



## ISOLATION ISLAND

by Kendall Franklin

"No man is an island..." wrote English poet John Donne. Perhaps we should say more specifically, "No minister is an island." The problem is too many of us don't know this.

Earlier this year my wife and I had the privilege of traveling to the Eastern Caribbean. We stood at the highest point of St. Thomas and looked at literally dozens of islands all around. Some were large, some were small. Some were close and others distant. Most were accessible only by boat. I stood at that overlook and thought of the many pastors who feel the isolation of being like an island with very little access to others.

Let's face it...what we do does lend itself to a measure of loneliness. Leadership can be lonely. Still, too many pastors are isolated. I'm not sure if it is because we think we can do it by ourselves, or because we simply don't know how to connect with others. **But, "island mentality" happens much too easily.** Isolation affects us in all forms: physical, emotional, or even spiritual.

Here are some ways to help protect us from acquiring island mentalities.

- **Find mentors.** Take the time to follow around, ask questions of, and intentionally learn from Spirit-filled leaders. I have several mentors. I look for people who can teach me something or help me be a better pastor and person. I've had a mentor who was a pastor in a smaller church in rural Kansas and others who were from large churches. I even have a mentor who is a layman who continually gives me great insights about leading. I specifically ask each one if they'd mind spending some time to coach me. I've never been told "no," and the impact of their wisdom has had a great impact on my work as a pastor.
- **Find fellow-travelers.** We were created for community. We were built to live and serve in community. I recently turned 39 for a sixth time and I've never needed fellowship more. Engage with people who are on the journey with you. For me, I find treasured fellowship in my staff and in the team of pastors on my district. These are people I can pour my heart out to, get ideas from, seek advice, and simply enjoy camaraderie. We all need people we can laugh and share and grieve with.
- **Find ways to connect.** Use various methods to connect with people. If you can't meet face-to-face then use the phone, email, text messaging, notes, or even instant messenger. When I was a young pastor, I can't tell you how much phone calls from a mentor meant to me when I was struggling. Those phone calls were my lifelines when I felt the most isolated. And that still holds true today.
- **Form a prayer team.** I have a group of people who lift me up continually. They gather around before services and pray

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Making Missions Personal

Newfangled

A Night to Remember

Books for Organizing Your Church and Home

# Spotlight

## ISOLATION ISLAND [continued]

for me, and they intercede for me during the week. They bring me a sense of accountability and encouragement. Their presence helps me remember that I'm not in this alone.

- **Find ways to pour yourself into others.** I experienced a sense of irony several years ago when a young, small-church pastor asked if I would mentor him. What an honor! There is a fascinating cycle to ministry. Teach others how to be teachable. You can do this on your district, in your community, and in your own church. It's not just about me or my church. It's also about my fellow islanders.

These suggestions greatly affected my ministry as a young pastor and they still impact me today. So, whether you follow these steps or develop some of your own, and whether you're new to the ministry or have been doing this for many years, remember—you don't have to minister in isolation.



— Kendall Franklin, Senior Pastor  
Hutchinson First Church of the Nazarene

For more resources on pastoral health ...  
*The Pastor's Guide to Personal Spiritual Formation*  
COZZ978-0-8341-2209-3 \$17.99



**FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA  
STEVE HOFFMAN, SENIOR PASTOR

Many factors have affected the growth and fruitful ministry of our congregation in Fergus Falls, but nothing has had a greater impact on us than the fulfillment of one of our vision statements that reads, "Missions will become personal."

In the past year we have sent two groups—totaling 32 people—on Jesus Film trips to Guatemala. We worked in conjunction with the local Nazarene ministry organization called Maximum Mission Teams. Our teams worked at public schools, hosted dental hygiene clinics, facilitated a sexual purity clinic, taught personal evangelism, hosted a Vacation Bible School, constructed a building, and showed the Jesus Film on multiple occasions. As a result, God blessed our ministry and 1,300 people in Guatemala came to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ!

After our mission teams returned we received an unexpected result here in Fergus Falls—a new willingness to hear and follow God's call. Tim and Jennifer Baker are two examples of how God began to speak to those in our congregation. Five years ago Tim did not attend church or have a relationship with Christ. During the worship service on his third Sunday at our church, he gave his life to Jesus. Last September, Tim and Jennifer sold everything they owned and became full time volunteers for the Church of the Nazarene in Venezuela. When asked why he was willing to sell everything and move to another country, he replied, "I am simply doing what God asked me to do."

God has honored our church because of people who are willing to be obedient to His call to love Him and serve others. Our church has increased significantly in attendance and in giving over the past five years. Five people have given their lives to full-time missionary work, and at least three more have identified a call to missions. Since we began to respond to our vision statement and God's challenge to make missions personal, God as continued to faithfully bless and strengthen our church. My prayer is that He will bless you and your efforts as well.



For more resources on evangelism ...  
*Reach the World*  
COZZ978-0-8341-9958-3 \$ 1.50  
COZZ7-65762-00053-7 \$39.99  
(Accompaniment DVD)

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# How's that Wor in' for ya?



**ORCHARD RIDGE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
 SHELBY TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN  
 STEVEN BARKEY, LEAD PASTOR

**WHAT:** *A Night to Remember*

**WHY:** I heard Rick Warren once say, "I'm tired of the world knowing what I'm *against* as a Christian. I want to be known for what I am *for!*" Too often our Christian youth are known by their school friends for *only* what they cannot do and where they cannot go. We take pride in the established boundaries that will serve to protect and benefit our youth as they move into adulthood. But, our district recognized that if we stopped with just setting boundaries and limits then we would be leaving the job half done. As Christian leaders of youth, we wanted to present legitimate alternatives to the activities and places that we tell our youth to avoid. So, we decided to work *with* our teens to accomplish this and decided to use our creativity and financial resources to provide positive alternatives to a non-Christian culture and hopefully transform that culture for Christ.

**HOW:** Forty years ago, because they understood the need for a viable alternative for school dances, youth workers from the Michigan District began a high school prom alternative that continues to thrive today. *A Night to Remember* takes place around every Memorial Day (Monday and Tuesday) for teenagers grades 10-12. The event includes a round-trip ferry ride to Mackinac Island (in Michigan), an overnight stay at the world-renowned Grand Hotel on the island, a first-class meal and a night of Christian entertainment in a coffee-house atmosphere, breakfast at the hotel, and sightseeing the following day.

**RESULTS:** Every year approximately 200 teens participate from all three Michigan Districts. The event is reasonably priced and allows teens to attend as couples or with groups of friends. We even encourage our youth to invite their school friends to join us. I have yet to have a youth tell me that he or she enjoyed their high school prom more than this "night to remember!"

(For more information on this ministry, contact Rev. Steven Barkey at 586.992.8769 or visit [www.nntr.org](http://www.nntr.org).)

For more insight on Christian youth culture . . .

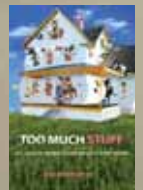
*Dirty Dancing at the Prom and Other Challenges Christian Teens Face: How Parents Can Help*  
 COZZ978-0-8341-2185-0 \$12.99



Improving Your



Organizing Your Church and



**Too Much Stuff**  
*De-Cluttering Your Heart and Home*  
 Kathryn Porter  
 COZZ978-0-8341-2256-7  
 \$13.99, Beacon Hill Press of K  
 This book offers practical app  
 de-cluttering our hearts and  
 homes. A great resource for  
 biblical principles apply to all  
 lives.



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## A Way with Words. . .

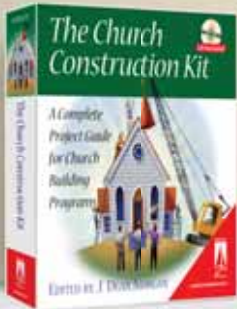
*Take a ride on the mighty lion, take a hold of the golden mane, this is the love of Jesus, so good but it is not tame. . . Come to the Father, come to the deeper well, drink of the water and come to live a tale to tell. Pages are turning now, this is abundant life. The joy in the journey is enough to make a grown man cry. . . With a little boy heart alive. . .*

—Lyrics from "Little Boy Heart Alive" by Andrew Peterson (*The Far Country*)

For more, visit <http://www.andrew-peterson.com/music>

## Corny Pastor Joke

- Q.** Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?  
**A.** Samson. He brought the house down.
- Q.** Which Bible character had no parents?  
**A.** Joshua, son of Nun.



### The Church Construction Kit

A Complete Project Guide for Church Building Programs

Edited by J. Dean Morgan

COZZ978-0-8341-2183-6

\$99.99, Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, 2006



### The Complete Spiritual Gifts Kit

Moving Members into Ministry

Daniel R. Gales

COZZ978-0-8341-2212-3

\$89.99, Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, 2005

This is a full-service program that contains everything you need to help your people discover and understand their spiritual gifts and how best to use them in your church. Designed to be taught in a workshop or class setting.

On the benefit of *The Church Construction Kit*, General Superintendent Dr. James Diehl writes, "Pastors and lay leaders, there is no need for you to reinvent the wheel. Others have gone before you. They are experts at the business of purchasing land, erecting buildings, and getting projects financed. Listen carefully to their voices of experience contained in this volume." This is a valuable, must-have resource for every congregation considering a building program or building renovations.



### It All Comes Out in the Wash

Sorting Through Priorities When Your Load is Out of Balance

Judi Braddy

COZZ978-0-8341-2259-8

\$14.99, Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, 2006

This book asks the question, "Can women really have or do it all?" It encourages women (especially young wives and mothers) to recognize that the more they stuff into their lives, the less likely they are to be pleased with the way things turn out. This is a great resource for women's groups, parents, new couples, young adults, and families.

### Fiction and the Money Trail

The National Geographic Society (NGS) recently received front page coverage in the Washington Post in April 2006 when they unveiled a restored version of the gospel of Judas—which claims that Judas was Jesus' closest friend and that he only did what Jesus asked of him. NGS has invested over \$1 million in the project, released two books about this subject, and will soon be releasing a documentary discussing their claims.

Excerpted from *The Foster Letter-Religious Market Update*, (4/10/2006).

For more visit <http://www.garydfoster.com>.

### Growth vs. Health

The website connected with Bill Sullivan's *New Perspectives on Breaking the 200 Barrier*, [www.200barrier.org](http://www.200barrier.org), offers church growth and church health resources that will help you convey to your church leaders the present and future need to establish specific principles that will encourage positive effects on the health and growth of your church.

### Remix Hymns

Hymns are beginning to make a comeback in some congregations where their use was at one time nearly replaced by choruses. This comeback is in the form of hymn/chorus combinations where a hymn is woven into a current contemporary chorus. This remix is proving to be an especially powerful way to include the depth of hymnody with the passion of contemporary melodies.

Hymn/chorus combinations like this can be found at [www.lillenas.com](http://www.lillenas.com) and feature a DVD component that integrates moving images with hymn/chorus worship music. For an example, preview "Grace Flows Down" with "Grace Greater than Our Sin" by Ed Hogan.



COZZ978-0-8341-9709-1  
\$8.99

# STATISTICS

STATISTICS,  
SOUNDBITES,  
and Suggestions

## Nazarenes Answering "The Call!"

According to a recent Wesley Seminary survey, mainline Protestant churches are seeing a decline in the number of clergy

**under the age of 35.**

The United Methodist Church shows

**4.7%** and the Presbyterian

Church shows **7.1%** of their clergy under age 35. In contrast the

**Nazarene Church** shows

**12.7%** of clergy under 35, the highest percentage among those surveyed.

Pastor's Weekly Briefing 3/31/06, <http://www.family.org/pastor/resources/pwb/a0040020.cfm>

### Leadership Thoughts

As we live out new ways of leading faithful communities . . .

- Instead of leading from over, we should lead from among.
- Instead of leading from power, we should lead from emptiness depending on Jesus.
- Instead of leading from the center, we should lead from the margins.

-adapted from "Leading from the Margins, Part VII: Toward the Future"  
by Len Hjalmanson, Friday, March 3, 2006,  
[www.theooze.com](http://www.theooze.com).

**NYC '07** (Nazarene Youth Congress) is **July 10-15** (2007) in St. Louis, MO.

For more information, visit [www.waterfirewind.org](http://www.waterfirewind.org).

Encourage your youth to register online today!

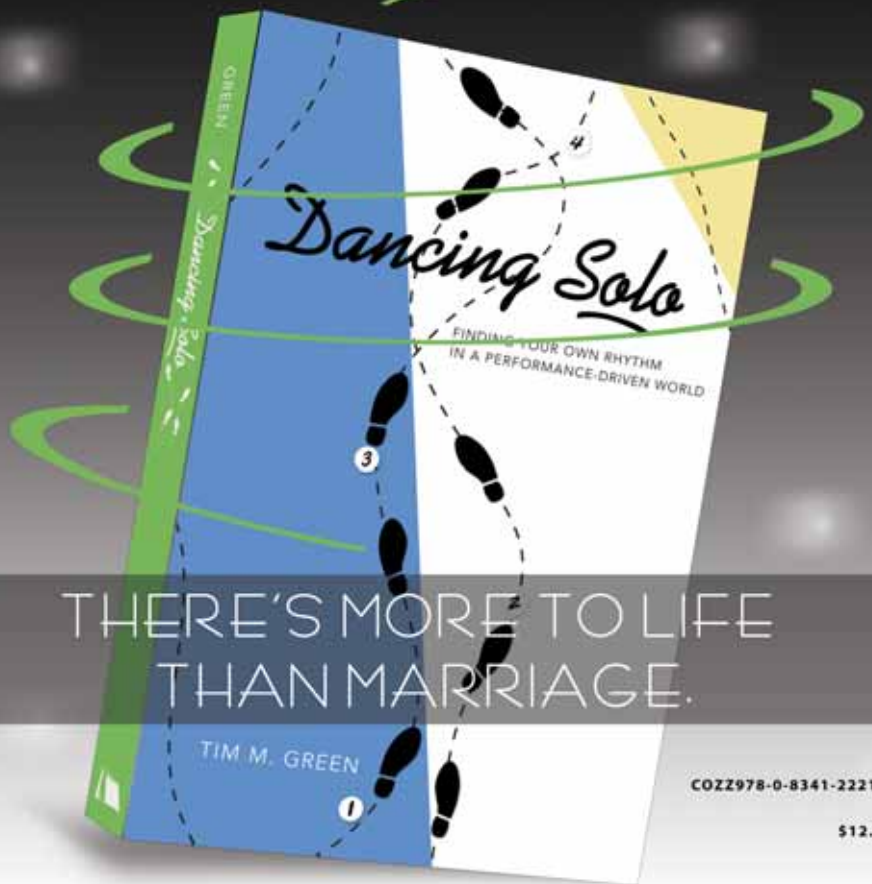
### Free Drama Script

You can download a **FREE** drama script each month at [www.lillenasdrama.com](http://www.lillenasdrama.com). While you're there, search for other downloadable drama scripts from among the 1,500 they have to offer.

Did you know that the average young adult is waiting longer to get married?

What is your church doing to meet the needs of today's single young adult population?

DO THEY KNOW. . .



THERE'S MORE TO LIFE  
THAN MARRIAGE.

COZZ978-0-8341-2221-5

\$12.99

Young adults can easily fall into the trap of trying to prove to the world (and themselves) that they do have value and are contributing members of society—even without a spouse or children. Some spend their lives waiting for their "real life" to start.

In *Dancing Solo*, Tim Green disrupts this mindset by asking, "What if what we have come to call 'real life' isn't really 'life' at all?"

With relevance and inspiration, Green challenges young adults and singles to stop for a moment and hear—through the noisy expectations of life—the unique beat that God gives all of us—an invitation to receive, embrace, and release life in a childlike dance of wonder and awe.



[www.missionstrategy.org/videos.html](http://www.missionstrategy.org/videos.html) – This page offers 11 short “ministry-mercials” that highlight compassionate, multicultural urban ministry and the missional church. Great downloads to use in your worship services.

[www.grovecitynazarene.org](http://www.grovecitynazarene.org) – Grove City, OH, Grove City Church of the Nazarene

An impressive site that has a great example of how to set up and offer podcasts of sermons and worship services. Click on their “interact” tab to view options.

[www.credomagazine.com](http://www.credomagazine.com) – This site, designed for youth, allows you to view an online version of *Credo Magazine*™ and offers teens several features, including articles, reviews, and opportunities to publish their own work. This is a great interactive resource for discipling the youth of your church.

*For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. [2 Timothy 1:6-7]*

Send your favorite illustrations, jokes, websites, ideas, comments, or suggestions to [communicator@nph.com](mailto:communicator@nph.com)

### A Word from Matt



“Newfangled.” An adjective that describes a noun as something new, fresh, or contemporary. For example, some might call a pair of today’s jeans, “newfangled blue jeans.” Or we might refer to certain new choruses as “newfangled worship music.” Newfangled things are all around us. If you are a pastor, you should have received in this mailing a “newfangled book” called *Lectio Divina*. This new Bible study series is divided into eight approaches that encourage readers to listen and communicate with God as they study His Word. You’ll discover that this approach is not actually “newfangled,” but rather a new look at an ancient practice. Isn’t it interesting to note that what we often think of as hip, in vogue, and newfangled really isn’t—it’s just God’s steadfast truth re-captivating the hearts of His people. I hope you’ll find this “newfangled *Lectio Divina Bible Study*” to be a wonderful, contemporary way to captivate and disciple God’s children.

I also want you to know that I am praying for you as you are finishing up your church year and concentrating on your summer ministry. Grace and peace to you as you continue in His service.

— **Matthew S. Zimmer, Editor, Church Resources Manager**  
**Nazarene Publishing House**

## Communicator features. . .

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BOX 419527, KANSAS CITY, MO 64141-6527

STOCK NUMBER	ITEM	RETAIL PRICE	PASTOR'S DISCOUNT PRICE
COZZ978-0-8341-9709-1	Canticle of Christmas	\$8.99	\$7.19
COZZ978-0-8341-2183-6	The Church Construction Kit*	\$99.99	\$79.99
COZZ978-0-8341-2212-3	The Complete Spiritual Gifts Kit*	\$89.99	\$71.99
COZZ978-0-8341-2221-5	Dancing Solo*	\$12.99	\$10.39
COZZ978-0-8341-2185-0	Dirty Dancing at the Prom & Other Challenges. . .*	\$12.99	\$10.39
COZZ978-0-8341-2259-8	It All Comes Out in the Wash*	\$14.99	\$11.99
COZZ978-0-8341-2209-3	The Pastor's Guide to Personal Spiritual Formation*	\$17.99	\$14.39
COZZ978-0-8341-9958-3	Reach the World, Anthem	\$ 1.50	\$ 1.20
COZZ987-0-8341-2256-7	Too Much Stuff*	\$13.99	\$11.19

See page 2 for information on the *Ancient Faith Series*



1.800.877.0700



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