



**STAND
STRONG**

A decorative banner with a pin, framing the title text. The banner is golden and has a triangular shape with a small circle at the top vertex.

**365 DEVOTIONS
FOR MEN BY MEN**

OUR DAILY BREAD

STAND STRONG

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FOR MEN BY MEN**

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Our Daily Bread
Publishing.

Stand Strong: 365 Devotions for Men by Men

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ISBN: 978-1-64070-427-5

Printed in China

25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 / 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



FOREWORD

It was one of the scariest moments of my life.

I was trying to be the cool dad, so I took my son into the waves to boogie board. He was holding on to my back, and we took the first wave without a problem. He loved it, and I was the hero.

On the way back out, he and I broke a few waves before lying back down on the boogie board. A large wave came, and I knew it was the one we should ride. I grabbed the board with my left hand and grabbed my son with my strong right hand. Unfortunately, the wave was larger than I realized, and it threw us off the board. My son fell off my back. I jumped up and looked around. For what felt like much longer than it probably was, I couldn't find him. I looked right and left, desperately searching for my boy. Finally, he came up for air.

Waves are strong. If you try to keep them from coming, well, you will look silly. You can try to keep



yourself from being moved by a large wave, but it's nearly impossible. In the waves we struggle to stand firm because the sand moves with the tides and is stirred by the very waves that push us from here to there. We can't gain the footing we need.

Life often feels like standing in waves. Sometimes our lives are calm and the waves undetectable as they roll in. Other times, life sends waves of change, anxiety, or problems that knock us down. The firm footing we thought we had in calm waters betrays us as our feet sink into the unsettled sand or get pulled out from under us with the current.

Unlike the ocean sand, however, there's a strong foundation available to us—a firm place to stand when life's waves are more than we can bear. The apostle Paul, a man who dealt with his share of storms, both literally and metaphorically, had a foundation to stand on. In Ephesians, a letter he wrote from prison (4:1), he gives us a hint as to what that foundation looks like.

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the



mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. . . . [You] were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. (4:14–15, 21)

How can we stand strong in a world full of powerful waves? By standing on the firm foundation of Jesus Christ. But what does that mean?

This book offers short, daily snidbits of how to stand strong because of the truth in Jesus. If you want to find that firm footing available to you through the Scriptures, this book is a great place to start. Our prayer for you is that God will use this devotional to strengthen your faith and help you *Stand Strong*.

May God give you eyes to see and ears to hear His voice in these pages.

Daniel Ryan Day

Author and cohost of the Discover the Word radio program





Stand Strong

2 TIMOTHY 4:1–8

*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith.* —2 TIMOTHY 4:7

Andrew Carroll has been urging people not to throw away letters written by family members or friends during war times. Carroll, director of the Center for American War Letters, says, “Younger generations are reading these letters, asking questions, and saying, ‘Now I understand what you endured, what you sacrificed.’”

When Paul was imprisoned in Rome and knew his life would soon end, he wrote a letter to a young man he considered a “son in the faith,” Timothy. Paul opened his heart to him: “The time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day”

(2 TIMOTHY 4:6–8).

When we read the letters in the Bible from heroes of the Christian faith and grasp what they endured because of their love for Christ, we gain courage to follow their example and to **stand strong** for those who come after us.

❖ *David McCasland*



Strength of a Man

1 CORINTHIANS 16:9–13

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. —1 CORINTHIANS 16:13

Some years ago I found myself in an elevator with a couple of men. It was late at night, and we all looked weary. The elevator stopped, and a larger-than-life cowboy ambled in, wearing a battered hat, an old, stained sheepskin coat, and rundown logger boots. He looked us up and down and growled, “Good evening, men.” All of us straightened up and squared our shoulders. We were trying to live up to the name.

Let’s talk about living up to the name *man*. We try to be strong and macho, but often it’s just a façade. Underneath the bravado we harbor a host of fears, insecurities, and shortcomings. Much of our manliness is pure bluff.

Paul was man enough to admit it: “We are weak,” he said (2 CORINTHIANS 13:4). That’s a humbling fact. Yet Paul also insisted that we are to “be courageous” (1 CORINTHIANS 16:13).

How can we be the strong person God meant for us to be? Only by putting ourselves in God’s hands and asking Him to make us that way through His power and enablement.

❖ *David Roper*



The Best Is Yet to Come

DEUTERONOMY 34

The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He will drive out your enemies before you, saying, “Destroy them!” —DEUTERONOMY 33:27

Are the best days of your life in front of you? Our outlook on life—and our answer to that question—can change with time. When we’re younger, we look ahead. Once we’ve grown older, we yearn for the past. But when we walk with God, whatever our age, the best is yet to come!

Over the course of his long life, Moses witnessed the amazing things God did, many of which happened when he was no longer young. Moses was eighty when he confronted Pharaoh and saw God miraculously set His people free from slavery (EXODUS 3–13). Moses saw the Red Sea part, saw manna fall from heaven, and even spoke with God “face to face” (14:21; 16:4; 33:11).

Moses lived expectantly, looking ahead to what God would do (HEBREWS 11:24–27). Even when he was one hundred twenty years old, he understood that his life with God was just getting started and that he would never see an end to God’s greatness and love.

Regardless of our age, God’s “everlasting arms” (DEUTERONOMY 33:27) faithfully carry us securely through each new day.

❖ *James Banks*



As Is

2 CORINTHIANS 5:14–21

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

—2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

The beat-up old car sits on the used-car lot, rusty and forsaken. Years of abuse and hard driving have taken their toll.

A man walks onto the lot and is attracted to this rust bucket. He plunks down cash, and the salesperson hands over the keys while saying, “I’m selling you this car ‘as is.’” The new owner just smiles. He knows his cars, and he’s about to restore this castoff to its former beauty.

Across town, a troubled man sits in forlorn sadness, contemplating where he went wrong. Years of abuse and hard living have taken their toll. He’s been rejected so many times he feels he has little value. After all that misery and pain, he’s sure he will be left on life’s junk heap forever.

Then someone tells him about Jesus. Someone mentions that Jesus specializes in castoffs and that He is waiting to transform anyone who trusts Him. Someone tells him that Jesus will take him “as is.” He believes. He trusts. And Jesus begins to restore another lost person to the abundant life He has promised.

❖ *Dave Branon*



The Big Comeback

1 JOHN 1

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

—1 JOHN 1:9

While playing in the NFL, Chad Pennington suffered multiple career-threatening type of injuries. Twice his injuries forced him to endure surgery, therapy, and extensive training to get back onto the field. He not only returned to playing but he also excelled so much he was twice named Comeback Player of the Year. Pennington's efforts were an expression of his determined spirit.

Spiritually, when sin and failure break our relationship with God and sideline our service, determination alone cannot restore us to rightness and usefulness. When we are sidelined by sin, the path to a comeback is confession. “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 JOHN 1:9).

For us to be able to recover from our spiritual failings, we depend on the One who gave himself for us. He gives us hope. Christ, who died for us, loves us and will respond with grace as we confess our faults to Him. Through confession, we can find His gracious restoration—the greatest of all comebacks.

❖ *Bill Crowder*



A Devoted Heart

2 CHRONICLES 17:1–11; 20:32

He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD.

—2 CHRONICLES 20:32

A successful Christian businessman shared his story at church. Candid about his struggles with faith and abundant wealth, he declared, “Wealth scares me!”

“But,” the businessman stated, “I’ve learned a lesson from Solomon’s verdict on the abundance of wealth. It’s all ‘meaningless’” (ECCLESIASTES 2:11). The man determined not to let wealth get in the way of his devotion to God. Rather, he wanted to serve God with his assets and help the needy.

Throughout the centuries, God has blessed some people materially. We read of Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 17:5, “The LORD established the kingdom . . . so that he had great wealth and honor.” He did not become proud or bully others with his wealth. Instead, “his heart was devoted to the ways of the LORD” (v. 6). Also, “he followed the ways of his father Asa and did not stray from them; he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD” (20:32).

The Lord is not against wealth, but He is definitely against the unethical acquisition and wrong use of it. He is worthy of devotion from all His followers.

❖ *Lawrence Darmani*



Windtalkers

2 PETER 1:19–21

For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. —2 PETER 1:21

Their contribution to victory in World War II was enormous, but few people even knew about them. In 1942, the US Army trained twenty-nine young Navajo men and sent them to a secret base. These people, called “windtalkers,” had been asked to use their native language to devise a special code the enemy couldn’t break. They succeeded! The code was never broken. It secured and speeded up war communications.

By contrast, the Bible was not sent down to us in some unbreakable code impossible to understand. Although it contains rich imagery, vivid metaphors, and the record of magnificent visions, it was written by human authors to give people the message of God’s love and salvation.

That message is clear and unmistakable. The biblical writers were moved by God’s Spirit to record exactly what He wanted us to know. For centuries people have been freed from their sin and guilt by believing His message.

We owe a great debt to the writers of Scripture, who received God’s Word and wrote it down. So let’s read it often.

❖ *David Egner*



The Power of Demonstration

2 TIMOTHY 3:10–17

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

—2 TIMOTHY 3:16

My attempts at fixing things around the house usually lead to paying someone else to undo the damage. But recently I successfully repaired a home appliance by watching a YouTube video with step-by-step details.

Paul was a powerful example to his young protégé Timothy, who watched him in action. From prison in Rome, Paul wrote, “You . . . know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings” (2 TIMOTHY 3:10–11). In addition, he urged Timothy to “continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures” (VV. 14–15).

Paul’s life demonstrated the necessity of building our lives on God’s Word. He reminded Timothy that the Bible is our powerful, God-given source.

As we thank God for everyone who helped us grow in faith, we are challenged to follow their example as we seek to teach and encourage others.

That’s the power of demonstration.

❖ *David McCasland*



By the Spirit's Power

ZECHARIAH 4:1-7

What are you, mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground. Then he will bring out the capstone to shouts of "God bless it! God bless it!"

—ZECHARIAH 4:7

What do you do when there is a mountain in your way? The story of Dashrath Manjhi from India can inspire us. When his wife died because he couldn't get her to the hospital, Manjhi did what seemed impossible. He spent *twenty-two years* chiseling—by hand—a gap in a mountain so others could get medical help!

Rebuilding the temple must have looked impossible to Zerubbabel, one of Israel's leaders who returned from exile. The people were discouraged, faced enemy opposition, and lacked resources. But God sent Zechariah to remind Zerubbabel that the task would take something more powerful than military strength or manmade resources. It would take the Holy Spirit's power (ZECHARIAH 4:6). With the assurance of divine aid, Zerubbabel trusted that God would level any mountain of difficulty that stood in the way (v. 7).

When there's a "mountain" before us, we can either rely on our own strength or trust the Spirit's power. When we trust Him, He'll either level the mountain or help us climb over it. ❖ *Marvin Williams*



Alone in Space

GENESIS 28:10–17

When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it.”

—GENESIS 28:16

Apollo 15 astronaut Al Worden knew what it felt like to be completely isolated. For three days in 1971, he flew alone in his command module, *Endeavor*, while David Scott and James Irwin were miles below on the moon’s surface. Worden’s only companions were the stars overhead.

As the sun went down on Old Testament character Jacob’s first night away from home, he too was alone, but for a different reason. He was on the run from his older brother—who wanted to kill him for stealing the family blessing. On falling asleep, Jacob dreamed of a staircase joining heaven and earth. As he watched angels ascending and descending, he heard God’s voice promising to be with him and to bless the whole earth through his children. When Jacob woke he said, “Surely the LORD is in this place” (GENESIS 28:16).

Jacob had isolated himself because of his deceit. Yet he was in the presence of the One whose plans are always better and more far-reaching than our own. Heaven is closer than we think, and the “God of Jacob” is with us.

❖ *Mart DeHaan*



THE WRITERS

James Banks, who is pastor of Peace Church in Durham, North Carolina, has a favorite exercise workout he does with his dog, Max. Along a river near their home, James and his 90-pound Labrador retriever do a three-mile “fetch run.” James throws a stick into the woods, which Max fetches and then drops on the trail. Then James throws a second stick, and off goes Max after that one—and on it goes. Back at the house, James enjoys tinkering with old diesel engines with the goal of keeping them running for hundreds of thousands of miles. James is the author of several books, including *Praying Together*, *Praying the Prayers of the Bible*, and *Prayers for Prodigals*. He and his wife, Cari, have two adult children. And one stick-fetching dog.

Dave Branon spent countless hours as a kid trying to emulate his basketball hero Pete Maravich, but when it became clear that his small-college basketball



experience at Cedarville University would never lead to the NBA, he had to choose a different career path. For several years, he was a high school English teacher and basketball coach (he was Tom Felten's varsity hoops coach) before entering the publishing world at Our Daily Bread Ministries as an assistant editor for *Our Daily Bread*. Later, Dave spent eighteen years as managing editor of *Sports Spectrum* magazine, which features top Christian athletes and their testimony of faith. He retired in 2021 after forty years with Our Daily Bread. Dave has written twenty books, including Zondervan's *Sports Devotional Bible*, *Stand Firm*, *Heads Up!*, and *Beyond the Valley*. Dave and his wife, Sue, have four children and eight grandchildren and live in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Bill Crowder is a Bible teacher and writer with a deep love of sports. He played intercollegiate soccer (goalkeeper) followed by decades of slow-pitch softball, and now he plays golf whenever possible (though never often enough due to Michigan winters, he says). He also follows college and professional sports—especially Liverpool Football Club of the English Premier League, West Virginia University (his home state), and the Los Angeles Angels (among others!). For more than forty years, his wife, Marlene, has endured his passion for sports with a smile, and his five kids have (mostly) willingly accepted his coaching in



soccer, track, and baseball. Now he is working to build a love for sports in the grandkids. Bill has written several books, including *Let's Talk, For This He Came*, and *Windows on Christmas*.

Lawrence Darmani has enjoyed bird-watching since he was a kid growing up in Ghana. He has since added another item he loves to observe: good architecture—which will cause him to pause and enjoy a building's composition. Lawrence also loves to drop a line in the water and see what is biting. Over the years, Lawrence has established himself as an award-winning author. His first novel, *Grief Child*, won a British Commonwealth Writers Prize. Some of his books include *One for the Road*, *Strength for the Journey*, and *Palm-Tree Parables*. Lawrence and his wife, Comfort, have two daughters. The family lives in Accra, Ghana, where Lawrence is editor of *Step* magazine and CEO of Step Publishers.

Mart DeHaan has followed in the footsteps of his grandfather, Dr. M. R. DeHaan, by being an avid fisherman and an active observer of the natural world. Mart says some of his warmest memories over the years have been the hours spent with his son or his daughter fly-fishing the lily pads of a quiet lake, stalking whitetail deer, and kayaking local rivers. Now that his kids are grown, his pursuits include trying to catch wildlife with a camera, survive ping-pong



marathons with his son, or chase pars and birdies on a golf course with friends. Mart was the president of Our Daily Bread Ministries for many years, and he has written dozens of the ministry's Discovery Series booklets. Currently, he teams up with Elisa Morgan, Bill Crowder, and Daniel Ryan Day on the ODB Ministries weekday radio program *Discover the Word*, hosted by Brian Hettinga. Mart and his wife, Diane, live in Grand Rapids and have two grown children.

Prior to retirement, **David Egner** enjoyed nothing better than taking a break from his work schedule to spend time at his rustic cabin on Piatt Lake in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. There he could wander the woods with his dog, put a line in the water to catch some Piatt Lake largemouth bass, or just sit and share a cup of coffee with his wife, Shirley. For many years, David was an editor with Our Daily Bread Ministries. He also wrote many Discovery Series booklets for the ministry, and he began writing for *Our Daily Bread* in the 1980s. Dave and Shirley have been married for more than sixty-six years. They have three children and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Tom Felten is one of those diehard lifetime Detroit Lions fans who still clings to hopes of a Super Bowl appearance. Tom, who is the executive editor of *Our Daily Bread*, was a talented high school basketball



player—and he still enjoys playing lunchtime pickup ball three times a week. A five-time cancer survivor, Tom is extremely active in his local congregation—leading music and sometimes teaching the Word. He and his wife, Lynn, who have three adult sons, enjoy leadership roles at Michigan’s Upper Peninsula Bible Camp. Recently, Tom hiked to the summit of the massive Haleakala Volcano on Maui. Tom and Lynn live in Grand Rapids.

Dennis Fisher and his dad bonded, as many sons and dads do, as they hunted the fields and fished the rivers of his boyhood. Whether they were taking salmon from the Sacramento River or downing pheasant from nearby fields, Dennis and his dad found both enjoyment of each other’s company and thankfulness to God in their adventures. These days, Dennis plays a mean banjo—an instrument he once got to use to help entertain for an event attended by Ronald Reagan. Today, many of the songs Dennis composes relate to C. S. Lewis, about whom Fisher has become an expert. Dennis used his expertise as a former college professor and his doctorate in ministry during his years at Our Daily Bread Ministries as a research editor and writer. Dennis and his wife, Janet, a former college professor, live in California, and they enjoy using music in a variety of fun settings.



Tim Gustafson had the special privilege of growing up as a missionary kid in Ghana (which explains why he was bummed that neither the US nor Ghana qualified for soccer's 2018 World Cup). Tim would accompany his dad on hunts in Ghana, where Pop would carry a .308 and an eight-gauge shotgun. ("Hey, the critters could be large," Tim says.) Back stateside, Tim graduated from Michigan State University before serving in the US military—Active Army plus Army and Navy Reserves for many years. He served in places such as the Philippines, Turkey, Singapore, and the Caribbean. Tim is currently a senior content editor and writer for Our Daily Bread Ministries. He and his wife, Leisa, have eight children—all of whom are girls except for the last seven.

Randy Kilgore is the son, nephew, and grandson of truck drivers and coal miners, and he loves the rich heritage of those two professions. In fact, he often lists "truck driver" as the favorite job he's ever had. An avid baseball fan of the Kansas City Royals, Randy coached Little League baseball for six years as well as softball for two years. He worked as a senior human resource manager for many years before earning a seminary master's degree. From his experience in HR and as a workplace chaplain, Randy wrote *Made to Matter: Devotions for Working Christians*. He, his



wife, Cheryl, and their two children live in Massachusetts.

Albert Lee served admirably in the Singapore Armed Forces, earning the Best Recruit and Best Non-Commissioned Officer awards while completing his national service. In his youth, he was also a rugby player, and he still enjoys watching Rugby Sevens, which is a variant of the fifteen-man game. It is played by seven rugby players in two seven-minute halves. Another of Albert's interests is swimming—but he has cut down from his hundred-laps-a-day pace to swimming once a week with a friend. He also enjoys art and photography. Albert has been the national director of Singapore Youth for Christ and the director of international ministries for Our Daily Bread Ministries. He and his wife, Catherine, have two children.

David McCasland grew up in Oklahoma City, graduated from Oklahoma State University, and earned his master's degree in communications from Wheaton College. David taught in public schools in Colorado Springs, at Daystar University in Nairobi, Kenya, and at the US Air Force Academy Preparatory School. He also served in the US Army and is a Vietnam veteran. Among the books David has written are *Blind Courage*, which told the story of Bill Irwin, the first blind person to hike the Appalachian



Trail; *Oswald Chambers: Abandoned to God*, the life story of the writer of *My Utmost for His Highest*; and *Eric Liddell: Pure Gold*, the story of the Olympic gold medalist about whom the movie *Chariots of Fire* was written. He and his wife, Luann, live in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and have four grown children and several grandchildren.

Jeff Olson's fishing boat gets a workout during Michigan's mild-weather seasons—many times out on Lake Michigan angling for salmon and trout. When he's not fishing, Jeff is a licensed counselor who maintains a private practice. He is a former editor and writer for Our Daily Bread Ministries, and he has written several Discovery Series booklets. Although his playing days are over, Jeff remains an avid baseball, basketball, and football fan (he and his good friend Tom Felten live and die by the Detroit Lions together). When Jeff gets outdoors, besides boating, he enjoys bow hunting for whitetail deer and walking the woods with Chester, his English Labrador retriever. Jeff and his wife, Diane, have been married for over thirty years and are the parents of two adult daughters.

David Roper has spent a lifetime as an avid outdoorsman. One of his great joys was being an expert fly fisherman, fly tier, and fly rod builder. His friends designated one stretch of his favorite trout stream "Roper's Hole" because he fished it almost every



Thursday for nearly twenty years. He also enjoyed hiking and biking. David refers to himself as a “less than successful athlete in high school and college.” He was planning to become a coach before he got drafted into the US Army, which changed his direction. For thirty years, David was a pastor. He and his wife, Carolyn, opened a mountain lodge called Shepherd’s Rest as a place for pastors to go for rest, recreation, and counsel. Of course, David made sure they found out about activities such as fly-fishing, hiking, and cross-country skiing. David has written several books, including *The Strength of a Man*, *Teach Us to Number Our Days*, and *A Burden Shared*. He and Carolyn live in Boise, Idaho.

Joe Stowell has served as president of two Midwestern Christian institutions of higher learning: Moody Bible Institute and Cornerstone University. Before that, he pastored churches in Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana. Joe played soccer in both high school and in college at Cedarville University. He enjoys cross-country skiing, mountain and coastal path trekking, gardening, and following Big Ten basketball and football. He has also been able to cheer on Cornerstone University’s national championship men’s basketball teams (NAIA) in 2011 and 2015. Among Joe’s many published books are *Strength for the Journey*, *The Upside of Down*, and



Jesus Nation. He and his wife, Martie, have three children and ten grandchildren and live in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Herb Vander Lugt remained a vital contributor to *Our Daily Bread* up to the time he went to be with his Lord and Savior on December 2, 2006. He served as senior research editor for Our Daily Bread Ministries and had been with the ministry since 1966, when he became the third author to contribute to *Our Daily Bread* (after editor Henry Bosch and ministry founder Dr. M. R. DeHaan). In addition to his devotional articles, he wrote numerous Discovery Series booklets and reviewed all study and devotional materials for theological accuracy. Herb pastored six churches and held three interim ministerial positions after retiring from the pastorate in 1989. An avid baseball fan and former catcher, Herb regaled his co-workers with stories of attending Detroit Tigers games when his favorite player, Hall of Fame first baseman Hank Greenberg, played. Herb and his wife, Virginia, had two children.

Sheridan Voysey is an author and broadcaster on the subjects of faith and spirituality. His books include *Resilient: Your Invitation to a Jesus-Shaped Life*; *Resurrection Year: Turning Broken Dreams into New Beginnings*; and the award-winning *Unseen Footprints: Encountering the Divine Along the Journey of Life*. He



is a regular contributor to Britain's largest national network, BBC Radio 2. He also speaks at conferences and events around the world. Among Sheridan's interests are photography, Thai food, dark chocolate, funk and soul, and long hikes in England's rugged north. He has renovated two homes (and quite nicely too, if he does say so himself). Although born in Australia and living in England, he never did get the cricket bug. But he keeps that a secret from the neighbors. Sheridan is married to Merryn, a medical researcher, and they reside in Oxford, United Kingdom.

Marvin Williams should write an autobiography called *My Life at 11,000 Feet*. That number seems rather significant, since he has jumped out of an airplane at that height (and survived), and he has climbed to the height of 11,000 feet on Mt. Kenya, the highest mountain in Kenya. When Marvin is closer to sea level, his other pursuits include running a 25k race and being, in his own words, "a grill master." Earlier in his life, he was a martial arts champion. He also claims to have conquered another manly feat: changing his kids' dirty diapers "without covering my nose or holding my breath." That is something any dad can relate to and be proud of! Marvin is senior teaching pastor of Trinity Church in Lansing, Michigan. He and his wife, Tonia, have four children.



Mike Wittmer's down-to-earth writing style and his sense of humor as a speaker belie his position as a noted Bible scholar. Mike did his undergraduate work at Cedarville University, and he received his doctorate at Calvin College. He is a longtime professor at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary and is in demand as an expositor of the Bible and as someone who can address key issues in the church. On the downside, he calls himself a "miserable Cleveland sports fan whose high point is always next year's NFL draft." When he is not grading papers or writing books, he likes to cross-country ski, ride his mountain bike, kayak, and play backyard whiffle ball. His high school sport was basketball, and his position on the church softball team is second base. Mike loves to build things, but he admits that when he made an ottoman for his wife, Julie, she insisted it was merely an "ottoboy." Mike has written several books, including *The Last Enemy*, *Despite Doubt*, *Becoming Worldly Saints*, and *Heaven Is a Place on Earth*. Mike and Julie have three children.

