



## RACING BY

A friend said the other day that life is like a roll of toilet paper: the closer you get to the end, the faster it spins. That certainly seems to be the case this year. We cannot believe how quickly this year is racing past. It only feels like yesterday when we were preparing for Christmas, and now we are already almost half way into 2013.

In this edition of *The G.E.M.* we have showcased a few updates and new products that are available through our website, along with some reviews of titles written by the speakers at the ReZolution Conference recently held in Cape Town and Johannesburg.

We also continue with our Bible Basics, this time looking at the book of Mark. Finally, we have inserted a few other short items of interest.

So put on the heater, sit back and enjoy this edition of *The G.E.M.*

Blessings,  
Glyn and Linda. †

*"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."* (2 Peter 3:18)

## EVENTS

**The Great Marriage Experience: Date Night**  
with Gary & Barb Rosberg

**When:** 16-24 July 2013

**Time:** 18h30 for 19h00 - 21h30

**Where:** Pretoria, Durban and Cape Town

**Cost:** R30 per person  
Book through Computicket

**The 42nd Evangelical & Reformed Conference**  
Retreat for couples and families

**When:** 28 June – 3 July 2013

**Where:** Skogheim, Port Shepstone

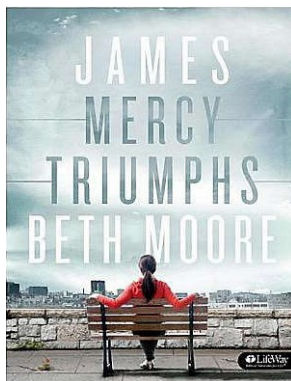
**Speakers:** Dr Iain Campbell & Pastor Ronald Kalifungwa

**Cost:** From R450.

**To register:** visit [www.erc.za.org](http://www.erc.za.org)

**More:** [www.gracemedia.co.za](http://www.gracemedia.co.za) †

## WEBSITE & PRODUCT NEWS



**NEW TITLE**



Over the last few weeks there have been a number of new releases in the LifeWay range of resources. You will also be happy to know that some of the prices have also been reduced.

Take a look at our website for more information.

*Way of the Master* fans, we have some good news, most of the Way of the Master resources are once again being distributed in South Africa.

Be sure to view our website to view the course materials, Bibles and the ever popular ice-breakers. Be sure to also check out the new products such as the *Roots Youth Curriculum* and the *180* resources.



Also added to our website are the recently updated *Christianity Explored* resources.

*Christianity Explored* is an informal 7-week course for people who would like to investigate Christianity, or just brush up on the basics. Looking at Mark's gospel, it explores who Jesus is, why He came, and what it means to follow Him.

This is a great alternative to the Alpha course with material for adults, and youth (10-14 & 15-18 age groups).

Be sure to also check out the new *Discipleship Explored* resources too!



## PRODUCT REVIEWS

### IT IS WELL

by Mark Dever & Michael Lawrence

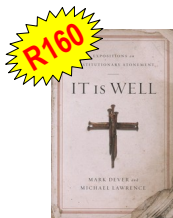
Starting with Exodus 12 and looking at other Old and New Testament passages, the authors offer careful expositions on fourteen crucial texts dealing with the subject of penal atonement. As they deal with each passage they ask some very pertinent questions like "What happens when you have no substitute?" "How could a holy God correctly love sinful men?" and "Did Jesus die for you?". In answering these questions Dever and Lawrence continually point back to the person and work of Christ two thousand years ago to show how atonement applies to our lives today.

These expositions, which are based on their sermon series, are not airy fairy, but are down to earth with real applications.

*It Is Well* is full of good exegesis, as it encourages pastors to preach this essential doctrine to strengthen the church. But it is not only a book for the learned, as it also aids individual believers to understand and rejoice in the great work of atonement by the Father through Christ.

Do not be put off by the fact that the chapters were originally sermons for they do not read like manuscripts. Instead they read like devotions that will encourage and inspire you. From the Passover through to the words of Jesus, Paul and Peter, you will be led to give God glory, and offer truly heart-felt thanksgiving for the gift of atonement achieved through the cross.

*It Is Well* is a must read for anyone who wants to understand the doctrine of atonement and who desires to have a closer walk with the God who paid it all.



### HUMILITY

by CJ Mahaney

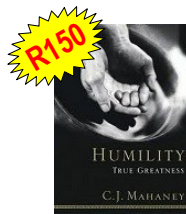
We all battle everyday with the issue of pride. It is something that we cannot avoid. *Humility* by C.J. Mahaney paints a dramatic picture of this daily battle and asks whether you will passively allow pride to stay and grow in your heart, or if you will actively choose to lead a life of humility instead.

According to C.J., "*Humility is honestly assessing ourselves in light of God's holiness and our sinfulness.*" In contrast, he explains that "*Pride is when sinful human beings aspire to the status and position of God and refuse to acknowledge their dependence upon Him.*" In other words, our pride is strong when we forget our place. Humility on the other hand is when we see ourselves the way God sees us, warts and all.

The first two parts of the book help the reader understand the links between pride, greatness, and humility. In part three Mahaney goes on to provide encouragement and methods for living a life of humility.

Mahaney also encourages readers to study the attributes of God, and the doctrines of grace of sin, for by doing so gives one the proper perspective of who we are and how we stand before a holy God.

Having met C.J. Mahaney this April at the Rezolution Conference, I know of no-one else who qualifies to write such a book. He is a man of extreme humility and has a great love and passion for God, Jesus and the cross. This is a must have book and one that all Christians should read at least once in their lives.



### JUST DO SOMETHING

by Kevin DeYoung

The one concern that seems to worry most Christians today, especially the youth and young adults, is finding God's perfect will for their lives. Many are waiting for that clear audible voice to tell them what to do. The answer however, is actually quite simple, and it is summed up in the title of this small, but invaluable book, *Just Do Something*.

Kevin starts off by pointing out that many young people in today's society are having a hard time growing up. The reason has a lot to do with the overload of information and the many decisions to be made. All this coupled with the fear of not wanting to make a mistake, many are paralysed from doing anything at all.

In chapter two Kevin looks at the basics of the question, "what is the will of God?" and goes on to deal with the three ways we tend to answer this question. Kevin gives very practical advice on the subject, pointing out that often times we need to stop worrying and *Just Do Something*. Too often we feel that we cannot proceed until we know God's will, but Kevin's advice is as plain as the nose on your face: if you love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and are seeking to do God's will, then make some decisions and then put them into action.

This is probably one of the best books written in this subject, and written by a young man who has put the principles into practice himself. Read this book yourself, but make sure to buy more to give away. A great gift for anyone who has ever asked the question: "What is God's will for my life?"

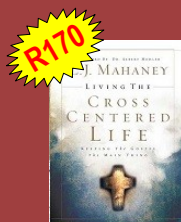


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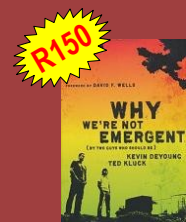
Mark Dever



C.J. Mahaney



Kevin DeYoung



## HYMN STORIES

### Nearer, My God, to Thee by Sarah F. Adams

This hymn is generally considered by students of hymnology to be the best hymn ever written by any woman hymnwriter.

Sarah Flower Adams was born at Harlow, England, on February 22, 1805. She died at the early age of forty-three. In this brief lifetime, however, Sarah lived a full and productive life. She was active for a time on the stage, playing the role of Lady MacBeth in London. She was also widely known for her many literary accomplishments.

This hymn is based on the dream that Jacob had in the desert when he was a fugitive from his home and his brother Esau. Sarah and her sister, Eliza, wrote the hymn for their pastor who was looking for a hymn to round off his sermon on the account in Genesis 28.

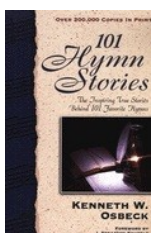
The hymn has sometimes been criticised since there is no reference to the person and work of Christ throughout the text. Interestingly enough, however, the hymn is found in nearly every published hymnal and has won its way into the hearts of believers around the world with its many translations into other languages.

This hymn has also been the favorite hymn of many of the world's great leaders, including US president William McKinley. The hymn was widely sung and played at his funeral and at memorial services held throughout the USA in 1901.

There is also the well-known account of the sinking of the ill-fated ship *The Titanic*, as it plunged into the icy waters of the Atlantic in 1912, sending 1500 people into eternity while the ship's band played the strains of this hymn.

This hymn has been used of God to bring spiritual comfort and blessing to many of His people everywhere. It expresses so aptly the common yearning in the heart of men to know God and to experience His nearness and victory.

Taken from *101 Hymn Stories* by Kenneth W. Osbeck. †



### 101 Hymn Stories by Kenneth W. Osbeck

**R140**

## BIBLE BASICS

### Mark *The Book of the Christ in Action*

Mark's Gospel is the second book of the New Testament, and presents Jesus as being a man of action with authority.

**Intended Audience:** The Gospel of Mark is written to a Roman audience. Throughout the Gospel Jesus is portrayed as a man of vigour, who gets things done. This would have appealed to the Romans who had the same mindset.

**Author and Date:** The author has traditionally been recognised as a man called Mark who was not writing from a personal eyewitness perspective, but rather was recording the account given to him by the disciple Peter.

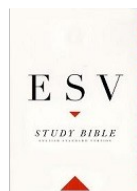
Most view Mark as being the first Gospel written and is typically dated around AD50 – a mere twenty years after the life and death of Jesus.

**Structure:** The Gospel of Mark in a way reads like a screenplay, with the word “immediately” being repeated in numerous places throughout the text. It is as though Mark wants you to keep on reading until you have finished the entire story in order for you to see the entire story of Jesus as a whole.

There are six emphases in the book:

- Introduction (1:1-13)
- Jesus' Authority Demonstrated (1:14-5:43)
- Jesus' Conflict with Others (6:1-8:26)
- Jesus Instructs His Disciples (8:27-10:52)
- Jesus' Journey to the Cross (ch. 11-13)
- Jesus' Death and Resurrection (ch. 14-16)

**Value for Today:** The Gospel of Mark was not written to prove certain statements or prophecies about Jesus. Rather it was written purely to state the facts about Him. Mark is a great book to see how Jesus was the Son of God, not by declaring how He came to earth, but simply by proclaiming what He did and that His actions matched His words. †



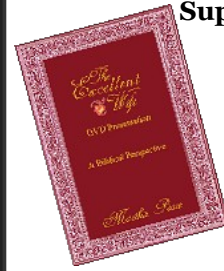
### ESV Study Bible Hardcover

**R670**

## COMING SOON

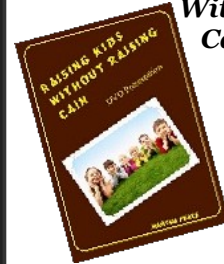
### MARTHA PEACE RESOURCES

#### *The Excellent Wife* Supplementary DVD Set



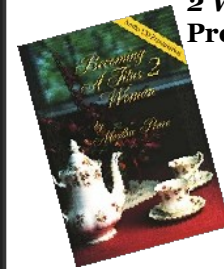
**R600**

#### *Raising Kids Without Raising Cain* DVD Set



**R400**

#### *Becoming a Titus 2 Woman* Audio Presentation CD Set



**R150**

Pre-order your set before  
30 June and SAVE 10%  
Trade enquiries welcome.

## BOOK CLUBS

Are you a member of a book club?

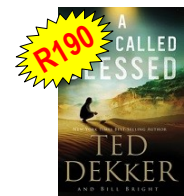
Are you an avid fiction reader?

Then check out these and other great new fiction releases on our website, or sign up to receive updates on new fiction releases.



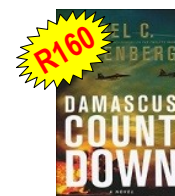
#### *The Guardian* by Beverly Lewis

**R150**



#### *A Man Called Blessed* by Ted Dekker

**R190**



#### *Damascus Countdown* by Joel C. Rosenberg

**R160**



#### *Rebekah* by Jill Eileen Smith

**R150**

## THE DEDICATED LIFE

Why do missionaries leave home and family to work in distant lands? Why do Christian workers labour in ministries instead of working in higher paying positions in society? Why do most believers cheerfully give from their income to the local church instead of spending it on things of pleasure? Why do Sunday School and Bible study teachers sacrifice their time for their ministry instead of pursuing more "fun" activities? Why do so many believers make it a priority to spend their time at church on Sunday, and attend Bible studies and prayer meetings when they could use that time at work or play?

Part of the answer to these questions is found in 2 Corinthians 4:18, "we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal." A true believer does not simply live for this life alone. Instead he/she has an eternal perspective. What he/she may lose in this life pales in comparison to what he/she will gain in the next. Investment of today's time, ministry, finances, and choices

is an investment with an eternal future reward.

The second part of the answer can be found in Matthew 28:19-21, "All authority has been given to Me [Jesus] in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

At the heart of a true believer is to make disciples. To fulfil the command of Jesus, to grow the Kingdom of God. Every action, relationship and choice is based on whether or not what one is doing is going to make disciples.

How have you been looking at your life? Have you only been looking at the things "which are seen" and are "temporal," or have you been looking at, and valuing most highly, the things "which are not seen" and "are eternal"? Do you consider whether or not the things that you have dedicated your life to fulfil the Great Commission handed down to us by Jesus?

Today is a good day to change focus and set new priorities. †

## VALUABLE QUOTES

"For centuries now, there has been a move to understand Christianity more by the religious experience it provides than by its doctrines. We want to feel God, or at least feel better. We want to feel joy or commitment or sobriety or intimacy with God. We want to see our lives here and now improve. The crucifixion of Christ seems like an important, even necessary, event historically, but not anything that needs to be highlighted today." - Mark Dever in *It Is Well*.

✂ ✂

"Never correct without reminding the individual, at some point, of the gospel. Any conversation including correction must also include the gospel, because biblical correction is incomplete apart from the gospel." - C.J. Mahaney in *Humility*.

✂ ✂

"Never forget: first God delivered the Israelites from Egypt, then he gave them the law. God's people were not redeemed by observing the law, but they were redeemed so they might obey the law." Kevin DeYoung in *The Hole in Our Holiness*. †

## A MERRY HEART

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www.glasbergen.com



"Wireless communication is nothing new.  
I've been praying for 75 years!"

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"Yes, the disciples followed Jesus...  
but not on Twitter."

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### BUSINESS HOURS:

Monday – Friday: 9am – 5pm  
Saturday & Sunday Booktables: By arrangement