

The Family Mission

Turning their backs on American suburbia in 2008, Jay and Beth Loecken picked up their family and sold their home just north of Atlanta to fulfill their goal of traveling across the nation with their family. 

However, their mission isn't to relax and enjoy the good life; it's to help the needy and encourage others to live out God's destiny. Jay is encouraged by what he's seen.

"God is calling out a remnant of people who are serious about their faith and are no longer OK with just going to church, hearing a message and going home," says the former mortgage broker. "I see pockets of people everywhere we go who are saying, 'We want more.'"

The Loeckens' life-changing decision followed a missions trip to Kenya, where they helped build a commercial-size chicken coop and enjoyed forming close relationships.

Afterward, they sensed God calling them to take similar action in America. The Loeckens and their four children have done everything from feeding the homeless in Atlanta to working with the Orange County Rescue Mission in Irvine, Calif.

"I always had a dream to own my own business," Jay says of their ministry, Passion to Action (also the title of their new book). "It's the culmination of a dream for me to see this turn into that."

How to Vacation Like the Loeckens

- Hand out homeless care packages
- Read a story at a local children's shelter
- Volunteer at a tutoring center
- Distribute food at a homeless shelter
- Volunteer to help at a battered women's home

- Feed residents in motels during the holidays
 - Do a service project at a distressed apartment complex
 - Help clean up after storm damage
 - Volunteer for a suicide hotline
 - Help with a painting project
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Pro Soccer Player Doubles As Missionary

✖ Professional soccer player Wells Thompson has tasted glory with the New England Revolution, reaching the 2007 Major League Soccer (MLS) championship game as a rookie before his team bowed to Houston.

However, after that season Thompson resumed a practice started in childhood, taking a mission trip to Kenya and Zimbabwe. The following year he returned to Kenya, and he visited the Dominican Republic last year.

Today, Thompson is contemplating a long-term career in missions, although he says he won't wait on the opportunities until he retires from his favorite sport.

"A couple years ago I would have been happy to play my career out [first]," says Thompson, now a midfielder for Denver's Colorado Rapids. "The way I think about it now is, why does it have to be after I'm done playing soccer?"

He witnesses at home, too, through locker room discussions with his nonbelieving teammates and wearing post-game T-shirts emblazoned with John 3:16 and Romans 6:23.

Honeymission

After his upcoming wedding on Dec. 3, Thompson could easily travel to places such as Cancun, Bermuda or St. Thomas, but he hopes to include missions in the itinerary. “We just don’t feel comfortable going on a honeymoon and being selfish,” says Thompson, who proposed to his fiancée last December during a mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

A Disabled Masterpiece

✖ **Jeffrey Steinberg** stands at 4 feet 6 inches tall (“Eat your heart out, Michael Jordan,” he jokes). He has no arms, his legs are malformed and he says he is *not* handicapped; rather he is a masterpiece in progress.

“I’m not handicapped because I don’t have any arms,” Steinberg says. “A handicap has nothing to do with that. A handicap is everything and anything that keeps me from being all that God’s designed for me to be. And He designed for me to be a masterpiece.”

For almost 40 years, the founder of Tiny Giant ministries has crisscrossed the earth sharing this message and the gospel to audiences in prisons, churches, schools, hospitals and on television. During his presentations he uses humor and songs to encourage people not to let their negative situations stop them from being extraordinary.

Bike Tour Fights Rape

Last month eight college students took to their bikes in the hot summer sun to ride 2,500 miles up the East Coast of the United States. Determined to do more than pedal for pleasure, these young adults set out to raise awareness about women  suffering in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)—dubbed the rape capital of the world.

The cyclists, who came from universities across the nation, stopped in 13 states and spoke to churches about the atrocities. They were inspired by the She's My Sister campaign that, along with the American Bible Society, is providing practical help, healing and hope to Congolese women.

It's The End Of The World As He Knows It

What is god saying and doing today? Perry Stone interprets the signs of our time. 

When *Charisma* Publisher Steve Strang sat down with Bible teacher Perry Stone, he expected to talk about dreams and visions. What he got instead was a download of Stone's interpretation of how today's events relate to the end times—and what believers can do.

CHARISMA: How do you get the revelation that you teach?

STONE: The significance of understanding the mysteries of God is to pray in the Spirit and get the mind of the Spirit. The Spirit of God will quicken your spirit and your intellect to

truths that have always been there, but maybe are not commonly taught, and helps you compare Scripture with Scripture, because the Bible even says that “the anointing that abides teaches you all things.”

Feedback

BETHEL BUZZING

Our church has been buzzing about the June issue and how it highlighted what God continues to do here at Bethel (“The Radical Revivalists” by Marcus Yoars). We presented copies to everyone in the church the Sunday after the issue came out. It was moving to see how you guys honored our whole team with your accurate reporting. We’ve had other kinds of press—this was much better! Thanks so much for doing a great job.

Bill Johnson, Redding, Calif.

MEASURING GOD

Bill Johnson’s article, “Supernatural by Nature” (June), was exciting and edifying. However, he seems to imply that true faith—and our only model—didn’t begin until Jesus arrived on earth as a human. If this is the implication, it’s forgetting that the first “measurement” began with God at creation. The beauty, imagery and prophetic nature of the Old Testament is a testimony that our Abba knew *from the beginning* what He wanted for us. Let’s not miss the fullness of that amazing relationship by excluding an important part of who we are in the Messiah.

Terri L. Gillespie, Springfield, Pa.

'GOD'S CARTOONIST'?

Thank you for your article, "The Gospel According to 'God's Cartoonist'" (by Troy Anderson, June) about Jack T. Chick and his cartoon tracts. It's wonderful to see his work so favorably acknowledged. He has been right on for decades, and the message of truth is never more needed than now. I was appalled that some Christian merchants keep his tracts "under the counter." Are they afraid the truth might offend someone? It should! Someone needs to speak up about what the Word of God really says. Of course we must speak the truth and hand out tracts in a loving manner, but love does not want anyone to go to their eternal destiny apart from knowing the Lord Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior.

Judee Warner, Montague, Calif.

Jack Chick's tracts have foisted repulsive anti-Catholicism upon a wide readership. To grant him generally positive publicity in *Charisma* without repudiating his hate-filled and unsubstantiated claims is to show profound disrespect to the Catholic Church and its members, and is unworthy of *Charisma*.

Andrew M. Seddon, via email

The Christian DA Vinci Code?

Written in the mold of *The Da Vinci Code*—sans all the erroneous claims (thankfully)—best-selling author Glenn Meade's latest geographical thriller, *The Second Messiah*, keeps readers on the edge of their proverbial seats

with multiple plot twists.



The story revolves around Jack Cane's archaeological dig and the discovery of an ancient scroll dating back to the time of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Written in a strange code as well as ancient Aramean, the scroll claims there was a second Messiah who may have lived at the time of Jesus—an idea that strikes fear at the heart of the Vatican and the nation of Israel and leads them to bury its evidence.

A strange accident that predates the murder of a prominent archaeologist makes Cane wonder if the two incidents are related, and a chase ensues through Europe and the Middle East.

Hangin' On To Love

In summer 2011, the band Downhere teamed with Grammy- and Dove Award-winning producer Mark Hiemermann (Michael W. Smith, Tait, Stacie Orrico) for a new pop-driven project, *On the Altar of Love*.

Band member and songwriter Jason Germain describes the release as “a proclamation of faith” and “an encouragement to continue on regardless of circumstance.”

Re:creation

Steven Curtis Chapman's *re:creation* features five new songs, including first single "Do Everything," plus new acoustic recordings of his eight biggest hits, including "For The Sake of the Call," "Speechless," "Heaven in the Real World" and  "Dive."

"Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good."

—Romans 12:9, NLT

The Art Of Mentoring

 **Exactly how** do you raise up successful leaders? Former Hillsong worship leader and church co-pastor Darlene Zschech believes you should downplay failures while praising successes. This belief in others has enabled her to develop gifted, young musicians into great worship leaders whose songs you likely sing on Sunday mornings. Zschech teaches the "why" behind the "what" in training others to lead in her new book *The Art of Mentoring: Embracing the Great Generational Transition*.