

# COMMUNICATOR

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## Needing a Touch from God

**While we're laying up treasures in heaven, we still need a fresh touch from God.**

Jesus must have known when He said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth . . . But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven," in Matthew 6:19-20, that it was a command pastors wouldn't have any trouble accepting. After all, as pastors we have the privilege of spending our whole lives laying up treasures in heaven. Implementing these words sometimes seems easy to accomplish, but now a new school year looms ahead. No time to reflect on VBS, church camp, District Assembly, or General Assembly. No time to contemplate the summer sermon series, the weddings officiated, and the outings at the park. Fall is coming and with fall come school days; with school days come holidays, and surrounding all these school days and holidays are more chances to lay up treasures in heaven.

But as we turn the corner from summer to fall, in the rush of all the fresh opportunities to minister to our congregations and communities, we should remember that laying up treasure in heaven doesn't just consist of ministry activities and outreach events. If our treasure is truly in heaven, our hearts must also be near God's throne.

In all the laying up of treasures, where will you find the time to draw near to God? If you are like me, it is very easy to become distracted by a busy schedule and miss out on opportunities to be refreshed in His presence.

Encountering God in a new way won't happen by accident at the fall revival. It won't just happen through a Sunday School kick-off or new ministry launch. A fresh touch from God comes when we escape for a little while from the things that crowd our minds. You and I must be purposeful in our longing to get close to God. Staff development can wait. Calendars and planning can wait. Before it gets too busy, we need to take time to be with the Lord. We can't do without it; it's an imperative. So, go find that deer stand, go find that creek, go find that part of the beach, go find that coffee shop, or wherever it is you go to be alone with God. And listen to Him. The fervor by which you and I can fulfill Matthew 6:19-20 depends upon our waiting. Before we become too busy laying up more treasures, let us find time to receive a fresh touch from God.

Your Partner in Ministry,  
—Matthew S. Zimmer





by Bill M. Sullivan

**D**r. Bill Sullivan admits that a lot has changed since he wrote *Ten Steps to Breaking the 200 Barrier* in 1988. The landscape of church worship has changed. The culture in which we live has changed in the shift from modernity to post-modernity. Ideas about church growth have radically changed as well.

In *New Perspectives on Breaking the 200 Barrier*, Dr. Sullivan addresses these

new ideas. He examines the decisions made toward church growth and how to make better choices. He stresses why it is important to train the people of the church, pastors, and church leaders to accept the changes that come with growth and a desire to expand Christ's kingdom. Dr. Sullivan gives new insight on prayer as a preparation for growth, and finally he helps the reader recognize that the gate of change towards growth is locked on the inside and it is the congregation that holds the key. This is a tremendous book if you're looking for a new perspective on breaking the growth barriers that seem impossible to overcome.

(Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, 2005, approx. 128pp., \$12.99, paper, COZZ083-412-1786)

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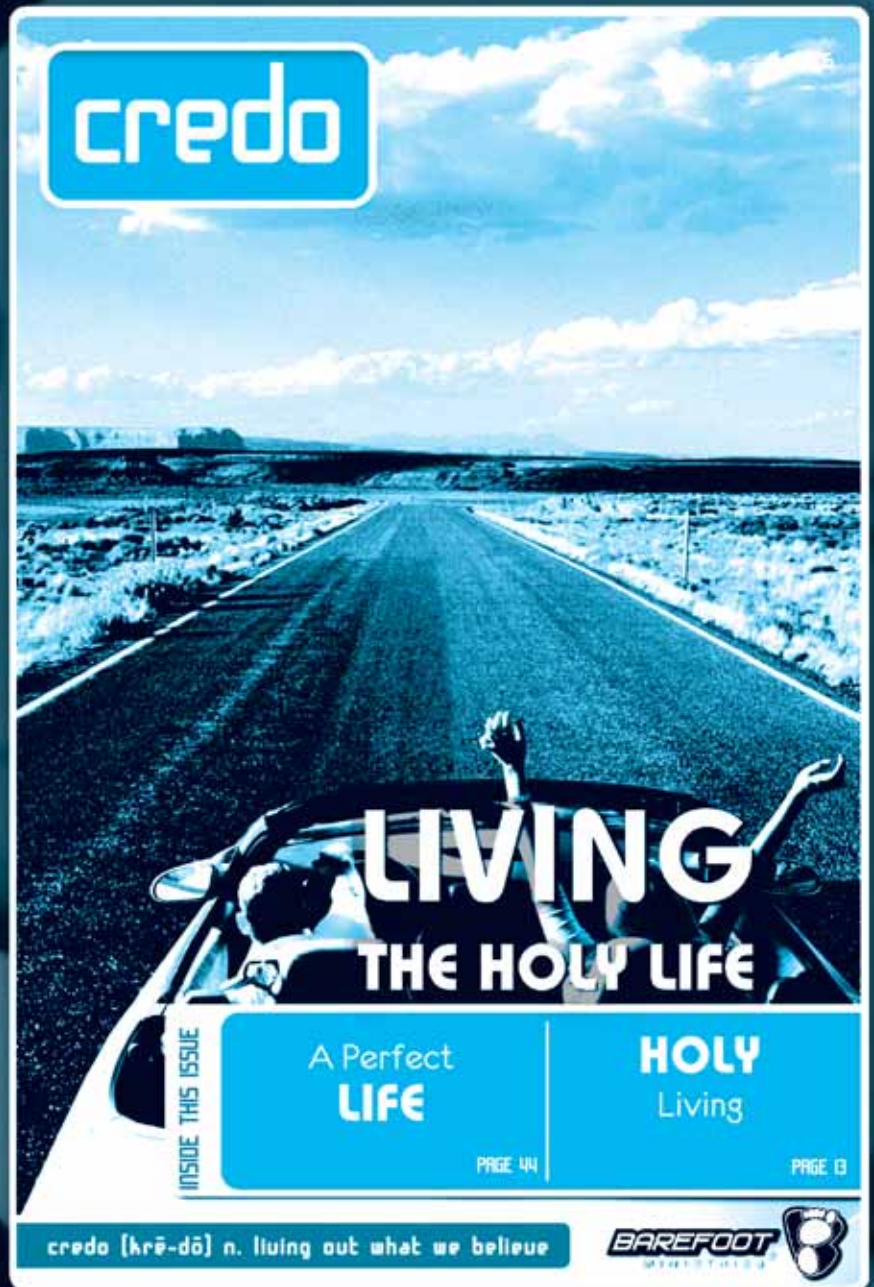
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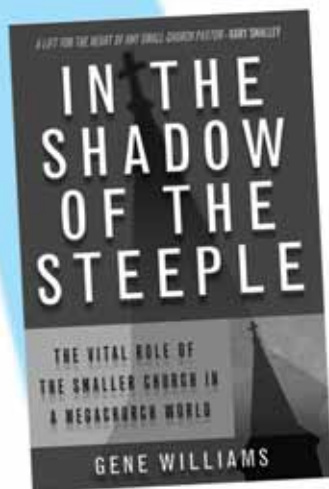
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