

COMMUNICATOR

NAZARENE PUBLISHING HOUSE

Rewards of Ministry

It was the time I spent with people that made the difference. It was simply being with them in the many experiences of their lives whether critical or mundane.

This summer I had the privilege of returning to a previous congregation where I served for eight years. They were celebrating the 100th anniversary of their organization by Phineas Bresee. For me, it had been 13 years since being with them as a group and I was not fully prepared for what would happen.

Scores of people began to approach Starla and me not only to welcome us back, but usually with specific words about how our lives had touched their lives. It was a gratifying and humbling experience. Couples that I'd united in marriage brought their teenaged children and said, "This is Pastor Rowell. He helped us to dedicate you to the Lord when you were a baby." The teens rolled their eyes, and I wiped mine. Senior adults would say, "I remember when I was laid up at home and you came every week to check on me. That meant so much." Others said something like, "I'm a Christian today largely because of your influence in my life."

It changed me to hear those kinds of words. Many of you know exactly what I'm talking about. These are the true rewards of ministry. During my years in that congregation I did a lot of teaching, but nobody really talked about my teaching. I spent hours designing and leading various programs and ministries. Nobody really focused on my tireless efforts to design programs. I expended much energy in administrative detail, but the words of appreciation were not directed toward my organization. It was the time I spent with people that made the difference. It was simply being with them in the many experiences of their lives whether critical or mundane. One young lady put it most poignantly, "Whenever my family was in crisis, I would look up and you were there."

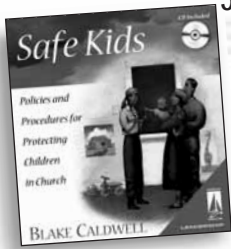
Friends, can I preach to the choir? This is the essence of pastoral ministry. I don't know about you, but in the midst of a culture like ours and even in a church culture like ours, I need this reminder. I don't know how many years the Lord will give me in ministry, but when it's all over I suspect it won't be measured by the programs I developed, the buildings I built, the budgets I balanced, or perhaps even the sermons I preached. It will be measured by the people whose souls somehow intersected with the grace of God working through me.

This takes time. And I'm thinking that it requires more than a mad dash around the community trying to touch as many people as I can, not really getting into the thickness of their experience because I have to rush on. I think it's more like lingering in the sacred space between the brokenness of their lives and the hope-filled movements of God's grace. It's what Eugene Peterson somewhere describes as, "the ability to be unhurried in the presence of another person."

For some of us that ability does not come naturally. It has to be nurtured, developed, and disciplined. My appeal to us as pastors on the basis of this very personal experience is simple: nurture this ability! Discipline your schedule so that much time is given to being with the people. Do the unglamorous, unproductive, and often unnoticed work of pastoral visitation, whatever its form. Somehow in the mysteries of the kingdom of God, this is where the true and lasting rewards of ministry are sown.

—Jeren Rowell





By Blake Caldwell

This timely volume is part of the *LifeStream* series of practical, pastoral resources. Child safety is a primary concern for unchurched parents. We cannot afford to ignore the issue, content to hope and pray that our children will be safe. The old adage says, "It takes years to build credibility and minutes to ruin it." This manual is about creating a good offense, not a hasty defense. Rather than waiting until something drastic happens and lamenting about it, churches can take active steps to put safeguards in place for their ministry.

Safe Kids is a manual designed to help churches structure the safest possible environment for their children's ministry. This manual provides:

- Forms and procedures to screen volunteers
- Ideas for structuring the church building to keep nurseries and Sunday school classrooms safe
- Instructions for training children's workers
- Information you must know to identify potential predators
- Policies for reporting suspected child abuse
- And much more

Blake Caldwell serves as the Children's Ministries Pastor at Skyline Wesleyan Church. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion & Pastoral Ministry from Bethany Bible College in Sussex, New Brunswick, Canada. He resides in La Mesa, California with his wife and two children.

(Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 2004, 160pp., \$89.99, notebook, COZZ083-412-0852)

BOOK BRIEFS

Resources for Pastoral Ministry

PASTORAL CARE

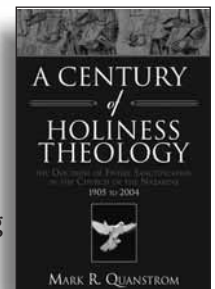
When Love Hurts: 10 Principles to Transform Difficult Relationships. By Karla Downing. (Beacon Hill Press, 2004, 160pp., \$14.99, paper, COZZ083-412-1360). A dysfunctional relationship is any relationship in which you find yourself struggling to force change, give advice, control, or fix problems. *When Love Hurts* provides practical and scriptural tools to help you transform your dysfunctional relationship. The 10 principles in this book will help you to experience freedom—to let go and love your loved one, and to experience peace, trust, and joy in the midst of the storm. It will even provide you with tools that increase the chance that your loved one will change—the very thing that you have been trying to make him or her do and have failed. One day at a time, you will begin to change and heal.



from both professional family experts and unofficial family experts who have faced similar struggles. The stories and advice from parents who have been there offer comfort, consolation, and hope. For most kids, the prodigal life is a season. Sometimes it's a long season, but parents can survive, and even thrive during this difficult time.

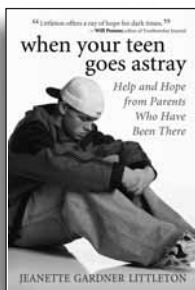
THEOLOGY

A Century of Holiness Theology: The Doctrine of Entire Sanctification in the Church of the Nazarene, 1905-2004 by Mark Quanstrom. (Beacon Hill Press, 2004, 232pp., \$29.99, paper, COZZ083-412-1166). Quanstrom's epochal book charts "the gradual change in the understanding of the doctrine of entire sanctification in the Church of the Nazarene in the twentieth century," (from the introduction). He presents three basic eras of doctrinal self-understandings based upon the textbooks used in our course of studies. As a result of these three eras, the Church of the Nazarene is now functioning with at least two differing explanations for her doctrine of entire sanctification. One explanation is wholly congruent with our Articles of Faith. The other explanation lacks congruency with the articles as they are now formulated. How these two explanations can best become melded is a problem for our future. The materials Quanstrom presents, in such a neutral and engaging way, offer a starting point for this future dialog. Quanstrom's work is a must read for those with a commitment to the mission and functioning of the Church of the Nazarene. (Reviewed by Darrell R. Poeppelmeyer).



PARENTING

When Your Teen Goes Astray: Help and Hope from Parents Who Have Been There. By Jeanette Gardner Littleton. (Beacon Hill Press, 2004, 136pp., \$12.99, paper, COZZ083-412-0445). The author writes, "When our child walked away from our home and our faith, my husband Mark and I had no clue what to do." Parenting a prodigal teen is an exhausting task. Parents are quickly wiped out emotionally, distraught, and maybe even in shock. They often feel isolated and alone. *When Your Teen Goes Astray* provides wisdom

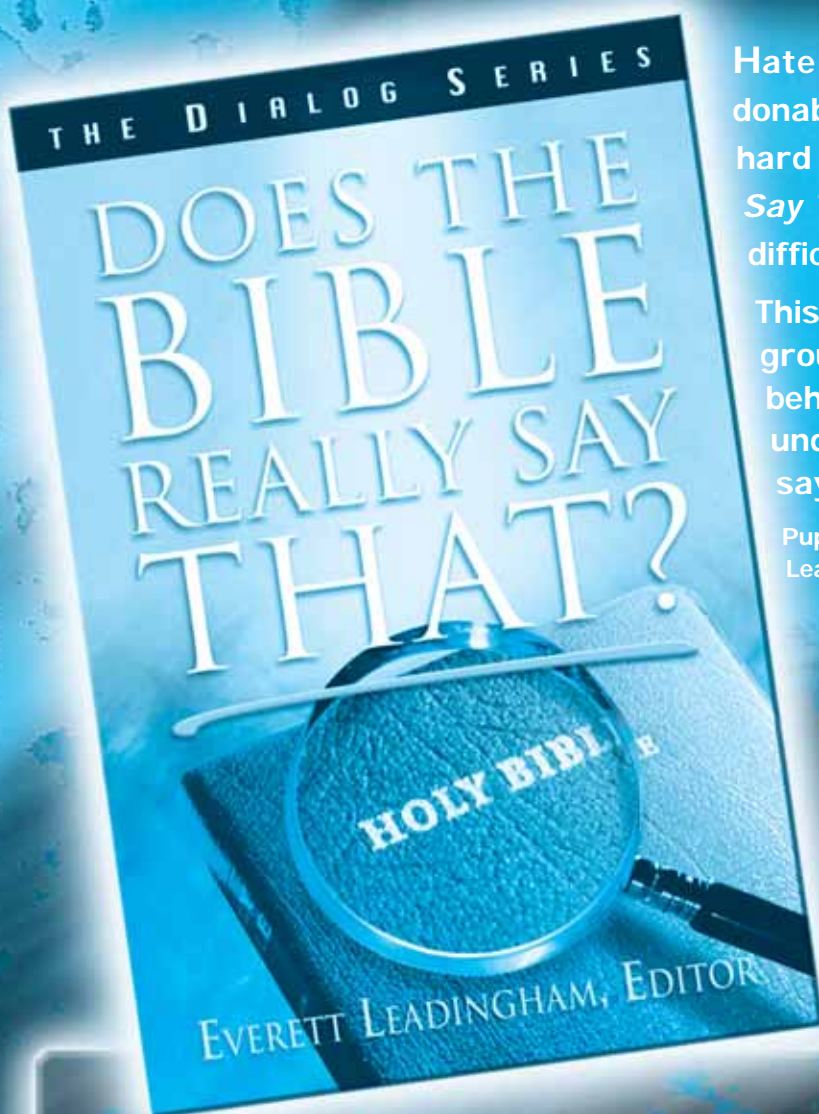


SEE US ON-LINE FOR ALL YOUR RESOURCE NEEDS AT www.nph.com

Some of the books featured in *Communicator* have not been reviewed for theological content and are not endorsed by Nazarene Publishing House or the Church of the Nazarene. They may have significant value, but readers should exercise theological discretion.



UNCOVER FOR YOURSELF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HARD SAYINGS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT!



Hate my family? Sell everything? The unpardonable sin? What do we do when the Bible is hard to understand? *Does the Bible Really Say That?* examines sayings that are either difficult to hear or hard to comprehend.

This study searches the historical background, customs of the time, and meaning behind the words, which are central to understanding the truth behind the hard sayings of the Bible.

Pupil COZZ083-412-0771 \$7.50
Leader COZZ083-412-0763 \$6.99

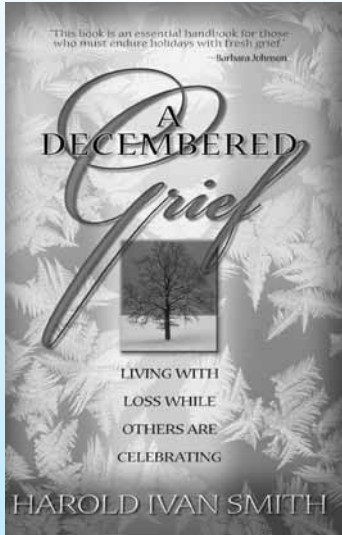
Now
Available



To order or for more titles,
contact WordAction
800-877-0700
www.wordaction.com

Coming April 2005 from *The Dialog Series* . . .
Who Is God?: His Character Revealed in the Christ

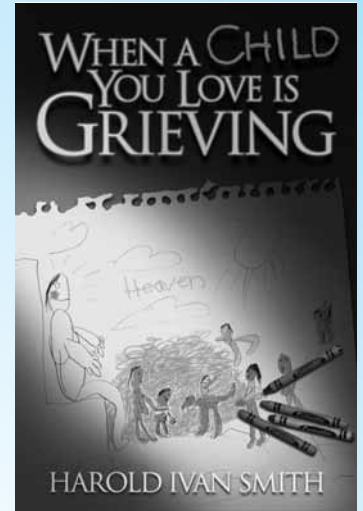
FACING LOSS



There Has Never Been A Loss Precisely Like Yours.

Suffering the loss of a loved one at any time of the year is difficult, yet during holidays or special occasions, those grieving experience a more intense sense of loss. Gain comforting insight into coping with a grief-impacted season from experienced counselor Harold Ivan Smith. *A Decembered Grief* is the essential handbook for enduring the holidays with a grieving heart.

COZZ083-411-819X \$13.99



COZZ083-412-1735 \$13.99

Comfort For A Child Who Is Grieving

When a Child You Love Is Grieving takes a different approach to helping a child grieve. As a widely recognized grief specialist, Harold Ivan Smith explains that quick answers are not what children need when they are grieving. They need support, and most of all they need to be allowed to grieve—for as long as it takes.

With an ABC-like approach, Smith offers insights and activities for the parent, teacher, or friend—anyone who loves a child and wants to offer his or her support.

BEACON HILL PRESS
OF KANSAS CITY



To order, call 1-800-877-0700 E-mail orders@nph.com
Or visit www.BeaconHillBooks.com

COMMUNICATOR

Nazarene Publishing House • P.O. Box 419527 • Kansas City, MO 64141

Information, 1-816-931-1900 • Ordering, 1-800-877-0700

Fax, 1-800-849-9827 • E-mail, communicator@nph.com

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*® (NIV®). Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

SEE US ON-LINE FOR
ALL YOUR RESOURCE NEEDS AT www.nph.com

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



Copyright Thom Tapp. Used by permission.

"That's not a virus pastor, its next year's budget proposal. Your deacons added the laugh track."

