

# Double Up on Laughter




By The Comedy Bus | INO Records/Premier Productions | \$14.99 each

The Comedy Bus series offers two new DVDs featuring some of today's top Christian comedians who perform clean stand-up from a Christian perspective.

*Laugh Tracks* features Kristy Byers' take on being single, while Dave & Brian musically explore young love and heartbreak through the lens of pop culture. Canadian Leland Klassen offers funny observations about our northern neighbors, and Gordon Douglas uses the differences between men and women for his material. Rounding out this DVD are Robert G. Lee, Mike Williams and Bean & Bailey.

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## Attorney: Ohio Mosque a Threat to Runaway Teen

 The attorney for a runaway teen who claims her Muslim parents threatened to kill her for converting to Christianity claimed in court documents Monday that the Ohio mosque the girl's family attends has ties to Islamic terrorist organizations such as al-Qaida.

Orlando attorney John Stemberger said Rifqa Bary should be put in state custody because she is in “clear and present danger” from the Noor Islamic Cultural Center near Columbus. He said the mosque hosted extremist speakers and supported a Muslim scholar with ties to the militant group Hamas.

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## Contend for God’s Promises



*Editor’s Note: The following message is the most recent posted on Barbara Yoder’s new blog, which you can find at [barbarayoderblog.com](http://barbarayoderblog.com). The original title of the word is “We Are Contending.”*

We are in a season of contending. We must contend past the deception that has tried to mislead us. Deception blinds us from seeing what the real issue is, and hope deferred feeds deception. It feeds the faithless, half-empty-glass syndrome. I believe we are coming out of a season in which hope deferred seemed to abound.

Deception is part of the resistance that we have to overcome. It causes us to think, *There are all kinds of reasons I can’t break through this: “God doesn’t care.” “It’s too hard.” “I can’t do it.” “What did I do wrong?”*

Deception tells us, “God hasn’t come through before, so why would He now? And if He cares so much, why have things been so difficult during this season—and why has it hung around for two years? Why did God let this or that happen? He must not care.” On and on the voice speaks.

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# September

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*“By faith Sarah herself also received the ability to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.”*

**–Hebrews 11:11, MEV**

Sept. 1	Ezek. 15-16; Ps. 70; Rev. 6
Sept. 2	Ezek. 17-19; Rev. 7
Sept. 3	Ezek. 20-21; Ps. 111; Rev. 8
Sept. 4	Ezek. 22-24; Rev. 9
Sept. 5	Ezek. 25-28; Rev. 10
Sept. 6	Ezek. 29-32; Rev. 11
Sept. 7	2 Kin. 25; 2 Chr. 36; Jer. 40-41; Rev. 12
Sept. 8	Jer. 42-44; Ps. 48; Rev. 13
Sept. 9	Lam. 1-2; Obadiah; Rev. 14
Sept. 10	Lam. 3-5; Rev. 15
Sept. 11	Dan. 1-2; Ps. 87; Rev. 16
Sept. 12	Dan. 3-4; Ps. 81; Rev. 17

Sept. 13	Ezek. 33-35; Rev. 18
Sept. 14	Ezek. 36-37; Ps. 110; Rev. 19
Sept. 15	Ezek. 38-39; Ps. 145; Rev. 20
Sept. 16	Ezek. 40-41; Ps. 128; Rev. 21
Sept. 17	Ezek. 42-44; Rev. 22
Sept. 18	Ezek. 45-46; Luke 1
Sept. 19	Ezek. 47-48; Luke 2
Sept. 20	Dan. 5-6; Ps. 130; Luke 3
Sept. 21	Dan. 7-8; Ps. 137; Luke 4
Sept. 22	Dan. 9-10; Ps. 123; Luke 5
Sept. 23	Dan. 11-12; Luke 6
Sept. 24	Ezra 1; Ps. 84-85; Luke 7
Sept. 25	Ezra 2-3; Luke 8
Sept. 26	Ezra 4; Ps. 113,127; Luke 9
Sept. 27	Hag. 1-2; Ps. 129; Luke 10
Sept. 28	Zech. 1-3; Luke 11
Sept. 29	Zech. 4-6; Luke 12
Sept. 30	Zech. 7-9; Luke 13

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# The Great Exchange

**2 Corinthians 5:12-21** My middle son, Ron, was in Bogota, Colombia on a mission journey. He went with a team into a drug dealing area called the Cartuge. His team visited a drug rehabilitation center there where criminals were learning about Jesus and being born again. When Ron entered the center he felt impressed by the Holy Spirit to offer to wash the feet of these men. Many of them did not know the story of Jesus' washing the feet of His disciples, so Ron read it to them. After the reading of the Scripture, the foot washing began.

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## Zero-Debt Strategies

Do you want to finish school without being thousands of dollars in debt? Check out these tips for graduating with no debt.

**1. Stretch out your school experience.** "It's not uncommon to see students take five to six years to complete an undergraduate program," says Marian Huffman, Lee University's associate director of financial aid. "It could be a combination of academic rigor as well as financial burden."

**2. Take off-hour courses.** Some schools offer tuition reduction for classes taken during off-peak hours.

**3. Consider advance-placement credits or credits from a less expensive institution.** Students may earn college credits by taking college courses or advance-placement exams while still in high school. First- and second-year college students can also take College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) tests for course credit. Transferring qualified and approved credits

from a community college or another less expensive institution to a more prestigious college or university can add up to big savings.

**4. Shop for tuition.** Compare out-of-state versus in-state tuition rates at various institutions. Lower tuition does not necessarily mean an inferior quality of education.

**5. Seek school discounts.** Colleges often offer discounts for employees, military personnel, siblings attending the same college and children of ministers and missionaries.

**6. Continue living at home while attending school.** Although students may prefer to live in the dorm or share an off-campus apartment with friends, they can save money by living at home with their parents.

**7. Create a college savings plan in advance.** Some states offer 529 college savings programs, which allow tax-free deductions to create a college savings that can be used at any college in the United States, or prepaid tuition plans, where residents buy a contract or bonds at a fixed price, based on the rates of college tuition today.

**8. Buy textbooks overseas.** Just like prescription drugs are cheaper in Canada, English-language college textbooks from countries such as England, Australia, New Zealand and Canada are cheaper than their American counterparts.

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## **Mending ‘Broken Lives’**

**Efforts started by Christians after 9/11 to aid and comfort New York continue to bring hope to the city today.**

For most residents of New York City it was difficult, even

excruciating, to pick up the pieces of their lives after Islamic terrorists crashed two commercial airliners into the World Trade Center towers on Sept. 11, 2001.

Thousands of New Yorkers died that day. For weeks after the worst attack on U.S. soil, family members anxiously awaited word from authorities saying that their loved ones had been found. For many, the call never came.

“We were a broken city, with broken lives,” recalls Amy Williams, a Queens resident.

The attack opened a door for the body of Christ to respond to the grief by meeting physical and spiritual needs. And today leaders say 9/11 continues to affect the spiritual climate in the city.

“Churches and organizations have been collaborating and working together in ways that we didn’t do before,” says Mac Pier of Concerts of Prayer Greater New York. “It’s had a definite effect on us.”

He says much of the collaboration has resulted in considerable growth, especially among immigrant churches in the city. Faith Bible Church is one. It is a thriving immigrant ministry with locations in suburban Flushing and other areas across the city. It also has planted foreign churches, in Taiwan, South Africa, England and China.

Pastor Greg Woo says fear drove people to the church. “Initially they came because they were afraid and had a sense of uncertainty,” he told *Charisma*. “Sept. 11 wasn’t just something we saw on TV. We could look out the window and see the smoke in the skyline.”

But he credits the substantial growth in his church to the ministry’s commitment to core values such as evangelism, community outreach, and leadership training among pastors and seminary students.

“We have 900 to 1,000 members because two immigrant Christians passed out fliers on the streets of Flushing,” he says. “Yes, people came to church after 9/11, but we focused on fulfilling our values, and that is what really made people join and turn to Jesus.”

Many churches responded to 9/11 with community outreaches in the months after the attack and today continue to schedule prayer gatherings in conjunction with citywide events. On Sept. 20, more than 20,000 people are expected to participate in Prayer in the Square, a one-hour event sponsored by pastor David Wilkerson’s Times Square Church.

In a Web posting dated March 7, Wilkerson said “earth-shattering calamity” would hit New York City and surrounding areas as a result of God’s judgment on “America and the nations.”

“For 10 years I have been warning about a thousand fires coming to New York City. It will engulf the whole megaplex, including areas of New Jersey and Connecticut,” he said. “Major cities all across America will experience riots and blazing fires—such as we saw in Watts, Los Angeles, years ago.”

Wilkerson is “a person of integrity and accuracy with God’s Word,” Billy Wilson, executive director of International Center for Spiritual Renewal, told *Charisma* in response to the warning. “Time will tell” if the prophecy is true, he said.

“God’s judgment on America can still be avoided if the church will respond with humility and repentance. The fate of the nation is in the hands of those who are called by His name,” says Wilson, a co-organizer of Cry Out America—a prayer initiative that calls for Christians in all 50 states to gather at their county courthouses on September 11 to pray for spiritual renewal in the U.S.

Wilson said churches have an opportunity to be a tangible

witness in their communities and should reach out to people with the gospel.

“If judgment is impending, then the opportunity for evangelism and ministry to the broken will be greater than ever. God is calling us to awaken our hearts to purity, intercession, preparation and evangelism for what could be the greatest harvest in America’s history.”