

# The Billy Graham School

# COMPASS

## Navigating Ministry & Missions

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June 2007

### Fathers & Ministry

Dear church leader,

I wish all of the *Compass* readers could have met Lawrence Langford, who was in many ways a Christian father to me. I met him when I was a teenage believer, and his support for me was undying as I grew in faith and began ministry. In fact, he gave me the first study Bible that I ever owned.

Lawrence loved the Lord with a unique love, and he was one of those church members that pastors always appreciate—quietly and humbly serving the Lord in a way that made the church stronger. He had a gentle strength that never compromised truth, never settled for less than the best, and yet loved others even when they sometimes failed. When the Lord called Lawrence home, his children talked warmly about their memories of their father. I am blessed and privileged to have known this man.



*“Use the holiday as a launching pad to talk to a non-believer about the way God loves us.”*

This month, we celebrate Father’s Day, a day set aside to honor those who have raised us, taught us, and modeled faith for us. Indeed, this edition’s article by Dr. Russell

Moore will remind you of the importance of Christian fatherhood. As you celebrate this day, I challenge you to think about adding these steps to your celebration. First, thank God for the men who have most influenced your life. Second, ask God to direct you to someone in whose life you should invest. Be the Christian father to someone else as Lawrence Langford was to me.

Perhaps most importantly, tell somebody about God the Father. Use the holiday as a launching pad to talk to a non-believer about the way God loves us. Speak of his willingness to guide and re-direct us as needed. Tell about the times when the Father has been a comfort and strength for you. Direct non-believers to the Father’s Son whose death makes salvation possible.

You might even stop right now and ask God to give you a specific opportunity to take advantage of this holiday opportunity to evangelize.

Dr. Chuck Lawless  
Dean, The Billy Graham School of  
Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth

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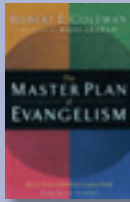
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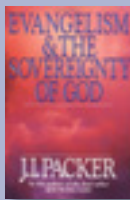
## Recommended Resources

Topic of the Month:  
Evangelism



Robert Coleman,  
*The Master Plan of Evangelism*

Will Metzger,  
*Tell the Truth: The Whole Gospel to the Whole Person by Whole People*



J. I. Packer,  
*Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*

C. H. Spurgeon,  
*The Soul Winner*



Michael Green,  
*Evangelism in the Early Church*

Mark McCloskey,  
*Tell it Often - Tell it Well: Making the Most of Witnessing Opportunities*



Next Edition: Missions

Books can be found at:  
Lifeway.com or Amazon.com

## Let the Nations be Glad

John Piper is committed to emphasizing God's glory. In *Let the Nations be Glad*, Piper helps Christians see the biblical purpose behind doing missions: worship. He explains that the only act that takes place in both heaven and earth is worship. Therefore, the ultimate goal of the church is worship, which is also the catalyst for missions. Piper argues that the purpose of missions is to help lead people to worship Christ as their savior. According to Piper, Christians should be motivated to take the gospel to the ends of the earth by seeing people put faith in Christ.



Faith in Christ brings glory to God as one becomes a worshiper of God for all eternity. Christians should seek to bring glory to God through evangelizing all nations in order to lead people to worship Him. This book provides a theology of missions and is beneficial and motivating for all those who are mission-minded. By: Kevin S. Hall

**Piper, John. *Let the Nations be Glad: The Supremacy of God in Missions*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2003.**

## The Strange Case of the Evangelical Dad

Did you see the newspaper articles about the study demonstrating that conservative evangelical fathers are more likely to be abusive, detached, and isolated from their families? No?

That's because that's not the conclusion found by a study several years ago. Instead, the study, reported in the *Journal of Marriage and Family*, concluded that conservative evangelicals make better fathers than their secular counterparts. The study suggests that evangelical dads are far more likely to read with their children, eat dinner with them, and engage in outside

**"Conservative evangelicals make better fathers than their secular counterparts."**

activities together. *The Boston Globe* reports that, according to the study, fathers in a nuclear family with "strong religious and community ties" are "most likely to show up at dinner and put their kids to sleep reading 'Goodnight Moon.'"

Of course, this data leaves some secular academics scratching their heads. "Evangelical Protestant fathers, including Southern Baptists, are very involved with

their children, which I found surprising, given their tendency to embrace traditional gender attitudes," said University of Virginia sociologist W. Bradford Wilcox, who conducted much of the research for the study. The sociologist asks himself why such "oppressive" views of gender roles and family life shouldn't produce homes seething with resentment and neglect. After all, wouldn't one expect that conservative evangelical dads would dismiss childrearing as "woman's work," while they attend Billy Graham crusades or do, well, whatever it is that evangelical men do?

Perhaps there is another view. Perhaps evangelical fathers are more committed to their children, not in spite of their biblical understanding of the family, but because of it. Perhaps this counter-cultural understanding of the father as protector and provider brings out something in men deeply ingrained in the warp and woof of creation, something reflecting the Fatherhood of God Himself (Eph 3:14-15). Perhaps attention to the biblical mandate on gender roles also means atten-

tion to the biblical mandate that husbands lavish their wives (Eph 5:25-29) and their children (Eph 6:4) with love, nurture, and kindness.

Ultimately, it does not really matter what sociological studies conclude. What matters more is where evangelical dads actually are, in the neighborhood, in the community barbershop, or in the stands of the Little League ball field. What matters more are the watching neighborhood children whose fathers prefer the golf course to the front lawn and watching "Monday Night Football" to reading *Good Night Moon* for the seven-hundredth time.

Perhaps these unbelieving fathers also will find the evangelical dad to be a strange phenomenon. Perhaps they will ask why. And maybe, just maybe, some of them will discover, not just what it means to be good fathers, but what it means to become sons of the only Father who can truly be called "good."

*By: Dr. Russell Moore  
Senior V.P. for Academic Administration; Dean, the School of Theology, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary*

# CHURCH HEALTH 101



## Seeing Your Facility through an Outsider's Eyes

Have you considered what your church facility looks like through an outsider's eyes? Consider these questions:

- Is guest parking available and clearly marked?
- Are greeters available in the parking lot and at every entrance?
- Is there a clearly indicated "Welcome Center"? If so, are the welcome center workers trained to answer questions that guests might have?
- Do signs direct to the welcome center and the worship center?
- Is lighting adequate in the worship center? Is the wall color bright?
- Does the carpet date the building?
- Is seating capacity in the worship center adequate? Assuming 24" per person, how many will the center hold at 80 percent capacity?

# PURPOSE SIX

## Job Description for a Prayer Coordinator

Effective prayer ministries are most often led by a recognized prayer ministry coordinator. Here is a proposed job description for your use.

### Qualifications:

1. Must be a faithful Christian and church member
2. Must exhibit a strong spiritual life and an obvious passion for prayer
3. Must possess leadership skills and be respected in the congregation
4. Must have a teachable, humble spirit

### Responsibilities:

1. Help ensure that prayer is integrated into every ministry of the church
2. Enlist and oversee a prayer committee or team
3. Plan and organize special prayer emphases in the church
4. Coordinate regularly scheduled prayer training events
5. Promote the prayer ministry
6. Oversee calendar and budget items related to the prayer ministry
7. Serve as church liaison with prayer leaders from other churches
8. Whenever feasible, attend prayer leader training events

# RESEARCH SHOWS

In a recent research project, "A Study of the Relationship between Pastoral Personal Evangelism and Church Growth for Churches in the Southern Baptist Convention," our research team found these traits of pastors of evangelistic churches:

- 100% believe that:

All humans are lost without a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the only way to the Father, and a personal relationship with him is necessary for salvation.

Hell is a literal place where non-believers suffer judgment eternally.

Prayer is foundational to effective evangelism.

- 95.9% believe most evangelism requires that we go to the non-believers; they are not likely to seek us. Thus, these pastors take the initiative to do evangelism.

- 96.8% believe we should challenge non-believers to respond to the message in our presentation of the gospel. These pastors are not afraid to call a non-believer to repentance and faith.

- 99% believe the senior pastor or teaching elder of a church should set the example for doing personal evangelism. They realize that their church will not do more than they do in personal evangelism.

- 94.8% pray for non-believers by name. Their burdens for the lost are personal.

- 78.9% pray for daily opportunities to evangelize others. Thus, they are alert to these opportunities.



Final findings of this research will be available late in 2007.



## John — East Africa

John is a Southern Baptist missionary in East Africa. He and his wife Rebekah have two girls - Rachel (6) and Sarah (3). John is a Master of Divinity Billy Graham School graduate, and Rebekah graduated with a Master of Arts in Christian Education from Southern. John served as a Strategy Leader in East Africa where he focused on church planting and reaching the area for Christ.

As you lead your church to pray for missionaries, remember these requests from the African mission field:

1. Pray that the Ugandan believers would continue to have a passion to reach Kampala for Christ and beyond.

## Missionary Matters

2. Ask God to continue to raise up God-fearing leaders who find their wisdom and contentment totally in Christ and His Word.

3. Ask the Lord of the harvest to continue to raise laborers in the harvest.

4. Intercede for all the saints of the Kampala Baptist house church network, that grace and peace be multiplied to them in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

5. Pray that God continues to open the door for His Word, so that the truth of Christ will be proclaimed in the dark places of Kampala.

*Kampala is the capital city of Uganda and home to over two million people.*

**BGS HELPS**

### Know others who might be interested in receiving this e-newsletter?

Send their contact information to [bgsinfo@sbts.edu](mailto:bgsinfo@sbts.edu).

### Know college students who might want to receive a new Graham School collegiate newsletter beginning in August of this year?

Send their contact information to Kevin Hall at [khall@sbts.edu](mailto:khall@sbts.edu)

### Interested in a Doctor of Ministry from the Billy Graham School?

<http://www.sbts.edu/dmin>

#### Concentrations:

Evangelism and Church Growth

Three Tracks:

Pastor and Staff Leadership

Applied Apologetics

Church Consulting

Missions Leadership

Black Church Leadership

Korean Church Leadership

### Thinking about a church-based mission trip?

[http://www.sbts.edu/campus\\_life/Great\\_Commission\\_Center/Planning\\_a\\_Mission\\_Trip\\_for\\_Your\\_Church.aspx](http://www.sbts.edu/campus_life/Great_Commission_Center/Planning_a_Mission_Trip_for_Your_Church.aspx)

### Might God be calling you and your church to plant a church?

[http://www.sbts.edu/campus\\_life/Church\\_Planting\\_Center.aspx](http://www.sbts.edu/campus_life/Church_Planting_Center.aspx)

### Need a good evangelistic tract?

<http://www.sbts.edu/pdf/GRACE.pdf>

#### Contact Us:

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Compass is a production of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

*For more information about The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary go to: [www.sbts.edu](http://www.sbts.edu).*

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