

Connections

LINKING RHEMA GRADUATES AROUND THE WORLD

4

Preparing for the
Next Phase of
Your Ministry

9

General Tips
for Transitions

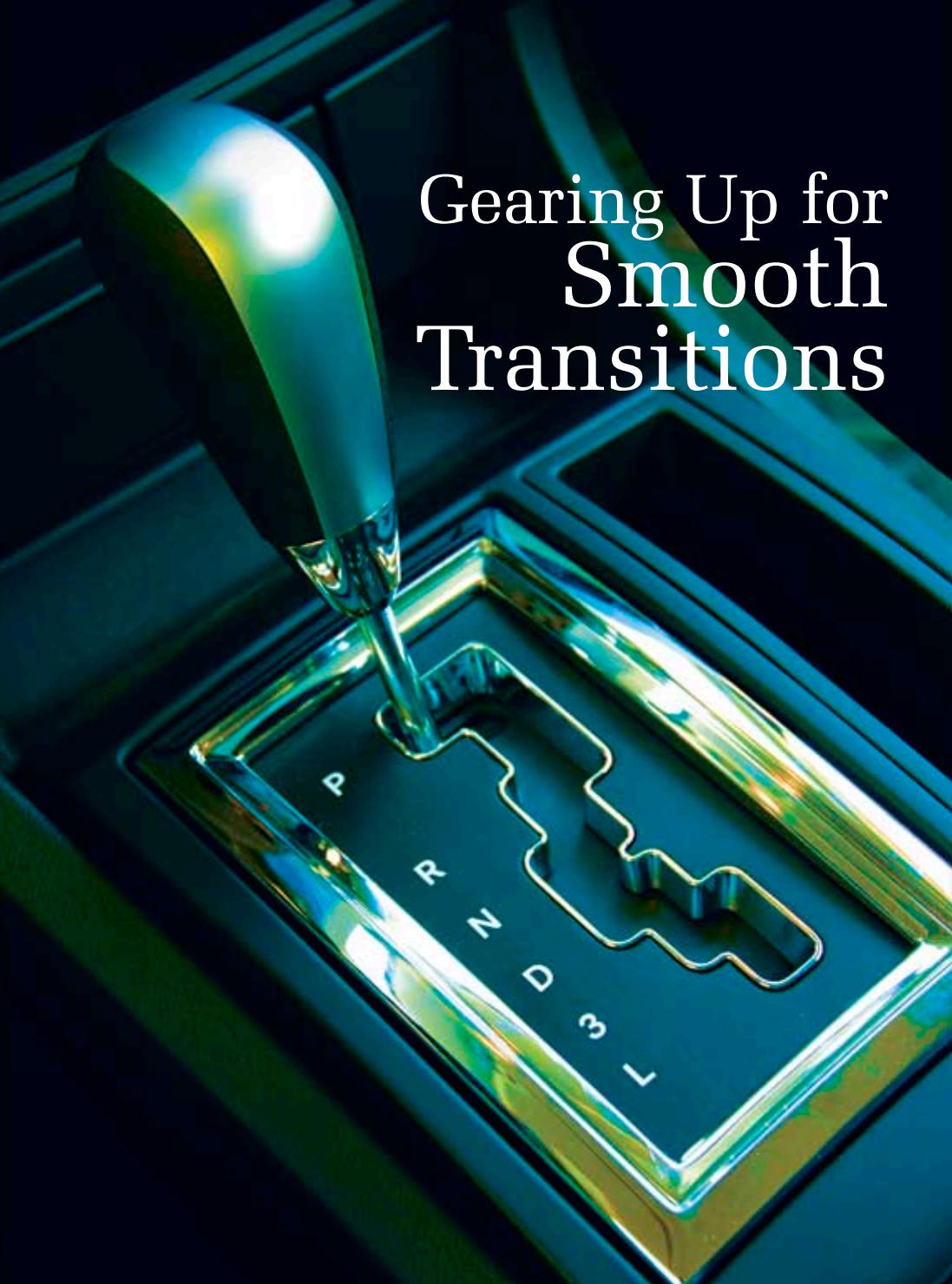
11

Alumni Blog:
Outreach ideas
and ministry
resources

20

Where Are They
Now?

Gearing Up for
Smooth
Transitions



Alumni . . .

CAMPMEETING 2006



NOW IS YOUR TIME!
On Time. On Target.
On Fire!

RHEMA USA campus • Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

July 23–30

Service Times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m., 7:30 p.m.
Monday–Saturday: 10:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

CAMPMEETING 2006 SPEAKERS



CHARLES
COWAN

ANNE
DURANT

KEVIN
DURANT

MARK
HANKINS

STEVE
HOUPE

DARRELL
HUFFMAN

REGGIE
SCARBOROUGH

SCOTT
WEBB



The Bottom Line

When You Sense a Change in Ministry

DOUG JONES | RMAI/RAA Director

Dear RHEMA Alumni,

Greetings in the mighty Name of Jesus! I trust you are well and busy about the Father's business.

In our continued efforts to keep you connected and on the cutting edge of ministry, we've made some changes in the *Connections* magazine. Be sure to check out the new features!

Because change is a common occurrence in all of our lives, we're talking about transitions in this issue. Everyone experiences times of transition. We transition from childhood to adulthood; some of us transition to being married, having children, and then having an empty nest. We all transition to new relationships, new cities, new jobs, and—as we'll focus on in this issue—new positions in ministry.

As Christians, of course, we should be making these transitions based on the leading of the Lord, endeavoring always to follow His plan for our lives. Romans 8:14 says, "*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*"

There are a lot of things that happen to us during a time of transition, and some of them are uncomfortable. We're giving up things that are beloved or familiar and heading for places we've never been before. We're unable to see the future, and like Abraham when he left Haran, we may be stepping out without much more than a "go ye" from the Lord!

It may start with just a stirring in our spirit, or we may be forced into a transition by external circumstances. So how do we know when it's time to make a transition? How do we hear from God? How about our family and others with whom we have relationships—what part do they play in a transition? What are the steps to take that will lead us in the right direction?

These are questions we are often asked in the Alumni office. And in this issue of *Connections*, we endeavor to answer some of them. We've talked with several RBTC graduates who have gone through transitions in ministry to find out how they were led and the steps they took. We've included some general tips for transitions and some things to do if you're facing a tough transition beyond your control.

Don't miss the ALUMNI BLOG, our pull-out resource section in the middle of the magazine. Feel free to pull it out and save it for future reference. It includes great ideas for children's ministry, youth ministry, the minister's library, and outreach ideas to help you as you labor to reach your community with the Gospel. We want to make this a regular section in the magazine, so *please* send us your own successful ministry and outreach ideas!

As always, I encourage you to visit the alumni portion of the RHEMA Web site—www.rhema.org/alumni—to remain informed of the alumni and RMAI activities in your area.

We in the RMAI/Alumni office are here to serve you, our RHEMA family. We encourage you to contact us if we may be of assistance, and above all else, please know that we love you and pray for you continually.

A fellow laborer,

Douglas E. Jones
RMAI/RAA National Director

Connections | spring/summer 2006, vol. XXXI, no. 1

Connections is published biannually by RHEMA Bible Church, AKA Kenneth Hagin Ministries, a nonprofit corporation, in association with the RHEMA Bible Training Center Alumni Association.

Editorial offices: 1025 W. Kenosha • Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

© 2006 RHEMA Bible Church, Inc.

All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or part without written permission is prohibited. Printed in the U.S.A.

Send all U.S. mail to: **Connections** • P.O. Box 50126 • Tulsa, Oklahoma 74150-0126

Address Corrections Requested

Did you know that every time **Connections** is mailed, hundreds of copies are returned to us? Those undelivered copies represent all the alumni who won't receive their copy of **Connections** because they haven't notified us of an address change!

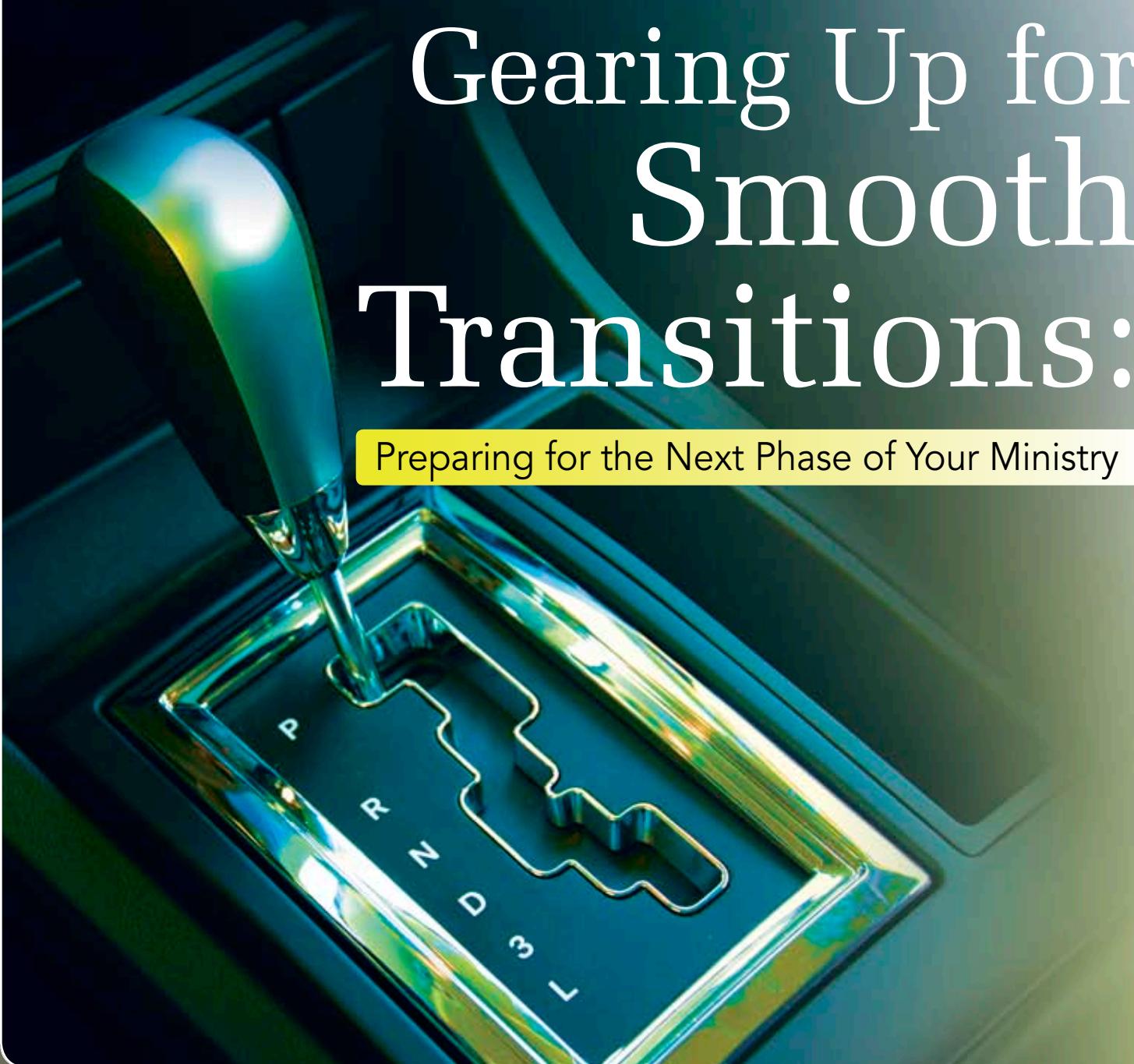
Each returned copy of **Connections** costs this ministry approximately \$1.50 in postage and handling. So please—write or call us when you have an address change, and help us curb waste and unnecessary expense!

Thank you for your help!

Everyone makes transitions, whether in ministry, personal life, employment, a family situation, or other areas. Transition times are rarely easy, but they're necessary to fulfill God's plan for our lives. The following are several examples of how RHEMA alumni have handled transition.

Gearing Up for Smooth Transitions:

Preparing for the Next Phase of Your Ministry



Transitioning to Pastor an Already Established Church

// Paul Ruzinsky // www.rlcnewaygo.org



Nine years ago, **Paul Ruzinsky ('87, '88)** reluctantly took over a troubled church in Newaygo, Michigan.

"I was on staff at a church of about 7,000 people," says Paul, "when several of us began to take turns preaching at this little church until they found a permanent pastor. I had *no desire* to take over a church!" So when the board offered him the position of pastor, Paul turned it down—repeatedly.

"I didn't even pray about it. I just kept telling them no!" laughs Paul. But when he finally prayed about it, the Lord spoke to him. "He said, 'I've called you to Newaygo. Your provision is there. What I've called you to accomplish, you will accomplish from there.' So I said, 'Okay, Lord, I'll go. And You know my wife will follow me anywhere, but if You would speak to her as clearly as you did to me, I would appreciate it.' I had no more than said that when I heard Colleen in the

other room say, 'All right! All right! I'll go!'"

NOT ALL SMOOTH SAILING

As always, there were challenges. "We went from being on staff at a large church to having no salary," says Paul. "The people were beaten down, and after I preached faith for a while, some of them left! About 10 families stayed, and they're still with me." Today the church has an average Sunday morning attendance of 900 to 1,000.

"I believed God for the money," says Paul, "and we never missed a paycheck. The church wasn't paying its bills, so I took the accountant aside and said, 'From this day forward, we pay every bill on time, in full.'

"She said, 'You don't understand. I only pay one bill a month!' But I told her, 'God called me here. He didn't call this work to fail. Repeat that after me.' So she repeated it, even though she later told me she thought I was nuts! But ever since that date, we've paid every bill on time, in full."

Keys to Church Growth

/ Paul Ruzinsky /

- **Plan to succeed.** "One thing that causes a church to grow is *faith*. Brother Hagin taught us the life of faith and how to be led by the Spirit. I just never planned on failing. I only made plans to succeed."
- **Be ready.** "From the beginning, I trained ushers, children's workers, altar workers, and so forth, so that the church was ready. I said, 'Do this for six months, and then we'll reevaluate to see if this is where God would have you be.'"
- **Get the word out.** "I figure there are hundreds of people in our community who want to get saved but don't know it yet. So we took out full-page ads, rented billboards, got on the radio, and saturated the community to let them know we were there. We made our church a household name."
- **Lead by example.** "My wife and I personally win many, many people to the Lord—in restaurants, at the gym, wherever. We talk about the Lord and invite people to church all the time. If I want my congregation members to invite people to church, I need to lead in that."
- **Reach out.** "We started to give to the community right away. [Editor's Note: See page 12 for some of Pastor Ruzinsky's outreach ideas.] When the Rapture happens, I want people in our city to miss our church!"

Transitioning a Pastor From Within

// David Maxey //

www.davidmaxey.org

When David Maxey ('97, '98) transitioned from Associate Pastor to the position of Senior Pastor at Fountain of Life Church in Khabarovsk, Russia, the church managed to maintain their average weekly attendance and even grow, without experiencing any "fallout" of members.

David gives much of the credit to the previous pastor, **Joe Purcell ('87, '88)**. David was Joe's assistant for five years before Joe began to feel the leading to turn the church over and begin a new direction in ministry.

"Joe really made it work," David says of the transition.



Promotion Within the Ranks

/ David Maxey /

- **Ease the new guy in.** A year before Pastor Joe left the church, he began letting David preach. When the Purcells went to the U.S. for the summer, they left David in charge, allowing him to make most of the decisions for the church. "It's like he was still driving the car, but he let me have my hands on the steering wheel," says David. "By the time the Purcells actually left, people in the church were used to me."
- **Don't change a lot.** Once David became pastor, he opted for gentle, gradual changes in the church. "I did my best not to change anything abruptly, especially with the leadership. It wasn't like, 'Now that Pastor Joe's gone, here are my pet doctrines and how I'm going to change things.' I kept things much the same for a while."
- **Honor the previous pastors.** David made sure that updates about the Purcells appeared in the bulletin, and the congregation prayed together for them regularly. "We still have a connection with Pastor Joe and his family," says David. "We don't want to lose that."

Transitioning to Itinerant Ministry

// Bob & Elaine Croucher //

www.bobcroucherministries.org

Bob & Elaine Croucher ('78) pioneered Faith Bible Church in Prague, Oklahoma, and pastored there for 26 years until the Lord called them into the itinerant ministry. Their transition was not a hasty one.

"For about four years, we had sensed something was going to change," says Bob. "We weren't sure what it was; sometimes we wondered if we were just tired. Several times we planned to leave, but situations would arise and we didn't. Whether we missed God or not, I don't know—we just did the best we knew."

Then in March 2005, God spoke to Bob as he worked in his yard. "He simply said, 'It's time for you to go.' I couldn't misinterpret that! There were a lot of 'What are we going to do?' questions, but I knew we were leaving. When I told Elaine, it witnessed with her. So at that moment, we started making plans [for a



new direction] which we knew nothing about!"

THE CALL AND THE TIMING

Since the Crouchers left their church in the summer of 2005, their schedule has been full. Although they don't claim to have a "tried and true formula," they can offer some advice.

"First, you need to know for sure that you're called to traveling ministry," says Bob. "If you don't, you won't be strong enough to stand up to what is going to be thrown against you."

Elaine adds, "You have to have the right timing.

The day after we resigned the pastorate, someone called us and wanted to know if our house was for sale. By Thursday, it was sold. We never even listed it! It was as if God said, 'You do what you know to do, and I'll take care of these other things.'"

Steps to Itinerant Ministry

/ Bob & Elaine Croucher /

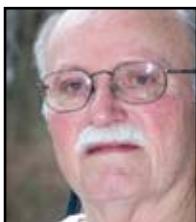
- **Seek counsel.** "I shared with Pastor Hagin what we felt we were supposed to do. We needed a lot of counsel because we'd never done anything like this before. We talked with several other friends in ministry who had gone through transition."

- **Leave right.** "When the Lord says it's time to leave, a person of integrity will stay and finish the job. Our priority was to leave our church *right* to the best of our ability. We knew if we didn't, we'd have a hard time tapping into what we needed for the traveling ministry."

- **Get the word out.** "We immediately put together a Web site so when I call pastors, I can say, 'If you're interested, go to our Web site and that'll answer most of your questions.' We also sent out a letter to people we knew, saying, 'Here's a change in our ministry. Can we be of help to you?' Then once we turned the church over, we sent out a brochure."

Transitioning to Retirement

// Sam Smith //



When Sam Smith ('75) graduated from RBTC's charter class, he and his wife, Donna, pioneered Faith Christian Center in Seekonk, Massachusetts, and happily pastored there for more than 20 years.

"Retirement was never part of my vocabulary," he says. "I planned on preaching until I couldn't preach any longer!" But in the late '90s, Sam began to have health issues. "I was in the hospital when the Lord spoke to me very strongly about training a successor," he says. "And when God says train a successor, He must intend for there to be a successor."

David Marquard, FCC's current pastor, had worked in the church for years in several positions, including associate pastor. "When the time came for me to step down, it was an easy transition to turn the church over to David," says Sam. "I began to let him preach more. I pushed him forward, and I moved more to the background."

ENJOYING RETIREMENT—AND HIS WIFE!

Sam didn't leave town right away. "I stepped down and hung around," he says. "But after a year, I realized the people wouldn't embrace David as their pastor as long as I was there. So I moved away. Joshua couldn't come on the scene until Moses left."

Sam and Donna moved to Canton, Texas, and began enjoying retirement—playing golf, hunting and fishing . . . and taking trips together. "Very often a pastor's wife plays second fiddle to the church," says Sam. "It's not supposed to be that way, but it happens. I figure I owed it to my wife to have some years so we could just enjoy each other."

Sam doesn't worry about his old church. "David is doing an outstanding job," he says. "The church even bought its own radio station. I have no official position anymore, but I go up there occasionally. Sometimes David and I talk three or four times a week, and I'm always here for counsel."

Transitioning to the Mission Field

// Larry & Brynlee Duca //

www.ducaministries.com

When Larry and Brynlee Duca ('03, '04) came to RBTC, they knew they would end up pastoring somewhere. They just weren't sure *where*.

"It was during our first year at RBTC that we felt it might be overseas," says Larry. "As we prayed and sought the Lord, the hunger grew stronger to reach the uttermost parts of the earth."

Through a series of events, the Lord put Malta on their hearts, so they started praying about it and planned a trip to scout out the land. "I strongly recommend a trip if you feel called to a specific area," says Larry. "Often God will confirm the call once you arrive.

When we got to Malta, we had been praying about it for months. Within one day, we both knew that was where God wanted us."



The Ducas held their first church service in Malta on January 16, 2005, and the church has been going strong ever since. "We are after the lost and unchurched," says Larry, "and we're

also training up leaders to pastor other churches. This country is going to have to be reached by its own people."

HEARING FROM GOD

"People ask us, 'How did you know you were supposed to go to Malta? Did you receive an audible word or see a miraculous sign?' The answer is no," says Larry. "We had a promise from God, we had a peace, we were in agreement, and that was enough for us to move forward. If you're waiting for an audible voice or a miraculous sign, you'll probably never move out and fulfill God's will for your life."

Larry says that prayer was a major key to their transition. "It's so important to pray about it, as a couple and a family. Even our kids (Devin, 17, Brielle, 14, and Christian, 11) were in agreement. When kids hear you praying out the vision, they will start to take ownership of it."

The Ducas first visited Malta in December 2003 and moved there in the fall of

2004. "After we graduated from RBTC in May 2004, we moved to New Jersey and itinerated for a few months to raise support," says Larry.

Preparation for Missionaries

/ Larry & Brynlee Duca /

- **Sell everything.** "The first thing we did was sell everything we owned. It was the best thing we could have done. We wanted no ties to our former way of life, no temptation to return. We wanted to give God the opportunity to reestablish us in our promised land."

- **Raise support.** "We sent out a letter to everyone we knew, which I really recommend. Use your address book and make a list—you'll be amazed at how many people you know. Don't second-guess yourself; you never know who God might use to support you! *And don't get discouraged.* We had a very small response, but God can take a little and do a lot. Thank Him for whoever He brings you. If God called you, He will finance your call. You put legs to your faith by telling people what you're doing."

- **Itinerate.** "After the letters, we started setting up meetings to raise support. Again, don't be discouraged by the response. We itinerated all summer and only raised about 5 percent of our monthly budget, but we prayed and felt led to buy our airline tickets as a step of faith. We've been here almost a year and a half and our full budget is *still* not met through our ministry partners. But looking back we can see that the Lord has provided every month without fail!"

Sound Wisdom for Retirement

/ Sam Smith /

- **Know when the time is right.** "There is a time when a minister needs to step down, and he needs the leading of the Holy Spirit to know when that is. Too many times, ministers stay in the pulpit beyond their time. Over the years I always prayed, 'Lord, let me know when the time is right.' And He did that."

- **Be prepared.** "A minister has to prepare to retire, not only mentally and spiritually, but also *financially*. Yes, we teach and preach faith, but when you retire, you need more than just faith to live on. Too many faith people seem to have the attitude that they're never going to retire and nothing bad is ever going to happen to them, so they're always going to be able to create income. But that's the thought of a fool. I'm convinced that the reason a lot of ministers don't retire is because they have to keep preaching to keep the income coming in. That's not fair to them and it's not fair to the church—a church is more than just a source of income. *Be prepared financially to retire.*"

How to . . .

Access the alumni section of www.rhema.org

Log on and locate the "Welcome Alumni" box.



Login: the number on your alumni membership card

Password: your first and last name with a space in between

KINDLE THE FLAME



Lynette Hagin's Women's Conference

2006



Mark Your Calendar!

September 21–23

On the RHEMA USA campus in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

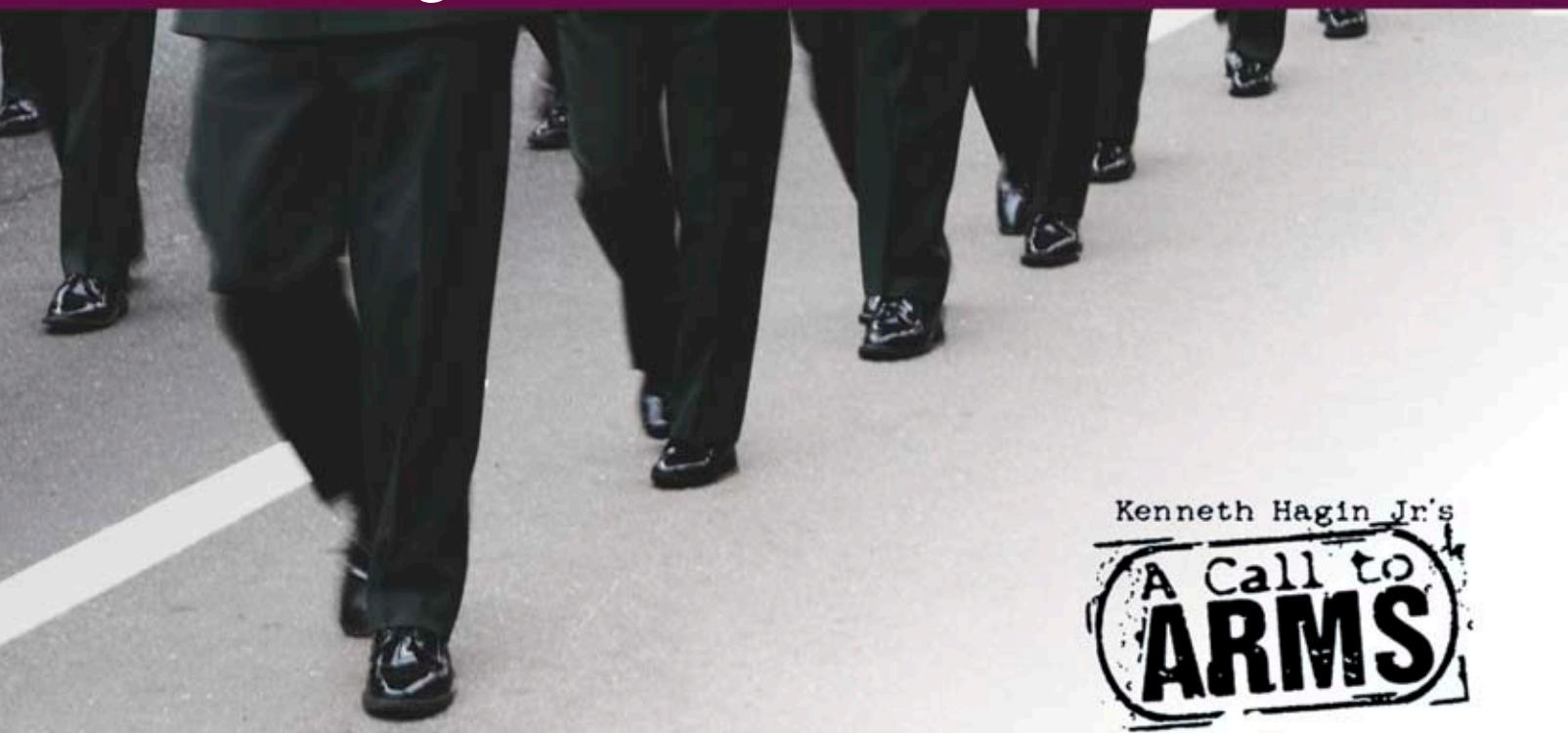
"You, O Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light. With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall."

—Psalm 18:28–29 (NIV)



To register or for more information, visit us online at www.lynetteslink.com or call (918) 258-1588, ext. 2238. Offer #CN0605:KTF06

Kenneth Hagin Jr.'s Men's Conference 2006



Kenneth Hagin Jr.'s



Marching With Purpose / November 2–4

To register or for more information, visit us online at www.rhema.org/cta or call (918) 258-1588, ext. 2238. Offer #CN0605:MEN06

General Transition



TRANSITION

When considering a move:

- Begin doing things to move toward a certain direction ("spy out the land") until you get a check in your spirit. If the Holy Spirit doesn't stop you, keep taking one step at a time . . . until either you're there or you know you're not supposed to go. It's easier for God to steer a moving ship than a docked ship.
- Remember how God has led you in the past. Brother Hagin used to say that he was often led as much by what God *didn't* say as by what He did say.
- "Shake the tree"—find out what's available. As a member of the RHEMA Alumni Association, check the Ministerial Opportunities files often. You can access them through the Welcome Alumni link at www.rhema.org. Contact other ministries you know to see if they've heard of available opportunities.

On the personal side:

- If you're married, make sure your spouse is in agreement with a move. Yield to the weaker vessel. If your spouse is not in agreement, don't go!
- Get your finances in order. *This cannot be overemphasized!* Lower your monthly spending, clean up credit card debt, and stop all credit card spending. Don't go into debt to make a transition.
- Make sure your family relationships are healthy. Transition time is hard and can create added pressures. If your marriage is troubled, work on it first. Be sensitive to your children. If they're teenagers and established in their current lifestyle, it may be best to wait. Endeavor to create a sense of security for your family, even when things look a little insecure.

Leave right:

- In your current position, until you know for sure where you're going and when, don't talk to subordinates, church members, or friends about leaving. It creates uncertainty.
- If applicable, prepare written procedure manuals of everything you do in your current position so that when you leave, someone can step in with little trouble. Begin to nurture people to replace you.
- There are two sides to your transition—yours and that of the people you're leaving. Don't get short-timer's disease, and don't get offended when they treat you differently or don't understand what you're going through. Transition time is rarely comfortable. Feelings can be all over the place. That's normal. Walk in love and stay faithful to the end. Don't lose relationships or burn bridges.

If you're transitioning into itinerant ministry:

- Don't quit your day job. Start by traveling on weekends and eventually work your way out of your day job. Go into traveling ministry full time only when you just can't travel and still maintain your other job.
- Print a brochure explaining your ministry. Make it simple and be specific about your areas of ministry. Be a *specialist*. The itinerants who have full schedules are those who add value to a church in some specific area that the pastor doesn't regularly address.
- Send the brochure to all the pastors you know to retool their thinking about you and to let them know you're now itinerating.

tough Transitions

Some Dos and Don'ts If You're Hurt

- 1. Do stay close to God.** When you're low, it's easy to neglect spending time with God. But your personal devotional life will be your survival kit in tough times. Find scriptures that minister to you and read them daily. Spend time in praise and worship. Magnify the Lord, not the situation (Ps. 34:3).
- 2. Do count your blessings.** Even when the hard times seem to outweigh the good things, focus on the blessings. Look for the good that God is doing, and any possible benefit, great or small. Share them with your family.
- 3. Do accept encouragement.** God will send kind, encouraging words to you through people. Accept them and believe them. Ignore comments that hurt. Remember that feelings of hopelessness and inferiority are from the devil. You don't have to believe them.
- 4. Do find different ways to minister.** Reaching out to others can help prevent self-pity and despair. It can help you keep your focus and perspective. Begin to look outward and see who needs your help.
- 5. Do treat yourself and your family.** It doesn't take a lot of money to do something special. You can plan an activity or a meal with pampering in mind; it could be just the catalyst to perk everyone up.
- 6. Do be sure to rest.** Stress can be exhausting, and in the midst of it, you may need more rest than usual to refresh and refuel your body. Problems can seem huge when you're exhausted. Take time to rest.
- 7. Do look forward to the future.** Proverbs 4:18 says that the path of your life shines brighter and brighter (not dimmer and dimmer). Transition time can be used to prepare you for your next opportunity. God promises to give you the desires of your heart when you delight in Him (Ps. 37:4). Keep trusting, and choose to believe that you have a bright future. A new life is just beginning (Eccl. 7:8).
- 1. Don't bury the pain.** When you suffer a major loss, it's important to go through the stages of grieving, and to accept the situation. It's okay to cry. Cast your cares on God (1 Peter 5:7) and read the Psalms, where David brought his despair to God and then praised Him for His faithfulness.
- 2. Don't become isolated.** Make an effort to be around friends. Allow them to encourage you. Being around people gives you a distraction from the hurts, and is better than just sitting around thinking about your circumstances.
- 3. Don't rehearse the past.** No one can change the past. Now you have a God-given opportunity for a new future. Press forward (Phil. 3:13–14).
- 4. Don't misdirect your anger.** Anger is not a sin if it's dealt with correctly (Eph. 4:26). Ask God to help you forgive those who have hurt you. Hiding your anger can cause you to mistakenly vent on family or others.
- 5. Don't make decisions in haste.** Desperate times are not good times to make decisions. Be directed by peace (Col. 3:15). Pray about each decision (jobs, moving, future ministry). Discuss all major decisions with your spouse and children.
- 6. Don't neglect your spouse or family.** Remember that they are also hurting and they need you. Share their pain and let them see yours. After God, your family can be your best help in times of tough transition.
- 7. Don't get bitter.** Don't ask questions that have no answers. No one can control all the circumstances in life, but you *can* control your attitude. Let God vindicate you and help you grow through this experience. Sometimes we grow the most during the tough times of life.

Dos & don'ts



blog (bläg/):

a journal written by one or more contributors, often about a particular topic with the latest news and ideas.

Wanna know what i believe?

Ask me and I'll tell you.

i believe®
THE MOVEMENT



④ Alumni, Let's Exchange Ideas!

Hey! We all need ideas to keep our ministries fresh, relevant, and effective. Have you found some great ways to reach people for Jesus? Let's talk about events or ongoing activities you're involved in to impact people with the Gospel . . . inside or outside the local church . . . outreach ideas to touch lives . . . exciting ways to minister to children and youth . . . plus some great reads to build your library. **What have you been doing that works?** Send your name, phone number, ideas and photos to rmai@rhema.org. Imagine RHEMA alumni pooling their ideas to help each other reach the world with the message of faith. We want to hear from you!

bog children's ministry

④ denise says . . .

Use props. Visual aids are great for teaching people of any age, but they're really important when you're ministering to kids. Props help little ones to stay focused during the lesson, and help them see and understand an abstract concept you may be teaching. One way to make inexpensive hand props is to buy large, shaped notepads from a school supply store or your local Christian bookstore. (Shapes such as Noah's Ark, clouds, and rainbows are examples of what you can find.) Laminate the pages, and they're ready for repeated use!

Use the Internet to find resources. Do a search for "children's Bible lessons" to see what's out there. RHEMA Bible Church currently uses the new VeggieTales® preschool curriculum (see veggiegear.com). It's inexpensive and comes with lots of useful tools like movie clips, crafts, games, nametags, and take-home papers. For elementary ages, try the KIDMO video curriculum (available at kidmo.com). This curriculum is a great, high-tech tool if you're short on volunteers, because it only takes one person to use the video lessons. Another good resource is Sermons 4 Kids at sermons4kids.com—a great place to find easy-to-use object lessons.

about . . . Denise Burns is Director of the Children's Ministry at RHEMA Bible Church.

bog youth ministry

④ brent says . . .

Get teens involved in outreach. We have a "Saturday Outreach." Every third Saturday, we take a group of youth to the local children's hospital. We meet first at the church to pray over some "Faith Friends" beanie babies (they can serve as prayer cloths). Then we go to the hospital, and split the teens into pairs (usually with a leader). They go from room to room, praying for the patients and their families—whatever people need. Every second or fourth Saturday, we take a group of teens on a nursing home outreach, much the same as we reach out to the kids in the hospital. We take a variety of items to give to the nursing home residents. For instance, in February, we took candy hearts and little bears. We visit with the residents and minister to them.



about . . . Brent Bailey is the Senior High Youth Minister at RHEMA Bible Church.

bgs outreaches



paul ruzinsky ('87, '88) says . . .

Work Together With Your City

I don't believe that God wants anyone in my city to go to hell, and I believe He's placed me here to see that they get saved. The local church should be a vital part of the community. One idea we had was to call the fire department and ask them, "What equipment do you need that isn't in your budget?" They needed a thermal imaging camera that cost \$10,000. We advertised in the community that we were going to hold a service to help our firemen. We took an offering and more than \$10,000 actually came in. We held a banquet for the local firemen to honor them and presented them with the camera. It really had an impact for God on our community.



about . . . Paul Ruzinsky pastors Resurrection Life Church in Newaygo, Michigan. www.rlcnewaygo.org

⊕ gary hayhurst ('76) says . . .

Combine Medicine and the Word of God

Our congregation has been reaching out by teaming with local doctors to host a free, faith-based medical clinic for uninsured people in our area. We minister the first and third Thursday of each month. All the local doctors volunteer on a rotating basis and our church supplies about 100–150 volunteers. We offer free health care from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and feed everyone who comes, both the needy and the volunteers. A local area minister gives a short devotional each time. We've been able to help a lot of people.

about . . . Gary Hayhurst and his wife, Debbie, pastor Faith Christian Family Church in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. www.faithchristianfamilychurch.com

⊕ chris musgrove ('84, '85) says . . .

Feed the Hungry

When someone gave our ministry a big commercial cooker last summer, we saw an opportunity to serve the victims of Hurricane Katrina in the Biloxi, Mississippi, area. We sent a team to cook tons of donated chicken, and most of the team remained to help local ministries. In the picture of the team, I am second from the left, and next to me on the right is **Briston Barker ('97, '98)**, our follow-up coordinator.



about . . . Chris Musgrove is the founder and director of Future Now Ministries, based in Valdosta, Georgia, a high school assembly program that utilizes state-of-the-art technology to reach teens. www.futurenow.us

⊕ paul ruzinsky ('87, '88) says . . .

Rally the Community

Our goal was to make our church a household name in the community. We raised money for the police department, we helped the city buy a clock for the town, and we rallied people around the Hurricane Katrina relief effort. I built a custom chopper (motorcycle) that we donated to raffle off and rallied the community to donate other things to the raffle. We raised \$150,000 from our little town to help hurricane victims.

Make S

When

P

you're

R

planning

E

for an

P

outreach

A

event,

R

make sure

E

you . . .

ure . . .

- Check with local TV and radio stations to list your event *free* on their community calendar/public service announcements.
- To announce your event, write a press release that can be given to newspapers or local media and businesses.
- Mobilize your entire congregation to invite people . . . think about printing some tickets that they can pass out as free invitations.
- Capture information to follow up on those you are serving/ministering to by having them fill out a 'Contact Card.'
- Assign a photographer or two who can take photos throughout the event.
- Immediately after the event, meet with your coordinating team to discuss what worked and what didn't so you can make adjustments if you plan to do it again.

⊕ **larry bjorklund ('88, '89) says . . .**

No Families Without Food

We've been reaching out to feed 300+ families a month from our We Care grocery store. More than 8% of households in Missouri suffer from food insecurity. We distribute an average of 5,500 pounds of food per week to the elderly, disabled, single parents, unemployed, and those with emergency needs. If they need it, we pray with them and minister to them before they leave. It's our goal that no child or family in the four-state area go without food.



about . . . Larry Bjorkland and his wife, Judy, pastor Abundant Life Christian Center in Joplin, Missouri. www.abundantlifejoplin.com

⊕ **mike warrell ('02, '04) says . . .**

Help the Homeless

We have a "Sack Lunch" outreach, in which we put together 150 to 200 sack lunches and go downtown to distribute them to the homeless. We give them bottled water and just sit down and talk to them. If we need to pray for them, we do. Someone almost always gets saved. We go a couple times a month to stay in touch with them.



about . . . Mike Warrell is outreach director at In Him Community Church for **Pastors David and Sophia Vasquez ('99, '00)** in Avondale, Arizona (a suburb of Phoenix). www.newlifeinhim.org

⊕ **anthony wright ('01, '02) says . . .**

We Paid Electric Bills

At Christmas time, our 125-member congregation raised \$10,000 to give to a local ministry that pays the electric bills of struggling families in our town. We were able to help these families focus on Christmas, without the burden of paying their electric bill or the fear of having their electricity turned off. We wanted to help people in a tangible way.



about . . . Anthony and Lisa Wright pastor Faith in the Word Church in Seymour, Tennessee. www.faithintheword.com

⊕ **paul ruzinsky ('87, '89) says . . .**

Elephant Rides!

One of the largest events our church does is "The Halloween Extreme." We set up games and food, and a man in town who has a trained elephant gives rides. We're in a town of about 1,600 and this past Halloween, over 3,000 people attended. Every year, we try to do it a little bit bigger and a little bit better to bless the community.

what's your story?

Send your name, phone number, details, and photos to rmai@rhema.org.

building your library

RHEMA instructors' favorite reads



dean gary crowl says . . .

This Is the Way by Donald Gee

Following God's Plan for Your Life by Kenneth E. Hagin

Ever Increasing Faith by Smith Wigglesworth

These are three books that I enjoy reading over and over again. I love them because they feed my spirit. The content has a spiritual depth that continues to strengthen my spirit and encourage me to become a better person for God. *Following God's Plan for Your Life* is also a good book for dealing with times of transition in life and ministry.

about . . . Gary Crowl is a '78, '79 graduate who has served twice as Dean of RBTC. He currently teaches Keys to Supernatural Ministry, Ministerial Ethics, and Ministry Gifts, in addition to overseeing and teaching several RSPM classes.



doug jones says . . .

Marriage On the Rock by Jimmy Evans

This is a great book on marriage, especially for husbands to read. Jimmy Evans gives a very scriptural view of the husband's responsibility within the marriage union. He also provides some very practical hints for women who desire to work on their marriage when they have a husband who is not so interested in the same goal (chapters 14 and 15). Every husband should read this book once a year—it is that good.

about . . . Doug Jones graduated in RBTC's charter class of 1975 and has been an instructor for 21 years. He currently teaches Doctrine of Righteousness, Spiritual Growth Principles, Life of Honor, and Works of Jesus.



denise burns says . . .

Transforming Children Into Spiritual Champions

by George Barna

This book offers adults a perspective of how the world has changed our kids. I sometimes think that adults (especially church people) have kids time-locked into the adults' generation, and therefore children's ministry is irrelevant to the kids of this generation. This book really challenges you to think outside the box and bring the Gospel to kids today in a way that they'll respond to.

about . . . Denise Burns is a '97, '98 graduate of RBTC, the current Children's Minister of RHEMA Bible Church, and an RBTC instructor. She teaches Ministry to Preschool Children, Support Staff in the Local Church, Ministry to Elementary Children, ABCs of Children's Ministry, and Children's Ministry Fundamentals.

what's in your library?

Send your name, phone number, and details about your favorite resources to rmai@rhema.org.

If you're already a
RHEMA Word Partner,

THANK YOU

for your support! If you're not a Word Partner, please prayerfully consider helping others train just as you did.

Join the Word Partner Club today!

1-888-28-FAITH

(1-888-283-2484)

www.rhema.org/wpc

WPC

People. Power. Purpose.

Offer #CN0605:BRWPP

Increase your SON Exposure

You **GIVE** so much out.
Make sure you **TAKE IN**.

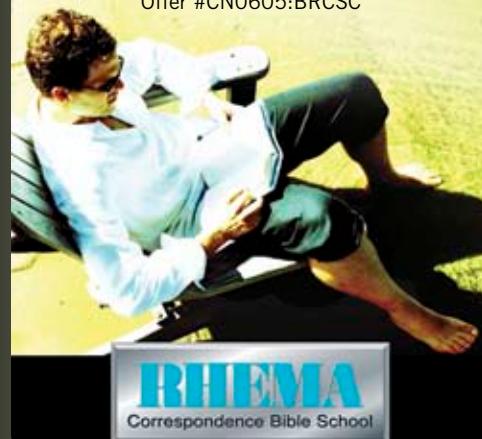
- Study at your own pace
- Pay as you go—only \$25 per lesson*
(*U.S. residents only. Rates for non-U.S. residents are listed on the applications form.)
- Six courses of study—32 lessons in all

To request a brochure and application:
visit www.rhema.org/rcls

To enroll by phone:
call **1-800-54-FAITH** or
(918) 258-1588, ext. 2216

Note: RHEMA Bible Training Center and RHEMA Correspondence Bible School are two separate schools with different purposes. Credits are not transferable from one to the other.

Offer #CN0605:BRCS



Nations News

/ Changing Orphans Into Overcomers /

After graduation, **Nolan Vockrodt** ('83, '84) didn't know what the Lord had planned for him. So he stayed steady where he was, supervising the RHEMA USA campus grounds crew. But eventually Nolan found himself tending other kinds of growing things.

In 1987, the Lord led Nolan to take a missions trip to the Philippines. He

wasn't excited about going, but he obeyed and the Lord let him know he'd be back.

Nolan returned to the Philippines the following year and met a man—the brother of a RHEMA graduate—who ran an orphanage, on a nearby island. He visited the orphanage,

liked what he saw, and something went off in his spirit.

"The Lord told me, 'If you don't come back here, there will be thousands who will perish without knowing Me,'" Nolan says. "Right then, the divine ability of God came upon me, and I knew I could do it."

Nolan returned to Oklahoma, told his wife, Julia, everything that had happened, and they began praying. "We both felt like the Lord was leading us to start an orphanage," he says.

Nolan contacted the orphanage director in the Philippines. "I asked him if he'd be interested in helping us start an orphanage. After praying about it, the man agreed, and we've been working with him ever since."

During the past 17 years, Nolan and Julia, have developed four New Life Children's Homes—three in the Philippines (Bacong, Bayawan, and Leyte) and one in Kathmandu, Nepal. Currently, the four homes together house about 125 children, and through the years they have cared for a total of 203 youngsters.



© Nolan Vockrodt



Until this year, the Vockrodt oversaw the work from their home office in Tulsa and made frequent trips to the field as their jobs allowed. They e-mailed orphanage supervisors several times a week and traveled the United States raising support for the homes.

This year, Nolan and Julia sold their home in Oklahoma and plan to move to the Philippines in May. They want to disciple the children, strengthen ties with local churches, and increase outreach efforts.

MEETING NATURAL AND SPIRITUAL NEEDS

Children are referred to New Life Children's Homes through local churches. "Our influence with pastors over the years has grown, and they stay on the lookout for children who need help," Nolan says. Normally, the homes

do not accept a child who is "walked in" by someone unless the child's life is in danger.

New Life Children's Homes meet both natural and spiritual

needs. Along with their schoolwork, the children have twice-daily Bible lessons. They all share household responsibilities, including cooking and cleaning, and they raise pigs for food and to sell in the local market.

Most of the children grow up to lead normal, productive lives. "Some have children of their own now," Nolan says. "We've been able to help some of the children go to college or technical school. Some even come back to the orphanage to work for us after they graduate."

ONE OF MANY SUCCESS STORIES

Myra Luna was brought to the orphanage in Bacong, Philippines, when she was about 10. "We could tell she was a natural leader," says Nolan. "She loved to lead the other kids in singing songs and playing games." The Vockrodt eventually helped Myra attend a Philippine Bible school, and she is now a missionary to Thailand.



Julia Vockrodt ©

For more information about the Vockrodt or New Life Children's Homes, visit www.nlch.org.

A great way to stay rooted
in faith is through products from

Faith Library Publications }

Check out our latest releases:

New Book Release!



How You Can Be Led By the Spirit of God: Legacy Edition | Kenneth E. Hagin wrote the original edition of this book in 1978 to help fulfill the mandate God placed on his life. This 197-page Legacy Edition includes new content from messages Brother Hagin taught after 1978, including characteristics of a Spirit-filled life and being led by the Spirit in prayer and ministry. **BM535 | \$19.95**

New CD Release!



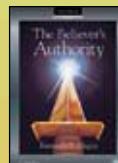
Getting Through the Tough Times | In this three-CD series, Kenneth Hagin Jr. encourages believers to make it through trying circumstances by holding on to the promises of God. Seize God's promises and experience the victory He has planned for you! **CS57J | \$14.00**

Now on CD!



The ABCs of Bible Faith | This six-CD series of classic messages by Kenneth E. Hagin explains what faith is, how it comes, and how to use it effectively in your life. Get back to the basics! **CS59H | \$42.00**

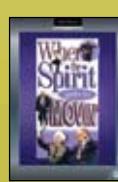
Now on DVD!



The Believer's Authority | In this three-DVD series, Kenneth E. Hagin clearly illustrates and explains what the Word says about the authority that belongs to every believer. **DS01H | \$39.95**



Love: The Way to Victory | In this three-DVD series, Kenneth E. Hagin discusses the characteristics of divine love and how this love works in and through the believer on the road to victory! **DS03H | \$39.95**



When the Spirit Gets to Movin' | During this 1995 Winter Bible Seminar meeting, the atmosphere was charged with Holy Ghost power! As Kenneth E. Hagin began to teach on the subject of being and staying filled with the Holy Spirit, a wave of glory swept through the auditorium. Every time you watch this DVD, you'll share in the wonderful things that happen when the Spirit gets to movin'! **DH11S | \$14.95**



Loose Him and Let Him Go! | In this classic Campmeeting 1976 sermon, Kenneth E. Hagin reveals ways you can help set others free, including how to loose sinners from their sins, deliver those bound by satanic influence, and help believers obtain boldness in the Spirit. **DH12S | \$14.95**

Listed prices do not include shipping and handling.

To order, visit us online at www.rhema.org/bookstore, or call **1-888-28-FAITH (283-2484)**, or mail the enclosed envelope.

RBTC Update

/ RHEMA Eagles Take Home First USCAA National Championship /

The RHEMA Eagles swept the individual skill competitions prior to the start of the USCAA National Tournament, and the winners of those competitions propelled the Eagles through the tournament to the school's sixth national championship in eight years. In front of a packed house at the Ninowsky Recreation Center, the seventh-seeded Eagles defeated the fourth-seeded Philander Smith College Panthers 86-74 to bring home their first USCAA National Championship in school history.

"I'm just happy for the kids," said Eagles Head Coach Perry Shockley. "They worked so hard. They went through some tough times. I'm so happy to see them receive the prize we worked for—to finish the season and get the trophy."

The day before the tournament, RHEMA's Jerid Cook won the USCAA free-throw contest, making 28 consecutive free throws. Jerid's older brother Adrian Cook followed suit by winning the three-point shootout, making 13 three-pointers in 45 seconds. Randy Hill finished the sweep for the Eagles by earning the victory in the slam-dunk competition, bringing down the house

its feet after slamming home an alley-oop from Jacquari Wills on the Eagles' opening possession. After leading for most of the first half, RHEMA allowed the Panthers to end the half on a 15-3 run, which left the Eagles trailing 43-41 at halftime.

RHEMA opened the second half with a run of its own, outscoring the Panthers 16-4 over the first six minutes of the second half to take a 57-47 lead and forcing Philander Smith to call a timeout. The teams traded buckets over the next three minutes and thirty seconds until Adrian Cook put the Eagles up 63-52 with a lay-in.

On Philander's next possession, the Eagles took control of the game by keeping their composure and making their free throws. Randy Hill stole the ball and quickly passed upcourt to a wide-open Jacquari Wills. As Wills went in for a layup, he was intentionally fouled. Tension mounted on the court, but the Eagles stayed calm, while the Panthers were hit with two technical fouls.

Jerid Cook connected on four consecutive technical-foul free throws, and Jacquari Wills made his free throws from the intentional foul to give RHEMA a 14-point lead and the ball. On the ensuing possession, Adrian Cook drove the lane and connected on a layup to give the Eagles a 71-55 lead with nine minutes remaining in the game.

The Panthers tried to rally, scoring five unanswered points, but RHEMA put the game out of reach with a 13-4 run, capped off by a vicious one-handed dunk by the 6-foot-7 Randy Hill.

Tournament MVP Adrian Cook ended with a game-high 27 points, pulled down seven rebounds, and had three steals. Myron Fair added 18 points on 8-of-11 shooting and

five rebounds. Jerid Cook, who was named to the all-tournament team, finished with 17 points, five steals, four rebounds, and four assists, and Randy Hill contributed 13 points, a game-high 17 rebounds, five blocks, and four assists.

"Winning is a result of all the work you put in," Coach Shockley said. "Effort-wise, we gave 110 percent. The big key was hard work. Persistence, will, and determination will outplay talent and execution many times. We just played so hard that it broke our opponents down."



on his final attempt with a spinning, one-handed dunk after taking off from behind the backboard.

The three individual victories foreshadowed the tournament, as Jerid Cook shot 89 percent (23-for-26) from the free-throw line, Adrian Cook shot 41 percent (15-for-37) from three-point range, and Randy Hill had two emphatic dunks in the championship game to help the Eagles soar to victory.

Randy Hill won the opening tip to start the contest and brought the raucous crowd to

Alumni, you're invited! RHEMA EAGLES' GOLF FUNDRAISER

Where: White Hawk Golf Course in Bixby, Oklahoma

Format: Four-Man Scramble

All proceeds go to the RHEMA Athletic Department.

Visit rhma.org/athletics for cost, date, and other information.



Homecoming 2006

/ Nearly 1,000 alumni braved the snow and ice to return home for Homecoming 2006, held in conjunction with Winter Bible Seminar. The theme for WBS 2006 was "Stir It Up", and attendees returned home stirred up and rejuvenated by the teaching of the Word. Alumni were able to visit with each other during the alumni fellowship on Monday night, the homecoming luncheon on Wednesday afternoon, and the missionary luncheon on Thursday afternoon. Enjoy the pictures, and we hope to see you at Homecoming 2007! /

MONDAY NIGHT: / ALUMNI FELLOWSHIP AT NRC /



▲ ABOVE: Homecoming is a time to greet old friends and make new ones: "... them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1:1).



▼ BELOW: Brian and Denise ('86, '87) Shaw of Spencer, Indiana, were the winners of the Grand Prize drawing, a trip to Campmeeting 2006.



▲ ABOVE: Doug Jones enjoys the evening as Master of Ceremonies.



▼ BELOW: Alumni were treated to chocolate fountains and other wonderful refreshments.



▲ ABOVE: It's great to come back home to RHEMA!



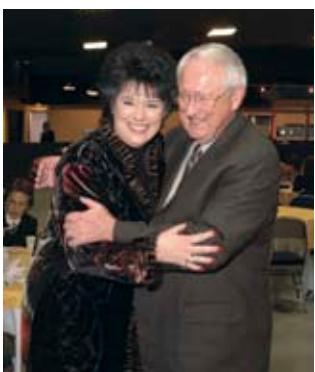
▲ ABOVE: Alumni show off their knowledge during the RHEMA Bible trivia game.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT: / ORDINATION SERVICE /



▲ ABOVE: Twenty-two alumni were ordained during Wednesday night's service.

WEDNESDAY: / REUNION LUNCHEON FOR THE CLASSES OF '76, '86, AND '96 /



► RIGHT: Mrs. Hagin greets F.L. "Bo" Moffat, dean of RBTC from 1980 through 1988.



▲ ABOVE: The Class of 1996 celebrated their 10-year reunion.

THURSDAY: / MISSIONARY LUNCHEON /

► RIGHT: John Madan ('83, '84), a missionary in Nice, France (right) enjoys a time of fellowship with a guest from France.



▲ ABOVE: RMAI Missions Director Joe Duininck greets the missionaries who attended this year's luncheon.



► ABOVE: Ron Hume ('94, '95) and his wife Julie, missionaries in England, enjoy fellowship with Martina Griem ('94, '95), a missionary in Germany.



▲ ABOVE: Pastor Hagin expresses his appreciation and love to those who serve so faithfully on the mission field.



▼ BELOW: Richard ('85, '86) and Dana Womble of Ben Wheeler, Texas, (left) and Terry ('85, '86) and Jeannine ('88) Graves of Silsbee, Texas, (right) enjoy a laugh with Tad Gregurich of the RMAI/Alumni office.





where are they now?

1976

Randall Gearhart ('76) and his wife, Debbi, have relocated to the middle Georgia area. Randy served as Director of Ministries at Life of Faith Fellowship in Port Huron, Michigan, for 13 years. Randy presently oversees Randall Gearhart Ministries, is working on a number of books, and speaks at churches and leadership seminars.

1977

Lois Meyer ('77) is still going strong in the ministry at the age of 88. She has ministered and spent several years in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Costa Rica, and Mexico.



1979

Jesten Peters ('79) was honored as Columbia County Woman of the Year in Lake City, Florida. Active in her local church and Aglow International, Jesten was honored for her many outreaches, including helping the homeless and victims of domestic violence.



1982

After 18 years at RHEMA Bible Church in Broken Arrow, **Dan ('81, '82) and Jane ('79, '80) Morrison** moved to Mexico City to work with **Tim ('80, '83) and Rhonda ('89, '90) Rogers**. Dan is the dean of RHEMA Mexico, which currently trains 112 students. The entire family also participates in outreaches to villages by providing food and ministry to children.



Richard Menzing ('81, '82) and his wife, Diana, are celebrating 35 years of marriage and 20 years as pastors of Faith Christian Family Church in Lapeer, Michigan. The church celebrates its 25-year anniversary in July.

1983

Gary Cooper ('82, '83) and his wife, Gail, pastor *Christliche Glaubensgemeinde* (Christian Faith Fellowship) in Berlin, Germany. They have been missionaries in Germany since 1989, establishing Bible schools in Germany, Slovakia, and Poland, and helping distribute food, medicine, and Christian materials to devastated nations around the world.



1985

Mary Frazier ('84, '85) is pastor of Bread of Life Worship Center in Palo Alto, California, and also serves on the Service League Board of San Mateo County, where she recently received a special service award for countless hours spent reaching out to people with addictions.

Shawn Simmons ('84, '85) married Paul Collier on August 9, 2005. Paul is a retired police officer and now works full-time helping Shawn with Harvest Time Ministries, a girls' home in Louisville, Alabama.



1986

Marilyn Neubauer ('85, '86) is based in Oceanside, California, where she is an active chaplain for the police department. In late 2005, she traveled again to Europe and Mexico, ministering in Germany, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, Ireland, and Loreto, Mexico. Many were saved, healed, and set free. This year, she plans to go to Russia and Finland.

1987

Daniel Kleefeld ('86, '87) is a Christian recording artist who has been playing keyboards professionally since 1998 and has released several albums. He plays for a variety of events in the Tulsa area, including Bank of America's Children's Charity Ball and the Gospel Fest.

Peter Smythe ('86, '87) received his Bachelor's degree from Oral Roberts University in 1988 and a law degree in 1993. He has been practicing law as a trial lawyer in Arlington, Texas, for the past 14 years and his wife, Aisha, is a federal prosecutor. Recently, they initiated an itinerant ministry focused on healing.

1988

Clifton ('87, '88) and Leta ('87, '93) McDowell started World Witness Training Center Bible school in Maragoli, Kenya, and graduated their first class in November 2005.



1989

James ('88, '89) and Elizabeth ('85, '86)

Burgoyne are pastoring Frisco Community Fellowship in Frisco, Texas, which they pioneered in 2003. Elizabeth is also the executive director of a statewide education reform organization.



1991

Toi Barbel ('90, '91) is the Pastor/Overseer of International Gospel Center of St. Thomas and is running for Senate in the Virgin Islands this year. She has lived in the Virgin Islands since 1998 and travels extensively, ministering around the world. She has established 47 churches in India.

Karen Andrews ('90, '91) worked for several years on the Navajo reservation in Kayenta, Arizona. She is now a missionary in San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora, Mexico, working for the past 4 years with Centro Christiano Monte Sion church. Among many duties, she serves as Bible school director, church administrator, and leader of 14 women's cell groups.

1992

Tony and Alexandra Fleege ('91, '92)

welcome a new baby son, Jonathan Edward Fleege, born June 14, 2005, at 12:49 p.m. The Fleegees live in Gilroy, California.



1993

Daniel and Stephanie Stauffer ('92, '93)

proudly announce the arrival of their new son, Grant Daniel, born on November 6 and seen here with his sisters Eden (age 7) and Emma (age 3).



Mark and Victoria Bowling ('92, '93) head up Global Impact Ministries and conduct crusades and pastors conferences around the world. Since January 2001, they've seen more than 66,000 inquiries for salvation in their Good News Miracle Festivals in the nations of India and Pakistan. They are based in Lockport, New York, with their three sons, Nicholas, Samuel, and Stephen.

Richard and Darlene Buesinger ('92, '93)

pastor Living Faith Christian Center in Niceville-Valparaiso, Florida, and have recently teamed up with a photographer to perform "beach weddings." They share Jesus with couples who otherwise may never hear the Gospel, and use the opportunity to minister the love of God.



Mike and Julie Miles ('92, '93) welcome the birth of their son, Ryan Michael Miles, who was born at 4:05 a.m. on November 2, 2005. He weighed 6 pounds and was 18½ inches long.



Ken ('92, '93) and Shawn ('91, '92) Turner announce the birth of their precious gift from God, Evann Nathania Turner. She was born on June 28, 2005, weighing 6 pounds, 5 ounces and measuring 19 inches. The Turners live in Canton, Ohio.



Jim ('92, '93) and Beverly ('92) Blanchard have launched into pastoral work at Rivers of Living Water Church in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

1994

Jim Harper ('91, '94) and his wife, Tanya, welcome their second child, Natasha Joy Harper, born on October 13, 2005, at 3:23 p.m.



1995

More than 22,000 people attended a miracle crusade in Sincelejo, Colombia, held by **Miguel and Maria Arrazola ('94, '95)** in November 2005. Many pastors and leaders attended, and the power of God was evident with signs, wonders, and miracles.

Rick and Joy Haynes ('94, '95) started China Harvest Ministries shortly after graduation and have lived in China since August 1995. Their vision is to care for orphans, bring in medical teams to help the sick in poor villages, and feed the poor in areas where there is a shortage of food. In September 2000, they opened an orphanage outside of Dalian.

1996

Steve ('95, '96) and Brenda ('94, '95) (Garcia) Wildman announce the birth of their baby daughter, Audrey, born in Tulsa on December 12, 2005. She weighed 9 pounds, 7 ounces.



Claude and Diane (Pickens) Johnson (both '95, '96) are field directors at a Bible school in Bangalore, India. They teach classes and manage volunteers, and have had more than 300 graduate since 1999.



1997

Matthew and Olga Cent ('96, '97) are now pastoring World Outreach Church in Wiesbaden, Germany, after serving for several years in Siberia. They continue to minister to people in Russia and other nations as the Lord leads.



Victor and Carmen Saunders ('96, '97) celebrated their first anniversary as pastors of Covenant of Peace Church in Irving, Texas, on October 26, 2005. They report that everything is going well and they're excited about what God is doing.

Coach Perry ('96, '97) and Carrie (Rutherford '02, '03) Shockley were married September 18, 2004, at RHEMA Bible Church in Broken Arrow. They also welcomed their first child, daughter, Emma Nicole, born on December 27, 2005. She weighed 6 pounds, 3 ounces.



1998

Tony ('97, '98) and Renita ('98) Jenkins have been making regular missions trips and taking ministry teams to Ukraine from their home church in Cleveland, Tennessee. They minister God's Word and take food, clothing, toys, Bibles, and tracts to prisons, orphanages, and drug rehab centers. They also help construct church buildings.

Jim and Jan Schmitt ('97, '98) are missionaries in Limerick, Ireland. They have recently added 1,000 square feet in fellowship area and children's classrooms to their church building. "2005 was a year of positioning; 2006 promises fulfillment," says Jim. "We are ready to witness a great harvest in the earth, and in Ireland."

2000

Jason ('98, '00) and Sandy ('99, '00) Koscinski pioneered The Rock Church in Sturtevant, Wisconsin (near Racine), in January 2005. They are seeing steady growth, and report that the ministry now includes a nursery, Super Kids' church, and a monthly men's meeting. The church also contributes to six missions ministries each month.

Lana Vasquez ('99, '00) is based in Thailand and travels all over the world, including Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Burma, and Pakistan, ministering to orphans, drug addicts, prostitutes, and homeless people in the ghettos.

Kimberly (McWhorter) ('99, '00) and Pablo Elvir welcome their son, Jeremy, born September 19, 2005, in Honduras. He weighed 9 pounds, 4 ounces. Kim and Pablo are children's ministers in San Pedro Sula with Bangas Ministries.



Rick and Tracey Martin (both '99, '00) minister in Belize. In 2005, they became owners of the first and only Christian radio station in the southern part of the country, broadcasting in all six native languages of Belize.

2001

Riaan ('00, '01) and Holly ('99, '00) Nel welcome their baby son, Asher Mykal, born on December 5, 2005. He weighed 6 pounds, 4 ounces, and was 21 inches long. Asher means "happy, blessed, and prosperous" and Mykal means "who is like our God?"



Len Cruze ('00, '01) and his wife, Pam, have moved to Salem, Oregon, where they are pioneering Champions Christian Center.



2002

John ('01, '02) and Marlene ('02, '03) Saul head up *Breath of Life Ministries*, which helps churches and pastors in Tijuana, Mexico. Since 2003, they have been forming a network of churches and ministries to provide an avenue for Christians to participate in missions work through short-term trips.

Debra Clay ('01, '02) has accepted a ministerial position at Victory to Victory Church in Beaumont, Texas, after working for a season with **Matt ('91, '92) & Julie ('90, '91) Beemer** in Manchester, England.

2003

Carol Nus ('02, '03) lives in Khumalo, Zimbabwe, where she works for Jesus Life International Ministries, headed by **Randy Close ('83, '84)**. Carol is an instructor at the Ministry Training School and is also actively involved in ministry to local churches and in youth services.

Grady ('02, '03) and Becky ('96, '97)

Pickett have moved to Amman, Jordan, to study the Arabic language and culture for two years before putting down roots in that region to reach Muslims in Iraq, Syria, and Iran.



2004

Steven ('03, '04) and Jamie (Fulkerson '98, '99) Jones were married August 27, 2005, at RHEMA Bible Church in Broken Arrow. Steven's father, **Rev. Doug Jones ('75)**, took part in the ceremony.



In March 2005, **Carlos Gonzalez ('03, '04)** was called to active duty in Kabul, Afghanistan, at Camp Phoenix for 18 months. He holds a Sunday afternoon Bible study during which soldiers are being born again and rededicating their lives to the Lord. Upon his return, he and his wife, **Tamela ('03)**, plan to begin traveling as itinerant ministers.



Denis and Jill (Kerr) Goulet (both '03, '04) were married on June 11, 2004, and moved to Guatemala for language training. They are now working at a missions compound that provides medical care and the Gospel to people on the north coast of Honduras.



Gia Howard ('03, '04) married Junior Rodriguez on August 20, 2005. The Rodriguezes live in Rome, Georgia.



Joshua and Cara (Pfaff) Parrott (both '03, '04) welcomed their son, Joel Christopher, who was born on April 16, 2005.

James Brandt ('03, '04) accepted the position of Senior Pastor at Revival Christian Center in Big Rapids, Michigan, in June 2005.

2005

Brent Ancell ('04, '05) and his wife, Adrienne, have moved to Des Moines, Iowa, where they are pioneering World Outreach Church.



Joshua and Nadine (Wolf) Bowles (both '04, '05) were married on October 22, 2005, in Worthington, Minnesota. They are employed full time at Faith Christian Fellowship in Sevierville, Tennessee, as youth and children's ministers.

We want to hear from YOU!

If you've had a wedding, a new addition to the family, something exciting in ministry, or just want to update fellow alumni about your life, write rmai@rhema.org and let us know!

TELL US! about it!

HOMEOINGS

Daryl Figler ('89, '90)	January 9, 2006
Howard "Buddy" George ('89, '91)	December 30, 2005
Louise Howard ('82, '83)	October 15, 2005
Marilyn Kleve ('81, '82)	February 22, 2006
Thomas Merz ('94, '95)	September 27, 2005
Sharon Murphy ('94)	November 5, 2005
Sigmund Thorseil ('90)	January 25, 2006
Bill Wallace ('80, '81)	December 28, 2005
Calvin Washington ('87, '88)	February 21, 2006

DUTCH RHEMA DAY

RHEMA alumni and other pastors met together recently in the Netherlands to discuss the theme of "church planting." Top left to right: **Yvonne Sellies ('98, '99); Sharlene Hüpscher ('91, '92); Hein Hüpscher ('96, '97); John and Michelle Grunewald ('80); Brynjulf Dahle; Jim Rogahn ('88, '89).** Bottom left to right: Hans Oudhoff; Herma Oudhoff; **Larry Blakeslee ('87, '88); Greta Lagravière; Henk van Zetten; Chrétien Lagravière; Rien and Hanneke Adriaanse ('96, '97); Martina Griem ('94, '95); Constanze Riis; Simone Schlaffer; Saro Dahle; Monika Wagner ('93, '94); Lilian Prince ('81); Jon Perrin ('89, '90); Claudia Jansen; Bernard Jansen; Harry and Diane Goldschmeding ('94, '96); Bert and Lonneke Vonkeman ('04, '05); Mariel Serna; Lorenzo Serna; Helen Dresel; Robert Dresel; Daisy Kwaku; Daniel Kwaku.**



June 4-7

Cranberry Township, PA

Victory Family Church
21150 Route 19
Cranberry Township, PA 16066
Pastor: *John Nuzzo*

Service Times:

Sunday, 7:00 p.m.
Monday–Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

For more information, call (724) 772-7026 or visit
www.lifeatvictory.com

August 27-30

Nashville, TN

Faith Is The Victory Church
3344 Walton Lane
Nashville, TN 37216
Pastor: *Charles Cowan*

Service Times:

Sunday, 6:00 p.m.
Monday–Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

For more information, call (615) 226-2145
or 1-800-842-7896 or visit
www.victoriusliving.org

September 10-13

Sarasota, FL

Shining Light Bible Church
8500 Fruitville Road
Sarasota, FL 34240
Pastor: *Stephen Schlabach*

Service Times:

Sunday, 7:00 p.m.
Monday–Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

For more information, call (941) 366-9903
or 1-866-366-9903 or visit
www.shininglight.org

CAMPMEETING

On Time. On Target. On Fire

JULY 23-30

For more information or to register, visit
www.rhema.org/cm or call:
1-888-28-FAITH (1-888-283-2484)



KINDLE THE FLAME:

Lynette Hagin's Women's Conference

SEPTEMBER 21-23

For more information or to register, visit
www.rhema.org/ktf or call:
1-888-28-FAITH (1-888-283-2484)



A CALL TO ARMS:

Kenneth Hagin Jr.'s Men's Conference

NOVEMBER 2-4

For more information or to register, visit
www.rhema.org/cta or call:
1-888-28-FAITH (1-888-283-2484)



We're here to serve you!

Take advantage of our online resources today by calling (918) 258-1588, ext. 2312 or visiting rhema.org/alumni.



RHEMA Alumni Association

P.O. Box 50126
Tulsa, OK 74150-0126

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Permit No. 967

Stay connected!