

VIDEO: Documentary Spotlights Small Town Doctor's Faith

As the cost of health care continues to skyrocket and the legal challenges to President Obama's Affordable Care Act continue to mount, one small town doctor in Tennessee is doing something to buck the trends.

A few years ago, Dr. Robert Berry opened a health clinic for the uninsured in Greeneville, Tenn., about an hour's drive northeast of Knoxville. A man of faith, Berry named his clinic PATMOS, which he says is an acronym for "payment at the moment of service."

During the heated debate about changes to the health care system, a camera crew from the Christian documentary company Deidox followed Berry around and discovered a doctor who took the story of the Good Samaritan to heart.

The film *Robert* covers themes of faith, sacrifice, community, struggle and love of neighbor while examining the real cost of health care.

Watch a clip from the documentary below. Additional clips can be found [here](#).

Marketing Faith in a City Near You

If you recognize any of the photos to the right, then your city has likely already been targeted for



a takeover—a faith takeover, that is. Since 2009, the I Am Second ministry has launched advertising campaigns nationwide with billboards that feature images of celebrities and a Web address, . The goal: to intrigue viewers enough that they'll visit the site, which has videos of celebrities and others telling why they are second and Christ is first in their lives.

Since the ministry launched in Dallas, its website has had millions of visitors. Along with recent launches in Orlando, Fla.; Evansville, Ind.; and Kansas City, Mo., I Am Second hopes to expand into other areas of the country with targeted marketing for Christ. Check out these inspiring snippets from the videos.

Janine Turner, actress

"Nothing can drive you to your knees like show business. Now ... I understand I only saw the threads. But God saw the whole tapestry of my life and wouldn't let me quit. My name is Janine Turner and I am second."

Josh Hamilton, MLB player

*"I said, '[God] I need help. I've been trying to do this for so long. I can't try anymore, because I fail on my own. You do with me what you want to do with me, but I surrender.'
... [Now] I believe in Christ. I believe He's first in my life, family's second and everything else is after that. ... I am Josh*

Hamilton and I am second.

Bailee Madison, actress

"I don't want it to be about me. I want it to be about God, and that is the most important thing. I just want everyone to know that I'm Bailee and I'm definitely second."

Bethany Hamilton, pro surfer

"From what seems like such a horrible thing, God has just brought glory to Himself through me. My name is Bethany Hamilton and I am second. "

Mike Huckabee, politician


"The biggest mistake that I think I had to learn was that following Jesus doesn't mean I'm following Him to the White House or I'm following Him to the governor's mansion or I'm following Him to do television. No, I'm following Him to be with Him. I am second, and Jesus is first because He has already been everywhere I've never been and still want to be."

Tony Dungy, former NFL head coach

"I didn't know at the time when I got fired what I was supposed to do. I think one of the hardest things in life is when you have an idea of what you hope for, what you pray for, and it doesn't come through. [I've learned that] every decision I make in life, I'm going to make it through the lens of Jesus Christ. I'm

*going to put Him out there first, and my own feelings, my own thoughts,
my own desires are going to be second."*

A Shipwrecked Testimony

This month marks the one-year anniversary of Abby Sunderland's failure. The teenager was unable to travel the world by boat in record time and beat her older brother's record as the youngest person to do so. 

After Sunderland's dreams were dashed by high winds and 50-foot waves that caused her boat to capsize, she wasn't sure what the future would hold for her. But looking back at the aftermath of her attempt, Sunderland says she now sees God's hand at work in her disappointment.

"My trip being wrecked has given me a bigger platform than I would have had had everything gone according to plan," says Sunderland of her newfound fame. "I hope it makes people think a little about God, and maybe there is something bigger out there."

Last June Sunderland was stranded by a storm in the Indian Ocean nearly 2,000 miles east of Madagascar. For a

while the plucky girl lost contact with her parents and was feared lost.

She says many sailors have stories of pushing past their limits and

coming to a place where they had to call on God, which happened several

times for her: “God came through for me in such an amazing way that my

faith is definitely stronger than when I left in February 2010.”


A homeschool student who recently

completed high school, Sunderland plans to take a year off for traveling

before going to college to study psychology. She’s also likely to do

more speaking about her faith and her adventures as told in her book, *Unsinkable*.

Pass the App, Please

If you’re like many Americans, you spend  hours every week on Facebook. So why not give your tithes and offerings through the social networking site?

That’s the way Horace Nelson, a 36-year-old single father and software developer from Brooklyn, N.Y., sees it.

Nelson developed an app that enables churches to raise financial support using the emerging “social funding”

model. You might call it a virtual collection plate; Nelson calls it

Faith Funder. His application also lets churches reach beyond their membership to raise offerings.

“So many places of faith are simply and unnecessarily underfunded,” Nelson says. “It’s unfortunate, because there are plenty of people of faith who would gladly give trivial amounts to these places in need if only they knew how and it was easy and convenient.”

Pistols for Pastors?

Concerned churchgoers are asking a loaded question: Can pastors pack heat? The answer depends on where you worship. But the question—being spurred by an increase in headlines about church shootings—has some state legislatures fired up. Virginia passed a law in April ruling self-defense a “good and sufficient” reason to carry handguns during a church service. Georgia’s Senate just approved a law that lets churches decide if they want to let members of the congregation carry concealed weapons, and Arkansas pastors could allow guns in church under a proposed bill.

Ironically though, if you attend church

in Texas—a state notorious for its Second Amendment support—arriving armed on Sundays could land you behind bars.

“The laws in Texas are quite specific about the legality of carrying firearms in churches as a part of the increasingly popular ‘security teams,’” says Chuck Chadwick, former security director for Ed Young’s Fellowship Church. “You can’t just get Bubba-Joe with his concealed handgun license to ride herd over the flock. Actually, it is illegal and can earn the pistol-packer a class-A misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail and a \$10,000 fine.”

Transitions

✘ » **David Wilkerson**, founder of World Challenge Ministries, was killed April 27 in a car accident in east Texas. Wilkerson was well-known for his best-selling book, *The Cross and the Switchblade*, in which he told how he pioneered a ministry to gang members and drug addicts in New York City in 1958. Soon after, he founded Teen Challenge, today a worldwide ministry reaching people with life-controlling habits. Wilkerson, who was 79, was buried during a private ceremony in Tyler, Texas, on May

2. For an online tribute to Wilkerson that includes photos, videos and memories of his 50-plus years of ministry, visit .

✘ » **Dr. Ray H. Hughes Sr.**, former general overseer of the Church of God (Cleveland, Tenn.) and past president of Lee University, died on April 5. He was 87. Hughes served the Church of God denomination as its top leader on three separate occasions—most recently in 1996—and is the only person in the 125-year history of the COG to serve as general overseer three separate times.

✘ » **Larry Stockstill** will turn over the pastorate of Bethany World Prayer Center in Baton Rouge, La., to his son Jonathan on Oct. 2. Stockstill made the announcement in April at the church, where he has been senior pastor for 28 years. Jonathan Stockstill is the current worship leader for the church and heads the Christian band Deluge. The elder Stockstill attributed the

decision to a shift in his ministry emphasis to pastoring pastors and planting churches.

» **Barry Minkow**

is heading back to prison after pleading guilty to conspiracy to commit stock fraud. In 1988 Minkow was convicted of stock fraud and incarcerated. While behind bars he gave his life to Christ, emerged from prison as a pastor and launched a stock-fraud investigation company to uncover corporate corruption. It appears the temptation to cook the books was too much for Minkow. He admitted to conspiring to manipulate Lennar Corp.'s stock and will return to prison for at least five years.

Feedback

The Heart of Worship

I thoroughly enjoyed the April issue's emphasis on praise and worship and its true meaning. I was raised with praise and worship led by choir, piano and organ. It was a traumatic experience getting used to guitars and drums. Once during a

service, the Lord reminded me that man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart. It taught me that if the leaders playing guitar had a true intention of honoring God, then it was good enough for Him.

Tom Balkcom, Phoenix

Turn It Down, *Please*

Your April issue on worship does not mention that we have slipped into a culture of *loud!* Church leaders seem to justify 95 to 115 decibels. Often you can't even hear yourself sing. My Bible says, "Make a *joyful* noise unto the Lord." I think this means from the heart. I'm not suggesting that musicians are insincere, but many have become victims of the culture. We all know how precious it is when they tone it down and the sweet presence of the Holy Spirit floods the place.

Dick Schnitker, Frisco, Texas

All Trials From God?

I love Lee Grady's passion and read "Fire in My Bones" regularly. He writes, "God sends trials to mold our character, crush our pride and break our hard, outward shell so the Holy Spirit can flow through us to touch others" (April). However, if we think and preach that God afflicts us to make us better Christians, then

our concept of the cross is too small, the Holy Spirit too abstract and reactive, and our God is not living in us as His tabernacle.

El McMeen, Sparta, N.J.

Don't Promote The Haters

In "At a Loss for the Word" (April), Troy Anderson recommends seven books that every Bible student needs—two of which are by John MacArthur. Why is a charismatic magazine promoting the writings of one of the leading proponents of the error that the gifts and manifestations of the Holy Spirit aren't for today? When *Charisma* lifts up MacArthur as an appropriate source for Bible instruction, after he's been a hinderance to many receiving the fullness of the Holy Spirit for years, I'll think long and hard when the next renewal request arrives.

Al LePage, Plymouth, Mich.

Beach Books

You. The ocean. And a book. Here are a few suggestions on what to take for a hot summer read this year—from some of your favorite Christian authors.

✘ Melody Carlson

Because of my busy writing schedule I don't read as much ✘ as I'd like, but I do enjoy reading while traveling. While flying recently I opened up Lisa Wingate's *Talk of the Town* (Bethany House). I'd never read a Wingate book but was immediately pulled in by her quirky characters. It was honestly laugh-out-loud funny and exactly what I needed at that moment in my life. It gave me a whole new respect for lighthearted romance because there are times when laughter truly is the best medicine! I emailed Lisa later and thanked her for writing such a refreshingly fun book.

Melody Carlson is the author of more than 100 books, including *Shattered*, *Never Been Kissed* and *The Four Lindas*.

Charisma Online

✘ Deciphering Your Dreams

Evangelist Perry Stone believes people will experience dreams and visions with increasing frequency as Christ's return nears. Discover why he says this, as well as the purpose dreams and visions serve and how you can interpret them, at dreams.charismamag.com.

VIDEO: AG Head Discusses Joplin Response



The general superintendent of the Assemblies of God says the Springfield, denomination is standing with its neighbors in Joplin, Mo. Dr. George O. Wood addressed ongoing relief efforts by the AG and the nonprofit organization Convoy of Hope. Wood says a multitude of volunteers has been on the ground since last week, providing comfort and assistance to those impacted by the deadly EF-5 tornado. [Click here for more information about AG relief efforts in Joplin.](#) To learn more about what the Convoy of Hope is doing, [click here.](#)