

D.C. Elections Board Denies Petition for Marriage Vote

✘ The District of Columbia Board of Elections and Ethics today rejected a petition for a citizens' initiative seeking to define marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

The Stand4MarriageDC Coalition in September filed the Marriage Initiative of 2009, which would have allowed traditional marriage supporters to gather signatures to get an initiative on the district ballot.

Phil Wickham: Back to the Basics

Phil Wickham's newest album, *Heaven and Earth*, is a ✘ reminder to the church of the simple blessings, promises and rewards of God. It's also the fruit of a personal journal that had the singer searching Scripture for the last year and a half to gain a deeper understanding of believers' future in heaven.

"I've always been excited about going to heaven, but the Lord is lighting a fire or fanning a flame inside me," Wickham told *The Buzz*. "The church gets a skewed version of heaven in their minds. We envision it as clouds and God with a big beard, and I think we forget that God promises life everlasting and things that we can't ever dream or start imagining. We're going to be who we were always created to be, we're going to be with who we were always created to be with, everything will

be complete again. ... The more I think about it, the more I think of how that relates to what Jesus did for us on the cross.”

Declare Your Name

✘ By Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir | Integrity Music

In a nearly 30-year career, the 285-voice Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir has distinguished itself with six Grammys, nine Dove Awards, two No. 1 hits and more than 4 million in album sales. Not resting on its laurels, the esteemed choir, known for songs such as “Praise You” and “Midnight Cry,” is using its latest musical offering to “declare” God’s name globally.

One Simple Act

✘ By Debbie Macomber | Howard Books | hardcover | 224 pages | \$22.99

In *One Simple Act: Discovering the Power of Generosity*, popular author Debbie Macomber touches on the story of the boy with the meager lunch of fish and bread that Jesus was able to share with 5,000 people, as a perfect example of what God can do with what one might consider so small.

Until the Whole World Hears

By Casting Crowns | Reunion Records

Living with a kingdom focus is the theme of *Until the Whole World Hears*, the latest studio album from Grammy Award-winning group Casting Crowns.

“Our main purpose, above all else, is to know Him more,” says singer-songwriter Mark Hall. The title track on the album comes from an e-mail signature from Roger Glidewell, Hall’s mentor in student ministry, who always closed his messages with the phrase, “Until the whole world hears.”

‘Fireproof’ Follow-Up About Fatherhood

The makers of the surprise hit *Fireproof* have produced a film about fatherhood as their follow-up to the top independent movie of 2008. *Courageous* released in 2011 to rave reviews from critics.

Officials for Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga.—where *Fireproof* and their earlier films were created—made the announcement during a Sunday night church service, which drew Christian media members who were flown in for the event.

“The title is one word: *Courageous*,” said *Fireproof* director Alex Kendrick, who will also spearhead the new film. “[It’s about] four fathers who are all in law enforcement—who protect and serve together—[and] go through a terrible tragedy. They begin looking at their role as fathers ... and they begin

challenging one another to fulfill God's intention for fathers."

The film shows the benefits and consequences of the choices the fathers make. "*Courageous* will include drama, action and humor, but we will maintain our standard of keeping all dialogue honoring to God," Kendrick said.

Fireproof producer Stephen Kendrick, who will also co-write and produce *Courageous* with his brother, added: "We believe God is calling us as a church family and through movies to call men to rise up to spiritual leadership in their homes."

Fireproof made \$33.3 million at the box office, despite a modest \$500,000 budget. The movie, which stars Kirk Cameron as a firefighter who turns to God to save his marriage, has been a top-selling DVD at Christian retail since it was released Jan. 27.

Meanwhile, Stephen and Alex Kendrick's *The Love Dare*—an integral part of *Fireproof*—still appears on the *New York Times* best-seller list a year after its release. It has sold more than 3 million copies and is available in 22 languages.

Alex Kendrick said that God has given them an idea for a book companion for *Courageous*, much like *The Love Dare* for *Fireproof*. "But the horse has to stay before the cart," he said. "So we're going in the direction of the movie first."

[Click here](#) for more information on *Courageous*.

Convergence

✖ By Donald Miller | Creative Trust Media | \$14.99

Donald Miller, best-selling author of *Blue Like Jazz*, offers *Convergence: Where Faith and Life Meet*, a new DVD series appropriate for study at church, home and in small groups. Miller engages viewers with conversation with prominent Christian writers and thinkers Dan Allender, Tremper Longman, Lauren Winner and Phyllis Tickle.

Do It Afraid

☒ Pahappahooey Island | \$14.98

Joyce Meyer, best-selling author and popular Bible teacher, returns to the cast of Pahappahooey Island as Miss Ruby. This new DVD, *Do It Afraid*, teaches children about courage.

My Purse Runneth Over

☒ I carry the basic essentials of life in my purse. Aspirin, lipstick, hand lotion, credit cards ... you name it, it's in there. If it's not, it will be. I seem to have some sort of purse reflex. I can stuff things in there without even knowing it.

On the positive side, I found a \$5 bill in a sneaky secret pocket last week. Even better, I found a candy bar. Now that was interesting! It was squished—almost liquefied—but it was still inside the wrapper.

The Praying Life of Jesus

☒ Most of us categorize our lives in segments: home life, work life, leisure life and even prayer life. Years ago God began to show me that I didn't have to settle for just "having a prayer life." Instead, I could live a praying life.

What is a praying life? It is a dimension of living in which you experience minute-by-minute the flow of God's provision.

You are met at every step with the progressive unfolding of His tailor-made plan for your life (see Eph. 2:10). You cease your struggle to find the will of God because the will of God has found you.