

Courage to Stand

✘ Tim Pawlenty | Tyndale House Publishers

The former governor of Minnesota, takes readers into his heart, history and rise to power as a Republican governor in a traditionally blue state.

The fifth child of Gene and Ginny Pawlenty, the governor was raised in meat-packing mecca South St. Paul, where he regularly attended church and learned the value of hard work. His mother died when he was 16, but Pawlenty forged ahead to attend college and law school, marrying along the way.

Passport Through Darkness

✘ Kimberly L. Smith | David C. Cook

Kimberly L. Smith, president and co-founder of Make Way Partners, has created more than another mission “how-to” in *Passport Through Darkness: A True Story of Danger and Second Chances*. This warrior for orphans, widows, the sick and homeless has bared her soul in this challenging, startlingly open tale of her journey from business executive to tireless advocate.

The Twelve Words of Christmas

✘ Louie Giglio |
sixstepsrecords

Louie Giglio shares a special message about Christmas. He reminds us that God is with us and that no one, not one person, is beyond His reach—His love knows no bounds, has no limitations. Giglio, founder of the Passion Movement, also reassures us that God is continually at work in our lives. He will keep His promise to bring us through any circumstance.

A Season to Remember – Day 1

✘ To help us celebrate the most wonderful time of year, *Charisma* asked several artists to share a favorite Christmas memory or tradition. From Dec. 20-24, each day we will feature two artists who shared their thoughts with us.

From all of us at *Charisma*, Merry Christmas!

✘ *My favorite Christmas memory is when my wife and I picked out a tree and decorated it for our first Christmas together. Not only was it a blast, but it was an amazing feeling realizing that I had started a family of my own. –Phil Wickham*

My favorite Christmas memory is Christmas Day, 2002, when my daughter, Skye, was born. I remember it was 3 o'clock Christmas morning. Tim, my husband, and I were holding our baby girl. We were the only ones on the floor and the nurses had turned all the TVs in each room to Christmas music. "Silent Night" was playing, and I will never ever forget those moments. God truly blessed us. -Heather Williams

For exclusive videos, podcasts and songs, check out this month's digital edition of Charisma magazine at

Prayer Warriors Team Up to Storm Capitol Hill

If one can put 1,000 to flight, two can put 10,000 to flight.

That's the reasoning behind the new alliance between the Congressional Prayer Team of Washington D.C. and the Telephonic Prayer Team. These prayer warriors are joining forces to hold the 112th Senate accountable to righteousness.

The groups sent an open letter to U.S. senators to remind them that prayer warriors are releasing daily prayers—praying for each senator by their full names. The

groups will use the Bible as the standard to measure righteous lawmaking.

A Season to Remember – Day 5

☒ To help us celebrate the most wonderful time of year, *Charisma* asked several artists to share a favorite Christmas memory or tradition. From Dec. 20-24, each day we will feature two artists who shared their thoughts with us.

From all of us at *Charisma*, Merry Christmas!

☒ *My favorite memory is my brothers and me sleeping together Christmas Eve when we were little. We would wake up early in the morning and then form a single file line in the hall and wait for our mom and dad to let us attack our gifts.*
–Chris Tomlin

It's incredibly hard to choose a favorite Christmas memory. ☒ I could say it was when I got the Hee Haw overalls I had asked for when I was 8 years old, or when I got the Madame Alexander Doll or the Easy-Bake Oven—these are great memories. But the memory that I'm so grateful for is that every Christmas Eve my dad would read the Christmas story—the entire story from beginning to end, not just the birth, but also the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. It gave us the proper perspective before we began tearing into our presents the next morning, and I am so thankful for that. –Heather Payne

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A Season to Remember – Day 4

✘ To help us celebrate the most wonderful time of year, *Charisma* asked several artists to share a favorite Christmas memory or tradition. From Dec. 20-24, each day we will feature two artists who shared their thoughts with us.

From all of us at *Charisma*, Merry Christmas!

✘ *If there had to be one special Christmas memory, it would be brand-new pajamas and slippers awaiting my brother and me as we braced ourselves for the brilliant, beaming, blinding lights on my dad's Super 8 movie camera. Second only to that is the Christmas I received my first guitar, giving me musical bliss ever since. –Barry Graul of MercyMe*

For the last four years, my family and church have gone to ✘ Fort Hood Army base and fed 1,500 families Christmas dinner. The absolute joy on the faces of these kids is priceless as they open presents we've brought them. But the thing I have loved is seeing the faces of my children as they give instead of receive. "You'll never know what this means to my family"—when I hear those stories I remember why He came. –Randy Phillips of Phillips, Craig & Dean

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A Season to Remember – Day 3

☒ To help us celebrate the most wonderful time of year, *Charisma* asked several artists to share a favorite Christmas memory or tradition. From Dec. 20-24, each day we will feature two artists who shared their thoughts with us.

From all of us at *Charisma*, Merry Christmas!

☒ *The memory that sticks in my mind the most is about the first time I remember asking for a specific gift. I asked for a gray, leather-bound Bible, King James version. Oh yes, and it had to have the thumb tabs! I got vinyl covered cardboard and not leather. But the words were the same. I should go find it and see what Scriptures I marked as a young man. I am sure they will still speak to me today. –Nathan Cochran of MercyMe*

One of my favorite things is that each year we pick ☒ something to do outside of just giving to our own family members. My favorite memory was the year my dad, mom, sister, brother and me made sack lunches for the homeless and delivered them along with gloves and blankets on a cold Christmas Eve. It has always remained a special memory of seeing how thankful they were. –Kari Jobe

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Awakening

 Stovall Weems | WaterBrook Multnomah

Stovall Weems, pastor of Celebration Church in Jacksonville, Fla., issues a wake-up call for believers and shares how to end a season of dryness and walk afresh in relationship with God.


Weems encourages readers to fully surrender and learn a new way to pray and fast. The author doesn't offer a life of rules and religion. He challenges us to strive for a deep, satisfying and motivating relationship with God.

"It's time to wake up and put an end to spiritual sluggishness!" Weems declares. "I promise this year will be the best of your life if it is your best year spiritually."

The 21-Day Plan included will help readers apply the principles discussed in *Awakening*.

[Click here to purchase this book.](#)

The Essential Christmas Collection

 various artists |
Essential Records

Nothing could be better than having many of your favorite musical artists offering Christmas songs all on one album. That's what *The Essential Christmas*

Collection offers,
featuring Third Day, Casting Crowns, Michael W. Smith, Jars of
Clay, Rebecca

St. James, Brandon Heath, Tenth Avenue North, Building 429 and
Matt Maher.

Joining this who's who list are newcomers Revive, Kerrie
Roberts and Anthem

Lights. Many of the artists cover traditional classics, but
two original

tracks, "The Night Before Christmas" by Heath and "All Is
Well" by Smith, round
out the collection.

To watch a video of
Roberts performing "O Holy Night," click below.

{youtube}EDUg88d9Hbw{/youtube}

Click here to purchase this CD.