

# Channel Surfing

## SPOTLIGHT

### Telling the Gospel Truth

The gospel of grace drives Andrew Wommack's TV ministry.

Andrew Wommack tells it like it is. For more than three decades the amiable Texan with a singing accent has been teaching thousands of Christians over radio and TV about God's unconditional love and grace.

"I believe that the message God has placed in my heart will set people free from the bondage of religion," he told Charisma. "And once they are free from that, they can begin to operate in the balance of grace and faith that will cause their lives to flourish here on earth."

Wommack launched his media-based teaching ministry in 1976 on daily radio in Texas. His TV show, Gospel Truth, began airing from Colorado Springs, Colo., in January 2000.

"I told my partners what the Lord was leading me to do, and they gave me the first \$75,000 to buy [broadcast] equipment," he says of the shoestring budget.

Though the TV program initially reached only 1 percent of U.S. households, by 2006 he says it was broadcasting in 40 percent of the market. By last month, Gospel Truth was in more than 60

percent of the nation's homes on networks such as INSP, Daystar, GOD TV, The Church Channel and Cornerstone Network. It also airs in tens of millions of homes worldwide.

Wommack says his TV program is part of his overall teaching ministry, which today includes a Bible college, training seminars and audio recordings. "The format of our program has never changed," he says. "I am a teacher, and within 30 seconds of the beginning of our broadcast, we are teaching."

Holding Bible studies in his Texas home with his wife, Jamie, more than three decades ago is where he learned to develop his teaching gift, Wommack says. Within a few years he was pastoring at a small church. After launching and growing his radio ministry, he moved his family to Colorado Springs in 1980, where Andrew Wommack Ministries is now headquartered.

Gospel Truth generates feedback from viewers around the globe. "The [Bible] works for them like it does for anyone, and they are seeing great results in their lives," he says. "People are being saved, healed and delivered. Families are being restored."

The TV ministry airs throughout Europe, Russia, Africa and Asia. Wommack says that he will soon be opening offices in Canada and Uganda. One of his goals in the U.S. is to have the message of God's grace and unconditional love available in every market by 2012, he says.

**LEILANI HAYWOOD**

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»This month, Ron Luce of Teen Mania and T.D. Jakes of The

Potter's House will join forces for BattleCry New York City, a two-day youth event that will be carried live on GOD TV. The Teen Mania-sponsored mass rally, which has already toured major U.S. cities such as San Francisco, Detroit and Philadelphia, is aimed at sparking spiritual passion in Christian youth. Jakes will be the New York conference's featured speaker, challenging youth worldwide to discover God's design for their lives.

»A Hollywood-based Christian group committed to praying for professionals in the entertainment industry added a new item to its prayer list—an end to the Hollywood TV writer's strike. "We want the people involved in the strike to know that we love them and care about the issues," Karen Covell, founder of the Hollywood Prayer Network (HPN), said in December. "We are praying for it to end quickly, fairly and peacefully." As her group prayed for studio execs and producers, she said HPN volunteers also handed out free bottled water to the strikers, letting them know they were being prayed for.

»Ten spiritually provocative television commercials produced by NeedHim Ministries began airing on MTV and the NRB Network in December. Based on biblical truths, and using rotoscoping animation, the UNREAL spots are designed to speak the language of today's troubled world, creators say. "Many will relate to the feelings and emotions the spots address," says Drew Dickens, executive director of NeedHim. "For those who know the distortion and despair of our culture today, the message of the UNREAL spots is hope."