

Moody
Church
radio

NEWS

Volume Three • Number Three

WHAT GOD IS DOING THROUGH YOU!



Who Can You TRUST?

BREAKING THROUGH TO TRUST IN GOD *SEE INSIDE.*

Who can you

TRUST?



Erwin W. Lutzer
Senior Pastor, Moody Church

Dear Friend,

The subject of trust, or rather *lack* of trust, is in the headlines these days. I'm writing at a time when new allegations of sexual abuse by priests are being reported every day. Hundreds of people are coming forward to say that someone they trusted — indeed, someone who supposedly represented the highest degree of integrity — deceived them.

We've all heard of the Enron debacle. We are told that when the wealthy knew the ship was sinking, they bailed out on well-endowed life rafts and left the common investor to float on the open sea. One retiree said that her \$700,000 investment ended up as \$20,000. "Who can you trust?" she asked.

Opinion polls tell us that the majority of college students say they cheat (if you can believe what they tell you!!). Quite frankly, we have good reason to be skeptical; we have good reason to make sure that the people we depend upon are worthy of our trust.

How do we tell the good guys from the bad guys? How do we know who is trustworthy and who is not? There is no easy answer. Just ask a young woman who has been abused by her father, a respected deacon in his church. Everyone, including his family, believed he was the epitome of integrity and dependability. But in the end, the man proved to be deceitful, and indeed evil. Sometimes we cannot even trust those who should be most committed to our nurture and care.

Why are people untrustworthy? Though we like to think that we are driven by rational instincts, the truth is that we are driven by our selfish desires. And because we want to be well thought of, it is easy for us to pay careful attention to our outward persona, and totally neglect the integrity of our hearts. In fact, sometimes people not only deceive others, but they actually end up deceiving themselves. When our self-deception is complete, we can become wicked, destroying those around us to protect our sick self.

As all of us know, rebuilding destroyed trust is well nigh impossible. Just ask a woman who has discovered that her husband has been having an affair for the past two years. Or, think of someone who has betrayed a secret, or that man who agreed to repay a loan, but ignores the commitment. Trust, like a vase that falls from the mantelpiece, can be put back together, but only with much time and care.

So, who can you trust?

Thankfully, there are many people who have proved many times over that they can be believed; there is a match between what they profess and the way they live. But the Bible warns, "Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on the flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the Lord" (Jer. 17:5).

But, we ask: Can God be trusted? If we are honest, we must admit that trusting our heavenly Father is sometimes more difficult than trusting our earthly father. But trust Him we must. On page 4 of this newsletter, I've written an article titled *Breaking Through to Trust in God*. I hope it will help all of us put our faith in the God who is worthy of deepest loyalty and trust.

Pastor Lutzer

Celebrating THE JOY of Changed Lives



Irma & Herbert Berrens

Pastor Lutzer with
Irma and Freddie Berrens

I want to tell you the story of Irma and Herbert Berrens, a couple whose commitment to Christ and giving hearts have been a blessing to us for years. I hope that you will also be blessed by their example!

Young Irma Backer was living in Poland when Hitler's armies began to march. By God's providence, Irma's family was able to flee to Germany, where He preserved them throughout the War.

As a young woman, Irma fell in love with Herbert Berrens, and the two decided to marry, but not in Germany. Irma emigrated to America in 1951, and Herbert was able to follow her a year later. They were married in 1953.

Irma's one great unhappiness was that Herbert did not trust in Christ as his Savior the way she did. She longed to introduce him to her Lord, but his business kept him away from church. Worse, one Sunday when they did attend a church in their neighborhood, Herbert learned that they could not participate in communion because they were not members. Disgusted, he told Irma that he didn't care if he never attended church again.

But the Lord was faithful and heard Irma's prayers. When Irma became ill, Herbert's heart was softened as he cared for her in her recovery. And one day, he surprised her by saying, "Let's go to church." Irma, a regular listener to Moody Church Radio, suggested that they attend Moody.

It was the beginning of a long and wonderful journey

for Herbert. At Moody, Herbert came to the Lord under the ministry of Pastor Wiersbe, and was an ardent believer. Neither rain, nor snow, nor anything else the Illinois weather could dish out could keep the family (now including their son, Freddie) from Moody Church services.

When Herbert discovered that he had cancer, Irma asked him, "How will I manage without you?" Herbert calmly replied, "The God who has brought you this far will lead you on."

And indeed, since Herbert went home to Heaven in 1985, God has continued to lead Irma. Not only is she a tremendous supporter of Moody Church Radio, but she has also recently donated a house to Moody Church. The proceeds from the sale of the house will be used to benefit our home ministries, and also to help the cause of missions overseas.

We thank the Lord for this godly woman, and for all of our friends who share our heart to bring the Gospel to the world. Thanks to Irma, and friends like her, the Gospel will go to many who otherwise might not hear the message.

Many Ways to Minister

There are many ways to contribute to the ministry of Moody Church Radio aside from gifts of cash. If you, like Irma, would like to donate real estate, or if you would like to include Moody Church Radio in your estate planning, please contact **Michael C. Pitts at (312) 943-0466 ext. 1009** for more information.

Breaking Through TO TRUST IN Good

Who can possibly calculate the buckets of tears that human beings are shedding at any given hour in this fallen world? Can we trust a sovereign God who could, at any moment, put an end to such suffering and yet doesn't?

There are some encounters with evil that are so horrific they challenge the foundations of faith in a benevolent God. Elie Wiesel has written for millions of Jews and other victims of the Holocaust, and we must hear his anguish:

Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp, which has turned

my life into one long night, seven times cursed and seven times sealed. Never shall I forget that smoke. Never shall I forget the faces of the children whose bodies I saw turned into wreaths of smoke beneath a silent blue sky.

Never shall I forget those flames which consumed my faith forever!

In the face of such evil, how can we honestly trust in God's goodness?

"Flee the hidden God"

Luther, in pondering the mystery of God's hidden purposes, urges us to "flee the hidden God and run to

Christ." Of course, the "hidden God" and the God who was made flesh are one and the same, but it is precisely because the two are one that Luther's advice works. We must run away from the mysteries of God's providence about which we cannot know enough to understand (because God has revealed so little about them), and run toward Jesus Christ in whom we find God adequately revealed. Jesus assures us in His Word that He is for us and that nothing shall separate us from His love.





Stretching Our Faith

Suppose God wanted to create a set of circumstances that would stretch our faith in His goodness and loving concern as a test of our loyalty. How could He best do that, except by making it look as if He is acting in a way that belies those exact attributes? When He appears to be on the side of the enemy, do we still believe that He knows best? Can we believe Him, no matter what?

“If God wasn’t there for me as a

child, why should I think He will be there for me now?” a woman asked me. She had been abused as a child and as an adult she could not understand how her heavenly Father could possibly not have intervened when she was being brutally raped and whipped. Thankfully she does believe, but it is difficult; every inch of spiritual growth is contested.

Blessed Is the One...

After John the Baptist was thrown into prison, he began to doubt whether Jesus was the Messiah. Christ seemed to be renegeing on Old Testament promises about the Messiah opening the doors of the prisons. Unjust suffering always fosters doubts.

So John sent a delegation to Christ to ask pointedly: “Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?” (Matt. 11:3, NASB).

In response, Jesus reminded John that miracles were occurring and then added, “Blessed is he who keeps from stumbling over Me” (verse 6, NASB). We could paraphrase, “Blessed is the one who is not upset with the way I run My business.”

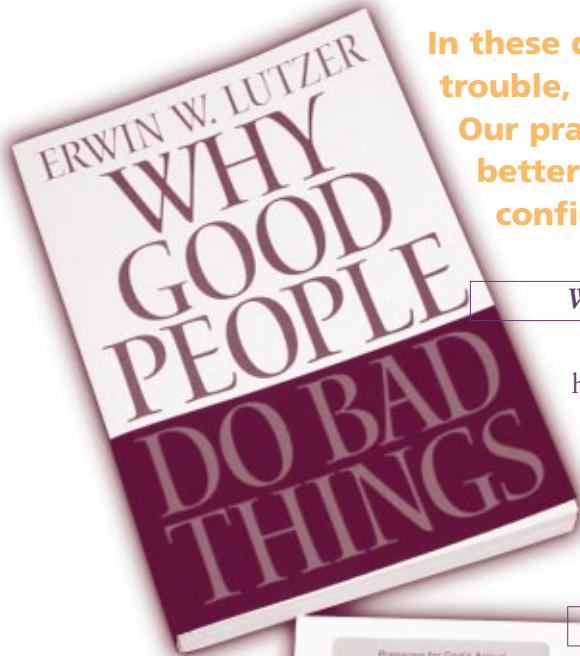
Blessed is the one who does not say, “I am never going to trust God again because He did not keep me from injustice and abuse.” Or, blessed is the one who does not say, “I find the doctrine of hell so repulsive that I will not believe in the God of the Bible.”

Blessed is the one who understands that we must trust God’s heart even when we cannot understand His hand; blessed is the one who knows that we must stand in awe in the presence of the mystery of God’s purposes. Blessed is the one who goes on believing no matter what.

Blessed is the one who lets God be God.

1. Elie Wiesel quoted in John Stackhouse, *Can God Be Trusted?* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998), 47.

To Help Build YOUR TRUST IN God



In these days of decreasing integrity and increasing trouble, we all need some help building our trust in God. Our prayer is that the following materials will help you better understand the world today, and increase your confidence in God's good providence.

Why Good People Do Bad Things

Good people do bad things, Pastor Lutzer reminds us, because we're fallen humans. But the ultimate Good News is that God doesn't leave us there. We can live beyond our own darkness by the power of His goodness. Let Pastor Lutzer help you understand the truth about human nature!

Paperback, 198 pages. Price: \$16.00 (including shipping)
Also available on CD or cassette \$38.95 (including shipping)

When God Comes

Our greatest need is always to have a fresh revelation of God. When God comes to us, revealing His power and compassion, everything changes. In this series of messages, Pastor Lutzer explains how our faith falters when we have an inadequate understanding of God's sovereignty and divine providence. The better we know God, the more we will trust Him and believe that His way is best.

Two cassettes. Price: \$16.00 (including shipping)

To order, please call: (800) 215-5001 or include your check with the enclosed newsletter reply slip.

Memorials That Live to Serve Others

Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers are with the families and friends of those who have lost loved ones. Memorial gifts are a special legacy offering hope to listeners of Moody Church Radio.

In Memory of:

Richard Murray — Carole Crissman

Sam Pinson — Mr. & Mrs. Frank Lustrea

Bertha Reese — Anne Hensley

If you would like to remember a loved one through your giving or have others give, in lieu of flowers, please send your gift and the name of the person(s) being remembered to: Moody Church Radio, Memorial Gifts

1609 N. LaSalle Blvd., Chicago, IL 60614-6095

We'd Love to See You There!

Please pray for Pastor Lutzer in his upcoming speaking engagements. If you are able to attend any of the following events, which are open to the public unless otherwise noted, Pastor Lutzer would enjoy meeting you.

July 31–Aug. 2 • 81st Annual Cedar Falls Bible Conference, Cedar Falls, IA. For more information, please call: (319) 268-0787.

Sept. 6-7 • Promise Keepers, St. Paul, MN, *Storm The Gates*. For more information, visit www.promisekeepers.org or call (800) 888-7595.

Sept. 9-13 • Multnomah Christian Life Conference, Portland, OR. For more information, please call: (503) 251-6414.

Oct. 5 • Journey's End Annual North Shore Seminar; The Renaissance Hotel, Northbrook, IL. For more information, please call: (847) 256-4245.

Oct. 17-19 • Promise Keepers, Phoenix, AZ; *Storm The Gates*. For more information, visit www.promisekeepers.org or call (800) 888-7595.

Oct. 24-26 • Revival 2002, College Church of Wheaton, IL. For more information, please call: (630) 980-1810.

Nov. 1 • Iliana Right to Life Banquet, Villa de Bruno, Lynwood, IL. For more information, please call: (219) 924-8461.

Nov. 6-8 • Annual Missions Conference, Immanuel Baptist Church, Richmond, VA. For more information, please call: (804) 355-8691.

For Your Inspiration and Encouragement:

Upcoming Series on Moody Church Radio

Running to Win

June 21–Aug. 15	Series: "Getting Closer to God"
Aug. 16–Aug. 20	"Living With Anxiety and Winning"
Aug. 21–Aug. 23	"Clay Shaped in the Hands of the Potter"
Aug. 26–Sept. 10	Series: "Finding Community within the Church"
Sept. 11–Sept. 13	WTC Anniversary, "Where Was God When NY Was Burning?"
Sept. 16–Sept. 19	WTC Anniversary, "Appointed to Die"
Sept. 19–Nov. 5	Series: "Who Are You To Judge?"
Nov. 6–Dec. 13	Series: "Seven Signs of Christ's Return"

The Moody Church Hour

July 7–July 28	Series: "Finding Where You Fit"
Aug. 4–Aug. 25	Series: "Keep Your Dream Alive"
Sept. 1	"A Matter of Money"
Sept. 8	"A Christ For the World"
Sept. 15	"Coping with Guilt and Winning"
Sept. 22	"Building with Blessing"
Sept. 29–Nov. 24	Series: "Why Good People Do Bad Things"

Songs in the Night

May 5–July 21	Series: "Seven Snares of the Enemy"
July 28	"Things That Must Come to Pass"
Aug. 4	"Seeing God in Every Circumstance"
Aug. 11	"The Quest for Righteousness"
Aug. 18–25	Mini-series: "We've Been Down This Road Before" (from Amos)
Sept. 1	"A Prescription for Fear"
Sept. 8	"A Christian View of Death"
Sept. 15	"Suffering With Hope"
Sept. 22	"Living Like a King's Son"
Sept. 29	"Inner Strength for Outward Pressures"
Oct. 6	"The Will of God: Will It Ever Be Found?"
Oct. 13–Nov. 17	Series: "God and the City"



Please Join Us IN Prayer

Your prayers for this ministry are a real encouragement to all of us. Please keep the staff and work of Moody Church Radio in your prayers, that we may continue in God's will.

This summer, Pastor Lutzer is taking a much deserved sabbatical from his ministry here at the Moody Church. However, his schedule is filled with other speaking engagements and ministry opportunities, including leading a tour to Europe. We ask that you would pray for wisdom, strength and God's protection during this time.

Pastor hopes to spend some time this summer preparing two special series of messages for this fall: one on sexual purity and the other on stewardship. Please pray for God's guidance for Pastor as he prepares these messages. Obviously our radio ministry will continue without interruption.

Please pray for our staffing needs — that the Lord will draw the people He wants to serve here in ministry to Moody Church Radio.

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You Are in Our Prayers

At Moody Church Radio Ministries, we want you to know that Pastor Lutzer and the staff are bringing your prayer requests before the Lord. The needs and praises you share on the enclosed response form are important to us, and we commit to you that we will lay them at the Throne of Grace.

The Elders of Moody Church:

Donald D. Dix
Hanns Gross
Joseph C. Harding
Richard C. Karnath
Bervin C. Peterson (Chairman)
Michael C. Pitts
Thomas H. W. Sawyer
Christos L. Tsakiridis
John L. Welch
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www.moodyradio.com
www.iglesiamoody.org

Just Announced!

June 2003 Cruise

In the Steps of the Early Church

Walk along with hosts Dr. Erwin W. Lutzer
and Dr. John F. Ankerberg



PHOTO BY MICHAEL C. PITTS

In June 2003, Drs. Lutzer and Ankerberg will be hosting a cruise through sites in Turkey and Greece in which Paul ministered to the Gentiles and John wrote the book of Revelation. Come and explore Ephesus, Patmos, and many other Biblical places in person, as you fellowship with Pastor Lutzer.

Space is limited, so reserve your place today or get more information by calling TMI Tours & Cruises at (800) 975-7775, or email them at info@tmitours.com.

Date (2003)	Port
Wednesday, June 4	Depart U.S.
Thursday, June 5	Arrive Istanbul, Turkey
Friday, June 6	Istanbul, Turkey
Saturday, June 7	Dikili, Turkey
Sunday, June 8	Kusadasi, Turkey (Ephesus)
Monday, June 9	Patmos, Greece
Monday, June 9	Samos, Greece
Tuesday, June 10	Rhodes, Greece
Wednesday, June 11	Mykonos, Greece
Thursday, June 12	Santorini, Greece
Friday, June 13	Pireaus, Greece (Athens)



PHOTO BY ALFRED HOERTH