lehr ND, let Peggy know—we have a special gift for you!*



September 14: Happy Birthday to **John Sorensen**, speaker on "Share Life Today" and president of *Evangelism Explosion*. We're so grateful for John's irresistible passion for sharing Jesus!



September 16: Also marking another year, best wishes to Pastor **Carter Conlon** who shares daily encouragement on "It's Time to Pray" and weekends with "A Call to the Nation."

Worth Considering

"September tries its best to have us forget summer."

— Bernard Williams