

The Calling of God Is Paramount

With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. **—2 Thessalonians 1:11**

The Precedent for the Unprecedented

By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. **—Hebrews 11:7**

God's Church Includes Everybody

When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors. ... invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous. **—Luke 14:12-14**

A Clear Path to Intimacy

For if you forgive men when they sin against you , your heavenly Father will also forgive you. **—Matthew 6:14**

NFL Pro Bowler Humbled in El Salvador



This summer as some NFL players were engrossed in tedious billion-dollar negotiations during the league's lockout, Pro Bowler Aaron Kampman and his wife, Linde, focused their attention on poverty-stricken children in El Salvador.

Kampman, a defensive tackle for the Jacksonville Jaguars, says he was humbled to find that the children weren't excited to see him because of his celebrity status, but rather because he was a Compassion International child sponsor.

"A lot of times here in the States I'm recognized as an NFL player, and many think that gives me great value," Kampman says. "While I love the game, it's through the eyes of these Compassion children that I can see a greater value and importance for my life beyond the football field and the potential we each have to help a child."

Last 9/11 Survivor's angel in the rubble



Ten years after being the last person pulled from the rubble of the Sept. 11 attacks, Genelle Guzman-McMillian says God has given her a miraculous second chance, which she's used to remind others that life is not promised.

Guzman-McMillian was trapped under the rubble of the first tower for nearly 27 hours with her leg crushed under debris. She remembers being able to only lift her fingers to the surface of the rubble to signal for help. A man named Paul grabbed her hand, called her name and told her he was there for her.

But after rescue workers unearthed her, she noticed that there was no way a person could've gotten in or out of the area where she was trapped. She believes she had an angelic encounter, and to this day no one has been able to locate the man named Paul.

Christian Fiction Authors Changing Real Lives



Great fiction writers can catapult readers into fantastical stories of the imagination and guide booklovers into an escape from reality. But a trend is emerging among Christian novelists determined to face life's harshest realities head-on. Writers are starting humanitarian organizations and some are giving a portion of their book sales to help the needy.

Randy Singer, known for his legal thrillers and Christian suspense novels, announced earlier this year that 100 percent of the proceeds from his book *False Witness* would go to the Dalit Freedom Network, which helps some of the 168 million Dalits in India experiencing discrimination, dehumanization, violence and enslavement on a daily basis. As members of India's lowest social caste, few have access to educational opportunities.

"I'm supporting the Dalit Freedom Network because they are on the ground in India," explains Singer. "They've been effective advocates for the Dalits around the world, but they're also bringing educational solutions that make a difference right now in real time in this world."

Believers Join Amazing Race Around World



Shannon Meador wanted more in her life. A passionate follower of Christ and lover of adventure, working a desk job in central Illinois just wasn't cutting it, so she went in search of an exciting opportunity that would allow her to serve God.

"I wanted something more, something bigger, something

crazier,” Meador says. “As soon as I viewed the World Race website, my search was over. I was called.” She applied on that same visit.

“My life isn’t mapped out by any means, but my life is always facing God and that’s all I need. When you make a plan you limit yourself to what God could be asking you.”

How an AIDS Orphan Found God



Yannik McKie says he and his sister are one of the first double AIDS orphans in the United States. When McKie was 10 he found out his parents were both HIV-positive and that his well-educated, affluent father had infected his mother after living a secret homosexual lifestyle. Both of his parents died by the time he was 15.

“When I lost my parents I did not understand how God’s love could be reconciled with my situation,” he says. It wasn’t until he was 22 years old in a jail cell on federal gun charges that he began to realize how much God really loved him and that He had a plan for his childhood pain.

“We learn God’s love for us through our pain because we actually realize that it was Him helping us through it,” he now says.

Timing the Spirit

Have worship services gotten too long for contemporary attention spans?



One London church leader is trying to persuade fellow clergy that today's worship services are excessively long.

How long would you estimate your attention span to be? Ten minutes? A half hour? Ninety minutes? It is safe to say that the length of one's attention span would ultimately depend on the topic or issue at hand. What if the topic was your Creator—the lover of your soul?