

EXTENDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD...ONE PERSON AT A TIME

# ONE-TO-ONE<sup>®</sup>

Summer 2009

FACE  
TO FACE  
WITH

GOD

*Celebrating*  
*40 Years*  
OF PUBLISHING  
1969-2009



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Summer 2009

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# THE PURPOSE OF POWER

HOW TO MOVE FORWARD WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW THE WAY | By Stephen Simpson



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FROM THE EDITOR

At our recent annual CSM Gatlinburg Conference, we encountered the transforming presence and power of God. In the months leading up to the conference, we were at times unsure of the thematic direction we should take, who should speak, and what God wanted to do during this time.

Because of that, we spent more time fervently seeking God—calling out to Him for grace, guidance, and strength—than we have in times prior to similar conferences. The more we sought God, the more we sensed Him encouraging us to continue to seek Him.

The month prior to the conference, my father taught a series on “Real Revival,” which came out of these times of prayer, to make ready for a coming Sovereign move of God, to recognize the difference between such a move and a man-made event, and to know what the results of a real revival would look like. These times of prayer and preparation paved the way for what God then did in Gatlinburg among everyone attending, and even in the lives of our friends who could not make the journey to the conference itself.

One of the speakers, David Hoffman, declared propheti-

cally: “...the kingdom of God is not in word but in power” (1 Corinthians 4:20).

This set the tone for an evening of extended ministry and renewal in God’s presence, as we repented individually and corporately for sin, including the failure to give due diligence to prayer and extension of the kingdom of God. This opened the floodgates of God’s mercy and strength to be poured out on us, and many who had been weary and discouraged experienced a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit.

God’s power is never divorced from God’s purpose. One does not come apart from the other. Before He ascended into Heaven, Jesus told His disciples: “...you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8). The power of the Holy Spirit

was given to the followers of Jesus so that we could be witnesses for Him—to declare in word *and* in deed the eternal reality of Christ’s Kingdom. In Matthew 28, Jesus said, “Go...and I will be with you.”

Likewise, the apostle Paul told the believers in Rome: “...we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28). Here we see God’s power working in concert with God’s purpose and those who are moving with Him.

Too often, the enemy tricks us into one of two spiritual cul-de-sacs: either we are deceived into thinking that hearing the Word is the same as doing it, or we fly off into a form of spiritual self-indulgence and prodigal independence that ignores the purpose of the gifts we’ve received from the Holy Spirit.

We are called according to God’s purpose—and we’re not our own, we belong to Jesus, and each another. When all the words have been spoken and all the songs have been sung ... when the laughter has been laughed and the tears have been cried ... there remains a mission that is ahead for us to bring God’s power to bear in a generation that is sorely oppressed.

Having heard His Word, we are called now to incarnate and demonstrate it ... in His power. **121**

**Stephen Simpson** is the Editor of **One-to-One** and Senior Pastor of Covenant Church of Mobile. He is also available for ministry in your city. For more information, contact Betty Duke: [bettydukecsm@aol.com](mailto:bettydukecsm@aol.com) / (251) 633-7900.

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Why Salvation Comes in Our Most Desperate Hours

# FACE TO FACE WITH GOD

by  
**CHARLES  
SIMPSON**



ADVICE MAY BE CHEAP, but success with God is costly. However, in the end it can be very rewarding. Everyone would like a few easy steps to fulfill their own dream, but in God's Kingdom, the path is narrow and He stands in the way. If we are to fulfill the vision that He has for us, we must ultimately deal with Him, honestly, and face-to-face. This is the lesson of Jacob who became Israel.

Jacob met God at a place he called Bethel, "House of God." It happened this way: Jacob had stolen his twin brother Esau's birthright by deceiving his blind father, Isaac, into believing that he was Esau. Esau, by virtue of being the oldest, was entitled to a larger share of the inheritance and becoming the family patriarch upon Isaac's death.

But Esau was casual about his place and lost it to Jacob who was willing to lie to get Esau's blessing. So, blind Isaac blessed conniving Jacob with the birthright blessing.

When Esau discovered he had been cheated, he was extremely angry, so Jacob fled to the East, toward his mother's people. Exhausted and afraid, he laid down to sleep with his head upon a rock. In the night, the Lord gave him a dream in which he saw a ladder extending into Heaven with angels ascending and descending upon it. The Lord stood above the ladder and spoke to Jacob promising that he would return to his home land, and that Jacob would have descendants who would spread abroad, and a seed that would bless all the families of the earth (see Genesis 28:10-22).

When Jacob awoke, he named that place "Bethel", anointed the

rock with oil, and made promises that if God would do all of that, he would serve God and tithe. Then he left on his journey seeking to fulfill his dream.

### *Jacob's* JOURNEY

Jacob's journey led him east to his uncle Laban's house, to marriage, and service to his uncle. It is a story of hard work, disappointment, conflict, and eventual wealth. To detail his experience is not our

## God's ultimate purpose is to bring us face to face with ourselves and with Him in order to fulfill His purpose.

purpose here, but the Lord was with him as he struggled with Laban (who was also deceptive and demanding). After many years, the Lord told Jacob to go home. By then, he had acquired wives, concubines, and a lot of livestock. But going home would not be easy—Esau had not forgotten, and Esau was a strong man.

Jacob's journey reminds us that God keeps His word and is with us even when we go into a "far country." His faithfulness does not spare us difficulties, but it gets us through them even when we are not aware that He is with us. God's ultimate purpose, however, is to bring us face-to-face with our-

selves and with Him in order to fulfill *His* purpose.

### COMING TO *Self*

We hear a lot about "self-love", "self-esteem", "self-fulfillment", and other self-oriented endeavors. But the Bible doesn't paint a pretty picture of self. Humanism has enthroned the corrupt self. Jeremiah says, "The heart is desperately (incurably) wicked; who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9). And Isaiah 53:6 says, "All we like sheep have gone astray." In Romans 3:23, we see that "all have sinned." The Scriptures all full of passages that tell us we must be saved from ourselves. Jacob's journey was a journey to self-discovery and eventual salvation *from* self.

In Second Chronicles 6:36-39, it says that when God's people are taken into captivity in a far country and come to themselves and turn to God with their whole heart, He will hear their prayer. I have wondered if Jesus had this in mind when he told the story of the prodigal son who went into a far country, lost all he had, and while feeding pigs "came to himself" (see Luke 15:17). Coming to ourselves is the beginning of repentance and restoration. God's vision for us is based upon death to self so that He can accomplish His will in and through us.

Many Christians have been to a place where God's presence was, and heard Him promise to bless. But they never really have come to themselves. They are still striving to make their own way, or to make it happen in their own strength. It is one thing to see God in heaven



above "the ladder." It is quite another when He comes down from the ladder to wrestle with us...face-to-face.

## **LEFT** *Alone*

Jacob was going home after many years to find the fulfillment of his dream. But first, he had to meet Esau whom he had cheated. Jacob means "heel grabber," because at birth he was holding on to Esau's heel. From birth on through his life, Jacob was grabbing...first Esau, then Isaac, then Laban. He was a striver.

On the way home, he became afraid, and rightfully so. Esau had heard Jacob was returning and was coming to meet him with four hundred men! Jacob stopped to pray at a place called "Mahanaïm." He pled with God for deliverance (see Genesis 32:9-12). He decided to send his flocks over to Esau as a gift. Jacob was always making a "deal". But he found no peace.

Finally, Jacob sent his wives and servants on ahead to meet Esau. Genesis 32:24 says, "Then Jacob was left alone." Prayer meetings and prayer partners are good, but sometimes we need to meet God alone. Seeking God's face is a very personal matter (see 2 Chronicles 7:14).

## *The* **STRUGGLE**

We are told that Jacob wrestled with "a Man." But Jacob said afterward that it was God. Was it a pre-incarnation of Jesus Christ, a "Christophany"? I don't know (see Joshua 5:13-15). Jacob was determined to receive a blessing from God, so he held on to God. In the struggle, God touched Jacob's thigh

so that ever after, Jacob would limp. Still Jacob held on!

Finally the Lord said "Let me go, the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me!" The Lord said, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob." God knew Jacob's name; He wanted Jacob to say it. "I am Jacob; Heel-Grabber." Then the Lord said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel (Prince with God), because you have struggled with God and with men and have prevailed."

Jacob named that place "Penueï," which means "Face of God." Jacob said, "I have seen God face-to-face, and my life has been preserved." Meeting God preserved Jacob's life.

God blessed Jacob with a new name and a new position—ruler. This was not because Jacob was worthy, but because he was willing to struggle with God and with himself. That is the primary issue in seeking God's face—it's our willingness to wrestle with God, and the truth about ourselves. That is not easy, but it is necessary if we are ever to reign with Him and reign over ourselves and our enemies (see Proverbs 16:7).

## **COMING** *Home*

What could have been a disaster became a reunion. Instead of a war between brothers, Esau fell upon Jacob's neck and kissed him. They wept together. Esau returned the gifts that Jacob had sent him. They went their separate ways, and Jacob built a house and settled in peace.

Then the Lord sent Jacob back to Bethel with instructions to remove all foreign gods from among his

people, purify themselves, change garments, and build an altar. Along the way, "other gods" get into our lives, impurities come in, and "our righteousness" becomes filthy; we need a fresh garment of His righteousness. Then, there is the new altar of sacrifice to be built.

Jacob returned to sacred Bethel, but he was not the same person who had the dream years earlier. He was a man who had now seen himself and God—face to face.

I recently met a man who had left our church many years ago. He did so because his pastor had moved to another city. In disappointment, he left the church. His business prospered but he lost his family and friends. Then I saw him back at church. I went over to greet him; but he fell on my neck and wept. I wept with him; he was home.

I have a friend who works with the homeless. He told me that 80% of them once went to church and had some experience with the Lord, perhaps a dream ... but then they "went into a far country" and lost all they had. My friend meets them where they are and tells them that they can return home. He leads them back. Returning can be a struggle, but Father God will meet them and bless them in mercy. They can go home again!

## *Anatomy* *of the* **STRUGGLE**

Why is it so difficult to seek God's face? It is so easy for a child to come to Christ because they have much less time and conflict to face; less of which to repent. But most of us, like Jacob, have a lot to deal with.

We are not told much about



Jacob's conversation with God at Penuel, but we are told that it took all night. Some might ask, "What could one talk to God about all night?" But those would be people who have never been face-to-face with God and with themselves.

The struggle is about who we are without God, where we have been, what we have done, and where we are going. It is about what will happen if God doesn't bless us. The struggle is about the dream that sometimes becomes a nightmare.

For some of us the struggle is about our children and grandchildren. What will happen to them if God doesn't bless us? For others, it's about our church and its mission. And for all of us in the United States, it is about our nation and its direction. What will happen if God doesn't bless America?

A friend of Billy Graham told this story: He entered Graham's room to find the great evangelist flat on the floor crying out to God, "Lord, don't take the Holy Spirit from me; you can take (he named some names) ...but don't take the Holy Spirit."

We have all seen Graham's success, but few have seen his struggles. There would have been no crusades without desperate struggles. There are no cheap seats in the Kingdom arena.

Many years ago, I preached at a conference in a distant nation. My message was well received and many responded. As I sat in the car waiting for the driver to take me back to the hotel, a little voice spoke, "That's the real you—that is how it would always be if people would just listen." I knew it wasn't the Holy Spirit, but it sounded good.

The next night, the message fell

flat—no one responded. I couldn't leave the building quick enough! As I sat in the same car awaiting the driver, another voice spoke, "That was the real you—the one without the Holy Spirit." I have never forgotten it.

## OUR DEPENDENCE on Him

We are never more safe than when we are humble before Christ and realize our total dependence upon Him. We are never in greater danger than when we walk in pride. Martin Luther said, "God created the world out of nothing, and as long as we are nothing, He can make something out of us." God made something great with conniving Jacob because he dealt honestly with God at Penuel.

Perhaps the most humbling realization for me has been that I cannot change my own heart, let alone the hearts of others. Coming to a place of recognizing my spiritual poverty is the key to God's blessing and receiving His Kingdom into my life.

I pray for an awakening in our nation. It will begin in personal humility before God and a willingness to struggle with Him for His blessing. Emptying ourselves, getting alone, and seeking His face can save us, just as it did Jacob.

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**Charles Simpson** is Editor-In-Chief of *One-to-One Magazine*. He ministers extensively throughout the United States and among the nations.

## BACK TO BETHEL NEW!

At a place called Bethel, Jacob encountered God and would go away changed. Can the Church return to Bethel? Charles shares how our "Bethel" is not an experience, but an authentic return to God's purpose.

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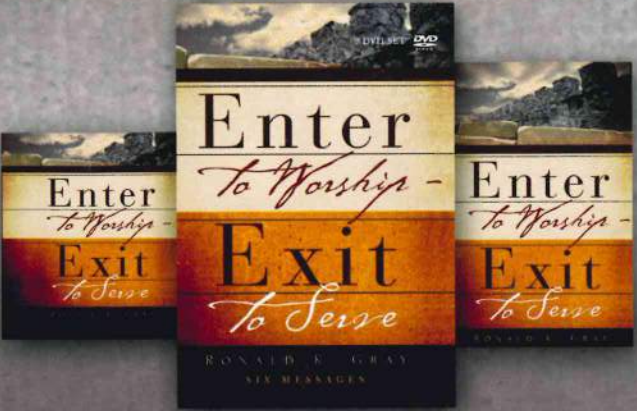
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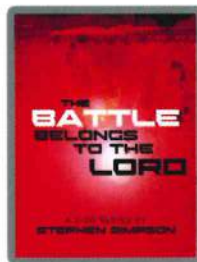
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# TURNING THE HEA

GLOBAL REDEMPTION STARTS AT HOME by Stephen Simpson

THE LAST WORD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT IS “curse.” How sobering to think that what began with such promise “in the beginning,” had come to a place where man’s sin brought great strife—division between God and man, division between nations, and division within families. Mankind had squandered our perfect fellowship with Father God and in so doing, we lost the very basis we had for relating to one another.

When all seemed lost, God sent a promise and a warning: *“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse” (Malachi 4:5-6).*

This promised Redeemer is, of course, Jesus Christ. He was Himself in perfect harmony with His Heavenly Father—so much so, in fact, that He said, *“If you’ve seen Me, you’ve seen the Father” (see John 8 and John 14).* He shows us the way to the Father, and shows us how earthly fathers and their children should relate. In fact, He not only shows us, but transforms our hearts and makes it possible.



# ARTS OF FATHERS

In John 17, He prays an amazing prayer for all of us who follow Him: *"...that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me"* (John 17:21-23).

The heart of any good father is that

His children  
would love,  
honor, and  
stand with  
one another.

Jesus so clearly  
reflected His own  
Father's heart that  
He could pray this  
prayer for us. Our unity  
is very dear to the heart  
of God.

God ordained that His healing in the earth would be initiated and revealed by restoring the hearts of parents and children. First, He made a way for our relationship with Him as our Father to be restored. Then, He works through Jesus Christ to turn the hearts of fathers to children; as families are healed, communities become healthier, and the glory of God continues to radiate outward to the nations.

## A FATHERLESS GENERATION

As I have often said, fatherlessness is the defining characteristic of our generation. President Barack Obama has spoken often of the effects of an absent father in his own life. Statistics and real-life examples show us that increasing numbers of children are growing up in homes without a father in their lives, or even a positive male role model. Apart from God's grace, intervention, and provision, this leaves critical gaps in a child's development and sense of security.

On Father's Day 2008, then-Senator Obama said this:

*Of all the rocks upon which we build our lives, we are reminded today that family is the most important. And we are called to recognize and honor how critical every father is to that foundation. They are teachers and coaches. They are mentors and role models. They are examples of success and the men who constantly push us toward it.*



*But if we are honest with ourselves, we'll admit that what too many fathers also are is missing—missing from*

*too many lives and too many homes. They have abandoned their responsibilities, acting like boys instead of men. And the foundations of our families are weaker because of it.*

While I personally may find areas of disagreement with Mr. Obama on policy matters, I certainly agree with that message he expressed about fatherhood.

## JESUS PRAYS FOR YOUR FAMILY

One thing that encourages and comforts me greatly is the knowledge that Jesus' prayer that we may all be one includes healing for fathers and children. And He is still praying for us (see Romans 8 and Hebrews 7). Jesus is praying for our families, inasmuch as our families represent the most basic building block within His Church. It is not God's purpose to transform the Church into a "spotless Bride" while ignoring the families who make up His Church.

Indeed, it is in the restoration of families—specifically, the turning of fathers' hearts to children, and children's hearts to fathers—that we find hope for the health of the Church. This is vital, because as Pastor Karl Strader once said, *"A broken and divided Church offers no hope for a broken and divided world."*

Knowing His will and intent for us will make us more strategic in seeking to obey Him; to humble ourselves and do whatever we can to line up with His will. Sometimes, there are things that are beyond our ability or control. This

continued on page 15





# Life at the Office

Transforming Your Work Culture

by JONATHAN SIMPSON





FROM TELEVISION SITCOMS TO BIG screen suspense thrillers, we are captivated by watching work cultures as we temporarily escape our own. America's interest in working environments has not diminished since Mary Tyler Moore and WKRP, to today's so-called reality shows and the most recent hit: **The Office**.

If you fall shy of the national average of 2.5 hours of TV watching per day and have little idea about any of those shows, then good for you! Maybe you've been too busy with your own work reality, in which case, you're probably still consumed with office culture; albeit your own. Whether it causes you to laugh, cry, or curse the copy machine, your own work

culture is a field...one that is cultivating you, yet also one where you are called to sow.

It happens millions of times daily: people go to work, crossing a border into a unique culture with its own preferences, language, values, distinct systems of government, personal liberties and vending machines. This is not the story of migrant Mexican workers seeking a better life. This is the story of you and me, and our every day employment

that exists in what can sometimes seem like a whole new world.

Each day, we go through "Customs" of sorts. Upon arrival you pass through the border checkpoint. Maybe it's an ID badge instead of a passport that gets you through, or the receptionist that gives you the nod. You say your "good morning's", read your to do's and e-memos, fill out your TPS reports, hunt down your favorite mug, and...the day gathers speed. In the break room you bump into Ted from accounting and laugh over the fact that you're wearing the same shirt.

**You never even liked Ted, what's up with that?** Whatever your situation and actual day flow; you and your colleagues are part of a culture that is a determining factor in the chain reaction of employee satisfaction, work performance, and client retention.

## Cultural Transformation

In Romans 12, the apostle Paul gives us this instruction:

**"So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for Him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you"** (Romans 12:1-3, from *The Message*).

The first order of business is between you and the Lord. Place it before Him. Listen to Him. Respond to Him and be changed by Him. Culture begins at the cellular level—you. One cell affecting another. The critical mass necessary for change is a process. It didn't get that way overnight. Transformation takes time.

There are two categories of people that will have the greatest impact on culture within an organization. The first is leaders. They affect the atmosphere for obvious reasons. They "set the tone" and model their true values. Their manner will be emulated or resented; culture breeds from there.

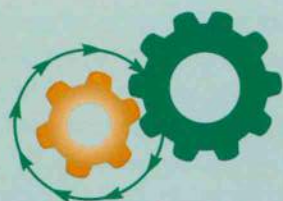
Another category is future leaders. Suppose you're not yet recognized as a leader in your workplace. The hopeful aspect about the "future leader" category is that it could be almost anyone, at least in some area—if they dare. A true future leader must first positively affect the culture before his or her status can be confirmed.

Do you believe you can learn pivotal business principals from business people who are "non-believers?" I think we should and can—without throwing away any of our spiritual discernment or biblical morality. We can look at successful marketplace models that are outside of the traditional religious culture and receive wisdom from those who might look and act differently on the surface, but have learned and proven wise principles over time.

To do this, you have to suspend enough of your prejudice that you can reach in and capture a real truth. That's tough. It's easier sometimes to reject the whole enchilada and just stay at home with the voices in our heads. But what if the man on the other side of the border held a key to your quest for cultural transformation? Whether or not a "non-believing" business person realizes it, if they are espousing a sustainable principal that truly works, you won't find it disputed in Scripture.

Now that you've been set up, let me give you an example: Sir Richard Branson is the founder of the Virgin Brand and now Chairman of the Virgin Group. His ventures span across multiple business sectors including the airline industry, space tourism, and cellular phone industry within which he built Virgin Mobile USA—the fastest company in history to generate over one billion dollars in revenue. His earlier huge successes in the music sales





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and recording business propelled what is now the Virgin "way-of-life" brand with the promise of high quality products and customer service. He is known personally for having extreme fun and establishing business frameworks that create fun and creative cultures.

**Branson says: "I find it extraordinary that so many managers pay no attention to the fabric of their workplaces. How are people supposed to believe in it when all they see of it, day after day, is a couple of dying plants and a fire extinguisher."** If you're familiar with Branson's past publicity stunts and irreverence at times, please don't write to let me know. I'm too overwhelmed with fan mail to get to such letters!



Courtesy Virgin Atlantic/Richard Branson

## Discipline and Trust

Branson—in his recent book **Business Stripped Bare**—discloses ideas that may help you actually advance your culture. First, discipline is a key quality Sir Richard looks for in people. In his recent book, Mr. Branson references another book entitled: **Good to Great** by Jim Collins. Branson writes:

**"Jim Collins says all companies have a culture but few have a culture of discipline. This doesn't mean that people are tied to a tree and whipped if they don't work well, or have their wages docked if their five minutes late. It's not that kind of discipline I'm talking about. It is to do with having disciplined people. And we have disciplined people right across our Virgin Businesses. After all, if you're going to let people get on**

**with and even develop their own jobs, you need people you can trust."**

Do you see what Branson just did in his last sentence? He tied discipline to trust.

Here is something radical—Branson advocates that we "Always practice the Golden Rule, internally and externally." Wow—isn't that avant garde? Could this be too forward-thinking for today's progressive business cultures? Seems to work for Branson. The Golden Rule, as you probably know, comes from Matthew 7:12. Jesus says: **"So whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them; for this is the Law and the prophets."** Luke 6:36-38 adds this: **"For the measure you give will be the measure you get back."**

Other culture changers Richard Branson champions include:

- "Employees are number one. The way you treat your employees is the way they will treat your customers."
- "It's OK to be yourself."
- "The best Virgin manager is someone who cares about people and genuinely wants to bring out the best in them."
- "Have fun at work."
- "Hire for attitude."
- "Seek out people with the right spirit. The things you learn can only complement who you are—who you are is more important to me."

No matter how much we can reform our culture at work; there will always be room for refinement. Just because we will never achieve the ultimate work culture, we should not be guilty of neglecting it. You can make a difference in your work culture. First, ask God and start with you. Remember also, it's OK to get outside your Petri dish for help. The key might very well be just across the border. **121**

**Jonathan Simpson** is Director of the Construction Services Team for Apex III, a construction firm based in Mobile, AL. He also coordinates Marketplace Exchange for CSM and provides management assistance for the Hidden Treasures Costa Rica ministry.



is where His grace and power—and our willingness to wait on Him patiently—come in. I've heard my Dad say, *"We cannot do what only God can do, and God will not do what He wants us to do."*

God desires to restore families—to be the bridge between fathers and children. No matter how you perceive your



relationship with your children, we must all remember that it is Jesus Christ who makes the relationship possible. He is what holds us together, even when it sometimes looks like everything is falling apart (see Colossians 1).

We are also called to be agents of reconciliation out in the world, as ambassadors of Father God in a fatherless generation. Recently, I walked through a community in chaos, where murder, gangs, drugs, prostitution, and poverty stalk and destroy countless lives. Young children have been forced into prostitution to support the drug habits of their mothers. Their fathers are either in gangs, in jail, or in the grave. It is not enough for me to think that it's "their children" or "their problem." As an ambassador of the kingdom of God, I am to be an agent of reconciliation and a light in darkness...to have the heart of the Lord Who is Himself a "Father to the fatherless."

All of this motivates me to pray more—more for my own daughter and our family; more for the healing in the body of Christ; and more for this lost, dying, and desperate generation. As we pray these things, we can know we are praying in perfect agreement with Father God. May we see His Kingdom revealed more fully in our generation! **121**

**Stephen Simpson** is the Editor of *One-to-One* and Senior Pastor of Covenant Church of Mobile.

## Music Review "Wash Away" DON POYTHRESS

(Integrity Music, 2009)



The long-awaited major label debut from singer/songwriter Don Poythress arrives in the form of a fresh—and refreshing—praise and worship expression entitled *"Wash Away"*. Don is known and loved among many of our *One-to-One* readers as the leader of the annual Gatlinburg Conference worship team; but he is also highly respected among some of the most prominent music artists in America.

Over the past decade, Don has quietly built an exceptional collection of songs—classics that have been recorded by artists such as Clint Black, Tim McGraw, Willie Nelson, Hank Williams, Jr., Travis Tritt, Jaci Velasquez, Sir Cliff Richard, and The Martins (the Dove Award-winning song "The Promise").

With *"Wash Away,"* Don presents an exceptional blend of his original songs, along with two much-loved hymns. As a lyricist, Don Poythress has few peers...he has an uncanny knack for presenting timeless truth with an unvarnished biblical perspective that is devoid of clichés or pat answers; these songs are deeply personal, yet can touch something unique in the heart of every listener. Strong and memorable melodies are offered in a Modern Country style, played by some of the best musicians in Nashville.

The worship experience begins with the chiming "Expectation," which is the perfect invitation to go up together into the presence of God. Don's leadership and the song selection throughout is a study in how to flow in the Spirit, soaring into "I Will Call Upon Your Name" and then, a thrilling vocal collaboration with Paul Baloche on "Brand New Day"—definitely two of the many songs here that your congregation will want to sing. The poetic, gently flowing "Fill Me Up" makes room for the searingly honest and moving heart-cry, "Wash Away."

The modern hymn "Before the Throne of God Above" is the natural response to the deep repentance and cleansing of "Wash Away," followed by the peace-imparting "I Will Bless the Lord." On "The Faithful Love of Jesus," Don is joined by the incomparable bluegrass legend Ricky Skaggs on vocals and mandolin... **"I pray you'll know the love of God, the love that never leaves us, the height, the depth, the width, the breadth, the faithful love of Jesus."** Just hearing this song is an answer to that prayer.

Don again displays his poetic gift with "Lord of All" which leads into a powerful promise-filled proclamation: "A Thousand Generations". The simple eloquence of the "Doxology" closes out the time of congregational worship. But Don isn't finished yet: he offers one of his signature real-life story songs—as only Don can tell them—about "Joseph," the human father of Jesus. It's a masterful and moving portrait of the man God chose and tested and used to care for His own Son.

"Wash Away" is available in music stores June 23, and through [www.integritymusic.com](http://www.integritymusic.com), and iTunes.







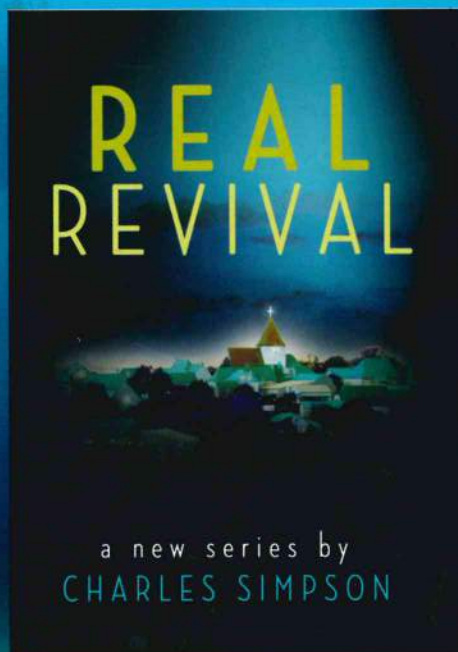
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