

INFocus

Families in Canada
are being helped,
healed and given hope
— because of you!

The power of a single broadcast

The ripple effect one radio program had on hundreds of families

On the September 14 *Focus on the Family Broadcast*, Bob and Audrey Meisner courageously shared their testimony.

After 17 years of marriage, the Meisners had a seemingly perfect life. They were leading a church in full-time ministry with three wonderful kids. But when Audrey had an affair with a family friend and then found out she was

pregnant, their world almost came crashing down around them.

Their story of redemption, grace and forgiveness is one that has touched countless lives and has been shared hundreds of times on social media.

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BOB AND AUDREY MEISNER SHARED THEIR INCREDIBLE STORY OF REDEMPTION, GRACE AND FORGIVENESS ON THE FOCUS ON THE FAMILY BROADCAST THIS SEPTEMBER

FOCUS IN ACTION

**Our brand new website
is here!**

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BECAUSE OF YOU

**Children have access
to safe, faith-building
entertainment**

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porn-proofing tools and
seminars**

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LIFE IN FOCUS

**Forgiving when
forgiveness is hard**

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank you!

Your support and desire to see families thrive inspires us every day!



TERENCE ROLSTON
PRESIDENT

Thanksgiving has come and gone but you were not far from my mind:

I am so thankful for your generosity and partnership!

I hope you know just how much you're appreciated by our team here at Focus on the Family Canada. We could not serve families in Canada without your prayerful and financial support – and for that we are so grateful!

Not only do you regularly give to help families thrive in Christ, but you are quick to participate in what we are doing to minister to families as well.

When we told you about the release of *Mully* in theatres this fall, you were there with prayerful support and

excitement about seeing the film in theatres. Thousands of tickets were sold in hundreds of theatres across the country as families just like yours came to experience the incredible true story of Charles Mully for themselves.

When we shared with you a matching grant opportunity this fall, you responded! And the one donor who granted us the matching opportunity quickly turned into four families offering to match a total of \$145,000! I was humbled by your commitment.

When we launched our new website two months ago, you explored the new content available to you and shared your helpful feedback with us.

I am truly grateful for how you stand with us as we prayerfully follow God's leading for this ministry. As we look back at Thanksgiving and ahead to the Christmas season, I pray you'll be reminded of how loved and appreciated you are by all of us here at Focus on the Family Canada.

Thank you for being a part of the Focus family!

Terence

NEWS

The inside scoop

Kyle's lovely family and winners of the full Adventures in Odyssey CD collection!



■ **Focus on the Family Canada named one of the Best Christian Workplaces in 2017!**

If you or someone you know would like to join our team, check out current employment opportunities online at Focusonthefamily.ca/employment.

■ **Charles Mully came to Canada** to visit multiple Christian media outlets and discuss the documentary focused on his incredible story. *Mully* was released in theatres across the country on October 4 and 12 – with additional shows added on October 18 and 19!

← ■ **Kyle of Mitchell, Manitoba, won our big *Adventures in Odyssey* giveaway!** In celebration of its 30th birthday, we had a Facebook contest this summer to give away the full collection of *Adventures in Odyssey* – albums #1-62! Congratulations to Kyle and his lovely family!

A MINISTRY IN FOCUS

The power of a single broadcast

The ripple effect one radio program had on hundreds of families

Continued from page 1

In the broadcast, Bob honestly shares his struggle with anger and bitterness, hurt and betrayal after learning of his wife's infidelity. In a short video clip of the broadcast that we shared on Facebook, he talks about the moment he and Audrey told their children she was pregnant by this other man. As a family, they all sat on the floor and he covered Audrey with a blanket, wrapping his arms around her. He told his children that this is what God does when we make a mistake:

"He comes to us and He covers us and He wraps his arms around us and He says, 'I will never leave you. I will never forsake you.'"

With the strength that only comes from God, Bob forgave Audrey and claimed this baby as his own.

This video has since been viewed over 73,000 times on Facebook, shared over 600 times and received over 100 comments from people who were touched, inspired and brought to tears by the restorative power of Christ in Bob and Audrey's family.

We hear time and time again how someone turned on the radio, opened their app or went to our website and heard something that spoke directly to whatever they were facing. We never know the full impact of our broadcasts, but we do know that when people's lives are changed by someone's story, they share it. And with the expansive reach of social media, these life-changing stories are being heard by people around the world! The resulting ripple effect is more than we could imagine and we're humbled that God



would use resources like our broadcast to change people's lives.

Because of you, moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas, husbands and wives can hear the broadcast when they need it most. Thank you for making it possible to air on radio stations, online and on our app!

Read about the impact of the Focus on the Family Broadcast on pages 4-5!

FINDING HELP

Learn more about Bob and Audrey's powerful testimony



OVERCOMING THE OBSTACLES OF INFIDELITY I-II
CD · 1011284



OVERCOMING THE OBSTACLES OF INFIDELITY I-II
DOWNLOAD · DA23142-CP

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

You're making it possible for the broadcast to be shared with families across the country

"By divine intervention, I heard the broadcast with Bob and Audrey Meisner. I cannot tell you how deeply their story touched me. What a story of redemption and grace! . . . My heart breaks to learn of another couple in our circle of believers that has split and quit. I KNOW that the grace of God is sufficient and if we only give it all to Him, He can make beauty of our ashes . . . I plan to share this broadcast widely. I also plan to listen to it with my husband so that we can honestly face whatever temptations we may be wrestling with in this area and avert disaster before it occurs . . . Thank you for willingly sharing such a poignant broadcast."



87,077

people have accessed our radio website in the last year



5,028

have downloaded our mobile app in the last year to listen to the broadcast on the go



176

local radio stations across the country air the broadcast



350,000+

times the extra videos with broadcast guests have been viewed on Facebook

5 WAYS TO LISTEN

- **TUNE IN TO YOUR LOCAL RADIO STATION**
- **STREAM IT ONLINE AT FOCUSONTHEFAMILY.CA/RADIO**
- **GET OUR FREE MOBILE APP AT FOCUSONTHEFAMILY.CA/MOBILE**
- **ORDER A CD AT SHOP.FOCUSONTHEFAMILY.CA**
- **DOWNLOAD A DIGITAL COPY AT SHOP.FOCUSONTHEFAMILY.CA**

FROM OUR BOOKSTORE

Five of the best broadcasts of 2017

BRINGING HOPE AND HEALING THROUGH RESCUED HORSES I-II · KIM MEEDER · CD · 1011055
CHERISH YOUR SPOUSE, CHANGE YOUR MARRIAGE I-II · GARY THOMAS · CD · 1010300
GROWING CLOSER THROUGH FAMILY DEVOTIONS · JONATHAN AND KANIKA EVANS · CD · 1010331
NAVIGATING SEXUAL SIN TO FIND YOUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST I-II · ROSARIA CHAMPAGNE
 BUTTERFIELD · CD · 1010270
UNDERSTANDING YOUR TEEN'S BEHAVIOUR I-II · JERAMY AND JERUSA CLARK · CD · 1010805

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

You're sharing the redemptive power of God's love with thousands of families

Thanks to you, people are regularly listening to the broadcast and sharing it with friends and family

Because of you

You are making it possible for families from coast to coast to tune in to the *Focus on the Family Broadcast*.

Because of your support, **87,077 people have accessed our radio website** in the last year. Not only can they find each day's broadcast, they can also go back to the archive and listen to old programs, find related resources and articles, enjoy episodes of *Adventures in Odyssey*, and explore our selection of podcasts.

For those who like to listen to our radio program on the go, **5,028 people have downloaded our mobile app** in the last year alone! Recently updated, the app offers users the opportunity to listen to recent broadcasts, explore them by topic, ask for prayer and counselling support, subscribe to our free magazine and e-newsletters, and even give back to families by donating to Focus on the Family Canada.

Plus, the *Focus on the Family Broadcast* airs on **176 local Christian radio stations** across the country. We regularly hear from people who were driving down the road and turned the dial to their local station, only to hear a poignant broadcast that spoke directly to their situation. The way God uses our resources in His timing never ceases to amaze us!

Since June, we've been sharing exclusive video clips of the broadcasts on our

Facebook account. In total, we've shared over 30 videos that have been **viewed a total of over 350,000 times!** When a video is watched or shared on social media, the reach is often more than we could imagine. Much like Bob and Audrey's broadcast, people are liking, sharing and commenting on these videos which are subsequently showing up in the newsfeeds of their friends and families!

Thanks to your support, we're able to keep our Facebook followers – and their Facebook friends – informed on the latest broadcasts and broadcasts videos to inspire and encourage them wherever they're at.

How donations are used

Thanks to your generosity, we're able to offer the *Focus on the Family Broadcast* to families over the radio and online for free!

Families from coast to coast are able to find solid, Biblically based advice on marriage, parenting and Christian living. Plus, they're able to hear touching stories on hot-button topics that build a sense of compassion and empathy for those who are struggling through similar situations.

Your support is teaching people how to live with an eternal perspective, equipping them to grow in their faith, and helping them become more Christlike in their relationships with their friends, family, neighbours and co-workers!

How you can help

As always, we greatly appreciate your prayerful support!

Pray for guidance for hosts Jim Daly and John Fuller – and the whole broadcast team – as they decide on topics, interview guests and bring God's truth to listeners around the globe.

Pray that God would continue to use the *Focus on the Family Broadcast* in His timing to speak to people when they need it most.

We also need your ongoing financial support in order to continue sharing and airing the broadcast for free. Whether they listen on a local radio station, online or through our mobile app, **your support is what makes this possible. Thank you!**

FOCUS IN ACTION

Our brand new website is here!

With more content and easy navigation to serve families better

"I love Focus on the Family! This is my go-to website if I am lonely, need some advice, looking for ideas for family activities, or sometimes when I am just plain bored and looking to find something entertaining to read or listen to." -Maylene R.

We're thrilled to announce that on September 13, 2017, our brand new website was launched, providing even more families with access to our faith-building resources.

With its new user-friendly design, updated navigation menus and more, families are able to find help when they need it most. So whether they're looking for an answer to a question, an in-depth article on an issue they're

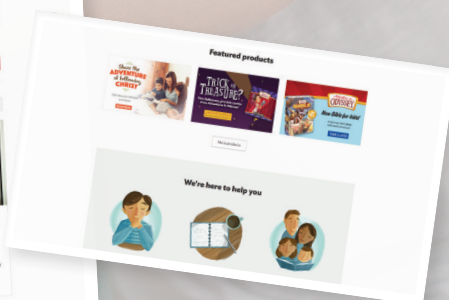
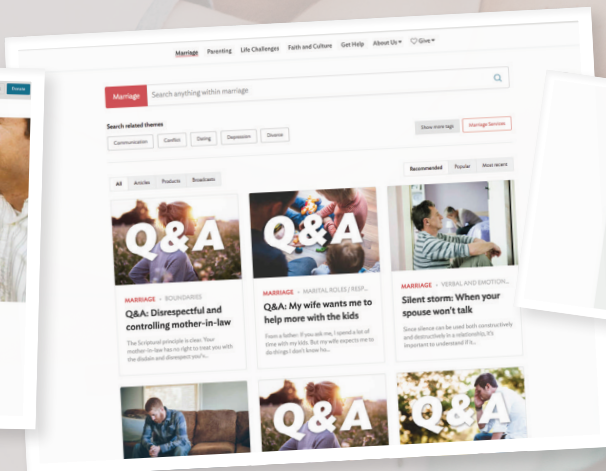
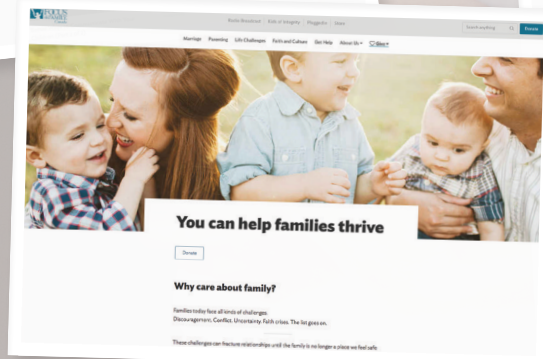
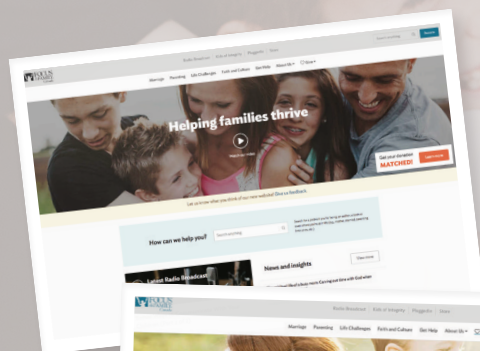
facing, or personalized prayer and counselling support, they'll be able to find it with ease at **Focusonthefamily.ca**.

Not only that, but we've updated our giving section so you can find **content that's specially created for donors like you!**

Learn about how your donation makes a difference, read stories of lives that have been changed because of your

support of this ministry, find new ways to give and find information about our financial accountability.

Go to **Focusonthefamily.ca**, look in the top menu and click on **Give** to find the content created just for you!



OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE

Become a Friend of the Family and receive a special gift pack!

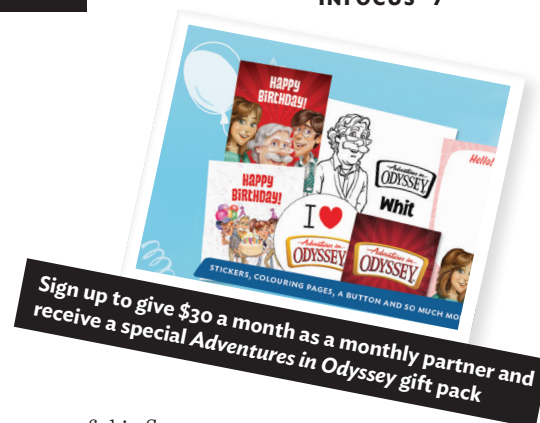
In celebration of *Adventures in Odyssey's* 30th birthday this year, we're providing you with a special *Odyssey* gift pack when you sign up to give at least **\$30 a month** as a monthly partner.

With buttons, stickers, colouring pages and so much more, you'll love passing these treats on to your child, grandchild, friend – or even enjoying them yourself!

As a monthly partner, or Friend of the Family, you can make a lasting impact on the next generation of children! Your

monthly gift will have a powerful influence on our growing efforts to reach Canadian children of all ages.

To become a Friend of the Family and receive the special *Odyssey* gift package, visit Focusonthefamily.ca/celebrate today!



BECAUSE OF YOU

Because of you, safe, entertaining, faith-building content is reaching kids across Canada and beyond!

"I just wish to say thank you for offering *Clubhouse* magazines. As a grandparent, it is a blessing to be able to provide my grandchildren with your *Clubhouse* magazines. Kids in today's culture seem to have so much of everything – making it difficult to purchase birthday or Christmas gifts. By purchasing magazine subscriptions, it is a different kind of gift (not materialistic in nature, but a gift of eternal value). A gift that comes each month to their mailboxes in their names throughout the year (not just a one-time gift for a particular occasion) and provides a variety of reading and activities. Thank you for your part in helping us grandparents invest into the spiritual lives of our grandchildren." -Karen S.

Thanks to your partnership, children across the country are continually being gifted copies of *Clubhouse*, *Clubhouse Jr.* and *Brio* magazines. These publications provide kids of all ages with regular, faith-building content that is not only fun for them, but is parent- and grandparent-approved!

To give a gift subscription this Christmas, call **1.800.661.9800**.



Our kids' magazines are loved by all ages



Show your kids how exciting faith can be with a subscription to their very own magazine! *Brio* for teen girls blends fun, fashion and faith advice with stories of great role models. Younger girls and boys will love our award-winning *Clubhouse* and *Clubhouse Jr.* magazines.

Prices from \$23.99*

To order a new subscription, visit Shop.focusonthefamily.ca/magazines

To renew or update an existing subscription, call 1.800.661.9800

A NEWSLETTER FROM FOCUS ON THE FAMILY CANADA

RESOURCE CENTRE

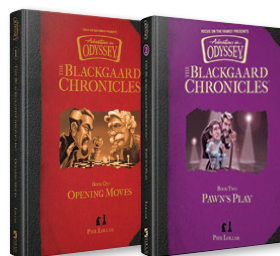
Christmas gift ideas to build faith in your kids



Adventures in Odyssey Bible

\$29.99* ~~\$40.99~~ · HARDCOVER · F01645B

Encourage your kids to dig into God's Word with this colourful new NIV Bible. Inside kids will find the full Bible text, and their favourite characters from Odyssey waiting to help them explore it! Guided by Whit, Connie, Eugene and others, kids will discover loads of fun ways to search more of God's Word every day. Ages 7+

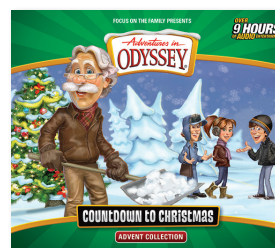


The Blackgaard Chronicles

**\$19.99*
VALUE \$25.98**

**2 HARDCOVERS
F01667K**

One of *Adventures in Odyssey's* favourite audio adventures is now a book series! As Whit faces the ever-twisting schemes unleashed by his nemesis, Dr. Regis Blackgaard, kids will learn about God's protection, forgiveness and salvation. Ages 10+



Countdown to Christmas

**\$29.99*
~~\$48.99~~**

**8 CDS
F01539D**

For each of the 24 days of Advent, you and your family can listen to a special *Adventures in Odyssey* audio episode focused on Christ's birth. Plus, you'll enjoy 25 family activity ideas and devotions – including a paper Odyssey town to cut out and decorate! Ages 8+

Order your copy today!

ONLINE: SHOP.FOCUSONTHEFAMILY.CA

BY PHONE: 1.800.661.9800

MON. – FRI. 7 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. (PT) EXCEPT TUES. 9 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

* Prices subject to change.

YOU RECOMMEND

Improving with Age



Reviewed by
Rachel C.,
Langley, BC

Improving with Age by Stuart and Jill Briscoe is full of insight into how older believers can navigate their advancing age well and adapt appropriately when aging changes their capacity and they can no longer serve in the way in which they are accustomed.

This discussion on God's plan for getting older and wiser is full of Scripturally based encouragement to aging believers to step into the freedom of doing different things in new ways. Stuart and Jill are quick to acknowledge that aging is inevitable and it does bring effects that we'd like to deny. However, no matter how old we are or how old we become, we are made in the image of God for His purposes and that never

changes. Spiritual gifts don't wear out and believers do not become less relevant to God's Kingdom.

But *Improving with Age* is not only for the elderly. Marginalization in the Christian community is a painful reality for many aging believers. The Briscoes emphasize the importance of making space in the Church for aging believers to continue to use their God-given gifts. They conclude by exhorting churches to pursue unified diversity where both young and old are "one in Christ Jesus."



Improving with Age

PAPERBACK • C03094B

\$16.50* \$18.49

Raising a Modern-Day Knight



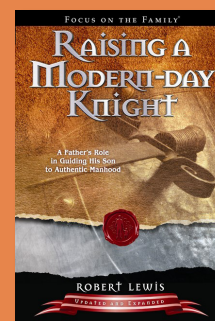
Reviewed by
Trevor H.,
Abbotsford, BC

Like most men, my wife bought me a book and I didn't want to read it. But this book was different. It had knight stuff, and something I didn't realize I was lacking: an education in manhood. So I told her I would read it. I was not fully prepared for the content. It was deep and it was serious. It asked questions that most men probably don't ask – I know I didn't – and I didn't expect the real answers.

It has felt like teaching our boys about manhood is a lost concept, yet they are still expected to know how to act. I have

always felt fairly secure in my manhood, but this book really narrows it down in a teachable way and in a fashion that, as a father, I can Biblically engage my boys to follow Christ's example of what it is to be a real man.

I highly recommend this book for any father. As the author says, it's never too late to invest in your son's or father's relationship.



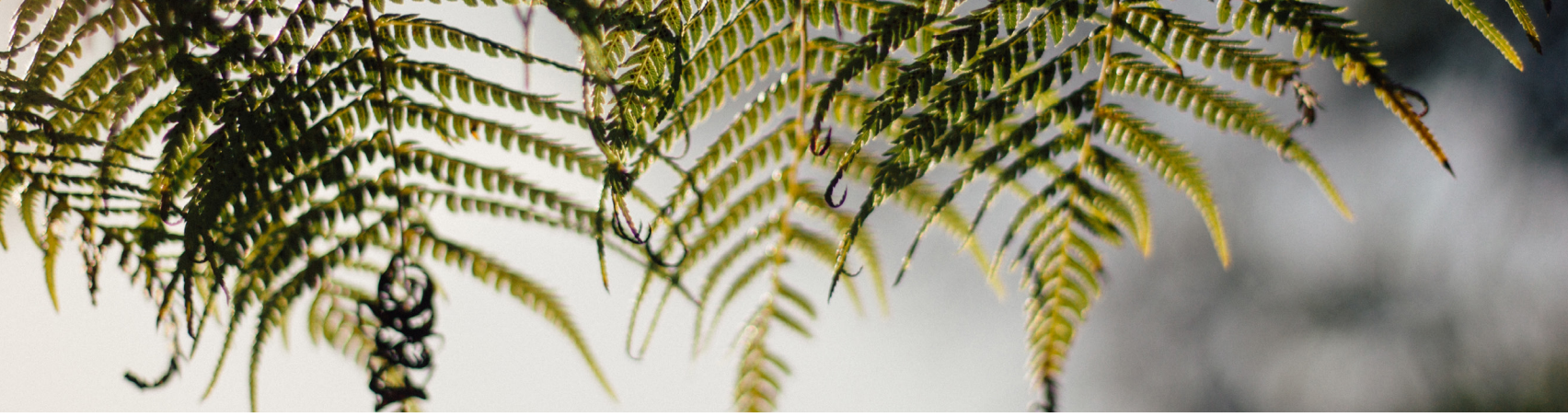
Raising a Modern-Day Knight

PAPERBACK • F00274B

\$15.99* \$20.99

HAS A FOCUS RESOURCE CHANGED YOUR LIFE? IF SO, EMAIL US AT INFO@FOTF.CA!

GET YOUR OWN COPY OF THESE READER-APPROVED RESOURCES AT
SHOP.FOCUSONTHEFAMILY.CA TODAY!



GLOBAL FOCUS

Focus on the Family New Zealand offers porn-proofing tools and seminars

Despite what our culture would have people believe, the use of pornography is not a normal, healthy, private act. It affects a person's emotional, spiritual and physical health, and damages their relationships with their spouse, their children and all those around them.

Focus on the Family New Zealand wants to equip people of all ages with the tools they need to not only learn about the negative effects of pornography, but to also provide strategies for prevention and healing.

Good Pictures Bad Pictures is an illustrated book designed for parents

to read to their children ages 5 to 10 years old. It explains the workings of the brain, how addiction can develop and, most importantly, provides children with practical steps to take if they're confronted with pornography. An overseas bestseller, this book has garnered praise from parents and professionals alike.

Last year, they also launched an online video series called *Practical Tips for Porn-Free Living* that not only looks at the problems, but also provides solutions for those who are struggling to free themselves from this addiction. You can

find it online at **Family.org.nz/pornfree**.

They've also started a 10-session program called *Valiant Man*. This program equips men ages 16 and up with the resources necessary to navigate our highly sexualized, porn-saturated culture, and to restore and strengthen their own sexual integrity and spiritual vitality.

When we open up discussion about pornography, its damaging effects and solutions for how to live porn-free, we're able to find healing and restoration in the lives of men and women.

When you support Focus on the Family Canada, you join millions of other people around the world who help families thrive in their own communities through their local Focus organization.

COMMUNITY FOCUS

This Halloween, families handed out something even better than candy!

Every year, we encourage families like yours to give away *Adventures in Odyssey* CDs instead of candy when kids come trick-or-treating. This year, you gave away thousands of copies of these faith-building audio dramas to children across the country!

For over 10 years, our Trick or Treasure initiative has been impacting neighbourhoods. In total, you have reached tens of thousands of kids with *Adventures in Odyssey*! Thank you for shining your light on Halloween!

Date Night Comedy Tour coming in 2018!

Last year, comedians Matt Falk and James MacNeil came to five cities in Ontario and Alberta to provide couples with a well-deserved date night! Over 3,800 people showed up to enjoy this night of fun and laughter with their spouses.

Next year, family-friendly comedians will be at it again, touring in select cities across the country and providing couples with a light-hearted night out.

Stay tuned for more details!

LIFE IN FOCUS

Forgiving when forgiveness is hard

by Wendy Kittlitz

Years ago, I read a very unique book titled *Caring Enough to Forgive*. When you turned the book over, though, the title was *Caring Enough Not to Forgive*.

As you can imagine, the author, David Augsburger, wanted to capture the complexity and significance of forgiveness. What I remember from the book was that forgiveness is not something to be taken lightly or given without an understanding of its depth. And in the end, our view of forgiveness comes down to our view of God.

Truthfully, when we have been greatly wounded, forgiveness is hard. And I think it should be hard. Why?

1. We were designed to love one another, not hurt each other. It is often in our most intimate relationships where betrayal hurts the most, because we thought we had reason to expect better from those who say they love us.
2. The loss is grievous. When great harm comes to someone we love, it is nearly impossible to want to forgive the perpetrator because of how valuable that person is to us.
3. There is often no remedy. A simple apology will often not fix what happened. Even genuine repentance may not remove long-term consequences.
4. There may be no remorse expressed or responsibility taken by the person who

hurt us. Forgiveness does not depend on that, but we feel like it should. Why should I (or would I) forgive when the person who harmed me does not even acknowledge it?

So how do we forgive when it is admittedly hard to do so?

1. We commit to seeing the bigger picture of God's redemptive work. In our narrow world, only our feelings, needs, motivations and perspectives matter. In the Kingdom of God, we broaden our focus to see that God's plan is for people to be reconciled to Him and to one another. It isn't just about us.
2. God offered forgiveness even when we did not deserve it. He took the initiative, in love, to reach out to us and offer the possibility of healing our broken relationships with Him.
3. We acknowledge and honour the pain that resulted from the wrong that was committed, but we decide not to live in that place forever. We may say, "I may never fully recover from the loss I have suffered through your action, but I choose to forgive you so I don't have to live in bitterness for the rest of my life."

Forgiveness is hard. It should be hard or it has no value. It often costs a great deal, but in God's bigger picture, it is worth it to partner with Him in the eternal work of reconciliation.



WENDY KITTLITZ
VICE-PRESIDENT, COUNSELLING
AND CARE MINISTRIES

SPREAD THE WORD

Explore our new website!

We recently made changes to our website to reach more people and make it easier for families like yours to find trusted, Biblically based content for wherever they're at in life.

With over 1,000 articles, 750 broadcasts and 1,650 products featured, we encourage you to click around and explore all the new content that's now available to you!

Visit **Focusonthefamily.ca** today!

Focus on your social media

Join our more than 32,000 Facebook followers to receive inspiring quotes, practical parenting and marriage tips, and timely ministry updates every day. Plus, you can stay up to date on the latest broadcast videos and share these inspiring messages with your friends and family!

Follow us today at
Facebook.com/fotfcanada

ON THE RADIO

On the airways in November

Don't miss our weekday *Focus on the Family Broadcast* hosted by Jim Daly and John Fuller.

Here are just some of the topics you'll hear discussed this month:*

NOVEMBER 22

"Living in Peace With People Who Drive You Crazy"
with guest Dr. Mike Bechtle

NOVEMBER 24

"Teaching Kids About Christmas"
with guest Phil Vischer

NOVEMBER 27-28

"Understanding Your Spouse's Emotions"
with guests Dr. David and Jan Stoop

Visit **Focusonthefamily.ca/radio** to find the broadcast schedule for your area or to listen online.

You can also visit **Focusonthefamily.ca/mobile** to download the free app and listen on the go.

** Dates and topics subject to change*

WE ARE STEWARDS. Our programs and services are supported entirely by our donors in Canada. We are committed to keeping our donors informed of our progress and are members of the Canadian Council of Christian Charities (CCCC). Our registered charitable tax number is 10684 5969 RR0001.

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